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The Amy E. Kelly Education Foundation gives out scholarships to deserving students. They are part of the Walltown Community. From left to right are three recipients of scholarships, Kelly Moore, Geniece Bey and Ashley Bey. They were enjoying the Walltown Reunion Picnic. See photos on page 6.

Slavery Linked to School Segregation in South

By Jazelle Hunt
NNPA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - There is a direct correlation between the geographic concentration of slavery and today's K-12 school segregation, according to a new study.

The study, "How the Legacy of Slavery and Racial Composition Shape Public School Enrollment in the American South," appeared in the publication *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, the official journal of the American Sociological Association.

According to the study, counties in the Deep South that had large enslaved populations currently have the highest levels of racial segregation between public and private schools.

"This is fundamentally still a White flight process. We tested whether or not White students were leaving public schools to attend private schools because they were better schools. That's not the case," said Robert L. Reece, a doctoral candidate in the sociology department at Duke University and co-author of the study.

"They're leaving public schools because of integration, because there are Black students in these schools; [and] because slavery created conditions that normalize segregated schooling in these areas."

Reece and co-author Heather O'Connell at Rice University examined Census and National Center for Education Statistics data along county lines in states that were original members of the Confederacy: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Texas, and South Carolina.

After *Brown v. Board of Education*, a wave of private schools washed across these and other states in defiance of integration. Because this White flight was a response to Black students entering previously-White public schools, Reece and O'Connell expected there to be more private schools in places that had been particularly attached to slavery.

Instead, they found that the correlation rested in the level of use of private schools, not the number of schools.

"We argue that the social structural legacy of slavery may separately affect the use of private schools by amplifying their legitimacy as a means to escape integrated public schools," the



Robert L. Reece, doctoral candidate at Duke University and co-author of the study. (Courtesy photo)

study stated. "The strongly demarcated social hierarchy associated with the legacy of slavery may make the use of private schools more likely among Whites, regardless of the number of private schools."

In other words, there weren't necessarily more private schools in counties that had had high concentrations of enslavement, but the school segregation in these areas was stark.

Reece and O'Connell explain that high enrollment and racial segregation in private schools in the Deep South was, and still is, partly a result of "racial threat" - the rise of Black students and families in a given county or public school, which then leads to White flight and greater Black-White disparities. To test this hypothesis, they analyzed the same data for counties in the "Upper South:" Arkansas, Delaware, Kentucky, North Carolina, Maryland, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. Their results suggested no link between racial threat and racial school segregation in the Upper South, while showing a statistically significant link in the Deep South.

The study noted, "The Deep South was much more reliant on the plantation economy and is argued to have subsequently developed a more rigid set of racial politics that remain in place today."

Although the researchers focused on the former Confederacy, they make it clear in their writing that this type of segregation happens everywhere - but in different ways and for different historical reasons.

"Everyone [in America] had a connection to slavery. Like New York, for example - a lot of plantation investment money came out of New York, from Wall Street," said Reece. "We're measuring how this one specific type of racial inequity was grown and protected in this area. School segregation exists in other areas, but the history is just different."

As the nation changes demographically, with young children of color already the majority in their generation, Reece asserts that race relations will not change much without examining and targeting these roots.

The study is part of a developing field of social science research on the legacy of slavery that examines the system's social and economic consequences. Reece and O'Connell hope to advance the field and encourage others to study history as a path toward correcting present-day racial inequality in communities all over the United States.

"What we're trying to demonstrate is that history mattered. The history of slavery matters," Reece says. "We can't really understand the social determinants of things like segregation, and poverty, and income disparity without taking a long pause and historical look at what has been happening."

NC hotel to refund service charges paid during CIAA tourney

CHARLOTTE (AP) - A Charlotte hotel will refund the service charge that people paid for food and drink in its lounge during the CIAA basketball tournament, the N.C. Attorney General's office announced Monday.

The statement from Attorney General Roy Cooper's office said the Ritz-Carlton reached an agreement with the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association and Cooper's office on July 1.

Under the agreement, the hotel will also notify customers of special service charges in the menu and have servers remind customers in the future. The Ritz-Carlton will donate \$75,000 to the CIAA Scholarship Fund, and pay the N.C. Department of Justice \$5,000 for consumer-protection efforts.

Consumers who visited the Lobby Lounge at the Ritz-Carlton in Charlotte during the CIAA tournament last February complained that an extra service charge was unexpectedly added to their bills.

Following complaints from consumers, the attorney general's Consumer Protection Division began investigating the charge.

The hotel apologized for the service charge, saying it didn't intend to offend customers and the gratuity was distributed to the servers who worked the event.

The CIAA is the oldest African-American athletic conference in the nation. Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority spokeswoman Laura White says the tournament had a \$50 million economic impact in the city.



Pictured L to R: NCCU Chancellor Debra Saunders-White, U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch, Dean Phyliss Craig-Taylor, NCCU School of Law and U.S. Rep. G. K. Butterfield

U.S. Attorney General Hosts Civil Rights Roundtable Meeting at North Carolina Central University

U.S. Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch hosted a civil rights roundtable meeting at North Carolina Central University School of Law to address the current issues facing citizens. The topics discussed included human trafficking, hate crimes, voting rights, school safety and community-police relations.

"It is truly an honor and pleasure to host this important conversation with our 83rd U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch," said Chancellor Debra Saunders-White. "Holding a conversation on civil rights here at North Carolina Central University School of Law has profound significance as NCCU has nurtured some of the greatest civil rights advocates and champions for justice."

During the two-hour event, Lynch discussed various civil rights matters with Triangle area leaders from education, religion, law enforcement and community activists. She also acknowledged that recent events in the South have evoked painful memories of the past and emphasized her commitment to pursuing justice against hate crimes and civil rights abuses.

"While we cannot guarantee the absence of hate, we can guarantee the presence of justice. We can do that," said Lynch. "I am committed as attorney general to making good on that guarantee."

Participants from NCCU were: Chancellor Debra Saunders-White, Dean Phyliss Craig-Taylor and Professor Irving Joyner, North Carolina Central School of Law.

Equal protection protests lead to arrests at NC legislature

By John Moritz
RALEIGH (AP) - More demonstrators at the North Carolina Legislative Building were arrested Wednesday after advocating equal protections for gays, immigrants and the uninsured in the wake of recent Supreme Court rulings.

General Assembly police placed six demonstrators in plastic handcuffs following a rally in the rotunda between the House and Senate chambers. The six refused to leave with the larger crowd after police told them they would be subject to arrest once the building closed at 5 p.m.

The chief of the General Assembly Police did not immediately return a call requesting details about charges for the six protesters. State NAACP president the Rev. William Barber attended the rally, but was not among those arrested.

Affiliated with the North Carolina NAACP and the "Moral Mondays" movement, the protesters called on the General Assembly to expand Medicaid, pass anti-discrimination laws for gay and transgender people and offer in-state tuition to immigrant students not in the United States legally.

Earlier July 1, Barber and House Minority Leader Larry Hall, D-Durham, held a news conference demanding the state's Republican leaders accept federal funding to expand Medicaid, or come up with their own plan to close the coverage gap.

"We're going on a summer vacation for all intents and purposes and we have a major issue that has not been resolved," Hall said.

The House and Senate will not meet next week for the Fourth of July holiday. Gov. Pat McCrory signed a continuing resolution June 30 extending budget negotiations until August 14.

Last week the Supreme Court effectively legalized gay marriage in all 50 states and upheld a key component of President Barack Obama's healthcare law.

Chris Sgro, the executive director of Equality NC praised the Supreme Court's gay marriage decision at the rally and criticized the General Assembly for passing a law allowing some court officials in North Carolina to refuse to perform marriage duties if they have sincerely held religious objections to gay marriage.