The National Alliance

The National Alliance is a hate group based in Hillsboro, West Virginia. The recent literature drop in Bozeman comes on the heels of National Alliance literature being found in other Montana communities, including Helena and Missoula, over the last couple of years. Great Falls was targeted with the same literature a couple of weeks after the distribution in Bozeman. The National Alliance has members and contact points all across the country. Despite the leadership turmoil that has plagued the group since its founder, William Pierce, died in 2002, the National Alliance remains one of the largest and most visible white supremacist organizations in the country. Literature drops in communities are one of its major recruiting tools.

The National Alliance was founded in the 1970s by Dr. William Pierce. Pierce held a doctorate in physics and was a former college professor. He left the academic world to pursue a full-time career promoting white supremacy and anti-Semitism.

Pierce got his start in the hate movement with George Lincoln Rockwell’s American Nazi Party. In the 1960s, Pierce teamed up with Rockwell to try to attract academics to the racist movement. After Rockwell was assassinated in 1967, Pierce became one of the executive leaders of the American Nazi Party. In the early 1970s, Pierce began the National Youth Alliance, which became the National Alliance.

Pierce’s initial significant contribution to the racist movement was his novel *The Turner Diaries*, published in the late 1970s. Pierce, writing under the pen name Andrew MacDonald, wrote of neo-Nazi revolutionaries and their battles in a race war. The book has acted as a blueprint for racists. A passage in the book describes racists using a fertilizer-based bomb to blow up a federal building. Timothy McVeigh, the man who bombed the federal building in Oklahoma City, used the *Turner Diaries* as a guide. He’s not the only person inspired by Pierce’s words. The Order, a splinter group of Aryan Nations, used the book as an inspiration for a crime spree in the early 1980s that included the assassination of a Jewish radio host. Another Pierce novel, *Hunter*, tells the story of a drive-by killer who targets interracial couples. The book is dedicated to Joseph Paul Franklin who is serving multiple life sentences for murdering at least two African-American men.

The National Alliance runs a few subsidiary companies, including a bookstore and a white power music label. National Vanguard Books sells such tracts as Hitler’s *Mein Kampf* and *The International Jew*, a forgery outlining how Jews supposedly plan to take over the world. Pierce also had a radio broadcast called *American Dissident Voices*, which combined current events with his racist commentary. Since Pierce’s death, the radio show has continued with host Kevin Alfred Strom, a longtime colleague of Pierce.

Before his death, Pierce added a new weapon to the National Alliance’s arsenal of hate when he purchased Resistance Records, a white power music label, which sells racist CDs by bands with names like Angry Aryans, Blue-Eyed Devils and Aggravated Assault. Although he favored classical music, Pierce knew that music is a powerful weapon in recruiting youth into the movement.

“Why should I not be able to do what is right and natural and kill those who commit such an abomination? We should be going from door to door with a list of names and slaying those who have engineered this assault on our people....And we know who the engineers are....They are, first and foremost, the media bosses and the other leaders of the Jews.”

-William Pierce on interracial dating, March 2000