

NAACP applauds school's stance against campus racism after Halloween party

BALTIMORE — Kweisi Mfume, president and CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), on Nov. 8 applauded the swift and decisive reaction by the president of Auburn University (Auburn, Ala.) to suspend two fraternities involved in racist behavior at a recent Halloween party.

Mfume said, "Auburn president William Walker's decision to suspend both fraternities, Beta Theta Pi and Delta Sigma Phi, and to initiate a complete investigation of the incidents, is a needed first step in letting black and white students know that racism is unacceptable and should not be tolerated." Mfume said that after the investigation, the fraternities and individuals should be held accountable and there should be appropriate punishment.

The decision by Delta Sigma Phi authorities to suspend two of its members involved in the incident and to make an apology to black students also should be commended, Mfume said. "This action shows that officials in this fraternity understand the seriousness of this misbehavior," Mfume said. "Unfortunately, the silence by the Beta Theta Pi fraternity speaks volumes about their misunderstanding of the graveness of this situation."

Mfume said, "Racial progress is not just the total elimination of racist acts, but the willingness of people in positions of power to condemn and take action to stop them."

At a party on Halloween, members of the two fraternities dressed up in Ku Klux Klan robes and blackface, including one with a noose around his neck. A professional photographer took pictures of the party and distributed them on his Web site. A black fraternity, Omega Psi Phi, copied the pictures and contacted the administration.

Mfume said, "Perhaps the saddest aspect of this entire episode is that while only a few students wore racially offensive costumes at the party, other students stood around without objecting and apparently were not even afraid to have their photographs taken. It reminds me of pictures of cheering lynch mobs."

1950s law banning cross burning is overturned by the state Supreme Court

The Virginia Supreme Court recently ruled that the 1952 statute banning cross burning was a violation of the First Amendment right to free expression, overturning both the statute and the convictions of three men charged with two 1988 incidents of the act. Its decision was 4-3.

Judge Leroy R. Hassell Sr., the court's lone black justice, was joined by two others in the following minority opinion: "The First Amendment does not permit a person to burn a cross in a manner that intentionally places another person in fear of bodily harm."

Judge Donald W. Lemons wrote the following for the majority of the court: "Under our system of government, people have the right to use symbols to communicate. They may patriotically wave the flag or burn it in protest; they may reverently worship the cross or burn it as an expression of bigotry."

Satcher, a Clinton appointee, says he won't seek reappointment to post

NEW YORK — In the political pandemonium of anthrax, bioterrorism and the unending aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher signaled he would not seek reappointment when his term expires next year. His term will end Feb. 13, 2002 and he says he doesn't plan to stay.

Satcher, 60, who previously held the post of director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, lists among the highest-ranking blacks in the Bush administration — a short list that includes Secretary of State Colin Powell, Education Secretary Rod Paige and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice.

President Clinton nominated Satcher to the post of U.S. surgeon general in 1998. The ensuing Senate confirmation, though ultimately successful, was bitterly opposed by a conservative faction led by then-Sen. John Ashcroft, who is now U.S. attorney general and ranking member of the newly formed Homeland Security Council.

In the face of new public health dangers posed by domestic terrorism, Satcher has gained increased visibility while undertaking his own role to combat terrorism as the nation's top doctor. Two weeks ago, at the outset of the postal anthrax scare, Satcher acknowledged on the NBC "Today" show that the government was wrong not to act more quickly to protect postal workers at the District of Columbia's Brentwood Road postal facility, where two workers died and two others fell ill from inhalation anthrax.

Satcher admitted government officials and medical experts did not realize anthrax spores in unopened envelopes could endanger U.S. postal workers who engaged in sorting and delivery processes.



Satcher

Students form human American flag

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Hall-Woodward Elementary School in Winston-Salem celebrated Veterans Day early this year on Friday, Nov. 9, with a special human flag ceremony. Dressed in the colors of the American flag, about 520 students lined the front field honoring veterans who served in foreign wars.

Principal Rose Stowe welcomed veterans from VFW Post 1143 as special guests for the ceremony. Dale Hicks and Dale Baker, officers from the U.S. Army Reserve in High Point, were also in attendance with two armed vehicles for the students to view. "I thought it was a great idea," said Baker, whose wife works at Hall-Woodward. "I was very impressed with the kids and was more than happy to come out."

Faculty member Sandra McIntyre sang "America the Beautiful" just before student council representatives from the fourth and fifth grades led the school in the Pledge of Allegiance. The students then unraveled long strips of red, white and blue paper, lifting them to the sky to the delight and cheers of onlookers. The human flag was flying.

Third-grade teacher Peggy Cunningham is the brain behind the human flag idea and was thrilled with the ceremony, particularly because the students practiced just one time before Friday's event. "I knew the kids could do it! They practiced once and without the paper," said Cunningham, who is new to the Hall-Woodward faculty this year. "I heard the idea to do a human flag in the past and



Photo by Courtney Gaillard

Hall-Woodward students raise their human flag in honor of Veterans Day.

thought it would be really neat for the students."

Cunningham said this was not only a special way to honor veterans but also a good opportunity for teachers to combine current curriculum with observing the holiday. "Many of the teachers here were able to incorporate math with the different shapes used in the flag. It was also a way to teach colors to the younger students and a great way for the entire student body to work together on something," Cunningham said.

Donald Hampton, assistant principal at Hall-Woodward, was thankful the weather was good for the Veteran's Day ceremony and

was very proud of the teamwork exhibited by the students. Hampton feels the students learned "valuable lessons" by coming together to honor and remember veterans across the country.

The students prepared for the Veterans Day celebration by writing to members of VFW Post 1143 and contributing \$1 each to the children of Afghanistan relief fund. According to Principal Stowe, students at Hall-Woodward have been busily working on a number of patriotic activities in class such as researching family members who served in foreign wars. Stowe also said this is "the first activity like this where the whole student body participated in

such a patriotic activity."

Students and faculty members brought in photos of relatives who serve in the armed forces and created a tribute bulletin board in the lobby of the school titled "We the People." Dot McClamrock, an LD class teacher's assistant, included a photo of her late father and six uncles, all of whom served in World War II.

Those in attendance, ranging from veterans and parents to a few members of the media, were given small American flags made of popsicle sticks by Hall-Woodward students. Indeed, it was a very unique way to celebrate veterans who serve our country so well.

Governor increases security in state

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

RALEIGH — Gov. Mike Easley last week signed into law a bill that appropriates immediate funding to further address the state's most urgent security needs beyond the steps that have already been taken since Sept. 11.



Easley

Easley asked the General Assembly to expedite a measure giving him the authority to address additional security needs now, without waiting 90 days for anticipated federal funds.

"We have a responsibility to take care of our own people," Easley said during a signing ceremony at the N.C. Capitol. "This is not a partisan issue. This is a North Carolina issue, and I want to thank the members of the General Assembly for moving this bill through so quickly."

House Bill 1471 was sponsored by Representatives David Redwine, Ruth Easterling, Pete Oldham and Gregg Thompson, and was led in the Senate by Sen. Howard Lee. The bill provides \$1.9 million in additional funds to the state's Division of Emergency Management. The bill authorizes the governor to use up to \$30 million of the \$157 million rainy-day fund to further enhance the ability of the state's terrorism task force to improve emergency response and preparedness efforts.

"Our task force was working long before Sept. 11 to implement a first-rate security

program for North Carolina," Easley said.

After the attacks, the task force made a request to the governor for \$13.5 million to address immediate needs in public health, technology, agriculture, law enforcement and emergency training, preparedness and response.

"I want to assure all citizens that North Carolina has made their safety our number

one priority," Easley said. "We are prepared to take any step necessary to protect our people."

At Easley's direction, National Guard troops remain on alert throughout the state and continue providing security at the state's 12 commercial airports. The governor has also directed the State Highway Patrol to increase its presence around nuclear power plants

and at government complexes across the state.

North Carolina remains in constant communication with the Office of Homeland Security and other states, exchanging the most updated information on security issues and potential threats. State leaders are prepared to communicate vital information to the public at a moment's notice if needed.

NOTICE MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED FIRMS

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is seeking minority and women-owned firms (M/WBE) to bid on upcoming highway projects throughout the State. The Locations of the projects are:

Project No.	County/Route	Type	Location	Metric/English	GOALS BY PERCENT		
					DBE	MB	WB
8.1352601	Durham	Widening, Grading, Drainage, Paving & Structures.	10.837 MI	English	9%		
8.8059062	Durham	Widening, Grading, Drainage, Paving & Culverts.	1.810 MI	English		10%	5%
8.1442901	Cumberland	Grading, Drainage, Paving & Structure.	0.252 MI	English	5%		
8.1494102	Guilford	Grading, Drainage, Paving & Structure.	4.961 MI	English	9%		
7.4771656 ETC	Alamance, Orange	Milling, Resurfacing & Pavement Markings.	37.960 MI	English		7%	4%
8.2672603	Mecklenburg	Grading, Drainage, Paving & Structure.	1.246 MI	English	9%		
9.8109823	Cabarrus, Mecklenburg	ITS (Intelligent Transportation System).	13.500 MI	English	0%		
8.1710904	Ashe	Widening, Grading, Drainage, Paving & Culverts.	4.388 MI	English	6%		
8.1822501	Iredell	Grading, Drainage, Paving & Structure.	0.265 MI	English	9%		
7.8011309 ETC	Cleveland	Resurfacing & Pavement Markings.	26.280 MI	English		7%	4%
7.8221307 ETC	Iredell	Milling, Resurfacing & Pavement Markings.	13.410 MI	English		7%	4%
8.1942902	Haywood	Widening, Grading, Drainage, Paving & Culverts.	3.540 KM	Metric	9%		

***** MONDAY, November 19, 2001 6 PM - MIDNIGHT *****
North Raleigh Hilton - 3415 Wake Forest Road - Raleigh, N.C.

LETTING DATE: November 20, 2001

Prime contractors will be available to receive quotes for trucking, sub-contracting and materials. M/WBE's needing more information and/or technical assistance may come to Room 522 to meet with representatives from the Bennington Corp., NCDOT's Supportive Services Provider. (919)832-6027

NCDOT Office of Civil Rights & Business Development 1-800-522-0453

Certification of highway contracting firms: Richard Chrisawn
Certification of supply/service/engineering firms: Robert Mathes
Comments or concerns: Delano Rackard: Director



The Chronicle has new e-mail addresses

News items for The Chronicle should now be sent to the newspaper's new e-mail address: news@wschronicle.com. Items for the advertising department can be sent to the production manager at kstultz@wschronicle.com. To communicate with The Chronicle's managing editor, T. Kevin Walker, e-mail him at kwalker@wschronicle.com.

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