

Nazi march solution is simple

CHICAGO—Until now, nobody has come up with a truly satisfactory solution to the problem of the Nazi loonies marching in heavily Jewish Skokie.

The courts agree with the American Civil Liberties Union that the march must be permitted. That satisfies the strict civil libertarians, and makes many anti-Semites happy, but it upsets the residents of suburban Skokie.

The people of Skokie say that the presence of the Nazis in their village will cause terrible anguish, especially to those who suffered the unspeakable horrors of Nazism in Europe. And they are right.

SO WE HAVE a conflict between the constitutional rights of the Nazis, who don't believe in the Constitution, and the deep personal feelings of the people of Skokie, most of whom do believe in the Constitution.

Thus we need some kind of compromise that will satisfy both groups.

So this is what I propose.

The Nazis should be permitted to march.

However, I don't see why they should be given any kind of police protection. If they want to walk down Main St. in Skokie, waving Jew-baiting signs and flaunting the hated swastika, OK. But the police should be given the day off, or sent to another part of town to



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write tickets.

After all, if I decided that I wanted to stand outside Wally's Polish Pump Room this Saturday night and shout that everybody who eats Polish sausage is a pig, I suppose that would be my constitutional right. At least the ACLU would probably think so. However, I don't think I should expect the city to give me a police escort when I go there.

I'd have to take my chances. And if everybody in the place hit me with a beer stein, that is a risk I would have to consider before expressing my unpopular opinion.

THOSE WHO hit me with beer steins would have to consider the penalties that go along with splitting somebody's head, even if he deserves it.

This is not an unusual situation. At any given moment, somebody somewhere is looking for trouble. And one of the simple laws of life states: "If you look for trouble, you will find it. Rest in peace."

That is why our police courts are packed with people who testify: "Then he walks up to me and says I was a dirty, ignorant -, so I picked up the table and put it on his head."

Freedom of speech, as we've all been taught, does not come easily. We have had to fight for it. And not just in major wars. People have fought for it in bars, at company picnics, at office Christmas parties, in bowling alleys, pool

halls, street corners, crowded bleachers, softball diamonds and, dance halls. Wherever and whenever some obnoxious jerk can't resist the urge to pointlessly provoke someone else, he faces the possibility of having to fight if his teeth aren't going to join his tonsils. And that is the way it should be. As it is, the jerks of the world have come a long way toward taking over our society. Only the threat of a punch in the chops keeps them from seizing total control.

That is basically the situation in Skokie. The Nazis think it would be great fun to go Jew-baiting. Then let them go.

However, they should have to face the normal risks that go along with looking for trouble just for the malicious fun of it.

Those risks would probably involve their being kicked around a bit by angry crowds in Skokie. Some head-cracking, chest-stomping. A few limbs torn from limbs. I'm sure that would be the result. I doubt if any of them would leave Skokie for any destination except a hospital emergency room.

Those who bounce the Nazis around should expect to be arrested and face whatever penalties a judge thinks the crimes warrant.

THEN, I believe, everyone would be satisfied. The Nazis would have had their fling at Jew-baiting. They should have no complaints. Most would eventually regain the use of their arms and legs. And they would have exercised their right to go out and look for trouble.

And those who stomped the Nazis into new shapes would have faced whatever punishment the law provides. I'm sure they would consider that fair. Even a bargain.