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Blacks Turn To Non-Traditional Jobs In Economic Downturn

By Hazel Trice Edney
NNPA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—African-American men are becoming nurses. Black women are becoming construction workers. African-American employees are leaving major corporations and starting their own businesses. And Black custodial workers and skilled laborers are going back to school.

These are just a few of the strategies African-American workers and the unemployed are using as jobs are lost and become more difficult to find. Forty-four thousand jobs were lost last month, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The bureau also reports that so far this year 406,000 jobs have been cut. That's 106,000 more than the 380,000 jobs lost in all of last year.

"There has been a huge increase in women going into the highway construction program," says Thomasenia G. Cotton, president and chief operating officer of the Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America (OIC), a Philadelphia-based nonprofit organization that provides education and job training for low-income people.

"As a matter of fact, I just hired a male executive assistant and that's probably something that I wouldn't have thought about doing as much as three years ago," Cotton says. "But the market is out there and people are walking in with fabulous skills."

Though the Black unemployment rate dropped from 11.8 percent in June to 11.1 percent in July, it remains more than twice the White unemployment rate, which remains steady at 5.5 percent.

Unemployment rates for White men and White women remain below the overall 6.2 percent rate at 5.4 and 4.4 percent, respectively.

(Cont'd. On Page 2)

Community Feedback Sought On Revisions To High School Graduation Requirements

Seattle Public Schools is currently seeking community feedback on new high school graduation requirements that would increase the number of credits required to earn a diploma from the current 20 to 24, beginning with the class of 2010; give students the flexibility to graduate in three, four or five years; and incorporate performance-based assessments that allow students to demonstrate what they know and are able to do.

Credit requirements and other aspects of the new policy will be phased-in over time. The class of 2008 – or those students entering eighth grade in fall 2003 – will be the first to graduate under the new policies. A summary of the draft policy is attached. Feedback can be given via the District's Web site; via email; or in writing – details are provided below.

Over the last two years, a team comprised of high school teachers and counselors has worked to revise the graduation requirements to ensure that graduates of Seattle Public Schools have the necessary skills to thrive in the 21st century. To develop the draft policy this group:

Reviewed research and data from leading educators around the nation.

Examined best practices from other school districts.

Asked community members about their ideas. In partnership with the Alliance for Education, Seattle Public Schools heard from more than 3,000 parents, community members, students, and teachers about their expectations for graduates and their views on potential changes to graduation requirements.

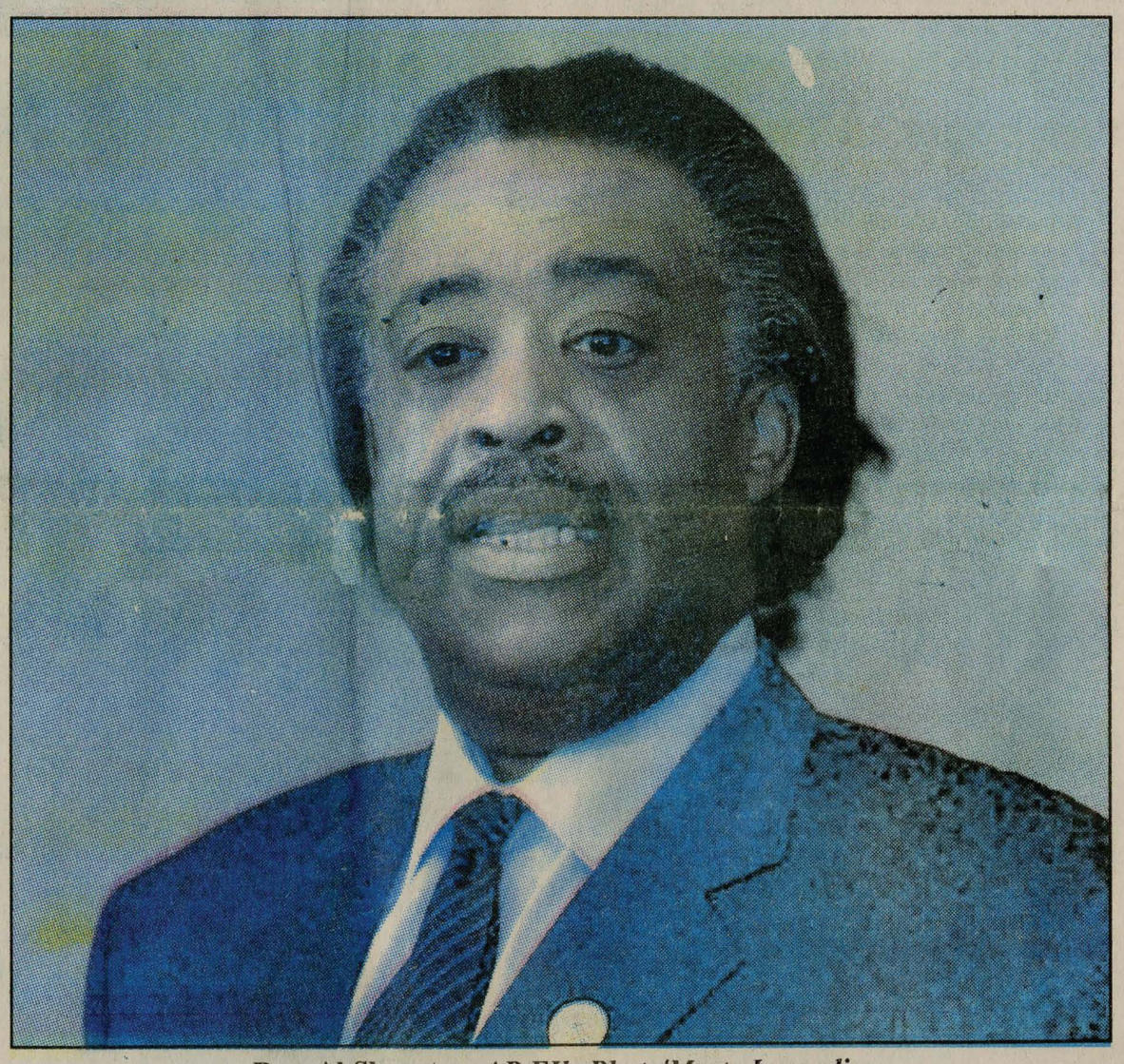
This team is working over the summer to develop implementation plans and will consider community feedback received by August 22 prior to presenting a draft policy to the School Board this fall.

Community feedback on the draft policy can be provided through an on-line survey on our Web site at www.seattleschools.org - click on "Graduation Requirements" in the navigation bar on the left hand side of the page. The full address for the on-line survey form is: http://www.seattleschools.org/area/gradreq/index.dxml. The Web site also contains the full draft policy, information on performance-based assessment, and a series of presentations made to the School Board and the community on this subject. Feedback may also be directed to Dr. June Rimmer, Chief Academic Officer, via email to aparaghamian@seattleschools.org; or in writing to Chief Academic Officer, Seattle Public Schools, M/S 32-195; PO Box 34165; Seattle, WA 98124-1165.

Sharpton Encourages Youth, Blacks To Vote

By JENNIFER HOLLAND
Associated Press Writer

SANTEE, S.C. (AP) - The electric organ pumped music into the sanctuary and a chorus of voices echoed the Rev. Al Sharpton as he reminded the congregation at Chapel Hill Baptist Church on Sunday about the struggle for civil rights and the important role for blacks in selecting the next president of the United States.



Rev. Al Sharpton. *AP FIle Photo/Marta Lavandier.*

"Here you are 40 years later in South Carolina. Nobody bombing your churches, no dogs bitin' ya, nobody shooting ya in the driveway, just too lazy and ungrateful to use something that folks died to give you the right to," said Sharpton, one of nine Democrats vying for the White House. "Folks got to beg you to vote when others died to give you the right to vote."

The visit was part of Sharpton's campaign for the state's first-in-the-South primary Feb. 3. The vote is expected to be Democrats' first test with a large black population.

Sharpton told the congregation that President Bush is "bent on phenomenal destruction" in Iraq when the billions of dollars in resources should be used back in America. "Bush is there as a result of us going to sleep," he said.

Hand-held fans pushed air across faces looking up at the gray-haired preacher, who broke into song as he told his story of growing up with a single mother on welfare in Brooklyn, N.Y., and how he successfully rose above the obstacles that many black people of his generation faced.

"Some of what we're facing is because we're not doing enough," he said. "We've allowed this generation to be fooled into believing that we don't have to try and excel and stand for something."

Sharpton encouraged the congregation to look toward its young people to help lead the way in the political process.

"When I think of how our grandparents suffered and died to give us rights ... the hope they had was 'If we pay the price, that our children can then use the door that's open to finish the journey,' " he said. "But many of us are sort of cracking the door, and slip through for us rather than continue the journey for everybody."

Shannon Graham, 20, said she likes what Sharpton stands for, but she needs to see all the candidates face-to-face to help her decide who will get her vote. "So I wouldn't feel like they're too high and mighty to be interested in the people," she said.

"There's no candidate in this race that can go on the highways and byways of this state and try and encourage new voters like I can," Sharpton said later in an interview with The Associated Press. "The more people involved in the process, the better it is for the country."

Even though he lags behind his opponents in fund-raising, Sharpton says he's in the race until the end because he draws attention to the needs of minorities.

"You act like I'm the only one who might lose. Eight folks are going to lose," he told the congregation. "The question is not who's going to lose. The question is who gives you the best shot at empowering yourself."

Sharpton said his efforts to register voters can help states win congressional and senate seats to help change the pulse of the country.

"When you shoot high you get everything else in between," he said. "When you shoot low you ain't going to get nothing because you weren't after nothing."

African American Police Officers Launch New Class Action Lawsuit

Washington, DC - African American Capitol Police Officers are launching a second class action lawsuit challenging the United States Capitol Police department's systematic efforts to intimidate them and retaliate against them. The Officers are currently suing the department in United States District Court for a wide range of discriminatory practices.

The Officers are responding to the department's pattern of filing excessive and unfounded disciplinary charges against prominent members of the class action, as well as a pattern of harassment including exclusion of class members from the U.S. Capitol Complex and a series of auto tampering, break-ins and vandalism of class members' automobiles.

"We suspect that such conduct by the department smacks of retaliation against the class members, and is designed to undermine the momentum of current settlement negotiations," class attorney Nathaniel D. Johnson, declared. "Accordingly, we strongly believe that anyone initiating these frivolous and false charges should be held accountable and disciplined."

"The department is inflicting draconian punishments on African American class members, based on bogus charges and phony rationalizations after the fact," said attorney Charles W. Day, Jr., who also represents the class members.

Officers Regina Bolden-Whitaker and Arnold Fields, both of whom are named class representatives in Blackmon-Malloy v. United States Capitol Police Board, Civil Action No. 01-02221 EGS, have recently filed complaints with the Congressional Office of Compliance challenging discriminatory and retaliatory disciplinary actions. Officer

(Cont'd. On Page 2)

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Immunize Now For The 2003-2004 School Year

Important New Requirements; Clinics Available Throughout King County

During National Immunization Awareness Month, Public Health - Seattle & King County is calling on families in all of King County to get prepared for the new school year by making sure all children's immunizations are up to date.

"Immunizations are a very safe and effective way to keep children healthy and in school," said Dr. Alonzo Plough, Director of Public Health - Seattle & King County. "Whether you're a parent enrolling your child in school or a student entering college, you should be checking to see if your immunization records are up to date."

New school requirements for this fall

Hepatitis B vaccine is now required for students enrolled in kindergarten through sixth grade; students entering kindergarten through third grade will be required to show proof of having received two doses of measles-containing vaccine, one dose of mumps-containing vaccine, and one dose of rubella-containing vaccine, usually given as part of the measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine.

For information on special back-to-school immunization clinics in King County as well as Public Health immunization clinic sites, addresses and phone numbers, call the Public Health Hotline at (206) 296-4949 or visit: www.metrokc.gov/health/immunization/backtoschool.htm. Please remember to bring your shot records to all clinics.

Summary of school requirements

Kindergarten through third grade: Children enrolled in kindergarten through third grade in fall 2003 are required to have the appropriate series of diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis (DTaP, DTP, DT or Td) and polio vaccines, two doses of measles/mumps/rubella (MMR), and a series of hepatitis B vaccines.

Fourth and fifth grade: Children enrolled in fourth and fifth grade are required to have the appropriate series of diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis (DTaP, DTP, DT or Td) and polio vaccines, one dose of measles/mumps/rubella vaccine (MMR), and a series of hepatitis B vaccines.

Sixth grade: Students entering sixth grade are required to have a second dose of measles-containing vaccine, preferably MMR, in addition to the requirements for earlier grade levels. They must also have a series of hepatitis B vaccines. A booster dose of tetanus/diphtheria (Td) vaccine is recommended for 11-17 year olds.

New students: All students who are new to the district are required to have a second dose of measles-containing vaccine, preferably MMR, in addition to the requirements for earlier grade levels.

During 2001 and 2002, seven different vaccines were in short supply, and some doses of vaccine may have been deferred. "Supply of all routine vaccines has returned back to normal so make sure you're not missing any doses," said Betsy Hubbard, Public Health's Immunization Coordinator.

Risks in not vaccinating

Parents or legal guardians have the right to choose not to immunize their children, based on medical, religious or philosophical reasons. Parents or legal guardians must sign the appropriate box on the Certificate of Immunization Status form to exempt their child from receiving vaccines required for school entry. There is a risk, however, when choosing against vaccination. In addition to the potential risk of becoming infected with a vaccine-preventable disease if exposed to the illness, a child who is not fully immunized may be excluded from attending school or childcare during an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease.

For more facts about vaccine-preventable diseases, vaccine safety, the immune system and how vaccines work, read "Plain Talk about Childhood Immunizations," an internationally-recognized booklet for parents: www.metrokc.gov/health/immunization/childimmunity.htm

Black-Owned Firm Gets FedEx Fuel Contract

By Roderick C. Willis
Special to the NNPA from the AFRO-American Newspapers

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—Forty-five years ago, a small Black boy worked alongside his mother, picking cotton in the fields of Moscow, Tenn. The backbreaking work, scars from cotton thorns on his hands and the southern summer heat burned permanent memories into his brain. "That experience motivated me for life and even at that young age, I knew I wanted to get my mother out of those blazing cotton fields, and I wanted to go with her."

Recently, Carnelious Jones, president and CEO of OMO Petroleum, flew to Memphis, just 40 miles east of Moscow, and signed a historic contract with Federal Express. The Baltimore-based firm is the first African-American-owned wholesale distributor of petroleum products to Federal Express and has begun fueling the company's fleet of trucks at Baltimore-Washington International Airport.

It is significant that although OMO is a minority firm, the contract was not awarded as a minority set-aside or part of a sheltered-market program. The FedEX contract was competitively bid and awarded because Jones and OMO Petroleum Co., the lowest bidder, had the capacity and the technical expertise to perform the job.

OMO also owns a petroleum tank farm on the Wicomico River in Salisbury, Md., with the capacity to store 2.5 million gallons of fuel for redistribution, and to store and redistribute lubricants.

The FedEx contract will run for two years and OMO will make two deliveries of fuel daily, filling each truck in the fleet to guarantee next-day and on-time delivery.

Jones has invested heavily in technology for this contract. Each FedEx truck is equipped with computer systems that identify it and calculate the amount of fuel delivered. The data is transferred electronically to the OMO fuel delivery truck, and then downloaded to OMO computers at corporate headquarters.

The process continues through a partnership with Texas Southern University, the only historically Black university that offers a bachelors degree in petroleum engineering. Data concerning the number of gallons delivered and the identification of each truck in the fleet is electronically transferred to Texas Southern, then processed and up-linked to a technology firm in Tennessee, under contract with FedEx, that tracks the company's entire fuel purchases.

Next month, OMO will begin servicing a contract to provide heating oil for the state of Maryland through the General Services Administration, including the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Since his humble beginnings, Jones has overcome a number of daunting barriers to become the first African-American wholesale independent oil company.

"There was no precedence for a Black-owned oil company performing at this level," said Jones. "There were no African-American mentors in this industry that I could talk with or confide in, which made the journey even more challenging. Access to capital was a major impediment to getting the business started, and I also had to learn the technical and political aspects of the petroleum industry."

Along the way, Jones has never forsaken his roots or his commitment to giving back to the community. Jones created the OMO Science, Energy and Technology Foundation, a non-profit corporation that has adopted Carver Vocational and Technical High School in Baltimore. The foundation has also provided a group of local, at-risk youth with a weekend at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn., and a visit to the Freedom Schooner Amistad in New Haven.

"It is incumbent upon every African-American professional to give back to his community and to uplift the race. We must build on our successes and pass that knowledge onto the next generation. We can't close the door once we have passed through," said Jones.

African American Police Launch Class Action Suit

Continued From Front Page

Bolden-Whitaker and Officer Fields will ask the Office of Compliance to consolidate and process their complaints as a class complaint on behalf of all African American Officers subjected to discriminatory and retaliatory discipline within the past two years, in anticipation of a possible filing in U.S. District Court once the administrative process has been completed.

Both Officer Bolden-Whitaker and Officer Fields were issued Form CP-535 Requests for Disciplinary Action - a sanction that becomes part of an officer's permanent record and can serve as the basis for termination for any future offense. In Officer Bolden-Whitaker's case, she refused to sign a form without being given an explanation of what she was signing. In Officer Field's case, he was punished because in a break room full of officers on their lunch break, he did not have his radio on, even though there is no clear requirement that officers keep their radios on when off duty during their uncompensated lunch breaks. "Both officers now face possible future termination for these extremely petty charges brought by white commanders of the Capitol Police," said attorney Day.

Blacks Turn To Non-Traditional Jobs

Continued From Front Page

For Black men and Black women the rate is at 10.2 and 9.7 percent respectively—double that of Whites and well above the overall rate.

The number of OIC clients has increased by 30 percent since last year at its 58 centers in 30 states across the country because of the poor economy, Cotton says.

Teneedsha Hendrix, 23, who lost her telecommunications job in February, took office skills training at OIC West in Menlo Park, Calif., but was unable to find a permanent job. She is now one of four women among 27 men in an OIC carpentry class.

"I mean, nobody was hiring and I was only getting temp jobs that lasted for a day or two," says Hendrix. "And I was like thinking then, you know, this can't be serious... It was very stressful because I have a son I have to care for and I have bills to pay, rent to pay, car note, bills. And it was like going on for like two months and it was very frustrating and I really didn't know what was going to happen."

After completing the carpentry class next month, she believes she'll be in a better position to land a job.

"It's a different field for women, but it's money in there. It's a lot of money in construction," she says. "I'll go to the union, get on the list and hopefully they'll refer me out. They said that as a woman, we're minorities, so we'll get placed well."

It's sometimes not as easy for men seeking non-traditional jobs.

When James Sutton, 26, of Montgomery, Ala., went looking for his first nursing job last year, he said the front desk clerk at Capitol Hill Nursing Home greeted him with the words, "We're not taking any more applications for orderly or floor man."

Sutton, a nursing graduate of Trenholm State Technical College in Montgomery, soon landed a job as a licensed practical nurse, one of only two Black male nurses among 25 at the Wetumpka Health and Rehabilitation Center.

"As far as finding other jobs, you can't find anything, pretty much. I'd been going from job to job," he says. "We had a young family starting out, just me and my wife and at the time, she was pregnant, so I needed to get into a field," he says. "I know it was a stable field to go into and there was a shortage, so there's going to be a need for it."

Economists and job training experts predict that as long as the economy remains unstable—especially with mass layoffs of men who are highly skilled in computer and information technology—people will continue to explore untraditional roles

Some African-Americans are taking risks to start their own businesses, says James B. Stewart, a labor expert at Penn State University.

"For one, corporations are downsizing top professionals rather than lower scale jobs. Secondly, a lot of African-Americans that wound up in the corporate arena sort of run into a glass-ceiling or a concrete ceiling where they can't excel to a level that is commensurate with their skills," the professor explains.

Martin Smith of Bowie, Md., an investment management consultant, has made a leap of his own.

With a wife, four children and another baby on the way, Smith, 34, left Merrill Lynch last month to start his own investment firm, Kingdomtrust Capital Management LLC. The reputation of Merrill Lynch, which laid off more than 15,000 employees two years ago and recently was tainted by its role in the Enron scandal, had begun to erode.

"Actually, Merrill Lynch was more of a risk," says Smith.

With the luxury of independence, he now hopes to reach out to medium-income investors. Currently, he says, 85 percent of his clients are White.

"I can still serve the high-networth investor and the institutional investor, while serving and educating those who don't have the same kind of money, but have the needs and the desire," Smith says.

Investing is not on the mind of Donald Whitaker right now.

Whitaker, 45, a native of Washington, D.C., is working odd jobs such as lawn care in the summer, snow removal in the winter and repairing friends' cars year-round. But he is trying to increase his income by enrolling in computer-engineering classes.

"In the computer field, it's more promising," Whitaker says.

But how promising is the economy overall?

"The hope is that when the economy turns around that some of these jobs that were lost will be recovered," says Ransford Palmer, economics professor at Howard University. "On the other hand, other people are saying the economy will turn around but it won't bring the jobs back. It's going to just sort of be a jobless recovery."

That's not unusual for Black people.

"We're the last hired and first fired," Palmer says. "That still is the case. The second thing is that the level of skills, although it has been growing and the gap has been narrowing, we're still behind the larger population in terms of skills. And so, even though jobs may be available, all you need to do is look in one of the major newspapers, we're not filling those jobs because of the skills gap."

As usual, Black teens are experiencing the highest gap in racial disparity in unemployment. While the unemployment rate for White teens is 15.8 percent, the rate for Black teens is 36 percent. So even if Black teens want to help their family, they have a hard time landing jobs.

According to a national survey of unemployed workers conducted by the National Employment Law Project (NELP), unemployed African-Americans can barely pay their bills. The margin of error for the survey is 4.9 percent. Among the findings of the telephone survey:

* Sixty-one percent of unemployed African-Americans have cut back on spending for their children, compared with 41 percent of unemployed Whites;
* Twenty-nine percent of unemployed African-Americans have interrupted their own or a family member's education, compared to 18 percent of unemployed Whites;
* Eighty percent of unemployed African-Americans report having had trouble paying bills, compared to 60 percent for unemployed Whites;

"In the midst of all the economic hardship today, this survey proves that unemployment has taken a severe toll on the African American community," says Maurice Emsellem, NELP's director of public policy. "Compared with Whites, unemployed African Americans are having a much harder time making ends meet."

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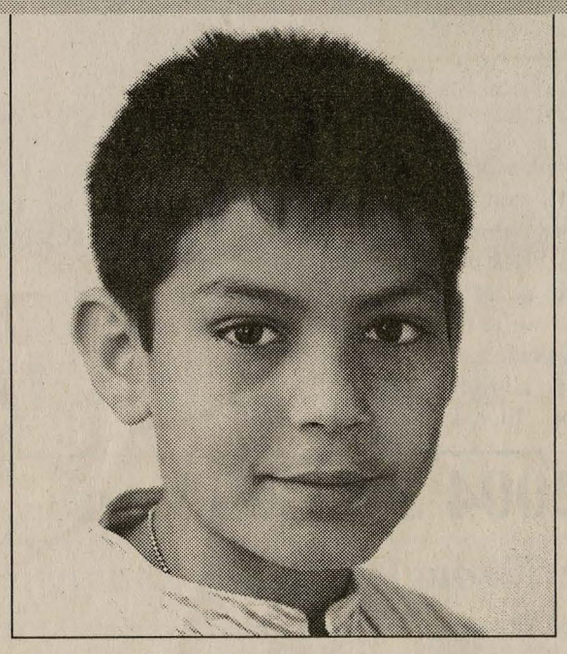
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BONkids

young achievers



Juan Carlos Espinoza
Arbor Heights Elementary

Age: 11
Favorite School Subject: Juan likes the challenge of solving math problems and working with numbers.
Hobbies/Interests: He enjoys using a computer, playing soccer and volleyball, and reading.
Proudest Achievement: Juan spoke Spanish until age eight or nine, and now he has learned English. He gets good grades and sings in a church choir.
Ambition: To be a policeman.
How He'll Get There: By studying hard, going to college or university and choosing good friends.

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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WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO YOUR GOOD NAME

Everyday transactions require you to share personal information. An identity thief appropriates some piece of your personal information and uses it without your knowledge to commit a fraud or theft. **In fact the State of Washington ranks 4th in the nation in identity theft complaints according to the Federal Trade Commission.**

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NEW PROGRAMS FOR SINGERS AT LEON SULLIVAN HEALTH CARE CENTER

Learn how to prepare shows for nursing home residents. Free workshop at Leon Sullivan Health Care Center begins Tuesday, Sept. 2, includes a CD with 15 songs of piano accompaniment in your key and a list of facilities with instructions on how to get gigs. Call (360))61-6485 or www.heart-soul-music.com for more information.

NEW SKILLS FOR NEW JOBS

If you're age 50 or older and looking for work, don't miss the free job fair New Skills for New Jobs Sept. 24 from 9a.m. to 2p.m. at the Seattle Center House. The fair includes workshops and information booths to help older workers improve job-hunting skills. Sponsored by the Mature Workers Alliance and the Seattle Center. For more information call (206) 624-1221.

FREE PRE-SCHOOL

The Refugee and Immigrant Family Center - Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (RIFC-ECEAP) now enrolling 3-5 year olds for 2003 - 2004 school year. Free pre-school. Classes start Sept. 22.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION OFFERS FREE SEMINAR

Alzheimer's Association offers free seminar in Renton area. Classes Target those who suffer from Memory Loss. A free nine-class seminar for those suffering mild memory loss problems will be held in Renton beginning September 4, at Elderhealth NW, Connections Branch near Valley Medical Center, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The seminar, sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Western and Central Washington State Chapter in cooperation with Elderhealth NW, will offer individuals the chance to meet others who are experiencing the same, learn about ways to cope with memory loss, and learn about legal and financial planning.

Space is limited, so pre-registration is required by calling 800-848-7097, extension 227. A concurrent group for family members, companions, and care partners is offered at the same location.

Participants will meet once a week with trained leaders. Free educational materials will be provided.

ADDICTION HELP

Help Someone Overcome Addiction. Call Narconon at 1-800-468-6933 or go to www.solveaddiction.com for your free information packet or a free assessment or referral to rehabilitation centers nationwide.

BE A MENTOR

ALL YOU NEED IS A LITTLE TIME AND A DESIRE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Community for Youth Steps Ahead and Steps Beyond Programs seek adult volunteers to work one-on-one with Seattle public high school students who are having difficulty in their academic and/or personal lives. Many young people benefit from the guidance of a supportive adult. Having an adult mentor during high school can mean the difference between staying in school or dropping out, between making good choices or not. We ask volunteer mentors to make a commitment to one school year of regular weekly contacts with a student. Mentors receive prior training and on-going support and guidance. Please contact us at: 206-325-8480 or info@communityforyouth.org.

For more information: www.communityforyouth.org.

STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

World Heritage Student Exchange is seeking local families interested in providing a high school exchange student a positive encounter with the U.S. The students are well screened by World Heritage, are proficient in English, 15 to 18 years old, and come for the 2003-04 school year.

For more information on students dreaming of a volunteer family who will share first-hand knowledge of the strength and values that make up our great nation, call Pamela at 1-800-888-9040.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels will bring the food and offers a selection of 36 complete breakfast, lunch and dinner entrees to homebound persons age 60 and over.

The cost of each meal is a suggested donation of $3.00. Participants decide for themselves, what if anything, they wish to contribute.

If you know a senior that could benefit from meals being delivered tot heir home, call the Meals on Wheels program at 448-5767.

BREATHING MEDICATIONS

The in Home Rx Program makes available breathing medications and Nebulizers to patients who may have asthma, emphysema, or COPD, at no cost to the recipient, if they qualify. The Albuterol products are provided to those who are troubled with severe breathing conditions, and who meet the additional guidelines of the program. No deposit is required and you never have to wait in line at the pharmacy.

If you are an oxygen user at home or have severe problems with breathing, call to see if you qualify at 1-800-344-5764.

POWER WHEELCHAIRS

The Independent Seniors program makes available power (electric) wheelchairs to senior citizens (65yrs. old and up) and to others permanently disabled, at no out of pocket cost, if they qualify. The power wheelchairs are provided to those who cannot walk, and cannot self propel a manual wheelchair - and who meet the additional guidelines of the program.

If your need is for use in the home, please call for more information on the additional qualifications. No Nursing Homes or HMO Insurance please. Call toll free 1-800-383-8435.

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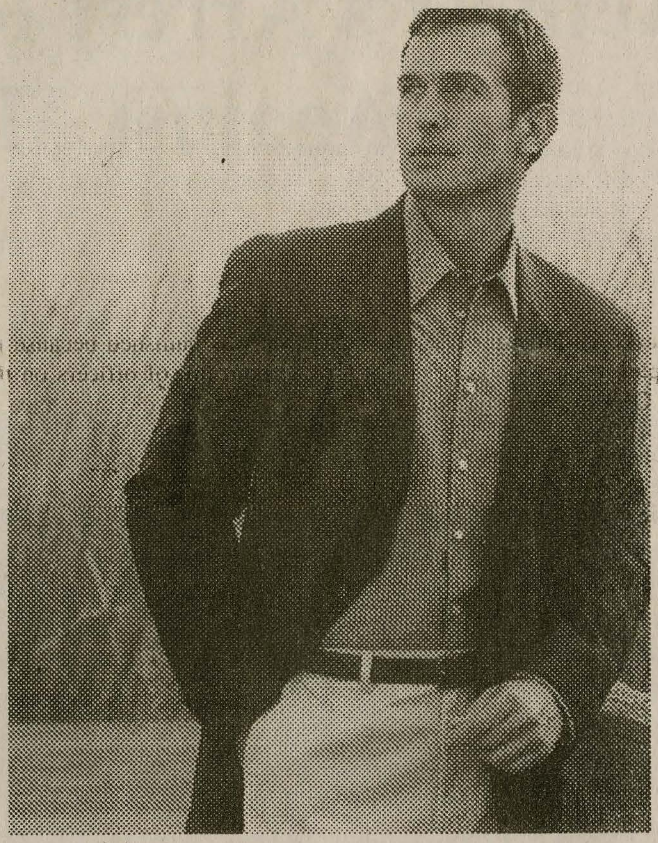
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C. Clarks 'Nina'
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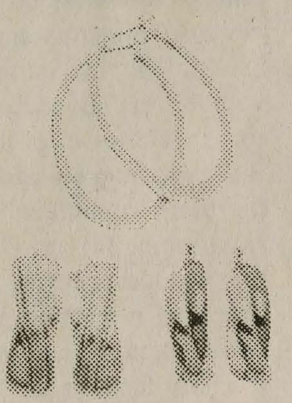
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HOROSCOPE...By Soul Vibrations (NNPA)

ARIES
You and your partner can finally see eye to eye this week. Don't let your comments disturb the accord. Hold your tongue. Silence works well. Fun is found in something you refused to do before. Enjoy! Soul Affirmation: I care deeply about the feelings of others.

TAURUS
The ideas that you come up with this week are likely to be among the most original you've had in a long time. Make sure you have enough time to make them real. Your habit of biting off more than you can chew could get you overloaded. Be selective. Soul Affirmation: I change the way I look at business this week.

GEMINI
Concentrate on the road and the trees whizzing. Know that love is everywhere not just in the car with you or at the location to which you are bound. Especially this week know that no part of life is a destination. All is a journey and so the beauty of life depends totally on your enjoyment of the scenery along the way. Soul Affirmation: A slowing of pace is just what I need this week.

CANCER
This week is a high-energy week. Don't hold back. Be aggressive. Be active! Others are very receptive to your ideas. Romantic matters can be resolved and an unexpected blessing is in the resolution. Soul Vibrations: Change is good. I welcome it.

LEO
Don't let your sense of nobility prevent you from asking for help from friends. You'll be in need of someone to talk with this week. If need is too strong a word for your independent nature then think of it as a gift to yourself. Let someone give you comfort. Soul Affirmation: I open myself up to the wealth of the universe.

VIRGO
Revelations can be made through an emotional cleansing. Behold the truths your true feelings provide. Emotional honesty will allow others to truly interpret how you feel. Soul Affirmation: I am guided by the joy within.

LIBRA
Your self-confidence may be misread this week so push the modesty button around a close friend or business associate. Live and let live. Forgive and forget and spend some time alone to avoid drama. Soul Affirmation: My love for myself is the most important love for me to have.

SCORPIO
The goal that keeps flashing in your mind is a good one. Go for it. If you're feeling the need for a mini-adventure this week's a great week to try something new. Soul Affirmation: When I am clear about who I am, the world becomes clearer.

SAGITTARIUS
Make plans for the young ones this week. Spend some quality time doing it. Get your self out of the way and focus on others. This focus will end up bringing rewards to the self. Keep your eyes open in a romantic situation. Soul Affirmation: Hope is future's way of shining on me this week.

CAPRICORN
Invite the unexpected. You're ready for a change at the office. Rely on your own good judgment about your ideas. Self-confidence is a must this week. Savor memory of a past love. Soul Affirmation: I am what I consistently do.

AQUARIUS
Don't let unusual things that happen on the job upset you. Getting ahead is not the only worthwhile goal in life. Find joy in being what and where you are this week. Soul Affirmation: Smooth communications is the key to my success this week.

PISCES
Change is good. Give it your blessing and you will be blessed by it this week. Be resilient in your response and resourceful in your approach to new ideas and situations. The telephone is your friend this week. Let it work for you concerning family. Soul Affirmation: I make the first step and the universe will come to my aid.

ASK GWEN...

My Wife's Bad Breath Is Driving Me Away!

Dear Gwendolyn:

Last year my wife was diagnosed with advanced gum disease. We had just canceled our dental insurance and, therefore, didn't have the $3,000 needed for her dental surgeries. We argued for weeks because I had saved $3,000 to buy a new SUV. We didn't need another vehicle, but I wanted it. I told her to wait for a year and I would save again solely for that purpose. Now a year later I have lost my job and the odor from her gum disease has become unbearable. I'm thinking of leaving. Gwendolyn, give me your advice.

Bob

Dear Bob:

I'm not sure what causes couples to stay together when all signs point to "I don't love you." How could you choose a vehicle over gum disease (gingivitis)? You did not indicate your wife having a job. If she did have a job at that time, then she should have paid for the surgeries herself. Although, many married women don't have a dime because they strive to help pay the bills. If she didn't have a job, then Bob, you know you did a wrong and selfish thing by not giving her the money.

Let me tell you this: Gum disease can be fatal if not treated. For her to wait a year after being diagnosed with an advanced case of gum disease put her life in danger. She is lucky to be alive. I want both of you to read brochures about gingivitis and periodontal disease. I want you and your wife to look into the possibility of receiving services from a health care agency that has grant funding for individuals unable to pay. Many top oral surgeons also donate a portion of their time servicing the indigent.

I dare you to complain about your wife's foul smelling breath. You had the money, but ignored her need. Regardless of the smell, do not stop showing your love in hugs and kisses, if that's possible, being you have already showed you didn't care. Bob, instead of you thinking about leaving, your wife should be thinking about putting you out.

Got a problem? Don't solve it alone. Write to Gwendolyn Baines at P. O. Box 78246, Nashville, Tenn. 37207-8246. To order books by Gwendolyn Baines, visit her website at www.gwendolynbaines.com. Also, tune in to www.newblackcity.com each Monday at 6 p.m. Eastern/5 p.m. Central time and talk live as John Bordeaux brings Gwendolyn Baines to you. Call (877) 969-2003.

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Kenyan Women To Sue British Army For Alleged Rapes

By: Jennifer Friedlin
Special to the NNPA from WeNews

DOL DOL, Kenya (NNPA)—Karamas Walebutunui says she was always scared of the British soldiers stationed near her remote tribal village in northern Kenya. Stories abounded of soldiers raping the pastoralist Masai women as they herded sheep and goats through the vast grasslands. Then, about 10 years ago, Walebutunui claims, her fears came true.

"I saw the men coming and I started running away but then they started emerging from the bush," recalled Walebutunui, ruffs of red, yellow and black beads wrapped around her neck and looped through her stretched earlobes. "I tried to scream and cry but there was no one to help me. When they got hold of me, five men raped me. That's all I remember."

Walebutunui is one of approximately 600 women from the nomadic Masai and Samburu tribes who have recently come forward alleging they were raped over a period of 30 years by British soldiers on rotation in northern Kenya for training exercises.

After years of living silently with their claims, the women are now preparing to file the equivalent of a class-action against the British Army. They have hired Martyn Day, a British solicitor who recently won a $7.4 million settlement for more than 230 residents of the Dol Dol region maimed by live munitions left by Britain's armed forces.

During a recent visit to Dol Dol, a dusty village without electricity or paved roads, Day said he took the women's case once he determined that there were enough medical records, police reports and transcripts to support some of the allegations and to prove the British army's negligence in failing to stop the attacks.

In at least eight instances, reports of the alleged rapes were made to the British army, Day said. And a transcript of a meeting held in 1983 indicates that tribal chiefs approached British military officers with the accusations. The rapes, however, allegedly continued for nearly two more decades.

Standing before 300 Masai women, their vibrant wraps and beads creating a sea of orange and red under the bright Kenyan sun, Day said he would relish the chance to try their case against the British Army.

"I think it is so absolutely appalling what the British Army has done that I would love to see them in the witness box defending their position," said Day.

Maj. Rachel Grimes, a spokesperson for the Special Investigation Branch of the Royal Military Police, said the British military was investigating the crimes and is "treating the allegations very seriously." She declined to discuss specific findings of the investigation or to discuss the army's response to the accusations.

If the British army fails to respond to the claims by the fall, Day said he would proceed with the lawsuit. In the meantime, he is evaluating the hundreds of allegations that have poured out from villages located near the training grounds.

One of those villages, Archer's Post, is accessible only be a dirt road that stretches through expansive reserves of elephants and impala. Here, more than 200 claimants say the British hunted them like animals.

Haliwa Milgo, a Muslim resident of this predominantly Christian Samburu village, says she was raped 20 years ago while washing clothes in the river.

As three soldiers approached her and her young niece, two wooed the child with biscuits while the third pulled her 300 feet and tackled her to the ground, she says. With her face pushed against the dirt, Milgo, now 42, says she was raped from behind.

After the alleged attack, Milgo says rumors spread through the town. When her father, a devout Muslim from Somalia, heard of what happened, Milgo said he was too ashamed to go to the authorities.

"In this clan, a girl is not supposed to go with any man. She is supposed to stay with the family until she is married," said Milgo, who was unable to marry because of the stigma of the alleged rape.

Nine months later Milgo gave birth to a mixed race boy. He, too, has faced difficulties. Kids in school mockingly called him "mzungu," or white person. He has had a hard time finding work to raise the money for a university education.

Although Milgo and many of the other alleged victims attribute their hardships to the rapes, proving a large proportion of these cases so many years later will be difficult. Milgo only has the testimony of her family and a man who supposedly witnessed the attack to substantiate her claims.

DNA testing to identify her son's father would be nearly impossible since Milgo admits that she would have a hard time picking out the suspected man from all the soldiers who pass through Archer's Post in a given year.

"To me, these people look alike. I can't distinguish one from the other," said Milgo of the British.

Whatever the outcome of the lawsuit, the alleged rapes appear to have shaken up life in these villages in more ways than one.

Rebecca Samaria, a women's rights activist in Archer's Post, says she spent years complaining about the alleged rapes to the all-male Samburu chiefs. But they barely listened.

As the rapes allegedly continued, husbands walked out on their wives, taking the family's precious cows and any other valuable possessions, as is their right in Samburu culture.

In response, Samaria, 38, started an independent village in 1990 where 25 abandoned and impoverished women now live and work. Today, the women support the humble collective of mud and dung huts by pooling their resources. They sell beaded jewelry and run a campsite and cultural center for tourists. The proceeds have been used to establish a primary school and to send a couple of children to a university.

In the safe haven of the collective, the women also debate issues such as female genital mutilation and domestic violence, an accepted part of Samburu tradition.

"We have decided to start the group to uplift our lives," said Samaria, the sound of women singing in Samburu and dancing echoing through the camp. "These days the women are coming up very nicely and taking care of their families and making their family to be strong."

Man Kills Wife After She Sought Protection, Then Commits Suicide

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP) A woman who said her estranged husband was stalking her has been shot to death, and he turned the gun on himself in an apparent homicide-suicide, detectives say.

The bodies of Helen Hampton Lycklama, 54, and John Lycklama, 58, were found Tuesday evening in the master bedroom of his upscale home with a .357 Magnum revolver between them on the bed, Clark County sheriff's Sgt. Dave Trimble said.

An autopsy Wednesday showed the woman, a schoolteacher in Portland, Ore., had been shot in the head, and other injuries indicated she tried to defend herself in a struggle, Trimble said.

The man, a local home builder, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

Detectives believe the shootings occurred Aug. 1, the day the two had made plans to meet at a Hazel Dell restaurant, possibly to discuss their pending divorce.

Records show the Lycklamas were married in August 1995, and sheriff's deputies said they had no reports of domestic violence involving the couple.

In April, however, Helen Lycklama filed for divorce and obtained a restraining order that barred him from molesting or disturbing her or coming within 1,000 feet of her home or workplace.

"I believe my husband is stalking me," her request for the order stated.

According to her request, after she left him for the first time in the spring of 2002 and was house-sitting for her daughter, he threatened to kill himself in December 2002 but later relented.

The Lycklamas were scheduled to appear in court next month to talk about trying to settle their divorce without going to trial.

Thank You!

—From The Bennett Cameron Family

The Bennett Cameron family wishes to thank you for your tremendous outpour of support during our difficult time of bereavement.

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Church Calendar

MIGHTY WARRIORS AT EBENEZER A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

The Mighty Warriors will be appearing at The Ebenezer A.M.E. Zion Church, 1716 23rd Avenue on Sunday, August 17, at 3 p.m. with Pastor Mary Moore and Sis. Thelma Jones as sponsors.

BROTHERHOOD TIME AT PARADISE BAPTIST CHURCH

All are invited to Paradise Baptist Church, 4353 So. Henderson Street. Each fifth Sunday is Brotherhood time. It is the time when singing, testifying, and praising the Lord takes place with all designed to help the less fortunate. Rev. B.T. Kindrick is pastor.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS DAY AT SHINING STAR FAITH MINISTRIES

Shining Star Faith Ministries Church of God In Christ invites all to their Family and Friend Day, Sunday, August 31 at 11:00 a.m., 11427 Rainier Avenue South. Guest speaker is Evangelist Joanne Macklin of Ft. Worth Texas. For more information call (206) 772-4574. Edwin J. Kyles Jr. is pastor and Evangelist Esther Kyle is First Lady.

PRAYER SUMMIT 2003

Prayer Summit 2003 takes place Wednesday, August 27 thru Saturday, August 30 at St. Paul Ministries COGIC, 504 So. 3rd in Renton. Sponsored by the First Ladies of New Life Congregation Church of God in Christ, Shining Star Faith Ministries Church of God in Christ, St. Paul Ministries Church of God In Christ and Turning Point Community Church of God In Christ. Special guest speaker is Evangelish Joanne Macklin of Ft. Worth Texas. For more information call (425) 277-2771. Shining Star Faith Ministries Annual Back To School Drive Shining Star Faith Ministries Church of God In Christ is now taking donations to help families with children. Lend a helping hand...sponsor a child back to school. For more information call (206) 772-4574.

To God Be The Glory Usher's Board ANNUAL BAR-BE-QUE

To God Be The Glory Usher's Board will be having their annual barbeque fundraiser on Saturday, August 30 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m, 2700 So. Hanford Street. For more information call Thelma Williams (206) 725-2340 or Sis. Lorraine Stephens (425) 271-3621.

TEACH US HOW TO PRAY

The Women's Department of District No. 1 Churches of God in Christ invited you to their annual prayer breakfast on Saturday, Aug. 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Southeast Seattle Senior Center, 4655 So. Holly Street. Guest speaker is Elder Ronelle McGraw, chairman, State Evangelistic Department, COGIC, pastor, Praise Chapel COGIC. The theme is "Teach Us How To Pray." Join them for an opportunity to get together, fellowship and learn more about building a stronger, effective prayer life. Call Inez Wood at 329-6603 for more information.

FOSTER FAMILIES NEEDED

Foster adoptive families are urgently needed for children under the age of 9, for the Permanency Planning Program of the Lutheran Community Services A Free Information Night will be held Oct. 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Family Support Center, 6330 195th SW in Lynnwood. Call 694-5713.

PREACHER MAN, THE BOOK

Preacher Man, The Book is available at The Medium and Z-Twins Studios, at 2600 South Jackson Street, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. In the Washington, D.C. area, Preacher Man is available at the Howard University Book Store, 2225 Georgia Avenue Northwest. For more information, call 206-323-3070 x 110.

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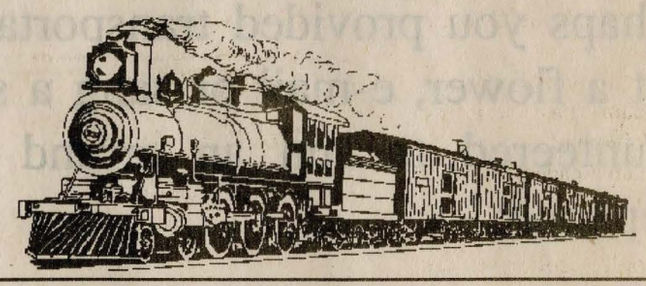
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SPORTS

Iverson Could Lead By Example

By JIM LITKE
AP Sports Writer

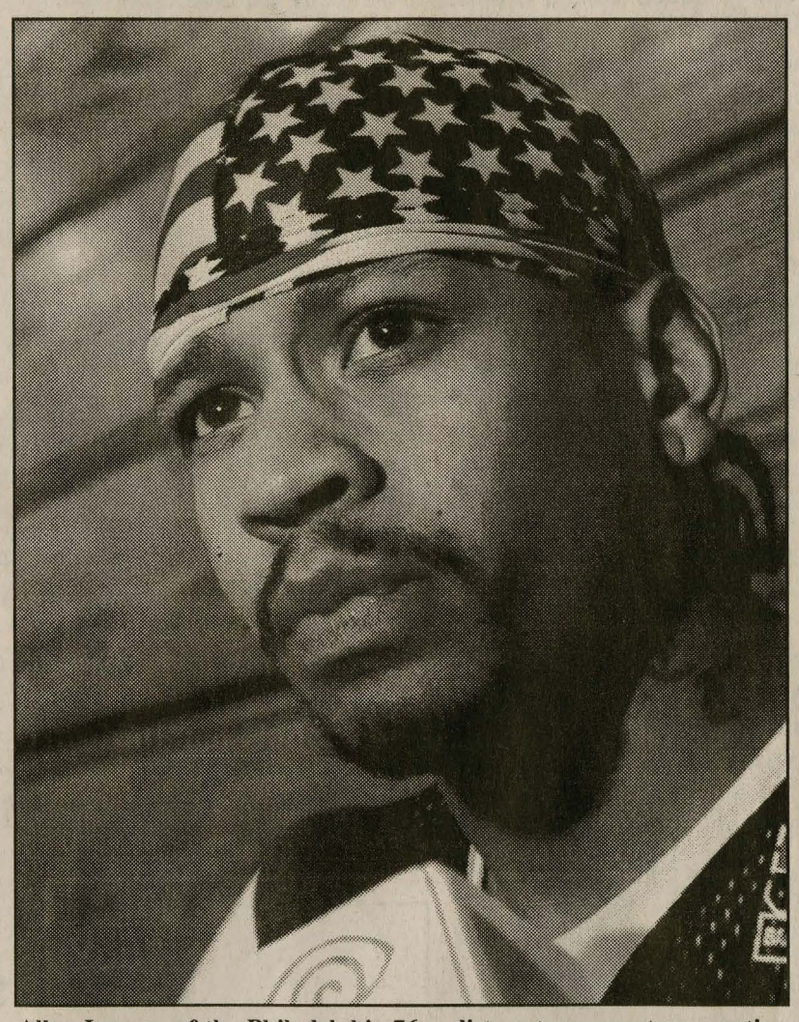
A league with an image problem lets the poster boy for selfishness take charge of its campaign to win back respectability.

That's thinking so far outside the box it just might work.

The story of how Allen Iverson wound up running Team NBA - er, USA - is too long and involved to recount in full here. Suffice it to say that his former coach, Larry Brown, was as persuasive as he needed to be and that Iverson's bosses at the NBA and USA Basketball moved a lot farther to find common ground than Iverson did.

``I'm happy I was able to make this team without having to cut my hair off and laser my tattoos off, and wear a suit and all that, and stop hanging with the people who love me,'' Iverson said Sunday at a small college gym in midtown Manhattan, where he and his teammates held their first practice in preparation for an Olympic qualifying tournament later this month in Puerto Rico.

``I'm just happy that I was accepted and picked to be on this team because it shows how far I've been in my career,'' he added.



Allen Iverson of the Philadelphia 76ers listens to a reporters question as he speaks with the media at the USA Olympic basketball team's first practice Sunday at John Jay College in New York. *AP Photo/Stephen Chernin.*

Not to take anything away from Iverson, who's actually changed very little since coming into the league as the No. 1 overall pick of the 1996 draft; what his selection more likely shows is how far the mighty have fallen and how far USA Basketball will venture to see it climb back to the top.

There was a time, as recently as last fall, that the skinny, tattoo-covered 76ers guard had a better chance of seeing his face on a $5 bill than in the middle of the U.S. national team picture. His country didn't need him. Past U.S. teams had lost more than a few times in international tournaments, but that hadn't happened, ever, to a team made up of NBA players.

Along with a 58-0 record, that changed at last year's World Championships in Indianapolis. First Argentina, then eventual champion Yugoslavia and finally even Spain - Spain! - sent Team NBA spiraling toward a sixth-place finish in a 16-team field.

Finding out the rest of the world could play was nothing like the surprise it seemed at that moment. The NBA had bulked up on foreign talent long enough to know that. It had been almost a dozen years since commissioner David Stern unveiled the original Dream Team at the Barcelona Olympics and some of the kids who grew up overseas and wanted to be like Mike, and Magic and Larry for that matter, turned out to be very serviceable pros.

Many more wound up in Europe than the NBA, but give the Yugoslavs and Argentines a little incentive and some extra practice time, then match them against a dozen second-tier American pros and the U.S. recipe for world dominance falls flatter than a poorly prepared souffle.

Some people griped that nothing the rest of the world did would have made a difference against Team USA at full strength. And to be fair, Shaquille O'Neal, Kobe Bryant, Tim Duncan, Jason Kidd and Iverson all begged off their patriotic duty for one reason or another.

O'Neal and Bryant have done so again, but not Duncan, Kidd or Iverson. And the rest of the squad was selected with an eye toward compatibility as much as athletic ability this time around. So while there is plenty of firepower, Tracy McGrady and Vince Carter, there are also workhorses like Elton Brand and versatile talents like Richard Jefferson and Jermaine O'Neal willing to fill whatever role is necessary.

Give the suits at USA Basketball credit for learning a lesson. Last fall's version of the Dream Team didn't lose to better talent, but to better teams.

The NBA team that was slapped together for the occasion and entrusted to just-fired Milwaukee coach George Karl wasn't just poorly prepared. It was used to playing the stand-around, I-dunk-then-you-dunk style that passes for pro basketball too many nights in an 82-game regular season.

It was no coincidence that U.S. squad failed to recognize, let alone stop, a well-designed inbounds play against Argentina, or muster enough moxie to disrupt the fourth-quarter tear that Yugoslavia used to knock off the Americans.

That's where Iverson & Co. come in. There will be only a little more prep time for this team than the last one, but the talent is better and meshing it will be easier. Iverson might have a reputation for playing selfishly, but Brown is gambling that a U.S. team with him on the floor won't lack for smarts or energy.

And anybody who's watched Iverson play in an All-Star game knows how devoted he is to playing the right way when playing with people he respects.

``It's so easy playing with Jason Kidd. It's so easy playing with Tim Duncan,'' Iverson said. ``All you've got to do is play basketball, you never have to press and feel you have to put it all on yourself. You just let the game come to you.

``If one of those guys gets going, you get him the ball. If I'm going,'' said Iverson in what could be a preview of things to come, ``they'll do the same for me.''

Seahawks Impressive In First Exhibition Game

By TIM KORTE
AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE (AP) - Matt Hasselbeck and the Seattle Seahawks got off to a good start, keeping the momentum going from last season.

Hasselbeck completed six of his first seven passes on an opening-drive touchdown and finished 8-of-11 for 75 yards as the Seattle Seahawks beat the San Diego Chargers 20-7 Saturday night.

``We had good tempo,'' Hasselbeck said. ``Guys were playing fast on both sides of the line of scrimmage. It was exciting. It was a lot of fun out there.''

Shaun Alexander and Maurice Morris each scored on 1-yard touchdown runs as the Seahawks built a 14-0 halftime lead. Rookie Josh Brown added two field goals in the fourth quarter.

``I'm glad we got to start with some PATs,'' Brown said. ``The first-game jitters were in, but it got more relaxed as the game went along. The team played great. They set up some opportunities for me to kick some field goals.''

The Chargers didn't use standout running back LaDanian Tomlinson, who wasn't hurt but didn't play as a precaution against injury.

``They were missing a pretty good running back, but it's always a good way to start,'' Seahawks coach Mike Holmgren said. ``When you win a game like that, it always gets your confidence going.''

The Seahawks also made plenty of big plays on special teams and the defense denied the Chargers from the 3 late in the third quarter when Terreal Bierria intercepted a pass in the end zone.

With Drew Brees and Doug Flutie done with their work, Chargers reserve Cleo Lemon led a long drive inside the 5. His third-down pass to Tim Baker was deflected by Seattle's Willie Williams and intercepted by Bierria.

``We wanted to do things we had worked on in practice and continue to get better,'' Seattle cornerback Doug Evans said. ``We ran to the ball and made plays. That's what a good defense does, the swarm drill.''

Hasselbeck played two series and turned the offense over to rookie Seneca Wallace, who threw a 41-yard pass to Taco Wallace early in the fourth quarter. That led to Brown's 29-yard field goal with 9:15 to play.

Wallace finished 6-of-9 for 78 yards with one interception. Jeff Kelly played the last six minutes but didn't throw a pass.

Brown added a 47-yard field goal with 5:52 remaining. Linebacker Marcus Bell forced a fumble by scrambling San Diego quarterback Seth Burford, and rookie lineman Rashad Moore was credited with the recovery for Seattle.

The Chargers fumbled three times, losing two.

``This is a game of field position, and we had seven starts at or inside our 50-yard line,'' Chargers coach Marty Schottenheimer said. ``Penalties contributed to that. Turnovers contributed to that.''

Burford broke up the shutout with a 13-yard TD pass to Grant Mattos with 1:55 left. That score was set up when Seattle's Jerheme Urban fumbled a punt that was recovered by San Diego's David Binn.

Hasselbeck looked sharp, though not quite as polished as late last season when the Seahawks averaged 475 yards a game over the season's final six weeks. That led the NFL over that span.

``That's my hope, that we can continue where we left off last season offensively,'' Holmgren said. ``That's a big challenge because it's a new season with new dynamics, but Matt's playing with a lot of confidence. That helps.''

Hasselbeck led Seattle to a 7-0 lead on the opening drive, moving 80 yards in 12 plays as Alexander scored.

He twice completed passes on third downs, finding Alexander for a 15-yard gain on third-and-6 at Seattle's 39 and throwing 14 yards to Koren Robinson on third-and-5 at the Chargers' 26.

Hasselbeck also had a 9-yard scramble to San Diego's 31.

``I've done a fairly good job of remembering what go us there (last year),'' Hasselbeck said. ``What we did is act like we didn't know anything and really paid attention to every little detail that our coaches were telling us.''

Brees, working from a no-huddle offense to open the game, was 7-of-10 for 34 yards but played only two series. Flutie was 5-of-10 for 39 yards.

Garfield Volleyball Team Wins National Honor For Academic Achievement

Varsity Girls "Volleydogs" Recognized For Having One Of The Highest Team GPA's In the Country

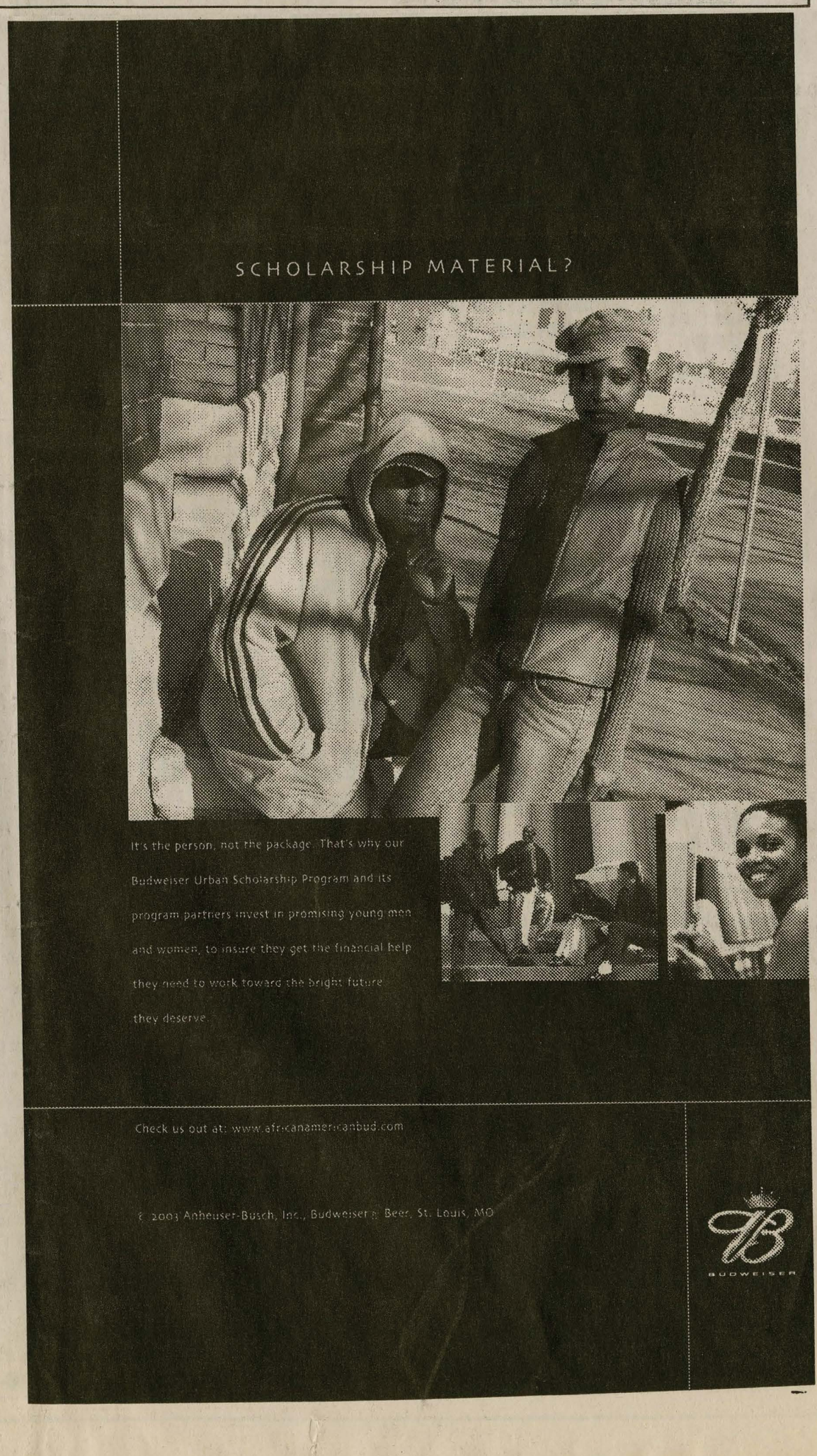
Garfield High School's Varsity Volleyball Team has won an American Volleyball Coaches' Association Team Academic Award for 2002-2003. The award is presented to those volleyball teams at high schools, colleges and universities that earn exceptionally high grade point averages during the academic year.

The eleven members of the Garfield varsity recorded a team GPA of 3.74 for 2002-2003. Five players had perfect 4.0 averages; none was below 3.0.

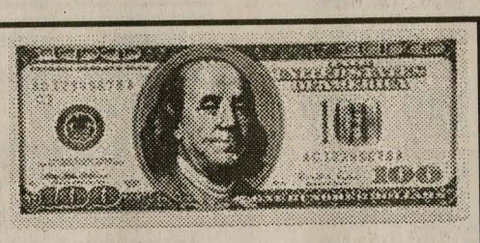
The Bulldogs are one of only two Washington State teams to win the AVCA honor. Colleges and unisersities recognized by AVCA include schools like Duke, Notre Dame and Loyola of Chicago. The team is one of only 85 high school teams in the nation to be honored.

This is the second AVCA award for Garfield in the past four years; They also won the award in 1999-2000.

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EDITORIALS • COMMENTS •OPINIONS

Joe Lieberman's Conservative Politics

By: Ron Walters

Joe Lieberman recently trashed the Left of the Democratic Party, arguing that the rise of the Left is a danger to winning future elections. He supports the Iraq war and rails against the position of candidates such as Howard Dean, Dennis Kucinich and Al Sharpton, who have opposed the war; and Bob Graham for saying that George Bush lied in order to get America into the war. Lieberman also opposes anything close to universal health care and opposes raising taxes in an atmosphere in which Bush has bankrupted the federal treasury through a series of devastating tax cuts.

Lieberman is a throwback to an earlier time. I remember when the Democratic Party was divided because it was encumbered by Southerners who did not really believe in civil rights, but benefited from the working-class policies of the party. Southerners were alienated because Blacks took the Civil Rights Movement inside of the party and fought for party positions and public policies that represented their interests—and they were largely successful by the end of the 1970s.

But Southern Democrats felt disenfranchised and by this time had become comfortable enough with the Republican Party to consider becoming a part of its coalition. The 1980 presidential election of Ronald Reagan was that opportunity, and they took it. This helped to cloud the problem of who was a Democrat.

More recently, another segment of Democrats, who were frustrated that the party lost the elections of 1984 and 1988, formed the Right-wing Democratic Leadership Council (DLC). It was predicated on the fact that the Democratic Party needed to move to the "center," that is, it needed to become more conservative and downplay social policies. People like Bill Clinton and Joe Lieberman became leaders of the DLC, and when Clinton became president, he instituted a corporate-oriented, moderate on civil rights set of policies that also marginalized organized labor by passing the North American Free Trade Act. But people supported him because he was all they had.

People also supported Clinton because of the economic good times. However, few understood that part of the way this happened was through a traditional Democratic approach of raising taxes. The DLC overlooked that fact because it has favored the Republican view that government has little business in funding and running social programs and where it has the responsibility, it should give public money to support private control of these funds.

Lieberman would support this DLC approach, as well as the Clinton strategy of making small policy changes. For example, he does not support universal health care, saying that it would bankrupt the country like the Bush tax cuts are doing. Instead, he supports expanding the Child Health Insurance Protection Act to cover more children. John Kerry, Dick Gephardt and other candidates criticize the Lieberman approach and propose to expand health care much more by offering every American the opportunity to buy into the best health care plans.

I believe that the Black community substantially defines its position on the Left of the Democratic Party and insofar as Lieberman opposes the Left, he should not get the Black vote. This time around, there are many candidates running for office in the Democratic Party whose views are much closer to the needs and the view of Blacks and many of them have a credible chance to win the party's nomination for president.

The Lieberman candidacy, which trades winning for traditional Democratic Party positions on issues, should be rejected. What does it matter if he is elected and gets in a position to institute Republican-styled policies. The support of Lieberman depends on your view of the urgency of the Black condition and the need for a politics of change. I judge it as urgent and would challenge any party to stand for issues that merit the Black vote. I would rather win or loose this way.

Ron Walters is Distinguished Leadership Scholar, director of the African American Leadership Institute and professor of government and politics at the University of Maryland-College Park. His most recent book is "African American Leadership," with Robert Smith.

Activist's Arrest Raises More Questions Against Michigan Police

By: Wazir Ali Muhammad
Special to the NNPA from The Final Call

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (NNPA)—Residents are questioning the arrest of a community activist just days after he spoke out during an angry community forum regarding the mysterious May 22 death of Thames M. Hawkins and the mini-riot that followed. The forum centered on the concerns of frustrated Black Southeast-side residents with their local White law enforcement officials

"My client spoke out at the community meeting June 12 at the Neland Avenue Christian Reformed Church," said Stephen R. Drew, a noted civil rights attorney. "He spoke out against police harassment in the community, and the next day police were sent to his home," Mr. Drew said of his client, Lance M. Mallett, a Black contractor.

According to his attorney, neighbors said police came to Mallett's home looking for him the day after he spoke, but he wasn't in. The following day, officers returned and arrested him, allegedly for failing to appear in court for housing code violations. Mallett had been ordered to show cause as to why he did not appear for a jury selection in regards to the violations on June 5, a week before the community forum.

However, Drew said Mallett did appear in front of the judge that day along with his other attorney.

"There are a couple of concerns," Drew told The Final Call. "Did the sending of police to arrest him that next day have anything to do with the fact that he spoke out?" he said.

Drew also said his other concern is excessive force.

According to witnesses, officers slammed a handcuffed Mallett onto a police car and pepper-sprayed his face.

"There are questions as to whether the level of force was used to send a message (and) we are looking into it from a First Amendment standpoint, and we are looking at it from an excessive force standpoint," Drew said. "Mr. Mallett ended up spending three days in jail, and that following Monday, when he was finally arraigned, as far as being in jail for the alleged bench warrants, he was released."

When asked about the Mallett arrest, a spokeswoman for the Grand Rapids Police Department advised they could not comment pending an internal investigation of the matter.

Maxine, a Southeast-side business owner who wished to withhold her last name, said she doesn't feel it is right for law officers to retaliate, or to even allow the appearance of retaliation, against those speaking out against alleged abuses at their hands. She also said the Black community must speak with one voice to prevent others from setting the agenda.

"I felt that before (the residents) had that meeting, they should have had a meeting among themselves in order to come up with issues and talking points first," she added.

"My feelings are the meetings are much needed," Mallett told The Final Call, "However, if this is to occur, it must not be hindered and the people must not be made to feel afraid to speak what they really feel. Also, the media should not perpetuate that fear by making it seem that if you speak, you will be 'dealt with.' That's wrong," Mallett said.

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'James Crow, Esquire' In The Newsroom

By: George E. Curry

It was one of the most eagerly awaited speeches of the summer. Former New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial had been elected president and CEO of the National Urban League and people wanted to know his vision for the organization.

In his first convention speech, Morial said that he wanted to lead an "empowerment movement" that would eliminate inequality in five key areas: education, the economy, health and quality of life, civic engagement and civil rights and racial justice.

So how did his hometown paper, the New Orleans "Times-Picayune," cover this momentous speech?

Rather than focus on how Morial plans to reinvigorate the civil rights group, the newspaper became obsessed with a brief section of the speech in which Morial said that his new empowerment drive "is a movement to defeat a new villain…James Crow, Esquire. As Dr. Robert Hill [author of a chapter in the league's annual "State of Black America" report] says, 'James Crow, Esquire' represents the new, sometimes not so obvious structural inequality that persists 40 years [after the onset of the modern Civil Rights Movement]."

In a 4,377-word speech, that is what they chose to focus on?

This is just one example of why so many people distrust the White-owned media. Some things, such as this coverage, can't be justified.

Not only did that story run under the headline, "Former mayor makes fiery national debut," a second story the following Sunday carried the headline, "Skeptics denounce 'blame-whitey' tact."

The newspaper tried to repackage Morial—the first Black mayor of New Orleans to win a majority of the White vote—as some kind of flaming militant. And they did so by saying that Harry Edwards, the University of California sociologist who encouraged track stars Tommie Smith and John Carlos to give raised-fist "Black Power" salutes at the 1968 Olympics, coined the term "James Crow, Esquire" in 1982.

First, let's define the term. Hill, a well-respected scholar, noted in his report: "There has been a strong shift from Jim Crow—the overt manifestation of racial hatred by individuals in white society—to James Crow, Esquire—the maintenance of racial inequality through covert processes of structure and institutions."

Second, by giving credit to Harry Edwards for coining the term, the "Times-Picayune" demonstrates its own ignorance of the Civil Rights Movement, ignorance that can't be glossed over by using LexisNexis data base searches.

As a reporter, I heard former NAACP Executive Director Benjamin L. Hooks use the term in the 1970s, long before Edwards supposedly created it. I heard Jesse Jackson use "James Crow, Esquire" in the 1980s. I heard Al Sharpton use it in the 1990s. And NAACP President Kweisi Mfume and others have used the term this decade.

Instead of "blaming whitey"—an anachronistic expression itself—the paper ignored Morial's comment that, "I commit that we will work harder than ever before to build multi-racial coalitions to solve the challenges of the 21st Century."

There are other digs in the story.

"The League, being tax-exempt, is supposedly nonpartisan…" It is, in fact, non-partisan.

And there's this: "Although the Urban League is a nonpartisan organization, it is a nonpartisan organization that is overwhelmingly Democratic. James Crow, Esquire, it may safely be assumed, is a registered Republican."

As any Journalism 101 student should know, it's not safe to assume anything. Ever. The National Urban League has never polled its members on their political affiliation, therefore the "Times-Picayune" can only "assume" that it is overwhelmingly Democratic. And those who referred to "James Crow, Esquire" over the years, have used it to characterize Democratic and Republican officials. By the way, the chairman of the Urban League's board of directors is a registered Republican.

While it can be argued that Morial's hometown newspaper provided a textbook example of James Crow, Esquire, there is evidence that old Jim Crow thinking is still around. Fairness and Accuracy in the Media (FAIR) provides some telling research on Fox News Channel's host Bill O'Reilly.

In April, referring to an inner-city charity in Washington, D.C., called Best Friends, O'Reilly remarked: "Does anyone know where the Best Men are? I hope they're not in the parking lot stealing our hubcaps."

Earlier this year, he used the derogatory term "Mexican wetbacks." And on Feb. 25, 1999, he said: "Will African-Americans break away from the pack thinking and reject immorality—because that's the reason the family's breaking apart—alcohol, drugs, infidelity. You have to reject that, and it doesn't seem—and I'm broadly speaking here, but African-Americans won't reject it."

What African-Americans and everyone else should reject is all forms of racism, whether it is Jim Crow or James Crow, Esquire.

George E. Curry is editor-in-chief of the NNPA News Service and BlackPressUSA.com. He can be reached through his Web site, georgecurry.com.

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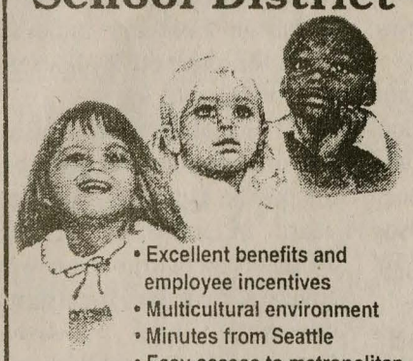
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LEGAL

Turner Construction Company is soliciting bids for the Park 90/5 Building A & C projects. Estimated value $2 million. Consists of demolishing and rebuilding interior walls, ceilings, and concrete floor for the City of Seattle. Bids are due August 13, & 14, 2003. Recommended project walk on August 5 at 10:00 am. For complete project information, contact Preston Socha, Turner Construction Company at psocha@tcco.com email. 206-505-6652 direct, 206-505-6601 fax, and 206-505-6600 front desk. City of Seatle "Boost" Program subs are strongly encouraged to participate.

LEGAL

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY

CENTRAL PUGET SOUND REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY, a regional transit authority, dba SOUND TRANSIT,

Petitioner,

vs.

No. 03-2-32298-9 SEA
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

Douglas William Holt and Jane Doe Holt, individually and the marital community composed thereof; Evelyn Holm and John Doe Holm, individually and the marital community composed thereof; King County, a municipal corporation; and Frank Coluccio Construction Company, a Washington corporation,

Respondents.

The State of Washington to Douglas William Holt and Jane Doe Holt, and to Evelyn Holm and John Doe Holm, Respondents:

YOU, AND EACH OF YOU, are hereby summoned to appear within sixty (60) days after the date of the first publication of this summons, to wit, within sixty days after the ___ day of August, 2003, and defend the above-entitled action in the above-entitled Court by serving notice on the undersigned attorney for Petitioner. In case of your failure to appear and defend, a judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the petition, which has been filed with the Clerk of said Court.

If you wish to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so that your written appearance may be served on time. This action involves acquiring property for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Central Link Light Rail project.

This summons is issued pursuant to Rule 4 of the Civil Rules for the Superior Court of the State of Washington.

DATED this 13th day of August, 2003.

GRAHAM & DUNN PC

By _____
Larry J. Smith, WSBA# 13648
Attorneys for Petitioner
Pier 70
2801 Alaskan Way ~ 300

KITSAP TRANSIT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Commissioners of Kitsap Transit will hold a public hearing on Kitsap Transit's proposed goals for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) contracting in 2004 at a regular meeting of the Kitsap Transit Board of Commissioners on September 9, 2003 at approximately 11:20 a.m. at the Eagle's Nest, 1195 NW Fairgrounds Road, Bremerton, WA.

A public comment period is established between August 11, 2003 and September 9, 2003. Comments may either be submitted at the public hearing or prior to the meeting. Written comments should be addressed to James L. Lundstrom, DBE Officer, Kitsap Transit, 200 Charleston Boulevard, Bremerton, WA, 98312-4199 and must be received by September 8, 2003 to be considered at the September 9, 2003 public hearing.

A copy of the updated DBE Plan is available for review at the business offices of Kitsap Transit between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

A Resolution adopting Kitsap Transit's DBE Goals for 2004 will be on the agenda for consideration at the Kitsap Transit Board of Commissioners' regular meeting on September 9, 2003.

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PROPOSALS

KITSAP TRANSIT

PROVISION OF FOOT FERRY SERVICE ON SINCLAIR INLET BETWEEN BREMERTON & TWO POINTS IN PORT ORCHARD

RFP NO. KT-03-313

Proposal Submittal Date: September 3, 2003

Proposals for the provision of Kitsap Transit Foot Ferry service on Sinclair Inlet between Bremerton and two points or docks in Port Orchard will be received by Kitsap Transit at 200 Charleston Boulevard, Bremerton, WA, 98312 until 4:00 p.m. local time on Wednesday, September 3, 2003.

This service component of this contract will not be funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), although federal funds will be used to improve or replace facilities and equipment through the life of this contract. Neither the FTA nor the federal government shall be a party to any sub-agreemnet or to any solicitations or Requests for Proposals.

Information may be obtained by contacting the Buyer by FAX number: (360) 377-7086, email or in writing at the address below. If you obtrain this RFP via Kitsap Transit's internet site: www.kitsaptransit.org, please advise KT in writing on the method by which you would like forwarded any supplemental information.

Transit reserves the right to reject any and all Proposals submitted or parts thereof, and to waive informalities or minor irregularities.

This information is available on request in accessible formats for people with disabilities by calling (360) 478-6220 or (360) 479-4348 (TDD).

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SUBCONTRACTOR PROPOSALS REQUESTED

Holly Park, Hope VI
Redevelopment Phase III
3900 S. Othello St.
Seattle, WA 98118

Bid Package 2.17 - Othello / Central Park
Bid Package 2.18 - Signage and Striping
Bid Package 2.19 - Sidewalks
Bid Package 2.20 - Demolition and Restoration within Tree Protection Areas

Bid Date: Wednesday September 3rd, 2003.

Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting
August 13th, 2003 at the Walsh Construction main office at times listed in the Bid Package. Call for directions. Call for Plan Center Locations.

Walsh Construction Co./WA
400 N. 34th St., Suite 210
* Seattle, WA 98103
(206) 547-4008 FAX (206) 547-3804
Contact: Tj Toney or Stephanie Goldman
WA. Contr. Lic: WALSHCC990D1

Walsh Construction Co. is an equal opportunity employer and requests sub-bids from Minority, women, disadvantaged and emerging small business enterprises.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids will be received by the King County Procurement Services Division, 8th Floor, 821 Second Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104-1598, until 2:00 PM of bid opening date for the following listed bids. Bid documents are available at the above office. Phone (206) 684-1681 for information. King County encourages minority business enterprise participation. King County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its programs, services, and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

BID NO. IT12541-VJL
OPENS: 9/4/03
LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SERVICES

MANDATORY PRE-BID SITE INSFPECTION:
ALL BIDDERS MUST ATTEND THE MANDATORY PRE-BID SITE INSPECTION MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2003, 10:00AM, at the Regional Justice Center, 401-4th Ave. N., Kent, Washington. Notify the Buyer, Valerie Lane, (206) 263-4276 if you plan to attend. BIDS RECEIVED FROM FIRMS NOT IN ATTENDANCE SHALL BE CONSIDERED NON-RESPONSIVE.

BID NO. IT12544-KAO
OPENS: 8/21/03
FLAGGERS FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL

BID NO. IT12549-VJL
OPENS: 8/21/03
HARDWARE (MISCELLANEOUS) AND RELATED SUPPLIES

RFP NO. 147-03CMB
OPENS: 8/28/03
INSPECTION REQUEST & REPORTING SYSTEM (IRRS)
KING COUNTY DEPARTMENT DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

RFP NO. 141-03RLD
OPENS: 8/28/03
QUANTIFIABLE BUSINESS CASE FOR RECOMMENDED BUSINESS OPERATIONS MODEL

PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE:
A CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS RELATED TO THIS RFP SHALL BE HELD AT 10:00 AM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2003 IN THE PROCUREMENT CONFERENCE ROOM, 821 SECOND AVENUE, 8TH FLOOR, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, 98104.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

INTERCITY TRANSIT AUTHORITY PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to U.S. Department of Transportation/Federal Transit Administration (FTA), 49 C.F.R. Part 26, that Intercity Transit has established an overall goal for the utilization of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) in conjunction with FTA-funded procurements and contracts for Intercity Transit.

Intercity Transit has established an overall goal of two percent of U.S. Department of Transportation funds for DBE participation on all procurement, construction and consultant contracts for which U.S. Department of Transportation funds are received pursuant to the above stated regulation for a period beginning October 1, 2003, until September 30, 2004.

A program summarizing the goal, its establishment and administration is available for inspection between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, for a period of 45 days following the date of this notice at Intercity Transit, 526 Pattison SE, Olympia, Washington, 98501. Intercity Transit or the Federal Transit Administration, 915 Second Avenue, Suite 3142, Seattle, Washington, 98174, will accept comments on the goal for 45 days from the day of the notice. Comments are for informational purposes only.

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Does BET Have Any Vulnerability? Rodgers And TV One Are About To Find Out

By David Bauder
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - Jonathan Rodgers will tell anyone who listens that his new TV network aimed at black adults is not, repeat NOT, trying to compete with BET.

Not everyone is buying the pitch, certainly not the Black Entertainment Network. But Rodgers' ability to say that with a straight face speaks volumes about what BET has become and the glimmer of hope that offers to others trying to infringe on its turf.

TV One, a partnership between the popular Radio One network and the Comcast cable company, is planning to launch next year with a focus on blacks aged 25 to 54 who feel disenfranchised by BET's emphasis on youth.

Rodgers, TV One's president and the former head of Discovery, is trying to sell the service now to cable and satellite operators.

While BET is heavy on hip-hop, TV One will start with rerun comedies and dramas. TV One will also be heavy with the type of nonfiction programming the Discovery networks have made popular, stories about dating, decorating, weddings and births, focusing on black participants.

``It's not us or BET,'' Rodgers said. ``The African-American marketplace has been so underserved. Why should we have only one channel? And if there are two channels, that they have to be competitors?''

According to a recent study by the ad-buying firm Magna Global, the median age of the BET viewer during daytime is 21. In prime-time, it's just under 27 years old. That's significantly younger than just a year ago, when BET's prime-time median age was nearly 32.

In the youth-centric television business, those are demographics to die for. Some of the few cable networks that skew younger, MTV and Nickelodeon, have been, like BET, hugely profitable.

Yet with BET the only major network with ``black'' in its name, the focus on youth with a heavy dose of hip-hop music has long been the source of grumbling in the black community.

It's as if white Americans had only one choice of networks, and it was MTV, Rodgers said.

``Anybody who is trying to compete with them, if they went a little bit older, they would have a much better chance,'' said Steve Sternberg of Magna Global. ``They certainly can't get much younger.''

Many who have watched BET founder Robert Johnson amass his fortune over the years admire his business decisions. Since he has never truly been pressed by a major competitor, he hasn't spent much money on programming; there are few things cheaper than filling hours with music videos.

``If you look at what advertisers want, in most instances, they want younger,'' said Debra Lee, BET's president. ``So that's why the bulk of our programming is younger.''

But Lee disputes the view that youth is everything BET is after. As the broadcast day goes on, the programming, including gospel shows and some news, skews older, she said.

BET's decision to add syndicated programs like ``Soul Food,'' ``The Parkers'' and ``Girlfriends'' this fall has been widely seen as an effort to bring up the median age and head TV One off at the pass.

``One of the things I see wrong about TV One is that it strikes me that they're trying to define who we are instead of trying to define who they are,'' Lee said. ``We are the No. 1 network among black households. We reach all ages.''

Rodgers, an industry veteran, steers clear of badmouthing Johnson and said black viewers who clamor for more aren't necessarily mad at BET.

``It serves an important purpose and it's just a great business,'' he said. ``People respect that and respect Bob. What they don't like is that they don't have any choices.''

In addition to their startup programming slate, TV One is also working with New Millennium Studios, the company created by former ``WKRP in Cincinnati'' actor Tim Reid, to develop movies and series.

The new network will steer clear of news and sports, ceding that territory to the Atlanta-based Major Broadcasting Corp., which in February announced plans for a spinoff 24-hour news network for blacks.

If any of Johnson's business decisions that can be questioned, it's that he didn't invest over the years in a series of BET-affiliated networks that would cover a broader spectrum of interests, like Discovery Communications did with its 14 networks.

BET has created separate networks devoted to jazz, hip-hop and gospel music and helped launch, with Starz, a service of black-oriented movies.

``I don't think we've had any missed opportunities,'' Lee said. ``We just have gone into markets that we thought would work.''

TV One and Major Broadcasting are betting that BET was wrong.

They have a tough task. The industry is littered with failed networks; one BET competitor, New Urban Entertainment Television, gave up last year. TV One hasn't announced any commitments by cable or satellite operators to carry its signal yet, although Comcast, which has more than 20 million subscribers nationally, would seem to give it a head start.

Major Broadcasting is barely in a quarter of the nation's 107 million TV homes, not necessarily a strong base for a spinoff all-news network. The company is vague about a startup date, saying only it hopes to begin next year.

BET casts a long shadow, even if its relative paucity of news gave rise to the plans for Major's all-news cable network, said Greg Morrison, Major's news director.

``They have the advertisers, they have the households, they have the name recognition, they have 20-something years in the game,'' he said. But, he added, ``we truly believe there is a market out there that we can serve.''

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Gregory Hines, Actor And Dancer, Dies Of Cancer At 57

By TIM MOLLOY
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) _ Tony Award winner Gregory Hines, the tap-dancing actor who started on Broadway and in movies including ``White Nights'' and ``The Cotton Club,'' has died, his publicist said. He was 57.

Hines died Saturday in Los Angeles of cancer, publicist Allen Eichorn said.

The dancer, among the best in his generation, won a 1993 Tony for the musical ``Jelly's Last Jam.''



Gregory Hines is shown in a scene from Columbia Pictures "White Nights" in this1985 handout photo. Hines, a Tony Award winning, tap-dancing actor who started on Broadway and in movies including White Nights and Running Scared, has died, his publicist says. He was 57. Hines died Saturday in Los Angeles of cancer, publicist Allen Eichorn said. AP Photo/Columbia Pictures, HO

Hines also starred with Mikhail Baryshnikov in 1985's ``White Nights'' and with Billy Crystal in 1986's ``Running Scared,'' and he appeared with Whitney Houston and Angela Bassett in 1995's ``Waiting to Exhale,'' among other movies.

On television, he had his own sitcom in 1997, the critically praised ``The Gregory Hines Show,'' as well as a recurring role on ``Will and Grace.'' This past March, he appeared in the spring television series ``Lost at Home.''

Hines became internationally known as part of a jazz tap duo with his brother, Maurice, and the two danced together in the musical revue ``Eubie!'' in 1978. The brothers later performed together in Broadway's ``Sophisticated Ladies'' and on film in 1984's ``The Cotton Club.''

Gregory Oliver Hines was born on February 14, 1946, in New York City. He has said his mother urged him and his older brother toward tap dancing because she wanted them to have a way out of the ghetto.

When he was a toddler, he said, his brother was already taking tap lessons and would come home and teach him steps. They began performing together when Gregory Hines was five, and they performed at the Apollo for two weeks when he was six. In 1974 they were cast in the Broadway musical ``The Girl in Pink Tights,'' starring French ballerina Jeanmaire.

``I don't remember not dancing,'' Hines said in a 2001 interview with The Associated Press. ``When I realized I was alive and these were my parents, and I could walk and talk, I could dance.'' Paired with his brother Maurice, he was a child star. In his teens, joined by their father, Maurice Sr., on drums, they were known as Hines, Hines and Dad. Later he earned Tony nominations on Broadway in ``Eubie,'' ``Comin' Uptown'' and ``Sophisticated Ladies.'' His Tony was for best actor in a musical playing jazz legend ``Jelly Roll'' Morton in ``Jelly's Last Jam.''

There was a time, he said, when he didn't want to dance. He was in his mid-20s, ``a hippie'' in a brief moment of rebellion, he said in 2001.

``I felt that I didn't want to be in show business anymore. I felt that I wanted to be a farmer,'' he said with a laugh. Invited to work on a farm in upstate New York, he quickly learned a lesson. Beginning before dawn, ``I was milking cows and shoveling terrible stuff and working all day. By the end of the day all I wanted was my tap shoes _ I thought, `What am I doing? I better get back where I belong on the stage where we work at night and can sleep late!'''

Hines had a falling out with his older brother in the late 1960s because the younger was becoming influenced by counter-culture and wanted to perform to rock music and write his songs. In 1973, the family act disbanded and Hines moved to Venice Beach.

``I was going through a lot of changes,'' Hines told the Washington Post in 1981. ``Marriage. We'd just had a child. Divorce. I was finding myself.''

He returned to New York in 1978, partly to be near his daughter, Daria, who was living with Hines' first wife, dance therapist Patricia Panella. His brother, with whom he had reconciled, told him about an audition for the Broadway-bound ``The Last Minstrel Show.'' He got the part, but the show opened and closed in Philadelphia.

The brothers reunited onstage for ``Eubie!'' an homage to composer Eubie Blake choreographed by LeTang. Gregory Hines was lauded for his singing of ``Low Down Blues,'' and his rat-tat-tat tapping during ``Hot Feet.'' He won several awards, and was nominated for a Tony.

Although his appearance in ``The Cotton Club'' opened the door to more movie roles, producer Robert Evans told Hines that Richard Pryor his first choice for the part. Hines told The Associated Press in 1985 that Evans told him, ``I can raise $4 million with Pryor's name. With you, I can raise $1,500.''

He starred in 1985 in ``White Nights,'' a Cold War dance film that paired him with Mikhail Baryshnikov. In his next film, ``Running Scared,'' in 1986, he returned to comedy in a cop buddy movie with Billy Crystal.

Hines landed his first film role in the 1981 Mel Brooks comedy ``History of the World Part I,'' in which he played a Roman slave as a last-minute replacement for Pryor.

Hines' has been nominated for a number of Emmy Awards, most recently in 2001 for his lead role in the mini-series ``Bojangles.'' His PBS special ``Gregory Hines: Tap Dance in America'' was nominated in 1989, and in 1982 he was nominated for his performance in ``I Love Liberty,'' a variety special saluting America. He was nominated in 1985 for a performance on ``Motown Returns to the Apollo.''

He also won a Daytime Emmy Award in 1999 for his work as the voice of ``Big Bill'' in the Bill Cosby animated TV series ``Little Bill'' and NAACP Image Awards for ``Bojangles'' and ``Running Scared.''

Heinz was engaged to Negrita Jayde, and the two described each other as soulmates. He is also survived by his daughter Daria, and his two children with his second wife, Pamela Koslow. They are his son Zach, and step-daughter Jessica.

AUTO INJURY CLAIMS



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