

Neo-Nazi leader bankrupt after losing civil rights lawsuit

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho (AP) — Like his hero Adolf Hitler, Richard Butler finds himself besieged on all sides.

The founder of the neo-Nazi group Aryan Nations is losing his home and some of his followers after being bankrupted by a civil rights lawsuit. No lawyer will represent him.

Someone threw a rock through the stained-glass swastikas of his abandoned chapel. Butler could not even rent a motel room to hold services of his white supremacist religion.

The evangelist of hate now finds himself in the position of complaining about discrimination.

"If Muslims or Black Panthers or a Jew rented the room, they would have allowed accommodations," he said on his Website after being denied space at the Silver Lake Motel.

Supporters of Aryan Nations once regarded northern Idaho as a minority-free homeland supposedly filled

with kindred spirits. Now they dismiss the state as "Idawhore," its residents as "cracker spuds," and its human rights activists as "hue man rights task forces."

Instead of moving away, as many Idaho civic leaders had hoped, the 82-year-old Butler is digging in.

He has announced an unprece-

dent series of public events this year, including marches in Coeur d'Alene, Sandpoint and Rathdrum. His annual Aryan World Congress, which used to draw more than 100 skinheads and the like to Butler's compound, will be held instead at a park nearby.

"Pastor Butler has been here for

30 years," said Shaun Winkler, staff director for Butler. "The Aryan Nations is not going to leave now."

The prospect of blue-shirted neo-Nazis marching through the streets of these tourist-dependent towns is not what human rights groups expected after Butler was bankrupted last year.

Detentions of illegals entering U.S. decline

LAREDO (AP) — Arrests of illegal immigrants have dropped all along the Mexico-U.S. border in what experts say could be a sign that Mexicans are staying home to enjoy a growing economy and rising hopes under the first opposition president in seven decades.

From October through January, detentions were down 22 percent over the same period a year ago. The decrease marked the largest percentage drop since the U.S. Border Patrol started beefing up its presence in 1993 to stop a growing tide of illegal immigration across the 2,100-mile border.

Even in January, when the numbers traditionally go up as undocumented workers return to their U.S. jobs after visiting their homeland for the holidays, agents caught 33 percent fewer people than during the same period last year.

U.S. officials gave several possible reasons for the decrease, including increased patrols in some areas, better technology such as ground sensors and infrared cameras, an advertising campaign about the perils of crossing illegally and an unusually cold winter.

They also say some of the credit may go to the Mexican economy — which is stronger than it has been in seven years — and to President Vicente Fox, who on July 2 ended the Institutional Revolutionary Party's 71-year grip on power.

VISION

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The results of Target 2000 were significant, but not as visible as those of the Aspirations Study, Wendler said.

"(Target 2000) set a tone and a general goal for the University," he said. International and study abroad programs were also a central part of Target 2000.

"One reason Moeser was interested [in Vision 2020] was because of the two previous 20-year plans," Wendler said. "We were able to do it successfully twice."

At this point, A&M, like UNL, began looking at the plans of other universities before drafting Vision 2020. Cornell, the University of North Carolina and North Carolina State were among the schools A&M studied in its planning process, Wendler said.

However, even though Vision 2020 was influenced by other schools, A&M had to make its own plan, Wendler said.

"We didn't want to lose our uniqueness, like the emphasis on student leadership," he said. "We didn't want to give that away. I think we were reasonably successful."

A&M has changed a lot since he first arrived, Wendler said, but the overall spirit remains the same.

"I'm enamored by the University," Wendler said.

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