memories also led him to think of the people who had helped him to get where he was now as a writer: his courageous mother, a neighbor who had acted as a wise surrogate father. These and others were his heroes, and he realized that everyday people like himself could be heroes if they acted justly. He found himself driving toward the center of the riot where he rescued the man who had been beaten by the mob and was being dragged from his car.

''At the end of the term I gave the same assignment,'' said NeSmith. ''And the essays were so amazingly different They wrote about their moms, their dads, ordinary, everyday heroes.

''And this young lady,'' he said, ''wrote such a moving essay that I sent it to Facing History in Brookline, and they published it in a study guide. She mentioned that often the car in which she was driven to school was the place where she had slept at night. This was a biracial child,'' says NeSmith, ''and she confessed that she had always been torn about her own identify. Now she thought it was wonderful to be able to experience both cultures. And she realized that even when she slept in a car she always had a home because her father was there and made it a home. And that was why he was her hero.''

Facing History has six regional offices in Boston, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Memphis and San Francisco that help teachers with the program. To date it has reached some 22,000 educators from throughout the country and has also held institutes in England, France and Sweden. About a million students have taken part.

The teachers, who are trained in weeklong sessions during summer vacations, come from private as well as public schools and from disciplines other than social studies, since the program can be adapted to many kinds of curricula.

For instance, NeSmith's assignment to write about heroes was connected with a unit on Greek mythology in his English class. At the Center School here, where Wilkins teaches, students made elaborate and moving posters and dioramas about their family history to illustrate their sense of identity. A few blocks away, Casado of the Dual Language School, teachers Facing History as part of the regular social studies curriculum.

The value of Facing History was recently judged independently by an intensive two-year research study on intergroup relations among youth funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

The nonprofit foundation surveyed 246 eighth-graders who had enrolled in Facing History, along with a similar number of whose teachers ''cared and taught about social issues, but who didn't use the program,'' explains Dennis Barr, Ph.D., a Harvard developmental psychologist who headed the research team. The study found that Facing History does affect the way young people relate to their peers and think about social issues and their role as citizens.

''It's a very impressive program,'' says Barr. ''It has an impact on something that is very hard to have an impact on—what you could call character development.''

This effect seems to last. Among those quoted in Facing History's last annual report are Derrick Kimbrough of Cambridge, Mass., now 25 years old, who took part in the program when he was only 13. Three summers ago, Kimbrough, who is African American, founded the Survival & Technology Workshop, a nonprofit group that involves teens in improving their local communities. ''Our workshop graduates have renovated a local teen center and movie theater, established a local recycling project and created an after-school jobs project,'' he said.

Kimbrough added, ''Facing History taught me the value of teaching kids responsibility and the importance of letting them think of themselves.''

Twenty-nine-year-old Seth Miller of Boston remembers that as the only Jewish member of a school hockey team he had played on a Jewish holiday because he'd been embarrassed to tell his teammates that he had to go to services. Since then he has not only faced his own identity but has founded the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps in New Mexico.

''At 13, Facing History was a real breakthrough for me,'' he said ''I was suddenly turned on to academics in a way I hadn't been before. It seems that my whole interest in pursuing a career that was fulfilling to me as a human being and not just for gaining money or status started then.''

PROSECUTORS SAY RACIAL HATE WAS MOTIVE FOR MAN INDICTED IN FATAL SHOOTING

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA. (AP).—A man accused of shooting and killing a black woman as she sat in a car with her white fiance has been indicted on charges of murder and attempted murder.

And while the accused wasn't charged with a hate crime, ''We will argue hate as a motive for the murder,'' said assistant state attorney Tim Donnelly.

Robert Boltuch was indicted Thursday for the slaying of Jody J. Bailey, 20. She was killed Feb. 24 when the driver of another car pulled up and opened fire.

Her fiance, Christian Martin, 20, who wasn't hit, told police the shooter had tailed their car, screaming at the couple before firing seven shots when they stopped at a red light.

Martin and Ms. Bailey were high school sweethearts who had dated for three years. Both were students at Florida Atlantic University.

Boltuch, 23, had been working as a waiter at a restaurant until the shooting. He was arrested March 2 at a friend's house in Plantation.

While the words ''hate crime'' appear nowhere in the indictment, prosecutors said they intend to tell a jury that hate was a factor.

A hate crime classification upgrades the possible penalties if there are convictions. But since a capital murder case already involves the ultimate punishment, the hate crime statute ''really is inapplicable,'' Donnelly said.

About 25 minutes before the shooting, two men allegedly overheard Boltuch say he was going to go out and kill a black person, police said.

The manager of the restaurant where Boltuch worked called the police the day after the shooting when he saw the composite sketch of the suspect in the newspaper and Boltuch failed to show up to work.

HATE CRIME SENTENCING

CLARKSBURG, W. VA. (AP)—A 20-year-old Harrison County man convicted of pouring gasoline in the shape of a cross on a black family's yard and lighting it on fire has been sentenced to 200 hours of community service.

Michael Vernon Wildman must complete his community service at Mount Zion Baptist Church. He also must take a course on race, class and gender relations at Fairmont State College.

Wildman was convicted Feb. 2 of violating the civil rights of Raymond Parker Jr. and his family and destruction of property.

Harrison County Circuit Judge Thomas Bedell originally sentenced Wildman to spend 10 years in state prison, one year in the county jail and pay $5,500 in fines.

However, Bedell suspended the sentence saying sending Wildman to prison may ''teach him more hate and racism.''

''I feel that if we sentence him to the maximum, we may be creating another racist,'' Bedell said during Wednesday's sentencing hearing.

Bedell said requiring Wildman to work with the church and take the class would be more beneficial.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on May 5, I was unavoidably detained and missed roll call votes number 108 (Approval of the May 4 Journal) and 109 (Calling the Previous Question on H. Res. 158). Had I been present I would have voted yes on both votes.

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, after 26 years of working closely with the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, it should come as no surprise that I rise today to express my full support for their forthcoming trip to Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia scheduled from May 12–20, 1999.

For more than a quarter of a century, I have witnessed, firsthand, the league's tireless efforts and faithful dedication to those who have selflessly served our country during the war in Southeast Asia. For 30 years, the National League of Families has remained vigilant in its goal of determining the fate of those members of the United States Armed Forces still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. Like so many Americans across our land, I have come to deeply respect and appreciate all that the League has done for those who have done so much for our Nation.

I have been a strong advocate of obtaining the fullest possible accounting of our POW/MIA's since I first came to the Congress in 1973. As a junior Congressman, my first trip overseas was to Laos to visit the Hmong people who protected our downed airmen during the war. I proudly supported the creation of the Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia, the National POW/MIA Recognition Day, and POW/MIA legislation because I believe the families of those who are missing deserve no less.

In my trips to Vietnam over the years, I have shared the League's frustrations with the accounting process. I am aware of the steps the Vietnamese government has recently taken to address the concerns of our POW/MIA families, but I believe further steps—steps the League has long recommended—should be pursued. Regrettably, by normalizing relations with Vietnam, I believe that we have withdrawn our leverage with the Vietnamese Government on this issue. Once again, I