

Farrakhan: Writings created animosity

NEW YORK (AP) — Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan said he regrets his writings may have led others to murder Malcolm X in a "60 Minutes" interview broadcast Sunday.

He spoke while seated across the table from the civil rights leader's oldest daughter, Attallah Shabazz.

She later issued a statement thanking Farrakhan for acknowledging his role and said: "I wish him peace."

Shabazz, then 6, saw her father gunned down in the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem on Feb. 21, 1965.

Three men with ties to the Nation of Islam were convicted in the slaying and served prison terms.

A year earlier, Malcolm X's criticism of Nation of Islam spiritual leader Elijah Muhammad had caused a bitter split with church leaders, including Farrakhan. Farrakhan called Malcolm X a traitor and wrote, two months before the killing, that "such a man is worthy of death."

Farrakhan has denied ordering the assassination but in 1994 admitted to having "helped create the atmosphere" that led to it.

His four-hour meeting with Shabazz and "60 Minutes" correspondent Mike Wallace, organized at her request, took place at Farrakhan's home in Arizona.

Farrakhan told them that he "truly loved" Malcolm X and carried his picture after his death. Shabazz's body visibly stiffened, arms crossed over her chest, when Wallace quoted from Farrakhan's writings about Malcolm X before he died.

During the interview, Farrakhan said that the U.S. government spied on black leaders and were concerned about a "black messiah" who could unite the community. "This is bigger than the Nation of Islam," he said. Shabazz, struggling to keep control of her emotions, said that while she believed the FBI had something to do with her father's death, it was young black men who shot him.

"You can't keep pointing fingers," she said. "My father was not killed from a grassy knoll."

Farrakhan said: "Yes, it is true that black men pulled the trigger. We cannot deny any responsibility in this. Where we are responsible, where our hands are a part of this, we beg God's mercy and forgiveness."

"I genuinely hope that perhaps a healing can come to Miss Shabazz and her family," he continued.

"As I may have been complicit in words that I spoke leading up to February 21st, I acknowledge that and regret that any word that I have said caused the loss of life of a human being."

Shabazz's reaction to these words aren't shown. Wallace said she needed time to absorb them. She issued a statement last week.

"He's never admitted this before publicly," she said. "Until now, he's never caressed my father's children. I thank him for acknowledging his culpability and I wish him peace."

Shabazz's mother, Betty Shabazz, who died in 1997, had publicly accused Farrakhan of a role in the murder. She reconciled with him after her daughter Qubilah was



MALCOLM X

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Groups team to help homeless youth

Al Triche
Sentinel-Voice

Conditions for the homeless in Las Vegas become more disturbing when considering how children are affected.

By most accounts, children are the homeless population's fastest growing segment, according to the National Coalition for the Homeless.

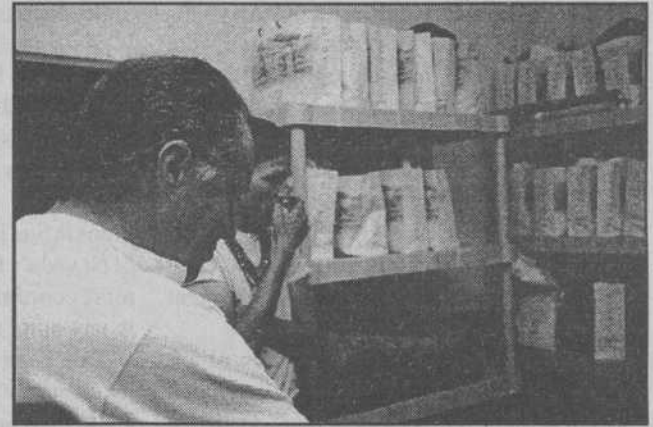
Helping them is the challenge faced locally by agencies such as Life Line Family Education Center, which recently participated in a spe-

cial campaign called 48 Hours on The Streets.

The Las Vegas chapter of Stand Up for Kids conducted the event as an "on the street outreach effort" targeting street kids. The fourth annual national event was held locally for the first time April 28-30 "to draw national attention to the growing problem of homeless and at-risk youth on the streets of Las Vegas."

Nevada joined eight other states in conducting the event.

Though volunteers recently participated in a spe-



Stand Up For Kids Executive Director David Mereaux, left, surveys some of the items donated during 48 Hours on the Street, an annual event aimed at helping homeless youth.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

NAACP chief suspended for pushing partisanship

SUFFOLK, Va. (AP) — A local NAACP official has been suspended after urging members to support Republican George Allen in Virginia's U.S. Senate race.

Paul C. Gillis was stripped of his post as Suffolk branch president last month by Kweisi Mfume, national president and chief executive officer of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In a letter, Mfume accused Gillis of violating NAACP policies against partisan political activity. Mfume said Gillis' action put the NAACP in danger of "irreparable

harm."

Gillis, 54, a former state NAACP president, said he was singled out for supporting a Republican.

On March 24, Gillis endorsed Allen, a former governor, in his campaign to unseat Sen. Charles S. Robb, a Democrat.

He told about two dozen Suffolk branch members that he was speaking as an individual, not as an NAACP officer.

"When I took over as branch president ... I did not give up my constitutional rights to support and endorse

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Ex-officer gets seven to 15 years in Green beating death

DETROIT (AP) — A former police officer convicted in the 1992 beating death of black motorist Malice Green was sentenced to seven to 15 years in prison Tuesday.

Larry Nevers was convicted of involuntary manslaughter last month at his second trial. His first conviction, for second-degree murder, was thrown out in 1997 after a federal judge determined the jury had been prejudiced.

Before Wayne County Circuit Judge Ulysses Boykin handed down the sentence — with credit for time served of more than four years — Nevers asked for leniency, saying he was a model officer during his 24-year police career and encountered Green by mere fate.

"The remorse I feel about the death of Malice Green ... deals with the true enemy of the community: cocaine," Nevers said. "Whether Malice Green's family believes it or not, I have great remorse that Malice Green died on my shift."

Nevers and partner Walter Budzyn stopped Green, a 35-year-old unemployed steelworker, outside a suspected

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Rare Air

Russell Devignes
(B-25 pilot 477
bomb squadron)
an original
Tuskegee airman,
reflects as he's
photographed next
to the last known
operational AT-6
Tuskegee trainer
air craft owned by
Steve Cowell.

Sentinel-Voice photo
courtesy of USAF

