

HATE LITERATURE FOUND IN NAPERVILLE

Chicago Tribune - August 17, 1999

Author: John Chase, Tribune Staff Writer.

Police in Naperville on Monday were looking into whether any laws were broken over the weekend when someone distributed literature from the East Peoria-based hate group the World Church of the Creator.

Wrapped in orange plastic bags, a 32-page booklet titled "Facts that the Government and the Media Don't Want You to Know" appeared on hundreds of residents' lawns, doorsteps and driveways Sunday morning.

Residents in the Naperville subdivisions of Hobson West, Highlands, East Highlands, Springhill, Yorkshire Manor and Old Naperville called police just after 8 a.m. Sunday to report that the booklets were on their property.

"Some people wanted us to pick up the material," Naperville Sgt. David Hoffman said. "They were upset by it."

The stapled pamphlet, which police said looks like a tax booklet, espouses the racial views of the group, which is run by Matthew Hale . Benjamin Smith, the gunman who went on a shooting rampage over the July 4 weekend that left two people dead and nine injured, was a member of the organization. Following the spree, Smith killed himself.

Investigators with Naperville police were looking into whether the act of distributing the literature was illegal, Hoffman said.

"It could be a littering violation; we're not sure," he said. "As distasteful as the material may be, we're not sure how illegal it was. . . . There are 1st Amendment protections."

The incident comes about one month after Hale said he would be distributing such literature in Chicago and the suburbs for the next two years.

The same booklet has been spotted in Highland Park, Deerfield, Grayslake, Waukegan, Berwyn, Northbrook, Oak Park, Palatine, Rolling Meadows and Schaumburg.

In Berwyn, charges were filed against a local 27-year-old man accused of distributing literature without a permit. The charges were later dropped.

Edition: WEST FINAL

Section: TRIB WEST

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Index Terms: GROUP ; DISCRIMINATION ; MINORITY ; MEDIA ; SUBURB ; REACTION

Record Number: CTR9908170152

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