

# Sharpton, Senator Linked Through Slavery

## Paper trail leads to genealogy connection

(AP) - The Rev. Al Sharpton said he wants a DNA test to determine whether he is related to former segregationist Sen. Strom Thurmond through his great-grandfather, a slave owned by an

ancestor of the late senator. "I can't find out anything more shocking than I've already learned," Sharpton told the Daily News, which on Sunday reported the link based on genealogists' findings. Thurmond ran for president in 1948 as a segregationist. Sharpton ran for president in 2004 calling for racial equality. Last week, Sharpton learned about the connection.



Rev. Al Sharpton

"It was probably the most shocking thing in my life," Sharpton said at a news conference.

Professional genealogists, who work for Ancestry.com, found that Sharpton's great-grandfather Coleman Sharpton was a slave owned by Julia Thurmond, whose grandfather was Strom Thurmond's great-great-grandfather. Coleman Sharpton was later freed.

"Based on the paper trail, it

seems pretty evident that the connection is there," said Mike Ward, a genealogist with Ancestry.com, who called the link "amazing."

Ancestry.com's chief family genealogist, Megan Smolenyak, said Sharpton would need to match his DNA with a present-day descendant to see if they are biologically related.

"I think the odds are slim he would match," Smolenyak told the

News. "There is no particular evidence to suggest that there is a direct relationship between the two (black and white) Sharpton families to suggest they share a common ancestry. But, given the legacy of plantation society, you can't rule it out."

The revelations surfaced after Ancestry.com contacted a Daily News reporter who agreed to have his own family tree done.

## Farrakhan Speech: "My Time is Up"

### Stresses unity in final address

(AP) - Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan was greeted by cheers, tears and chants from tens of thousands as he returned to the

public eye just long enough to say he would be leaving it soon.

Farrakhan, who ceded leadership duties last year because of illness, spoke for nearly two hours Sunday. Looking healthy and fit, he credited the prayers of millions from all walks of life for allowing him



Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan closes his address to the Saviors' Day gathering in Detroit on Sunday. Farrakhan stressed religious unity during his final major speech.

The topic of the speech was "One Nation Under God." But Farrakhan said the world is at war because Christians, Muslims and people of other faiths are divided.

Farrakhan said Jesus Christ and the Prophet Muhammad would embrace each other with love if they were on the stage behind him.

"Our lips are full of praise, but our hearts are far removed from the prophets we all claim," he said. "That's why the world is in the shape that it's in."

The leader of 1995's Million Man March said he is leaving at a time of great conflict, citing the war in Iraq specifically, and he believes God is angry with leaders who are putting politics and greed above service to others.

He said President Bush should be impeached or at least censured for his "wicked policies," and urged young people to avoid joining a military that will have them "leave one way and come back another."

to take the stage at Detroit's Ford Field.

His vitality seemed at odds with his message, that his time left in the spotlight was short.

"My time is up," the 73-year-old Farrakhan said, describing his exit from leadership. "I believe ... that my time to be with my spiritual father and his sender has come. And your time to go through serious trial has come."

## Katrina Documentary Honored

Director Spike Lee was named winner of the annual George Polk Awards for his documentary on life in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

Lee, the director of "Malcolm X" and "Do the Right Thing," was honored for "When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts," along with its producer, Sam Pollard. They won the award for documentary television for illustrating evidence of the government's poor performance in the aftermath of the August 2005



Spike Lee

storm. The Polk Awards are considered among the top prizes in U.S. journalism.

Lee made eight trips to New Orleans and interviewed about 100 people while filming the documentary, which aired on HBO. Pollard is Lee's longtime collaborator, and the pair worked together previously on "Mo' Better Blues," "Jungle Fever," "Girl 6," "Clockers" and "Bamboozled."

## Ask Deanna!



Real People, Real Advice

An advice column known for reality based subjects!

Furious Friend; On-Line Reader

**Dear Furious:** You got what you deserve for letting someone drive your vehicle without insurance. If you didn't get an agreement in writing you have nothing but an empty promise. Obviously she has money because she's enjoying leisure purchases and slapped you further with a new car purchase. Your best bet is to approach her and seek a promise in writing. If she won't comply, take her to small claims court but be willing to kiss the friendship goodbye in the process.

**Dear Deanna!** My son and his wife are living in our basement. This was nice at first because we wanted them to save money and prepare to get their own home. A few months turned into two years and now they have a baby on the way. I want them to leave because they're ready from a financial stand point. They have jobs, vehicles and good credit. When I bring it up, my son and I argue and my wife accuses me of throwing them in the street. How do I win this battle? --Tied Up Husband; Indianapolis, Ind.

**Dear Husband:** As the man of the house, it's time to give your son an eviction notice. It sounds as if you've been patient and equipped him with tools to be successful. In other words, you have allowed the free loading to last long enough and they need to get out now so they'll have a place for their baby. If your wife insists they must stay, then create a lease, begin to collect rent and utilities and watch the door because they'll soon leave just as you wish.

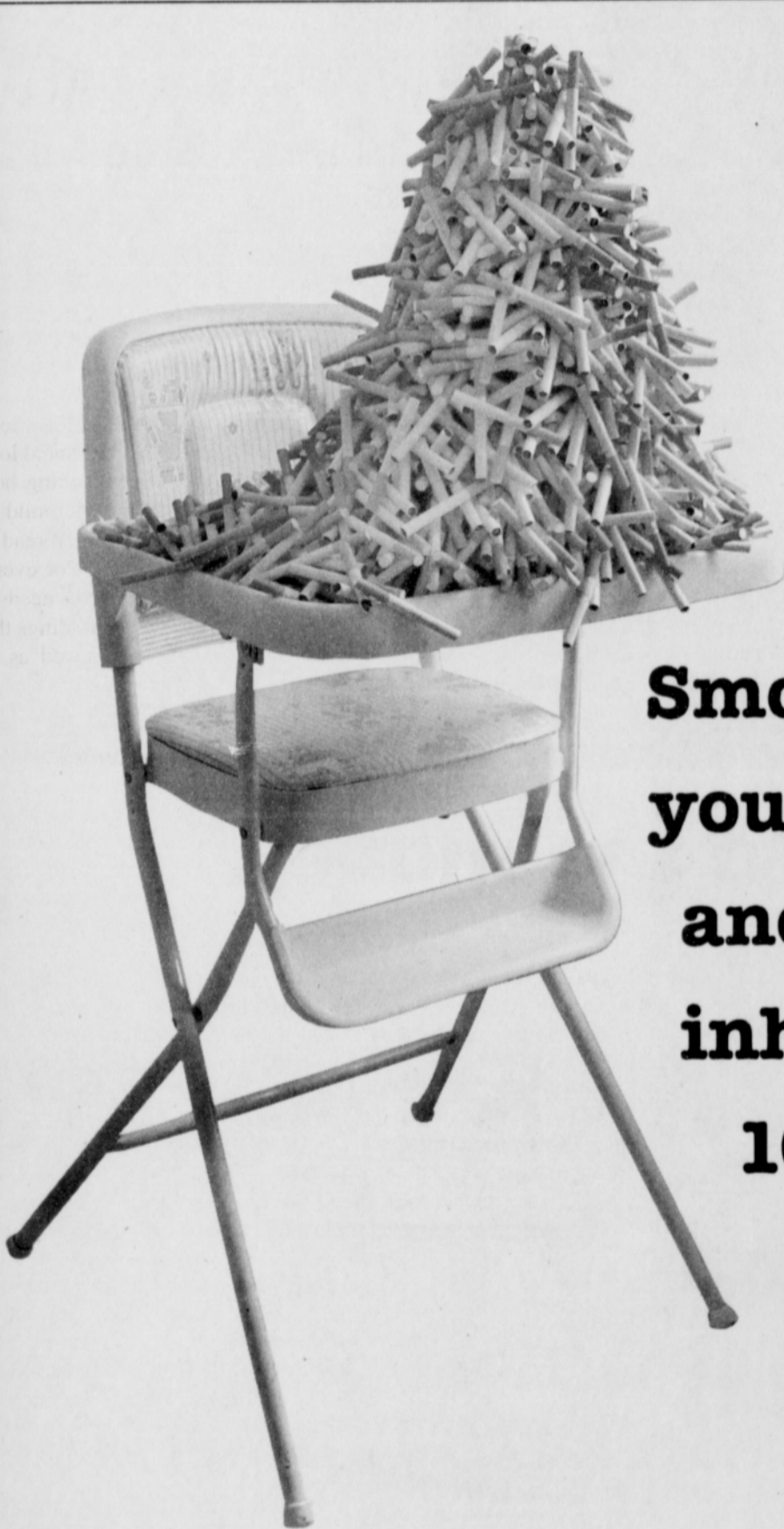
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**Dear Deanna!**

I am always on the end of cheap gifts from my friends. I never say anything because of course, it's the thought that counts. I spend good money for birthday presents, gift cards and holidays. We all agree to exchange gifts. I have purchased bottles of perfume, electronics, and jewelry but I always get a book, gift certificates or towels. I want to express my feelings but I'm afraid it will cause problems. How do I get this off my chest? --Necie; Dayton, Ohio

**Dear Necie:** This is a tacky situation but you should be direct and come out and let them know you feel the gifts they buy are cheap in comparison to yours. This is not the first time doing the gift exchange so they should've noticed by now the quality of your purchases. It may be to your advantage to stop participating. However, if you choose to continue you should purchase a greeting card with a nice message, enclose a simple gift certificate and keep it moving.

**Dear Deanna!** My best friend wrecked my car. I didn't have insurance at the time. She agreed to give me the money to get my car repaired. I didn't want to drive the car so I paid for the repairs and we made an agreement that she would pay me monthly payments. Our friendship is suffering because instead of paying me, she has purchased a new television, clothes and I lost it when she got a new car. She is ignoring my calls and I want to know what I should do next. --



**Smoke around your children and they could inhale equal to 102 packs of cigarettes by age 5.**

**Everyone has the right to breathe clean air, especially our children.**

