

Obama jeered for not tackling Black issues

(NNPA) — According to the *Huffington Post*, Barack Obama was heckled by African-American attendees who argued that he ignores “Black” issues in an appearance in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Obama’s address was interrupted when several young Black males stood up, hoisted a banner that read, “What about the Black community, Obama?” and began peppering the Senator for not focusing on their concerns.

Obama told them they would have time to ask questions after the speech was over, and they did. They asked why he was not focusing on issues like the sub-prime mortgage crisis, Jena Six, Sean Bell and “the numerous attacks that are made against the African-American community.” Obama responded twofold: telling the hecklers that he had, in fact, been focused on these issues and explaining that there would never be 100 percent continuity between his agenda and that of the voters.

Reparations

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Because many of them are minorities, he said, that would help the same people who would stand to benefit from reparations.

“If we have a program, for example, of universal health care, that will disproportionately affect people of color, because they’re disproportionately uninsured,” Obama said.

“If we’ve got an agenda that says every child in America should get — should be able to go to college, regardless of income, that will disproportionately affect people of color, because it’s oftentimes our children who can’t afford to go to college.”

Freeman

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Rogers said.

Freeman owns several businesses in Clarksdale, about 40 miles from his home, including the Ground Zero Blues Club and a restaurant named Madadi. Ashley Norris, the club’s manager, said days later that Freeman had not been there the night of the accident. No one answered the phone at Madadi. Rescuers used a jaws-of-life machine to free “The Dark Knight” star and Meyer from the wreckage. Freeman was airlifted to the Regional Medical Center in Memphis, Tenn. He suffered a broken arm, broken elbow and shoulder damage.

Hospital spokeswoman Kathy Stringer said yesterday that Freeman was still listed in serious condition. The actor had surgery Monday to reconnect nerves and repair damage to his left arm and hand, according to his publicist, Donna Lee. Lee said Freeman will make a full recovery.

Hospital officials say Meyer isn’t listed in the hospital’s registry. However, under medical privacy laws, people can request that their names not be listed as patients at a hospital.

A Mississippi Highway Patrol officer said Meyer was in the Tennessee hospital when the agency called to see how she and Freeman were doing Monday night.

Calls to Meyer’s home recently were not answered. Her condition was not immediately available. Rogers said Meyer did not appear to be injured as severely as Freeman.

Not much is known about Meyer. Rogers said she appeared to be an avid gardener — a hobby reportedly enjoyed by Freeman and his wife — because several gardening tools were flung around the accident scene when the car’s trunk was ripped open by the impact.

Freeman won an Oscar for his role in “Million Dollar Baby.” His screen credits also include “Driving Miss Daisy” and “The Bucket List.”

NUL

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Federal Housing Administration,” as described by U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.).

U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), among the leading advocates for the Act, said the bill is a Godsend.

“We’ve got to help these people keep their homes,” she said in an interview. She described how some homeowners were enticed into loans at “teaser” rates, but were left holding the bag when the interest rates quadrupled and simply could not afford to pay.

Waters particularly worked to get the \$4 billion, stipulated in the bill, into city

neighborhoods where vacated houses are causing values of neighborhoods to drop and reattracting crime and drugs.

“This money will help buy the homes, rehabilitate them and put them back on the market,” Waters said.

Morial, who warned the nation about a pending subprime lending crisis at a press conference just before NUL’s convention in St. Louis last year, anticipates being a part of disseminating the benefits of the Act.

“We will be proposing new NUL initiatives called ‘Restore Our Homes’; establishing 50 home ownership centers throughout the coun-

try to enhance the counseling that we’re already doing to help people to save their homes and to help people to become homeowners by getting mortgages for the first time,” he said.

In his keynote address to the thousands of conventioners, Morial was set to talk about rebuilding America.

Pointing to America’s high school graduation rate as Black males being at 32 percent and White males at 74 percent, Morial said, “We as a nation should have graduation rates that are in the 90s.”

Because most people are not willing to go back to high school, he says there must be

a greater commitment to what he calls, “Second Chance” programs.

“You’ve got to develop workforce initiatives that helps them to up their education attainment level so that they can be employed. So they’re employable in good jobs,” he said.

“I will be talking about the need for the nation to change its priorities from a focus on spending on the war to an investment focus on domestic issues, jobs, housing and children. We believe that it’s time for the nation to get serious. The nation is in trouble, the times are tough, and this is an election that’s about changing direction.”

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