

# Lonely and Full of Hate, She

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SAN FRANCISCO — There are certain things Sandra Silva likes and certain things she hates.

She likes, for instance, "discipline and a well-ordered life," warfare, the military and Hitler.

And she hates, to list a few, blacks, Jews, minorities, Communists, "troublemakers" (anyone who threatens white supremacy), and the prospect of "wasting time."

Sandra Silva is a member of the local chapter of the American Nazi party. And, as a 20-year-old clerk in the Police Department, she has become the unlikely focus of a citywide controversy about the rights of those who belong to unpopular organizations — like the Nazis — to rally, speak at public meetings, wear uniforms and even hold city jobs.

The stern-faced woman has become a key element in a dispute over freedom of choice and ideas that has pitted the Nazis, the American Civil Liberties Union and the Roman Catholic archdiocese, among others against prominent members of the Board of Supervisors, the Board of Education, the Jewish War Veterans, leaders of the black community and, significantly, many traditional local liberals.

There are many points of conflict, but two of the main issues are whether Miss Silva

should be forced to change jobs because her Nazi affiliation might damage what the Police Department describes as its "sensitive image," and whether Nazis should be barred from wearing their brown uniforms in public.

Quentin Kopp, a lawyer and member of the Board of Supervisors who proposed an anti-uniform ordinance, said that since wearing the uniform might be construed as "symbolic speech," banning it "may very well be a violation of the First Amendment." But, he said, "I'm inclined to take a chance because this is a very provocative situation we have here."

The city attorney later ruled that any such ordinance would be unconstitutional.

## An Interview Granted

So after months of heated controversy, it appears that Miss Silva, protected by civil service rules, the A.C.L.U. and the Nazis, will be able to keep her \$514-a-month job and that the uniform ban will not be passed.

The situation began last December when members of the Nazi party, in existence here for seven years, but rarely in public, began to attend school board meetings and speak out against integration and busing.

That led to frequent skirmishes with Jewish and black groups, and the emergence of the Nazi party received pro-

minent display on the front pages.

All this publicity, according to Matt Koehl, the 39-year-old president of the National Socialist White People's party (the official name of the Nazi party), has made San Francisco the most prominent chapter in the country. There are about 39 others, he said.

Although "official policy" forbid disclosure of the number of members anywhere, approximately 25 to 30 brown shirts invariably attend Nazi rallies here. And the one who was first publicly identified was Sandra Silva of the Police Department.

After more than a month of refusing to be interviewed, the young woman finally agreed to talk in a public restaurant, under the condition that she be accompanied by Allen Vincent, the local chapter president, and Mr. Koehl. He was in town for a rally in honor of Rudolf Hess, the Nazi war criminal.

The three arrived, with a tape recorder, and Miss Silva explained how she became a Nazi and why a complete dedication to the party has usurped, for her, any other kind of life.

Miss Silva, for example, has never had a date, never had a drink, doesn't want to get married and did not, according to an official at the Police Department, utter one word during her first eight months at work.

## Joined the Nazi Party—She's Less



The New York Times/Stephanie Maze

Sandra Silva, isolated by her own choosing

Miss Silva said she did not become a Nazi or a white supremacist, that in fact she had always been one. As a child, she said, "I didn't understand why, but I always felt this dislike for blacks. They disgusted me . . . they were always causing trouble."

Asked if any specific childhood experience or series of events aroused this hatred in her, she said no, but that she had attended a largely black elementary school where her dislike grew and grew.

Her attitudes were nurtured, she conceded, by the

atmosphere at home where her father, then a policeman, now a probation officer, and her mother, both believed in white supremacy.

But, she said, "they're wishy-washy" about it, and unlike her, not prepared "to stand up and fight for an all-white America . . . free from alien interests, minorities and Communists."

In 1964, when Miss Silva was 10, her parents left San Francisco to escape the black population and moved into a middle class white suburb south of here where she was confronted for the first time

with "Jews, liberals and comics."

It's here that she began to decide, she said, that such groups were responsible for all problems in the world — including, she said, inflation, rising population and the vanishing wilderness. Her belief in white supremacy steadily grew as she became more and more disturbed by the "garbage" that was "destroying" American society.

At school she first became fascinated with Nazi Germany and the military and grew to worship Hitler because, she said, he understood the true problems facing society.

It was with "a great sense of relief," however, that in 1971, at 17, she discovered that a neo-Nazi party existed. She joined immediately.

"Until I knew it existed, I felt all by myself," she said in her only expression of emotion during the interview. "I was glad to know there were other people like me."

Asked if her attitude toward people did not, however, still isolate her, she

said, "Yes, but I'm isolated by my own choosing."

Asked how she could reconcile her beliefs with the Nazi atrocities committed during World War II, she said it was very easy. Echoing comments made by both Mr. Vincent and Mr. Koehl, said: "I read all about the myth of the six million and it's a known fact six million Jews could not have been killed by the Nazis. That wasn't their philosophy. People seem to believe their philosophy was genocide, but it wasn't."

## Obedience to Party

Mr. Koehl, who scoffed at all suggestion of possible Nazi atrocities against the Jews, observed that the majority of the party members were now in their mid-twenties and had little or no personal recollection of World War II.

In 1972, after she had graduated from high school and went to work for the Police Department ("because there you get a better class of people . . . no blacks or

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Jews") her involvement with the party intensified.

"I stay home all the time and I don't go out at all," she said. Five nights a week, for example, she does "party work" like addressing envelopes and mailing literature in her bedroom in the white house where she lives with her parents. Saturdays she attends party meetings and Sundays she's at home.

All the time Miss Silva talked, Mr. Koehl, who never smiled, and Mr. Vincent listened intently. The tape recorder turned and nobody touched the plate of roast beef sandwiches. Mr. Koehl, who said he makes "less than \$25 a week and took over the presidency when former president George Lincoln Rockwell was slain in 1967, was excessively nervous scratching his head and twitching his mustache.

He perked up only occasionally at Miss Silva's remarks. He seemed to particularly like it when, asked what she did for "fun," Miss Silva said: "Anything to do with the Nazi party is fun."

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