



Participants at the Million Youth March gather during Harlem's Million Youth March.

Civil rights leaders blame police for melee at New York rally

By PAUL SHEPARD
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ATLANTA - The Rev. Jesse Jackson and other civil rights leaders said Monday that New York City police overreacted in breaking up a youth movement march in Harlem organized by a controversial former Nation of Islam spokesman.

"It was regrettable that young people whose sole purpose was to lift themselves up were subjected to that treatment," said NAACP President Kweisi Mfume. "There was a clear overreaction on the part of the police department."

Jackson, Mfume and others spoke at the Million Youth Movement March, where 3,500 to 4,000 people from around the country spent their Labor Day weekend in a series of workshops and a march aimed at focusing attention on the plight of black youth and launching a movement to empower them.

The event in Atlanta had similar goals to Saturday's march in Harlem, which ended with a clash between police and the crowd. Rally organizer Khalid Abdul Muhammad told participants to beat up police officers "if they so much as touch you." Muhammad also suggested that if rally participants were attacked, they should take guns from the police and shoot them.

Five civilians and 16 police officers were hurt in the debris-throwing skirmish which broke out at the court-ordered ending of the four-hour Saturday rally. Violence erupted as Muhammad concluded his remarks. Civil rights leaders said the violence took place because police commandeered the podium.

"I haven't seen that type of overreaction since Mayor Daley sent the police out after demonstrators at the 1968 Democratic convention," said Jackson. "I think the people showed an amazing amount of sobriety and that towards the end of the event, police started the problem."

The Rev. Al Sharpton, a New York activist who spoke at both youth marches, said the Harlem episode will reinforce many of the negative messages the young people heard about police from the podium Saturday.

"Their reaction will only underscore what they have heard and how they already feel about police and the mayor there," Sharpton said. "It shows how insensitive they all are."

New York Mayor Rudolph

Anita Hill to teach at Brandeis University

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WALTHAM, Mass. - Anita Hill, whose allegations of sexual harassment almost undid Clarence Thomas' nomination to become a Supreme Court justice, has joined the faculty at Brandeis University.

This fall, Hill will teach two courses in the Waltham school's Women's Studies department: Race and the Law and Women, Media and the Law.

Brandeis officials said they sought Hill, a former University of Oklahoma law professor, because she is one of the country's pre-eminent legal scholars.

"She's very accomplished in her field, and she can add a very valuable dimension to student



Hill

Giuliani said police prevented serious rioting, property destruction and injuries.

"When the police come out with that kind of result, can't you have the decency to congratulate them?" he asked. "If there's another incident like this, I hope it's handled as well."

Giuliani accused reporters of blaming cops for the skirmish instead of march organizers and speakers. He cited "an outrageous displacement of responsibility and the typical anti-police knee-jerk reaction that happens in the media."

He also said police gave rally organizers a five-to seven-minute grace period after the march's scheduled end at 4 p.m.

"They moved in with great restraint," Giuliani added.

The Atlanta march was far different than the one in Harlem.

Absent were any hateful words by speakers. Muhammad has been roundly criticized for rhetoric against Jews, whites, Pope John Paul II and South African President Nelson Mandela.

Absent also was any massive police presence at the Atlanta march site that would feed any fears among marchers that the day could end in a confrontation.

In Atlanta, there were discussions of how black youth can end its economic isolation and create a 1990s movement to re-ignite the spirit and values of community empowerment broached at the Million Man March in 1995.

"You can never tell what type of embryo will germinate from an event like this," said Jackson. "Will this become liberation day? One can only hope they are not too accustomed to oppression."

Valerie Morrow, 16, who came to march with 50 high school students from Detroit, said one day people would look back at Sept. 7, 1998 as the day black youth were reawakened.

"We are stepping out on our own," Morrow said. "We need the help of elders but we are starting this from the ground up."

"They could just as easily be sitting on the beach or making barbecue," said Rosemary Bolden, an adult supporter of the march. "I give them credit."

"It's significant that this is a movement and that means a process has begun," said Mfume. "But this is the first time I can recall our youth from around the country coming together over the serious issues, not games. Whatever after this is what historians will debate."

study here," said Brandeis spokesman Dennis Nealon.

Hill gained national attention in 1991, when she accused Thomas her former boss at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission - of sexually harassing her.

In recent months, Hill has been promoting her newest book, "Speaking Truth To Power," an autobiographical account of the stormy 1991 confirmation hearings.

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Protesters confront witness in Iverson murder

By LEE HUBBARD
Special to The National Newspaper
Publishers Association

BERKELEY, Calif. - The actions, or inaction, of David Cash Jr., were at the center of a midday protest during the first day of school at the University of California at Berkeley. Cash, 19, was at the Primadonna Hotel in Nevada on May 25, 1997, when his friend Jeremy Strohmeyer, allegedly followed Sherrice Iverson, a 7-year-old girl into a woman's bathroom and raped, strangled and killed her.

The demonstrators, including Iverson's mother, Yolanda Manuel, were on hand at U.C. Berkeley's Sprawl Hall, to protest Cash's failure to stop the rape and murder or notify the authorities about the crime. Strohmeyer was arrested after a viewer recognized him on TV in a videotape from the casino. The tape showed him following Iverson into the woman's bathroom.

"The killing was a joint effort. This guy (Cash) watched a 7-year-old get raped, strangled and killed," said Najee Ali of Project Islamic Hope, who is one of the spokespersons for Manuel. "He has the blood of a 7-year-old baby on his hands."

Under a "Good Samaritan law" in some states, Cash could have been tried for his failure to stop or report the crime he witnessed. But he now is one of the main witnesses for the state of Nevada against Strohmeyer.

Iverson's shocking murder and Cash's inaction in the crime, has sparked a nationwide collection of 20,000 signatures demanding Cash be charged in the brutal rape and murder. It also led to the rally which brought a bus load of people from South Central Los Angeles, to the campus.

"I am outraged by the whole situation," said Pat Devin, from Los Angeles. "I don't see how someone can be present when a child is molested and just walk away."

Manuel, Devin and other protesters want U.C. Berkeley officials to expel Cash, or make the atmosphere so unpleasant he will leave. "If I was going to school, I would be outraged to see him going here," said Devin.

At an afternoon press conference, Robert Berdahl, chancellor of the school read a prepared statement expressing remorse and sympathy to Manuel over the death of her daughter. He called the action, "a brutal and senseless act of violence," but said he took exception to calls for the university to expel Cash.

"As a public institution, the university has due process procedures it must follow in cases of dismissal. This student has not been charged with any violation of criminal law or the campus student code that would provide a basis for any such review. We cannot set

aside due process based upon our outrage over a particular instance."

He said that members of his staff have met with Cash, but he will not ask him to leave unless he violates a conduct code of the schools.

Leroy Iverson, Sherrice's father, arrived with his two children at the Primadonna Hotel, in Clark County Nevada at 1:45 a.m. He went off to gamble, leaving his 14-year-old son, Harold, in charge of his 7-year-old sister Sherrice. He gave both of them money to play video games in the arcade, but it wasn't until 3:30 a.m. that he began to search for the pair. He found his son Harold, and they began to look for Sherrice. It was allegedly during this time that Strohmeyer came in contact with the little girl in the arcade. Cash, according to a Las Vegas grand jury testimony, said that Strohmeyer began playing with her, throwing wet paper towels at her.

Sherrice walked into the ladies room, and Strohmeyer followed her, grabbing her from behind and taking her into a stall. In a grand jury testimony Cash said at this point he "went over to the door (in the stall). The door was locked. So I went into the stall to the left and boosted myself up on the toilet and looked over," at Strohmeyer and Iverson in the stall, he said.

"I reached over the stall," said Cash. "Jeremy Strohmeyer was restraining her. I believe he had his - I believe it was his left hand over her mouth muffling her screams. I believe it was his right hand that was holding her stomach."

It was at this point that "I (Cash) was tapping Jeremy on the head trying to get his attention telling him to let go, trying to get him to come out of the restroom."

"I was tapping on his forehead," said Cash later into the grand jury testimony. "At one point, I accidentally knocked off his hat. He looked up at me, kind of in a stare, you know, like - like he didn't care what I was saying. At that point I exited the ladies restroom."

According to a statement made by Strohmeyer in a Long Beach Police Department's arrest report, he removed Iverson's clothes and molested her.

Strohmeyer, according to the police report, "squeezed her neck to stop her from screaming," then molested Iverson again. He then broke her neck before leaving the restroom.

Thirty minutes passed between the time that Strohmeyer entered the ladies bathroom, and exited it, to meet Cash back in the arcade. The two walked out of the casino where Strohmeyer said, "he killed her" according to Cash's grand jury testimony.

The two talked about the incident further as they looked for Cash's father. After they located him, they left the Primadonna

Casino and went back to Las Vegas, and then they drove back to Los Angeles later in the day. It would be two days before Strohmeyer was arrested.

One of the issues that has come up has been the mind frame of someone who could watch or know that a child is getting molested without stopping it.

Dr. Nathan Hare, a psychologist with the San Francisco-based Black Think Tank, said that some people are scared to speak out about incidents because they may be labeled wrongly as a snitch.

"He was probably in a real quandary at the time," said Dr. Hare. "He might have felt that he might be accused of the crime also."

After Strohmeyer told Cash that he killed Iverson, Cash asked him, if his victim had been aroused.

Dr. Julia Hare, also of the Black Think Tank, said Cash could be a "voyeur" and may need to see a psychiatrist or a psychologist.

In the year following the death of Iverson, Cash was very quiet about the matter, and completed his first year at U.C. Berkeley. But he spoke out few months ago. During a KSLX call in show on July 20, Cash said he took no responsibility for Iverson's death.

"It's a very tragic event, OK. But the simple fact remains that I do not know this girl," said Cash. "I do not know starving children in Panama. I do I do not know people that die of disease in Egypt. The only person I knew in this event was Jeremy Strohmeyer."

Dr. Julia Hare said that while Cash "may not have committed a crime physically, he did commit the act mentally," but it would be a mistake to kick him out of school, if he hasn't been charged with a crime.

"Berkeley will start a terrible precedent if they kick him out without any proof that he committed a criminal act," said Dr. Hare. "Morally he did commit a crime by not stopping the rape or telling the authorities, but legally there is a problem there."

The 20,000 signature-petition demanding that Cash be tried as an accessory to Iverson's murder, is being sent to the district attorney of Clark County.

The race issue While Manuel has downplayed the issue of race regarding her daughter's death, Clark County officials have reportedly said two witnesses have claimed that Strohmeyer, who is white, used racial epithets to describe the murder. Observers also question

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