

NY jury rejects NAACP lawsuit against gun makers

(Special to the NNPA) — A New York federal jury rejected an NAACP attempt to hold 45 gun makers responsible for handgun killings in America's Black communities.

The jury, which heard five weeks of testimony, did not reach a verdict on 23 other defendants named in the case. Its verdict is an advisory to U.S. District Judge Jack Weinstein, who later this summer is to rule on liability and remedy.

The 94-year-old civil rights organization argued that the manufacturers' irresponsible

marketing of handguns "led to disproportionate numbers of injuries, deaths and other damages" among African-Americans.

The organization sought an injunction in federal court that would place restrictions on buyers and sellers of guns and set up \$10 million fun for gun safety programs from damages. Lack of evidence was cited as the reason for the verdict.

The NAACP presented evidence in court detailing histories of weapons recovered from New York crime scenes, which indicated that

11 percent of handguns sold in 1996 were used in violent crimes by 2000.

Evidence also indicated that three weapons makers — Smith & Wesson, Lorcini Engineering and Bryco Arms — made more of the recovered weapons than any other manufacturer. Two of the 45 manufacturers acquitted in the federal lawsuit included gun manufacturers Glock and Colt.

Lawrence Keane, general counsel for the National Shooting Sports Foundation, told reporters the victory "demonstrates the claims

made by the NAACP and other anti-gun groups are baseless and entirely without merit and proves the firearm industry is a highly regulated and law-abiding industry."

This is the second time in four years the NAACP has filed a case against the industry. Plaintiffs won a \$4 million verdict in a similar lawsuit in 1999 before Weinstein but it was overturned.

An appeals court said the association had not adequately linked industry-marketing practices to gun violence.

SpiritDream

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specific treatments that they would like to have done and enjoy them together.

"We want to be first when people think about throwing a spa party," Ms. Ellen said, adding. She will soon launch her "Twos-day" promotion, which on Tuesdays will feature everything in "twos." "Bring two friends, select two treatments and create your own spa day," she says.

SpiritDream Spa features annual memberships ranging from the \$25 Stargazer to the \$500 Spa Break. Each membership level determines your benefits and specialized services. Members also receive specially selected products and gifts and "members-only" monthly surprises.

Ms. Ellen is also working with Dr. Pamela Gabriel, a local physician who has developed a unique weight-loss program.

"Our community is leading the pack in growing numbers of adults and children with weight-related health concerns like diabetes and high blood pressure," Gabriel said.

She thinks it is essential to establish one-on-one contact with a patient who is trying to lose weight. "The more involved I am with a patient, the better they will do," Gabriel said.

The weight-loss program involves maintaining a weekly food/beverage diary and individual exercise plan developed Gabriel.

"I don't want my patients to feel pressured or intimidated to go out and join a gym," she said. "Daily exercise is as simple as walking, or if you have access to a pool, doing special water exercises to achieve fitness." Body wraps and massage treatments enhance elimination, improve circula-

tion and are beneficial to a weight-loss program. Gabriel features \$35 doctor visits (\$25 for children) and therapeutic massage by appointment at her clinic located at 5000 W. Oakey Blvd, Suite A3. For more information, call 258-8456.

To close out the month on a high note, May is National Women's Wellness Month. *SpiritDream Spa* is hosting "A Day of Indulgence" on Saturday, May 31.

This day is designed to stimulate your mind, pamper your body and nourish your spirit.

The day of indulgence includes mini-spa pampering and continuous seminars on "Achieving Life Balance," "Weight Management," "Feng Shui Your Environment," "Essence of Yoga" and "Goal Setting." There is a \$35 advance registration fee. For more information; call 873-9788 or visit www.spiritdreamspa.com.

Clingman

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de grace, the finishing blow: Pepsi promised to pay a little money.

A group of outraged Black folks in Florida are now calling for a boycott of orange juice, amusement parks and other Florida products because some 12,800 high school seniors are not likely to graduate. The reason: a culturally biased test. When a Black state senator was interviewed on a television news show, the White host said first off, "I don't think a boycott is the way to solve the problem." Don't you get tired of that kind of double standard?

Boycotts are no fun for either side, and it's nice when they are short, as long as the offended constituents come away with a real benefit, not only for one or two persons, but also for the widest range of those offended. You know, the ones who were willing to make the sacrifice.

While the Pepsi boycott was probably the shortest in history, it would not have been so bad if there were something to show for it other than a promise of \$3 million over a three-year period from Pepsi. I have to go with you on your assessment, B Easy. You should consider writing a column on economic empowerment. Know what I'm sayin', dog?

James E. Clingman, an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati's African-American Studies department.



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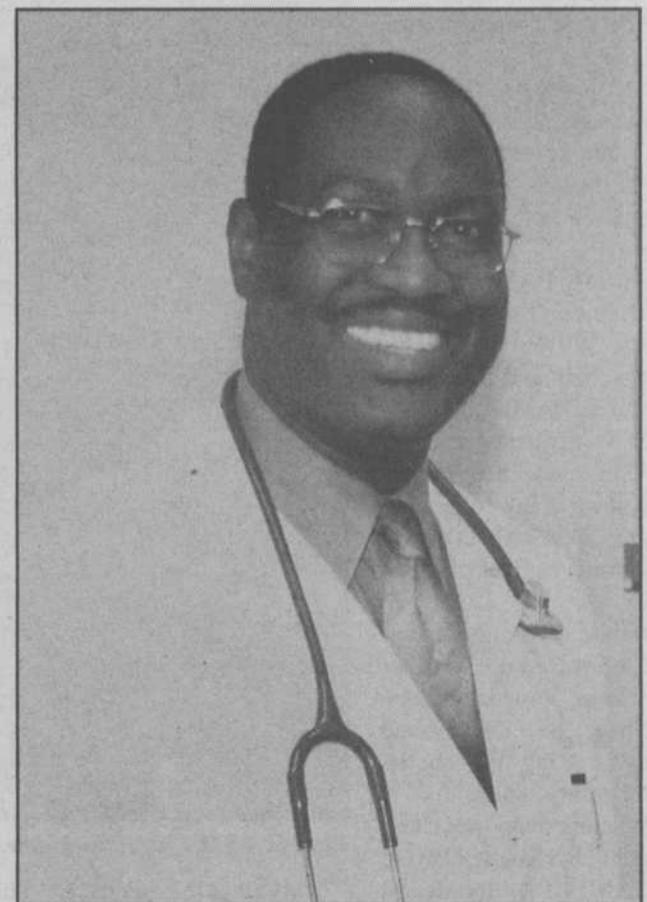


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