

IDHH Episode Five: They Thought We Were Everywhere

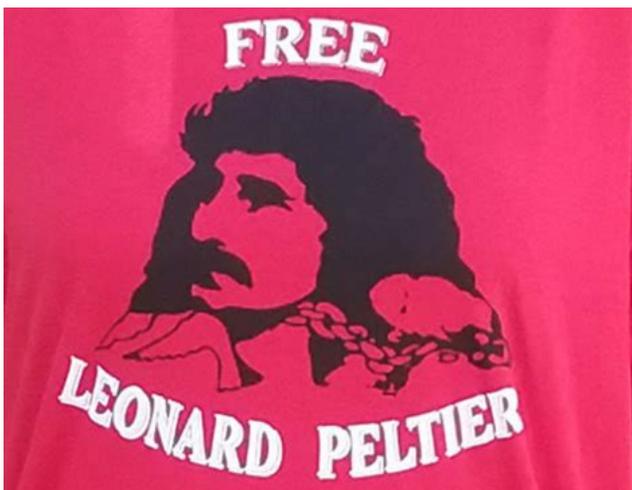


episode 5: they thought we were everywhere: Portland ARA

ARA group photo at first meeting, unfortunately very low-res! (courtesy of Jon Bair)



SHARP patch (courtesy of Jon Bair)



Free Leonard Peltier t-shirt (date unknown)

Episode Summary: In this episode we return to the Rose City as Portland punks solidify an anti-fascist stance and square off. No more mingling with spiky-haired punks one night and racist skinheads the next; the chronic bypassing of casual racism becomes confrontational. We hear from punks Chyna, Jason, Kelly and Jorin, activists Scot Nakagawa, M. Treloar, and Jonathan Mozzochi, and journalist Patrick Mazza about different tactics for organizing across different groups and the surprising effect it has on the scene.

Portland anarcho punk bands of the late 80s and early 90s : Deprived, Resist, Ignoramus Monkey Anus, Unamused, Defiance, Masskontroll, Malcontent, Godless. Kelly Halliburton currently plays in [Jenny Don't and the Spurs](#), who are not an anarcho punk band.

White Supremacists on Talk Shows See [show notes, episode 4](#).

SHARP is the acronymic name of SkinHeads Against Racial Prejudice. SHARPs are an idea as much as they are a group; Wikipedia cites the founding of SHARP by Marcus, Troy and Bruce, three New York skinheads in 1986 in response to the growing presence of the white power movement. Rooted firmly in anti-racism, various chapters exist all over the world without centralized oversight from any headquarters or base and claim inspiration from ska, reggae and 2-Tone bands from the U.K. A common SHARP logo designed by Roddy Moreno of the Welsh Oi! Band The Oppressed pays homage to Trojan Records, producers of ska, rocksteady, dub and reggae music.

Leonard Peltier, Leonard Peltier Support Group Leonard Peltier (of the Anishinabe, Dakota, and Lakota Nations) is a longtime controversial political prisoner who was accused, charged and convicted of the murder of two FBI agents who, on June 25, 1975, came onto the private property of the Jumping Bull Ranch on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota where many members of AIM (see show notes, episode 3) were camping. He was imprisoned at age 31 behind bars for 44 years for a crime many say he did not commit. Mr. Peltier is being held in a maximum security prison in Florida. Chapters of the LPSG—now called [International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee](#)—continue to work for his release.

Radical Women (RW) is a socialist feminist, grassroots activist organization that provides a radical voice within the feminist movement, a feminist voice within the Left, and trains women to be leaders in the movements for social and economic justice. It has branches in numerous United States cities; and Melbourne, Australia. It was founded in 1967 by Gloria Martin, Clara Fraser, Melba Windoffer and



Rock Against Racism (UK) flyer, 1978 (designed by David King)



Patrick Mazza perp-walked at a climate protest against Chase Manhattan Bank in Seattle, 2019

Susan Stern.

From their [site](#): “Radical Women is an activist organization that views feminism, the struggle for female equality, as essential to winning liberation for all people. We are socialists, believing that the oppression of women, queers, and people of color originated in the patriarchal private property system and will fall with its replacement by a collective, democratic socialist system. We fight for the leadership of women of color and the most oppressed, knowing that working-class people who suffer multiple forms of oppression are most likely to understand the failures of the present system and to be most open to radical solutions. We are strong supporters of trans people, immigrants, people of color, First Nations, and the working class of the world. We place no faith in political parties that defend or accommodate the profit system; we only support candidates who are explicitly anti-capitalist.”

Bradley Angle House: Pam Angle and Sharon Bradley died from street violence. In 1975 a group of women founded the nonprofit organization [Bradley Angle House](#) as an emergency shelter—the first on the West Coast—to help people escape and recover from domestic violence. They operate the 24-hour statewide crisis line [Call to Safety](#) that serves people of all genders who need support in situations of domestic violence, including youth and LGBTQ+ people.

Rock Against Racism: “RAR is white people finally waking up to the fact that—oh my god—there’s racism here.” Pauline Black, lead singer of the 2-Tone ska band the Selecter, provides this definition in Rubika Shah’s 2019 documentary [White Riot](#).

After World War II left the country thoroughly decimated, Britain invited international workers, many from South Asia and the West Indies, to emigrate and help rebuild during the 50s. By the 70s, things were economically dire in the British Isles. The openly fascist right wing party The National Front rose during 1970s Britain with the usual rhetoric of anti-immigrant racism, with a stark mission to send the invited and now established populations home. For a cinematic look at the era’s impact on London’s West Indian community, see Steve McQueen five-film anthology [Small Axe](#).

The National Front, like the 1990s neo-Nazis in the U.S., recruited heavily among young people, establishing strong ties to skinheads and the London music scene. A handful of artists headed by Red Saunders founded [Rock Against Racism](#) to fight the hateful rhetoric and accompanying violence in the ways they knew best. They went into the Black community and connected with musicians, set up gig after gig with white and Black bands on the bill and promoted the message ‘Black & White Unite To Fight.’ According to Saunders, who is white, RAR saw racism as a white people problem that they needed to address.

In addition to booking gigs, RAR published the zine



Portland anti-racist activist on KATU's AM Northwest, a live audience news show, calling out the leadership of the Oregon Citizens Alliance for their ties with nazi skinheads (1992?)



SE Hawthorne near 39th (date unknown, photographer unknown)

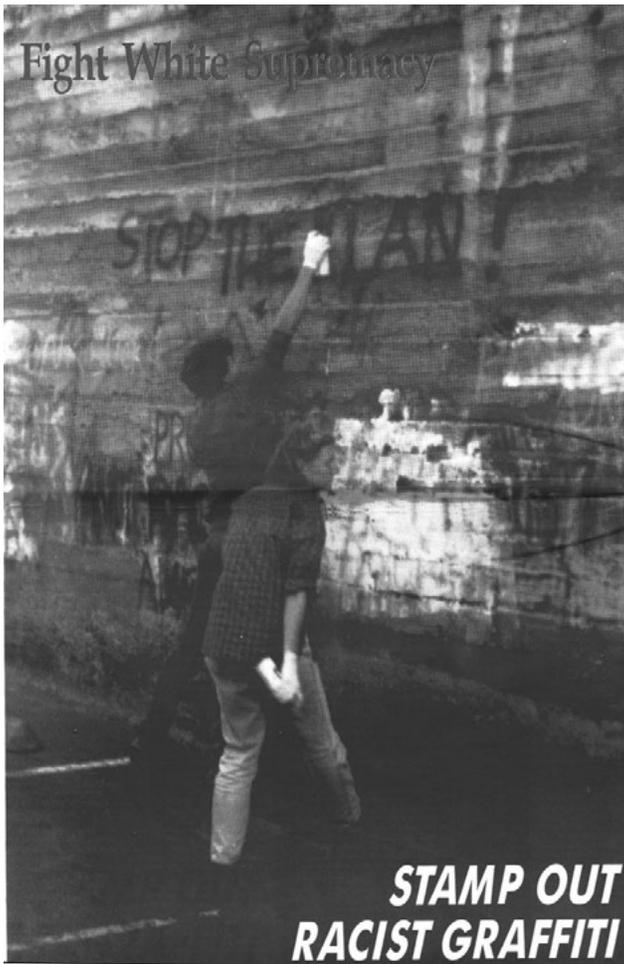
[Temporary Hoarding](#), which covered bands, scene reports and political diatribes at the intersections of social justice, art, music and culture, and helped set the design tone for the punk ethos that we see on flyers still today.

RAR organized [SKAN—School Kids Against Nazis](#)—and chapters of RAR and SKAN spread across the country. In 1978, as the National Front campaigned to take over Parliament, Rock Against Racism organized a march from Trafalgar Square to Victoria Park for a concert featuring X-Ray Spex, Steel Pulse and the Clash among others, who all made strong anti-racist statements. Municipal park employees expected 500 attendees; 80,000 people marched to the park, listening along the way to Black and white and South Asian bands who played on flatbed trucks along the route. In 1979 the National Front was defeated at the polls.

Locations mentioned in this episode:

- **Beaverton** is the traditional homeland of the Atfalati people whose name was rendered Tualatin after European contact. The colonizer disease smallpox decimated the tribe, who were relocated in 1856 to the Grand Ronde Reservation where descendants continue to live. The modern 19.5 square mile city of Beaverton borders Portland on the south and southwest side and in 1990—the year that Nike moved in with its world headquarters—Beaverton had a population of 53,000.
- **Milwaukie**, with an area of 5 square miles is a much smaller city. Settled in 1847, it was an early downriver rival to Portland and is now a suburb to the southeast; 2010 census has a population slightly above 20,000. Milwaukie is home to [Kellogg Bowl](#), a family-owned 58-year old bowling alley which closed for good December 2, 2020 for hardships from being an unsupported small business during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Milwaukie Bowl](#) is struggling to remain open; the bowling alley is run by Dave Husted, a U.S. Bowling Congress Hall of Fame member whose grandfather and father opened the place in 1957.
- **Upper Hawthorne** Hawthorne Boulevard is an east-west street at 1400 south that runs from the Willamette River to SE 92nd street and is a dividing line between many neighborhoods as well as its own neighborhood. Upper Hawthorne for the purposes of this episode is roughly the area between SE Cesar Chavez (formerly 39th Avenue) to south Tabor, around SE 50th. The Willamette River divides Portland addresses into east and west; Burnside street marks the line between north and south. The zero point of Portland is therefore halfway across the Burnside Bridge.

Tom Metzger is an old dead white racist; you can read more about him and his relationship to the killing of Mulugeta Seraw in the [show notes](#) for *IDHH Episode 2: The Murder of Mulugeta Seraw*.



Centerfold from *No KKK! No Fascist USA! Newspaper of the John Brown Anti Klan Committee*, 1989

QUEERS FIGHT BACK



ANTI-RACIST ACTION

White Aryan Resistance (WAR), Aryan Nation are national neo-Nazi political organizations. Metzger was leader of WAR, which was effectively crippled by having to pay Mulugeta Seraw's uncle Engedaw Berhanu \$12.5 million after losing a lawsuit; for more information see episode 2 show notes. According to the watchdog group Southern Poverty Law Center, Aryan Nation is the once-powerful white supremacist organization founded in 1977 by extreme white supremacist Richard Butler. Butler was mentored by William Potter Gale, an army colonel and admirer of Hitler who was on Gen. Douglas MacArthur's staff, and by Wesley Swift, a virulent anti-semitic and rabid Christian. Butler's dream of a white homeland was rooted in a compound he maintained in Idaho where he hosted gatherings attended by Metzger and other prominent neo-Nazis. The group was [sued by the Southern Poverty Law Center](#) and financially crippled; Butler's death in 2004 led to a power vacuum and subsequent splintering of the organization into several factions. Aryan Nation is greatly dispersed but its influence continues through the lineage of racist teachings all the way back to Swift and Gale.

[Chumbawamba](#) plays the closing song: [Here's to the Rest of Our Lives!](#)

(excerpted lyrics)

All jumbled-up
 Love and hate and love
 Each prompted by the other:
 For the cause of peace we have to go to war Refusing to sleep
 Whilst there's a world to win
 Yet happy to dream
 Dreams make the plans to change this world Not just some future heaven

But today and every day
 In our place of work
 In the queue for the metrobus
 Organise!
 Here's the rest of our lives!
 A tiny spark still deep inside
 We can and will run the factories and mills We can and will educate ourselves
 We can and will work the fields
 We can and will police ourselves
 We can and will create and build