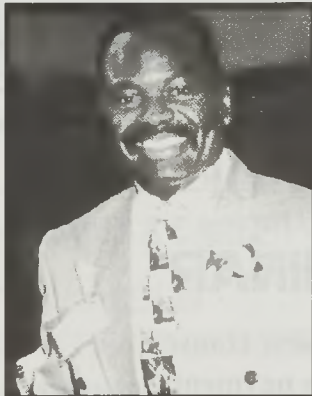


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THE AC Phoenix More Than A News Paper A Community Institution People And Places

Black-Owned Gas Distributor Files Discrimination Suit

Black-owned and operated DAG Petroleum Companies, based in Washington, D.C., has recently filed a racial discrimination lawsuit against the United Kingdom's largest oil company, British Petroleum (BP). DAG decided to pursue the lawsuit citing the fact that in 1999, a BP CEO admitted his company's long history of discriminatory practices against various races. However, since that time, BP has grown to over 14,000 gas stations in the U.S., predominantly in Black neighborhoods with 181 in Washington, D.C. alone, but has yet to enter into any automotive fuel distributorship agreements with Blacks, nor has there been any advancement for Blacks within BP management positions. The lawsuit is seeking monetary damages and a mandate requiring BP to create and adhere to diversity policies.

More Black Families Home Schooling

According to the Home School Legal Defense Association, a national advocacy group, the percentage of Black home-schooling families has been on the rise in the past 10 years, due to parents' desires to guide their children's morals, inadequate teaching of Black history in schools and the stigmatizing of Black youth, particularly boys. The advocacy group also stated that the number of Black home-schooled children is still low compared to a national scale of approximately 1 million, because many Black families don't have the time or financial backing to conduct home school.

Artist Pays Tribute To Hurricanes' Children

India, Arie, Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter and UNICEF Ambassador, recently performed her new song "What About the Child" on television mogul Tyra Banks new talk show, The Tyra Banks Show, Dec. 7. Proceeds from the song will go to the children affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita through UNICEF and the live performance is available for download as an audio track at www.tyrashow.com.

Annual Music Festival Sets Sights On Houston

The 2006 Essence Music Festival is reportedly to take place in Houston, Texas July 1-3 at Reliant Park, while the city of New Orleans, LA continues rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina. Festival representatives say the move is temporary, and a portion of the event will be aimed at helping the hurricane victims.

That's 'Officer Shaq' To You!

Miami Heat's star basketball player Shaquille O'Neal was recently sworn in as a reserve police officer in Miami Beach, FL after training for a year and will make a reported annual salary of \$1. Mr. O'Neal also served as a reserve officer in Los Angeles, while he played for the Lakers team. As a reserve officer, which is a volunteer position, he can still carry a gun, wear a badge and make arrests, and has expressed a desire to work with the special victims detective unit to help stop crimes against children.

For ourselves and anyone else who thinks to follow the example of Martin Luther King a reminder:
HE BEGAN AT CHURCH