

**NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION**

# SUPREME COURT RULING FAVORS RACISTS

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The Supreme Court's ruling that hate speech is not only protected by the First Amendment, but is not any more offensive than any other "insults," is nourishment to racists and anti-Semites.

The Supreme Court's unanimous ruling on June 28 struck

down a St. Paul, Minnesota ordinance. Yet that wasn't enough for the Reagan-Bush majority on the High court. The opinion written by Associate Justice Antonin Scalia and agreed to by four other justices, including Clarence Thomas, said, "The dispositive question in this case, therefore, is whether content discrimination is reasonably necessary to achieve St. Paul's compelling interests;

it plainly is not. An ordinance not limited to the favored topics, for example, would have precisely the same beneficial effect."

Thus, the right-wing majority believes that protecting victims of racism and anti-Semitism is a "favored topic" that can be protected with already existing laws. If that were the case, how does one explain the increase in number of state legislators throughout the country who are introducing and passing anti-bias laws?

Racial and anti-Semitic violence are increasing in the United States, according to groups that monitor it, including the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Racist, anti-Semitic and other hate speech go hand in glove with racist, anti-Semitic and other hate violence. Burning a cross is not a statement of one's opinions. It is a violent first

act designed to terrorize the victim. It is subsequently followed up by physical assault, if the victim doesn't do what the cross burners desire. In the St. Paul case, that meant that the Black family was to flee their home.

What our country is faced with is not a situation of trampling someone's First Amendment rights to free speech, but a situation of terrorists who wrap themselves in the grab of the First Amendment as they threaten and in many instances take the lives of people they hate because of skin color, their language, their religion or their sexual orientation.

There is so much demagoguery involved. After-all, the same Reagan-Bush disciples on the Supreme Court wave the First Amendment for racists, but placed a gag in the mouths of doctors at federally funded health

facilities. The High Court says its okay to suppress a woman's right to know all of her health care options, while also saying that its wrong for a community to single out racists by blowing out the torches before they set fire to a cross on a Black family's lawn.

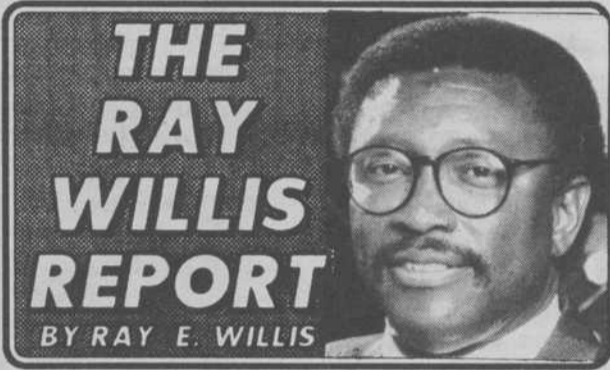
And the Court majority's opinion says that the cross burners can be charged with disturbing the peace or vandalism; existing laws. But the point is that those laws haven't worked because racism, anti-Semitism and other hate violence are interwoven in U.S. society and to unknot this special bigotry requires special laws.

It should be noted that the Bush administration has not yet once prosecuted anyone on the basis of the Proxmire Anti-Genocide Law (Public Law 100-606 - S. 1851) passed by the 100th Congress. That law could be used to protect people from

racist, anti-Semitic and other hate violence by civilians as well as police. Instead the Bush administration's Justice Department is carrying the torch from the Reagan years and continuing to prosecute voting rights activists in the South.

The Supreme Court's ruling is not a narrow one as some commentators would lead people to believe. It is a landmark decision which does more than allow terrorists to poke burning crosses into lawns. It is fertilizing the soil for more racist, anti-Semitic and other forms of hate violence.

And as such it was the ante for all who cherish democracy to be involved in the 1992 elections on all levels, to push for enforcement of existing anti-bias laws, seek introduction and passage of new anti-bias laws and support civilian control boards over police departments.



## "LINCOLN HIGH"

(Date Line - Fort Smith, Arkansas) For about a week now, I've been visiting family and friends here in my hometown.

Next month, prior to returning to Las Vegas, I will be attending the 100th anniversary reunion of my high school alma mater, Lincoln High. In fact, I will be the main speaker at that celebration. From 1892 to the mid-1960's, Lincoln, not unlike many other such high schools in the Deep South, was all-Black. My class, the class of '65, was the last full senior class to graduate from Lincoln.

The original historic Lincoln school building sat vacant after 1966 until the structure was torn down. The end to a noteworthy era in the education of thousands of Black youth, including myself.

After finishing college at Arkansas A.M. & N., I returned to Fort Smith as a TV reporter. Ironically, one of my first assignments was to cover the tearing down of Lincoln High.

Now this July hundreds of Black men and women who received their high school education at Lincoln will return to reminisce and pay tribute to the institution that provided a solid education foundation for them to go successfully into the world as productive citizens.

Interestingly, our all-Black Lincoln High School will be remembered most for the personal touch we received from caring teachers and administrators who took a close personal interest in our growth and development.

In this day-and-time of growing public discontent about the achievement of Black students in integrated school settings, back then we were confident and self-assured, because our education was rewarding to us. We didn't acknowledge that we had an Afrocentric curriculum, but our school couldn't have been any Blacker.

If you were Black you went to Lincoln High School whether you wanted to or not. We wanted to. But if you were any other of today's so-called "minorities", Hispanic, Indian, Oriental, even Other, you automatically attended the all-white high school. That in itself is revealing when you consider the currently accepted minority groupings.

And so this month, as we commemorate Lincoln's 100th anniversary, it will be a joyous occasion indeed. Lincoln High is truly symbolic of a quality of education that did not need to be validated by having us sit next to non-Black students.

Next week, I'll be in Atlanta, Georgia, where I will file my next report.

As the debate rages nationally about why Black "Johnnys" and "Suzies" can't learn, even in integrated schools, we could take a memorable lesson direct from the pages of Black educational history, the Lincoln Highs of the Deep South.

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

# TODAY

**By R.K. Brown**

As I enjoyed the 4th of July holiday, like the rest of the country; I sat back and listened to the stories of how as recently as 1959, the Westside, was completely unpaved. The heart of the community, was centered around Jackson street. Just 30 years ago, the Westside ran out at Late Mead Blvd. If you wanted to go to the out skirts of town, you had to hitch a ride way out to the location of were the VFW sits

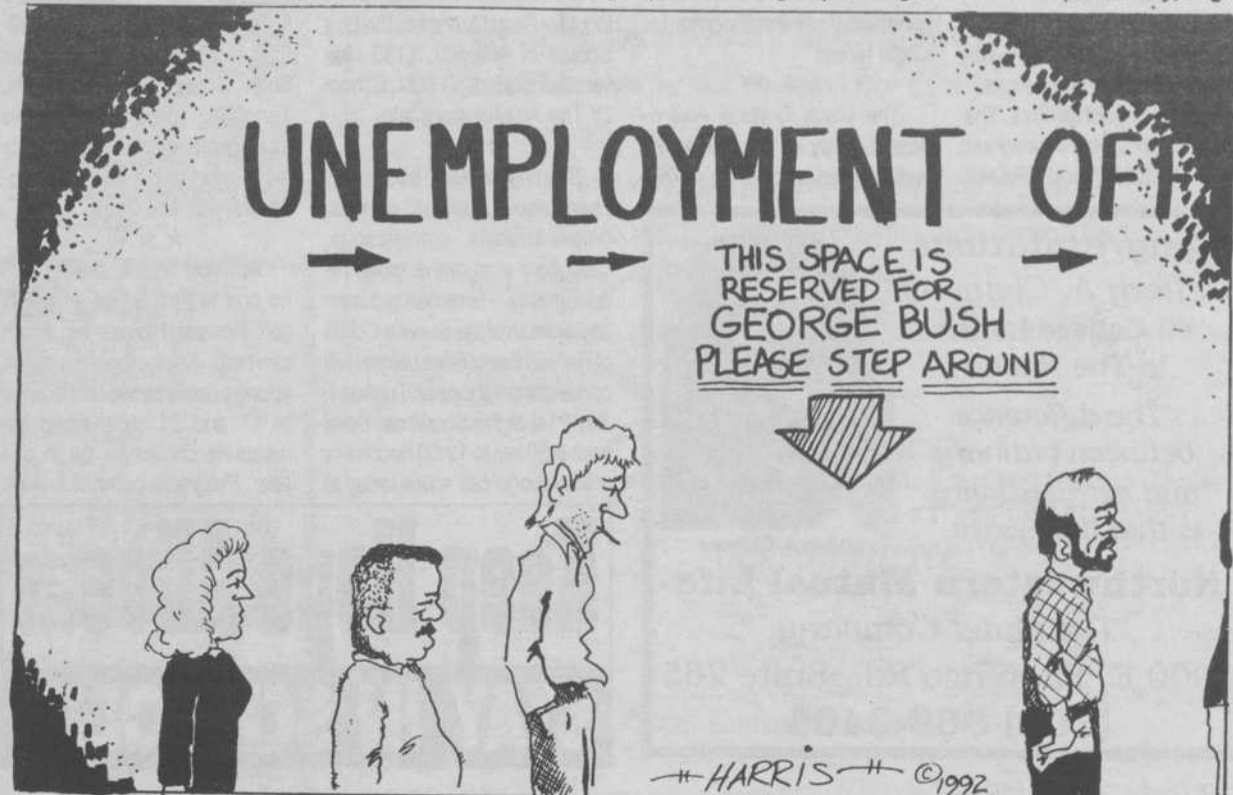
today. Like I told them, I don't see how you all made it. They couldn't go to the strip or downtown unless it was to work. It must have been one of the smallest black populations in the west at that time. And there was only one high school in the valley, it being Las Vegas High. In that regard, Las Vegas was a very different place.

Today, blacks make up a whole variety of professional fields. We have nice community

development, and our cultural experience is growing as well. Today, blacks are spread across the local valley, and they live various lifestyles. We gained visible access in news, radio, education, public offices, and private business. All of this has been accomplished in 30 years. It tells you want a people can achieve, once they set their minds to something. All of those southern families, looked for a positive change by coming to

Las Vegas, there "desert Oasis." This is what makes our community special. All of these different aspects combine to make our valley stand out. We are a community that until just recently, was dwarfed in population by greater Las Vegas. The city was based on gaming, so there were minimal opportunities to own or operate a major casino. So in that light, Las Vegas's black community has

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