

Statement From Ald. Mike McGee, Jr.
Wednesday, October 26, 2005

The biased duo Cary Spivak and Dan Bice of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel have assembled another subjective, fact-free article titled, "Millions More Lessons of Intolerance." The article, which appeared in the newspaper last Sunday, was not only biased, but a blatant attempt to demoralize the objective of the Millions More Movement and the credibility of Black leadership in the city of Milwaukee.

I took on the noble effort of spearheading free bus rides from Milwaukee to Washington, D.C. The bus rides were offered to both youth and adults wishing to take part in the Millions More Movement. Despite my efforts, Riverside University High School students Keenya Hofmaier and Rosetta Riley showed their disapproval by providing Spivak and Bice with fabricated allegations filled with innuendo about events that never took place and statements that I never made during the trip to D.C.

The false accusations that appeared in the article include the following:

- There was little food provided to the passengers aboard the bus.
- Videos full of "racist propaganda" were shown throughout the bus ride.
- That I repeatedly used derogatory language, including the word "faggot" during the trip to D.C.

Contrary to the statements made by Hofmaier and Riley, there was an abundance of food and water provided throughout the trip. Food and beverages sponsored by Lena's Food Market were made readily available to all passengers aboard the bus. Also, passengers not wanting to eat the food provided on the bus were able to purchase meals and refreshments at each stop made for refueling, and for all breakfast, lunch and restroom breaks. At no time throughout the entire trip did food become limited or scarce.

Keenya Hofmaier and Rosetta Riley were the only individuals not motivated or inspired by the content of the videos shown during the trip. The videos shown were award-winning documentaries and filmed lectures given by some of the top scholars in the country. Each video coincided with the purpose of the Millions More Movement, which was to promote cultural awareness and unity among individuals from all backgrounds. Racist doctrine believed to be offensive to white or biracial individuals was not included in the content of the films.

Because of the large number of youth registered for the trip to D.C., supervision was strictly enforced. Youth were not allowed to hold hands, display any inappropriate or affectionate behavior nor were they allowed to wander off without a chaperone. Several individuals observed Keenya Hofmaier and Rosette Riley disobeying those rules on a number of occasions. Out of fear of losing the two students in a crowd of a million or more people, I approached the ladies to discuss the expectations of the chaperones. I informed the young ladies that they were to remain with their chaperone, Mr. Paul Moga, at all times.

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Also, I brought to their attention that some of the other students, several who were as young as twelve years old, were questioning why Keenya and Rosetta were constantly holding hands at every bus stop and subsequently at the rally. Later, both ladies approached me and said that they were offended by this insinuation that they were lesbians. In response, I again explained that their distant behavior and independent roaming was not appropriate.

Upon return from the Millions More Movement, the parent of Keenya Hofmaier, Pamela Allen-Newton, demanded a written apology from me, claiming that I made inappropriate comments to the young ladies. After unloading the bus, I, as well as Mr. Moga, informed Ms. Allen-Newton that the young ladies' version of what happened was unequivocally false. I offered to further discuss the situation with the parents involved in this alleged incident by giving Ms. Allen-Newton my cell phone number. Ms. Allen-Newton would not accept my version of the alleged incident and instead chose to go to Common Council President Willie Hines and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

It is very unfortunate that the young ladies, and their parents went to the media and perpetuated a series of outright lies and deception. The alleged incidents are maliciously false! I demand that the parents and students, as well as the Journal Sentinel staff involved in fabricating this conjured-up story, apologize directly to me and to the community. To lie and spread pernicious rumors and propaganda with the intent to assassinate my character and credibility, is unacceptable and those involved must be held accountable. The fact remains that a vast majority of youth and parents who traveled to the Millions More Movement by bus, as well as myself, had an inspirational, and motivational trip to Washington, D.C.

Consequently, we will remain steadfast in our commitment to empower the community through the various ministries defined within the national agenda, and for the Millions More Movement, under the auspices of several Local Organizing Committees.

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