

Cop employee calls Black a 'slave'

Special to Sentinel-Voice

DALLAS —There's outrage in Dallas County over a comment made by a high-ranking member of the sheriff's department.

A captain admits using the word "slave" when referring to an African-American clerk, but he says his comment was not meant to be racist.

The Dallas County Sheriff's Department informed the captain Tuesday that the statement he made violated the department's

code of conduct. Black officers say the action isn't enough and the punishment isn't tough enough.

Sheriff's department officials don't dispute the statement was made.

A captain, within the department, reportedly said: "We got her a slave, but she still complains."

The captain was reportedly referring to an African-American clerk hired to ease a heavy workload.

The Dallas County Peace Officers Association, which

represents African-American officers, has filed a complaint.

After a hearing Tuesday, the captain that made the remark was given a written reprimand. Members of the police officer's association say he should have been demoted.

"Anytime they give punishment or give a recommendation of what should happen, I think they should at least be fair. In this case, they're not fair," said Sgt. Marc Robinson, Dallas

County Peace Officers Association. Members of the POA say there is a double standard in the department.

"We feel there's a pattern of punishment concerning African-Americans. We feel that we are punished more severely than those who are White," said Sgt. Charles Bailey, Dallas County Peace Officers Association.

Captain James Ledford, the commander over internal affairs, says the comment was inappropriate, but not racist.

"He has passed a photograph stating it was not meant to be racist, it was not meant to be derogatory, and that the term, as he stated, was solely discussing this clerk's working environ-

ment."

Internal affairs officials say they decided on a written reprimand because the captain who made the statement has been with the department for 27 years and has a clean record.

Officials did go on to say that if it happens again the punishment will be more severe.

Rice says United States ready to defend Japan

TOKYO (AP) - The United States is willing to use its full military might to defend Japan in light of North Korea's nuclear test, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Wednesday as she sought to assure Asian countries there is no need to jump into a nuclear arms race.

At her side, Rice's Japanese counterpart drew a firm line against his nation developing a nuclear bomb.

The top U.S. diplomat said she reaffirmed President Bush's pledge, made hours after North Korea's Oct. 9 underground test blast, "that the United States has the will and the capability to meet the

full range — and I underscore the full range — of its deterrent and security commitments to Japan."

Rice spoke following discussions with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso, the first stop on her crisis mission to respond to the threat posed by the North.

Back home, President Bush told ABC News that if the U.S. learned North Korea was about to transfer nuclear technology to others, the communist nation would face "a grave consequence." He did not elaborate.

"I want the leader to understand — the leader of North Korea to understand

that he'll be held to account," Bush said, referring to the country's ruler, Kim Jong Il.

There were continued signs Wednesday that North Korea might be readying for a second nuclear test, perhaps while Rice was in Asia this week.

China's president, Hu Jintao, apparently has sent a special envoy to North Korea, according to a former South Korean lawmaker, Jang Sung-min, citing diplomatic officials in Beijing. Rice planned to see the Chinese official, State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan, this week in Beijing.

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Official remorseful about sterilize quip

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) - A city councilman apologized for suggesting that parents who don't properly care for their children should be sterilized to help reduce crime.

"I know we can't really sterilize people, but I wanted to start the dialogue," Councilman Larry Shirley said Monday. "I could have done that over tea and crumpets, but we've been doing that. Nothing has happened. But if they don't want a dialogue, I'll shut my mouth."

"I apologize to those I upset, but I believe this crime has got to stop," Shirley said.

Black leaders have called for Shirley's resignation, and the councilman said he has received death threats.

South Carolina was one of 33 states that once had eugenics laws that forced sterilization on people in mental institutions and

prisons. In 2003, outgoing Gov. Jim Hodges formally apologized for that part of the state's history.

Shirley's original comment came in an interview with *The (Charleston) Post and Courier* in which he reacted to a video store holdup that authorities said was carried out by a group of children.

"We pick up stray animals and spay them," Shirley said then. "These mothers need to be spayed if they can't take care of theirs. Once they have a child and it's running the street, to let them continue to have children is totally unacceptable."

Shirley rejected the threats and calls for his resignation. "I'm not ready to die or to quit the council," he said Monday. "I'm going to continue to work on this problem with the mayor, the new police chief and whatever African-Americans will still work with me."

School Board

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prevent nine Black students from entering Central. President Eisenhower sent in the 101st Airborne to enforce the court's order.

Federal courts have continued to monitor the desegregation effort since 1965.

"Maybe this is a sign of change coming," said Armstrong, who is Black. Previous boards had difficulties relating to the community because it didn't match the racial makeup of the city's schools, Armstrong said.

Sixty-eight percent of the district's students are Black, 24 percent are White; Hispanics and Asians make up most of the remaining 8 percent. The majority of Little Rock itself is White; there are many predominantly White private schools in the region.

Curry defeated Tom Brock, who had been appointed to fill an unexpired term in February. She said she didn't believe race played a factor in the election, but added that having a majority-Black board sends a message to the community.

Curry said people in the district "feel like they have some voices that will be heard, that they can be heard through the representation."

The biggest question is whether the district will change the way it deals with continuing desegregation questions.

It has sought to free itself from federal monitoring, but a judge ruled two years ago

that the district was not adequately appraising how well its academic programs helped Black students. He maintained partial control over the district.

Superintendent Roy Brooks is Black, as is Robert Daugherty, the board's president.


Daugherty said a majority-Black board may help open dialogue with a group of community members that has intervened in the federal case to promote the causes of Black students.

"In the near future, you'll see the district working more closely with the other stakeholders here in the city," Daugherty said. "I think people are looking for a change. They're tired of things as usual, business as usual. They want people who are more in tune with the community, and I think that's what you see now."



Skip Rutherford, dean of the Clinton School of Public Service and a former school board president, said having a majority-Black school board "is probably long overdue," but that students districtwide would come first.



"I think the board members are going to vote much more on the content of their character than the color of their skin," said Rutherford, who is White. "Most people when they get on the school board tend to view issues not by color but by what's best for the students."

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