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THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Jan
12, 2000

www.sgaonline.com

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Williams case will not be reopened

DOJ declines to investigate prisoner's death; People's Tribunal to respond today

By Brian Lawson
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — The U.S. Department of Justice has decided for the second time there is not sufficient evidence to warrant a criminal prosecution in the

death of Willie James Williams.

After reviewing evidence provided to it by the People's Tribunal — which is seeking a reopening of the Williams case — the DOJ informed U.S. Attorney Beverly Martin Tuesday there is "no prosecutable case," said Pam

Lightsey, a spokesperson for the U.S. Attorney's office in Macon.

Christine DiBartolo, a Justice Department spokesperson, declined to provide specifics concerning how the evidence was reviewed or if any additional investigation was conducted.

The Rev. Floyd Rose, president of the People's Tribunal, said his organization would meet today and then offer an appropriate response to the DOJ's decision.

Lowndes County Sheriff Ashley Paulk has said Williams' death was the result of a fall suffered while he was resisting arrest.

The Justice Department reported in October that its review of the evidence surrounding Williams' Sept. 2, 1998 death while in Lowndes County Sher-

iff's Department custody was insufficient for prosecution. The Tribunal has argued the investigation into Williams death was affected by cronyism between law enforcement agencies and that a subsequent coroner's inquest failed to examine inconsistencies between testimony and the autopsy and medical examiner's reports.

Following the October announcement, the Tribunal trav-

Please see WILLIAMS, page 3A

Continued from page 1A

Williams

eled to Macon in early November and presented to Martin a summary of evidence it had developed from the official records of the case. That evidence, which the DOJ reportedly reviewed, included discrepancies in the official testimony about Williams' injuries, showed differing accounts from the arresting officer of what transpired as Williams was arrested and provided copies of patrol car videotapes which appeared to show Williams being struck from behind by a deputy as he is being led to a patrol car.

The Tribunal also gave Martin a petition calling for an independent federal probe into the case and other allegations of brutality at the jail with more than 1,600 signatures.

Martin forwarded the information to the Justice Department's civil rights division.

A Lowndes County Coroner's Inquest jury ruled by a 3-2 margin in late 1998 that Williams' death was not the result of involuntary manslaughter on the part of Deputy Kevin Farmer, who arrested him. A Lowndes grand jury later declined to indict Farmer on involuntary manslaughter charges, noting they found no evidence of excessive force by the deputy.

To contact reporter Brian Lawson,
please call 244-3400, ext. 239.

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Jan 13
3, 2000

www.sgaonline.com

50 Cents

Williams case still under review

Officials say earlier report was premature

By Brian Lawson
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — The U.S. Justice Department in Washington has not finished its review of the Willie Williams case, a spokesperson there said Wednesday night, a day after Justice officials reported a criminal prosecution could not be pursued.

"The file is still under review," said Christine DiBartolo, a Justice Department spokesperson. "The case is not closed."

"There were some pre-decisional conversations that we took to be more final than they were."

Pam Lightsey
U.S. Attorney's office

The Justice Department is reviewing evidence presented to U.S. Attorney Beverly Martin by the People's Tribunal, concerning Williams' Sept. 2, 1998 death at the Lowndes County Jail. The Tribunal has argued Williams' death was the result of excessive force or brutality at the hands of Lowndes County Sheriff's Department employees.

A spokesperson from Martin's office reported Tuesday afternoon she had been told by officials in Washington there was "no prosecutable case."

Pam Lightsey, who works for the U.S. Attorney's office in Macon, said the previous day's announcement was the result of efforts to pass information on to the public as soon as it is available.

"There were some pre-decisional conversations that we took to be more final than they were," Lightsey said Wednesday night. "There will be an official statement concerning the case status when the Civil Rights Division is finished with its review."

Sheriff Ashley Paulk has said Williams' fatal head injury was the result of a fall which occurred while he was resisting arrest.

The DOJ reported in October

Please see WILLIAMS, page 3A

Continued from Page 1A

Williams

that its review of the evidence gathered by FBI agents following Williams' death was insufficient to warrant a criminal prosecution.

Martin met with the Tribunal Nov. 1 and passed its additional evidence to the criminal division of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division.

The evidence included discrepancies in the official testimony about Williams' injuries, showed differing accounts from the arresting officer of what transpired as Williams was arrested and provided copies of patrol car videotapes which appeared to show Williams being struck from behind by a deputy as he is being led to a patrol car.

The Tribunal also gave Martin a petition with more than 1,600 signatures calling for an independent federal probe into the case and other allegations of brutality at the jail.

The Rev. Floyd Rose, president of the People's Tribunal, had been informed by Martin Tuesday that the case would not be pursued. He said the Tribunal will hold a meeting at 12:15 p.m., today at the Church at Pine Hill to discuss the matter.

A Lowndes County Coroner's Inquest jury ruled by a 3-2 margin in late 1998 that Williams' death was not the result of involuntary manslaughter on the part of Deputy Kevin Farmer, who arrested him. The jury was split along racial lines, with three white jurors voting against the involuntary manslaughter verdict and two black jurors dissenting.

A Lowndes grand jury later declined to indict Farmer on similar charges.

To contact reporter Brian Lawson, please call 248-3400, ext. 239.

Nation

The Valdosta Daily Times

Sunday, Jan. 16, 2000 — 9A

Haitians protest immigration policy, ethnic politics

MIAMI (AP) — Black activists rallied Saturday in the name of justice to call for an end to a double standard in U.S. immigration policy and local politics which they say favors Cubans over Haitians.

"It's a call to every person of African descent and everyone who stands for justice," said Gepsie Metellus, director of public affairs for Miami-Dade County Commissioner Barbara Carey-Shuler.

About 150 people, who gathered at the downtown Torch of Friendship to honor the memory of Martin Luther King Jr., called attention to "ethnic poli-

**"It's a simple cry that we're calling — be fair.
Whatever you do for one, do for the other."**

Rev. Willie Simms

a member of the Miami-Dade County Community Relations Board

tics" by denouncing officials for going to Washington on behalf of 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez while "not saying a word about Haitians."

A recording of King's speeches played in the background and protesters carried signs that said: "Haitians and African-Americans: United for Survival" and "Equal Treatment and Fair-

ness for Haitian Refugees."

"It's a simple cry that we're calling — be fair," said Rev. Willie Simms, a member of the Miami-Dade County Community Relations Board. "Whatever you do for one, do for the other."

Earlier this month Miami-Dade Mayor Alex Penelas and Miami Mayor Joe Carollo, accompanied by a lawyer for

Elian's Miami relatives, flew to Washington to appeal directly to Attorney General Janet Reno for the boy to be allowed to remain in the U.S.

Activist Marleine Bastien criticized the politicians for failing to mention a boatload of Haitian immigrants and their children who were ferried back to Haiti.

"They need to do more than show their faces when there is a rally," said Bastien who is president of Haitian Women of Miami. "We're not satisfied and we will not be satisfied until they understand that the Haitians are part of this community."

Nation

The Valdosta Daily Times

12A — Sunday, Jan. 16, 2000



Associated Press

President Clinton talks with centenarian and one-time White House employee Charlotte Filmore as she leaves the White House following the president's weekly radio address Saturday in Washington. Clinton called Filmore a living testament to civil rights progress in America Saturday, Martin Luther King Jr.'s 71st birthday, and said, "When she worked at the White House she had to use the side door. Today she came through the front door all the way to the Oval Office."

Clinton wants expansion of law on hate crimes

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton marked Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday Saturday by urging Congress to step up civil rights enforcement and expand the federal hate crimes law to protect homosexuals, women and the disabled.

"There are still too many barriers and examples of too many Americans facing discrimination in their daily lives," even though the country is doing better in treating all citizens equally, the president said in his weekly radio address.

Speaking on King's 71st birthday and two days before the nation's official celebration, Clinton renewed a commitment to add acts of hatred motivated by sexual orientation, gender and disability to the list of hate crimes already covered — acts sparked by prejudice based on race, religion, color or national origin.

A move to expand the law

died last year because of opposition from Republicans in Congress.

"Such hate crimes leave deep scars not just on the victims but on our larger community, for they take aim at others for who they are, and when they do they take aim at America," Clinton said.

Clinton said that in his fiscal 2001 budget he wants "the largest ever investment to enforce our civil rights laws." He plans to seek \$695 million, a 13 percent increase over last year.

The proposals were criticized by the GOP's highest-ranking black lawmaker in the House, Rep. J.C. Watts of Oklahoma, chairman of the House Republican Conference.

Watts said Clinton's hate crimes proposal was as an effort to "separate and divide," to tell crime victims that "some lives are more important than others."

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Monday, Jan. 17, 2000

www.sgaonline.com

America celebrates MLK Day

King's widow urges people to work at helping each other

ATLANTA (AP) — The America that Martin Luther King Jr. envisioned moves closer to reality each time someone helps another, his widow said Sunday as she charged participants at a service summit convened in his honor to serve others.

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members," said Coretta Scott King, 72.

The summit at Georgia State University, along with services at King's church, Ebenezer Baptist, were the focal point of Atlanta's King holiday observances.

Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo was scheduled to address the summit Sunday night, while Vice President Al Gore was to travel to Atlanta to speak at a service today at King's church, Ebenezer Baptist.

Also Monday, South African President Thabo Mbeki, Gov. Roy Barnes and Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell planned to lead a march in King's honor to the



Associated Press

Gary Turner, left, school program director for Hands on Atlanta, greets Coretta Scott King minutes after King addressed a crowd of volunteers at the Martin Luther King Jr. "Day of Service Summit" Sunday in Atlanta. Mrs. King told the crowd "Every act of service makes America a better nation and the world a better place."

King Center. The King holiday, which President Reagan signed into law in 1983, has become a day of volunteerism and community service in many places. The King family and President Clinton have in recent years highlighted the day as a chance to serve.

"The concept here is that service to others is a way to connect to the divine," Mrs. King said.

And to serve, she said, quoting her husband, all one needs is "a heart of grace and a soul generated by love."

Service activities around the country today include blood donor campaigns, fundraising events, gun buybacks, neighborhood and park cleanups and Habitat for Humanity house-building projects.

Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy honored in Valdosta ceremonies

By Peter Failor
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Both church and state honored the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. in two Valdosta events Sunday night, and the message was a constant: Reaching out to others.

The Evangel Assembly of God on 2711 Bemiss Road hosted a multi-congregational, multi-racial worship service of close to 1,000 people, and Valdosta State University saw more than 250 students and faculty of all races in a King commemorative program.

At Evangel, the message was one of "Unity in the Community."

"It's about unity; it's about not only bringing people together, but bringing every denomination together," said Pastor James Kent of Evangel, explaining there were more similarities in people's faiths and that it is important to focus on those instead of the differences.

Kent's statement was echoed by that of Nathaniel Hau-

"It's about unity; it's about not only bringing people together, but bringing every denomination together."

Pastor James Kent
Evangel Assembly of God

gabrook, a member of New Life Missionary Baptist Church who said that people naturally gravitate to the familiar, or to those who look or act like them.

"But this is a start of letting each race and each individual come together," Kent said of the service, explaining he felt this was in the spirit of King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

Across town at Valdosta State's Whitehead Auditorium there was a different congregation honoring King's legacy, but the spirit remained the same. The theme was "A day on, not a

Monday, Jan. 17, 2000

▶ OTHER OPINIONS

King's spirit lives on in powerful words

Martin Luther King Jr. led by the power of his voice and his words. He led in other ways, too, this gifted Baptist minister who was dead from an assassin's bullet at the age of 39. His courage was crucial. His non-violent tactics were important. He was academically talented and possessed of a charismatic personality.

But his speeches, his magnificent speeches — these set hearts on fire, these inspired his followers and converted the skeptical, and they live on today, especially that speech he gave in August of 1963 at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington.

Here are some excerpts.

"I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.'

"I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

"I have a dream today . . .

"I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

"This is our hope. This is the faith with which I return to the South ... With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, knowing that we will be free one day.

"This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with a new meaning, 'My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring.'"

A few paragraphs later, King finished with this thought:

"When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, 'Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!'"

Dr. King's words and his mighty, beautiful voice are worth remembering this day as we honor the great civil rights leader and his achievements.

— Scripps Howard News Service

'Southern firewall'

Support from black voters may help Gore defeat Bradley

WASHINGTON (AP) — Al Gore holds a huge advantage over Bill Bradley among black voters — a group with significant influence later in the Democratic nomination fight. They help form the vice president's "Southern firewall."

Even with victories in New Hampshire and a few other early primary states, Bradley couldn't topple Gore without more support from blacks, particularly in the South. That's why the Bradley campaign is questioning the vice president's commitment to blacks and reminding voters about the former New Jersey senator's own record on race relations.

The hurdles facing Bradley are high, but not insurmountable, according to Democratic pollsters and activists.

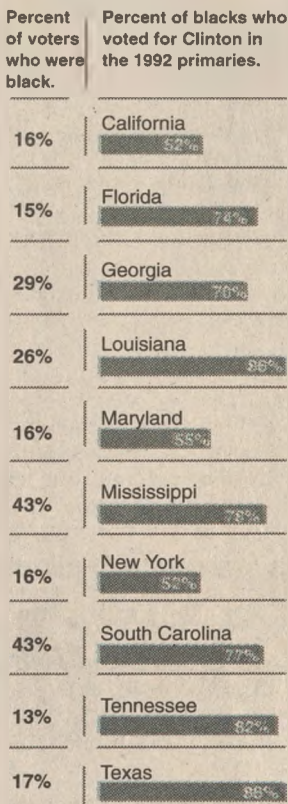
"Blacks are serving as Gore's Southern firewall: If Bradley happens to win Iowa and New York, then they go south and Gore has a remarkable number of black voters," said Democratic pollster Ron Lester, who surveys for several black congressmen. "Black voters have no reason to leave Gore, but if Bradley can blow Gore out in a couple of states, he might be able to catch on."

The candidates debated Monday — Martin Luther King Day — in a minority-run forum in Iowa.

Polls consistently show

Black voters

A Gallup poll shows that 63 percent of black voters support Al Gore, while 20 percent support Bill Bradley. Here's a look at how Gore's colleague, Bill Clinton, performed among black voters in the 1992 Democratic primaries.



Source: Voter News Service; Gallup AP

blacks backing Gore over Bradley by a 2-to-1 margin. That edge won't help in Iowa or New Hampshire, where few blacks are registered to vote, but the impact grows later on.

In nearly half of the 11 states conducting Democratic primaries March 7, blacks made up at least 10 percent of the vote in

the 1992 presidential primaries. Still, Bradley's ties to New York and other Northeast states — and his ability to raise money in California — bode well for his chances in major states on that day.

Two days later, votes will be cast in South Carolina, where 43 percent of the Democrats who participated in the 1996 primaries were black.

On March 14, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas conduct primaries. Oklahoma is the only one of those states without a sizable black vote.

"Gore's going to come out of the South with enormous margins and it's basically going to be all over but the crying," said David Bositis, an expert on black voting patterns with the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington.

"I wouldn't say it's automatic," said Silas Lee, a political pollster from New Orleans who cautioned that Gore has yet to prove his black supporters are passionate enough to turn out and vote.

Analysts say Gore owes most of his support to President Clinton, who is viewed favorably by nine out of 10 blacks.

"Thank God I don't have to run against Bill Clinton," Bradley jokingly told an Iowa youngster Monday.

Yet Clinton's impact on the race was clear in Monday's debate, when Bradley chastised Gore for not securing a presidential order to end racial profiling of criminal suspects.

Standing by his man, Gore replied: "I don't think President Bill Clinton needs a lecture from Sen. Bill Bradley on how to stand up and fight" for blacks.

Don't you want my job?

By T.S. Rose
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Tony Henderson is president of ACH Mortgage Company, located at 810 Ridgeway Drive in Valdosta.

What I do: Basically, as a mortgage broker, I assist people in aligning their financial needs with a particular lender based on their credit and income. We act as the middleman between the customer and the financial institution to help them meet their financial goals.

Most challenging aspect of my job: The most challenging part of this job is keeping up with new developments and remaining competitive in a changing market ... the niche changes so much in this business, it's sometimes hard to stay on top of the products and technology that comes out.

Educational background: I have a degree in management from VSU, but the majority of my knowledge was self-gained. I

Do you have an interesting occupation? Call reporter T.S. Rose at 244-3400, ext. 246.

got stuck in the filing room for the first six months at my first job in a bank. I read every file I laid my hands on and learned as much, if not more, than I learned in college.

How things have changed: When I first started, the telephone was my main tool; now things are done largely through the computer which enables us to avoid a lot of running around. Direct mailing has also been a significant change.

What I like most about my job: Helping people is what I like most about this job; showing someone how they can save an additional \$400-500 per month or telling people that they are ready to become homeowners now as opposed to saving and waiting six months to



Mike Tanner/The Valdosta Daily Times

Tony Henderson, president of ACH Mortgage, takes pride in helping local people become homeowners.

own a home. If I wouldn't accept a particular deal then I don't expect my customers to accept the deal. I like extending myself to my customers.

What keeps me going: I

love what I do first of all; being my own boss is the best part because I plan my own day and if I want to work three hours in a particular day, I can. There is a lot less stress from being in business for yourself.

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

ay, Jan. 18, 2000

www.sgaonline.com

50 C

Leaders nix effort to change flag

Rev. Jackson
calls for tourism
boycott of Georgia

ATLANTA (AP) — Elected officials of both parties, from the governor on down, made it clear Monday they have no interest right now in removing the Confederate emblem from Georgia's flag, despite a threatened boycott by the Rev. Jesse Jackson's organization.

"I'm saying what I've said all along — we have a lot of issues on our plate and this is just not one

What do you think?

Should the Confederate battle flag remain a part of Georgia's state flag? You tell us.

Call 244-3400, ext. 460.

that's in the mix right now," said Gov. Roy Barnes, a Democrat.

"There is no groundswell of support in Georgia to change our flag, and people do not see it as a priority," said Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor, also a Democrat.

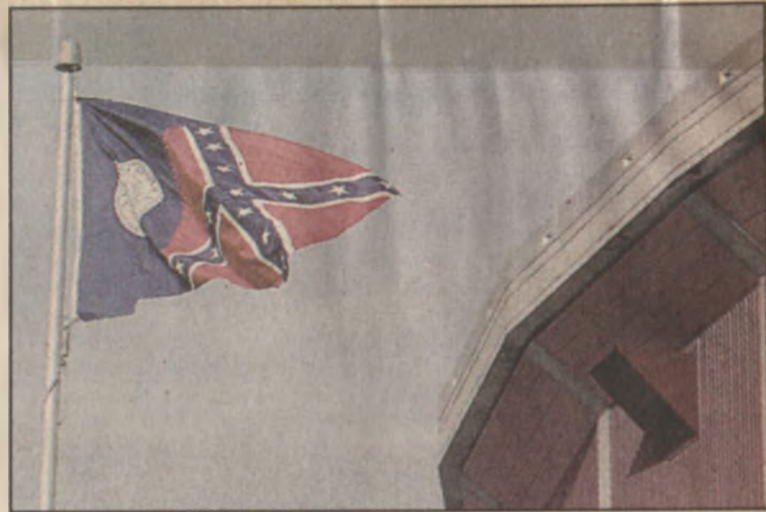
Senate Republican leader Eric Johnson of Savannah said he doesn't think the state's mood has changed since former Gov. Zell

Miller tried and failed to push a flag change through the Legislature in 1993.

"I think the flag's here for a long time," he said.

Civil rights activists, hoping to capitalize on publicity generated by the Super Bowl in Atlanta, plan to call Jan. 30 for a tourism boycott of Georgia, said Joe Beasley, Southern regional director for Jackson's Rainbow/PUSH Coalition.

"We will use whatever technique is necessary to focus attention on the flag in Georgia," he told *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* in an interview published Monday.



Associated Press

The Georgia State Flag, right, flies Monday in front of the Georgia Dome, site of the 2000 Super Bowl, in Atlanta. The Rev. Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition is calling for tourists to boycott Georgia until the Legislature removes the Confederate emblem from the flag.



Associated Press

A crowd estimated at 46,000 people take part in a march and rally Monday in Columbia, S.C., against the Confederate flag flying above of the South Carolina Statehouse.

Thousands march to protest Confederate flag

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Decriing the Confederate flag as a symbol of slavery and racism, thousands of people marched to South Carolina's Statehouse on Martin Luther King Day to demand the banner be taken down.

They also want a permanent holiday for state workers to honor the slain civil rights leader. State workers now can take that day off or another of their choice, including one of several tied to Confederate anniversaries.

"The flag is coming down today," marchers sang as they walked six blocks from a downtown church to the Statehouse. Some carried signs reading, "Your heritage is my slavery."

Frederick C. James, a retired AME bishop, said he was reminded of marching with King in Washington in 1963, a year after South Carolina raised the flag above the dome to commemorate the Civil War centennial.

"We were just about as sure in 1963 that we were going to be victorious with the civil rights law, which was enacted in 1964, as we are now that this flag will come down off of that Statehouse," James said.

A scattering of white marchers joined the mostly black crowd. Margaret Abbott, 59, tied her grandmother's

framed Daughters of Confederate Veterans certificate around her neck. She said her ancestors fought in the Civil and Revolutionary wars so she could have freedom of choice, and she wants the flag removed.

"We have a lot more important things to do than fight over this stupid flag," she said.

Flag supporters say the banner that flies atop the Statehouse with the U.S. and state flags honors the state's heritage and those who fought and died for a cause they believed in. More than 6,000 Confederate flag supporters marched a week ago at the Statehouse.

State police estimated Monday's crowd at 46,000 people. Many from out of state honored a tourism boycott by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and slept Sunday night on cots in church basements throughout the city.

"This is the kind of thing we need to be doing on Martin Luther King's birthday," said King's son, Martin Luther King III, at a prayer breakfast. "The flag is a terrible symbol that brings a lot of negative energy. And while we believe the flag has an appropriate place, it just does not belong on top of the Capitol because it is not a sign of unification."

VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Jan
19, 2000

www.sgaonline.com

50 Cents

Continued from page 1A

Flag

"I think that the Confederate Battle Flag should be taken down because it represents rebellion ... if you look at all the schools around the county, everybody wants to be a rebel. You got your Berrien County Rebels and your Turner County Rebels ... Georgians need to wake up."

Another person in favor of the flag being removed speaks to what it represents to them.

"I feel that the Confederate battle flag should be removed from the Georgia flag because it represents the history of slavery and the oppression of black people in this country."

To contact reporter T.S. Rose, please call 244-3400, ext. 246.

Readers: Keep state flag flying

Poll callers overwhelmingly favor keeping Georgia's flag

By T.S. Rose
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Out of the total 231 call-in responses to a reader poll in Tuesday's *The Valdosta Daily Times* concerning the Georgia state flag, only a handful were in support of removing the flag.

The recent drive by Jesse

Jackson's Rainbow PUSH coalition to boycott Atlanta has added a new dimension to the stirring controversy surrounding the state flag.

"I feel that the Confederate Flag should be a part of the state flag because it represents Southern heritage and represents a war fought by both sides. It doesn't represent race issues," said

one adamant Valdostan.

One Valdosta woman said she believes the entire issue is nothing more than pettiness.

"Such pettiness," said the woman in an unemotional tone. "The flag is just cloth. When people realize that both blacks and whites died for the flag ... they didn't care about the flag, they cared about what it stood for: freedom!"

But to one other Valdostan the flag represents ideals other than just Southern heritage and freedom.

Please see FLAG, page 3A



Associated Press

Readers of The Valdosta Daily Times overwhelmingly favored keeping the Confederate battle flag as part of Georgia's state flag.

RANT & RAVE

Here's your chance to let South Georgia and North Florida know how you feel, with just a single phone call.

RANT: to let loose with the steam that's been building up inside. RAVE: to give recognition for things well done. Call 244-3400, ext. 418, and take up to 30 seconds to express yourself.

Where it starts

“ We talk about putting a stop to prejudice and we wonder how that will begin, but yet there is a little African American boy who is in my daughter's class who claims he cannot go to a little girl's birthday party because she is white, after he had been invited. So where does it start people? It starts with the parents.”

No big deal

“ You can come to Lowndes High School on any cold day and see several students in camouflage jackets. If the dress code can't be enforced on everyone then we shouldn't single out one student and make it a big issue. All the other dress code rules have went down the toilet. Why are we making a big deal out of one boy's camouflage coat? Leave the boy alone and let him keep warm. It is cold outside, for heaven's sake.”

Clothes counterpoint

“ Why should a Lowndes High student disobeying the dress code make front page in the Times? Is it a rare occurrence? Was he sent outside to freeze? Find something else to print on page 1.”

Code confusion

“ The teachers in Lowndes High School are confused about the dress code. The dress code is not being consistently enforced. Camouflage is one of the things students are not supposed to wear and that teacher was right to have that student not wear that jacket. Parents can buy anything else, they can buy the proper clothing for their children.”

Fair is fair

“ Mr. Hamilton was not in compliance with the dress code policy. The policy states no camouflage. It doesn't matter what you do, if you hunt or anything. Camouflage is not permitted in schools. I wonder if black children start wearing camouflage pants, would they be allowed to wear those or is it just a white thing?”