

Sign Of The Times

BY YEMI TOURE

Editor's Note: The following is the first of a two-part series on the Tawana Brawley case.

The entire legal and political system of the state of New York put its full weight up against a 16-year-old girl named Tawana Brawley, and the weight came tumbling down.

On Oct. 6, a New York grand jury said that Tawana Brawley faked the horrible condition in which she was found after a four-day absence last November, including her body being covered with dog feces. The report states that she was not the victim of rape and abuse by law officials, as she claims.

But despite the 170-page length of the grand jury report, despite its tone of reasonableness, despite its seeming avalanche of evidence, with this report the legal system of New York has smeared itself from head to toe with dog feces. Let me give you just one reason why I say this:

The conclusion of the report states, "There was no sperm found... on her body."

After being found Nov. 28 last year, Tawana was brought to St. Francis Hospital in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. The hospital records, revealed last July, say Tawana was diagnosed as a "possible sexual assault" victim. Despite this, she was given a "complete bath" by hospital staff at 4:30 p.m.

Police routinely warn women NOT to wash after a rape, so doctors can do a rape test and internal examination to find sperm. But hospitals records show Tawana was not given a

p.m., 3½ hours AFTER she was given a bath!

The grand jury conclusion, though, says nothing about Tawana being given a bath. No wonder there was "no sperm found." There are other similar distortions and omissions throughout the report.

DID TAWANA FAKE HER CONDITION? The medical records from the ambulance team and from St. Francis use such phrases as "unconscious," the pupils of her eyes were "dilated" and showed "no reaction" to light, her pulse was "irregular," she had first- and second-degree burns over 36 percent of her body, "patient did not respond to pain, voice or ammonia," "patient unresponsive to painful stimuli."

If Tawana was faking, as the politicians, police, grand jury and press say, how could she fake all this?

THE SUN SHINES: Our compliments to the City Sun newspaper in New York for boldly publishing excerpts and analyzing the medical reports of doctors and medical staff who examined her. The black weekly's expose is invaluable, and you may want to order it. Send \$3 to City Sun, Circulation Department, GPO 560, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11202. Ask for Vol. 5, No. 27, dated July 6-12, 1988.

Next: What about Rev. Al Sharpton? What about the other black woman who was similarly attacked do a rape test and internal examination to find sperm. But hospitals records show Tawana was not given a Toure is a syndicated columnist based in Los Angeles.



CREATING EXCITEMENT—High-spirited performer Lois Falana calls her bout with multiple sclerosis God's "perfect timing," explaining that for about 10 years, "I really wanted out, but I couldn't get out" of her grueling show business schedule. She says her faith in God was the main reason for her miraculous recovery.

Students Urge Reinstatement Of Professor

BOSTON, Mass. (AP)—Some Suffolk University students are calling for the reinstatement of a black professor they claim was forced out because of his race. The school says the professor resigned voluntarily earlier this month.

Fifty student-age protesters took part in a rally at Suffolk on Oct. 14, chanting slogans and carrying signs demanding reinstatement of David Mudavanha, an associate professor of government.

"No matter what they say, to us it's a firing," said senior Fritz Ellen, 27, a former student of Mudavanha. He said Suffolk provided no reason for the action.

"They made up charges against him," Ellen said. "They never let him answer the charges."

"He formally tendered his resignation to us," said Suffolk spokesman Louis Connolly, who declined to give details of the case. "There was no racism here."

"He wasn't fired. We can't talk about it further because it's a personnel issue. He told us he was leaving for personal reasons."

Mudavanha also declined to comment on the case.



The heads of the smallest dinosaurs were only about three inches long.



SAMUEL CHASTEN

Chasten Is Named To Post By Long

Insurance Commissioner Jim Long last week announced that Samuel N. Chasten will become interim deputy commissioner of the Insurance Department's consumer affairs division.

He has served in the department since 1976 as a complaint analyst and most recently as supervisor in the property and casualty section of the consumer division.

Chasten is a graduate of Shaw University School of Business and continued his study of accounting at N.C. State University. A Raleigh resident, he is a native of Duplin County. "We are fortunate that individuals like Sam Chasten are able to pick up the reins and move the department forward in this important area of service," Long said in making the appointment public.

Chasten replaces B.A. (Tony) Higgins as head of the consumer division. Higgins will succeed William D. Beaty as senior deputy commissioner over the public services group. Beaty recently resigned to return to the private sector.

Critics Saying Blacks Unhappy About Debates

BY SHIRLEY REED-BLASH

NNPA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C.—While the selection of Bernard Shaw, a highly respected broadcast anchorman, to moderate the last debate between the presidential candidates helped to muffle complaints that blacks lacked visibility, critics were unhappy with the way handlers for Gov. Michael Dukakis and Vice President George Bush sought to control the debates—considered major political events.

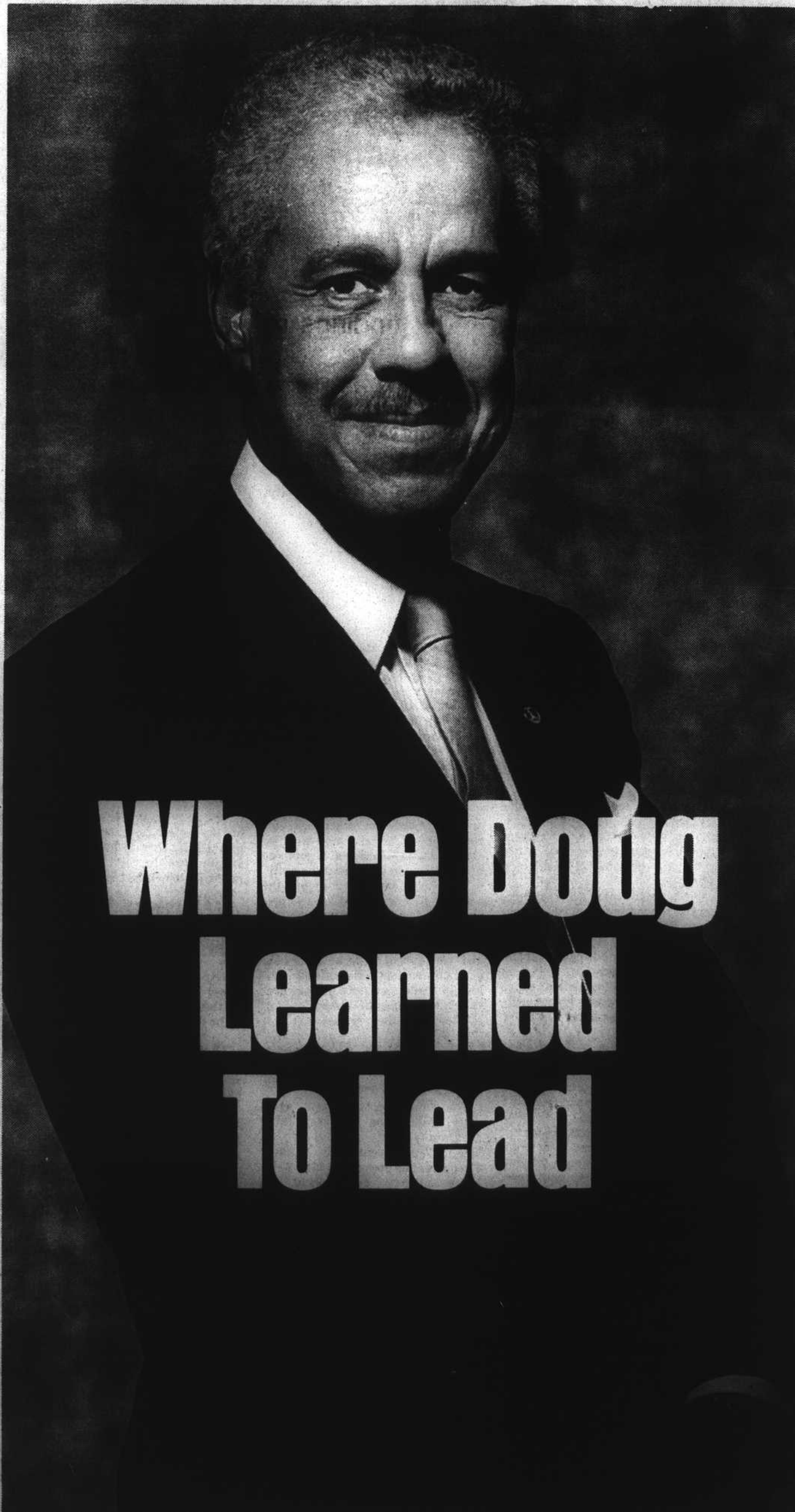
Shaw, Washington news anchor for CNN, an Atlanta-based cable news network, directed the line of questioning for the 1½-hour showdown between the candidates, held at UCLA's Pauley Pavilion on the evening of Oct. 13. But the presence of Shaw did not bring to the forefront black agenda issues.

The League of Women Voters Education Fund withdrew sponsorship of the mid-October debate, launching strong criticism against the candidates for their attempts to control the event. The Commission on Presidential Debates—which sponsored the first two debates—was selected to direct the final showdown. The commission was formed in February 1987 by the national committees of the Republican and Democratic parties.

Dr. Ronald Walters, political science professor at Howard University, a predominantly black institution in the District of Columbia, agrees with the league's decision. "Why should they continue as sponsor if their integrity is being seriously violated by the candidates? They have their own rules and standards. If the candidates are not going to agree to them, it is just as well that they withdraw," asserted Walters, who was deputy campaign manager for the Rev. Jesse Jackson in 1984 and was a political strategist in his 1988 presidential bid.

Neither the league nor the commission had the power to change one complaint launched by Dr. Walters: Gov. Dukakis' and Vice President Bush's failure to make the connection between blacks and other minorities and some important issues. "The candidates are addressing issues like taxes, trade, the qualifications of vice presidential candidates, and the deficit. As a black person, I want to know what they're going to do for me. You also want to hear about things that are closer to home," he said.

"They have talked about drugs and education, in general terms, but you want to hear blacks and Hispanic people referred to. Their aspirations are important. And they are a significant part of the electorate," asserted Dr. Walters, the author of "Black Presidential Politics in America," a book published this year. The last debate did nothing to enhance the campaign of either candidate, observers said.



Where Doug Learned To Lead

"There was a common bond," says Lt. Governor Lawrence Douglas Wilder of Virginia, speaking of his college experience. "We all knew who we were and where we needed to go, and what we needed to do to get there." Wilder, the nation's highest-ranking Black elected state official, attributes that world-beating attitude to the inspiring role models he found at Virginia Union University, one of America's Black colleges.

In an atmosphere of high intellectual quality, young Douglas Wilder discovered what he calls, "the high possibility of the individual." And following in a tradition that has produced outstanding scholars, professionals and public servants, he went on to a brilliant career as an attorney, state senator and civic activist. Is it any wonder that, though they enroll only 20% of Black college students, Black colleges produce 40% of Black college graduates?

When you're considering colleges, doesn't it make sense to consider the ones that educated achievers like Lawrence Douglas Wilder? Attending one could lead to a great future.

America's Black Colleges Are You Smart Enough To Go?



This food for thought is brought to you by JELL-O® Brand Gelatin and Puddings, a supporter of America's historically Black colleges.

Drive Safely