

N.C. NAACP moves its state office out of Charlotte

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Hickory, has taken office. At the national convention last month, the suspension was continued for 60 days after national leaders received information indicating Alexander had used an NAACP credit card after his May 15 suspension. Final action on whether Alexander will resume the top N.C. post may not come until the full national NAACP board meets in October.

Alexander and his brother, Alfred Alexander, president of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg NAACP chapter, called for the board to reinstate Kelly Alexander during the convention and evoked their father's name in doing so.

After Saturday's action by the

state board, the Alexanders, in a recent letter to NAACP chief executive officer and president Kweisi Mfume, said they are withdrawing permission for the state chapter to use their father's name on any promotions or fund raisers, including the Kelly M. Alexander Sr. Award. That award is given annually to the top state chapter president.

"We feel strongly that Mr. Alston and his cronies dishonor his memory and the work that he devoted his life to," Alexander said.

The closing of the Charlotte office and dismissal of staffers David Howard and Veda Perry will take effect on Aug. 15.

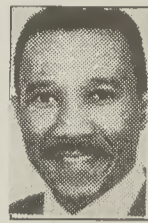
In a letter to Mfume dated Wednesday, Kelly Alexander

was critical of Alston for the staff changes, and noted that Alston was holding onto a

\$5,000 check donated by R.J. Reynolds Co. to the Kelly M. and Margaret Alexander Scholarship.

"This despite a clear directive from Ben Ruffin of RJR concerning the disposition of the money and a vote of the state conference executive committee in December of 1995, upon a motion by Mr. Alston, to withdraw from joint scholarship

administration and turn it over to the Kelly M. Alexander Sr. Leadership Institute," Alexander said.



Kelly Alexander

Sources within the state leadership say several businesses have withheld awards to the state chapter pending a resolution of the dispute with Alexander.

Several agreements were unclear as to whether funds for scholarships and other activities were to be received in the name of Alexander or the state chapter.

Also in the two page letter, Alexander said Veda Perry has filed a wage complaint seeking payment for compensatory time worked at the national convention. He said a similar com-

plaint over compensatory time and medical benefits has been made by former N.C. executive director Mary Peeler, who resigned after Alexander's suspension.

Race won't be issue, political parties pledge

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Cleaver gave as an example a hypothetical TV ad on welfare reform that depicts a line of black people waiting to sign up for benefits. Other hot-button issues that could invite race-baiting tactics include affirmative action, crime and immigration.

"We think American voters are tired of negative cam-

paigning, period," Cleaver said. "When you add race to it, it becomes even more obscene."

The mayors said they decided to take on this issue because city government must often bear the brunt of racial divisiveness in the form of riots or other unrest. And they said the recent spate of black church fires only highlighted

the deep racial polarization in American society.

"We have to start, at some point in time, becoming one America," said Mayor Richard Hall of California City, Calif., a Republican.

They did not single out either party for blame and took pains to say that racial politics have marred elections

throughout U.S. history.

The mayors plan to monitor the presidential and congressional elections for incidents of race-baiting and set up a toll-free number - 1-800-463-0127 - for people to report such tactics. They will issue a report card after the elections, but also plan to speak out locally if such incidents come to light.

Morris Brown turns financial corner

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA - Morris Brown College has put its financial troubles well behind, rebounding from a \$6.5 million debt four years ago to a record-high enrollment and a projected \$2 million surplus.

The 115-year-old historically black college first faced a budget shortfall in 1992, when administrators borrowed money to make payroll and trustees scrambled to raise money amid fears the school would close.

After a change of leadership, trustees and supporters worked furiously to keep the college open - they raised more than \$5.6 million in donations between 1992 and 1993.

A new president, Samuel Jolley, took over in October 1993, slashing \$2 million from

the \$21 million operating budget. About 50 jobs were eliminated, including 10 faculty positions.

The turning point came in 1994, when the college eliminated its debt. Since then, more students have enrolled - as many as 2,111 last year - and thanks to the Olympics, the school has a new 15,000-seat stadium and a \$600,000 housing contract.

"The turnaround has been unbelievable," said developer and school trustee Herman Russell. "We're more hands on now, and we're watching every penny."

School officials predict a \$2 million surplus and a \$10 million endowment this year, but the school's budget remains under tight control.

"At one time we were on our deathbed; we were in intensive care," Jolley said. "Now

we are no longer in the hospital, but at the same time very careful about watching our

diet and the things we do. We don't want to sink back into that illness."

History is the key to our liberation

MELODYE MICERE STEWART

In the spirit of Ma'at



In his book, "Faces at the Bottom of the Well: The Permanence of Racism," the first tenured professor of law at Harvard University, Derrick Bell, effectively argues that our fight for equality has been rendered ineffective because we are using an ineffective model - integration. The integration model has been used to develop strategies for true liberation and, quite simply, it has not worked.

Even Time magazine declared in a recent issue that the country is going "Back to Segregation." Thurgood Marshall, the first African American to serve on the United States Supreme Court, put it this way, "Today we have reached the point where people say, 'We've come a long way.' But so have other people come a long way... Has the gap gotten smaller? It's getting bigger... People say we are better off today. Better than what?"

It is a question we must ponder seriously if we intend to move into the year 2000 as a

whole people. It is a particularly important question when we consider our collective lack of historical consciousness. Additionally, implications for the "talented tenth" and the state of our mis-education further complicate the matter.

According to W.E.B. DuBois, "...it is the duty of the Negro to serve his blood and lineage, and so working, each for each, and all for each, we realize the goal for all." A rejection of the American value of individualism becomes a necessary step, if we intend to be a whole people. Embracing of the traditional African value of communalism becomes the standard by which success is measured.

Ironically, it is the traditional African value of communalism which has served us to this historical point. Its abandonment has led to the general breakdown and breakup of our communities, racking them with the ills of our times. Reclaiming our communities will require a re-education process which reconnects us back to ourselves - our culture and history.

The answers are contained in our history, culture and innate spirituality. We need the power of all three. The serious study of our history, unlocking its secret lessons, is the challenge of a mature race bent on liberation. How serious are you?

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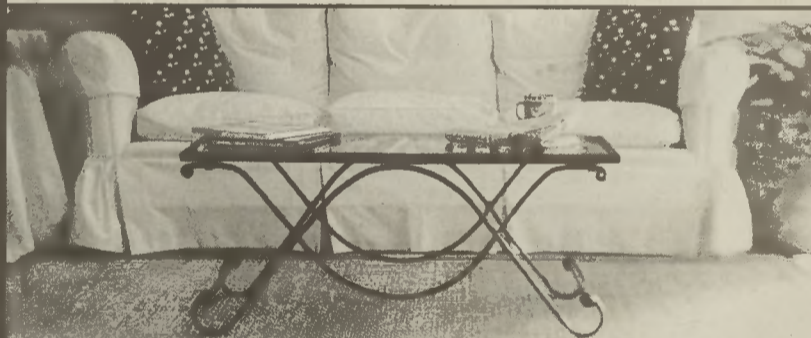
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