

Sharpton on high alert for threats

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Rev. Al Sharpton, looking back on a year of volatile civil rights and race cases, says despite the false alarm when a prisoner sent a harmless substance to his New York headquarters last month, he is still constantly concerned for his life.

"We're getting all kinds of threatening calls. This is just one that hit the papers," said Sharpton.

"Especially since Jena [Six] and then around the time of the Washington trip, every time we're involved, we get threatening phone calls... It's a recurring problem because that's part of the downside of leadership that people don't see. People only see you out there on TV. But they don't understand that also makes you a target for every nut and bigot in the country."

Sharpton boosted his al-



Civil rights leader Rev. Al Sharpton speaks to demonstrators before marching around the Justice Department in Washington, pressing for stronger enforcement and prosecutions of hate crimes last month.

ready escalated security protection after the FBI warned him and his staff on Nov. 21 that a New York state inmate had confessed to sending a powdery substance to him and at least six other civil rights organizations and news agencies. The FBI successfully traced the substance in the mail less than a week after Sharpton led the U.S. Justice Department against

hate crimes. The white substance turned out to be only talcum powder, Sharpton confirmed.

But, he says the high profile media coverage on the incidents has raised prospects for real threats.

"It works up kooks and copy cats. Whereas this cat may not have been real, he could have woke us up because now, somebody might

think that's a good idea. So it causes a lot of concern."

Among his 33 National Action Network sites around the country, Sharpton says he has especially placed upscale security in New York, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Detroit, Chicago and Miami because of the level of activism at those sites and some targeted threats.

"We've increased those who travel with us, and we've increased those at our headquarters," he said. Reportedly, the FBI has also warned his staff to not open mail from certain addresses and police squad cars have been sometimes strategically parked outside of NAN headquarters.

Security has especially been boosted since the Sept. 20 march in Jena, La. In that march, tens of thousands of people pushed for justice in the case of the Jena Six, Black high school students (See Threats, Page 10)

Schools honors deceased alum

JACKSON, Miss. (NNPA) - About 300 members of the Jackson State University community observed a moment of silence and attended a bell-ringing ceremony for Latasha Norman on Friday, Nov. 30., followed by a service held a few days later.

Latasha, a 20-year-old junior accounting major from Greenville, was last seen at approximately 2:20 p.m. Nov. 13.

Her remains were found in a wooded area in north Jackson on Nov. 29.

Stanley Cole, a former boyfriend, gave police the location of Latasha Norman's body on Brown Street located in North Jackson. He has been arrested and charged in her death.

"We thank you for these students who have gathered together in hope, saying she still lives in our hearts," said Rev. Aaron Banks, director of Campus Ministries at Jackson State. At 2:20 p.m., students, faculty and staff silently marched from the Charles F. Moore Building — where Latasha last attended class — to the site of the historic bell in front of Ayer Hall, the oldest building on the John R. Lynch Street campus.

The bell tolled 16 times — once for each day Latasha was missing.

The bell is usually used on Founders' Day, a Jackson State tradition since 1977.

Miss JSU Jasmin Searcy said ringing the bell for Latasha is significant because "this could have been any one of us... She's our sister," Searcy said.

"She was not only a student here, but she's in our family."



LATASHA NORMAN

Daughter

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A police report describes a tense situation inside and outside the SUV.

After calling for help, Ford tried to stretch out the amount of time it takes to pump less than two gallons of gas.

"Hoping the police would arrive" Ford "kept slowly cutting the pump off, trying to stall," the report said.

Meanwhile, it said Tillie was losing his cool.

"She's taking too long. She better hurry up before I start shooting," the report quoted Tillie as saying while Parker begged him to calm him down and "to not do this with her daughter ...in the car."

Playing for more time, Ford took another \$5 into the gas station and told the attendant, "I don't need the gas, I'm waiting for the police."

The report says the attendant "dialed 911 three times before connecting with a 911

operator."

Tillie began firing.

After watching her mother get shot, Alexia "jumped into the front seat, trying to protect her mom and stop" Tillie, the police report said.

The report added that Tillie "without hesitation, immediately fired six shots into" Alexia who "collapsed, critically injured."

The report says Parker escaped from the car and ran toward the store screaming,

"He shot my baby!"

Police showed up just after the shooting stopped and arrested Tillie. They found Alexia "huddled on the floorboard beneath the steering wheel."

Tillie, who was arraigned Monday, faces life in prison if convicted of the charges.

He has previous convictions for assault with intent to rob while armed, home invasion and resisting arrest. He has been on parole since April.

Bell

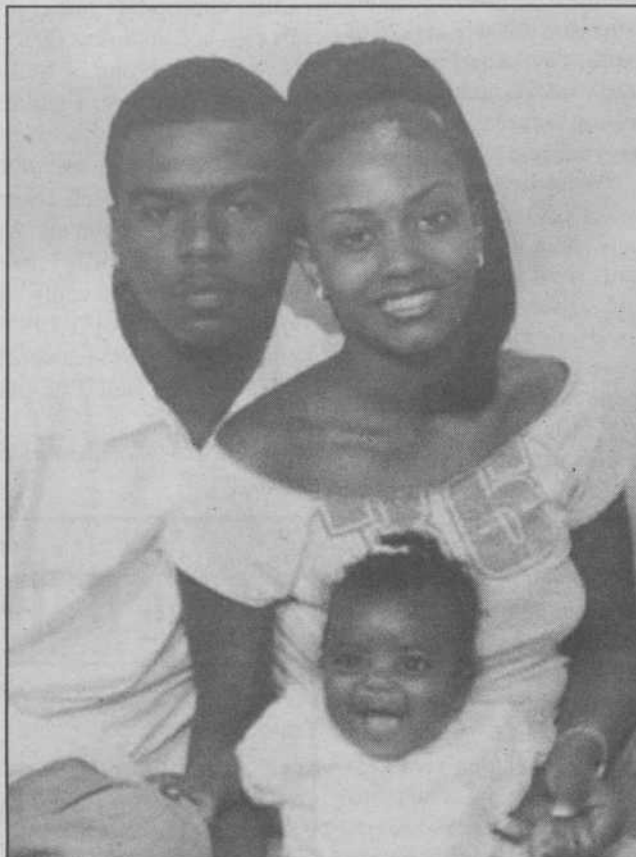
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looks forward to spending more time with his grandchildren, planning one day to sit them down and tell them how great their father was.

Dr. Jeff Gadere, an expert in the field of mental health services, says what's probably most important for a family, such as the Bell family, is that they turn to one another, as they have, to communicate their feelings, talk, hug, cry or whatever it is to begin the healing process.

The family, he expressed, serves as a support group because they are "joined in common grief."

Where there are surviving children in the household, Gadere says parents have to remember that there are other children still here on the planet, and allow them to grieve in their own way. Gadere notes that when



Sean Bell, fiancée Nicole Paultre and their daughter.

someone appears to be emotionally and physically decompensating, (i.e., getting worse) it may be time for intervention. He also says sleepless nights and loss of appetite are normal because people will have bad days, moments perhaps worsened by certain triggers. With this time of year being a tough time for a lot of people, Gadere says he's available for crisis intervention for the family if they feel a need to reach out. He is a consulting clinician at City Care in Harlem.

Gadere has served as the in-house doctor on the "Sally Jessy Raphael Show" and has lent his expertise to television audiences of the "Ricki Lake Show," "Court TV," the "Maury Povich Show," and, most recently, on "Oprah."

Talise D. Moorer writes for the Amsterdam News.

FBI declines probe into Orangeburg Massacre

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) - The FBI will not reinvestigate the deaths of three Black men killed during a civil rights protest because the state troopers involved were acquitted of all charges nearly 40 years ago, according to a recent report published online.

The FBI was considering whether to review the shootings known as the Orangeburg Massacre as part of its examination of a number of Civil Rights Era cases across the South.

The FBI decided not to proceed with another investigation of the shootings because it would violate constitutional protections against double jeopardy, according to Denise Taiste, a spokeswoman for the FBI's South Carolina office.

"Right now it doesn't look like they are going to reopen the matter," Taiste said.

Phone messages left for Taiste and the U.S. attorney's

office after hours were not immediately returned.

On Feb. 8, 1968, three civil rights demonstrators were killed and 27 wounded at the Historically Black College and University member campus, which is now South Carolina State University, in Orangeburg.

The shootings were the culmination of several days of protest because Blacks were not allowed at a local bowling alley.

State charges were never filed in the case, but a probe at the time by the FBI led to charges against nine troopers. When a federal grand jury refused to indict the troopers, prosecutors decided to try them anyway on a charge of imposing summary punishment without due process of law.

A jury of 10 Whites and two Blacks acquitted all the defendants a little over a year later, finding they acted in self-defense.