

Ex-New York Times editor shares Blair blame

DALLAS (AP) - In his first public comments since resigning over the Jayson Blair scandal, former New York Times Managing Editor Gerald Boyd told journalists Thursday it was time to take a hard look at why the scandal happened and "what lessons we can learn from it."

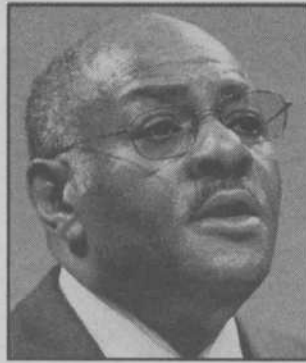
Boyd, addressing the National Association of Black Journalists national convention in Dallas, received a standing ovation as he stepped to the podium. Some chanted, "Boyd! Boyd!" The group named him Journalist of the Year in 2001.

Boyd resigned under pressure two months ago after the

Times discovered Blair had plagiarized material, invented quotes and wrote stories using datelines of places he had never been. The scandal - which exposed a deeply discontented staff that had lost confidence in newsroom leadership - also led to the resignation of Editor Howell Raines.

Boyd said his resignation was a mutual decision with the newspaper. He shared the blame and responsibility for Blair's downfall but said management didn't realize how deeply troubled Blair was until it was too late.

Had management known, "we simply would not have



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— Gerald Boyd

had him writing for The New York Times," Boyd said. He dismissed as "absolutely untrue" criticism that Blair had been promoted and his problems overlooked because the reporter was black.

Boyd, who also is black,

said he was dismayed that race became part of the story.

"I would be lying if I didn't say that I can't help wonder why after all these years of struggling to establish our work and credibility in the newsroom - to be seen as top-

notch journalists - as soon as controversy arises, an African-American reporter and an African-American senior editor are automatically viewed as suspect," he said.

Boyd said he had little direct contact with Blair and that Blair received substantial management attention from people who worked much more closely with him. He said he knew about some of Blair's faults and that he should have shared more information about things he knew as Blair moved to different assignments.

"There is a lesson here that we should all well heed. ... We should never lose sight

to take time to make sure we're communicating with each other," he said.

Because of the demands of the news, management never came together to re-evaluate Blair's situation, he said.

"I want you all to know I will spend the rest of my career ... doing everything I can to make sure we all grow and learn from this," he said.

Boyd said he was thinking about teaching but hasn't made any firm decisions. He said his true passion will always be journalism. "Nothing has happened to diminish my love and passion for journalism," he said.

Sharpton blames lack of coverage on race

SIoux CITY, Iowa (AP) - Veteran black activist Al Sharpton charged recently that the news media are dismissive of his presidential campaign because newsrooms are overwhelmingly white.

"I think when you look at the lack of diversity in the newsrooms, when you look at the lack of diversity from the editors and those in power, then you see them as automatically dismissive of anything that is not like them, which is white males," said Sharpton.

"I think we've seen some very blatant racial insensitivity in the coverage of this race so far," Sharpton said in

an interview with The Associated Press.

Sharpton complained that former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean has been virtually anointed the hot candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2004 - a case, he said, of a white-dominated media focusing on a middle-age white man.

He noted that many commentators have compared Dean to former presidents Carter and Clinton, both governors of relatively small states, without mentioning that both Georgia and Arkansas have sizable minority populations, while Vermont is nearly all white.

"No one has even asked

about the fact that this surge of support has been really one-dimensional," said Sharpton.

In addition, Sharpton said he is often asked about how he can hope to lure white voters in key early states like Iowa and New Hampshire, while Dean is never pressed on how he will appeal to minorities.

"When I come to Iowa, they ask how can Sharpton get the white vote," said Sharpton. "I've run in New York and gotten more white votes in my races than he's gotten black votes in Vermont? Why aren't we talking about that?"

Sharpton said former Illi-

nois Sen. Carol Moseley Braun, another Democratic presidential hopeful who is black, also isn't getting serious news coverage.

"That kind of racial insensitivity has permeated this race," he said. "I think we've seen some very blatant racial insensitivity in the coverage of this race so far."

Sharpton was in Sioux City to join Sen. Tom Harkin in a series of forums Harkin is sponsoring giving the nine Democratic candidates a chance to make their case with activists pledged to attend next January's precinct caucuses. The caucuses will launch the presidential nominating season.

Ex-Pa. warden sentenced in abuse cover-up

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - A judge sentenced a former top administrator at a pair of city jails to 15 months in federal prison for covering up an attack on an inmate by guards.

Glen Guadalupe was convicted last year of one count of obstruction of justice for trying to protect guards involved in the 1999 beating of Donti Hunter.

Guadalupe was the former deputy warden of the city's Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility and former warden of the Philadelphia Industrial Correctional Facility.

Hunter, an inmate at the Curran-Fromhold jail, needed 19 stitches after he was pummeled by corrections officers, who

caught him trying to flush marijuana down a cell toilet.

Two guards were convicted in the assault, and prosecutors said Guadalupe ordered a prison lieutenant to lie about the beating.

Guadalupe "steadfastly maintains his innocence," said his attorney, Jack McMahon Jr.

Guadalupe was ordered to begin serving his term Sept. 17. The guard convicted of punching Hunter was sentenced this month to 2 1/2 years in prison. A second guard is scheduled to be sentenced Aug. 21. Several other officers were acquitted.

Deal

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and credit card duplicating machines during a search of Ragin's address.

Prosecutors also alleged several luxury cars registered to the business were linked to burglaries and other crimes. In December 1999, for instance, "an individual was surveilled and videotaped dropping the body of a homicide victim ... at a hospital in an SUV registered to Tuxedo Rentals," the papers said.

Ragin, 34, pleaded guilty last week to credit card fraud and money laundering, and faces 15 to 19 1/2 years in prison at sentencing on Oct. 31. Hayes, 39, pleaded guilty last month to making illegal bank deposits. He faces six months to one year in prison at sentencing on Oct. 6.

In June, McGriff, 42, was sentenced to 37 months in prison for illegal possession of a handgun. He had served 10

years in prison for running a crack-dealing crew in Queens responsible for several murders.

According to an affidavit filed earlier this year, an informant told federal investigators that while "Gotti is the public face of Murder Inc., McGriff is the true owner of the company."

The affidavit was filed in support of a warrant authorizing seizure of bank accounts related to "Crime Partners," a straight-to-video film marketed by Murder Inc. McGriff and Ragin were listed as executive producers of the movie, which starred Ja Rule, Snoop Dogg and Ice-T.

Ragin "has a lengthy criminal record involving narcotics trafficking and has no known legitimate source of income," the affidavit said. "Investigators believe that Ragin and McGriff have laundered proceeds from their criminal activities through the film."

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