

Anniversary Of Soweto Riots Prompts Call To Free Mandela

The U. S. government observed the 13th anniversary of the Soweto township riots in South Africa with a call last Friday for the release of imprisoned Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

"Since that day in 1976 the tragedy of Soweto has played out again and again," said the State Department. "The United States deprecates the continuing resort to violence by all parties in South Africa."

The statement renewed the U.S. call for the release of Mandela, the 70-year-old leader of the banned African National Congress who was sentenced to life in prison in 1964 for sabotage and conspiracy to topple the White minority government. At that time he had already been imprisoned for three years for incitement and leaving the country illegally.

The department also urged freedom for "other political prisoners" and an end to the declared state of emergency under which legal rights of South Africans have been suspended in response to opposition to apartheid.

NAACP Files Lawsuits Against 5 Municipalities

Dr. William F. Gibson, president of the South Carolina Conference of Branches and chairman of the National Board of Directors, NAACP, announced the filing of five voting rights lawsuits simultaneously against five different municipalities in federal district courts in Columbia and Greenville, S.C. on Friday, June 30.

The cases were filed against the city councils of Bennettsville, Gaffney, Kingstree, Saluda and Union for their use of at-large elections. The lawsuits represent the most cases filed in one day in the South Carolina Conference of Branches' statewide effort to convert all discriminatory at-large election schemes.

Plaintiffs in the cases include the Marlboro, Cherokee, Williamsburg, Saluda and Union NAACP branches as well as black citizens of the respective jurisdictions that are being sued.

The lawsuits were filed after the leadership of the defendant jurisdictions failed to call or successfully pass a referendum changing their election systems to single-member districts.

The cities of Kingstree, Saluda, and Union had referendums that failed, while Bennettsville and Gaffney flatly rejected the NAACP's efforts to have their respective systems changed voluntarily.

Nelson B. Rivers, III, executive secretary, S.C. Conference, NAACP, said, "The attorneys filing the cases are John R. Harper, II, general counsel for the South Carolina Conference NAACP, and Fletcher Smith of Greenville. They are being assisted by four attorneys from the NAACP national legal department: Willie Abrams, Brian Carter, Dennis C. Hayes and Samuel Walters."

Dr. Gibson said, "The South

Carolina Conference of Branches NAACP hopes that the filing of these cases sends a clear message to other jurisdictions that insist on retaining discriminatory at-large election methods. The NAACP will not hesitate to bring legal action when necessary."

These cases are part of an ongoing effort by the South Carolina Conference of Branches to eliminate at-large voting systems in the state of South Carolina. Since November 1988, the NAACP has filed lawsuits against Charleston County School Board and County Council and Lancaster City Council.

In the past three years, through the efforts of the NAACP, the following jurisdictions have changed from at-large to single-member districts: Abbeville City and County Schools, Aiken City Council, Cheraw City Council, Easley City Council, Greenwood City and County Councils, Greer City Council, Horry County School Board, Kershaw Town Council, Laurens City and County Councils, Laurens School Districts 55 and 56, Ninety-Six Town Council, North Charleston City Council, Orangeburg City Council, Richland County Council, Rock Hill City Council, Saint George City Council, Spartanburg City Council, Summerville City Council and Sumter City Council.

Presently, the NAACP is engaged in various stages of negotiations with several city and county councils and school boards to voluntarily change to single-member districts.

Rivers recently reminded NAACP branches in South Carolina that at-large elections must be challenged. He said, "We cannot have discriminatory at-large election systems and NAACP branches coexisting in the same place—one must go."

Dorothy Willis Launches Own Hair Care Line Here

WINDSOR, Conn. (AP)—Dorothy Willis is all cool confidence when she explains how she's launching her own hair-care line and preparing to enter a fierce marketing battle.

Willis, 49, of Windsor, knows the odds may appear daunting in an industry dominated by multinational giants that gross about \$3.9 billion annually, but from her years as a top international hair designer, she also knows how to stand out in a crowd.

"It's quite a challenge to go up against the big guys," Willis says with a serene smile. "But I believe I can make a little niche."

She has a perspective on what is needed, particularly in the black hair-care field, thanks to a career that has lasted nearly 20 years.

"Credibility helps when you're going out there, standing on the bandbox. Being able to show a track record is important," she says.

Willis has worked nationally and internationally as a platform artist, teaching styling techniques to other professionals. She competes in hair-design shows in Europe, where she has won numerous trophies that crowd the walls and mantel of her home.

She has traveled to Egypt and Senegal to demonstrate hair design. She is a contributing editor for Black Tress and Black Hair Care magazines and has written articles for Essence, Vogue and Black Enterprise.

Willis began her career in Hartford at the Soul Scissors salon at the G. Fox and Co. department store, became national stylist director for the Soul Scissors chain and later an educational consultant for Revlon.

The black or "ethnic" hair-care market represents about 13 percent of the total market—worth about \$500 million a year.

Her hair-care line, called Basic Black, consists of 22 products—from shampoo and conditioner to a relaxer and curly perm—used by black women to achieve a variety of looks.

"A person is judged by their hair; it's an identity," Willis says. "Nine times out of 10, a person will describe you by your hair; they'll say 'that blonde that was here,' or 'the one with the curly hair.'"

For that reason, she says, good hair care comes first, which is why "basic" is part of her products' names. "I think of it the way a basic black dress is the foundation of a wardrobe," Willis says.

Basic Black products were introduced in March and are for profes-

sional use only. They are available through area salons, including Jhuraab Total Salon in West Hartford and the Hair Place in Hartford. The products are also available in Massachusetts, and Willis says she hopes to spread information about her product through educational seminars with professionals.

Willis has been working with a Dallas chemist to formulate her line, which has a concept she says is different from many products designed for black hair care. "It's not a me-too product; it's a different approach," she says.

Hair-care product formulas are closely guarded secrets, and hers is no exception. Several companies have tried to get the formula for some of her products, she says, explaining that other black hair-care products tend to rely on grease or oil that coats the outside of the hair shaft.

But "if it doesn't penetrate, it doesn't do any good," Willis says, explaining that a treatment must go beyond the cuticle layer to change the condition of the hair. "Millions are spent, yet the hair is still breaking and dry. We have to moisturize," she says.

Using heavy oils and grease does not moisturize and "is just a bad habit that started a long time ago. And for a long time, a lot of manufacturers were supporting it. But today, people of color deserve healthy, glowing, natural-looking hair, and they can achieve it," says Willis, as she demonstrates that a dab of a Basic Black hair and skin liquid moisturizer disappears into the skin quickly without leaving any residue.

Launching the hair-care line has been "exciting and aggravating getting all the T's crossed and the I's dotted." The most frustrating part, Willis says, "is just like for all entrepreneurs getting all the money you need."

Starting a hair-care line takes a minimum investment of \$50,000, she says.

Willis' friends and colleagues are also excited about her efforts.

"She's probably one of the most understated and underrated hair designers in the world," says Carol McSheffrey, a hair designer at Jhuraab Total Salon. "She doesn't act like a superstar—she's a real person, and her outlook is very innovative."

Another friend, Dick Wood, owner of the Total Look Salon in Waterbury, says, "Her talent is one of those rare things to come along only once in a while."

Authors Argue, Survey On AIDS Virus Delayed

NEW YORK, N.Y. (AP)—A Kinsey Institute sex survey that could help researchers understand how AIDS spreads was delayed for almost a decade because two of its authors fought over whose name should appear on the title page.

The survey of more than 3,000 adults, which was published last Thursday, suggests that if there was a sexual revolution in the 1960s, most Americans missed it.

"A majority disapproved of homosexuality, prostitution, extramarital sex and most forms of premarital sex," the authors of the survey wrote. Furthermore, they said a majority of Americans are "moral absolutists" in that they see these behaviors as always wrong."

"The number of women jumping in and out of bed at random is exaggerated, I think, just as the number of homosexuals in the population has been exaggerated," one of the study's authors, Eugene F. Levitt, a psychologist at the Indiana University School of Medicine, said in a telephone interview.

The survey's other authors were Albert D. Klassen of the University of North Dakota and Colin Williams of Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis.

The survey, titled, "Sex and Morality in the U.S.," and conducted in 1970, is the only survey of sex and morality in a representative sample of the U.S. population before AIDS, said Charles Turner, a sociologist and director of the committee on AIDS research at the National Academy of Sciences.

Researchers can use the study as a benchmark when evaluating new surveys of sexual behavior, Turner said, to try to determine how sexual practices have changed.


Among the survey's findings: "Extramarital sex was described as 'always wrong' or 'almost always wrong' by 87 percent of the respondents.

"Homosexual relations among people who don't love each other were described the same way by 88 percent of the respondents. Even among individuals who love each other, homosexual sex was disapproved of by 79 percent of the respondents.

"88 percent disapproved of teenage girls having premarital sex, and 65 percent disapproved of adult premarital sex by men.

"Fewer respondents disapproved of sexual acts if the partners loved each other. "Leaving little doubt, therefore, that many respondents still cherished the ideal of love as a basis for sexual behavior," the authors said.

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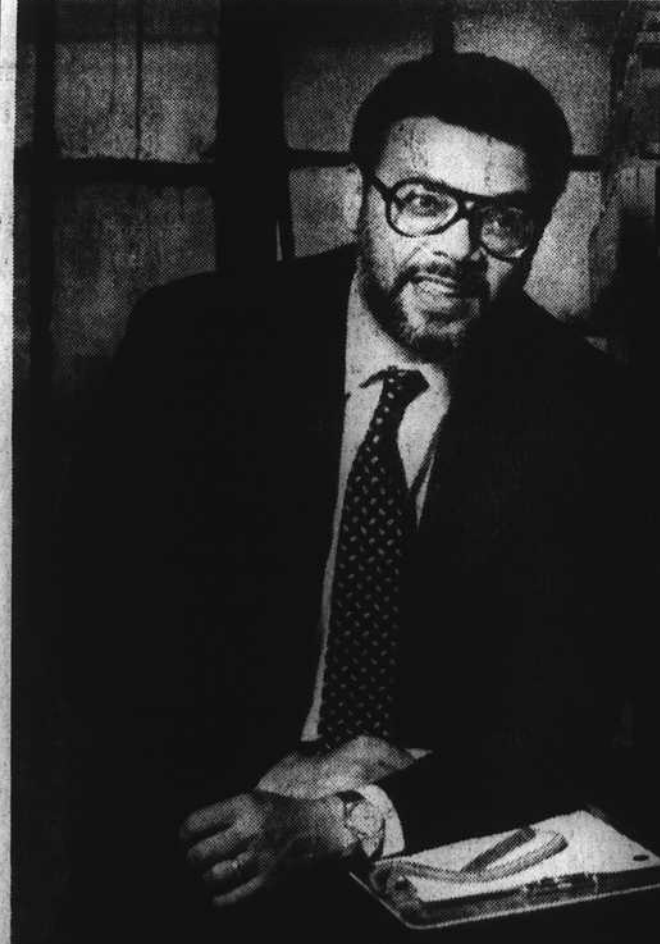
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turing company got its start with Miller's help more than a decade ago. Today Opportunities Pallet is proud of its \$1 million in annual sales and a client list of major Milwaukee industries, including food distributors and machinery manufacturers.

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