

# Fighting Words

## Anti-Bush protesters vow to be more vigilant and active in the future

BY YANELA GORDON  
SPECIAL TO THE NNPA

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — While George W. Bush was taking his oath of office as the nation's 43rd president, thousands of protesters gathered in Tallahassee to take an oath of their own: "Never again will every vote not count."  
"Let us take an oath," said Rick Trumpca, secretary/treasurer of the national AFL-CIO, "that the misdeeds committed against minority voters and elderly and student voters will not be forgiven. And never again will this injustice happen."  
"Never again," the crowd chanted.  
More than 2,000 protesters gathered at the Capitol on Jan. 20 to protest what they called a stolen election.  
The march was held simultaneously with a "shadow inauguration" protest held in Washington, D.C., where thousands gathered in front of the U.S. Supreme Court

during Bush's swearing in ceremony.  
NAACP President and CEO Kweisi Mfume, said, "Every day school children across the county pledge allegiance ... 'One nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.' But the American republic is still not yet one nation and nowhere can it be said in our lifetime we've ever practiced liberty and justice for all. We need only look to Florida."  
The Florida protest was led by the Coalition of Conscience, a group of more than 80 advocacy groups who organized the historic March on Tallahassee protesting Gov. Jeb Bush's One Florida Initiative, which eliminated race as a factor in college admissions and public contracting.  
"Florida and America were cheated on Nov. 7," said Gerald McIntee, president of the national AFSCME union.  
"We were cheated when African-American voters faced police roadblocks. We were cheat-



President Bush's inauguration parade route looked like a war zone at times as protesters threw bottles, shouted and made obscene gestures toward Bush's motorcade as it passed by.

ed when unreliable punch card machines were purposely put in precincts. We were cheated when the Supreme Court of the United States stopped the count. But we told them we will be coming back time and time again until we get justice."

Protesters say they came from across the country in a show of solidarity.  
Rob Okun of Amherst, Mass., bypassed the D.C. protest to come to Florida.  
"As a white man, I wanted to stand with African Americans who didn't get a chance to vote," he said. "I believe every vote should count and the feeling that the people of Florida got cheated just would not go away."  
Angie Fraiser of Columbia, S.C., said, "It's about our rights. If we don't stand up for our rights we will fall for anything and into anything."

and celebrate the fact you turned out in great numbers and won a great victory," added Lowery.  
"Look at us," Mfume said. "We are black, brown, white and yellow. We are old and young, union workers and civil rights groups and we ain't gonna let nobody turn us around."  
Rally speakers sent a clear message of determination.  
"We're gonna tell Mr. George W. to have a good time this four years because they're your last four," said Dr. Adora Obi Nweze, president of the Florida Conference of NAACP Branches. "Have fun, Jeb," she added, referring to the governor. "Two more years and you're out."

"George Bush's daddy gave us Clarence Thomas. Jeb Bush gave us 'One Florida' and George W. gave us Ashcroft," said U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown (D-Fla.). "What happened in Florida will go down in history as a coup d'état. We are witnessing the inauguration of the president who was selected, not elected."  
Ashcroft stands firmly against affirmative action, women's right to choose and gives little credence to complaints about racial profiling.  
"We will not tolerate the turning back of the clock," Lowery said.  
Maynard Jackson, former mayor of Atlanta, said the turmoil in Florida was a wake-up call. "We forgot that the struggle for freedom is two-fold," he said. "First you got to get free. Then you've got to stay free," said Jackson, who is running for chairman of the Democratic National Committee, said, "Let Florida be a guide for us to get up and fight again."

# Klansmen, family gather to mourn killer of civil rights leader Evers

## De La Beckwith's legacy of hate prominent at funeral

BY JASON STRAIT  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — Klansmen and family members stood in salute as the Confederate anthem "Dixie" played to honor avowed racist Byron De La Beckwith, the assassin of civil rights leader Medgar Evers.  
Supporters on Saturday said Beckwith was a hero of the white supremacist movement who was unjustly persecuted for his outspoken hatred of blacks and Jews.  
"Don't believe any of the lies the enemies of God say about him," said Van Herrell, a white supremacist pastor who delivered the eulogy. "He was filled with love for his race and for righteousness."  
Beckwith died Jan. 21 at 80 while serving a life sentence in a Mississippi prison for the 1963 assassination of Evers, a field secretary for the National Association of Colored People.  
About 30 mourners attended the funeral ceremony, including an imperial wizard of the Ku Klux Klan who presented a Confederate flag and a rusted sword to Beckwith's son.  
There were no protests.  
Beckwith, an ex-Marine and former Klansmen, denied killing Evers, but said he was glad someone did.  
Friends said it was that unwa-

vering frankness that made Beckwith a target for prosecutors and led to his 1994 murder conviction. His example, several mourners said, would be carried on by future generations of white supremacists.  
"He was a soldier, and a mentor to me," said longtime friend Richard Ford, an imperial wizard of the KKK from Florida. "I know that it was a setup that put him in prison, and so do millions of other people who are afraid to say so."  
As pallbearers lifted Beckwith's coffin into a white hearse, his son, Byron De La Beckwith Jr., wept as he repeatedly said, "It ain't over. It ain't over."  
Beckwith Jr. was presented with a Confederate flag during the ceremony, which had been draped over the coffin during the visitation. An American flag covered the coffin during the burial service.  
Evers' name was never mentioned directly during the service, but his assassination and the eventual conviction of Beckwith were repeated themes.  
Beckwith was found guilty in 1994 of shooting Evers, a vocal proponent of desegregation. The conviction came 31 years after Evers was assassinated.  
Two all-white juries deadlocked in trials in 1964, and it wasn't until 1989 that the case would be revisited by prosecutors.  
That year the Clarion-Ledger

in Jackson, Miss., reported that a 15-year-old book, "Klandestine," detailed the memories of former KKK officer Delmar Dennis, who became an FBI informant. The book said Beckwith admitted to Dennis he had killed Evers.  
Beckwith claimed he was 90 miles away in Greenwood when Evers was murdered. However, the rifle used in the murder was found abandoned in a nearby lot with Beckwith's fingerprints on it.  
Supporters of Beckwith continue to maintain that he was framed for the murder.  
"So they found a fingerprint on the gun? If you stole all of my guns you'd probably find my fingerprints on a few of them too," Herrell said.  
Beckwith's widow, Thelma, declined to comment after the funeral. His son spoke briefly with reporters, saying he was proud of his dad and his place in history.  
"The world will not forget my father," he said.

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### INDEX

OPINION	A6
SPORTS	B1
RELIGION	B7
CLASSIFIEDS	B10
HEALTH	C3
ENTERTAINMENT	C7
CALENDAR	C9

**Quotables:**  
"Every race and every nation should be judged by the best it has been able to produce, not by the worst."  
— James Weldon Johnson

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### STADIUM SEATING

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O VALENTINE (R) ... THY	1:15 3:15 5:15 7:25 9:35
TRAFFIC (R) ... SW	1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
MRS CONGENIALITY (PG-13) ... DTS	2:40 5:15 7:50 10:00
HEAD OVER HEELS (PG) ... DTS	1:00 3:00 5:00 7:15 9:30
PENDING FORGEMASTER (PG-13) ... THY	1:00 3:45 7:00 9:45
SAVE THE LAST DANCE (PG-13) ... THY	1:15 4:15 7:15 9:40
CASTAWAY (PG) ... DD	1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
SUGAR AND SPICE (PG) ... DD	1:20 3:20 5:20 7:20 9:25
SNATCH (R) ... DTS	1:30 4:20 7:30 9:45
WHAT WOMEN WANT (PG-13) ... DTS	1:30 4:20 7:35 10:05
13 DAYS (PG) ... DTS	1:30 4:20 7:30 10:05
WEDDING PLANNER (PG) ... THY	1:30 4:20 7:30 9:35

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PENDING FORGEMASTER (PG-13) ... DTS	1:00 4:15 7:00 9:45
THE PLEDGE (R) ... SW	1:15 4:00 7:10 9:45
THE GIFT (R) ... SW	1:30 4:00 7:30 9:30
O BROTHER WHERE ART THOU (PG-13) ... THY	1:30 4:20 7:25 9:35
O VALENTINE (R) ... THY	1:15 3:15 5:15 7:25 9:35
LEFT BEHIND (PG) ... THY	1:20 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45
HEAD OVER HEELS (PG) ... DTS	1:00 3:00 5:00 7:15 9:30
DOUBLE TAKE (PG) ... DTS	1:00 3:00 5:00 7:15 9:30
WEDDING PLANNER (PG) ... SW	1:30 4:20 7:30 9:35
SUGAR AND SPICE (PG) ... THY	1:20 3:20 5:20 7:20 9:25

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## A CLOSER LOOK @ THE TOBACCO AGREEMENT

It has been more than a year since Philip Morris USA and the other major tobacco companies entered into the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) with the states' attorneys general, an agreement that deals with many of the issues surrounding tobacco.

We believe that it is important for the public to understand how—in addition to addressing a number of other issues—this historic agreement changed the way tobacco is marketed, advertised and promoted in this country.

Perhaps the most visible change is the removal of tobacco advertising from billboards in the United States. The goal of this provision is to limit the exposure of kids to tobacco advertising, a step defined by the public health community as a way to help reduce the incidence of youth smoking.

At Philip Morris USA, we have worked hard to implement the many provisions of the agreement and to demonstrate our commitment to following it in letter and spirit. We continue to do so.

We realize there are some who question our commitment. All we ask is that we be judged by our actions.

Our goal is to be the most responsible and respected developer, manufacturer and marketer of tobacco products for adults who choose to smoke. We are supporting positive youth development programs and producing advertising designed to help prevent youth smoking.

And now that the states are beginning to receive the proceeds of the settlement, we are actively working to encourage state legislators to spend a significant portion on programs that will help prevent youth smoking.

The MSA dictates many changes, some of which are highlighted below. At Philip Morris USA, we fully support this agreement, its objectives and the many changes it brings to our industry. We will continue to work to fulfill its purpose.

For more information about our programs and marketing standards, please visit our Web site at [www.philipmorrisusa.com](http://www.philipmorrisusa.com).

If you don't have Internet access, please call 1-877-PMUSAWEB.

### MSA HIGHLIGHTS

- Bans all transit and billboard advertising of tobacco products
- Bans the distribution of apparel and other non-tobacco merchandise with brand names or logos: caps, T-shirts, backpacks and more
- Prohibits brand-name sponsorship of concerts and events with a significant youth audience
- Bans payments for the use of tobacco products in movies, television shows and theater productions
- Restricts the distribution of free samples
- Provides for payments of billions of dollars to the states over the next 25 years

**TOBACCO TODAY**  
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