

Probe of Shooting Policies Sought

Sharpton cites nationwide sense of police recklessness

(AP) — The Rev. Al Sharpton called for a congressional probe of police shooting policies as he joined activists Sunday outside the Atlanta, Ga. home of an elderly woman killed by narcotics police officers who burst into her home unannounced.

The New York civil rights leader said the death of Kathryn Johnston — along with the death of 23-year-old groom-to-be Sean Bell, who was shot by police on his wedding day outside a New York City strip club — is an example of "a new sense of police recklessness" sweeping the country.

Sharpton called for the incoming Congress to address the issue.

"There seems to be a new spirit in law enforcement that they can become the judge, jury and executioner of the law on the scene," Sharpton said.

"Police apprehend suspects; they don't kill them," Sharpton said. "This cannot be tolerated in a civilized society."

Johnston — described as 92 by her family but 88 by the medical examiner — lived in fear in the crime-ridden Vine City neighborhood of northwest Atlanta.

On the night of Nov. 21, a group



Rev. Al Sharpton

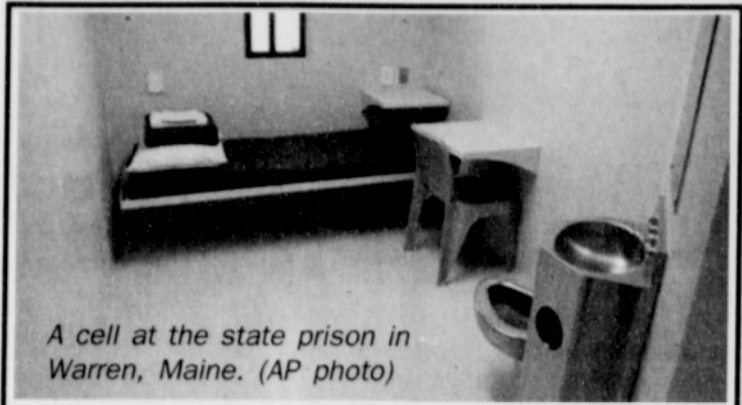
of plainclothes officers burst in, searching for drugs. They had obtained a "no-knock" warrant, say-

ing an informant bought drugs at the house.

Johnston opened fire with a pistol, wounding three officers before she was shot to death.

The informant later denied buying drugs at Johnston's home and said police told him to lie about the incident, Police Chief Richard Pennington said. Pennington said the informant is in protective custody and is a key part of the FBI-led investigation into the shooting.

In the New York case, Bell and his friends were leaving his bachelor party on Nov. 25 when a group of undercover police fired 50 shots at their car. Police have said that Bell's vehicle hit one officer and an unmarked police car, and that officers apparently thought a companion of Bell's was about to get a gun.



A cell at the state prison in Warren, Maine. (AP photo)

U.S. Jails Millions

Millions more on probation, parole

(AP) — A record seven million people — or one in every 32 American adults — were behind bars, on probation or on parole by the end of last year, according to the Justice Department. Of those, 2.2 million were in prison or jail, an increase of 2.7 percent over the previous year.

Men still far outnumber women in prisons and jails, but the female population is growing faster. Over the past year, the female population in state or federal prison increased 2.6 percent while the number of male inmates rose 1.9 percent. By year's end, 7 percent of all inmates were women. The gender figures do not include inmates in local jails.

"Today's figures fail to cap-

ture incarceration's impact on the thousands of children left behind by mothers in prison," Marc Mauer, the executive director of the Sentencing Project, a Washington-based group supporting criminal justice reform, said in a statement. "Misguided policies that create harsher sentences for nonviolent drug offenses are disproportionately responsible for the increasing rates of women in prisons and jails."

From 1995 to 2003, inmates in federal prison for drug offenses have accounted for 49 percent of total prison population growth.

Racial disparities among prisoners persist. In the 25-29 age group, 8.1 percent of black men are incarcerated, compared with 2.6 percent of Hispanic men and 1.1 percent of white men. And the numbers are similar for female minorities.

False Arrest Nets \$2 Million



Brandon Mayfield

(AP) — The federal government has agreed to pay a Portland lawyer \$2 million to settle part of a lawsuit he filed after the FBI misidentified a fingerprint and wrongly arrested him in the 2004 Madrid terrorist bombings.

"The pain and torture and humiliation that this (case) has caused my family is hard to put into words," Brandon Mayfield said after the settlement was announced last week.

Mayfield was arrested in May 2004 on the basis of a fingerprint found on

a bag of detonators in Madrid that was mistakenly matched to him after the March 11, 2004, train bombings that killed 191 people and wounded more than 1,500.

Mayfield was jailed on a material witness warrant but was released after the FBI acknowledged the fingerprint was not his.

Mayfield, who was detained for two weeks, and his wife, Mona, maintained that he was arrested because of his Muslim faith.

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Dear Deanna!

I've been in relationships during the holiday season for the past 6 years. Every year, whatever man I've dated, he's dumped me right at Christmas. It has always been someone different and I can't figure out what I've done wrong. I love the holidays and enjoy decorating, buying gifts and going all out for the celebration. After the fact, each of them says it isn't me, but they prefer not to spend much money during the holiday. How do I avoid being dumped this year? --Holiday Blues; Charleston, S.C.

know I'm there. How do I regain control of my relationship? --Fed Up Boyfriend; On-line Reader

Dear Fed Up:

The solution is getting your girlfriend to stay home. Encourage her to spend quality time with you by offering new reasons to stay home. You can buy her favorite movies, cater a nice dinner and hire a housekeeper. Since her friends won't interrupt while she's at the house, take this time to let her know you miss her and share your concerns about her activities. Ignore her friends, avoid negativity and focus on your relationship as you head in a positive direction.

Ask Deanna!



Real People, Real Advice

An advice column known for reality based subjects!

Dear Deanna!

My girlfriend has been volunteering to baby sit, run errands and really help me out. I started getting suspicious when she began staying later when my husband came home. I didn't give it much thought until she washed his laundry. I hit the roof when she bought him some cologne. I kicked her out and gave my husband a few choice words. He accused me of overreacting. I decided to put my foot down and end this mess before it started. Am I wrong? --Mona; Portland, Ore.

Dear Mona:

You acted properly before your girlfriend decided to help herself to your husband. He is innocent but like most men, he enjoyed the attention and didn't realize he was being set up. You need to give the cologne back to her and let her know that you no longer need her services. If you choose to remain friends, issue new boundaries that don't include your husband. In the meanwhile, continue to run your household, regulate your marriage and keep it moving.

Dear Holiday Blues:

Jesus is the reason for the Christmas holiday and perhaps you should remember that. It appears the men you've dated may be offended because you place so much emphasis on the commercial aspect of the holiday. With your next relationship, have dialogue with your mate and find out his feelings on Christmas, his approach to faith and how he celebrates. You can plan to celebrate together and this should prevent you from waking up alone on Christmas Day.

Dear Deanna!

I gave my girlfriend an ultimatum to choose her girlfriends or me. I'm patient but enough is enough. I've been sitting home with our kids on the weekends while she hangs out. Her cell phone always interrupts our quality time. We can't go to a restaurant without her pals showing up. Movies are out of the question because they get invited also. Her friends won't come to the house because they

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