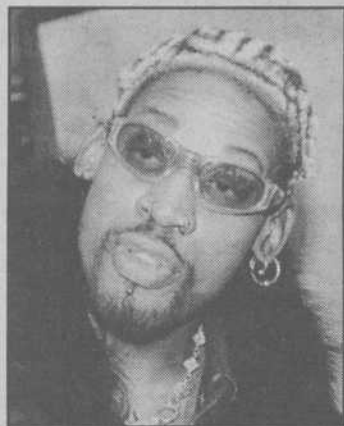


NEWS BRIEFS

JURY ORDERS DENNIS RODMAN TO PAY \$80,000

LAS VEGAS (AP)

Dennis Rodman must pay a casino dealer \$80,000 for rubbing dice on him in 1997, a jury ruled. Rodman wasn't required to appear in the Clark County District Court case, and he didn't testify. Former Mirage craps dealer James



DENNIS RODMAN

Brasich sought \$300,000 in damages, claiming Rodman humiliated him. It is the first of a series of lawsuits to go to trial against Rodman by people who say he mistreated them in Las Vegas casinos. Rodman's lawyers didn't deny that Rodman rubbed Brasich with the dice. They said it was for luck. Jurors deliberated a little more than an hour Friday afternoon before returning their 6-2 verdict.

KLAN LEADER GETS PROBATION FOR HARASSING REPORTER

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) - A leader of a Ku Klux Klan group has been sentenced to six months probation for harassing a newspaper reporter by telephone. Railton Loy, who says he is a minister of the Church of the National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, also was fined \$150. He had faced up to six months in jail and a \$5,000 fine for the misdemeanor charge of telephone harassment. Loy, 63, left a message for South Bend Tribune reporter Carol Draeger on her work voicemail after she helped cover a May 5 Klan rally in South Bend. Loy said that his family was threatened after his name was used in news coverage and that, "I sure wanna find out where you live." Draeger testified that she felt frightened when she heard the message, in part because she was the only reporter whose name Loy had mentioned during the rally. In his testimony, Loy blamed Draeger's articles for the harassment he said he's received, including shots fired at his house window and van, and threatening e-mail and phone messages. During his sentencing last week, Loy asked St. Joseph County Magistrate Brian Steinke if the court would prevent the Tribune from contacting him. Steinke said he couldn't do that. Loy said he planned to appeal his conviction and sentence.

STUDY: DISABLED BLACKS 43 TIMES LESS LIKELY TO GET REHAB THAN WHITES

Disabled African-Americans receive less vocational rehabilitation than Whites, a new study states. The vocational rehabilitation rejection rates for Whites (3.7 percent) is 43 times lower than those for Blacks (5.3 percent). Study author Keith Wilson, an assistant professor of rehabilitation education at Pennsylvania State University, told reporters the results are problematic, since Blacks are proportionally more disabled and have more severe disabilities. He said one factor of the high Black rejection rate could be the high numbers of Whites (93 percent) who are vocational rehabilitation administrators and counselors. Wilson said 22 percent of his respondents were Black and 76 were White. He used data from the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

BEST BUY SETTLES RACE HARASSMENT LAWSUIT

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Best Buy Co. will pay \$250,000 to a black employee who said he was a victim of racial harassment at the Fairless Hills store where he worked. The worker, Baron Fralin, of Bristol, said managers at the store were aware of, condoned or participated in a pattern of racially explicit, insulting comments made against him. Best Buy issued a statement saying it had settled "for the purposes of avoiding protracted litigation." The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission litigated the case on behalf of Fralin. Under the settlement, Best Buy also agreed to provide extra racial-sensitivity training to all employees at the store, which is located at The Court At Oxford Valley.

The LAS VEGAS SENTINEL-VOICE

Virginia anti-cross burning law tossed

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) - A sharply divided Virginia Supreme Court struck down a state law against cross-burning Friday, saying such acts of bigotry are a protected form of speech.

In a 4-3 ruling, the court threw out the convictions of three people in two cases. One involved the burning of a cross at a Ku Klux Klan rally; the other involved an attempted burning in the backyard of a black person.

"Under our system of government, people have the right to use symbols to communicate. They patriotically wave the flag or burn it in protest; they may reverently worship the cross or burn it as an expression of bigotry," Justice Donald W. Lemons

said.

"While reasonable prohibitions upon time, place and manner of speech, and statutes of neutral application, may be enforced, government may not regulate speech based on hostility - or favoritism - towards the underlying message expressed."

In dissent, Justice Leroy Hassell wrote that the law "for almost 50 years has protected our citizens from being placed in fear of bodily harm by the burning of a cross."

Prosecutors had argued that the law was constitutional because it applied equally to anyone who burned a cross to intimidate someone.

The General Assembly enacted the cross-burning law

in 1952 in response to Klan activity. The law was amended several times.

The state attorney general's office had no immediate comment on the ruling.

In one of the cases decided Friday, Barry Elton Black of Carroll County was convicted in 1999 for leading a Klan ceremony that ended in a cross being set on fire. The case drew national attention when the American Civil Liberties Union hired a black lawyer, David P. Baugh, to defend Black.

Baugh argued that the ban violated the constitutional right to free speech, no matter how repugnant that speech might be.

In the other case, from

Virginia Beach, Richard J. Elliott and Jonathan O'Mara were convicted of trying to set a cross ablaze in the yard of Elliott's neighbor, who is black.

The men were with drinking with a group of people when the conversation turned to complaints about the neighbor. The group built a crude cross that Elliott and O'Mara tried to ignite.

"As offensive as cross burning is, it is clearly protected expression under the First Amendment," said Virginia ACLU director Kent Willis. "The same constitutional right that allows you to burn the flag or criticize the government also allows you to express your opinions, as offensive as they may be."

Supreme Court to decide on police searches

WASHINGTON (AP) - Police should be given wider authority to search convicts' homes, the Bush administration argued Tuesday in a case that presented the Supreme Court with its first broad civil liberties question since Sept. 11.

At issue is Americans' right to privacy in their homes - without unreasonable searches - even if they are on parole or probation.

In California, a person on probation signs a blanket agreement giving any police officer permission to search his home or car without a warrant or probable cause. The federal government backs the practice.

The Supreme Court ruling eventually could affect some of the 4.4 million convicts on probation or parole nationwide, along with their families or roommates.

"A probationer's home, like anyone else's house, is protected," said public defender Hilary A. Fox, who represents a man accused of setting a fire that knocked out telephone service to an airport and caused \$1.5 million in damage.

Mark James Knights was on probation for a misdemeanor drug charge in 1998 when Pacific Gas & Electric Co. was vandalized. Because Knights had been disputing an unpaid bill, police woke

him and his girlfriend early one morning for a surprise search. They found a detonation cord, chemicals and books about bomb-making.

Knights' trial for the fire is on hold while the court decides if the search was legal.

Malcolm L. Stewart, arguing for the Bush administration, said authorities need leeway to protect the public from people who could be more likely to engage in other crimes.

"This is terribly important that you provide a deterrent to commit other crimes," Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said. "With the benefit of hindsight, it looks like a per-

fectly reasonable search, for heaven's sake."

But Justice David H. Souter said he was unaware of a precedent that "because someone has been convicted, the state can limit Bill of Rights entitlements."

The federal government contends that an early release is a privilege and that those not wishing to waive their privacy rights can remain behind bars.

The California law is considered the most far-reaching in the country. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco said the searches are unconstitutional.

The case is United States v. Knights, 00-1260.

Two black men charged in 1969 shootings

YORK, Pa. (AP) - A grand jury reviewing fatal shootings during the city's 1969 race riots has recommended another set of murder charges - this time against two black men in the slaying of a white police officer, prosecutors said.

The grand jury has now charged 11 people with murder in the last five months in connection with the riots that left two people dead, more than 60 injured and entire city blocks burned.

Stephen Freeland, 49, and Leon Wright, 53, were charged with first- and second-degree murder last week in the death of rookie Officer Henry Schaad. Nine white men, including Mayor Charlie Robertson, who was a police officer at the time of the riots, were charged earlier this year with killing a black woman.

Freeland, who is serving a seven- to 14-year prison sentence on a drug conviction, and Wright were ordered held without bail. Neither entered a plea.

Schaad, 22, was shot on the second night of riots touched off when a black teen-ager was allegedly wounded by a white gang member. Schaad was riding in an armored car with two other white officers when he was struck by a bullet that pierced the vehicle's steel plating. He died two weeks later.

The son of a York police detective, he remains the only York police officer killed in the line of duty. A photo of Schaad hangs behind the front desk at police headquarters.

Noting the photo, York Police Capt. Bill Vangreen said: "That picture was a reminder to all of us not to give

up."

Three days after Schaad was shot, Lillie Belle Allen, 27, was slain. Robertson and the eight other suspects have all pleaded innocent in connection with the killing.

Allen, of Aiken, S.C., and her family were on the way to buy groceries when her sister drove down a street crowded with white men. Allen's sister panicked and tried to turn the car around. When Allen stepped out to take over the

driving, she was killed by a shotgun blast.

For years, talk circulated in town about who was responsible for the killings. In the Allen case, rumors targeted a now-defunct white street gang called the Newberry Street Boys, several of whom were arrested earlier this year in the Allen killing.

After his arrest, Robertson abandoned his campaign for (See Shootings, Page 5)

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