

no more illusions

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ALL OUT TO STOP RICHARD SPENCER



by: B from the Detroit Chapter of Solidarity & Defense

Students at U of M have been walking out of classes and occupying offices, building the movement to stop the Fascist, Richard Spencer, and his supporters from coming to U of M to attack Black students, Muslim students and all who oppose him. The administration of U of M, the Board of Regents, the cops and the government are complicit with Richard Spencer and do nothing to stop racist attacks or to defend students under attack. We must do that ourselves.

We support students at U of M Dearborn, U of M Flint, EMU, MSU, GVSU and all campuses and community colleges uniting to oppose Spencer and stop the fascists. We support walkouts and occupations wherever they occur. We encourage high school students, teachers, campus workers and community supporters to join in this fight against Spencer and against racist attacks and white supremacy.

The racist and fascist attacks hit a Black family in Burton, a Black church in Wayne, and a Black family in Inkster who had a family member, Brodrick Ward, murdered in Kalkaska and now face a racist response from the cops in that town. The attacks hit the family of Damon Grimes, the 15 year old murdered by the Michigan State Police in Detroit because he was young and Black. The attacks hit families of those in the Muslim, Latinx and immigrant communities who have been rounded up and deported and those held in detention centers who face deportations.

We say stop Richard Spencer and defend against racist and fascist attacks on every campus and in every community. We say no ban, no wall and no borders. We say organize to oppose the fascists, the racists, and the university administration, the cops and ICE and the government who are complicit in these attacks and the enemies of our communities.

We are **Solidarity and Defense**, a statewide organization fighting to oppose fascist and racist attacks wherever they occur and to unite our forces to build strong community self defense.

Join us for a statewide conference in [Lansing on January 19 and 20, 2018](#) to oppose the fascists, the racists, the government and the cops and to build community self defense.

Spencer is approved to speak at MSU on March 5th.

Follow [@StopSpencerAtMSU](#) on Facebook to stay updated.

WHITE LIES DONT MATTER

KALKASKA, MI

Broderick "Brock" Ward, 42, called his brother Sammy Ward, 38, telling him about how a resident of Kalkaska had questioned "what is a n***er like you was doing here?" -- "You never heard of Kalkaska? There are three Ks in Kalkaska for a reason," the man told Brock, alluding to the Ku Klux Klan. Explaining that he felt extremely uncomfortable — the friend he had traveled up north with had told him to hide in a backroom should his racist friends come over.

Brock told his brother that he had asked a mutual friend to come get him. He told Sammy to give the friend gas money if needed, because he was completely broke.

That was Nov. 17, the last time the brothers spoke. Brock stopped answering his phone; this was unlike him. Three days later on Tuesday, Nov. 21, Sammy and two other family members traveled four hours north to look for Brock.

They eventually found him 20 minutes south, in a rental trailer in Fife Lake -- dead, alone, and covered in blood. He had been shot to death.

Sammy Ward said that police have told his family that a black man, Terrance Jordan, confessed to the murder and stated that it had to do with drugs.

Ward said he is not buying it; "The house had no drugs. I don't know what these people had when they

caught up with them, but what does that have to do with my brother?". Seems shit isn't adding up, Sammy continued, "I don't know if this is a smokescreen. They're lying so much about everything and not telling us anything. They're saying a black guy confessed saying it was a drug deal gone bad. I think they want us to put it out there to ease up the race thing. It will take the light off them."

Sammy says his brother stopped by their mother Betty's house on Wednesday, Nov. 15, and brought a friend, Jason Morgan of Kingsley. They said they were heading up north to go fishing.

After they left, Sammy called his brother. "Brock

you're going way up north, you need to let me know where you're going," he told him, asking him to text him his address when he got there. He did.

On Friday, Brock called saying he felt uncomfortable because he was told by his friend that "it is racist up here, it's very racist."

"So at that point, I guess my brother was getting nervous. He called for a ride. He was telling me, I'm

on my way back down. Make sure Mike come get me. If they need gas money give them some gas money to come get me."

Family friend, Mike, who runs a transportation service drove up to give Brock a ride home.

He arrived at the address Brock had texted Saturday morning. When he tried calling Ward's phone, there was no answer. He waited two hours, but when the calls went unanswered he left.

Sammy began making phone calls looking for his brother. He called the police, local hospitals, bail bonds. Nobody had seen him. By Tuesday, Nov. 21 he felt extremely worried. He, his sister Tangela Ward, and nephew Pre'Andre Ward made the drive north in search of Brock. When they arrived at the house, they found it locked and with nobody around. Walking

"The friend he had traveled up north with had told him to hide in a backroom should his racist friends come over."

around the house, they found one room with a window open. A breeze blew the curtain slightly, which is when they saw Brock's feet.

"You couldn't see the rest of the room so the wind was blowing and it blew up and I seen a pair of shoes and I just knew it was my uncle because the shoes he had on are the shoes that I bought him," Pre'Andre Ward said.

CONTINUED ON PG 3

FUCK THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, HERE'S THE REAL RESISTANCE:

HARM REDUCTION AGAINST OVERDOSES

TRAVERSE CITY, MI

Northern Lower Michigan Redneck Revolt, an anti-racist/anti-capitalist group that works within rural, working class communities has begun distributing and training folks to use naloxone, a life-saving drug that can stop an overdose of heroin. The opioid crisis affects us all, rural and urban, the cops and the government are not the side of those who are suffering. Calling 911 during an overdose can lead to arrests, prison time, fines, and shame. We need to be organizing vital mutual aid like this within our communities.

RESISTANCE TO STEVE BANNON

WARREN, MI

On November 8th, people from across the Midwest showed up outside the Andiamos restaurant in Warren, MI to confront a GOP fundraiser that featured right-wing nationalist agitator Steve Bannon. Bannon has facilitated coordination and collaboration between the fascist far right and more mainstream republican organizations. After weeks of worker agitation against serving the far-right, community members rallied and chanted outside the restaurant and let Bannon and his supporters know that they are not welcome in our community.

ARGENTINE REBELLION AGAINST AUSTERITY

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

After the Argentinian government proposed serious cuts to the state pension plan, thousands of people took to the streets. On December 17th a rebellion outside the legislature temporarily suspended government's operations. Street fighting and confrontations with the police continued throughout the day. The anger of the people could only be contained after the city had to call upon the federal police for support.

NURSES STAND UP TO SPARROW HOSPITAL CORPORATION

LANSING, MI

On December 19th nurses, their families, and supporters from around the state held an informational picket outside the Sparrow Hospital's main campus in Lansing. Over 250 people attended. The nurses' union is going through contract negotiations with the hospital corporation, and, by most accounts, the union has been treated like shit. The picket was partially organized by the Michigan Nurses Association, but became much bigger and stronger as friends and family from the neighborhood also came out to show their support.

ANTI-RACIST ACTION VETERANS SHARE LESSONS FROM HISTORY

Ann Arbor, MI

Huron Valley Solidarity & Defense hosted two of the founding members of Anti-Racist Action (ARA) on December 7th. ARA was founded as a network of local groups that would confront Nazis and fascists in the streets and whenever they tried to hold public events. They were successful in seriously curbing KKK and neo-Nazi organizing in the Midwest in the early 2000s. Fifty people attended the event and were able to learn from the successes and mistakes of past movements.



COMMUNITY BLOCKADES TRANSPORTATION OF FRACKING EQUIPMENT

OLYMPIA, WA

On November 29th a coalition of youth, environmentalists, indigenous elders, and various other groups blockaded the train tracks leaving the Port of Olympia for twelve days in order to stop the shipment of fracking equipment. They defended the blockade from police raids for almost two weeks. The blockaders had several demands, including an end to the shipment of fossil fuel equipment through the port and a transition to a just economy. One group released a more imaginative list that included a demand to turn the port back into a beach. On the 12th day the blockade was violently destroyed by the police. The blockade began on the one-year anniversary of a blockade in the same spot. Hopefully it will become an annual tradition.

INFORMATIONAL FLYERING AGAINST ALT-RIGHT CHURCH

FERNDALE, MI

On December 20th, Solidarity & Defense members from across the state hit the streets with informational flyers about a fascist organization called Church Militant. The group tries to persuade Catholics into adopting a far-right, hate-filled political ideology. In Ferndale, they were attempting to build community support for their cause by holding a public "Noel Night" event. Solidarity & Defense members flyered in order to ensure that well-meaning people were not fooled by Church Militant's pious facade.



WHITE LIES DONT MATTER, CONT.

The nephew climbed through the window and then let the rest of the family in. When the cops got there, Sammy started noticing strange things. While the family was being questioned, a Yukon pulled into the driveway. Sammy said the cop asked the person who he was and the driver identified himself as the homeowner. The officer told him to leave.

“They had all our IDs, our information down—and that’s the homeowner! Why weren’t you questioning him?” Sammy recounted. “He would know everyone! Why are you letting him go?”

The following day the Kalkaska County Sheriff’s Office reported arresting a POC male who they originally stated was from Wisconsin, but four days later it was revealed he had lived in Traverse City for 8 years. Terrance Jordan, 36, is a friend of Jason Morgan. Both were thrown in jail with Jason’s girlfriend Sara. She was released on November 23 with no charges, but was at the scene when the murder occurred.

“My family is just so hurt because we can’t get no answers,” said Sammy. “Who do we turn to? If we can’t turn to the police, who do we turn to to get answers? They won’t tell the news anything, they won’t tell nobody nothing.”

Notes from the pre-trial November 27th

Both defendants seem coerced by the sheriffs in attendance. Terrance Logan, the friend from Wisconsin, reportedly had confessed. He stood mute when asked for a plea. Why, if he has confessed, is he being forced to continue to languish in the court system? It looks like he is being used to leverage the other defendant, Jason, to also plea.

Both defendants seemed to not be able to grasp what was happening. Jason and Terrance both seemed surprised when the charges were read, both shaking their heads NO when the charges were read.

Both defendants’ bonds were raised from one million to ten million. If they can’t get out, they can’t tell their story to anyone. Both defendants were assigned court appointed attorneys. Sheriffs coached the defendants, telling them to “just say yes” when asked certain questions.

Undersheriff interrupted a conversation between a member of SnD and the family in the foyer of the courthouse. The cop told the family that drugs were involved, though no drugs have been found. (There were no drugs in the house, or on the body when the family found Broderick).

The sheriff said that there was a huge struggle at the house where the murder occurred. When the family arrived they described the scene as untouched, except for Broderick’s body. They ALL stated there was no evidence of a struggle or fight at the residence.

The Undersheriff stated that Terrance had confessed, but when asked if it was on tape, he said no. Then maybe. And then yes, on audio. Then maybe again. In an official statement to the press, the cops reported to the news that Terrance had confessed.

Jason has been charged with robbery; however, the family members in attendance stated he offered to pay for Broderick’s fishing gear and fishing license. The family stated that Jason and Broderick would regularly loan each other money. The sheriff’s department claim he lured Broderick north to rob him. How can you rob your broke friend? The entire Ward family rejects the authenticity and accuracy of the cops’ story.

Context

In June 2017, the mayor of Kalkaska, who prefers to be called the “President of Kalkaska” posted anti-Muslim and extremely racist messages on his personal Facebook page, stating, “the Black Lives Matter movement has grown out of control, it’s time to thin the herd of this crap.” and that it’s “time to kill every last one of them, they cannot be rehabilitated.” He has continued to imply, disgustingly, that this is “free speech”. Bullshit. During this time members of SnD were organizing with Redneck Revolt, who attended a rally against the racist mayor and his army of weaponized ignorance. Since that time, those people had have many conversations with the residents of the village. Routinely it was stated that the mayor, ALL the cops and much of the administration were extremely racist and unafraid to show it. There was also many people sporting White Nationalist, Nazi, KKK tattoos at the protest.

SnD Traverse City is working daily with the family of the victim. We continue to uncover glaring inconsistencies and, in some cases, direct contradictions to previous statement by the cops. We will continue to work with the family to uncover the facts surrounding Brock’s murder. We are finding that there is a growing White Nationalist movement in the area, especially Vanguard and Klansmen. We have known of two, possibly three klans in that area for the past 20 years. To the south, in Cadillac, there is a growing Nazi presence. We believe that these elements are combining forces. If this is true, any connection to a racist mayor and administration could be a fatal blow to organizing efforts of these fash trash.



FIREARMS & COMMUNITY SELF DEFENSE

Community self-defense, a salient component of numerous radical programs, and the many forms it takes are particularly in focus. Whether intentional or not, organizations like Redneck Revolt have often centered the debate about community self-defense on radicals’ open possession of firearms and their employment in radical action. We must take deliberate action to prevent the possession and employment of firearms among radicals from being fetishized like other radical tactics and to protect ourselves from the state.

When working with communities (including ones that we are part of) that are being targeted by white supremacist terror, we must work with that community to determine which tactics they are comfortable with. We generally should defer to the community’s wishes if they request that we avoid using open display of firearms in

direct action. If we collaborate with the community to determine a course of action and violate their trust by doing what makes us more comfortable instead, then we are guilty of authoritarian actions and vanguardism.

Carrying arms at demonstrations or actions also introduces new avenues for the state to prosecute or intimidate radicals with legal threats. Laws regarding open and concealed carry vary significantly based on the property a person is standing on. Certain physical or superficial characteristics of a firearm can also be used as grounds for violations of state or federal law.

Firearms possession should not be discouraged among radicals. However, we must be mindful of how their use affects our tactics, perceptions, and the risks we are already taking.

IS IT OK TO BE WHITE?

Throughout the country, university campuses have been targeted by white supremacist and fascist organizations for agitation and recruitment. In Michigan, we've seen openly fascist groups like Identity Evropa and American Vanguard increase their visibility on campuses like University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Wayne State University.

The alt-right views universities as a significant battleground. The racial and class conditions on campuses, fuelled by their histories of elitist liberalism, make universities ripe for effective trolling by the alt right, who are attempting to move their sphere of activity from the internet to the streets.

Most recently, we have seen flyers being spread on campuses that read "it's OK to be white". The context around this statement has a major role in defining it; while it seems innocuous, in this context, it is actually very dangerous.

This is the alt-right's modus operandi: to covertly fuel racist reaction through coded terms (hell, this strategy has been admitted by many alt righters). More importantly, they are able to do this because of the racism that is already normalized in American society -- where statements that appeal to racist reaction can be viewed as "common sense" and uncontroversial. The system we live in has always used coded terms and actions to exercise racism; this is not new. Racism is foundational to our social order and fascists merely want to affirm and assert that.

So when we make a stand to oppose flyers that read "it's OK to be white", there is confusion. Many people do not recognize that the motivations behind such a flyers. Do we think it's not okay to be white? Do we actually hate white people? These questions are exactly the sort that the fascists of the alt-right want to elicit. But let's sincerely talk about it.

Any real conversation about this topic must start with understanding the white supremacist foundation of American society. It is impossible to sugar-coat. This country was born by the genocide of Natives through colonial expansion and built on the backs of enslaved Africans. Europeans came to the "new world" and committed a litany of atrocities in order to build their empires, which produced the social structure we live in today.

It is no accident that, according to every economic indicator, African Americans, Latinx people, and Native peoples are systematically impoverished and discriminated against (1). It is no accident that the

Global South funds the development of the Global North. These are integral components to the rise and dominance of Western civilization.

Whiteness, itself, was developed as a social/racial category in order to unify various European peoples in the oppression of Black and Native peoples (2). Over time, previously marginalized European ethnic groups, such as Italians and the Irish, accepted the bribe of whiteness and marched alongside Anglo-Saxons and the Dutch in the name of protecting their supremacy. So, the question does actually have to be asked:

Is it OK to be white?

Systematically, whiteness is not a reference to skin color, but is associated with social structure and order. It is part of the deep undercurrent that organizes our society into the haves and have-nots along racial lines. The alt-right's reaction is not coming from a place of victimhood, but from a place of power and domination; power that feels threatened, but power nonetheless.

The alt-right mistakenly sees economic globalization as part of a conspiracy perpetrated by people of color to take their privilege, even though people of color are largely those most exploited by globalization.

They view the uprisings and rebellions across the country against police violence as a threat to their order and not as the expressions of self-defense and self-determination that they are.

They scapegoat all of us who aren't straight white males, and fetishize a mythological concept of the past that wasn't even attainable to their ancestors.

So when someone posts flyers declaring "it's OK to be white" on campuses within this context, it's doubtful that they are referring merely to skin tone. They are using the word "white" as code for oppressor. They are using the word "white" to refer to the white supremacist order we live in, and white people's entitlement to their position within that order.

They are defending their right to the spoils of empire; their unapologetic right to be settlers. The racial category of "white" was produced for this very reason.

So, is it ok to be "white"?

We should be rebelling against the oppressive, racist order "whiteness" refers to. This order is what is being affirmed by fascists, and we need to resist against its exploitative and violent ends. We need white people

to reject the empire "whiteness" stands for, to be "race traitors" in solidarity with those abused by the system.

We need to recognize that "whiteness" is inherently tied to capitalism, which systematically exploits all people, white workers included. To be race traitors, White people need to fight against the historic project that has profited off their labor and environment, both of which are constantly exploited to breaking point after breaking point. White people need to fight alongside communities of color, immigrants, women, the differently-abled, and LGBTQ people for liberation from the violence of the state, capital, and fascists on the street.

The alt-right believes it is more clever and politically sophisticated than it is, and they underestimate the intelligence of the public. They spout overtly racist, misogynist, homophobic, transphobic, and ableist rhetoric and threats, and when the expected consequence of resistance is dealt to them, they use "free speech" as a cover.

When our resistance calls out their sick love for white supremacy, they complain about "reverse-racism" and put up flyers about how "it's OK to be white". Because racism is so normalized, they are often able to obscure their true politics of genocide and get away with it. Fascism has always worked in this way; it has always been able to take advantage of the normalized racism of liberalism and its illusion of neutrality in order to obtain and maintain power.

We say that the fascists should no longer be able to hide behind "free speech", so-called "reverse-racism", and a hundred layers of hipster irony. Fascists need to be called out and defended against consistently, especially when the highest political offices in the land echo their desires and violent impulses. It doesn't matter what color your skin is -- anybody and everybody who has solidarity in their hearts should stand up against white supremacy.

Our resistance is multiracial, while they explicitly draw their power from whiteness. What they are defending is privilege constituted upon our oppression; what we are defending is our dignity, safety, and the dignity and safety of all those we care about.

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