

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

# PERSPECTIVE



**D3 Time  
for action**

With his re-election out of the way, President Bush should be inclined to do more in his second term, Jay Ambrose says.

SECTION



**SUNDAY**  
FEBRUARY 13, 2005

**D4** • SUNDAY, February 13, 2005

**PERSPECTIVE**  
**INLAND VIEWS**

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

# Advice for racists in court

BY ADDISON STEELE

**C**riminal defense is a unique profession in that issues of race are discussed openly and candidly because the factor of race is too critical to the outcome of a case to be politely ignored. When a person's liberty is at stake, pretending that race is not a part of a jury trial simply is not an option.

With that understood, here is some free legal advice for Howard Marshall and 18 others arrested in an investigation of white supremacists in Southwest Riverside County and Northern San Diego County:

As a white supremacist, you have a long road ahead of you in the criminal justice system. Almost all the potential jurors will say they can be fair. Minority jurors will try to be fair; they will tell themselves that they are being fair. But your swastikas, Nazi flags and memorabilia will likely be too much for them to overcome. No matter how much they try to eliminate all of that from

their assessment of the evidence and their deliberations, it will be there.

**W**ho you really need to be concerned about are the white jurors. If the white juror is truly non-racist, he or she is going to have a hard time setting aside his or her disgust for you and your views and how you reflect upon all white people. These jurors will also tell themselves that they can be fair, but racist symbols will be too much for them to completely set aside.

So you have to pin your hopes on your fellow white racists. The problem is that racists who are honest with themselves about their racism — and get involved in white supremacist gangs, tattoo swastikas on themselves and openly proclaim white pride — are rare.

The more common white racists are the ones who will not admit to themselves that

they are racist.

These people will move away from their neighborhood to keep themselves and their children away from minorities. They will lobby school boards to change or retain school assignment lines so their children go to as segregated schools as possible.

These are the people who will complain and, write letters to the editor about or participate in organizations that denounce undocumented workers. And they will rally against gay marriage.

They will condemn you for your honesty about your racism.

**A**s a final note, although it may be too late, some free legal advice for the future:

You will be well served to channel your racism into socially accepted forms of hate such as bashing undocumented workers, complaining about affirmative action and working against equality for homosexuals.

You can write letters to your local newspaper;

in Riverside and San Diego counties they will print whatever hatred you spew as long as you limit it to "illegal aliens," "reverse discrimination" or the "homosexual agenda."

You can consider suing someone for accepting a black person with a slightly lower grade-point average into a college.

You can vote against basic civil rights for homosexuals. You can join a vigilante group prowling the border area hunting people who are risking everything they have to come to this country to get a job.

But whatever you do, don't be honest about your racism and tattoo a swastika on your body and gather racist materials because that will cause you all kinds of problems with your jury pool.

Addison Steele, a Canyon Lake resident, is a criminal defense attorney in Riverside.

You will be well served to channel your racism into socially accepted forms of hate such as bashing undocumented workers, complaining about affirmative action and working against equality for homosexuals. But whatever you do, don't be honest about your racism.