

Ware, Townsend enshrined in Black Press Hall of Fame

Special to Sentinel-Voice
J. Lowell Ware, founder of the Atlanta Voice and Arthur Patrick Townsend, founder of the Precinct Reporter and the Tri-County Bulletin were enshrined in the Black Press Hall of Fame, in ceremonies held March 20, at Howard University.

Ware and Townsend join a sterling group of African-American publishers who have shaped and nurtured the black press over the last 170 years since John Russwurm and Sam Cornish established the first Black newspaper, Freedom's Journal, in 1827.

"We honor those who have gone before us and led the way

in this fight," NNPA President Dorothy Leavell told family, friends and fellow publishers at an afternoon luncheon to honor the two men. Program participants included Howard University President H. Patrick Swygert, Dr. Thomas Battle, head of the Black Press Archives project and singer Robin "Sugar" Williams.

Later, in a candlelight ceremony, the names of Ware and Townsend were added to a roll-call of previously inducted publishers. In addition, personal reflections about the two were given by current NNPA member publishers. Atlanta Inquirer publisher John Smith recalled Ware's

dedication to young black students, while Black Voice News publisher and NNPA 1st Vice President Hardy Brown described Townsend as a man "very committed to his community."

The off-spring of Ware and Townsend were also presented with plaques honoring their fathers, duplicates of which will hang in the Archives in HU's Moorland Springarn Library.

The publisher of the Precinct Reporter in San Bernadino, CA and the Tri-County Bulletin, also in California, Townsend was a long-time member of the National Newspaper

Publishers Association. A founding member of the West Coast Black Publishers Association, Townsend was a former branch president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and was largely responsible for council districts being redrawn in San Bernadino during the 1960s, paving the way for the election of the first Black official in the history of the area.

He established the Precinct Reporter, the widest-read weekly newspaper in the Inland Empire of Southern California in 1965. The paper has received national recognition and several editorials have been

introduced into the Congressional Record. He published the Reporter for more than 23 years, until his death in 1989. Townsend was also the publisher of the Tri-County Bulletin, the only black-oriented weekly newspaper in Orange County.

Ware was also a dedicated newspaperman, who perceived publishing as the essence of his life's work.

"My mission has been, from the beginning to improve the lot of our people, to promote the welfare of the black community, to speak for black folk, to demand and ask for their rights, to report the news as fast and as fair as I can for the black community," Ware wrote in 1987.

His devotion began early in life. By the time he was a sophomore in high school, Ware was working in the press room at the Birmingham (Alabama) Mirror.

He established the Atlanta Inquirer as a voice for the black community in 1960, and in



ARTHUR TOWNSEND

1966, he teamed with another African-American newspaperman, Ed Clayton to publish the Atlanta Voice. "The paper's influence and popularity became so pervasive the Atlanta Police Department planted an informer inside to probe its news gathering operation," recalls one longtime observer.

Ware died in 1991 after publishing the Voice for more than two decades.

Black Press challenges Clinton on various issues

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Dorothy Leavel, National Newspaper Publishers Association president, continued to challenge government at the 170th anniversary of the black press by hitting hard the "double standard" of African Policy that grants most favored nation's status to China and certification on anti-drug cooperation for Mexico while keeping sanctions and decertification on Nigeria and neglecting West Africa.

On the domestic front she responded to an appeal by the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Maxine Waters, by joining Dick Gregory in dramatizing the issue of CIA drugs in the black community.

Thus following the bold new action agenda that began

with support for the Million Man March and continued with the naming of Minister Farrakhan as Newsmaker of the Year in 1996, the 11 million readership black press sent a signal to president Clinton that Democrats cannot afford to take the black vote for granted.

With a two pronged attack on foreign and domestic policy the 200 black publishers gained new allies from the National Baptist Convention's president, Dr. Henry Lyons, who joined the opposition to sanctions against Nigeria.

In a letter to the NNPA's president, the 8.5 million Baptist Convention leader said, "I understand from my representative who traveled to Nigeria to monitor the local multi-party elections in 774 municipalities and 36 states

that 60 of the eligible voters cast ballots exceeding the expectations of the United Nations and the Nigerian Government. I am pleased that the UN and the Commonwealth have reported that the Nigerians' transfer of power from military to civilian rule is proceeding as planned.

Also, the Reverend Albert Sampson, chairman of the National Black Clergy Task Force on Africa was on hand to symbolize the cooperation of the Reverend Dr. Benjamin Chavis, the head of the post Million Man March organization nationwide.

In a related action, the Coalition for Fairness in African Policy sponsored a reception. The chairman, Rev. Maurice Dawkins paid tribute to the NNPA's past president,

Dr. Carlon Goodlett (posthumously) at the reception, for his courageous struggle for justice and equality for Third World Countries and black America.

In addition, the National Coalition gave awards to:

- Dr. Dorothy Leavell, NNPA President — The Nigerian Democracy Award;
- Dr. Bernard Coleman — The Diplomatic Service Award; and
- African Diplomatic Corps.

As a living memorial to the legacy of Frederick Douglas and other black journalist fighters for freedom for 170 years, Dawkins pledged support for Dick Gregory's dramatic Easter demonstration against cocaine and the CIA in black communities.

Peace

(Continued from Page 9)

Operation Blue Hungwe also comes at a time when the continent has seen an upsurge in peace missions over the last half of this century, as Africa is still bedeviled by conflict, the latest being in the vast Central African country of Zaire.

Operation Blue Hungwe is another major breakthrough in peacekeeping initiatives on the continent where few sub-regional bodies have had the financial capacity to raise such armies.

Beating

(Continued from Page 3)

the state attorney's office has the evidence to convict them," said Childs.

Although he disagrees on the bond issue, Childs, along with many others in the legal community, support Jackson's

actions. Police in Chicago's Area 1 are heading up the investigation into the attack on Clark, and Jackson has contacted U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno and the Justice Department to investigate the matter.

Hilton

(Continued from Page 5)

lives — unless you are lending a helping hand along with that finger. One final question; how do you want to be remembered in life? It is never too early to young people who think that they are ready for parenthood to ask that question.

It is also never too early or late to examine yourself in the mirror. What does this have to do with this week's topic?

Each of us can still commit to being positive examples of humanity. Now we have the reasons to do so.

According to Cook County Hospital officials, Clark remains in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit in serious condition. He is said to be responding to treatment and is demonstrating increased movement and responsiveness.

Congressman Bobby Rush (D-IL) said the beating of Clark was simply a reminder of Chicago's storied history of racial hostilities towards blacks

"This is just symptomatic of a deep seeded problem that has infected the city for a long, long time," Rush said. "The city has taken a turn for the worst."

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