

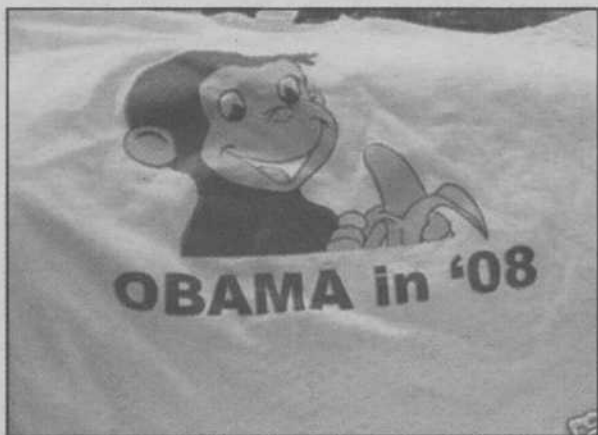
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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Controversial T-shirt raising ire, concerns in Georgia.

Bar's T-shirt links monkey, Senator

MARIETTA, Ga. (AP) — The publisher of the popular children book's series "Curious George" is considering legal action against a Georgia bar owner for selling T-shirts that link Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama to the inquisitive monkey.

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt is upset with Mike Norman, owner of a Marietta, Ga., bar, for selling the shirts which show Curious George peeling a banana with "Obama in '08" printed beneath the image.

"Houghton Mifflin Harcourt did not nor would we ever authorize or approve this use of the Curious George character, which we find offensive and utterly out of keeping with the values Curious George represents," said Richard Blake, the company's spokesman. "We are monitoring the situation and weighing all of our options."

Norman, who began selling the shirts in late April, has said they are not meant to be racist. He said he thinks the Illinois senator and the character "look so much alike."

Bill Nigut, southeast regional director for the Anti-Defamation League, said Norman is being disingenuous.

"He can pretend he doesn't understand what the message of that T-shirt is, but he knows full well that's an offensive and demeaning stereotype used to insult Afri- (See *Curious George*, Page 3)

NAACP touts new leader

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

BALTIMORE (NNPA) — Already mapping a strategy to maximize Black voter participation and issues in the general election Nov. 4, former Black Press executive Benjamin Todd Jealous has been named the new national president of the NAACP.

"My primary goals are to make sure that the Black surge that we saw in the primary is repeated in the general election and to make sure that we have both, an agenda for the transitioning government that will be happening in January as well as for this next century," said Jealous in an NNPA interview just moments after the official announcement of his appointment to lead the 99-year-old civil rights organization, the nation's oldest. "We have one heck of a batting average and we need to maintain it," he said of the record voter turnouts during the primary. "It's to make sure that we are as strong of a player in this century as well as the next. So, a lot of this is about raising money, it's about the use of technology, it's about rebuilding the staff."

Jealous, who will start the job Sept. 1, has an extensive resume, entrenched in civil



NAACP Chairman Julian Bond and Vice Chair Roslyn Brock introduce President-elect Benjamin Jealous on Saturday. The NAACP is the nation's oldest civil rights organization.

rights. He is a former managing editor of Mississippi's historic *Jackson Advocate*. In 2000, he became executive director of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the Black Press of America. He left NNPA after three years to become director of Amnesty International's U. S. Human Rights Program. He comes to the NAACP from the San Francisco-based Rosenberg Foundation, where he has served as president since 2005.

A positive aura exuded

from the horde of beaming civil rights leaders as Jealous stood outside of the organization's Baltimore headquarters alongside Board Chairman Julian Bond, Vice Chair Roslyn Brock and other supporters from the 64-member board that voted to hire him.

However, no one denied the reality of the daunting challenge ahead given the major problems that have plagued the organization in recent years. Former Verizon executive Bruce Gordon, re-signing abruptly in February

last year after a 19-month presidency with the organization. He cited irreconcilable differences with the board.

Four months later Chairman Bond made a national appeal for board members and NAACP supporters to "show some love" to the NAACP by giving money.

Interim CEO Dennis Hayes, who stepped into leadership behind Gordon had announced staff cuts at the Baltimore headquarters from 119 to 70 people.

(See *NAACP*, Page 3)

Barkley owes processing fee after paying debt

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Did you see him? Did you see Charles Barkley tell the world Monday night on TNT's Inside the NBA he's not going to gamble again?

At least for a year or two.

Did you think it was an important first step, a man with a gambling problem admitting he has a problem? Think again.

Barkley sounded less contrite and more combative on the phone Tuesday.

"I have to realize people are always out to get me," he said. "I've got to limit the chances they have to get me."

He said he's going to stop

gambling for two reasons: "No. 1, to eliminate people talking about my gambling,

and No. 2, to not lose money."

Shouldn't he stop because



Retired basketball star Charles Barkley, right, conducts an interview with local media during the Regions Charity Classic Pro-Am golf tournament in Hoover, Ala., last week.

he has a problem?

"I don't think I have a problem," he said.

Losing \$400,000 at the Wynn Las Vegas resort last October, and not paying off on time, put Barkley's gambling back in the news. The story broke last Thursday after the casino filed a civil suit against him and the Clark County district attorney threatened to prosecute him.

The timing bothered Barkley, and not because he was here to play in a Regions Charity Classic Pro-Am. His mother and daughter both celebrated their birthdays that day.

"That was the only thing

that bothered me," he said. "It overshadowed everything."

Barkley had another reason to be angry Tuesday.

He said his financial adviser, Glenn Guthrie, sent a certified check to cover the debt and the casino signed for it Tuesday morning.

A resort spokeswoman told The Associated Press the Wynn had not received the check. Guthrie then called the resort. He said he got a call back from the district attorney's office saying Barkley actually owed \$440,150, with \$40,150 as a processing fee.

The Wynn later said it had

received the \$400,000 payment. Barkley has agreed to pay the extra fee, but the Wynn's decision to go public with his debt in the first place and the resort's confusion over his actual payment has left a bad taste in his mouth.

"I've owed casinos a lot more money than this chump change," he said. "They've never gone public. I've had three other casinos where I've gambled call me and say, 'I can't believe they went public.'"

Since the story first broke, Barkley's done a lot of soul-searching. He said it was his

(See *Barkley*, Page 4)