

# Dory in limbo

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"This is a business of constant evaluation," Miller said. "We get an instant feedback from what the audience thinks."

WBTV uses several firms to do research, Miller said. Audience response plays a huge role in determining a personality's success. Miller would not comment on audience ratings on Dory.

"I don't think I should discuss that," Miller said. "That should be used for internal purposes. That's something between the employee and the station."

Miller didn't have problems discussing Little's audience ratings.

"We didn't find anything negative in the various groups we polled," Miller said. "We had nothing but positive statements in regards to his ability."

African-American anchors are scarce in this area. WCNC, NBC-6 has the most with three: Coretta Robinson, who anchors weekend mornings; Sterlin Benson, who anchors weekend evenings; and Michael Briddell, who does weekday mornings. WSOC TV Channel 9, just named Vince Coakley to co-anchor 6 - 11 p.m. weekend newscasts.

Dory and Little are WBTV's only African American anchors.

"I'm kind of wondering what

my future is," Dory said. "It's up in the air. I would like to continue what I'm doing, but it's wait and see."

"I'd like to work with Paul on the new team," she said. "I thought the team I worked with which included Paul was a good one."

Miller said Cameron has made no requests or comments about the co-anchor, "other than placing the best possible person in that spot."

Dory's absence would mean no African American news anchor, which may raise the eyebrows of some black viewers.

"Obviously, we need to be aware of serving the entire community," Miller said. "Elevating Delano Little to the key sports anchor role is something that should be given the consideration that he deserves."

"We chose the most effective people among those people we have on hand for the best possible combinations," Miller said.

Little was hired in May 1989. He graduated from Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Ga., majoring in biology and minoring in broadcast journalism.

Dory started March 6, 1995. She replaced Lisa Cooley, who left for an anchor job in Los Angeles.

Dory and husband Michael also have a son, Kyle, 9.

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# Lowery to retire?

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA - The Rev. Joseph Lowery has hinted that the 39th convention of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, opening Sunday in Detroit, may be his last as head of the civil rights organization.

"In all probability, this may be my last year," said Lowery, 74, who took the helm of the SCLC in 1976 from the late Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, who founded the organization with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. "I want to take some time out to write."

The convention is expected to draw more than 2,000 delegates and will include a session featuring Attorney General Janet Reno. She will

provide an update on a federal investigation into arson fires at black churches, an issue the SCLC helped push into the national spotlight.

The convention also will include forums on getting blacks to invest more money in their communities, youths and gun violence, and the impact of legislative redistricting on the black community.

"We'll be talking about strategies for countering the assault on black life and anchoring ourselves for the next century," Lowery told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. "We are also very much concerned about what's happening in voting rights. They're turning back the clock on many of our gains."

# Cochran: Unite!

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Minorities must band together and strive for economic empowerment to defeat racial injustice and inequality, said Johnnie Cochran, a lawyer on O.J. Simpson's defense team.

"Economic empowerment of minority businesses will be the salvation of the country in years to come," Cochran said Saturday at a speech to about 150 people at a conference sponsored by the American Association of Minority Businesses.

"None of us in this room wants handouts. What you want is equal opportunity," Cochran said after a standing ovation.

Minorities can cure injustice by communicating and net-

working, he said.

Cochran was critical of what he called the assault on affirmative action programs. He said some injustices that occurred in 1896 had not changed.

"Since 1619, when the first slaves landed in Jamestown, things have not been fair. We have some right-thinking courageous people. But we don't speak up enough," Cochran said.

He said statistics show that minority businesses have increased in the last two decades, but he said top executive jobs are still held by white males.

Cochran also urged involvement in presidential elections.

"We can't just sit on the sidelines," he said. "We'll be losers."


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