

FRONT PAGE 2

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS. . .

BY ROBERT N. TAYLOR

MANDELA AMONG FOUR 'MEN OF THE YEAR'

NEW YORK -- Time Magazine has included South African Black leader Nelson Mandela as one of its four "Men of the Year" for 1993. Mandela was chosen for his work to bring both peace and majority rule to racially torn White-ruled South Africa. The other three men of the year are current South African President F. W. deKlerk, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Organization Chairman Yassir Arafat. For their efforts to being peace to strife-torn areas of the world, the magazine's editors said they "reasserted the principle that leaders matter: that an individual's vision, courageously and persuasively and intelligently pursued, can override the rather unimaginative human preference for war." Time's first "Man of the Year" was aviator Charles Lindbergh in 1927. President Clinton was chosen last year.

MIKE TYSON BEGINS COMPLICATED PROCESS TO REVERSE RAPE CONVICTION

INDIANAPOLIS -- "This could very well be the mechanism by which Mike Tyson is freed from prison." Those were the words used to describe new legal efforts to reverse the rape conviction of ex-heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson. Tyson was convicted of raping Miss Black America contestant Desiree Washington in an Indianapolis hotel room in 1991. He is currently serving a six-year sentence. His legal victory came recently when the Indiana Court of Appeals granted him a new hearing in which he will be able to argue that Washington invented the rape story in order to sue him for a large amount of money. He will also argue that prosecutors knew of her plans to sue him. Tyson lost an earlier appeal last August. No date has been set for the new appeal hearing.

JESSE JACKSON SPENDS HOLIDAY PERIOD IN CUBA

HAVANA, CUBA -- The Rev. Jesse Jackson spent the recent Christmas holiday in Cuba speaking with religious leaders and the island nation's communist President Fidel Castro. Jackson said his aim was to encourage Castro to "adopt economic and political reforms." The national Black political leader also indicated his desire to get the U.S. to drop harsh economic sanctions against Cuba. Those sanctions and the demise of the former Soviet Union are largely responsible for the economic hardship which currently besets the socialist nation.

FARRAKHAN, NAACP COME TO MICHAEL JACKSON'S AID

LOS ANGELES -- In recent days several Black groups have accused the major media of giving "unfair" or "excessive" coverage to allegations that pop music superstar Michael Jackson sexually molested a 13-year-old boy. Among the most prominent to denounce the media coverage have been Black Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan and the NAACP. West Coast NAACP Director Shannon Reeves told a Los Angeles news conference, "This is not only about Michael Jackson but about how the media uses its power to continue to aid in the oppression and degradation of African Americans." Meanwhile, Farrakhan told a crowd of over 20,000 in New York City: "The powers that be can't stand to see Michael Jackson politically aware and using his money for the advancement of this people." Jackson has denied that he sexually molested the 13-year-old boy. But his sister, LaToya Jackson recently told an Israeli news conference she believed the allegations against her brother.

BLACKS ACCUSE WHITE COSMETIC FIRMS OF DECEPTION

CHICAGO -- A group of 19 Black-owned hair care products companies are accusing White hair and cosmetic firms of using deceptive advertising to lure African American customers to their products. Estimates vary, but it is believed White firms such as Revlon and Alberto-Culver have already captured up to half of the nearly \$400 million Black hair care market. But the Black firms, all members of the Chicago-based American Health and Beauty Aids Institute (AHBAI), accuse White firms of using Black slang and images to hide the fact that they are White-owned. Comer Cottrell of Black-owned Pro-Line Corp., says AHBAI is promoting a "Buy Black" campaign because "There is quite a bit of deception in the marketplace." However, the White firms counter they were criticized when they did not make products for Blacks and now they are being criticized for making them.

SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT OFFICIALLY ENDS WHITE RULE

CAPE TOWN, South Africa -- The White South African parliament approved an interim constitution in December, which officially ended centuries of White majority rule in the majority Black country. The vote was 237 to 45. Multiracial elections are set for April 27. Those elections are expected to result in African National Congress President Nelson Mandela becoming the country's first Black president. However, the transition to democracy still faces opposition from conservative Whites who are demanding a separate Whites only nation." In addition, some Black groups oppose the elections. They claim Mandela is a socialist and will have too much power.

Mona Lake Jones Keynotes Seattle Community College King Birthday Celebration



MONA LAKE JONES



WALT BRAITHWAITE

Special To The Medium

The legacy of the community's children will be the focus of Dr. Mona Lake Jones, keynote speaker at the 20th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,

commemorative celebration sponsored by the Seattle Community College District.

The popular service will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 14, at Mount Zion

Baptist Church, 1634 19th Ave. Doors open at 11 a.m.

Jones, a longtime Seattle educator and civic figure, is known to many as Seattle's multi-cultural poet laureate. She has taught at the elementary, college and university level, and today, teaches in the graduate program for Pacific Oaks College.

During recent years, she has gained a national audience for her poetry, published in Essence magazine and in her recent book, "The Color of Culture."

Her indelible word portraits paint a rich world of African American life experiences with insight, humor, and love.

Jones' poetry and her career have been distinguished by a passion for children. She helped establish the Mount Zion Ethnic School and served as its director; is past president of the Black Child Development Institute, served on the Seattle Youth Commission, and represented the city on the Joint Advisory Commission on Education.

Jones delivers her works in a concert-style presentation of themes and moods that are entertaining and informative. An appearance this year at The Boston Museum of Fine Arts featured the dedication of a painting by artist Paul Goodnight, commissioned to commemorate one of Jones' poems, "A Room Full of Sisters."

*A room full of sisters
Like jewels in a crown
Vanilla, cinnamon and dark
chocolate brown. . .*

Now in its 20th year, the Seattle Community College District event is the area's most significant and important celebration of the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It annually draws area civic and social leaders, and people from throughout the community, in a celebration of inspiration, music, and awards.

Emcee of the program will be KIRO personality Patti Payne. The Mount Zion Inspirational Chorus will sing. The soloist for "Oh Precious Lord" is Felicia Leffall Curry.

The program will include "Shattering the Glass Ceiling" awards given to U.S. Senator Patty Murray and newly elected

King County Executive, Gary Locke; a "Building the Best" award will go to Aki Kurose, math-science instructor at Laurelhurst Elementary School.

"Content of Character Awards," from the King Foundation and signed by Coretta Scott King, will be presented to four Seattle Community College District students.

Earlier in the day, an invitation-only program for school children will be held at Seattle Community College District facilities. The second annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Math-Science Program will include 500 students from selected schools throughout the area. This program was established with a vision of inspiring young people to pursue careers in math and science, areas in which women and people of color have been historically under-represented.

The Pacific Science Center is bringing it Physics on Wheels [POW] and Rock and Roll geology exhibits to the Math-Science Celebration.

Students will hear motivational talk from two African-American leaders in technical fields: Walt W. Braithwaite, vice-president-computing in the Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, and a videotaped presentation from Sherita T. Caesar, an engineer and Director of Quality in the Paging and Wireless Data Group of Motorola, Inc.

Students will share their personal experiences and success stories in group discussions led by science and engineering students from the University of Washington and Seattle Community College District.

"Our partnership with this spectrum of leaders in business and education, combined with the enthusiasm of the children, is testimony to Dr. King's ideal of cooperation and excellence," said Dr. Charles Kane, chancellor of the Seattle Community College District.

The Seattle Community College District educates 27,000 students each year at North Seattle, South Seattle, and Seattle Central Community Colleges, at Colleges, at Seattle Vocational Institute, and at three training centers throughout the city.

King Birthday Celebrations . . .

FROM FRONT PAGE

dream through contributions to homeless and educational programs.

Contact: Cheryl Ross-Audley, president, 852-1136, or Donnetta Alexander, 722-7418.

Sunday, Jan. 16, M. L. King Progressive Women's Club, Tacoma, Allen A.M.E. Church, 3:30 p.m.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Progressive Women's Club will present their 15th annual celebration commemorating Dr. King's birthday on Sunday, Jan. 16 at 3:30 p.m. at Allen A.M.E. Church in Tacoma at 1223 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way South. The Rev. Milton Green, pastor of the church, will deliver the keynote address. Proceeds from this event will be used for scholarships and educational funding.

Contact: Justine Brown, Tacoma, 759-7249.

Monday, Jan. 17, March & Rally, Garfield, Beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Seattle's 1994 Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Workshops, March and Rally Celebration begins at Garfield High School at 401-23rd Avenue at 9:30 a.m. Marchers will march from Garfield to a designated downtown location beginning at 11 a.m.

Theme: "Step Up, Help Keep the Dream Alive: Let's Stop the Violence Now." Critical issue workshops: AIDS, Health Care, Jobs/Labor Issues, Hate-Crimes, Youth and Safe Neighborhoods, Police/Community Relations, Education, Economic Empowerment, U. S. Policy in South Africa and Haiti, and the Life and Legacy of Dr. King.

This year a great deal of emphasis has been placed on youth participation, and the theme itself was determined with youth actively collaborating as part of the 1994 Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Planning Committee. Students from Rainier Beach High School will coordinate and facilitate the Youth and Safe Neighborhoods workshop as well as participate in the Police/Community Relations workshop. All workshops will focus on the positive contributions of our youth in providing solutions to the problems of violence.

Contact: Oscar Eason, Jr., 764-3684 and 725-5303, or Marjorie Prince at 281-7664.

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