

Georgia Community Stunned, Angered At Jailing, Confinement Of Black Doctor

By Kendall Wilson
The Philadelphia Tribune

The town is bewildered. Stunned. Angry.

A young Black Fort Valley, Ga. medical doctor remains in a nearby Houston County jail on charges of murder and arson.

Patients and friends of Dr. Vincent Dereck Mallory cannot believe it. They are outraged that Superior Court Judge George Nunn, who himself expressed disbelief based on the flimsy evidence presented by local

prosecutors, continues to deny bail to the highly respected physician.

Dr. Mallory, 31, has been charged with the February 27th murder of Shelby Fields, a 48-year old white divorcee and former patient, whose body was found that Friday morning in the burned-out home of a neighbor, Dr. George V. Fuller, a dentist who had gone to New Mexico with his wife the previous day. Authorities said Fields' body was severely burned, but found

that she had also been shot once in the head with a small-caliber pistol.

The staff physician at Peach County Hospital in Fort Valley was indicted by a Houston County grand jury and arrested on April 4th on murder and arson charges.

But strangely, he was denied bail at the April 15th preliminary hearing, although;

—No evidence was brought forth by prosecutors connecting Dr. Mallory to Field's death.

—There was no witness nor reason established to suggest that the doctor had any reason or desire to cause the victim's death.

—There was no evidence of any animosity between the doctor and the victim.

—There was no connection

established between the doctor and the weapon which allegedly caused her death.

—There was no evidence or witness indicating Dr. Mallory had been at or near the place of her death, at or before the time she died.

But as Judge Nunn and more than 100 supporters of Dr. Mallory heard what was described as "ludicrous charges" based on "flimsy

evidence" during that bond hearing, the courtroom was in an uproar.

"The people just burst out laughing," said one eyewitness. The prosecutors came up with answers that were unbelievable. No evidence. Nothing to substantiate them. And still the judge denied bail."

See DOCTOR, Page 5



THE CORPORATE RECOGNITION AWARD — Hazel N. Dukes, center, President of the New York State Conference of Branches of the NAACP, presents the organization's Corporate Recognition Award to Hamish Maxwell, Chairman of the Board of Philip Morris Companies. The presentation was made at the Metropolitan Council of Branches Ninth Annual Corporate Luncheon at New York's Waldorf Astoria Hotel. With them is Frances Hooks, wife of the NAACP's National Executive Director, Benjamin L. Hooks. Maxwell said he would hang the plaque on the wall at the Philip Morris headquarters "to remind me of what people of good will can accomplish when they work together for what's right."

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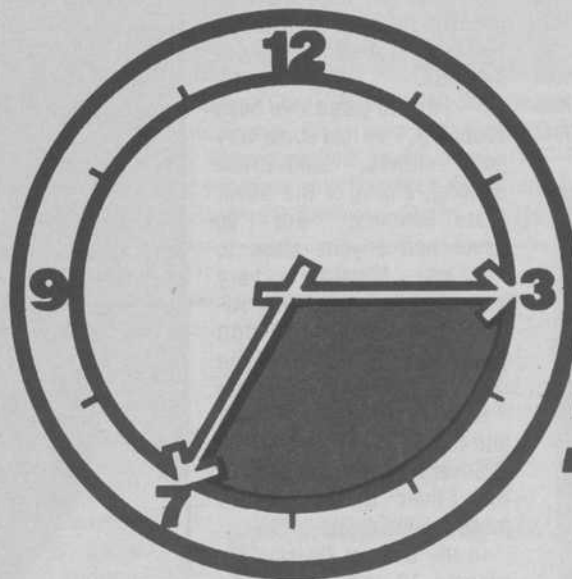
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