

Publisher Yergan Pulliam Dies in Grand Rapids, Mich.

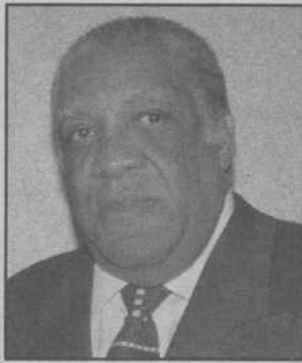
GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (NNPA) — Yergan Clayton (Y.C.) Pulliam, 72, of Grand Rapids, died recently in the presence of his wife, sons and other members of the family on after a courageous battle with multiple myeloma.

He was co-owner and Managing Editor of The Grand Rapids Times, a weekly newspaper for and about the African-American community. He and his wife, Patricia, purchased the paper in 1986 from the founder, John Bankston.

His wife will continue publishing the newspaper.

Yergan was known as Y.C. in the community, as "Sarge" at General Motors, and at the newspaper, he was "Mr. Times" to the youth who delivered the paper door-to-door. His work at the newspaper was a labor of love — for the community and for the youth who worked there.

Yergan was fortunate to have a taste of the good life, but he never forgot where he came from. He often talked about his starting on his first job at the age of 13 — not



Yergan Clayton Pulliam

because he wanted to work, but because he had to. He sincerely believed that one must work to get ahead in life, but he also learned from his experiences that it is not easy, especially for Black Americans.

He was serious and passionate about sharing this lesson with his sons, with other younger members of his family and with the boys and girls who delivered "The Times."

Yergan was also passionate about encouraging young people to stay in school, graduate and further their education — while they were young.

He did not fulfill his lifelong dream of graduating

from college until after he had adult responsibilities. He worked full-time at General Motors while taking classes on a full-time basis. In 1975, he earned a Bachelor's degree from the College of Arts and Sciences at Grand Valley State University in Michigan.

He was even more passionate about encouraging youth and others he met to accept Jesus Christ. "Y.C." made his confession to Christ at the age of 13 at Macedonia Baptist Church in Jackson, Tenn. He and his wife joined the New Hope family in the 1960s.

Yergan served on the Board of Trustees at New Hope Baptist Church for more than 30 years and will be remembered for being willing to offer his time, gifts and talents, for being dutiful in what he set out to do, for speaking up when it was necessary, and for having the courage to say what needed to be said.

Yergan was born in rural Madison County, Tenn. On May 13, 1931 to Evans and Willie Mae Pulliam. He grew

up in Jackson, Tenn. Graduating from Merry High School was a turning point in his life. He entered the United States Air Force, served four years and moved to Grand Rapids in 1955.

In 1961, he married Patricia Chapman, a native of West Palm Beach, Fla., who had moved to Grand Rapids to work as a teacher in the Grand Rapids Public Schools.

He was employed at State Heat Treat, the Michigan Training Unit in Ionia, and at the General Motors Fisher

Body Plant # 1. He retired from General Motors in 1990.

Yergan also was a founding member of the 500 Club, a founder of the Time Out Community Enrichment Fund, a member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and a Life Member of the NAACP.

His father, Evans and uncles Vernon Pirtle, Elwood Kennedy, and Jack Pirtle preceded him in death. He is survived by his mother, Willie Mae; his wife of 42 years, Patricia; sons, Ernest (Sheila) Pulliam and Richard

of Grand Rapids; three grandchildren, Asia Shipp, Eric Perry and Tamara Pulliam; aunts Georgia Mae Kennedy, Lula B. Clark, Ida Bell Pirtle and Mamie Barksdale all of Jackson, Tenn.; uncles Albert (Leslie) Pirtle, Chicago; Ervin Pirtle and Alvester Pirtle, Jackson, Tenn. and cousins Dorth Ann (Raymond) Ballentine; Betty Bond (Gary, Indiana); Elsie White, Jackson, Tenn.; Jeraldine (Willie) Taylor and Freddie Pearson of Grand Rapids and many relatives and friends.

Powell rebukes Dems for criticizing Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Colin Powell on Wednesday criticized Democratic presidential candidates for saying "ridiculous, outrageous and irresponsible" things about President Bush.

Powell said it was "just awful" and "total absurdity" for former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean to speak openly about theories that suggest Bush was warned in advance about the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Nearly 3,000 people were killed in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

"That is a total absurdity," Powell said when asked about the comment during an interview on "The Sean Hannity Show" on Fox News Channel. "It is really sad that any candidate would make such a statement. He has no basis for making such a statement."

"None of us knew about 9/11 before the attack. My God, to suggest that responsible people, the president of the United States, would have known about that before the fact and not done anything about it, it is just, it's just, it's awful," Powell said.

Dean since has said he doesn't believe Bush knew about the attacks in advance.

Powell also was asked about comments by Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich, another Democratic presidential hopeful, and Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., regarding Bush's war on terrorism.

"One, I'm annoyed. Second, they know better. Three, they must be desperate," Powell said. "I mean, the American people aren't going to fall for these kinds of ridiculous, outrageous and irresponsible charges."

Budget

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schools once the state's fiscal house is in order. "I appreciate the governor's commitment to education and know that we could have faced deeper cuts," Huizar said.

State universities and community colleges were not so lucky.

The proposed budget seeks to cut enrollment by as much as 10 percent at universities, raise student fees — mostly for graduate students and those attending community colleges — and reduce financial aid for some families.

The separate legislative caucuses of Blacks, Latinos and Pacific Islanders joined together to oppose those proposals, and, in

particular, a plan to slash more than \$85 million to fund academic outreach programs credited with helping low-income and disadvantaged students attend universities.

Assemblyman Mervyn Dymally, D-Compton, said more than 40 percent of African-American and Latino freshman enrolled in the University of California system participated in high school outreach programs.

"Education is the great equalizer in our society," he said. "We cannot jeopardize the education of our children."

Kevin Herrera writes for Wave Community Newspapers.

Tolerance

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numbers. A recent report by the Office of Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum and Advocates for Children (AFC), a New York non-profit group, found that "over 160,000 high school age students were discharged during the 1997-1998, 1999-2000 and 200-2001 school years. In all, over 55,000 were discharged in 2000-2001."

In fact, in some instances more kids were discharged at certain schools than received their diplomas.

Gotbaum and the AFC suggest that an analysis of the data they've compiled is needed in order to understand the extent of the problem and craft appropriate solutions. The Advancement Project and the Harvard University Civil Rights Project determined that it had enough data to make recommendations for alternatives and adjustments to zero tolerance policies.

In fact, the Advancement Project calls for the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights to monitor schools receiving

federal aide for possible denial of students' civil rights. It is also necessary to track data on the race and disability status of impacted children, conduct compliance reviews and investigations to ensure that children are not discriminated against in the adoption or application of disciplinary policies, and more. States are also urged to pass legislation permitting advocates to represent students in due process hearings, among other things.

Last but certainly not least on their list is a recommendation for greater involvement by parents, school reform and civil rights groups insisting that "all policies and procedures reflect fair process and sound principles based on schooling goals rather than crime-fighting strategies."

In many cases, Brown says, alternative steps can be taken before students are put on the track that leads them from schoolhouse to jailhouse the way zero tolerance policies are prone to do. Says Brown: "This runaway train must be stopped."

Zita Allen writes for the Amsterdam News.

NEVADA DOT TRANSPORTATION NOTICE

A Public Information Meeting regarding proposed improvements to the I-15 corridor from Sahara Avenue to the US 95 "Spaghetti Bowl," also known as PROJECT NEON.

Purpose of Meeting

The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and the City of Las Vegas, is conducting a Public Information Meeting to provide project information and receive public comments concerning the transportation needs for the I-15 corridor from Sahara Avenue to the US 95 "Spaghetti Bowl" Interchange. The project includes examining:

- I-15 freeway improvements
- Local access improvements to the Las Vegas downtown redevelopment area
- Operational characteristics of the I-15 Charleston Boulevard Interchange
- Connecting Industrial Road and Martin Luther King Boulevard

When and Where

Wednesday, January 28, 2004 - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Clark County Government Center
Community Room (Pyramid-shaped building)
500 S. Grand Central Parkway
Accessible via Citizen Area Transit routes 105 and 207

Where You Come In

Members of the public are invited to attend the meeting at their convenience anytime between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to submit comments verbally to a court reporter or in writing on a comment sheet provided at the meeting. A formal presentation will not be held as this open format increases the opportunity to submit public comments while providing a venue for one-on-one discussions with project staff.

In addition to any comments received at the Public Information Meeting, written comments also will be accepted until 5 p.m., Friday, February 13, 2004. Please submit your comments to: Daryl N. James, P.E., Chief, Environmental Services Division, NDOT, 1263 South Stewart Street, Carson City, Nevada 89712, telephone (775) 888-7013.

Right-of-Way: The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policy Act of 1970 will govern the acquisition of any right-of-way necessary for this project. More detailed information on right-of-way acquisition and relocation assistance can be obtained by calling or visiting the NDOT, Right-of-Way Office, 123 East Washington, Las Vegas, Nevada, telephone (702) 385-6540.

Comments also may be submitted via the web at www.ndotprojectneon.com. General information about the project and meeting can be obtained from the Project Office, located at 1640 Alta Drive, Suite 11, Las Vegas, Nevada 89106, or by calling Tamra Ryan toll-free at (888) 411-NEON. Certain project materials are available in alternative formats upon request.

