



Yahoo! debases Black teenagers

By Makebra M. Anderson
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – Abby Andrews, a graphics designer in the San Francisco area, was recently developing a logo for the African-American Anti-Smoking Network. She searched her enormous personal collection of books and magazines in an effort to find the right images that captured the quintessence of Black youth. But after nothing caught Andrews' eye, she decided to take a trip into cyberspace.

"I was trying to give them several different styles that speak to Black youth," she recalls. "I wanted to make it hip and young, but not too childish. So I decided to type 'Black teens' into Yahoo! and over 300 porno sites came up. I was shocked!"

And there was plenty to shock her. Images of naked women giving and receiving oral sex, people participating in group sex, men engaging in anal sex and photos of masturbation took over her screen.

"I scrolled through pages and pages and couldn't believe what I was seeing. Lewd images of naked African-American women and teenagers," she remembers. "A heat wave came over my face with shame. I felt like I was standing in the middle of the street with no clothes on. I was so embarrassed."

Convinced that she had made a mistake, Andrews typed "Black teens" into two other popular search portals — one had thousands of links to pornographic Web sites, the other one didn't. After steadying herself, Andrews searched entries for "White teens." This time, her screen became populated with images from pop-culture, news and fashion Web sites. There were very few pornographic links.

That double-standard angered Andrews even more.

"It doesn't seem normal to me that when I type in 'White teens,' those types [pornographic] of sites don't come up. It's very suspect," she said. "I thought this is either a conspiracy or they [Yahoo!] are just sloppy with

(See Yahoo, Page 2)

Making Inroads — Blacks own trucks in NASCAR race series

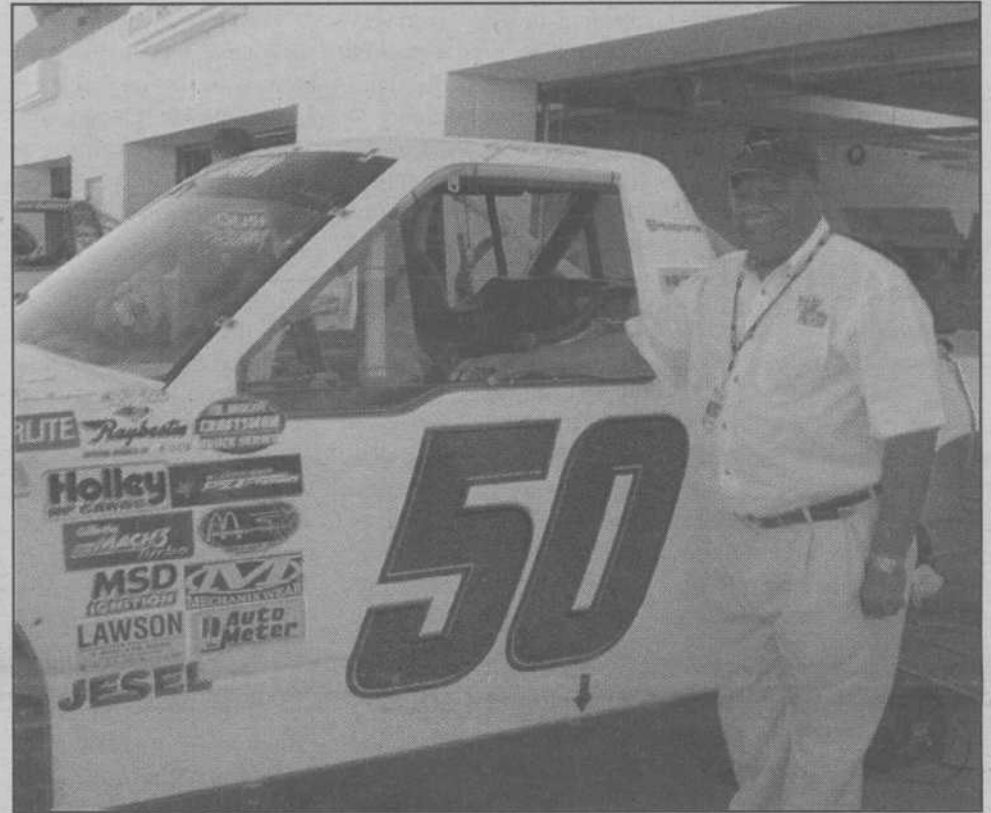
By Les Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

Light from the full moon glistened on the racetrack Saturday night at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Thirty-six trucks competed Saturday in the Double Down in the Desert, NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Las Vegas 350. Fans numbering in the tens of thousands gathered in the stands to partake in two exciting races featuring cars and trucks running over the 1.5-mile track.

One of the unique features in this year's event was that two of the trucks are owned by African-Americans. Samuel Belnavis owned the truck driven by Jon Wood. The other African-American owner is Carl Edwards, who has been associated with Roush Racing Group for the past three years.

"I'm a NASCAR team owner and I'm here in Las Vegas for the running of the Craftsman Truck Series at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway," Belnavis said. "I have two trucks that will be competing in the event. Through the Roush Racing Group, I am responsible for diversity worldwide."



Sentinel-Voice photo Les Pierres Streater

Samuel Belnavis stands next to his vehicle. A NASCAR scholar, Belnavis owns two trucks that competed in a recent NASCAR event. He'd like to see more diversity in the sport.

This was the eighth time Belnavis here. The series has stopped in Las Vegas, but the first entry for

Belnavis here.

"My background started in 1979 when I was named

director of sports marketing for Miller Brewery Co.," he (See Racing, Page 3)

EEOC: More teens being harassed at workplaces

WASHINGTON (AP) - Sexual harassment and discrimination against teens in the workplace is on the rise, the government says, citing the growing number of lawsuits it is pursuing against employers. The surge has also prompted a new national campaign to educate youth about their rights at work.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission says about 40 lawsuits related to teen sexual harassment or discrimination have been filed or settled since 2002.

Only "a handful" of suits involving teens were filed in previous years, commission spokesman David Grinberg said. The agency is just starting to track such lawsuits and complaints, so earlier figures were not available.

EEOC enforces federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, age or disability. The commission investigates complaints and pursues legal remedies for those with merit, if settlements cannot be reached. The EEOC files roughly 400 lawsuits a year.

More teens are working these days, which

could account for the rise in lawsuits, experts say. Workers also may be better educated about what is appropriate, and more willing to report problems.

EEOC thinks more awareness is needed. Most of the agency's recent suits involving teens are on behalf of young women complaining of sexual harassment by managers, such as lewd comments and inappropriate touching.

The jobs are in industries that employ many younger workers: restaurants, retailers, hotels and movie theaters. Turnover often is high, and many managers, often young themselves, aren't trained to avoid or recognize harassment and discrimination, Grinberg said.

About 7 million people ages 16 to 19 are in the labor force, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

More than half of the EEOC's 40 suits over the last two years involved the restaurant industry, one of the largest employers of younger workers.

"In an industry of 12 million people, this is (See Teens, Page 6)

Jackson to help Kerry woo Blacks

Washington (AP) - Civil rights activist Jesse Jackson joined the campaign of Sen. John Kerry today as a poll showed support for the presidential candidate slipping among African-Americans, a critical Democratic constituency.

The Pew Research Center said Tuesday its latest poll showed 73 percent of Blacks supporting Kerry compared to 12 percent supporting President Bush. In 2000, Al Gore won 90 percent of the Black vote.

Democratic groups have aired campaign ads criti- (See Jackson, Page 9)



Civil rights activist Jesse Jackson has been recruited by John Kerry to shore up voter support among African-Americans. Jackson ran for president in 1984 and 1988.