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# Transformation

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## Civil Rights For Everyone

Suzanne Pharr

**T**his year we put the finishing touches on our Women's Watchcare Network log the same week that the state's legislative civil rights task force began discussion of the necessity for introducing a civil rights bill to the Arkansas legislature. The task force was created two years ago by then Gov. Bill Clinton after members of the legislature failed to reach a compromise on civil rights legislation. Almost 30 years after the passage of the Civil Rights Act on the national level, Arkansas is one of two states that still does not have a civil rights bill. The absence of such a bill means that all Arkansans do not have protection from discrimination nor avenues for legal challenge.

Because we believe that everyone should have equal access to employment, housing, public accommodations, and should be able to live lives free of violence and harassment, we have been working with community groups to support the inclusion of all people of color, women, religious minorities, people with disabilities, lesbians and gay men, the aged – all of those who are discriminated against because of who they are. As we learned from the Civil Rights movement, if democracy is to work, it must include everyone. To include everyone, there

must be justice, access, and equality. If any group is singled out for exclusion, then the fabric of democracy becomes unraveled, giving rights and privileges to one group of people at the expense of another. When injustice is the law of the land, the entire society suffers.

Because the Women's Watchcare Network monitors bias violence against four groups – people of color, women, Jews and Catholics, lesbians and gay men – we are painfully aware of what it means to live in a state where a belief in civil rights and equal protection is not a priority. In 1992, in newspaper reports of racist violence around the state, over a dozen were incidents where police were accused of brutality. Nazi graffiti was a haunting reminder of the annihilation of Jews. Lesbians and gay men were harassed and threatened with violence by individuals and law enforcement officers. Sixty-six women were killed by men.

It is in our monitoring of violence against women that we gather reams of evidence of the societal cost of discrimination and injustice. When any group of people is not considered to be first class citizens, then violence is turned against them. Witness the attacks against people of color and lesbi-

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ans and gay men, for example. Our files are flooded with accounts of rape, battering, harassment, and murders of women.

Of the killers whose identity was known in the murders of 66 women last year, only one was a stranger to his victim: all others were husbands, boyfriends, other relatives or acquaintances. They

shot, stabbed, beat, and strangled women to death. They came from every socio-economic class, and their ages ranged from 8 months to 77 years. The majority – 40 – were between the ages of 20 and 40. Two were pregnant, and eight children witnessed their mother's death. We as a society are permitting these atrocities to occur, and the loss is immeasurable.

Our colleague, Holly Pruett, the director of the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Vio-

lence, has written a compelling argument for the inclusion of women in all aspects of civil rights bills, including the portion concerning hate violence. We include a portion of her article as part of our plea that all groups – people of color, people with disabilities, lesbians and gay men, Jews, the elderly, and women – be included in every section of the civil rights bill. To do otherwise is to participate in the kind of discrimination civil rights bills are created to eliminate.

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# The Relationship Between Violence Against Women and Bias Motivated Violence/Hate Crimes

Holly Pruett

...The point which must be understood and acknowledged by civil rights and bias crime monitoring groups is this: violence against women constitutes a profound human rights violation. Violence against women is based on an ideology of male supremacy which entitles men to political, economic and social dominance over women, which is maintained by the use of violence. This ideology of supremacy requires that women be seen as subordinate, less than fully human, and as objects to be hated and feared. This ideology is rooted in and perpetuated by all of our social institutions, such as the legal system, the church, the family, and popular culture.

This ideology is also promoted by organized groups such as those in the Christian right and the "fathers' rights movement" who seek to take rights away from women by using "traditional family values" as a code for promoting traditional male supremacy. Their propaganda has been accompanied by an increase in the rates of violence against women.

Violence against women could

not exist without a widespread hatred of women and an underlying ideology of male supremacy. This belief system, and the resulting epidemic of violence, serves to intimidate and control all women. As women make greater advances toward equality, the levels of expressed hostility and violence toward women are increasing.

It is time for civil rights and bias crime monitoring groups to recognize violence against women as an issue which is parallel and related to violence based on race, national/ethnic origin, religion and sexual orientation. Violence against women provides the template for other forms of violence based on supremacy. Children learn from watching their fathers beat their mothers that violence is a legitimate route to dominance, and that women as a class are meant to be subordinate. Children learn from the Judeo-Christian tradition that all of the world's troubles stem from Eve's rebellion against her subordinate role; this belief establishes scapegoating and blaming the victim as another legitimate route to dominance.

Furthermore, half of all members of groups which are targeted by bias because of race, religion, or sexual orientation, are women. In order to address these women's experience with bias violence, the extent of bias and violence attached to women as a class must be taken into account.

For these reasons, the well intentioned efforts of civil rights and bias crime monitoring groups to address hate crimes are compromised by the exclusion of gender violence. We can continue to debate whether violence against women should be counted within hate crime statistics guidelines, or whether it should be prosecuted under hate crime statutes. **But we should not continue to debate whether violence against women belongs at the table when other forms of bias violence are being addressed.**

Just as groups organizing against violence towards women need to address racism, homophobia, and other forms of bias, it is time for civil rights and bias violence monitoring groups to take up the fight against violence based on gender.

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# The 1992 Women's Watchcare Network Log

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

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## INTRODUCTION

Since 1989, the Women's Project has published an annual report of bigoted violence and hate group activity in Arkansas. This report, the Women's Watchcare Network Log, documents incidents of bigotry and bigoted violence targeting women, people of color, lesbians, gay men, Jews and Catholics. It also documents the activities of organized white supremacists.

Most of the reports we gather come from newspaper articles from across the state. The Women's Project subscribes to the clipping service provided by the Arkansas Press Association. We also gather reports of bigotry and violence from Watchcare Network volunteers and allies, victims, advocates for the groups we monitor violence against, and people who are concerned about social justice issues. Because of limited staff time, priority in following up on incidents is given to those which occur in Little Rock and the surrounding area.

The number of incidents of bigotry and violence documented in this Log is disturbing. However, we realize that these incidents represent only a fraction of all such incidents that occur. The very nature of bigotry and violence, especially that which is sanctioned by our institutions, silence and shame their victims, thereby making documentation difficult. Groups who experience oppression often expect brutal and inhumane treatment, and the criminal justice system often re-victimizes victims of bigoted violence. The biases of journalists is often another hindrance to our documentation efforts.

This year, we added the category of **Christian Right Activity**. Because we didn't begin collecting articles on Arkansas' Christian Right until late in the year, we have only a few entries. Over the past year, a Watchcare Network staff person spent a considerable amount of time learning about and working against the Christian Right attack against lesbian and gay people in Oregon and other states. In 1993, we plan to focus more intently on countering the Christian Right's attempt to subject social and political life to Christian authoritarianism.

## 1992 WOMEN'S WATCHCARE NETWORK LOG

All incidents are listed by the date of the first report to appear in the media. The newspaper cited most often is the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, which is listed as *AD-G*.

### SEXIST VIOLENCE: MURDERS OF WOMEN

There were 80 Arkansas women and girls murdered in 1992. Of the 80, 66 were murders known, as of February 26, 1993, to have been perpetrated by men (in two cases, women participated in the killing). In seven 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. This year, we made a distinction between sexist murders, robbery-related murders of women, and murders in which women were not intentionally targeted. In 1992, there were seven killings in which women were murdered by other women with no involvement by men.

Star City, January 5

**Lila Davis**, 77, and her daughter, **Mary Sue Moore**, (w) 53, were shot and killed with a .12-gauge shotgun in Davis' home. A woman friend was also shot, but managed to crawl to a neighboring house and call police.

Raymond Dale Davis, 55, Lila Davis' husband, was charged with two counts of capital murder and one count of attempted capital murder in the shootings.

Davis had separated from her husband two months before and had obtained an order of protection against him. The Lincoln County sheriff was quoted as describing the murders as, "just some kind of family deal."

1/5-1/9: *AD-G, Lincoln Ledger, Pine Bluff Commercial*

Harrison, January 30

**Margaret Ann Cooper**, 40, was found in a ditch, stabbed nine times in the abdomen and with lacerations around her neck and chest. Prosecuting Attorney Gordon Webb said that some wounds appeared to be inflicted in a way typical of teasing or torture.

Dale Edward Bryant, 39, who has a history of violent crimes, was arrested in Kentucky and pleaded guilty to capital murder.

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Bryant had been seen leaving a club with Cooper the night of her death. He was sentenced to life in prison without parole.  
1/27-8/20: *Newton County Times, AD-G, Boone County Headlight, Harrison Daily Times*

Jonesboro, February 3

**Marcella Kelley**, 50, was shot five times in the chest with a 9mm pistol. Her housemate, Ann Chamberlain, found her in the hallway of their home.

Danny Edward Verdict, 41, Kelley's estranged husband, was arrested in California in connection with the murder and extradited to Arkansas. During the trial, several witnesses testified that Verdict was trying to get Kelley to come back to him, but that she had refused. Verdict testified that he lost control and fatally shot Kelley after she bragged of getting sexual gratification from other men and women. "This was an emotional shooting," Verdict said.

Verdict was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison.

2/3-11/14: *Jonesboro Sun, AD-G.*

Little Rock, February 11

**Michelle Crook**, 25, was shot with a pistol in the head and neck by her estranged husband, Ricky Crook, 28. Michelle Crook spent 10 days at Baptist Medical Center before she died. The two were living in separate apartments at the same complex at the time of the shooting, and had been separated for 15 months.

Two witnesses said they heard a shot and then saw Ricky Crook shoot Michelle Crook at point-blank range in the head. Ricky Crook said he became enraged because Michelle Crook flaunted an affair she was having and refused him a divorce that would mean she would have to return to her native Barbados.

Ricky Crook was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 20 years in prison.

2/11-6/12: *AD-G*

Jonesboro, March 2

**Naomi Woods**, 59, was beaten to death with a baseball bat and hit above her right eye. Her body was found outside her son's mobile home.

James Edward Coleman, 42, Woods' son, was charged with first-degree murder. Coleman told police that he and his mother were quarreling when the murder took place.

3/2-3/4: *AD-G, Jonesboro Sun*

Little Rock, March 13

**Tammy Sue Jackson**, 26, was found face down on a street corner. She had been stabbed numerous times. Jackson had previously told her housemate that she was going to meet a friend at the corner.

The case is still under investigation.

3/13: *AD-G*

Forrest City, March 16

**Tarsha Cotton**, 17, was shot in the face with a .38-caliber pistol by her husband, Ezell Cotton, 22, in an attempted murder/suicide. Cotton was six months pregnant at the time of the shooting.

Ezell Cotton died one day after the shooting while Tarsha Cotton died 10 days after the shooting. Ezell Cotton had just been released on bond from the county jail on charges of second-degree criminal mischief and third-degree assault on warrants signed by Tarsha Cotton.

3/16-3/29: *St. Francis Times-Herald, Brinkley Argus*

Little Rock, April 8

**Betty Lou Robinson**, 38, was beaten on the head with a piece of concrete and stabbed in the chest while walking home from a church where she had just received food supplies.

Earl Edward Williams, 49, Robinson's former boyfriend, was charged with first-degree murder. Williams pled guilty to first-degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison.

4/8-12/12: *AD-G*

Pine Bluff, April 10

**Kathee Lea Burnett**, 32, was found in a ditch. The cause of death was a blunt trauma to the head and lower parts of her body. Burnett had apparently left a local nightclub and was walking along the highway when she was hit by a car. The Pine Bluff Police Department is treating the death as a homicide, and the case is still under investigation.

4/10-8/9: *AD-G, Pine Bluff Commercial*

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Lake Village, April 22

**Diana B. Collins**, 43, was shot while talking on the telephone in her home.

Casey Jones, 34, was charged with first-degree murder. Collins was talking to Jones' sister on the phone. Jones said he did not intend to shoot Collins, but wanted to scare her by shooting over her head. Jones was being held under \$150,000 bond.

4/22: *Chicot Spectator*

Magnolia, April 29

**Doris Green**, 69, died of injuries sustained in an apparent fight. The weapons used are believed to be a vase and lamp. The death occurred in her home.

Curtis Green, 77, Doris Green's husband, is believed to be the assailant. He sustained stab wounds but it is not known if they were self-inflicted. Doctors said Curtis Green was physically unable to perform the murder and is not mentally competent enough to be questioned or to stand trial. No charges have been filed.

*Arkansas Crime Information Center, Magnolia Police*

Beebe, May 12

**Sherry Summers**, 27, was shot in the head by a .22-caliber pistol fired by her boyfriend, Johnny Brock, 22, who then shot himself in an apparent murder/suicide. The two lived together and had planned to marry soon.

5/12-5/13: *Daily Citizen, AD-G*

Little Rock, May 13

**Krystan Phillips**, 8 months, died of a skull fracture and swelling of the brain. Lashand Thornton, 16, Phillips' mother, had left the child with her grandmother and step-grandfather while she was at work.

Grover Easter Jr., 34, Phillips' step-grandfather, has been charged with second-degree murder.

5/13-11/11: *AD-G*

Prescott, May 19

**Malissa Clark**, 21, and her fiance, Jeff Lewis, 24, were found in a wooded site along with Lewis' pickup truck. Both had been shot with a .22-caliber firearm. Clark was shot five times and found nude on the ground. Lewis had been shot four times and was found inside the pickup.

It has not been determined if Clark was raped, but investigators seem to assume that she was. "After all she was found naked," said Sheriff Abb Morman. "If she was raped, she was raped after she was shot."

The deaths are still under investigation. Police believe there may be suspects in the local area.

5/19-1/23/93: *AD-G, Nashville News, Arkansas Times*

Van Buren, May 23

**Amanda DeAnn "Mandy" Craig**, 11, was found by children in Chouteau, Okla., at a municipal park approximately 120 miles from her home. There were scratch marks on her hands and all her fingernails had been broken off. She is believed to have been strangled. Craig was last seen walking home from her friend's home after leaving her elementary school in Van Buren. An autopsy report showed she had been sexually molested. A needle found in a hotel in Oklahoma may be the one used to inject Craig with an animal tranquilizer.

Vernon Lynn Hopper Jr., 32, of New Mexico, has been charged with Craig's kidnapping. Hopper, who is being held in Texas on unrelated charges of rape and kidnapping, has not yet been charged with murder as investigators are awaiting DNA test results. This was an apparent stranger abduction. Hopper had been recently employed in Blytheville and had links to Van Buren and Chouteau.

5/23-9/6: *Southwest Times Record, AD-G, Van Buren Press Argus-Courier, Springdale News*

Little Rock, June 2

**Rhonda Estis**, 19, was shot in the head after she tried to break up an argument.

Lonnie Franklin, 19, was charged with first-degree murder, and his bond was set at \$200,000. Franklin was also charged with first-degree battery and four counts of aggravated assault for shooting Lonnie Woods, an acquaintance of Estis, in the hand, and for pointing the handgun at four other people before shooting Estis. Franklin's trial is scheduled for March 17.

6/2-6/3: *AD-G*

Little Rock, June 2

**Alicia Blackmon**, 20, was shot in the head with a .38-caliber revolver. As many as six people were in the apartment at the time of the shooting.

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Fred Nash, 18, an acquaintance of Blackmon, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for second-degree murder.  
6/2-6/3: AD-G

Wynne, June 3

An **unidentified** black female body was found in the St. Francis River in Cross County. Police are awaiting results of DNA testing for possible identification. The age could not be determined.

6/2-12/16: AD-G, Wynne Police Department

Ozark, June 19

**Dr. Rebecca Johnson**, 53, was found in Cypress Creek near Florence, Ala. Her head was covered with a white plastic bag and pieces of a white sheet and duct tape was wrapped around her neck. Autopsy reports show she died of strangulation after being struck by a liquor bottle.

Alan Michael Johnson, 42, an acquaintance who was unrelated to Rebecca Johnson, was involved in deceiving her in a money-making scheme that ended in her death in a Fort Smith hotel room. Alan Johnson used various members of his family to assist him after the murder was committed. Alan Johnson was sentenced to life in prison without parole for capital murder.

6/19-11/24: *Southwest Times Record, Mena Evening Star, Russellville Courier Democrat, AD-G, Arkansas Times, Van Buren Press Argus-Courier, Ozark Spectator*

Marianna, June 25

**Mae Ella Long**, 61, was stabbed along with her housemate, Lonnie Parker, inside their residence by one of Parker's relatives. The motive for the stabbing is unknown.

Willie Lee Brand, 37, is being held on \$250,000 bond for the stabbing deaths.

6/25: *Marianna Courier-Index*

Pleasant Plains, June 29

**Tina Lee Strickland**, 28, was shot with a .30-caliber rifle by her live-in boyfriend at their mobile home. The two were apparently arguing and struggling with the gun when it discharged.

Vance Blanton, 32, was arrested on suspicion of first-degree murder. He was released with no bond set pending the completion of the investigation.

6/29-7/1: *Batesville Guard, AD-G*

Conway, June 30

**Linda Wright**, 33, was shot three times with a .12-gauge shotgun by her live-in boyfriend, Michael Russell Gilkey, 44, who then took his own life. The murder/suicide was described by the chief deputy of the Faulkner County Sheriff's Department as "a domestic disturbance that got out of hand." Two children, ages 2 and 8, were inside the home at the time of the shooting.

Gilkey had threatened Wright in the past, and sheriff's deputies had been to the home several times before for disturbances that involved arguing and fighting.

6/29-7/2: AD-G

Rogers, July 7

**Brenda Gail Shcoonover**, 29, was struck by a car driven by her brother Charles Edward Perry, 31. He told police he thought he had hit a deer. Perry did not stop but later pulled over to check damage to his car and could not restart the engine. Perry and his sister had been involved in at least three violent altercations recently. Rogers Police Sgt. Steve Russell said, "I think it was one of these family things where he was always jealous because he thought momma paid more attention to sis, only they carried it to extremes and beat on each other."

Charles Perry will be charged with manslaughter, leaving the scene of a fatal accident, and a drunken driving offense.

7/7-7/9: *Benton County Daily Record, Northwest Arkansas Morning News, AD-G*

Clark County, July 31

**Theresa Chamberlain**, 24, died of gunshot wounds in her home. She was found holding a butcher knife in her hand.

Randal T. McCarty, 25, Chamberlain's boyfriend, was charged with first-degree murder.

7/31-12/17: *Arkansas Crime Information Center, Clark County prosecutor's office.*

Little Rock, August 3

**Shirley Jean Barnes**, 46, was found on the kitchen floor of her apartment. She had been shot once in the chest with a .38-caliber pistol.

Her husband, Don Patrick Barnes, 52, said he shot her in self defense as she approached him with a hot curling iron during

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an argument. Don Barnes was sentenced to 17 years in prison for second-degree murder.

8/3: AD-G

Fayetteville, August 3

**Rebecca Lynn Overbo**, 19, and her husband of two months, **Montgomery Overbo**, 33, were found inside their home. Both had been stabbed multiple times with a kitchen-type knife. Seminal fluid was found in the body of Rebecca Overbo, suggesting that she was raped.

**Jefferey Scott Thomas**, 20, was charged with two counts of capital murder. He had known the Overbos and was picked out of a photo lineup by a neighbor who saw someone at the house. Thomas had recently been charged in the 1991 strangulation death of **Karen Stout**.

8/3-10/8: AD-G, *Northwest Arkansas Morning News*, *The Morning News*, *Northwest Arkansas Times*

Jacksonville, August 7

**Sandra Wilson**, 36, died of a single gunshot wound to the head. She was found on the dining room floor of her home.

**Aaron Shells**, 36, an acquaintance, is being held and was charged with first-degree murder in Wilson's death. Witness **Yeldar Hood** said Wilson and Shells were drinking gin with other people. Hood said the two were "mouthing off" to each other when Shells picked up a .38-caliber revolver and shot Wilson.

8/7: AD-G, *Jacksonville News*

Pine Bluff, August 18

**Stephanie Watkins**, 23, was found in a grassy lot by a 10th-grader on his way to school. Watkins, whose body was partially decomposed, apparently died of gunshot wounds.

8/18: *Pine Bluff Commercial*

Forrest City, August 19

**Karen Renee Swanson**, 28, was found in a ditch at least a week after her death. Swanson had eight knife wounds in her back and midsection, which were determined to be the cause of death.

**Larry Davis Jr.**, 36, a truck driver, was a suspect in the case; however, he committed suicide in South Carolina in November. Investigators from the St. Francis County Sheriff's Department said the fingerprints found matched Davis' but they are awaiting DNA test results on his blood and hair. "We feel like we're 99 percent finished in this case," said Deputy **Glenn Ramsey**.

8/19-1/23/93: *Times-Herald*, AD-G, *St. Francis County criminal investigator*

El Dorado, August 25

**Brenda Dansby**, 34, died of multiple gunshot wounds in the front yard of her house. **Ronnie Kimble**, Dansby's boyfriend, was also shot during the domestic argument between Dansby and her estranged husband, **Ray Dansby**. Kimble died several days later. The Dansby's 8-year-old son witnessed the incident; another witness saw the boy crying as he ran after his father following the shooting.

**Ray Dansby**, 32, was charged with murder. Ray Dansby had a long history of harassing and abusing Brenda Dansby. His bond was set at \$500,000.

**Capt. Bill Hickman** of the El Dorado Police Department said, "Over a period of eight years we made about eight arrests in an attempt to protect Brenda – several felony arrests – and it didn't work."

8/25-8/31: *El Dorado News-Times*

Magnolia, August 31

**Sue Shackelford**, 46, called 911 to report that her estranged husband, **Joe Shackelford Jr.**, was beating her and tearing up the house. Two minutes later she called again, saying he had shot someone. By the time deputies arrived, Sue Shackelford was dead from a shot to the head.

**Joe Shackelford**, 49, killed himself after murdering Sue Shackelford and **Thomas Oglesby**, 45, an acquaintance of Shackelford who was also in the house. All three were dead when police arrived.

8/31: *Banner News*

West Memphis, September 4

**Demeteros Phillips**, 28, died two days after being severely beaten and dumped along the Arkansas 77 Bypass in Crittenden County.

**Willie Balentine**, 38, of Marion was charged in the case. He was arrested in Memphis in February 1993 and is awaiting extradition to Arkansas.

9/4-2/6/93: *Evening Times*, AD-G



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Marked Tree, September 5

**Delois Coleman**, 32, was found dead in the bedroom of her home. Officers recovered a knife and a firearm at the scene. Willie B. Jones, 31, was arrested for the murder. Jones was Coleman's former boyfriend. The two had recently lived together.

9/5-9/9: *Jonesboro Sun*, AD-G

Pine Bluff, September 10

**Cora Smith**, 42, died several days after being stabbed during an argument.

Robert Lee Woods, 37, who lived at Smith's residence, was originally charged with first-degree battery but is expected to be charged with murder.

9/10: *Pine Bluff Commercial*

Hot Springs, September 15

**Laura Fulbright**, 1, died from multiple severe fractures of the skull.

Joseph Johnathan Rank, 24, the boyfriend of Fulbright's mother, Mary Ellen Robbins, was charged with first-degree murder. Rank was looking after Fulbright. When Robbins returned home, Rank told her that Fulbright had fallen on some rocks. Robbins at first thought Fulbright was all right but later in the day the baby began having trouble breathing. Rheeta Stecker, a doctor at the hospital where Fulbright was taken, has alleged the abuse. Stecker said she had warned Robbins of possible child abuse at least six weeks before Fulbright's death.

Rank's bond was set at \$50,000; his trial is scheduled for May 11, 1993.

9/15- 2/2/93: AD-G, *The Sentinel Record*

Jonesboro, September 25

**Mary Prater**, 27, bled to death from a bullet wound in her aorta. She was found unconscious in her car in the parking lot of a convenience store, and had been shot with a .22-caliber gun. A detective believes that she was pregnant at the time.

Army Sgt. David Glasco, 24, dated Prater while he was separated from his wife, and he said she began harassing him when he reconciled with his wife. Glasco said Prater had been following him when he pulled over to the side of the road. Glasco told police that he and Prater struggled over a .22-caliber handgun and that it fired when she pointed it at him and he attempted to force the barrel downward. Glasco told police he put Prater in her vehicle, left the shooting scene and drove home; he then returned to the scene and called authorities. No charges have been filed.

9/25-10/3: *Jonesboro Sun*, AD-G

Eudora, October 7

**Crystal Hudson**, 16, was discovered in a field last summer. She had been listed as a missing person. The cause of death was a blow to the head.

Harley E. McCoy, 20, Hudson's former boyfriend, was charged with second-degree murder but later pled guilty to manslaughter. McCoy said that Hudson became hysterical after informing him she was pregnant with his child. McCoy shook Hudson and she fell to the ground, striking her head on a rock. McCoy placed Hudson's body in his truck and hid the body under a bridge. McCoy said that when he returned later, Hudson's body was missing.

McCoy received a 10-year prison sentence.

10/7: *Eudora Enterprise, Chicot County Sheriff's Department*

Wynne, October 13

**Gardenia Cross**, 16, was found off a roadway in a ditch. Her death was apparently caused by puncture wounds and lacerations to the face and neck.

The case is still under investigation.

10/13-10/16: *Wynne Progress, Jonesboro Sun*

Bentonville, October 19

**Wynona Frazier**, 44, died of a close-range gunshot wound to her face while at her home. Bobby Jones, who was also shot in the incident, survived.

Police charged Everette Lee Frazier, 44, Wynona Frazier's husband, with capital murder and attempted capital murder. The two had been separated for several months. The Frazier's 11-year-old daughter, Tammy, phoned police, told them her address and said, "Mom and Bobby have been shot." The girl told authorities that she had been asleep on the couch when the shootings occurred and that she had not seen her father. Tammy Frazier told authorities that she overheard a conversation earlier in the week in which her father threatened to kill Wynona Frazier, Jones, and himself. The Frazier's other daughter, Linda, said she had heard Everette Frazier threaten to kill Wynona Frazier several times over the last two years, and had asked Linda Frazier to help him

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seek reconciliation with her mother.

10/19-12/29: *Benton County Daily Record, Morning News, Northwest Arkansas Morning News*

Hoxie, October 20

**Violet Hensley Starkey**, 30, was found dead at her home.

L.B. Starkey, 43, her husband, first told police that she had shot herself in the left side of the neck with a .12-gauge shotgun. L.B. Starkey then told officers a different story of Violet Starkey shooting herself before admitting he shot her. L.B. Starkey said the shooting was accidental. Both had been drinking.

L.B. Starkey was charged with first-degree murder. His bond was set at \$50,000.

10/20-10/21: *The Times Dispatch, Jonesboro Sun*

West Memphis, October 20

**Teresa Kaye Singleton**, 30, was found nude in a ditch by sanitation workers along a road near railroad tracks. No gunshot or stab wounds were visible on the body. The Crittenden County Sheriff's Department said it appears she was strangled. The case is still under investigation.

10/20-10/23: *Evening Times, AD-G*

West Helena, October 21

**Loistene Lovelace**, 31, was raped and shot three times with a 9mm weapon. She had been kidnapped in her car and then taken to a field where she was raped, shot and left for dead.

Larry Davis, 20, was found driving her car. He had been a friend of some of Lovelace's family members. Davis was charged with capital murder, rape and theft of a vehicle.

1/28/93: *Arkansas Crime Information Center, West Helena Police Department*

Russellville, October 21

**Virginia Wilson Malick**, 31, a potential witness in the trial for the 1989 murder of Pamela Smith, was found stabbed to death on her waterbed at her home. Malick was nude, she had been stabbed numerous times, her hands and feet were bound with tape, a sock was stuffed in her mouth and her mouth was taped shut. It is believed she was tied up for some time before the murder. Malick's fatal injuries included stab or cut wounds over her eye, under her eye, on the right side of her back, four on her buttocks and two or three wounds to each breast. Malick's throat had also been cut. Malick's three children were asleep in another bedroom of the house at the time of the murder.

David Malick, 26, Virginia Malick's husband, was charged with capital murder and the kidnapping of Melissa Harris, Virginia Malick's 17-year-old friend, who was staying with her at the time. David Malick kept Harris tied up in another room of the house while he murdered Virginia Malick, and later took her to a motel room, where she and David Malick were found by police. At one point, David Malick forced Harris to shave his body hair, including his pubic hair. David told officers he had tied his wife up to try out "new sex" and that he "just snapped." David Malick later claimed that his wife was killed by an intruder.

The trial has been set for March 10. Malick was also charged with capital murder in the Smith murder.

10/21-2/6/93: *Courier Democrat, AD-G, Conway County Petit Jean Country Headlight, Atkins Chronicle*

Mount Ida, November 4

**Anna Philbrick**, 74, was killed by a blunt object, and her body was found in a mobile home 3 miles north of Glenwood.

Charles Lee Jenkins, 61, was charged with capital murder. Anna had befriended him and had a dinner date with him on the evening of her death. Jenkins had previously served time for attempted murder, kidnapping and other charges. Montgomery County officers are continuing the investigation.

11/4: *AD-G*

Camden, November 9

**Marilyn Walker**, 31, was shot in the head and arm with a .22-caliber rifle.

Willie Walker, 52, her former husband, turned the gun on himself after shooting Marilyn Walker; he survived. The couple was recently divorced and had been having trouble over property. Willie Walker, whose bond was set at \$100,000, is charged with first-degree murder.

11/9-11/17: *Camden News, AD-G*

El Dorado, November 29

**Marilyn E. McCathern**, 34, was shot and killed by her husband, Jimmy Dale McCathern, 39, who then shot and killed himself.

11/29: *El Dorado News-Times, Arkansas Crime Information Center*

Walnut Ridge, November 29

**Carrie Galbreath**, 20, was found shot to death in her sister's vehicle. Galbreath was shot twice outside a convenience store. Witnesses said they heard Galbreath say "he shot me" before a man shoved her into the car and shot her three more times. Galbreath suffered five gunshot wounds to the left side of her body, apparently from a .22-caliber weapon. The body was sent to the medical examiner's office.

An unknown male suspect is being sought in Galbreath's murder.

11/29-12/16: AD-G, *Pocahontas Star Herald*, *Jonesboro Sun*, *Walnut Ridge Times Dispatch*

Pine Bluff, December 2

**Danita Ferguson**, 16, died of a gunshot wound to the stomach following an argument.

**Albert Ellis Jr.**, 21, is charged with first-degree murder. Ellis told the prosecuting attorney that he and Ferguson were arguing in the street outside a residence when she slapped him and a .32-caliber pistol went off.

12/2-12/5: AD-G, *Pine Bluff Commercial*

El Dorado, December 4

**Latonya Billings**, 19, was found dead in the back seat of her car. She had been shot in the right temple with a .25-caliber pistol. Lying next to Billings was her former boyfriend, who was also shot in the temple in an apparent murder/suicide attempt.

A week later, **Richard Earl Thrower**, 22, died of his injuries. The two had broken up not long before.

12/4-12/11: AD-G, *El Dorado News-Times*

Pine Bluff, December 11

**Vanshanda Shaw**, 15, died of gunshot wounds sustained after an apparent argument with **Horace G. Brown**, her 32-year-old boyfriend. Shaw was found in Brown's bedroom.

Brown's first-degree murder trial is scheduled for May 17.

12/11-12/12: *Pine Bluff Commercial*

Pine Bluff, December 12

**April LeShaun Pruitt**, 2, died from massive head trauma as a result of child abuse. **John Cone**, deputy prosecuting attorney, said the child's body showed "bruises, scars and bite marks."

**Bobby Knight**, 32, her mother's boyfriend, and her mother, **Martha Williams**, 30, were charged with second-degree murder.

12/12-1/7/93: AD-G, *Pine Bluff Commercial*

Heber Springs, February 26, 1993

**Linda Carter**, 52, died December 14 after being shot above her left eye with a .22-caliber rifle.

**Ethridge L. Carter**, 66, will be charged with first-degree murder in the killing of his wife, which initially was thought a suicide. **Ethridge Carter** told police that he found **Linda Carter** on the living room couch with a gunshot wound above her left eye and the gun in her hand. Tests from the state Crime Laboratory showed the husband's fingerprints on it, not the victim's.

2/26/93: AD-G

Marianna, December 17

**Deborah Anderson**, 36, was found beaten to death in the back yard of a residence.

**Charles Prater**, 42, her boyfriend, was charged with second-degree murder. Witnesses reported seeing **Prater** drag **Anderson** up the street before dawn.

12/17: *Marianna Courier-Index*

Huntsville, December 22

**Carolyn Harvey**, 37, was shot in the head several times with a .22-caliber rifle at her mobile home. **Harvey** was hiding in her bedroom closet when her 16-year-old son, **Burl Harvey**, shot her. He later tried to make the shooting appear to be a suicide. **Carolyn Harvey** was found by her younger son when he came home from school.

**Burl Harvey** was charged with first-degree murder. A March trial date was set.

12/22-12/24: AD-G, *North Arkansas Times*, *The Morning News*, *Northwest Arkansas Morning News*

Hot Springs, December 27

**Carol A. Canfield**, 23, and **Kathleen White**, 47, were shot by a small-caliber handgun after going to a club. They were each shot once in the back of the head.

**Thomas Meece**, 37, was charged with two counts of capital murder in the deaths. **Meece** was the resident manager of the club, a home for recovering alcoholics. He had called **Canfield** and **White** to ask if they would come over and give him a ride to

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the hospital.

12/27-1/1/93: *AD-G, Sentinel Record*

Jonesboro, December 31

**Dorothy Hurley**, 23, was shot once in the chest with a sawed off .12-gauge shotgun. She was shot as she stood alongside the highway after exiting a vehicle and approaching a car driven by Donnie Sims. Two persons witnessed the shooting from the vehicle she exited.

Sims, 24, her ex-husband, was charged with first-degree murder. Craighead County Sheriff Larry Emison said, "They had been having problems. Apparently they were getting back together, but it was an on-again, off-again thing. She was with someone else and he kind of lost it." Sims' bond was set at \$200,000.

12/31-1/1/93: *AD-G, Jonesboro Sun*

## ROBBERY-RELATED MURDERS OF WOMEN

Helena, February 12.

**Louise F. Dwyer**, 78, was found strangled by a piece of electrical cord in her home.

James Johnson Jr., 37, who had done chores for Dwyer in the past, was charged with capital murder in the death.

2/12-2/14: *AD-G, Daily Word*

Pine Bluff, March 24

**Teresa Jester**, 42, was shot with a shotgun in her shoulder as she used a telephone at a service station.

Sherman Noble, Vernon Dedmon and Timmy Hordsberry were charged with capital murder. The three men went to Pine Bluff to steal a car, and were on their way back to Little Rock when they saw Jester talking on the phone next to a BMW and decided to steal the car. Noble told police he shot Jester accidentally and the other two say they didn't know he had a shotgun. Noble pled guilty and was sentenced to life without parole.

3/24: *AD-G, Pine Bluff Police Dept, Arkansas Crime Information Center*

Batesville, May 27

**Margie McGowan**, 59, was robbed and murdered at a laundromat where she was the operator-manager. She was stabbed several times in the face, back and chest with a screwdriver, and struck on the head with a two-by-four.

Frankie Ray Taylor, 17, pled guilty to capital murder and will receive life without parole.

5/27-12/30: *AD-G, Calico River Current, Batesville Guard*

Benton, June 2

**Robin Richardson**, 13, was with her mother while she was at work in a convenience store when she was shot with a shotgun in the head and stabbed in the back. Her mother was shot in the chest but survived. Investigators said the shootings apparently were robbery-related.

Steven Ray Weger Jr., 18, was convicted of capital murder and sentenced to life in prison for Richardson's murder. Chad A. Kitchell, 17, pleaded guilty to capital murder and was sentenced to life in prison without parole. Both men were convicted of attempted capital murder with a recommended sentence of 30 years for the shooting of Richardson's mother.

6/2-11/14: *AD-G, Benton Courier*

Little Rock, July 30

**Yvette Ibarra**, 22, died of multiple gun shot wounds to her chest, stomach, and arm. She was sitting in a car with her boyfriend when two men approached them and asked for money. They attempted to drive off when one of the men opened fire.

Keith Hawkins, 22, has been charged with capital murder. His bond was set at \$100,000.

7/30-8/1: *AD-G*

Wilmar, December 3

**Rhonda Kaye Newman**, 26, was shot once in the head during an attempted robbery of the convenience store where she worked. Newman was found dead by a truck driver who stopped at the store.

James Rhodes Jr., 20, and an unnamed 16-year-old youth will be charged with murder in Newman's death. Both were being held on \$100,000 bond each. Police reported that the suspect who fired the weapon apparently panicked and left the store without taking anything.

2/3/93: *Monticello Advance Monticellonian*

Cascoe, December 16

**Mary Lou Jones**, 53, was shot and killed with a .22-caliber revolver during a suspected robbery attempt at a convenience store where she worked. The store's owner was also killed. Approximately \$200 was taken but a bag containing \$900 was left behind.

Albert Bell, 16, and Terry Sims, 16, have each been charged with two counts of capital murder. The youths knew the victims.

12/16-1/13/93: AD-G

## NON-ROBBERY-RELATED AND NON-SEXIST MURDERS OF WOMEN

Auvergne, January 31

**Mary Williams**, 68, was shot numerous times in the head and shoulder region inside her home along with her husband, who had also been shot. Both a .22- and a .32-caliber pistol were found inside the home.

Gary W. Williams, 32, their son, was charged with two counts of capital murder. Gary Williams called police, turning himself in the morning after the shootings took place.

Mary Williams and her husband had on previous occasions sworn affidavits for the arrest of their son on charges of terroristic threatening.

1/30-2/3: AD-G, *Jonesboro Sun*, *Newport Daily Independent*

Little Rock, February 20

**Sabrina Earl**, 23, was shot in the back of the head at close range. Her body was found on a bed at her apartment. Two other men were killed during the incident. Earl was seven months pregnant at the time. It is believed she was killed for being a witness to a soured drug deal.

Nathaniel Thomas Jr., 36, was convicted of one charge of capital murder and two counts of first-degree murder. He was sentenced to life without parole plus 40 years. Referring to Earl, Thomas said, "If they had known she was pregnant, they would not have killed her." Thomas originally said that three other men were with him at the time of the murders, but the judge has dropped the charges against them due to lack of evidence and false statements by Thomas.

2/20-12/11: AD-G.

De Queen, March 26

**Charlene Friend**, 49, and her husband were found slain in their bed. The Friends were repeatedly beaten on the head and upper body with a baseball bat. Charlene Friend's throat had also been cut.

Bobby Michael Friend, 19, their adopted son; Ricky Dawson, 19; George Lemoin Rhodes, 18; and Timothy Allen Oliver, 15, were charged with two counts of capital murder. Weapons used during the attack included a baseball bat, a sword, a box cutting knife, and a dowel pin. In the past police had visited the home to settle domestic disputes between Bobby Friend and his parents.

Bobby Friend told police that he "never meant to kill, only knock unconscious the mother." However, he admitted in court documents that he brought the sword to the attack. Bobby Friend received two death sentences for the murders. Dawson testified against Bobby Friend in exchange for life in prison without having his case tried.

3/25-10/18: *De Queen Bee*, AD-G, *Little River News*, *De Queen Daily Citizen*, *The Sentinel Record*, *Texarkana Gazette*, *Nashville News*

Sheridan, June 17

**Vicki Perkins**, 29, died of injuries sustained during a shooting at a night club in May. Also killed was Gary Thomas.

William St. Jean, 39; Rick A. Visneau, 41; Loza W. Table Sr., 41; and Frederick Peterson, 28, were all charged with first-degree murder in the deaths of Perkins and Thomas.

6/17: *Sheridan Headlight*

Little Rock, July 13

**Lamesha Barton**, 14, was shot once in the upper chest with a 9mm automatic handgun as she was standing at the corner of 15th and Oak streets. It is estimated that at least 15 rounds were fired into the intersection. A second girl was also injured with gunshot wounds to both legs.

Kenneth Johnson, 25, was arrested and charged the following day with first-degree murder. He is said to be a Crips gang member. A dispute between Johnson and another man, who lives near the shooting, apparently escalated over the weekend, leading to the fatal shooting. Bond was set at \$1 million, but was later reduced to \$100,000. Johnson paid the bond and is out of jail. Johnson had numerous previous arrests in Little Rock and California.

7/13-8/4: AD-G

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Little Rock, July 14

**Sheronda Abdullah**, 21, was killed while a passenger in a car during a drive-by shooting apparently aimed at Kenneth Johnson, who was driving, in retaliation for his role in the killing of Lamesha Barton. Johnson was charged in Barton's death. Abdullah's 2-year-old son was also in the car, but neither Johnson nor the child was injured. Abdullah was Johnson's girlfriend. She was shot in the head and neck with a semi-automatic weapon. The car was sprayed with six to eight bullets.

Douglas Clayton Jr., 18, was charged with first-degree murder in the shooting. Police said an ongoing dispute between Johnson and Clayton was apparently at the root of the slayings of innocent female bystanders and the wounding of another. Clayton's trial is scheduled for April 6.

7/14-8/22: AD-G

Pine Bluff, July 23

**Annie Ruth Summerville**, 44, and her son Marvin Summerville, 21, were shot in the front yard of their home. Annie Summerville suffered from gunshot wounds to her wrist, chest, and her head. Her son died of a single gunshot to the chest.

Carey Williams, 17, was charged with first-degree murder in the killings. Three other teenagers have been arrested. Marvin Summerville had apparently been in an argument with the four teenagers earlier in the day and they went to his house looking for him. When Marvin Summerville and his mother stepped out of the house, Williams fired upon them.

7/23-7/25: AD-G, *Pine Bluff Commercial*

Fort Smith, July 28

**Amanda Phelan**, 14, was shot twice in the head with a .22-caliber rifle while someone held a pillow over her face pretending they were playing a game.

Amanda's half brother, Kenneth Ray Brisco, 19, and half sister, Tracy Phelan, 17, were charged in the death. Brisco pled guilty to first degree murder and use of a firearm in commission of a crime and was sentenced to 50 years. Tracy Phelan was sentenced to 20 years in prison with 15 years suspended on a reduced charge of second-degree murder. Amanda Phelan's murder was to be the first in a long line of killings of family members. Brisco and Tracy Phelan then planned to take the family's car and property to Florida while robbing businesses along the way. Tracy Phelan called a friend of Brisco's immediately following Amanda Phelan's murder and asked him to come over to help. Instead, the friend called the police and Brisco and Tracy Phelan were apprehended.

7/28-12/9: *Southwest Times Record*, AD-G

## RACIST VIOLENCE

*Under the category of Racist Violence, the Women's Project documents incidents in which people of color are victimized by white people.*

### USE OF FORCE AND OVERTLY RACIST ACTIONS BY LITTLE ROCK POLICE OFFICERS

In 1992, there were five times when a Little Rock police officer fired a weapon and struck a person, and in each incident, a white, male officer struck an African-American man. The entries detailing these five shootings are grouped together and listed first. These are followed by other entries detailing actions by white Little Rock police officers against people of color

**Little Rock, Feb 4**

Jim Aulwes, a white Little Rock police lieutenant, was fired for improper use of deadly force after he fired three shots at 19-year-old Jermaine Johnson, an African-American, and seriously injured him. Johnson, who was with two other people in the parking lot of Parkview Arts-Science Magnet High School, fled on foot from two Little Rock police officers as they radioed for a warrants check on him. Aulwes followed Johnson in his patrol car before exiting the vehicle. Johnson then jumped into the driver's seat and put the car in gear. As Aulwes reached into the vehicle holding his .38-caliber revolver, Johnson slammed the door on Aulwes' forearm, causing the gun to discharge. The bullet struck Johnson in the back of the head. As Johnson drove away, Aulwes pulled his arm free and fired three more shots.

Johnson was unarmed and did not have access to a weapon inside the police car. Police Chief Louie Caudell fired Aulwes for violating the department's deadly force policy by shooting and seriously wounding a fleeing theft suspect while innocent people were nearby.

Johnson filed a \$190,000 federal lawsuit against the city of Little Rock and Aulwes for violating his civil rights.

2/4-2/3/93: AD-G

**Little Rock, March 26**

Dwain "Rusty" Watson, a white police detective who shot and seriously wounded an African-American man, was cleared of any wrongdoing after an investigation by the Pulaski County prosecutor ruled that the shooting was justified. Larry Rhodes,

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32, was shot in the stomach by Watson, 30. Rhodes had been seen leaving a house that was under surveillance for a suspect in a triple homicide (Rhodes was not that suspect.) Police followed his car, signaled him to pull over and told Rhodes to put up his hands. Because Rhodes showed only his left hand as he suddenly got out of the car, Watson, who is white, thought he was going to be fired upon and shot Rhodes. Rhodes is quoted as saying he was "acting a fool. I got out of the car. The policeman told me to put my hands up. I didn't. I tripped and fell, and the police shot me." Rhodes, a reporter for the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, admitted he had been using crack.

Pulaski County Prosecutor Mark Stodola said that the shooting was justified as Watson believed Rhodes was about to commit an act involving force or violence against the officers. Watson was on administrative leave with pay during the investigation.

3/21-3/26: AD-G

#### **Little Rock, August 28**

Jerry Smith, a white police lieutenant, was cleared of any wrongdoing after shooting Kevin Thomas, 16-year-old African-American, in the hand during an arrest. According to police reports, Smith said that as he scuffled with Thomas, he felt his gun slipping and tightened his grip on the weapon, causing it to discharge. However, Michael Booker, Thomas' attorney, said witnesses to the shooting told him that there was no scuffle and that Smith shot Thomas as he was getting out of the driver's seat. Smith was standing outside the opened passenger door after the front-seat passenger had been removed, the witnesses said.

Smith was cleared after the police investigation; however, Booker has filed a lawsuit against the police department with primary grievances against Smith.

8/28: AD-G, Michael Booker

#### **Little Rock, November 23**

Following the shooting death of William Tayes, an African-American, by white police officer Steve Gorbet, an internal police investigation determined that Gorbet did not improperly fire his gun. Tayes, 38, was killed after being pursued by Gorbet for running a stop light. Tayes finally pulled his car over but did not stop. He continued driving and crashed his car into a brick wall before jumping out and fighting with Gorbet. After Tayes grabbed a corner post from a nearby wood fence and either struck the officer with it or threatened to do so, Gorbet drew and fired his service pistol once.

11/23-12/31: AD-G

#### **Little Rock, December 30**

White Little Rock police officer Michael Davis, 26, was justified in shooting Herbert Davis, 43, according to the findings of an internal police investigation. Herbert Davis, who is African-American, was seriously injured when he was shot in the chest and wrist by Michael Davis. Police said Herbert Davis fled when officers walked up on a group of people he was sitting with at the Highland Court housing project. Police said that Herbert Davis pointed a gun at the officers during the pursuit.

12/30-2/24/93: AD-G

#### **Little Rock, May 31**

Little Rock police officer Doug Elms, who is white, quit rather than be fired after he was accused of misconduct in the arrest of Herbert Cuning, a 39-year-old African-American. Cuning said he was falsely arrested and roughed up by Elms while Cuning was staying at the Master's Economy Inn. At the time of the incident, Elms, who was off duty, was providing security for the hotel. Elms charged Cuning with disorderly conduct and public intoxication. "The only thing I'm guilty of is being black," said Cuning, who accused Elms of threatening him with his dog.

Cuning was acquitted of the charges, and Assistant Police Chief David Rowan recommended that Elms be fired because there was "insufficient evidence to prove or disprove" Elms' allegations about Cuning's conduct.

5/31-9/20: AD-G

#### **Little Rock, October 14**

Two Latino men were deported and one is still awaiting trial after the three were the victims of harassment, intimidation and abusive language by a white Pulaski County sheriff's deputy. Carlos Tapia, who is in his early 30s, Antonio Montes, 20, and Renee Garcia, 20, lived at the same west Little Rock apartment as Pulaski County sheriff's deputy Keith Martin. The Latinos said Martin began harassing them several weeks before the arrests. Martin, the night manager for the complex, told the men he didn't like Mexicans.

On October 14, Tapia, Montes and Garcia were drinking beer in their apartment when Montes and Garcia left to make another run to the liquor store. They were stopped by Martin on the way. Montes ran to the apartment to inform Tapia and when Tapia went to the scene, Martin threatened him with arrest if he didn't leave. Martin then went to Tapia's apartment, forced his way in, and hit Tapia in the face with his pistol. Martin also pulled the pistol on the other adults and children in the apartment and threatened them with arrest. Tapia, a documented worker, fled, and was treated at the hospital.

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Martin said he arrested Montes and Garcia because they smelled of alcohol and yelled at him when he advised them to keep their voices down in the parking lot. Martin said when he entered the apartment, Tapia, who was wielding a knife, said he would kill Martin. Martin also said his arm was injured when Garcia pushed him.

Tapia was arrested five days later and charged with terroristic threatening and fleeing, both misdemeanors, and second-degree escape and second-degree battery, both felonies. Montes, an undocumented worker, was charged with public intoxication, disorderly conduct and fleeing, all misdemeanors, and with aggravated assault and second-degree escape, both felonies. Garcia, also undocumented, was charged with public intoxication and disorderly conduct, obstructing government operations and resisting arrest, all misdemeanors. They were given the option of pleading guilty and being deported to Mexico or spending a year in jail.

Tapia's bond was first set at \$25,000 and later reduced to \$2,500. The case was moved to circuit court, where Latino community advocates believe Tapia has a better chance of receiving a fair trial. The trial date has not been set. Following the arrests, immigration officials checked the status of all Mexican residents in the apartment complex.

*Father Scott Friend, Catholic Diocese Hispanic Ministries*

### **Little Rock, November 18**

Kevin Tindle, a white Little Rock police officer, was suspended for 30 days without pay for attending a Halloween party wearing a large Afro wig, painting his face black and carrying a watermelon. Tindle is also said to have used the term "nigger" three days earlier during a dispute with several black officers.

Thirty officers – representing 60% of the black members of the Little Rock Fraternal Order of Police – quit the organization following the incidents. The Fraternal Order of Police agreed to pay Tindle's legal fees during his appeal of Police Chief Louie Caudell finding that Tindle violated department rules with personal conduct, causing justified criticism of the department, and for ridiculing or willfully embarrassing or humiliating a person. The Little Rock Civil Service Commission upheld Caudell's decision.

11/18 - 2/6/93: AD-G, *Arkansas Times*

### **USE OF FORCE AND OVERTLY RACIST ACTIONS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OUTSIDE LITTLE ROCK**

The following entries provide details about the use of force by white law enforcement officers against people of color, and about overtly racist actions on the part of white law enforcement officers. Each of these incidents occurred outside Little Rock.

#### **West Helena, Feb 5**

Police Capt. Joe King, who is white, was given a one-year suspended sentence with six months of supervised probation after being convicted of beating a 14-year-old African-American youth.

King's wife and a friend were driving to a restaurant when a shot was fired at their car, breaking a window. Neither woman was hurt. Mrs. King called the police and her husband, who was at home. After meeting his wife at the restaurant, King drove to a bowling alley, stopped a 14-year-old black youth and beat him even though the boy said he knew nothing about the incident.

King was charged with third-degree battery following a state police investigation. He pleaded no contest to the charges. In addition to his sentence, King was ordered to pay \$475 in restitution to the boy for his injuries. This case marked the second time brutality charges with racial overtones had been made against King. In the first case, in 1975, the brutality charge against him ended in an out-of-court settlement.

2/5-4/11: AD-G, *Phillips County Progress, The Daily World*

#### **North Little Rock, June 1**

About 20 African-Americans gathered in front of the North Little Rock Police Department to protest what they described as racist and brutal police practices.

Several at the protest said they had been arrested unnecessarily and that officers used unnecessary force. Rosalind Jackson, 17, one of the protestors, said she was standing in front of her residence talking with her grandmother when a police officer drove up and alleged she and others were skipping school. The officer told them to get in the car. At the time Jackson was wearing a uniform from Rally's Hamburgers, where she worked. When she refused to get in the car, Jackson said the officer slammed her against the vehicle, twisted her arm behind her back and kicked her. Jackson said she was two months pregnant at the time and that the incident caused her to lose the baby.

Police Chief William Nolan said at the time of the protest that no community members had filed formal complaints.

6/1: AD-G

#### **Camden, June 2**

An internal police investigation found that Michael Benson, a white police lieutenant, was justified in shooting Curtis Patterson, an African-American, who later died of his injuries. Patterson, 21, was shot in the back by Benson. Patterson had been



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under surveillance by police and was known to be armed with a semi-automatic pistol. Benson and other officers surrounded Patterson, who was on foot, and ordered him to stop. Patterson ran directly at Benson, who had his gun drawn. When Patterson ran past Benson and pulled a .32-caliber pistol from his waistband, the officer fired two shots, striking him in the rear mid-torso area.

6/2: *AD-G, Jim Waller Camden News*

### **Forrest City, September 23**

Allegations were made that white Forrest City Police Chief Joe Goff used a racial slur when referring to an African-American officer during a conversation with another department employee. The City Council's Police Committee said they could not find any evidence to prove the charge against Goff. Because of the allegation, the council intended to amend the city's personnel manual to "make any racial epithet or slur by any employee of the city of Forrest City, upon proof of such offense, grounds for immediate disciplinary action or dismissal."

9/23: *Forrest City Herald*

### **Pulaski County, October 24**

The shooting death of Brian Sampson, a 19-year-old African-American, by three white Pulaski County sheriff's deputies was justifiable, according to a ruling by Prosecuting Attorney Mark Stodola. Sampson was shot after he allegedly struck two deputies with the 1984 Ford Bronco he was driving. Three deputies fired a total of eight shots at Sampson while he was riding in his vehicle, and after he exited the truck and fled on foot. No weapons were found in Sampson's truck, and a community advocate said that Sampson was denied medical treatment for two hours after he was shot.

A community advocate reported that the FBI is still investigating the shooting; also, there is still the possibility that the officers could be disciplined under departmental guidelines.

The shooting sparked organizing by members of the African-American community. More than 100 people attended the initial community meetings to protest the shooting and law enforcement brutality, and to devise strategies for countering the related issues of drugs and crime. The community is trying to organize an NAACP chapter, and has developed a Neighborhood Community Action Project. Efforts are being made to develop better relations with law enforcement officers.

10/24-1/21/93: *AD-G, Spectrum Weekly, the Rev. Clarence Guy, pastor to victim's family*

### **Russellville, October 30**

Lasonya Foster, an African-American, was charged with inciting a riot and criminal mischief after Russellville police accused her of calling them "child beater" and "pigs" in response to her cousin's alleged beating by police the night before. According to her written statement, she and several others joined about seven people in Russellville's African-American community who watched as several police officers talked to a white man. Some of the people gathered started calling the police names and yelling that the department was "going to be a black police force." Foster stated she was in the process of walking off with her friends when she was approached by a white officer and told she was under arrest for disorderly conduct.

After Foster was handcuffed and put in the patrol car, the crowd started throwing objects at the police officers, who were all white. Foster, the only person arrested, was charged with inciting a riot. When she went to court November 10, Foster stated that a detective, who was not at the scene when the incident took place, made false accusations against her. She spent two days in jail - which cost Foster her job - because she couldn't post her \$15,000 bond. Attorney Michael Booker has agreed to represent her. The trial date is June 28, 1993.

10/30-1/26/93: *victim's statement, Michael Booker*

### **Pine Bluff, November 21**

White police officer Barry Puckett, 23, was fired after he admitted striking Boyd Lee Frazier with a loaded pistol. Frazier, who is African-American, was beaten by Puckett and two other white officers after a high-speed chase that ended when Frazier rammed into three police cars.

The Pine Bluff Civil Service Commission upheld the firing of Puckett. The other two white officers were suspended, one for five days and another for 30 days. The beating was reported by an African-American police officer. More than 100 African-Americans attended the open hearings about the case, and there is reportedly a lot of tension between African-American and white officers.

11/21-12/23: *AD-G, the Rev. Richard Bullard*

### **North Little Rock, December 15**

Sam Oliver and his brother, Joe Oliver III, filed a complaint with the Civil Service Commission in response to an incident on December 5 in which they claim that a North Little Rock police officer walked on Sam Oliver's porch and asked him if he had a "fucking problem, nigger." After the officer and Oliver exchanged words, the officers chased Sam Oliver into his house, where he was hit with a nightstick above his eye and one of his fingers was broken. Other officers at the scene were white and African-

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American, but the main complaint was with the white officers. Four children were in the home when the incident occurred.  
12/15-12/19: AD-G

## NON-POLICE-RELATED RACIST INCIDENTS

### Little Rock, March 17

A white driver of a pickup truck shouted a racist remark before threatening to shoot seven African-American teenagers who were playing football in the front yard of their home. When one teenager asked what the man said, the man jumped out of the truck and threatened the teenagers with a board. The man then got a gun from another passenger in the truck, cocked the hammer and threatened to shoot. A group of golfers across the street witnessed the incident, and the men left when they realized they were being watched.

David G. Rogers II, 33, turned himself in and was charged with aggravated assault. Rogers bail was set at \$1,500. He was traced through his license plate number.

3/17-3/26: AD-G

### Nashville, May 7

Racial tensions between African-American and white Nashville High School students that first erupted off school grounds resulted in injuries to five youth. At a Saturday night party to which several African-American students had been invited, some uninvited whites – including adults between the ages of 22 and 31 – showed up. A fight broke out, sending four African-American students to the emergency room for treatment of minor injuries.

Police jailed Brian Billings, 23, who is white and is Sheriff Dick Wakefield's nephew, for throwing the first punch. Later Michael Tolliver, 22, who is also white, turned himself in. Tolliver pled guilty to one charge of third-degree battery and no contest to another charge. He was fined \$50 and costs and required to make restitution of \$149. Third-degree battery charges against Billings were later dismissed when no testimony from the four African-American students indicated that Billings had hit them.

On the Monday following the party, black students at Nashville High School targeted white students in retaliation for the Saturday fight. Many white parents took their children out of school following the stabbing of a white student.

5/7-7/20: *Nashville News*

### Nashville, June 15

The words "KKK" and "Nigger" were found spray-painted on a concrete wall near a Church of Christ church and cemetery.

6/15: *Nashville News*

### Cabot, June 18

A white Cabot School Board member, Chuck Drees, was charged with disorderly conduct and asked to resign from the board after he used a racial slur against African-American umpire Larry Fobbs at a May 30 girl's softball game in Cabot.

During the game, Drees, the assistant coach, became angry after Fobbs called a strike. Drees is accused of making several derogatory comments during the game and of going up to Fobbs with his fists clenched after the game, threatening to ruin him as an umpire and calling him a "nigger" several times. The school board could not force Drees, who is in his first year of a five-year term, to resign. Drees said he does not intend to quit. The softball team's head coach did apologize to Fobbs.

Fobbs filed a complaint of disorderly conduct against Drees, but failed to show up for the trial. Drees is attempting to get the charges dismissed, and the judge gave the Cabot city attorney until March 31 to locate Fobbs, who is stationed at Fort Chaffee.

6/18-1/29/93: AD-G

### Watson, July 22

Two white men, Kenneth Alan Coats, 23, and Perry Wayne Moore, 24, were charged with arson and conspiracy to commit arson – federal charges – after three African-American churches in eastern Arkansas were burned down. Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church and St. James Church, both in Desha County, and Love Rest Baptist Church in Arkansas County, were destroyed by fire on May 17. U.S. Attorney Chuck Banks said the apparent motivation was the racial composition of the predominantly African-American churches.

Both men were sentenced to 37 months in prison and three years supervised release.

7/22-8/29: AD-G, *Pine Bluff Commercial*, *Northwest Arkansas Times*, AD-G federal court reporter

### Little Rock, September 3

A white AP&L supervisor was demoted, given a "substantial" salary reduction and suspended five days without pay for his participation in a racist incident. In August, an AP&L work crew was sent near Zinc, home of the headquarters of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. Larry Hankins, 40, said he was chatting with some local people and thought it would be funny to play a practical joke on the only African-American lineman that day, William Kenneth Brown. While Brown was working in a lift bucket,

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a pickup truck drove by and three men in the back, draped in sheets and carrying a cross made of broomsticks, began chanting "white power." They drove by twice and left, later telling Brown it was a joke.

An AP&L investigation resulted in Hankins' demotion. Action was also taken against the two managers above Hankins.  
9/2-10/7: AD-G, Boone County Headlight, State Press

#### **Rogers, September 14**

Paulo Aros and Manuel Gonzalez, two Latinos, received minor injuries when they were shot by a drunk white man, Dale Cannady, who approached the two for some beer. Aros and Gonzalez were in their front yard drinking at the time. Cannady lived two doors down. Deputy Prosecutor Brad Butler said the shooting was racially motivated.

Cannady pled guilty to two counts of second-degree battery. He received a 10-year sentence with four years suspended. Cannady also had to pay victim's restitution for hospital fees.

9/14-2/10/93: Northwest Arkansas Times, Rogers Police Dept.

#### **Helena, September 29**

James Guest, a white Elaine School District coach, was charged with battery for allegedly kicking Kevin Williams, 12, who is African-American, in the back after the boy knocked some papers off his desk. Superintendent Kenneth Parker said an investigation supported Guest's contention that he kicked the boy's chair, not the boy.

9/29: AD-G

#### **Springdale, September and October**

In violation of Arkansas state law, a white driver's license examiner began requiring Latinos to show proof of their status with the U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service before allowing them to take the driver's license exam. Springdale attorney Alene Cox, who is an advocate for Northwest Arkansas' Latino community, said Peggy Allred admitted confiscating about four cards a month. Cox said that state law does not require a person to prove residency or immigration status before being allowed to take the examination.

Cox wrote letters complaining about the discriminatory practice to Attorney General Winston Bryant, Arkansas State Police Director Col. Tommy Goodwin, Allred and Capt. Winford Phillips, head of the Arkansas State Police office where Allred works. Cox never received a response from her letters and has yet to follow-up on them. She and other advocates for the Latino community are telling Latinos seeking driver's licenses to go to a newly-opened office in Bentonville, where the staff does not discriminate.

2/19/93: Alene Cox

#### **De Queen, October**

A 15-year-old Mexican boy, who was defending his younger cousin from racist taunts and harassment, was suspended from school and charged with first-degree battery after he got into a fight with a white schoolmate. Latino community advocates said a 13-year-old boy had been repeatedly harassed by some of his white schoolmates. The boy had been hit and told "we don't like Mexicans" and "go back where you came from." The younger boy complained to his 15-year-old cousin, who confronted the white youths. The advocates said a white youth threw the first punch but the older Mexican ducked and returned a punch that broke the white youth's nose. No action was taken against the white youth by school officials, and his parents filed charges against the Mexican youth.

The Mexican youth's trial date has not yet been scheduled. A probation officer has been assigned to mediate between the Mexican and white families.

2/24/93: Father Ed Mundwiller

#### **Jonesboro, October 7**

Terry Hayes used the term "wetback" to refer to Mexicans while expressing his support for the North American Free Trade Agreement. Hayes said the agreement would produce "wetback reversal" by improving the Mexican economy and encouraging undocumented workers to return home. Hayes lost against Blanche Lambert for Arkansas' 1st Congressional District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. "Wetback" is an offensive term used to describe Mexican workers who illegally enter the U.S. by crossing rivers.

10/7-11/3: AD-G, Arkansas Times, Spectrum Weekly

#### **Little Rock, November**

An African-American gay man was the victim of housing discrimination when he attempted to rent a room in a boarding house in downtown Little Rock. A white woman in her 60s told the victim that she "would not rent to a black person." Advocates for the victim were unable to file a formal complaint because the victim is in poor health due to AIDS-related complications.

11/92: AIDS Outreach of Arkansas

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### **North Little Rock, November 14**

Shan Gachot alleged in a federal lawsuit that the Pulaski County Sheriff's Department discriminated against him by allowing his co-workers to call him derogatory names – including "chief," "Indian Joe" and "Redskin," – because he is Native American. He called his work environment abusive, hostile and racially intolerant. Gachot said he complained in 12 letters but no action was ever taken to correct the situation.

11/17: *AD-G*

### **Jacksonville, November 12**

Shadrick Flemons, an 11-year-old African-American, was shot in the head and killed by Michael Hamilton, his white, 14-year-old friend. Police said the two boys were arguing when the white youth went into the house, returned with a .22 caliber rifle and shot Flemons once in the head.

Police have ruled out race as a motive in the shooting. Hamilton was charged with first-degree murder and will be tried as an adult. The trial date has not been set.

11/12-2/20/93: *AD-G, Assistant Chief Larry Hibbs*

### **Pocahontas, December 2**

A handmade cross was burned in a vacant lot in Pocahontas. On the cross was written "Ngger's (sic) we have something for you two (sic)." Earlier in the week, Carrie Galbreath, a white woman who lived in Pocahontas, was murdered in Walnut Ridge and the suspect was a black man. Investigators said there was a possibility that the cross-burning was linked to the murder. Pocahontas Criminal Investigator Doug Cousins called the cross burners "a bunch of rednecks," and said he did not think the perpetrators were local people.

12/2: *Jonesboro Sun*

### **Springdale, December 5**

Darren Little, 20, and Robert Flaig, 21, both white, were arrested for throwing a Molotov cocktail at a truck belonging to Juan Alberto, who is Latino. Little and Flaig filled up beer bottles with gasoline and threw them at the truck, which was parked outside Alberto's home. Witnesses told police Little threatened to blow up a house and car with Molotov cocktails. A criminal investigator said the incident had overtones of racial motivation.

Little and Flaig were charged with possession of explosive devices and attempted arson. Little was also cited for driving while intoxicated.

12/5: *Northwest Arkansas Times*

## **ANTI-SEMITIC VIOLENCE**

*Under the category of anti-Semitic violence, the Women's Project documents incidents in which Jewish people are victimized by non-Jews.*

### **Northwest Arkansas, May 1**

A white, Jewish man, who wishes to remain anonymous, was the victim of anti-Semitic remarks from his employer, a prominent non-Jewish white man. During this verbal harassment, the employer made such remarks as "all of America's business problems are because of the Jews." The victim reported the incident to a Jewish professor at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. The professor offered to call the Anti-Defamation League, but the victim did not want to pursue the issue any further.

*Women's Watchcare Network volunteer*

### **Berryville, June 11**

Buildings on the mountain near Saunder's Heights were filled with images bearing a partial pentagram, an upside-down cross, and a swastika.

6/11: *The Star Progress*

### **Little Rock, November 25**

Erika Rosenberg, a writer for *Spectrum* newspaper, reported that she received a call a few months ago from a woman who was upset over an article Rosenberg had written. Rosenberg, who does not describe herself as Jewish but who has some Jewish heritage, said the woman ended her one sided conversation with the screech, "You damn Jew!"

11/25-12/1: *Spectrum*

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## ANTI-CATHOLIC VIOLENCE

*Under the section on anti-Catholic violence, the Women's Project documents incidents in which Catholics are victimized by non-Catholics.*

### **Eureka Springs, September**

A large flier entitled "Antichrist and his Mark and the Number of his Name" was found on cars in the downtown area of Eureka Springs. The flier called the Church of Rome "a fallen church and anti-Christian," and named the Pope as the anti-Christ. The contact organization that is listed is Religious Liberty out of Alpena.

*Copy of flier from Watchcare volunteer in Eureka Springs*

### **Hot Springs, September 7**

The Watchcare Network staff received a letter written by Pete Castella that was filled with anti-Catholic language. Describing them as nothing but "bloodthirsty," Castella wrote that Catholics control Hot Springs. He called the Catholic policy "ruin or rule."

*Copy of letter from Pete Castella*

## ANTI-GAY/LESBIAN VIOLENCE & VICTIMIZATION

*Under the section on anti-Gay/Lesbian Violence and Victimization, the Women's Project documents incidents in which lesbian and gay people are victimized by heterosexuals.*

### **Hot Springs, January 31**

Irving Rector Jr, 23, an inmate in the Garland County Detention Center who claims he was raped by a fellow inmate, filed a \$4.5 million lawsuit against the center and Garland County Sheriff Clay White for discrimination, operating an unsafe environment and negligence. Rector said he was raped on October 20, 1991, after repeated warnings to officials that he was being threatened.

Rector alleges that no charges were filed against his attacker because Rector is African-American and gay. Rector said the case was turned over to County Prosecutor Paul Bosson, who never filed charges because Rector had been labeled a homosexual and "they figured I must have wanted it. Just because I'm a homosexual, (the rapist) had no right to violate my body." Rector's suit was filed in U.S. District Court.

*1/31: The Sentinel Record*

### **North Little Rock, February 5**

A gay white North Little Rock man was arrested and verbally harassed by Little Rock police after being spotted in a park frequented by men who have sex with other men. The victim said he was in his car eating lunch when he was approached by a stranger in Burns Park whom he believed was an undercover police officer. The stranger eventually got into the victim's car and the two talked but the victim never made any sexual innuendos. The victim told the stranger that he knew he was a police officer. When nothing happened the stranger said, "I can see I'm wasting my time." The stranger got out of the car and the gay man drove a lap around the park.

Two plainclothes officers then came up to the victim's car. One showed a badge and said "you're right, we are cops." When the victim said he was only in the park to eat lunch, they said, "Don't lie to us or we'll cuff you". One officer also commented on a missing children's flier in his car and said, "I can't bring my children to the park because of you god damn faggots." The victim was arrested and charged with loitering and taken to jail.

*2/5: Victim's statement, Watchcare volunteer*

### **Sherwood, September 29**

Anthony Bonds, a gay white man with AIDS who had been released from the hospital the night before, was the apparent victim of anti-gay and anti-AIDS name calling, harassment and threats of beating after being taken to the Sherwood City Jail for writing a hot check. Bonds said that after informing law enforcement officers of his illness, he was warned not to "kiss the boys" and then separated from the other inmates, apparently so he wouldn't infect them. Bonds had been hospitalized for kidney problems and - despite repeated requests - was denied medical treatment and water. Jail officials never formally arrested Bonds or read him his rights. Because of the stress he was under and his illness, Bonds began to experience physical reactions and was unable to walk to leave the jail, prompting jail officials to threaten to beat him. Finally, Bonds crawled out of the jail.

Bonds wanted to file a lawsuit against the Sherwood City Jail to protest his treatment and to protect others from such treatment in the future. He was referred to an attorney through Central Arkansas Legal Services, but later dropped the case. Bonds said while his attorney thought his case was good, she wasn't certain of a win and he felt uneasy about putting his family members in the spotlight.

*9/29-2/22/93: Victim's statement*

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### **Fayetteville, October 6**

Dan Coody, a member of the Fayetteville City Board who read a proclamation issued by the mayor in honor of Gay and Lesbian Pride Week, received four to five letters disagreeing with his action. Coody read the proclamation at the family reunion organized by gays and lesbians in Northwest Arkansas. One of the letters that Coody received was handwritten, unsigned and much more "chastising" than the rest. The author mentioned the Ku Klux Klan several times, said it was a good organization and wondered why Coody didn't support the rights of Klan members.

10/6: *Dan Coody*

### **Hot Springs, October 7**

An anonymous letter describing the owners of Arkansas Hearing Aid Center as witches, lesbians and baby killers was distributed through the mail to several of the business' clients and former clients. Freddie and Cheri Catlett first learned of the letters when the daughter of a deceased former client brought one in. The daughter turned the letter over to the Hot Springs post office to investigate. In the following weeks, four more people received letters. All but one were clients or former clients.

An excerpt from the letter, which urged people not to patronize the Hearing Aid Center, stated, "We do not want this kind of people in Hot Springs. We have all kinds of ear phone places here and we can do without Witches and Gays spreading the AIDS to our people here."

Freddie Catlett contacted the FBI about doing an investigation but was told it would not get involved since one federal agency – the post office – was already investigating. At this time, the owners are unable to determine if the letters have affected their business. Because the owners suspect that the people responsible for sending the letters had access to their mail and clients' records, they now shred all documents and records that previously would have been thrown away.

10/7: *Victim's statement, copy of letter*

### **Fayetteville, October 13**

After Fayetteville teacher Bryan Manire appeared on a local cable access program in observance of National Coming Out Month for Gays and Lesbians, a mother pulled her daughter out of Manire's classroom. Manire said the school superintendent got two calls from citizens who wanted to make sure he knew a gay man was teaching in the Fayetteville schools. Finally, the cable channel received calls from people who wanted copies of the videotape. There was concern that people opposed to gays and lesbians may have wanted to use the tape to expose the panelists or somehow further their homophobic agenda. The station doesn't have a policy of taping its programming and Manire is believed to have the only copy of the show.

11/10: *Victim's statement*

## **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 you are. Arkansas remains one of five states in which sodomy laws make same-gender sexual activity illegal. Such attitudes – many of which are promoted by self-described Christians – promote and legitimize the harassment, threats and violence perpetrated against gay and lesbian people. Letters to the editor provide a vehicle for people to vent their homophobia, and are often a good barometer of the climate of bigotry.*

### **Little Rock, June 30**

Referring to Bill Clinton's campaign promise to lift the ban on gays and lesbians in the military, Paul Green of Cabot wrote in a letter to the editor that "no self-respecting person would join an organization that places him in the same category as a mentally deranged, sex perverted individual who may be more dangerous to his health than an enemy bullet."

6/30: *AD-G*

### **Little Rock, August 5**

Othello Gordon of Solgohachia, in a letter to the editor, described AIDS as a "purifier of the human race. It seems to eliminate the trash and dead wood from society: the sexually promiscuous, the drug addict and the homosexual."

8/5: *AD-G*

### **Little Rock, October 25**

In a letter to the editor, Robert Witcher of Hot Springs wrote that "homosexuals are oddities of nature, not performing normal functions, and there is no such thing as a homophobic."

10/25: *AD-G*

### **Little Rock, October 25**

Referring to lesbian and gay people, R.D. Munger of Little Rock wrote in a letter to the editor that "although a small group, they demand the right to indoctrinate our vulnerable children into their unfortunate lifestyle; to lower our moral standards; cut our

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birth rate; encourage promiscuity, perversion and child abuse; (and) raise health care costs sharply.”

10/25: AD-G

#### **Pine Bluff, November 11**

Baptists attending the Arkansas State Baptist Convention passed a resolution on homosexuality that said they will work to defeat passage of laws “designed to convey civil rights based on their sexual preference.” The resolution further states that the Bible “unquestionably indicts homosexual behavior as unnatural, perverted and destructive ... (and) such behavior is fraught with serious spiritual, psychological and physical risks.”

11/10: *Copy of resolution*

#### **Little Rock, December 19**

Harold L. Powell of Searcy admitted in a letter to the editor that he is a homosexual basher. “I feel with God being a homosexual basher that I am in good company. Now you have to admit that homosexuals are wrong or God is wrong. Good luck.”

12/19: AD-G

### **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. This was a strategy perfected by David Duke and copied by white supremacists such as Arkansas’ Thom Robb, national director of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. Thom Robb and the Knights 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 everyone but white, Christian heterosexuals.

#### **Zinc, January 2**

The Arkansas-based Knights of the Ku Klux Klan won its federal lawsuit against the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department for barring Klan participation in the anti-litter Adopt-A-Mile program. Jim Lingle, a member attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, represented the Knights. The Highway Department had already given the mile requested by the Knights, which is near the Arkansas-Missouri border, to another organization. Therefore, the Knights will have to be assigned another stretch of highway.

1/2-11/12: AD-G, *Arkansas Times, Harrison Daily Times, Morning News, Prairie Grove Enterprise*

#### **Cabot, January 15**

Three male students at Cabot High School were suspended for 10 days for distributing a flier in an attempt to start a Ku Klux Klan club on campus.

1/15-1/22: AD-G, *Cabot Star Herald*

#### **West Memphis, January 29**

The Crittenden County NAACP criticized the *West Memphis Evening Times* for giving “free advertising to the Ku Klux Klan” after the newspaper ran a story about the Klan’s recruiting efforts. The article, published January 14, was about a West Memphis telephone number that residents could call to hear a recording of a song about the KKK that allegedly requested donations and offered membership information. The telephone number was not listed, according to the editor. Elbert Smith, president of the Crittenden County NAACP, said the recording used “inflammatory language to relay its message” and that the group would begin monitoring the newspaper’s editorial content.

1/29-2/1: AD-G

#### **Eureka Springs, March 27**

The Great Passion Play, the brainchild of Gerald L.K. Smith, which has been criticized for its anti-Semitism, started its 25th season. A section of the Berlin Wall is now on display on the Passion Play grounds. At the season opening, Anita Bryant, known in the 1970’s for her anti-gay crusade, was scheduled to lead the crowd in singing “God Bless America.” The Eureka Springs Passion Play received its 5 millionth visitor this year.

3/27-9/10: *Times Herald, Star Progress, Eureka Springs Times-Echo*

#### **Little Rock, April 2**

Thom Robb, national head of the Harrison-based Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, filed for the District 39 seat in the Arkansas House of Representatives. Robb will run as a Republican against the Democratic incumbent for a district that covers portions of Boone, Baxter, Marion and Stone counties. Twenty-three of the estimated 81,000 people living in those counties are African-American, according to the 1990 U.S. Census. As part of his platform, Robb said he wanted to cut state bureaucracy, lower taxes

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and reverse government intrusion into people's lives. African-Americans and whites should not be forced to live, work or go to school together, he said.

4/2: AD-G

### **Little Rock, April 3**

Klan leader Thom Robb, who is running as a Republican for a state House seat, said a denouncement of his candidacy by state Republican leaders could boost his chances of winning. Robb, who heads the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, filed to run for the District 39 seat. Robb said because Republican "party bosses" denounced him, Democrats wouldn't feel they were betraying their party when voting for him. Robb said he has denounced violence and hate groups, and that he belongs to a group that "seeks to ensure the rights of white citizens of this country."

4/3: AD-G

### **Luxora, April 3**

The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan began forming a chapter in Luxora.

4/3: *Blytheville Courier News*

### **Marshall, April 17**

James Wilson, who is said to be the ambassador for United Kingdom of God Embassy – Yahweh's Ministries, harassed and put curses on Searcy County Sheriff Kent Griggs and other county employees. Wilson was arrested for driving without a license. While in the Searcy Jail, he refused to eat, saying it went against his religious beliefs. Wilson is friends with Ed Udey, who had been convicted of harboring tax protester Gordon Kahl. Kahl was the Posse Comitatus member who attracted national attention in 1983 when he murdered two federal marshalls in North Dakota and became a fugitive. Kahl later died in a shootout with Arkansas law enforcement officials in a town near the Arkansas/Missouri state line.

4/17-6/17: *Harrison Daily Times*, AD-G

### **Jasper, May**

Mike Collom of Jasper is listed in the Center for Democratic Renewal's *Weekly Update* as a Christian Identity minister. Christian Identity, popular among hate group members, provides white supremacists with a Biblical justification for their hatred.

5/92: *Weekly Update*

### **Springdale, May 3**

Don Snedeker, grand titan of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, attended the arraignment of Freddie Bradley, an African-American football player at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville who was accused of having consensual sex with a 13-year-old white girl. Sex with a minor under age 14, even if consensual, is considered rape by Arkansas statutes. Bradley pled not guilty. Snedeker said, "I'm just here to make sure these girls' civil rights are ensured."

Bradley was found not guilty of sexually abusing the girl, but was permanently dismissed from the football squad.

5/3-1/27/93: *Morning News, Northwest Arkansas Times*

### **Little Rock, May 6**

Ralph Forbes, a former member of the American Nazi Party, filed as an independent candidate for the 3rd Congressional District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Forbes said during an interview that he was adamantly opposed to abortion.

2/6: *Morning News, Southwest Times Record*, AD-G

### **Walnut Ridge, June 3**

Lawrence County Republican chairman Earl Sloan Jr., invited Zinc resident Thom Robb, national head of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, to speak to local Republicans about racial and sexual harassment of white inmates in state prisons. Stories about the event gave conflicting reports of the number of people who attended Robb's speech – between 12 and 30 – and the number of protestors outside the courthouse – between five and 10. Some of the protestors were Watchcare Network volunteers.

Robb is running as a Republican for the House District 39 seat. Addressing campaign issues, Robb said he is opposed to free trade agreements with other nations, abortion and gay rights legislation.

6/3-6/10: AD-G, *Jonesboro Sun, Pocahontas Star Herald, Times Dispatch*

### **Harrison, June 16**

Independent presidential candidate Ross Perot's Harrison campaign office was closed after a Watchcare volunteer alerted the press that the office was being run by a woman with ties to the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. According to the volunteer and to the Center for Democratic Renewal, Sharon Elder had organized an anti-abortion rally in 1990 attended by Klan members, and was seen at a meeting of white supremacists in northern Arkansas in the late 1980's. In her defense, Elder said Klan members



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"just showed up" at the anti-abortion rally. However, Elder's pro-life stance, as evidenced by her organizing of the rally, contradicted Perot's pro-choice position.

Campaign officials later reopened the office because, according to Perot's 3rd Congressional District coordinator, there was no proof that its current volunteers had any connection to hate groups. However, Elder was again listed as a volunteer for the Harrison office.

6/16-10/28: *AD-G, Harrison Daily Times*

#### **Harrison, June**

Thom Robb, national director of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, solicited funds for his campaign for seat 39 in the Arkansas House of Representatives via a 1-900 telephone number, through which \$20 contributions could be made. In a promotional flier, Robb said, "America belongs to us, it does not belong to the homosexuals, the abortionists."

June: *Promotional flier*

#### **Harrison, June**

A Patriot's Day picnic was scheduled for June 12 - 14 at the Soldiers of the Cross Camp near Harrison. All Knights, their family members, friends and neighbors were invited. The picnic was sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ.

June: *White Patriot*

#### **Pope County, August 8**

Ralph Forbes was able to get the 2,000 signatures required to certify him as an independent candidate for the 3rd Congressional District seat. Forbes advocated separate societies for whites and blacks, and said he hoped to run graphic anti-abortion commercials as part of his campaign.

8/8-9/1: *AD-G, Morning News, Southwest Times Record, Northwest Arkansas Morning News*

#### **St. Francis County, September**

Otto Jones, an African-American candidate for St. Francis County sheriff, was the victim of vandalism. "KKK" was spray painted on one of his election signs. Prior to the incident, Jones received three threatening phone calls. "The last thing we need is a nigger sheriff," one caller said. Jones was running against Sheriff Dave Parkman, who is white. Parkman had two of his black deputies arrest Jones for writing a hot check that Jones had allegedly written five years before. Jones' arrest was illegal because the hot check warrant was found to be invalid and untrue.

September and October: *Homeland*

#### **Little Rock, September 16**

Judge Chris Piazza upheld the state Republican Party's decision to exclude Thom Robb from the ballot for state representative. The party voted September 12 not to certify Robb's name because of his white separatist views and his active involvement with the KKK. Watchcare volunteers and other Women's Project supporters staged a silent protest against white supremacy outside the courthouse where Robb's case was being heard.

9/16-9/23: *Morning News, AD-G*

#### **Fort Smith, October 23**

Ralph Forbes, now describing himself as a "Christ Supremacist," lost a lawsuit against AETN, Arkansas' public television station, which prohibited him from participating in a candidate's debate. Judge Franklin Waters dismissed the federal lawsuit.

10/21-10/23: *AD-G*

#### **Little Rock, October 29**

Richard Barrett, a white supremacist from Mississippi, held a news conference in Little Rock to "Retake Central High." Barrett gave a 10-minute speech in which he asked for an apology for the "attack" (his choice of words for school integration) in 1957. Several Watchcare volunteers and other supporters of the Women's Project protested during his speech.

10/29: *AD-G, Protestors, Little Rock Police Department*

#### **Hot Springs, November**

The minister of the gay and lesbian Metropolitan Community Church in Hot Springs received a newsletter from the Ku Klux Klan after she wrote a letter to the *Hot Springs Sentinel Record* criticizing a homophobic cartoon that appeared in the newspaper. The Rev. Susan Higgins, who signed only her name to her letter, received 11 hang-up calls on her answering machine in one day, and between five and six hang-ups everyday for two weeks after her letter was printed. She also got four calls of support. When the hang-ups stopped, Higgins received the Klan newsletter. She said she felt uneasy that Klan supporters knew where she

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lived and felt better after moving in December. The move had already been planned.

November: *Victim's statement*

#### **Little Rock, November 4**

Ralph Forbes received 6,300 votes – coming in third behind Republican candidate Tim Hutchinson and Democratic candidate John Van Winkle – in the 3rd Congressional District race.

11/4: *Center for Democratic Renewal Weekly Update*

### **CHRISTIAN RIGHT ACTIVITY**

In late 1992, the Women's Project began documenting the activities of the Christian Right. The Christian Right consists of organized rightwing Christians who merge politics and theology to produce a system of social control.

#### **Little Rock, July**

The Rev. W.N. Otwell, of Nagadoches, Texas, and followers of his "God Said" Ministries began weekly demonstrations outside the church where presidential candidate Bill Clinton is a member to protest Clinton's support for rights for women – including abortion rights – and rights for lesbians and gay men. Each Sunday, Otwell and his followers traveled to Little Rock where they demonstrated in front of Immanuel Baptist Church.

In response, a broad-based coalition of progressive groups was formed to do nonviolent, non-confrontational counter-demonstrations. These included the Women's Project; the Arkansas AIDS Brigade; the Arkansas Gay and Lesbian Task Force; Coalition for Education & Action on Sexual Issues, Hendrix College; Gays, Lesbians and Straights Together, Unitarian Universalist Church; Lesbian and Gay Student Alliance, University of Central Arkansas; the National Organization for Women, Arkansas chapter; and Planned Parenthood of Greater Arkansas. The number of counterdemonstrators grew from about 16 to more than 150.

During the course of the demonstrations, Otwell and his followers increasingly singled out gay people for attack. "God Said" followers carried a coffin to signify that gay people – so called "AIDS carriers" – are doomed; displayed signs such as, "You're HIV positive, you're going to die, get used to it"; and came dressed up as exterminators carrying "homo-cide" spray to get rid of the homosexual pest.

Each week the counterdemonstrators focused on a different theme to show their commitment to civil rights, justice and inclusion for all people. These included Reproductive Rights Sunday, National Coming Out Day for lesbian and gay people, Anti-Racism/People of Color Sunday, People Living with HIV and AIDS Sunday and Anti-Bigotry Sunday.

8/3-11/5: *AD-G, Triangle Rising, Arkansas Times, counterdemonstrators' reports*

#### **Little Rock, November 1**

The Little Rock-based Christian Coalition of Arkansas paid for the Christian Coalition Voter Guide '92, which provided information on where the presidential candidates stood on issues such as abortion, lesbian and gay rights, the death penalty, condom distribution and the balanced budget amendment.

11/1: *AD-G*

#### **Little Rock, November 1**

Arkansas Christians for America of Altheimer paid for an ad entitled, "Christian Beware: Do Not Put the Economy Ahead of the Ten Commandments." The anti-Clinton advertisement said he promoted the distribution of condoms to teenagers in public schools, which violates Exodus 20:12, Colossians 2: 5 and Romans 1:28 - 32.

11/1: *AD-G*

#### **Little Rock, November 1**

An independent group of Arkansas Southern Baptists paid for "A Statement of Our Convictions," an advertisement that opposed homosexuality and condom distribution in public schools and advocated the sanctity of life.

11/1: *AD-G*

With thanks to our many volunteer monitors,

Kelly Mitchell-Clark  
Suzanne Pharr  
Joanne Reich

# Our Mission

Our goal is social change or, as the poet Adrienne Rich writes, "the transformation of the world." We believe this world can be changed to become a place of peace and justice for all women.

We take risks in our work; we take unpopular stands. We work for all women and against all forms of discrimination and oppression. We believe that we cannot work for all women and against sexism unless we also work against racism, classism, ageism, anti-Semitism, heterosexism and homophobia. We see the connection among these oppressions as the context for violence against women in this society.

We are concerned in particular about issues of importance to traditionally underrepresented women:

poor women, aged women, women of color, teenage mothers, lesbians, women in prisons, etc. All are women who experience discrimination and violence against their lives.

We are committed to working multi-culturally, multi-racially, and to making our work and cultural events accessible to low income women. We believe that women will not know equality until they know economic justice.

We believe that a few committed women working in coalition and in consensus with other women can make significant change in the quality of life for all women.

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*Transformation* is now published six times every year.

Six times each year, members and volunteers receive analysis of contemporary issues, information about Women's Project upcoming events and activities, book reviews, and more.

If you are not a Women's Project member or volunteer and would like to continue receiving the newsletter, please fill out the membership form on this page.

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## Current Projects

### Prison Project

A support and advocacy project for women in prison that provides support group for battered women in prison and formerly incarcerated women, and job training and advocacy.

### Women's Watchcare Network

A project to monitor incidents of racial, religious, sexual, and anti-gay violence, and the activities of hate groups in Arkansas.

### The Social Justice Project

Workshops on understanding racism and homophobia and developing methods to eliminate them.

### Women and AIDS

A project to develop strategies for working with women and caregivers around AIDS issues.

### African-American Women's Institute for Social Justice

A project which creates strategies for overcoming the barriers that hinder African-American women's efforts toward power and self-determination.

### Communications and Events

A newsletter, a lending library, statewide and regional conferences, and production of women singers, poets and novelists.



Yes, I would like to join the Women's Project.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/day \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/evening \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 5 (low income)

\_\_\_\_\_ 15

\_\_\_\_\_ 25

\_\_\_\_\_ 50

\_\_\_\_\_ 100

Make checks payable to:

Women's Project  
2224 Main Street  
Little Rock, AR 72206

# **Women's Project**

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