

# News at a glance

## Shreveport police chief solicits support from only white statehouse members

(AP) - Black statehouse delegates from Caddo Parish (Louisiana) were outraged to learn that the Shreveport police chief contacted only white lawmakers when he lobbied against the creation of a city review board that would scrutinize police actions.

"Insult is not the word. I'm at a loss to understand," said state Rep. Cedric Glover, D-Shreveport, a black legislator who sponsored the bill to create the so-called citizens review board.

Glover's proposal was a response to anger in Shreveport's black community that has been simmering since March, when officers gunned down an unarmed black man.

Before the House of Representatives passed Glover's measure by a 58-40 vote last Thursday, Police Chief Jim Roberts circulated his letter opposing the bill.

Roberts said his intent was to contact only lawmakers he felt "had not made their minds up." All black Caddo Parish lawmakers supported the bill.

State Rep. Lydia Jackson, D-Shreveport, said she was "shocked and appalled" Roberts would exclude black delegates in sending out his letter, of which she later was shown a copy.

"I'm here struggling to communicate to our colleagues how polarized our community is because of history and this recent incident, but didn't expect to have this glaring example of the racial polarization that emanates from the leadership of the police department sitting on my desk," Jackson said. "To think that we have leadership that felt they could not communicate with the entirety of the elected leadership of the state is simply shocking to me."



Glover

## 'Blacula' actor dies at 78

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Actor William Marshall, who played a variety of roles, from Shakespeare's "Othello" on stage, to "Blacula" in the camp movie classic, has died. He was 78.

Marshall, who suffered in recent years from Alzheimer's disease, died last week in a Los Angeles rest home.

The actor appeared in several dozen films and in popular television series such as "Star Trek" in the 1960s and "The Jeffersons" in the 1980s. But he was in love with theater and taught acting workshops on college campuses and at the Mufandi Institute in Watts. He was director of the institute in the 1960s.

He also brought a number of prominent African-American figures to the stage, including Paul Robeson and Frederick Douglass.

Marshall played a different kind of character in the 1972 movie, "Blacula" and its sequel, "Scream, Blacula, Scream!", but he brought the same dignity to the title role of the African prince.

## Bush to visit Africa in July

WASHINGTON (IPS/GIN) - President George Bush will visit Senegal, Nigeria and South Africa in early July, said White House officials.

The visit, which has not yet been formally announced, will be the latest in a series of recent moves by the Bush administration to emphasize its Africa policy. Last month, Bush signed a bill pledging \$15 billion to fight AIDS in Africa and the Caribbean; and during the recent G8 summit in France, Bush urged other nations to join the U.S. effort.

In December 2002, the White House announced that Bush would visit Africa early in 2003. But the next day the trip was postponed because of "a combination of domestic and international considerations."

Although the White House has not yet announced the purpose of Bush's African visit, it may be used in part to garner support for stationing U.S. troops in Africa.

The United States is in the process of a major reshuffle of its troops stationed overseas: it has moved personnel out of bases in Germany and Saudi Arabia, and some analysts suggest that the country may be looking to relocate some of them to Africa.

## New manager, training on tap for bar that banned dreadlocks

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (AP) - Complaints from dreadlocked customers who were refused entry to a bar because of their hairstyle have led to an apology and a change of management.

Officials of the company that operates the Cheshire Inn said they would not ban patrons because of dreadlocks and would require their 40 employees to take sensitivity training to prevent similar racially charged incidents in the future.

Activists had threatened to picket on Sunday - Father's Day - outside the Cheshire Inn, a popular bar and restaurant that shares ownership with the neighboring Cheshire Lodge but is leased and managed by a separate family-run corporation.

Jack Lueders has resigned as president and general manager of the company, L&S Properties. Those titles are now held by his daughter-in-law, Gina Lueders, and her father-in-law is no longer associated to the company in any capacity.

The elder Lueders also issued a statement apologizing to two black men, Brian Williams and Shelby Carter, who were turned away by a doorman when they arrived on a May evening to join friends after a wedding and reception.

Carter said he did not want to comment on the apology while he and Williams considered their response to the incident.

Jack Lueders had previously told a St. Louis Post-Dispatch reporter that the inn had a policy of excluding people with dreadlocks if their hair was determined to be "dirty and stinky."

"You can't wash that hair, and it stinks, and we're a crowded bar, and we don't want stinky people in the bar," he said.

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# Another man convicted of taking girl

Seven-year-old Erica Pratt chewed through duct tape to free herself

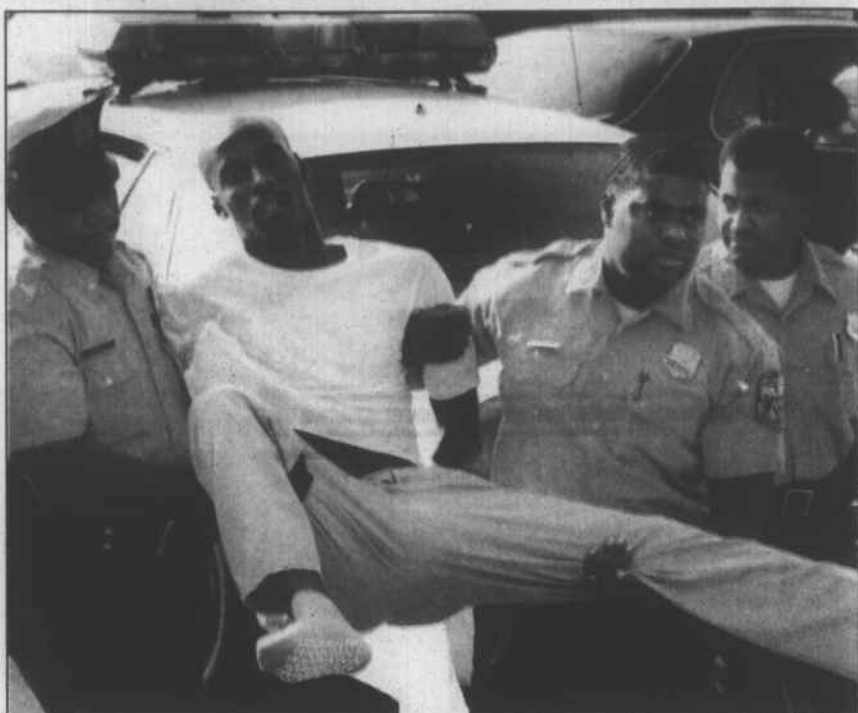
BY MARYCLAIRE DALE THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA - A second man was convicted, late last week in the kidnaping of a 7-year-old girl who chewed through duct tape to escape a squalid basement last summer.

The jury, which deliberated for four hours over two days, found James Burns, 30, of Philadelphia, guilty on all six counts in Erica Pratt's abduction.

Burns was at the wheel of a getaway car when Edward Johnson, 24, snatched Erica from the sidewalk outside her grandmother's Southwest Philadelphia home, prosecutors said.

Burns faces 35 to 71 years in prison. Johnson, who pleaded guilty to five counts days before the trial but did not testify against Burns, faces 32 to 64 years in prison. Both men will remain in custody until



KRT photo by David Swanson

Philadelphia police officers carry James Burns last July after he was injured after he led officers on a chase. Burns was convicted of kidnaping a 7-year-old.

their July 29 sentencing hearings.

Erica, now 8, has been celebrated for her daring escape from the empty house about 10 miles from her home, where she spent nearly 24 hours bound and blindfolded.

During the trial, though, her courage waned, and she testified that she did not recognize Burns - whom she had previously picked out of a

lineup and identified in open court.

"It was very clear that she knew exactly who he was and that she recognized him, based on her demeanor and her turning away from him in court," Assistant District Attorney Leslie Gomez said Friday.

"You can't put that weight on a 7-year-old, to point a finger and say, 'You did this to me.' That was my job,"

Gomez said.

Prosecutors relied on other evidence to make their case. In Burns' pocket, investigators found the key to the house where Pratt was held. They also tied his girlfriend's cell phone records to ransom calls that were made.

The kidnappers called Pratt's grandmother several times, demanding \$150,000.

See Pratt on A5

# Moseley-Braun hopes to beat all Dems, not just Al Sharpton

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY NNPA CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON - Carol Moseley-Braun denies that she entered the presidential campaign to take away votes from Al Sharpton, the only other African-American presidential candidate running on the Democratic ticket.

"I did not get in this to take on one candidate, and you can print that too, by the way, because that has been a rumor," Moseley-Braun told attendees last week at the annual convention of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) in Baltimore. "As far as I'm concerned, I hope I take votes from all of them."

The former U.S. senator from Illinois and ambassador to New Zealand, now a law professor at DePaul University in Chicago, said African-Americans are at a critical point.

"We are moving in the direction of taking our civil rights efforts to the next phase, to the next step, to show that African-Americans have not only played a role in the past, but in moving forward to demonstrate and play a role...not just in keeping up, but in providing leadership to this country," she said.

"That leadership grows out of a passionate patriotism that believes that this really is and must remain the greatest country in the world, that this country has an absolute responsibility to keep faith with the sacrifice of our ancestors, to keep faith with the promise of liberty, and that we have an opportunity and a responsibility to turn over to this new generation no less than what we inherited from the last," she said.

Moseley-Braun said she faces a double-whammy: being black and a woman.

"I think it is important to make the point that talent knows no color, knows no gender, knows no ethnicity, and

that is up to the people of this country to broaden their perspective sufficient to understand that if the package that leads this country comes in a package that's 5-foot-4, brown skin and female, then that's OK, too."

Despite her enthusiasm, Moseley-Braun, who lost her Senate re-election bid in 1998, has not formally announced her candidacy and is struggling in fund-raising and the polls. In an interview, she said she is still listening to her exploratory committee and will soon formally announce her decision, a step Sharpton has already taken.

In the latest Associated Press poll, Sharpton leads Moseley-Braun 5 percent to 4 percent.

Four months ago, a Time-CNN poll showed Sharpton with twice as much support among African-Americans as

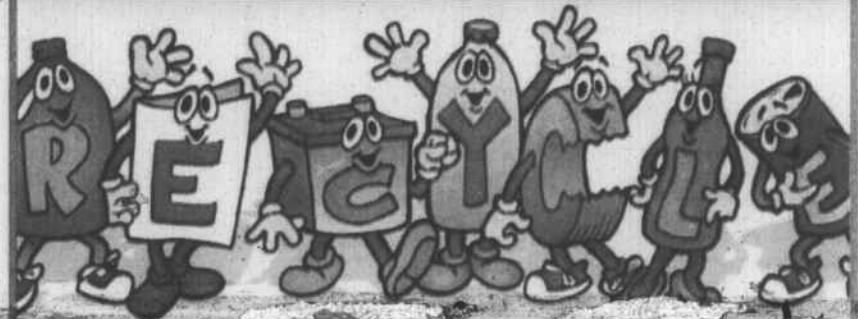
See Moseley-Braun on A5



KRT photo by Chuck Kennedy

Democratic presidential hopeful Carol Moseley-Braun addresses the Democratic National Committee during the party's winter meeting in February 21.

## Every Day is Party Day at the Recycling Center!



### Bring Your Own Bottles... and newspaper, cans, magazines, and cardboard, too!

Party down with the Recycle Guys at any of three recycling drop-off centers in Forsyth County. Make sure you're recycling all of these items:

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- Glass bottles & jars
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- Telephone books
- Chipboard (e.g., cereal boxes)
- Steel cans,
- Plastic bottles (#1 & #2 only)
- Magazines
- Junk mail & office paper
- Corrugated cardboard

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**PFAFFTOWN**  
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Hanes Mill Road Landfill, 325 Hanes Mill Rd., 661-4900  
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