

TAKE A STAND AGAINST THE KLAN!

October 1983

NEWSLETTER OF CHICAGO JOHN BROWN ANTI-KLAN COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 7239 CHICAGO, IL 60680 769-8159

WHITE SUPREMACIST VIOLENCE ON THE RISE

Racist terror - so much a part of the fiber of the city of Chicago - has continued unabated over the past several months. While the "Chicago Defender" reports on acts of violence done against Black and other Third World people on an almost daily basis, the "Tribune" and the "Sun-Times" for the most part do not carry these stories. This leaves many white people with a very distorted view of what the situation in Chicago is, unaware of the alarming rise in racist attacks happening around us.

The following are a few accounts of recent incidents of racist violence (the information and quotes are from the "Defender"). In these and other incidents, very rarely has the "justice" system followed through with a conviction or sentencing of the attackers. These actions by the courts and the police have contributed to a climate in which racist attacks are deemed more acceptable. White people know that they can attack or even kill a Third World person with little or no consequences. The message to Third World people is that their lives and physical safety are worth next to nothing.

On August 24th, twenty white ChicagoFest workers beat up three Black workers while their white supervisors "Just stood and watched." The attack was a culmination of several days of racial tension caused by white workers who blamed the Black community boycott of ChicagoFest for the fest's financial failure. They had been verbally harassing Black workers with comments like "Why are you N---s here when Jesse told you to boycott?"

Only four of the approximately twenty men who participated in the attack were arrested - they are: Michael Bryton, Salvatore Galio, Thomas Bontiorno, and Daniel Parker. They face the minor charge of battery. The victims of the attack - William Russell, Donald Dixon and a third man - reported that they are being treated like the guilty ones. They told the "Defender" that the white detectives who investigated the case, along with the foreman and union representatives, "acted as though we had done something, as opposed to the whites... They (the accused white workers) were sitting around with the foreman and white detectives laughing and joking - we looked like the criminals."

"When I pulled up to Taylor and Racine Streets, I had a certain vibe. Little did I know that 'Little Italy' was off limits for Black people," said Kevin Coleman, a Black man, who along with two other Black friends, was beaten up by six white men near the University of Illinois Circle Campus. Coleman and his friends were attacked on June 25th, after eating at Carnis Restaurant, at 1062 W. Polk Street. "It was then," Coleman said, "that we heard the taunts, jeers and racial insults." Their attackers "beat, kicked and stomped on" the three Black students, and also slashed their car tires. Only two of the six attackers were arrested and charged with battery. They are Michael Timothy, a Chicago fireman, and Louis Perillo, a Dept. of Sanitation worker.

On August 16, Comiskey Park security guards beat a 23-year old Black man, Wayne Commodore, after guards accused Commodore of scalping tickets that he had just purchased for himself and friends for the baseball game. There has been a long history of Black people being harassed and forcibly "discouraged" from going to Comiskey Park. When Commodore refused to give the guards the tickets that he had purchased, he was grabbed by twelve guards. He said, "[They] took me inside a small room, handcuffed me to a wall and began kicking, punching and choking me, telling me to 'give up the ticket n---r, or we will kill you!'" After they beat him, they brought him to the police station and booked him for "disorderly conduct". His court date is Sept. 19.

(continued on page 2)



Saul James Jr., 28, paralyzed from the waist down since he was shot four times by a white man in an racially-motivated attack

WHO WE ARE...

The John Brown Anti-Klan Committee is a national organization struggling to build a movement against the Ku Klux Klan and all forms of white supremacy. We support the right of Black people to self-defense against racist attacks. We support the building of the New Afrikan national liberation movement and its fight for human rights, land and independence and socialism for the colonized Black Nation, New Afrika. Around the country we have organized, demonstrated and educated to oppose Klan rallies and Klan organizing; killer cops, racist vigilante attacks; and to build resistance against government repression of the New Afrikan Independence Movement and anti-imperialist struggles.

Please contact us at (312) 769-8159 for more information and to become involved. In addition to this local newsletter, read the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee national newspaper, "DEATH TO THE KLAN!" for news and analysis from around the country on the struggle against the Klan. We encourage our readers to contact us here in Chicago with information about white supremacist attacks.

(continued from page 1)

On May 30th, a Black man and woman who entered a bar to get directions and use the restroom were chased out by a white tavern operator who yelled racial slurs at them. Meanwhile, other tavern patrons, who were all white, looked on and laughed. Odell Brown and Mildred Hamilton are filing racial discrimination complaints against Gallagher's Pub at 4025 West 14513 South Ridgeway, Midlothian.

* * * * *

... AND JUSTICE FOR ALL... An Appellate Court panel has decided that thirty months on probation is a perfectly appropriate sentence for a white man who has deliberately shot and paralyzed a Black man. The shooting occurred in July of 1979 when two white men, Joseph Kosik and an unidentified other, pulled up to a CIA bus stop at Division and Cicero and took aim at two Black men, Saul James and his cousin, who were standing at the stop. James, who was shot four times, is now paralyzed from the waist down. Kosik originally received a minimal six year sentence, but on Tuesday, Aug. 31, the Appellate Court granted him the 30-month probation after about fifty of Kosik's supporters packed the courtroom to ask for leniency for Kosik. James said, "the white people in court called my attacker a pillar of the community because he is earning \$13 an hour on his job." The line of defense used to allow Kosik to walk away free from this racist attack is very similar to that used in the case of the murder of Vincent Chin in Detroit. There, the white workers who brutally beat Chin (a Chinese man) to death, were set free because the judge decided that "These are not the kind of men that you put behind bars."

The growth of racist terror we are seeing here in Chicago is happening all across the country - and Black people are resisting. Since the days of slavery, Black people have fought back - against the lynch mob, police and KKK violence, and against poverty, unemployment, rat-infested housing, poor and racist education. For Black people in the U.S. these conditions add up to the complete social, economic and political domination that has kept them a colonized nation for 400 years.

It is a critical time for progressive white people to take a stand against all forms of racist terror. We know that there are many anti-racist people who are angered, not by the level of racist terrorism in this city. All around the country the JBAKC has participated in protests against racist attacks, the KKK, killer cops and FBI attacks against the New Afrikan struggle. We want to get together with any interested people to discuss our program and work here in Chicago. ■

STOP RACIST PROPAGANDA!

Racist personal ads are appearing in the Reader newspaper. Two of the ads said "w-----s are trying to bury whites in a sea of their woolly-headed babies," and "the only right a white man has left is to look at w-----s, where is Hitler when we need him most?" Both ads were signed "White Power" which is the slogan of the Nazis and the Klan. Just last week, as reported in the 9/24 Defender, a Black woman was violently forced to leave her southwest side home. A sign was left on her lawn that was signed with a swastika and "White Power Hat-Line."

FIGHT WHITE SUPREMACY! CALL THE READER: 828-0350 and demand that they refuse to print white supremacist propaganda.

NEW AFRIKAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT TOUR

"THE BLACK LIBERATION STRUGGLE AND THE FIGHT AGAINST THE KU KLUX KLAN"

Friday night, October 7, at 7:30 p.m.

835 West Addison Street.....\$3.00 donation

Speakers: Ahmed Obafemi and a representative from the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee

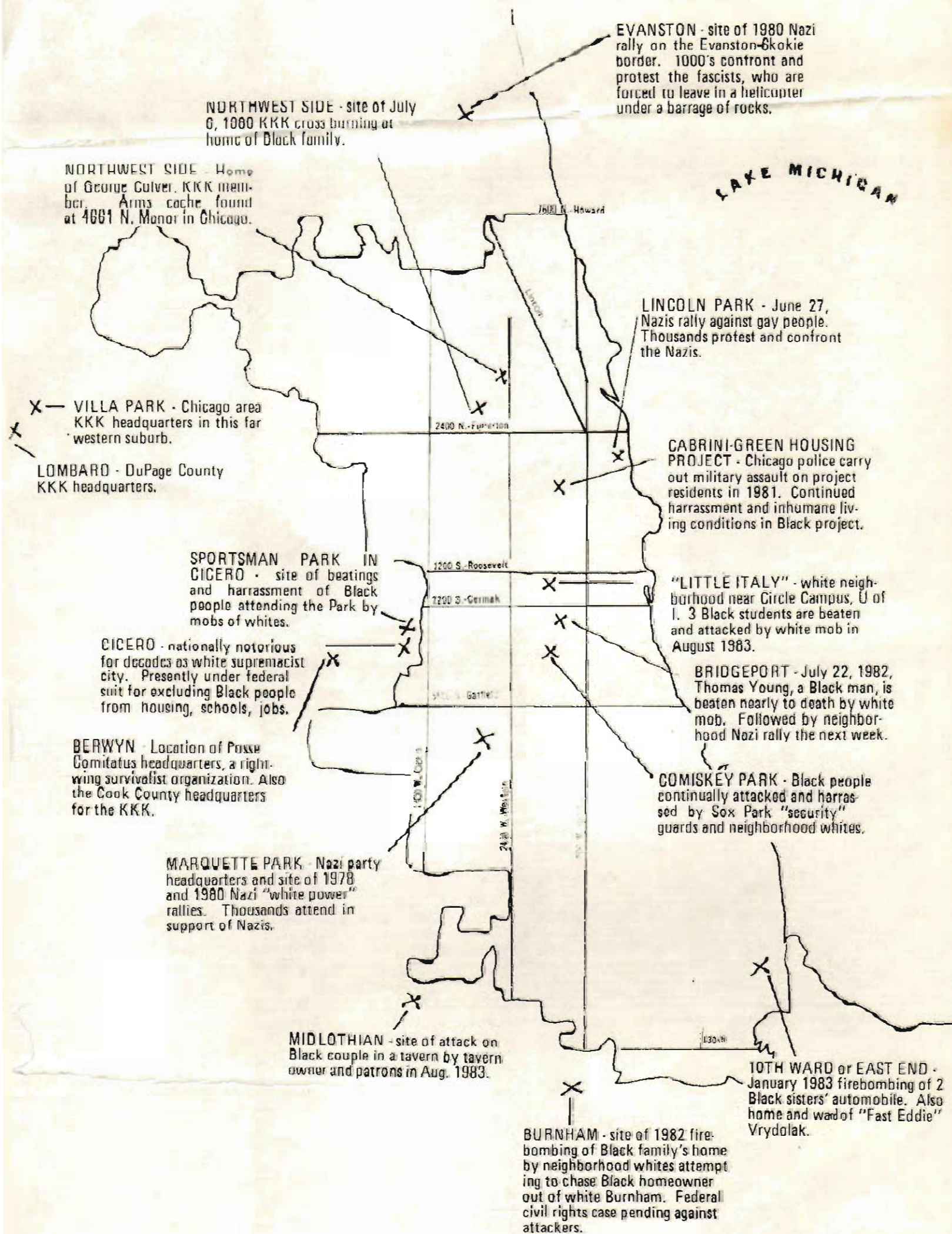
Documentary film: "Klan Youth Corps"

The John Brown Anti-Klan Committee is sponsoring a speaking tour in Chicago and the Midwest by Ahmed Obafemi, national chairperson of the National Committee to Defend New Afrikan Freedom Fighters. Ahmed Obafemi will speak on the nature and the role of the Klan in the U.S. today and its role in keeping Black people oppressed. He will talk about the New Afrikan (Black) Independence Movement and recent verdicts in the New York trials of members and supporters of the New Afrikan Independence Movement. This is a time when the U.S. government is trying to destroy the New Afrikan Independence Movement through imprisonment, FBI harassment, grand juries, and conspiracy trials. It is important to come to this activity to learn more about this situation, support the movement, and be part of resisting the government's counter-insurgency.

STOP KILLER COPS!

As this newsletter goes to press, the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee has learned that Chicago police have murdered 3 Third World men in 3 separate incidents on Chicago streets in the last 7 days! On Saturday, Sept. 10, Pedro Rico, 46 of 2720 W. 18th St., was beaten and kicked to death by two Marquette District officers, Jose Fernandez and Geraldine Kofron, according to witnesses. On Wednesday, September 14, Michael Cain, 20 years old, of 6124 S. Sangamon, was shot to death by Chicago police, Gerald Dahlberg, Dorothy Stefan and Bob Hacker in a southside alley near Cain's home. In the third incident, on Saturday, Sept. 17, Julian Garcia of 2624 S. Normal was shot to death by Chicago policeman Sgt. Richard Nelson, at 5600 W. North Ave. As community witnesses begin to come forward in all three incidents to charge police brutality, Chicago Police Supt.-designate, Fred Rice, has already jumped to the defense of the killer cops who murdered Michael Cain. This is standard procedure in police departments throughout the U.S. When police murder Black and Third World people, whether it be here in Chicago, or Miami, Los Angeles, or New York, they are just "doing their job" - to terrorize Black and other colonized people and to try to force them to accept oppression. At the same time, white people are encouraged to accept police violence as commonplace occurrences and to become increasingly desensitized to it. In the next issue of this newsletter, we will report more on this very serious situation.

'Chicagoland' White Supremacist Attacks



THE INCIDENTS AND LOCATIONS ON THIS MAP SHOW JUST SOME OF THE MOST SERIOUS WHITE SUPREMACIST ATTACKS THAT HAVE OCCURRED RECENTLY IN THE CHICAGO AREA.