

Police won't charge Tisdale

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Masten said Monday, "I cannot justify my officers issuing a citation in a case in which a clerk twice found no probable cause." Tisdale said at the press conference in his office that police efforts to obtain the warrant were fueled by "tremendous pressure from certain of (former Alderman) Larry Little's cohorts down

at City Hall who aim to fulfill his vow to 'get me.' They are using their hire-and-fire powers to pressure the police department to bring a charge against me which would not have been brought against anyone else." He specifically identified the "cohorts" as Assistant City Manager Alexander R. Beaty and

Alderman Vivian H. Burke. Tisdale said there was "no basis" for charges against him, and blamed the controversy on election-year tactics. "Their immediate goal is to replace me with a district attorney who will give in to their demands, as in the Darryl Hunt case, rather than relying on the

judgment of jurors selected from a cross-section of this community," Tisdale said. Little said Tuesday that Tisdale's accusations were "beneath commenting on." Mrs. Burke, who is chairman of the aldermen's Public Safety Committee, which oversees the police department, said Monday that Tisdale must be worried. "His conscience must be getting the best of him," Mrs. Burke said. "He's seeing something that I'm not even aware of. I haven't asked Mr. Beaty anything about this case. Tisdale must be looking for some publicity for himself."

Tisdale. Miss Oakley's case, and the case of Todd Apperson Mercy, the driver of the other car in the accident, is scheduled to be tried on March 6. A judge from outside of Forsyth County will be brought in to hear the cases. Mercy is charged with failure to yield right of way.

ference Monday to say that Tisdale only called for the special prosecutor after Andrews sent the letter. "The truth of the matter is that Tisdale did not request a special prosecutor until the next week after I asked for one," Andrews said. Andrews is a Republican candidate for district attorney.

Mary Bethune: A legacy of hope

It was eight years before Martin Luther King Jr. stood beside the Washington Monument and stirred the nation with his "I Have a Dream" speech.

It was 10 years before a Congress, inspired by a slain president, passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965, when an aging black woman sat down to write her last will and testament.

"I leave you love. Love builds," began Mary McLeod Bethune. "... I leave you hope. The Negro's growth will be great in the years to come.

"Yesterday, our ancestors endured the degradation of slavery, yet they retained their dignity. Today, we direct our economic and political strength toward winning a more abundant and secure life."

Mary McLeod Bethune, adviser to four United States presidents, who helped shape the United Nations, knew a great deal about both degradation and hope.

When she was born, on July 10, 1875, as the 15th of 17 children, in Mayesville, S.C., the state was under the control of federal troops. The Civil War's promise to release blacks from the degradations of slavery was slow in being fulfilled. Her parents, former slaves, still were waiting for their chance to purchase 40 acres and a mule.

The future didn't look bright for Mary. Education, particularly, seemed out of reach for girls such as she. The average school term was only four and one-half months -- and most black children spent few terms in school before they had to drop out to help support their families.

But Mary was determined -- and hopeful.

Luckily, there was a small missionary Presbyterian school nearby which she was able to attend until she learned all it had to offer. She was 12 years old.

Then, just as it appeared that her education had ended, a sponsor offered a scholarship at Scotia Seminary, a Presbyterian school for girls in Concord. Mary spent seven years there, graduating in 1894.

The times were difficult for blacks in the South. Filibusters by Southerners in Congress and Supreme Court rulings blocked efforts to confer certain civil rights on them. Two years after Mary finished high school, the Plessy v. Ferguson decision locked the "separate but equal" doctrine into the law.

But Mary had love and hope. And, apparently, one of the biggest doses of determination ever seen.

And Mary was determined that other black children were going to have an opportunity to learn, too.

In October 1904 she opened the Bethune Industrial School for Girls in Daytona Beach, Fla. She had six students, five girls who paid 50 cents a week for tuition and her son, Albert.

Mrs. Bethune subsidized her school's income by training the young students to sing. They became known as the Bethune Choral Group and were greeted enthusiastically wherever they performed.

She also sold pies, scrounged furnishings from the trash piles of resort hotels, spoke at functions, solicited donations door to door and did whatever else was necessary to keep her school's doors open.

Today, that little school is Bethune-Cookman College. The "specialness" of Mary McLeod Bethune lives on.



Mary McLeod Bethune is one of 12 persons selected for the "Gallery of Greats: 20th Century Black Political Firsts," a collection of oil portraits commissioned by the Miller Brewing Co. The collection, which honors all blacks who have served in public office, was unveiled in Washington during Black History Month. It was on display in the Rotunda of the Russell Senate Office Building Feb. 19 through 26 and will then be displayed at Howard University from March 1 through 22 before being placed on national tour.

Rare partnership

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community pride.

"Just to set the record straight, there has not been longstanding animosity between Muslims and Jews," Muhammad said.

"Minister Farrakhan says we need to get rid of the old black-Jewish relationship ... and replace it with one based on equity and mutual respect."

A Desperate Need

There is a desperate need for low-income housing in Boston, where the U.S. League of Savings Institutions has estimated that the average home costs \$126,000, and subsidized apartments are in short supply.

Abrams said that 2,300 poor people -- mainly women with children -- recently applied for 28 units of subsidized housing offered by his company.

The financial backing for the proposed Muhammad-Abrams deal will come mostly from Abrams, who manages 1,300 subsidized apartments in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, while security on the property will be provided by the Nation of Islam.

Living In Fear

Many of the tenants now live in fear, says Abrams. "They are frightened of the vandalism and the drug users. The elderly and the frail and the not-strong really spend a life I cannot imagine."

The Nation of Islam's involvement with the project could change that, says Muhammad. "The Nation of Islam has a long history of respect for all black people," he says. "Black people respect our property and what we stand for."

Profits from the arrangement will be divided equally, the partners say.

"Mr. Abrams is bringing something to the table, and we are bringing something to the table," says Muhammad.

"We are not in the business of property management. We are not coming to the table with (financial) equity," he adds. "But if we were to put a dollar value on our equity, you cannot imagine what it is worth."

Making A Commitment

Muhammad and Abrams say the details of their proposal are far from complete, but they have made a commitment to work together for what could be several years.

Both men admit that their friends and business associates were shocked by the partnership at first but have now come to accept and support it. It has even been embraced by Farrakhan, says Muhammad.

"Naturally, my phone rang off the hook" when the partnership was announced, he says. But since then, "I have been approached ... by people who are very positive about this. What we are proposing here is an example of how people should get along."

Adds Abrams: "The reward will be pulling it off and making it work."

Firm donates house

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PATH was founded last year by Alderman Patrick T. Hairston to help the city's street people. Hairston kicked off a fundraising campaign three weeks ago by agreeing to donate half of his monthly alderman's salary to the organization.

The group held a press conference at that time to announce the acquisition of its first house at 1337 Patterson Ave., which will be used as a shelter for men. Renovation has not yet begun on that facility.

PATH also announced then its intention to create a network of shelters to aid the needy.

Naegele owns a large billboard

in the rear of the property on Cunningham that overlooks Highway 52. Fisher said the company had been renting the billboard before closing a deal to buy the property last week. When the tenants living in the house decided to move, Fisher said the company was unsure of what to do with the house.

Fisher said he had learned of PATH from newspaper and television accounts of the acquisition of the Patterson Avenue property.

"It's really a unique situation," Fisher said. "We were looking for something to do with the property when we

thought about the group (PATH). We decided that it was something we could contribute to this fine organization, and something we could tie in on an ongoing basis. We're happy we could do something with the house and contribute to a worthy cause."

Sumler said the money will allow PATH to begin renovations immediately.

The house also has a full basement which Sumler says will be turned into three additional bedrooms. He said the facility will house six to 12 women once renovations are complete.



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