

History

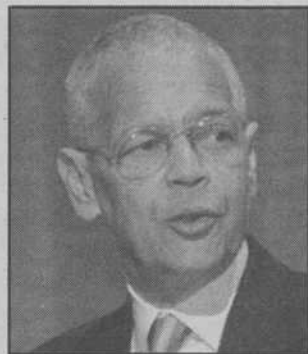
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"Education systems do a very poor job of teaching American history," says Bond, a college professor. "If I ask my students what they know about the civil rights movement, they tell me, 'There used to be segregation, King came along, people marched, some got killed and segregation ended.' That's like saying World War II started, people fought and then it ended. It's true, but it doesn't tell you anything."

He adds, "A lot of us have to take it on [upon ourselves]. We need to make sure we are making this knowledge available. You don't have to have a Ph.D. to introduce your child to books and things of the past."

Despite countless books and documentaries, such as "Eyes on the Prize", a critically acclaimed 14-part series dealing with the movement, some young people still blame older people for their lack of knowledge. According to Jonathan Thomas, 25, a Maryland resident and community outreach specialist, people who were directly involved in the fight for civil rights didn't do enough to teach the younger generation about their struggles.

"It's funny because people always say that you should never forget where you came from, but sometimes I feel like that is exactly what some leaders in the Black community have done. They settle into high-paying positions and become so greedy for



"When they confront racism for the first time – and sooner or later they will – they will be helpless because they have no reference to someone else before them who went through the same thin."

— Julian Bond
National Association for the NAACP Board Chairman

attention and money they forget about the mission," he says. "There is automatically going to be a small percentage of young people that will be very active in learning about Black History, but what about the people that have never been exposed to it?"

Jesse Jackson, who has been very active in the civil rights movement all of his adult life, is disappointed in young people who haven't attempted to learn about the movement.

"What has happened has been written, it is on film, and there is a national holiday celebrating Dr. King. Each of us has an obligation to become serious about what matters," he says. "Each generation must shape the world in which it must live. If you want more Pell grants and economic strength you must choose to join organizations that are committed to the cause."

Hilary Shelton, director of the Washington bureau of the NAACP, agrees. "Information has to be sought. It's a two-way street," he says.

"When we want information, we seek it and those that think equality hasn't been reached should be seeking information. Most young people I talk to see it [the movement] as a continuum. We've

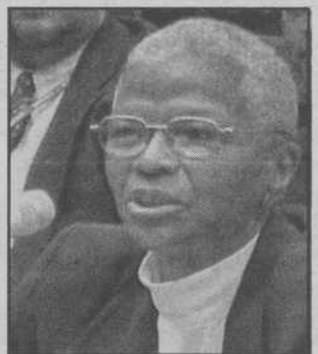
"Many times parents don't know, and the ones that do know, don't want to burden their children with what happened because often times the stories are of death and struggle."

— Mary Frances Berry
Former chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

guilty of sitting back and waiting for thing to come to them," he admits. "If you have a sincere desire to learn, you need to go out and get the information."

According to Bond, today's youth enjoy unprecedented advantages.

"I don't think this generation's lack of knowledge is any greater than the lack of knowledge their parent's had at their age, but these days we're lucky that there are libraries full of books written on the subject," he explains. "If you do not remember history, you are doomed to repeat it. Especially now, when we have an



achieved a lot of goals, but we have a long way to go."

Brian Lewis, 22, a senior at the University of Maryland, agrees that student's have to play an active role in their education.

"It's unfortunate that a lot of White people know more about Black history than Black people do, but it's because they read and they seek the information. A lot of people in my generation are

administration who wants to take us back to the time before the 60s, and a large percentage of White people who think racism has disappeared. That is a deadly combination."

Kingpin

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A Universal spokesman declined to comment.

Defense lawyer Gerald Lefcourt said the Gotti brothers had been unfairly targeted for trying to help a respected figure from their rough Queens neighborhood. "I think it's a perfectly legitimate operation," Lefcourt said Wednesday. "Ultimately I expect Irv and Chris to be vindicated."

McGriff's lawyer, Robert Simels, said his client told him from prison Wednesday "that it's a shame that people who tried to help him in a legitimate way are involved in defending themselves in a criminal case."

The indictment charges McGriff and his associates with running a drug operation stretching from New York through Baltimore into North Carolina.

McGriff and his partners delivered hundreds of thousands of dollars in drug proceeds to the Manhattan offices of Murder Inc., according to the indictment. In exchange, Irv Gotti paid McGriff's travel and hotel expenses and cut him checks from Gotti's personal and business accounts, prosecutors charge.

The indictment charges McGriff and several associates with the murder of potential government cooperators Dwayne Thomas and Karon "Buddha" Clarrett outside a Baltimore-area stash house in August 2001. They also are charged with the slaying of up-and-coming rapper E-Money Bags that summer.

McGriff, 44, founded the Supreme Team, once one of the city's most violent drug crews. Investigators suspect that after he finished serving about nine years for drug conspiracy in 1997, he set about reviving his lucrative — and deadly — drug-dealing operation.

Federal agents closed in on McGriff and the Gottis in recent months with arrests that netted Ja Rule's manager and a bookkeeper for The Inc., who also are named in Wednesday's indictment. At least five other defendants, including associates of McGriff, already have been charged. The Inc. was founded as Murder Inc. in 1997. Gotti changed his label's name last year to deflect negative publicity from the investigation.

Macy's

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partment store," said Goldberg. "We have a very large minority base and we plan to do everything we can to make shopping in our stores a pleasant experience."

Donna Lieberman, executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, said she thought the settlement was a victory for African-Americans and other minorities.

"It's not a solution to what everybody knows is a pervasive problem, that goes well beyond Macy's, but it's certainly a step in the right direction," said Lieberman. She said that the settlement could also put other retailers on notice that they are vulnerable to fines and public scrutiny when they engage in racial profiling, discrimination and harass-

ment of people of color. She said the settlement should result in changes for people who want to shop at Macy's.

"Built into the settlement, there seem to be some monitoring guidelines that should help to ensure that the settlement is not just a quick \$600,000, and we'll forget about it, but that it really does result in changes in the security practices of Macy's and hopefully end racist policing there."

Spitzer seemed equally optimistic. "Store patrons should be able to shop unencumbered and free from harassment," he said. "This case demonstrates our resolve in fighting racial discrimination."

Shelley Fortune writes for the Amsterdam News.

Baptist

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reunification.

Hopes were high and rumors were rampant that the NBCUSA and NBCA would merge when the denominations held their annual sessions in Texas in September 1988 and met in a joint worship service. But those hopes were quashed when the old problem of the relationship between the Publishing Board

and its parent organization, in this case the NBCA, reared its head, leading to the formation of another offshoot, the National Missionary Baptist Convention, in November 1988. This week, these four conventions, whose members number in the millions, will try again to achieve some level of unity.

"We hope this convention will give us an element of

unity we've never had before," said Major L. Jemison, president of PNBC.

The Rev. George Brooks, head of educational programs of NBCA, said he feels there is a lot in place to foster that sense of togetherness.

"A lot of times we're talking about the same things but don't always know it because we're in four different settings."

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