

## NYC bids farewell to journalist known as 'Mr. 1-2-5 Street'

By J. Zangba Browne  
Special to Sentinel-Voice  
NEW YORK (NNPA)—  
A going-home service in Harlem for Leslie Alexander Matthews, retired veteran journalist of the "New York Amsterdam News" popularly known as "Mr. 1-2-5 Street," was perhaps just to his taste—very low-key.

Matthews, who died April 3 at Metropolitan Hospital following a long illness related to a stroke, was never the kind of guy who sought the spotlight, but rather pre-

ferred to pass it on to others, especially the less popular. His weekly column in the "Amsterdam News" seemed to reflect this. He often featured the little guy, often people who had never had their names or activities published in any newspaper.

Most of the items featured in the "Mr. 1-2-5 Street" column were multiple one- or two-line accounts of events ranging from police and criminal activity to general juicy news stories seldom found in other local publica-

tions. At his farewell service, held at the John Joyce Funeral Home, 137th Street and Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard, many of his fans and coworkers, including two former "Amsterdam News" publishers, showed up to pay their final respects.

Former publisher Clarence B. Jones recalled how Matthews won the confidence of many, including the police and even criminal elements, some of whom after committing a crime and were being sought by the au-

thorities, preferred to turn themselves in to "Mr. 1-2-5 Street" and not the cops.

Publisher emeritus Wilburt Tatum described "Mr. 1-2-5 Street" as a legend in his own time.

"People waited in line at local newsstands on the day of publication to get the word on their neighbors, politicians and friends," said Tatum, adding that there are those who described "Mr. 1-2-5 Street" as a gossip columnist. But he was much more than that.

## Students

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portunity to draw your own story. You have an opportunity to be become great at something."

"So as the social order changes, each of you have a personal responsibility," Clinton continued. "If you are 16, then you have 2 years before your social economic opportunity changes, if you are 17 or 18, its coming real fast. You are being honored for the planning that you are doing to become self-sufficient. You acknowledge that a change is coming. You acknowledge that you must be ready to step out on your own

and be accountable for your own well being."

Clark and her family were surprised about the Jean Myers scholarship she received.

"I am honored to get this scholarship," she said. Her mother told the audience: "It's been tough for me over these past couple of months or so getting things together and preparing her for this. This is the first time someone in my family has been recognized like this and able to go on and further their education."

Gamma Phi Delta Sorority was formed in February

of 1943 by a group of women at Lewis Business College in Detroit. Its mission was to promote educational and professional opportunities for women.

Through its service initiatives, the sorority works to eliminate the economic, educational, vocational and social gaps existing between the privileged and underprivileged.

"This is our 8th year of sponsoring this fundraising event which provides high school seniors scholarships

to continue their education," Chapter president Atholyn Thomas said. "We host a career day event at the beginning of the year in collaboration with the Clark County School District, where we sponsor an essay writing contest about the student's participation at the career day, and the finalists are selected by independent judges to be awarded the scholarships."

Gamma Phi Delta Sorority will be hosting a series of fundraisers throughout the year.

## Overstreet

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ate the ruling class in America.

How much are you willing to bet that the concept of diversity is going to come under attack just like affirmative action has been under attack over much of the last two decades?

Oh, I hope you didn't think I was going to cut us some slack. Here are the questions I raised about the black experience in America back in 2001.

What is the story with our people who become multi-millionaires rapping about how miserable things are in too many of our communities, yet do not spend any of their money helping to reduce the misery?

How much gold jewelry and how many purple suits do star athletes have to buy and wear before they realize that they could collectively become a major economic force in this country?

Is the "white man" responsible for everything bad that we do to ourselves?

Do you spend any of your money with black businesses or in a place that employs black persons?

Here's what is up in 2003 for "your people."

Locally, why are we willing to allow the Clark County School District to continue to give only lip-service to the concept of equal access to quality education?

Have you ever been turned down for a business loan from a local bank, yet continue to do business with the bank in terms of maintaining checking and savings accounts?

Have you ever called the *Sentinel-Voice* to ask what you can do to strengthen the one constant vehicle we have for getting information out to the more than 140,000 of us who live in Clark County?

Nationally, why are we even considering supporting another preacher's candidacy for President of the United States of America?

I will conclude as I did 24 months ago. If you do not have a positive answer to any of the foregoing questions, then what is your problem?

## Triche

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neither comprises the heart or, unfortunately, the soul of the modern Black Church. Emulating whites is counter-intuitive, imitating the life of that particular first century Palestinian Jew only seems to be; but it's not, certainly not if one believes He had it right and knows the white people made it wrong.

I still see the Easter Bunny all over the place; so, personally, I'm going to keep looking.

Rumor has it the real Leader did, in fact, rise, but is handing out black liberation, not chocolate eggs. Better yet,

I'm told He has no problem whatsoever working with Muslims in the pursuit of justice.

Even white people admit Dr. King wouldn't have been so effective had it not been for the charisma of one El Hajj Malik el Shabazz. Minister Malcolm and Dr. King would say, if they could, that if they'd both stuck around a while longer...well, anyway.

Both were products of the Black Church back when it was an assembly line for the leaders we needed. They're gone, but watching; and the problems are still here.

So is the Black Church.

## Rising

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support for the protections provided by fair housing laws but also widespread confusion about what the laws require and whom they protect.

In the case of family status, it is against the law for a landlord to discriminate against a prospective tenant because that person has a child younger than 18, or is pregnant. There are exceptions if the apartment complex or development is mainly for residents 55 and older.

The latest report tracked complaints made to the local advocacy groups, along with those made directly to HUD and the Justice Department.

Nearly 70 percent of the complaints filed in 2002 were through the local offices. All entities saw an increase in complaints filed except for the Justice Department, which had just 63 cases, about the same number as 2001.

About 30 percent of all complaints were based on race and an additional 27 percent on disability, similar to previous years, Smith said. Fifteen percent of cases were based on a person's family status.

About 12 percent dealt with complaints of discrimination over someone's nationality, up slightly from 10 percent in 2001. That may be in part due to backlash against people of Middle Eastern descent after the Sept. 11 attacks, the report said.

HUD is sponsoring a yearlong national advertising campaign to be launched later this month by the private housing alliance to increase awareness of housing discrimination.

## Texas

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would get another district, by pairing Lampson and Sandlin.

- The district held by Rep. Henry Bonilla, R-San Antonio, would be redrawn so a large portion of the Hispanics are removed and the district becomes predominantly Anglo, Frost said.

- Rep. Jim Turner, D-Crockett, would lose his home county from his district take in more Republican Harris County districts.

- The largely West Texas agricultural district of Rep. Charlie Stenholm, D-Stamford, would become more suburban.

- Fort Hood would be removed from the Central Texas district of Rep. Chet Edwards, also home to President Bush's Crawford ranch, and put in Rep. Lamar Smith's San Antonio district.

Stenholm and Hall both represent Republican leaning districts, but continue to be re-elected. The district represented by Hall, who often votes Republican, is left alone.

Last week, Rep. Joe Crabb, R-Kingwood, introduced a bill before the state House Redistricting Committee, which he chairs. He said it would allow the Legislature to implement the congressional boundaries established by three federal judges. But Democrats said the bill could be used as a vehicle to redraw the districts.

Crabb did not return a phone message.

"What's going on is that Tom DeLay is trying to ramrod this thing down everybody's throat down here including the Republicans," said Rep. Richard Raymond, D-Laredo. Raymond has been trying to require the House to hold hearings around the state before any plan is considered.

The plan would have to get past the Senate, where 21 senators would have to agree to a new map. There are 19 Republicans in the Senate and a few have said they are not willing to reopen the issue.

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