

NAACP tabs corporate exec as chief

By Makebra M. Anderson
Special to Sentinel-Voice

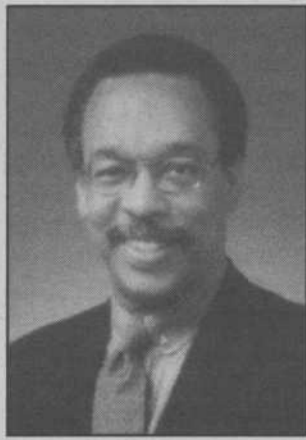
WASHINGTON (NNPA) - A special NAACP search committee has recommended that former President and CEO Kweisi Mfume be succeeded by Bruce Gordon, a former senior executive at Verizon.

The full board is expected to accept the recommendation when it meets June 25 in Atlanta.

"I think this is an excellent choice. I think it's the best choice the NAACP has made since they had [Benjamin L.] Hooks," says Harry Alford, president of the National Black Chamber of Commerce.

"Gordon has good corporate executive experience, but he's also been in charge of diversity over at Verizon, so he knows how and what a major corporation can do," Alford said.

The selection of Gordon



BRUCE GORDON

caught many, even some board members, by surprise. Acting President Dennis Hayes did not learn of the selection until the story was broken last Friday by April Ryan on American Urban Radio Network.

An unknown in the civil rights movement, Gordon's impending confirmation is expected to alter some of the friction that previously existed — but was publicly denied — between the

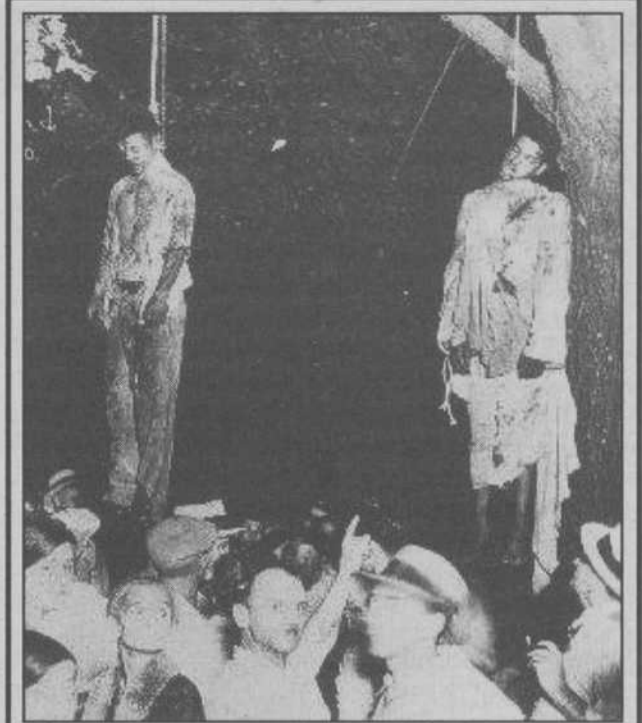
association's president and Board Chairman Julian Bond. It also means that Bond will serve as the primary face and voice of the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization while Gordon assumes a less public role, applying his management skills to improve the NAACP. Although Mfume had good business sense, Alford, who has worked closely with Gordon, says that his leverage will allow the NAACP to tap into new resources.

"Civil rights is about equal opportunity for all," Alford says. "Now the NAACP can go to IBM, and go to GM and others and say, 'I've been there, I know how to do it.'"

After a successful, 35-year career, Gordon retired from Verizon in December 2003 after serving as president of Retail Markets in Verizon's Domestic Telecom

unit. As head of Retail Markets, he was responsible for the company's consumer and small-business sales.

Many NAACP insiders think the nine-member NAACP presidential search committee chose Gordon for his business acumen. Committee members were: Bond; Roslyn Brock, vice-chair, NAACP Board; Rupert Richardson, member, NAACP Board; former Republican Congressman Jack Kemp; Hugh B. Price, former president, the National Urban League; Alice Huffman, member, NAACP Board; Philip Murphy, managing director, Investment Management Division, Goldman, Sachs & Co., and member, NAACP SCF Trustee Board; Coleman Peterson, President/CEO Hollis Enterprises LLC and member, NAACP SCF Trustee Board; and Nicholas Wiggins, NAACP (See NAACP, Page 6)



Whites, in this 1930 photograph, point to the dead bodies of Thomas Shipp and Abram Smith in Marion, Ind.

Senate sorry for lynching history

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - The United States Senate formally apologized Monday for its refusal to approve any of the 200 anti-lynching legislation bills introduced during the first half of the 20th century, a failure that led to the deaths of at least several thousand African-Americans.

During that period, the House of Representatives passed three anti-lynching measures, but the Senate, controlled by powerful, Southern segregationists, never approved an anti-lynching bill.

Sen. George Allen (R-Va.), co-sponsor of the bi-partisan resolution with Sen. Mary Landrieu, (D-La.), says the resolution addresses what had been "a stain on the institution of the Senate."

Allen explained, "This is a Senate resolution because it was the Senate who held up this legislation, filibustering it in the years [between 1882 and 1968] when over 4,700 Americans, predominately African-Americans, lost their lives from whippings or burnings, but mostly hangings. And the crimes took place all over the country, 46

(See Lynching, Page 12)

Activists to repeat trip to Indiana to recoup

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Black Democratic activists, angered by what they describe as increasing disrespect from the Democratic Party, say they will reconvene a Black political convention next spring that started in Gary, Ind., in 1972.

"I'm not advocating bolting the Democratic Party. I think what we're saying is that we want to establish an agenda that the party will have to react to," says labor leader Bill Lucy, who was the first national figure to publicly call a return to Gary.

"I think without question, the overwhelming majority of the Black voters still favor the Democratic Party and its Democratic policy platform. But I think that the fact of the matter is that we've got to have an agenda of our own that we will impress on the party as if to formulate its platform. We can't keep having knee-jerk reactions."

But Ron Daniels, a co-convenor of the original Gary meeting, says bolting the Democratic Party should always remain an option.

"I've always been willing," says Ron Daniels, who at the time was executive director of the Rainbow Coalition. "My whole life has been as an independent political activist, so that's no question."

Daniels, who says he has not been asked to help with

the Gary reunion, says he intends to participate and hopes that it establishes something new if not a third party.

"My expectation would be the creation of some kind of third force in American politics," he says. "It is simply done by having the capacity to support Democrats or support Republicans and also run independents and do independent direct action."

The National Black Political Assembly in 1972 co-chaired by poet Amiri Baraka and Daniels, now executive director of the Center for Constitutional Rights, drew 10,000 African-Americans to Gary, Ind., with a goal to strategize for the election of Black elected officials and to establish a Black agenda.

Lucy called for the return to Gary in a speech during last month at the international convention of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. He is president and co-founder of CBTU.

"It's time to go back to Gary," he told the crowd. "CBTU and others have spent a lifetime trying to prove our value in the political process. I pledge to you that we are out of the game of begging for resources to mobilize our communities. Whether we are accepted by the powerful players in labor or the Democratic Party or not, we will continue to come to the aid of unorganized workers, and we will continue to mobilize our com-

munities."

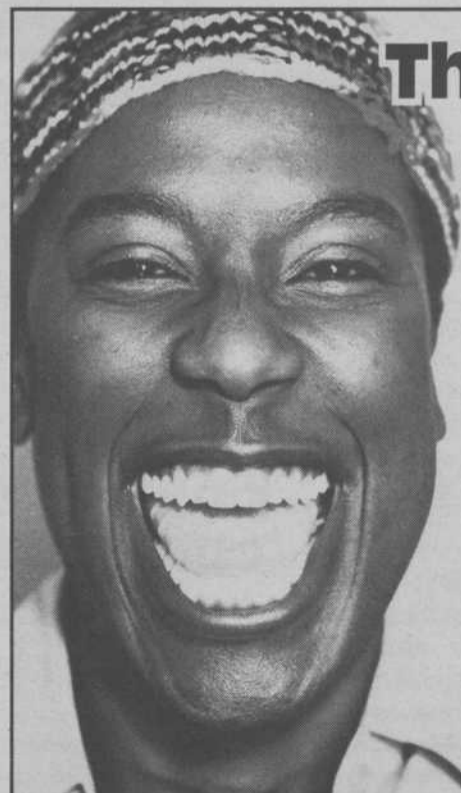
In an interview, Lucy says it's time to reestablish a firm Black agenda from the grassroots state and local on up because events have caused Blacks to wonder whether they are really respected by the Democratic Party, which receives more than 80 percent in national elections.

Black Democratic activists were disappointed after several Senate Democrats cut a deal with Republicans that allowed three anti-civil rights federal judicial nominees that

Democratic activists had vehemently protested to be voted on rather than filibustered, a political strategy to prevent a vote.

All three of the candidates, Texas Supreme Court Justice Priscilla Owen, California Supreme Court Justice Janice Brown and Alabama Attorney General William Pryor, have been confirmed.

Many activists were so angry that they said it was time for a Black political movement to begin. But many are not angry enough (See Activists, Page 4)



There's nothing like it!

LAS VEGAS
**JUNETEENTH
CELEBRATION**

Saturday, June 18th
4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Sammy Davis Jr. Plaza
in Lorenzi Park

Great Entertainment
Alyson Williams
Traedonya
House of Blues Band
Delicious BBQ & Ethnic Foods
Special Guest Appearances

Supported by Cox Communications and TV One

Celebrate heritage and freedom at one of the most exciting and fun events of the year. Las Vegas Juneteenth Celebration, brought to you by Cox Communications and TV One, is not only a celebration, it is a fundraising event for education. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Rainbow Dreams Building Fund.

Special Thanks to Sponsors & Volunteers
We thank our corporate sponsors and volunteers for their time and contributions.

COX COMMUNICATIONS TV One CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT COMMUNITY BANK OF NEVADA MGM MIRAGE SIERRA HEALTH SERVICES, INC.

