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Acura's  
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## 2 sets of rules for women?

Air Force judges penalties based on race, critic says

By Chinta Strausberg  
THE CHICAGO DEFENDER

Chicago alderman Robert Shaw has called for a federal probe of alleged disparity in the treatment of two single Air Force female officers who had affairs with married men. In one case, he alleges, the officer, a white woman, received a slap on the wrist. But the African American female officer still faces 55 years in prison.

Shaw is outraged that former Air Force Lt. Kelly Flinn, 26, the nation's first female B-52 pilot, received a general discharge for having an affair with the husband of an enlisted woman but Flinn's ex-classmate Lt. Crista Davis, 28, could go to prison.

"What's good for the goose should be good for the gander," Shaw said. "Both of them had affairs with married men, so why the double standard? This is a clear case of two sets of justice — one white, the other black."

The alderman is calling on U.S. Reps. Bobby Rush (D-Ill.), Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-Ill.) and U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun (D-Ill.) to hold hearings to challenge this disparity.

Davis, who is from DeKalb, Ill., was a student in the same Air Force Academy class as Flinn, according to media reports. She has admitted to the affair with an Air Force major in 1995.

She reportedly said the affair with the officer, allegedly her English teacher, occurred two years after her graduation. She further claims that when she learned he was a married man she ended the relationship.

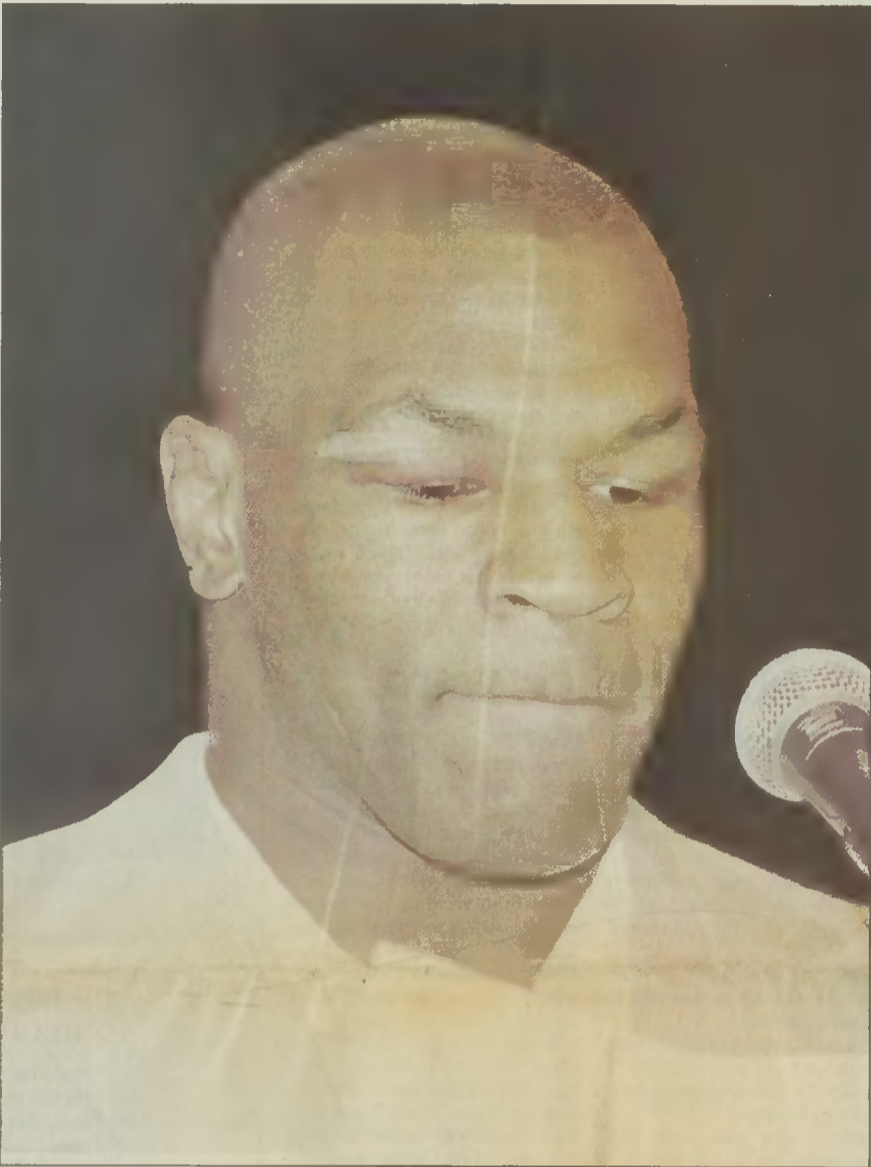
Davis has been granted immunity from being prosecuted on an adultery charge; however, she still faces charges of conduct unbecoming an officer, along with using indecent and cruel language in letters written to the major's wife at the time of the affair.

"It's unfair, and the Air Force's laws are archaic," an angry Shaw said.

Davis' lawyer, Louis P. Font, denied the content of the letters was threatening, but added that it did include some graphic language.

Calling for equal justice, Shaw said Davis should be given the same treatment as Flinn. The latter she is reported to have reluctantly accepted a general discharge to avoid being court-martialed on charges of adultery, lying and disobeying orders. She had sought an honorable discharge.

## Biting apology



AP PHOTO/LENNOX MCLENDON

Former world heavyweight champion Mike Tyson reads an apology to Evander Holyfield Monday at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas. Tyson, who was disqualified for biting Holyfield in Saturday's championship bout, asked not to be banned from boxing for life. He also said he was seeking psychological help. "Evander, I am sorry. You are a champion and I respect that. I am only saddened that this fight did not go further so that the boxing fans of the world might see for themselves who would come out on top," Tyson said. The Nevada State Athletic Commission will meet next week to decide Tyson's fate.

## Casualty of West Charlotte High shakeup?

Successful gospel choir may be on way out

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

West Charlotte High School's gospel choir, more than 100 voices strong, may have sung its last note.

"There will be no gospel choir at West Charlotte," said Arnie Epps, group's director.

Epps said he heard Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Supt. Eric Smith did not want a gospel choir at West Charlotte. Smith was out of town and could not be reached for comment.

Epps said he has not spoken directly with Smith about the choir, but said he has heard from officials at the Education Center that the superintendent wants to discontinue the choir.

The choir's absence will be among many changes expected at West Charlotte as Smith's replacement, Terry Cline, takes over. Cline could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

The choir, one of the first new activities organized under former principal Kenneth Simmons, was directed by Epps, a Simmons aide and assistant director of music at St. Luke Baptist



Cline

See CHOIR on page 3A

## District Attorney: More youth crime prevention programs needed

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Mecklenburg County District Attorney Peter Gilchrist has joined with other crime fighters and victims to call for more programs to prevent youth crime.

"I have sent enough people to jail to know that no matter how many prosecutors and prisons we have, it will never be enough by itself," Gilchrist said. "If we really want to prevent crime, we must

be ready to fight just as hard to keep kids from becoming criminals as we fight to put criminals in jail. And that means investing in programs that get kids off to the right start."

Gilchrist is a member of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, which today blasted the failure of proposed juvenile crime bills to invest in programs proven effective in keeping kids from becoming criminals. Several attended a "Crime Survivors Speakout" outside the U.S. Capitol.

Crime victim Ellen Halbert of Austin, Texas, recalled how an intruder raped and stabbed her three times. "He is in prison where he belongs, but that can't undo what I went through," said Halbert. "What happened to me didn't have to happen. If Congress was investing in programs like Head Start, health care and mental health programs and good schools — investments proven to dramatically reduce crime — I probably wouldn't have needed those 600 stitches and all

See CRIME on page 6A

## Haitian journalists study U.S. democracy

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

A delegation of Haitian journalists and officials stopped in Charlotte this week to study American democracy.

The group is on a three-week national tour sponsored by the U.S. Information Agency and the Academy for Educational Development. Part of their visit included a stop at The Post.

Goals for the project are to define civic journalism and observe its practice; examine the role between government, media and citizens in shaping public debate; acquire ideas to foster informed debate of civic issues; and expand an international

civic education network.

They began their tour in Washington, D.C. The Charlotte visit, focusing on civic journalism and local government, also included talks with government and business leaders.

The group will also visit Bozeman, Mont., and Boston.

The delegates, accompanied by two translators, included: Josette Darguste, chief of personnel, Haitian Department of Tourism; Jean-Pierre Leroy, reporter, Radio Signal FM; Andre Marc Odige, news director, Radio Nationale D'Haiti; Presilien Desulma Siffard, treasurer, independent Organization of

See HAITI on page 2A



PHOTO/DIANNE V. CURTAIN

Josette Darguste (middle) and Jean-Pierre Leroy discuss politics with Janine Clarke of Charlotte's corporate communications department.

## Emmett Till lives in mother's memory

By Jeri Young  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

For almost 50 years, Mamie Till Mobley has carried pictures of her son Emmett with her.

There's the smiling Emmett, sporting a jaunty white golfing hat. And Emmett leaning against a credenza.

Mobley also carries pictures of Emmett the last time she and the world saw him in the fall of 1955, less than one month after he arrived in Money, Miss., from Chicago to spend the summer with relatives.

Mobley still cries when she thinks about it.

But it's a story that needs to be told says Mobley, who was in Charlotte this week for a church convention.

"If the story is not passed on, it becomes lost," she said. "My son will not be lost."

To keep Emmett's memory alive, Mobley retells her story and shows pictures of a face unrecognizable even to her. She points out every grisly detail.

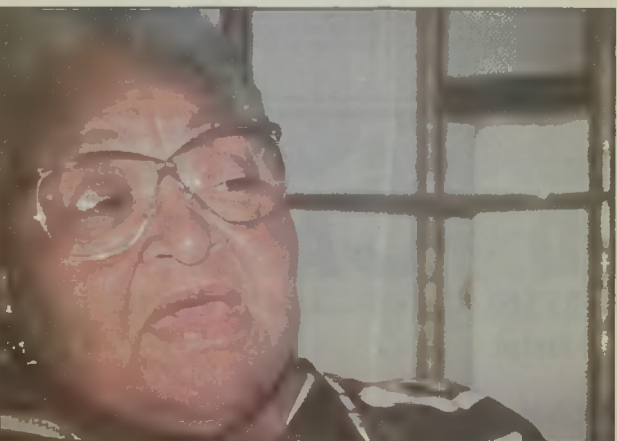
One eye was gouged out, the other lay on his cheek. Both ears were missing. The rest of his face was a swollen and distorted mass. Emmett Till, 14, was shot in the head, lynched and dropped into the Tallahatchie River, a 200-pound fan tied around his neck. His crime: allegedly whistling at a white woman.

Till's body, dusted with lime to speed decay, could only be identified by a ring given him by his father, his feet and his knees.

Mobley refused to have the body retouched before the funeral.

"I wanted people to see what I saw," she said. "I could tell people what I had seen, but they wouldn't believe me."

See TILL on page 2A



PHOTO/DIANNE V. CURTAIN

Mamie Till Mobley, whose 14-year-old son Emmett was killed in a 1955 lynching that shocked the world, is writing her autobiography.

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