



Judge rules against concert

By L. PIERCE CARSON
and KARYN HUNT
Register Staff Writers

Skinheads from all over the country can march on Napa County this weekend but they'll have to do so without the aid of a drummer.

That's the upshot of Napa Superior Court Judge W. Scott Snowden's ruling this morning, halting a White Aryan Resistance rock concert in Jameson Canyon until skinhead festival organizers obtain an outdoor festival permit.

Invoking a 1971 ordinance requiring organizers of outdoor concerts to first obtain a use permit, Judge Snowden told producers of the planned "Aryan Woodstock" festival they cannot include music on the menu for the planned 48-hour rally scheduled to begin Saturday morning.

Following the judge's ruling, rally organizers said they'll proceed anyway with speeches and sing-alongs.

WAR leader Tom Metzger and

satellite "whites only" organizations had scheduled a weekend rock and concert in a cow pasture north of Jameson Canyon Road when plans for a similar event in Rocklin were canceled in January.

County Counsel Robert Westmeyer and District Attorney Jerry Mautner were instructed by the board of supervisors earlier this week to seek an order restraining rally organizers from plugging in amplifiers that would get the message of three skinhead bands across

to an anticipated 200 participants.

The mailing of more than 1,000 flyers and repeated telephone recordings provided sufficient evidence that this weekend's rally was geared for more than members of Aryan youth groups, county attorneys argued.

Mautner contends the event was a blatant recruitment effort for "Nazi groups."

"This is not a publicity or fundraising event," Robert Heick, head of San Francisco's American

Front, told Judge Snowden shortly before noon today. Nor is it an attempt to recruit new members, he added.

"This is an opportunity for a few bands to get together for the first time for a select group of 200 people."

"It's a small party for people with our views. And we'll try to keep the peace."

Vallejo Dr. Howard Lonsdale, who owns the site of the weekend rally, wondered with tongue in

cheek if he should check into a person's politics before signing a lease. Today's hearing was the first time Lonsdale had appeared to comment on the rally.

But Judge Snowden told a courtroom packed with rally organizers, county officials, media representatives and scores of onlookers the county's outdoor festival ordinance was constitutionally sound and had been equally applied since its enactment.

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Napans planning quiet objections

By JAN GOBEN
Register Staff Writer

As violence and hatred threaten to invade the Napa Valley this weekend, residents are banding together for peaceful protests.

The skinheads who plan to hold a white supremacist rally and concert have spurred protesters from around the Bay Area, with many people planning to flock to Napa this weekend.

While some say they may have to meet violence with violence, protesters from Napa say they want to avoid it.

Church services, a candlelight vigil and peaceful protests near the site of the concert are all planned this weekend to protest the skinheads' philosophies of racism.

"Our agenda is non-violent and non-confrontational," said Brad Morris of Napa's Citizens Against Racism, who plan to protest at a site along Jameson Canyon Road near the concert.

"We're going to be doing a non-violent orientation before going to the site," said Morris, who said the group will meet at 9:30 a.m. Saturday behind Vallerga's Market on Imola Avenue to carpool to the protest site.

"There's a lot of outrage and quite a bit of fear — they're very scary people," Morris said. "It's

silly to pretend there's not racism in Napa — there are racist people here and there are racist people everywhere, but I think this is the first time it's come out like this."

"Somebody like Metzger comes up here and all of a sudden there's a glaring contrast between the way we usually go about our daily lives and this sudden intrusion of hatred and anger," Morris said.

Morris and the Napa group plan to meet protesters from around the Bay Area, including the Ad Hoc Committee Against Nazi Skinheads, led by Roanne Hindin of San Francisco.

"We'll have a real militant, forceful demonstration," Hindin said. "Politically militant, meaning chanting, shouting and making statements."

"We are going to show them we're not afraid to come out and denounce them," Hindin said. "We're going to show them we're not afraid to meet them."

Fear rather than anger has spurred many Napa protesters, who say they are worried about Metzger's recruitment efforts aimed at their children.

"Why are they coming to Napa? What does this mean about what we haven't taught our children?" asked former City Councilman Brad Wagenknecht, a teacher at Redwood

Middle School who is organizing the candlelight vigil at 5 p.m. Saturday at Veterans Memorial Park downtown.

"We tried to make an alternative for folks who don't want to go down to Jameson Canyon and meet them face-to-face," Wagenknecht said. "As I talk to people, they don't want to be anywhere near there — they're scared."

"We've made a special point to invite high school kids and college folks and kids in general," said Wagenknecht, who is also helping to organize a workshop on Tuesday, March 14, to make long-term plans to fight racism.

That workshop, scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 625 Randolph St., will focus on teaching schoolchildren about racism, said Jacquie Meadows.

"We need to do some long-range planning," Meadows said. "We need to plan multi-cultural events and on-going ways to address the blatant violence out there."

Services celebrating "community and brotherhood" will be held at 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Sunday at the First Presbyterian Church, 1333 Third St., said the Rev. Frank White.

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REPORTERS AND cameramen chased Robert Heick (center, with tie), head of the American Front, and several skinheads across Third Street

this morning into the Hall of Justice after a Napa judge disallowed their weekend concert. (Register photo by Al Francis)

Napa city planners say 'no' to Gasser project

By JAN GOBEN
Register Staff Writer

An 11-acre shopping center shouldn't be built on the Gasser property, northwest of the intersection at Imola and Soscol avenues, Napa Planning Commissioners said Thursday.

Commissioners recommended City Councilmembers deny the project on the 145-acre Gasser Estate when it comes before them next month.

But the developers still believe councilmembers will approve the project, said Joe Peatman, lawyer for Peter Gasser's heirs and their Sacramento development company.

"I believe they will not follow the commission's recommendation," Peatman said. "Everything seems

to be in order and everything seems to be progressing."

"We're asking the public to express their opinions on the shopping center and we're asking the public to talk to their council people to show they support the shopping center," Peatman said.

Gasser's heirs have proposed a Long's-Safeway shopping center as the first phase of development that includes offices on 19 acres, a 17-acre industrial park, a 10-acre recreational vehicle park and new roads.

Commissioner Robert Cudaback was the only one who voted in favor of the shopping center, while Commissioners JoAnn Busenbark, Sandi Perlman, Mike Dutra and Jean Macomber voted to deny the project.

Perlman was appointed last month to replace Dan Jonas, who left the commission to join the Napa County Planning Commission.

Businesses should be allowed on the land along Soscol Avenue, 400 feet back from the road, agreed commissioners, who recommended a general plan amendment from "study area" to general commercial.

But the rest of the property should remain "study area," allowing no development until the zoning is changed, commissioners said.

The existing businesses along Soscol, all within the 400-foot setback, should also be zoned general commercial, commissioners said.

The rezoning allows businesses from the Chevron station at Imola north to Jensen Motor Center to conform to the general plan.

If councilmembers deny the shopping center, they could lose control of the property, the largest remaining piece of undeveloped land in the city's sphere of influence.

The land is an "island" surrounded by the city of Napa, and if the project is denied, the pro-growth Napa County Board of Supervisors could assert control and approve more building than the city wants.

The Local Agency Formation Commission is scheduled to consider the city's request to annex the property later this month.

But, Peatman said, if the city denies the shopping center and still tries to annex the property, he will oppose the annexation and appeal to supervisors for a zoning change.

Napa students appear against Aryan concert

By KATHLEEN DOUGHERTY
Register Staff Writer

Racism was the topic of the hour Thursday in Donna Altes' eighth grade language arts class at Silverado Middle School.

"What is Tom Metzger promising these groups that are coming here on Saturday?" Altes asked her students.

Aaron Boschetti raised his hand. "He promises them they're going to be superior to everybody else," Boschetti said.

"And how does that relate to what we've been studying?" Altes continued.

"Hitler put himself and the Aryans above everybody else," Boschetti answered.

For students in Altes' five classes, who are just completing a class segment devoted to the Holocaust, the arrival of white supremacists in Napa this weekend for an "Aryan Woodstock" couldn't have been more timely.

"It's a living example of what we've been learning," said Altes.

"I want to talk about it (the concert) to remove the excitement so they don't become a part of what's going on."

Led by Metzger, the San Diego-

based White Aryan Resistance has planned whites-only concert and rally for Saturday and Sunday on private property on Jameson Canyon Road in American Canyon.

The concert was expected to draw hundreds of "skinheads" and hundreds more protesters.

Napa County school districts on Thursday reported no organized ef-

forts to educate students about the concert or the issues it raises regarding racism and free speech.

But today in the Napa Valley Unified School District, second-period teachers at the middle schools and high schools read a statement by Napa Police Chief Dan Monez

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TRACY CLOUD, a student in Donna Altes' 8th grade Language Arts class, said she is concerned about some of her fellow students attending this weekend's "Aryan Woodstock" being planned by

white supremacist groups. Altes' class is just completing a segment on the Nazi Holocaust during World War II. (Register photo by Bob McKenzie)

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