

SWASTIKAS Trail Hate

continued ▲ from Front

This isn't the first time the church has been targeted. On Easter Sunday 2005 the House of Prayer discovered their lawn littered with plastic eggs containing racist messages. Three months ago, the church had four swastikas painted on their door and a few weeks ago it was burglarized of their musical equipment.

"Every other month something has been happening," Janice Bradley said. "It started with beer cans thrown at the church."

Bradley and her husband moved to Longview from Olympia four and a half years ago to help Bishop Jackson, who is 95. She said she was aware there are skinheads living in Longview, although she's not certain she has seen any.

Detective Sgt. Jim Dufcha of the Longview Police Department said the city's had few complaints of racist vandalism.

"It's cropped up one or two other times in the past three or four years, but we don't have a problem," he said.

The city has worked swiftly to remove all the graffiti, and commu-

nity members have stepped forward to offer words of encouragement and donations, including the manager of Longview's Sherwin-Williams, Jerry Johnson, who attended the House of Prayer 20 years ago and donated paint for the church's facelift.

House of Prayer faces Victoria Freeman Park, named for a black civil rights pioneer who fought to integrate Longview's schools. A colorful sign at the corner of the park is blotted with white paint where swastikas were tagged. On the opposite side, in the middle of the basketball court, a large spray painted swastika is now a hopscotch square.

"I told the city to turn it into a hopscotch for my girls," said Pastor Bradley, who didn't need to explain to his daughters what the swastika stood for.

"This is the kind of graffiti even kids don't like," he said.

The vandals' spray paint continued down the street where the Market Place grocery recently reopened. Bradley said residents asked the market to hire more people of color, and they did.

"They marked everywhere our kids go", Bradley noted.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Jesse Neal puts final touches of new paint on the House of Prayer's windowsills. Racist graffiti forced the church to get a facelift, he said. Longview Sherwin-Williams donated the paint.

Longview police had no solid evidence to work from as of Tuesday, according to Dufcha.

"We're trying to run down a few

names and we've talked to a 16-year-old boy that admits to graffiti from four months ago," he said.

The FBI is monitoring the inci-

dents, but will only get involved if there is evidence of federal civil rights violations or domestic terrorism allegations. Meanwhile, resi-

dents are interested in holding a town meeting and Bradley said the church would like to form a neighborhood watch group.

A Different Kind of Gentrification

continued ▲ from Front

Affordable condominiums are built in a revitalized Lents Neighborhood. The housing along with emerging businesses is making the southeast Portland neighborhood attractive to a diverse population from ethnic Russians to African Americans.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

nian bakery/restaurant/night club will bring around 60 jobs to the area. PDC provided Ararat a storefront grant, enabling the booming company to better distribute its bread across several western states and host a nightlife crowd already centered in the east Portland area.

"People in Lents have been begging for new restaurant," Miller Dowell said.

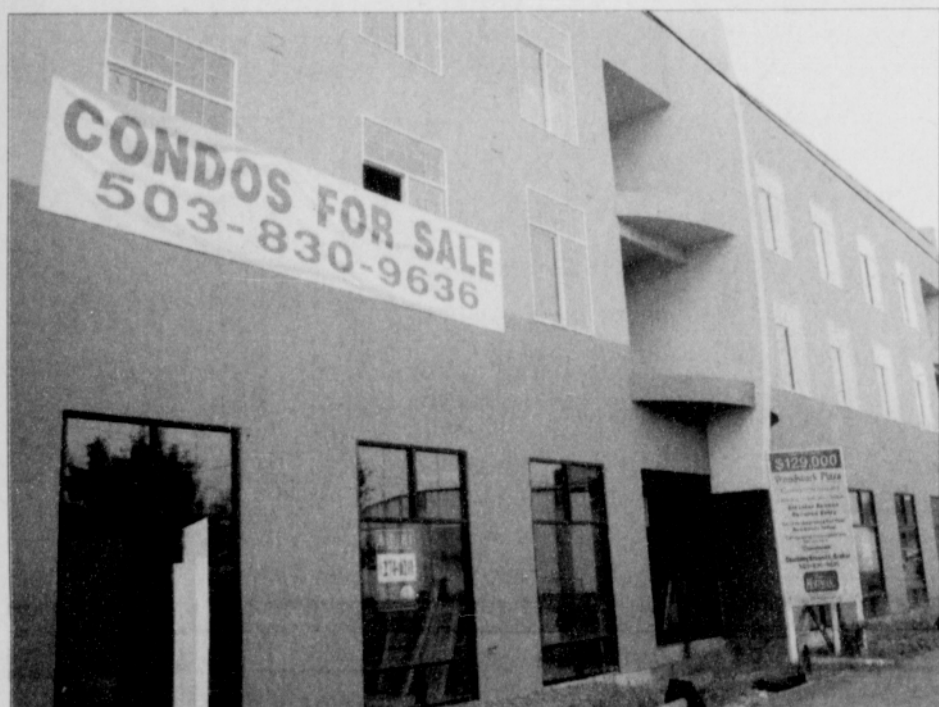
The ethnic diversity of Lents is far from limited to residents of Eastern European decent, with a renaissance that has nurtured ethnic groups through programs geared, but not restricted to, minority communities. This includes Asian American, Hispanic, Native American, African American and Latino home-buying fairs held in

or around Lents.

It was a busy and diverse summer in the neighborhood, with the Lents Community Market hosting a series of three multicultural festivals featuring food, music and dance. The cultural festival was meant to engage all segments of the Lents community and foster cultural interaction.

The dramatic changes in Lents' cultural population may best be illustrated through Portland's first ever international farmer's market, where nearly half of the participating farmers were immigrants.

Established by the non-profit Lents Food Group next to Crossroads Plaza at Southeast 92nd Avenue and Foster Road, the summer market recently wrapped up its first season, but may become a weekly event next year, as more immigrant vendors participate.



PROJECT NO: 95,218

HOT. SWEATY. REWARDING.

They don't do it for the money. They don't do it for the fame. It is a hard job. It's dirty and sweaty and the hours are crazy. But they get to make a difference. They come into people's lives when something has gone wrong and they do as much as they can to make it better. On a day to day basis they have no idea what kinds of situations will arise, what they'll be called to handle.

The fire fighters of Redmond's Station #1 are constantly training for emergencies they hope will never happen. A state of the art training facility built with Lottery profits helps them do it. The 3-story, smoke proof, water proof, brick and concrete tower allows central Oregon fire fighters to practice just about every kind of high risk maneuver they can imagine. Because when stakes are high - when people's lives are on the line - you don't want to leave anything to chance.

Support for the services that help keep Oregonians safe is just one of the ways Oregon wins when Oregonians play. Lottery profits also go to economic development, education and watershed enhancement across the state.

itdoesgoodthings.org



It does good things

