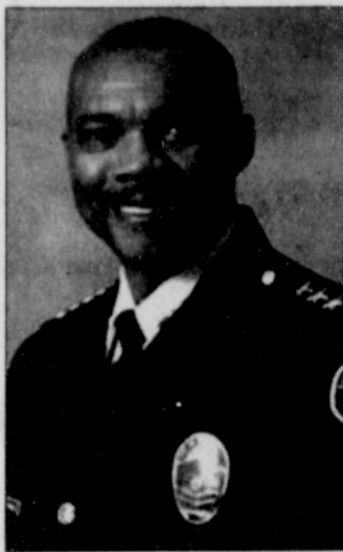


# POLICE

## Former-Vancouver Chief Gets Job in LA

Stan Reeves to head security for California transit system



Stan Reeves

(AP) — Stan Reeves, who resigned as police chief last May amid allegations that he helped a friend avoid a drunken driving arrest, has been hired as head of security for the Los Angeles transit system.

Reeves' new job with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority pays \$140,000, the Columbian reported. He made \$107,532 as Vancouver police chief.

In Los Angeles, a transit system official said his agency was aware of the controversy.

"They did consider that no charges were ever filed," said Marc Littman, transit system deputy executive director for public relations.

"They thought he was the best man for the job."

Reeves has spent 24 years in law enforcement, including service with police departments in Vancouver and Eugene, as well as three years as public safety director at the University of Oregon.

Reeves, 52, resigned one day before the Washington State Patrol began investigating allegations that he prevented his girlfriend from being arrested by one of his officers in May 2001.

The State Patrol decided the woman would have been cited for drunken driving or negligent driving if Reeves hadn't arrived.

Brian Moran, the state's chief criminal prosecutor, concluded there wasn't probable cause to charge Reeves, much less sufficient evidence to win a jury conviction.

## Cross Burning as Free Speech Before High Court

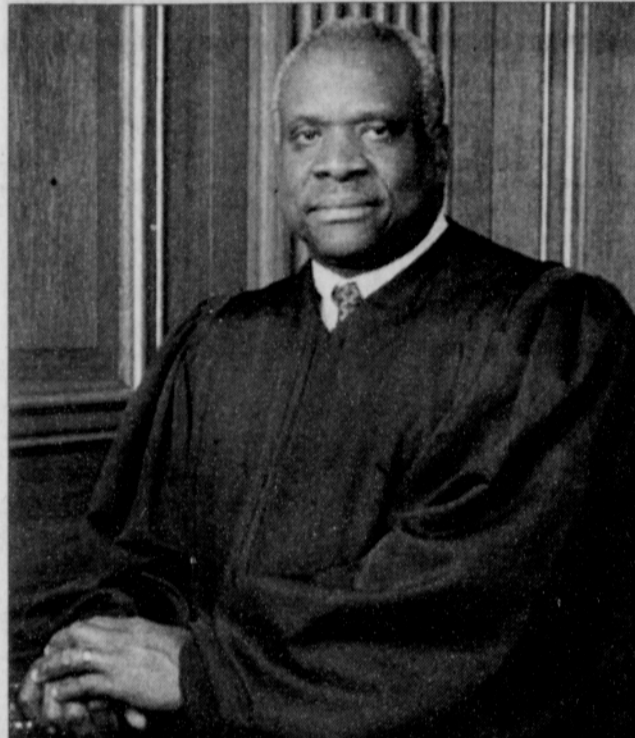
Symbol's link to racial violence attacked in opening debate

(AP) — A case that questions whether cross burning is illegal intimidation or constitutionally protected free speech produced sharp debate among Supreme Court justices during opening arguments last week, with most appearing very troubled by the symbol's link to racial violence.

Justices are considering how far states can go to discourage the Ku Klux Klan and others from burning crosses. At issue is an anti-cross burning Virginia law passed 50 years ago in reaction to Klan intimidation of blacks.

Justice Clarence Thomas, the court's only black member and who rarely speaks in arguments, said crosses were part of "100 years of lynching in the South."

"This was a reign of terror, and the cross was a sign of that," said Thomas, who was raised in segregated Georgia. "It is unlike any symbol in our society. It was intended to cause fear, terrorize."



*It is unlike any symbol in our society. It was intended to cause fear, terrorize.*

—Chief Justice Clarence Thomas

The justices interrupted each other during the lively argument, comparing crosses to semiautomatic weapons and discussing the history of cross burning.

"The cross has acquired a potency that is at least equal to that of a gun," Justice David H. Souter said.

The justices historically have been protective of the free-speech rights of the most controversial of groups, including flag-burners, adult entertainers and people who display swastikas.

In the cross-burning case, they're debating now whether three



white men were wrongly prosecuted, in separate cases, for lighting crosses during a Klan rally in the yard of a black family.

The Virginia Supreme Court overturned the convictions of the men, ruling the burnings were symbolic speech.

## Police Dog Dies On Duty

The Portland Police Bureau is honoring a working companion who helped capture 126 suspects during a six-year police career.

"Lex," a member of the K-9 unit, died of an apparent heart attack Dec. 10 while tracking a suspect.

The dog was a 7-year-old German Shepherd and K-9 partner of officer Bert Combs.

Lex was also one of two K-9's trained as a member of the SERT team.

Officer Combs is a "Master Trainer" of police dogs in the State of Oregon.

## Court Backs Photo Radar

(AP) — The camera will remain on Portland drivers after the Oregon Court of Appeals rejected a

constitutional challenge to the state's photo radar law.

The case arose when a woman who got a citation mailed to her argued that the law required her to prove she was not the driver, basically forcing her to prove her inno-

cence.

Such a requirement would be unconstitutional in a criminal case, but the Court of Appeals said it was allowable under the photo radar law because traffic tickets do not result in incarceration.

Portland and Beaverton have been using photo radar since 1996.

Police look up the registered owner of the car and mail a ticket. Under the law, the registered owner is presumed to be the driver unless he or she can prove otherwise.

Just think: Your son is bright, healthy and headed for college one day. You love the direction your career has taken. You're doing a lot of the things you planned and even a few you didn't. Living life to the fullest is easy when you have family behind you. American Family Mutual Insurance. Call and talk to one of our helpful, friendly agents. You'll find out why we're consistently rated A+ (Superior) by A.M. Best, the insurance rating authority. Then, go on. Dream. Plan. What you do next is up to you and we'll be here to help you.

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### Reward Offered in Sex Crimes Case

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in locating and apprehending Gerald Shawn Espinoza.

In April 2001, a Clackamas County Grand Jury indicted Espinoza on felony sex related crimes involving a female juvenile family member.

Police said when the warrants came out, Espinoza, who lived in the Milwaukie area at the time, packed up and fled. Investigators have been looking for him ever since and speculate he may be hiding out in the Bend/Redmond area.

Espinoza is a 37-year old Hispanic male, with a date of birth of Oct. 11, 1965. He is 5 feet, 10 inches and weighs approximately 205 pounds with brown eyes and black hair.

**Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony crime, any you need not give your name. Call Crime Stoppers at 503-823-HELP.**

### Radical Guilty in Log Truck Arsons

(AP) — An Earth Liberation Front saboteur who faced 40 years in prison for torching three logging trucks pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in exchange for a reduced sentence.

Jacob D.B. Sherman, a 20-year-old Portlander, signed a plea agreement last that would allow him to serve 41 months in federal custody. Formal sentencing was set for Feb. 20.

Sherman is one of four people charged with taking part in the June 2001 arson of logging trucks near Estacada to protest the contested Eagle Creek timber sale. He and fellow activist Michael J. Scarpitti — a radical environmentalist better known as Tre Arrow — also stand accused of the April 2001 arson of three cement trucks at Portland's Ross Island Sand and Gravel. Scarpitti remains a fugitive.

Andrew Bates, Sherman's lawyer, declined comment on behalf of his client and family. But he issued a statement saying Sherman deeply regretted his actions.

"He never intended to place anyone in harm's way and was only trying to protect our old growth forests and the earth," Bates wrote. "He realizes that, while the protection of our environment is a just cause, his participation in setting these fires was an unacceptable and counterproductive means of protests. The end cannot justify the means."

### Information Defends Against Identity Theft

The Portland Police Bureau and U.S. Bank have partnered to create a brochure that arms Portland residents with information to protect themselves from identity theft.

The brochures are available at all Portland Police Bureau precincts, the Office of Neighborhood Involvement and all U.S. Banks branches in the Portland area.

"We're proud of the public and private sector collaboration that brought this brochure together for us to present to the public," said Police Chief Mark Kroeker. "Crimes of this nature are unsettling and disturbing to the individual citizen, and the damage caused can take months and sometimes years to correct.

Identity theft is the fastest growing type of fraud today," said Tina Foster, region managers for U.S. Bank on Portland.