

the government, the police and councilmen, to live right here in the community," concludes Al-Ikhlās. Moor goes further, striking an almost Tolstoyan note: "If we're all following and submitting to the will of God . . . then you don't need government." Hilder, a philosophical anarchist, is quick to agree.

This is not to say that any of this will last. Moor, for one, has cooled to the idea of black-white cooperation. When I called him to discuss this story, he was unenthusiastic. "I don't talk to the white media no more," he told me gruffly. "Every time we talk to Whitey, something happens." The militias "seem sincere," he continued, "but you have to wonder what their hidden agenda is, who's pulling their strings." There's always the chance that "behind closed doors, we're still niggers to them. I'm not necessarily talking about Anthony [Hilder], but sometimes I don't even know where he's coming from." After all, "They're getting too much pub' from the white media. . . . After they overthrow the overlords, maybe they'll start lording it over people of color."

Al-Ikhlās—a black and a Muslim, but not a Black Muslim—remains tolerant, but even he has his doubts. "When militia people talk about 'the good old days,' I want to ask them, 'How far does the militia want to go back?'" Despite this, he rejects the popular image of a movement dominated by white supremacists. "The media portray it differently than what it re-

ally is," he says.

The alliance that remains is determined to stick it out, and to propagate its message as far as it can. Islam has been busy producing an album on Warner Brothers for a rap/rock supergroup called the Bubbleheads, a CD he promises will include a trove of conspiracy lore. In the meantime, Hilder has recorded a rap of his own, a catchy number called "Ordo Ab Chao." And if the vision it expresses seems a little, er, apocalyptic . . .

Masonic mind manipulation  
Inciting riots, it's crisis creation  
Biochip implantation  
Vaccinate your kid for U.N. identification

. . . the wake-up message behind the *X-Files* motifs is still loud and clear:

They've numbed us down and dumbed us down  
With TV, drugs, the NEA, and public schools.  
They've taken your brightest and our best  
And made them public fools.

Cast the tired old labels aside. From here on out, things only get stranger.

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## The Sign of the Cross

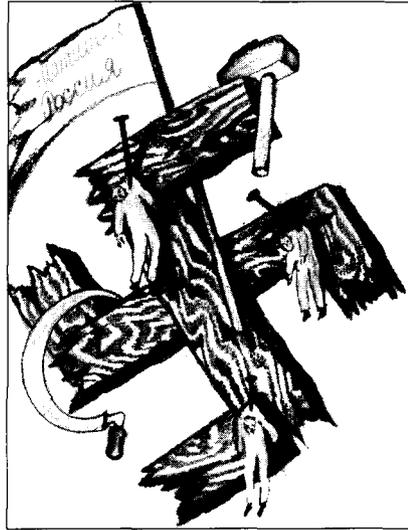
by Hayden Head

Grief has no order unless one regards  
The gasping spasms of pain as rhythmic;  
Grief is not fooled by garden-like graveyards—  
The form is false, the truth cataclysmic.  
One mother's son has grown wild and angry:  
He ranges the night with his savage friends.  
At home his mother prays the rosary,  
"Hail, Mary, full . . ." A distant siren sends  
A long shudder of cold and certain dread  
Through her ephemeral murmur of prayer.  
She makes the sign of the cross, bows her head,  
And weeps the wracking rhythm of despair.  
Full of grief, she tried to inscribe the air,  
But she will stroke his brow and blood-stained hair.

# Radical Populism on the Volga

Russia's Neo-Nazi Opposition

by Wayne Allensworth



On May 8, 1995, President Boris Yeltsin addressed an auditorium filled with gray-haired war veterans, their chests bedecked with rows of ribbons and medals, and told them of the cost of victory in the Great Patriotic War. Citing new archival research, Yeltsin revealed the “terrifying figure” of 26,549,000 Soviet citizens “lost” in the war against “Hitlerite fascism.” Yeltsin then closed his speech with remarks that may have seemed cryptic to some observers. “Many in Russia and beyond its borders are now wondering,” he claimed, “why, half a century after the collapse of fascism, immunity to fascist and racist ideas in our society has weakened. . . . We must purge Russia of the fascist plague, completely and forever.”

It may be that Westerners believed Yeltsin was referring to the bombastic Vladimir Zhirinovskiy or, perhaps, to the “red-brown” neocommunist who had done so well in the December 1993 elections and who were already campaigning to expand their influence in the State Duma. But the immediate cause of Yeltsin’s concern was probably something else, a relatively new, and far more radical, force whose activities had prompted the president to issue a decree early last year on combating “fascism.” This force, dubbed the “new opposition” by Russian journalists, is more willing to resort to violence than the old “red-brown” opposition. Like the Zhirinovskiyites, the “new opposition” boasts of having no ties to the discredited communist *nomenklatura* regime, and has worked particularly hard to recruit young people. Unlike Zhirinovskiy, however, they are impatient and weary of talk. Russian greatness will be restored, not by *boltuni* (windbags) in the State Duma, but by implementing what they call the “national revolution.”

The “new opposition” made its conspicuous debut at the Russian White House during the September-October 1993 showdown between Yeltsin and the recalcitrant Supreme Soviet, when an organization known as Russian National Unity (RNU), under the leadership of a former electrician and karate instructor named Aleksandr Barkashov, provided what was

probably the largest (from 100-300 men) and best-armed contingent of White House defenders. The RNU fighters, accompanied by brethren warriors from the “Legion of Werewolves” (the organization’s leaders were later arrested after plans for a series of terrorist attacks were uncovered), were made all the more conspicuous by the stylized swastikas that decorated their paramilitary uniforms, and by their declared aim, according to one ubiquitous Werewolf, of shooting “first the democrats and then the communists.”

There was ample reason to take the young stormtrooper seriously: volunteers from Russian neo-Nazi and neofascist organizations, which appear to be growing exponentially in the ruins of postcommunist Russia (one Russian journalist claims that RNU is the fourth largest political organization in Russia), have fought in the Balkans War, mostly alongside the Serbs (some prefer the Croats, seeing them as the true torchbearers of the “Aryan” ideal), and in the many “hot spots” where civil war and insurrection have flared up in the former Soviet domain. Barkashov personally offered his services to the state at the height of the conflict in Chechnya, but the offer was not accepted. No matter. The “new opposition” continues to prepare for the day when they will seize power by organizing sympathizers to distribute the burgeoning number of neo-Nazi and neofascist newspapers, books, and videos (and finding a sympathetic helping hand in some government-run printing facilities), establishing training camps for their militant “storm detachments,” targeting young people, along with military and security personnel, for recruitment, and establishing ties with trade unions and local officials in the regions.

Their message is one we have heard before: the Russian “genotype” is the purest “offshoot” of the “Aryan” race and is destined to dominate the world. For Russia to reestablish her greatness and save the “Aryans” from extinction the world over is a simple matter to be achieved through a violent seizure of power followed by the implementation of a program of eugenics that calls for the extermination of Jews, Caucasian “blacks,” invalids, drunks, and imbeciles. The Russian war machine will

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