

News at a Glance

UCLA's new football coach one of only four black coaches in NCAA Division I

(Special to the NNPA) - Karl Dorrell, wide receivers coach for the Denver Broncos, was recently hired by the University of California-Los Angeles as the fourth African-American coach in NCAA Division I football.

Dorrell began his coaching career with UCLA in 1988, two years after playing as a wide receiver for the Bruins. He joins Notre Dame's Tyrone Willingham, San Jose State's Fitz Hill and New Mexico State's Tony Samuel as the only black coaches in Division I football.

"They wanted the best man for this job. I believe I'm that person," Dorrell told reporters. "I'm very thankful for this opportunity. I will work my tail off. I'm excited, I'm privileged, I'm honored. It's been a dream of mine. I'm proud to be a Bruin, proud to be back."

Dorrell, 39, beat out New Orleans assistant coach Mike Riley and Kansas City assistant coach Greg Robinson.

Hugging Dorrell during the news conference, athletic director Dan Guerrero was overjoyed.

"I hired Karl because he's the right man for the job," Guerrero said. "The fact that he's African-American helps to enrich our entire program here."

Dorrell is planning to hire a new coaching staff, but he did not say if he had any African-American coaches in mind.

"My expectation for next year is to win the Pac-10 championship," Dorrell said. "Winning the Pac-10 and beating our cross-town rival are the biggest things on my mind." UCLA's rival is the University of Southern California.



Dorrell

Free parking expected to be boon for businesses in downtown area

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

The city of Winston-Salem is offering free parking at night to patrons of downtown businesses. As of Jan. 2, motorists can use a coupon good for four hours of free parking at the Cherry-Marshall and Sixth-Cherry-Trade parking decks. Participating downtown merchants that



Steelman

maintain evening hours and have fewer than 100 employees can distribute the parking coupons to patrons of their businesses.

"One of the major goals of everything (the city of Winston-Salem) has been doing over the last couple of years has been to expand the hours of operation downtown on into nights and weekends," said Jack Steelman, with the Downtown Development Department, who says the new parking program will run over the next few months, ending March 31, when the city will then evaluate the service and decide whether to continue it permanently.

The time limit of four hours, Steelman said, was chosen after several downtown businesses and establishments agreed that citizens could dine, see a show or attend another function in that amount of time. Steelman predicts that that four-hour block of time will suit 95 percent of the



Photo by Courtney Gaillard

The city will offer free night parking at two downtown lots for patrons.

downtown customer base.

The parking coupons are to be used by patrons only (not by employees) between 6 p.m. and 3 a.m. and are valid on the day they are distributed. Business owners are to date the coupons so as to avoid misuse or abuse of the free service, Steelman said.

"If you try to hand in a coupon that has expired or not dated, it is no good....This is being done with the hopes that the customer will come back (downtown). This is a reward for the customer that is there that night," Steelman said.

Blondia Ferrell owns and operates The Agora, a clothing and accessory shop on Trade Street. She hopes the new parking program will help to alleviate her customers' parking woes along

Trade Street.

"There's no parking over (on Trade Street)...It's really been a problem, as far as parking is concerned in this area, probably all the way through downtown, and I think (free parking) will help. We need it," said Ferrell, who hopes to be able to give out parking coupons to patrons of her shop.

Many Trade Street shops are open for special late night events that take place along the street.

Textures Gallery, also located on Trade Street in the heart of the downtown Arts District, is owned and operated by Faye Huneycutt and her daughter. Huneycutt says customers frequently come and complain about the parking situation downtown.

"If you come to the art district, you want to (be able to) walk

and browse...I am sure if (customers) know about (the parking coupons), it will have a favorable effect," Huneycutt said.

This new parking service is being made available through the Department of Transportation which will supplement the cost. The decline in revenue that will result from the free parking service, says Steelman, will be made up by the Downtown Development Department.

The city hopes the parking program will not only please residents and business owners but also encourage new businesses to open up shop in the downtown area.

For more information about the program log onto www.city-afws.org.

South African TV station may replace CNN with Al-Jazeera

NEW YORK (GIN) - The South Africa Broadcasting Corp. (SABC) has announced that it may switch its news service from American-based CNN to Qatar-based Al-Jazeera, the Persian Gulf news network, said SABC spokesman Ihron Rensburg.

Al-Jazeera - which is funded by Arab moderates, such as the emir of Qatar - became well-known in the West after broadcasting video clips of Osama bin Laden. These prompted the CIA to suggest that bin Laden might be using the videos to send secret messages, although no evidence was found to support this fear.

"The key objective is to provide our audience with a range of perspectives and news events," Rensburg said, adding that "no decision has been taken yet."

South Africa's two main political parties, the Democratic Alliance and the ANC, have spoken out against the move.

"Al-Jazeera was the first attempt to give the Arab world a broader view, but that view is far from the free-speech oriented service that South Africans are entitled to," said Dene Smuts of the Democratic Alliance.

Ray's brother turned away from museum

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) - James Earl Ray's brother was turned away Dec. 30 from taking pictures inside the museum on the site of Martin Luther King Jr.'s death.

Jerry Ray wanted to have his picture taken beside the rifle authorities identify as the King murder weapon. Ray said he wanted the photo to use in an attempt to gain possession of the rifle. He did not explain how he expected such a photo to help him. He did not tour the National Civil Rights Museum and left quietly after officials gave him a news media handout of the rifle display.

A Nashville judge ruled two years ago that the .30-06 hunting rifle belongs to the state, which has loaned it to the museum.

Visitors are not allowed to take photographs inside the museum, which is centered on the Lorraine Motel where King was assassinated in 1968.

James Earl Ray pleaded guilty in 1969 to shooting King and was sentenced to 99 years in prison. He spent the rest of his life trying to recant his admission before dying of liver disease in 1998.

Jerry Ray and King's family doubt the rifle was the murder weapon and contend that James Earl Ray was the unknowing fall guy for a murder conspiracy. Investigations by the FBI, the U.S. House and the Justice Department have found no evidence to allow prosecution of anyone else in the killing.

Hispanics in the Congress at a record

WASHINGTON (AP) - A record 22 Hispanics were sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday, and there are 37 blacks, one more than last year. But despite the slightly greater diversity, Congress remains far more white and male than the people it writes laws for.

There are no blacks or Hispanics in the 100-member Senate, nor are there any black Republicans in the House after Oklahoma Rep. J.C. Watts retired last year. But an unprecedented 14 women are in the Senate in 2003, joined by 60 women in the House, the same as in 2002. About 51 percent of the U.S. population is female, compared with 14 percent of the House and 14 percent of the Senate. Republican Ginny Brown-Waite said some women may be turned off from entering politics by the nasty tone that can characterize campaigns.

"When I meet smart, articulate women, I encourage them to run, but I tell them it's not for the faint of heart," she said. "You have to have a very thick skin and a sense of humor and a burning flame to want to serve."

The 37 blacks in the House compares with a record 39 blacks there from 1993 through 1996. Still, only 8.5 percent of the House is black and only 5 percent is Hispanic. Hispanics and blacks each make up 12 percent of the U.S. population.

Domestic violence law takes effect

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

RALEIGH - Domestic violence and sexual assault victims who relocate to safety could keep their new addresses confidential under a law that took effect Jan. 1.

"It takes courage to leave an abusive relationship and start over in a new place, but too many victims of domestic violence and sexual assault continue to live in fear even after they have moved," said state Sen. Linda Garrou, D-Forsyth, who supported the law during the 2002 legislative session. "The Address Confidentiality Program will help survivors begin to feel safe again."

Through the program, a victim who has relocated or is in the process of moving could choose to receive first-class mail at an address designated by the Attorney General's office. To participate, the survivor must sign a statement that she fears for her safety or the safety of her children.

The participant would receive mail at the substitute address and the Attorney General's

office would then forward that mail to the participant's home address. The participant could also use the substitute address when she registers to vote, obtain a driver's license and sign up for public utilities.

"Moving away from an abu-

sive relationship has not always ensured a survivor's safety," Garrou said. "By stopping batterers from locating their victim's new home, we can give survivors the safety and peace of mind they need."

The Attorney General's

Office will offer training about the program to state and local agencies and community groups that want to work with domestic violence and sexual assault victims. The program is expected to begin accepting applicants in February.



Ray



Garrou

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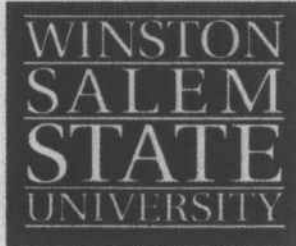
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The Chronicle (USPS 067-910) was established by Ernest H. Pitt and Nubisi Egemonye in 1974 and is published every Thursday by Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co. Inc., 617 N. Liberty Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101. Periodicals postage paid at Winston-Salem,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

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