Height resigns NCNW

post

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Jane E. Smith was recently NATIONAL **BRIEFS** third

leader of The National Council of Negro She succeeds Dorothy Height,

who passes the mantle after 40 years as president and CEO. The organization's founder and first president was Mary

MacLeod Bethune, whose legacy was recently honored NCNW's 48th annual convention. Smith comes to the NCNW from the Georgiabased Carter



Center's Atlanta Project where she served as director. CCAP was actively involved in initiatives to revitalize Atlanta's inner city.

Height will remain in the lead-ership ranks of NCNW as chair of the council's board of directors.

Shabazz scholarship

Lincoln University President Niara Sudarkasa recently paid tribute to the Betty Shabazz in an all-university convocation. She said Shabazz was a



Shabazz

"beloved sister, leader and friend who touched so many lives that for generations to come her spirit will remain with us." The convocation also served as an opportunity to thank Black Entertainment Television, Emerge magazine and Dr. Shabazz's daughters for the establishment of the Dr. Betty Shabazz Endowed Scholarship at Lincoln University that will be awarded annually to a female student who has demonstrated outstanding campus leadership and service to the wider commu-

Speaking on behalf of her sisters, Attallah, Quibilah, ters, Attallah, Quibilah, Gamilah, Malikah and Malaak, Ilyasah Shabazz said that it is most appropriate for the scholarship honoring their mother to be established at Lincoln University because Betty Shabazz was "fond of the students and everything the school represented." She also said her mother was "an exemplary role model committed to improving the quality of life and committed to improving the quality of young minds through education." To date, \$31,000 has been given to the university: \$26,000 from BET and \$5,000 from Emerge magazine. The money was raised from the sale of "Strength of a Woman: A Tribute to Dr. Betty Shabazz," a jazz and spoken word CD.

Protest police demotion

LUMBERTON - The NAACP and the Robeson County Black Caucus have called for an investigation into the demotion of a black police officer, saying the move was unfair and biased.

Officials with both groups said Monday that Walter McNeill, an 18-year veteran with the Lumberton Police Department, was falsely accused of sexually harassing two civilian women while on duty, broadcasting a sexual encounter throughout the city on a police radio and using profanity on the radio.

The city demoted McNeill from sergeant to patrolman in December.

"Justice has not been served in this case," said Tom Jones, presi-

dent of the county caucus. Frank Bowden, president of the Unified Robeson County's NAACP, said a committee formed by the groups has several options, including a lawsuit.

Race is on for seats in '98

Democrats to run Richardson at-large; Mitchell in District 2

Continued from page 1A

alliance with Republicans to oust Helms as county board chair has drawn a deeper opposition.

"I think Hoyle did not in his actions represent the district he was elected to represent," said N.C. Rep. Pete Cunningham, owner of the Excelsior Club in District 2. "He allowed his personal views to override his commitment to represent the dis-

"That's unfortunate," added Cunningham, who is helping organize a reception Friday night Helms at honoring Renaissance restaurant down-

Like other Democrats, Cunningham suggested Martin change his party affiliation "if he doesn't want to adhere to the principles of the party.'

"If he chooses to leave the Democratic Party, that's probably for the best," Cunningham said. Richardson said he is not planning to run a campaign of person-

alities against Martin. "I'm running because I want to make Charlotte a great place," said Richardson, who has also served as a state senator from a westside district. "If you live in a city and you like it and see things ain't going your way, quit complaining and do something about it. That's why I'm running. That's why I decided to get back in the

Martin was elected to the county board after Richardson retired two years ago. He beat former school board member Sara Stevenson, coordinator of the Tuesday Morning Breakfast Club, a weekly gathering of black community leaders. He had failed earlier in a run for mayor of Charlotte.

Martin says he has no plans to switch political parties and can't understand why everyone mad about his vote to oust Helms.

"Most of the time, I have supported what Democrats have believed in," Martin said. "I feel comfortable working with Mr. Bush as chairman. That's why I voted for him. But if anyone looks at my voting record, I've always been an independent voter. I have never been socked in by party on any issue."

"Helms was going to literally endorse a homosexual candidate," said Martin, who sent Helms a letter and several articles on homosexuality prior to his vote. "I think Mr. Helms insulted thousands of Democrats, Republicans and independents who voted for him. He insulted

the black community with a

rumor about finding a black candidate (to run against him). "When has

the Democratic large

Richardson

Party sought a black person to run for an at seat, Martin said. "This whole

thing is about getting Hoyle Martin unelected, not getting Jim Richardson elected.

Martin said he does not plan to base his campaign on homosexuality, though he believes homosexuals are carrying out an agenda to recruit children into the gay lifestyle. He said his opponents particularly Black Political Caucus chairman Bob Davis, "need to get their heads out of the

Martin said his anti-gay votes are based on his belief that morality is needed in govern-

"If you don't have morality in one thing, you are not going to have morality in anything," he

introduced who Helms. Richardson at Monday's press conference announcing his candidacy, says he has been invigorated by his ouster.

"This is the new beginning that should help answer the question: 'what can we do?'" Helms said. "I urge every person who cares about our community to join Jim Richardson and me as we seek to preserve our reputation as a New South community that is accepting, tolerant and committed to all of God's children."

Some in the black community said Martin's support of the conservative Bush is not good for the black community.

People are not taking the coup that transpired lying down," said Davis, who pushed to Richardson on next year's ballot. "We are trying to regroup and make the wishes of the people be heard."

Davis said thinks Richardson will beat Martin.

"He (Richardson) is running because he wants to make the community whole again," Davis said. "Jim will win hands down."

Martin, who will need 16,000 voter signatures by June 30 to run as an independent, said he's confident of victory. "I think Richardson is being used," he said. "I like him, but I'm going to win this election, if it is a matter between me and him.'

Pacific Advisory Council. This

investigation terminated upon his

death, but a subsequent investi-

gation of his son, Michael, was

handled by the U.S. Justice

Brown was in Bosnia to bolster apport for trade and economic

assistance by helping U.S. compa-

nies develop closer ties with

Department.

Bosnia.

Crash was cover-up'

Continued from page 1A

head could have been caused by a piece of the plane, such as a rod, bolt or seat bracket.

With these and other findings Cogswell said suspicion should have been aroused because of Brown's position, Ruddy wrote. Just weeks before Brown's death, an investigation was underway to determine whether he had been involved in illegal financial transactions and possible illegal fund raising activities for the Democratic National Committee and a DNC-affiliate, the Asian

U.N. can't verify Rwanda massacre

Continued from page 1A

greeted by protesters.

Brandt said the team had been in contact with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who is in Malaysia. He said the team had not recommended any specific actions but there were "warning sounds that things are not going well."

Human rights groups have charged that most of the massacres were carried out by Rwandan Tutsis who fought for Kabila. The massacres were apparently in retaliation for the 1994 slaughter of more than a half million Tutsis and moderate Hutus by Hutus in Rwanda.

With Martin in the at-large race, Mitchell, a decorated Vietnam veteran, appears to have the upper hand in District 2. No other candidate has emerged

Mitchell said he thinks conservative Republicans played on Martin's strong anti-gay views to win control of the board.

"If it had been another issue, Hoyle would not have voted against Parks," Mitchell said. "They sacrificed that man. They used this issue (homosexuality) to unseat Parks. There's a rumor people are trying to use it as a wedge to drive between black and white Democrats.'

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