

Ghetto handbook draws scorn

HOUSTON (AP) - A school district suspended a police officer as it investigates his distribution of a "Ghetto Handbook" and the three-month lapse before top district officials were informed of it.

The eight-page booklet, subtitled "Wucha dun did now?" was handed out to about 15 Houston Indepen-

dent School District police officers at a May meeting, district spokesman Terry Abbott said. Officials declined to identify the officer who handed them out, but said he had been ordered to attend diversity training.

A supervisor immediately collected the booklets, Abbott said, but district officials said they didn't learn

about the incident until someone complained to the district's Equal Employment Opportunity Office in mid-August.

"This publication was completely reprehensible and HISD condemns it in the strongest possible terms," said Superintendent Abelardo Saavedra in a recently released written state-

ment. He said he has "mounted a very aggressive investigation."

District Police Chief Charles Wiley had no comment, Abbott said.

The booklet billed itself as a guide to Ebonics, teaching the reader to speak "as if you just came out of the 'hood." It included definitions such as "foty: a 40-ounce bottle of beer"; "aks: to ask a question"; and "hoodrat: scummy girl."

The booklet names six district officers "and the entire day shift patrol" as contributors. Abbott said a preliminary investigation has cleared those officers of involvement.

Last year, almost 30 percent of the district's 202,000 students were Black and almost 60 percent were Hispanic.

Carol Mims Galloway, president of the Houston (See Handbook, Page 11)

NAACP sues state of Louisiana over election rights violations

By James Wright
Special to Sentinel-Voice

BALTIMORE (NNPA) - In the wake of the two-year anniversary of the tragedy of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, a major civil rights organization said it is suing the state of Louisiana for its alleged attempt to stop thousands of voters, mostly African-American, from participating in the state's election process.

The NAACP LDF, Legal Defense Fund, filed a lawsuit in federal court recently to stop Louisiana Secretary of State Jay Dardenne from ordering parish voting registrars to purge voters who are in other states from the rolls. Texas, Mississippi, Florida and Georgia are the main states where Katrina and Rita survivors are residing.

"It is well known that

many of those who remain displaced are African-American voters who have encountered difficulty returning to their residences in Orleans Parish," Theodore Shaw, LDF director-general and president, said.

"Thus, this purge has a clear and pronounced effect on minority voting strength. Until they are able to rebuild (See NAACP, Page 11)

Love

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largely gotten their fame after preaching and teaching at numerous Jakes conferences.

Jakes wife, First Lady Serita Jakes, also on the telephone interview, says high-profiled people in ministry should not be judged more harshly just because their frailties are more public.

"These people are having a human experience with a divine mantel on their lives. And so, I pray and our prayers go toward Lady Bynum and Lady Paula, as well, that God would help heal the brokenness that's in them," said Serita Jakes, who has authored several books on relationships.

Both Bishop Jakes and his wife will be teaching at an upcoming conference in Grapevine, Texas, which focuses on creating life strategies, recovering from setbacks, improving relationships and spiritual revival. They stress that participants should look for the divinity in the messages rather than in the messengers. "We preach Jesus; not ourselves," they say.

Not all clergy agree.

The Washington-based National Black Church Initiative, which represents 16,000 churches across the U.S. has called for Bynum's spouse to step down as head of the Global Destiny Ministries, founded by him and his wife.

NBCI president, Rev. An-

thony Evans, has issued a press release calling Weeks' actions "morally wrong and reprehensible."

Still, women and men with high expectations — especially those hoping for marriage or remarriage — are sorely disappointed at the news of the stomping, kicking and choking of Bynum by her husband with whom she'd shared a million dollar "wedding of the century" only five years ago.

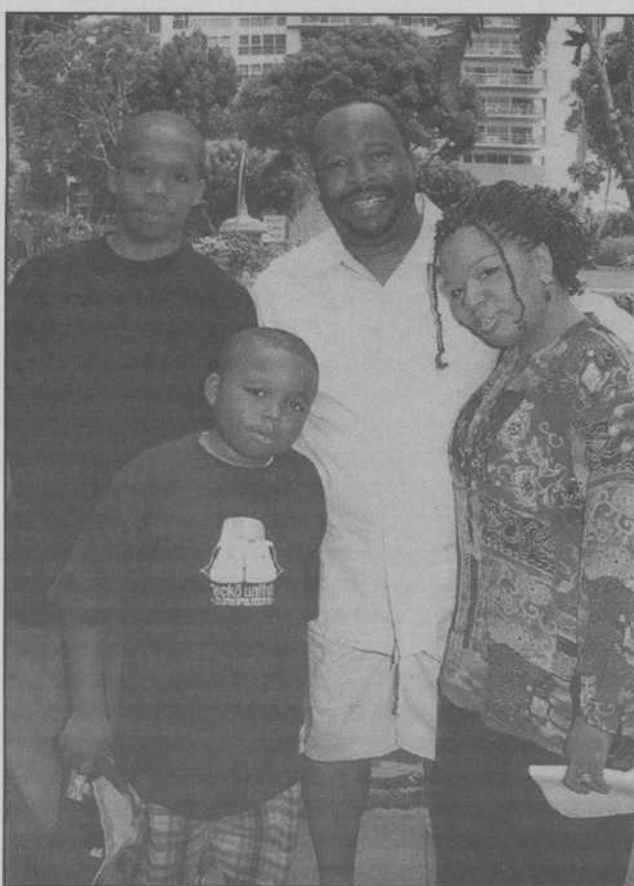
"I'm just disgusted. I don't know what to do. So, I'm drowning myself in my work," said Tisha Lewis, a single 35-year-old doctoral student.

"So, any man who comes up to me swinging the Bible and talking churchy, churchy, I'm just going to question his integrity anyway. It's really what you do, not what you say... I just want to know what's going on?"

Los Angeles Bishop Noel Jones, who recently announced FaithMate.com — a website to facilitate dating relationships between Christian singles — says one problem is that people are too often enthralled in preparing the ceremony instead of developing the relationship: "A wedding does not a marriage make."

Also, couples are too often impressed with each other's professional demeanors and exteriors, Jones says.

"They don't make distinctions between what is profes-



Bishop J. Charles Carrington and Pastor Althea Carrington of Baltimore say the key to their successful marriage has been prioritizing home, family and each other.

sional and what is personal. Because the two get confused sometimes, people believe that you are actually presenting how you are and the way your relationship goes," said Jones. "But, indeed and in fact, you can have a very strong and a very influential professional presentation and can be upside down personally. To put it short, you can be a public success, but a private failure."

Jones also says profes-

sional partnerships should never be viewed as a reason for marriage.

"A spouse cannot be a professional partner. We have done that in the church, and we've made monsters out of people."

The kind of love that binds the relationship has a lot to do with it, says Jones.

Instead of getting married based on eros, a sensual love that does not always last, the love called agape — the God kind of love — is what must be present for a marriage to

Rights trailblazer gets college post

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - Rita Geier, whose 1968 lawsuit helped desegregate Tennessee's public colleges and universities, is going to work for the University of Tennessee.

The university announced recently that Geier will be getting a high-level post to promote racial diversity on UT's 26,000-student main campus in Knoxville. She will be an associate to UT-Knoxville Chancellor Loren Crabtree and a senior fellow at the university's new Howard Baker Center for Public Policy.

Geier, then a 23-year-old instructor at Tennessee State University, filed her lawsuit over UT's plans to develop a Nashville campus. She feared UT-Nashville would become a predominantly White school and that Historically Black College and University member Tennessee State would suffer.

In a 1984 settlement, the state agreed to provide millions of dollars to diversify public colleges and universities. UT-Knoxville says more than 1,300 Black students have benefited from Geier-funded scholarships since 2001, and Black enrollment has grown from 6.4 percent in 2001 to 8.2 percent in 2006.

Geier will help lead campus efforts to improve intercultural awareness.

"I have accepted the invitation to come to UT because this is an institution that is forward-thinking," Geier said. "International and intercultural awareness are institutional imperatives, not options. I'm excited to be part of that level of commitment."

last, says Jones.

"Sex does not have enough strength to keep a marriage together."

He describes, "Agape is rational, reasonable and strong. It overcomes all the situations and circumstances. If you look at I Corinthians 13, it's the thing that stands when everything else has fallen and that's what's not happening," said Jones.

But, there are ways to avoid failure in a marriage in which the couple is destined to share ministry responsibilities, says Bishop J. Charles Carrington and his wife, Pastor Althea Carrington. But, it takes much work. Bishop Carrington is senior pastor of Life Builders Church in Baltimore, where his wife is also a pastor. He is also presiding Bishop over Full Gospel Christian Fellowship.

"I think the biggest pressure that we've had is maintaining balance, knowing when to say, 'That's enough engagements for this month', knowing when to say, 'I can't go to that meeting', knowing when to say, 'I can't necessarily be away from home tomorrow. It's just being able to say no,'" said Bishop Carrington.

Establishing priorities is also a key, says the Carringtons who have been married 23 years and have two children, 18 and 13.

"A lot of women in ministry, they are so either pres-

sured or focused on being something great or someone great. And then the home is lacking," says Pastor Carrington, who also has her own catering business. "For me personally, I found that my home front or my home is the center of my ministry. Everything stems from that. And for me to succeed in my home with my family, with my children, with my husband is so paramount."

In seeking a wife, Carrington says he was specific in his focus.

"I wanted the understanding that our goals are the same in life, that our desires are the same, our drive is the same, and that our passion for one another and for God is the same. That's what I was looking for," he said. "Does this woman love the Lord like I do? Does this woman love life and want to be in life what she should be like I do? And number three, does this woman love me?"

When conflict comes, there should be guards for the relationship says Pastor Althea.

"It's very important to have a circle of friends, someone who sows into your life on a regular basis, someone you can confide in who will pray, who you know will pray and offer wise counsel," she said. "You have to put down your crown for a while and your scepter, she chuckles, and really listen and hear what they have to say."