

Cultist pleads 'not guilty'

The leader of a Eugene religious commune pleaded innocent to a third-degree sodomy charge Wednesday, saying the state is trying to accuse him of the same "atrocious and notorious" act that brought fire and brimstone down on the biblical cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

"This is an unrighteous charge," Thomas Brown, 42, told Judge Frank Alderson in an arraignment hearing at the Lane County District Court.

Brown was formally charged with sodomy and sexual abuse involving a teenage girl Monday after a Friday raid by state officials removed 12 children from two Christ Brotherhood houses.

According to Eugene police and an investigative report from the Children's Services Division, the charges are based on interviews with the children taken into custody.

There also are allegations of other sex crimes committed by Brown in connection with the group of about 50 men, women and children, but no other formal criminal charges have been filed against Brown.

In the arraignment, Brown refused a court-appointed attorney, and refused to answer ques-

tions about whether he wanted a preliminary hearing before a trial.

"Do you want a preliminary hearing?" Alderson repeatedly asked Brown.

"That's not for me to decide," Brown told the judge. "Whatever is ordained by God . . ."

"That's not for me or him to say at this point," Alderson said. "It's for you to say."

A hearing was set for Oct. 28. The hearing will be cancelled if a Lane County Grand Jury investigation returns an indictment before that date.

After the arraignment, as Brown was surrounded by about 20 members of religious groups and an array of cameras and tape recorders, he said "it would be an honor" for him to go to jail, but "I have no interest in becoming a martyr."

Brown said he and the Christ Brotherhood, also known as the Messianic Brotherhood, moved to Eugene six months ago because it is the "mellowest and most pleasant" place for the group's counter-culture emphasis.

"Lane County is filled with people who are concerned with nature, goodness and friendship," he said.

Call boxes open lines to security

Four call boxes, designed to give members of the University community a prompt and efficient way to report emergencies, have been added to the University's call box system.

The four new call boxes, together with eight existing emergency phones and six more to be installed by the end of 1981, will allow more widespread coverage of the University grounds by campus security officers, according to Oakley Glenn, public safety director.

Placed on fire alarm posts, the call boxes provide immediate voice contact with the campus security dispatcher once the button is pressed and released. When the phone is activated, the caller's voice is audible up to a distance of 10 feet.

The call box system is intended for emergencies such as injury accidents, fires, vandalism and threats of violence. The phones are in service 24 hours a day.

The new phones are located in the residence hall areas of Bean, Walton and Carson complexes and just south of the EMU. Call box locations are noted on all campus maps by the symbol of a telephone receiver superimposed on a police badge.



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