

Professor seeks to ban Klan from campus

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) - University of Louisville professor Ede Warner has a unique plan to keep the Ku Klux Klan off his campus: He wants the school to ban the group, then argue in court that it's a terrorist organization.

"Nobody has ever done that," Warner said.

Klan members started posting fliers on campus early in the spring semester to protest diversity programs sponsored by the school. That stirred debate among faculty and administrators that has taken place on campuses around the country: how far the university can go to keep some groups off campus and how to best deal with unpopular ideas in the academic setting.

What makes the Louisville situation so unusual is the presence of the KKK, said Mark Potok of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Ala., which tracks the Klan and other hate groups.

"I cannot think of another

situation when the Klan has appeared on campus," Potok said. "The Klan is quite small, even within the contemporary radical right."

Having the Klan banned as a terrorist organization based on its past would be legally difficult, especially given the Klan's inaction in recent years, and probably unnecessary, said Potok, whose organization has beat the Klan in court over other issues.

"You would run into issues of free speech," he said.

University officials banned two members of the KKK from campus this month, saying they violated university policy about where fliers can be posted.

That could give Warner his fight, if the Klan challenges the school over access to a public university and its students. Jim Kennedy, the self-described point man for the KKK in the Louisville area, said the Klan is preparing to contest the ban in court.

"They don't like us too much over there," Kennedy

told The Associated Press. "They're trying to get around that freedom of speech any way they can."

The Klan started appearing on campus in the fall after Black activist and rapper Sister Souljah gave a speech that some students said was derogatory to Whites and received \$11,000 for the talk. Others said the main theme was Black empowerment.

Afterward, Kennedy demanded that the Klan be given equal time and compensation or the school end the diversity program, which he considers racist.

The appearance by the KKK prompted protests on and off campus. A state representative has asked the FBI to investigate the Klan.

University spokeswoman Rae Goldsmith said the school is cooperating with the FBI, which was tapped after Klan members accused the university of violating their civil rights. The FBI would not confirm a complaint being filed.

Dave King, one of the

banned Klansmen, said he's not a terrorist and that the ban is an attempt by the school to shut down an unpopular point of view.

"They don't like what I'm saying, so they're trying to make it so I can't speak," King said.

Goldsmith said the Klan can still distribute fliers and appear on campus in one of two designated "free speech zones," but to speak at a campus function, it would need sponsorship from a campus organization.

Around the 21,400 student campus, with 77 percent White students, 12 percent Black students and 11 percent other minorities, reaction to the Klan and Warner's proposal is mixed.

"We shouldn't keep them away," said Raul Zamora, a 24-year-old junior. "We should give other ideas besides theirs."

But, Maymon "Mona" Nageye, a 21-year-old sophomore, said the Klan shouldn't be allowed on campus.

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DA seeks to keep Jackson bail at \$3 million

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Michael Jackson's prosecutor is opposing a move by the pop singer to reduce his \$3 million bail, arguing that he may be planning to flee the country.

According to a motion obtained by media lawyers Sunday, District Attorney Tom Sneddon's office said Jackson's immense wealth requires at least \$3 million bail to ensure he will appear for trial on child molestation charges and, if convicted, would be prepared to serve a lengthy prison sentence.

"The temptation to flee must surely be strong for an individual in defendant's circumstances," said the motion. "To suppose otherwise would be to blink reality."

Jackson's lawyer Thomas Mesereau Jr., did not immediately return phone calls Sunday. Defense attorneys Robert Sanger and Steve Cochran also could not immediately be reached for comment.

The prosecution motion, written by Deputy District Attorney Gerald Franklin, envisioned Jackson living out the rest of his life as "a wealthy absconder" rather than facing a life term in a California prison.

The document included a footnote alluding to the case of Andrew Luster, an heir to

the Max Factor cosmetics fortune who fled from Ventura County to Mexico during his rape prosecution "notwithstanding his \$1 million bail bond." Luster ultimately was captured in Mexico.

Franklin conceded that the county bail schedule calls for a potential maximum bail of \$435,000 for the child molestation and conspiracy charges against Jackson, but he argued the performer is no ordinary defendant and the bail schedule does not apply to him.

"The people mean no disrespect by the following, but Michael Jackson's situation is truly unique," he said. "By all accounts, the defendant is well-to-do."

He cited Jackson's holdings of 2,000 acres in Santa Barbara County as well as other property.

"The defendant here is 'Michael Jackson, international celebrity,' a man whose life style to date would not have prepared him to adapt readily to a prison environment and routine, and whose physical stature will present its own problems for him in making the necessary adjustments.

"Mr. Jackson has doubtlessly given those realities considerable thought," the motion said.

Franklin also suggested that a number of countries would welcome Jackson if he fled.

"Mr. Jackson is known and adored - 'adored' is not too strong a word - in many of the countries of Europe, the Near East and Africa," said the motion. "Several of those countries do not have extradition treaties with the United States."

The motion acknowledged the defense argument that Jackson has made all of his court appearances but argued, "One good reason for his having done so is the severe consequence of not having done so. Three million dollars is a lot of money to leave behind, even for him."

Jackson has pleaded not guilty to child molestation,

administering an intoxicating agent, and a conspiracy count involving allegations of child abduction, false imprisonment and extortion.

Many details of the indictment remain under seal, and media outlets, including The Associated Press, have sued to have the indictment and grand jury transcripts unsealed in their entirety.

In a separate motion, prosecutors said they agree with Jackson's attorneys that secrecy should continue.

The prosecutor said jurors "should learn about the evidence while seated in the jury box, not at the breakfast table or from late-night talk shows."

The motions were to be argued at Jackson's next hearing May 28.



An 8,000-pound statue of boxer Joe Louis welcomes folks into the arena of the NHL's Detroit Red Wings.

Two get time in jail for ruining statue

DETROIT (AP) - Two men who threw White paint on a landmark sculpture of boxer Joe Louis's fist were sentenced Friday to 30 days in jail.

Brett Cashman, 45, and John T. Price, 27, were also ordered to serve 18 months on probation and pay \$1,000 each for malicious destruction of property.

The damage to the 8,000-pound sculpture of the Black boxing great's arm and fist was discovered Feb. 23. At the statue's base were pictures of two White police officers killed the week before, with the words "Courtesy of Fighting Whities."

The day after the arrests, a magistrate said the crime was "on a par with cross burning." But prosecutors did not bring hate-crime charges against the men.

Cashman and Price, who are White, have said they targeted the 24-foot sculpture because of its violent imagery, not as a racist act. Price said the use of "Fighting Whities" was "simply a goof on political correctness."

Both declined comment after the sentencing and said little in court.

"To them, it represents a symbol of violence - a clenched fist," said Marc Beginin, Cashman's attorney. "If it's a monument to Joe Louis, where is the boxing glove?"

Louis, who died in 1981, is a hero in Detroit, where his family moved when he was a boy. The arena used by the Detroit Red Wings hockey team is named for Louis.

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