

# Details of banishment probe yet to be released

Continued from page 1A say misrepresented enrollment artificially enhanced the school's test scores by lowering the number of academically-at-risk students.

Bill Anderson, who was Myers Park's principal at the time, denies any misconduct. He is now director of Communities In Schools, a program that keeps at-risk students in school.

Education defines a dropout as "any student who leaves school for any reason before graduation or completion of a program of studies, without transferring to another...secondary school."

According to 2004-2005 Myers Park dropout records, Turner was listed as an in-state transfer. He has yet to re-enroll.

Myers Park High allege school administrators mis-coded students after convincing or coercing them to drop out, making it look as if the students either transferred or moved out of the district altogether in order to spare the school a higher dropout rate. According to campus sources, Myers Park administrators call the practice "the school of far, far away."

Though not aware of coercion and force-outs in the county, at the time Green said at no time should a student be given up on, and that it was a "significant problem."

Significant enough that a

study was made into the allegations at Myers Park.

District 3 School Board Member George Dunlap said he first became aware of the allegations after reading the August article. He sent an e-mail asking CMS staff to look into the situation.

"One of the problems I have had with, and have mentioned to... Gorman, is

the responsiveness, or lack of, from his administrative staff," said Dunlap, who chairs CMS's Audit Committee.

"What's interesting is that in January, I looked back at my sent files of complaints I e-mailed and hadn't gotten a response on...and re-sent them all," he said.

## Untold history: Black slave owner

By Colby Sledge  
THE TENNESSEAN

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Like many wealthy landowners of the pre-Civil War South, Sherrod Bryant owned slaves. They probably worked much of Bryant's 700 acres in Middle Tennessee, an area larger than that of Andrew Jackson's Hermitage plantation.

The slaves under Bryant helped raise hogs for their owner, who had a large family and was always looking to buy more property. Unlike many slave owners, however, Sherrod Bryant was black.

Today, the notion of a black man owning black slaves seems contradictory - Bryant

himself was a free black - and perhaps even hypocritical. According to Bryant's descendants, however, their ancestor, who was never a slave, was simply following the normal pattern of life for a rich landowner in the Upper South.

"I think at some point some of the members (of the family) might not have looked upon it very favorably, but the more we discuss it, the more we suddenly realize that to gain wealth during that time, if you had a lot of property, you had to have slaves to help you cultivate it," said Carl Bryant, a fourth-generation descendant of Sherrod.

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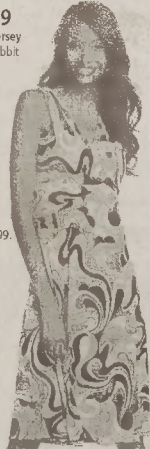
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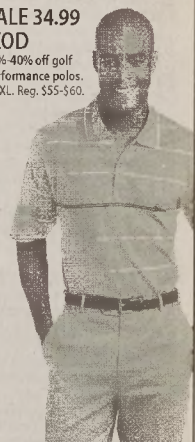
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