

# Not a piece

## Mother of slain civil rights worker dies

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Carolyn Goodman, the mother of one of three civil rights workers killed by the Ku Klux Klan in the "Mississippi Burning" case, died last Friday. She was 91.

Goodman, who lived to see a Klan leader convicted of her son's death two years ago, died at her Manhattan home, her son Jonathan said.

Goodman's son Andrew was killed on June 21, 1964, in central Mississippi's Neshoba County, along with fellow civil rights workers Michael Schwerner and James Chaney.

Chaney, a black Mississippian, and Schwerner and Goodman, white New Yorkers, had been looking into the torching of a black church and helping to register black voters during what was known as Freedom Summer. They were abducted, shot to death and buried in an earthen dam.

The slayings shocked the nation, helped spur passage of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 and were dramatized in the 1988 movie "Mississippi Burning."

Chaney's mother, Fannie Lee Chaney, died May 22, and Schwerner's mother, Anne Schwerner, died in 1996.

Carolyn Goodman and Fannie Lee Chaney testified in the 2005 trial of 80-year-old Edgar Ray Killen, who was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to three consecutive 20-year prison terms. He had been acquitted of federal charges by an all-white jury in the 1960s.



Andrew Goodman

## Warren Buffett says Obama will bring 'outstanding ideas' to White House

**OMAHA, Nebraska (AP)** — Billionaire investor Warren Buffett says it can get a little lonely being a Democrat in the conservative Midwestern state of Nebraska.

But Buffett had plenty of company last week at a fundraiser for Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama — and local organizers say Obama made a valuable investment.

Buffett, 76, runs Omaha-based Berkshire Hathaway Inc., which has assets of more than \$260 billion and more than 60 subsidiary businesses. He has not endorsed a candidate. He helped Obama's main rival in the race, fellow Democrat Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, raise at least \$1 million for her campaign at a June event in New York.

The total raised for Obama was not immediately available, but the minimum price to get in was \$500 a person, and organizers estimated the crowd at about 200.

Although Buffett has not yet endorsed a presidential candidate, he said that Obama "is going to bring outstanding ideas to a new administration."

## Monument to Coretta Scott King is planned in west Alabama

**MARION, Ala. (AP)** — A monument to Coretta Scott King, the wife of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., will be unveiled Sept. 8 at her home church in west Alabama.

The monument, a bust on a pedestal, will be unveiled in front of Mt. Tabor AME Zion Church in northern Perry County, Evelyn Lowery of Atlanta said last Friday.

The SCLC/W.O.M.E.N., founded by Lowery, is sponsoring the monument. Lowery, the wife of former Southern Christian Leadership Conference President Joseph Lowery, said two of King's children, Bernice King and Martin Luther King III, are scheduled to attend, along with many relatives who still live in west Alabama.

Coretta Scott King was born in Perry County on April 27, 1927, and her family operated a store and farm near the Mt. Tabor church, Lowery said. King died on Jan. 30, 2006.

After her death last year, the Alabama Legislature named state Highway 14 in Perry County in her memory.

## Black student sues UMKC, professor over use of racial slur

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)** — A University of Missouri-Kansas City graduate student is suing a professor who she said addressed her in a classroom using a racial slur and other expletives.

The discrimination lawsuit filed by student DeLana Sattarin, who is black, names sociology and criminal justice professor Peter Singelmann and the University of Missouri System curators as defendants.

Sattarin claims that the January incident led her to drop out of Singelmann's Globalization and Developing Nations class, which resulted in her not having enough credit hours to graduate in May.

In a report compiled by UMKC Affirmative Action Director Grace Hernandez, Singelmann admitted using the racial slur several times during the Jan. 18 class. However, according to the report, he claimed he used the term only to make a point during a discussion with students about free speech.

Sattarin told The Associated Press that she doesn't feel Singelmann has fully acknowledged that his comments were wrong. She said he's never verbally apologized to her directly. The university has mishandled the situation, too, she said.

According to the lawsuit, a lecture on totalitarian and authoritarian societies led to a discussion about the Patriot Act. Sattarin commented that the act should never have been passed because she felt it violated people's rights.

The lawsuit claims that Singelmann reluctantly agreed with Sattarin and then took his comments further, using the racial slur three times and following up with other expletives.

Only one of the other students was black, she said. The rest were white.

# Movie crew re-creates Katrina

BY MIKE SCOTT  
THE TIMES-PICAYUNE

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — A shingle-for-shingle recreation of a Katrina-ravaged slice of the Lower 9th Ward went up with a bang recently, bringing an explosively authentic replica of storm devastation.

As realistic as it looked, the scene was all just a bit of movie magic, conjured — and then destroyed — as part of the thriller "Black Water Transit," starring Laurence Fishburne, Brittany Snow and Karl Urban.

The movie is expected to wrap this month after filming in New Orleans for several weeks.

The star of the set was a decaying yellow one-story structure, seemingly sitting atop another house, all of which the film's crew built from scratch. And as it turns out, construction of a broken-down building is more of an exact science than one might think.

"When you're putting a house like this together, you're thinking structure — it has to stand, you have to be able to shoot inside of it, you have to be able to put



A memorial to the real-life damage done by the storm.

crew in there — so you have to be engineering-conscious," said Justin Dragonas, the film's production designer.

So even though the house looked from the outside as if it were on the brink of toppling over, it was built with a number of hidden safeguards, including a sturdy 1 1/2-inch-thick plywood floor, as well as Plexiglas windows, to avoid spraying shards of glass all over the cast and crew during the scene's big

bang. There is also what appears to be a utility wire passing through the house, courtesy of an apparent toppled utility pole. In actuality, that wire was a camouflaged structural cable helping to hold the whole thing up.

Dragonas wouldn't say exactly what fictional events cause the house to blow up. ("I don't want to give anything away," he said.) But when



Fishbourne

local movie-goers watch the Tony Kaye-directed film, set for release next year, they can watch for the scene in which Urban, playing a character named Earl Pike, walks out of the house, turns around and fires a gun into it.

The result is a spectacular orange fireball, with the New Orleans night as a backdrop.

But long before cameras rolled, and before crews even put hammer to nail, they spent a good amount of time studying post-storm photographs in order to replicate authentically the post-K scene.

"Also, there was actually a house down the block that was tilted in the same way — it was a lot smaller, and we obviously couldn't shoot inside of it — so we used that as a model," Dragonas said.

Building the house was only one part of the scene-setting process, however. Vehicles, including boats and a school bus, were brought in and flipped. Surrounding trees were stripped of many of their leaves; grass and other vegetation was trimmed back. The streets were filled with

See Movie on A11

# Alleged free-spending ex-TSU head is on trial

BY JUAN A. LOZANO  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**HOUSTON** — Priscilla Slade, the former president of financially troubled Texas Southern University, had expensive tastes.

With an affinity for clothing and shoes from Gucci, Dolce & Gabbana and St. John, Slade would sometimes spend up to \$4,600 at a time at Neiman Marcus, according to court records. At TSU parties, she served Johnny Walker Blue Label, a luxury whiskey that can cost \$200 or more a bottle.

She lavishly furnished her \$1.2 million home with a sofa worth more than \$17,800, a nearly \$9,200 bed and a \$5,600 coffee table.

But she may have paid for all this with money from the historically black university that has her facing a possible life sentence when she goes on trial next week.

Slade, an accounting professor and former dean of the business school, was indicted last year on two counts of misapplication of fiduciary property with a value over \$200,000. Prosecutors say they plan to try her for only one of the counts.

Jury selection in her case was to begin on Monday. Among the witnesses is U.S. Housing secretary Alphonso Jackson, who was on the TSU Board of Regents when Slade was hired as president.

"The prosecution's primary focus will be that her tastes were too extravagant for the school," said Mike DeGeurin, Slade's attorney. "I believe that effort is more of a character assassination than it is relevant to the facts and the purpose and spirit of the law they claim she violated."

Prosecutors say that over seven years, Slade spent more than half a million dollars to decorate, remodel and repair the homes she had during her tenure at the university.

DeGeurin said Slade did nothing wrong and there was historical precedent at TSU for the purchases his client made.

"Anytime you have a university in financial crises, business as usual is never appropriate," said prosecutor Donna Goode.

The spending scandal cost Slade her job in April 2006. Besides Slade, three other TSU workers were also indicted. TSU's former chief financial officer, Quintin Wiggins, was sentenced to 10 years in prison in May.

The allegations against Slade and others coincided with reports that revealed a pattern of financial mismanagement at TSU and prompted Gov. Rick Perry to call for a state takeover of the university that was later put on hold. The entire nine-member board of regents resigned at Perry's request.



Priscilla Slade

See Slade on A11

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