

Bias claims

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African-Americans at the company also are subjected to racial slurs and jokes.

O'Neal said that his first name, "Sammy" often turned into "Sambo."

He said that he reported the joking to Hartis, but that he did nothing more than request the workers to stop doing it.

"He tried to smooth it out," he said. "He said he thought I was overreacting."

The three men attribute many of their problems on the job to Hartis.

They say he has continuously refused them promotions and adequate raises.

Hill said that in his case, to deny him his benefits, Hartis told the home office that he had been fired when actually, he had to leave work because of kidney problems.

Hill said that he had brought statements from both of his doctors saying that he was no longer able to work.

He said that he got the situation partially righted with the home office and was able to receive some insurance benefits.

The three men said that they are looking into taking legal action against the company and have plans to meet with an attorney. They said that they also plan to file a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The three, along with a fourth person, Donnie Young, had approached the local NAACP for help last year.

Walter Marshall said that the NAACP wrote the president of the company but did not receive any response. He said that he has not been able to reach the presi-

dent by phone either.

In a letter to the president dated Sept. 24, 1986, Marshall states that Hartis is using his authority to prevent African-Americans from moving upward in the company. "He has a penchant for making sarcastic remarks to degrade his black employees," the letter states.

The letter calls for the president to address discrimination at the company.

The NAACP, Marshall said, is compiling a list of business, agencies, etc. that do business with the company.

He said that the company does do business with the city, the county and the school system.

Once the list is compiled, the NAACP will ask that they no longer do business with the Noland Company in light of their employment practices, he said.

Charge

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make a comment on the issue.

"I am not going to actively prosecute the case. The prosecutor there (Winston-Salem) will prosecute the case," Ferguson said. "So, I have no statement to make about the charges."

Although she has made comments to other members of the media, Mrs. Corpening said she was hesitant to speak to anyone from the *Chronicle* about the incident.

She said Henderson and the new managing editor at the *Chronicle*, Dennis Schatzman, are fraternity brothers. Henderson helped him (Schatzman) get his job, she said.

Schatzman feels a certain obligation to Henderson because he helped him get the job, she added.

Henderson also is friends with the *Chronicle* publisher and his wife, Ernest and Elaine Pitt, and

has had "numerous" phone conversations with them, she said.

"I feel that anything I would say to someone at the *Chronicle* would be totally picked apart," she said.

"I just do not trust anyone associated with them (Henderson and Winfrey)," Mrs. Corpening

said. "I have dealt with them and know what they are capable of."

Schatzman said, "I will not dignify the lady's response with a comment."

New bill

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serving as a resident judge," he said.

Serving as a resident Superior Court judge would mean that he would not have to travel as often, he said.

As special judge, he now travels around the state to relieve court workloads.

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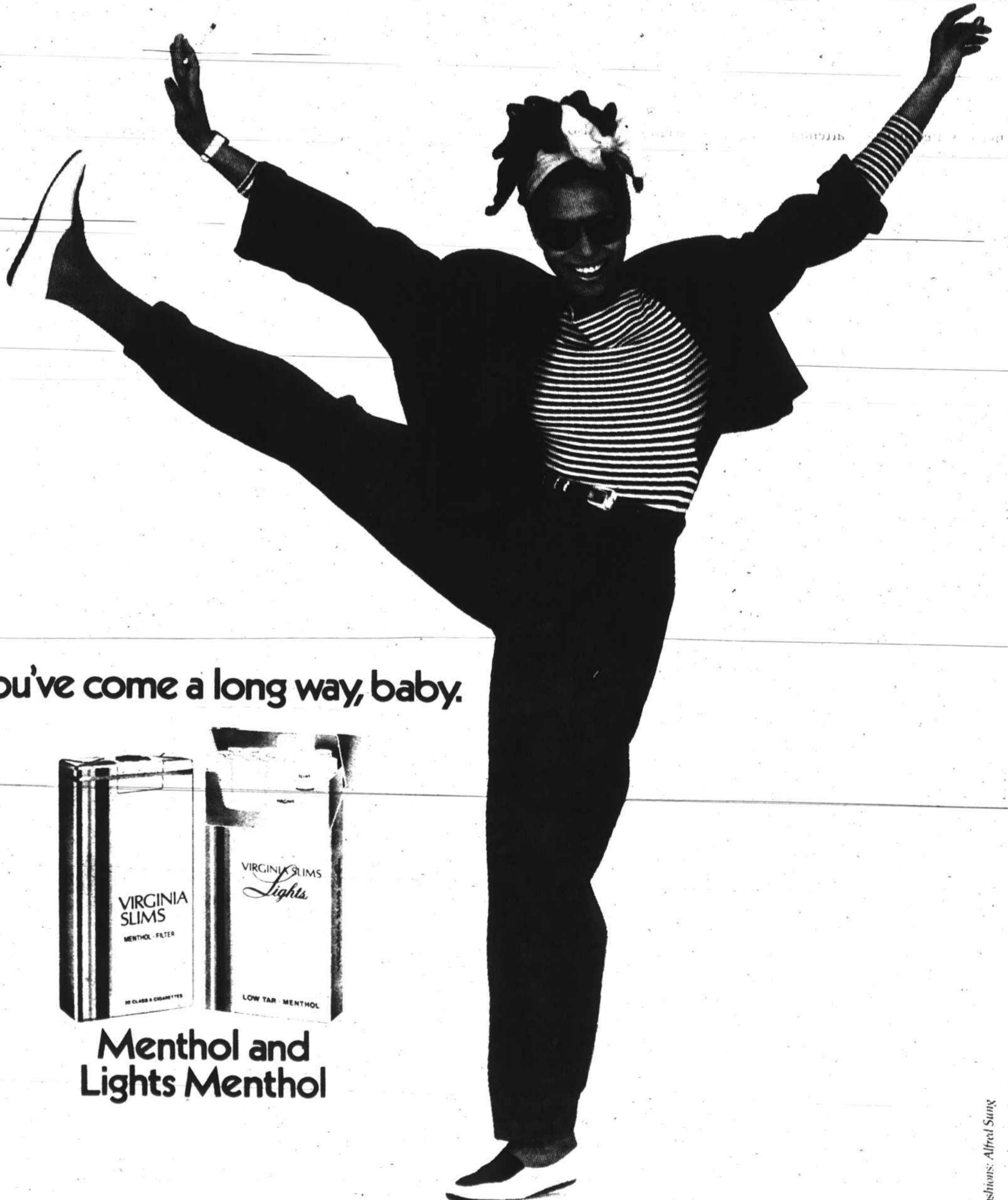
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