

# African Nations, Southern States Forge Partnership

By Larry O'Dell

RICHMOND, VA. (AP) — Southern governors wrapped up a meeting that focused on trade with Africa and a report stressing the need to find new ways for their states to measure economic and social progress.

Several members of the Southern Governors' Association also participated in an "electronic town meeting," fielding questions Tuesday from about 100 Richmond-area college students on a broad range of issues.

During the two-day meeting, the governors joined the leaders of 25 African nations in signing a trade and cultural exchange pact, toured a trade show featuring African goods and viewed a video touting the progress their states are making in prenatal care, employment and

other areas.

The governors' exchanges with the students showed the states are dealing with many of the same problems, often with the same approaches. For example, several governors said they are trying to get more for their education dollar.

Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder said his order that colleges prepare for budget cuts of up to 15 percent is a matter of fairness. Other state agencies have had to streamline their operations, as have private businesses, he said.

Virginia colleges apparently were not alone in imposing hefty tuition increases in recent years to make ends meet.

"We're in danger of driving tuition rates so high that the average family can't send their

children to college, and it will be beyond our ability to help with scholarships," said Arkansas Gov. Jim Guy Tucker.

He said technology, including interactive television, can be used to help colleges operate more efficiently.

The governors also said they are combating prison crowding by expanding electronic home monitoring and other sentencing alternatives for non-violent offenders.

Tucker said his state has approved voluntary sentencing guidelines and is establishing "community punishment centers" where inmates are sent to crime-plagued neighborhoods to do yard work and other chores.

Missouri Gov. Mel Carnahan said judges must be educated to order lighter sentences for relatively minor offenses. He said judges in Missouri's least crime-ridden areas are imposing the harshest sentences.

Earlier Tuesday, the governors examined a report by the Commission on the Future of the South. The commission was appointed by the Southern Growth Policies Board.

The report urged the states to overhaul bureaucracy, experiment with new ways of delivering services, encourage more private sector involvement and carefully measure the results of government programs.

In the closing business session, Georgia's Miller was elected to succeed Wilder as SGA chairman. Mississippi Gov. Kirk Fordice was elected first vice chairman, and Carnahan was chosen second vice chairman.

Other governors attending included Ned McWherter of Tennessee.



Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe, the widow of tennis star Arthur Ashe, talks about love, loss and life with her daughter Camera, months after losing her husband to AIDS, in the October *Ebony*.

# Professional Wrestler Enters New Arena

By Dennis Patterson

Associated Press Writer  
BUNN (AP) — After 15 years as a professional wrestler, Jerry Kennett figures he's ready for a new arena—politics.

Kennett, who spends his weekends as "Kahn The Warlord" in wrestling matches, is the only candidate to file for mayor of Bunn. But that doesn't mean he's a shoo-in.

"Somebody put out a flyer ... and spread it around town saying, 'Do your civic duty. Don't be body-slammed. Vote for write-in,'" Kennett said Monday.

Kennett, 39, said there's been talk of a couple of potential write-in candidates. But as the only candidate to pay the \$5 filing fee, his will be the only name on the ballot Nov. 2.

"It's probably the most exciting mayoral campaign they've had around here in years," said Kennett.

"This is a small town and it's got a lot of small-town prejudice in it," he said. "There are some people who don't like me because I'm a 'wrasler'. And some because I've got long hair."

"I'm not native-born and that's something against me with some folks, but I feel like most people accept me," said Kennett, a Union, S.C., native and Presbyterian College graduate who has lived in Bunn for nearly four years.

He started wrestling in South Carolina more than 15 years ago when he filled in for a neighbor who was one of the Masked Bojos.

"One of them got sick and asked me to fill in for him," said Kennett, 39. "They wore masks and full body suits. All that showed were the hands, so nobody knew the difference."

He has wrestled professionally as The Masked Terminator, then The Terminator after he was unmasked in a match. Kennett has also gone by the monikers Nightmare and Thunderfoot.

He hit on a theme for Kahn four years ago, he said. He wears red-and-black wrestling tights, a shredded black tee-shirt and black biker boots. Occasionally he wears a black, hooded cape and enters the arena carrying a flaming sword.

Kennett, who spends his weekdays as an assembler at an area manufacturing plant, is the heavyweight champion of the Carolina Championship Wrestling Alliance.

"It's my way of letting off steam," he says of his wrestling.

"I get my highs when people boo me, I do. I started out as a good guy and decided, this is no fun. I enjoy being bad."

"I can go in and be as mean as I want to be and do it legally," Kennett said. "People who know me personally and see me in the ring say it's like a split personality."

"It's an outlet, a way to be something that normally I'm not when I'm out of the ring," he said. "And I'm able to distinguish who I am in the ring and who I am out of the ring. A lot of pro wrestlers have a problem with that."

It's Jerry Kennett, father and citizen, who is running for mayor, not Kahn the Warlord, he said.

"My son is growing up here. I like this town," Kennett said. "I'm going to do the best I can for the town. I've never done this before, but nobody else is going to try harder."

"I want to try to make sure that the decisions made for the town are for the good of the whole town and

not just somebody's kinfolk," he said. "And I want to get people involved with the town."

"Maybe I can accomplish a little," he said. "If I can just get the town spirit back, to make people proud to be from Bunn, that will be something. ... This town needs to come together."

# Duke Law School's Advocacy Receives Grant

A \$5,000 grant will mean that battered women seeking help and information through the student-run Domestic Violence Advocacy Project can reach a volunteer, rather than leaving a message with an answering service, says project founder Elizabeth Catlin.

In addition to paying for a separate phone line for the county courthouse-based office, Catlin said the grant from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation also will enable the project to hire an undergraduate student intern to manage the daily operations of the office and work with the 50 law student volunteers.

Catlin, who is in her final year at Duke University School of Law, said she now feels more positive about leaving the program she founded to others to operate upon her graduation.

"In order to make the project viable long after I've gone, I knew we needed to get on more financially stable footing," she said. She applied for the grant early in the year, went for interviews on the proposal and recently received notification of the one-year award. "We can make \$5,000 go a long way," she added.

The Domestic Violence Advocacy Project has relied from its inception upon financial support from its student volunteers and office space from the Durham County district attorney. The project over the past two years has become the largest pro bono activity to emerge at Duke law school.

A training session for new domestic violence advocacy volunteers was held Sept. 18 and 19 at Duke law school and involved students from North Carolina Central University. Training included sessions with Jill Duvall, executive director of the Coalition for Battered Women.

Catlin, who worked with battered women in Massachusetts for several years before coming to Duke, established the advocacy project to assist battered women trying to work through the legal system in Orange and Durham counties.

"We're not allowed to tell the women what to say in court or to fill out any forms for them, but we can give them all the information that is available, show them around the courthouse, explain to them who the players in the courtroom will be. Sometimes it's something as fundamental as acting as an escort or sitting between a woman and the person she's charged with assault," she said.

For her work with this project and others, Catlin received last year's Student Pro Bono Service Award from the North Carolina State Bar.

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