I was unable to post this message to a specific correspondent on my Facebook page because the reference links to Proud Boys postings were blocked by the anti-hate-speech Facebook algorithms.

#antibigotrymk (facts) [This series of posts and comments is aimed at a correspondent who rejects the SPLC's classification of "Proud Boys" as a racist hate group. I will not tolerate postings defending these creeps or trying to divert attention using classic whataboutism to discussions of "antifa," If you want to discuss how horrible "antifa" is, post your comments on your own page, not mine.]

## From the article:

>Established in the midst of the 2016 presidential election by VICE Media co-founder Gavin McInnes, the Proud Boys are self-described "western chauvinists" who adamantly deny any connection to the racist "alt-right," insisting they are simply a fraternal group spreading an "anti-political correctness" and "anti-white guilt" agenda.

Their disavowals of bigotry are belied by their actions: rank-and-file Proud Boys and leaders regularly spout white nationalist memes and maintain affiliations with known extremists. They are known for anti-Muslim and misogynistic rhetoric. Proud Boys have appeared alongside other hate groups at extremist gatherings like the "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville. Indeed, former Proud Boys member Jason Kessler helped to organize the event, which brought together Klansmen, antisemites, Southern racists, and militias. Kessler was only "expelled" from the group after the violence and near-universal condemnation of the Charlottesville rally-goers.

Other hardcore members of the so-called "alt-right" have argued that the "western chauvinist" label is just a "PR c--term" McInnes crafted to gain mainstream acceptance. "Let's not bullshit," Brian Brathovd, aka Caeralus Rex, told his co-hosts on the antisemitic The Daily Shoah — one of the most popular alt-right podcasts. If the Proud Boys "were pressed on the issue, I guarantee you that like 90% of them would tell you something along the lines of 'Hitler was right. Gas the Jews."

McInnes himself has ties to the racist right and has contributed to hate sites like VDare.com and American Renaissance, both of which publish the work of white supremacists and so-called "race realists." He even used Taki's Magazine — a far-right publication whose contributors include Richard Spencer and Jared Taylor — to announce the founding of the Proud Boys. McInnes plays a duplications rhetorical game: rejecting white nationalism and, in particular, the term "alt-right" while espousing some of its central tenets. For example, McInnes has himself said it is fair to call him Islamophobic.

In Its Own Words

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"I am not afraid to speak out about the atrocities that whites and people of European descent face not only here in this country but in Western nations across the world. The war against whites, and Europeans and Western society is very real and it's time we all started talking about it and stopped worrying about political correctness and optics."

—Kyle Chapman, who formed the Fraternal Order of Alt-Knights, a wing of the Proud Boys, Unite America First Peace Rally, Sacramento, California, July 8, 2017

"Put something on the table! Give us a reason to accept you, because you know what? Sharia law ain't it. Raping women ain't it. Cutting off clits ain't it. Throwing gay people of roofs ain't it. You are a disgrace."

—Pawl Bazile, a production director of Proud Boys' magazine, on Muslims, March against Sharia rally, New York City, New York, June 10, 2017

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..."I love being white and I think it's something to be very proud of," he told The New York Times a year later, revealing an ideology that would later form the foundation of the Proud Boys. "I don't want our culture diluted. We need to close the borders now and let everyone assimilate to a Western, white, English-speaking way of life." McInnes also started writing for VDare.com, a white nationalist hate site. In one 2005 article, he railed against Canadian multiculturalism and lamented that Jared Taylor, the editor of the race-science newsletter American Renaissance, had not been invited to speak at the University of Ottawa. Ten years later, McInnes would welcome Taylor onto his own show, where the white nationalist spent more than an hour explaining why he believes white people are "better" than African Americans.

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...McInnes published an article titled "Transphobia is perfectly natural" that prompted his then-employer, the ad agency Rooster, to indefinitely sever ties with him. "We're all transphobic," he wrote in the Thought Catalog piece. "We see there are no old trannies. They die of drug overdoses and suicide way before they're 40 and nobody notices because nobody knows them. They are mentally ill gays who need help, and that doesn't include being maimed by physicians." McInnes has also referred to transgender people as "gender n-----" and "stupid lunatics." McInnes' repugnant rhetoric extends to women, too. He's written that "through trial and error, I learned that women want to be downright abused" by men, and, in a tweet, that "Every guy I've ever known to be involved in a 'domestic' was the result of some c--- trying to ruin his life."

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Although McInnes has attempted to distance his organization from the violence of Charlottesville, violence is firmly entrenched in Proud Boy dogma. McInnes was filmed punching a counter-protestor outside of the Deploraball in January 2017, and after a speaking engagement at New York University the next month turned violent, he wryly declared, "I cannot recommend violence enough. It's a really effective way to solve problems." In fact, in early 2017, the Proud Boys added another degree to their membership hierarchy: in order to enter the 4th degree, a member needs to "get involved in a major fight for the cause." "You get beat up, kick the crap out of an antifa," McInnes explained to Metro. Though he claimed in the interview he was ready to "get violent and beat the f--k out of everybody," he later backtracked in a Proud Boys Magazine piece, assuring the public the fraternal group was opposed to "senseless violence." "We don't start fights, we finish them," McInnes wrote.

Around the same time, Proud Boys member Kyle Chapman announced he was forming a new "tactical defense arm" of the Proud Boys — with McInnes' "full approval" — called

the Fraternal Order of Alt-Knights (FOAK). The paramilitary wing positions itself as a defensive organization formed to protect right-wing activists at political demonstrations. Chapman, who has an extensive criminal history, first gained renown within the alt-right when he was photographed hitting a counter-protestor over the head with a stick at a March 4, 2017, pro-Trump rally in Berkeley, California.

Now referring to himself as "Based Stick Man," Chapman has been making the rounds of far-right rallies around the country, doing little to create rhetorical distance between the Proud Boys and outright white nationalism. "I am not afraid to speak out about the atrocities that whites and people of European descent face not only here in this country," he told a crowd at the July Unite America First Peace Rally in Sacramento, "but in Western nations across the world. The war against whites and Europeans and Western society is very real." It's an idea he brings up over and over again. "Whites are being discriminated against en masse," he told a reporter at The Atlantic. On social media, he's used the tags #ItsOkayToBeWhite and #WhiteGenocide — both of which originated in white nationalist web forums.

## READ THE F\*\*\*KING REPORT FROM THE SPLC ABOUT THE PROUD BOYS.

And don't EVER post defense of any f\*\*\*king fascist bigots on MY PAGE.

