

LAW & JUSTICE

Racist Remark Made to Club Being Investigated

Liquor agency cooperates in allegation case

(AP) — The Oregon Department of Justice will investigate a nightclub manager's claim that a

state liquor inspector once warned him not to seek black customers because they don't belong in downtown Portland.

Rami Makboul, manager of The Vue, disclosed the alleged comment in an Aug. 10 e-mail to the Oregon Liquor License Commission. Makboul sent the message

after his business received negative publicity following a fatal shooting near the club.

"One time, an OLCC inspector told me in private that blacks belonged in northeast Portland, not downtown," according to the e-mail sent to OLCC director Teresa Kaiser. "I was furious with his

statement and I thought he was racist. After seeing the violence of last Sunday night, I owe an apology to that inspector."

Makboul did not disclose the name of the inspector and the comment in question took place eight years ago.

The OLCC received many com-

plaints — including a letter from City Commissioner Sam Adams demanding a response.

"This allegation is so serious that you can't let it lie," said Ken Palke, spokesman for the liquor

commission. "Perception is everything sometimes. We want to make sure the public understands that we are a state agency, and that our mandate is to represent everyone."

Black Prosecutor Leads Till Slaying Probe

New investigation examines notorious, decades-old killing

(AP) — Staring into the casket, Joyce Chiles instantly recognized the face she had seen in a magazine photo decades earlier.

The picture, shown to her back then by a classmate at her all-black middle school, showed the mutilated, almost mummy-like face of Emmett Till — the 14-year-old black boy tortured and killed for whistling at a white woman.

Today, Chiles is the prosecutor in Money, Miss. overseeing a revived investigation into the case that shocked the nation and helped fuel the nascent civil rights movement.

When Till's body was exhumed from a suburban Chicago cemetery earlier this year, she stood beside his relatives as the backhoe scraped away the earth and removed the mud-caked concrete vault.

In the autopsy room, looking upon that face, now shrunken and discolored with the passage of time, her reaction was the same as when she was 13: "God, how could anybody do this to another human being?"

No one was ever punished for Till's murder. Now, 50 years later, it is Chiles who will decide whether anyone ever will be.

Chiles was just an infant when Till was killed. Even though she grew up just 12 miles



Joyce Chiles oversees a new probe of the 1955 slaying of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old black boy tortured and killed for whistling at a white woman. (AP Photo)

from Money, she doesn't remember much talk about the infamous case, other than to hear people point and whisper that this or that person was related to Till's killers.

Chiles rose slowly and steadily through the law-enforcement ranks, from undercover narcotics agent, to probation officer, to assistant prosecutor, and last year to district attorney for Mississippi's Fourth Judicial District.

She was just a month in office when Alvin

Sykes, a civil rights leader from Kansas City, asked her to meet with federal officials and members of the Till family. A documentary filmmaker from New York claimed to have uncovered evidence that people who took part in the killing were still alive.

Two months after that meeting, the Justice Department announced it was reopening the case, with Chiles leading any potential prosecution.

Racial Profiling Report Uncovered

Minorities more likely to be searched and arrested

(AP) — Black, Hispanic and white motorists are equally likely to be pulled over by police, but blacks and Hispanics are much more likely to be searched, handcuffed, arrested and subjected to force or the threat of it, a Justice Department study has found.

The study was completed last April and posted on the agency's Web site after Bush administration officials disagreed over whether a press release should mention the racial disparities.

The director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Lawrence A. Greenfeld, wanted to publicize the racial disparities, but his superiors disagreed and he was moved to a new job following the dispute, according to an employee who was not authorized to talk to reporters.

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Washington bureau.

Based on interviews of almost 77,000 Americans age 16 or over in 2002, the study drew no conclusions about the reasons for the racial disparities in post-stop treatment.

Shelton said the BJS study found less racial disparity in traffic stops than a nationwide NAACP study between 1991-93, but said the figures for racial disparity in arrests and use of force were consistent with his group's findings.

The data showed that black, Hispanic and white motorists were equally likely to be pulled over by police; about 9 percent of each are

stopped. Traffic stops were the most frequent form of police contact with the public; an estimated 16.8 million drivers were stopped in 2002.

The racial disparities showed that blacks (5.8 percent) and Hispanics (5.2 percent) were much more likely to be arrested than whites (2 percent). Hispanics (71.5 percent) were much more likely to be ticketed than blacks (58.4 percent) or whites (56.5 percent).

Blacks (2.7 percent) and Hispanics (2.4 percent) were far more likely than whites (0.8 percent) to report that police used force or the threat of it.



Rap mogul Suge Knight was shot Sunday in Miami, but remains in good condition.

Leads Sparce in Shooting of Suge Knight

(AP) — When rap mogul Suge Knight was wounded during a party, hundreds of people were in the nightclub. But when police interviewed the guests, most claimed to have seen nothing.

A police report described the man who shot Knight in the leg Saturday at a party held in conjunction with the MTV Video Music Awards as black and wearing a pink shirt.

Miami Beach police spokesman Bobby Hernandez said the investigation was being hampered by witnesses' unwillingness to talk.

"We don't have any physical description. We don't know how many subjects were involved, which is mind boggling, with all those people around," Hernandez told the newspaper.

The party was hosted by Kanye West at the Shore Club hotel in Miami Beach.

"It's disturbing that someone can let off six shots in a packed club and can escape without being arrested," said Elliott Wilson, editor in chief of the rap magazine XXL. "The hip-hop community doesn't trust the police to confide info to them, and in turn the police have done little to make us feel like they give a damn about our safety. It's a vicious cycle."



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