

# NYEEEEEWZ, Vincenzo

By Neal J. Conway

It may be hard to believe that a little paper such as *Our Parish Times* could scoop *The Washington Post* but, it did so and by almost three years.

The story was Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia's opinion that religious faith is constantly belittled by the "wordly wise" in a secular society. His April speech at the First Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss., quickly reported with an alarming headline by *The Post* ("...Justice Proclaims Belief In Miracles), was, with its explanation of the word "cretin" almost identical in content to the address he gave in a rare public appearance at a banquet in 1993.

That speech could have been news in *The Washington Post* the following morning and by the end of the week, columnists in fear and loathing of Christianity could have written, "No, we are not against religion so, there!". In fact, *The Washington Post*, along with *The Washington Times* and other local media, were invited to cover what was not only a very rare but sure to be a very revealing appearance by an aloof public figure. They did not, however, send anybody. Joe Siccardi, then-editor of *The Catholic Standard* wanted to send a reporter but was unable to so, the *OPT*

man did double duty that night.

I'm sure that the secular papers didn't attend because the event at which Scalia spoke was "a Catholic show," a positive thing concerning the Church.

The only Catholics covered are "the former altar boys" who blow their roommates away with a twelve-gauge or the priests and teachers who dissent from Church teaching. The last time William Buckley's column appeared in *The Post* was when he, being quite the turncoat, criticized Catholic U. for cutting off a non-Catholic but fellow-Yalie philosophy professor in favor of those who teach Catholic thought.

As of this writing, some organs of the local, secular press are failing to report a significant item of local news because the subjects are Catholics who have pulled off something great. Even if it were totally kooky, this particular accomplishment would still be newsworthy. I've been thinking a lot about a line from the old, horror/comedy T.V. show, "Night Stalker" in which dishevelled reporter, Karl Kolchak was forever trying to get his ulcer-ridden editor, Vincenzo to run stories about vampires and evil spirits who, in the plots, were "real". "This is NYEEEEWZ, Vincenzo!" Kolchak would get in his face, "NYEEEEWZ!"

"OPT Scoop[s] National Press: NYEEEEEWZ, Vincenzo" by Neal J. Conway was first published in the May 12, 1996 issue of *Our Parish Times*. Neal Conway is the author of *Tales From Old Bethesda* and lives in Washington, DC. See [nealjconway.com](http://nealjconway.com). Subject: How major newspapers missed opportunity to cover speech by Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia