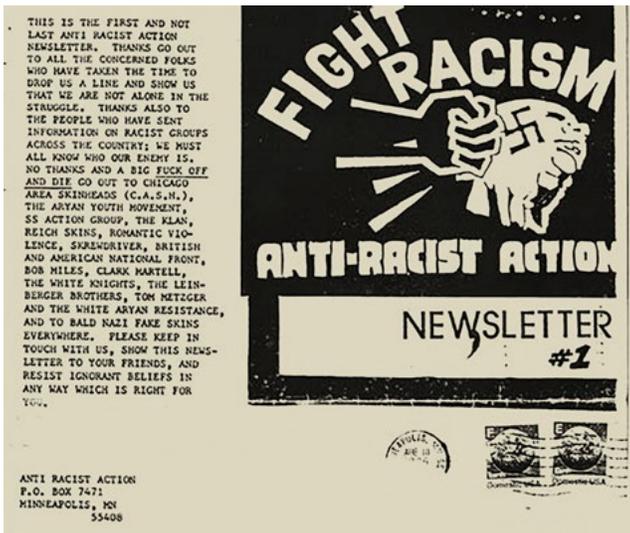


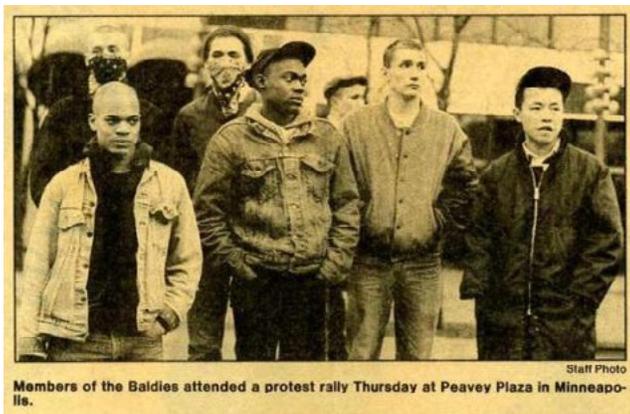
IDHH Episode Four: The Minneapolis Baldies & the ARA



Minneapolis Baldies Logo



ARA newsletter, date unknown



Minneapolis Baldies (Mic Crenshaw on left, 1988?)

Episode Summary: In this episode, we join narrator Mic Crenshaw and his old friends Jason Nevilles aka Jay aka Gator, an Ojibwe and former Minneapolis Baldy; Marty, a Black former Skinhead Of Chicago (SHOC); Nissa; and Jibari aka Corky, also a Black former SHOC member. They were interviewed about why they joined together, what motivated and influenced them, the politics and social pressures in which they operated and how they ultimately formed the national network known as Anti Racist Action that laid the foundations for today's Antifa consciousness.

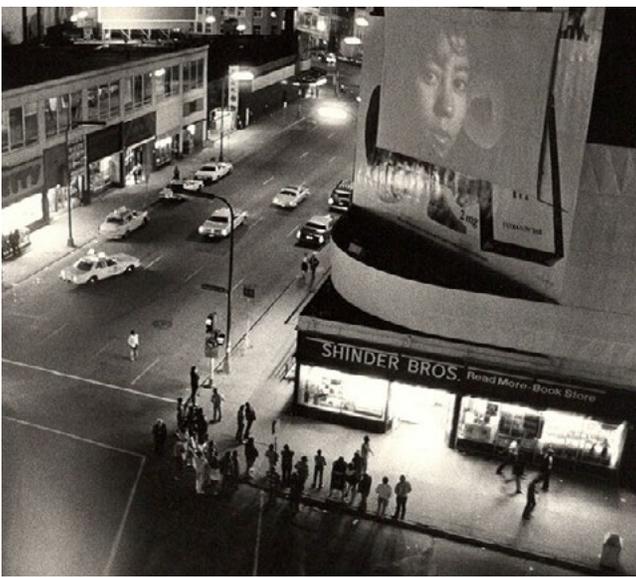
Skinheads/Nick Knight: [Nick Knight](#) is a famous London fashion photographer who, as a student at Bournemouth & Poole College of Art and Design, collected the material for his first book *Skinheads* (Knight, Nick, Omnibus Press 1982,) which won him the 1985 Designers and Art Directors Award for Best Book Cover. While the iconic book influenced and inspired many people like Mic and the Baldies, it represents a long history of outsiders capitalizing on and creating the culture of a working class population. The author is formally known as Nick Knight, O.B.E.—Order of the British Empire, an honorific bestowed by the government.

Ojibwe like all indigenous people across the globe, have struggled to advance their own narrative within the ongoing genocide of their culture. Ojibwe refers to people who were long ago misnamed the Chippewa people by settlers and self-identify as Anishinaabe. From the [White Earth Nation website](#): “All Indian tribes have names for themselves. The largest Indian group in Minnesota calls itself Anishinaabe, which means “the original people.” Europeans named them Ojibwe. No one is exactly sure how this name developed. Perhaps it came from the Anishinaabe word “ojib,” which describes the puckered moccasins worn by the people. Some Europeans had trouble saying Ojibwe, pronouncing it instead as Chippewa. But both these names refer to the same people. In Canada, the Anishinaabe call themselves Ojibwe. In the United States, many tribal members prefer the name Chippewa. So that is the name we will use in this history of White Earth Reservation.”

Tribal member and historian William W. Whipple (b.1825 d.1853) wrote [History of the Ojibways](#)—heavily influenced by colonizer language, but nonetheless a source document documenting 19th century experience.

Notable people in the lineage include the great leader, economist, farmer, activist, author and Vice Presidential candidate Winona LaDuke; she wrote a fictionalized history tracing seven generations on the White Earth reservation called [Last Standing Woman](#)

Shinder's Books got its start in 1916 when the Shinder brothers, Harry, Daniel and Al, sold newspapers on the



Shinders Bros books (photo: Minneapolis Star Tribune, date unknown)



Minneapolis Baldies (photo: Kara La Lomia, date unknown)



ARA banner at protest, Minneapolis, 1990s

street; in 1920 they opened a newsstand at 6th & Hennepin and soon after bought a place a block away which remained their flagship until closing in 2007 after 91 years, another small business drowned when big corporations flooded the internet with low prices and convenience. The business changed hands from father to son in the late 70s, and then to a cousin, who closed things down just before the Great Recession. For an incredible look back, check out the short film [Shinders to Shinders: A Surreal Portrait of Hennepin Avenue](#). The film premiered in 1982, a few years before the Baldies formed.

Hardcore is frequently described as a 'genre' of punk music and rose directly out of the punk music scene. It was harder, faster music, with the attendant punk DIY ethos from which issued zines, flyers, records and basement shows. Early hardcore capitals emerged in D.C. (Bad Brains, Minor Threat, Dischord Records), California (Circle Jerks, Black Flag, and SST Records), New York (Cro Mags, Murphy's Law, Agnostic Front), Chicago (Naked Raygun, Articles of Faith, Touch & Go Records), British Columbia (Nomeansno, Dayglo Abortions, DOA, Subhumans), and Minneapolis (Hüsker Du, Rifle Sport) and propagated scenes across the country. With an accurate reputation for violence, poverty and unpredictable behavior, punk musicians did not have many venues willing to risk hosting them so bands generally had to find their own places to play shows; punks in the scene were rigorous in their dedication to out of town friends and conscientiously featured touring bands in local shows. For a close look at the Minneapolis Hardcore scene, check out this web series [Minnesota Hardcore](#).

Straightedge: A cultural offshoot of punk that provided a refuge for punks who eschewed the often excessive drunkenness and drug use that prevails throughout many art and music scenes. Check out [Sober Living for the Revolution: Hardcore Punk, Straight Edge, and Radical Politics](#).

Maximum Rockroll is an iconic monthly punk zine that started in 1977 as a punk radio show and released its first issue in August 1982 and 432nd and final print issue in May 2019. Throughout its long history, [MRR](#) has been an undisputed home of all things punk, an invaluable real-time history of the culture unfolds across its pages. They also helped start the Gilman Street Project, Epicenter, Blacklist Mailorder, and [printed other books and magazines](#). They published multiple issues of a resource guide and how-to-be-a-punk instruction manual, [Book Your Own Fucking Life](#), which took submissions from scenes across the states offering tips on how to get along in various cities; in 1992 or 1993 I remember our glee when we got our favorite source of free food, the Stanley's Produce Dumpster (an actual Dumpster) listed in the guide. MRR continues as a [web zine](#).



ARA poster, 1990s



Minneapolis Baldies

Your Flesh was a Minneapolis hardcore and punk zine created and edited in 1981 by Hüsker Dü guitarist Bob Mould, Peter Davis and Ron Clark. Mould and Clark quit and Davis continued publishing; eventually it was published by Fantagraphics. [Back issues](#) available probably if you sniff around at online auction sites.

Gangs of New York: An Informal History of the Underworld is a 1928 true crime account by journalist Herbert Asbury, first published in 1927 by Garden City Publishing. [The book](#) depicts a squalid and violent version of power struggles between working class residents of the Five Points neighborhood of lower Manhattan, now occupied by the Civic Center and Chinatown.

Doxing is a revenge tactic commonly used in online operations whereby an individual's personal information, such as home address, phone number, place of employment, is published in retaliation to or to avenge perceived harms done by the individual. As an old hacker friend explained to me, his work for Anti Racist Action included locating neo Nazi white supremacists who spread online hate speech in his region, going to their homes and identifying them to the other people in their lives. In a conversation from the early Aughts, he told me that he often traveled to the Chicago suburbs where he alerted parents to a hate spewing teen they unknowingly harbored in their families. Since many white supremacists operate covertly while living among bosses, employees, friends and family who are unaware of their violent racism, doxing has been an effective tool. It is widely used and not exclusive to anti-racist work, or politics in general.

White Supremacists on Talk Shows: In 1988, daytime talk show host and rising superstar Oprah Winfrey invited several neo Nazi racists to appear on her talk show in Chicago, including professional political white supremacist Tom Metzger and a Chicago skinhead who called in from jail while serving an 11-year assault and hate crime sentence. In the WBEZ podcast Making Oprah, Ms. Winfrey describes how she realized during the show that she had made a mistake; she realized she had accidentally provided legitimacy and validation to the white supremacists, and had unleashed a powerful recruiting tool. Several members of the audience were anti racist skinheads; Dwayne Thomas stood up during the taping and directly addressed the racists on stage, asserting "The first skinheads were Black."

Skinheads appeared on several shows after that, including with hosts Phil Donahue, Sally Jessy Raphael, Montel Williams and Geraldo Rivera. Famously, Rivera's nose was broken when a skinhead hurled a chair across the studio. Chicago public radio station WBEZ covers the phenomenon both in their Making Oprah podcast and in season 3 of the true crime podcast [Motive](#).



Minneapolis Baldies

Skinheads Of Chicago (SHOC) was an anti-racist skin-head crew from Chicago. Linnet Myers wrote a 1989 article called War of the Skinheads that lays out the Chicago skin-head landscape to a great degree using the words of the skins themselves.

Anna Stitt is an award-winning journalist and historical documentarian. She holds a BA in sociology and history from Swarthmore College and a certificate in narrative reporting from the Transom Story Workshop. [We used excerpts from her interview with Mic Crenshaw for her audio documentary on The Baldies.](#) She also wrote [an article on The Baldies](#) for Teen Vogue.



Early ARA logo