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NC Black Press, NCNAACP & NNPA Partner In Voter Effort

By Cash Michaels
Contributing writer

The NCNAACP, NNPA and African-American newspapers associated with the NC Black Publishers Association (NCBPA) have now joined forces for the most massive nonpartisan voter registration, education, mobilization and ballot protection movement in North Carolina's history for the 2016 elections.

Representatives of the NCNAACP met with NCBPA publishers Dec. 11 in Durham, along with black publishers from two South Carolina publications, and Dr. Benjamin Chavis, president/CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association. All participants agreed that the upcoming 2016 presidential, congressional, legislative and gubernatorial elections are too critical to the African-American community across the Carolinas, and the nation, for the Black Press not to be involved in working with the NCNAACP, and also the South Carolina NAACP, in this major effort.



Rev. William Barber
NC NAACP



Mrs. Mary Alice Thatch
President N.C. Black
Publishers



Rev. Benjamin Chavis
CEO, NNPA

**Groups
Join to
Fight for
Voting
Rights**

“The Carolinas is one of the largest regions for reaching African-Americans,” Dr. Chavis, who called the Black Press “...the trusted print voice” in the black community, told those gathered. “North Carolina and South Carolina are key for a massive voter outcome. A partnership between the Black Press and the NAACP is critical.”
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Traffic stop of black legislator prompts recriminations

By Jonathan Drew

RALEIGH (AP) - The North Carolina Troopers Association is criticizing a state representative who said race played a role in a traffic stop that resulted in a seat-belt citation.

Rep. Cecil Brockman, who is black, says in an interview that the traffic stop on Nov. 30 by multiple troopers is a pattern of minorities treated with inordinate suspicion.

The stop is captured on dashboard video obtained by Charlotte television station WBTV.

Brockman is heard on the video telling two troopers that he was angry and suggesting he wouldn't have been cited if he were a white lawmaker.

The president of the Troopers Association, Sgt. Danny Jenkins, accused Brockman of trying to use his position to bully troopers and avoid a citation. The association asked its supporters to demand Brockman's resignation.



NCCU December 2015 graduates. Related pictures on page 2. (Photo by NCCU Public Relations)

'Don't Just Live, Lead' UNC President Tells North Carolina Central University Graduates

North Carolina Central University (NCCU) awarded 560 diplomas Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015, during the university's 126th annual Commencement Exercises.

Tom Ross, president of the University of North Carolina (UNC) delivered the Commencement address. His address to NCCU graduates is his final major address to a university audience as president of the UNC system.

“NCCU is a very special place to give my last Commencement speech,” said Ross. Ross gave graduates advice on how to be a great leader. “To be an effective leader: know yourself; communicate well; care for yourself; clarify your values; embrace differences; involve others with talent; and take risks,” said Ross.

“We need leaders now more than ever. Each of you can be a strong effective leader,” he told the audience. Ross concluded his address by advising graduates to seize the opportunity to make a difference by leading for the common good. NCCU presented Ross with a formal commendation recognizing his achievements as a proponent for public higher education in North Carolina.

During the ceremony, NCCU Chancellor Debra Saunders-White recognized Department of Public Health Education graduate Salima Taylor.

Taylor is a native of Durham, whose been a student leader at NCCU and played a pivotal role in establishing the university's community garden in 2013. She conducted a summer internship in Gaborone, Botswana. Taylor will continue her research studies at Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy and Management before applying to medical school.

Saunders-White closed with words of encouragement to graduates by saying, “I charge you to eradicate the world of fear, because in fear we will never succeed. Soar and be great, for it is not enough to be leaders but also be change agents. Stand and dare others to do the right thing everyday of your life.”

To view a rebroadcast of the 126th Commencement Exercises for NCCU, go to www.nccu.edu/live and to view the Commencement photo album, go to <http://on.fb.me/11WB3og>.

Scalia draws rebukes for comments about black students

By Sam Hananel

WASHINGTON (AP) - Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, famous for his blustery rhetoric from the bench and beyond, finds himself in controversy again after suggesting that some black students might belong at “slower-track” universities.

His remarks Dec. 11 during court arguments over an affirmative action program at the University of Texas have drawn rebukes from civil rights leaders, top Democrats and even the White House. And they returned a familiar spotlight to the feisty justice who doesn't shy away from calling it as he sees it on issues like race and gay marriage.

Scalia has a long history of making remarks in blunt terms without seeming to care about offending those in his sights, reflecting the sensibilities of a staunch conservative born in the 1930s who came of age as the civil rights movement was beginning.

Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid denounced Scalia on Dec. 12 for uttering what he called “racist ideas” from the bench. “The idea that African-American students are somehow inherently intellectually inferior from other students is despicable,” Reid said on the Senate floor. “It's a throwback ... to a time that America left behind a half a century ago.”

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said the comments stand in “quite stark contrast” to the priorities and values President Barack Obama has advocated through his career. Civil rights activist Al Sharpton, who attended the arguments, said he didn't know “if I was in the courtroom at the United States Supreme Court or at a Donald Trump rally.”

Wednesday's arguments were about whether the University of Texas has compelling reasons to consider race among other factors when it evaluates applicants for about a quarter of its freshman class.

Gregory Garre, the university's lawyer, told Scalia that minority students admitted through the affirmative action program fared better over time than those admitted from the top 10 percent of all schools.

Scalia prefaced his comments by noting that one of the briefs in the case “pointed out that most of the black scientists in this country don't come from schools like the University of Texas.”

“They come from lesser schools where they do not feel that they're being pushed ahead in classes that are too fast for them,” Scalia said. “I'm just not impressed by the fact that the University of Texas may have fewer. Maybe it ought to have fewer. And maybe some - you know, when you take more, the number of blacks, really competent blacks, admitted to lesser schools, turns out to be less.”

In his comments Scalia was referring to a legal brief from affirmative action opponents on research showing that minority students admitted to competitive universities through affirmative action can often struggle to succeed if they don't have top academic abilities. This “mismatch” theory holds that minorities would be better off at less academically rigorous schools.

The theory has been around for more than a decade and Scalia is not alone in embracing it. Justice Clarence Thomas, who is black, shared similar views in a 2003 case in which he said minority students admitted to the University of Michigan were unprepared for the work they faced.

“I just think he's a pull-no-punches kind of guy,” said Paul Cassell, a University of Utah law professor and former Scalia clerk who also served as a federal judge.

“He's also got a very sharp mind and he has less patience with arguments that don't quite come to grips with the tough issues,” Cassell said. “Political correctness can obscure correct answers in legal cases and block discussion of the hard questions.”