Morial Rejects Efforts To Divide Urban League And NAACP

-- Page 2

The Bon-Macy's Page 3
Home Depot Inserts
QFC Inserts
Safeway Inserts

Rights Group: Sudanese Arab Militiamen Use Rape As A Tool To Terrorize Black Africans In Darfur

-- Page 7

The Seattle Medium

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 28 | NOW IN OUR 35TH YEAR | (206) 323-3070 | WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2004

a message from the people...to the people **$.25**

The Cultural Event Of The Summer

Soul Fest 2004 This Weekend At Franklin High School

Soul Festival 2004 again this year promises to be the most exciting yet. With a host of food booths cooking up down home favorites, arts and crafts, carnival rides, entertainment, gospel music, and much more, Soul Fest 2004 is definitely the can't miss event of the summer.

The Festival, the largest event held in Seattle's African American community, will take place this weekend, July 23 – 25, at the Franklin High School Playfield on the corner of Rainier Ave. S. and Martin Luther King, Jr. Way South.

During the three-day festival, area residents experience the best of soul food, arts, cultural activities, hip-hop, soul, drama acts and gospel groups.

The annual Gen. John Stanford/Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Parade will take place this Saturday, July 24 at 12 noon. The co-grand marshalls for this year's parade are Seattle/King County NAACP president Carl Mack and Henry Beauchamp, CEO of OIC of Washington (operators of The Leon Sullivan Health Care Center at Branch Villa).

Both of these men have gone over and above the call of duty when it comes to our community," said Chris H. Bennett, chairman of the Seattle Medium Newspaper Group and the Z-Twins radio stations, commenting on the selection of Mack and Beauchamp as co-grand marshals. "Beauchamp reached across the mountains to help save an institution in our community, Branch Villa, and under Mack's leadership the NAACP is one of the most active and effective branches in the country."

The parade also features an electrifying line-up of drill teams in the area, local businesses, community service organizations, and dignitaries from the Greater Seattle area.

"It's always good to see the young men and women on the drill teams perform, but they always seem to give a little extra when they perform in front of their family and friends at the Soul Fest Parade," said Seattle Medium co-publisher/editor Chris B. Bennett. "They definitely bring their A-game and really set the tone for all of the other parade participants."

This year the Soul Fest Committee has lined up many local and national acts on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday with a wide variety of live bands, funk, Rhythm and Blues, and Hip Hop acts to choose from. Including Rebel Soul Records recording artist Martin Luther of The Roots and Sounz Li'c Hitz recording artist Dirti Byrd.

Sunday's Gospel Extravaganza

(Cont'd. On Page 2)

First Soul Fest Gospel Idol Competition A Great Success



Vanessa Ament (left), winner of the first Soul Fest Gospel Idol competition, celebrates with second place winner Sharonda Shaw (center), and third place winner Herbert Mosley. *Photo/Jessica Howard.*

A beautiful rainbow of competitors livened up the Oneness Christian Center last Sunday evening for the first Soul Fest Gospel Idol competition. Each competitor brought their own unique style of gospel singing and gospel rap. The competition open to anyone 18 year-of-age and older, was broadcast live on 1420 AM KRIZ, 1560 AM KYIZ and 1620 AM KZIZ.

Each singer/rapper had to perform acapella for two minutes, as they competed for first, second and third prizes of $500, $300 and $200 respectively.

For almost two hours the airways were alive with the vocal styling of Josephine Carson, Karen Anthony, Fuhyada Rogers, Sharonda Shaw, Christine Callas, Angel Han, Reginal Lucas, Terry Lewis, Constance Washington, Herbert Mosley, Naomi Boggan, Vanessa Ament, Trolice Flavors, Theodocia Latham and Lorrianann Doria. In addition to the competitors, The Total Experience Gospel Choir rocked the house.

The distinct panel of judges included: Rev. Frank Byrdwell of Mount Zion Baptist Church; Bro. Wil Holm of Edmonds Unitarian Church; Elder Joe Bowman of New Covenant Pentecostal Church of Tacoma; Bro. Edward "Sonny" Byers of Greater Mt. Baker Baptist Church and Bro. Lou Magor of Wallingford United Methodist Church. All judges were well qualified and had a tremendous task assigned to them. They were able to pool their collective musical resources and the top three competitors emerged.

The first place winner was Vanessa Ament; second place winner was Sharonda Shaw and third place winner was Herbert Mosley. Both Vanessa Ament and Herbert Mosley will perform this Sunday afternoon at the Soul Fest 2004 Gospel Extravaganza which will be held at Franklin High School Playfield. They are scheduled to appear at 5 pm. Sharonda Shaw will not be singing due to her very tight schedule, as she is one of the competitors for the 2004 SeaFair title.

A big "thank you" is in order to Mr. Chris H. Bennett and the staff of The Seattle Medium Newspaper and KRIZ, KZIZ and KYIZ radio stations for sponsoring the event. See you all at Soul Fest 2004.

J. D. Mason And Independent Truckers Association Bring Carnival Rides To Soul Fest



Shown above are: J. D. Mason (center), president of Independent Truckers Association (ITA); M. T. Phillip, president of AM&I, Inc., two of his drivers John Jones and Jason Mortel; and Walter Beauchamp (rear). Not shown are drivers Timothy McMillon and Dennis Corprue. ***See Related Story Page 2.***

Biking In The Sun... Seattle To Portland

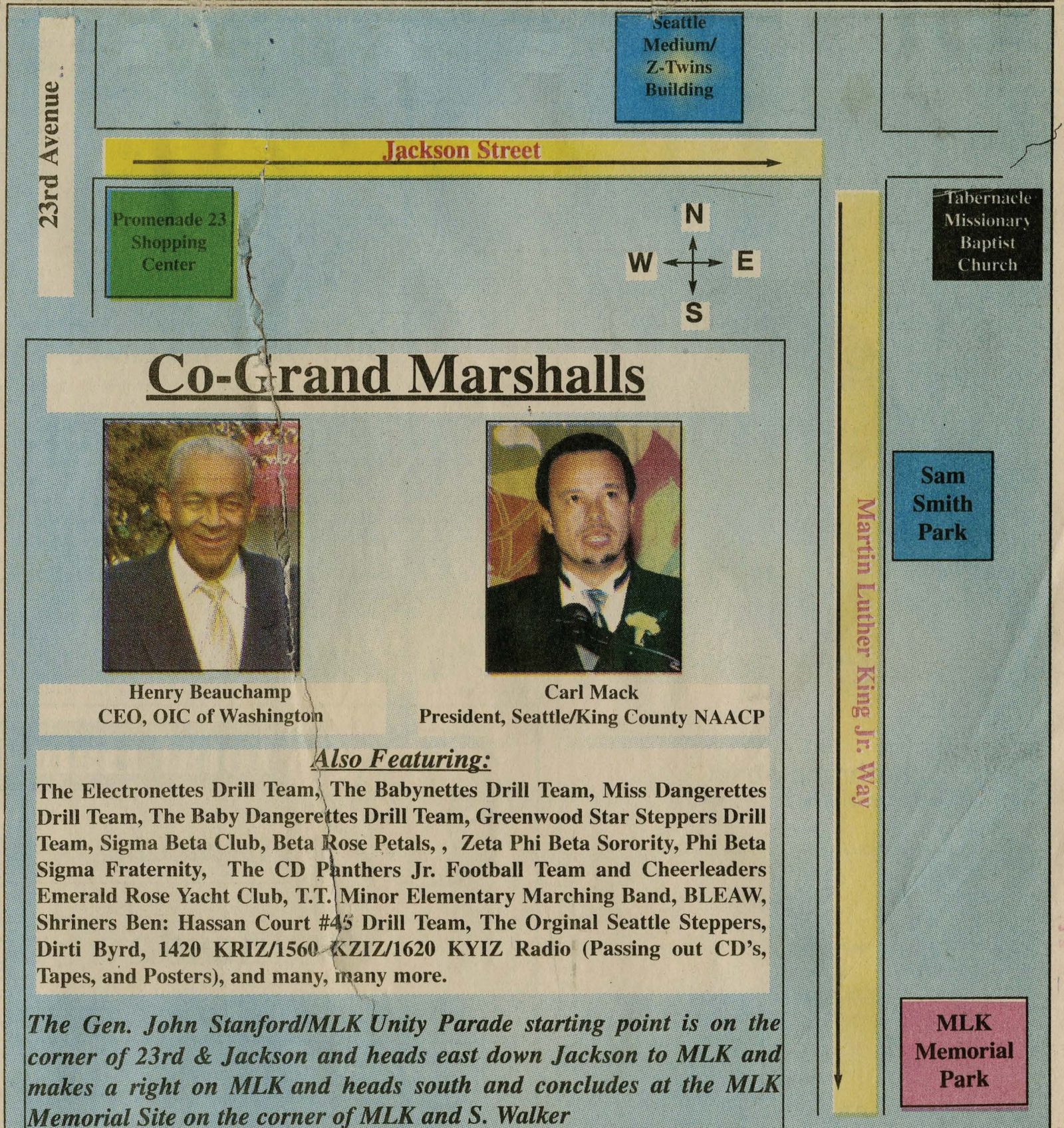


Congratulations to these cheerful bikers from the Seattle area, who were among the 8,000 bikers that rode in the Seatle to Portland 25th Annual Bicycle Classic. From left to right, Raymond Kirby, Randle Montgomery, Gloria Bennett and Noel Montgomery. All four bikers finished the grueling 206 mile event in two days. *Staff Photo/Chris H. Bennett*

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A Message From The People... To The People

2004 Gen. John Stanford/MLK Unity Parade Route



Co-Grand Marshalls

Henry Beauchamp
CEO, OIC of Washington

Carl Mack
President, Seattle/King County NAACP

Also Featuring:

The Electronettes Drill Team, The Babynettes Drill Team, Miss Dangerettes Drill Team, The Baby Dangerettes Drill Team, Greenwood Star Steppers Drill Team, Sigma Beta Club, Beta Rose Petals, , Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, The CD Panthers Jr. Football Team and Cheerleaders Emerald Rose Yacht Club, T.T. Minor Elementary Marching Band, BLEAW, Shriners Ben: Hassan Court #45 Drill Team, The Orginal Seattle Steppers, Dirti Byrd, 1420 KRIZ/1560 KZIZ/1620 KYIZ Radio (Passing out CD's, Tapes, and Posters), and many, many more.

The Gen. John Stanford/MLK Unity Parade starting point is on the corner of 23rd & Jackson and heads east down Jackson to MLK and makes a right on MLK and heads south and concludes at the MLK Memorial Site on the corner of MLK and S. Walker

Special Thanks To

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Demonstrators Make Their Voices

By **James Coley**
The Seattle Medium

As the National Governor's Association conference held in Seattle carried over into Monday, demonstrators continued to make their voices heard both locally and nationally.

"We're not going anywhere," one demonstrator stated over the megaphone. "We're staying right here."

The demonstration was held outside of the Westin Hotel, where the conference was being held. The protesters wanted to address such issues as disproportionate incarceration rates among African-Americans, harmful funding cuts to basic community health services, and continually rising unemployment rates in communities of color.

"We recognize and support the causes and concerns of other communities but when we have a disproportionate number of African-Americans incarcerated due in part to lack of opportunities, the issues we are addressing relate directly to the African-American community," stated Eddie Rye Jr., 1st Vice President of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the National Black Chamber of Commerce.

Rye went on to tell the crowd that, while African-Americans make up only 1.4% of Washington State's population, they make up 40% of the state's prison population. "We're even putting people in jail for very minor, non-violent crimes just because the system can do it; and people don't have the money to fight it. Unfortunately, justice in the United States costs money," he added.

Charles Wilson, Director of CDC Programs at People of Color Against AIDS Network (POCAAN), spoke to reporters about crucial government funding that had been cut from his organization.

"One of the focuses of the protest today is to get the governors focused on the problem of AIDS both locally and internationally. We recognize that funding is limited to the availability of funds, but if we go away, who will be left to take on the problem in our community?" said Wilson.



11-year-old Delshawn Staten (left) gets an early lesson in advocacy as he helps hold up a protest sign outside the National Governor's Association conference on Monday in downtown Seattle. Also pictured are Eddie Rye, Jr. (center) of the Black Chamber of Commerce and Pastor Pat Wright (right) of Oneness Christian Center. *Photo/Flyright Productions.*

Wilson also voiced concern over Federal funding cuts to many local, community-based health organizations, and the negative impact that these cuts are having on the communities that these organizations are attempting to serve.

"Personally, I would like to see the governors recognize the need to advocate for continued funding of current programs, to advocate for increased funding, primarily Federal funding, of programs across the country. I would like to see them put emphasis on getting money to community-based organizations that have shown greater success in reaching communities of color and target populations that are impacted by this disease (AIDS)."

Protesters also held signs that read, "Jobs not Jails for Blacks" and "Discrimination is Illegal. Where are all the Black Workers?" while Rye gave voice to the troubling unemployment rate among African Americans. He told the crowd that there were once 13 black-owned, architectural and engineering firms in 1982, while today there are not even 3. In 1984 there were 28 black-owned trucking companies, while today only 4 remain.

"This is ridiculous," said Rye. "As long as the Federal Government mandates that our companies go through private, white-owned contracting firms in order to get business, the playing field will never be equal."

Rye also cited the significant drop in the availability of jobs to inner-city youth.

"Only a few years ago there were at least 2000 summer jobs targeted towards inner-youth. Now there are barely 200," he stated. "And now another blow has been dealt locally because a lot of our young students would transfer from community college right into the University of Washington. Now they have eliminated the automatic transfer of students from community college to the University," Rye continued.

Katie Mitchell, Program Manager of the Infant Mortality Prevention Program at POCAAN, gave voice to all the issues at hand. "We can't afford any more cuts. These are basic needs. These aren't frivolous things people are asking for. There are serious holes in our system and people are falling through."

The demonstrators stood outside of the National Governor's Association conference, determined to be heard.

"We're here to let the governors hear our voice," Rye told reporters. "The issues that affect the black community of Seattle are issues that affect the black community across the country."

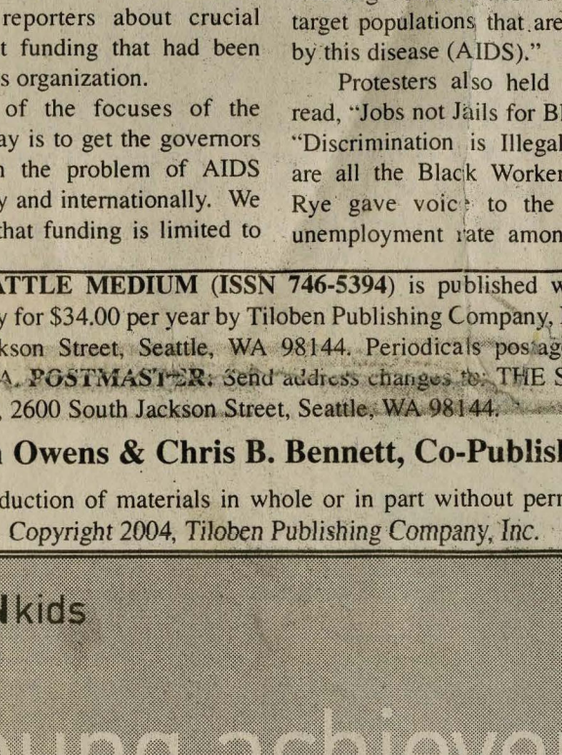
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Joan Owens & Chris B. Bennett, Co-Publishers

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BONkids

young achievers



Kathryne Abad
Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary

Age: 9
Favorite School Subject: Kathryne loves arts and crafts class.
Hobbies/Interests: She enjoys jumping rope, especially jumping Double Dutch.
Proudest Achievement: Doing well at her schoolwork.
Ambition: She would like to be a veteranarian.
How She'll Get There: By getting good grades.

Young Achievers
is a roll call of students whose abilities, dreams and determination are leading the way toward a future full of promise.

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J. D. Mason And Independent Truckers Association Bring Carnival Rides To Soul Fest

Soul Fest will get its rides. Thanks to the efforts of J. D. Mason and the Independence Truckers Association. J. D., as he is affectionately called, got into action Thursday after the carnival that the Soul Fest used for the past six years provided rides at the competition's festival this past weekend.

The carnival had asked Soul Festival to select another date other than its traditional weekend. After Soul Fest changed their date with city approval, the carnival notified Soul Fest that that date was not available. After months of negotiations, Soul Fest officials learned on last Thursday that the carnival had decided to set up it rides and food booths across town. Normally, it takes five years to schedule a carnival. Soul Fest officials' 'may day' call went out to the carnival industry and found a carnival with no drivers to get the rides to Seattle and on to Idaho. J. D. Mason and his Independent Truckers Association within hours were ready and within 72 hours ITA had the rides at Franklin High School at MLK and Rainier.

The competition's festival across town was headed by a well-known African American Seattle Police Officer who had also been assigned to work at Soul Fest in previous years.

Soul Fest This Weekend

Continued From Front Page

at Soul Fest is set to be one of the biggest gospel events in the city. This year's line-up includes groups, solos, choirs, and others ready to show *their* passion for Christ. Kicking it all off Sunday morning will be Church In The Park featuring Rev. Eugene Lewis and the Emerald City Seventh Day Adventist Church. Then festival-goers will be treated to an afternoon full of great gospel, including both traditional and contemporary music, and genres in between. Capping off Soul Fest 2004 will be the "Gospel Idol" Soloist Competition, where contestants from all over the greater Seattle area will be competing for cash prizes and the title "Soul Fest 2004 Gospel Idol." Soul Fest 2004's Gospel Extravaganza promises to be one event not to be missed.

Soul Fest will officially begin Friday afternoon with lots of good entertainment, food, carnival rides, and much, much more. With so much planned for this year's festival, there's no place you'd rather be than the Franklin High School Playfield for all three days of Soul Fest 2004.

Morial Rejects Efforts To Divide Urban League And NAACP

By Hazel Trice Edney
NNPA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – National Urban League President Marc Morial says that while he is pleased President Bush agreed to address his organization's annual convention this week, he disagrees with Bush's decision to skip the NAACP convention.

"I can't speak for the White House. Nor can I speak for the NAACP. But let me say this: I certainly believe that this president and every president should go to and visit the NAACP meeting and visit the Urban League meeting and dialogue with the Congressional Black Caucus," Morial says. "I have fundamental and complete respect for the NAACP as a sister organization of ours."

Morial, celebrating his first year as National Urban League president, did not contain his glee at having landed both Bush and Sen. John Kerry, his Democratic opponent, as convention speakers.

"Few Black or White organizations get both candidates to come to their meetings. That's the thing. Name me another organization, Black or White, that got both candidates to come to their meeting," he says. "For many people who will come to our conference, this is the only opportunity they're going to have to see John Kerry and George Bush in person, in a direct appeal."

Kerry was scheduled to speak Thursday and Bush was set for Friday. The Urban League speech will be the third for Bush; the only conference he missed as president was 2002.

Bush's speech to the National Urban League comes on the heels of a major controversy in which Bush declined an invitation to speak before the NAACP convention for the fourth consecutive year. NAACP leaders say Bush is the only president in modern time to reject speaking invitations from the nation's oldest civil rights organization. Even Ronald Reagan spoke to NAACP delegates.

Some civil rights activists worry that by ignoring the NAACP, Bush is playing one civil rights group against another. As further evidence, they point to the 40th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 last month at the White House. Bush publicly acknowledged Morial's presence in the East Room ceremony, but did not extend an invitation to NAACP president and CEO Kweisi Mfume.

Morial insists that there is no competition between the two organizations.

"We do different work," he says. Morial mentioned that he spoke at the NAACP's convention last week and that Mfume had been invited to speak at the Urban League convention but could not make it.

"The relationship between the civil rights organizations is good. Certainly, the relationships between the leaders are good. But all of us are not going to necessarily walk in tactical lockstep on every issue. Nor should we be expected to," he says.

Morial also said he will resist any effort to pit the National Urban League against the NAACP.

"This is very important. That the focus is not just, 'Well, Bush came here. He didn't go there.' And nobody pays attention to what Bush and Kerry said. Just the fact that they were there is not enough," Morial says. "It's got to be ongoing engagements and an ongoing dialogue. You've got to be fully engaged. I trust our people to listen and make their judgment when they go to the polls in November."

Morial says he will demand more than just rhetoric from Kerry and Bush.

"I don't want these candidates to come to our conventions and just give some pep talk. I want them to come to our convention and talk about jobs. I want them to talk about their commitments to Urban America. I want them to talk about how they're going to commit resources," he says.

Some political observers are not impressed with Bush's decision to address Urban League delegates.

"I think it's a token appearance. I think it's a slap in the face," says Toni-Michelle Travis, professor of political science and director of African-American Studies at George Mason University in Northern Virginia. "I think that connects with corporate America and business and I think the general Republican philosophy of business and work ethic and all that. And the Urban League shows that connection publicly for him, whereas the NAACP has a different energy. It's an organization that believes very much in pushing civil rights, civil liberties."

This will be the first time in 20 years that Morial, the former mayor of New Orleans, has not been a delegate at the Democratic National Convention. He recognizes that he's in a different role as head of a non-partisan group.

"We will maintain and will continue to maintain working relationships with both sides of the aisle, if you will," says Morial. "This is an institutional commitment that I embrace."

DOE Might Halt Low-level Waste Shipments To Hanford

By JOHN K. WILEY
Associated Press Writer

SPOKANE (AP) - The U.S. Department of Energy is willing to halt some shipments of radioactive waste to the Hanford nuclear reservation if the agency can agree with Washington state on a schedule to settle a legal dispute, the Energy Department said Monday.

The state wants to ban shipments of low-level radioactive waste from other states to the former nuclear weapons production site near Richland. State leaders contend the shipments violate federal law and a previous agreement.

During a conference call Monday with U.S. District Judge Alan MacDonald, the Energy Department agreed it would halt the shipments, temporarily, once a court schedule is agreed upon.

``What we did was agree to work out a schedule for court proceedings," said Colleen Clark, an Energy Department spokeswoman in Richland. ``If we can reach agreement on what the schedule is, we will not make any shipments during that time period."

David Mears, an assistant state attorney general handling the case, said he hoped that a schedule agreement could be reached as early as Tuesday.

``It's not a major negotiation," Mears said, as it mostly involves coordinating attorney time. ``Both sides have committed to try and reach an agreement."

The Energy Department's last shipment of nuclear waste to the Hanford site was in June, when 109 barrels of material from the Rocky Flats nuclear site in Colorado were sent there, Clark said.

The Energy Department contends the shipments of low-level radioactive waste and waste mixed with hazardous chemicals are legal and do not violate the Tri-Party Agreement, the Hanford cleanup pact agreed to by DOE, Washington state and the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Washington Gov. Gary Locke and Attorney General Christine Gregoire announced Friday that they would seek to amend a 2003 lawsuit to ban shipments of low-level radioactive waste to the 560-square-mile Hanford site, which contains the nation's largest volume of nuclear wastes from the production of nuclear weapons materials.

That amended lawsuit was filed Monday, Mears said.

Last year, the state sued DOE over shipments of transuranic waste: plutonium-contaminated gloves, rags, tools, dried sludge and other debris from nuclear weapons-making.

Low-level wastes include such materials as building rubble, contaminated dirt, tools and clothing that have less radiation than transuranics. Mixed low-level wastes contain hazardous chemicals.

Under DOE's plan, approximately 62,000 cubic meters of offsite radioactive waste, including 20,000 cubic meters of mixed low-level waste and 15,500 cubic meters of transuranic waste, would be shipped to Hanford.

An earlier proposal would have allowed as much as 219,663 cubic meters of low-level waste and 140,435 cubic meters of mixed low-level waste.

For 40 years, the south-central Washington reservation made plutonium for the nation's nuclear weapons, beginning with the top-secret Manhattan Project to build an atomic bomb.

Today, it is the nation's most contaminated nuclear site. Cleanup costs are expected to total $50 billion to $60 billion, with the work to be finished by 2035.

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City Council Opposes Federal Cuts To Section 8 Housing

"Section 8 is a critical tool that helps meet the housing needs of 12,000 Seattle Citizens."

The Seattle City Council unanimously approved a resolution urging Congress not to cut funds to the federal Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. In April, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced it would retroactively cut funding to housing authorities across the country. The Bush Administration has proposed an additional $1.6 billion cut to Section 8 for 2005, which would result in an additional loss of more than 250,000 vouchers nationwide.

"Twelve-thousand people in our communities in Seattle alone depend on Section 8 subsidies to meet their month's rent," said Councilmember Tom Rasmussen, sponsor of the resolution.

There are more than two million Section 8 rent assistance vouchers in effect nationally. The program, the nation's most significant housing support to the poor, was established in 1974 as a movement from public housing "projects" to a system that involved the private sector in addressing the need for affordable housing. Recipients pay at least 30 percent of their income toward rent and the program pays the balance directly to landlords.

Rasmussen held a Council Forum on Section 8 last week. He will be in Washington D.C. this week, meeting with Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell and Congressmen Jim McDermott, Rick Larsen and Jay Inslee about the future of Section 8. He'll share with them Seattle's support for continued funding.

"Seattle has more than 1,700 homeless people on our streets and another 3,700 in transitional housing on any given night and we cannot afford to lose our housing options," said Rasmussen. He's looking forward to working with Washington State's national delegation to assure a future for Section 8.

Police Seek Driver In Accident

RENTON (AP)- A man had both legs amputated Sunday. after he was struck by a van on an off-ramp of Interstate 405, and state troopers were searching for the van's driver.

Byron Speer, 24, was in critical condition at Harborview Medical Center on Sunday night, a nursing supervisor said.

The Washington State Patrol said the van struck Speer, who was fixing a flat tire along the off-ramp of northbound Interstate 405 at State Route 167.

Sgt. Donald Cyprain told reporters the van blew a tire and came to rest farther down the road.

During questioning, the van's driver collapsed and was taken to nearby Valley Medical Center, Cyprain said. He later left without talking to troopers.

``We need to question him. We need to bring closure to this incident. So, if he's out there I hope he returns,'' Cyprain said.

One Shot To death, Two Injured At Suburban Seattle After-Hours Club

(AP) - One man was fatally shot and two were wounded in fighting at an after-hours club in the suburbs south of the city, King County sheriff's deputies said.

Deputies found a 26-year-old Seattle man dead shortly after 4 a.m. Saturday at a business where goods such as insulated windows and doors are sold by day and that is sometimes rented for social gatherings at night, Detective Rodney Chinnick said.

Two others who were injured, a 26-year-old Seattle man and a 28-year-old Seattle woman, were reported in stable condition at Harborview Medical Center.

Witnesses indicated about 100 people were present when a fight began and shooting erupted, apparently when the man who was killed came to the aid of a friend, Chinnick said.

No arrests were immediately reported.

SOUL FESTIVAL 2004

July 23, 24, 25

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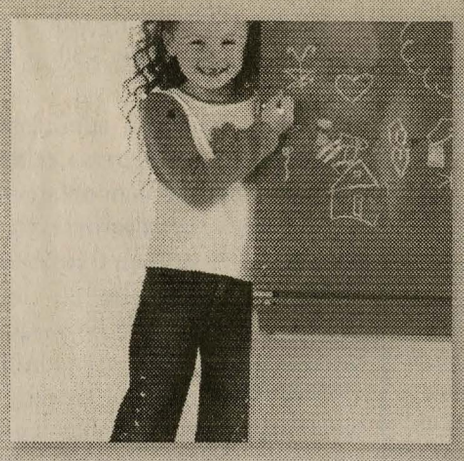
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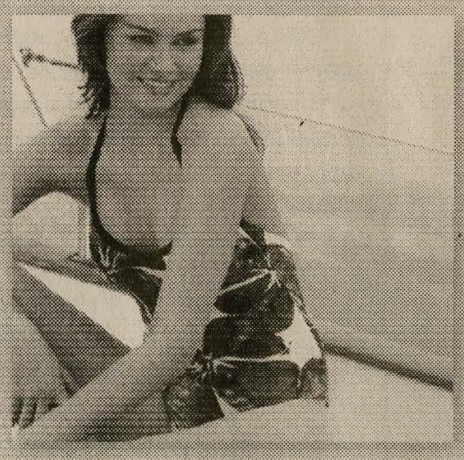
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EDITORIALS • COMMENTS • OPINIONS

Democratic Platform Offers Little to Blacks

By Ron Walters

Let's face it. The Democratic Party platform this year will not contain a Black agenda. But, you say, all Americans have a stake in the issues in the platform. That is true, but it matters - and it matters desperately - how these issues relate with the various communities in the country.

For example, it matter little to say that Blacks, "too," want decent jobs, education and health at a surface level of vague generalities. In order to make this statement meaningful, it has to take into consideration the shape of the status and concerns in each of these communities. If the communities are ghettoized, substantially poor, foreign-born, or lacking average levels of those public goods, the way in which they are delivered will matter vastly from the way in which they are delivered to well-off communities. So, one wants to see the specifics of the policy, not just the vague generalities in which platforms are written. The platforms of both parties will mention these issues, but not much detail comes with it.

For the details, the leadership of the Black community has traditionally created a "Black Agenda." This year, that process has largely been abdicated and left to progressive Black groups, such as a Black Agenda Conference (NBAC) that was held in Boston in April and another one in Chicago in mid-July.

These documents contain the specificity that describes the issues faced by the Black community and the way in which the political system is asked to address them. For example, they deal with Black poverty by referring to the immorality of the new system that replaced welfare and call for its restructure. They deal with the criminally unjust incarceration of 1 million Black men and women and call for the repeal of policies such a mandatory minimum sentences and "Three Strikes You're Out." They reject the corporate control of the health care system and call for a "Quality of Life" constitutional amendment that establishes a right to health care. Similarly, they call for a constitutional amendment on the right to vote in light of the disfranchisements suffered by Blacks in Florida and elsewhere during the 2000 elections.

But what is the relationship between this National Black Agenda process and the national Democratic Party. It is the unwillingness of Black leadership to fight for such measures for fear of upsetting the possibility of a smooth Kerry/Edwards train ride into the White House. The Congressional Black Caucus has held two Black Leadership Summits and the Kerry campaign has held periodic telephone conference calls. But precious little of this input has gone into the bowels of the platform process. One example of what I mean is that the statehood for the District of Columbia, a predominantly Black city, was contained in the 2000 version of the Democratic Party platform. However, when the draft of the 2004 platform was finished in Miami on the weekend of July 10, it was not there. Another is that Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. attempted to get the Platform Committee to go on record supporting a Constitutional Amendment for the right to vote and this set off a tortuous round of negotiations and debate with the Kerry folks that controlled the drafting process, ending in some vague compromise language.

Finally, Dennis Kucinich delegates challenged the platform language at the drafting session by demanding that American troops withdraw from Iraq. After rejection of this notion and much negotiation, Kerry operatives pressured them to accept the Kerry notion of leaving when it is appropriate. In short, the progressive edge of the issues have been blunted for the sake of not allowing Kerry to appear too liberal, thus making him even more vulnerable to his opponents on this score, and for the sake of "party unity."

This year in particular, the strength of the pressure of "party unity" also blunts issue specifics because the campaign is not so much about Kerry as it is about getting George Bush out of the White House. Thus, there is the sentiment, even among Black political leaders, that anything that appears to interfere with that goal should be sacrificed.

This means at least two things. First, the Black agendas that are written outside of the formal political process are the best picture that we can get in this election cycle of the specific goals of the Black community. And while they will not have official standing, they will exist as the measuring rod for what is eventually passed by the parties. Second, the Black community must look beyond this season for the kind of attention to their specific needs that is presented on the national stage as a part of the formal political process and prepare to pursue these issues in the public policy arena regardless of who is elected.

It would be tempting to think that the hundreds of Black delegates to the Democratic Convention would demand attention to their specific needs. But they are a carefully chosen lot, under the discipline of the candidate and, of course, no fools.

Ron Walters is the Distinguished Leadership Scholar, director of the African American Leadership Institute in the Academy of Leadership and professor of government and politics at the University of Maryland-College Park. His latest book is "White Nationalism, Black Interests" (Wayne State University Press).

Haiti Has Not Been Forgotten

By Bill Fletcher Jr.

When most of us do not hear about, read or see a story for more than a few days, we either forget about it or figure that everything has been "worked out." We have not been hearing much about Haiti recently, but I can assure you that things have not been "worked out."

The coup of February 29, 2004 against the duly elected government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide resulted in a large-scale purge of those connected with the president and his party, the Famni Lavalas. Supporters and members have been chased underground or murdered. The Bush administration has, essentially, blockaded Haiti and refused to permit refugees access to our shores.

Workers attempting to unionize have been crushed. Various institutions built during the Aristide administration have been destroyed. U.S. troops, deployed to Haiti supposedly to restore order, have done nothing to restore genuine constitutional democracy or the real rule of law. Indeed, the military rebels — known, in the words of Secretary of State Colin Powell, as 'thugs'— remain armed and effectively out of control, insisting that they constitute the core of a reconstituted Haitian army.

Most of the nations of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) smelled a rat as soon as the coup took place. In a display of courage that should be forever rewarded, these small nations stood up against the arrogant demands of the Bush administration, which insisted that President Aristide stay out of the Caribbean and under de facto house arrest in the Central African Republic. Nevertheless, the Bush administration pressure has continued and it appears that some cracks have emerged within CARICOM, with some countries moving toward recognizing the coup-installed regime. Current conditions make it less than likely that Haiti will be in a position to have anything approaching legitimate elections. With a continued atmosphere of squelching political dissent, multi-party elections might take place, but it is improbable that they would represent the will of the Haitian people.

In this setting, the message that emerges from the Bush administration is that we should all "move on" from the circumstances surrounding the coup. This is a coded term meaning, in effect, that those of us with questions about the role of the Bush administration in the coup or the circumstances under which President Aristide was ousted should, to borrow from FOX Commentator Bill O'Reilly, shut up. We are asked to approve a situation that should be repudiated, and assume that the clock cannot be turned back. Such a course of action is unacceptable. While President Aristide, presently living in exile in South Africa, does not seem to have taken steps to establish a government-in-exile, the issues at stake are far beyond Aristide-the-person, as I have said in previous columns. Democracy did not have to be restored in February 2004 via an armed insurrection. Democracy needed to have been shored up with international assistance through both the elimination of the armed thugs who invaded Haiti as well as the provision of promised assistance to President Aristide's government. That did not happen. Instead, the Bush administration was permitted to undermine the sovereignty of yet another country.

In essence, then, we cannot get over or get beyond what has taken place in Haiti. In large part this is because the effects of the events of February 2004 in Haiti continue to unfold. It is also because the motivations behind Bush administration duplicity and destabilization in Haiti remain central to their approach to handling other international flash points. Unless the underlying approach is challenged and ultimately rejected, we will never be able to get over February 29th because that will be only one day in a terrible line of infamies.

Giving Up On Black People

By James Clingman

Blackonomics

I give up! I'm tired of having to fight against the Black back-stabbers. I give up! I'm weary of weak-kneed, self-appointed or White establishment-appointed, "leading Blacks." I give up! I'm exhausted from years of toiling on positive economic initiatives for our people, only to have some of my own brothers and sisters fear they may offend their new masters if they support Black empowerment. I give up! I'm drained of my substance, my drive, my enthusiasm, and my hope of ever seeing our people break our psychological chains. I give up! I'm worn-out, Black people, fatigued by our slothfulness, the squandering of our resources and talents, and the abdication of our responsibilities to our children. I give up!

Now that Bill Cosby's words are the cynosure of our conversations these days, I may as well jump on the bandwagon too, notwithstanding the fact that if a White person had said what "The Cos" said, we would be having a completely different conversation. It sounds like Bill is fed up too; he's fed up with those Blacks of "lower economic" status. Well, I'm fed up with Blacks of higher economic status. So, I guess between Cosby and me, most Black folks are covered, or should I say "uncovered."

While my comments won't get the same attention as Cosby's, allow me to vent the same way he did. I'm tired of Black people who sell themselves and their people to the lowest bidders. For instance, National Baptist Convention USA officials agreed to come to Cincinnati, despite the boycott, and in exchange for their $21 million economic impact, they received a banquet, a limousine, a hotel rebate, and a few free airline trips. Bill Cosby was the first to honor the Cincinnati boycott by canceling his appearance here. Do we agree with him on that? Will we follow his example?

We have two Black colleges, Bethune-Cookman and Grambling, agreeing to come to this boycotted city, in exchange for money they could - and should - be receiving from Black people. Of course, this so called "Black" football game has been commandeered by corporate dollars and turned into a hammer with which to beat oppressed Blacks over their heads. Hmmm. This sounds like a job for the Blackonomics Million Dollar Club. We could give these two schools much more money than they will receive for coming to Cincinnati to play a football game against the wishes of their oppressed brothers and sisters. What do you say, BMDC? There are Black people, no doubt among the remnant of W.E.B. DuBois' disappointing Talented Tenth, who settle for terms like MBE, SBE, and WBE, having to be certified that they are Black (and glad to do it) to get a contract, and they never open their mouths to say anything about how Black people are mistreated. I have proposed, since Black folks just love this alphabet soup discriminatory process of economic exclusion, that we institute a new category: "BBE" - Black Business Enterprise.

We have Black leaders, or as Nathan and Julia Hare say, "Leading Blacks," who won't take positions in support of the righteous struggles of their own people. On the contrary, they will speak in support of the establishment, suggesting everything is all right and Black folks are doing just fine. We have super-rich Blacks who make grandstand donations to organizations that do absolutely nothing to uplift their people. Yes, it's their money, and they can do whatever they want to with it, but c'mon brothers and sisters, you can do much better with what you have.

We have Black organizations that kowtow to get those banquet tables sold at their "Freedom Dinners" and Awards Banquets. Freedom? Awards? When did we get free? What are we celebrating? Our major freedom fighting organizations should refocus their attention on capturing an economic position rather than their leaders always trying to capture a good position in front of a news camera.

We have celebrities who've been mistreated and discriminated against by taxi drivers, advertisers, and the police, and common Black folks from across the country rally to their defense, threatening to boycott and punish the transgressors. Some of those same celebrities, when called upon by common Black folks fighting against oppression, look the other way and opt for the path of least resistance, such as those who have come and will be in Cincinnati for the Underground Railroad Freedom Center celebration in August 2004. Freedom?

Finally, relative to Cosby's remarks about our children having those $200 gym shoes, I would say many of our upper class Black folks spend their money on ridiculous items, too. Check out an Ebony magazine or watch shows like Cribs and How I'm Livin.' Talk about ridiculous! These multi-millionaires show us their homes, their plasma screen TVs in every room, their fur bedspreads, their top-shelf liquor, their 15 cars with $20,000 worth of tires and rims, and their recreation rooms, but they never show us their libraries.

While Cosby may be "holding up" his end, he has some peers who are certainly not holding up their end. I wonder what they would say if he got on their case. That's why I am giving up on Black people. I am all tuckered out by disingenuous, condescending, fake, self-centered, spend-thrift, self-righteous, snooty, aloof Black folks who do us more harm than good. I give up!

Just kidding, just kidding. I love you, brothers and sisters, with our warts, our dysfunction, and misguided material values. Let's just try to do better by one another, those in the lower, middle, and upper economic status. Okay?

Rejecting A Proven Weapon To Combat HIV/AIDS

By George E. Curry

BANGKOK, Thailand (NNPA) – Imagine that there was a devastating disease for which there was no cure. Imagine that 14,000 people died from the disease every day, most of them women and young people. Imagine that there was a simple and inexpensive way to avert most, if not all of those deaths. And worst of all, imagine that many leaders were against the approach for political, religious and social reasons.

We don't have to imagine. HIV/AIDS is real. And scientists are unequivocal in concluding that short of abstinence, condoms offer the best protection against the spread of HIV/AIDS, the world's most challenging health problem.

A report titled, "Condom Count: Meeting the Need in the Era of HIV/AIDS," published by Population Action International in Washington, D.C., was direct: "The condom is the only technology available for protection from sexually transmitted HIV."

It can't be stated any clearer than that.

Yet, for an array of reasons, many of them well-intended, America's sex-oriented society refuses to embrace – and in some cases, even discuss – the need for a high-profile, public drive to encourage the use of male and female condoms. And we're paying a deadly price for that refusal.

Almost half of all new HIV infections are occurring among people younger than 25 years old, the report observes. More than 6,000 contract the virus each day. African-American teens (ages 13-19) represent only 15 percent of U.S. teenagers yet account for 61 percent of new AIDS cases reported among teens in 2001, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

To pretend that teenagers are not sexually active is to ignore reality.

The CDC surveyed 14,000 teenagers in grades 9-12 (ages 14 to 17) between 1991 and 2003. According to its findings, in 2003, 47 percent of the teens admitted to having engaged in sex. And those are just the ones that admit it.

That reality notwithstanding, many – including President Bush – argue that the only way for teens to avoid HIV is to delay sexual activity until marriage. Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.), the only member of Congress to attend the international AIDS conference here, counters, "Abstinence until marriage programs are not only irresponsible, but inhumane. U.S. policy does not give young girls and women adequate tools to protect themselves against this killer."

The report by Population Action International states: "Public health experts around the globe agree that condoms block contact with body fluids that can carry the HIV virus and have nearly 100 percent effectiveness when used correctly and consistently."

According to the study, it would have taken 8 billion condoms in 2000 to significantly reduce the rate of infection. However, donor nations provided only 950 million that year, less than one-eight of the number needed.

While the Bush administration places a heavy emphasis on abstinence-only programs, other countries are moving to remove the stigma associated with obtaining condoms.

At this year's Carnival, for example, the Brazilian government distributed 10 million free condoms.

Can you imagine the impact of distributing thousands of condoms at the Super Bowl each year? It would be a bold move but we need bold behavior to confront this bold, ever-changing disease. UNAIDS reports, "The search for new preventive technologies such as HIV vaccines and microbicides continues to make progress, but condoms will remain the key preventive tool for many, many years to come." It, too, notes, "The male latex condom is the single, most efficient, available technology to reduce the sexual transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections."

In the face of such conclusive evidence about how to best protect our youth – and everyone else – many political leaders refuse to support sex education programs for fear of encouraging teen sexual activity. The bulk of scientific evidence, however, shows that there is no link between the onset of sexual activity among teenagers and their having been exposed to sex education programs.

When it comes to using condoms, young people seem to be ahead of adults.

According to the CDC study, among students who reported being sexually active, those that used a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse increased 37 percent, from 46 percent in 1991 to 63 percent in 2003. Over that period, condom use increased 54 percent among Latino students, 52 percent among African-American students, and 37 percent among White youth.

Today's teenagers have never known a world without AIDS. If they can make that much progress without widespread public support, just imagine what they could accomplish if we removed all obstacles to obtaining cheap or free condoms. The whole world would be safer.

SOUL FESTIVAL 2004...JULY 23, 24, 25...FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL PLAYFIELD



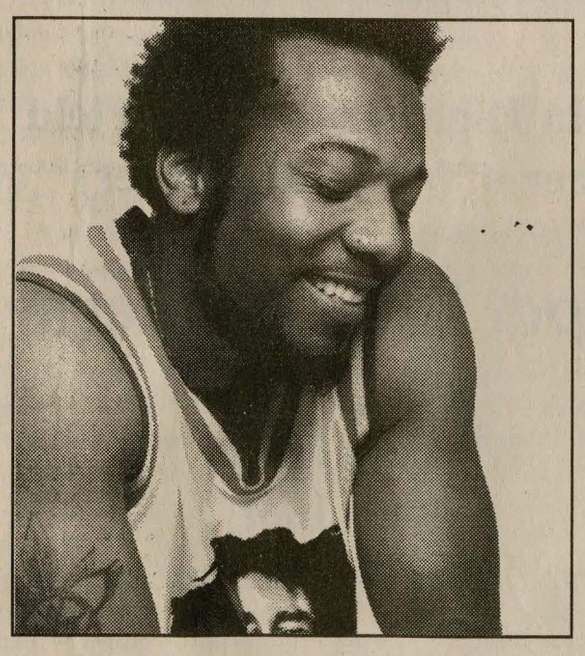
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1st Annual "Gospel Idol" Competition

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Pastor Garry L. Tyson

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PASTORAL INSTALLATION OF REV. MAURICE DeWAYNE BELIN

The members of Bethany Temple Pentecostal Church invite you to join them as they welcome Rev. Maurice DeWayne and Lady Karen Louise Belin as their new pastor and wife.

Installation services will be held July 23 - 25.

Guest speaker on Friday, July 23, at 7 pm will be Bishop F. L. Braswell; on Sat., July 24, at 5 pm, the speaker will be Dr. George Noble; on Sunday, July 25, at 10 am the speaker will be Dr. Precilla Belin of Baltimore, Maryland and Sunday, July 25 at 3 pm the speaker and presiding elder will be Dr. Robert L. Manaway, Sr. The community is cordially invited to attend.

Bethany Temple is located at 1122 - 26th Ave. in Seattle.

3rd ANNUAL SUMMER CELEBRATION AT JESUS THE ANSWER FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Jesus The Answer Fellowship Church cordially invites you to join them for games, food, and fun at their 3rd Annual Summer Celebration. This celebration will be held on Sat., July 31 from 12 noon to 6 pm at Steel Lake Park (space #2). Steel Lake Park is located at 2410 South 312th St. in Federal Way. For more information or to RSVP your attendace, please call 253-839-9111. Rev. Tony Willoughby is pastor.

WOMEN IN WHITE PROGRAM AT TABERNACLE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church will be having their Women In White Program on Sunday, Aug. 22 at 4 pm.

Speakers will be Tabernacle's own Minister Brenda Jackson, Evangelist Bobbi Miller, Minister Marget Chappel, Evangelist Sherryl Mackey and Evangelist Norma Howard.

Other guest speakers from the community include Prophetess Verlena Seals, Sis. Mary Marbles, Sis. Janet Stewart, Sis. Denise Lawrence and Sis. Patricia Cooper.

For more information contact Sis. Joyce McDonald-Carey at 206-870-3036 or Sis. Carol Bates at 425-687-5942 or call the church at 206-329-9794.

Tabernacle is located at 2801 South Jackson Street. Robert L. Manaway, Sr. is pastor.

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•7:30am - 8:30am Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Baptist Church	•12:30pm-1:30pm New Life Baptist Church
•9am - 9:30am Bethehem Baptist Church	•2:30pm-3pm Mt. Calvary Christian Center
•10am-10:30am Allen AME	•4pm-5pm Goodwill Missionary Baptist
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The Jabez Prayer

Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!

--I Chronicles 4:20

Rights Group: Sudanese Arab Militiamen Use Rape As A Tool Of War To Terrorize Black Africans In Darfur

By RodriqueNgowi
Associated Press Writer

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) - Sudanese Arab militiamen rape women and girls as young as eight in the violent campaign intended to hurt, humiliate and drive out black Africans from the troubled region of Darfur, a human rights organization said Monday.

The Sudanese Janjaweed Arab militiamen sometimes torture and break limbs of women to prevent them from escaping rape, abductions and sexual slavery, Amnesty International said in the report titled: ``Sudan, Rape as a weapon of war in Darfur.''

Thousands have been killed and more than a million black Africans have fled their homes in the face of attacks by the government-backed Arab militiamen known as Janjaweed, or ``horsemen'' in the local dialect.

The Janjaweed ``are happy when they rape. They sing when they rape and they tell that we are just slaves and that they can do with us how they wish,'' a 37-year-old victim, identified only as A., says in the report.

Sudan on Saturday ordered that committees of women judges, police officers and legal consultants investigate rape accusations and help victims through criminal cases in the Iraq-sized Darfur region.

The Arab militiamen routinely kill black African men in the western region and target women and girls for sexual violence, Amnesty International said, citing hundreds of interviews human rights workers conducted in camps sheltering people who fled the atrocities in Darfur.

``Women and girls are being attacked, not only to dehumanize the women themselves but also to humiliate, punish, control, inflict fear and displace women and to persecute the community to which they belong,'' the London-based group said.

``In many cases the Janjaweed have raped women in public, in the open air, in front of their husbands, relatives or the wider community,'' the group said. ``The suffering and abuse endured by these women goes far beyond the actual rape ... survivors now face a lifetime of stigma and marginalisation from their own families and communities.''

Women in Darfur who have undergone female genital mutilation are at an even greater risk of injury and face higher risks of infection by HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, the rights group said.

Darfur's troubles stem from long-standing tensions between nomadic Arab tribes and their African farming neighbors over dwindling water and agricultural land. Those tensions exploded into violence in February 2003 when two African rebel groups took up arms over what they regard as unjust treatment by the government in their struggle with Arab countrymen.

Aid workers and refugees accuse the government of arming and providing air support to the Janjaweed, who have torched hundreds of villages in a campaign equated with ethnic cleansing. The government denies any involvement in the militia attacks.

There are also reports that the Sudanese government is integrating members of the Jajaweed into army and police units deployed around Darfur, said Erwin Van der Borght, Amnesty International's deputy head of the Africa program.

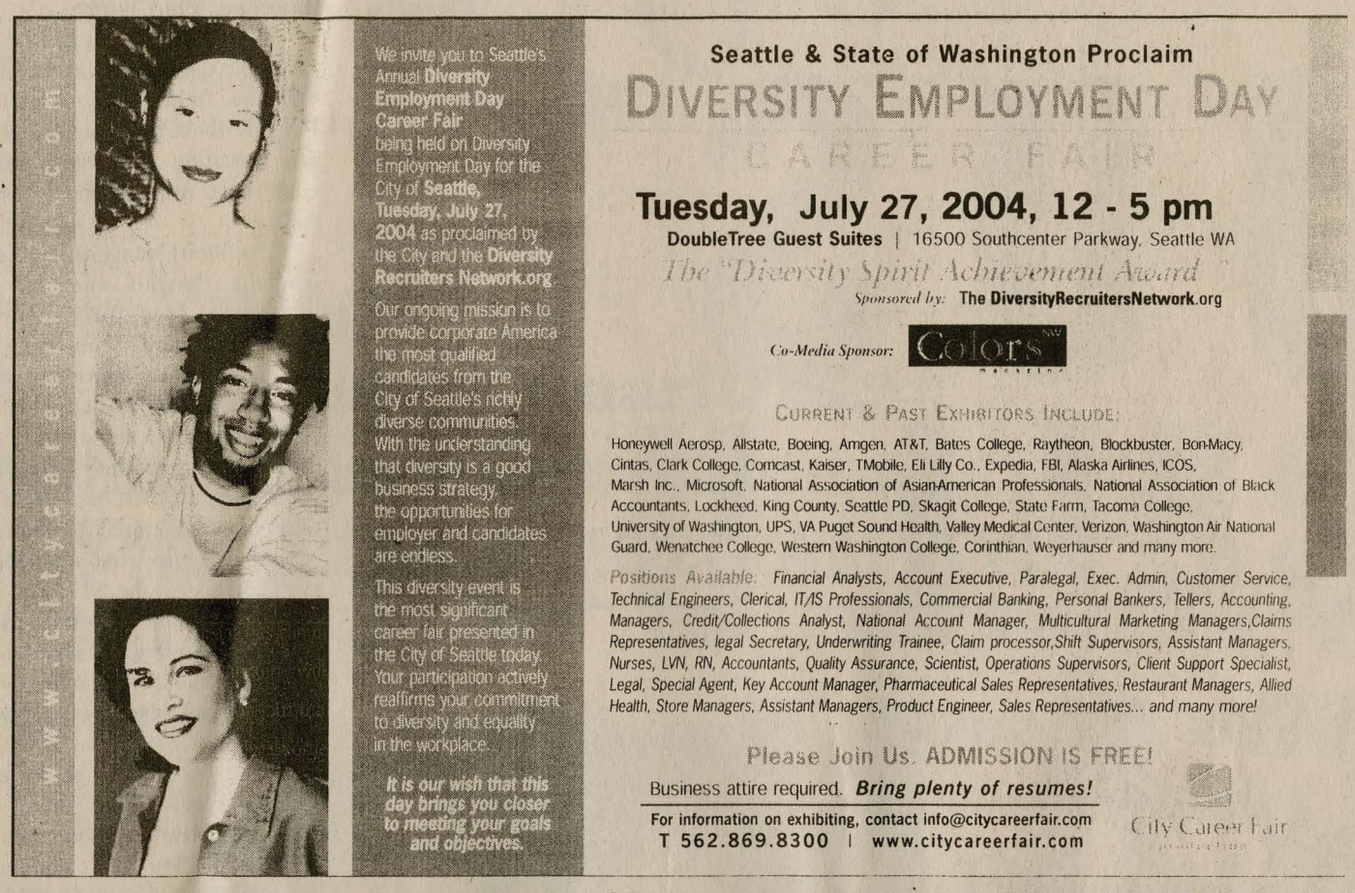
The United Nations estimates up to 30,000 people have been killed in Darfur, but some analysts put the figure much higher. The death toll could surge to more than 350,000 if aid doesn't reach more than 2 million people soon, the U.S. Agency for International Development has warned.

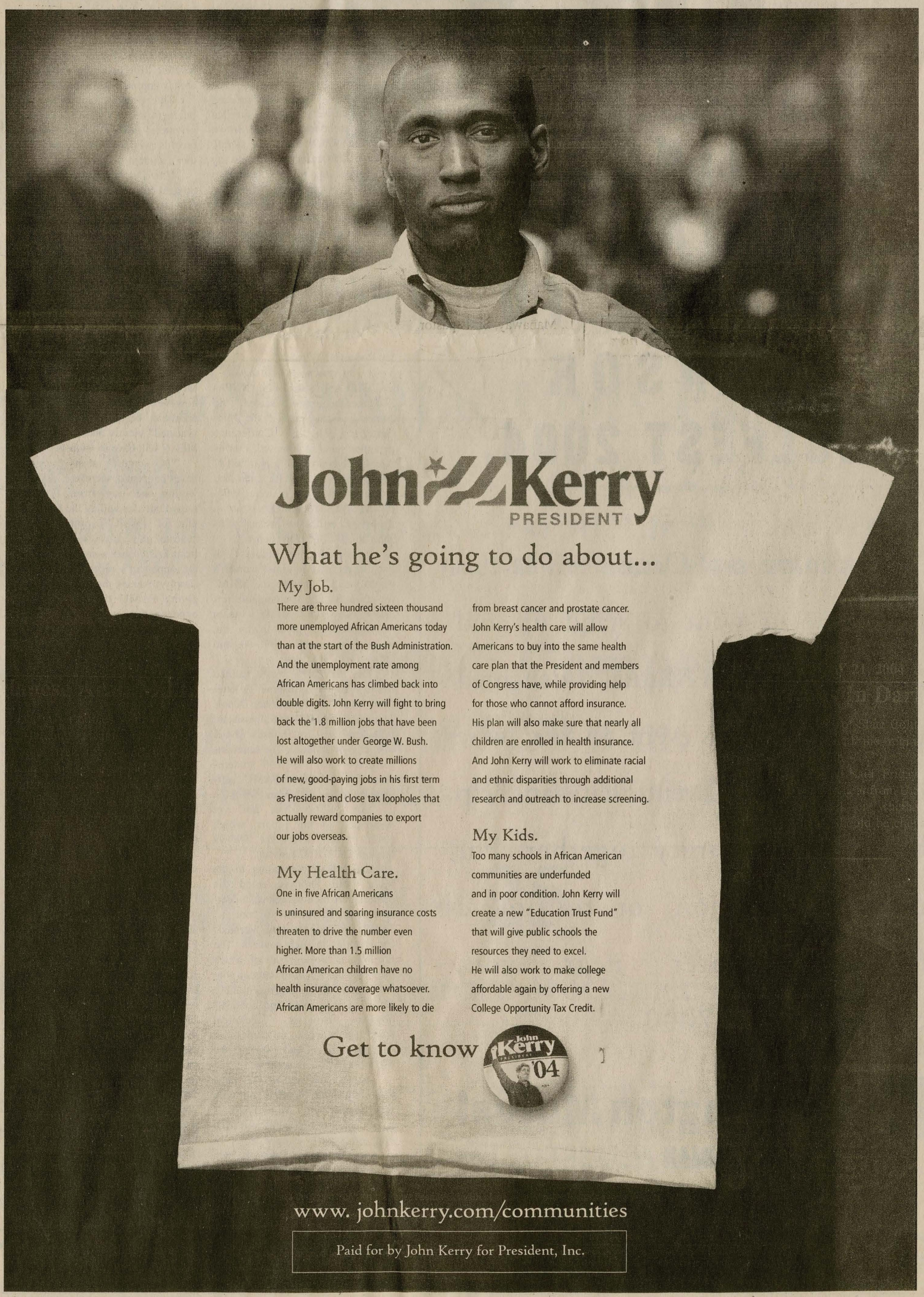
Pressure has mounted on Sudan to end the slaughter. The latest peace talks ended prematurely Saturday after rebels walked out saying the Sudanese government must first disarm the Janjaweed.

The rebels were also seeking government commitments to allow an international inquiry into the killings, prosecute those responsible, lift restrictions on aid workers and release prisoners of war.

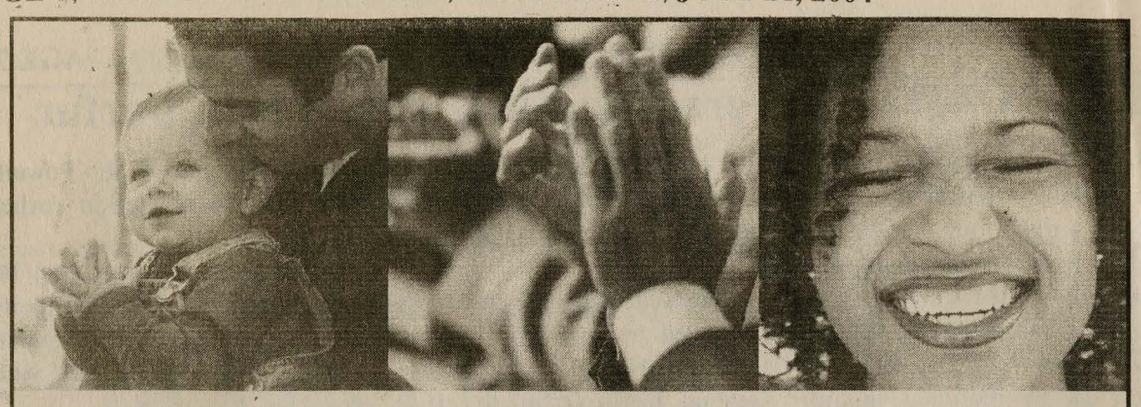
The peace talks began after a concerted diplomatic push by the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan and U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, who visited the region earlier this month.

Powell said Friday that he expects to hear from U.S. experts next week on whether Sudan officials should be charged with genocide.





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SPORTS

Antitrust Lawsuit Against Bengals, NFL Could Reverberate Across League

By JOHN NOLAN
Associated Press Writer

CINCINNATI (AP) - A favorable court decision for county officials fighting the Cincinnati Bengals about the costs of building and operating the team's stadium could have implications across the *NFL.*

Hamilton County officials argue that the Bengals and the NFL improperly used their monopoly power and threats to leave for another city to get taxpayers' money for the stadium. If a judge upholds that argument in the antitrust case, the decision could help local governments when new stadiums are built in the future, an expert said.

By limiting the number of available teams, the NFL can force cities and counties to pump money into stadium projects, said Andrew Zimbalist, an expert who has written and consulted extensively on sports economics.

``They're able to get cities to compete against each other _ and extort large sums of public money,'' said Zimbalist, an economics professor at Smith College in Northampton, Mass. ``If the court upholds that argument, it pretty much affects everybody in the NFL.''

A federal judge ruled this week that Hamilton County could proceed as the main party in the lawsuit that challenges the lease for Paul Brown Stadium, which the team started using in 2000. County officials say the judge has allowed them to proceed to obtain Bengals' financial records needed for the lawsuit, documents generally closely guarded by sports franchises.

County officials and their lawyer say that, at a minimum, the county will want to see Bengals and NFL financial records and operating documents related to the lease negotiated in 1997. They also plan to take statements from key Bengals executives.

``Certainly there will be things beyond that,'' commissioner Todd Portune said, adding that those decisions will be up to the county's lawyer, Stanley Chesley.

``Presumably, the county lawyers won't stop at just the financial statements. They'll want to go beyond that and get some detailed records,'' Zimbalist said.

Sports franchises typically contend that they are private businesses and their records are not available for public inspection. In some cases, unions for professional athletes are allowed access to teams' financial information in the course of collective bargaining, but the public doesn't get to see it, Zimbalist said.

Public release of such information might undercut a team's public position, Zimbalist said.

He said, for example, that a review of the Bengals' books might show that the team was financially strong enough to be competitive before Paul Brown Stadium was built _ even though team owner Mike Brown said the Bengals needed a new, bigger stadium with revenue from luxury boxes in order to stay competitive in the NFL.

The Bengals could ask the judge to allow county lawyers to privately inspect the financial records without publicly releasing them, Zimbalist said.

U.S. District Judge S. Arthur Spiegel has rejected efforts by the Bengals and the NFL to dismiss the lawsuit. The county's lawyer hopes it could go to trial early next year.

Lawyers for the Bengals and the NFL on Thursday asked the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to dismiss the lawsuit. They contend it cannot proceed because it was originally filed as a taxpayer lawsuit before the county took it over and that the taxpayer had no standing to pursue the case. The appeals court has not ruled.

Spokesmen for the Bengals and the NFL declined to discuss the case. The Bengals' team policy is not to comment on litigation, spokesman P.J. Combs said.

``Our attorneys will represent us and speak for us in court,'' NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said.

Taxpayers approved a half-cent county sales tax increase in 1996 to pay for new stadiums for the Bengals and baseball's Cincinnati Reds. The stadiums were built at a combined cost of almost $750 million, rather than the $540 million originally promised to the county's taxpayers.

County officials say revenues from the stadium tax increase are falling behind projections, raising the prospect that the county may have to dig into its general fund in coming years to pay the debt. The county wants to renegotiate the stadium lease with the Bengals to give the county more money so that it can repeal the tax increase in 20 years as taxpayers were told originally, Portune said.

``We want a deal that's fair,'' Portune said. ``No one's trying to punish the NFL or the Cincinnati Bengals.''

The NFL has made millions of dollars available through loans to its teams in some cities to help pay for building new stadiums, Portune said. The Bengals didn't bring that to the attention of local government officials in Cincinnati, he said.

Hamilton County wants that same benefit from the NFL in order to pay down some of the stadium debt, Portune said.

Florida A&M Sports Had More Than 200 Eligibility Violations

By Roosevelt Wilson
Special to the NNPA from Capital Outlook

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (NNPA) -Whether the term is "vacated," "no contest" or "forfeit," if the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference penalties stand as imposed, Florida A&M University will lose some 147 conference victories for men and women in six sports between 1998-99 and 2002-03. FAMU was not in the MEAC in 2003-04 because of its short-lived visit to Division I-A.

In addition, the Rattlers will have to return men's and women's trophies and reimburse the MEAC for seven All-Sports championships and lose 11 MEAC team championships, all won by the university between 1998-99 and 2002-2003.

The penalties were handed down to FAMU in a June 29 letter from MEAC Commissioner Dennis Thomas to FAMU special assistant to the president Joe Ramsey who is in charge of athletics. The sanctions were the result of 196 student-eligibility violations FAMU self-reported to the NCAA and MEAC.

The NCAA has not yet responded to the report, which covers infractions from the 1998-99 through 2002-2003 seasons.

The MEAC, according to the letter from Thomas, ruled the contests in which ineligible student-athletes participated "no contest." The NCAA uses the term "vacated" for victories in such contests. The lay term is "forfeit," all of which mean that the win is no longer a win.

For FAMU's opponents in those MEAC games ruled "no contest," however, there is a technical difference between "no contest," a "vacated" victory and a forfeit" the MEAC will have to address.

"No contest" means the game never happened; therefore, not only wiping the win from FAMU's record but also wiping the loss from that of FAMU's opponent. To "vacate" the victory takes the win from FAMU but leaves the loss on the opponent's record. A "forfeit" simply reverses the original result, giving FAMU the loss and the opponent the victory

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As most of the nation's major athletic programs, FAMU employs the compliance officer to lift that burden from the coaches and athletic director. The major responsibility of the compliance officer is to certify that each student-athlete is fully eligible before the student-athlete is permitted to participate in each athletic contest.

FAMU President Fred Gainous told the Outlook that he had no comment other than that it would be decided later if FAMU would appeal the MEAC action.

In his letter to Ramsey, Thomas wrote:

"Pursuant to the Florida A&M University (FAMU) self-report of NCAA violations and response to audit conducted by Collegiate Proactive Solutions Inc. dated May 14, 2004 submitted to the NCAA and the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) and after reviewing all the information submitted, it has been determined that FAMU has committed substantial non-compliance as it pertains to student-athlete eligibility in the sports of baseball (2002 & 2003 seasons), football (1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 & 2003 seasons), softball (2002 season), women's basketball (1998-1999, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 & 2001-2002 seasons), volleyball (1999-2000 seasons), men's swimming (2001 & 2002 seasons), women's swimming (2000 & 2001 seasons), men's tennis (1999, 2000 & 2001 seasons), men's indoor track (2002 & 2003 seasons), men's track (1998, 1999 & 2001) and women's track (1998, 1999, 2000 & 2001)."

Thomas continued: "Based upon the preponderance of participation by ineligible student-athletes, the conference office has determined that FAMU will have to comply with conference By-Law 13.2.1.14 Section 14-a, b & c (participation of ineligible players). Therefore, all contests those ineligible student-athletes participated in will be rendered "no contest." Any revenue received from winning the All-Sports trophies (Mary McLeod Bethune Award and Talmadge Layman Hill Award) must be reimbursed to the conference office. Furthermore, any championship won during the period that ineligible student-athletes participated will be rescinded (football 2000 & 2001; men's tennis 2000; men's indoor track 2002; women's indoor 1998, 1999, 2000; women's outdoor 1998, 1999, 2000; volleyball 1999).

Thomas advised Ramsey of FAMU's right to appeal. He also asked Ramsey to advise the MEAC when FAMU has mechanisms in place to ensure such violations will not happen again.

Here is what FAMU will lose:
Individual athletic contests (MEAC victories only): Baseball (22 total) — 2002, 10; 2003, 12. Football (26 total) — 1999, 7; 2000, 7; 2001, 7; 2002, 5. Softball (10) all in 2002.
Women's Basketball (39) — 1998-99, 14; 1999-00, 9; 2000-01, 10; 2001-02, 6. Volleyball (22) — 1999, 8; 2000, 14. Men's Tennis (28) — 1999, 9, 2000, 10; 2001, 9.
Team championships:
All-Sports (men, 3) — 1998, 2000, 2002; (women, 3): 1998, 1999, 2000. Football (2) — 2000, 2001. Men's Tennis (1) — 2000. Men's Indoor Track (1) —2002. Women's Indoor Track (3) —1998, 1999, 2000. Women's Outdoor Track (3) — 1998, 1999, 2000. Volleyball (2) — 1999-2000 (regular season and tournament champions).

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TAURUS
This week make your special interest pay off in cash. Enough of goodness for goodness sake. You've got bills to pay. People expect generosity from a big hearted person like you. Ask them for something in return or they'll drain you. Soul Affirmation: Intelligent information does not have to come from intelligent sources.

GEMINI
During the next few weeks be ready for surprises that await you. Don't make any solid plans with anyone except you lover. This week will bring forth a new dimension in a special relationship. You will come upon a sensational poem that illustrates the love the two you share. Soul Affirmation: The search for fun occupies my time this week.

CANCER
Stay steady in your pursuits. Temptations are all around you. Attractive pursuits abound but stay on course with what you planned to do with all the good energy that has arisen in your life. Soul Affirmation: I do not allow demands to be placed on me this week.

LEO
You have made many friends through a social network you've been involved with. Continue to cultivate those friendships this week. Long distance phone calls are worth the money. Your actions will speak much louder than words this week. Prove your love and your friendship. Others might need convincing. Soul Affirmation: My imagination is the source of my happiness.

VIRGO
This is no time to try to be neat. Continue with your messy thinking. Others might not know how things fit together but your faith allows you to work without a plan this week. Faith will guide you through the chaotic mental atmosphere that surrounds you this week. Soul Affirmation: I give extra attention to my mate this week.

LIBRA
Call a family member and ask for advice. You know the one to call -- the same person who has been level headed in the past. Your head is not as level as it should be. Move forward not on your own understanding. Allow advice to have a great affect on your decisions. Soul Affirmation: I find peace in communing with nature this week.

SCORPIO
Your suspicions will give you misleading information. Now is a time for trust. Base the trust on the fact that nothing is in danger. No matter what the outcome of current affairs you are going to come out wiser and better. Soul Affirmation: I release internal pressure by enjoying the beauties of the world around me.

SAGITTARIUS
Ponder your intimate thoughts when you feel that you would rather have stayed in bed. Treasure the remembered image of a friend and play the image over and over to uplift your sleepy spirit. Soul Affirmation: I make a special effort to bond with old friends.

CAPRICORN
Give yourself a break this week. Coast! You might not feel it but you are on the top of a hill. You don't have to work to move forward. Just let your momentum carry you. Smile and things will get done. Spend some time on the phone taking care of social obligations and social diversions. Soul Affirmation: I try to smile more often than usual this week

AQUARIUS
This week you're likely to notice that your relationship with your lover has been elevated into a strong friendship as well. Play up the friendship side this week. Don't feel inhibited when the two of you are alone. Act and speak freely. You will be pleasantly surprised at the reception your lover/pal gives you. Soul Affirmation: I open myself up for a glad surprise.

PISCES
It is true that the universe provides but you are part of the universe and so you have to be a provider for yourself this week. Willful activity is the key this week. Ego matters. Pursue it because you want it and are good enough to get it. Make the changes necessary to add dynamism and excitement to your body of affairs. Soul Affirmation: This week I forgive myself for everything that has happened.

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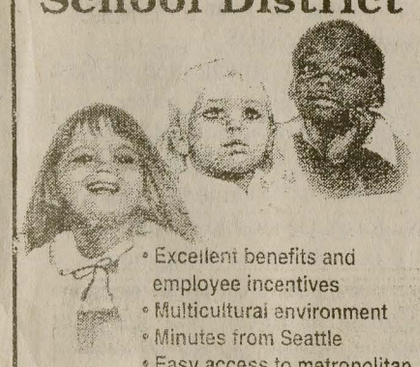
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LEGAL

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON
COUNTY OF KING

In re the Marriage of:
Sharold Lynn Hawley, Petitioner
and
Dan Frankwayne Hawley, Respondent
No. 04-3-01009-1 SEA
Summons By Publication
(SMPB)
TO THE RESPONDENT:
The petitioner has started an action in the above court requesting that your marriage be dissolved. The petitioner also requests that the court grant the following relief: change name of wife to Sharold Lynn Thomas. You must respond to this summons by serving a copy of your written response on the person signing this summons and by filing the original with the clerk of the court. If you do not serve your written response within 60 days after the date of the first publication of this summons (60 days after the 23rd day of June, 2004), the court may enter an order of default against you, and the court may, without further notice to you, enter a decree and approve or provide for other relief requested in this summons. In the case of a dissolution of marriage, the court will not enter the final decree until at least 90 days after service and filing. If you serve a notice of appearance on the undersigned person, you are entitled to notice before an order of default or a decree may be entered. Your written response to the summons and petition must be on form WPF DR 01.0300, Response to Petition (Domestic Relations). Information about how to get this form may be obtained by contacting the clerk of the court, by contacting the Administrative Office of the Court at 360-705-5328, or from the Internet at the Washington State Courts homepage: http://www.courts.wa.gov/forms. If you wish to seek the advise of an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so that your written response, if any, may be served on time. One method of serving a copy of your response on the petitioner is so send it by certified mail with return receipt requested. This summons is issued pursuant to RCW 4.28.100 and Superior Court Civil Rule 4.1 of the state of Washington. Date: 2/4/04.
Sharold Lynn Hawley, Petitioner.

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OPENS: 8/10/04
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MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE: All bidders MUST attend a pre-bid conference on Thursday, July 28, 2004, at 1:00 p.m. at the King County Procurement Services Section, 821 2nd Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104, 8th Floor. Please call Patti Oquist at (206) 263-4275 if you plan to attend

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OPENS: 8/10/04
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King County Procurement and Contract Services Section
Exchange Building, 821 Second Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98104-1598

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids for the following Contract will be received by King County at the King County Procurement and Contract Services Section, Contracts Counter, 8th Floor Exchange Building, 821 Second Avenue, Seattle WA 98104, until the time and date stated below.
Contract Title: Mathews Pump Station Upgrade
Contract Number: C43061C
Bid Due Date/Time: August 3, 2004 / 2:30 PM
Cost Estimate Range: $6,660,000 to $7,000,000
Bids received after such date and time will not be considered. Bidders accept all risks of late delivery, regardless of fault. Bids properly received will be publicly opened and read in the Procurement and Contract Services Section conference room on the 8th Floor of the Exchange Building.
King County is not responsible for any costs incurred in response to this Invitation to Bid.
The work under this Contract includes modifying the pump stations existing Mechanical System which includes replacing, adding and modifying pumps, shafts and VFD's; demolition of exiting pump and appurtenances, existing Odor Control Enclosure; modifying existing water system and hydraulic power units. The work also includes modifications to the pump stations Electrical System which includes Demolition of 4,160V switchgear, generator, ancillary equipment, pump motors, starters and related equipment; 480V generator, switchgear, motor control centers. Installation of a replacement system including a 4160V switchgear and separate load bank, generator, pump motors starters and related equipment; 1,000kVA 4160/480 dry-type transformer, 1,500kVA 4160/480 dry-type transformer, 480 V switchboards, Motor Control Centers (MCC), and control system. Construction of a new structure to house portion of new electrical system; Demolition of and replacement of existing instrumentation and control system; New field equipment; Miscellaneous structural upgrades; and Landscaping. The location of work is at Matthews Park Pump Station, 9310 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA.
A pre-bid conference will be held at the site, on July22, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the work, permit requirements and bidding forms and procedures. Attendance by bidders, subcontractors and suppliers is strongly encouraged. A site tour will be conducted immediately following the conference.
Bids shall be submitted in accordance with the Contract Documents. Bids shall constitute offers to King County which shall be binding for 120 days from the date of bid opening. King County reserves the right to reject any bid, any portion of any bid and/or to reject all bids. King County further reserves the right, but without obligation, to waive informalities and irregularities. No bid will be considered unless accompanied by a bid guaranty (certified or cashier's check, surety bond, or postal money order) payable to King County in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the Total Bid Price.
Contract Documents may be obtained at the Contracts Counter of the Procurement and Contract Services Section on the 8th Floor of the Exchange Building during normal business hours, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
The following non-refundable purchase fee(s) must be received before documents will be provided: Contract Documents Fee $75.00; Other Reports $15. ALL FEES MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE IN THE FORM OF A CHECK, MONEY ORDER OR CASHIER'S CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO KING COUNTY. NO CASH, CREDIT OR DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED. DOCUMENTS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE CONTRACTS COUNTER, OR SHIPPED VIA UPS GROUND C.O.D., FOR THE SHIPPING CHARGES ONLY, AT THE REQUESTOR'S EXPENSE.
This information is available in alternate formats for individuals with disabilities upon advance request by calling 206-684-1327, TTY Relay: 711.
The following identifies the types of subcontracting opportunities that may be available on this Contract and is provided only for informational purposes. Augercast Piles, Metal Fabrications, Fiberglass Reinforced Plastics, Doors & Windows, Finishes, Equipment Supports (New Bldg, Generator, Pumps, Underground Storage Tank, Mechanical, Electrical, and Instrumentation & Controls.
Refer to Section 00120 for full discussion of the application of the non-discrimination and affirmative action provisions to subcontracting opportunities and the other non-discrimination and affirmative action requirements the Contractor shall comply with.
APPRENTICESHIP REQUIREMENTS
King County has established a minimum Apprentice Utilization Requirement of 15% for this Contract. 15% of the Labor Hours actually performed on this project shall be worked by Apprentices. Included within the Apprentice Utilization Requirement are individual Apprentice Hiring Goals for persons with disabilities, economically disadvantaged youth, minorities and women. The Contractor shall be required to fully comply with the apprentice hiring requirements established for this Contract and the requirements set forth in Section 00120.
QUESTIONS
All questions regarding this solicitation shall be directed to: Tina Phipps, Contract Specialist at 206-684-6744, TTY Relay: 711, Fax: 206-684-1486, or tina.phipps@metrokc.gov. A bidder may be asked to put a question in writing. No verbal answers by County personnel will be binding on the County. King County is not responsible for any costs incurred in response to this Invitation to Bid.
Additional information may be found at the Procurement and Contract Services Section website:
http://www.metrokc.gov/finance/procurement/rfp_rfq_itb/new.asp

HIV/AIDS Remains Top Global Health Challenge

By George E. Curry
NNPA Editor-in-Chief

BANGKOK, Thailand (NNPA) – Scientists and health leaders around the world have diagnosed and developed vaccines for many dreaded diseases. More than two decades after the discovery of AIDS, however, experts have learned a great deal about it – even to the point of developing life-extending antiretroviral drugs – but have yet to conquer the quickly-spreading pandemic. Every day, approximately 14,000 people are infected with HIV for the first time.

"AIDS is unique in human history in its rapid spread, its extent and the depth of its impact," according to UNAIDS 2004 annual report. "Since the first AIDS case was diagnosed in 1981, the world has struggled to come to grips with its extraordinary dimensions.

"... Now, more than 20 years later, 20 million people are dead and 37.8 million people worldwide are living with HIV. And still, AIDS expands relentlessly, destroying people's lives and in many cases seriously damaging the fabric of society."

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the infection that causes AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome), occurs when the body's immune system is weakened by HIV; it eventually develops diseases and cancers.

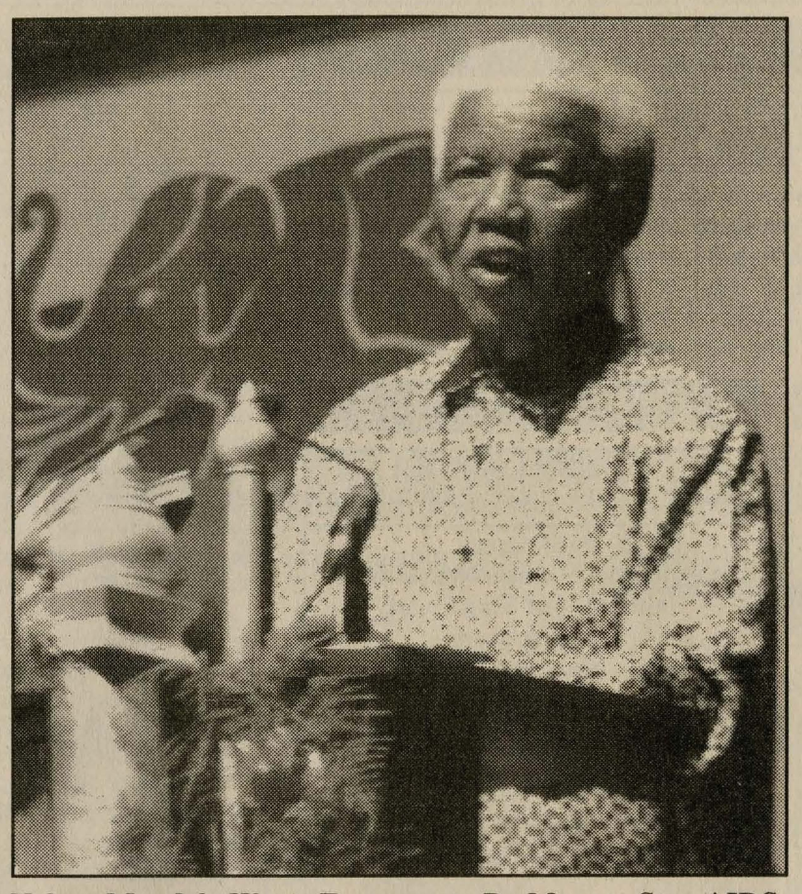
Sub-Saharan Africa has less than 11 percent of the world's population but almost two-thirds of the people living with HIV – 3 million people. The most affected group, between 15 and 49 years old, represents more than 30 percent of the population in Swaziland and Lesotho. In Botswana, the infection rate for that age group has risen to 37 percent.

For women, the data is even more devastating. Every country in Africa for which data is available, women ages 15 to 49 represent more than 50 percent of all HIV infections, according to UNAIDS. In Angola, Burundi, Malawi and South Africa, the figure is 59 percent. It is 60 percent in Uganda and 65 percent in Kenya.

Consequently, life expectancy is down in many African countries. Between 1990 and 2002, life expectancy declined from 53.6 year to 36.3 years in Lesotho, from 56.6 to 33.9 in Zimbabwe and from 47.4 percent to 32.7 percent in Zambia, according to UNAIDS.

In the United States, one-quarter of the 850,000 to 950,000 people living with HIV or AIDS do not know their HIV status. African-Americans represent 12 percent of the U.S. population but about half of all new HIV infections.

A report made public here observes, "According to the US Centers for Disease Control, the proportion of AIDS cases among adults and adolescent women in the United States has more than tripled since 1985. The epidemic has increased most dramatically among African American and Hispanic women. Together, they represent less than one fourth of all women in the US, yet they accounted for 80 percent of AIDS cases reported among women in 2000."



Nelson Mandela Wants Everyone to Do More to Stop AIDS Photo/Greg McNeal

The report, titled "Women and HIV/AIDS: Confronting the Crisis," was issued by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Experts at the recently concluded 15th International AIDS conference here acknowledge that the prospect of developing and marketing an effective vaccine is not in sight, certainly not within the next two decades, and say that the clinical trials now underway are not expected to yield any dramatic advances toward a cure.

Most of the sessions at the AIDS conference focused on expanding prevention efforts and treatment of HIV/AIDS. When it comes to treatment, there is no universal agreement on the best approach.

President Bush has given preference to abstinence-only programs. Some experts hail what they call the ABC approach – "Abstinence, Be faithful and Condoms." Others champion their version of CNN – "Condoms, Needles and Negotiating Skills (for women)."

Neither approach has been widely adopted. Prevention programs reach fewer than one in five people who need them. A comprehensive approach could avert more than half –29 million – of the 45 million new infections projected by 2010, experts say.

One of the great stories in health has been the lowered cost of life-extending antiretroviral drugs. The price of the drugs has plummeted from $10,000 a year per person in 2000 to several hundred dollars a year, according to the General Accounting Office (GAO). Still, HIV/AIDS experts estimate that 5 million to 6 million people need HIV treatment in low- and middle-income countries. Only 7 percent – 400,000 – had access at the end of 2003.

There is also the issue of money.

A United Nations report says global spending on AIDS has increased from $1.2 billion in 2000 to $6 billion this year. Still, that represents a 50 percent shortfall. Estimates are that in order to comprehensively respond to the epidemic, $12 billion annually will be needed by 2005 and $20 billion by 2007.

In a speech to the 17,000 delegates to the international AIDS conference, former South African President Nelson Mandela urged everyone to do more. He said, "History will surely judge us harshly if we do not respond with the energy and resources that we can bring to bear in the fight against HIV/AIDS."

President Bush pledged last year to provide $15 billion over five years to fighting HIV/AIDS, most of it going to Africa and the Caribbean. United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan says the U.S. should be doing more.

"We hear a lot about weapons of mass destruction. We hear a lot about terrorism, and we are worried about the weapons of mass destruction because of their potential to kill thousands of people," Annan said in an interview with the BBC. "Here we have an epidemic that is killing millions. What is the response?"

The Bush administration says it has donated about twice the combined contributions of all other nations, enough to treat 2 million HIV-infected people, caring for 10 million HIV/AIDS victims and preventing another 7 million infections.

Despite its giving, the United States was frequently and harshly criticized at the international AIDS conference. U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator Randall L. Tobias' speech was cut short by booing protesters. When he spoke later, Tobias said, "...$15 billion over five years is the largest financial commitment ever, by any nation, for any major international health initiative dedicated to a single disease."

Critics say the U.S. can afford to do even more and that part of the $15 billion is money that would have gone to the selected countries in other forms, such as direct grants. They have also accused the U.S. of sending the wrong signal to the international community by drastically cutting back on the number of scientists and policymakers allowed to attend this biennial international conference.

In 2002, the U.S. took 236 federal scientists to the conference in Barcelona, Spain, where Heath and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson was shouted down. This year, the administration, citing financial limitations, brought a delegation of only 50.

Judy D. Auerbach, vice president of public policy for the American Foundation for AIDS Research, says, "Limiting attendance [in Bangkok] for what seem to be political and ideological reasons, draws into question how seriously the USA does take the fight against the disease."

There is also a question of how seriously Black leaders take this fight. African-Americans are less likely to be tested than Whites. And because they discover the infection later, African-Americans have lower survival rates. For people diagnosed with AIDS since 1994, according to the CDC, 55 percent of African-Americans survived after nine years, compared to 61 percent of Latinos, 64 percent of Whites and 69 percent o Asian/Pacific Islanders.

Some activists are pushing for grater HIV/AIDS awareness among African-Americans.

Phill Wilson, executive director of the Los Angels-based Black AIDS Institute, says, "Black leaders across the board actually need to say, 'This thing is killing us.' It has to become a priority for us."

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