

*a grassroots, nontraditional counter-conference to confront
white supremacy and hate*

*Saturday,
April 6, 2013
10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Montgomery Bell State Park Office Pavilion*

**NOT
IN
OUR
STATE. =**

notinourstate.weebly.com

PRESS RELEASE

(also attached in .doc format)

ANTI-RACIST CONFERENCE TO HIGHLIGHT EQUALITY AMID UPTICK IN RACIST SENTIMENTS

As the white supremacist group American Renaissance again holds its annual conference in Middle Tennessee's Montgomery Bell State Park, a group of organizers, academics and advocates are hosting their own counter-conference challenging oppression and promoting social justice.

A recognized hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, American Renaissance ("AmRen") "is a self-styled think tank that promotes pseudo-scientific studies and research that purports to show the inferiority of blacks to whites," according to the SPLC, which tracks the nation's hate groups. AmRen's national conference is meant to provide an open space for "intellectuals," Neo-Nazis and other racists to collaborate and refine their agenda.

The counter-conference, "Not in Our State," billed as "a grassroots effort to confront white supremacy and hate," will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on April 6 at the Office Pavilion at Montgomery Bell State Park, a mere two miles from AmRen's conference, which takes place April 5-7 at the same park near Dickson, Tenn.

"Not in Our State" attempts to directly challenge AmRen's racist ideology by presenting a series of speakers, entertainers and community members to expose these 21st-century racists.

"AmRen is simply white supremacists in business suits," said conference organizer Sally Neal from Murfreesboro. "This group is fright-

ening because they advocate an agenda of eugenics and superiority whitewashed with what they call 'science.' We wanted to send a message to the public that Tennessee is more tolerant than this, and we are embarrassed that AmRen believes Tennessee is an ideal place for white supremacy."

AmRen previously hosted their annual conferences in elaborate hotel conference centers, but after community outrage pressured hotel managers and local leaders to preemptively cancel AmRen's previous reservations, the group has retreated to the seclusion of Montgomery Bell State Park's conference center.

AmRen's conference in Middle Tennessee comes just one week after the Ku Klux Klan "Loyal White Knights" plan to hold a rally and march in Memphis, what counter-conference organizers call a "concerning escalation in racist sentiment in the state."

"AmRen is worrisome because it attempts to pass off its racist message as serious public-policy work, which it isn't," said Will York, Nashville attorney and counter-conference speaker. "What's promising about this counter-conference is the opportunity to expose AmRen's ideas to the light of day. There is wisdom in Justice Brandeis' statement that sunlight is the best disinfectant." The answer to speech inimical to our values as Tennesseans is speech that embraces inclusiveness."

To date, about 15 academics and advocates have signed on to make

presentations at the counter-conference, covering topics ranging from race and the death penalty to state efforts to criminalize immigrants to transphobia. An MTSU biochemistry student will present research deconstructing the myth of "racial purity."

The counter-conference organizers stressed the "nontraditional" character of the counter-conference.

"We don't want this to be a dry presentation of research on a Saturday afternoon," Neal said. "We want people to enjoy the state park, have a good time, learn a few things and celebrate diversity. This is most certainly a nonviolent event."

"Not in Our State" organizers are also urging individuals and organizations to sign a "statement of solidarity and support" affirming Tennessee as a place of tolerance. "We are disgusted that (AmRen) would use our taxpayer-funded parks to educate on the superiority of the White race," a portion of the statement reads.

"Not in Our State" is free to attend. The group's pavilion, noted on the attached map, is equipped with restrooms and electrical outlets. Snacks will be provided throughout the afternoon.

Separately, the Coalition to Shut Down Amren in association with Austin Peay Students for a Democratic Society plan to hold a protest from 4 to 6 p.m. on Friday, April 5, and again from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 6, outside the park conference center.

notinourstate.weebly.com

ABOUT AMERICAN RENAISSANCE

AMREN'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2013

AmRen's website touts this year's conference at Montgomery Bell State Park as an opportunity to hear about nothing less than the greatest crisis in the history is civilization:

The West faces many crises, but the greatest is the crisis of race. In virtually every Western country, **the European majority is threatened with dispossession by non-white immigrants.**

Unless whites rekindle their consciousness of race and act in their own interests, they will be pushed aside by others.

We are dedicated to a **renewed sense of Western peoplehood.** Join us for a stimulating weekend of education, fellowship—and recommitment to the ideals of Western Civilization.

Speakers include disgraced professors and academics, some of which have been on cable television shows. John Derbyshire, for example, was a writer for *The National Review* until, as AmRen puts it, he was “outsted for saying sensible things about black people.” (Those “sensible things,” by the way, included **advising white people to avoid helping black families in distress and to have a handful of “intelligent and well socialized black[]” friends** for “public relations” reasons.)

AmRen will also honor two “scientists” who died in 2012, Arthur Jensen and Philippe Rushton, whom AmRen says worked for “the pursuit of truth in the face of vicious persecution.” Jensen produced a series of pseudo-scientific papers arguing that biological differences account for Whites’ **supposedly superior intellect.** Jensen’s beliefs were almost uniformly rejected, most famously by paleontologist and evolutionary biologist Stephen Jay Gould. Similarly, Rushton devoted his academic career to demonstrate how genetic differences in brain size and “inbreeding” meant African-American people’s IQs were lower than Caucasians. Rushton denied being “racist,” preferring instead the term “race-realist.” Both were pioneers in the so-called “**scientific racism**” movement.

Speakers pull no punches: They will describe how multiculturalism is a present danger to “our race” and how school desegregation led to the decline of our educational system. Immigration is a particular threat to be covered. “The single greatest threat facing whites is mass immigration of non-whites into white homelands,” their website reads.

Read more about the 2013 AmRen Conference and its speakers:

<http://www.amren.com/2013-ar-conference/>

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks hate groups:

Founded by Jared Taylor in 1990, the New Century Foundation (a/k/a AmRen) is a self-styled think tank that promotes **pseudo-scientific studies** and research that purport to show the inferiority of blacks to whites — although in hifalutin’ language that avoids open racial slurs and attempts to portray itself as serious scholarship. It is best known for its *American Renaissance* magazine and website, which regularly feature proponents of eugenics and blatant anti-black racists.

Why is AmRen so bad? AmRen is disturbing to sensible Americans not only because we, fortunately, have come to realize that acceptance, equality and diversity are attributes we should embrace rather than shun, but also because it was exactly this type of pseudo-scientific “research” that led to forced sterilizations in America, White European imperialism in the 19th and 20th centuries, and “ethnic cleansing” of entire groups of people in Germany, Kosovo, Palestine, Cambodia, Rwanda and across the globe.

Don't Take Our Word For It? How to Contact AmRen

Telephone: (703) 716-0900

Web: amren.com

facebook.com/RaceRealism

YouTube: AmRenVideos

Mail: American Renaissance
New Century Foundation

Box 527

Oakton, Va. 22124

COUNTER-CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

11:00	Ben Jenkins <i>The Politics of Ideas</i>	2:30	Prof. Marisa Richmond <i>Transphobia is Bigotry, Too</i>
11:15	Joey King (Veterans for Peace) <i>Othering</i>	3:15	R. Andrew Free, Esq. <i>The Tanton Network, Private Prisons, and State Efforts to Criminalize Immigrants</i>
11:40	Prof. Eric Schechter <i>Capitalism and Xenophobia</i>	3:45	Jeremiah Carter <i>Fascism, Big Business, and Imperialism</i>
Noon	Rachel Davies <i>Hybrid Vigor: Biochemically Deconstructing the Notion of Racial Purity</i>	4:00	Prof. Angela Mertig <i>Connecting the 'Isms': How Racism, Sexism, Heterosexism & Speciesism Intersect</i>
12:30 p.m.	Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment (SOCM) <i>Media and Stereotypes</i>	4:20	Chris Irwin, Esq. <i>The First Amendment: The Marketplace of Ideas</i>
1:15	Will York, Esq. <i>Race, Class and Power</i>	5:10	Preston Gilmore Austin Peay SDS <i>On Theory and Practice</i>
1:45	Dorsey Malina <i>from her autobiography Thorns from the Heart</i>	5:30	Daryle Jenkins One Peoples Project <i>What Have We Learned Today?</i>
2:00	Prof. Amy Sayward <i>Race and the Death Penalty</i>		

WHY A COUNTER-CONFERENCE?

A counter-conference is an attempt to contribute to the marketplace of ideas by countering hate speech with pro-equality ideas. It is based on the theory of “bystander intervention” against hate.

Bystander anti-racism is an action taken by a person or persons (not directly involved as a target or perpetrator) to speak out about or to seek to engage others in responding (either directly or indirectly, immediately or at a later time) against interpersonal or systemic racism.

The most effective bystander action is that which communicates a message of disapproval or discomfort without damaging interpersonal relations. To that end, Not in Our State conference organizers hope to foster a **culture of respect**. The public intolerance of racist behavior can have a vital contextual effect on subsequent acts of racism, but also on attitudes. Public condemnation through bystander anti-racism can potentially combat “false consensus effects” that result from individuals overestimating general community support for their racist views.

The established positive effect of bystander anti-racism on perpetrators is to constrain their racist behaviors, challenging their consensus perceptions, and constructing racist acts as a deviance.

Read about us on the Southern Beale blog: <http://goo.gl/3DZKk>

OP-ED / LETTER TO THE EDITOR

(available in .doc format upon request)

OP-ED

377 words

For the second consecutive year, a white-supremacist group is using Montgomery Bell State Park Conference Center, April 5-7, as the site of their annual conference, inviting white supremacists, neo-Nazis, and KKK members from around the world to make themselves (at least temporarily) at home in Tennessee.

Last year, a local paper produced a cover story on this group, American Renaissance (AmRen), exposing their presence in Montgomery Bell and their pseudo-scientific, “race-realist” rhetoric. One participant in this conference felt comfortable sharing with the reporter that Montgomery Bell is “an ideal place to terrorize any protesters who might be stupid enough to travel the park’s lone, winding road without carrying firearms.” This type of threat, to shut down the free speech

of others using violence, should raise concern across Tennessee, particularly considering the especially violent history of the white-supremacist movement. It is, of course, the liberty of free speech that makes it possible for AmRen to use a government facility to promote their vitriolic hatred of non-whites in the first place.

But the right to free speech does not mean a right to unopposed speech. It is the notion of a “marketplace of ideas” that has inspired Middle Tennesseans to organize a counter conference, Not In Our State: A Grassroots Effort To Confront White Supremacy and Hate, that will celebrate diversity, oppose oppression and debunk AmRen’s pseudo-scientific claims to racial superiority. The free event is to be held at Montgomery Bell State Park on April 6.

Some people feel that ignoring hate is more prudent, but the risks

associated with ignoring the uptick in racist dialogue in Tennessee are too great. We should not cede rural Tennessee to the white supremacists to use as a breeding ground for racial hatred. Tennessee is already home to over 30 white supremacist groups.

On March 30, the KKK is planning a rally in Memphis. Community members and organizers are bracing for an all-out confrontation with the Klan. One week later, the white supremacists will arrive at rural Montgomery Bell Park, near Dickson and White Bluff — only this time wearing business suits.

To promote deep and meaningful change, bystanders must become interveners. Racism is a community issue, and anti racism is a community responsibility.

— *Dutch Bryant
Dickson, Tenn.*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

240 words

For the second consecutive year, a white supremacist group, American Renaissance (AmRen), is using Montgomery Bell State Park as the site of their three-day conference, April 5-7, inviting white supremacists, neo-Nazis, and KKK members from around the world to make themselves (at least temporarily) at home in Tennessee.

It is, of course, the liberty of free speech that makes it possible for AmRen to use a government facility to promote their vitriolic hatred of

non-whites. However, the right to free speech does not mean a right to unopposed speech. It is the notion of a “marketplace of ideas” that has inspired Middle Tennesseans to organize a counter-conference, Not In Our State: A Grassroots Effort To Confront White Supremacy and Hate, which will celebrate diversity, oppose oppression, and debunk AmRen’s pseudo-scientific claims to racial superiority. The free event is to be held at Montgomery Bell State Park on April 6.

Some people feel that ignoring AmRen is more prudent, but the risks associated with ignoring the

uptick in racist dialogue in Tennessee are too great. We should not cede Tennessee to the white supremacists to use as a breeding ground for racial hatred. Tennessee is already home to over 30 white-supremacist groups.

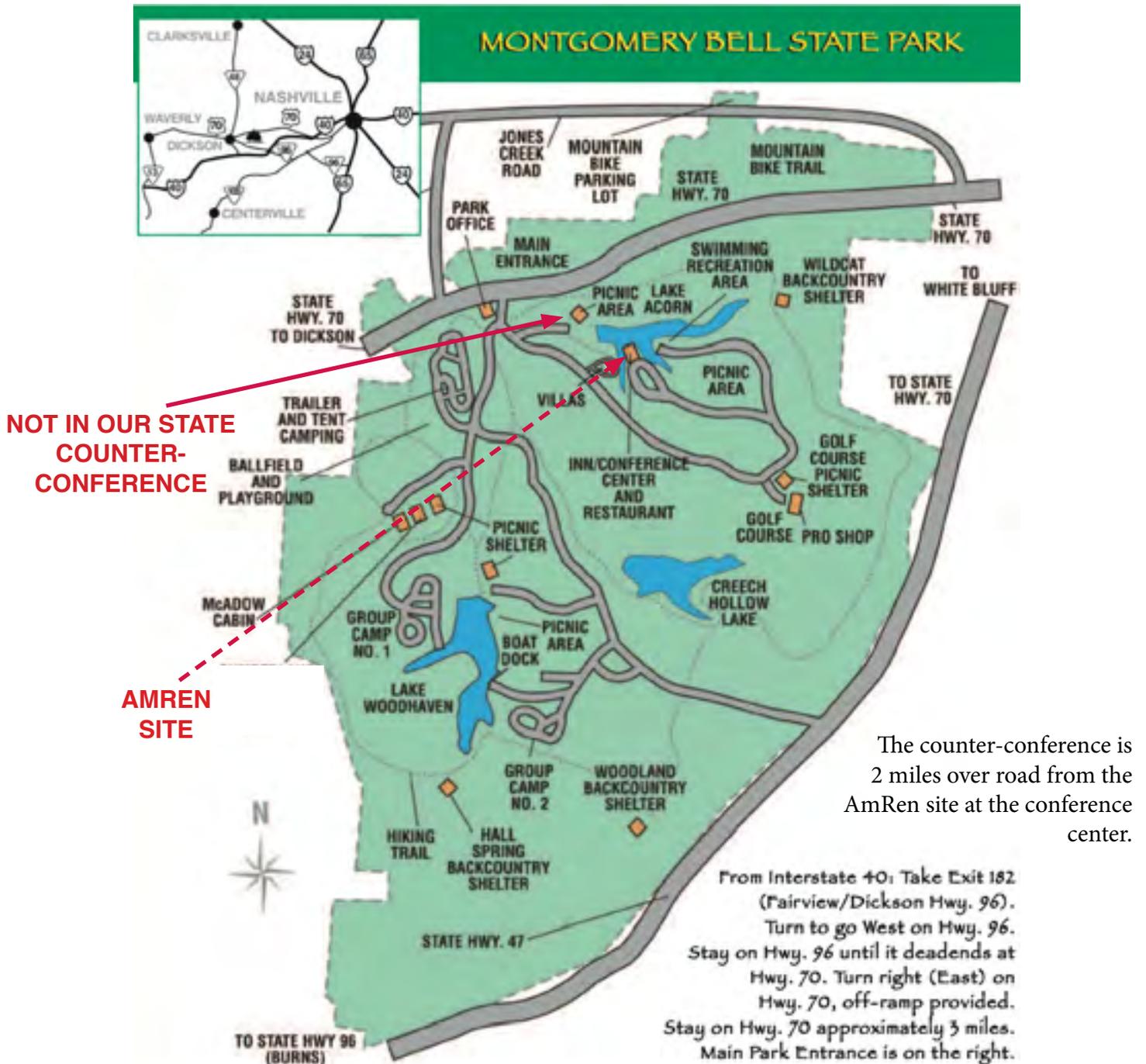
People too often stand by and refrain from getting involved. To promote deep and meaningful change, bystanders must become interveners. Racism is a community issue, and anti-racism is a community responsibility.

— *Dutch Bryant
Dickson, Tenn.*

PARK MAP

In the bucolic and firmly isolated Montgomery Bell State Park Inn — which would be, as one conference goer with a background in law enforcement told me, an ideal place to terrorize any protesters who might be stupid enough to travel the park’s lone, winding road without carrying firearms — they can loosen their belts (and their tongues) a few notches and let their freak flags unfurl.

— Jonathan Meador, *The Nashville Scene*, “The New Face of Hate” (click here, <http://goo.gl/zjPh1>)



“IN THE END, WE WILL REMEMBER NOT THE WORDS OF OUR ENEMIES, BUT THE SILENCE OF OUR FRIENDS.”
— MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT

We support equality and diversity in Tennessee. After learning about American Renaissance (“AmRen”), we have found them to be antithetical to the tolerance and inclusiveness we support.

Therefore, we condemn AmRen as not representative of the People of Tennessee.

Despite their efforts to use academic language, AmRen is simply white supremacists dressed up in business suits. As the Southern Poverty Law Center points out, AmRen (a/k/a New Century Foundation) promotes pseudo-scientific studies that purportedly show that minorities are physically and intellectually inferior to Whites. Despite the group’s desire to dress their racism in science, the group’s founder, Jared Taylor, recently said, “When Blacks are left entirely to their own devices . . . civilization disappears.” We reject pseudo-scientific research on race and eugenics (“race cleansing”). We do not support their conference’s virulent presence in our State, and we are disgusted that they would use our taxpayer-funded parks to educate on the superiority of the White race. We do not support racial disharmony and superiority.

Organizations in Support

Southern Poverty Law Center
Veterans for Peace (Nashville)
Radical Sparkle Collective
Brinson Counseling
The Law Office of William P. York
One People’s Project
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense
Workers’ Power
Austin Peay Students for a Democratic Society
Nashville Peace and Justice Center
Middle Tennessee Industrial Workers of the World
Dutch Bryant, founder, Concerned Citizens of Dickson County
Lotus Tattoo (Dickson)
The Tater Shack (Dickson)

... and other influential community members

MEDIA CONTACT

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"WHITES MUST HAVE A TERRITORY IN WHICH THEY ARE THE CLEAR MAJORITY, WHERE THE UNFOLDING OF THEIR UNIQUE DESTINY WILL NOT BE HAMPERED BY THE UNWANTED EMBRACE OF THE MILLIONS OF NON-WHITES WHO WANT TO LIVE AMONG THEM. NON-WHITES WANT TO LIVE AMONG WHITES BECAUSE WHITES HAVE BUILT THE MOST DESIRABLE SOCIETIES IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD. THOSE WHO WISH TO LIVE AMONG US COULD NEVER HAVE BUILT THOSE SOCIETIES AND THE ATTRACTIVE QUALITIES OF THOSE SOCIETIES CANNOT SURVIVE THEIR ARRIVAL IN LARGE NUMBERS. WHITES MUST SEPARATE OR THEY WILL BE OVERWHELMED AND DISAPPEAR."

**— JARED TAYLOR (2011)
FOUNDER, AMERICAN RENAISSANCE**

