## "UNCLE THOMAS STRIKES AGAIN"

By Charlene Mitchell-Executive Director National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression (NAARPR)

Two recent opinions written and signed on to by Supreme Court Associate Justice Clar-

ence Thomas should set off alarm bells just as much as the hooded night-riders did as they went to lynch African-Americans and Native American Indians.

In the first case, Hudson vs. McMillian, Thomas joined with Associated Justice Antonin Scalia on February 25 in opposing the Supreme Court's majority decision that excessive use of force by a prison guard may violate the Constitution even when such force doesn't result in serious injury to the inmate.

Thomas outrageously in-

Thomas outrageously inferred that he wouldn't mind a return to the days when guards could do anything to a prisoner. Thomas said, "Until recent years, the cruel and unusual punishment clause was not deemed to apply at all to deprivations that were not inflicted as part of the sentence for a crime. For generations, judges and commentators regarded the Eighth Amendment as applying only to tortuous punishment meted out

by statutes or sentencing judges and not generally to any hardship that might befall a prisoner during incarceration.

"Surely prison was not a more congenial place in the early years of the Republic than it is today...the lower courts routinely rejected prisoner grievances by explaining that the courts had no role in regulating prison life," Thomas wrote.

Even more incredible, Thomas said, "Abusive behavior by prison guards is deplorable conduct that properly evokes outrage and contempt. But that does not mean that it is invariably unconstitutional."

Since when are prisoners less than full human beings?

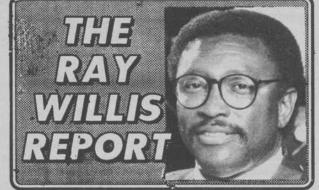
Thomas acts as if one does not have to deal with racism in a prison system where minorities are disproportionately represented in big numbers.

More than half the nation's prisoners are Black and/or Latino. The Sentencing Project has reported that nearly one-fourth of all young Blackmen are in jail, awaiting sentencing or are on parole. And statistics by the U.S. Justice Department reveal that the numbers of minorities being incarcerated in increasing.

Thomas' insensitivity sets up a paradigm of what can happen as our children are arrested and questioned without parents or lawyers present. When Thomas' assertions are added to the realities of the police system which allows police to brutalize people who are not yet in jail, it conjures up a frightening picture.

It is now more than 20 years since the infamous massacre at Attica. The conditions of brutality that led to the rebellion, by Thomas' reading would not necessarily be remedied under the 8th Amendment.

So regardless of the race of the prisoner involved in this specific case, the fact is that the majority of prisoners are people of color, who have been long term magnets for abuse from police and prison guards. And (See Uncle Thomas, Page 17)



## **Selective Amnesia**

It kind of gives you a nice warm feeling in the pit of your stomach to know that America evidently does have some semblance of a national conscience. I'm talking about the Kuwaiti situation. In case you aren't familiar with what's happening, there are reports that hundreds of foreign housekeepers are being beaten and raped by their Kuwaiti employers.

Kuwait, mind you, is the soverign country that Iraq invaded, which precipitated America and U.N. military forces to retaliate, causing the Desert Storm war.

When Iraq conquered Kuwait, the Iraqis raped, looted and pillaged at will until they were finally driven out. But now, in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War, America is joining with international human rights groups to investigate the raping of these foreign housekeepers, not by the Iraqis, but by their own Kuwaiti employers.

Now, let me briefly profile the country of Kuwait for you. This nation is so oil-rich that every adult there, even those who are "poor," has beaucoup bucks by our standards! Enter a women's clothing store in Kuwaiti to buy a simple ladies dress. Guess how much it will cost? Maybe \$2,000 to \$2,500 U.S. dollars! To them that's small change.

Because everyone these has relative wealth, virtually no one does conventional labor. For instance, they hire Americans and other European foreigners as their professional work force and pay them good money. but for their domestic help, they hire so-called Third World women, Filipino, Sri Lankan, Indian (from India) and Bangladeshi.

Because these women are lured to a strange land to perform manual labor, they are almost like indentured servants. In a sense, they are compensated slaves.

Apparently, what is happening is that Kuwaiti men are having their way indiscriminately with these women who have no recourse or say in the matter. Let's drop any pretense. The women are being forcibly raped against their will. It has gotten so bad that many of these foreign women have taken refuge in their embassies in Kuwait.

There are obvious parallels to what happened to African females in America during slavery. In that era, Black women too were raped. We've carried the evidence with us to this day in our lighter skin and less distinct African features—by-products of rape. A main difference being that Negro slaves couldn't go to an embassy somewhere to plead their case. They had no recourse but to submit or die.

Isn't it ironic that the very nation guilty of similar atrocities during slavery times now leads the charge to help defenseless women on the other side of the world?

What it all boils down to, is that America has Selective Amnesia. How else can you explain it when this nation rushes to the aid of a present day group of defenseless people and never officially admits that it has done the same in the past to a segment of its own citizenry.

Strange, but true. Until next week.

## N.L.V. ... THE WESTSIDE STORY

## THIS IS REALITY

By R.K. Brown

I often get negative reviews from readers, when they feel I have over stepped my boundaries. This is good because only through negative response, can you get the whole picture of how your material is being viewed by the readers.

It has been pointed out to me by a brotha, that I often prosecute WHITE people without stating their good points and contributions. I acknowledge that at times I can be hard on our lighter brothers, but anyone who reads my column knows that I am hard on everyone!

My point is, THIS IS REAL-ITY! I am not writing to entertain, I write for truth and black awareness. I do no guess work, I use HIS-STORY as my model for reference.

There can only be two social philosophies. Either you are a Moralist, or a Darwinist. I personally am a Moralist, following in the thinking of Dr. Martin Luther King. But, we must remember, the most supported philosophy in the western world today is Darwinism, or "the survival of the fittest" mentality!

This philosophy was adopted by the white ruling class, as they seized the world; it became the "cornerstone" of the conservative agenda.

You will observe that in my

columns, when I address racist practices, I use the word "Conservative" to designate the specific group of WHITE people I am talking about.

Obviously, most of white America isn't racist. However, these people are in the working class, and have had the chance to learn about black people and culture. They don't control the government!

These aren't the ones I am addressing. I am talking about the Aristocrats, the "ruling class!" I only have to look at factual history to support my stance.

Conservative leaders come into office and leave as heroes, implementing racist polices.

However, the moral visionaries who support human rights are constantly either put in jail, or shot dead in the streets, from Lincoln to Kennedy.

Now, I know many of you feel that these "white" men didn't support BLACK causes secretly, but, they did support them publicly and it cost them their lives. That is why I see them as great men.

Life is reality, if you can't see that you have lived, and will continue to live in a RACIST society, it is my job to shake you from your BRAINWASHING, with truth and undying BLACK-NESS!

PEACE.

