

News at a Glance

Al Sharpton picks up several endorsements in native New York

NEW YORK (AP) — Presidential candidate Al Sharpton, who has won as much attention for his "Saturday Night Live" appearance as he has on the campaign trail, won the endorsement of several city and state officials last week.

Rep. Jose Serrano, a Bronx Democrat, and Rep. Ed Towns, a Brooklyn Democrat, were among a group of officials who endorsed Sharpton on the steps of City Hall.

He has "a record of service, a record of fighting for social justice, a record of believing in issues," said Serrano. "He is the true anti-war candidate. He is the true poor people's candidate."



Sharpton

Sharpton, a well-known civil rights activist, has previously run unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate and mayor.

Sharpton, introduced by Towns as "the next president of the United States," said he is seeking to build a coalition that will lead him to the White House and Democrats to retake the governorship and mayoralty.

"I have more elected official endorsements this morning than I ever had in my career," he said. "This is the beginning of a movement that will unite blacks, whites and Latinos to retake this city and this state and move toward progressive politics."

Among the officials endorsing Sharpton were Democratic state Sens. Kevin Parker and Carl Andrews and Democratic City Council members Charles Barron and Larry Seabrook.

Move to rename street after Martin Luther King Jr. shifts tactics

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Backers of an effort to rename a major street after Martin Luther King Jr. are changing their focus after an outcry from local residents.

Former San Jose Police Lt. Ken Stewart's previous proposal to change King Road to Martin Luther King Jr. Road met with criticism from some Hispanics who live along King. The road, which runs through the core of one of San Jose's Hispanic neighborhoods, was named after early settler Andrew King.

Stewart said he now wants to change the name of Capitol Expressway, a county-owned road that runs through the city's Evergreen and Eastside neighborhoods. On Dec. 16, Pastor Claudell Huey, who also supports the name change, asked the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to consider the change in a meeting next month.

Stewart said some opponents of his previous proposal have joined his effort to change Capitol Expressway to Martin Luther King Expressway. His earlier idea had pitted some black residents against some of the city's Hispanics, but Stewart said a new committee has members of both groups.

Justice Department looking into whether St. Louis fire stations discriminate

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The Justice Department sent letters this month to many of St. Louis County's 42 fire departments, saying it has information that fire officials may be engaged in a pattern of discrimination against blacks.

A lawyer for a local black firefighters' group, Althea P. Johns, said a survey last year by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch helped lead to the investigation by the department's Civil Rights Division. It found that of the 42 fire departments serving the county, 22 had no black firefighters. Nine other departments had just one black firefighter each.

The firefighters' group, FLAME, met four or five times in the past year with Justice Department officials, said Airste Wilson, a University City firefighter who is the group's chairman.

The newspaper's story showed that many fire departments in north St. Louis County are overwhelmingly white, even though the black population in North County has grown steadily for decades.

Overall in St. Louis County departments, 4 percent of the firefighters were black. In St. Louis, 42 percent of the firefighters were black.

Some black firefighters also said they have experienced racial harassment at work. They raised concerns about the St. Louis County Fire Academy policies. The academy gives preference to students already hired by fire departments, but FLAME argued that practice made it tough for blacks to get jobs.

Jackson nominated to be HUD secretary

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — President Bush has selected Alphonso Jackson to replace Mel Martinez as secretary of housing and urban development (HUD).

If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Jackson, now the No. 2 person in the department, will become the 13th HUD secretary.

Jackson would direct the \$32-billion agency that helps provide affordable housing and promote community and economic development.

He said his department would "guide more families toward home ownership, financial security and the stability that it provides. We will bring new hope to urban communities through revitalization initiatives in conjunction with cities and states."

In 1977, Jackson was named director of public safety for the city of St. Louis. He is a former executive director for the St. Louis Housing Authority, director of consultant services for the certified public accounting firm of Laventhol and Horwath-St. Louis, and was a special assistant to the chancellor and assistant professor at the University of Missouri.

Mel Martinez has resigned as HUD secretary to vie for the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate from Florida. Before being confirmed unanimously by the Senate to be HUD's deputy secretary in June 2001, Jackson was Texas president of American Electric Power, an energy and utility company based in Columbus, Ohio.

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

Possibility of rape by Thurmond should not be ignored, blacks say

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY
NNPA CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON — A 22-year-old Strom Thurmond having sex with his family's 16-year-old black maid should not be seen as an "affair," as it has been widely portrayed in the media, but rape, a well-respected black sociologist said.

"You could call this a statutory rape because this person was about 16 or so when this happened," said Julia Hare, executive director of the Black Think Tank in San Francisco. "These are the types of things that we need to look at very seriously when we look at these double standards."

Essie Mae Washington-Williams, 78, a retired schoolteacher who now lives in Los Angeles, decided to tell her secret in order to bring closure to the subject and finally answer persistent questions from reporters. Washington-Williams has said that she did not know what the relationship was between her mother and Thurmond or the circumstances that led to her conception.

For years, Thurmond and his family had remained silent and, in some cases, expressed doubt about the veracity of stories accusing him of fathering a black daughter. Just days before the daughter had called



Essie Mae Washington-Williams discusses her life as Strom Thurmond's unacknowledged daughter at a news conference last week. Behind her is her lawyer, Frank K. Wheaton.

a news conference to offer evidence that Thurmond was her biological father and to say she was willing to submit to a DNA test, the family finally confirmed the validity of her claim.

Washington-Williams said she had not come forward ear-

lier because she didn't want to ruin the political career of Thurmond, who died in June at the age of 100.

Thurmond was a virulent racist who ran for president in 1948 on a pro-segregationist platform.

NAACP Board Chairman

Julian Bond noted the contradiction between a white Southerner who considered blacks inferior while sexually exploiting an African-American teenager in private.

"It is a story, most of all, of great personal hypocrisy,"

See **Thurmond** on A10

NAACP: Racism rampant in Va. government

BY ADRIENNE SCHWISOW
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RICHMOND, Va. — Virginia's chapter of the NAACP asked the state last week to investigate what it called pervasive "racism, sexism, cronyism and nepotism" in state government.

King Salim Khalfani, executive director of the chapter, said the group represents hundreds of state employees who have complained of generally unfair employment practices resulting from a small group of "good old boys and good old girls" having run the agencies for years.

Khalfani, who presented only one specific example of alleged discrimination at a news conference, accused Gov. Mark R. Warner, a Democrat, of promising to help and then doing nothing.

"The Virginia state chapter finds a cesspool of discrimination allegations in state agencies," Khalfani said.

"We're frankly tired of meeting. We want action," he said. "Anytime a governor gets 93 percent of anyone's vote, they should expect action." Warner won 92 percent of the black vote when he was elected in 2001.

Khalfani said no legislators have come forward to help the civil rights group in its continuing crusade for investigations into the Department of Social Services and the Department of Correctional Education. He added that the group does not have a plan

of action, other than to enlist the help of someone powerful.

Responding to the NAACP's complaints, Warner spokeswoman Ellen Qualls said the governor has "worked hard to appoint an administration and various boards and commissions that represent the diversity of Virginia."

She said top administration officials have met repeatedly with Khalfani, and she



Warner

noted that the social services commissioner and the secretary of public safety are black.

"We would dispute that there is a cesspool," Qualls said.

Maurice Jones, commissioner of the Department of Social Services, said he has added four minority senior managers, including himself, to the group of roughly 20 in

See **Virginia** on A9

- ✓ BIBLE BASED EDUCATION
- ✓ INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION
- ✓ CO-OPERATIVE PROGRAMS
- ✓ SUPERIOR FACULTY
- ✓ FLEXIBILITY
- ✓ COST

6 REASONS FOR YOU TO ATTEND



FOUNDED TO HELP TRAIN MINISTERS TO EVANGELIZE THE WORLD

WSBC provides two degrees with one major area of study. All of the College's programs are designed to help each student be successful in various areas of Christian service. Therefore every graduate will have a major in Bible Studies. In addition, each student will have an emphasis in one of four areas of Practical Ministry — Pastoral Ministry, Urban Ministry, Christian Education, or Biblical Languages. A student can earn a Bachelor of Arts in Ministry Degree in 4 years or an Associate of Arts in Ministry Degree in 2 years.

Contact us for more information:
Winston-Salem Bible College
P.O. Box 777
Winston-Salem, NC 27102-0777
www.wsbc.edu
336-744-0900

PREPARING REAL PEOPLE FOR A REAL MINISTRY IN A REAL WORLD
Registration begins January 5, 2004 Classes begin January 12, 2004

Attention Homeowners

Triad Pest Control is offering a one-time complimentary household pest elimination service to the first two hundred senior citizens who call. If you are 65 years or older and live within Triad Pest Control's service area, please call (336) 788-3020 (Winston-Salem) or (336) 854-6600 (Greensboro).
2 Corinthians 9:7
Happy Holidays.

Call
Triad Pest Control
1535 S. Martin Luther King Drive
Winston-Salem, NC
788-3020

INDEX

OPINION.....A6
SPORTS.....B1
RELIGION.....B4
CLASSIFIEDS.....B7
HEALTH.....C3
ENTERTAINMENT...C7
CALENDAR.....C9