

## NU TELLS HALE: STOP SPREADING PAMPHLETS - GROUP BLANKETS CAMPUS WITH RACIST LITERATURE

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Two days after members of the World Church of the Creator distributed hundreds of the organization's pamphlets on Northwestern University's Evanston campus, university administrators wrote a letter to Matthew Hale, the organization's leader, asking him to cease distribution of such literature.

While Hale said NU could not prohibit such activity, a university spokesman said, "If Mr. Hale would like to challenge us in court, he is welcome to do so."

On Sunday, two members of Hale's white-supremacist organization, a 17-year-old Oak Park boy and a 17-year-old Schaumburg boy, blanketed Northwestern's North Shore campus with "Facts that the Government and the Media Don't Want You to Know," a pamphlet that contains disparaging comments about minorities, Hale said Tuesday in a telephone interview from his headquarters in East Peoria.

Benjamin Smith, an avowed white supremacist who had been affiliated with Hale's group, killed former Northwestern basketball coach Ricky Byrdsong during a shooting rampage in July. University officials said that many students and faculty members were disturbed by the pamphlets and their appearance in the wake of Byrdsong's death.

"The whole university is disgusted by this," said Northwestern sophomore Dan Birnbaum, a member of Jewish fraternity Alpha Epsilon Pi.

Hale declined to give the names of the pamphlet distributors. He added that he planned to distribute more pamphlets at Northwestern and would like to speak at the university.

But at a weekly Monday morning meeting of high-ranking Northwestern officials, administrators made it clear that they don't want Hale or his pamphlets on their campus.

The administration's letter to Hale states that members of his group cannot distribute literature without the consent of the university or sponsorship of a student organization.

"Northwestern University is a private university and has the right to bar distribution of information on its property," said Allan Cabbage, vice president for university relations.

If members of the group were to persist in distributing pamphlets, Northwestern could file trespassing charges, Cabbage said.

"As a private institution, we have fairly implemented methods on this matter," he added.

But Hale said the courts could not punish his organization for the actions of individual members.

"An organization can't be found guilty unless the leadership orders criminal action," Hale said. "I've never ordered criminal action."

Hale said that because Northwestern receives some federal money, banning the pamphlets would be discriminating against a religion. He added that the campus, though private, is the community's public domain.

"Our point is that you can't ban a person's religion," Hale said. "If Northwestern said 'No Jews,' do you think that would be allowed?"

Sandy Davidson, a communications law professor at the University of Missouri School of Journalism, said that Hale would have a difficult time convincing a court of his argument, though his view may have some validity.

As a high-profile university that is a cornerstone of Evanston, Davidson said, the campus might be characterized as a public forum. Davidson also said the situation could become sticky for the university because it receives federal money.

"Clearly, a private entity can open itself up," she said.

Still, Davidson said, the burden of proof would be on Hale, and the courts have made it clear they want to stay out of speech issues at private universities.

Hale said members of his group have distributed pamphlets to at least a half-dozen universities since August. Most of the universities were public institutions and none tried to stop distribution of the pamphlets, he said.

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