

Lewinsky, Jordan offer differing views in testimony

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Vernon Jordan testified Tuesday in President Clinton's impeachment trial, the president's longtime friend faced a barrage of questions about conflicts between his testimony and Monica Lewinsky's.

Many of the conflicts emerged after Jordan testified to a grand jury for his fifth and final time June 9.

According to grand jury testimony released by Congress, Lewinsky said she showed Jordan some gifts she'd received from the president; Jordan didn't recall being shown any. The former White House intern said she thought Jordan was instructing her to destroy drafts of notes she'd written to the president. He denied ever telling her to destroy documents.

He said he had no reason to doubt her

denial of having had a sexual relationship with Clinton. While she didn't flatly contradict Jordan's account, she did say she told him about sexually explicit phone calls she had with Clinton.

"By putting Jordan on their list of top three, House managers are signaling that they have some question about the correctness of Jordan's earlier testimony and they want to revisit it," said St. Johns University law professor John Barrett.

The differences are important because Jordan arranged a job for the former White House intern at the same time she was preparing the false affidavit denying having sexual relations with Clinton. The two actions are joined in the impeachment article accusing Clinton of obstruction of justice.

Jordan said he remembered skimming the

affidavit but not discussing it with Lewinsky. And through his lawyer, he said he does not recall any reference to sexually explicit phone calls.

Lewinsky said she told Clinton's friend she was concerned about some of the language in her affidavit because it could lead to Paula Jones' lawyers asking her if she'd ever been alone with the president.

Jordan's problem is that Lewinsky's recollection is filled with specific detail.

Regarding the sexually explicit phone calls, she said the topic arose after she told Jordan she was worried someone might have eavesdropped on her conversations with Clinton, and Jordan asked her why.

In the same conversation, the former White House intern said, she showed Jordan some gifts Clinton had given her.

When prosecutors questioned Jordan, he said he'd never had breakfast with Lewinsky. She said otherwise, describing details of the menu.

Jordan's grand jury testimony ended in June, nearly two months before Lewinsky started cooperating with prosecutor Kenneth Starr. Prosecutors had an outline of what she would testify to from a 10-page written offer she had given them in February. Lewinsky's offer linked Jordan to conversations regarding the gifts, the destroyed notes to the president and reviewing the affidavit. She testified twice before the grand jury.

"Jordan hasn't testified since Lewinsky testified, and one question that doesn't seem unreasonable is whether Jordan's testimony is as solid as it looked when he was the only witness talking," Barrett said.

Civil rights groups sue UC Berkeley

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Jesus Rios started working in the fields at age 8, dug ditches with his father after high school classes and graduated with a grade-point average above 4.0.

Gregory McConnell Jr., grandson of a black law professor, also got high grades in high school, played varsity tennis and won a full-tuition scholarship to an East Coast college.

Yet both McConnell and Rios were denied admission last fall to the University of California at Berkeley.

They joined five other high-achieving minorities Tuesday in a lawsuit accusing the university system's flagship campus of using discriminatory entrance policies that placed too much weight on test scores and advanced-placement courses.

"This is an admissions process that grants

preferences to the privileged," attorney Joseph Jaramillo of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund said at a news conference.

The weight given to the Scholastic Assessment Test, an examination of English and math fluency, and advanced-placement grades has a discriminatory effect on blacks, Hispanics and Filipinos, and lacks "educational justification," the suit said.

Advanced-placement courses, worth an additional grade point in UC admissions ratings, are far more available in predominantly white high schools, Jaramillo said.

More than half of California's high schools, disproportionately in minority areas, offered no advanced-placement classes during the 1997-98 academic year, the lawyers said.

"What advanced-placement and SAT scores don't show is talent and ability to succeed in college," said another of the plaintiffs, Justine Certeza, a freshman at UC San Diego.

The lawsuit seeks court orders requiring Berkeley to admit the seven minority students and adopt an admissions policy that gives qualified blacks, Hispanics and Filipinos "a fair and equal opportunity."

Such policies are still possible despite California's ban on race and sex preferences in state and local government programs, the lawsuit said.

UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert Berdahl said the campus retains "a strong commitment to access and diversity" despite "a new set of legal limitations" — the UC Regents' ban on affirmative action in

Web site designed for urban students unveiled Monday

Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON, D.C. — America's urban students now have a web site specifically designed for them. Launched Monday from Eastern and Ballou High schools, Cyber-Youth Network provides America's urban students with a model of a culturally diverse education online.

Students at each school are tracing their ancestral roots via the African-American Civil War database, accessing sites about Black History Month and participating in live videoconferences with African-American role models.

The project is conducted in partnership with the Department of Housing and Urban Development and will expand next year into urban systems within HUD's nine Enterprise Zone Communities.

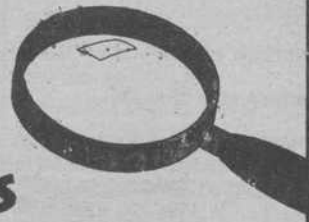
Powell

(Continued from Page 4) presidential election, Powell was mentioned as a potential GOP contender but he opted against running. He said last year he wouldn't run in the next election either.

"I'm not going to be entering political life," Powell reiterated Thursday. "I am not seeking any political office." He also said he would probably not get involved in other candidates' campaigns.

"I wouldn't rule that out, but right now I don't expect to be taking an active role in politics," he said. "It just generates too much speculation about my own place in life." Since retiring from the Army and moving away from politics, Powell has been active with a volunteer group seeking to improve programs for young people.

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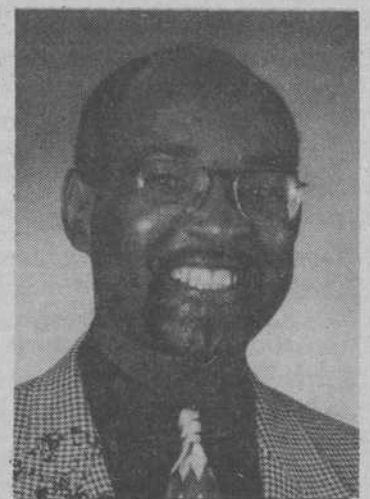
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