



Seems like a fight nearly broke out...No not at the Tuesday Morning Breakfast Club...but the NAACP meeting. When a young member rose to speak he was told he could not by Alfred Alexander, who was chairing the meeting. Fly's not sure why he was chairing the meeting since the Rev. Conrad Brindgen is supposed to be president of the local chapter. More on that later.

So when the young man insisted he be given a fair chance to speak in a supposedly open meeting, the branch security officer said, "I'll put your (expletive deleted) out of here." A dozen roses to anyone who can guess the reply to that manly challenge. Thanks and congratulations to the little old lady in the corner whose correct answer was "Put me out! Cooler heads prevailed a bit quicker than the Tuesday Morning crowd and no blows were thrown. Fly missed the Holyfield-Tyson fiasco.

While we're rolling on the NAACP tip, Fly's spies got a peep at the Alexander brothers, Kelly and Alfred, launching last Friday at 300 East restaurant with none other than Terry Belk, the local's political action chair. Fly has heard the Alexanders are pushing Belk to run for Kelly's old job as president of the state NAACP conference.



Belk

Kelly Alexander resigned from the post last year after questions were raised about his handling of nearly \$600,000 in state conference funds. The national chapter has barred Alexander from holding any NAACP office for 10 years.

Joining Belk on the Alexanders' state slate will be none other than Linda Crite-Gaines, who replaced David Howard as local chapter treasurer in June when Howard resigned. Crite-Gaines will run for treasurer, Fly hears. She was the paid bookkeeper under Kelly Alexander's tenure at state president and during the time he allegedly misspelt so much of the people's moolah. Talk about reloading.

Word has it the long-anticipated take over the faltering McDonald's Cafeteria could come by the end of the month. Seems like the godfather, Harvey Gantt, heads a team of investors buying the restaurant and hotel complex. Floyd Young of FDY Catering will run the restaurant and reportedly will not keep any of the 30 or so staffers. Gantt beat out a proposal that would have put Ron Goodwin of the uptown Renaissance Place in command of the westside landmark built by John McDonald. Goodwin, by the way, is going to fix up the Renaissance since his McDonald's bid came up short. Fly's spies heard the Gantt cartel was about \$700,000 shy of what the big money boys wanted for the whole ball of wax.



Gantt

Speakin' to Gantt, Harvey's daughter Sonja is coming back to town as a teevee anchor. You go, girl. WCNC, which is perpetually dead last in Charlotte's three-station news derby, hired Sonja to boost sagging ratings. A.H. Belo, WCNC's parental guidance unit, doled out some long green to get girlfriend back from WGN in the Windy City, so she'll make some major ends. Whether that's enough to make WCNC respectable, now that's another question. Fly has a suggestion: Get more air time for your best

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Senate field gets color

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he said. "D.G. is in to stay and D.G. is in to win. Our position is that D.G. is the strongest candidate with the ethics and the integrity and the vision and the values it takes to win. D.G. is a candidate all Democrats who would have to run in 1998 statewide would be proud to have at the top of the ticket. That's something voters will be focusing on."

"It is going to be an exciting campaign. And we are very much looking forward to it."

Davis said most local blacks thought Scarborough would someday run for mayor of Charlotte. "All of us had speculated that she would be the first black female mayoral candidate," Davis said.

Some political analysts wonder if Scarborough's entry into the race will create a replay of the Democrats failed Gantt vs. Helms races.

"Ella and D.G. can commiserate after primary night, after the moderate to liberal wing of the party loses," quipped one veteran analyst who requested anonymity.

State Democratic leaders recruited Martin, 56, to attract moderate and minority support, the analyst said. Conventional thinking is a moderate white male, aged 50 or so, is needed to attract the white male voters required to win a Senate race in North Carolina.

"Ella will eliminate that as the plan," the analyst said. "Assuming D.G. stays, they split the moderate-to-liberal part of the party and a more conservative candidate is likely to be able to be the nominee. Harvey got the moderate-to-liberal wing. If there is a split in the moderate-to-liberal wing, no moderate is going to win."

Gantt proved moderates and liberal support could win primaries, but failed twice to beat Helms.

"You've still got to pull votes from white men," the analyst said. "The Democrats tried that twice with Harvey and it didn't work. There's a strong move in the party to look for another candidate. The impetus in the party is away from her toward a white male in his mid-50s."

"But voters may not go for that," the analyst admitted, adding that Scarborough has some strengths and could win enough black and female votes to get through a crowded primary field.

"Ella certainly brings a lot of strength to the Democratic Party," Bibbs said. "From what I know of her record on City Council of Charlotte, she has been a strong voice on a lot of different issues."

"As to her viability as a candidate, I don't know. We'll have to wait and see in the primary."

Assuming a moderate voter turnout, 35 percent of voters will be black and she could easily win 65 percent or more of the black vote and a sizable amount of the women's vote.

Scarborough has as good a chance as anyone right now to pull out a primary victory, but the analyst predicted, "little or no shot in the general election."

The analyst compared the Democratic dilemma to that of the Republicans in the 1996 presidential race. "Do you reward a longtime faithful candidate or go with a new face. The Republicans chose to reward Dole and lost. Ella is a new face."

"The big question is what does she bring to the table that Harvey

Apology splits nation

Continued from page 1A

we've got a long way to go."

In the weeks since Hall offered his one-sentence resolution suggesting that Congress apologize for slavery, it has become acutely evident that the notion of forgiveness is a powerful thing in America. Few may agree with the idea of offering up some kind of national repentance, but everyone has a strong reason why.

"An apology is a much more complex and powerful phenomenon than most people realize," said Susan Heitler, a clinical psychologist in Denver.

Hall's proposal has drawn strong reactions. Many whites say an apology needlessly dredges up a horrible but long-closed chapter of history, while ignoring the nation's vast racial progress. Many blacks, meanwhile, see an apology without some form of compensation as hollow symbolism.

"An apology by definition admits one's own responsibility for wrongdoing," said Susan T. Fiske, a psychologist at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. "An apology for slavery would say it may not have been me but it was my people or my government that did this and we now see that it was really a crime and a sin. It is potentially healing. It shares responsibility for ending racism and it acknowledges that slavery has some relevance to today."

Shortly after Hall's proposal, President Clinton expressed some interest in embracing the idea, saying that "an apology, under the right circumstances, those things can be quite important." Subsequently, Clinton has been noncommittal on the subject.

Yet the power of an apology has not been lost on Washington. In 1988, Congress apologized and paid reparations to Japanese Americans who were interned in the United States during World War II. Two years later, Congress apologized to uranium miners and those contaminated by nuclear tests in Nevada. And in 1993, Congress apologized to native Hawaiians for the U.S. role in overthrowing the Hawaiian government a century earlier.

Earlier this year, Clinton apologized to the victims of Cold War radiation treatments and to the black men who were left untreated for syphilis in the infamous Tuskegee experiment.

But an apology for slavery is different, some say, because it cuts so close to the nation's black-white divide. And indeed, public sentiment toward the idea varies sharply depending on one's race. A pair of recent Gallup polls found that two out of three whites oppose the idea of a congressional apology, while two out of three blacks support the proposal.

"It raises all sorts of emotions," said Andrew Hacker, a Queens College (N.Y.) political scientist. "Many white people don't want to hear any more about obligations that have not been fulfilled. People say, 'We have done everything we have to do. We had affirmative action. We supported civil rights. Don't call us anymore.' I sense a lot of that feeling out there."

While the idea has found grassroots support among African Americans, it has received little public backing from prominent African American leaders. Only three black members of Congress are among the resolution's 38 cosponsors (although others are supportive), and many prominent civil rights leaders see the measure as a cheap political gesture.

"It is like you drive over somebody with a car, leave the body mangled, then you decide to come back later to apologize with no commitment to help them get on their feet," said Jesse L. Jackson. "There is something empty in that. It is just more race entertainment."

Indeed, many African Americans believe that the nation should pay monetary reparations to the descendants of slaves. For years, Rep. John Conyers Jr. (D-Mich.), the dean of the Congressional Black Caucus, has sponsored legislation to establish a committee to study reparations. Also, the NAACP has passed resolutions in support of reparations, including one at its national convention last month. But the idea has never gotten anywhere.

Some Clinton advisers, wary of criticism from both the left and the right, think the country is not ready to apologize for slavery. "My view is that the moral force of an apology depends upon understanding. But people disagree sharply about the extent of racism today and the relationship of it to slavery," said Christopher Edley, a Harvard law professor who advises Clinton on racial matters.

didn't," the analyst said. "In my opinion she brings less. Harvey had the ability to raise large sums of money."

The big question in the primary and the general election is money. Edwards is expected to have deep pockets and Martin raised large sums in a narrow loss in the 1984 congressional race against former 9th District Rep. Alex McMillan. Faircloth, a millionaire hog farmer, already has raised more than \$800,000 and can be expected to spend millions to keep his seat. Analysts predict the cost of the Democratic primary alone will start at \$1 million and could soar higher.

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Discipline recommended for officers

Continued from page 1A
 Hodgkins, associate attorney for the families, said this week. Earlier this year, the city reached an out-of-court settlement in the shooting death of Windy Gail Thompson by officer Mark Farmer in December 1993.

"We look at these issues that have arisen, most recently Carolyn Sue Boetticher, and that is only a measure of justice," said Minister Robert Muhammad, the Nation of Islam's leader in Charlotte. "Certainly that is beyond nothing being done at all. But it does not appease the masses of people. There seems to be an open season on black people in Charlotte."

"It is imperative that we build our own mechanism to seek justice for our people," Muhammad said. "The Citizen Review Board is one piece, but only a step. We want a completely independent review board."

Farmer and Marlow have been cleared by local and federal investigations. The Cooper decision was announced Friday by the U.S. Justice Department, which said it found no evidence to dispute Marlow's assertion that a thought Cooper was reaching for a gun when the officer shot and killed him after a traffic stop in east Charlotte.

In the Boetticher case, an internal police review board, after a hearing last week, recommended that Jordan be fired. That recommendation has been referred to the city's Civil Service Board, as required by statute. A bullet from Jordan's service weapon was identified as the one which struck Boetticher in the back of her neck, killing her.

The board recommended that Belz be suspended for 30 days without pay for his part in the incident.

Most of the bullets fired at Lundy's car entered the side and back of the vehicle as it passed the officers, who said they thought it was trying to run them down.

Lundy, a former West

Columbia, S.C. businessman, was uninjured. He has been charged with possession of a stolen auto and possession of cocaine in addition to assault on a police officer.

Police Chief Dennis Nowicki concurred in both recommendations and both officers are currently serving suspensions.

Review board has 4 blacks

Two appointed by city manager Syfert
Continued from page 1A

High, a retired court reporter; Faison S. Kuester Sr., a retired manager with American Cyanamid and Kuester Properties Inc. and Brian David Gott, a former Business Journal reporter who is a fund raiser for the American Cancer Society.

Syfert appointed Fox and Harrison, plus John Robert Phillips, a former volunteer paramedic who is vice president of Operations for Quality Equipment & Supply Co.

"We were looking for good people, people who were good listeners and good at gathering the facts," McCrory said. "My goal was to make it a group of individuals who are dedicated to finding the facts and giving a perspective outside the law agencies. A lot of qualified people were not selected," McCrory said. "We looked for people not in the spotlight...not political. I didn't want this board to be a jumping (off)

ground for future politicians."


City council included two blacks when it made five appointments. The council appointed African Americans Maxine Crowder-Wilson, director of the YWCA's Alexander Street child development center and Calvin Jackson, a CPCC forensics instructor. Whites George Daly, a lawyer; Bobby Miller, a retired Hoechst Celanese division vice president and Suzanne Varner, a homemaker and member of Calvary Church were also appointed.

City council will appoint a chairman for the panel, which will review police actions in cases of deadly or excessive force, improper search and seizure, improper arrest and unbecoming conduct.

Citizens will bring complaints to the board if they are not satisfied with decisions made by the police Internal Affairs process.

The board will only have powers to recommend actions to the city manager, who will convey them to the police chief. It will also make reports from time to time on general issues involving police and the community.

The citizens review board was established the city council in June after a community outcry over the police shooting of three unarmed blacks, including two women, in three years.



For Comments or questions, Please call us at

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Run, Jesse run in 2000?

By Hillary Chura
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO - Two-time presidential hopeful Jesse Jackson Sr. said Saturday he is considering a run for president in 2000. And his congressman son predicts Jackson will be in the race.

Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., D-Ill., told the Chicago Sun-Times: "I think he'll run all the way" for the Democratic nomination.

The civil rights leader said he did not know of his son's prediction. "He has his opinion, which is shared by many, but I have not made a decision to run right now," he said.

"I know running involves the proper timing, proper organization and proper planning - many factors are involved," he said. A decision was at least three weeks away, Jackson said.

Jackson ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic nomination in 1984 and 1988. He considered a run in 1996 but decided against it.

Rep. Jackson's comments are

the strongest indication yet that his father will try again. The younger Jackson says he hoped his father would make a decision soon, and he is eager to get his father moving.

"We should know in short order or it will be too late. If he's going to get in the game, let's do it right," he told the Sun-Times.

Other potential hopefuls for the Democratic nomination include Vice President Al Gore and House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo.

Jackson's comments came at a news conference during the National Rainbow/PUSH Coalition annual conference, at which he spoke in favor of affirmative action, expanding free trade, as well as improving education opportunities for minorities.

Delegate Anne Braden of Louisville, Ky., said she hoped Jackson would run for president.

"This country needs an alternative," she said. "The current politicians have written people off. There is no concern about the gap between poor and rich."



Continued from page 2A
 journalist, Charlotte native Bea Thompson.

*Alas, Fly has shed quite a few tears the last couple of weeks. Our favorite hangout, Big Plays, owned by everyone's favorite Carolina Panther, Big Ray Seals was a victim of flood-

ing. Actually it was the victim of falling timbers, cement and sheet rock when a wall collapsed during the Great Creek Flood of 1997. Anyway, Fly's spies hears Ray didn't have flood insurance and is wondering what to do next. Well Fly has the answer. Since Ray has been so good to us - all those free tickets, baby - we're going to be good to you. Here's a free list of places to move Big Plays: The old Roxy, formerly The Fountain, formerly Le Fountain Bleu. Great neon, dance floor a little small, but Big Ray can afford to fix that. Good.

The Capri Theater on Independence. Sure, it's already sold, but hey, for Big Ray, anything's possible.

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