

# The melody was familiar; Nazi debate rages on

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It was a familiar debate.

On the one side was the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) representing the constitutional right of Nazis to march in Skokie. On the other side were two Northwestern university professors, both condemning such a demonstration in the largely Jewish suburb.

"I personally resent the suggestion that the ACLU is inhuman and cold-blooded to the Skokie situation," declared Franklyn Haiman, the organization's national secretary and a communications professor at Northwestern, where the panel discussion was held Thursday, Oct. 26.

Haiman and David Hamlin, executive director of the Illinois division of the ACLU, argued that the Supreme Court has consistently ruled that free speech cannot be suppressed unless direct violence is likely to occur.

They were referring to planned marches by members of a Chicago based Nazi party headed by Frank Collin. The Illinois Supreme Court has ruled that the Nazis cannot march wearing swastikas.

"THE THING that makes us different from other countries is that we do allow speech," Haiman said. "We do it for very practical reasons. When you suppress any kind of speech you drive it underground. The Frank Collins are

not going to go away. They'll go underground."

But Victor Rosenblum, professor of law and political science, blasted Haiman and the ACLU for ignoring the unique situation in Skokie with its large number of concentration camp survivors.

"The wearing of the uniform with the swastika on it is the message that they should have died and should die. It's a re-creation of the threat to survival. The law does not require that they endure that kind of oppression again," Rosenblum said. He argued that courts have allowed a town to insure a peaceful environment.

And political science professor Herbert Jacob said a civil society cannot permit the Nazi march.

"The right of Mr. Collin is not within the bounds of what's needed to have a civilized and free society," he said. "Genocide is out of the bounds of civility."

HOWEVER, HAIMAN said that right to speak cannot be based upon audience reaction. He said he did not believe it was impossible for Skokians to restrain themselves in the presence of Nazis.

Offended residents, he said, would not be forced to watch a demonstration.

Hamlin said he believes Collin's group will eventually march in Skokie

and the village's three anti-Nazi ordinances will be struck down.

Said Jacob, "We're not talking about the dissemination of information here or cool and calm discussion. We're talking about obscenities, epithets and threats."