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# Invitation Finally Accepted

## Bush to address NAACP

(AP)— President Bush plans to speak to the NAACP for the first time since he was a candidate, with the White House announcing the appearance days after the chairman of the civil rights group publicly urged him to attend.

The president had declined invitations to the NAACP's annual meeting for five years in a row, and



George Bush



Bruce S. Gordon

commitment for voting rights reauthorization," he said.

Every president for the past several decades has spoken to the group. Until now, Bush had been the exception.

Willis Edwards, an NAACP board member from Los Angeles, said Gordon should get credit for Bush's planned visit.

has often been criticized in speeches by the group's leaders. But under new NAACP President Bruce S. Gordon relations have improved.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is holding its 97th annual gathering at a convention center just a mile from the White House.

Presidential spokesman Tony Snow said Bush decided to speak to the group Thursday because of "a moment of opportunity" for the president to tout his civil rights record and mend fences.

Bush's decision comes in a critical midterm election year, when Republicans fear losing control of Congress and Bush has been working to get more votes for the GOP. Bush received just 11 percent of the black vote in the 2004 election.

In a speech to the convention Sunday, NAACP Chairman Julian Bond blasted the war in Iraq and attacks on voting rights even as he urged Bush to attend the gathering. "This year the convention has come to the president and we hope and pray he is coming to us," Bond said.

Gordon said he was glad Bush is going to speak to the group, especially with renewal of the 1965 Voting Rights Act still before the Senate. "This is a great opportunity for the president to express his com-

Gordon has had three meetings with Bush in the year he's headed the civil rights group - compared to one meeting in nine years Bush had with his predecessor, Kweisi Mfume, a former Democratic congressman. "The White House has evidently listened to (Gordon)," Edwards said.

But Rep. Diane Watson, a Democrat from California, was more skeptical about Bush's visit.

The president is "reading the polls," she said. "He says he doesn't pay attention to them, but when he was flying high, he didn't come."

There is a history of bad blood between Bush and the NAACP. During the 2000 presidential campaign, the NAACP's National Voter Fund ran a television ad against the Bush. It featured the daughter of James Byrd, a black man dragged to death by three white men in a pickup truck, blaming Bush for refusing her pleas for a hate-crime law when he was Texas governor.

Then, just before the 2004 election, the Internal Revenue Service began looking into the NAACP's tax-exempt status after a speech by Bond that was critical of Bush's policies. Political campaigning is prohibited under the NAACP's tax-exempt status, but the Baltimore-based group called the audit a political smear campaign.

## Soldier Tied to Oregon Killed

(AP)— A soldier who graduated from Corvallis High School and lived in Salem for part of his life was killed this week in a Baghdad bomb blast, the Army said.

Staff Sgt. Jason M. Evey, 29, of Stockton, Calif., was the son of former lobbyist John Evey, who later worked in the development department at Oregon State

University in the 1990s.

According to the count compiled by Gov. Ted Kulongoski's office, Evey would be the 64th person either from Oregon or with strong ties to the state to have been killed in the war in Iraq or in Operation Enduring Freedom, which was launched in Afghanistan as a result of the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

## Ask Deanna!



Real People, Real Advice

An advice column known for reality based subjects!

### Dear Deanna!

Ever since childhood, my best friend has played games and told lies to blackmail people or get money. Now she's married and still doing the same thing. Her husband doesn't want children and she knows it. Her latest stunt is too much for me to handle. She told her husband that she's pregnant and she plans to go shopping with the money she's supposed to use for pregnancy termination. I feel this is too much and should tell her husband. --No More Lies; Dallas, Texas

### Dear No More Lies:

At what point did you decide to stop benefiting from your friend's financial gain? If you've been a part of her scams for so long, I'm sure she gave you a cut of her shady earnings. You've co-signed with her for so long it's obvious she doesn't listen to you. Your best advice is to pull away and stop being a witness to her dishonesty. You'll cause too much drama if you stick your nose in the hornets' nest now. In other words, mind your business.

### Dear Deanna!

I'm the only 18-year old girl in my group that doesn't have a baby. My friends are treating me differently now that they all have children and try to make me feel abnormal. I'm not interested in a baby, but I still want to be friends with them. They treat me as if I'm not good enough to be around them and they act as if they're so mature

and I'm young and dumb. How do I handle this. --Shawna; Oklahoma City, Okla.

### Dear Shawna:

You need to find your favorite song on the radio, drink lemonade and enjoy your life until you meet a husband. There's nothing cute about girls fresh out of high school two steps from a welfare office and dirty diapers. You're the winner in this bunch and you should be on your way to college and a blessed life. Go for the gold, shake it off and encourage your friends to achieve as you avoid the baby daddy blues.

### Dear Deanna!

I spend a lot of time being friends with women, listening to their problems and just being a great guy. I'm in a situation with a friend that I now want a relationship with but she isn't interested. Once I made my feelings known she has basically kicked me to the curb. I can't understand why she took my money, used my car and came to me with all of her problems but won't date me. What did I do wrong? --A.J.; San Diego, Calif.

### Dear A.J.

You got pimped which is what insecure women, a few wives and silly girls do to the good men out there. You fell victim to a woman that wanted a guidance counselor and financial provider without any loving. These women are fine as long as they get what they want without giving up anything. Consider yourself blessed to be out before your credit was ruined and you were left looking foolish with a broken heart.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com

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