

Condoleezza? A question for history

by Wilbert A. Tatum
Publisher Emeritus, & Chairman
Amsterdam News

Ms. Condoleezza Rice will soon be confirmed by the Senate and become Secretary of State for the United States of America. She is a Black woman who will replace an outgoing Secretary of State who also happens to be Black, Colin Powell. As impressed as some may be by

Ms. Rice's accomplishment in becoming the second woman, and first Black woman, to become Secretary of State, there are those of us who are much concerned, not only about the appointment, but about the state of the nation, as Ms. Rice awaits confirmation.

We had no way of telling how effective Ms. Rice was as a presidential advisor. There were no ways by which we could measure her, except the satisfac-

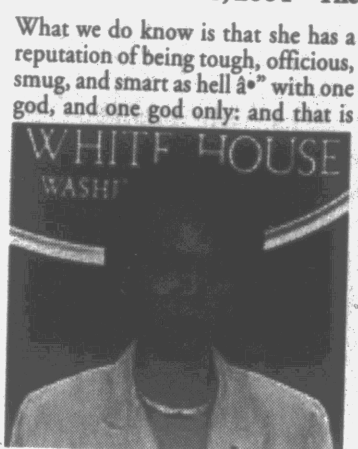
tion of President Bush by her performance. He is the one, and only one, to whom Ms. Rice had to report. Apparently, Mr. Bush was satisfied with her performance over these last four years, and expected future performances of the same level. Otherwise, he would not have hired her for such a difficult job at such a difficult time in the history of America.

While most of us have been led to

believe that Ms. Rice is contentious, difficult to get along with, and as much a right-wing hard-liner as Bush, she has never been truly tested as to what she would become under fire especially the kind of fire that one experiences as the Secretary of State of the United States.

We must operate from the premise of knowing and understanding what she has done before to assess the possibility of how well she will do in this newly appointed position that the Commander-in-Chief has entrusted her with, which is arguably one of the most difficult diplomatic posts in the world. A post which has diplomacy attached as one of the requirements for success in it seems a strange fit for Ms. Rice. She is known in the State Department as a contentious, hard-line witch. No one in the international diplomatic corps, yet interviewed, seems to have a supporting thing to say about her. Yet, Ms. Rice has been chosen. And that is that.

It has been said that she will succeed in areas where Colin Powell failed because she refuses to accept namby-pamby excuses from her staff; and will react in the same manner to those diplomats from other countries who refuse to measure up to her standards or expectations, or who try to play her cheap. True or not, none of us can say.



George W. Bush.

That is a tough résumé to have as the incoming chief diplomat in America, who has among other things haunting her: a worldwide diplomatic corps who, with few exceptions, hate our guts; little experience in the trenches of diplomacy where the ability to bargain is a requirement; and a world full of racist white men who have never seen a woman, much less a Black woman, as anything other than a maid, a slave or a sexual object (not necessarily in that order). Ms. Rice has not done well in the Black community for a number of reasons. She has not related to Black men particularly well. We must concede that much of that could be due to jealousy. Too, she has not related very well with

Black women. Part of that could be due to jealousy on her part. Perhaps more than that is jealousy over her achievements, and ability to live her life and have a career, without having to depend on a Black man for her survival. This is indeed hard to fathom, because in talking to her and reading what she is about and decisions that she has made, one must first settle with the idea that she is an enigma.

Whatever happens in this new venture of hers will just add more glory to the international accomplishments of the Black woman in America. We wish her well, and ask that she soften up a bit, and begin to understand that there are others out here who wish her well; and are proud of this Black superwoman, in spite of the fact that few Blacks seem to wish to honor her for her accomplishments with George Bush.

Many of us believe that she has done the Black nation harm. Yet, we wish to hope that before her tenure with Mr. Bush and the government of the United States ends, she will have found a way to reach out to the Black community from whence she came, in order for our children and their children to understand what she did during these years with Mr. Bush, and why she decided that she had to do it in the way in which we now perceive.

Black people want nothing more than to be able to honor her, rather than include her on whatever enemies list that is now being prepared.

Janet Jackson stirs up controversy at annual gala of One Hundred Black Men

by J. ZAMGBA BROWNE
Amsterdam News

NEW YORK, NY - Some guests attending the One Hundred Black Men's annual benefit last week chastised the organization for its decision



to salute pop singer Janet Jackson with an award.

One critic, Jeff Wilson, said that Jackson has "done absolutely nothing to deserve the honor" and that her selection sends a wrong message to young people, particularly to African American youth.

Wilson wasn't alone. There were a number of attend-

ees who expressed dismay over presenting an award to the 38-year-old performer.

Victoria Andrews said that the organization should be ashamed of themselves for glorifying Jackson, who less than a year ago exposed bear breast on national television.

And Anthony Rivera said that if the organization's sole purpose for recognizing Jackson was to sell tickets for the \$375-a-plate gala awards dinner, there are other celebrities it could have tapped.

But Paul Williams, the organization's president, didn't seem moved by the criticism. He said his group decided to honor Jackson for her "artistic achievement" and a career that has "gone from success to greater success."

In addition to Jackson, Willie E. Gary, the celebrated defense attorney, was honored, along with baseball legend Henry "Hank" Aaron and Johnnetta B. Cole, president of Bennett College for Women.

Despite the controversy over the organization's decision to recognize Jackson, a high point of the occasion was a progress report given on the

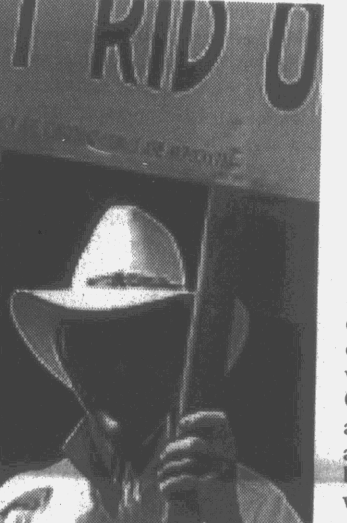
group's educational program by the Rev. Jacques A. DeGraff, a One Hundred Black Men board member.

DeGraff reported that the program successfully opened an Eagle Academy for Young Men, enrolling 118 young men to the 9th grade at an inaugural ceremony hosted by Columbia University.

DeGraff recalled that when the organization recruited students for the program, one young man filled in his application and left the portion for his address blank. Rev. DeGraff said the young man's response when asked why he left the space blank was that he was homeless and had no known address except the shelter where he often stayed. DeGraff said the organization made sure that the young man was properly enrolled in the program and pledged to work with him as he strives to pursue his educational dream, despite the impediments.

Meanwhile, last year the group launched the Bronx School for Law, Government and Justice, the only school in America built within a judicial complex. The school introduces students to careers in the law.

COMMENTARY: "Bush is amazing..."



Dewey Funkhouser (File Photo)

He and his friends (the so-called Christian Coalition) spent years spreading lies about Democrats and liberals

and devising issues that would divide the American population to his selfish advantage. A day after the election he expects all to turn off our emotions and put aside our patriotic concern for America and fall in step with his failing policies.

The uniter, not a divider, promised us four years ago that he would bring honor to the White House. It has never happened and already after this election his so-called Christian friends are boasting that good won over evil and are condemning Democrats, Liberals, and anyone that doesn't hide behind the Bible with them. You know, these are the Christians that claim to be concerned about the un-born but in fact don't give a damn about the living, if you don't believe as they do. Does Bush think this will bring America together?

I doubt patriotic Americans can forget right away about the vicious lies that the so-called Swift Boat veterans pounded the airwaves with, and the way Bush exploited 9/11 and spread fear, to cover up his lack of honest leadership.

A couple years ago I heard Jerry Falwell on national TV brag about having been a guest of Bush in the White House a couple times and that the Evangelical Christians were going to get Bush re-elected and then they would get Jeb elected for eight years and then Job's son for eight years. Think it can't happen? Well they have followed through on the first step. Their movement for world dominance is moving faster than one might think. They are enlisting many vulnerable weak and lazy-minded, desperate people everyday; all done by using fear tactics. I understand they have a big push to enlist Mexican people. There is no doubt about how fast Hispanics are populating the United States of America. If their (recruitment) plan succeeds; ten or twenty years down the road, if you don't believe the way your boss wants you to believe, you will be out of a job. With the condemnation of homosexuals that the far right spew now, how will they be treated? Are we to believe that it will not be a lot worse?

We are on a very dangerous slope now with religion mixed with government. Each person should be free to believe as he chooses, without fear. If not, we are heading in a Nazi-style direction. If we keep going in the direction we are now in, I would guess that twenty years from now we would be "hailed off" with charges for writing a letter like this.

I challenge each of you to research and find out all you can about this evil movement and expose those who are behind it and try to determine what kinds of business they are in (besides the religion business). What other income do Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell have? Do Bill Bennet and Gary Bauer have ties with Jeb Bush? These people have become wealthy from religion and possibly other businesses that might or might not be legitimate. We need to stop these people. America will not survive if we don't.

Dewey Funkhouser
Greenville, NC

Human beings are the only creatures on earth that allow their children to come back home.
-Bill Cosby

BUSH IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE RIGHTWARD DRIFT

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 2

the Black vote, he doesn't seek the Black vote and he doesn't seek any support from Black leaders. It's sad to think, but that's where we are.

When first campaigning for the White House in 2000, Bush addressed delegates to the NAACP annual convention. However, he has refused to speak at a convention while in office, the only sitting president in modern history to refuse an invitation. He has spoken to the National Urban League twice, where he felt he might get a warmer reception. Each time he was received politely, but not enthusiastically. Unlike his Democratic opponent, John Kerry, Bush also refused to be interviewed by the National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service, a federation of more than 200 Black newspapers, and Black Entertainment Television.

With authorized war and rebuilding appropriations for Iraq and Afghani-

stan now exceeding \$200 billion, coupled with a federal budget that went from a \$256 billion surplus when Bush entered office to a projected \$422 billion in fiscal 2004 and rising to \$2.7 trillion in 10 years, budget officials say domestic spending will dwindle during Bush's second term. On top of those figures, his tax cuts, that primarily benefit the wealthy, are expected to cost the U.S. treasury \$1.9 trillion over 10 years.

The Washington Post obtained a White House Office of Management and Budget memo earlier this year that warned all federal agencies in charge of domestic programs to expect budget cuts.

"But the cuts are politically sensitive, targeting popular programs that Bush has been touting on the campaign trail," the Post reported. "The Education Department; a nutritional program for women, infants and children; Head Start; and homeownership, job-training, medical research and science programs all face cuts in 2006."

Butterfield Wants to Speed Tobacco Buyout Payments Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON - Congressman G. K. Butterfield is urging the U.S. Department of Agriculture to get tobacco quota payments to farmers as soon as possible. "Many tobacco farmers are facing extreme financial distress," Butterfield said. "After meeting with many tobacco farmers in my district I blow that they simply cannot wait until the end of 2005 to receive the first buyout payment."

Butterfield said that one of the provisions of the new law eliminates all remaining Phase II payments that were part of the Master Settlement Agreement, beginning with the payment that would have "been tendered in December 2004. The new law replaces these payments with the buyout, but only specifies that they are paid sometime during 2005. Butterfield said that he has written to USDA Secretary Ann Veneman to urge the department to speed the payment process.

"Tobacco farmers have, understandably, come to rely on these payments and reasonably expected this money to be paid in December 2004," Butterfield said. "Should there be a long delay in the buyout payments, this will create a very difficult financial situation for many farmers."

Without a timely payment, Butterfield said many farmers will be forced to begin selling future payments for immediate lump sum amounts - funds that most farmers would otherwise use to pay off debts, fund future operations and to live on in retirement. "It would be a tremendous failure on the part of the federal government if the

payments farmers have so desperately sought for so long must be given up at a deep discount," Butterfield said. The Phase II payments were negotiated when the four major cigarette-makers settled the states' tobacco lawsuits in 1998, and were intended to compensate growers over 12 years for any losses they might suffer as a result of higher cigarette prices. The latest and final checks were scheduled to go out Dec. 30. The \$10.1 billion buyout deal was part of a \$136 billion corporate tax package approved by Congress and signed into law by President Bush late last month. With about 76,000 tobacco farmers and quota holders. North Carolina will receive the largest portion of the buyout. The buyout ends the Depression-era quota system that kept prices artificially high and put U.S. growers at a disadvantage. Under the quota system, a quota was needed to be able to grow a specific number of pounds of tobacco. Overall U.S. production has been limited to what domestic cigar makers intended to buy, with unsold tobacco going into reserve. Under the new law, the government will pay \$10 for each pound of quota - \$7 per pound for the quota holder and \$3 per pound for the farmer. Payments will be made over 10 years and funded by a fee on will be based on 2002 product. Those who quit farming before 2002 will receive nothing.

With the quota system, growers will be able to freely contract with cigarette companies to grow as much tobacco as they have land to sustain.

In accepting his party's nomination, Bush offered a series of programs that he wants enacted during his second term. However, the \$3 billion price tag makes it unlikely that many of them will be enacted.

Bush, the first president since Herbert Hoover to end a term with fewer people working than when he started, will be under pressure to create more jobs. The U.S. has 585,000 fewer jobs now than when Bush took office.

"I think by the end of his term, because he has not generated job growth, the effect of this weak labor market will be that the economy will collapse back on itself," says Bill Spriggs, an economist. "We will continue to see incomes stagnate and then start to fall. I think it's realistic because he doesn't think he's done anything wrong."

Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe is already looking past Bush's second term.

"This party is stronger than it's ever been. We're in the best financial shape," he says. "We now have, unlike four years ago, millions and millions of new supporters of this party. We're debt-free for the first time ever and we're beginning to build towards 2008."

First black Oklahoma justice sworn in

By Ron Jenkins

OKLAHOMA CITY - A racially mixed overflow crowd cheered as Tom Colbert of Tulsa was sworn in Thursday and took his seat as the first black member of the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

Colbert, 54, had been chief judge of the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals.

After Chief Justice Joe Watt swore him in, Colbert traced the history of the civil rights movement, thanking leaders whom he said paved the way for his appointment.

They included one in attendance - Clara Luper, who began the restaurant sit-in movement in the 1950s in Oklahoma City.

Colbert spoke of Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher, who broke the racial barrier at the University of Oklahoma in the late 1940s.

Fisher refused to attend a special law school set up for her in the basement of the Capitol and eventually got her law degree at OU. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall was one of her attorneys.

Colbert joked that "it took us over 50 years to make it from the basement of the state Capitol to the second floor," where the Supreme Court is located.

He said the Brown versus Board of Education case, which ended the "separate-but-equal" doctrine, brought him to the door of the Oklahoma Supreme Court, but it took Gov. Brad Henry to open the door.

He called the Democratic governor a visionary leader who believes government should reflect the people it serves.

"There are so many people across this country of all races and nationalities that never thought they would live to see this day," Colbert told Henry. "We all owe you a debt of gratitude."

He also thanked former Gov. Frank Keating, who first appointed him to the bench, and his many colleagues and relatives, including his 80-year-old mother, Edith, who was in attendance.

He vowed to serve with integrity and fairness.

Henry said the new justice had "incredible credentials" and was a man of high intellect and fairness.

"Oklahoma is absolutely blessed to have a man of this character to serve on its highest court," the governor said. Before becoming a judge, Colbert had served as general counsel for the Department of Human Services, assistant district attorney in Oklahoma County and assistant law school dean at Marquette University Law School in Milwaukee.

He was appointed to the state high court to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Justice Daniel Roudreau.

Bon Jenkins writes for AP.

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NCCU Honors Alumni During Legacy Gala



Chancellor James H. Ammons (right) presents the NCCU Lifetime Achievement Award to Ernie Barnes for his distinguished career as an artist.

Alumni Awards of Excellence. The recipients were: Mable Stevenson, of Winston Salem; Muriel Knight Yett, of Detroit; Roger Gregory of Durham and Margaret G. Barbee of Philadelphia.

Townes was honored for her contributions to the university. She began her teaching career at North Carolina Central University in 1950. During her 44 years of service, Dr. Townes served as chair of the Department of Biology for four years, dean of Graduate Students for seven years and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for four years until her retirement in July 1994.

In 1981, Dr. Townes began her legacy of giving to NCCU and since then has contributed a total of \$1 million, \$700,000 of which was bequeathed to the University after her death. These funds have been used to fund scholarship endowments for undergraduate students.

Barnes was honored for his distinguished career. He spent four years at North Carolina College while fulfilling the obligations of his athletic scholarship.

He majored in art under the tutelage of Ed Wilson, the chairman of the art department who had apprenticed under the

noted sculptor William Zorack and William B. Fletcher, the co-chairman.

From Wilson in particular, Barnes said he learned, "If you're going to be an artist, you've got to work from your experiences, whatever they might be. When you're on the field, check out what's going on around you in that muggy conflict. Feel the solidity of those bumps; pay attention to what you're going through, then tell me about it. When you're walking around, what do you see? What moves you? I want to know your opinion about it."

Barnes is known as the Picasso of the black art world. His paintings were featured during four television seasons of the 1970s hit sitcom "Good Times." His piece titled "Sugar Shack" was on the cover of Marvin Gaye's classic album "I Want You" in 1976.

His specific portrayals of African American themes have made him one of the most renowned and visible African American artists of the 20th century.

Stevenson, along with the other alumni Awards of Excellence recipients, were honored for their service to their alma mater. Stevenson, who is director of Catholic Social Services Host Homes, has served

as president of chapters in Atlanta, Georgia, Wilson, N.C. and Winston-Salem. She has served as Region III vice president for two terms and served on the executive council for three different terms including the present. She has worked on numerous national committees and is currently serving as the national membership chair. In 2002, she won the title of Ms. NCCU Alumni.

Yett worked for the City of Detroit for 11 years as a recreation instructor and 29 years as an attendance agent. She became actively involved with the Detroit Chapter in 1975 and has worked continuously with the chapter as president for six years and secretary for four years. She was elected as Region II vice president and served for six years. When the Region began to falter, she assumed the position of assistant vice president and again served as Region vice president for three more years.

Yett has served on several committees at the national level including the Straws resurrection and the committee for selecting Chapter and Alumnae of the year. She has worked with the chapter to make the touring choir visits to the city very success-

ful. Yett has participated in most of the fund raising activities and helped the Detroit Chapter establish the Michigan Endowment Scholarship Fund of \$150,000.

Barbee, director of administration for the Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition, joined the Philadelphia chapter of the National Alumni Association in the early 1970s. She has chaired or co-chaired various functions and chapter fundraisers. She served two terms as president of the Philadelphia Chapter and also served as treasurer. She was Miss Alumni in 1980. Barbee served as Region I secretary and as a member at large of the National Alumni Association. She has coordinated undergraduate Admissions Office recruiting activities and currently serves as vice president and membership chair of the Philadelphia Chapter. She is co-chair for the chapter's golden anniversary celebration.

Gregory, who is special assistant to the chancellor at NCCU, was employed as the Director of Alumni Relations for the university, serving as the chief liaison between NCCU and the 25,000 plus

DURHAM, N.C.—North Carolina Central University alumni, including artist Ernie Barnes, were honored during the University's first annual Legacy Gala along with several corporations.

Barnes received the University's Lifetime Achievement Award and Dr. Mary M. Townes was honored with the Dr. James E. Shepard Legacy Award posthumously. Four NCCU alumni received The

White students at black colleges: a course of a different color

By Avis Thomas-Lester
WASHINGTON, DC - Just after noon on the Howard University yard, members of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity broke into an impromptu step show, bobbing and chanting as they stomped in unison. Chad Bishop watched from a distance. In his three years on the campus, he has become fully immersed in college life: student-body treasurer, sports announcer, newspaper board member, resident adviser in a dorm.

But Bishop, one of the few white students at this historically black university, said he has never felt quite comfortable enough to join a fraternity.

"You know, I started to pledge, but then I thought I shouldn't," Bishop, 24, said. "I wasn't sure how people would feel about it with the history and everything. I wasn't sure if people would understand why I wanted to do it."

experience for all students at the once all-black colleges.

"Boardrooms are not all black, and classrooms shouldn't be either," said Lee Young, admissions director at North Carolina A&T University, which actively recruits white students.

His school's increasing popularity

Another hurdle?

Other activists and students, though, said this influx of white students is costing African Americans slots and scholarships and could change the mission of historically black colleges and universities, considered more nurturing than most other institutions.

"I feel like it will change the struc-

ture of the classes and the culture of the campus," said Tiffany Hawkins, 22, a senior telecommunications major at Baltimore's Morgan State University. "Now, we can speak freely. We learn about how things are different for us as black people. ... In English class, we study black literature. In my media criticism class, we talked about how blacks are portrayed in

the media.

"The focus is on us."

Most of the influx has come at public institutions, which receive funding from federal and state governments. Such colleges are pressured to increase their white enrollment - even as affirmative-action requirements at some other universities are waning.

"It is an odd and dubious legality that institutions that have not excluded anyone" are now forced to recruit white students, said Lezli Baskerville of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Education.

friend. Word spread, she said, and now 40 people from her town have attended the historically black college.

Lubrano said she never could have gone to a U.S. university without the full scholarship Alcorn State offered.

Alvin Chambliss, the attorney who argued the Mississippi desegregation case, said the focus at historically black campuses should be on providing a quality education, not on drawing white students.

"They are going all the way to Russia to give away scholarships when they are sitting in the poorest state in this country and there are many poor black kids right there who could use those scholarships," Chambliss said. "They should be focusing on improving facilities and adding professional programs so that it will make all students want to go to these schools."

Increasingly, white students are enrolling at the nation's 120 historically black colleges and universities, changing the landscape of institutions created when African Americans were barred from attending most colleges.



"The people who are nice to me are genuinely nice," says Chad Bishop, left, walking with Robert Jones on the Howard University campus in the District of Columbia. PHOTO: Dudley M. Brooks; WashPost

In the past quarter-century, the number of white students at these campuses has risen 65 percent, from 21,000 to nearly 35,000 - an increase driven partly by court orders aimed at desegregation and partly by interest in programs these schools offer.

with students of all races, Young said, is in many ways a measure of its success.

"What does it say about the value of your institution that people who didn't come before are now coming in droves to get in? It means that your institution has transcended color and now it is viewed as an institution of higher learning of impeccable choice."

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Tennessee State University, for instance, was at one point under court order to increase its non-black enrollment to 50 percent. The court eventually dropped that requirement, and the school has agreed to earmark \$924,000 a year for scholarships to white students.

Morgan State University President Earl Richardson agreed. He said the key to diversifying student populations is offering quality programs. The Baltimore school offers no race-based scholarships, but has unique programs in architecture and city regional planning that bring in students of all races. About 8 percent of its undergraduates and 20 percent of its graduate students are white, Asian or Latino.

ing quotas.

Private universities, such as Hampton in Virginia and Howard, face no court mandates to attract white students and generally have less diverse student bodies.

At Howard, 1 percent, or about 100 of the 11,000 students are white. Its academic reputation or its music and athletic programs generally draw those who do enroll.

Measuring success

Some, such as West Virginia State University and Lincoln University of Missouri, are now majority-white. Others, struggling to meet court mandates for more white students, use scant scholarship money to lure students from as far away as Russia.

Many educators said the changing demographics will enrich the educational

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Hands across the water

Alcorn State University, about 90 miles southwest of Jackson, has not found enough eligible white students from Mississippi to attend, so officials began recruiting overseas.

Eugenia Merculova Lubrano, 24, of Veronezh, Russia, a 2001 graduate who works as an Alcorn recruiter for multicultural students, said she heard about the college from the mother of a

My goal here is to create an institution that is comparable to any of the majority-white universities," Richardson said.

Morgan State and Maryland's other historically black institutions - Bowie State, Coppin State and University of Maryland Eastern Shore - are governed by a 2000 accord with the U.S. Department of Education that sets no quotas for enrolling white students. The agreement encourages the state to invest in those colleges so they can offer unique programs. Virginia, too, has focused on enhancing facilities and academic programs at Norfolk State and Virginia State universities rather than set-

He is aware, though, that some people think he doesn't belong.

He has been called racist names. He has been in classes where instructors have referred to "the white man" and made generalizations about white people that would have drawn fire if a white professor said the same about African Americans, he said. "I was in the administration building and I had had a problem with something ... and this lady who worked there said to me: 'Why are you here? This is for black people.'"

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