

Hate Violence 1991: The Year In Review

In 1991, as this nation shifted further to the ideological right, those of us working for the preservation of civil liberties, for the creation of a just society, and against oppression and bigotry, found our work to be increasingly difficult. That this country is in the midst of further rightward shift is evidenced by the conservative platforms of both Democratic and Republican presidential candidates, by the growing support of rightwing candidates for public office at all levels of government, by attempts to deny women reproductive rights, by efforts to take away the few rights granted lesbians and gay men, and by the passage of civil rights legislation that diminishes the protection afforded victims of racial and sexual discrimination.

It was a year in which white supremacists seemed to be ever present, offering solutions for white people who are frustrated by the country's economic decline and the shortage of everything that is supposed to be part of the American Dream — crime-free neighborhoods, stable jobs that pay a decent wage, affordable housing and medical care, and safe schools with adequate resources and high academic standards. Some white supremacists, like Louisiana's David Duke, managed to run successful campaigns for public office — losing the election but winning a national audience for his version of a white supremacist agenda watered down for broader appeal. Duke gave a voice and national leadership to reconstituted as well as old-style racists.

The enclosed 1991 Women's Watchcare Network log is evidence that Arkansas reflects the national trend of increased biased violence committed by both individuals and members of organized hate groups. Arkansas' resident white supremacists — emboldened by the growing influence of

the ideological and religious rightwing on public discourse — refined their strategy of involving themselves in issues of community concern. Thom Robb of Harrison, Arkansas, the Grand Dragon (he prefers to be called National Director) of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, and Ralph Forbes, the former Populist Party activist and David Duke presidential campaign manager who runs a Christian Identity ministry, gained increased visibility in 1991. Robb and his fellow Klansmen rallied to keep the Confederate flag as a high school symbol, got their publications in public and university libraries, claimed to have distributed anti-drug fliers at a high school, are building a 40-acre camp where future Klan leaders will be trained, have stepped up recruitment efforts across the state, and are now threatening to sue the state of Arkansas unless they can participate in a state-run clean highway program. For his part, Forbes succeeded in getting Little Rock's public hospital to stop doing abortions unless a woman's life is endangered or she can pay. The halting of abortion services in all other cases stands until a trial is held on the issue.

The danger in these groups' community-based involvement is this: as they inject themselves in community issues, most of which are emotional ones, less attention is paid to who they are ideologically and more attention is paid to what they say. As in the case of the anti-abortion lawsuit, the line between anti-abortion religious fundamentalists and card-carrying white supremacists is blurred, giving the white supremacists a large number of allies. And white supremacists merging with religious fundamentalists, especially in a Bible-belt state where Southern Baptist wield

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considerable power, could have a profoundly negative affect on personal freedoms in our state.

Distinguishing the players in the so-called mainstream of American politics from white supremacists is increasingly difficult, a fact that is made evident by the field of presidential candidates. George Bush, who has already shown himself to be an enemy of social justice, looks liberal next to Patrick Buchanan. An arch-conservative former presidential aide and media commentator, Buchanan garnered 41% of the primary vote in the New Hampshire primary, sending the Bush campaign scrambling to recover. This can only have negative implications for the masses of people in this country as the Bush campaign, in an effort to win support among right-wing Republicans, will move even further away from addressing the nation's human needs. But isn't Buchanan's showing merely an example of George Bush and the entire Republican party reaping what they have sown over the past decade? It was the Republican party that played to white people's racism to win votes; now Buchanan is beating more mainstream Republicans at their own game. Willie Horton, who symbolized the Republican party's manipulation of

race and racism to beat Democrat Michael Dukakis in the 1988 election, has come back to haunt the Republicans.

Conservatism is not limited to the Republicans. The Democratic party, through its creation of the Democratic Leadership Council, has tempered that party's traditional "liberal"

In Arkansas, our resident white supremacists — emboldened by the growing influence of the ideological and religious rightwing on public discourse — refined their strategy of involving themselves in issues of community concern.

message by putting forth more centrist platforms that de-emphasize civil rights and affirmative action. This shift represents an effort to placate white voters who blame the country's increasing economic and social ills and declining moral standards on the "special privileges" accorded to people of color, women — both heterosexual and lesbian — gays and Jews. Consequently, the social and political climate for these groups has deteriorated.

1991 was the year that Anita Hill was put on trial by the Senate Judiciary Committee and found guilty of daring to voice Clarence Thomas' violation of her; William Kennedy Smith used his family's political power and wealth to beat a charge of rape by Patricia Bowman; Rodney King became another one of the countless people of color who are brutalized by police, only he got lucky by having his beating videotaped; and Jeffrey Dahmer set horrifyingly new standards for the destruction of humanity caused by homophobia and racism.

SEXIST VIOLENCE

As in each year since we started

the Women's Watchcare Network in 1989, acts of biased violence committed by individuals far outstripped any violence committed by members of white supremacist groups. The number of women murdered in Arkansas last year averaged one every 4.6 days. There were 79 murders of women and girls in the state of Arkansas and four deaths in which murder is a possibility. Some were killed by strangers but the majority — 66 — were killed by husbands, boyfriends, relatives, acquaintances or men whose relationship to the victim is unknown. In one of the cases, a woman was charged along with a man. In 13 of the murders, the assailant had yet to be identified as of February 7, 1992; however, based on past experience, we believe the majority were men.

According to our research, the deadliest years for women are between the ages of 20 and 29. Husbands, boyfriends and former husbands and boyfriends were charged with 34 of the murders, and guns were the murder weapons used most often.

Last year, at the time of publication of the 1990 Women's Watchcare Network log, we documented 76 murders of women. After additional information became available in the spring due to the progress of police investigations, eight of the 76 were later determined not to be homicides. Consequently, we are certain that several of the murders in which no suspects have been identified may have been committed by women; additionally, the four questionable deaths from 1991 could end up being ruled as suicides or accidental deaths. Even still, at this time there were eight more murders of women in 1991 than there were in 1990, showing an increase of 9.2% percent.

RACIST VIOLENCE

Nearly half of the reported incidents of racist violence that occurred last year involved law enforcement officials. Out of 23 such incidents, one involved a killing by a police officer; eight charges of excessive force and use of racial

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slurs during arrests, particularly of young black males; and one allegation of abusive treatment of a jail inmate.

Educational institutions — high schools and colleges — were the site of several racist incidents. Most notable were attempts by white students to burn a cross at Sylvan Hills High School in Sherwood, and the FBI investigation of racist and threatening hate letters sent anonymously to two African-American professors at the University of Central Arkansas at Conway. In nearly all-white Rogers, Arkansas, harassment of a black student took a turn for the better when about 50 students staged a walk-out after they felt school administrators failed to respond to the racially-motivated harassment.

ANTI-LESBIAN/GAY VIOLENCE

Anti-lesbian and gay violence and victimization showed an increase in 1991; however, as this kind of violence is perhaps the most difficult to monitor, we cannot determine that an increase in our statistics means an actual increase in the violence. Rather, it may be due to better monitoring on our part and increased visibility of our work within the lesbian and gay community.

What seemingly did increase was the severity of the violence and the involvement of the state via law enforcement officials. A man was killed after allegedly making sexual advances toward another man; one man was physically assaulted, a rape attempt was made on a lesbian, and the usual gay-and lesbian-hating attitudes were found on college campuses, in newspaper letters to the editor and in the workplace. Police officials also had a hand in the harassment and entrapment of men who solicit sex from other men at rest stops and bars. The day after representatives of lesbian and gay and human rights organizations testified before the Arkansas state Senate Judiciary committee in an attempt to repeal the sodomy law — which failed because committee members voted to keep the bill in committee and in effect killed it — the Pulaski County Sheriff's office

launched a series of raids at the Morgan rest stop. The media sensationalized the arrests by taking television cameras into the rest stop and courtroom, and by printing the names of those arrested in the newspaper, even though the crimes were misdemeanors.

ANTI-SEMITIC/ANTI-CATHOLIC VIOLENCE

For 1991, we documented two incidents of anti-Semitic violence in the form of vandalism; however, there continued to be a climate of anti-Semitism, in large part due to the white supremacists. Tony Alamo, the Arkansas-based Catholic hater and cult leader, received lots of media attention last year. After being captured by the FBI, Alamo was acquitted of charges that he threatened to kidnap a federal judge. He had been sought on charges of failure to pay back wages to former employees, and to pay corporate, withholding and personal income taxes. Alamo is now in California facing criminal child abuse charges.

STRATEGIES FOR 1992

In the coming year, the Watchcare Network staff will focus on working with communities where the Ku Klux Klan has a presence to develop organizing strategies to counter hate group activity. We will also publish readable informational materials that can be easily distributed within communities.

Other plans include organizing a training conference for Watchcare volunteer monitors and allies; building a base among Native American and Latino women; doing organizing with young African-American women around issues of violence and self-esteem/self-image; and organizing with African-American adults to focus on countering intra-community violence.

Kelly Mitchell-Clark

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The 1991 Women's Watchcare Network Log

A documentation of sexist, racist,
homophobic and religious violence, and
the activities of organized hate groups
in Arkansas.

Women's Project
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1991 Women's Watchcare Network Log

All log incidents are listed by date of the first report to appear in the media, except in two cases which are noted.

SEXIST VIOLENCE

Of the following 83 violent deaths of women, 66 were murders known, as of February 7, 1992, to have been perpetrated by men (in one incident, with a woman accomplice). In 13 cases we are assuming, until proven otherwise, that the murderers are also men. We make this assumption because of the high incidence of men killing women and the rare incidence of women killing women. In 4 of the cases it is possible the death will be determined to be other than a homicide. (AD: Arkansas Democrat, AG: Arkansas Gazette, AD-G: Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.)

Fouke, January 3.

Edith Lynn Smith, 50, was found dead along with her husband, Monroe W. Smith, 55, after he called a friend and said he had shot his wife and planned to kill himself.

1/3: AG.

Locke Community, January 10.

Sue Croff, 25, died of a gunshot wound to the upper torso which her husband, James, 45, told sheriff's deputies was the result of an accidental shooting with a 7.62 R rifle (a bolt-action Russian made weapon that is popular with deer hunters).

James Croff was charged with manslaughter.

1/10-1/25: *Press Argus Courier, AG.*

Conway, January 11.

Alice Marle Nichols, 36, was found floating in the Arkansas River a month after she was reported missing on a night she left a Menifee night club. Preliminary reports indicate that she was strangled, but a suspect has yet to be identified.

1/11-3/13: *AG, AD, Conway County Petit Jean Headlight.*

Fort Smith, January 15.

Rose Mary Waltman, 35, died from injuries sustained during a fight.

Roy Lee Crain, 36, was arrested and charged with second-degree murder.

1/15: AG.

Bondsville, January 15.

Shella Ann Dickson, 24, was killed in a hit and run accident.

Her husband, Tommy Dickson, told officers that his wife had been run over and he was arrested at the scene for driving while intoxicated. He was charged with and later convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to 40 years in prison.

1/15: AG.

Forrest City, January 18.

Opal Boyd, 28, died of injuries, including a gunshot.

Saudi Brown was charged and released on a \$25,000 bond.

1/18: AG.

Fayetteville, January 19.

Debra Ann Landreth Adams, 34, was found face-up and still alive in a water-logged roadside ditch east of West Fork. Her shirt and shoes were missing, and she had abrasions and bruises to her legs and hips. Adams died 90 minutes later at the hospital. She was described as a "local transient" who lived in a residential care home in Bentonville, though she had stayed at the Salvation Army in Fayetteville the night before her death. Three days after she was found, Adams was identified, and Sheriff Kenneth McKee said she was "definitely murdered."

The death is still under investigation.

1/19-1/24: *AD, AG, NW Arkansas Times, Springdale News, Washington Co. Observer, Argus Courier.*

Monette, February 12.

Judith Wyvonne Qualls, 46, shot in the back with a .12 gauge shotgun, was found in Mud Slough. Her friend, Billy Roland, 56, had been found a week earlier, shot with a .22 and burned in his pickup truck. Robert Bryan Miller, 30, was charged with capital murder. He pled guilty and was sentenced to two life sentences without parole.

2/12-9/21: *AG, Jonesboro Sun, Northeast Arkansas Town Crier, AD.*

Batesville, February 21.

Connie Dian Wilson, 41, was found shot in the head with a high-powered rifle.

Martin Chandler, 43, who claims it was an accident, was charged with first-degree murder, with bond set at \$200,000.

2/21: *Batesville Guard.*

El Dorado, February 27.

Valeincia Laticla Avery, 26, was killed by cyanide poisoning. A crack pipe was found under her body. Police suspected that drugs Avery inhaled had been laced with cyanide, but tests on the pipe showed no evidence of cyanide.

The death is still under investigation.

2/27-5/15: *AG, El Dorado News-Times.*

Knoxville, March 7.

Joetta Kirkpatrick, 48, was shot four times in the head with a .25 caliber automatic pistol.

Fred Rainey, 25, was charged with first degree murder. In court, Rainey confessed that the couple had argued after having sex, and she threatened to tell his wife about their sexual relations. He was convicted and given a 20 year prison term.

3/7-8/31: *Russellville Courier Democrat, Johnson County Graphic, Paris Express, Ozark Spectator, Southwest Times Record.*

Magnolia, March 11.

Linda S. Holley, 50, a public health nurse for 21 years, was found in her home killed by five to six severe blows to the head and 12 stab wounds.

Holley's daughter, Nikki Sue Zinger, 27, and her boyfriend, Daniel Wayne Risher, 23, were charged with capital murder and released on bond.

3/11-9/18: *Magnolia Banner-News.*

El Dorado, March 26.

Annie Ruth Reynolds, 26, was found by her sisters strangled in a wooded park.

Willie Alford King, Jr., 32, was charged with capital murder. He has a history of sexual assaults, remains a suspect in the strangulation murder of his 14 year-old step daughter, and has been arrested twice on rape charges.

3/26-8/29: *Eldorado News-Times, AD, AG.*

Pine Bluff, March 26.

Paula D. Rankin, 21, was found with multiple gunshot wounds to the head in a bayou on the Arkansas/Louisiana border.

The death is still under investigation.

3/26-5/5: *AG, Pine Bluff Commercial, AD.*

North Little Rock, April 1.

Cynthia Gray, 28, died of a head injury. After being told she had fallen from her porch, hospital personnel declared her death accidental and she was buried without an autopsy.

Three weeks later, the cause of death was ruled "unknown" after family members claimed she had not fallen but had been beaten by her boyfriend, who had supplied the original information on her injury to her doctor. The doctor did not inform police of the change and the death was not investigated until December. An exhumation has been ordered in an attempt to obtain more information on the cause of death.

12/13-2/5/92: *AD-G, Spectrum Weekly.*

Jonesboro, April 2.

Juanita Cook, 63, was shot several times in the chest with a .38-caliber Winchester at her home.

Domingo DeLeon, 64, also shot her son in the stomach as he got out of his pickup truck, and shot at a police officer before surrendering. DeLeon pled guilty to first-degree murder, attempted capital murder, first-degree battery and aggravated assault and was sentenced to 30 years for first-degree murder and 20 years each for the two other charges. "It was just a family dispute," Assistant Chief Jack McCann said. DeLeon was drunk at the time.

4/2-12/10: *AG, AD, Springdale Morning News, Jonesboro Sun.*

Cotton Belt, April 2.

Rena Faye Gill, 31, was shot in the head in her bedroom where Paul Ross, 34, was also shot in the head with the same .38-caliber pistol.

Samuel Gill, 30, broke into the house, shot the two and fled the scene. He was charged with first-degree murder of his wife and attempted capital murder of Ross. The shooting was reported by the couple's 9-year-old son.

4/2-4/3: *Magnolia Banner News, AG.*

Little Rock, April 6.

Verna Truet, 25, was shot in the head at her office. She was a temporary service employee who lived and worked at the Labor Force building.

Steven Woodhall, 28, an acquaintance, was charged with first-degree murder.

4/6-8/14: *AD, AG.*

Little Rock, April 8.

Mary Croom, 62, was stabbed in the chest with a butcher knife in her apartment where TV, purse, and meat were found missing.

Anthony Antonio Hart, 26, was charged with capital murder. Hart was out of jail for less than a month on unresolved charges. He had a criminal record of burglary of a convenience store, theft of property, contempt of court, and possession of drugs.

4/8-5/1: *AG, AD.*

Searcy, April 8.

Bollvia Christine Gibbons Tilghman, 48, was killed by multiple gunshot wounds along a road off US 67-167.

Marvin T. Johnson, 29, found in the victim's 1986 Chevrolet Blazer, was charged with first-degree murder.

4/8-4/18: *The Daily Citizen, AG, White County Record, AD.*

Gurdon, April 8.

Martha D. Hill, 35, was found naked in her living room with a single shotgun blast to her upper chest.

Virgil Mitchell, 36, who had been living with Hill, was charged with first-degree murder.

4/8-4/10. *Arkadelphia Daily Siftings Herald.*

Little Rock, April 11.

Debble Ashley, 41, shot twice with a small-caliber pistol, was found in the trunk of her car parked in a Little Rock Airport parking lot.

Larry Ashley, 44, her husband, confessed to shooting her for \$200,000 in insurance, and was charged with capital murder. He was convicted and sentenced to life without parole.

4/11-8/10: *AG, AD.*

Salem, April 11.

Sabrina Lynn Underwood's partial remains were found in the woods. Officers found clothing wrapped in two leather coats and tied together by hiking shoe laces about six to eight feet from splintered and broken human bones. Fulton County Sheriff Paul Martin said "Animals had destroyed most of it." Underwood had been hiking to visit her boyfriend at the North-Central Unit of the State Corrections Department.

The death is still under investigation.

4/11-4/25: *The News, AG, AD.*

Hope, April 22.

Ellen K. Reed, 36, was found stabbed repeatedly and lying in a pool of blood on her living room floor.

The death is still under investigation.

4/22-4/25: *Hope Star, AG.*

Jonesboro, April 28.

Benita Carol Gilmer, 31, was shot twice with a .12-gauge shotgun at her mobile home. She and her husband had separated but were trying to reconcile.

Mike Gilmer, 40, then killed himself with the same gun. Their 11-year-old son watched the killings.
4/28-4/30: *Jonesboro Sun, AD.*

Jacksonville, May 6.

The badly decomposed body of **Carolyn R. Johnson**, 30, was found in a dilapidated shed, about a block from her home. She had been strangled. Johnson lived next door to Christine Lewis, 22, who had been raped, beaten, sodomized, strangled and stuffed in a closet of an abandoned house in 1989. Jacksonville police have established a task force to investigate these two murders as well as the unresolved murder of a third young black woman, Margie Thompson, 25, who had been beaten and dragged behind a car in 1990.

5/6-10/18: *AG, AD-G.*

Hickory Ridge, May 6.

Christina Marie Pipkin, 9, was found face-down in a water-filled ditch four miles from her neighborhood, where she had been selling jewelry to raise money for a school project. An autopsy showed drowning as the cause of death. Police are working on the assumption that she was picked up and taken to the ditch, but no suspect has been identified.

5/6-11/7: *AD, AG, Augusta Advocate, AD-G.*

Earle, May 8.

Jackie Wren Hall, 22, killed by a blow to the head, was found on the bank of Wild Cat Bayou. Parnell Carter, 25, was charged with capital murder.

5/8-5/17: *AG.*

Dover, May 17.

Pamela Jean Ward, 21, was found beaten severely, possibly with a hammer, floating in the Illinois Bayou. She was "nude from the chest area down and the blouse and bra were pulled up around the neck area," said Lt. Ray Caldwell; there were wounds on the body including ones near the chin, between the eyes, and a hole in the right side of the head had penetrated the skull. An autopsy showed that "an object had been inserted into her vaginal area into her body cavity and also into her rectal area into the body cavity." A family coming upon the campsite thought the blood they saw on the rocky creek bank was where someone had butchered a deer until they saw an earring in the blood. Ward was pregnant. She was believed to have been alive when thrown into the bayou.

William Bryant Warren, 35, who had three prior arrests, was charged with capital murder.

5/17-5/22: *Russellville Courier Democrat, AG, AD.*

Fulton County, May 30.

Vicki Stacey, 23, died in the hospital from injuries suffered when she jumped from a pickup truck during an argument with her boyfriend.

After a State Police investigation Kelly Copelin, 24, was charged with manslaughter in the death. He had claimed Stacey had asked him to stop the truck but jumped before he had a chance to do so.

5/30-9/10: *AG, AD, The Fulton News.*

Little Rock, June 10.

Latonya Webster, 21, was shot twice in the chest with a large-caliber pistol. She reportedly had acted as a police informant.

Leroy Brown, 32, was charged with first-degree murder.

6/10-7/23: *AG, AD.*

Hot Springs, June 18.

Mary Lynn Bryden, 47, was found bruised and partially nude, and stuffed in the trunk of a car. She was a nationally known handwriting expert.

Larry Dean Spohn, 47, was charged with first-degree murder. He had stopped by a friend's house to ask him if he had a "meat grinder or some other way to dispose of a body." He was convicted and sentenced to 40 years in prison.

6/18-11/27: *Hot Springs Sentinel-Record, AD, AG.*

Nashville, June 24.

Barbara Haislip, 22 was shot in the chest when she tried to intervene in an argument between her sister, Cheryl Haislip, and the father of her sister's child.

Nathaniel Benson, 29, who also shot Cheryl in the knee while arguing about his taking the couple's baby, has been charged with capital murder and first degree battery.

6/24-7/3: *Nashville News, AG, Texarkana Gazette.*

Blytheville, July 3.

Kermitt Ware Rosebud, 26, was shot five times in the left side and once in the head by two men who pulled her out of a car where she was sitting with her male companion. She had worked undercover for the police as an informant on drugs, but one of her killers had discovered her role and checked with police about it. Rosebud had worked for only about two months and had made \$200. She was separated from her husband and had a 4-year-old child.

Willie Ivory Williams, 42, and James Franklin Webb, 26, were charged with first-degree murder.

7/3-8/8: *AG, Blytheville Courier.*

Parkdale, July 3.

Betty Faye Davidson, 26, was killed by a bullet from a .22-caliber semi-automatic rifle in an altercation that started after the suspect allegedly began hitting Davidson's daughter with a set of jumper cables.

Sammy L. Carter, 26, has been charged with first-degree murder.

7/3: *AG.*

Denver Community, July 4.

Jeannette Cochran, 35, was shot twice.

Jimmy Lee Cochran, 27, then shot and killed himself. The two had been arguing while swimming at the river, and may have continued after going home.

7/4-7/11: *AG, Berryville Star-Progress.*

Osceola, July 5.

Kimberly Willing, 16, was found shot in the head in her boyfriend's pickup truck.

Ronald Clowers, 19, bought a rifle and a box of shells at a pawn shop, picked up Willing, and drove to near where he worked. He shot her, then shot and killed himself. The family said they had been arguing. Also, animosity between the families was reported.

7/5-7/6: *AD, AG.*

North Little Rock, July 8.

Alva Rae Walker, 39, was found dead in her bed with two gunshot wounds in the forehead. Cary Walker, 13, her son, found her. She had recently borrowed a pistol to protect herself and warned her son against using it. On July 1, she had sworn out an arrest warrant for 3rd-degree battery for her former boyfriend, Stanford Conley, 30. Walker said Conley beat her with a telephone and a book, strangled her and hit her head against the floor and wall. Conley was picked up for misdemeanor charges and released the same day on \$500 bail.

A juvenile, whose name cannot be released because he is under age 14, was arrested in the case and charged with an unspecified offense.

7/8-7/19: *AD, AG.*

Palestine, July 9.

Courtney Armstrong, 2, was shot twice by her father, who also shot at her mother and another sibling without injuring them.

Tony Armstrong then shot himself but survived to be charged with first-degree murder.

7/9-7/20: *AG, Forrest City Daily Times-Herald.*

Sheridan, July 10.

Brenda Toth, 41, was shot with a 30-30 lever-action rifle. Her son, Tommy, was a witness.

David Coburn, 44, her former husband, then fatally shot himself. Toth and Coburn had been divorced for five years but had tried a reconciliation two months before the murder. An argument on July 4th, in which police were dispatched twice to Toth's apartment, had Toth concerned for her safety, and she had signed a warrant for Coburn's arrest.

7/10: *Pine Bluff Commercial.*

El Dorado, July 12.

An unidentified woman, early 20's, using the alias of Cheryl Wick, was shot in the head with a .25-caliber pistol in a motel room. She also had a fractured neck and bruises over her body.

James Roy MacAlphin, 29, turned himself in and was charged with first-degree murder. A witness saw him beat her in the motel parking lot, then drag her into the room.

7/12-8/16: *El Dorado News-Times*.

Leslie, July 19.

Sherla Fruitt, 10, was strangled with an electrical cord, and her nude body was weighted with rocks and dropped into a pond.

Jeremiah Holland, 16, the girl's cousin, admitted killing her, and was charged with first-degree murder.

7/19-8/1: *AG, AD, Mountain View Stone County Leader*.

Springtown, July 26.

Ruth Ann Roberts, 30, was shot multiple times in the back of her head with a .22-caliber semi-automatic rifle. A neighbor's child and two of her sons witnessed the killing.

Ricky Dale Roberts, 34, her estranged husband, was arrested walking nude down a road in Bella Vista. Divorce papers had been filed in 1989, the same year he had choked his wife to unconsciousness, but the divorce was never finalized. Ruth Ann Roberts had received a dozen red roses from him the day of her death. Roberts is to be given psychiatric evaluation.

7/26-7/29: *Benton County Daily Record, AG, News Leader, AD*.

Fayetteville, July 30.

Beverly Hancelton, 49, was shot.

Charles Hancelton, 51, then shot and killed himself. The couple were arguing prior to the shooting.

7/30: *AG*.

Little Rock, August 4.

Billie Jean Jones, 45, was found sitting at her kitchen table, dead 24 to 48 hours from internal injuries brought on by a beating.

Jackie Walters, 44, her boyfriend who lived with her and her brother, was charged with first-degree murder.

8/4-8/8: *AG, AD*.

Little Rock, August 7.

Rachael Plummer, 19, was shot in the head with a .38-caliber pistol.

Fred Pennington, 20, her ex-boyfriend, was charged with first-degree murder.

8/7: *AG*.

Texarkana, August 14.

Billie Jean Letterman, 21, was found on her living room floor. She had been shot in the head with a .22-caliber pistol. She also had some bruises on her face. Her husband, Michael Letterman, and their two daughters, ages 6 and 1, were in the house at the time.

Letterman claimed they were arguing before the shooting and that she shot herself. Authorities await an autopsy report that will determine how far the gun was from her head when fired.

8/14-9/26: *Texarkana Gazette*.

Little Rock, August 15.

Callie Jean Alexander, 39, shot twice in the head, was found nude floating in a small pond at the Koger Center.

The death is still under investigation.

8/15-8/21: *AD, AG*.

Fort Smith, August 31.

Juanita Roschelle Siharath, 20, was shot in the chest and left arm.

Chanthaphone Siharath then shot himself in the left side of the chest but survived. Though the couple was married, Juanita was living in Cedarville with her father.

8/31: *Southwest Times Record*.

Lonoke, September 2.

Sharon Evon Terry, 19, was shot in the chest with a .22-caliber revolver during an argument with her

brother-in-law, Horace Dixon, Jr.

The Lonoke Police Chief stated, " They just didn't get along and he said she tried to interfere with his marriage. He took it as long as he could." Dixon was charged with first-degree murder.

9/4-9/11: *Cabot Star Herald, AG, AD.*

Randolph County, September 6.

Diane Junkersfeld, 26, died from a gunshot wound to the head.

The death is still under investigation.

9/8: *Jonesboro Sun.*

Heber Springs, September 11.

The badly decomposed body of **Patricia Nell Taunt**, 45, was found by police buried under brush, garbage bags and rocks in a remote wooded location.

Jerry W. Hayes, 25, and his roommate, Barry Clyde Mattinson, 38, were charged with first-degree murder in the death. Taunt had been reported missing August 3rd from her Little Rock home. Police stated that Hayes, who lived with Taunt, hit her during an argument, severely injuring her, and "he knew he had to kill her then." He called Mattinson for help disposing of the body.

Two years ago, Hayes was ruled incompetent to stand trial in the attempted poisoning of his parents.

9/12-9/14: *AG, AD.*

Rogers, September 19.

Twilla Dawn Alvis, 22, was shot five times in the head and abdomen as she left her parents' home in the early morning.

Her estranged husband, George Alvis, was arrested shortly after as he drove past the crime scene and was charged with capital murder. They were separated and he had threatened her in the past.

9/19-9/25: *AD, AG, Benton County Daily Record, NW Arkansas Morning News.*

Helena, October 4.

Susan E. Conwell, 26, of Ohio was raped and stabbed 19 times in a secluded bywater of the Mississippi where she, her fiance, and two friends had moored their sailboat for repairs.

Curtis Pollard, 26, confessed to committing the crime with Calvin Marshall, 23, and the two were charged with capital murder. Pollard and Marshall had helped the crew carry supplies to the boat from town and had stayed with them until after dark. Conwell and Robert Scheid were showing them the path back to town when the attack took place. Scheid was also stabbed to death as was a dog belonging to Conwell's fiance.

Marshall had recently been released from jail where he served a six-year sentence for rape and escape.

10/4-10/6: *AD, AG.*

Carthage, October 9.

Martha Roseanne Lowe was shot in the chest with a 9mm pistol as she was attempting to leave her home during an argument with her boyfriend.

Tommy Lewis Taylor, 42, was charged with first-degree murder.

Police had been called to the home during several domestic disturbances in the past. Lowe's son, 10, daughter, 14, and a nephew, 10, were in the house at the time of the shooting.

10/16-10/17: *Pine Bluff Commercial, AG.*

Little Rock, October 13.

Felicia Martin, 29, was found strangled in a water-filled ditch by passing motorists.

Her estranged husband, Army Sgt. John D. Martin, 32, and his nephew, Odell Henry, 25, were arrested in Oklahoma and charged with capital murder. She had filed for divorce from Martin in September after he threatened to kill her. Martin and Henry were seen following her to work on the day of her death.

10/13-10/18: *AG, AD.*

Warren, October 14.

Angela Durden, 23, was found by police stomped unconscious and lying in a pool of blood. She was kicked repeatedly, leaving shoe prints from her head to her thighs. She died an hour later in the hospital.

Durden was visiting the home of her current boyfriend and his mother when Corelanus Phillips, 22, her ex-boyfriend and father of her 5-year-old child, came to the door and dragged her out into the street where he began beating her. Her boyfriend and his mother watched the beating from the porch, listening to her cries for help. A neighbor attempted to intervene until Phillips threatened to kill him. Phillips had attacked Durden on several previous occasions after she broke off her relationship with him.

Police arrested Phillips at the scene of the crime. "He was still stomping on her when the police arrived. It was a pretty gruesome deal," said Warren Police Chief Robert Outlaw. He was charged with capital murder, but escaped from the city/county jail on November 26 and has yet to be recaptured..

10/14-11/27: *Pine Bluff Commercial, Warren Eagle Democrat, AD, AG.*

Harrisburg, October 20.

Linda J. Settlemire, 35, was shot in the head with a .20-gauge shotgun in the kitchen of her home. Her son, Tommy Settlemire Jr., 17, was charged with first-degree murder.

10/20: *The Jonesboro Sun.*

Little Rock, October 20.

Mary Moon, 79, died at a local hospital of complications from a .25-caliber gunshot wound to the temple, which was inflicted August 22.

Her husband, Cortice Louie Moon, 81, shot her on their 60th wedding anniversary as she was receiving treatment at the hospital. Officials believe it was an attempted mercy killing. Moon attempted to shoot himself but the weapon jammed. He was charged with first-degree battery.

10/20: *AD-G*

Marion, October 23.

The body of **Virginia Darlene Peterson**, 40, was found in a ditch. She had been shot. Police are investigating the death as a homicide, but no suspects have been identified.

10/23: *AD-G, West Memphis Evening Times.*

Jacksonville, October 24.

Vicky A. Graham, 32, was shot with a .12-gauge shotgun outside the trailer where she lived.

Michael Eugene Courteau, 33, opened the door and shot her as she was returning to the trailer with another man who also lived there. Courteau was charged with first-degree murder.

10/12: *AD-G.*

McGehee, October 23.

Patricia Pickett, 28, and her mother **Dosha Graham**, 53, were shot after an argument with Pickett's live-in fiance.

Tracy Mitchell, 26, then turned the gun on himself. Authorities believe Pickett was attempting to leave the apartment at the time of the shooting. Pickett's sister told police, "He always told us that's what he would do before allowing anyone else to have her."

10/23-10/24:

AD-G.

Lonoke, October 28.

Amy Childree, 14, was found by hunters in a remote cemetery. Her throat and chest had been slashed, part of her heart had been removed, and she had been scalped.

Her brother, Nathan Childree, 15, and Bryan Harp, 27, both reported to have been heavily involved in satanic worship, and Phillip Seigreist, 15, were charged with first-degree murder in the ritualistic slaying. Childree reportedly yelled "Die, bitch!" as he plunged the knife into her throat and directed the others to cover her mouth to stop her screaming as she struggled for five to ten minutes against the three.

Police speculate that Childree may have had a revenge motive against his sister. She charged their stepfather with rape three years ago, and he subsequently shot his wife and himself. Childree blamed Amy for his death.

10/28-11/6: *AD-G.*

Bentonville, October 30.

Belle Wright, 65, was killed with a shotgun at the home she shared with her daughter and grandson while attempting to intervene in a fight between the boy and his mother.

Ricky Don Wright, 14, was charged with capital murder.

10/30: *AD-G.*

Little Rock, November 17.

Anna Mae Marshall, 45, was stabbed in the back and chest.

Willie Ray Harris, 35, was charged with first-degree murder.

11/17: *AD-G.*

West Memphis, November 19.

The nude body of **Patrina Ingram**, 15, of Memphis was found near Interstate 40. She had been beaten to death.

The death is under investigation.

11/19: *AD-G*.

McGehee, November 24.

Cynthia J. Laing, 30, was shot once in the chest with a .38-caliber pistol.

Her boyfriend, James Milton Laird, 44, was charged with manslaughter in the death.

11/24: *AD-G*.

North Little Rock, November 23.

Charlene Garner, 39, was shot in the chest with a .22-caliber revolver during a card game in her apartment.

Jessie "Sonny" Fudge, 48, her boyfriend, was charged with first-degree murder in the death. Garner was holding gambling money belonging to Fudge and another man, and when she told Fudge she intended keeping part of the money for herself because it was her apartment and her cards, he shot her.

11/23-11/25: *AD-G*.

Sherwood, November 28.

Gwendolyn Ricks, 37, was found shot in the head with a .22-caliber handgun at her home.

Her son, Prentiss James Buckner, 19, who had driven to Memphis and turned himself in to Memphis police, was charged with first-degree murder.

11/28: *AD-G*.

Harrison, November 30.

Marsha Gall Woods Filippo, 22, was shot several times with a .22-caliber semi-automatic rifle during an argument with her estranged husband.

Teddy Allen Filippo, 27, then turned the gun on himself and died shortly after at a nearby hospital. The couple had been involved in arguments and physical fights for the past several weeks.

11/30: *AD-G*.

Texarkana, December 2.

Mary Ann Thomas, 24, was shot with a 9mm pistol when she returned home after shopping. Her two children, ages 10 and 13, told police that her husband followed her into their bedroom and shot her.

Bobby G. Thomas, 43, was arrested and charged with first-degree murder. The couple had not been arguing and police had no motive for the shooting.

12/2: *Texarkana Gazette*.

Pine Bluff, December 3.

The body of **Debra Ann Haney**, 28, was found, lying face-down and naked from the waist down, under a pile of grass in a vacant lot. She had been strangled.

Neighbors reported hearing "what sounded like someone getting beat," but did not give much attention to the matter as arguments were frequently heard on the block. The death is under investigation.

12/3-12/5: *Pine Bluff Commercial*.

Springdale, December 4.

Karen Stout, 30, was found dead in a local hotel. She was partially clothed and had been strangled. She had checked into the hotel with an unidentified man earlier in the day.

The police have two suspects in the death, but are awaiting results of tests conducted by the FBI before filing charges.

12/4-12/7: *NW Arkansas Times*.

Forrest City, December 11.

The partially decomposed body of **Lisa Lowe**, 21, was found in the St. Francis river. There were no apparent wounds or evidence of injury.

Police speculate she may have been in the river since her disappearance on November 6, when she left her children at her sister's and headed to a local club. The death is under investigation and police say they are,

"...following a couple of leads now, and we have a couple of suspects."
12/11: *Daily Times Herald*.

Conway, December 12.

Vanger Pearl Roseburrow, 37, was shot five times in the head with a .25-caliber semi-automatic pistol as she visited her boyfriend.

Lester Roseburrow, 38, her ex-husband, then shot and killed himself. In an attempt to get her to come back to him after they were divorced in April, he had threatened her several times and had been charged in September with terroristic threatening and kidnapping.

12/12-18: *AD-G*.

Pine Bluff, December 12.

Carolyn Wright Moore, 26, died after being struck by a car. She was being beaten by her boyfriend in the center turn lane of the street when she was struck.

Moore's boyfriend was charged with second-degree murder in the death.

12/12: *AD-G*.

Warren, December 18.

Clara Brown, 30, was stabbed to death during an argument.

Robert E. Preston, 27, an acquaintance of Brown turned himself in to police and was charged with first-degree murder.

12/18: *Eagle Democrat*.

Little Rock, December 23.

Brenda Ficklin, 39, was shot in the back of the head with a .38-caliber pistol.

Johnnie C. Anderson, 58, then shot and killed himself. They had dated for several years but had ended their relationship about a month ago. According to police, Anderson had threatened to harm Ficklin in the past.

12/23: *AD-G*.

Denning, December 26.

Dorothy Holden, 48, of Cecil was found dead along a county road, her head partially crushed by a blunt instrument and her arms and face bruised.

James Ray Detherage, 33, was charged with manslaughter and released on \$20,000 bond.

12/26: *Ozark Spectator*.

West Memphis, December 27.

Kathy Ann Jefferson, 22, was shot with a pistol at the home of friends.

Christopher Jones, Jefferson's husband, and Jimmy Tanner, 28, were charged with capital murder in the death.

12/27-1/9/92: *AD-G*.

McGehee, December 31.

Michelle Nagel, 21, was shot with a .22-caliber handgun at the convenience store where she worked.

Bennie Lamar Cleveland, 26, and Wendell Eric Moton, 27, also shot and wounded a customer and kidnaped Paula Easter, the cook at the store. Cleveland had dated Easter in the past and had threatened her and caused her problems at work. Nagel was Easter's best friend and had attempted to keep Cleveland from coming to the store to bother her. Easter, unharmed, and Cleveland were found in New Jersey, and Moton was arrested in Little Rock. The two were charged with capital murder, attempted capital murder, kidnapping and theft.

12/31-1/6/92: *AD-G*.

Little Rock, December 31.

Michelle Highfield, 21, of Benton was shot in the back of the head with a .22 caliber pistol as she rode in a car with friends.

They had stopped at a traffic light where they encountered another car whose passengers made obscene gestures at them. As they pulled away, an unknown gunman in the second car fired four to five shots into the rear window, striking Highfield.

January 1992. Tyrone D'Angelo Poindexter, 20, was arrested and charged with first-degree murder in the death.

1/2/92-1/22/92: *AD-G*.

Summary

Total number of known murders: 79

Number of possible murders: 4

Age:

The age range of women murdered was from 2 to 79 years.

1-19 years: 8	50-59 years: 3
20-29 years: 31	60-69 years: 3
30-39 years: 21	70-79 years: 1
40-49 years: 13	Unknown: 3

Relationship of perpetrator to victim:

Husbands: 17
 Ex-husbands: 1
 Boyfriends: 13
 Ex-boyfriends: 3
 Sons: 2
 Brothers: 1
 Fathers: 1
 Other relatives: 4
 Acquaintances: 9
 Relationship (if any) unknown: 15
 Unknown Assailants: 13

Cause of death:

Handgun: 19
 Rifle/shotgun: 13
 Unknown gun: 19
 Strangulation: 6
 Stabbing: 7
 Beating: 8
 Other: 8
 Unknown: 3

There were 13 children who witnessed their mother's death.

Eight of the killers had a history of battering.

There were 11 murder-suicides.

RACIST VIOLENCE

The following documented incidents indicate continuing unequal and insensitive treatment of people of color by school administrators, police and government. There is also indication of continuing racist tensions that escalate into violent incidents among high school students.

El Dorado, January 4.

An elderly black man was killed by a white police officer. Police accounts stated that 78-year-old Grady Tatum fired first at officers. His family stated that Tatum carried a gun because he feared youth harassment. Tatum had no prior criminal record. A ruling was released by the prosecuting attorney's office that the shooting death was justified.

1/4-1/17: AD.

Jonesboro, January 25.

Middle Eastern students have reported receiving threats associated with the war in the Gulf. Mohammad Jizani quoted a student who told him he would shoot him if he had a gun, and others have expressed anger at him, not realizing he is from Saudi Arabia.

1/25 AG.

Stuttgart, January 26.

Suit was filed against Stuttgart school officials over the suspension and harassment of a Black high school student for refusing to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Tarissa Dabner, 16, was suspended from school for three days in November 1990, for "lack of cooperation, being rude and discourteous and disrespect for the teacher." The suit also says that the school district maintains vestiges of a racially segregated school system, a disproportionate number of Black teachers teaching special education, only one race in many school programs and disproportionate discipline of black and poor white students. Dabner and several other students did not recite the pledge in first-period class in November. Previously, Dabner had a long-standing history of good discipline.

1/26: AG.

North Little Rock, February 16.

Two black men sued seven North Little Rock police officers in federal court, alleging they were illegally

arrested by officers who used excessive force. Allegations were made that a non-uniformed officer pointed a loaded gun at Fabian Lewis and told him and Siegfried Lewis to lie face down on the ground. Also, it was alleged that physical abuse, racial slurs and other derogatory comments were made. The two were later released with no charges filed.

2/16: AD.

Pine Bluff, February 20.

A lawsuit is planned against the police department by four black men, two of whom are sons of a local school board member, who were allegedly called "niggers", kicked, hit, and yelled at while handcuffed during an arrest on charges of disorderly conduct. They were part of a group who had rushed into the police station claiming shots had been fired in the parking lot. There is belief that there has been a pattern of abuse against young black males during arrests by the police department.

April 5. A police investigation determined that excessive force was not used in the arrest. The charges of brutality that triggered the internal investigation prompted the Department to reinforce its policies on physical force with its officers.

2/20-4/5: *Pine Bluff Commercial.*

Rogers, February 16.

Results of an investigation into charges that a 10th grade Black student at Rogers High School was the target of racially motivated harassment will not be released, due to an agreement with the mother of the 10th grader, Sharon Smith. Earlier, 50 students left a school assembly scheduled to address a planned "walk-out" and proceeded to the offices of radio station KURM to address their views and seek news coverage of their walkout. The students had been upset about the lack of responsiveness by school administrators to complaints of threatening letters and racially motivated student harassment of Sharon Smith.

2/16-2/20: AG.

Ashdown, February 27.

Allegations were made of police roughness against a black man who had been stopped for driving without a license plate and refused an order into the back of a patrol car. The traffic stop escalated into shoving, cursing and racial slurs, and charges of first-degree terroristic threatening were filed against three black men. The incident initially involved two white officers and a crowd of blacks. Eventually seven officers, two black and five white, struggled with a crowd of 25 to 30 people in a parking lot.

September 16. Three men were convicted of misdemeanor threatening. The prosecution claimed the men had assaulted the officers, while the defense claimed they were roughed up by the police after they protested the rough treatment of the man being stopped.

2/27-3/14: AG, *Little River News.*

Hamburg, March 25.

A police brutality investigation by the Arkansas State Police began into allegations of police brutality during an arrest by Officer Kenneth Turner of the Hamburg Police Department and Deputy David Oliver of the Ashley County sheriff's office. Allegations of unnecessary force against Willie Edward Ashford of Hamburg, an African American, were made after Ashford was allegedly pushed, slapped and hit by Turner when Turner attempted to question Ashford's 8-year-old nephew. Ashford was also allegedly hit by deputies at the Ashley County Jail. Hamburg Mayor Boyce Harrod asked the federal Justice Department to check the possibility of any civil rights violations in the incident. Arkansas State Police have also begun an investigation.

3/25-4/10: *Ashley News Observer, AD, AG.*

Jacksonville, April 11.

Use of excessive force against two African American youths during a disturbance call resulted in the firing of a police officer from the Jacksonville Police Department. The youths had been squirting a water pistol at friends and it was thought that the police were called by neighbors who thought that the youths had a real gun. The police officer, Cal Robbins, who was completing a required probationary period for new officers, grabbed one of the youths, threw him against a house and then a tree, hit him in the back and made threatening remarks. Rollins may appeal the firing to the Civil Service Commission.

4/11: AG.

Little Rock, April 13.

Joseph Chad, who is of Hispanic origin, filed a federal lawsuit against the state Adult Probation Commission and director Linda McGarity Oldner after allegedly being discharged because of his sex and national origin. Chad had been hired as a research consultant and was a regional manager at the time he was fired. Chad,

who had been subjected to racial slurs from Oldner and other women in the office, was fired January 16, 1990 and replaced with a white employee with no college degree. Chad is seeking reinstatement with back pay and lost benefits plus compensatory and punitive damages from Oldner.

4/13: AG.

El Dorado, April 20.

A derogatory remark was made by Justice of the Peace Rubin Darden at Union County Quorum Court meeting. It was reported by two justices of the peace and the administrative assistant to County Justice Charles Skinner. No one on the all-white Quorum Court protested at the time. Darden allegedly said: "I got a nigger coming out there," referring to a person who cleans up illegally dumped trash around a collection box in his district. Justice of the Peace Ken Goudy, who was sitting across from Darden, said that the remark caught him "off guard" and came as a shock. Also, Goudy said that it shouldn't be said in a public forum.

May 2. Rubin Darden made a public apology to a group of blacks at a special meeting.

4/20-5/2: AG, AD.

Russellville, May 21.

Vandals wrote obscene words and racial slurs on a building and van, causing more than \$1,300 damage at the Shelter of Sunshine, a home for handicapped children.

5/21: AG.

Little Rock, May 23.

Two women sued Pickles and Cream, a maternity shop, saying they were treated like shoplifters and thrown out of the store because they were Black. Rosa Mary Rankins-Lawrence, who was pregnant, and her mother say they were humiliated by the action.

5/23: AG.

Little Rock, May 31.

A complaint filed with the Little Rock Police Department claims the false arrest of four teens and the use of racial slurs by police. Police were responding to a disturbance call. Kiley Wilson, 18, stated he was leaving the area where a fight was in progress when he was grabbed by the shirt, pulled out of his car, thrown on top of the car and choked by police. He also overheard Lt. John Martin say, "We're getting all the niggers off the street tonight."

5/31: AG.

McCrary, June 5.

Lily Mae Allison was walking home when she was passed by a car carrying white passengers. She felt a stinging sensation in her arm which turned out to be a piece of steel that had passed through her arm and was embedded in it. Police identified it as a dart from a blow gun.

6/5: *McCrary Leader*.

Jacksonville, June 19.

A racial slur resulted in the stabbing of Terry Watson, 25, and Carroll Sipes, 26. Watson was stabbed by an acquaintance when he objected to the slur. Sipes tried to separate the two men and was stabbed in the process.

6/19: *Arkansas Democrat*.

North Little Rock, July 11.

Hubert L. Scott, 32, was hospitalized for kidney failure and leg and arm injuries after three days in the North Little Rock jail. The arm and leg injuries were caused by metal restraints, and his kidney failure resulted from lack of water. Scott claimed he was handcuffed to jail bars, beaten, and refused food and water for three days after threatening to file a lawsuit regarding preferential appointment of whites to jail trusty status. Police Chief William Holden denied Scott's charges, saying the cuffs were necessary because Scott was suicidal and disruptive.

September 21. Scott plans to file a lawsuit to obtain the internal investigation report on the case as the department refuses to give out information.

7/11-9/21: AG, AD.

Camden, September 18.

Shortly before the Camden Christian Academy's mixed-race football team was scheduled to travel to Montrose to play all-white Montrose Academy, Montrose officials called Camden to inquire whether any players

were black and, if so, how many. The day of the game Camden coach Jacovis Davis, an African American, was verbally abused and threatened, and asked to move from the sidelines away from his white colleagues. The officials made it clear that they would only recognize the one of three Camden team captains who is white. When white coach Bob Roberts complained to the officials of unfair calls and the treatment of the black captain he was told, "It's been like this for over 100 years, it's going to be like that and there's nothing you can do about it." Roberts stated that all of the schools in the private school association of Louisiana, of which CCA is a member, have called to ask about black participation on sports teams.

9/18: *Camden News*.

Crossett, October 4.

During an attempted drug arrest, police, including a masked undercover officer, burst into the home of James "Pete" Dawkins, pointed a gun at his mother-in-law, put a gun in the face of his 10-year-old daughter and pushed his son against the wall. Believing he was being robbed, Dawkins attempted to defend them and was knocked to the floor and handcuffed before the police realized they were at the wrong address. Although the officers were thoroughly briefed as to the correct address, they made "just a mental mistake," turned down the wrong street and entered Dawkins' home. The incident was investigated by the NAACP and the Arkansas State Police, but no disciplinary action against the officers was planned.

10/4-11/17: *AG*.

Brinkley, October 10.

Community members complained that Jack Myers, a Brinkley High School teacher, repeatedly used racial slurs and insults to black students and made flippant remarks about slavery. They claimed that school administrators had ignored a petition calling for action against Myers.

10/10-10/26: *AD,AG*.

Sherwood, October 17.

A group of up to four students attempted to burn a cross made of tree branches in front of the Sylvan Hills High School gym. The incident sparked a fight the following day involving one black and two white students. Two white students responsible for the attempted cross burning were expelled for the semester.

10/17-11/5: *AG,AD*.

Conway, October 24.

Two University of Central Arkansas professors, Bryan W. Massey and Theman R. Taylor, received anonymous racist hate letters. The letter to Massey stated, "Bryan Massey is a DEAD NIGGER. I know where you live. I know your wife works at Hastings. I know where your children are. If you want to keep your fucking ass alive (and that of your wife and children) LEAVE UCA." Taylor's letter was similarly worded. The FBI is investigating the threats.

In November, Massey turned in a pending resignation for reasons other than the threat, but stated his concern that the old segregation laws regarding UCA have not been repealed. Another black professor, Charles Hollingsworth, stated that the threats had reinforced his decision to resign from the university.

10/24-10/31: *AD-G, UCA Echo, Arkansas State Press*.

Fayetteville, November 22.

A lawsuit filed in federal court claims management and employees of Doc Murdock's, a Fayetteville club, used excessive force and violated the civil rights of several African American patrons in August. Employees are also accused of wearing Ku Klux Klan robes on October 30th for the purpose of intimidating black patrons. Plaintiffs in the suit claim that Doc Murdock's has denied or attempted to deny access to black patrons when whites have been allowed to enter freely. They also claim they were subjected to life-threatening violence when bouncers ejected them from the club after an incident in August precipitated by a white youth calling a black youth "nigger" and saying he would "kick his ass" because he stepped on his boot.

11/22: *The Grapevine Newspaper*.

ANTI-GAY/LESBIAN VIOLENCE & VICTIMIZATION

The incidents recorded, be they homophobic slurs, terroristic threats or actual physical violence, were all unprovoked and were based solely on the belief that the victims were gay or lesbian and therefore deserved such treatment.

Little Rock, January 31.

Attempts to repeal Arkansas's sodomy law failed despite efforts by community health, religious and gay leaders. The Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously voted to keep the bill in committee, thus effectively killing it. Gay men and lesbians engaging in sexual activity will continue to be considered criminals under state statute.

1/31: AD.

Morgan, February 2.

Almost immediately following the attempt to repeal the state's sodomy legislation, the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office launched a series of raids on the Morgan rest area on Interstate 40. Thirty-eight men were arrested and charged with sodomy, loitering for the purpose of deviant sexual activity and public sexual indecency. Video cameras were used to record sex acts, an action criticized by the state chapter of the ACLU. A local television station took cameras into the rest stop and into the courtroom during the trials, and one of the state's newspapers chose to print the names and addresses of those arrested, even though the crimes were misdemeanors. The presiding judge ordered AIDS testing of all those arrested, warrants were issued for those who did not submit, and their names were published in the paper.

2/2-2/19: AD, AG.

Conway, February.

In response to a question about gay rights, a University of Central Arkansas professor referred to homosexuals as "rump riders", saying "Homosexuality brings only degradation and AIDS." A lesbian student confronted the professor and reported being offended by the remarks. When the instructor asked the student why, she replied, "Because I am a homosexual." The professor said "sorry" and walked away.

Victim's statement.

Pulaski County, March.

A gay man invited a man to his home and after having sexual relations, the man was beaten and verbally abused by the guest. After the incident the victim received phone threats from the attacker. The threats stopped after a visit by the attacker to the victim's place of employment at which time he apologized for the abuse.

Victim's statement reported by AGLTF.

Conway, March 6.

A lesbian college student reported an attempted rape to the Arkansas Gay and Lesbian Task Force switchboard. A student who was president of her dorm and active on campus found her in her room alone and tried to rape her, but fled when she screamed. Another lesbian she knows said he had also attempted to rape her. Because the attacker has verbally expressed his dislike of lesbians and gay men, the victim believes the attack was homophobic in nature.

Victim's statement reported by AGLTF.

Conway, March.

University of Central Arkansas Lesbian/Gay Student Alliance reported that all of their approved fliers announcing campus meetings were torn down. The Dean of Minority Affairs refused to make a public statement about the theft because it could not be proven that they were taken because of their subject matter.

LGSA statement.

Conway, April.

UCA Lesbian/Gay Student Alliance hung an approved banner showing a pink triangle and the words "Silence = Death". Within two days it was removed by fraternity members. It was recovered and after a meeting with the Dean of Student Affairs an apology was given by the fraternity. One week later the banner was again stolen. The campus police were notified, but no suspects have been found.

LGSA statement.

Little Rock, June 2.

Sabrina Blevins was asked by a police officer, working as security guard, to leave My Generation, a local nightclub, for slow dancing with another women. She was told, "It's against the law to be a lesbian in Arkansas." When she resisted his attempts to throw her out, telling him it was not against the law for two people of the same sex to dance together, he handcuffed her, made her walk outside with her head down, then threw her up against the wall. She was cited for disorderly conduct and fined.

Victim's statement, 10/2: Spectrum Weekly.

Little Rock, June 7.

A homeless man, William Patrick Durbin, 41, was shot and killed by David Earl Langdon, 47, also homeless, after Durbin allegedly made sexual advances to him.

Langdon pled guilty and was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

12/31: AD-G.

Jonesboro, July.

A flier found on the University of Central Arkansas bulletin board stated "Praise God for AIDS" and claimed AIDS is a racial disease of "jews and negroids that also eradicates sodomites." (See item under Hate Group Activity).

Fayetteville, July 26.

During a week-long operation at a public park, police arrested thirty-eight men on charges of public sexual indecency, sexual solicitation, and indecent exposure. Two were also charged with battery for allegedly grabbing police officers in the groin. The local newspapers did not print the names of those arrested, but the police department sold copies of a list of the names to businesses and individuals who requested it under the Freedom of Information Act. Park and City officials closed the park until late August while they devised strategies to curtail homosexual activity there.

In December, police resumed undercover surveillance activity at Lake Fayetteville and arrested five men for public sexual activity. "We will be out there through the winter, spring and summer, until the problem is eliminated," stated Police Chief Richard Watson. Unlike their policy during the July incident, the local papers did publish names of those arrested.

7/26-12/11: AG, AD, Northwest Arkansas Times.

Russellville, September.

"My partner and I get stared at a lot even when we are just out working in our yard. People will drive by real slow and point and stare. At work I have heard violent statements made about gays and lesbians such as, 'If it's one thing I can't stand it's queers. I can tolerate women, Jews and blacks, but I'd just as soon kill a fucking faggot.' "

Victim's statement.

Russellville, October 14.

Reported in a letter to the editor: "As I entered Witherspoon Hall this morning, I saw a sign over the door whose last line read 'Kill a Fag.'" 10/14: Arka Tech.

Little Rock, December.

A gay man who has AIDS and is a resident at the Park Plaza Towers reported that a maintenance man on the property displays a bumper sticker on his car saying "Stop AIDS, Kill a Queer." He estimates that there are 10-15 gay and lesbian residents in the building, and he has seen homophobic graffiti on apartment property.

ACT-UP, on behalf of the Arkansas Gay and Lesbian Task Force, negotiated with apartment managers and the maintenance man was told to park the vehicle off-property or risk termination of employment.

Victim's statement reported by ACT-UP.

Little Rock, December.

A group of men leaving a local gay club in the early morning were accosted in the parking lot by passengers in a car who yelled "You fucking faggots" and "Suck my dick."

The men got into their vehicle and followed the assailants for a mile until they fled.

Victim's statement.

Little Rock, December 14.

Attorney John Walker complained when two black Sylvan Hills High School students were disciplined for calling another student "fag." He told school officials that the term is a street term used among black children and was no reason to refer the students for disciplinary action. When contacted by the Women's Project and the Arkansas Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Walker listened to their concerns about usage of homophobic language.

12/14: AD-G.

ANTI-GAY/LESBIAN CLIMATE

These incidents indicate the prevailing anti-gay/lesbian attitudes in the state that imply it is not right to be gay or lesbian, not right to be the person your are. Arkansas is one of 5 states in which sodomy laws make same-gender sexual activity illegal. Such attitudes promote and legitimize the harassment, threats and violence perpetrated against non-heterosexual people.

Russellville, March 4.

Remark contained in a letter to the editor of Arkansas Technical University's newspaper regarding a column entitled "Sappho's Revenge": "According to the Bible, homosexuality is an unnatural crime punishable by summary execution."

3/4: *Arka Tech News.*

Little Rock, March 12.

Opponents of a proposed civil rights bill in the Legislature claimed that a broad definition of disability and of civil rights of disabled people could result in a "gay rights" bill that would protect child molesters and force schools to hire a child molester, obviously a reference to gay men and lesbians.

3/12: *AD.*

Rogers, May 16.

The Rogers-Hough Memorial Library decided to keep on the shelves a copy of Intimacy Between Men by John Driggs after receiving complaints from three citizens who claimed the book promoted "an immoral, illegal lifestyle," and who stated, "We cannot allow such people (homosexuals) to bully society into bowing to their wishes." Shortly after, members of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan asked the library board to consider putting their racist and anti-Semitic materials in the library. The request was approved.

5/16-6/25 *AG, Northwest Arkansas Times.*

Conway, May 29.

The UCA Gay and Lesbian Student Alliance requested that the university adopt a policy to bar discrimination based on age, race, religion, and sexual orientation. The request to specifically name "sexual orientation" was later denied by the university, which chose to use more vague language. Statement of a UCA student on the need for a non-discrimination policy: "I'm sure if I took a date to a UCA dance, I don't know what would happen. The scariest thing would be outright violence."

5/29-8-11: *AD.*

Conway, June 5.

The North Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church reaffirmed its stand against church funds being given to gay and lesbian groups and to the ordination of gays and lesbians. One minister stated that Methodist ministers maintained certain ethical standards that homosexuals couldn't live up to.

6/5: *AG.*

Hot Springs, June 12.

The Little Rock Conference of the United Methodist Church reaffirmed its stand on homosexuality being incompatible with Christian teaching and voted not to fund further study on the issue for four years.

6/12: *AG.*

Little Rock, July 2.

AETN, the state public television station, decided not to air a program in the PBS "POV" series entitled "Tongues Untied," an award-winning film on the racism and homophobia confronting African American gay men. Station officials stated that some of the language and scenes of men kissing and caressing each other "went beyond what Arkansas viewers might find acceptable." The station had received phone calls asking that the show not be aired.

7/2: *AG.*

Little Rock, August 16.

Boy Scout executive Bobby Dobbin stated that Arkansas would not alter its traditional values to include the "Learning for Life" program that the national Boy Scouts of America have developed to allow atheists, girls and homosexuals to participate in scouting.

8/16: *AD.*

Fayetteville, September 11.

In an editorial commenting negatively on Massachusetts-based Lotus Development Corporation's decision to offer benefits to live-in partners of its gay and lesbian employees: "Should a company have a policy that condones those who prefer animals sexually? What about necrophiles? It's not much more perverted than homosexuality."

9/11: *Arkansas Traveler.*

Little Rock, September 12.

Letter to the editor: "Homosexuals should be imprisoned for life or until they change their habits."

9/12: *AD.*

November 19.

Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton was taped listening to an off-color joke about lesbians, involving graphic and sexually explicit language and including terms considered derogatory to women, told by Nebraska Senator Bob Kerrey. Clinton refused to comment about the incident, maintaining it was a private conversation.

11/19-11/14: *AD-G.*

ANTI-SEMITIC VIOLENCE

While the Women's Projects received few reports of anti-Semitic violence and no reports of anti-Catholic violence, it is important to remember that hate group activities such as cross burnings and rallies involve hate-filled language about Jews and non-Protestant Christians whom these groups see as their enemies.

Fort Smith, March 21.

The community synagogue is spray-painted with red swastikas.

3/21: *Southwest Times Record.*

North Little Rock, May 21.

Anti-Semitic graffiti was painted on benches in the city's Emerald Park.

5/21: *AG.*

ANTI-SEMITIC CLIMATE

Little Rock, April 27.

Quotation regarding the gulf war from Ralph Forbes' "The Sword of Truth": "This war is planned to enslave us under an all-powerful one-world 'new order' dictatorship!"

"...the warmongering by the dark Lords of ZOG (Zionist Occupation Government) and their whining wimp in the White House is an evil plot."

4/27: *AG.*

Eureka Springs, May 4.

A report issued by the Arkansas Interfaith Task Force after viewing the Eureka Springs Passion Play, produced by the Elna M. Smith Foundation, cited the following: "...the play uses the so-called 'blood curse' found only in the Gospel of Matthew (27:25). 'His blood be upon us and upon our children', spoken by a man, not God, has long served to justify anti-Semitism." The play and foundation have their roots in the late Gerald L.K. Smith, nationally known for his anti-Jewish publications. Play organizers refused to make any changes.

5/4-5/18: *AG, AD, Arkansas Catholic.*

August.

"The Victory won by David Duke on February 18, 1989, is far bigger than winning a seat in the Louisiana State Legislature — it marks the beginning of the end of ZOG! The Evil Empire of the Zionist Occupation Government of America is doomed! Praise God! Our lack of Faith has not pleased God for as a People we have trembled in the Fear of the Jews."

Excerpt from materials distributed in Northwest Arkansas by White Christians of America.

HATE GROUP ACTIVITY

Continuing the trend of the past several years, organized hate groups and their leaders wage their campaigns of hatred and intolerance with increasingly sophisticated language and image, evidenced by the electoral campaigns of David Duke. Thom Robb and the Klan continue to portray themselves as concerned citizens attempting to cure the ills of their communities, and as victims of the intolerance of liberals and government who have given all protection, opportunity and advancement to non-whites.

Fort Smith, February 23.

A bright orange sticker with "The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan Are Watching You and We Don't Like What We See" was found on a door in the lobby of the U.S. District courthouse. Attached to it was an article alluding to federal authorities not specifying if the gravesite and mausoleum of Susan Alamo would be exempt from the sale to satisfy a federal judgment against Alamo.

2/23: AD.

Fayetteville, February 14.

A woman who had participated in peace organizing, written articles on civil rights issues, and worn a "Born Again Pagan" button to a peace vigil that was photographed by local police received the following message on her answering machine: "Watch out New Ager, the Klan is watching you."

Victim's statement.

Little Rock, March 9.

Wilbur Hale, white supremacist and former Klan member, was arrested and charged with illegal weapons possession, including machine guns, silencers, assault rifles and converters capable of making weapons automatic. In October, Hale was convicted of the charge, and in December he was sentenced to 21 months in prison.

3/19-12/20: AD, AG, AD-G.

March 10.

Thom Robb of Harrison, head of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, traveled to Montgomery, Alabama, to join Klansmen protesting Klanwatch attorney Morris Dees and a monument erected to victims of Klan violence.

3/10: AG.

Fort Smith, March 22.

State KKK organizer Don Snedeker announced that the Klan is raising money to purchase and distribute Confederate flags to the students of Southside High School. Klan organizers want to protest the school board's decision to ban use of the flag at the high school in response to complaints from the city's black residents.

3/22-4/11: AG.

Walnut Ridge, April 19.

The Lawrence County Republican Party invited Louisiana legislator and ex-Klansman David Duke to address their annual Lincoln Day dinner on April 27. Approximately 200 people attended, listening to Duke's agenda, which includes compulsory work and mandatory drug testing for welfare recipients, financial incentives to welfare mothers who practice "responsible behavior" to decrease number of births, an end to all affirmative action programs, and repeal of all gun control legislation.

The day of the dinner the Women's Project organized a meeting at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, followed by a rally in Walnut Ridge to inform people of Duke's views and show that racism is not welcome in Arkansas politics.

4/19-4/28: AD, Jonesboro Sun.

Fort Smith, May 5.

A rally in Creekmore Park organized by the Klan drew approximately 150 supporters. In addition, about 200 protesters, among them the Sons of Confederate Veterans who oppose Klan use of the Confederate flag for racist purposes, also gathered at the park. Police prevented conflict between the groups, who hurled verbal insults at each other.

Thom Robb accused the Fort Smith School Board of committing genocide against white students and robbing them of their heritage by banning use of the Confederate flag at Southside High School. Ralph Forbes of London closed the rally with the prayer, "Dear Lord we pray that the blacks be driven from this land, please

God.”

Earlier in the day an anti-Klan rally at the Sebastian County Courthouse sponsored by the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Fort Smith, Van Buren and Vicinity attracted a group of about 75 people.

5/5-5/9: *AG, Southwest Times Record.*

Harrison, June 5.

Thom Robb announced plans for expansion of a former church camp into a facility to “train Klan leaders of the future.” The 40-acre camp, which is owned by Robb’s wife, Muriel, and abuts Robb’s property near Zinc, will be the site of a national meeting of Klan leaders in October.

6/5 *AD.*

Little Rock, June 16.

Arkansas Democrat Poll: “Should such things as crossburnings and swastika displays be protected under the right to free speech?” 144 responses; 64.6% yes, 35.4% no.

6/16: *AD.*

Little Rock, June 17.

White supremacist Ralph Forbes sued University Hospital, contending the facility violated a constitutional prohibition against spending public money on abortions.

June 28: Pending a trial on the matter, a chancery court judge halted abortions unless the mother’s life is threatened or she can pay.

6/17-8/8: *AG.*

Rogers, July 29.

KKK State organizer Don Snedeker presented the Rogers-Hough Library with copies of Klan publications *The Torch* and *White Patriot*. He also showed the library board a copy of “*The Leuchter Report — The End of a Myth*”, which presents evidence that the Holocaust never happened. Snedeker said he would approach one library a month until every one in the state had Klan material available to readers. The library accepted the publications.

7/29-8/21: *AG, AD, Northwest Arkansas Times.*

Jonesboro, July.

A flier entitled “White Rights” and “Praise God for AIDS” was found on an Arkansas State University bulletin board. The text of the flier stated that AIDS was a “racial disease of the jews and negroids that also eradicates sodomites” and that “Those aids-prone groups must be SEPARATED far away from us White people so as to protect innocent White people from aids.” The flyer promoted an organization called *Crusade Against Corruption* lead by B.J. Stone of State University, Arkansas, which promotes preservation of the White race and repeal of the Martin Luther King holiday.

Amity, August 2.

According to a Clark County Sheriff’s Office report, a woman driving through the Amity town square was chased by 6-8 men wearing white sheets and hoods. State police who were called to investigate found no evidence of Klansmen.

8/2-8/5: *Arkadelphia Daily Siftings Herald, The Sentinel Record.*

Bentonville, August 15.

The Bentonville Public Library accepted materials donated by the Klan.

8/15-8/19: *AG, Northwest Arkansas Morning News.*

Fayetteville, August 30.

University of Arkansas’ Mullins Library accepted materials donated by the Klan. University officials said they would accept any and all materials the Klan wished to donate as they might have “research value” in the future.

8/30-9/8: *AG, Northwest Arkansas Times.*

Fort Smith, September 13.

Tony Alamo, cult leader and founder of the Holy Alamo Christian Foundation, which espouses rabid anti-Catholic dogma, was cleared of charges he threatened to kidnap U.S. District Court Judge Morris Arnold. Alamo, who was arrested in Florida July 5, will remain in jail in Fort Smith to face civil contempt charges related

to nonpayment of close to \$400,000 in wages due former followers who worked for him at his Dyer compound. Alamo also owes the Internal Revenue Service approximately seven million dollars in unpaid corporate, withholding and personal income taxes.

October 15. Alamo was released on \$200,000 bond awaiting extradition to California to face criminal child abuse charges.

9/13-10/16: *AG, AD.*

Rogers, September 27.

The Klan claimed that it distributed "several hundred" Klan-produced anti-drug fliers at Rogers public schools. School administrators said they had seen no evidence of the fliers.

9/27: *Northwest Arkansas Morning News.*

Bentonville, October 6.

Thirty to 40 people attended a local Klan rally. Thom Robb stated, "Our primary goal is reaching people with our message." and, "If you think we have trouble with the minorities now, wait 'til they become the majority." He told listeners that local county organization membership had doubled in the past year, especially among young people.

10/6: *AD, Morning News, Benton County Daily Record, Northwest Arkansas Morning News.*

Zinc, October 13.

Approximately 100 people from eight states attended the first national Klan Congress since 1983, held at Thom Robb's property near Zinc. Klan Grand Dragons (state leaders) attended from Texas, Illinois, and Alabama. At 9 p.m. a group of about 50 people wearing robes and hoods attended a cross burning chanting "white power" and raising their arms in a Nazi-like salute. Robb told the group of his hopes for a "finishing school," to be called Soldiers of the Cross, for future Klan leaders by next summer. He intends to start out with a few high school or college-age students.

10/13: *AG, Harrison Daily News.*

Jacksonville, October 24

Municipal Court Probation Officer Mike Mahone, who is also president of the Jacksonville NAACP, reported that someone had painted the letters KKK on his mailbox.

10/24: *Jacksonville News.*

Little Rock, November 2.

On October 31, Ralph Forbes and a group of volunteers dressed in Halloween costumes held a news conference criticizing the Reproductive Choice Amendment. He stated, "There is absolutely no difference between a mother murdering her child in her womb and a brother killing his sister in a graveyard," referring to a recent ritualistic murder.

11/2: *AD-G.*

Washington County, December 11.

Television news reports stated KKK literature was found in the car of a West Fork man, Michael Ballard, arrested in connection with a Pennsylvania homicide. County Sheriff Kenneth McGee denied KKK involvement in assassinations and that, contrary to the televised reports, no Klan literature had been found. He said, "Nobody in this county has anything to be afraid of as far as the KKK is concerned."

12/11-12/14: *AD-G, Northwest Arkansas Times.*

December 23.

Leaders of the Klan said they may take legal action if they are denied participation in the state's Adopt-A-Highways program. The Klan is attempting to adopt a stretch of U.S. 65 at the Arkansas-Missouri border, but so far has been blocked by the state Highway Department. The Department fears vandalism and increased highway littering as well as negative public image. The Klan claims the refusal is a violation of their First Amendment rights and is exploring the possibility of a lawsuit.

12/23: *AD-G.*

With thanks to our many volunteer monitors,

Kelly Mitchell-Clark
Suzanne Pharr
Deborah Dudley

The Women's Project

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