

No Soup

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ees with the charge.
"He said 'I think this was racially motivated and I don't like racism,'" Barnes said.



Mendez

Although Cannon said he could not say much about the incident because it had been turned over to the restaurant chain's human resources director in San Antonio, Debi Dullye, he did deny ever saying that he thought the incident was racially motivated.
He would not discuss how many invitations the restaurant sent out, although it has been speculated that only a single invite was given to the businesses, invitation all employees of the companies to the restaurant.

ny's attorneys if rumors pan out that one of the men had issued a statement about the incident on the Internet.
Based on information given her by the store's staff, Dullye said: "There were white people that were not allowed in because they did not have a flier."
"That's not what our company is about," she added. "Race had nothing to do with it."
Dullye could not verify how many invitations were given out to local businesses, but she says a flier was required for those who came to the free lunch. Contrary to what Barnes' group and other ALTEL employees have claimed, Dullye said she believes that those who were let in had the invitation/ fliers.
The men claim their co-workers were let in without invitations throughout the event.
Dullye also seems uncertain about how many men were involved in the incident. She said she was under the impression that there were only three.
Dullye also added a new explanation for why the men were not let in, saying that they had come to the restaurant close to the time when the free lunch was wrapping up.
The men say that explanation was never given by the managers at the restaurant.
Dullye claims all of Souper! Salads 120 restaurants have a very good record in terms of minority hiring. She also claims that no cus-

tomers have ever complained about racist treatment in the seven years she's been with the company.
Dullye said she does not know if the company will issue a formal apology because she has not finished her investigation.
She has yet to talk with Barnes' group, she said.
The Rev. John Mendez is Barnes' pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church. After a distraught Barnes came to him with the story, Mendez spoke about it from the pulpit the last Sunday.
"We are not going to tolerate that type of behavior," Mendez said. "Incidents like this can destroy African American men. (Barnes) is really a wonderful guy. He's a family man with a lot of dignity and respect, and he does the right thing."
Mendez added that indignation on the part of his congregation led some members to call for picketing outside of the restaurant.
Other members of the congregation, many of whom work near Hanes Mall Boulevard, have waged a boycott of the restaurant.
"We will not go there, absolutely not," Mendez said.
Souper! Salad must first issue a formal apology, Mendez said.
He added that he met with Bill Tatum, the local president of the NAACP, about the incident and plans to inform the the Ministers' Conference Social Action Committee also.

Mendez - who has led numerous boycotts and demonstrations over the years - said he and others will continue to put pressure on the company. Mendez added that he plans on talking with the restaurant's management, possibly today, to reach some sort of agreement.
Tatum said that the NAACP has begun its own investigation into the incident, as well.
"We want to make sure that we hear from both sides," he said.
Tatum said his investigation could take up to three weeks.
Barnes and Williams say they are standing by their story. They said that people were let into the restaurant without invitations, and they were singled out because they are black.
"They saw four black guys and thought that we were trying to get in and get a free meal. But as employees of ALTEL, we were invited just like everyone else there," Barnes said.
Williams said he is repulsed when he drives by the restaurant's bright neon sign.
"When I see that sign, my stomach turns," he said.
By speaking up, the two hope to set an example for other African Americans.
"I think that this will make other blacks realize that we are not going to let people speak down to us because of the color of our skin. We don't have to take this anymore," Barnes said.

Both men say they will never eat at Souper! Salad again, even if they get an apology.
On Wednesday, Barnes reiterated that four men were involved in the incident, but only three of them returned to the restaurant to speak to the manager. The fourth

man was too upset to return, Barnes said.
Barnes added that they arrived at Souper!Salad! at around 12:30 p.m., at least a half hour before lunch was scheduled to end.
"I don't have any reason to lie or make anything up," he said.

NAACP to hold Freedom Fund Gala

Special to THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem Branch of the NAACP will hold its Annual Freedom Fund Gala on April 16 at 7 p.m. in the Benton Convention Center. Its Sarah Marsh Golf Scholarship Tournament will be held at the Winston Lake Golf Course on April 17 and 18.
These events are designed to enable the branch to honor local citizens and to raise funds to support its efforts to improve the political, educational, social and economic status of minority and other programs designed to help the disadvantaged.
The theme for this year's gala is "Rebuilding the Village through Education." The speaker for the event will be Dr. Frederick Humphries, the president of Florida A & M State University.
Humphries, who was appointed president of the university in 1985, is credited with bringing new tools to the school to help it become one of the premier institutions of higher learning in the nation.
He received kudos during the 1992-93 school year when Florida A&M enrolled more black National Achievement Scholars than Harvard University. The school accomplished the feat again during the 1994-95 school year.
In addition to entertainment and dinner, NAACP members who are Life and Golden Heritage Life members will be recognized at the gala.
The Charles McLean/ Sara Lee Corporation and the J.T. McMillan Community Service Award will

be presented at the gala, along with the Chuck Lewis/ NAACP Scholarship and the Sarah Marsh Scholarships.
The Charles McLean/ Sara Lee award will be presented to Isaac L. Howard and Nigel D. Alston.
Howard is the director of conferences and institutes at Winston-Salem State University. Among other things, Howard's position entails coordinating and facilitating the space available on the university's campus to meet the needs of students and clients. An active member of the community, Howard has also served as assistant director of the Lawrence Joel Coliseum, and events coordinator for the Benton Convention Center.
Alston is a well known optimist and volunteer, and the assistant vice president of employee/community relations for Integon. He is also active in a number of community and church-related events.
The J.T. McMillan Community Service Award will be presented to Addie B. Hymes, the program specialist for the school system's dropout prevention and director of the Victory in Partnership program. In addition, Hymes is involved a number of community organizations and has won a slew of awards for her service and dedication.
The Charles "Chuck" Lewis/ NAACP Scholarships will be presented to Alan M. Brown and Travest Edward Hunter.
Brown, a Glenn High School senior who already takes high school courses at Forsyth Technical Community College, was chosen for his active life, which has

included roles in various organizations, from the Crosby Scholars to his school's marching band.
The Sara Marsh Scholarship will be given to Antoine T. James, a Glenn student who plans to major in physical therapy at Winston-Salem State; Thomika L. Segar, a West Forsyth student who wants to major in psychology at either Fayetteville State or St. Augustine's College; and Chasidy Phelps, a Carver student who plans

on attending North Carolina A&T University to major in economics.
Tickets for the gala can be secured at the NAACP office at 1225 East 5th Street, or by calling the office at 748-1072. Tee time for the Golf Classic is 8:30 a.m. To register for the golf classic call William Tatum at 748-1072 or 784-8836 or call Pro Earnest Morris at 727-2703.

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Hooks
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should be.
"Lil' Kim was the creation of Biggie Small (the late rapper also known as Notorious B.I.G.)," hooks said.
Machismo in black men is cultivated early, hooks said, by a black community that expects young black boys to play ball and be tough.
"A lot of black boys were beaten because they were not being 'a man,'" she said. "When a black male is quiet, gentle and kind, we act like something is wrong with him...We say 'he must be gay.'"
hooks dispelled a myth about her own sexuality during her speech. Throughout the speech, hooks referred to her ex-boyfriend, who she described as a young African American, 16 years her junior.
Her reference to a man caused quite a few whispers around the auditorium because many people believe that hooks is a lesbian, based on her staunch feminist views. And although she says she is not, she usually doesn't even address the issue of her sexuality.
"Everywhere I go people say 'oh, I thought you were a lesbian,'" she said.
She says denying that she is a lesbian at every turn could be

misread as condemnation of homosexuality, so she avoids the speculation.
In another politically incorrect move, hooks said stereotyping feminists as lesbians is only natural.
"A lot of feminists are lesbians, let's be real...The more you learn about the feminist movement, the more you hate men," hooks said, as the audience erupted into laughter and cheers.
hooks disagreed with one young, black audience member, who said black leadership is sorely lacking today.
Although not many leaders exist of the same caliber as Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, there are still black leaders, hooks said.
"Who is it telling us that there are no black leaders but the mass media?" she asked.
Black females have always been overlooked as leaders for the community, even though many of them single-handedly raised their children, she said.
She went on to say that sexism has prohibited many black males from looking to strong black females as leaders and role models.
It is this untapped segment that hooks says the new black leadership will emerge. "Black people are not taking advantage of the leadership that is already in our lives," she said.

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