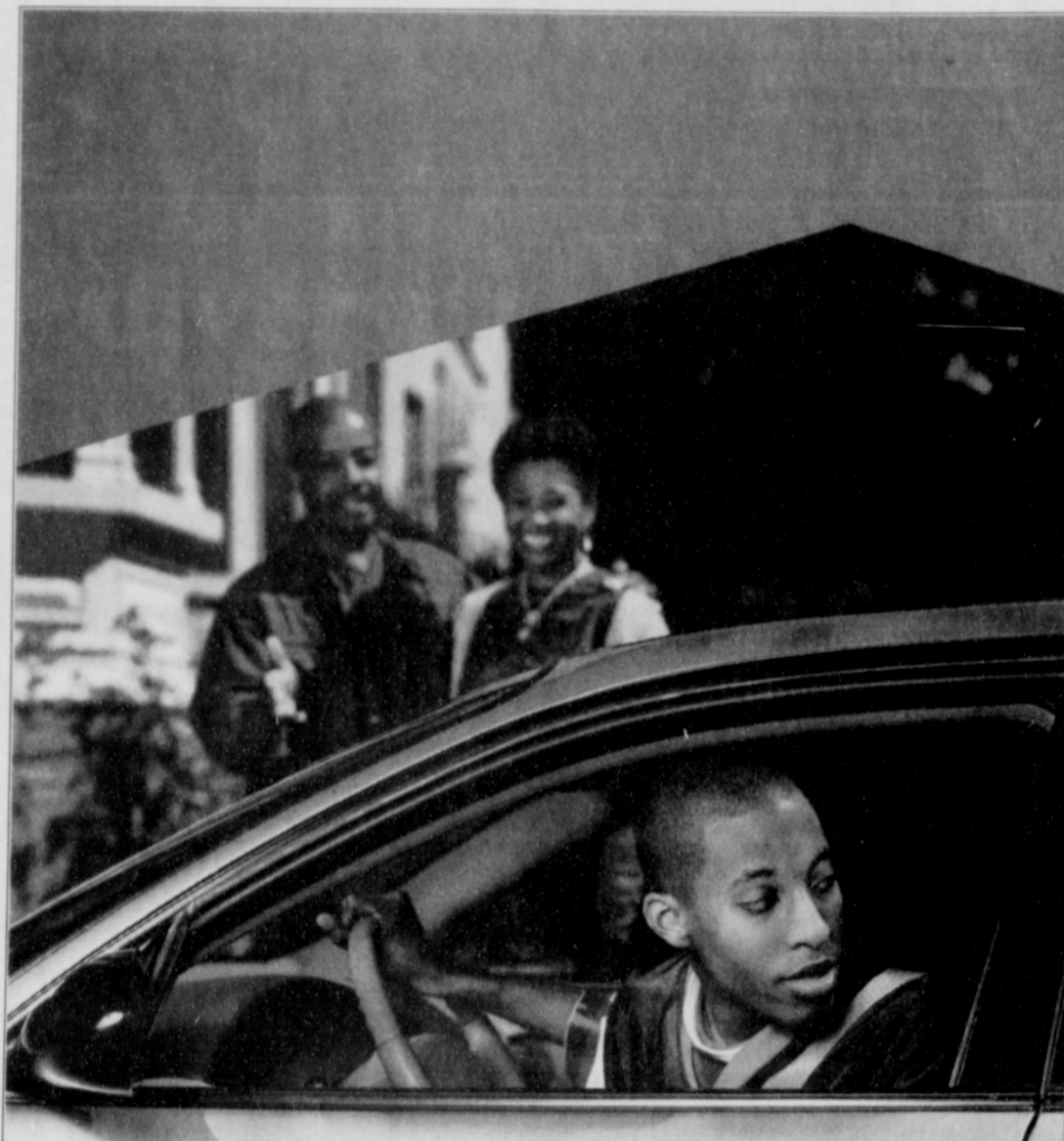


# OPINION

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## Free Speech is a Right IRS investigation of NAACP is political

BY JUDGE MATHIS

In the 1960s, the FBI investigated and paid informants to infiltrate African-American organizations such as the Black Panthers, the Nation of Islam and SNCC in an effort to intimidate and destroy our struggle for jus-

ment Right and spoke out against "the administration policies of George W. Bush on education, the economy and the war in Iraq."

Julian Bond spoke out and utilized the liberties we're all afforded under the Constitution and now his organization is

was founded upon principles of dissent, free speech and fair representation. By attempting to stifle the voice of the nations' largest civil rights organization, the IRS

Why can't we criticize policies that hurt African-American people? That is what the NAACP is for.



Judge Greg Mathis

ice and equality.

More recently, federal agencies unsuccessfully tried to silence Rev. Jesse Jackson by implementing an IRS investigation against his Rainbow PUSH coalition. Now they're going after the nations' largest and oldest civil rights organization: the NAACP.

The right wing's stronghold in our government has reached even larger proportions. In a patently unconstitutional, bullying and fascist manner, the Internal Revenue Service has gone on record as threatening to strip the NAACP of its tax-exempt status. Why? Because NAACP Chairman Julian Bond exercised his First Amend-

at risk. Why can't we criticize policies that hurt African-American people? That is what the NAACP is for. It concerns me that speaking up about policies that adversely impact the African-American community is called "political campaigning."

Making speeches on behalf of a candidate is campaigning. Putting up banners in neighborhoods on a candidates' behalf is campaigning. Free speech is not campaigning. Free speech is a constitutional right.

There is something very wrong in this country when free speech is attacked under the guise of partisan politics. This country

tramples all over basic American principles and rights.

To fight back, we must support Julian Bond and the NAACP and let the man and the organization know that we stand behind them and know that their persecution and attack is politically based and intended to silence the voice of civil rights against blatant injustice.

Judge Greg Mathis is chairman of the Rainbow PUSH-Excel Board and a national board member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

## The Good with the Bad is Bad Even with economic up tick, jobs fall behind



BY U.S. REP. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

While I am encouraged by the news that the nation's payrolls made moderate strides during the month of October and new jobs were created, the nation's unemployment rate increased to 5.5 percent. In addition, the unemployment pic-

ture gets worse if you are African American. In October, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, African-American unemployment rose by .4 percent to 10.7 percent. That is, once again, almost double the national unemployment rate.

Further, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, 8.1 million Americans found themselves out of work in October. Despite the recent job creation figures, that is the same number of individuals who have been unemployed for most of 2004.

Moreover, that number does not reflect those workers who have given up looking for work.

These unemployment numbers are unacceptable. They

represent people who are hurting and demonstrate that although some Americans are getting jobs, all Americans are not benefiting.

In order for our economic picture to change for all Americans, we must work together here in Congress and with the Administration to strengthen our job training programs and give businesses incentives to hire new workers.

The Congressional Black Caucus will continue to pursue these types of economic policies during the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress in order to uplift all Americans."

U.S. Rep. Elijah E. Cummings of Maryland is Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

## Drugged Driving's Deadly Role Alcohol not the only intoxicant

Evidence suggests that drugs other than alcohol are increasingly playing a role in traffic crashes and fatalities.

More than 25,000 people were arrested for driving under the influence of intoxicants in Oregon in 2003. Of those, 1,400 were suspected of and evaluated for being under the influence of drugs other than alcohol.

During the same period, there was a four percent increase in intoxicant-related driving fatalities statewide, with 43 fatalities occurring in the Portland tri-county area.

When people think of driving responsibly, they most often decide they won't drink and drive. That same thinking needs to be applied to other drugs as well. These include over-the-counter drugs and prescription medicines as well as inhalants and certainly, illegal drugs. Like alcohol, they can contribute to dangerous levels of driving impairment.

Oregon DUI laws apply to men-

tal and physical impairments caused by intoxicants including alcohol, inhalants and illegal or controlled substances. Some over-the-counter and prescription drugs can impair drivers as well.

courages drivers to avoid driving under the influence by designating a driver, taking keys to prevent others from driving under the influence and reporting drivers you suspect may be under the influ-

Oregon DUI laws apply to mental and physical impairments caused by intoxicants including alcohol, inhalants and illegal or controlled substances. Some over-the-counter and prescription drugs can impair drivers as well.

Holiday periods such as Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's typically have higher traffic fatality rates than non-holiday periods. Safety officials with the Oregon Department of Transportation en-

For more information about DUI in Oregon and ODOT's impaired driving programs, call 503-986-4183 or visit: [www.odot.state.or.us/transafety/Impaired\\_Driving.htm](http://www.odot.state.or.us/transafety/Impaired_Driving.htm).