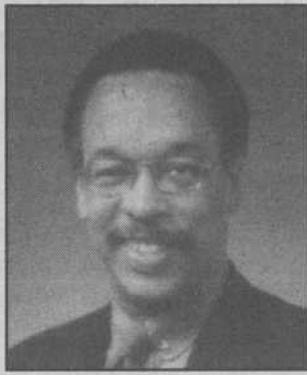


# NAACP leader voices concerns about Alito

WASHINGTON (AP)—Only minutes after Republican National Committee Chairman Ken Mehlman asked Blacks to consider supporting the GOP, NAACP President Bruce Gordon talked about his deep concerns about the Bush administration's nominee to the Supreme Court, Samuel Alito.



*"I sense that this is a nomination that may not be consistent with the America that Rosa Parks sat down to create."*

— Bruce Gordon  
NAACP President

"I sense that this is a nomination that may not be consistent with the America that Rosa Parks sat down to create," Gordon told the crowd Tuesday at an NAACP fundraiser, where frequent references were made to Parks, the civil rights leader who died last week at 92.

During the luncheon, Mehlman made a pitch for the GOP to those "who are not satisfied with your children's schools, with where you work and where you live, with your retirement." Mehlman's visit to the NAACP event was the latest of almost three dozen visits with Black groups this year aimed at strengthening Black support for the GOP. President Bush got the support of only one in 10 Black

voters in both 2000 and 2004.

The GOP outreach to Blacks has been made more difficult, however, by some administration policies and actions and the slow reaction to Hurricane Katrina, which left many poor Blacks stranded in New Orleans.

"The Republicans lost their credibility in the African-American community with Katrina," Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean said after the luncheon.

The nomination of Alito, a federal appeals court judge, is also causing concern in the Black community at a time that NAACP leader Gordon is trying to build stronger relations with the White House.

Gordon said the Supreme Court nomination has him worried, saying, "If I see the extreme right celebrating this nomination, that puts my antenna up." But he's still trying to build a better relationship with Bush.

"The oldest and largest civil rights organization should have access to the president," said Gordon, who met with Bush in September to discuss Katrina recovery. "We don't have to agree on everything, but to be totally out of communication is totally unacceptable."

Some NAACP event attendees said they were pleased Mehlman was seeking their support, but they expressed skepticism.

# Scholar: Judge trumps Scalia in conservatism

By George E. Curry  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Jonathan Turley, a legal scholar and law professor at George Washington University, said that President Bush's recent nominee to replace Sandra Day O'Connor may be more conservative than even Antonin Scalia, the conservative court's most conservative member.

"...There will be no one to the right of Sam Alito on this court..." Turley said Monday in an interview on "The Today Show." Katie Couric followed up, "Not even Antonin Scalia?"

Turley: "They'll have to make a race for the right, but I think it'll be by a nose, if at all."

Gary Bauer, a leading conservative and former Republican candidate for president, said on CNN, "I think the president hit a grand slam home run here."

There are plenty of reasons to make Bauer so effusive that he could infer that a grand slam in baseball could be hit with anything other than a bases-loaded home run.

Alito's appointment has disappointed progressives.

"Replacing a mainstream conservative like Justice O'Connor with a far-right activist like Samuel Alito would threaten Americans' rights and legal protections for decades," said Ralph G. Neas, president of People for the American Way.

"Justice O'Connor had a pivotal role at

the center of the Court, often providing a crucial vote to protect privacy, civil rights and so much more. All that would be at risk if she were replaced with Judge Alito, who had a record of ideological activism against privacy rights, civil rights, workers' rights and more."

A 24-page "preliminary review" of Alito's record by People for the American Way concludes: "As the following summaries of his opinions reveal, the judicial philosophy of Samuel Alito is far to the right. In fact, he has been given the nickname 'Scalito' by some who practice before him and liken him to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

"He has demonstrated hostility toward the principles undergirding a woman's constitutionally protected right to her own reproductive choices — most notably the Third Circuit's attempt to limit or overturn Roe v. Wade in the context of the Planned Parenthood v. Casey case.

"In addition, he has issued a number of troubling opinions that seek to undermine established civil rights law, especially in the areas of gender and race, and that seek to severely limit the federal government's ability to protect its citizens. Alito claimed that the federal government could not apply to the Family and Medical Leave Act to state employees, a decision effectively reversed by the Supreme Court, and even argued that

(See Alito, Page 10)

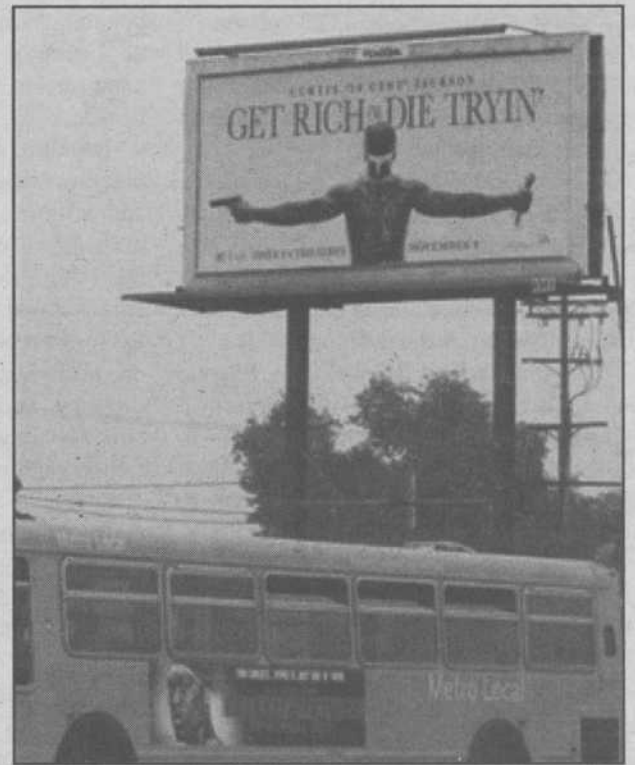
# Studio pulls billboards for new 50 Cent movie

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Paramount Pictures is removing some billboards promoting the upcoming 50 Cent film "Get Rich or Die Tryin'" after community activists complained they promoted gun violence. The billboards depict the rapper, whose real name is Curtis Jackson, holding a gun in his left hand and a microphone in his right. At least two were near schools.

A studio spokesman said Friday that Paramount was evaluating the locations of the billboards and taking some down. He declined further comment.

One of the signs was located in front of a charter school in Altadena and another sign was near a school in south Los Angeles, areas that have struggled with gang violence.

Activists in a south Los Angeles neighborhood staged a rally Tuesday to protest the signs. Los Angeles County Supervisor



*This 50 Cent billboard has generated tons of controversy.* Michael Antonovich sent a letter Wednesday to Paramount President Brad Grey calling for immediate removal of the billboards. "The billboard conveys to students a disturbing message actively promoting gun violence, criminal behavior and gang affiliation," Antonovich wrote. "Get Rich or Die Tryin'" stars Jackson as a drug dealer who turns away from crime to pursue his true passion — music. It is scheduled to open Nov. 9.

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