

Yahweh Ben Yahweh Acquitted Murder Charges Are Finally Dropped

A jury in Miami, FL, took less than two hours to return not guilty verdicts in the first-degree murder trial of Yahweh Ben Yahweh and three co-defendants. One day later, Dade County prosecutors decided to drop two first-degree murder charges against the Nation of Yahweh leader and a Black Hebrew Israelite disciple.

Defense attorneys convinced a 12-member, multi-ethnic jury that the prosecution's star witness Robert Rozier, a former NFL linebacker and admitted killer of seven people, lied on his former mentor about the murder of Cecil Branch to save himself from going to the electric chair. The prosecution had contended that Yahweh ordered Branch's murder, through 3 of his followers, after Branch knocked down a woman from the Nation of Yahweh whom Branch had confronted at his mother's Coconut Grove home in Northwest Dade County in September 1986. The case had gained international attention due to the sensationalism of the murders, Yahweh's preaching, urban revitalization projects, and federal confinement without bond or trial for over two years.

"These were quick verdicts," stated Wende Rush, coordinator for the defense team. "When a jury responds so quickly, it usually sends a sound message to the losing side, and that message was for the prosecution that repeatedly said this case is

not about religion, then tried to condemn (their) religious teaching." During the trial defense co-counsel Jayne Weintraub prompted Rozier to admit that at various times he had lied, cheated and stole to his advantage. The defense played a video tape recorded in 1985, when Rozier was still a Yahweh, showing his being reprimanded by Yahweh for immoral behavior. In her closing arguments, Weintraub portrayed Rozier as a ruthless deceiver.

The day after the not guilty verdict, the Dade County State Attorney's Office dropped two other murder charges against Yahweh and a follower. In Discussions with reporters, Kevin DiGregory, who helped present the prosecution case, declined to say why the charges were dropped against Yahweh and Aher Israel. The two were charged with the murder of tenants Anthony Brown and Rudolph Broussard during the Yahwehs' takeover of an Opa-Locka apartment complex in 1986. Weintraub said prosecutors had no choice in dropping the case: They would again be dependent on the testimony of Rozier whose credibility had been rejected in the trial before. Another defense attorney, Charles White, said he thought the murder cases were an alternative prosecutors sought after getting mixed verdicts in the federal trial. "The evidence was not there. The only way to make a murder case was

to string a lot of things together and use Robert Rozier as the glue," White said.

Yahweh Ben Yahweh remains in federal prison, serving a 161/2-year sentence for his federal conspiracy conviction in May of racketeering conspiracy conviction in May of racketeering conspiracy. The federal case said that Yahweh had built a religious empire on a foundation of 14 murders, two attempted killing and arson. The head of the national sect told reporters America should "applaud me for the good work I've done." He built an empire exceeding \$100 million in hotels, motels, warehouses and neighborhood stores. He called his imprisonment "a learning experience" that he hopes will end with a successful federal appeal.

The Yahweh continue to contend that the process is government-generated to get rid of Yahweh. "The government, their actions, show that they are still pursuing the COINTEL Program to discredit and neutralize black leadership in order to prevent a black Messiah from arising," stated Attorney Rush.



From (L-R) Latherio Boyd (secretary), Reginald McCaskill (President), Jerry Shoffner (treasurer), Dwaine Jackson (Parliamentarian), Jeffrey Shears, (Vice-President)

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Elects '93 Officers

The brothers of the Alpha Alpha Gamma Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. have selected their 1993 slate of officers.

This is a new chapter in Winston-Salem with brothers from the major cities of the Triad Area (Winston-Salem, Greensboro and High

Point). Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. holds as its three basic principles brotherhood, scholarship and service, all of which are expressed in the fraternity's motto: "Culture for Service and Service for Humanity." The brothers of the new chapter, the Alpha Alpha Gamma Sigma

Chapter, are concerned about the ever-changing needs of our communities and will be involved in the promotion of programs related to bringing about social change, encouraging better business and promoting and demanding quality education for our youth.

Humphrey Named To Commission

Dudley Humphrey Jr., a partner at the law firm of Petree Stockton, has been named to the Airport Commission of Forsyth County by the Forsyth County Board of County Commissioners. The Airport Commission is in charge of the operations of the Z. Smith Reynolds Airport in Winston-Salem.



Dudley Humphrey

Humphrey, who joined Petree Stockton in 1961, focuses his practice on banking and commercial law, bankruptcy law and commercial litigation, construction litigation, and corporate matters, such as acquisitions, dispositions, financing, and insolvency proceedings.

He is a member of the American Bar Association's Commercial Banking and Business Section, Litigation Section, and Construction Law Forum. Humphrey is also a member of the North Carolina Bar

Association's Commercial Banking and Business Section, Litigation Section, and Bankruptcy Section. He is past president of the Forsyth County Bar Association and the 21st Judicial District Bar.

Youth Award Winner To Participate in Inaugural

RALEIGH - Wes Schollander of Winston-Salem, who won a scholarship in 1991 set up by Governor-elect Jim Hunt, participated in Hunt's 1993 inaugural ceremony last Saturday.

Schollander, 18, the son of Wendell and Jayne Schollander, was the first-place winner of the 1991 James B. Hunt Citizen award, a \$5,000 scholarship. The Hunt awards are presented each year to outstanding high school students who exhibit qualities such as citizenship, academic, academic dedication and high moral values.

Hunt asked Schollander to participate in his inaugural in an effort to showcase North Carolina's young

leaders and highlight the inaugural theme, "Our Children, Our Future." Schollander was seated on stage during the inaugural ceremony with Gov.-elect Hunt, Lt. Gov.-elect Dennis Wicker and other V.I.P.'s.

An active participant in Forsyth County's conservation efforts, Schollander was involved in erosion control work at Miller Park and set up a paper recycling project at a city office building, donating the proceeds to help protect endangered animals. He created two national registered wildlife refuges and has adopted Stratford Road Park as part of Winston-Salem's "Adopt-A-Park" Program. He is currently a senior at Reynolds High School.

Ashford Fills Position at WSTA

John M. Ashford has been selected to fill the position of maintenance manager for the Winston-Salem Transit Authority. Ashford is from Jackson, Miss., where he was employed by the Jackson Public Transportation Company for the past 12 years.

As maintenance manager, Ashford will be responsible for maintaining a fleet of 118 vehicles, facilities, purchasing, vehicle and equipment replacement, and management of capital improvement projects for the Winston-Salem Transit Authority.



John Ashford

Bethel Celebrate MLK Jr. Program

Union Bethel AME Church, 1716 N. Trade St. will have a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Program at 3:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Allen Christian Endeavor League.

Reverend William propst is the pastor.

Everyone is invited.

If you have any questions please contact Jannie Williams at 741-0669

Prices in this ad good Wednesday, January 13 thru Tuesday, January 19, 1993. We Reserve The Right To Limit Quantities.

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