

NAACP Picks New Leader

Youngest in civil rights group's history

(AP) -- The NAACP has chosen lifelong activist Ben Jealous as its next president, the youngest in the 99-year history of the nation's largest civil rights organization.

The 64-member board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People formally announced its decision at a news conference Saturday in Baltimore after meeting and voting the day before.

Though he is not a politician, minister or civil rights icon, Jealous, 35, provides the organization with a young but connected chief familiar with black leadership and social justice issues.

He takes the helm as the NAACP's 17th president just months before the organization's centennial anniversary, and as the group grapples with dwindling membership and looks to boost its coffers.

"There are a small number of groups to whom all black people in this country owe a debt of gratitude, and the NAACP is



Ben Jealous, the newly elected president of the NAACP, speaks outside the organization's headquarters in Baltimore, Md.

one of them," Jealous said. "There is work that is undone. ... The need continues and our children continue to be at great risk in this country."

Jealous succeeds Bruce Gordon, who resigned abruptly in March 2007. Gordon left after 19 months, citing clashes with board members over management style and the NAACP's mission as his reasons for leaving. Dennis Courtland Hayes had been serving as interim president and chief executive of-

ficier. Jealous was born in Pacific Grove, Calif., and educated at Columbia University and Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.

He began his professional life in 1991 with the NAACP, where he worked as a community organizer with the Legal Defense Fund working on issues of health care access in Harlem. His family boasts five generations of NAACP membership.

During the mid-1990s, Jeal-

ous was managing editor of the Jackson Advocate, Mississippi's oldest black newspaper.

From 1999 to 2002, Jealous led the country's largest group of black community newspapers as executive director of the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

Jealous left the Publishers Association for Amnesty International to direct its U.S. Human Rights Program, for which he successfully lobbied for federal legislation against prison

rape, public disapproval of racial profiling after Sept. 11, and exposure of widespread sentencing of children to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Since 2005, Jealous has served as president of the Rosenberg Foundation, a private institution that supports civil and human rights advocacy.

Despite his own successes, Jealous said that blacks in America still have a hard row to hoe, and that the gains of recent decades have created a false sense of progress.

"Those of us who are 45 and younger were told, 'The struggle has been won. Go out and flourish. Don't worry about the movement,'" he said.

Jealous said he is eager to work with other groups to push his agenda.

"This is the century when white people will become a minority in this country," he said. "What that means is right now, we need to have a clear picture of where we're headed and work together diligently with Latinos, Native Americans, Asians and progressive white groups as if our collective future depends on it. I'm committed to that."

Portland NAACP Students Empower

The NAACP Student Group at Portland State University is hosting a State of Emergency seminar Saturday to empower students of color to look beyond social stigmas to become successful people.

The free and open to the public event will contain several workshops to focus on the state of Black America. Some of the discussion topics will be contemporary issues between Africans and African Americans; how the past affects our present; trauma in the black community; the condition of the black student; stress and health wellness, the structure of the black family; Portland's black history; and the use of the "n" word.

The keynote speaker will be Skip Osborne, past President of the Portland NAACP. Workshop presenters include Charles McGee of the Black Parent Initiative; Tonya Dickens, founder of the Brothers and Sisters Keeper program; Kayse Jama, executive director of the Center for Intercultural Organizing; and Karen Gibson, professor of urban studies at PSU.

The daylong schedule of events will take place at PSU's Cramer Hall, 1721 S.W. Broadway, beginning with early registration and breakfast at 8 a.m. Lunch will be provided.

Ask Deanna!



Real People, Real Advice

An advice column known for reality based subjects!

Dear Deanna!

My son is growing up to be a very angry little boy because he misses his father. I had a relationship with his dad but broke up with him be-

cause I wanted to be with someone else. My son doesn't like my new boyfriend and he is misbehaving, throwing tantrums and his personality has changed. I want to take him to counseling but wanted to ask if you think he's rebelling because he doesn't see his real father anymore? --Anonymous; Denver

Dear Anonymous:

Your son is hurt because his father is gone and you bring in a new uncle. As parents, you had an obligation to explain the changes to your son so he could adjust. In a

child's mind, he sees his father leave and another man is now kissing his mother. Focus your attention on your child and get to the root of his problems. If counseling is an option for your son be prepared and open minded to some personal lifestyle changes because the results will be priceless.

Dear Deanna!

I have gained a lot of weight and I feel that my husband is falling out of love with me. He's not intimate with me, we don't cuddle and he always acts as if I'm annoying him.

I am trying to diet but it is so stressful sitting by watching and feeling that I'm losing my husband. He claims that he still loves me but his actions are extremely different from the words he says. What can I do to recapture the fire and energy in my marriage? --Overweight Wife; Toledo, Ohio

Dear Overweight:

If you're having these feelings there's no sense denying there's some truth to what's going on. The best way to tell if your husband is slipping is for you to lose weight.

You need to be happy with good self-esteem. Once you get back into your zone, measure your husband's activity and behavior towards you. If things don't change, you have a problem that goes beyond weight. Be prepared for a discussion and seek honest answers regarding your relationship.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com

PIL Allstar Banquet

Thursday May 29th, 2008

Time 7pm - 9pm

Salvation Army

5335 North Williams Ave

Portland OR 97217

Get your tickets while they last!

Get your tickets while they last!

Proceeds Go To

The Joyce Washington Scholarship Fund

Purchase your Tickets today at

The Portland Observer

4747 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd

Portland OR 97211

503-288-0033

