

Not In Our Town Campaign

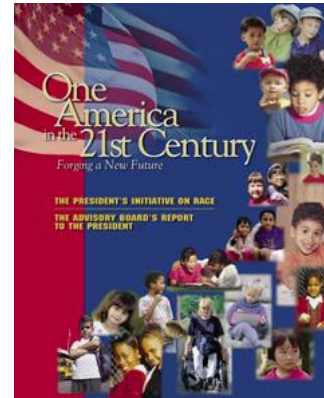
In the article on the Ford Foundation's website [Leadership for a Changing World](#) award that describes the reason for the award, it mentions the *Not in our Town Campaign*. Christine Kaufmann and Ken Toole.

When skinheads harassed Jewish families, for example, MHRN worked with local activists to organize a "Not In Our Town" campaign, which subsequently became a national model of community response to bigotry and racial violence.

Clinton's Initiative on Race

A description of the *Not in our Town Campaign* was found listed on the [Clinton White House Initiative on Race Campaign](#) – the One America Initiative.

*In communities across America, there are many programs working to encourage participation of people from different racial backgrounds and to ensure opportunities for all Americans. **Promising Practices highlights efforts designed to improve race relations and build One America. One of the most important goals of the President's Initiative on Race was to learn about and from community efforts and to share them with all Americans. Listed in this section are over 300 promising practices that the President's Initiative on Race identified from 1997 to 1998.***



[One America Initiative](#)

The question is – what did Clinton mean by One America? The assumption of the American people – including myself would have been that he was talking about race relations within the borders of the United States. With the benefit of hindsight, what Clinton meant by One America was a globalized economy – open borders for commerce and the consequent export of our economy to cheap labor countries. What they called a Free Trade Area of the Americas was actually an American Common Market – the American version of the European Common Market that became the European Union. In other words, what he was talking about was the end of the sovereignty of the American nation-state. Supporting that allegation is the fact that the [first summit](#) of the Americas that was to lead to the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) was held in Miami in 1994.

[Declaration of Principles](#) [Plan of Action](#)

The *Not in Our Town* initiative was listed as a [Promising Practice](#) under the heading of Community Building for the One America initiative.

A media campaign that uses solution-oriented documentaries to demonstrate how individuals can help stop hate motivated violence and intolerance through personal action.

Background on the program is given [HERE](#).

The Background on the initiative

In 1994, the California Working Group (CWG), an Oakland-based media production company, traveled to Billings, Montana to examine how that community handled hate crimes. Originally scheduled to air as a segment in a Labor Day special, producers saw how inspired people were by this project and decided to expand it into a half-hour documentary called, "Not In Our Town," which ran on PBS in December 1995.

The question was: *Who is the California Working Group and Why would a documentary on skinheads be scheduled as a segment on a Labor Day special?* That was a curiosity. [Side note: On April 14, 1996, C-Span filmed an event titled [Renewing the Social Contract](#) the content of which was about the corporate and government war on the American working people. In his remarks, John Sweeney, President of the AFL-CIO said they were going to be holding town halls all over America to discuss the plight of working Americans.]

An article titled [Activists Against Hate](#) written by Susan Gerhard was found on the internet archive of the [The Independent Film & Video Monthly](#). It provides an answer. Gerhard's article was in the April 1996 edition (p.174-175)

This paragraph explains the leap from a video series on work and workers to a video on an alleged incident involving race. The link obviously is a kluge.

The half-hour video documentary provides a look at how the workers, neighbors, and business owners of Billings, Montana, united to drive white supremacy out of their town in 1993. It was initially broadcast in September 1994 without much fanfare as part of We Do the Work, the California Working Group's public television series on workers and workplace issues.

Here's where it gets interesting. The timing would have been early 1996 -

*Then, last spring, the video was shown at a meeting organized by the San Francisco-based **Institute for Alternative Journalism (IAJ)** in preparation for its **Media and Democracy Congress**, held this past February.*

*Alternative mediamakers and journalists had gathered to look for ways to collaborate. Says IAJ executive director Don Hazen, "When some of us saw the **Not in Our Town** video, we thought that this was a really good case study."*

*Once IAJ got involved, **Not in Our Town** became the fulcrum for a nationwide series of political events, collectively called "Not In Our Town Week." The campaign linked the show's rebroadcast on more than 100 public television stations (which variously scheduled the airdate between December 17 and early January) with private screenings, town-hall meetings, and public discussions of hate crimes in cities all over the United States.*

THE MEDIA & DEMOCRACY CONGRESS, to be held in San Francisco on Feb. 29, March 1 & 2, will address the threat to democracy posed by the consolidation of media power in the hands of a few transnat'l corporations. Papers proposing new media systems, products & collaborations will be distributed beforehand. Contact: Institute for Alternative Journalism, 77 Federal St., San Francisco, CA 94107; (415) 284-1420; fax: 1414; e-mail: 71362,27@compuserve.com.

So it was the promotion by the Institute for Alternative Journalism in conjunction with a PBS series that created the campaign. The producers were Patrice O'Neill and Rhian Miller. They turned a dubious story about some alleged Jewish victim in a small western town into a national propaganda

campaign on racism in the west. Was the alleged incident real or was it a fabrication to create a narrative? Since it fits the Jewish con game of victim creation followed by communist organizing and donation collection, I think we know the answer. This particular narrative as told in the documentary *Not in Our Town* was apparently the flip of the switch to activate a national network of marxist/communist organizers and media terrorists.

"Every day some fax would come in to us either at IAJ or at our office in Oakland describing what people were doing in their own communities." For instance, they heard from a union activist in Bloomington, Illinois, who was nervous about a Klan recruiting drive in nearby Peoria. Says O'Neill, "He organized a screening at a local labor hall that included 150 people — union people, Jewish people, and African Americans — all talking about what to do about hate in their town."

The Billings, Montana, story provides some answers, such as reporting incidents to the police and media, as well as asking local businesses and community groups to take an interest in protecting both diversity and community safety.

With support or endorsements from groups as wide-ranging as the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force, AFL-CIO, United Auto Workers, Screen Actors Guild, and Long Island Council of Churches, the California Working Group/IAJ team created a network of activists and media outlets interested in promoting the campaign.

... "The theory here in part is how to echo things in the media," IAJ's Hazen elaborates. "What seems to be clear is that even important things that happen, things that are reported in the New York Times, don't have impact unless picked up by the other media, pundits, and talk shows. We are trying to explore an independent way of doing this, because the Right does it really effectively. If you do an effective job of framing something in the independent media, it increases the chances that the corporate media will pick up on it."

One can tell by the distribution of the video, that it was a triggering event. On [page 76](#), there is an entry for the *Not in our Town* video.

Library of Congress Audio Visual Library

Race, Ethnicity, and Civil Rights on Television News Programs and Film in the Library of Congress.

This is a guide to non-fiction moving image materials related to the coverage of race, ethnicity, and civil rights on television news programming and film in the collections of the National Audio-Visual Conservation Center of the Library of Congress. The guide covers the African American, Hispanic and Latin American, Native American, and Asian American struggles for equality and civil rights in the United States.

It seems like this collection should be called the White Demon archive. There doesn't seem to be any counter narratives.

Scrolling through reading the descriptions of the videos, there is a listing titled, ***Chicano! History of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement.*** ... *This program chronicles the*

efforts of farm workers to form a national labor union. Also, Cesar Chavez's strike against grape growers.

Interestingly enough, I just happen to have stumbled on Cesar Chavez's story while researching a **Jewish Immigration Attorney named Harris Miller** in connection with imported Indian IT people. [Side Note, I didn't know Miller was Jewish until I read his [obituary](#) for this article – *may he rot in hell forever*. I wonder if there is a Library of Congress archive for *Jew Screws California Farm Workers?*] Continue reading [Harris Miller](#).

..

Taking it to the Schools

There was another film archive that mentioned the *Not in Our Town Video*. This archive is directed at educators. The video is mentioned at the bottom under the heading of Acknowledgements.

California Newsreel, Blacks and Jews Facilitators Guide
<https://newsreel.org/guides/blacksan.htm>

We, the team of Black and Jewish filmmakers who made "Blacks and Jews", hope to provoke debate and discussion about intergroup relations in the United States. We hope the film lets us laugh about ourselves and lets us approach one another without fear.

However, this film is not about feeling good about ourselves or one another. The five stories in the film portray conflict and how conflict can lead to a deeper understanding of ourselves and others. The film is as much about the conflicts that go on inside a community as the conflicts among communities.

As a result, "Blacks and Jews" is not just for Blacks and Jews. People of other ethnic and racial backgrounds have used the film effectively to provoke discussions about their own experiences.

Paradoxically, the relationship between African Americans and Jews is a good case study of intergroup conflict because Black/Jewish cooperation has a long history. The two groups played major roles--often working together--in shaping American politics, culture and identity. Radical social movements from labor to civil rights were built on coalitions of Blacks and Jews, and their solidarity at key moments in American history is well known. African American leaders strongly supported anti-Nazi efforts during World War Two. The Jewish community was a major partner in the civil rights movement after the war.

Institute for Alternative Journalism Media and Democracy Congress

Continuing with Susan Gerhard's story on the *Not in Our Town* documentary, was a mention of the Institute for Alternative Journalism, Media and Democracy Congress.

A search on Media and Democracy Congress turned up two *Democracy Now* programs. One was from 1996, the other from 1997.

Democracy Now! Daily Show, June 7, 1996
<https://www.democracynow.org/shows/1996/6/7>

Should populist left and populist right join forces to fight NAFTA?

United Auto Workers begin United Broadcasting Network (UBN) to create a broadcast outlet focusing on unions and the lives of workers. Amy Goodman speaks to UBN founder Pat Choate and on-air personality Jim Hightower. The network plans to be commercial-free and raise revenue by selling USA Products.

“Don’t say Japan”

Goodman also speaks to **Chip Berlet** about controversial radio talk show host Chuck Harder, who Berlet believes makes xenophobic, anti-semitic, and homophobic comments. Chip Berlet is a co-founder of Political Research Associates and he worked for the **National Lawyers Guild**.

Democrat Schism

The schism was between globalist democrats and populist democrats. Some of the unions and their members were trying to start a **New Labor Party** to represent the interest of working Americans against the globalist agenda of open borders. The problem was that a couple of ringers were put in charge of leading the effort so the effort never got off the ground.

What Happened to the Labor Party?
<https://jacobin.com/2015/10/tony-mazzochi-mark-dudzic-us-labor-party-wto-nafta-globalization-democrats-union/>

Mark Dudzic
<https://jacobin.com/author/mark-dudzic>

Challenging a Giant
<https://jacobin.com/2017/01/richmond-progressive-alliance-elections-chevron-steve-early>

Republican Schism

There was a similar schism on the conservative side of the political ledger led by Ross Perot. His was a brief campaign that ended when his family was threatened. He dropped out and Pat Buchanan – bible under his arm, stepped in to take his place. Although I totally supported Ross Perot, Pat Buchanan was another story. For me personally, that was the end of the Reform Party. Pat Buchanan was a ringer thrown into the spotlight IMO to break up the Reform Party movement on the conservative side. It was successful. The movement failed.

The name Chip Berlet was familiar because the Montana Human Rights Network is listed as a fellow traveler on Berlet’s website [Political Research Associates](#).

The next question was – who was Chuck Harder and what did he do to rile Chip Berlet? A search on Harder turned up a C-Span broadcast that was a video of Harder’s radio program with Pat Choate as

a guest talking about the NAFTA agreement. It's an excellent intro to trade agreements and how they were designed to destroy the American economy and accelerate the decline in the standard of living for American workers. Also, the fact that Chip Berlet was affiliated with the National Lawyers Guild is explanation enough. The Lawyers Guild is a communist organization and they provide a legal shield on what can now be seen as the strategy of population destabilization through the pushing of foreign populations across borders to occupy territory that is not theirs as is happening in the United States now. See what is happening to France. [Riots in Paris](#).

C-Span televised a Chuck Harder radio interview of Pat Choate. They talked about NAFTA. <https://www.c-span.org/video/?52274-1/north-american-free-trade-agreement>

Corporate Media Ownership and the Public Interest

Democracy Now! Daily Show: October 21, 1997

https://www.democracynow.org/1997/10/21/who_controls_the_information

Who controls what we read, what we hear, and what kind of information we get? Increasingly, the answer has been fewer and fewer multinational corporations like Rupert Murdoch's News International or the Walt Disney Corporation who are merging at a record pace. But this new concentration of media ownership has not gone unchallenged.

Hundreds of media activists from all across the country gathered this weekend to look at ways of confronting the growing influence and power of the corporate media giants . . .

The Institute for Alternative Journalism (IAJ) also co-sponsored an event on the State of American Newspapers. It was broadcast by C-Span. Don Hazen, Executive Director of IAJ and Patrice O'Neill were both there. In the video, Hazen said that the IAJ was known for two things: 1) **Alternet is their wire service** 2) IAJ was the promoter of the Media and Democracy Congress. [Side Note on Alternet. Raw Story partners [acquired](#) the Alternet wire service and a movement called [The New Civil Rights Movement](#). The Editor-in-Chief for NCRM is [David Badash](#) and their focus will be on LGBTQ movement.]

<https://globaljusticerc.org/alternet/> - Alternet is listed on the Global Justice Center website as a resource.

<https://globaljusticerc.org/about-us/> - About the Global Justice Center

[The State of American Newspapers](#). March 6, 1997 (video is date stamped May 3, 1997)

C-Span has three videos listed for the [Media and Democracy Congress for 1997](#) and one that is supposedly a segment of the conference from 1996.

October 17, 1997

Public Relations vs Public Interest

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?93430-1/public-relations-vs-public-interest>

October 17, 1997

Saving Public Interest Journalism

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?93433-1/saving-public-interest-journalism>

October 17, 1997

State of the Media, Media and Democracy Congress

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?93435-1/state-media>

February 29, 1996

Future of Journalism – Advocacy Journalism ***

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?70703-1/future-journalism>

Renewing the Social Contract, April 12, 1996

Work and Workers – Town Halls, Sweeney

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?71198-1/renewing-social-contract>