



Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

(Left to Right) Roderick Gillum, Vice President General Motors, co-host BDI Dinner, Dr. Dorothy Height, Chair of the Board and President Emerita, NCNW, Honorable Hazel O'Leary, Dr. C. DeLores Tucker, President BDI, Melba Moore, C. Steven Lynn, Chairman, Shoney's Inc. and 1998 Dinner Host (bottom row) Honorable Alexis M. Herman, Secretary of Labor, Dr. Samuel P. Massie, world renown chemist, Master of ceremonies, Congressman Major R. Owens.

Bethune-DuBois Institute recognizes exceptional academic, civic achievers

Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Four stellar high school students were among nearly 800 who attended the Bethune-DuBois Institutes' Thirteenth Annual Awards Dinner to honor the academic high achievers.

Louis Jenkins, Natasha McKeiver and Roxi Trapp-Dukes of Washington, D.C., and Shivon P. Kershaw of Woodbridge, Va., were given Skylar Scholar awards in the ceremony at the Merriot.

Named after Skylar Byrd, a Washington, D.C. Banneker High School student who scored a perfect 1600 score on the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the \$4,000 award goes toward college tuition at the institution of the recipient's choice.

Dameon Alexander and Denita Holland, both of Washington, D.C., received the \$1,000 Bethune-DuBois scholarships given to outstanding college students.

A special Bethune-DuBois scholarship was presented to Michelle McIntyre of Washington, D.C., a single mother of three who has four college degrees and is working on her master's. Her story inspired many.

"I became pregnant with my first child during my first year of college, but my daughter motivated me to continue in school,"

she said. "I wanted her to know that even as a single parent, you can still further your education."

The Bethune-DuBois Institute awards recognize civic-minded leaders. Dr. Dorothy I. Height, president and chair emerita of the National Conference of Negro Women, presented Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman each took home an award.

Herman's speech garnered her a standing ovation.

Other honorees included the Honorable Maynard H. Jackson, Jr., former mayor of Atlanta, who, due to illness, was unable to attend; Dr. Samuel P. Massie, an acclaimed chemist and academic; and the Rev. Leon H. Sullivan, founder of the Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America, Inc.

The group has provided valuable training and service to more than 30 million people in the United States and abroad.

His daughter Hope accepted on his behalf.

Eagle awards recipients Tina Blanchard and Joanne Bagnere were chosen because of their continuous volunteer efforts.

The Morgan State University Choir performed moving spiritual renditions and songstress Melba Moore presented several electrifying numbers.

Despite fine, university's language requirement sticks

Special to Sentinel-Voice

BOSTON — A federal judge has upheld Boston University's foreign language requirement, which had been labeled discriminatory by a group of learning-disabled students.

However, U.S. District Judge Patti Saris ordered the university to pay \$1.2 million to the students' lawyers.

The decision allows BU to continue to require foreign language courses.

Ten learning-disabled students sued the private university, arguing that BU discriminated against them.

Last year, Saris ordered the school to re-examine its learning-disabled policies, pay six learning-disabled students a total of \$30,000 for treating them as "lazy" learners, and stop forcing learning-disabled

"This decision is a victory for everyone who depends upon the integrity of American universities"

—BU president Jon Westling

students to undergo additional tests that certify their disabilities.

She also ordered the school to re-evaluate its policy of prohibiting exemptions from its foreign language requirement for the learning disabled.

After evaluating the policy, the school declared the requirement to be reasonable and necessary.

On Friday, Saris ruled that the requirement does not violate the Americans with

Disabilities Act.

"This decision is a victory for everyone who depends upon the integrity of American universities," BU president Jon Westling said.

Larry Paradis, executive director of the Oakland, Calif.-based Disability Rights Advocates, said the judge's decision was a small victory for BU.

"It's a funny victory when the court rules that a major institution has systematically denied civil rights to students with disabilities, orders them to pay fees and throws out policies," said Paradis, whose nonprofit agency represented the students in court.

He said that the students, who have disabilities such as dyslexia and attention deficit disorder, hadn't decided on whether to appeal the decision.

Suburbs

(Continued from Page 10)

a "Negro problem" that has nothing to do with White America.

The public discourse about these killings is entirely different precisely because it is not black children but white ones who are showing the horror that alienation from society can produce.

We should examine why some white youths who are not poor are having and acting out

murderous impulses — not to play the racial "dozens," but to determine what commonalities and differences exist and how the dynamic of violence operates in those places where violence is expected to happen and in those places where it's not supposed to happen. To do otherwise would be to ignore the overwhelming evidence that the "mean streets" produced by the dynamics of violence in American culture can be found anywhere.

Killer

(Continued from Page 12)

crimes while the leaders of the apartheid-era governments were free, the decorated former policeman's voice quivered with anger as he spat out his response. De Kock, whose ruthlessness earned him the nickname Prime Evil, then called his former leaders "cowards."

De Kock, a former commander of the Vlakplaas police unit that killed black activists, did not mention the 82-year-old Botha by name. But the implication was clear.

De Kock also recalled receiving the Police Star for Outstanding Service for bombing the London headquarters of the African National Congress in 1982; he testified that the medal was normally awarded to generals, and that only the head of state — Botha at the time — could authorize it.

Aiding the case against Botha could earn de Kock points in his own amnesty application with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the panel Botha has refused to testify before.

Truth Commission Chairman Desmond Tutu, who went to the witness stand after de Kock,

said it pained him to be there. The former Anglican archbishop and Nobel Peace Prize winner had urged Botha to apply for amnesty with the Truth Commission for abuses committed under apartheid.

Botha refused, saying he had nothing to apologize for.

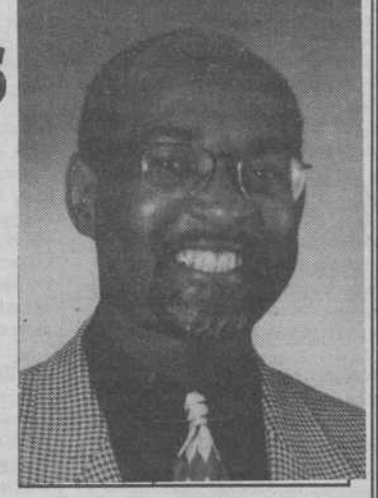
If Botha, by snubbing the panel, had intended to avoid public scrutiny of apartheid-era atrocities, it has backfired.

Testimony this week focused on the 1988 bombing of Khotso House, the Johannesburg headquarters of the South African Council of Churches, which opposed apartheid. A former head of South Africa's police has testified that Botha ordered the bombing. De Kock testified that he placed the bombs in the basement of the building.

Asked by Morrison if the government disapproved of such actions, de Kock said: "No they did not. They actually encouraged it."

Botha denies he ordered the bombing. Apartheid-era government leaders claim such attacks were the work of rogue operatives.

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