

# Morris Brown president resigns

By Cynthia Post

Special to Sentinel-Voice

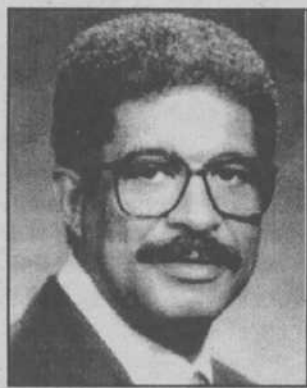
ATLANTA (NNPA)—Despite the surprise resignation of Morris Brown College President Charles E. Taylor last week, supporters said they remain committed to the future of the historically Black college.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools removed the accreditation of Morris Brown College (MBC) on April 7. A spokesman for the college said Taylor resigned after a daylong meeting with the board of trustees.

Leroy Frazier, a chemistry professor for 17 years at Morris Brown, was named acting president. Frazier, the college's SACS compliance officer, was already leading the school's drive for re-accreditation.

According to Bishop Frank C. Cummings, chair of the MBC board, a search committee will look for a new president.

"The board's priority for the remainder of the year is to work toward reinstatement of Morris Brown's accreditation. We plan to reapply for membership in SACS in the very near future," Cummings said.



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SACS initially revoked the college's accreditation last December because of ongoing problems with financial aid, record keeping and institutional effectiveness.

In response, Morris Brown raised more than half of the \$10 million short-term debt that it owes, maintained current notes on the long-term debt and restructured its board of trustees to recruit business and corporate leaders, including two bank presidents. Many internal protocols have been improved and systems of accountability are being reviewed and strengthened. Only one institution, Texas College in Tyler, Texas, has successfully appealed a SACS decision in recent years. Still another college, Knoxville College in Knoxville, Tenn., chooses to oper-

ate without accreditation.

According to Morris Brown officials, the college continues to plan for the Fall 2003 semester.

Just last week, Taylor said, "We will continue to improve, we will continue to raise funds, we will continue to meet the needs of our students and all standards for accreditation as we engage the process for re-accreditation."

Neither Morris Brown's loss of accreditation, nor Taylor's resignation means "the end of the institution," said Atlanta City Council member Derrick Boazman, who is a Morris Brown graduate.

"Morris Brown is greater than one individual or group of individuals. His decision was a prayerful one,"

Boazman said. "You can't force a man to be somewhere he doesn't want to be. We have to move forward."

Taylor's decision does not change anything, Boazman said. "It does provide an opportunity to find a new leader and new direction. All is not lost."

The college's situation speaks to a larger issue facing historically Black colleges and universities, he said. "They need to be academically proficient, financially solvent and technologically sufficient," said Boazman. "We should never question they ought not to be here."

Boazman raised \$10,000 for the college last year and believes not only will Atlanta's business and philanthropic communities become involved, but also the city's African-American community.

"Morris Brown is not just about its alumni or faculty but about the community," he said. "It would be an indictment on us if we were to let this institution go away."

The college is among the top schools for awarding legal studies and mathematics degrees to African-Americans. Founded in 1881, Mor-

## Firm offers Blacks hi-tech tools to search for roots

By J. Zamgba Browne

Special to Sentinel-Voice

NEW YORK (NNPA)—In the 27 years since the television miniseries, "Roots," first jumpstarted a rush to examine ancestral origins, technology has stepped in to enhance traditional methods such as oral history and archival records research.

Companies offering genetic tests for ancestry are beginning to spring up around the globe and are generating heaps of requests for DNA tests to determine ancestry.

For example, one new firm, African Ancestry Inc., has taken center stage in the nation's capital by becoming the exclusive licensee of a prominent genetic researcher's extensive database of genetic lineages from Africa.

The company, wholly owned by African-American investors, is now selling DNA-based genealogy tests to members of the public who wish to determine if they have African ancestors.

Michael Darden, a spokesman for the Washington, D.C.-based firm, described the project as the largest of its kind in the world. He said the



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— Rick Kittles  
scientific director of  
African Ancestry Inc.

company's goal is to reconstruct a bridge to the past.

Darden explained that the repository of molecular blueprints was completed by Rick Kittles, scientific director of African Ancestry Inc., and a geneticist at the forefront of efforts to use DNA to trace ancestry.

"The bridge to the past collapsed with the advent of the slave trade, and we are reconstructing it by using DNA," said Kittles, who also is a Howard University microbiologist and a co-director of molecular genetics at the university's National Human Genome Center.

Kittles underscored that "tracing ancestry through DNA can lead us to some insight about our potential

ancestors and potential places of ancestry."

He said that for untold numbers of people, knowing this piece of information is a lot better than knowing nothing.

Rev. Herbert Daughtry, pastor of Brooklyn-based House of the Lord Pentecostal Church, said that if the DNA database is authentic and scientific he would welcome its use. He said his church is a member of the Transatlantic Genealogical Society (TGS) whose main purpose is to trace family history.

"We have been excited about some of the things we have discovered regarding family history," said Daughtry.

The Brooklyn preacher said his family could go back only to his great, great, great grandfather, but through the TGS, "we have been able to locate my great, great, grandmother, Lena... I am always excited about history in general and African history in particular," said Daughtry.

African Ancestry's database includes DNA sequence information that Kittles collected from natives of the West and Central African regions from which millions of individuals were procured for the trans-Atlantic slave trade that occurred from about the years 1600 to 1850.

Kittles explained how the process works: The database contains DNA sequence information from almost 10,000 persons representing some 82 West and Central African populations. In addition, he said the firm used DNA sequence information gathered from other populations throughout the continent.

"No DNA sequence information can be traced back to a specific person in Africa," said Kittles.

However, he noted that

## Joy of Real Estate

By P. Joy Carter

Special to Sentinel-Voice

**Why are Model Homes shown with upgrades they don't offer? Bob H. G.V.**

"I want my house to be just like the model."

The effect of walking into a model home can truly be spell binding with everything being so "right." The right music, the right smells, the right colors and every "right" thing in its right place. Let the temperature outside be above 100, the air conditioning set on 70, a pool in the back yard and the seduction is almost irresistible.

Developers will spend mega bucks creating the right atmosphere to pull at your heartstrings. Sometimes it costs as much money to decorate as it does to build the structure.

Looking at model homes can be fun and exhilarating, but if you are a serious buyer there are a few things you should remember before taking the plunge.

Admire the trappings after you've decided if the house flows the way your lifestyle does. To do this you need a good understanding of how your family will function now and in the future. If you are in your golden years are stairs practical for you? If you have teenagers do you really want your bedroom next to theirs? Things like this and more need to be thought out.

A lot of the marble flooring, crown molding and built-ins are considered decorator items and are not even offered by the builder.

Small-scale furniture in a small room along with well-placed mirrors can make that room appear larger than it is.

There are a few things to have with you to make choosing your home easier.

1) A list of important furniture you'll be moving with you, the dimensions and the rooms they belong in. Is there enough wall space to fit it all?

2) A tape measurer, unless you're going to sell that heirloom china cabinet or give up on that big screen TV make sure it's going to fit now.

3) Have a checklist for each house you visit, of "must haves" and "I wants", ie. You must have three bedrooms. You want each to have his/her own bathroom. The one with more checks wins.

It would be wise to see the model you're considering in its basic form without the designer furniture, flooring and paint. Does it still look and feel like you want to live there? Sometimes it won't.

If you've made it this far you're off to the next step: choosing your lot. Don't just look at the map in the office and say OK. Go stand on the dirt. Look around. Would you rather back up to a perimeter street or would an interior lot suit you better. There's a lot of empty land behind the property. Does it matter to you what will be built?

There are many things that should go into deciding on a new home. Please remember, unless you are buying the model your home is not going to be just like the model. Do your homework and make sure what you see is what you get or at least know what you're not going to get.

After you buy your home you can spend time finding great ways to decorate it. Have fun!

For answers to your questions Email at [JoyOfRealEstate@yahoo.com](mailto:JoyOfRealEstate@yahoo.com); fax them to: (702) 380-8102 or mail to: Joy of Real Estate, c/o Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice, 900 East Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas NV 89104. Speak with your real estate agent and lawyer for full understanding of your situation.

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