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## Tamir Rice protesters want Cleveland prosecutor to step down

CLEVELAND (AP) - Protesters upset by a decision not to indict two white police officers in the shooting death of Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old black boy who had a pellet gun, marched to the home of the prosecutor Jan. 1 and repeated calls for him to resign.

More than 100 people stood outside the home of Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Tim McGinty during the peaceful protest, which also included demands for a federal investigation into the shooting.

A march leader told protesters not to vandalize McGinty's home, which is in a neighborhood on the west side of Cleveland. Police officers accompanied the marchers and stood in McGinty's driveway but did not intervene.

The protesters chanted, "New year, no more!" and "McGinty has got to go!"

Through a spokesman, McGinty declined to comment.

Protesters have called for McGinty's resignation since he announced that the officers would not face criminal charges in Tamir's death. But criticism of him

dates back months as frustration grew over the length of time it took to reach a decision concerning the November 2014 shooting.

Dozens of marchers lay down on the sidewalk running past McGinty's house for four minutes, the time they say it took medical responders to reach Tamir after he was shot outside a recreation center.

In announcing that charges would not be brought, McGinty said it was "indisputable" that Tamir was drawing the pistol from his waistband when he was gunned down.

The prosecutor said Tamir was trying to either hand the pellet gun over to police or show them it was not real, but the officer who shot him, Timothy Loehmann, and his partner, Frank Garmback, had no way of knowing that.

Tamir was shot by Loehmann within two seconds of the officers' police cruiser skidding to a stop near the boy.

McGinty said police radio personnel contributed to the tragedy by failing to pass along the "all-important fact" that a 911 caller said the gunman was probably a juvenile and the gun probably was not real.

Mayor Frank Jackson and Police Chief Calvin Williams said that as protests continue, they plan to balance public safety with protesters' First Amendment rights.

*Abortion-rights group wants ultrasound documentation stopped*

By Gary D. Robertson  
RALEIGH (AP) - A political arm of Planned Parenthood says Gov. Pat McCrory should block a law taking effect with the new year requiring physicians who perform certain later-term abortions in North Carolina send ultrasound images to state officials.

Starting Jan. 1, doctors must fill out a form for abortions performed after a woman's 16th week of pregnancy and provide the ultrasound. More information is needed after 20 weeks. The records are confidential and the woman's name is removed.

Law supporters say it's designed to ensure doctors comply with the exception to banning abortion after 20 weeks when the life and health of the pregnant woman is at stake. Planned Parenthood Votes! South Atlantic calls the ultrasound requirement medically unnecessary and says it wrongly intrudes into a woman's medical history.

McCrory signed the law in June.



SINGER NATALIE COLE

*Natalie Cole, master of past and present styles*

By Sandy Cohen and Hillel Italie

LOS ANGELES (AP) - She began as a 1970s soul singer hyped as the next Aretha Franklin and peaked in the 1990s as an old-fashioned stylist and time-defying duet partner to her late father, Nat "King" Cole.

Natalie Cole, who died Jan. 1 in Los Angeles at age 65, was a Grammy winning superstar honored and haunted by comparisons to others.

"Natalie fought a fierce, courageous battle, dying how she lived ... with dignity, strength and honor. Our beloved Mother and sister will be greatly missed and remain UNFORGETTABLE in our hearts forever," read a statement from her son, Robert Yancy, and sisters Timolin and Casey Cole.

According to her family, Cole died of complications from ongoing health issues. She had battled drug problems and hepatitis that forced her to undergo a kidney transplant in May 2009. Cole's older sister, Carol "Cookie" Cole, died the day she received the transplant. Their brother, Nat Kelly Cole, died in 1995.

"I had to hold back the tears," Franklin, who had feuded with Cole early in Cole's career, said in a statement. "She fought for so long. She was one of the greatest singers of our time. She represented the Cole legend of excellence and class quite well."

A mezzo-soprano with striking range and power, Cole was destined to be a singer, the only question being what kind. She was inspired by her dad at an early age and auditioned to sing with him when she was just 11 years old. She was 15 when he died of lung cancer, in 1965, and would reunite with him decades later in a way only possible through modern technology.

All along, she was moved by and sometimes torn between past and present sounds. As a young woman, she had listened to Franklin and Janis Joplin and for years was reluctant to perform her father's material. She sang on stage with Frank Sinatra, but also covered Bruce Springsteen's "Pink Cadillac."

"I was determined to create my own identity," she wrote in her 2010 memoir "Love Brought Me Back."

The public loved her either way. She made her recording debut in 1975 with "Inseparable," and the music industry welcomed her with two Grammy Awards - one for best new artist and one for best female R&B vocal performance for her buoyant hit "This Will Be (An Everlasting Love)." Her quick success and the similarities to Franklin, another mezzo-soprano, did not please the "Queen of Soul," who at the time called Cole "just a beginner."

"The first time I saw Aretha was at an industry banquet," Cole later told Franklin biographer David Ritz. "She gave me an icy stare and turned her back on me. It took me weeks to recover."

Backed by the writing-producing team of Chuck Jackson and Marvin Yancy, she followed with such hits as "Our Love" and "I've Got Love on My Mind," and by 1979 had a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. But her career faded in the early 1980s and she battled heroin, crack cocaine and alcohol addiction for many years. She spent six months in rehab in 1983.

Her recovery began later in the decade with the album "Everlasting" and reached multiplatinum heights with her 1991 album, "Unforgettable ... With Love." No longer trying to keep up with current sounds, Cole paid tribute to her father with reworked versions of some of his best-known songs, including "That Sunday That Summer," "Too Young" and "Mona Lisa."

Her voice was overlaid with her dad's in the title cut, offering a delicate duet a quarter-century after his death.

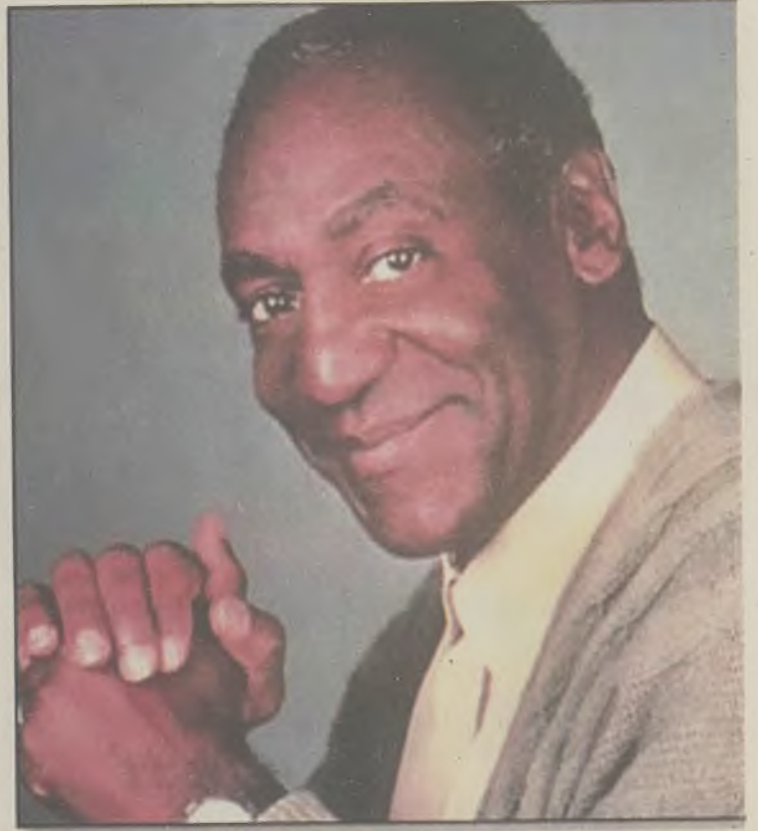
Although criticized by some as morbid, the album sold some 14 million copies and won six Grammys, including album of the year as well record and song of the year for the title track duet.

While making the album, Cole told The Associated Press in 1991, she had to "throw out every R&B lick that I had ever learned and every pop trick I had ever learned. With him, the music was in the background and the voice was in the front."

"I didn't shed really any real tears until the album was over," Cole said. "Then I cried a whole lot. When we started the project it was a way of reconnecting with my dad. Then when we did the last song, I had to say goodbye again."

She was nominated for an Emmy award in 1992 for a televised performance of her father's songs.

"That was really my thank you," she told People magazine in 2006. "I owed that to him."



BILL COSBY

## Cosby's sexual assault charge leaves blacks feeling betrayed

By Errin Haines Whack

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Bill Cosby, a cultural icon who once stood among America's most beloved figures, suffered the latest and most serious blow to his forever mixed legacy, as he walked slowly into a Pennsylvania courthouse holding a cane and answered to charges that he drugged and sexually assaulted a woman.

It was a moment Dec. 30 in stark contrast to a reputation built over half a century, merging the personal and professional into one potent, visceral brand. The allegations have left many - especially in the black community - feeling betrayed.

"This is an entire edifice of iconic and symbolic blackness shattered by this charge," said author and Georgetown University professor Michael Eric Dyson, noting that "millions of people looked up to him."

At times, Cosby has lashed out against the African-American community that long embraced him. Late in his career, Cosby famously and publicly excoriated poor blacks in a 2004 speech - comments that angered many. Dyson, who wrote a book on Cosby a decade ago in response to the incident, said his admonitions sting more now in light of the comedian's own moral failings.

"He lashed out, ultimately, only at himself, even as he indicted millions along the way," Dyson said.

Though Cosby had been previously accused of sexual misconduct by dozens of women and several civil claims against him are still pending, he has never been criminally charged until now. His public persona began to rapidly unravel last year, when black comedian Hannibal Buress called Cosby out as a rapist and a hypocrite. Buress' comments unleashed the allegations anew - and forced a reckoning among many African-Americans.

Cosby had been, in many ways, a pioneer. The 78-year-old became the first black actor in a television drama when "I Spy" debuted in 1965. Two decades later, he starred as Cliff Huxtable in "The Cosby Show" - based on his own marriage and family - endearing him to the country as "America's Dad."

The NBC show aired from 1984 to 1992 and was the highest-rated sitcom for five consecutive years. The 90s spinoff "A Different World," set at Huxtable's fictitious alma mater, Hillman College, inspired thousands of African-American youth to attend historically black colleges, or HBCUs.

Cosby is one of only a few popular figures who can be credited with promoting HBCUs nationally, said Jarrett Carter Sr., publisher of HBCU Digest.

"(The show) came about at a time where we were slowly transitioning into having more access to predominantly white (colleges)," Carter said. "Then you had this show, which just ushered in the next level of explosion of HBCUs. It just came at a critical time. I don't think it's a coincidence that since the show's gone off, you don't have the same level of enrollment for HBCUs."

Following the parade of allegations against him in the past year, the all-women Spelman College - one of the crowned jewels of the HBCU community - ended its Cosby-endowed professorship. Cosby and his wife, Camille, donated \$20 million to the school in the 1980s. At the time, the gift was the largest personal gift to an HBCU.

Cosby has long enjoyed the loyalty given to breakthrough cultural figures by the black community that can sometimes supersede their transgressions, said Jame's Peterson, director of Africana Studies at Lehigh University.

"This contradicts our sense of who Bill Cosby was," Peterson said of the Dec. 30 criminal charge. "People really felt that Mr. Cosby would never be arraigned. He wasn't Cliff Huxtable."

Though his groundbreaking work cannot be erased, it has been tarnished by the allegations of the past year, and likely will be further soiled by his ongoing legal battles.

"There is a fatal difference now between Cliff Huxtable and Bill Cosby that can never be overcome, because Cosby depended as a figure and an icon on the goodwill he established through his characters," Dyson said. "It does add a creepy subtext and a shadow of tremendous moral weight that will inevitably be brought up each time his name is evoked."

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**In North Carolina  
544,950 People Are Enrolled In Marketplace Coverage**

As of December 19, the number of consumers signed up for Marketplace coverage surged to more than 8.2 million nationally, including 544,950 in North Carolina. Those who selected a plan by December 17 or were auto reenrolled will have coverage effective January 1, 2016. High consumer demand as we neared the enrollment deadline for January 1 coverage, as well as the automatic renewal process, contributed to this overall total.

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