

Man Says He Was Falsely Arrested By Police; Cops Deny Claim

▲ Man sought help from Chronicle and Citizens United

By MARK R. MOSS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Edward Cross came to offices of the Chronicle a couple of weeks ago with tears streaming down his face. His tale turned out to be one of Kafkaesque proportions come to life, or one a devotee of fiction would love.

Cross said his rights had been abused by officers from the Winston-Salem Police Department.

"I haven't had a good night's

sleep since, and I can't eat like I'm supposed to," said the 52-year-old grandfather.

His arrest, he claimed, was totally unjustified. The police officers were rude and threatening and wouldn't listen to his side of the story, Cross said.

In addition to telling his story to a Chronicle reporter, Cross also found a sympathetic ear when he visited the Rev. John Mendez, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, and a founder of Citizens United for

Justice.

"We felt he had been unjustly arrested, and was getting harassed by the police," said Rev. Mendez.

"But what bothered me was that there was a piece of the puzzle missing: I couldn't get him to tell me who pressed charges against him. The police didn't do it, so who was it?"

Cross maintained he didn't know who it was or why it was happening.

But police Capt. Jerry Raker said it was Albert Henry, of 143 E. Third St. Henry took out the warrant charging Cross with assault with a deadly weapon because Cross

allegedly shot at him a few times.

Raker said Cross was stopped about 12:30 a.m. on Feb. 18 because witnesses said the driver of a 1982 brown and tan van was involved in a shooting minutes earlier the 300 block of 16th Street. Henry and James Kinard Terry, of the same address, had also given officers the license plate number of the van. No one was injured in the shooting.

Cross, of 3009 Fondly Road, said that when he got off from work at his job at USAir around midnight that night, he realized he needed gas. He drove to several stations on Liberty Street until he found one that was open. After he left the ser-

vice station, he was at a stop sign at the corner of 16th and Ivy streets when he was suddenly surrounded by about four police cars.

Cross said as he got out of the van, one officer snatched him and ripped his coat. There were about seven or eight officers, two of whom stood to each side of him with their billy clubs raised, he said. He said he could see himself as another victim of police brutality like Rodney King, who was beaten by Los Angeles police two years ago.

Cross said he allowed the officers to search his van.

Raker said they found a .25-cal-

iber automatic pistol that holds eight bullets. Three chambers were empty, Raker said. The police also charged Cross with carrying a concealed weapon.

Cross said he repeatedly asked the officers why was he being detained, and they never told him. He said they promised to take him back to his car when they had finished questioning him at the warrant office. There he learned he had been accused of shooting at someone.

He had to shell out \$750 to a bail bondsman to get out of jail. It was about 3:30 a.m. Thursday when he got home. He's due in court on March 19.

Zion Hill Anniversary Celebration

The pastor's aid committee of Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church, 2920 N. Greenway Ave. will celebrate its anniversary on March 7 at 4 p.m. The Rev. Osco E. Gardin Jr. and the congregation of Trinity Baptist Church, Danville, Va. will be the special guest. The Rev. Lacy E. Simpson Jr. is the host pastor. Gardin is a native of Canton, Ohio. He is the son of the Rev. Osco E. Gardin Sr. and Geneva V. Gardin, both of Gastonia, N.C. He was licensed to preach the gospel and ordained by the authority and order of First Baptist Church in Fayetteville, N.C.

Gardin is a graduate of McKinley High School in Canton, Ohio. His post-secondary education took place at Shaw University in Raleigh, NC where he received his bachelor of arts degree in behavioral science with a concentration in sociology. While pursuing his undergraduate degree he served as a member of the Theological Fraternity, Forensic Society, Gospel Choir and Choral Society.

Gardin pursued his graduate studies at the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, NC where he received his master of divinity degree.

Gardin has a life time of church-related and min-

isterial experience. His ministries include serving a group leader and facilitator for a marriage enrichment ministry, coordinator for an outreach ministry with a focus in prison ministries and editor for an outreach newspaper.

Gardin has conducted revivals across the U.S. and has ministered in Hawaii, Canada and Korea.

Gardin currently serves as pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Danville, Va. Since being in Danville, Gardin has become involved in social and civil concerns. He represents Trinity as a member of the NAACP, supporter of the local SCLC and the Danville Interdenominational Minister's Alliance.

Gardin is married to the former Juane Latrice Griffin. They have Shameia Latrice, Osco III, and Jarred Lamar.



Rev. Osco E. Gardin Jr

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with guards Larry Crowder (12 points, five assists) and Jimmie Walker (14 points, 10 rebounds) leading the way. And N.C. Central came very close to avenging a 73-67 home loss in the overtime to the defending CIAA and national champions from Virginia Union.

All of these things danced in Jackson's mind as he recounted his feelings for the media once the championship was done.

"Tonight," said Jackson, a second-year coach selected for the second time as CIAA coach of the year, "we didn't get the trophy, but these guys, they're my champions and they will always be my champions. We took a team that won the national championship to the wire and hopefully somewhere down the line, we'll get the opportunity to play them again."

If they do, it'll come in Fayetteville. By then, Jackson may want to change his tactics when it comes to playing Virginia Union.

The one problem the Panthers (26-2) present for opponents is their size.

Make that two problems: guards Adrian Hill, selected by the CIAA basketball committee as the tournament's most valuable player, and Warren Peebles, the guy who probably should've been, can run as well as anybody in the country.

Teams like Central have chosen to play slowdown more often than not against Union - use about 25 seconds of the 45-second shot clock on every possession before beginning their offense - and Peebles said that suits Union just fine.

"We can go either way," Peebles said after Union's semifinal win over Norfolk State, another team that tried to slow it down on the Panthers. "Most teams try to slow it down against us, and that's fine, because we'll just get it to the big guys. But we really like a mixture (of up-tempo and slow down)."

What's really scary about Coach Dave Robbins' team is that there are plenty of big guys - Troy Phillips is 6-9; Tim Davis is 6-7; Reggie Jones is 6-8; and Robert McKie is 6-7 - and big guys are a scarcity in Division II basketball. But Union's best big man, 6-9 235-pound center Derrick Johnson missed the CIAA Tournament and about the final three weeks of the regular season with a separated shoulder. He's out for the season. And you try naming teams that can be thought of as a national championship favorite without their best player and All-American.

Can you?

"We hope to win the national championship," Robbins said after his team's win. "But if the season ends, we'll be OK, because we'll have Derrick (Johnson) back next year and we've got kids on the bench, talented kids that are as good as some of the ones we're playing now."

They're just not getting the chance to play.

Now, as for N.C. Central, the season won't end. The Eagles are No. 10 in the National Division II poll and besides the loss to Johnson C. Smith (a 20-8 team that lost to Union in overtime 95-90 at Union, if you doubt the Bulls' worthiness), the only team to beat Central has been the defending national champions, By a combined 12 points. And the Eagles were so

close to becoming the first CIAA Southern Division team to win the tournament title since Clarence "Big-house" Gaines' Winston-Salem State team did it in 1977. Jackson could literally taste it. "I knew we were close," he said.

Central rallied from their 11-point halftime deficit and abandoned its slow down game. The Eagles were surprised by their success by playing up-tempo with "The Team You Don't Want To Run With," but if the teams play again, don't be surprised to see the Eagles run with Union all the way, all the time.

The teams traded big basket after big basket for most of the second half and finally with 2:13 left, the Eagles made their big move.

Larry Crowder hit two free throws to make the score 59-55 Union. The crowd of more than 10,000 at the Richmond Coliseum rose to its feet. Could this be? Would this be? Could Central come back and beat Virginia Union?

Robert McKie was fouled and missed two free throws and now Central Robert McKie was fouled and missed two free throws and now Central would have its chance. Jimmy Walker lined up a three-pointer from 22-feet that was dead on target but had only 21-feet of strength in the shot. It bounced off the backboard and Clifton Daye, a 6-3 leaper from Durham who coach Jackson said is a CIAA version of Michael Jordan, did his thing.

Daye leaped high into the air and tipped the ball back in, seemingly closing the lead to two points for Union. But he was called for a foul.

"It was a bad call," Daye said. "I didn't touch him."

Maybe, maybe not, but Union hit two of their next four free throw attempts and pushed the lead back to 61-55. The Panthers made just six of their last 16 free throw attempts and made what could've been a much easier win much more difficult.

"Tonight, our achilles' heel was our foul shots," Robbins said. "If we make more, maybe the game would've been as exciting, but maybe the fans would've left also."

Robbins was joking. He would much rather have preferred his team to hit more of its freebies, because after a Crowder lay-in, Central trailed 61-57, and Adrian Hill made one of his two free throws for Union. Scott Stewart then hit two for Central to make the score 62-59 with 40 seconds left.

Peebles was fouled with 31 seconds left and hit a free throw to give Union a 63-59 lead. Central had a chance to get even closer, but Daye dribbled the ball off his foot and regained possession but was tied up by a Panther for a jump ball, and Virginia Union, as luck would have it, and the possession arrow.

That, finally, did it.

"The CIAA championship is our secondary goal," Jackson said when it was over. "Our primary goal is our guys getting their degrees, and they'll get those. Now, we'll just get ready for the regional and regroup."

And likely get ready for Central-Union III.



Pictured (l. to r.) are winners of Delta Sigma Theta's children's pageant at Shilohian/St. Peter's Day Care: Timeka Couthen, 1993 queen; Amanda White, 1st runner-up; Paris Smith, 2nd runner-up; and Natisha Brandon, 3rd runner-up.

Delta Sigma Theta Holds Pageant

A pageant featuring 11 girls, ages 6 to 11, was presented recently by Group 2 of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority at the Shilohian/St. Peter's Day Care auditorium. The girls presented themselves in scenes featuring swimwear, contemporary fashions, talent, dance and drama.

Timeka Couthen was crowned 1993 Queen; Amanda White was 1st runner-up; Paris Smith was 2nd runner-up; and Natisha Brandon was 3rd runner-up.

Other contestants were: Chelsea Bonham, Kimberly Andrews, Ashley Harvey, Delana Wilson, Kahlua Kelly, Brittany McCoy and Jessica Rector.

Sparklyn Jackson, the 1992 queen crowned this year's queen.

Delta members of Group 2 who sponsored the pageant were: Andrais Brandon, Ann Dew, Susan Hunt, Wilhemenia Long, Louise Smith and Anita Thompson.

Annual Meeting Of Aids Care Service

The 1993 annual meeting of AIDS Care Service, Inc. will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the lower auditorium of Centenary United Methodist Church, 646 W. Fifth St. The meeting is open to the public.

AIDS Care Service Inc. is not a non-profit corporation, which seeks

to provide housing services for potentially homeless HIV patients. The board of trustees will report on its progress and activities. There will also be a program describing the compassionate response to AIDS, including housing concerns.

Peebles Named Student of the Month

Victoria Peebles of 1013 Free St. is the William C. Sims Learning Center January Student of the Month. She is a member of Rising Ebenezer Baptist Church.

She is an honor roll student at Parkland High School. She has above-average grades in the learning center.

Peebles is a member of Step One's "Family Night," a program that teaches family values at the Sims center.

She was awarded a free hair-style at Vargrave hair Designs.



Victoria Peebles

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