

Jefferson Search Illegal

(AP) -- The FBI violated the Constitution when agents raided U.S. Rep. William Jefferson's office last year and viewed legislative documents in a corruption investigation, a federal appeals court ruled Friday.

Jefferson argued that the first-of-its-kind raid trampled congressional independence. The Constitution prohibits the executive branch from using its law enforcement powers to interfere with the lawmaking process.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit held that while the search itself was constitutional, FBI agents crossed the line when they viewed every record in the office without giving Jefferson the chance to argue that some documents involved



U.S. Rep. William Jefferson

legislative business.

The raid was part of a 16-month international bribery investigation of Jefferson, who allegedly accepted \$100,000 from a telecommunications businessman, \$90,000 of which was later recovered in a freezer in the congressman's Washington home.

Jefferson pleaded not guilty in June to charges of soliciting more than \$500,000 in bribes while using his office to broker business deals in Africa.

"We are confident that as this case moves forward, and when all of the facts are known, we will prevail again and clear Congressman Jefferson's name," defense attorney Robert Trout said Friday.

Famed Civil Rights Lawyer Dies at 100

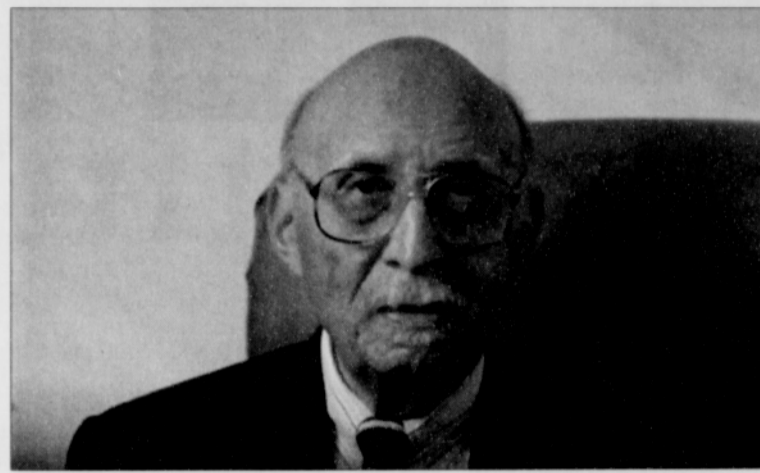
Had pride in his black heritage

(AP) -- Oliver W. Hill, a civil rights lawyer who was at the front of the legal effort that desegregated public schools, has died at age 100 in Richmond, Va.

In 1954, Hill was part of a series of lawsuits against racially segregated public schools that became the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, which changed America's society by setting the foundation for integrated education.

"He was among the vanguard in seeking equal opportunity for all individuals, and he was steadfast in his commitment to effect change. He will be missed," said L. Douglas Wilder, who in 1989 became the nation's first elected black governor and was a confidant of Hill's.

In 1940, Hill won his first civil



Oliver W. Hill lived a full century, much of it spent as an advocate for civil rights.

rights case in Virginia, one that required equal pay for black and white teachers. Eight years later, he was the first black elected to Richmond's City Council since Reconstruction.

A lawsuit argued by Hill in 1951 on behalf of students protesting deplorable conditions at their high school for blacks in Farmville became one of five cases decided under *Brown*.

Those battles to end the Jim Crow era were dangerous ones for Hill

and other civil rights leaders. Hill once received so many threats that he and his wife, Berensenia, would not allow their son to answer the telephone.

Nor did his battle for civil rights bring him wealth.

"We got very few fees for any of this," he said in a 1992 interview in *The Richmond News Leader*.

Hill never lost sight of the importance of the 1954 court ruling. Without it, he said in an interview in the

Richmond Times-Dispatch this year, "I doubt (the Rev. Martin Luther) King would have gotten to first base."

Hill was born May 1, 1907. While his parents worked, Hill stayed with a family that he says instilled in him pride in his black heritage.

"Consequently, from childhood I developed personal esteem and expected white folks to treat me like they did one another in such settings," Hill wrote in his autobiography.

Later, his family moved to Washington, where he graduated from high school and graduated second in his class from Howard University's law school in 1933. The top law graduate that year was his friend Thurgood Marshall.

Marshall and Hill were part of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund team that fought the desegregation case to the Supreme Court. They remained close friends after Marshall became the court's first black justice.

The Portland Chapter of the L.I.N.K.S.

&
The Portland Observer
Newspaper



'Community School Supply Drive'

Seeking the community's support in the ongoing effort to provide local children with much needed school supplies for the upcoming school year.

Donation Drop Site:
The Portland Observer Newspaper
4747 MLK Blvd.
Monday - Friday
9 am - 5 pm

Oregon Bridges Inspected after Disaster

Oregon bridges are being inspected for imminent dangers in the wake of last week's deadly collapse of a freeway bridge across the Mississippi River in Minneapolis, Minn.

The state is also undergoing a \$1.3 billion, 10-year state-funded project to fix 365 state bridges found in most need of repair. More is earmarked to check city and county-owned bridges.

A 2003 draft report by the Oregon Department of Transportation concluded that with accelerated cracking and weight restrictions, "13 percent of Oregon's bridges are at or near the end of their useful life."

Some bridges on Interstate 5 in the Roseburg and Eugene areas and on Interstate 84 are weight-restricted because of cracks and other problems but are being fixed beginning this summer, ODOT spokesman

Dave Thompson said Thursday.

He said many of the bridges with problems were built using a steel and reinforced concrete system.

"The way we built bridges then is not the way we would build bridges today," he said.

He said transportation departments have been warning for years that trillions of dollars of updates are needed nationally to bring older bridges up to seismic, construction

and other codes.

Federal Transportation Administration figures from 2006 show that of Oregon's 7,238 bridges, 635, or 11.66 percent, were structurally deficient.

Many were built some 50 years ago with an expected life of about 50 years. About a quarter of the state's bridges are older than that.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Arrest Made in Journalist Murder Case

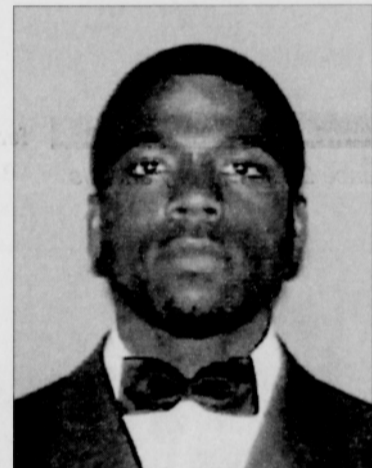
(AP) -- A 19-year-old handyman for a Black Muslim splinter group in Oakland, Calif. has confessed and will be charged with murder in the shooting death of an African-American journalist who was investigating the group's fi-

nances, the assistant police chief said Monday.

Devaughndre Broussard, 19, was one of seven people arrested in Friday's raids on Your Black Muslim Bakery and nearby houses.

The raids on the bakery organization, founded nearly 40 years ago with a mission to empower Oakland's poor, capped off a yearlong investigation into an alleged series of violent crimes police said were connected to the group.

Chauncey Bailey, 57, was a long-time reporter for the Oakland Tribune before becoming editor of the



Devaughndre Broussard

Post, a weekly newspaper geared toward the Bay Area black community, earlier this year.

Witnesses said he was ambushed Thursday morning in downtown Oakland by a man wearing a mask who shot Bailey multiple times and then fled.

Over the weekend, community leaders gathered to mourn Bailey, whose funeral is scheduled for Wednesday, and to call for an end to violence in the city. Seven homicides were reported in Oakland since Bailey's killing Thursday morning.

Wellness Within REACH Walk

African American Health Coalition, Inc.

A Healthy Community Starts With You!

Join Roy Jay
President and CEO of the
African American Chamber of Commerce

Saturday, Aug. 18th at 9:00 AM

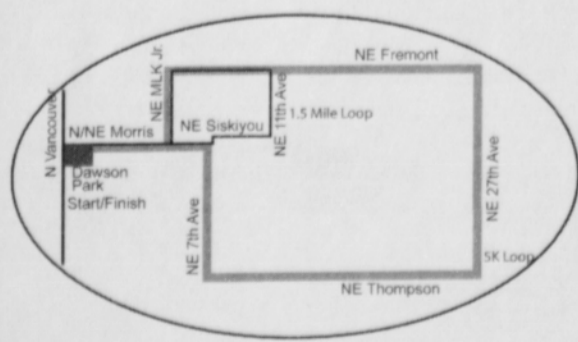
in Dawson Park
(at N. Vancouver & Stanton)

5K Walk and 1.5 mile loop!
Music, food, & fun!

\$20 registration, children under 6 free

Discounts available for teams of 10 or more!

Contact the AAHC to register
at 503.413.1850 or
www.aahc-portland.org



Obama to Vibe: Rap creates own reality

(AP) -- Barack Obama is now officially hot — he's on the cover of Vibe magazine.

In a profile for the 14th anniversary issue of the music and lifestyle glossy, the Democratic presidential candidate clarifies his views on rap.

Though he had a high-profile meeting with rap star Ludacris last fall, he was also quoted in April as saying that rappers were "degrading their sisters. That doesn't inspire me."

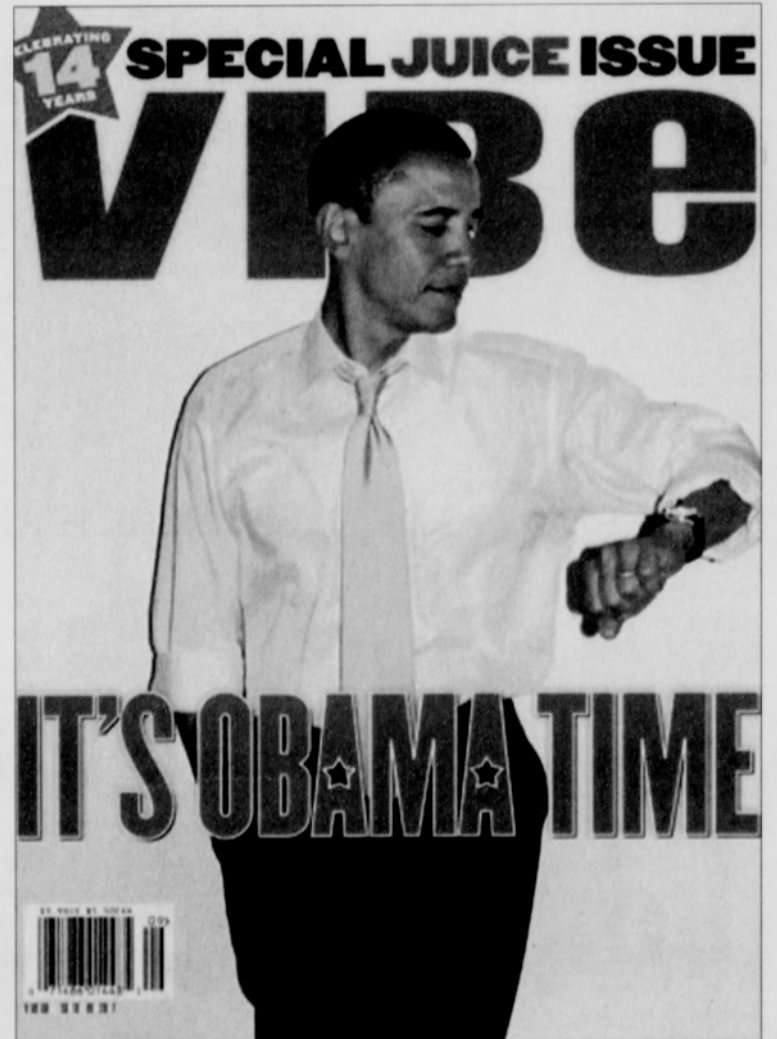
Obama told Vibe that he was misquoted — he was talking about the culture as a whole, not rappers in particular.

"I stand by exactly what I said, which was that the degrading comments about women that (radio host Don) Imus said is language that we hear not just on the radio, not just in music. We ourselves perpetuate that, and we all have to take responsibility for that."

But the Illinois senator also didn't let rappers off the hook.

"There's no doubt that hip-hop culture moves our young people powerfully. And some of it is not just a reflection of reality," he told the magazine. "It also creates reality. I think that if all our kids see is a glorification of materialism and bling and casual sex and kids are never seeing themselves reflected as hitting the books and being responsible and delaying gratification, then they are getting an unrealistic picture of what the world is like."

Still, Obama seemed unwilling to use raunchy rap as a rallying cry in his campaign: "My priority as a U.S. senator is dealing with



Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill, is the first political figure to grace the cover of Vibe magazine. (AP photo)

poverty and educational opportunity and adequate health care. If I'm ignoring those issues and spending all my time worrying about rap lyrics, then I'm wasting my time."

So why put a politician on the cover of a magazine that had 50 Cent fronting last month's issue?

"Because for the first time since VIBE was launched in 1993, a po-

litical figure has burst on the scene and fired up young people in a major way," Vibe editor in chief Danyel Smith said by e-mail. "Because regardless of who wins the election, the senator will have inspired many new voters to the polls. Because Obama is frank, brilliant, vibrant, and not cynical — all things that make him a perfect VIBE cover."