



Blacks need to quit the 'except' attitude

By **CONNIE GAINES HAYES**
Managing Editor

For Cynthia Tutt and JoAnn White, saying "I'm Black and I'm Proud" is worth its weight in gold.

Last week Tutt, a former head cashier for Office Depot, 3708 Commercial Drive and White, a former customer service manager at the same store, won \$487,967.20 (which is the

total sum after the reduction to cap) in a discrimination suit against the office-supply chain Sept. 19.

The two women filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana, Indianapolis Division, against the company, alleging discrimination Sept. 5, 1995. It took the nine-member jury, with one Black member, to reach a swift verdict during the five-day trial.

"We have to speak up, but everybody wants to hide"
— JoAnn White

"We had a number of witnesses, former and current employees, Black and white, who testified to outrageous examples, such as referring to stock people as boys, calling Blacks niggers," Mary Jane Lapointe, attorney for Tutt and White. "The jury agreed with us. It's hard to get a case where multiple witnesses with direct race comments come forth."

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Tensions build in IPD case • Jazmine happy to be home

Jury selected in IPD case

Members of the grand jury were selected Tuesday to preside over the case involving the Indianapolis Police Department officers who are accused of being participating in the South Meridian Street brawl, which occurred last month, as members of the public watched.

After the criminal investigation is completed the grand jury will begin its job on a daily basis instead of weekly sessions as early as Friday.

The six jurors and two alternates will meet daily in order to expedite this case.

Cable pirates beware!

The Marion County Prosecutors' office was successful in persuading the court to issue a Class C Felony conviction for cable theft.

Marion County Court officials handed an eight year prison sentence to Jerry Holmes for illegally connecting 109 Marion County residents to the American Cablevision cable system. Holmes was caught after an intensive investigation by the American Cablevision security department working in conjunction with the Indianapolis Police Department.

It is not an easy task to catch someone who is stealing cable service. The cable company is not an easy target for law enforcement. The cable company is not an easy target for law enforcement. The cable company is not an easy target for law enforcement.

Center wants locals computer literate

By **TYSHA HARDY-SELLERS**
Staff Writer

Only five months ago the New Life Center of the Meadows Apartments opened offering services that were lacking in the East 38th Street area. The center, which was envisioned by Paula Quinn, owner of the Meadows Apartments and of Cornerstone Properties, opened May 6, with the goal of serving the 330 unit

housing complex and the surrounding community as a resource center.

One of the resources the center provides is a high-tech computer lab, the Computer Learning Center, which trains students in computer skills, introduces students to on-line services and multimedia programming as well as trains students for careers.

In the midst of what was once

considered an area characterized by degradation and chaos, five individuals rose above to aid the new air of the Meadows Apartments. The five, Ricky L. Brown, Taramma Means, Harry E. Reid, Barbara Senter and Sherry Wilcox, were the first class of the Computer Learning Center who graduated Saturday, Sept. 21.

During the 10 week period, the students were addressed by

several outside speakers including Mary Maultsby of the Urban League; Barb Jankowski of Sears Roebuck and Co.; Carolyn McCutcheon of Goodwill Industries; Susan Hall from Dove Harbor; and Monica Ferguson of Indiana Neighborhood Housing Project. The speakers covered topics from financial planning, job readiness, and improving

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Captain Indianapolis Police Department Traffic, Robert Turner and Elder Lionel Rush square off concerning the controversial IPD brawl that occurred a month ago. Rush has been one of the main participants in various protests staged by members of the Concerned Clergy. Jazmine Barlow and Mom Carmen are happy to be home after young Jazmine underwent a life-saving liver transplant two months ago. Jazmine was released from Riley Hospital for Children Tuesday (Recorder Photos By Curtis Guynn)

Being an IPD officer is not easy

Editor's Note: The following is the testimony of Vincent Burke, who has been an Indianapolis police officer for five years. Burke shares his personal feeling regarding IPD and the recent incident involving IPD officers in the downtown Meridian Street brawl. According to Vincent being a "Pig" is no easy task — CGH

By **VINCENT BURKE**

People need to be careful of what they ask for. Everyone is on the bandwagon of hating police officers and firing them. Imagine how society would be if there were no law enforcement officers to serve and protect.

Everyone is screaming about the radical changes that need to take place on IPD. Be careful of what you ask for. People are saying we need civilians with the power to fire policemen on the spot. That is nonsense! It's nonsense because civilians are totally clueless about what police officers go through on a daily basis, on or off duty.

For example, if I incarcerate someone for drugs, is that person coming back after me and my family after that person gets out of jail? Is that person coming back after my loved ones? I don't think the everyday working citizen has to worry about this on a daily basis. Civilians are not shot at like policemen are, hated, disrespected, or expected to be professional, even when someone curses you out, tries

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A home in ruins

Chris Montgomery, brother of Denise Yarber says the fire could have been prevented if the family had electrical service to their home. (Recorder Photo By Curtis Guynn)

Macmillan establishes fund in memory of tragic house fire victims

Submitted By **JOHN W. GAMMON**
Indianapolis Fire Department

Three children and one adult died Sept. 23 in a blazing fire which caused more than \$30,000 in damage to a two-story wooden frame dwelling at 1018 W. 27th St. Monday night.

Three children downstairs did not make it out of the house to safety. Eleven-year-old Kristi Yarber was rescued by firefighters who found her in the kitchen lying on the floor. She is in critical condition at Wishard Memorial Hospital suffering from respiratory distress and 3rd degree burns to 40 percent of her body. Twelve-year-old Teesha Yarber, died later at Methodist Hospital and 13-year-old Terri Yarber, died at Wishard after firefighters found both lying together on the floor downstairs, between two beds.

Firefighters rescued 3-year-old Titus Yarber, from an upstairs bedroom but the youngster died later at Methodist Hospital. His mother, 44-year-old Denise Yarber, found upstairs in the hall was pronounced dead at the scene of the fire.

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POLITICAL NOTES

Public forums held

Congressional candidates Virginia Blankenbaker and Julia Carson will face each other and voters of the 10th Congressional District in a televised debate on Channel 20 from 8 to 9 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 29. Panelists include John Schwantes, *Indianapolis Star/News*; Larry Leggett; WFMS Radio and Nancy Smith, League of Women Voters.

Meanwhile Hoosier home, farm and business owners concerned about the fate of Indiana's property tax system are invited to attend an open forum hosted by state Rep. Cleo Duncan, (R-

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SKILL

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self-esteem.

"The owner wanted to open the New Life Center to the broader community. Quinn, from the start has been very invested in providing tools and opportunities to promote a different way of living a better way of living," said Chris Zile, manager of social services.

"To enter the class, students are required to show proof of a GED or high school diploma and willingness to work hard," Zile added. Joyce Moore, online services coordinator, said that the program did very well for its first run.

"So far things have gone pretty well," said Moore. "The program provides communication and Internet access. Some apartments will eventually be equipped with Internet access equipment. I think that they were surprised at themselves. They were surprised about how much they learned and retained. We hope that they will apply these skills to any jobs that they search for and even create home-based businesses."

The Computer Learning Center is free to those interested and is opened, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

"I read about the program in the paper. I recognized Joyce Moore and decided to sign up. I'm glad that I came," said graduate Harry Reid Sr.

"Other schools have the equipment, but they go through so much lecturing—not the hands-on practice that we received here. After living here for 13 years this is the best thing that we have seen. Everyone should take advantage of this. I'm 69 years old and if I could do it, anyone could do it. I wouldn't have missed it for the world," he said.

As a part of their graduation, the students were required to complete a multimedia project.

"Sometimes it was hard for some of the students to find child care so that they could come in regularly.



Ricky L. Brown, Taramma Means, Harry E. Reid, Barbara Senter and Sherry Wilcox, were the first graduating class of the Computer Learning Center offered by The Meadow's New Life Center, Saturday, Sept. 21.

Usually child care is provided by IMPACT. But if that is not possible, we have some of the computers set up with educational programs for their children and other activities if they have to bring in their children," said Moore.

"We are a resource. All the residents have to do is come to us and they can find anything. The access is available here," Moore added.

Taramma Means, another graduate said that she was tired of working retail and fast food so she decided to participate in the program.

"I am ready to get out of the neighborhood. I have a baby on the way and I want to offer more for my child and myself," Means said.

"I decided to get training here because I want to be able to work in more of an office environment. This program has helped me a lot.

I applied for a secretarial job before I entered this class. I didn't know how to type. I told the interviewer that but she didn't believe me. When I finished she thought something was wrong with the printer because I had only 20 words typed," she quipped.

Means continued, "Now I have achieved typing skills and more. I'm currently working on my multimedia project. It covers the past,

present and future of what I learned, expected in this class, and what I plan to do. I'm currently searching for better employment. Things are looking pretty good for me."

"I would tell anyone who is looking for a change get into this class and stick it out. We started with 10

people and only the five of us stayed and are now graduating. To make a change you sometimes have to face challenges. We need challenges to keep us going.

Sure it may be hard, but like Nike says, 'just do it.' I am."

FIRE

Continued from A1

As firefighters arrived on the scene the children's father and husband of Denise, 64-year-old Clarence Yarber, climbed out of the second story window to the porch roof where he then fell to the ground. He is listed in critical condition suffering from cuts and 3rd degree burns to 40 percent of his body.

The cause of the fire was determined by Indianapolis Fire Investigations Teams to have started accidentally from curtains catching fire from a candle. No working smoke detectors were found. The family had no early detection of this fire which cut their chances for survival drastically.

"Anyone who cannot afford a smoke detector can get one from IFD," said Chief of the Indianap-

olis Fire Department Keith D. Smith.

Meanwhile, Macmillan Publishing USA has established the Yarber Family Assistance Fund on behalf of Macmillan employee Clarence Yarber and his family. Macmillan Publishing President Scott Flanders has made a personal donation of \$1,000 to begin the assistance fund. Macmillan Publishing will match all community donations up to aid the Yarber family.

Clarence has worked in Macmillan's warehouse full-time since March and for a year prior, he was a temporary employee.

Donations to the Yarber Family Assistance Fund may be mailed to: Clarence Yarber Family Assistance Fund P.O. Box 90, Carmel, IN 46032.

New Law hearsay is just for O.J.

By DENNIS SCHATZMAN

If ever one needed proof that a new California law allowing the admittance of hearsay evidence in civil trials was passed solely for the purpose of fleecing O.J. Simpson out of millions, one need only go to Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Sherman Smith's courtroom in Department 42.

Last month, California's Gov. Pete Wilson signed into law, a bill that allows lawyers representing the families of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Lyle Goldman to introduce hearsay testimony in their "wrongful death" suit against Simpson.

The Pro Football Hall of Famer-turned actor and pitch man was acquitted of murdering his estranged wife and her friend almost a year ago.

Specifically, the plaintiffs are now free to present portions of Brown Simpson's diary and second-hand gossip from some of her friends to a jury in the case now being heard in the trendy Los Angeles suburb of Santa Monica.

Governor Wilson's signing of the novel bill was met with great fanfare. It made front-page news nationwide and has been lauded by many of the most recognized law school professors who double as television commentators on what is now known as "Simpson II."

Apparently, they don't read newspapers, including the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, the celebrated legal newspaper, in Judge Smith's courtroom. Had they done so, Smith would certainly have not made such a bizarre ruling as he did last week in the case, Potts vs. City of Los Angeles (BC 120232.)

Glenda Potts, a 32-year-old Black laborer for the city-run Hyperion Wastewater Treatment Plant, was fired January 1994 for allegedly stealing a telephone an-

swering machine. The city's Civil Service Commission upheld the firing even after it was learned that the machine was found in a box with other machines that had been collected.

Potts filed a complaint with the Congress of Racial Equality of California and hired attorney Margo Bouchet to represent her in her fight to get her job back. In August, 1995 Potts was reinstated with back pay. Her suit currently before the court is for damages due to racism, discrimination and cronyism.

Bouchet offered as an expert witness a former judge who conducted an exhaustive investigation into those allegations for the *Los Angeles Sentinel*, a Black-owned newspaper. His eight-part series, published in 1991, was buttressed by evidence gleaned from numerous internal reports and memorandums and interviews with nearly 100 Hyperion workers and supervisors. The judge/reporter also wrote a series of articles on the firing of Potts in 1994-95 where he also interviewed several of Potts' coworkers who contend that she had been set up by several of her Black shift workers and white supervisors.

Lawyers complained vehemently over the admission of the expert. Smith agreed, saying the reporter was "not competent to offer such hearsay testimony in this case," Smith suggested that the reporter give names of sources to the attorney then subpoena them to give testimony in this case.

Bouchet then reminded Smith that Hyperion employment analyst, Claude Mark Reed, was fired two days after he told the reporter that he refused to go along with his supervisor's plan to fire "three very competent Black secretaries," to expose other employees to similar retaliatory treatment would be unwise, Bouchet said.

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