

I Am a Jew

Michael Gurian

I am a Jew, 47 years old, of no special courage.
Every day I try to feel myself in the soil and the stem,
 in the light of ancient books and of new words;
I try to sense the fingertip of G-d in the fragrance
 of my children's newly washed hair.
Every day, I try to sing with a spirit both measured and ecstatic,
find places to worship where I can feel the warmth
 that first attracted me toward my birth.
Scorn the beasts that covet the blood on my door.
 I am a Jew.

Have you seen the Jews? When a train rumbles by,
we see ghostly faces in the boxcars. When hounds roam the kingdom,
we know those white teeth grin because the animals have already fed;
 I am a Jew already eaten. In seventh grade, in Laramie, Wyoming,
 three boys grasped my big Jewish nose with pliers—
“Does it stretch? Does it grow?”
 I still feel the flat file marks on my skin.

The Jews have forgiven the world, but do not know if the world has
forgiven them.

 This is a Jew.

A Content Analysis of Persuasion Techniques Used on White Supremacist Websites

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Internet has made it possible for people to access just about any information they could possibly want. Conversely, it has given organizations a vehicle through which they can get their message out to a large audience. Hate groups have found the Internet particularly appealing, because they are able to get their uncensored message out to an unlimited number of people (ADL 2005). This is an issue that is not likely to go away. The Supreme Court has declared that the Internet is like a public square, and it is therefore unconstitutional for the government to censor websites (*Reno et al. v. American Civil Liberties Union et al.* 1997). Research into how hate groups use the Internet is necessary for several reasons. First, the Internet has the potential to reach more people than any other medium. Connected to that, there is no way to censor who views what, so it is unknown whom these groups are trying to target for membership. It is also important to learn what kinds of views these groups hold and what, if any, actions they are encouraging individuals to take. In addition, ongoing research is needed because both the Internet and the groups themselves are constantly changing.

The research dealing with hate websites is sparse. The few studies that have been conducted have been content analyses of dozens of different hate sites. The findings indicate a wide variation in the types of sites, but the samples are so broad that no real patterns have emerged (Gerstenfeld, Grant, and Chiang 2003).

This study will focus on the content and the use of persuasive techniques of four major white supremacist websites. Three of them are major groups connected to larger movements: the National Alliance connected to the Neo-Nazi movement, the Imperial Klans of America connected to the Ku Klux Klan, and the Aryan Nations connected to the Christian Identity movement. In addition, the study will be examining a large site named Stormfront that is not affiliated with any group.

This study will catalogue what parts of the site hate groups use for