

NEWS CLIPS

WALKER FILES COMPLAINT AGAINST LOCAL UNION

Local librarian and black history museum curator Gwen Walker, embroiled in conflict over a federal discrimination complaint against the county library district, has expanded her charges to include the union she says should be representing her. Walker was a Las Vegas Clark County Library District employee for more than 11 years when she was terminated, she says wrongfully, on Jan. 4. "They refused to let me work with the restrictions placed on me by my doctor," said Walker. Back in 1994, she had charged the district with discrimination in a complaint filed with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She says the Nevada Equal Rights Commission "amended" her complaint on Jan. 12 - a week after she was fired - and it now includes charges of harassment and retaliation. But Walker's latest action doesn't stop there. Just a week after that, on Jan. 19, she says "I filed the amendment against the union for its failure to represent me." Her adversaries now include not only the library district, her former employer but, she says, also her union, Local 214 of the Teamsters. Walker explained that within a week of amending her complaint against the library district, she discussed her case, with no satisfaction, with Carroll Haynes, Director of the Public Employees Division of Teamsters Local 237 in New York, which monitors union activities in Las Vegas. Two days later Walker expanded her complaint to include Local 214.

THOMPSON RESOLUTION CONDEMNS USE OF CONFEDERATE FLAG

Washington, D.C. (NNPA) — United States Representative Bennie G. Thompson, D-Miss., introduced legislation last week condemning the use of the Confederate Flag for "any reason other than as a historic reminder of the secession of the Confederate States, which prompted the violent, bloody, and divisive Civil War, and the Confederacy's flagrant disregard for the equality of all Americans in accordance with the United States Constitution and in the eyes of God." Thompson said, "There are a million reasons why the Confederate Flag should not be flying over any state capitol, comprise a part of any state flag, or be displayed in any place of honor or distinction. From its racist past to its polemic present, the one thing that can be stated unequivocally, is that today, the flag has become shrouded in an oversimplified, revisionist version of American history."

KENNEDY FILES RESOLUTION FOR DAY OF HONOR 2000 PROJECT

Washington, D.C. (NNPA) — The Day of Honor 2000 Project saw an important step taken in congress regarding its call for May 25, 2000 as a national day to honor African-American, Asian American, Hispanic American, and Native American World War II Veterans. Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy filed a resolution in the Senate calling for May 25, 2000 as a National Day of Honor. In filing the resolution Senator Kennedy asked his colleagues to support the measure for a joint resolution with the House of Representatives. In remarks to his fellow senators Kennedy said, "These men and women who fought to protect our freedom were subject to unfair discrimination and have never received the recognition they deserve." The resolution has gained bipartisan support as conservatives and liberals; Republican and Democratic embrace it.

EX-REPORTER MAY HAVE INFLUENCED WASHINGTON'S OSCAR POSITIONING

Washington, D.C. (NNPA) — A Fort Lauderdale businessman, by the name of Cal Deal played a major role in ensuring Oscar nominee, Denzel Washington of not receiving an Oscar for his performance in "The Hurricane," according to sources. The film tells the powerful tale of Rubin "Hurricane" Carter's relentless fight for freedom after twice being convicted of a triple murder. Deal's reason for not giving the Oscar to Washington, "I openly opposed an Oscar for Denzel Washington because of his disinterest in the truth and his public endorsements of Carter."

Teen faces charges in zoo shootings

WASHINGTON (AP) — Police are asking that a 16-year-old boy charged with shooting seven young people at the National Zoo be tried as an adult.

He was arrested hiding behind a water heater in his grandmother's home Tuesday night, 24 hours after the gunfire interrupted a black-families-day celebration at the zoo.

The youth, who was not identified because of his age, was charged with seven counts of assault with intent to kill.

Hymes

(Continued from Page 1) had used the racial slur at that staff retreat. By 1975 Hymes felt compelled to quit, but when he resigned his charges of racism and managerial collusion caused such a furor that he was asked just a week later to reconsider.

Hymes returned, with back pay and a small raise, and five presidents later, things improved ... for a while.

Campus life got better, he says, as the 70's ended under a new president with a low tolerance for bigotry, Dr. Judith Eaton, who took charge in 1979. "I would look forward to going to work. I enjoyed it, and often did work for no compensation," said Hymes. By now he held additional responsibility as instructor and producer for the school's new television production facility.

Conditions further improved with the arrival in 1983 of Dr. Paul Meachem, CCSN's first (and only) black president, who is recognized for shepherding impressive growth at the Cheyenne campus during the late 80's.

Hymes also credits Meachem with driving racism further underground during his administration, and allowing him to experience some contentment on the job. "I ran the TV studio single-handedly for about six years, at about triple the previous workload," he recalls.

Then came the 90's - and from Santa Monica Community College, new CCSN president Dr. Richard Moore in October 1994. According to Hymes, what had been relatively good times came to an abrupt end.

"All but one African-American administrator was replaced by non-African-Americans," Hymes said. He went on to describe a different, and unfortunately, familiar atmosphere on

"We'll know later today whether or not the U.S. attorney is going to try him as an adult," Police Chief Charles Ramsey said on NBC's "Today." "Right now it looks like he's the lone gunman."

Cmdr. Peter Newsham told a news conference that authorities are asking for trial as an adult.

Police still are searching for a motive for the shootings. Asked whether the incident was gang-related, Ramsey replied, "Obviously we still are pursuing that possibility.

campus.

"It became very hostile, racially," he said. "It was like Richard Moore gave the traditional perpetrators of racism the green light. The African-American students began to feel an escalation in the intensity of racism, especially as it was applied to black student senators."

Expulsions of some black students and harassment of others, as well as intimidation of black workers, Hymes claims, occurred with increasing frequency.

"It was widespread, to the point that even non-African-Americans began to see it and often voiced, to me, their sympathy and support."

There was further degradation, as Hymes found himself "to this day," as he put it, "the only tenured professional to be supervised by an employee of the classified status - in the entire state of Nevada. This was further dehumanizing, and was retaliation, for not 'scratching where I don't itch.'"

After six years of this, Hymes says, he began to experience health problems he's convinced derived from the stress of mistreatment encountered on the job. Then, in 1995, the transfers began.

He was inexplicably sent to CCSN's Henderson campus. "This," Hymes recalls, "was in retaliation for my speaking out about the way African-Americans were being treated. (They) never even gave me an official reason."

He described himself as having been "saddened" by the transfer, but after two years he was brought back to the Cheyenne campus, only to find that Moore had dismantled Hymes beloved production studio. In February 1997, for no apparent reason, he was reassigned - based, again, in

But to say it right now and confirm it would be premature."

Ramsey said the youth offered no resistance when arrested. A shotgun was taken from the home but police were still looking for the weapon, believed to be a 9 mm handgun, used in the shootings.

The seven who were shot ranged in age from 11 to 16.

A high-ranking police official said Monday and again early Tuesday that doctors told him the most severely wounded, an 11-

year-old boy, was brain dead. Children's National Medical Center said the child was not brain dead and, in fact, his condition had improved and he was responding to care. "Although the child remains in critical condition, a repeat CT scan of the head continues stable," said Dr. Martin R. Eichelberger, director of trauma services at the hospital.

A 12-year-old girl who was shot in the back is hospitalized in good condition. The five others were released from hospitals.

Henderson, where he remained until last September.

His brief return to the Cheyenne campus lasted until just after Labor Day, when he was informed he'd been sent back to Henderson, of course ... but now to no office and no phone.

Hymes said he had to use public telephones to conduct business throughout the workday. The school had supplied him with a pager, and little else.

"Now I'm feeling like the heat's being turned up," he said.

Last September, Hymes filed complaints with the Las Vegas branch of the NAACP, and with the Nevada Equal Rights Commission (NERC) - which routinely files the charge with the EEOC as well.

But, with carefully selected words, he explained: "The NAACP says it 'lost my file,' therefore my case

has not been investigated by that historic civil rights organization."

And, incredibly, the NERC did not execute the automatic filing with the EEOC as Hymes had expected.

He discovered this when the NERC reported, to his dismay, that it had found no validity to his charges of discrimination by the college.

In January, after the college transferred him yet again - this time to the West Charleston campus - Hymes says he'd had enough.

Two weeks ago, taking matters into his own hands, he filed the EEOC complaint himself. Apparently, that agency has already discovered what the NERC claimed it could not.

"After checking with the EEOC," Hymes said last week, "there was no question that my civil rights had been violated, and they started the investigation."

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