



NAACP leadership fight

CHICAGO (AP) — The NAACP national board voted Saturday to remove longtime civil rights activist Hazel Dukes from the board after she admitted pilfering more than \$13,000 from a leukemia-stricken associate who trusted Dukes with her finances.

Moments after the closed-door vote was recorded, board members said the removal signaled a new day for the nation's largest and oldest civil rights group in which internal squabbles hopefully will take a back seat to public advocacy.

The battle over Dukes, an influential board member from New York, threatened to plunge the NAACP back into a full-scaled leadership crisis like the one in 1994 when then-executive director Benjamin Chavis was fired after a sexual harassment scandal and a \$4 million organizational debt.

But some, like NAACP Board Chair Myrlie Evers-Williams, said Dukes' ouster could signal a new spirit of cooperation at the top ranks of the NAACP.



(AP Photo/Collin Reid)

Patterson's victory in Jamaica

Jamaica's Prime Minister P.J. Patterson, center, and Jamaica's Minister of Industry and Commerce Paul Robertson, right, each make a three-finger gesture at an election victory rally in Kingston, Jamaica, Thursday, Dec. 18. Jamaicans went to the polls Thursday and reelected Patterson to a second term, giving his ruling People's National Party a record third consecutive term in government.

Release of CIA report

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rep. Maxine Waters called for the release of two federal reports into allegations that the CIA was indirectly involved in the flow of crack cocaine into South Central Los Angeles after the Justice Department had the studies withheld.

"The Justice Department is making the sad mistake of attempting to manage what information gets out to the public and what information is delayed," Waters said. "It is clear that the Justice Department has put a hold on all investigative findings."

The San Jose Mercury News sparked the inquiries when it concluded that a San Francisco Bay area drug ring sold cocaine in South Central Los Angeles and funneled profits to the Contras for the better part of a decade. It traced the drugs to dealers who were also leaders of a CIA-run guerrilla army in Nicaragua.



(AP Photo/DWI, Dave Allocco)

Best actor nomination

Djimon Hounsou, who plays Cinque in the DreamWorks picture *Amistad*, celebrates his Golden Globe nomination for best actor Thursday, Dec. 18, in New York.

King murder investigation

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A grand jury panel refused Thursday to open a new investigation into the 1968 murder of Martin Luther King Jr.

The request was made by a former lawyer for James Earl Ray, King's confessed killer.

The three-member panel, headed by grand jury foreman Herbert W. Robinson, heard last week from lawyer Jack McNeil of Memphis, who contends King was killed by someone other than Ray.

The panel refused to call for an investigation by the full Shelby County Grand Jury.

SANTA

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tion to specialized care. They offer job placement services, and clinics for general checkups for adolescents and adults.

Soulful Santa congratulated the children on their hard work, and each of them received candy and school supplies. For Soulful, working with children is natural. He and his wife, Vaughnetta Carr, have a son, Wendell Carr Jr., who is 28, from their marriage of 28 years. After being married to Soulful Santa for 28 years, Mrs. Carr is often called Mrs. Claus. Even when people call to speak with her on the job, they ask for Mrs. Claus.

Regardless of what season, regardless of what Soulful wears, adults who meet him stare and smile, but the children want to hug this jolly dude. "I have to realize that I do resemble the old guy. Just my beard makes you want to look at me twice," he said. Although he is only 53, he started graying early, and he decided to keep his beard. Even when he drove a float truck in the Dudley High School parade, where he graduated in 1962 and was dressed in blue and gold, the students yelled from the sidelines, "What's up, Santa?"

Soulful has served throughout the Greensboro community at places such as the UJAMAA Market, Bennett College Daycare, Young Minds Daycare, Jack and Jill of America Inc., private parties, churches, and many other community functions. What is more, he has also

appeared as Soulful Santa in West Africa in the country of Sierra Leone, when he went with the Rev. Leon Sullivan from Philadelphia. Because of his degree in automotive technology from A&T ('65) and his expertise, he went with the minister to Africa to start vocational training centers through the Opportunity Centers International (OIC) program. This was a USAID funded program. He was an Aggie when Jesse Jackson was a student at A&T, and they both participated in the civil rights demonstrations.

Soulful is a man with many talents. He is a photographer who also videos weddings. He likes to position himself so that he can get the facial expressions of the bride and groom that the audience cannot see. One wedding he videotaped was aboard the Spirit of Washington, a ship in Washington, D.C. He also owns WVH Carr Enterprises, an automotive repair service, and he has his hand in real estate. Soulful Santa is a busy fellow.

But the children of SCDAP were glad he took the time to visit them. Ieslfia McCord, a second-grader from Hampton Elementary, asked Soulful for a magic stroller baby, Jerel Bellins, a second-grader from Wiley Elementary School, asked for a wrestling ring with wrestlers. Tutor Clara Bowser asked for a house, a car, and a million dollars. Soulful Santa does not guarantee material things, but he does his part to give all who meet him a tickle in the soul.

Dr. Alfreda McCauley (left), the coordinator of the SCDAP tutorial program, and Clara Bowser, a tutor, invited Soulful Santa to the Christmas party to honor the hard work the children accomplished during the school year.



(Above): Even Dr. Alfreda McCauley, coordinator of the SCDAP tutorial program, greeted Soulful Santa.

(Left): Soulful Santa (Wendell Carr Sr.), a stately gentleman with a charming personality, marched with Jesse Jackson during the 1960s when he was a student at NC A&T State University.

What the SCDAP wants for Christmas this year is a source of funding for next year. The tutorial program is a must, since the students are ill very often."

— Dr. Alfreda McCauley, coordinator of SCDAP tutorial program.

SLAVES

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carefully transcribe a group of eight to 10 recordings of ex-slaves done by the Archive of Folk Song in the Library of Congress. She has also been transcribing some recordings done by the late John Henry Faulk, who interviewed former slaves, their descendants and several elderly white people during the late 1930s and 1940s. Faulk's recordings were done during his younger years, before he became a CBS radio humorist and was later blacklisted in 1957 during the McCarthy era. While on research leave from UNCG in 1995, Brewer discovered the recordings among the Faulk archives at the University of Texas. She, in fact, had done a series of interviews with Faulk in 1979.

Brewer, an associate professor in the Department of English, has been working for several years with material from the Federal Writers Project. She published a bibliography of writings produced by the project in 1994. Two of her recent articles focused on the discourse of ex-slave interviews recorded in the 1930s and 1940s.

The radio series is expected to be released through Public Radio International and will be broadcast in September 1998. It has received approximately \$200,000 in funding from the National Endowment for



Dr. Joutonne Brewer of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro has been working on a project that will soon have the actual voices of ex-slaves telling their stories of life in bondage to a national radio audience. Tentatively titled "Slaves No More," the project is being undertaken by Radio Smithsonian, a branch of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. In her office in UNCG's McIver Building, Brewer (above) works on a transcribing machine with earphones to carefully set down the actual words of the ex-slaves on her machine.

the Humanities, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Southern Humanities Media Fund.

Though the ex-slave interviews provide a detailed look at slave life, the interview project took place some 60 years ago during the 1930s. Brewer is part of a team of historians and linguists who are working to provide the historical context for the material, which was collected by interviewers who are mostly young, urban and white. The scholars are transcribing and interpreting the material to help select the most important pieces. She was asked to lend her expertise by project director Kathie Farnell, who is media projects development director with the Institute of Language and Culture.

"The mere existence of voice recordings of people born under slavery is almost a miracle," said Farnell. "These recorded and written interviews provide a unique witness to history. One of the ex-slaves, Fountain Hughes, talks about his grandfather who belonged to Thomas Jefferson. This radio documentary will give a national audience the opportunity to experience living history."

Brewer is joined in the project by Dr. Robert McElvaine of Millsaps College, Dr. Guy Bailey of the University of Texas at San Antonio, Dr. Alwyn Barr of Texas Tech

University, Dr. Richard Bailey of Maxwell Air Force Base, Dr. Horace Huntley of the Birmingham (Ala.) Oral history project, and Dr. Ira Berlin and Steven Miller of the University of Maryland at College Park.

Many of the recordings that Brewer is transcribing were originally done on acetate disks which were used in popular music records in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s before the widespread use of vinyl disks. She has converted some of the recordings to digital audio tape and also used a process called super bit mapping to eliminate much of the background scratchiness and the hiss that often occurs in old recordings.

One of the most interesting things to emerge from the recordings, Brewer said, was how the ex-slaves controlled the interviews.

"They made sure that the part of the story that was important to them was told," said Brewer. "One of the ex-slaves, Fountain Hughes, didn't like to talk much about slavery, but he did tell the interviewer and people today how painful his experience was. Hughes was also determined to say 'You shouldn't go into debt.' These ex-slaves had a message that they wanted to deliver, and they kept coming back to it. This was their way of controlling an interview."

FARMERS

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"Many of the cases are old. It takes time to find out what the facts are," said Michael Sitcov, a Justice Department attorney. "We're committed to doing that."

But lawyers for the black farmers say it will take years to examine each case. With President Clinton taking a personal interest in the situation after a White House meeting with farmers Wednesday, they said that eventually the government would propose a blanket settlement because the cases are so similar.

"We are prepared to go to mediation and just see," said J.L. Chestnut, an attorney from Selma, Ala., who represents one group of farmers. "I'm not optimistic but I'm willing to try."

One other obstacle is that the statute of limitations has run on most of the cases. For that reason, Sitcov said, the government may not be able to pay any damages to many farmers but instead

will offer to forgive debt and make sure they get top priority for new loans.

The main attorney in the lawsuit, Alexander Pires, predicted the government will discover that its attempt to prevent some farmers from collecting damages over the statute of limitations will fail because the Agriculture Department either tossed aside their original complaints or refused to act on them.

"They are not going to go back and tell the country they couldn't do it," Pires said. "These people were lied to and humiliated and tricked."

Meanwhile, Friedman said the Agriculture Department's own internal efforts to address its backlog of hundreds of discrimination complaints can continue and that farmers could choose either that process or enter the court-ordered mediation framework to get their case settled.

Meeting with reporters, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said the administration is "committed to use any legal means necessary to do this fairly and quickly."



James Myart Jr. (right) counsel to the National Black Farmers Association faces reporters outside the White House.

Principal files lawsuit against state Department of Education

WINSTON-SALEM (AP) — A Forsyth County elementary school principal has filed a federal civil-rights complaint against a new state accountability test, saying the test discriminates against the students, teachers and staff at his school.

Larry D. Fields of Latham Elementary filed the complaint against the city-county school board, the state Department of Public Instruction, the state legislature and the state Board of Education.

Fields said he filed the complaint last week with the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights in Washington. "The state knows the formula is bad," Fields said. "They admitted to it, but nobody has done anything to correct it."

Fields said he felt a moral obligation to speak out against the state ABCs of Public Education, which rewards schools where students greatly exceed their expected performance and penalizes schools that fall short. Fields said there are flaws in

the state formula used to set goals for schools' improvement, and those flaws disproportionately hurt schools with high numbers of disadvantaged students.

This year — the first year of testing — 123 elementary and middle schools were rated as "low-performing" under the ABCs Plan. The state Board of Education assigned assistance teams to the 15 worst schools. In any school assigned a team, the principal automatically is suspended with pay for 60 days and gets a hearing before a state board committee. If the committee does not reinstate the principal, he can appeal to the full board.

The state board recently approved a competency test teachers at low-performing schools will be required to take. The test measures general reading, math and writing skills.

Rodger Murphey, a spokesman with the Office of Civil Rights, said his agency would not release information about the complaint until mid-January.

Nominees sought for advisory committee

The Forsyth County Board of Health has been asked for nominations of individuals to serve on a new Community Health Advisory Committee, which North Carolina Baptist Hospital plans to establish in early 1998. The membership of this Advisory Committee will "include representatives of appropriate community institutions and groups and shall represent the patient population at the Community Health Center" (formerly Reynolds Health Center). Initially, this committee will consist of 15 members, eight of whom shall be appointed by NCBH, and seven of whom will be selected by NCBH from

a list of persons nominated by the Forsyth County Board of Health.

Anyone interested in being considered by NCBH for an appointment to the Advisory Committee, from the list of persons nominated by the Forsyth County Board of Health, should call Ms. Joyce Bailey, Forsyth County Department of Public Health, at 727-2434 for additional information.

Note: All completed applications and accompanying documentation must be received in this office no later than Friday, Jan. 9 at 5 p.m. to be included in the review process.

For additional information, please contact Ms. Joyce Bailey, 727-2434.