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Atlanta Black Agenda Business Resource Center <hjaa@brcatl.com>

Tue, Oct 16, 2007 at 1:21 PM

Reply-To: hjaa@brcatl.com

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this is the same version sent to hjaa on Saturday. he is having me delete the Rev. Coates story, but I thought it might be of interest to you nonetheless.



Above All Things Ministry

Volume 3, No. 11  
October 15, 2007

Dear HJA,

The Sparks is the BRC's online communication tool. We hope that BRC members and friends will find this E-newsletter a great way to stay connected to the BRC family and promote your products, events and services within and beyond the Overground RR!!© community. Welcome aboard.

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**"If We Could Just  
Do More Business  
With Each Other...:  
Simon Robinson of  
Simon Sign  
Systems**



### An Open Letter to Mychal Bell



Dear Mychal Bell,

This letter comes to you via the efforts of our students at Spelman College, Atlanta Georgia.

A number of our students attended the September 20, 2007 Jena Six Protest Rally and came back to our institution to share first hand news and their perspectives on the situation.

I am proud to say that two classes in particular within our Education Department (Advocacy in Urban Education and Social Studies Methods) took a social action stand to help make a difference regarding this terrible injustice, for which you and five others have had to endure. Today, October 5, 2007, five of our students enrolled in our EDU 407 Advocacy Class; Keisha Powell, Shayla Turner, Shaina Turner, Kisha Woods, and Janet Williams are sponsoring the Jena 6 Spelman Rally to be held at the Spelman College Market Friday beginning @ Noontime.

The students made numerous letter boxes and disseminated them throughout the campus asking our Spelman Community to write letters of encouragement to each of you. The Spelman Rally today is an extension of our students' ongoing efforts to stand up against social injustice in our schools, and communities at large. We are all proud that they are role-modeling our Education Department motto and philosophy, "Teacher As A Leader." These soon-to-be teachers have also made Jena Six T shirts for us; to be picked up before the start of the rally today.

I extend a special thank you to their professors, Drs. Sadashiva and Ware for encouraging them in these efforts, and to Dr. Williams and Professor Bland (faculty sponsors of the Social Studies Methods class). We want you to know that we are hosting student presentations in our classes. I had the pleasure of having the student representatives from both classes present in my Senior Seminar class last week. They gave us updated news, and some presented a slide show. We were proud to see so many people come out and voice their support to see justice take place for all of you, and horrified about the threats made against you from the KKK and other hate groups.

Dr. Christine King Farris, who is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s sister and a professor in our department, came to the class as well. I asked her to make concluding remarks to our class and she was inspirational as she reminded us that our non-violence battle is not yet won. As you know, many of us from around the country wore Black in protest of what injustices you have been experiencing. Please know that an injustice act toward one is an injustice act to us all.

We will continue to support you in the long haul of this nightmare experience, and know that you have now become the bearers of "telling your story" to the many who will come after you.

Stand strong, and consider attending one of our historically black colleges. We prepare you to be the best on all fronts.

My heartfelt support,

Dr. Karen B. McLean Donaldson,  
Professor and Chairperson  
Education Department  
Spelman College

## **Jena 6 Defendant Mychal Bell is Jailed Again**

*Our BRC interviewer took a moment to talk with Atlanta's Simon Robinson of Simon Sign Systems, a leading local graphic arts company. These are his transcribed remarks.*

Simon Sign Systems was founded in 1989, eighteen years ago. I was already in the sign business with some partners. That relationship lasted about two years. It was then that signage and graphics kind of got into my system. I found my passion, I guess you could say.

For those interested in getting into this field, the important thing is to study, study, study, to read, read, read and to find someone in the industry to work with at the outset who knows the business, to whom you can serve a kind of apprenticeship or internship. It's this way that you can find out if you really have a passion for the work.

I was lucky. I bought into an already existing company. As general manager of that firm, back in the 1980s I got a really intense six week hands-on crash course in graphics, in signage and in the business end of it.

Our company is a little more high profile than many others, and for the first seven or eight years in the business, I kept meeting folks who said I was the only African American they'd seen in

On Thursday October 11, at the end of what his attorneys expected to be a routine hearing in juvenile court on charges that pre-dated the incidents in and around Jena High School that brought the teenager to national attention, Sean Mychal Bell was sentenced to 18 months in a juvenile facility for charges authorities say are unrelated to the Jena 6 incident.

The same judge who, according to an appeals court improperly tried and sentenced the juvenile Bell once before Louisiana State District Judge J.P. Mauffrey Jr. presided over the two day hearing. Bell's attorneys unsuccessfully tried to have the judge recused from the case.

"He's locked up again." his father is quoted in an AP story. "No bail has been set or nothing. He's a young man who's been thrown in jail again and again, and he just has to take it."

## BRC Interviews Rev. Delman Coates of the Enough Is Enough Campaign



Rev. Coates is pastor of Clifton VA's [Mt. Ennon Baptist Church](#). He has led Saturday demonstrations outside the home of BET (Black Entertainment TV) CEO Deborah Lee the last 3 consecutive Saturdays calling for an end to the clownish and degrading portrayals of African American life and culture that are BET's staple.

**BRC:** Please tell us about your effort, what it's called and why.

**Rev. Coates:** We call it the [Enough is Enough Campaign](#). Media shapes consciousness, and we believe that the owners of media should be held to a reasonable standard. By any reasonable standard the images which are the staple of so-called "lack Entertainment Television" are insulting and degrading, especially to young Black men and women.

It's not OK to use the public airwaves and publicly financed cable systems to insult anyone. Not Jews. Not gays and lesbians. Not Muslims or foreigners. But it seems to be OK to provide a nonstop diet that exalts drugs and criminality as the way to be authentically Black. We do not understand that. We do not accept that. We believe that as a people we are bigger and better than the distorted ways BET portrays us and our communities. We have had enough, and as our name says, enough is most certainly enough.

It does not stop with BET either. Our campaign will focus on other TV outlets, and on commercial radio stations and the music industry. All of these are massive and irresponsible multinational corporations who package and market vile and insulting programming at an immense profit. So we will be focused not on those who consume the material, but on those who profit from it --- the corporate CEOs and their stockholders including radio, and TV broadcast execs, and on the FCC, the Federal Communications commission, which has some responsibility in this area

**BRC:** What do you imagine will be the result of your efforts, picketing the homes of BET execs and such?

**Rev. Coates:** We know that a great many of our people around the country support what we are doing, or would support it if they knew about it. Disgust

this field, That went on for years, but nowadays I meet a few more African Americans at industry trade shows and the like. I built this company on corporate accounts. In the beginning I worked out of the basement of my house -- customers could not come see me, I had to go out and meet them.

Eventually as we grew, and acquired a building and put a sign out that said "we do signs" I began to get walk-in traffic -- the heating and air conditioning guy who needs a sign for his business, the plumber who needs a set of magnetics for his truck, and that kind of business.

The biggest change in my time in this field has come from computerization. In the late 80s we were still using brushes. Now you can use computers to write directly to a substrate

I met [HJA Alexander](#), a trial lawyer and one of the founders of the BRC when I was on one of his juries. We stayed in touch, and he communicated the idea of the BRC to me. I thought it was a great idea. I got invited to some of the meetings early on and joined. I have some thoughts about corporate America, its supplier diversity and all that, but first and foremost we ought to be doing more business with each other.

Having the churches, pillars of the community as part of the BRC mix is

among our people with the portrayals of Black people in the music and programming of BET and similar outfits is rampant and widespread. So our first priority is to make our disgust heard, to make it visible so that people in other cities will talk about it among themselves and take matters into their own hands.

If even half of one percent of the Black people who were disgusted with the way BET insults our people were to take part in marches and demonstrations outside their events, like the BET hiphop awards which took place last weekend in Atlanta, they would be forced to change their behavior and be responsible corporate citizens. Media corporations, including cable get enormous tax subsidies one way and another, and a measure of public responsibility should come with that.

We hope that your readers and listeners will visit us at [www.enoughisenoughcampaign.com](http://www.enoughisenoughcampaign.com), will consider what we are saying and begin talk about what you can do in your city to make your media responsible. Enough is truly enough.

## **Bobby Hurd, Siloam Church International and the BRC Celebrate Family Appreciation Day**

*Siloam Church International and the BRC observe Family Appreciation Day on Saturday, October 20 with outdoor day-long series of free activities including a*

*barbeque cook-off, Gospel concerts, balloons and jumping castles for the little people, volleyball for some of the bigger people, an antique and custom car show, and a health fair for everyone on the campus of Siloam Church, 3965 Roosevelt Highway in College Park 30349.*

*Health care providers on the scene will include dental hygienists from the Dunwoody Campus of Georgia Perimeter College, the Diabetes Foundation, the American Cancer Society, the Centers for Disease Control, and others, providing a variety of free screening and information services.*

*The day concludes with a 6PM indoor gala concert, featuring the Lighthouse Singers, the Mighty Sons of Praise, the Jackson Memorial Baptist Church Steppers, the Puppets from Memphis TN, and a host of others.*

*Tickets for the 6PM event are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, available at Siloam Church International, 3965 Roosevelt Highway in College Park 30349,*

*at Jackson Memorial Baptist Church, 534 Fairburn Rd NW, Atlanta 30331, at Wayfields, 3058 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Atlanta, and 1970 Candler Road in Decatur, and by phone at 800-270-4410.*

## **Kingdom Racing Inc., A Black-Owned and Operated Racing Team**

Kingdom Racing

With over 25 years of racing experience ranging from motocross to super stock and beyond, Atlanta's Ron Harris is one of the few licensed Black dragster drivers. In 1997 he founded [Kingdom Racing Inc.](#)

really important. Enabling pastors to stand up and tell their congregations that here are businesses who are qualified to do this work, to provide the services, businesses pledged to be ethical and accountable to their communities is a terrific idea. It makes great business sense, and it's a service pastors can provide for their people. It's great.

**Join our mailing list!**

Join

Kingdom's team is owned by a hands-on minority woman, who also serves as its crew chief.

Like any racing team, Kingdom Racing aims to win. Its business objective is to imprint and elevate the brands of its sponsors in the minds of audiences, contributing to the marketing and sales strategies of those sponsors. But Kingdom Racing Inc. has another agenda. The Kingdom Racing team also try to be role models for young people, demonstrating in competition and in life that preparation and diligence matter, that hard work and study pay off, and that character counts, You can meet Ron Harris and some of the Kingdom Racing Team at Family Appreciation Day, 9AM to 3PM October 20, at Siloam Church International.

Did we miss what's happening at your BRC church? Fax us your church bulletin, or your news and announcements each week, or call the office with your news, 404-346-0808, or e-mail us at [info@brcatl.com](mailto:info@brcatl.com).

## **Blessed Events: Noteworthy & Newsworthy Occasions From BRC's Member Churches**

Historic [Providence Missionary Baptist Church](#) celebrates its 136th anniversary with a series of events though the month of October.

**Every Sunday in October at 2PM**, the 14th, 21st and the 28th there will be silent auctions in the Tyler Room.

The fall revival will be **Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, October 17, 18 and 19 at 7PM** in the sanctuary.

The culminating anniversary worship ceremony will take place at **10:40 AM Sunday October 21** in the sanctuary, followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

This season's Harvest Festival will be held on **Saturday, October 21** on the church grounds from 12 noon to 5 PM.

On **Sunday, October 28** [Ariel Bowen United Methodist Church](#) will observe its 125th anniversary. The day's guest speaker is Mrs. Marjorie Kimbrough, former long time first lady at [Cascade UMC](#).

Ariel Bowen conducts its 6th annual walk circling Stone Mountain, about 6 on the morning of October 27. Free T-shirts to all participants. For details call the church at 404-525-6173.

[Ray of Hope Christan Church](#) holds its Mens Intreat the **weekend of October 19-21**. Featured speaker that Sunday will be Rev. Jeffrey Johnson, Sr., Senior Pastor at Indianapolis IN's [Eastern Star Church](#). On **Monday 7PM, October 29**, [Ray of Hope Christan Church's](#) Womens Ministry, the Daughters of Destiny gather in the main sanctuary to hear Ms. Carol Hunter, the founder & president of Prosperity Unlimited speak on "Transforming Your Financial Future". A reception will follow in the Family Life Center.

[Big Miller Grove Missionary Baptist Church](#) celebrates the 30th pastoral anniversary of Bishop Miles Fowler with a banquet on Saturday October 20 at the Big Miller Grove Life Center. Senior Pator Grace Washington of [Love](#)

[Life Christian Fellowship Church](#) will be the guest speaker at that Sunday's worship service.

**Thursday October 25 through Sunday October 28, [Friendship Community Church](#)** holds its Young Adults (18 to 40) Conference.

On Thursday the 25th, there will be Q&A discussion with a panel on "What You Always Wanted to Know, But Were Afraid To Ask" --- questions on the Bible, dating, tithing, marriage, divorce and more.

On Friday the 26th, treat yourself to the Jazz Cafe, a showcase of your talents in spoken word, music and comedy in a relaxing atmosphere, food, entertainment and childcare provided.

Saturday the 27th there will be co-ed flag football, and the conference concludes with the early Sunday 8AM Young Adult Worship Service. For details, times, and more information about all these events, call Friendship's office at 404-349-6040.

Friendship also continues its series of Entrepreneurship Seminars, full of invaluable information about how to research and prepare for that business startup.

The October 11 seminar was on "Low-Cost Businesses. Thursday November 8 the topic will be "Types of Businesses". Thursday, December 6 and Thursday December 13 are "Writing a Business Plan", parts 1 and 2. All seminar sessions are 6PM at 4141 Old Fairburn Road, College Park, GA 30349 on the Friendship campus.

Starting businesses is no joke, and Friendship aims to serve the community by serving your needs. If you've been thinking about starting a business, and are ready to move from plans to action, these seminars are a must.

[Hillside Chapel & Truth Center](#) is pleased to invite you to Dr. Barbara's Trunk Extravaganza. This is a two-day event beginning on Saturday, October 20th and culminating Sunday, October 21st. It's an opportunity to donate to the Scholarship Foundation and take home specialty and one of kind items.

Hillside's own Founder-Minister, Dr. Barbara, has donated clothes, jewelry, home furnishings and much, much more to launch our 2008 fund raising drive. We are also inviting members and friends to join us in donating items to the Trunk Extravaganza. All items are being accepted at the Scholarship Foundation located at 1332 Willis Mill Road. We ask that all donations be turned by Friday, October 19th.

Please join us in supporting this fund raising effort. Also, we need volunteers to assist prior to and during this two-day event. Please sign up with a member of the Scholarship Committee outside the sanctuary immediately following Sunday services. All proceeds are going to benefit the 2008 Scholarship recipients. For further information please call the Scholarship Foundation at 404-753-9404.

Thanks to all for helping us continue the legacy that Dr. Barbara started in providing scholarships and "Making Dreams Come True."

**Are you a BRC member yet?**

Board the Overground RR!!© and find out how you can practice "**KTAA**"  
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