J. Connolly 3/22/2022 #35

BOS COMMENTS

MARCH 22, 2022

LAST WEEK THERE WERE NO LETTERS OF SUPPORT IN THE RECORD WHEN YOU CONSIDERED LINDA GRIMOLDI'S NOMINATION TO THE COMMISSION ON AGING. THREE SPEAKERS URGED YOU TO VOTE NO, INCLUDING ME.

I READ ALL THE SUBSEQUENT LETTERS PRAISING MS. GRIMOLDI'S CARE FOR HER MOTHER, AND HER DEDICATION TO THE MARSHALL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY. I APPLAUD THOSE COMMITMENTS BUT IT DOES NOT CHANGE MY OBJECTION. I WOULD OPPOSE ANY NOMINEE WHO DID NOT DISCLOSE THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN A GROUP THAT INCLUDES NEO-NAZIS AND PROUD BOYS, AND ANY NOMINEE WHO DID NOT DISCLOSE THEY WERE A MODERATOR OF THAT GROUP. BOTH OF THOSE FACTS ABOUT LINDA ARE UNREFUTED.

YOU HAVE AN ONLINE PROFILE OF ONE OF THOSE GROUP MEMBERS, CHELSEA KNIGHT. IT INCLUDES HER FRIENDSHIP WITH PROUD BOYS MATT BINGEN AND COSMIN MERCA.

MATT BINGEN HAS JOINED THE HANGTOWN PROUD BOYS FOR MANY EVENTS,
INCLUDING MARCHING ALONGSIDE THE RECENT CHRISTMAS PARADE WITH
PATRICK KIEHL, THE LEADER OF THE HANGTOWN PROUD BOYS. PATRICK WAS AN
ORGANIZER OF THE INFAMOUS 2020 PICTURE WITH THE PROUD BOYS SANTA,

CHRIS COCKRELL. THE KIEHL FAMILY AND COCKRELL ARE BOTH MEMBERS OF LINDA'S GROUP.

COSMIN MERCA WAS IN WASHINGTON, DC IN DECEMBER, 2020 WITH SOMEONE WEARING A HANGTOWN PROUD BOYS SHIRT. YOU HAVE THOSE IMAGES. (IMAGES 1–2.) THEY MARCHED WITH A LARGE GROUP OF PROUD BOYS WHO RETURNED TO WASHINGTON IN JANUARY, 2021 TO LEAD THE ATTACK ON THE U.S. CAPITOL. COCKRELL ATTENDED A PARTY WITH COSMIN FOUR MONTHS LATER, ON MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND, AND COCKRELL HAS A DIRECT LINK TO THE CAPITOL ATTACKERS. THESE ARE THE UNDISCLOSED ASSOCIATES OF MS. GRIMOLDI, NO DOUBT FOR GOOD REASON.

CHELSEA KNIGHT AND HER HUSBAND HAVE NEO-NAZI AFFILIATIONS. HE HAS A LARGE TATTOO OF A NAZI SS SKULL AND CROSSBONES THAT COVERS THE BACK OF ONE HAND. THE SS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF MILLIONS DURING THE HOLOCAUST. AN SS DOCTOR, JOSEF MENGELE, EXPERIMENTED ON, TORTURED, AND KILLED 2,800 TWIN CHILDREN IN AUSCHWITZ. IN WASHINGTON, DC, A PROUD BOY WORE A SHIRT WITH "6MWE," MEANING SIX MILLION JEWS KILLED WEREN'T ENOUGH. YOU HAVE THAT IMAGE. (IMAGE 3.)

SUPERVISOR PARLIN, YOU HAVE TWIN BOYS. I COULD NOT STOMACH THE IDEA OF VOTING FOR ANYONE WHO HAD ANY LINK TO NAZI-ISM, INCLUDING THE TORTURE AND MURDER OF CHILDREN. YOU DIDN'T HESITATE LAST WEEK TO ASK IF THIS

NOMINATION COULD BE POSTPONED. WHY? AND WHAT DID YOU DISCUSS WITH SUPERVISOR TURNBOO SINCE?

I QUESTION HIS JUDGMENT FOR SUBMITTING THIS NOMINATION, AND YOURS EVEN MORE FOR ASKING TO SUPPORT IT. IS TODAY'S HEADLINE GOING TO SAY, "BOARD APPROVES OF NEO-NAZIS AND PROUD BOYS MODERATOR FOR COMMISSION ON AGING?" PLEASE MAKE IT INSTEAD, "BOARD VOTES NO ON NOMINEE'S UNDISCLOSED LINKS TO NEO-NAZIS AND PROUD BOYS."

LET MS. GRIMOLDI CONTINUE SERVING HER MOTHER AND THE HOSPITAL AUXILIARY, AND BE FIRM THAT YOU EXPECT NOMINEES THAT WE CAN ALL BE PROUD TO ENDORSE. THANK YOU.



IMAGE 1 – COSMIN MERCA (L); HANGTOWN PROUD BOY (R) WASHINGTON, DC – DECEMBER 12, 2020



IMAGE 2 SAME HANGTOWN PROUD BOY AND SWEATSHIRT

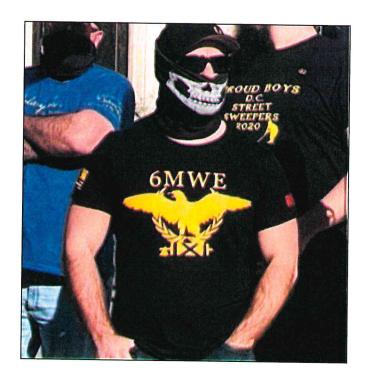


IMAGE 3
PROUD BOYS SHIRT - "6 MILLION WEREN'T ENOUGH

Borwin10

Exposed: Placer County For Trump, Chelsea Knight, and the Neo-Nazi Telegram Channel



Chelsea and Victor Knight are a married couple living in Auburn, CA. Chelsea is an admin in the facebook group "Placer County for Trump", and by her own account organizes many of the street-level right-wing rallies and car caravans in the Sacramento region. She is also a self-identified member of Asatru Folk Assembly—a white-only and white nationalist pagan religious group—while Victor is an outright mask-off neo-Nazi. Together they run a telegram channel that predominantly posts explicit neo-Nazi propaganda.

Placer County for Trump

Placer County for Trump (PCFT) is a facebook group with over 4,400 members, as of May 2021. Admins from the group have also organized a series of offline events, including rallies and car caravans, under the Placer County for Trump name. In addition to the facebook page, PCFT has a twitter presence and a corresponding telegram chat. The twitter account appears to simply be converted over from an old

personal account belonging to Chelsea Knight, using her name as the handle and featuring personal posts further back on the timeline. Both Chelsea and Victor are admins in the Telegram chat.

The PCFT facebook features much of what you'd expect from a pro-trump facebook group. It is littered with standard-fare MAGA conspiracy theories about election-rigging, covid-denialism, and immigration fear-mongering. As you would also expect, it is a place where doomed local republican candidates post their campaign updates, MAGA merchants hawk their wares, and street-level events are organized. Chelsea Knight is the primary organizer and promoter of these events in the group, and in many cases has identified herself, specifically, as the organizer.



Chelsea Knight

February 13 at 12:49 PM · Facebook for Android · 🔠

Fakebook took down my other profile and the event on Monday. Here is details.



Chelsea indicates that an older profile of hers has been taken down by Facebook

Chelsea is one of 7 admins in the PCFT facebook group. Her account is the most recently added as an admin though this appears to be due to an older account of hers being banned. As far as her resumé as a street-level event organizer, the first mention I can find of her having organized an event is from July 19, 2020, when multiple local news outlets interviewed her (then under her maiden name, Chelsea Adams) over a "Protest Against Extreme Closures" rally she held at the state capitol. Her own posts on social media claim the first rally she organized was on August 8, 2020. Local outlets also credit PCFT as having organized a caravan celebrating then-president Donald Trump's brief 9/14/20 visit to McClellan Park in North Highlands. Notably, two vehicles were caught on video driving into counter-demonstrators at that event. Chelsea's public Venmo transactions also show that she sent or received money for expenses related to rallies on 9/5/20 and 10/17/20 during this span.

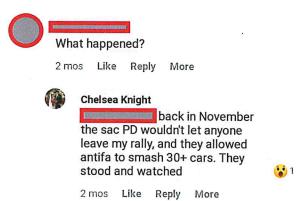
The volume of Pro-Trump events organized by PCFT and others increased dramatically in the weeks following the presidential election, through the capitol raid on January 6,

2021. The first noteworthy event was one organized by a different group, Freedom Angels, and took place on the West side of the California Capitol building, on November 7. The timing of the event coincided with the day that major outlets declared the election for Biden. This event brought several Proud Boys out in colors as security. The Proud Boys would be a fixture at what would become weekly violent rallies outside the California Capitol.

For Trump 2020 @CJKnight27 ganize the caravans. Don't go c yes we stand by the @ProudBo he right person.







Left: A posts from the PCFT twitter account with Chelsea's name indicates that she organizes the caravans (https://archive.is/eTuTo)

Right: Chelsea refers to the 12/5/20 rally as "my rally"

At first, it appears that PCFT's events operated in parallel to, but independently from, the rallies. Freedom Angels organized the first two rallies, while PCFT organized "Trump Train" caravans encircling the capitol on 11/21, 11/28, and 11/5. In a tweet responding the Sacramento Antifa twitter account's citing a promotional flyer that gave a MAGA merchant's email as the contact email for an event, the PCFT twitter account (which uses Chelsea's name as a handle) claimed, "I organize the caravans". In the same tweet, the account affirmed its support of the Proud Boys. In the comments of one of her facebook posts, Chelsea writes, "back in November the Sac PD wouldn't let anyone leave my rally, and they allowed antifa to smash 30+ cars". Although she said "November", it's clear from context that the rally she was referring to as 'hers' was the 12/5 rally at the CA capitol, where several parked vehicles were damaged by counters.

























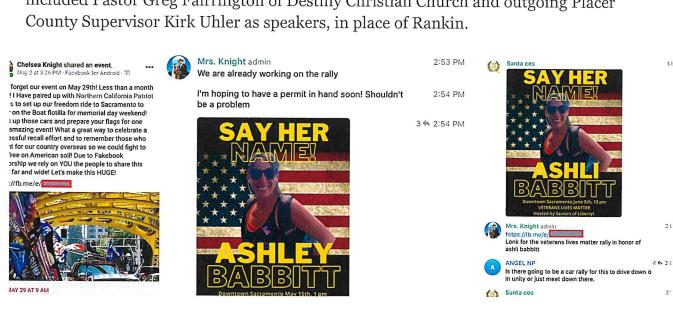






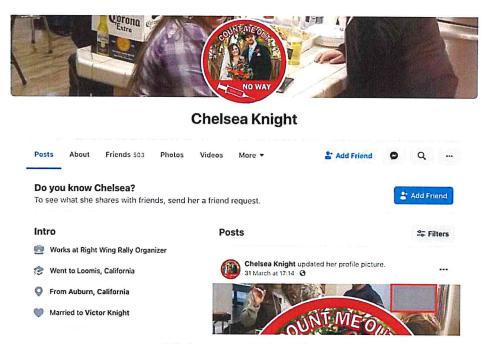
Left: Version of the flyer posted 1/4/21 by the PCFT Twitter account (https://archive.is/6QVSc)
Right: The version posted 1/3/21 by Placer County Republican Party Facebook account
(https://archive.is/mcPr0)

On January 6th, 2021, the same day that the right-wing crowd in DC raided the US capitol, Chelsea held her own "Wild Protest" outside the California Capitol building in Sacramento. In this case, the poster itself listed the event as "hosted/organized by Chelsea K", and the email address given was placercountyfortrump2020@gmail.com. The flyer, posted on the PCFT Twitter account, advertises that "Recall Newsom Reps will be speaking and petitions will be circulating. COME ADD YOUR SIGNATURE". Featured speakers at the event included failed congressional candidates Chris Bish and Buzz Patterson, Gubernatorial hopefuls Diego Martinez and Mike Grover Coltharp, as well as Corrin Rankin, Roxie Rice, and Craig Deluz. Video shows that Peter Kuo, vicechair of the CA GOP, also took stage to perform "God Bless America" on his violin. The Placer County Republic Party facebook page also promoted this event, saying "Join us if you can". That flyer, posted a day before PCFT's, was similar to PCFTs, though it included Pastor Greg Fairrington of Destiny Christian Church and outgoing Placer County Supervisor Kirk Uhler as speakers, in place of Rankin.



Chelsea is involved in the organization of at least two upcoming events in the Sacramento region: A car caravan and boat parade on the Sacramento River in late May, and a "Veteran Lives Matter" event in early June. The latter event she is co-organizing with the Sacramento and State of Jefferson Proud Boys chapters, though they have taken their names off the flyers in recent iterations. Despite this, their involvement in organizing is clear, as Proud Boy Cosmin Merca (posting under the name Santa cos – More on him coming soon) posted the updated flyer to the Placer County For Trump Telegram group and then fielded questions about whether there will be a caravan.

Chelsea Knight



A screen capture of Chelsea's Facebook profile, circa April 10, 2021

On her facebook profile, Chelsea listed her job as "Right Wing Rally Organizer". Her posts, however, reveal that she works at Lake of the Pines, a gated community centered around a country club and reservoir near Auburn, CA.



My work is looking for experienced Cooks, anyone need a job?







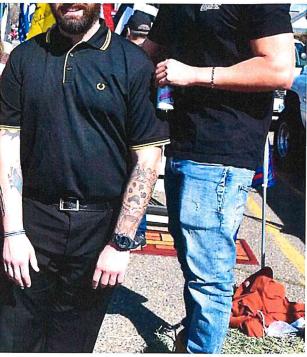
1 mo Like Reply More

Photos show that Chelsea keeps close relationships with several members of the Proud Boys. One photo from her wedding set shows her posing in her wedding dress alongside a Proud Boy, identifiable by his distinctive arm tattoo. Other photos show her posing with Proud Boy Cosmin Merca. Her discussion about employment at her workplace, above, is with Matt Bingen, another area Proud Boy. Both the 12/5 and 1/6 events that Chelsea organized have also had significant Proud Boy presence.







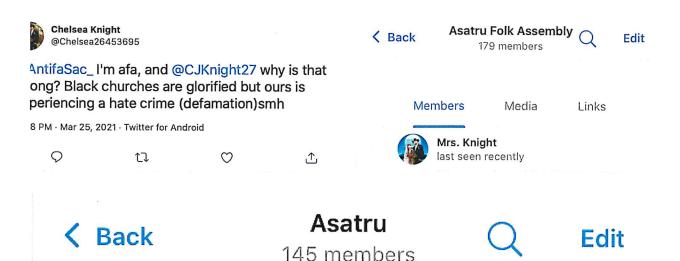


Left: Chelsea poses for a wedding photo with a man who has a distinctive arm tattoo.

Right: The same man, in a proud Boy uniform, at a "MAGA Wedding" in March 2021, alongside Proud Boy Richard

Merca

Chelsea is also a follower of Asatru Folk Assembly, a white-only, white nationalist norse pagan religious organization. In one post, apparently responding to a post made earlier the same day by the Sacramento Antifa twitter account about Asatru Folk Assembly, Chelsea states "I'm afa, and [...] why is that wrong?". The personal account that Chelsea posted that from also follows the Asatru Folk Assembly official twitter account. On telegram, Chelsea's account can be found in the rarely active Asatru Folk Assembly chat group, as well as a different Asatru chat group in which conversation frequently veers into white nationalism.



Members Media Files Links Music



Left: From her personal twitter, Chelsea proclaims herself to be a member of AFA (https://archive.is/sMAZR)
Center: Chelsea's telegram account is listed as a member of the Asatru Folk Assembly chat
Right: Chelsea's Telegram account is listed as a member of an Asatru chat.

While the term "Asatru" is a general name for the modern religious practice of Northern European pagan tradition, Asatru Folk Assembly is a specific branch, which falls into the "Folkish" subset. In this context, "Folkish" means white-only, and ties back into the Volkisch movement, a 19th century German Nationalist movement that formed much of the idealogical underpinning of Hitler's National Socialism. AFA's founder, Stephen McNallen, has become increasingly outward in his support of explicit white nationalism, including his espousal of the "14 words" white power slogan (more on this later) in a video published on his youtube channel.

For more details on Asatru Folk Assembly, see <u>here</u>. Antifa Sacramento also documented explicitly neo-nazi members of AFA in the sacramento area <u>here</u>.

Victor Knight



From left to right: Chelsea Knight, Victor Knight, Cosmin Merca, and Alin Suiugan

Victor has a more limited online presence. In posts on both facebook and instagram, Chelsea notes that victor doesn't have an account there, citing the vague reason of "guilt by association". As I will detail below in the section on the shared Telegram channel, this is because Victor was banned from both Facebook and Instagram for racist posts in November of 2020. Victor also seems to have been proactive in removing himself from data brokers. Both in his online and physical presence, though, he is an avowed neonazi.

Photos of Victor on other users' social media accounts show that he has tattoos on both arms. In particular, on Victor's right hand is a tattoo of a the Nazi SS totenkopf. This particular rendition of a skull and crossbones was designed under the Third Reich, and used by several divisions of the nazi military, including the SS-Totenkopfverbände, the division in charge of administering the execution camps during the holocaust.



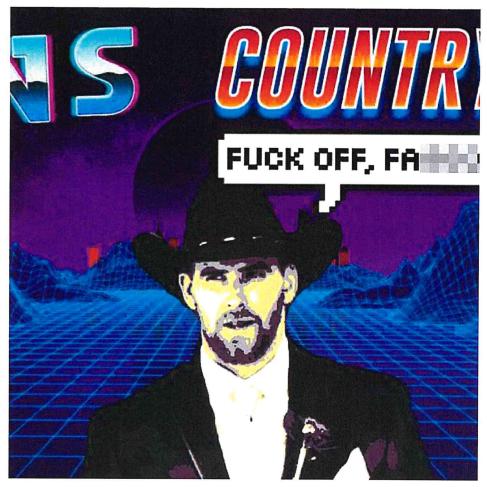




Left: Wedding photos show a closeup on Victor's hand tattoos Right: A Totenkopf hat pin from a Nazi SS uniform.

Since the end of World War II, the nazi totenkopf has become widely used by avowed neo-nazis as a signal to others in their group that doesn't raise nearly as much suspicion as something like a swastika might. His tattoo also features oak leaves behind the totenkopf. It's not entirely clear what significance this has but it may be a reference to the oak leaves used alongside the totenkopf in certain nazi medals of achievement. The runes across his fingers transliterate to "Folk"

On Telegram, Victor uses the handle "Victorious14Knight88". The 14 and 88 are part of a well-known neo-nazi signal, with "14" referring to the "14 words" white power slogan coined by David Lane, and "88" using a simple number-letter substitution to abbreviate "Heil Hitler" (H being the 8th letter of the alphabet). This is one of many instances where Victor uses the "14/88" or some variation thereof in his usernames. Other instances include the channel he runs with Chelsea (see below), and his Venmo username. Lane's 14 words are a common white power slogan. In brief, Lane was a member of a neo-nazi gang called The Order. The Order was modeled after the fictional group of the same name in The Turner Diaries, whose goal was to use a nuclear attack in furtherance of a race war and the creation of a white-only ethnostate. The real life Order was involved in a string of bank robberies and murdered Alan Berg, a jewish radio figure. Lane himself died in prison for his role in the murder and other crimes committed by The Order.



Victor's Telegram avatar (Slur redacted, crop preserved from source)

Victor's telegram is easily identified as his own because of the play on his own name, but also because he uses a modified version of his own wedding photo as his display image. Although it' partially cropped off in the display image, it also features a speech bubble containing the words "Fuck off Fa***t". I was also able to find Victor's account as a member of at least one prominent, explicitly neo-nazi telegram group, whose name I will withhold to avoid platforming them.







Left: Victor's Twitter profile Right: The profile picture

On Twitter, Chelsea's personal account is the sole follower of an account with the display name "Victorious the White", and the user handle "victor", followed by a string of numbers. This account also follows Chelsea back, one of only 10 followers she has on that account. The display photo features a stylistically obscured shirtless man flexing his biceps. Although the doubling effect on the photo makes it difficult to make out details, the tattoos on the biceps and elbow are consistent with tattoos on Victor. The overall tattoo distribution is also consistent, with his right arm having several down its length, while his left arm is bare aside from the totenkopf on his hand. The description of the account says "NS, Father, Husband". "NS" is a common shortening of "National Socialism". The more common shortening is, of course, "Nazi".

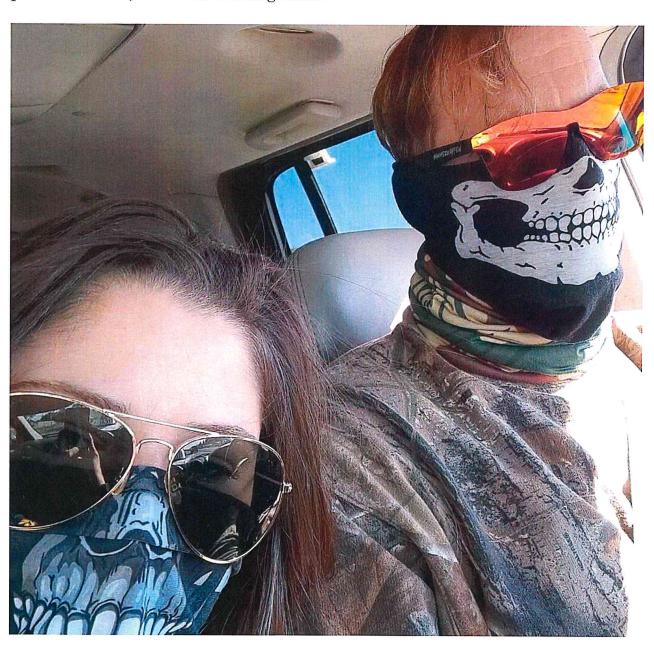


Victor refers to another user being a "Jew Journalist"

This account, which was unlocked during my research process, mostly just retweets content from the kind of sanitized white nationalist accounts that are not quite bad

enough to catch a ban from Twitter. On several occasions though, it makes explicit antisemitic comments. On one occasion, it took part in a string of posts intending to spell out the N-word with single-letter posts (this did not reach completion, ending with "E")

Though aesthetics alone are not damning, it's worth noting that Chelsea and victor both utilize "Fashwave" aesthetics and other common white nationalist tropes in various images on their online profiles. Victor and Chelsea both use "Fashwave" aesthetics in their respective online presences. Chelsea uses a wedding photo of the couple, superimposed over a retro-style CG wireframe backdrop. Both of their eyes have the glowing effect that has become a trope among the alt-right. Victor Uses a similar aesthetic in his telegram picture, with a colorful wireframe backdrop and a posterized photo of himself, also in his wedding outfit.

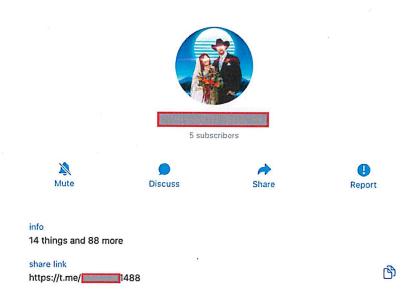




Chelsea and Victor Knight in a photo posted to Chelsea's Instagram account. Victor wears "Hammerwaffen" sunglasses, purchased from a neo-Nazi telegram channel.

The visual aesthetic carries over into the physical world as well. In a photo Chelsea posted to her instagram, she and Victor are in the front seats of a car, both wearing skull masks. Victor's in particular is the specific style associated with Atomwaffen Division propaganda. Victor also wears a pair of sunglasses sold as merch by a nazi telegram channel, as mentioned in **this article**. On the side, the text appears to say "Hammerwaffen", an allusion to both atomwaffen and the use of "waffen" in various german military units. "Hammer" alludes to the name of the neo-nazi telegram channel that sold them. On the front of the glasses, a small double sig rune is visible another nod to the Nazi SS, who used the double sig as their logo. Victor can be seen in other photos wearing the same sunglasses at public events.

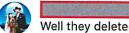
The Shared Telegram Channel



The name and handle of the URL have been redacted, but the "14/88" motif repeats

Together, Chelsea and Victor Knight run a telegram channel that is primarily used to post explicit neo-nazi propaganda. For the sake of limiting the spread of propaganda, I will not be sharing the full name of the channel, but it references both Chelsea and Victor's names, and both the description and share link reference the "1488" neo-nazi signal. Both Chelsea and Victor's accounts have made posts to the channel, including unmasked photos of Chelsea's face at her January 6th rally. The channel only has 5 subscribers at the time of writing. Telegram does not allow users to see a full list of

channel subscribers as it does with chat participants, but by looking through comments on the chat's posts, we can see one (which uses the N-word) by local Proud Boy Cosmin Merca.



12 @ 4:28 PM

Well they deleted my Facebook and Instagram even though I almost never post anything remotely racist. Just pictures of my family mainly. Oh well. Time to be racist.

Channel photo updated



A post from Victor's firs day after creating the channel

Originally, it looks like the channel was created by Victor for his own use. On November 20, 2020, he created the channel and posted the message "Well they deleted my Facebook and Instagram even though I almost never post anything remotely racist. Just pictures of my family mainly. Oh well. Time to be racist.", along with several memes. From the bat, the context he posted there included explicit neo-nazi images.



10 © 4:45 PM



10 © 4:45 PM

Two early posts to the shared channel, dated 12/3/2020

In one from his first day posting, what looks like a CGI soldier in a gas mask holds a revolver. On the soldier's revolver, text reads "white identity", while on his hand is "14/88". Superimposed over the image is the text "Jews don't fear an election". Another

post from this batch features a quote from American Nazi Party founder George Lincoln Rockwell. A few weeks later, on December 3rd, he would repost the same images with photos of a skull-masked face, wearing his same "Hammerwaffen" glasses, fuperimposed over the faces. The next day, he reposted posts from openly neo-nazi channels "The Hammer" and "Esoteric National Socialism". He continued in this way until January 15th, with posts of hitler quotes and reading lists featuring Mein Kampf and The Turner Diaries being normal content on the channel. On January 8, two days after the raid on the capitol, he shared a reposted "Introduction to Guerrilla Warfare", which links to guides on fitness, weapons training, and land navigation.



On 1/15/21, the channel avatar changes to a picture of both the Knights. Chelsea is added as an admin of the channel, and co-runs it from this point on.

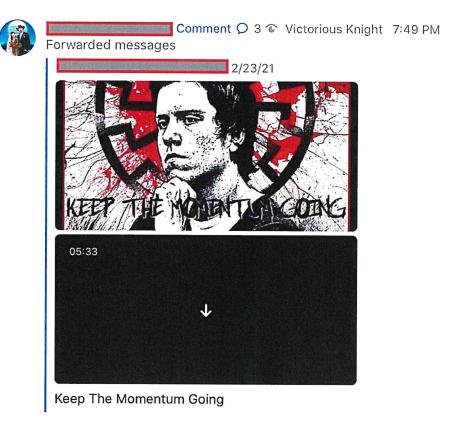
On January 15, the channel was renamed to it's current name, reflecting Chelsea's involvement. The channel picture was also changed from one of just Victor to the current image of the pair of them. Chelsea also made her first posts to the channel on this day. While he posts were markedly more "normie" than Victor's neo-nazi posts—she posted two memes about standard conservative grievance causes—this didn't cause Victor to temper his own white supremacist posting. The very next day, just after Chelsea posted photos of herself from her January 6 rally in Sacramento, Victor posted explicitly antisemitic content and a video entitled "Adolf Hitler was Right"



On her second day co-running the channel, Chelsea posts photos from her 1/6/21 event.

From this point on, the channel is still primarily devoted to Victor's neo-nazi posts. There are hundreds of them: Holocaust denial propaganda. A fashwave-style image with the text "Defend the West: They will not stop at Rhodesia". A black and white photo of

the Poway Synagog shooter, superimposed over a blood-spattered sonnenrad with overlaid text reading "Keep the momentum going". Most of the posts continue along the same lines.



Victor shares a post celebrating and advocating for the murder of Jews

Though it is still mostly Victor posting, Chelsea would from time to time repost memes of her own or comment on victor's posts noddingly. In one comment thread from 2/28/21, on a video of a black debate student using the word "ni**a" in a debate, Proud Boy Cosmin Merca comments, "What more do i have to say fucking ni**ers lol". "Damn they used that word like 100 times for an "intellectual debate"???, responds Chelsea. In another comment thread, started on 3/10/21, Victor posts to the channel "America is the new South Africa". The next day, Chelsea responds, "That's what I've been saying! Except the blacks here don't even realize how good they have it. They aren't cooking pigs feet over a trash can and selling them to tourists to support their families".

Conclusions

While at first, the Placer County for Trump group may present as simply a group representing Conservatives and their views, it is important to take stock of what the organizers believe and what they align themselves with. In this case, PCFT chooses to align itself with the Proud Boys, a group whose own anti-racist claims are undermined by its member's use of racial slurs and membership in a neo-Nazi telegram channel.

More to the point, PCFT is run by people who espouse, or accept, genocidal neo-Nazi beliefs. There can be no middle ground on this.

Although Chelsea herself did not post most of the most egregious content in the shared Telegram channel, it is a broadcast platform that she co-runs with Victor, and posts are made in her name, which is featured as one half of the channel's name. One cannot dodge responsibility for this. Chelsea operates with full knowledge of the viewpoints Victor holds and spreads on the internet, and she lends her own name to them. She is morally responsible for the content of her channel, and with the institutional power she holds by virtue of her place as a local organizer with access to the state and local Republican Parties, she is a threat to the community.

A list of public figures who are tied to Chelsea through her events or social media:

- 1. Peter Kuo, Vice-president, CA GOP
- 2. Scott Presler, Republican personality
- 3. Kevin Kiley, California State Assembly, 6th District
- 4. Jorge Riley, disgraced(?) former President of Sacramento Republican Assembly
- 5. Mike Grover Coltharp, CA gubernatorial candidate
- 6. Diego Martinez, CA gubernatorial candidate
- 7. Buzz Patterson, failed congressional candidate
- 8. Chris Bish, future twice-failed congressional candidate
- 9. Craig Deluz
- 10. Pastor Fairrington, Destiny Christian Church in Rocklin, CA
- 11. Kirk Uhler, retired Placer County Supervisor
- 12. Matthew Oliver, House of Oliver restaurant and The Family Church, Rocklin

0	borwin10	May 26.	2021	Uncategorized
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