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White supremacist postings found on campus

By Iain Carlos
News Editor

St. Olaf community members recently found at least eight white supremacist postings on campus, prompting a Public Safety investigation and campus-wide discussion.

The postings promoted Patriot Front, a white supremacist, fascist group formed in the wake of the 2017 Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Va., according to the Anti-Defamation League website.

Bruce King, Assistant to the President for Institutional Diversity, condemned the postings and announced the Public Safety investigation in an Oct. 5 email.

The discovery of these postings prompted the Student Government Association (SGA) Senate to pass a resolution Oct. 8 condemning white supremacy and calling for reforms in the College's response to threats against the community.

Tyler Krohn '21 found and photographed a Patriot Front sticker on the posterbox outside of the back entrance of the Theater Building on Sept. 28. Krohn then scraped off the sticker and reported it to the College.

The sticker read, "ONE NATION AGAINST INVASION. PATRIOTFRONT.us," and featured the fasces – a bundle of rods surrounding an axe historically used as a fascist symbol.

A similar posting was found on campus, and Public Safety launched an investigation into the postings, King wrote in a Sept. 30 email to Krohn.

Three days later, Charlie Moe '23 found and scratched out a Patriot Front sticker on a lamp post next to Holland Hall at 11:30 a.m.

The sticker read, "PATRIOT FRONT. LIFE—LIBERTY—VICTORY," and featured the fasces.

Moe photographed the sticker, scratched it out, and posted the photograph on a student-run Facebook page.

Moe has not reported the sticker to Public Safety because it is possible someone in town, who is not a stu-

dent, put the sticker up. He did not want to create "mass hysteria," Moe said.

The spate of posting sightings continued that weekend. The Manitou Messenger found a Patriot Front sticker on a lamp post behind Buntrock Commons Oct. 4 at 8:42 a.m.

The sticker read, "PATRIOT FRONT. TO OURSELVES AND OUR POSTERITY," and featured a bald eagle and a fasces.

Later that day, the Manitou Messenger found a Patriot Front poster on a column behind Buntrock Commons. The poster was torn, but the words "LIFE" and "LIBERTY" were legible.

Mallory Lindahl '21 found a Patriot Front poster on a lamp post between the Hall of Music and Christiansen Hall of Music on Saturday, Oct. 5 around 5:15 p.m. Lindahl photographed the poster, took it down and posted the picture on a student-run Facebook page.

The poster read, "LIFE OF OUR NATION. LIBERTY OF OUR PEOPLE. VICTORY OF THE AMERICAN SPIRIT. PATRIOTFRONT.us."

That evening, the Manitou Messenger found two stickers on lamp posts across from Ytterboe and Hoyme Halls.

One sticker read, "REJECT POISON. PATRIOTFRONT.us," and featured an image denouncing recreational drugs.

The other sticker read, "AMERICA IS NOT FOR SALE. PATRIOTFRONT.us," and featured two arms chained together. The chain was in the shape of a dollar sign.

Public Safety's investigation of the graphics has not revealed who is responsible for the postings, King said.

"I wouldn't necessarily be surprised if these came from members in our very Northfield geographic area," King said.

Patriot Front graphics were indeed put up in at least four locations in Northfield, according to a Sept. 14 Patriot Front Twitter post.

However, the Northfield Police



Sticker found near Holland, scratched off.

Steven Garcia/Manitou Messenger

"We think it is a mistake to give this group and its message the attention they are seeking, but we also want to stand up loudly against hate."

- Bruce King

Department said they have not received any reports of Patriot Front postings in town.

There have also been no reports of Patriot Front postings at Carleton College, said Director of Security and Emergency Management John Bermele.

Patriot Front's postings at St. Olaf are part of a Twitter-documented tactic of displaying their graphics on university and college campuses throughout the nation. As of Oct. 7, Patriot Front's Twitter page is suspended, but they appear to have created a new account.

King condemned white suprem-

acy and encouraged community members with information about the postings to file a bias incident report in an Oct. 5 email.

"We think it is a mistake to give this group and its message the attention they are seeking, but we also want to stand up loudly against hate," King wrote.

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One of many white supremacist postings found around campus.

For a full map of where the postings appeared, go to page A7.

Smoking policy up in the air

By Iain Carlos
News Editor

Years of complaints from St. Olaf community members about secondhand smoke drove the college to form a working group tasked with reforming the smoking policy.

The working group is considering creating designated smoking areas, moving ashtrays further from buildings and introducing resources to help students who wish to quit smoking.

Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) and the Safety Committee, two parties tasked with promoting the health and safety of students and workers, formed the working group in the fall of 2018. The parties reached out to students and various staff departments, including Residence Life, the Wellness Center and Human Resources (HR), for volunteers to join the working group, Vice President for HR and working group member Michael Goodson wrote in an email. The group held its first meeting of the year in late September.

Currently, St. Olaf's smoking policy bans smoking in any building on campus, Goodson wrote. However, the policy does not address the specific distance from buildings community members need to be to smoke permissibly, and whether different buildings have different policies. Different pages on the St. Olaf website list inconsistent distance requirements. The working group will address the distance policy, Goodson wrote.

Designated smoking areas, another potential change, could alienate international students who smoke, former working group member Carlos Fernandez '21 said.

"It will look very bad if you designate areas that all of these students that you see

will be people of color, be people of different accents, and everything, are buried just in one corner of campus," Fernandez said.

The working group is aware that new smoking policies could estrange international students, and recruited representatives from the Taylor Center and an international student who smokes in light of this consideration, Goodson wrote.

The working group has yet to determine specific spaces that could serve as designated smoking areas, working group member Bakr Al-Taie '21 said. Al-Taie is inquiring about which spaces could serve this function, in part by speaking to students who smoke.

Fernandez thinks the college ought to move ashtrays further away from building entrances to reduce secondhand smoke exposure. While the working group has considered this remedy, moving the ashtrays further from buildings would mean more exposure to harsh weather conditions for smokers, said Dean of Students and member of the working group Rosalyn Eaton '87.

"The ashtrays have been moved away from the doors numerous times around Buntrock and the Library but people keep moving them back," Goodson wrote. Goodson did not indicate who has moved the ashtrays away from the doors or who keeps moving them back.

The working group is considering creating resources for community members who wish to quit smoking and will research similar measures at other colleges, Goodson wrote.

Fernandez thinks strict limitations on smoking, especially to the point of rendering St. Olaf a smoke-free campus, might be too restrictive for students.

"To some extent, students do [smoke] to de-stress," Fernandez said. "If we cannot

smoke, we cannot drink, we cannot what? Nothing, right?"

The working group has yet to consider whether St. Olaf should be a smoke-free campus, Goodson wrote. It will research institutions with smoke-free policies.

As most smokers begin smoking by young adulthood, colleges and universities' efforts to restrict and monitor tobacco consumption "can help reduce the prevalence of tobacco product use," according to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report. These efforts can also reduce secondhand smoke exposure.

Last year, the working group submitted a document containing smoking policy reform recommendations to the College. The Manitou Messenger requested access to this document, but Goodson wrote that it is not public.

Al-Taie, Mattias Kostov '20, Eaton, Chemical Hygiene Officer Patrick Ceas, Environmental Health and Safety Director Elizabeth Haase and Goodson confirmed they serve on the working group. Goodson, Ceas and Haase did not provide the names of the other members.

St. Olaf does not have policies regarding smoking cannabidiol (CBD) or medical marijuana, Goodson wrote.

The vaping policy largely mirrors the smoking policy, Eaton said.

Goodson wrote that the working group plans to meet once a month and submit a new draft of recommendations to the President's Leadership Team by December 2019.

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NEWS

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Northfield approves downtown apartment development

Upscale 79-unit, four-story complex part of new redevelopment district

By Jacob Maranda
News Editor

The Northfield City Council approved a plan to create a redevelopment district in downtown Northfield where a new four-story, 79-unit apartment complex will be constructed.

At an Oct. 1 Council meeting, the city identified several goals for the redevelopment of the district, paramount of which is meeting the demand for market-rate housing. The apartment complex is also part of a broader set of goals to revitalize much of the area surrounding the Cannon River and downtown Northfield.

The Fifth Street Lofts apartment complex is the primary construction project in the district, located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Fifth and Washington Streets. The four-story complex will consist of 79 apartments for rent, of which 33 will be studio, 38 one-bedroom and eight two-bedroom. The complex will include fitness facilities on the first floor, along with a two-story, underground parking garage that can be accessed from Fifth Street.

The estimated costs of renting space range from \$820 per month for studio apartments to \$1,600 per month for a two-bedroom.

The City Council permitted a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) plan to subsidize development of the district, which will occupy both the south-east

and northeast corners of the Fifth and Washington intersection.

The TIF plan, which allows project developers Rebound Real Estate and Stencil Group to retain property taxes accrued on the apartment complex, will generate an estimated \$4.2 million over the 25-year span of the district, according to Ehlers and Associates, the private firm responsible for financing the project.

The developers had identified a \$1.8 million shortfall on the project, which the TIF plan accounts for.

Premier Bank currently occupies the southwest lot of the district where the apartment complex will be constructed, alongside a home owned by Mainstreet Properties. Both buildings have been deemed "substandard" and in need of redevelopment by an outside investment group.

The continuance of TIF financing is contingent upon the completion of construction and the achievement of full occupancy for the apartment complex by spring 2021, according to Ehlers and Associates. Construction will begin later this year.

The construction of a new, modern apartment complex in downtown Northfield will increase land density, increase square footage in the downtown area and address an observed housing shortage, said City Council and Economic Development Authority member Jessica Peterson White.

"It's an exciting project. It has been clearly identified that there is a need," Mayor of Northfield Rhonda Powell said. "This is just a fantastic opportunity for our community."

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- Northfield Mayor Rhonda Powell

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Rendering Courtesy of Tushie Montgomery Architects

A rendering of the forthcoming 79-unit downtown apartment complex.

Recent alum hired as new Student Activities Director



Photo Courtesy of Brandon Cash

By Lydia Bermel
Senior Reporter

St. Olaf hired Brandon Cash '16 as new Student Activities Director following the summer departure of former director Kris Vatter.

Vatter announced in a July 25 email to the Student Government Association (SGA) executive team that her last day in the position would be July 31.

St. Olaf hired Cash for the position at the end of September. Originally from St. Cloud, Cash is excited to return to St. Olaf and start his new role on campus assisting SGA and other student groups.

Cash studied music and psychology during his time at St. Olaf. He went on to earn a Master's degree in student affairs and higher education from Miami University in Ohio. Over the last year, Cash worked at Washington University as Residential College Director.

"It's a professional dream of mine to return to the Hill," Cash said. "I knew that's where I wanted to land."

Assuming the position a month into the academic year, Cash anticipates a challenge as students have started their routines. In his first year, Cash will work to improve the student experience on campus by addressing student needs.

"I think student activities can play that role," Cash said. "I think we can connect students, faculty and staff to experience these opportunities that can really shape the Ole experience in some really powerful ways."

Cash also plans on examining the current campus culture and how student organizations contribute to the St. Olaf experience. Part of this effort is ensuring that the skills students gain while on campus can be transferred into different avenues, such as student organization, leadership and research opportunities, Cash said.

While attending St. Olaf, Cash was Student Activities Committee (SAC) coordinator and assumed the duties of SGA President during an interim.

SGA Vice President Ariel Mota Alves '20 said Cash's past experience will benefit SGA.

"He showed a great passion, energy and willingness to work with us on our initiatives," Mota Alves said. "He has a lot of knowledge about SGA, and I think he'll be a great resource."

SGA President Devon Nielsen '20 said Cash brings a level of passion and enthusiasm that will be a great addition for the team.

Overall, Cash is looking forward to returning to campus and working with SGA.

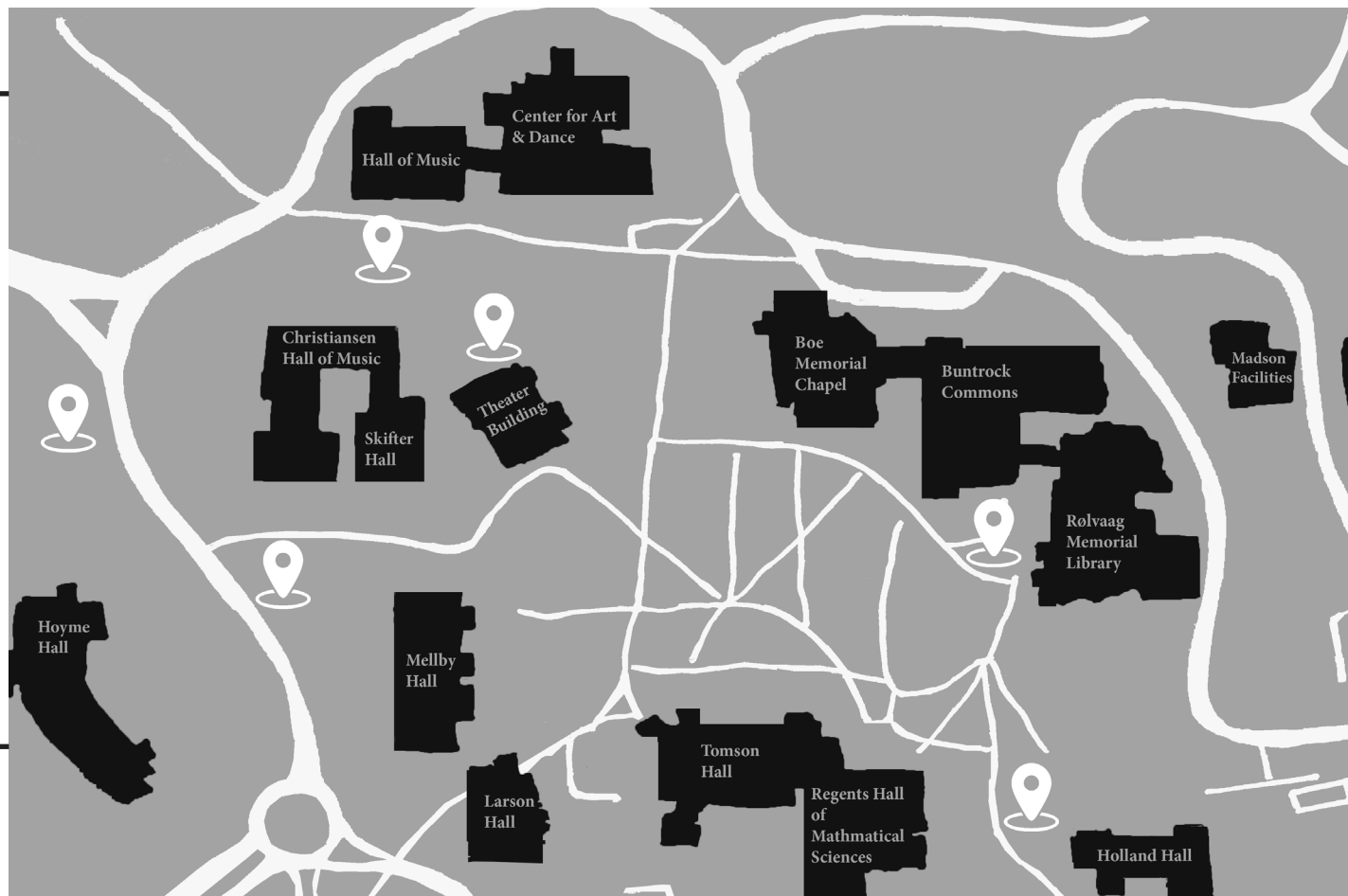
"I'm most excited for the people," Cash said. "I'm excited to be back in that environment, back with a student body that is actively involved and dynamic, that I haven't seen at other institutions. I cannot be more thrilled to be coming home - it feels like a homecoming."

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Mapping the Patriot Front postings

(in chronological order)

- Sticker found on posterbox next to the back entrance to Theater Building.
- Location of the second note is unknown.
- Patriot Front sticker found near Holland Hall.
- Patriot Front sticker and poster found outside Buntrock Commons.
- Poster found on lamp post between Hall of Music and Christiansen Hall of Music.
- Sticker found on lamp post near Hoyme Hall.
- Sticker found on lamp post in front of Ytterboe Hall.



Kailey Favaro/Manitou Messenger

Map showing the locations of Patriot Front postings around campus.