

## Commentary **Zimmerman is the media's victim**

*Michael Costello The Lewiston Tribune*

Do you smell black churches burning? I do.

Back in 1996 the Democrat/media complex created a false narrative about a wave of black church arsons. Then President Bill Clinton eloquently recalled how a strikingly similar epidemic in his home state of Arkansas had touched his heart when he was a child. Everyone swooned.

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It was a remarkably Clintonian feat of memory, because those church burnings that were seared into his memory didn't happen either.

But the purpose of the fabricated narrative was to cement the re-election of Bill Clinton, who was portrayed as the only man capable of healing the racial rift that these burning churches represented.

And it was all a fraud. USA Today strayed off the reservation, committed an act of investigative journalism and proved that the wave of black church arsons was wholly apocryphal.

The mainstream news media was exposed for making it all up.

They used to have a word for fake, inflammatory journalism. It was called "yellow journalism." Today, it's called journalism.

Democrats seized upon the Trayvon Martin shooting in Florida as an opportunity to reprise their 1996 role as racial conciliators. And the media played along. But they've blown it mightily.

The undisputed facts of the case are that George Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch officer, shot Trayvon Martin, a 17-year-old African-American, after reporting to police that he was observing someone who had piqued his suspicions.

After the shooting, the police detained and questioned Zimmerman. Zimmerman insisted that he shot Martin in self defense only after the teenager had attacked him, administered a considerable beating and tried to take his handgun. Numerous witnesses and physical evidence corroborated Zimmerman's version of events. The Florida State Attorney's office judged that there was not enough evidence to charge Zimmerman with a crime.

Since then, the Democrats' premier race baiters, Al Sharpton, Jesse Jackson and the New Black Panthers, have moved in to create a divisive account of a racist white man shooting an angelic, unarmed child. At first, the mainstream news media eagerly promoted this storyline.

But little by little, what the police knew when they took the decision to release George Zimmerman has made its way into the public eye. The local press had it first and it was later picked up by the national news media. And it has grown increasingly clear that the Jesse Jackson/Al Sharpton/New Black Panthers narrative is far off the truth.

But that didn't deter Congressional Democrats from bringing Trayvon Martin's parents to the capital to

stage phony hate crimes "hearing."

And it has grown increasingly clear that Democrats aren't seeking justice. They're demanding a lynching.

This actually could have turned to President Obama's advantage, but he didn't have the instincts.

In 1992, Bill Clinton stood before Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Push Coalition and scolded the assemblage for hosting Sister Souljah the previous day. Sister Souljah was a rapper who advocated the murder of white people for the crime of being white. Jesse Jackson made a great exhibition of indignation at being disrespected. But Bill Clinton reaped a rich harvest for demonstrating his independence from the race-baiting wing of the Democratic Party.

And it was risk-free. Clinton knew that they had nowhere else to go in the general election.

But when Barack Obama was asked about Trayvon Martin's death, he chose to inject race into the affair, thus encouraging the race baiters to ramp things up.

All that was missing was Obama accusing the Orlando cops of acting stupidly.

Since then, the New Black Panthers have distributed wanted posters offering \$10,000 for Zimmerman's capture and claim to have recruited thousands of black men to track him down.

In his eagerness to exact racist revenge, movie director Spike Lee did the wrong thing and used his Twitter account to broadcast to his 240,000 followers what he believed was Zimmerman's home address.

The address was that of an innocent elderly couple.

Defusing this powder keg will require courage and moral leadership. Obama is uniquely situated to accomplish that. But he either believes that he can exploit this for political advantage as Clinton did 16 years ago, or he has once again reverted to political spinelessness and chosen to vote present.

Obama promised that his ironically misnamed Justice Department would be looking into civil rights violations. At the moment, the only person who has suffered clear civil rights violations is Zimmerman.

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