

## London commemorates Paul Robeson

LONDON — Paul Robeson, the deep-voiced American singer and pioneering civil rights activist, was honored last week at the north London home where he lived from 1929 to 1930.

The singer Dame Cleo Laine unveiled a blue plaque from the preservation group English Heritage which has been attached to the house in Branch Hill, Hampstead.



Robeson

Robeson, who was one of the first black performers to gain international renown, is probably best known for his rendition of the haunting "Ol' Man River" from the musical "Showboat."

His success, at a time when racial segregation was still legal in the United States, gave him a platform to introduce the world to serious black music and his civil rights agenda.

Through his performances and rallying broadcasts, Robeson became a leading figure in campaigns against fascism, colonialism and racism.

He picketed the White House, started a crusade against the lynching of blacks and protested against segregation in concert halls. Blacklisted during the McCarthy era for his political beliefs, he died in 1976.

"Paul Robeson's name should be lauded in America and the world, as is Dr. Martin Luther King's," Laine said.

Robeson's son, Paul Jr., welcomed the honor, saying it was "an appropriate symbolic recognition of a significant period of my father's artistic and political growth in London."

## Original Black Panthers may sue imitation group to protect their name and legacy

A handful of the remaining members from the original Black Panther Party — in an effort to preserve their legacy — have retained a trademark lawyer to stop the use of their name by the New Black Panther Party.

Bobby Seale, David Hilliard, Elaine Brown and Huey P. Newton's widow, Fredrika, claim that the New Black Panther Party tarnishes their controversial legacy. They condemn the new group as a racist and anti-Semitic nuisance.

"They have hijacked our name and are hijacking our history," Seale told reporters. "We have to claim it back."

The Southern Poverty Law Center, a civil rights organization, includes the New Black Panther Party along with the Ku Klux Klan and Neo-Nazis in its annual list of hate groups in the United States.

New Black Panther Party chairman Malik Zulu Shabazz has publicly made anti-Semitic comments on television. The United States and Israel are "the number one and two terrorists right now on the planet," Shabazz has said. "The European Jews have America under control — lock, stock and barrel — the media, foreign policy."

While the original Black Panther Party had a controversial and extremist past, it also was involved in community service campaigns. The party served 200,000 hot breakfasts daily for schoolchildren, provided 1 million tests for sickle-cell anemia and printed weekly newspapers with a 200,000 circulation.

It is unclear what community service activities the New Black Panther Party engages in.

Shabazz said his organization is not racist or anti-Semitic and claims that Seale and Hilliard are being manipulated into pursuing the suit.



Seale

## Dick Gregory and others are arrested for fighting for access at Churchill Downs

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Comedian and civil rights activist Dick Gregory was among five people charged with trespassing during a protest last Thursday at Churchill Downs.



Gregory

The Justice Resource Center and a Churchill Downs official said the protest stemmed from a disagreement over levels of minority hiring for a construction project at the track.

The track is in the midst of a \$26 million first phase of a massive renovation. The entire project is expected to cost \$121 million.

The five arrested included the Rev. Louis Coleman, director of the Justice Resource Center. Racetrack officials called police after the protest moved onto the track's property and the demonstrators refused to leave an area near the track's offices.

April Cooper, an administrative assistant with the Justice Resource Center, a civil-rights group, said the protest was over "a lack of African-American contractors" on Churchill's construction site.

John Asher, a Churchill Downs spokesman, said of \$18.5 million in contracts that have been let for the project, contracts totaling \$2.9 million have gone to minority contractors.

"A goal of ours from the start has been to get the highest possible participation by minority contractors, vendors and suppliers," Asher said. "We're pretty pleased."

A small group of protesters has been demonstrating across from Churchill Downs almost daily for about a week.

Asher said police were called last Thursday after the group attempted to force its way into the track's offices.

Alicia Smiley, a police spokeswoman, said the protesters were arrested without incident. Gregory, Coleman and three others — Mattie Jones, Mattie Mathis and Roosevelt Roberts — were all released on their own recognizance last Thursday.

— Compiled from staff and wire reports

The Chronicle (USPS 067-910) was established by Ernest H. Pitt and Ndubisi Egemonye in 1974 and is published every Thursday by Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co. Inc., 617 N. Liberty Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101. Periodicals postage paid at Winston-Salem, N.C. Annual subscription price is \$30.72.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636  
Winston-Salem, NC 27102-1636

## INDEX

OPINION.....	A6
SPORTS.....	B1
RELIGION.....	B6
CLASSIFIEDS.....	B10
HEALTH.....	C3
ENTERTAINMENT.....	C7
CALENDAR.....	C9

# Brothers memorialized; questions linger

BY PAUL WILBORN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Former NBA player Bison Dele and his brother were memorialized Saturday by friends and family members, as investigators struggled to discover what happened on their ill-fated sailing trip last July in the South Pacific.

Authorities in French Polynesia have gathered most of the clues they expect to find about the deaths of Dele, 33, and two sailing companions.

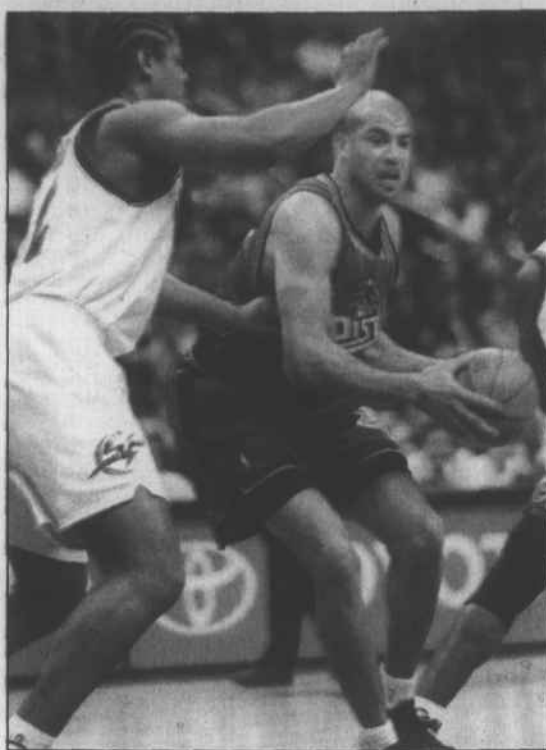
Only one person survived the voyage — Dele's 36-year-old brother Miles Dabord, whom French authorities have implicated in the deaths.

Dabord, however, died in a San Diego-area hospital Sept. 25, a day after he was disconnected from life support. He had been found unconscious days earlier in Tijuana.

His mother, Patricia Phillips, said he slipped into a coma after overdosing on insulin and failing to take his asthma medicine.

"They left us in such an untimely, mysterious and unexplainable manner," said the Rev. Eugene Marzette of Trinity Baptist Church. "The fact of the matter is, only God knows the truth."

Dele changed his name from Brian Williams to honor his Native American heritage. He played for several teams in the



Bison Dele drives by Washington's Terry Davis in 1999 during his days as a Detroit Piston.

NBA, including the Chicago Bulls' 1996-97 championship team, and walked away from a \$35 million contract with the Detroit Pistons in 1999.

Authorities in French Polynesia

believe that Dele, his girlfriend, Serena Karlan, and the boat's skipper, Bertrand Saldo, were killed July 7 off a tiny, remote island in the South Pacific. But details of the incident remain a mystery.

Pictures of Dele and his brother, previously known as Kevin Williams, flanked the altar at the church. Matching tables draped in black were adorned with white lilies and held photos of the brothers growing up.

A program distributed at the service featured a picture of the two brothers together as youngsters, with the words "Two brothers. Two loved. Two missed."

"They were brothers in life and brothers in death, different as two sides of a coin," said family friend Lewis Merrick.

Phillips asked mourners to hold on to the happy memories of her sons.

"We live in such a dark time. My sons are dead because we live in such a dark time," she said.

The service was attended by about 250 people, with no notable NBA players in attendance. Other speakers described the two brothers as intelligent and athletic and discounted media references of jealousy between them.

"It's a memorial for family and friends to remember both of their lives," said Fred Turner, a cousin of the two men.

## Simmons rallies for Senate hopeful Kirk

BY APRIL CASTRO  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — Hip-hop impresario Russell Simmons wants to see Ron Kirk in the U.S. Senate.

So on Saturday, the godfather of hip-hop culture used his imposing power to encourage the hip-hop community to vote for Kirk in the Nov. 5 election.

Simmons, a New York native who founded Def Jam Records, chose Dallas for his third Hip-Hop Summit, largely in an effort to support Kirk's bid for U.S. Senate.

"It's a race we can win and it's one of the most important races coming up now," Simmons said after addressing a throng of young would-be musicians for a get-out-the-vote rally. "And it's a hell of a

statement for the whole country."

Attendants listened eagerly to the messages of Simmons, U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Dallas, Dallas-based rapper



Kirk

D.O.C. and the Rev. Benjamin F. Muhammad before rushing to Simmons and his entourage with samples of their own music, clamoring for a Def Jam record deal.

A local radio station pumped Ludacris, Nelly and Lil' Flip tunes through the auditorium.

"He's a brother that I know can make a difference in this state and for this state," Simmons said.

New York and Los Angeles hosted the two previous summits. "The fact that you have

people in office who, even though we may not understand everything that's said on those hip-hop records, at least we know what hip-hop is and at least we're going to answer the phone when you call," Kirk said to the crowd.

"Your vote is powerful, your vote is your voice, and

your vote can make a difference in this election," he said.

Kirk, who would become the first black elected to the Senate from Texas, pleaded for the vote of the young voters attending the summit.

"For the first time in a long time next January, we'll have a U.S. Senate without Jesse Helms without Strom Thurmond and without Phil Gramm," Kirk said. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us. I need your help. I am asking for your help."

The Hip-Hop Summit Action Network is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, national coalition of hip-hop artists, entertainment executives, civil rights and community leaders, youth and grass-roots activists, policy-makers, researchers and business leaders.



Simmons

□ BIGOT

□ RACIST

□ SEXIST

□ HOMOPHOBIC

□ ANTI-SEMITIC

□ NONE OF THE ABOVE

We learn to discriminate at an early age. The question is, are we willing to change? Be a leader in the fight against prejudice. To learn more, visit the National Conference for Community and Justice at [www.nccj.org](http://www.nccj.org).