

InCAR has checkered history in metro area

By Susan Buck
staff writer

InCAR has had a checkered past in metro Detroit.

Audrey Davis, 32, a Detroit postal worker, was one of six demonstrators who in August 1981 were removed in handcuffs from Detroit Mayor Coleman Young's 11th floor office in the City-County Building.

She was charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with a police officer. Disposition of the charges is not known.

According to news reports filed at that time, the demonstrators entered a hallway in the mayor's suite by pushing through a normally locked door while somebody else was leaving. The mayor was not in the office.

While the InCAR members were led away, they chanted, "Mayor Young, you can't hide, we'll charge you with genocide."

As it did in Farmington in October, the InCAR group protested the neo-Nazi S.S. Action Group's planned "White Pride Rally" in Detroit.

InCAR, which believes in militant

mass action with violence, if necessary, prides itself in physically smashing neo-Nazi and Klan rallies. It cites its efforts as a type of retribution for past violent racial acts by white supremacists.

THE GROUP also puts much effort into supporting striking workers. According to Larry Goldbetter, InCAR chairman and Detroit correspondent for its national weekly newspaper, "Challenge-Desafio," InCAR members from Detroit regularly assisted the striking coal miners

of West Virginia with money, food and supplies during the past year. InCAR is also seeking to befriend striking Greyhound bus drivers as well as workers from the Detroit-Wayne County Union of the Homeless.

Detroit high school students are recruited for InCAR's youth movement.

In the 1981 demonstration in Mayor Young's office, Davis was joined by William Gilbreth and Clinton Smith.

The two men gained notoriety in 1973 when they led a two-day wildcat strike of the now-defunct Chrysler Corp. Mack stamping plant. Some 5,000 workers at the plant were idled while the two men and a small band of supporters occupied the plant to protest Gilbreth's earlier discharge. They presented a written list of complaints about health and safety conditions inside the plant.

U.S. District Court Judge Fred Kasson later issued a preliminary injunction prohibiting the group of labor dissidents from initiating work stoppages at auto plants, which became a regular occurrence at the time.

In March 1974, Recorders Court Judge Justin Ravitz of Detroit acquitted the two men of charges that they assaulted two plant security guards with a metal pipe.

Gilbreth and Smith were members of the Workers Action Movement (WAM), organized by the Progressive Labor Party, which took over Students for a Democratic Society in 1969. WAM was disbanded by 1975.

According to Goldbetter, Gilbreth, 42, took part in InCAR's Farmington demonstration and Smith, 43, remains friendly with the party.

3 avowed revolutionaries plead guilty to trespassing

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their protest of Farmington resident Derwin Success' peace march for the event when they learned InCAR would appear.

InCAR CONSIDERS itself to be

"at war" with white supremacist groups and has physically fought them in the Detroit area, said InCAR chairman Larry Goldbetter, Detroit correspondent for the party's weekly newspaper, "Challenge-Desafio."

ing March 20.

"Unfortunately, anti-racist views are not necessarily looked at as a good thing, so we're looked at as bad guys quite often. We're happy that the Nazis and skinheads weren't able to march. A lot of neighborhood people come out. We need to have more confidence in people — that they

want to be against racism and fascists."

Davis is a 20-year InCAR member. "We've been involved in literally dozens of anti-Klan, anti-Nazi demonstrations," she said.

Stewart enters the armed services this month.

"I've never been in trouble with the law except for now," he said. "I'm a good, law-abiding citizen and I love fighting back against racism. I feel that what I did was right and I would do it again if I had a chance, but not in nine months. I'm going to learn some discipline and come back and take care of society."

ANOTHER InCAR member, Detroit resident Eva Ridgell, 29, received 11

days' jail time in October after she was arrested during the peace march on disorderly conduct charges and providing false identification to a police officer. The latter charge was later dismissed. At the time of her arrest, police said that she was using up to 16 aliases and had three outstanding misdemeanor warrants from Detroit, Highland Park and Flint.

But Ridgell's Ypsilanti-based attorney, Douglas Spicer, called those offenses "trumped up charges" and "harassment."

Frank Lauboff, Farmington Department of Public Safety director, said the settling of fines is up to the judge. "I guess the judge took a look and thought it served the purpose."

Lauboff said. "We almost had a riot out there that day."

But Goldbetter, said his group did Farmington a favor. "We upheld the good name of Farmington," he said. "You had anti-racists in the news instead of racists."

Farmington attorney Steven Sonenberg, a five-year Farmington Hills resident employed for the law firm of Fried, Saperstein, De Vine & Kohn in Southfield, said he never represented InCAR members previously nor did his interest in the case stem from the notoriety of the Farmington peace march.

"I got a call that these people needed an attorney," Sonenberg said. "These (three) people have never been in trouble before."

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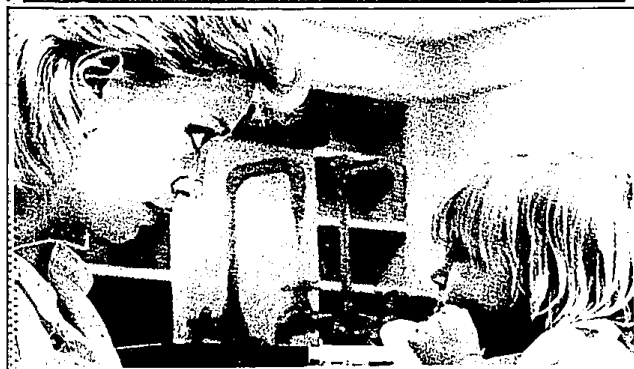
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