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Editor
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The NAACP vehemently opposes the recent incident where an Officer of the Starkville Police Department paraded around the Office wearing KKK attire. The act represents the height of insensitivity to minorities, and not just to blacks residing in Starkville. Not only are we chagrined by the act, we serve notice to Captain David Lindley, and to others, that poor judgement on the part of public officials will not be tolerated. When it comes to anything, related to the KKK or to mob violence, we simply say, you should know better than to play like that.

The Racist history of the Klan, especially in Mississippi, where blacks have been killed, or have suffered political and economic reprisals, is nothing to play about. Any and all law enforcement officers must thoroughly understand that.

The NAACP was started 89 years ago this month, as a result of "klan" activity that was prevalent at the turn of the century. KKK led lynch mobs killed, beat, and drove blacks and other minorities from their lands and homes. Oftentimes klan activity was used to thwart minorities' efforts toward self sufficiency. The south depended on an uneducated and disorganized work force in order for the exploitation of labor to continue after the period of legal slavery had ended. The Klan was the organization that was used to "bring folk back in line.". Well-meaning Whites and Blacks affiliated with the NAACP, exposed to the world the plight of people who were killed, crippled and psychologically imprisoned by hooded night riders of that era.

We are disturbed by this "playful" act because we are aware of the upsurge in klan activity in the country. Blacks are still being killed through vigilantly that was first introduced by the klan. Last year a black man was beheaded and set on fire in Virginia by "skin heads" out having fun.

The incident at the Police Department arouses suspicion as to how well evidence is kept. According to the police chief's account, the uniform was not a part of the "police evidence." If that was the case, why was klan "regalia" just lying around? To common sense thinkers, that smells like a "dead cat on the line somewhere." We yearn for the day when public officials are sensitive to the feelings of all segments of the society. We also know that klan activity only exists in a community where it is tolerated by business and professional persons. We trust that residents of Starkville get the message.