

Northwest Airlines' Mystery Fares Promotion Attracts Many Adventurous Travelers

BY RYAN THORNBURG
ASSISTANT STATE AND NATIONAL EDITOR

INDIANAPOLIS — For more than a thousand adventurous souls at the Indianapolis International Airport last Wednesday, the adage, "It's who you're with, not where you are," was the thought of the day.

Northwest Airlines offered 300 round-trip tickets for one-day excursions from Indianapolis to 15 domestic cities on Saturday for \$59 each or \$99 for a pair.

The kicker is, the travelers wouldn't know where they were going until they arrived at the airport Saturday morning.

Dennis Rosenborough, director of public affairs for the Indianapolis Airport, said the eclectic group of travelers had included a man shopping for a 50th wedding anniversary gift for his wife as well as a mother who planned on giving her son a plane ride for his 12th birthday.

"It was like a carnival atmosphere around here," Rosenborough said.

Ticket hopefuls came from as far away as Cincinnati and Dayton, Ohio — more than 100 miles from Indianapolis — and began showing up at 3 a.m. for Northwest's promotion.

Tickets went on sale at 11 a.m. and were sold out in one hour and 45 minutes.

"If you've ever waited in line for a concert ticket, then you know what it was like," Rosenborough said. "Everyone was hoping they would get a ticket."

Those lucky enough to get tickets boarded their planes early Saturday morning and flew to one of three Northwest hubs in Minneapolis, Detroit or Memphis.

From there, their journeys continued on to their final destination, and they returned to Indianapolis by 11 p.m.

The thousand people who weren't lucky enough to get tickets still received a \$35 coupon to be used on any Northwest flight, said John Austin, spokesman for Northwest.

Cities that the mystery flights serviced were New Orleans; Buffalo, N.Y.; Philadelphia; Tampa, Fla.; San Antonio; Orlando, Fla.; St. Louis; Kansas City, Mo.; Milwaukee; Minneapolis; Washington, D.C.; Boston; Rapid City, S.D.; and New York City.

According to Austin, the idea was concocted by one of Northwest's advertising staff and was similar to the promotional one-day fare the airline had last year to Memphis for Elvis Presley's birthday.

"One of the things we like to do is find a promotion with a business idea to it," Austin said. "With this, we could showcase our hubs."

The promotion caused no security problems and most of the people in line, even those who had not gotten tickets, were adventurous and good-natured, Rosenborough said.

"We had to do some makeshift ropings, but other than that, everything went smoothly."

reached for comment.

Cox said he was suspicious about his brother's death and the events surrounding it and wrote in his statement that he suspected foul play before, during and after surgery. "I don't think it (Bruce Cox's death) was accidental," Cox said. "I can't say it wasn't, but I have my suspicions."

Cox said he had a good case but was not sure if he would get \$10 million. He said, however, that winning was not his main concern. "I have at least a hundred things I want to ask them (the hospital and Sessions), I don't know if I'll be able to ask everything, but I want to make it a matter of public record."

"I didn't have any ideas as far as money was concerned," Cox continued. "They said put something down, so I put \$10 million. But how can you put a price on your brother's life?"

Farrakhan Discusses Black Condition

BY JENNY HEINZEN
STATE AND NATIONAL EDITOR

DURHAM — Asking the question, "Are black organizations really our own?" Louis Farrakhan addressed a capacity crowd in Durham for an hour and a half despite a sweltering room and a temporary power outage.

Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, known for his black empowerment and separatist agendas, addressed more than 5,000 people in the un-air-conditioned gymnasium on the campus of N.C. Central University.

Attendees were greeted at the door by a flood of designer-suit-clad bodyguards, metal detectors and women dressed in white robes. Every pocket and bag was searched before entry. The entire arena was in motion, with people clambering for seats and using homemade fans to try to compensate for the heat.

The official welcome was offered by Minister Ray Muhammad from Muhammad's Mosque #34 in Durham, which arranged for Farrakhan's appearance, followed by remarks by Abdul Arif Muhammad, the mid-Atlantic Regional Minister.

Next, the Minister Jamil Muhammad of Baltimore began accepting monetary donations from the audience, beginning with \$100 or greater contributions.

He moved onto \$50 donations, then went on to the "Green Wave," where virtually every member of the audience waved money over their heads until the white-robed women came to collect it.

Muhammad then introduced Farrakhan to a boisterous standing ovation.

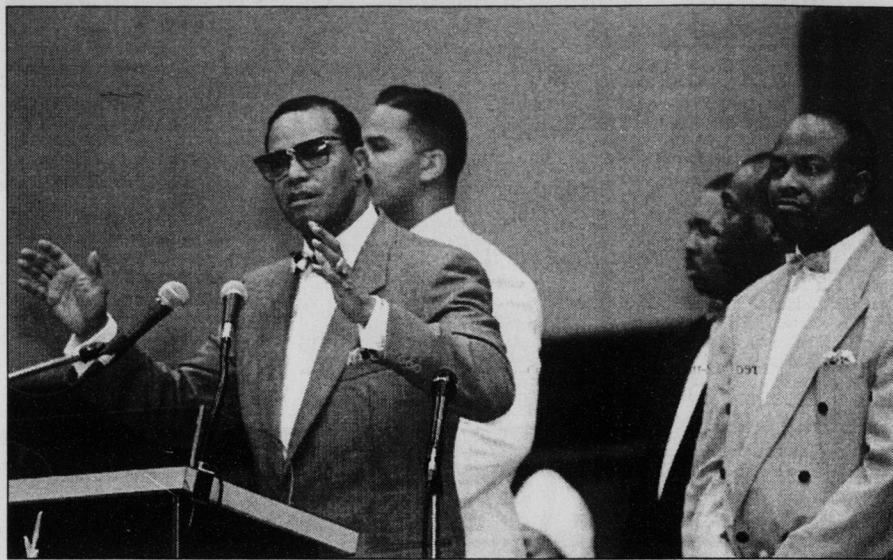
Farrakhan began with his appraisal of the black man's role in American society.

"America is not apparently ready for a free-thinking, free-acting black man or woman. America, and those in power, like us most when we are most responsive and responsible to them than we are to the needs and hopes of our own people," he said. "Those in power are very afraid to see us move in a free direction."

"Those in power will do everything they can to thwart the direction of those who want to forge an independent course. It is necessary for us to rethink our direction and rethink how we can truly make black organizations our own," he said.

Farrakhan said the few black leaders in the country were not truly free to speak the truth about the black condition.

"If the leaders are not free, they certainly cannot lead you to liberation," he said. "No leader, with the exception of myself, is truly free to lead you. Brilliance is not freedom, eloquence is not freedom, the ability to speak to the whole of the people without having to look over your shoulder to see if the slave master approves



of what you are saying, that is freedom.

"I come to you as a free black man who does not have to worry about what anybody says," he said. "It's not because I'm better, it's because I'm freer."

Farrakhan said the black education system in America should serve to help instill the desire for freedom in its students but that it had failed.

"Black colleges are controlled from the outside," he said. "They build a curriculum to make you fit in a system that is diametrically opposed to you... These colleges have become hotbeds of dissatisfaction. Somehow, a disease has gotten into the college system; there is a virus in the computer."

He said he blamed white people for having oppressed the blacks and having acted as hypocrites.

"White folks who claim that God is love and Jesus paid a price for our redemption, these same folk held us in slavery," Farrakhan said. "And when they made us Christians, they would not let us worship with them."

"God is love, but that love never extended to black folk," he said.

"I notice that even when we integrated the school — never have we integrated the church. You're still the passed-over black church. There may still be one or two whites singing in the choir, beating the tambourines offbeat," he said.

"I'm not really trying to be funny, because if it weren't so tragic, it would be funny," Farrakhan said. "The tragedy is, we are 20th-century slaves moving into the 21st century still not free. The idea of the Caucasians is 'how we can keep a lid on it; because if they get free, they might change the country and go on to change the world.'"

At this moment, the lights all went out. It was a tense moment during which there were a few screams, and the bodyguard force swarmed around Farrakhan to protect against a possible assassination attempt. But the lights returned momentarily and Farrakhan continued.

DITH/KATIE CANNON

Louis Farrakhan (above) speaks to a capacity crowd at N.C. Central University in Durham on Friday night as his bodyguards, "A Taste of Islam," look for any trouble after a security scare when the lights briefly went out. One woman (right) reacts to Farrakhan's opinion regarding how scantily clad women are the root of the black man's problems.



"Of course I'm for integration," he said. "In high school, we learned an axiom that said the whole is equal to the sum of its parts, and an integer is a whole number. So when you integrate people, you're going to integrate them to make the society whole."

He said the black community was falling apart. "The black community has deteriorated so much that that we are the chief destroyers of ourselves," Farrakhan said. "We are the number one rapers, robbers and killers of ourselves."

He described black athletes and musicians as puppets who were controlled by white managers and thus unable to be termed heroes for their people.

"Heroes are those who plot the course of nature, who change reality into something good for our people," he said.

Farrakhan described the managers of black athletes as "bloodsuckers."

"You can call that anti-Semitism if you want, but I call that truth," he said. "All

black athletes are pieces of meat, bought and sold but not free. Driving fancy Mercedes in your black neighborhoods — that don't make you free. The worst part about it is that you love being the slave you are."

He reiterated several times that every member of the almost completely black audience was still a slave.

"You're nothing but a slave, and you like it," he said. "I'll be damned — I'm going to point it out all over the country. I'm going to lift my voice like a trumpet. I'm going to expose everything."

Throughout his speech, Farrakhan referred to the ousting of Ben Chavis, former director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, calling the organization a welfare group. He said that Chavis had been the only person in the NAACP who had been able to point out this fact and to make efforts to heal the black community, but said that because of his blunt honesty, Chavis had been fired.

Farrakhan suggested, as a solution to the black crisis, that all 30 million blacks in the country should contribute \$10 per month to a savings fund that would be used to buy out white organizations, including wheat farms and grocery stores.

"Now look, one of the first things you've got to do to free yourself is take your mouth out of the kitchen of the enemy," he said. "Everything has been poisoned. We've got to go back to the earth and start over."

He finally challenged the audience to unify to overcome the many problems that faced them. "It's on you," Farrakhan said. "So, my dear brothers and sisters, I thank you so much for your kind attention. Stay together, stay in unity, so that in the 21st century, we'll be able to say, 'Free at last, free at last, we made the right move in 1994 that made us free.'"

HOSPITAL

FROM PAGE 1

"She has had attorneys working for three years. There have been many people saying they wanted to take the case, but they keep putting it off and won't say why."

"After all this mess with attorneys, I went through all the records, got power of attorney and decided to file," he said.

Cox said he did not know why lawyers had been slow to work on this case.

"No attorneys have even talked about the mishandling of the body," he said. "All they keep saying is that we don't have a case for a wrongful death suit. Our time's run out on that anyway."

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