

National Alliance transcript

(Mike Tobias/Reporting) Last month residents of this Omaha neighborhood woke to find surprise packages in their driveway. Plastic bags filled with rocks...and National Alliance flyers attacking Martin Luther King. It's the second flyer this woman has found. She asked that we conceal her identity because she's concerned about her family's safety.

(Omaha Woman) We figured it was an advertisement, something like that. I read it, my husband read it. And got very concerned. I was scared. We were new to the area, and we had no idea, we've never seen anything like that before in all the places we've lived. So we were kinda taken aback.

(Tobias) One of her neighbors got a flyer last fall.

(Ed Daeges/Omaha) I just glanced at it, talking about white supremacy. As soon as I see something like that, I just take it and throw it in the trash.

(Tobias) Residents wonder why flyers landed in their driveways in the middle of the night. It wasn't a matter of where...but when.

(Bob Wolfson/Regional Director, ADL) This was distributed after they dedicated the Martin Luther King statue downtown. It's all about King buying sex from prostitutes, him being a bad guy. It's totally a bashing. It's called The Beast as Saint.

(Tobias) As regional head of the Anti-Defamation League, Wolfson is the National Alliance's most visible opponent in Nebraska. He has a collection of flyers the Alliance has distributed in Omaha.

(Wolfson) It appears as though one of the decisions that someone has made is to do leafleting around particular issues that will resonate to a portion of the community. So they've done some things on Valentine's Day, they threatened to do something on Martin Luther King Day and they did in some places in the country. They do things on the anniversary of Hitler's birth.

(Tobias) Or when opportunity arises. This flyer was distributed in the Lincoln neighborhood where Nebraska soccer player Jenna Cooper was shot and killed. Hundreds...if not thousands of flyers have been dropped in several towns since last September. It's part of an upsurge in National Alliance activity in the state. The Alliance also launched an on-line boycott of Cabelas in Sidney, after Cabelas fired one of their members. And made its presence known at a couple public events.

(Wolfson) Normally many of these people come, they find Nebraska a nice place, they try and sell some of their ideas, they figure out that nobody's buying, then they move on. Now the danger is we're living in harder times, the war in Iraq, the economy, people are a little nervous about the future, the business community and environment is a little tougher and these people sometimes are able to put down a couple of roots in that kind of an environment

(Tobias) The West Virginia-based National Alliance was formed about 30 years ago by William Pierce, a former leader of the American Nazi movement. Today the Internet is the main communication vehicle for this PR-savvy organization. Here members download Alliance leaflets to copy and distribute, listen to its Dissident Voices radio program and link to Resistance Records, an Alliance-owned company that offers, quote "the soundtrack for the white revolution." It recent

years Resistance Records has been a seven-figure source of funding for the group.

(Wolfson) Some people call them the IBM of hate. They're a little more sophisticated, they have an Internet presence, they know how to use the Internet. They don't just do interviews with anybody, you have to be a certain level of awareness before they'll do an interview with the press.

(Tobias) In fact the Omaha man who maintains the Alliance's state web site and is believed to be the state leader didn't return our calls for an interview. Instead we talked via telephone with Denver-based regional coordinator Roger Williams.

(Roger Williams/National Alliance Regional Coordinator) We're an organization concerned about the future, well being and survival of the white race. So everything we do is geared along those lines.

(Tobias) According to the Alliance's stated goals, that includes creating a, quote "racially-clean area of earth for the further development of our people." And doing, quote "whatever is necessary to achieve this white living space and keep it white."

(Williams) Where we're at now is trying to reach out to more and more white people in this country and make them concerned about some of the issues that we're concerned about. And as we grow in numbers and grow in influence, then we'll start taking additional steps toward a white living space. What that doesn't mean is anything that would make for a good sound bite on the radio or television about us ethnically cleansing part of the country or something like that. We're just trying to increase our numbers and increase the number of racially aware or racially conscious white people in this country.

(Tobias) The Alliance's message appeals to Kurtis Olson. He's passing out flyers to people arriving for a Lincoln City Council meeting, including some council members. The flyers, titled "The Darker Side of Diversity," come from an organization that's headed by former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke. It's information about blacks and violent crime that City Council member Annette McRoy was disgusted with.

(Kurtis Olson) If you start looking at crime statistics, there is something that I call the color of crime. And minorities commit a disproportionate number of crimes per capita for what their population is in this country.

(Tobias) Olson calls himself a racially conscious, European-descended Native American. His grandfather was in the German army in World War II, his mother immigrated to the U.S. in 1957, shortly before he was born. Olson, who lives in Palmyra, isn't a National Alliance member. But he's talked to the Nebraska leader about joining. Although he describes himself as more moderate, Olson's views closely mirror those of the Alliance.

(Olson) You have Asians over here, Hispanics over here, Blacks over here, Arabs and Muslims over here, and they are not assimilating. They demand to vote on a ballot in their own language. They demand to take their driver's license test in their own language. So it's not a melting pot like it used to be. The Jews have a big influence on Hollywood. And when Hollywood comes in and starts flushing the Talmudic toilet into our living rooms, it's a problem. White males are often the most discriminated-against people in this country because of quotas, and

set-asides and all that stuff. And quite frankly people are growing weary of that.

(Wolfson) I don't have anything against standing up for white people. I have something against standing up for white people and saying, we're better than blacks. We're better than Jews. We're better than Hispanics. We're better than any of the quote-unquote "mudpeople." We are a higher elevated society. That's different than saying you support white culture, or European culture.

(Tobias) If Olson joins the National Alliance, he may be joining a group in decline. The Southern Poverty Law Center reports the Alliance's membership has dropped from 15 hundred to around 400 or 500 since founder William Pierce died two years ago. The group won't say how many members it has in Nebraska. But a membership roster allegedly stolen from regional coordinator Roger Williams and posted on this anti-hate group web site lists just six Nebraskans, four in Omaha.

(Wolfson) With 20 bucks in your pocket, a car full of gas, and a bunch of flyers and a telephone number and an Internet presence, you can seem like you're creating a lot of heat. That doesn't mean you're creating much light, but you can create one heck of a lot of heat.

(Tobias) Their presence still concerns Wolfson and the ADL, which once labeled the National Alliance as America's "most dangerous hate group."

(Wolfson) Their groups have been involved in everything from shootings, to beatings, to harassment of one kind or another. At various times and at various places. Now since Pierce died they're trying to paint themselves as just the white man's advocacy group. And that's of course why we're speaking out a lot, is because we don't want anybody to be fooled into believing their public position, which we think is just an outright lie.

(Williams) The National Alliance is a completely legal organization and we have a zero tolerance policy on illegal activity.

(Tobias) A Nebraska National Alliance member was arrested in 2000. Carl Joel Carlson of Kimball was sentenced for providing pipe bombs to an undercover Federal agent. The leafleting, at worst, violates local littering codes. That's little consolation to the recipients we talked to.

(Omaha Woman) It is a nice neighborhood. And it will continue to be a nice neighborhood. Stuff like this isn't going to bring it down.

(Daeges) They just want people to listen to them and see if they can get them brainwashed into their thought process. (Tobias) Do you think they have?

(Daeges) I doubt it. I certainly hope not.

(Tobias) The ADL will soon fight its battle against the National Alliance on another front, launching an educational campaign called No Place for Hate. Reporting for Statewide, I'm Mike Tobias.