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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Essie Mae Washington-Williams, the 78-year-old daughter of the late Sen. Strom Thurmond and a black maid, speaks during a news conference Wednesday in Columbia, S.C., with attorney Frank K. Wheaton.

Thurmond's son to meet new sibling

Special to Sentinel-Voice

COLUMBIA, S.C. - The woman born out of wedlock to the late Sen. Strom Thurmond and a black maid nearly eight decades ago said Tuesday she kept silent about her roots until now because she cared for her segregationist father and didn't want to hurt his career.

In an interview to be aired on "60 Minutes II" on Wednesday, Essie Mae Washington-Williams said she liked her father even if they saw each other only about once a year.

"But I knew that he cared about me. He was very good
(See Thurmond, Page 6)

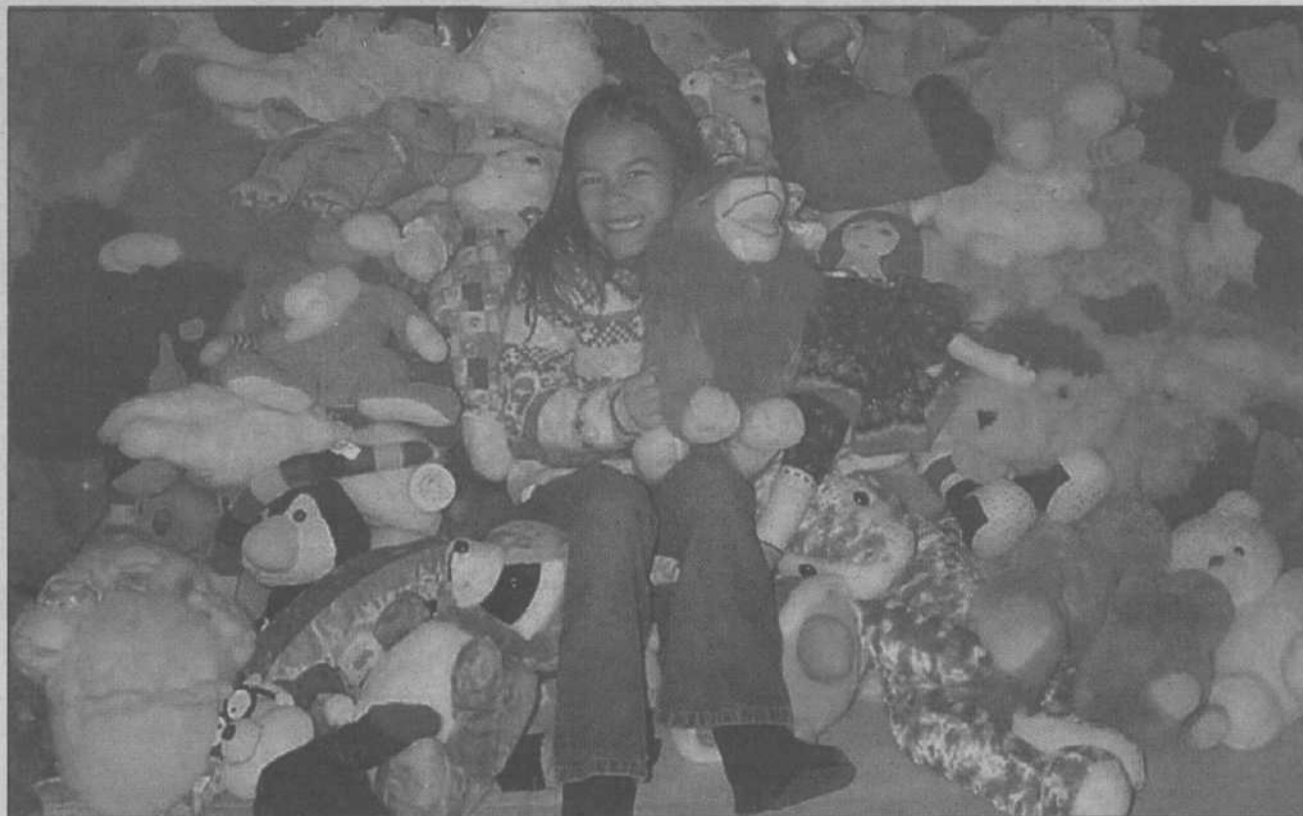


Photo Special to Sentinel-Voice from Mary Johnson

Little Girl, Big Heart: Destini Johnson, a seven-year-old Katz Elementary second-grader donated more than 1,000 toys for KCEP FM 88.1's annual Stuff-A-Bus Christmas toy drive. Johnson bought toys and collected them for an entire year.

Girl donates lots of toys to needy

*By Kathi Overstreet
Sentinel-Voice*

It is written: "A child shall lead them."

By example, 7 year-old

Destini Johnson has done just that. Destini is a second grade honors student at Katz Elementary School and has been collecting toys for needy

children for more than a year. She used her allowance to purchase more than 1,000 toys to donate to the KCEP FM 88.1 Stuff-A-Bus Christ-

mas toy drive program, demonstrating the spirit of giving.

"I wanted to help the needy
(See Toy Story, Page 2)

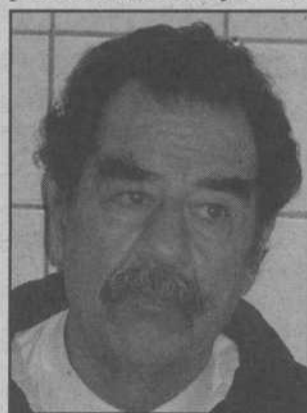
Analysis: Hussein's capture means trouble for U.S. officials

*By Jacob G. Hornberger
Special to the NNPA*

In his official statement celebrating the capture of Saddam Hussein, President Bush announced that "the former dictator of Iraq will face the justice he denied to millions." Notably lacking from the president's statement, however, was whether the U.S. government would agree to relinquish control over Hussein's trial to the Iraqi government or to an international tribunal consisting of independent judges.

Why wouldn't U.S. officials readily agree to relinquish jurisdiction over Hussein's trial? Because of their need to closely guard the secrets that Saddam Hussein has in his possession — secrets that would cause no small amount of embarrassment to the U.S. government, including former president Ronald Reagan, former vice-president and former president George H.W. Bush

(the president's father), and Donald Rumsfeld, the president's secretary of de-



SADDAM HUSSEIN

fense.

One of those secrets is the extent of the relationship that existed between the Reagan and Bush I administrations and Saddam Hussein, the details of which have never been fully disclosed by U.S. officials. There is, of course, the famous photograph on the Internet in which Rumsfeld and Hussein are shaking hands and making conversation in Baghdad in 1983. How

did that meeting get set up? Who was involved in the decision-making process? What was discussed? What agreements were entered into?

Saddam's testimony at trial could provide some of the answers. And that prospect — of Saddam Hussein testifying freely, openly, and publicly about his relationship with Ronald Reagan, President Bush I, and Donald Rumsfeld — would undoubtedly strike terror into the hearts and minds of many U.S. officials.

Imagine if the exact nature of the relationship between Reagan-Bush and Saddam Hussein were to hit the front pages of newspapers all over the world on a daily basis, as Hussein filled in his side of the details during his public testimony at trial.

And there's a bigger secret, whose details would undoubtedly terrify U.S. officials even more — that it was

the Reagan-Bush administration that furnished Saddam Hussein with the weapons of mass destruction (1) that he employed against the Iranian and Iraqi people, and (2) that

U.S. and UN officials used as the excuse for imposing the brutal 12-year embargo against Iraq, whose resulting deaths of Iraqi children arguably were a principal moti-

vating factor behind the September 11 attacks, and (3) that President Bush ultimately relied upon as his principal justification for invading Iraq.
(See Saddam, Page 14)



A Master, A President and Three Queens

Rap mogul and American Basketball Association team owner Master P, middle, stopped through the Urban Chamber of Commerce's Christmas party Monday at Mandalay Bay. The casino's parent entity, Mandalay Resort Group, presented the Chamber with a \$50,000 check for its new building. Also pictured: (L-R) Chamber members JoAnn Overstreet, Kathi Overstreet, Piper Overstreet and president Hannah Brown.