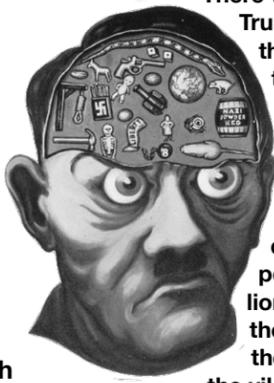


# THE MUIR REPORT: WHERE'S ADOLF?

## Hunting The Elusive Nazi In S.F. And Oakland

Amid all the turmoil, we met up with the young gay contingent in the Panhandle Park and marched to Alamo Park. We chose to walk with them because we have an unwavering commitment to gay rights and because, from former experience in demonstrations, we are aware the police are reluctant to attack gay marchers, and God forbid, any harm comes to you, a candlelight vigil down Market Street will be arranged along with your own engraved memorial on Castro Street. We also like their proclivity toward profanity in their chants. "We're here, we're queer, we're fabulous, don't fuck with us". One of the many ironies of Saturdays march was that most the white supremacists were people of color and most of the anti white supremacy marchers were white. The right wing decided not to show up so it wasn't nearly as much friction as I expected, mostly an orderly march through the formerly black section of town, now inhabited by wealthy young people sunning themselves on padded chairs, adorning the freshly manicured sidewalk eateries, peacefully ingesting their *eggs benedict* and swirly-topped cafe lattes. They cheered us on. Another irony was that most of the black people had been displaced from their homes by the very people marching in their neighborhoods protesting white privilege. Welcome to the new San Francisco.

Sunday was quite another story. Truly, adding more fuel to the adage, that people who were abused somewhere else, come to Berkeley to get even. Peace Park was filled with people of all races, colors and ages, bad tattoos everywhere, costumes, pit bulls, gospel singers, a rag tag army of people eager to display their new found strength and one homeless woman trying to sleep on a park bench in the middle of all the noise. She gathered all her shopping bags around her so no one would infringe on her outdoor bed and slept blissfully through the screaming, smoke bombs and sirens.



There were thousands of leftists and a handful of Trump supporters weaving their way through the crowd, getting into sporadic fights with the antifa contingent. Mostly, they yelled at each other, every once in a while, some fists were thrown but the antifa, contrary to mainstream reporting were not a group of large, aggressive, mean spirited thugs, rather, most of them were diminutive Asian women from the student population at Berkeley. Like adolescent lions, learning to hunt, they could corner their prey and paw at them, but they lacked the killer instinct needed to be labeled all the vile things they were accused of. Mostly, they screamed things like "racist scum, now you're done" but were content to badger, but not harm anyone. The police did a good job of keeping the noisy peace. In the end, no one went to the hospital and a good time was had by all.

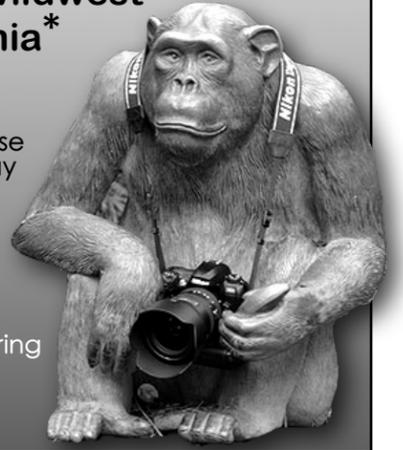
One of the differences between the marches was the Berkeley *brouhaha* consisted mainly of ordinary people, from the *lumpen proletariat* on both sides. Most wars are fought by the underclass. This one will be no different. I watched one flare-up where a Trumper was being chased and harassed. When the group moved on, I saw a pair of glasses laying on the pavement, beaten and battered but still fairly intact. I grabbed them and held them thinking someone might be back to claim them, as it turned out, someone did, the Trumper...I gave him back his glasses. He looked at me and said, "I don't hate Jews" and ran off. I'm still trying to figure that one out.

One other note, the Trump guys were entirely too familiar with violence and how to duck punches and record both audibly and visually all that happened. Each one was also accompanied by a silent partner who stayed in the background but was there if the need arose to wade in and quell the crowd by saying, "Wait, Wait, let's ask him about racism or taxes etc." My thought is they had professional training of some sort. We conspiracy people are on to something.

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### 'White Supremacy' Continues-



As the abolitionist Henry Ward Beecher wrote about the lack of public education in the slave South, "Ignorance is an institution. They legislate for ignorance the same way we legislate for schoolhouses." Today, when Republicans lead the way, slashing education funding at the federal, state and local levels, **they legislate for ignorance.** They fear statistics and facts, realizing

what may follow the political enlightenment of the lower classes. Both parties meanwhile have hobbled higher education with debts which can only be paid off at corporate terms.

**Elite authority over the educational system also means regulation** over the teaching of subjects like history, government and civics. An overwhelming majority of Americans have shockingly little understanding of our own past and our own government, often leading to lower-class political apathy. **A small number of extremely wealthy white men control and operate much of the American media.** With just a handful of corporations owning the majority of our country's media, it is worth remembering that news today is essentially a product to be sold, a commodity. Trump himself has created a political firestorm by branding certain news outlets as "fake news," but the media monopoly obviously presents valid concerns about fair and balanced reporting. Each of the few very powerful, rich men have their own reasons for deciding what qualifies as "news."

**Business owners and corporate leaders have historically sought to keep workers segregated, either physically or by job.** Since antebellum times, masters attempted to engender racism between poor white laborers and enslaved blacks, trying to keep each side distrustful of the other. By perpetuating and encouraging a vile form of racism, they attempted to establish psychological segregation, ultimately thwarting the prospect of an interracial coalition. Today, elites use white supremacy as a powerful tool in preventing unionism — as just witnessed with **the failure of the United Auto Workers election at a Mississippi Nissan factory.**

Thus, even though working-class whites certainly support Trump and his policies, it is important to remember why. Indeed, poorer whites may be the ones branded as hardened white supremacists, but let's not forget who benefits the most from racism: the white economic elite.

**Keri Leigh Merritt**

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