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Opinion

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Southeast Cross Burnings Condemned

Ecumenical Ministries Stands Against Hate in All Communities

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, a statewide association of 17 Christian denominations working together for unity and justice, condemns the hate crime of burning crosses in southeast Portland neighborhoods.

"The cross burning and other recent incidents in Eastmoreland

Park, Brentwood Park, and near a Jewish cemetery on Southeast 67th Ave., as well as swastikas painted at Lane School, a neighborhood stop sign, the Korean Church on Southeast Duke, and an individual's home, strengthens our collective need to stand against hate in all communities throughout the state of

Oregon," said EMO executive director David A. Leslie.

"We cannot ignore nor dismiss these types of action as aberrations, but must understand it as systemic attempt to harass and intimidate Jews and other ethnic minorities, as well as all who are committed to peace and justice.

"Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and our member denominations stand firm in our opposition to hate movements and commitment to healthy communities completes with religious and cultural diversity.

"We urge all religious and community leaders to educate

their congregation and constituents as to the seriousness of these actions, and to boldly declare their opposition to the hate movements prevalent in the Northwest."

For more information, contact David Leslie at 503-221-1054.

Aryan Nations' Compound Transformed Into Human Rights Education Center

(AP)—COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho—An Internet millionaire has paid \$250,000 for the Aryan Nations' former compound in northern Idaho and plans to turn it into an educational center for human rights issues. Greg Carr, founder and former chairman of the Internet service Prodigy, bought the 20-acre compound near Hayden Lake from a mother and son who were awarded it after winning a lawsuit against the white separatist group. "The days of the Aryan Nations using this facility as a national headquarters for promoting religious- and race-based hatred and violence are over," Carr said in a statement issued by The Carr Foundation.

Victoria Keenan and her son, Jason, were chased, shot at and terrorized by Aryan Nations security guards in 1998.

Last year, they won a \$6.3 million lawsuit against Aryan Nations founder Richard Butler and his organization, bankrupting the group.

The Keenans obtained the title to the property last month at a bankruptcy court auction and announced their wish to sell it to a group promoting human rights. The compound contains numerous buildings, including Butler's home, a bunkhouse, a guard tower and the chapel of Butler's church.

Carr said Butler's church will be turned into a museum displaying "the artifacts of hatred left behind by the Aryan Nations." The remaining buildings will be razed and replaced with a classroom featuring the history and message of the human rights movement. Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne

said transforming the compound into a human rights center "continues to send the clearest of signals of what Idaho is truly about." Carr, a 41-year-old Idaho native, paid for the property from his personal foundation at Harvard University. In 1999, Carr pledged \$500,000 to the Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial in Boise and last summer donated another \$500,000 to the Idaho Human Rights Education Center. "Courageous people in northern Idaho have protested against Butler's message for 20 years," Carr said.

Butler remains in the area. Vincent Bertolini, a former Silicon Valley millionaire investor and one of Butler's biggest supporters, bought a small bungalow for Butler not far from the old compound.

Sheriff Won't Run; Criticizes Stein

The following statement was issued Monday by Multnomah County Sheriff Dan Noelle:

After much consideration, I have decided that I will not enter the race for Chair of The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners. I believe that it is more important for me to remain committed to the sheriff's office and finding solutions to the serious problems the county faces.

At this time, I am deeply frustrated with the failure of Chair Bev Stein's administration to deal with some very serious problems.

Chair Stein has failed to provide

leadership within Multnomah County, especially in the areas of mental health and alcohol and drug treatment. Chair Stein has failed to provide responsible budget oversight, creating the current fiscal crisis within the county.

Chair Stein has failed to provide fundamental leadership dealing with the infrastructure needs of the county, resulting in a lack of direction and large cost overruns. Chair Stein has lost sight of Multnomah County's core services. It is my hope that the candidates who do file for the position of chair spend the next few weeks describing how they will deal with these

important issues. We need someone who can step into this leadership void and help us succeed in correcting these problems. Many, in our community, are aware of the service requirements that are not being met. I hasten to add that many capable people remain in the county and continue to try to do the right thing. We have solid commissioners, who are as committed as I am in dealing with the financial problems we now encounter.

There are several more things I feel I can contribute from the position of sheriff I am committed to stay and continue to make a difference.

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