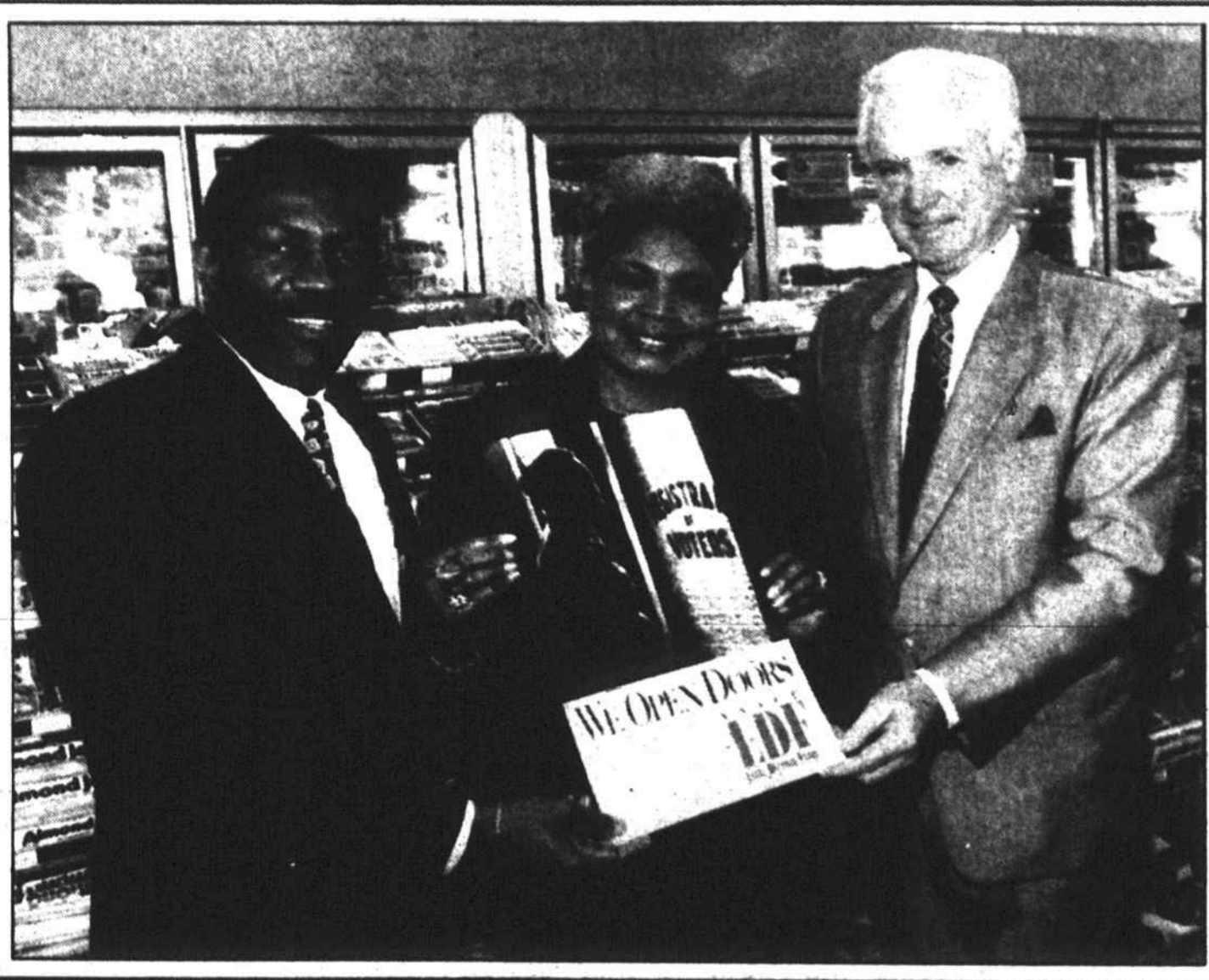


RJR/LDF expands billboard program



One of two posters created to support the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) is displayed by (left to right) Benjamin S. Ruffin, vice president, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company; Billye Aaron, the United Negro College Fund's (UNCF) Southern Region vice president and a member of LDF's board of directors; and William E. Corey, president and CEO of Corey Outdoor Advertising. The posters were created as an extension of RJR's three-year-old Public Service Billboard Program. In addition to the LDF, the program recognizes the work of such organizations as the NAACP, National Urban League and UNCF. Corey offered to help RJR expand the program by providing display space for posters in 18 USA Discount convenience stores in Atlanta.

Death penalty sought

Continued from page A1

one of the boys was on the grader at the time of incident.

"We're looking at evidence that says at least one person was on that motor grader and that it was not unattended when it hit the police officer," he said Tuesday.

Keith said the other three may also face first- or second-degree murder for being accessories or accomplices.

"A person can't let lose a motor grader, jump off of it and then say, 'I didn't do anything wrong.'" he said, responding to concerns from the community that no one was on the grader at the time of the incident.

But members of the black community have many unanswered questions surrounding Tise's death

and said they may conduct their own investigation.

Some have questioned reports stating that Tise was crushed while trying to escape from his vehicle or that Tise was already out of his vehicle at the time he was struck.

One community activist, Jacqueline Teal, said she thinks the four teenagers have been exploited. "They have exploited those boys. They've made it out to seem that one of them was out to kill a cop. There are too many unanswered questions and we have to get to the bottom of this," Teal said.

Teal said she will be working with the Rev. John Mendez of Citizens United for Justice in gathering information.

Mendez said he has already

begun investigating the death of Tise. "We are going to continue to investigate. We don't condone any vicious attack of any police officer, however, the facts in this situation are not clear. There are other viewpoints on this regrettable death that spell accident," he said.

"If these boys stole that machinery, we do not condone it. But clearly there was not intent to kill a white police officer," he added.

The Rev. Carlton Eversley, also of the Citizens United for Justice, said that Tise's death was neither racial nor political, and that it should not be compared to the death of Carlos Colon Stoner.

The four teenagers will face a grand jury hearing on July 27.

Civil disobedience

Continued from page A1

meeting in order to hold an executive session.

But despite the boards second attempt to continue talks on redistricting, Eversley's second attempt overpowered them.

"We will not go away. We are not tired and we will not be defeated," he shouted, amid chants and applause from the small audience. Eversley said the plan to disrupt redistricting discussions was formed after the board voted weeks ago to continue talks without candidates-elect Geneva Brown and Walter Marshall as voting members.

As a representative of the black community, Eversley said he had warned the board that blacks should not be excluded from the development of a redistricting plan. When the board did not heed these concerns, he said, "they violated our spirit by ignoring us."

Marshall, who did not attend the meeting, said he supported Eversley's actions and was glad that the community was serious about taking a stand. "He took a stand for what was right. The board shouldn't be surprised at all. We've been telling them what our concerns were for a long time. They just got a shock treatment that day," he said.

Marshall and Brown recently denounced the board's vote to continue redistricting talks and refused to take the suggested non-voting seats.

Once again, Marshall said, the needs of the black community have been pushed aside. "When you push people back against a wall they come out fighting. If (the board) wants to blame anyone, they can blame themselves. This is not fun and games anymore. The black community is serious and we will not be ignored," he added.

Board member Mary P. "Candy" Wood did not attend the executive session, saying that she questioned its legality. It was Wood who called for a motion to table the issue until the next school board meeting.

School board attorney Douglas Pungler was not available to comment on the legality of the executive session, but sources said school board regulations stipulate that executive sessions should only be called to address personnel matters. Wood, along with board members Nancy Wooten and Nancy Griffith, has consistently supported the interests of the black community. Wood said she understood Eversley's actions. "I regret that it's come to this, but I think it could have been avoided," she said, if board members had voted to table the issue until December.

Wooten said the board has been "unnecessarily stubborn."

"To continue to stonewall these people as we have done does not show the kind of leadership expect-

ed by the community. We have repeatedly refused to accommodate them. I don't want another night like this," she said.

Griffith said she wasn't surprised that Eversley had filibustered the redistricting portion of the meeting. "I think he got the attention of the board. However, in the long run I don't know what (good) it will do. Unfortunately there are only a precious few people who look at the community as a whole," Griffith said.

School board member Tom Voss, who appears to have led the sentiment among the six members who voted two weeks ago not to table redistricting, said he thought Eversley's action spoke for itself. "He did something he felt he had to do," said Voss. He gave no other comments as to what effect Eversley's actions might have.

Another school board member said she had hoped for a more peaceful solution to the problem. "I think we've been treated unfairly. I also don't think we should be intimidated or threatened," said Jane Goins.

"I was appalled. We're not there to be antagonizing. If (Eversley's) got the love of God in his heart, then we can do this peacefully. I wouldn't call what took place an act of democracy," she added.

The next school board meeting will be Thursday, August 5.

Sense of humor helps interracial couple

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — George and Elizabeth Crear pick the better voice for the task at hand.

"There are times when Liz is trying to take care of some business and getting nowhere fast, and she'll turn to me and say, 'George, this sounds like a job for a black man,'" Crear said, smiling. "She doesn't demand sugar."

making a phone call and is put on hold. "I just hang up and give the phone to Liz," he said. "Her nice white voice is taken care of quickly."

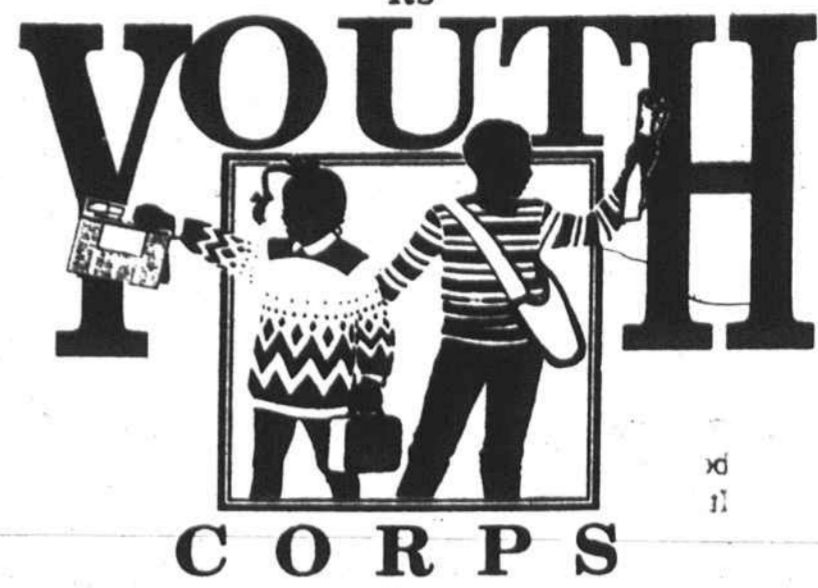
The Crears are coping quite well in multiracial Miami, the city where they live, thank you, and expect to have no real problems with racism in Mobile, his home

where else.

The number of interracial marriages nationally is on the rise, but the number — a fraction of 1 percent of all marriages — remains small. Hostility to cross racial romance is still evident. But the Crears, both schoolteachers, think the media are overplaying the problems experi-

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William H. Gray III
President and CEO
United Negro College Fund

William Gray has launched a new career. After 12½ years in the U.S. Congress, he is now President and CEO of the United Negro College Fund. The 48-year-old organization supports 41 private, historically Black colleges and universities that enroll over 51,000 students, many of whom receive UNCF financial assistance.

Ideally suited to lead the College Fund, Gray is working to ensure that education is our country's number one priority.

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