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## Reverend Sharpton, Charging Prosecution With "Foul Play" in Yusuf Hawkins Case, Leads 500 People in Bensonhurst Demonstration

Reverend Al Sharpton, charging that mishandling of the Yusuf Hawkins murder case by the Brooklyn District Attorney's office has left the case in "serious trouble", led 500 marchers through the streets of Bensonhurst in protest. Demonstrators from Reverend Sharpton's United African Movement were joined at the rally's starting point at the Slave Theater in Brooklyn's Bedford Stuyvesant community by 100 supporters brought by the New Alliance Party. The sixteen-year old African American youth was killed by a mob of 30 young white men last August when he and two friends came to the all-white Bensonhurst neighborhood to look at a used car. Seven of the Bensonhurst residents have been indicted in the case.

Yusuf's mother Diane Hawkins, his father Moses Stewart, Hawkins family attorney Alton Maddox, Jr., attorney C. Vernon Mason, and Dr. Rafael Mendez of the New Alliance Party led the march with Reverend Sharpton. The demonstration was a response to the announcement earlier in the week by Brooklyn district Attorney Charles Hynes that a key prosecution witness in the Yusuf Hawkins murder case, John Vento, has been missing since December.

"It seems that this case has never been taken seriously by the District Attorney's office," said Reverend Sharpton after the rally. "It is amazing to us that they could

always find Blacks in crimes against whites," continued the outspoken minister, adding that the killing of Hawkins, "a cold-blooded murder mourned by the governor, mourned by the mayor, mourned by mayoral candidates—now it seems that no one will pay for it. What will they tell Black people now? That Yusuf did it to himself?" The reference was to the Tawana Brawley case, where a grand jury led by New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams concluded that Ms. Brawley, who had been kidnapped and raped by white law enforcement officers in Wappingers Falls, had fabricated the story and left herself in the brutalized condition she was found in over two years ago. Reverend Sharpton and attorneys Maddox and Mason served as advisors to the Brawley family.

The trial of Hawkins' accused killers is scheduled to begin on Monday in Brooklyn supreme court, but District Attorney Hynes is said to be seeking a postponement so that Mr. Vento can be located. The Hawkins family has charged that both Mr. Hynes and his predecessor, New York City Comptroller Elizabeth Holtzman, violated an agreement both district attorneys had reached with the Hawkins family by making a deal with Mr. Vento in exchange for his testimony against his friends. Mr. Vento was one of the 30 youths who attacked Mr. Hawkins last summer.

## Get The Love You Want And Deserve: Do Not Compromise Yourself . . .

by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

Several months ago, I was introduced to a "pen pal" by a mutual entity and to my surprise, it has developed into a very healthy friendship. A bit skeptical in the beginning, I am now most happy with our personal growth and interaction shared to date.

Regardless of the outcome, both of us agree that we will be good friends for the rest of our lives. Most relationships should end that way. How many times have you seen relationships end in bitterness, great pain, and hostility? In many cases, families are divided, kids get caught in a "tug-of-war" between parents, and eventually, everybody loses. Yes, everybody is affected when relationships end in confusion and high drama.

When the communications process started between my "pen pal" and I, the sharing of thoughts and ideas was very general. More like two boxers feeling each other out in the early going or early rounds. Later, it became real honest, very open, free, objective, and more importantly, we learned to trust each other with our feelings or "emotional baggage" from past encounters or our childhood. We all have emotional baggage whether we acknowledge it or not. Some people deal with it and others suppress it to the point where it affects their ability to communicate positively, with other humans.

We established a solid friendship base

that was free of all the materialistic/egotistic trappings that alter the communications process or create ulterior motive for wanting to interact with a person. It was not the type of automobile we drove, how much we earned annually, what neighborhood we lived in, our net worth, or all the other elements some people gravitate towards. The opportunity to communicate with another human being openly and honestly ranks very high on my list. It is a great feeling. Because of the distance and lack of insight about the physical attributes about each other, we were allowed to grow. No worries about dressing to impress, mindless intellectual games, or fears about jumping into each other's pants before it was time.

By not being threatened by each other, we were able to share our dreams and pain. My graduate school advisor once told me that people have the tendency to self-reveal more with strangers than to those they know. The real threat comes when people, who they do reveal to, use what is revealed against them for individual gain. Feelings are very fragile. The last thing people need is for another to stomp on their heart with a spiked heel or "trample their feelings in the mud." No one likes to hurt or have their shortcomings used against them. This is probably why people are very selective about sharing their "baggage" or feelings because it might scare away a potential mate.

With my "pen pal", we have explored our experiences as children together, talked about our families, the neighborhood we grew up in, whether our family said grace at the table or not, our educational background, mates of the past, likes and dislikes in people, and a host of other elements essential to understanding another human being. If more people took the time to listen, ask questions, trust, and share more, there would probably be fewer misunderstandings. Too often, individual selfishness and needs prevent interaction that is positive and growth-oriented. Expectations, be they sexual or demanding a commitment before it is time can lead to stress, ill-advised decisions or choices can be the Kiss of Death in a relationship. Why be a victim of such pressures and eventually regret your actions?

These decisions can lead to unhealthy relationships, divorce, and separation. There is nothing worse than a "bone-head" or "deadend" relationship. People should hold tight to their convictions in the mate selection process. We all know what we want in a mate and the type of person we think we deserve. So, why compromise what you want? When one does establish a set of convictions, there will be moments of doubt and loneliness. The flesh gets weak, allow people into their personal space for all the wrong reasons, and then they wonder what went wrong. People need to keep the faith.

"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen..." (Hebrew 11). What is worse, being alone with somebody you do not care about or alone, but not lonely? Hold tight for what you want in the mate selection process. Do not compromise what you want.

The ability to communicate with someone openly and freely can definitely lay down a solid foundation for the future. Be it permanent mate or life-long friend, I'm glad that I took the time to experience a wonderful growth process without expectations, emotional reconstructions, or selfish motives. More people should . . .

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## PDC PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

### Commission Meeting

Date: April 11, 1990  
Place: Portland Building  
1120 SW Fifth Ave., 11th Fl.  
Portland, OR  
Time: 9:30 a.m.

Commission meetings are open to the public. A complete agenda is available at PDC. Call 796-5300.

PDC is the City of Portland's urban renewal and economic development agency.

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