

NATIONAL

University Prof Gets Police Protection After Death Threat

▲ Telephone threat comes after professor criticizes racially offensive column in student newspaper

CATONSVILLE, Md. (AP) — A death threat has prompted police to provide protection for a veteran professor at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County.

The telephoned threat came last month after Acklyn Lynch, an associate professor in the African-American studies department, criticized a student newspaper column that Lynch considered racially offensive.

Lynch, who has taught at UMBC since 1977, declined to comment.

Campus President Freeman A. Hrabowski III, in a statement last week, said the threat "diminishes us all."

"I want to make it clear that threats of violence are illegal, deplorable and will not be tolerated," Hrabowski said.

While the death threat did not mention Lynch's criticism of the newspaper column, university officials believe the two are linked.

In a Nov. 9 column, junior Pete Fitzpatrick denounced the verdicts in the California trial of several men accused of beating Reginald Denny, a white man pulled from his truck and attacked during the Los Angeles riots.

Fitzpatrick, 20, wrote that "Afrocentric education must be working in Los Angeles... the blacks there have learned to act like savages."

The student also wrote that Denny's attackers "danced around like they had just successfully stalked a lion on the Serengeti plain."

The column touched off protests from black students and editors of the Retriever agreed to participate in a forum to discuss the controversy.

At that forum, Lynch called for Fitzpatrick's firing and more diversity on the newspaper's staff.

A few days later, Lynch received the death threat. Since then he has been accompanied by a university police officer wherever he goes on campus, even into the classroom.

The racial climate at UMBC, where minorities account for about 26 percent of the undergraduate enrollment of 8,068 students, is not overtly hostile, said Kenneth W. Wright, president of the Black Student Union.

"Just like anywhere else, there is racism that

exists," he said. "Right now, it's more covert. Every once in a while you have an example such as this article that brings it to the surface."

Fitzpatrick said his critics have taken his words out of context. He said he intended to describe only the men who assaulted Denny, not blacks in general.

The reaction to the column has had little effect on the newspaper, he added.

"The only thing it's really changed, we're afraid of what will happen the next time someone wants to write something controversial," Fitzpatrick said. "It will only make us more cautious about questioning things, which I think is regrettable."

'Fresh Prince' Star Sued By Former Co-Star of Television Series

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A former co-star of the "Fresh Prince of Bel Air" has sued star Will Smith and NBC, saying she was forced off the sitcom after she got pregnant.

A lawsuit filed by Janet Hubert-Whitten, who played Smith's aunt, Vivian Banks, in the show's first three seasons, said Smith became hostile when she got pregnant. He

influenced NBC to reduce her salary and air time, forcing her off the show, the lawsuit said.

Smith then criticized Hubert-Whitten on talk shows for having a bad attitude on the set, the lawsuit said.

Telephone calls to NBC and Smith's attorney, Ken Hertz, were not returned Sun-

day. According to the lawsuit, Smith said during talk show interviews that Hubert-Whitten often "gave me the middle finger and stormed off the set," and that she "wanted the show to be the 'Aunt Viv of Bel Air' show."

Hubert-Whitten claims the comments hurt her marketability.

The lawsuit, filed Friday, seeks unspecified damages for defamation, invasion of privacy, negligence and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

The show, in its fourth season, stars Smith as a streetwise Philadelphia teen-age who was sent to live with his rich aunt and uncle in California.



Will Smith

Paul R. Jervay Sr., Founder of Raleigh's Black Newspaper, Dies

RALEIGH (AP) — Paul R. Jervay Sr., the founder of a black community newspaper in Raleigh, died Saturday at Rex Hospital after a long illness. He was 87.

Jervay was born in Wilmington and earned a degree in printing from Hampton University. He went to work for several newspapers, including The Cape Fear Journal of Wilmington, The Norfolk Journal and Guide in Virginia and The Chicago Defender, before moving to Raleigh.

Jervay worked for The Carolina Tribune before taking over the paper in 1940 and renaming it The Carolinian.

The newspaper has served as a platform to battle prejudice, a community bulletin board and a historical record of black life in Raleigh and central North Carolina, said Managing Editor Cash Michaels.

"It takes a strong man with a powerful spirit and a determined heart to be the voice of the community through the printed word for over half a century," Michaels said.

Jervay relinquished control of the newspaper to his daughter, Prentice Monroe, last year.

Joseph Sansom, a banker who knew Jervay for 35 years, said Jervay lived by a philosophy of self-help.

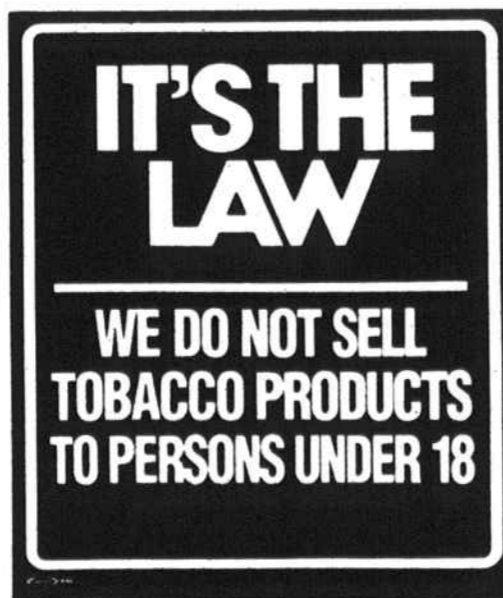
"He would have thought that we as African-Americans need to see what we can do for ourselves first, and then reach out for those able to assist us," Sansom said.

His family includes his wife, Brenda Yancey Jervay; a daughter; a son, Paul R. Jervay Jr.; four grandchildren; and a brother, Thomas Jervay.

He was funeralized on Monday in Raleigh.



Philip Morris Doesn't Want Kids To Smoke



At Philip Morris U.S.A., we believe that smoking is an adult decision. We don't want children and teens to smoke and that's why we support the "It's The Law" program. "It's The Law" is a national program that lets retailers, their employees and, most importantly, children know that it's illegal to sell cigarettes to minors.

It's everyone's responsibility to make sure kids don't smoke. If you know of any establishments that do not display this sign, please write to us or call 1-800-343-0975 and give us their names and addresses. We'll send them each an "It's The Law" kit for free so they can join our efforts to prevent underage smoking.



PHILIP MORRIS
U.S.A.

1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10017