

# News at a Glance

## Five accused of killing Steve Biko will not be prosecuted

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The five policemen who were accused of killing anti-apartheid activist Steve Biko in 1977 won't be prosecuted because of insufficient evidence, justice ministry officials said last week.

A murder charge could not be supported in part because there were no witnesses to the killing, officials said.

Charges of culpable homicide and assault also were considered, but because the killing of the black consciousness movement leader occurred in 1977, the time frame for prosecution had lapsed.

"We can only prosecute if there is sufficient evidence to justify the charge, but there is not enough evidence. ... If at a later stage new evidence emerged that cleared the problems we've had, we would reconsider our decision. With a matter like this, we can't leave it hanging; we must have finality," said Chris MacAdam, a lawyer for the National Prosecuting Authority.

The African National Congress took issue with the decision, saying it might give the impression that the post-apartheid democratic government tolerated such "evil."

Biko's message of black pride in the mid-1970s appealed to many young people in South Africa's townships, and his death made him a martyr in the struggle against apartheid.

He died of brain injuries on Sept. 12, 1977, after being beaten.

The case sparked an outcry at home and abroad and spurred activism that contributed to the end of white-minority rule, also inspiring the movie "Cry Freedom," with Denzel Washington.

## Georgia eighth-graders suspended for using racial slurs on Web site

LILBURN, Ga. (AP) — Two Gwinnett County students have been suspended from school for running a Web site with racial slurs and threats about other students.

The two eighth-graders were suspended from Trickum Middle School on Friday after hearing complaints from parents and students.

"The site was anti-African-American and included racial and ethnic slurs, as well as threatening language," said Sloan Roach, spokeswoman for Gwinnett Schools.

The site also had information about students who were getting ready to fight.

"The racial and ethnic slurs negatively impacted the school environment," Roach said. "The tone and nature of this Web site was certainly not representative of the Trickum Middle School community."

The Web site was run off-campus, and the students removed it on their own when they learned they were getting in trouble, Roach said.

## Clarett, mother receive death threat

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (AP) — The mother of suspended Ohio State tailback Maurice Clarett has received a racially charged death threat addressed to her son.

Michelle Clarett received the letter, which had no return address, at her home on Oct. 2, according to a police report.

The typed message was from "OSU cheerleaders" and said that "black men should stay away from white women." It included other racial remarks and ended with a message that the writer will "kill and bomb the place."

Police are treating the letter as an ethnic intimidation and aggravated menacing case. Lt. Robin Lees said the letter was sent to the state crime lab.

"We do know that another similar letter was sent to the New England area," Lees said. "It was not directed at Maurice Clarett but it was a general threat against blacks basically."

Clarett's mother declined to comment Friday.

Clarett is suspended for the season for accepting money from a family friend and for lying about it to investigators.



Clarett

## Next pope could be a Nigerian

LAGOS, NIGERIA (IPS/GIN) — Senior officials in the Nigerian Roman Catholic church say there is a chance that the next pope will be from Nigeria.

When Pope John Paul II dies, his successor will be selected from a conclave of 135 cardinals. "Nigeria now has two candidates to vote and be voted for the position of pope," said Rev. Father Emmanuel Badejo, a spokesman for the Nigerian church. "The more candidates you have, the brighter your chances at the conclave." The two Nigerian cardinals are Francis Arinze,

who was made cardinal in 1985 and now the fourth-highest Vatican official, and Anthony Okogie, who was appointed a cardinal just three weeks ago.

The current pope, from Poland, is now 83 years old and is extremely frail. He has to be transported in a chair with wheels attached to it, and at one recent public event he was unable to read his entire speech and an aide had to read for him.



Okogie

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# Airport renaming creates divide

Blacks want name of former Atlanta mayor added to airport

BY DOUG GROSS  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — A push to add the name of former Mayor Maynard Jackson to the title of this city's sprawling airport pits the legacy of two popular mayors against each other and has reignited simmering tensions of new Atlanta vs. old, black vs. white.



Jackson

The change seems almost certain. Two-thirds of Atlanta's 15 City Council members gave tentative approval earlier this month to a moniker that may be as busy as the air hub itself — Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

Much of the opposition leading up to the Oct. 20 vote is coming from the heirs of current airport namesake William B. Hartsfield, the city's longest-serving



KRT Photo

Plans sit on the tarmac at Atlanta's Hartsfield Airport.

mayor who as a councilman in the 1920s was instrumental in selecting a blackberry patch south of town as the original site for the airport.

"Plain and simple, Mayor

Hartsfield fathered aviation in Atlanta," said distant cousin Dale Hartsfield, who has served as the family's spokesman.

"A hyphenated name will water down the honor for both

men," he said. "The Hartsfield family does not have a problem with honoring Mayor Jackson. Atlanta should honor him. But why take away an honor that was

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# Bugging opens old wounds for blacks

BY PATRICK WALTERS  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA — The bugging of Mayor John Street's office amid an election campaign already marked by accusations of race-baiting has further heightened long-standing tension between blacks and the FBI, concerns that date to the 1960s Civil Rights Movement.

Many in Philadelphia's black community say the mayor would not be under such scrutiny if he was white, and Street himself suggested this week that "racial biases" could have something to do with the FBI investigation.

The FBI has refused to provide details about the hidden listening devices found last week in Street's office during a routine police sweep. Street said federal prosecutors have assured him he is not a target of the investigation.

"If he's not the target of the investigation, why bug his office?" said Michael Coard, a black Philadelphia lawyer and activist. "He's the mayor, he's a black man, he's a lawyer."

Black leaders long have alleged that there is a pattern of racial bias by the FBI, citing its investigations of Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, former Washington, D.C., Mayor Marion Barry and others.

"There's been, and the FBI has admitted it at times, unfair investigation and surveillance of African-Americans," said U.S. Rep. Chaka Fattah, D-Pa., who is black. "There's less restraint on the leash."

Callers to Coard's weekly

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