

NAACP chair aims to reunite Blacks, Jews

Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON — Despite his black self-empowerment rhetoric, Nation of Islam Leader Louis Farrakhan's messages are drowned out by his anti-Semitic leanings, according to NAACP Chairman Julian Bond.

Speaking to a luncheon gathering of the Anti-Defamation League's Annual Leadership Conference, Bond said that Farrakhan's leadership role in organizing the 1995 Million Man March, hailed as one of the most successful marches in black history, stopped him from participating.

"I could not go to something headed by a man whose politics I don't agree with," Bond said to applause from the audience. Nevertheless, he added, he now supports the march because it

spurred increased civic action among black men.

Bond spent most of his address stressing that blacks and Jews should mend divisions in an alliance that has seen severe strains since it helped define the civil rights struggles of the 1960s.

"The coalition between blacks and Jews helped make the American promise real," Bond said. "Strengthened, that coalition can finish what it helped begin, and in the process, revive the spirit that brought black and white, Jew and gentile together in common cause."

A history professor at both American University and the University of Virginia, Bond traced the history of black-Jewish relations, saying that while there are points of conflict

between the groups, they share much in common.

"I want to return to that day when we work hand in hand," Bond said. "We want to work toward the day when there will be no need for organizations like the NAACP or the Anti-Defamation League."

Bond, a former Georgia state senator and civil rights activist who marched with the late Martin Luther King Jr., was elected NAACP chairman in February.

Blacks and Jews helped form the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1909. The height of the comradeship between the groups is probably best recalled in the killings of James Chaney, a black man, and Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, both Jews, in Mississippi in 1964.

But a more divisive underside to the relationship was shown in some Northern cities, Bond said, where "conflict between blacks and Jews was deep-seated, rooted in tension between landlord and tenant, merchant and customer."

Then a 1967 battle between black parents and a largely Jewish school administration over school decentralization in New York City became "a national lesson in anti-Semitism for Jews and in Jewish intransigence for blacks," Bond said.

More recently, Farrakhan's words have widened the split, Bond added.

"Strains between blacks and Jews at the fringes of our society or at the center cannot become reasons why yesterday's cooperation cannot continue on," he said.

Man convicted of killing Malcolm X claims innocence

Special to Sentinel-Voice

NEW YORK — The man named to run the mosque where Malcolm X once preached insists he has proof that he shouldn't have been convicted of playing a part in the civil rights leader's assassination.

Muhammad Abdul Aziz, who spent 19 years behind bars for the slaying, was chosen for the new post by the Nation of Islam. At a news conference Monday outside Mosque No. 7 in Harlem, Aziz said a new lie-detector test proves he didn't play a role in the assassination.

"I did not kill Malcolm X," said the 59-year-old Aziz, who has always proclaimed his innocence. He was paroled in 1985.

Besides heading the mosque, Aziz said he also will be Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan's new regional security chief,

assigned to reorganize the group's paramilitary Fruit of Islam guards.

Malcolm X was gunned down at the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem on Feb. 21, 1965. Two other men were convicted with Aziz.

Aziz's appointment to the two posts was first reported last week by *The Village Voice*.

Earl Rollins, who identified himself as a polygraph expert hired by the mosque, said he put Aziz through a lie-detector test over three days and found that he was truthful when answering "no" to questions of whether he killed Malcolm X, had any prior knowledge of the plot or had lied about it.

The murder followed a split between Farrakhan and Malcolm X over the latter's criticism of Nation of Islam spiritual leader

Elijah Muhammad. Farrakhan called his rival a traitor and wrote, shortly before the killing, that "such a man is worthy of death."

While denying he ordered the assassination, Farrakhan later admitted that he had "helped create the atmosphere" that led to it. Aziz's appointment comes nine months after the death of Malcolm X's widow, Betty Shabazz.

She had publicly accused Farrakhan of a role in the murder. However, the two eventually publicly reconciled.

A second man convicted in the murder of Malcolm X, Khalil Islam, was released from prison in 1987. The third, Mujahid Abdul Halim, formerly Thomas Hagan, is in a state prison work-release program. Hagan claimed during the trial that he and four other men were offered money to kill Malcolm X, and that Aziz and Islam were not involved.

Two plead guilty in racist fliers incident

Special to Sentinel-Voice

PADUCAH, Ky. — Two men pleaded guilty Monday to violating a black family's civil rights by leaving racist fliers in their front yard, while a third man went to trial.

Daniel Porter, 26, and Barry Dunn, 25, each face a sentence of 11 years in prison, but their lawyers said they anticipate a one-year sentence. The trial for Christopher Jason Mahan, 24, was expected to conclude Tuesday.

Rv Oliver, his wife, Betty, and their four children awoke in September to find their front lawn littered with at least 50 fliers filled with racial slurs, threats, and calls for the family to "go back to Africa." The Oliveres were the only black family living in the area.

"What I remember most is my little boy's face when he came running up with that letter in his hand," Betty Oliver testified. "I saw what was on it and was in shock."

Rv Oliver and the three defendants all worked at a Mattel toy factory in Murray, about 35 miles southeast of Paducah in the western part of the state; the three defendants no longer work there.

Porter, testifying for the prosecution, maintained the fliers were mostly Mahan's idea. "It was basically a prank," he said.

Banquet

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Rawlinson

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scholarship to attend North Carolina A & T University in Greensboro, she graduated summa cum laude in 1974 with a degree in psychology.

Rawlinson met her husband of 22 years while they were both students at North Carolina A & T. They married in 1976 shortly before moving to California, where she entered the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law on a full academic scholarship. She

moved to Las Vegas when her husband, an Air Force officer, was transferred to Nellis Air Force Base.

Since October 1980 when Gov. Bob Miller hired her as a Deputy District Attorney, Rawlinson has worked her way up through the ranks, being promoted to Chief Deputy District Attorney in 1989 and to Assistant District Attorney in 1995. As Assistant District Attorney, she supervised the

Civil, Family Support and Administrative Divisions of the D.A.'s office, presented evidence at coroner's inquests and chaired the professional hiring committee.

She has three children; Monica Rawlinson, a sophomore on a full academic scholarship to South Carolina State University; Traci, a freshman at Western High; and David, a second-grader at Howard Wasden Elementary.

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