Racial slur in yearbook may cost teacher's job

BOWIE, Md. — Prince George's County Schools Superintendent John Murphy has asked the county school board to fire a high school teacher for failing to catch a racial slur in his school's yearbook, Mr. Murphy's spokeswoman said.

In a letter dated June 1, Mr. Murphy recommended that Bowie High School teacher Donald Watson be fired, said schools spokeswoman Bonnie Jenkins.

Mr. Murphy also again placed Watson, an English teacher and 20 - year veteran of the school who acted as faculty advisor to the student yearbook, on administrative leave without pay until the board votes on the recommendation.

The vote is expected June 28.

Mr. Watson was originally placed on leave without pay late last month after a racial slur and an obscenity were found in the published version of the year book.

His salary was temporarily reinstated days later.

The three students who wrote the offensive messages were expelled, but one obtained a court order allowing him to take part in graduation ceremonies.

A second student received his diploma but was barred from graduation ceremonies, and the third was not eligible for graduation because he had not completed his course work.

Mr. Watson's attorney, Richard Nacewicz, said his client was not negligent, but simply failed to spot the comments after having only three hours to review 550 student captions.

"(Murphy's) personal decision to keep him on suspension without pay is a display of vindictiveness as far as we can understand and it's quite unparalleled," said Roger Kuhn, spokesman for the Prince George's County Educators' Association, a union representing teachers.

The union filed grievances with the board against Mr. Murphy and Bowie High principal John Hagan.

SINGER ELLA FITZGERALD, Known as the Queen of American Jazz singers, waits to receive her honorary Doctor of Music during the 339th commencement at Harvard University recently. Winner of eight Grammy awards, the 82-year-old legend began her musical career at age 15.

Gantt is victorious in N. Carolina runoff

North Carolina Democrat Harvey Gantt easily became the Tarheel state's first Black Senate nominee June 7.

Mr. Gantt, 47, a former mayor of Charlotte, was helped by a large Black turnout and had no trouble defeating attorney Michael Easley in a Democratic runoff. He will oppose heavily favored conservative Republican Sen. Jesse Helms in November.

With 97 percent of precincts reporting, Mr. Gantt had 264,378 votes, or 57.8 percent, to 192,877 votes, or 42.2 percent, for Mr. Easley.

"The times have really changed, yes they have," Mr. Gantt told happy supporters after his win.

"North Carolina needs a new kind of senator, someone with the very best hopes and aspirations of all the people of North Carolina," he added. "Folks, I want to tell you, God is good, yes He is. The wonderful people of this state showed their confidence in me. There's a new day in North Carolina."

By winning, Mr. Gantt became the first Black in state history to capture a nomination for a major post.

Minority employment up at U.S. newspapers

WASHINGTON — The American Newspaper Publishers Association released the findings of its second industry - wide survey on minorities and women employed by U.S. daily newspapers. The survey shows an employment increase of two percent in both categories reported in a similar survey conducted in 1988.

The 1990 survey, based on 604 responses from 566 markets, shows that daily newspapers are now staffed by 18 percent minority and 39 percent women employees — this compared with the 1988 survey findings of 16 percent minority and 37 percent women employees.

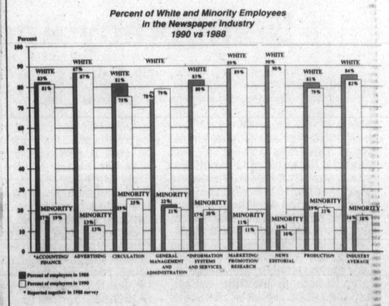
The survey covers employment statistics in eight newspaper departments — accounting/finance, advertising, circulation, general management and administration, information systems and services, news/editorial, marketing/promotion/research, and production. It also provides information on newspaper recruitment programs and their effectiveness in increasing minority and female employment.

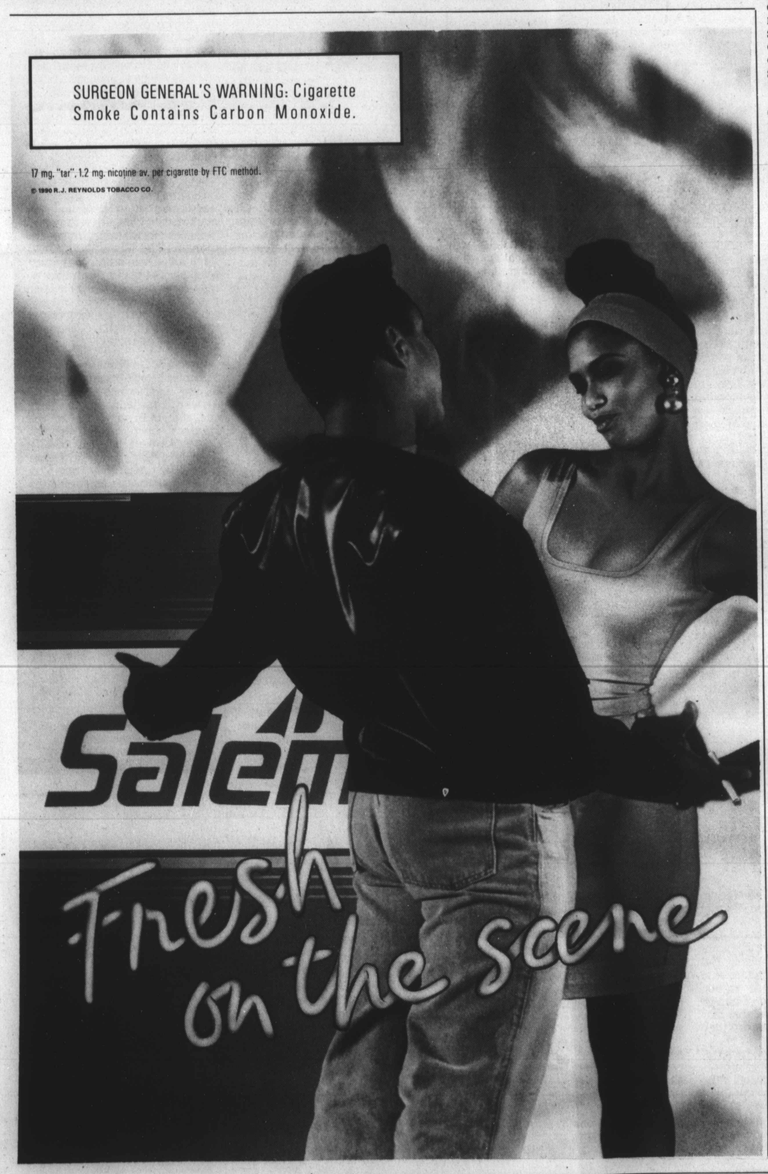
"This rise in minority and women employment in daily newspapers over the past two years reflects the pro - active programs that the industry has implemented to increase diversity within the workforce," said Sandra C. Hardy, chairman of the ANPA Minority Opportunity Committee. "Although improvements have been shown we must continue our efforts to raise the awareness of newspaper executives about the vital importance of the multicultural workforce environment." Mrs. Hardy is vice president, Calkins Newspapers, Levittown, Pa.

Some of the major findings show:

- Minorities represent 22 percent of the total U.S. civilian workforce compared to 18 percent of the newspaper industry workforce.
- Women make up 48 percent of the total U.S. civilian workforce as compared to 39 percent of the newspaper industry workforce. Minority women constitute seven percent of the newspaper industry workforce.
- The greatest number of newspaper minority employees are located in the circulation department (25%). This is a six percent increase in minority employees over that reported in the 1988 survey.
- General management and administration (21%) and production (21%) represent the next highest proportion of minorities.
- Information systems and services (20%), accounting/finance (19%), advertising (13%), and marketing/promotion/research (11%) have the next lowest proportion of minorities.
- The lowest representation of minority employees (10%) is in the news/editorial department. There is no change in this percentage from the 1988 survey.
- African - Americans represent the largest minority category in every department.
- Minorities represent 13 percent of executives and managers in the total U.S. civilian workforce and nine percent of the executives and managers in the newspaper industry workforce. This is a two percent increase in minority executive and managerial employees from that reported in the 1988 survey.
- Women represent 37 percent of executives and managers in the total U.S. civilian workforce and 28 percent of the executives and managers in the newspaper industry workforce. Minority women represent three percent of the executives and managers in the newspaper industry workforce.
- Thirty-six percent of responding newspapers have an active voluntary affirmative action plan in effect. This is a decrease of two percent from the results obtained in the 1988 survey.

Percent of White and Minority Employees in the Newspaper Industry 1990 vs 1988





Liberia president seeks U.S. help

BUCHANAN, Liberia (UPI) — President Samuel Doe called on the White House to help him fend off advancing rebel forces, and the United States urged all Americans to immediately leave the war-torn nation.

The government also claimed responsibility for the slaying of one of rebel leader Charles Taylor's top military aides, saying he was slain for torturing and killing civilians.

Rebel forces loyal to Mr. Taylor, a former government official who lived in the United States for almost a decade, had moved to within 35 miles of Monrovia and claimed, at their base in the port city of Buchanan, to have captured Robertsfield international airport.

Mr. Doe, who has responded to the threat by quickly promising free elections next year, asked President Bush to help him thwart the rebel forces, which he said are backed by Libya, according to the official Liberian Public Affairs office in Washington.

A taped telephone message at the office said the election would be monitored by international observers to ensure it was free and fair, but Mr. Taylor would not be allowed to participate because of his "ability to bypass the constitution."

Mr. Doe, a former master sergeant in the Liberian army, seized power in a coup in 1980 and has been accused of violating human rights.

The president is believed to have flown to his hometown in eastern Liberia last week.

The rebels say his mansion is surrounded by 1,000 of his remaining troops. A U.S. official in Monrovia said government troops were deserting by the score.

The rebels took Buchanan, 80 miles south of Monrovia and Liberia's second-largest port, after two weeks of heavy fighting.

Mr. Taylor's rebels, estimated at about 4,000, accuse President Doe's government of corruption, brutality and ruining the economy of the West African nation.

The recording at the Liberian Public Affairs office said Mr. Taylor's adviser Elmer Johnson, 33, a former U.S. army sergeant who took part in the U.S. invasion of Grenada in 1983, was killed by the government in "an operation" because he had killed civilians.

Mr. Johnson, who was in a convoy of 30 rebels ambushed by government troops Sunday 2 miles outside Buchanan, had been shot execution-style in the head. Rebel forces displayed his body to journalists.

In WAshington, the State Department issued a call for the estimated 3,300 Americans still in Liberia to leave the West African nation immediately before the civil war worsens.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the U.S. Embassy staff continued to have contacts with the insurgents, who are moving toward Monrovia, and with Mr. Doe's government, urging an end to the fighting.

NELSON MANDELA and his personal physician Dr. Gus Gecelter address reporters following surgery on the 71-year-old Black nationalist leader. Mr. Mandela is embarking on a 45-day trip that will take him to Europe, the United States and several African nations.

Mandela 6-week tour starts with Paris trip

PARIS — Black leader Nelson Mandela got a red-carpet welcome from French first lady Danielle Mitterrand at the start of a six-week tour of Europe and the United States to try to persuade the West to maintain sanctions against Pretoria.

Mr. Mandela, 71, the vice president of the African National Congress, was greeted in the rain by Mrs. Mitterrand in the Pavillon of Honour at the airport, an honor normally reserved for the heads of state.

Security was tight for the anti-apartheid leader's visit in the French capital, where ANC representative Dulcie September was assassinated two years ago, presumably by South African-hired hitmen. About 100 police officers stood watch as Mr. Mandela arrived at the airport.

In an interview June 6 with the left-wing Paris daily Liberation, Mr. Mandela said foreign government should keep economic sanctions against South Africa even though the country has made some progress in race relations in recent months.

"As long as the government has not begun fundamental and irreversible changes sanctions should be maintained, Mr. Mandela said.

The European Economic Community is scheduled to discuss whether to keep sanctions against the White-minority South African government at a meeting in Dublin June 25 to 26.

The ANC leader, who spent 27 years in South Africa jails before de Klerk ordered him freed in February, also plans to meet Pope John Paul II at the Vatican and to travel through the United States, where his schedule includes a ticker-tape parade in New York in his honor and an address to the joint session of Congress. He is to talk with President Bush at the White House June 25.

He also plans to attend a meeting of the Organization of African Unity in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, before returning to Johannesburg.

De Klerk party facing right-wing backlash

DURBAN, South Africa- President Frederik de Klerk's ruling party, threatened by a right-wing backlash over its racial reforms, faced a crucial test of Whitee support in a parliamentary by-election June 6.

Mr. De Klerk was also confronted with further troubles. Political violence flared overnight in Black townships, killing five people only days before the government lifted a nationwide state of emergency imposed four years ago to crush anti-apartheid rioting.

In the first barometer of White opinion since Mr. de Klerk launched his major reforms in February, the election pitted the National Party against the right-wing Conservative Party and the Liberal Democratic Party among 20,333 voters in the Indian Ocean port city of Durban's Umlazi district.

A mixture of middle-class and blue-collar neighborhoods, Umlazi has elected a National Party candidate to Parliament since 1977 but right-wing gains in September's elections that brought, Mr. de Klerk to power eroded ruling party support in the area.

Although Mr. de Klerk's party retained the seat, a loss to the Conservatives would be a major blow and lend credence to right-wing claims that Mr. de Klerk is rapidly losing support among Whites as he moves to strike a deal with the Black Majority.

The Conservative Party, the official opposition, contends Mr. de Klerk's party, which has ruled the country since 1948, would lose majority control in Parliament if national elections were held today.

At present, the National Party holds 102 of Parliament's 178 seats, down from 130 before September's elections in which the Conservative Party made strong gains. The Conservatives control 41 seats and the Democrats 34.

"Our task has been to show the voters that the road of negotiating and reconciliation will give us real security and a peaceful and prosperous future in this country," said ruling party candidate Piet Matthee.

Ruling party placards declare the Conservative Party "equals conflict," while right-wing slogans urged the voters, "Keep South Africa White."

BUILDING TOMORROW TOGETHER

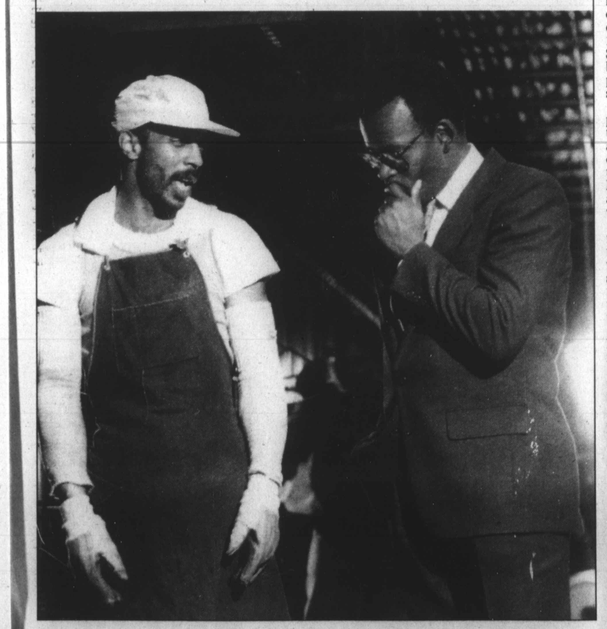
A leader listens

Delbert Mullens doesn't think of himself as a boss. He's just a guy who does what he has to do to get the job done. Many times that meant listening to what his people had to say. Applying what he learned helped him build Flint Coatings, Inc. in Flint, Michigan into a successful supplier of quality parts for General Motors cars and trucks.

General Motors cares about people with the courage to lead. It's why we make sure valuable suppliers like Delbert Mullens have access to the information they need to succeed. Because at General Motors we believe that standing behind the people who buy our Chevrolets, Pontiacs, Oldsmobiles, Buicks, Cadillacs and GMC Trucks is more than just a corporate responsibility—it's good business.

GM GENERAL MOTORS We never forget who's driving.

MARK OF EXCELLENCE



Ethiopia port to open for food shipments

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — Ethiopia said it would allow the rebel-held port of Massawa to be used to move food to people at risk of starvation in Eritrea this year, the official Ethiopian News Agency reported.

A statement released by the government also said it accepted rebel terms for a peace conference, in particular a condition that U.N. observers participate in talks.

The announcements followed a joint U.S.-Soviet statement welcoming both concessions and formally agreeing to a joint airlift into Ethiopia by the two superpowers.

About 4½ million people face severe food shortages in Ethiopia this year, according to U.N. estimates.

But renewed fighting in the north in February sabotaged plans to move emergency food through Massawa, 470 miles north of Addis Ababa.

Rebels of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front took the port in early February. They offered to reopen the docks but, the government refused to allow the food to be controlled by the opposition force.

The government controls the road out of Massawa and was able to dictate the port's usefulness.

Both sides in the 30-year war accused each other of playing politics with famine but neither changed its position. The government made strenuous efforts on land to retake Massawa, the only port serving northern Ethiopia, and dropped cluster and incendiary bombs on the dock area, setting fire to grain warehouses and burning food.

The rebels, for their part, attempted but failed to take the government-held regional capital of Asmara, 40 miles inland from Massawa.

Sudan rejects U.S. peace plan

KHARTOUM, Sudan - Sudan has unexpectedly rejected a U.S. peace proposal aimed at ending seven years of civil war, saying the plan was an attempt to internationalize conflict in the south of the country.

The rejection came without warning and followed two months of positive responses from Khartoum about the plan, conceived by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Herman Cohen.

Col. Mohamed al Amin Khalifa, the member of Sudan's ruling 15-man military junta responsible for peace talks with the rebels, denounced the plan in a newspaper interview, calling it "this strange proposal calling for withdrawal of the Sudanese government forces from its own territories."

Rejecting the Cohen plan, Col. Khalifa accused the United States of double standards because of its recent veto of a U.N. Security Council resolution on the formation of a commission to monitor Israeli treatment of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Col. Khalifa, who described the plan as "commendable" on March 27, did not say specifically why he had changed his mind about it or whether the undisclosed plan had changed since then.

Successive Khartoum governments have fought a bloody civil war against rebels of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in southern Sudan since 1983. Half a million people have died as a result of fighting and war-related famine since 1986 alone, according to Western relief agencies.

The rebel army made up of mainly Christian and animist Black Africans opposes centralized rule by the north and has expressed particular antagonism towards the strong Islamic government, which seized power in a bloodless coup last June 30.

Two sets of peace talks in 1989 between the Sudanese People's Liberation Army and the government broke down without progress, and the rebel force has consistently accused Khartoum of insincerity in its professed desire for peace.

Mr. Cohen put his ceasefire plan to the rebels as recently as May 18 in Nairobi, Kenya, and was understood to be preparing a draft "joint declaration" for the Khartoum government this month.