

Killing of L.A. teen may have been racial crime

By Betty Pleasant
Special to Sentinel-Voice

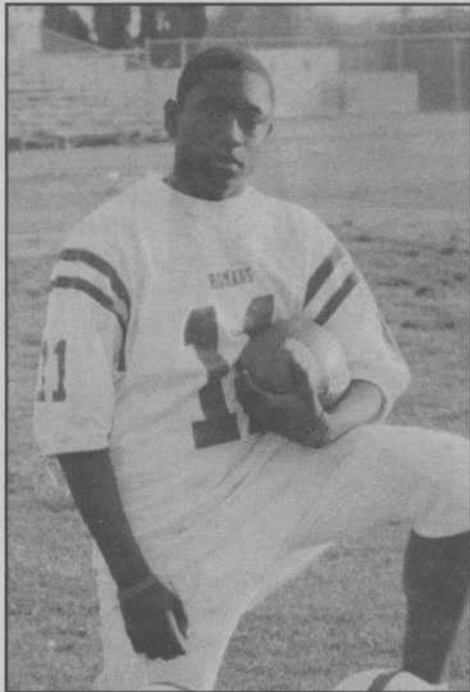
LOS ANGELES (NNPA) — A promising high school star athlete was gunned down by a pair of suspected gangbangers on the night of Sunday, March 2. He died beside a tree personally planted near his home by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

Police say Jamiel Andre Shaw Jr., 17, was killed just a few yards from his Fifth Avenue house as he heeded his father's instructions to "hurry home from the mall."

During a difficult interview, a distraught Jamiel Andre Shaw Sr. described his son as: "My life. The only thing I was living for. He was a special child who brought me nothing but joy. He died for no reason. What am I supposed to do now?"

Shaw said his son, a junior at Los Angeles High School, was returning home by bus at about 8:30 p.m. from a trip to the mall.

"I called him on his cell and told him to hurry home. He told me he had just gotten off the bus and was a couple of blocks away and would be home in a minute. Those were the last words he would ever say to me. That



Jamiel Shaw was gunned down in L.A. was our last conversation," Shaw said before dissolving in grief.

Police said Jamiel then engaged in a cell

phone conversation with his girlfriend, Chrystale Miles, who was still on the line and heard someone ask the teen: "What is your set?" The boy did not answer and he was shot twice, once in the chest and once in the head. His girlfriend heard the shots, and so did his father.

The elder Shaw said he rushed out his front door and saw his son lying near the tree the mayor planted, still holding his cell phone.

"You know Villaraigosa planted that tree himself the day after he was elected mayor," Shaw said. "A neighborhood improvement day had been scheduled and people from the city joined the residents in tree-planting and other projects and the mayor planted that one tree. That was a good day," Shaw mused.

The gunmen were described as two Latinos who alighted from and fled the murder scene in a white compact sedan headed north on Fifth Avenue.

"We have some good leads," said LAPD Capt. Matt Blake. Blake said that while Jamiel's killing "may possibly be racially motivated, it is certainly gang-related. We believe the killers are suspects in a recent brown-on-brown crime committed in another part of the city."

Althea Shaw, Jamiel's aunt, called his mother, Army Sgt. Anita Shaw, who is on her second tour of active duty in Baghdad, to tell her the bad news. The aunt said his mother became hysterical and kept yelling: "Tell me my baby's not dead! Tell me my baby's not dead!" Althea Shaw said Army officials began taking care of the mother and making arrangements for her to come home.

"There she was, doing her duty and trying to save lives in Iraq and here her son is gunned down like a dog for nothing in America," Althea Shaw said. "Our family has been living in this house for 38 years and we've never had anything like this happen," Shaw said her nephew was "a wonderful boy, full of promise and preparing to do great things."

She said he got good grades at Los Angeles High School, was a football star and also excelled at basketball and track, where he competed in the high jump. "He was all about sports, and Stanford, Rutgers and other universities were looking at him for scholarships," the aunt said.

People who follow high school sports say Jamiel was one of the top five running backs (See Shooting, Page 11)

Health views differ along issues of race, ethnicity

WASHINGTON (AP) — Minorities are more likely than White patients to rate their healthcare as fair or poor, a view that is particularly true among Chinese-Americans, Blacks born in Africa and Vietnamese-Americans.

Researchers have long stressed that improving patients' perception of their care is important to improving outcomes. That's because negative experiences can lead to less time spent with a physician and poor communications between doctor and patient.

To get a more detailed view of the differing perceptions that patients have, researchers at Harvard University and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation surveyed 4,334 adults last year.

The researchers asked patients such questions as how quickly they were able to get an appointment the

last time they were sick and whether their doctor explained things in a way the patient could understand. The researchers found that Whites routinely rated their experience higher than did the minority patients, who still had largely favorable views of their care.

For example, 91 percent of Whites rated their care as excellent or good. That percentage fell for most ethnic groups, with the lowest ratings recorded among Chinese-Americans, 74 percent; African-Americans born in Africa, 73 percent; and Vietnamese-Americans, 72 percent.

When it came to getting an appointment, about 63 percent of Whites were able to get an appointment on the same day or the next day after they became sick or injured. That percentage dropped to 42 percent for Cuban-Americans and 39 percent for African-Americans

born in the Caribbean.

About three-quarters of Whites reported that their doctor listened carefully to them. That percentage fell to 62 percent for Korean-Americans and 58 percent for those from Central America or South America.

Previous research on disparities tended to take a broad look at the major ethnic groups even though group members often came from different countries. The Harvard study used much more detailed categories. For instance, there were three categories for African-Americans based on whether they were born in the Caribbean, Africa or the United States.

The researchers said the additional detail was important because the best ways to reduce disparities will reflect the unique experiences and needs of minority groups.

Dr. Anne Beal, assistant vice president at the Commonwealth Fund, said the latest study results are consistent with previous research of how minority patients view the quality of their healthcare. She said perception is reality when it comes to patients being treated with respect.

"Because the findings are so consistent, it's not something where we can say it's just about the patients," Beal said. "They (See Health, Page 4)



Ferraro

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Obama and pursue the presidency, I think, is not a view that has been commonly shared by the general public."

In a letter to Clinton, first reported by CNN, Ferraro says: "Dear Hillary, I am stepping down from your finance committee so I can speak for myself and you can continue to speak for yourself about what's at stake in this campaign. The Obama campaign is attacking me to hurt you. I won't let that happen. Thank you for everything you've done and continue to do to make this a better world for my children and grandchildren. You have my deep admiration and respect, Gerry."

Campaign spokesman Howard Wolfson said Ferraro left the post on her own initiative.

The back-and-forth between the two Democratic trailblazers — Obama, seeking to be the nation's first Black president, and Ferraro, who was the first woman on a major party presidential ticket in 1984 — continued for a second day as they made appear-

ances on network and cable morning news programs.

The controversy began when the national media picked up on comments Ferraro made in an interview last week with the *Daily Breeze* newspaper in Torrance, Calif.: "If Obama was a White man, he would not be in this position. And if he was a woman (of any color) he would not be in this position. He happens to be very lucky to be who he is. And the country is caught up in the concept."

Ferraro said she stands by her assertion that Obama's success in the Democratic campaign is due "in part" to his race. Obama, however, said that if someone in his campaign had suggested that Hillary Clinton "is where she is only because she is a woman" she would be offended.

Clinton has said she disagrees with Ferraro's remarks.

"It's regrettable that any of our supporters — on both sides, because we both have this experience — say things that kind of veer off into the personal."

Redneck

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Some street addresses are still marked with the letter "C" that once designated Black homes as "colored." Racial tension was heightened in recent years when two White female teachers were sentenced for having sex with male students — all of them Black.

Kennedy has a long history of fighting racial injustice. He protested when a South Carolina county refused to observe the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, and he helped lobby to remove the Confederate flag from the Statehouse dome.

When people in the region allege racism, he rallies attention to the cause. A walk through the neighborhood

where he was born shows that he seems a stranger to no one. "Hey Rev," one man says as he strolls by.

"Pump it up," Kennedy responds with the phrase he uses at his protests.

Mary Redd, who lives across from the house where Kennedy was born, said Blacks know to contact the pastor with their problems.

"And he helps them out," added neighbor Deborah Cheeks.

Kennedy said progress has always been slow to come to Laurens.

"There are two powers in the world: the mind and the sword," he said. "In the long run, the sword is defeated by the mind. I want to destroy the concept of hatred."

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