

## Woman goes from jail to grad

Continued from page 1B

that time in the inner city that Nunn says she didn't really think twice about getting involved with a drug dealer.

"That, along with being in love," she said. "I was 19, and I think that we clicked early on, like from the moment we met, you know, there was just this chemistry."

The drugs themselves were not an attraction, Nunn said. Though she drank and occasionally smoked marijuana, Nunn said she never used cocaine.

But Nunn did become involved in cocaine deals—by answering the phone, taking messages and driving her boyfriend to meetings.

"It just became a part of my life, the same way it was his. You know, I was with him all the time—I answered the

phone, they'd call, it wouldn't be a big deal to me," she said.

That life came apart on May 17, 1989, when Monte Nunn tried to purchase 20 kilograms of cocaine from a government informant. Serena Nunn was one of 24 people indicted in the case.

A jury convicted Nunn of cocaine possession—6.5 grams of powder cocaine and 4 grams of crack were found hidden in her bedroom—as well as aiding and abetting an attempt to possess 20 kilograms of cocaine with intent to distribute, and conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute. In April 1990, U.S. District Judge David Doty sentenced her to 15 years and eight months in prison.

In 1997, Nunn's case attracted the attention of a young lawyer, Sam Sheldon, who read about it in the Star

Tribune of Minneapolis while passing through town. He took her case pro bono and set about gathering letters of support for a commutation.

The most powerful support came from Doty. In his letter to Clinton, Doty said "no judge in America" would have given Nunn the sentence he did if there had been a way out of it. Clinton commuted Nunn's sentence, along with those of four other drug convicts, on July 7, 2000. She was released the same day.

While in prison in Arizona, Nunn earned her associate's degree through correspondence courses at a nearby community college. After her release, she continued her education at Arizona State University, where she earned a bachelor's in political science in 2002.

When she applied to law

schools, both Clinton and Doty wrote letters of recommendation.

At Michigan, Nunn is in many ways like any other student. As she sat by a rain-streaked window inside a Starbucks near campus, she talked about her plans to study for the Michigan bar this summer and her hopes of getting a position at the Public Defender Service in Washington, where she worked last summer.

David Santacrose, a professor in the Michigan Clinical Law Program, in which students handle real cases, said Nunn projected poise and self-confidence in the courtroom.

"She understands probably like no other law student the criminal justice system," he said. "She's really good at relating to our clients."

## The Charlotte Post

Can be delivered to your house

Call 704 376 0496 today



## Harlem choir sex abuse victim speaks out

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK—For years, the boy at the center of the sexual abuse scandal that shook the Boys Choir of Harlem was referred to only as "Student A" or "the choir-boy victim."

Now he just wants to be called by his name, David Pinks.

Pinks, once held captive by shame and fear, no longer fears the abuse will stain or taint his manhood, and he wants other sexual abuse victims, especially boys and men, to talk openly about their own ordeals.

"I'm not afraid anymore because I know I didn't do anything wrong," Pinks said in an interview with The Associated Press. "That embarrassment and shame that were there—that that demon is not going to hold me back. I'm able to speak out."

"There's a lot of other people out there going through the

same situation I've been through and maybe even worse," he said. "They need that voice. I'll be that voice."

Even at 20 years old and 6 feet 2 inches tall, Pinks says he became "petrified" recently when he thought he spotted Frank Jones Jr., who sexually abused him starting at age 12. His heartbeat quickens whenever he smells the cologne or lotion his abuser wore.

"When I think of Jones I don't think of now," he says. "My mind is still when I was 12, 13. I still know how strong he is and what he's capable of."

Five years after Pinks' revelations, the choir he left also is struggling to recover. It once performed at the White House and Vatican and on the soundtracks of the films "Malcolm X" and "Glory."

Now with a reduced, mostly volunteer staff, the choir of 50 boys, which was evicted from its home, performs Saturday

night at Jazz at Lincoln Center.

In 2001, when Pinks was 15, he told choir officials that he had been abused by Jones, who directed the choir's counseling and summer camp and chaperoned members on trips for more than two decades. But choir leaders—including founder and chief executive Walter Turnbull and his vice president and brother Horace Turnbull—did nothing, Pinks and investigators maintain.

Pinks then told his mother, who notified police. In late 2002, Jones was convicted of 24 counts of sexually abusing the student and sentenced to two years in prison.

In 2003, city investigators concluded that the Turnbells failed to report serious allegations of abuse of Pinks by Jones. Moreover, the investigative report said, the Turnbells continued to allow him to be near students.

Walter Turnbull, who

remains chief conductor, called what happened to Pinks "very unfortunate."

"We have done over the years all the things that we could to make sure that we did the best thing, the right thing," said Turnbull, who said he has had no contact with Jones, now 56. "The regret that I have is that David felt he was not treated correctly."

Jones' attorney, Theodore Goldbergh, said his client still insists he did nothing wrong. The attorney said Jones was especially attentive to Pinks because the young man had a "strained" relationship with his family.

Jones, along with the Turnbells, the city and others, now faces a civil lawsuit filed by Pinks. As for the choir, it is millions of dollars in debt and had to relocate to a Harlem church after the city evicted it from a public school.

## Health gets a boost

Continued from page 1B

example: convulsions, fever higher than 105 degrees, difficulty breathing) after receiving a vaccine, inform your doctor immediately.

Vaccines are an important way to protect our children. Give them the best opportunity for the future by assuring they receive vaccines on time. The goal for our community is to have a 90 percent immunization rate for all children between the ages of 19 and 35 months. Remember, knowledge is power, but it is what you do with it that makes all the difference!

Contribution by Eva Gomez, RN

For more information about the Maya Angelou Research Center on Minority Health, visit our website at <http://www.wfubmc.edu/minorityhealth>. Or, for health information call (336) 713.7578.

## In Russia, dark skin foreigners face bias

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW — As a black man in Russia, life for Gabriel Anicet Kotchofa means being home by 9 p.m., never using public transit and hearing abusive remarks when he goes out with his white wife.

"Sometimes I even go to the shop with my wife and we go separately, so nobody knows that we are together," the native of Benin says.

Still, his experience has been milder than that of many blacks, Asians and dark-skinned Caucasians in Russia—he hasn't been killed, maimed or even attacked.

"I'm a very lucky person. I have never been aggressed, because I know where to go, when to go and how to behave myself," said Kotchofa, an academic.

Race-based attacks are rising sharply in Russia, a reflection of the xenophobia that was under the surface in Soviet times. In 2005 alone, 31 murders and 382 assaults were race-connected, according to the Moscow-based Sova human rights center.

Already this year, 14 people have been killed in racial attacks. The attacks hit especially hard at natives of Third World countries who have

come to Russia to study, because of the country's comparatively low tuition costs or because they are blocked from studying in the West by stringent visa regimes.

A few months after arriving from Gabon in 1999 for studies at People's Friendship University in Moscow, Juldas Okie Etoumbia was shocked by the beating death of a Guinean student in their dormitory. The victim had refused to open the door for a cleaning lady in the early hours of the morning and she returned with several men who bludgeoned him with a hammer.

But Etoumbia, 28, was determined to follow through with studies that he hopes will lead to a career as a diplomat.

"There are times when I think I should have never come to this country. But you realize that you came for a noble cause, to get an education, and you are obliged to go through with it," he said.

Although he said he's never been attacked, he's lost count of the insults tossed at him. Once, traveling on the Moscow subway, he lost his grip and brushed the hand of a fellow-passenger—who demonstratively took out a handkerchief and wiped his hand.

**DIET PEPSI and entourage keep cool before a HOT night!**

**DIET PEPSI: TELL-ALL CONFESSION!!!**

**"MILLIONS CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF ME!"**

**THE ULTIMATE CELEB LOWDOWN:**  
How to Keep Light, Crisp and Refreshing Through Any Drama!

**THE 411 WORLD EXCLUSIVE!**

**ON KEEPING IT REAL.**

**DIET PEPSI—THE ONE CELEB EVERYONE WANTS TO KNOW!**

DIET PEPSI, DIET PEPSI LIME, DIET PEPSI WILD CHERRY and the Pepsi Globe design are registered trademarks of PepsiCo, Inc.

**Charleston House on The Plaza**  
A Low Country Restaurant

Lunch.....11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Dinner.....5:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

**3128 The Plaza**  
Charlotte, NC 28205  
704-333-4441

Lots of good food and beverages!  
We'll feed you til we fill you up, fuh true!  
Book your 2006 Event By May 15th  
and get 25% off

Book Your:

- Wedding Receptions • Rehearsal Dinners •
- Office Parties • Family Reunions •

Parking available on premises and shuttle services off premises