

News at a Glance

Daughter of Williams plans museum

ATLANTA (AP) - The daughter of late civil rights leader Hosea Williams plans to build a museum and community center on the site of the house where he lived for 35 years.

The building will be a replica of the brick structure where Williams and his wife, Juanita, lived from 1965 until they died three months apart in 2000. The house was torn down this month because it was deemed beyond repair, daughter Elisabeth Omilami said.

Hosea Williams was a leader of the march from Selma, Ala., to Montgomery in 1965, which propelled passage of the Voting Rights Act. He was with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis when King was assassinated in 1968.

Omilami said during a groundbreaking ceremony Dec. 30 that the new center will include a gallery of photos from the Civil Rights Movement, a listening room with recordings of Williams' speeches and radio interviews, and a library that features a dissertation on the Selma march written by Juanita Williams. The home also will be used for banquets and activities for seniors and children, she said, and the grounds will include a meditation garden and a neighborhood playground.



Williams

Southern Regional Council civil rights group loses last remaining staffer

ATLANTA (AP) - The Southern Regional Council, one of the South's oldest interracial civil rights groups, has lost its only full-time staff member.

Luz Borrero, who became executive director in April, resigned. On Jan. 5, she became Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin's deputy chief operating officer "in a temporary position," city officials said.

Borrero, 48, had been coping with difficulties that include a projected \$350,000 revenue shortfall. She slashed the staff of 12 full-time employees to four part-timers and canceled the annual Lillian Smith Book Awards program.

Toni Fannin, formerly of the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta, told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution that she will become interim director of the SRC effective Jan. 1. Former board president Jean Chalmers told the newspaper that she expects a director to be named "sometime in January."

At City Hall, Borrero replaces Gary Cox, who has been on leave since September after being indicted on sex charges involving a teenager. Cox denies the allegations.

Haitians take aim at 'Grand Theft Auto'

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) - A lawsuit that claims a top-selling video game is dangerous to society and asks that it be removed from store shelves will be decided in federal court.

Haitian civil rights groups filed the lawsuit because the game, "Grand Theft Auto: Vice City," instructs players to "kill the Haitians" and awards points for each kill.

New York-based Rockstar Games Inc. has agreed to remove the offensive line from future versions of the award-winning video that has sold 11 million copies.

But the Haitian organizations, led by the Haitian-American Coalition of Palm Beach County, also have asked for more than \$15,000 in damages.

The suit was filed Dec. 23 in state Circuit Court in Palm Beach County. Attorneys for Rockstar Games opted to move the case to federal court, and that motion was granted. No hearing dates were immediately set.

The lawsuit takes on heavyweights in the video game industry, including Rockstar Games; its parent company, Take-Two Interactive Software Inc.; Sony Computer Entertainment; Microsoft Corp.; and retailers Target, Wal-Mart and Best Buy.

The manufacturer of the game, in which an ex-convict is hired to recover stolen drug money in the streets of Miami, has been harshly criticized for its portrayal of Haitians.

Earlier this month, about 100 Haitian-Americans demonstrated outside a Wal-Mart Supercenter in nearby Boynton Beach, chanting, "Stop Vice City."

CBS denies paying Jackson for interview

NEW YORK (AP) - CBS said that the network did not pay Michael Jackson to give an interview that was seen by nearly 19 million people on "60 Minutes."

The New York Times, quoting a Jackson associate who was not named, said that Jackson was paid \$1 million to reschedule an entertainment special that had been postponed in November. That payment came on top of a previously negotiated licensing fee for the special, the Times said. The entertainment program, "Michael Jackson Number Ones," aired recently.

CBS has said that it would not have aired the entertainment special if Jackson hadn't addressed the molestation charges against him with its news division.

The Times source said that, "in essence," CBS paid him for the interview, even though the money came out of the network's entertainment budget.

But Jack Sussman, CBS vice president for specials, said a fee for Jackson's participation in the special was negotiated in September and did not change.

Ed Bradley, the "60 Minutes" correspondent who interviewed Jackson, said he was unaware of any financial arrangements that had been made with the pop star.

"No one ever said anything to me about a quid pro quo," Bradley said. "No one said anything to me or anyone else at CBS News about money."



Bradley

Transfer sought for grandson of Malcolm X after abuse allegation

Transfer sought for Malcolm X's grandson

BY HAZEL TRICE-EDNEY
NNPA CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON - The lawyer and family of Malcolm Shabazz, the 19-year-old grandson of civil rights martyr Malcolm X, say they are requesting that he be transferred out of an upstate New York prison after he was allegedly beaten and harassed by prison guards.

"We have investigated it to the extent that we are able, and we've concluded that there was an assault on Malcolm by prison guards," said Ron Kuby, the New York City lawyer representing Malcolm. "What people need to understand is that this is happening to Malcolm Shabazz because of who this young man is.... It seems fairly clear that a number of white corrections officers view Malcolm with great hostility because of his Islamic faith, his heritage, and the fact that he's within their grasp. It has been a persistent problem, but this is the worst that it's been to date."

Kuby has sent a letter to Glenn S. Goord, commissioner of the New York Department of Correctional Services, asking that Malcolm be trans-

ferred out of Great Meadow Correctional Facility, a maximum-security facility, five hours from New York City, to a lower security facility closer to home.

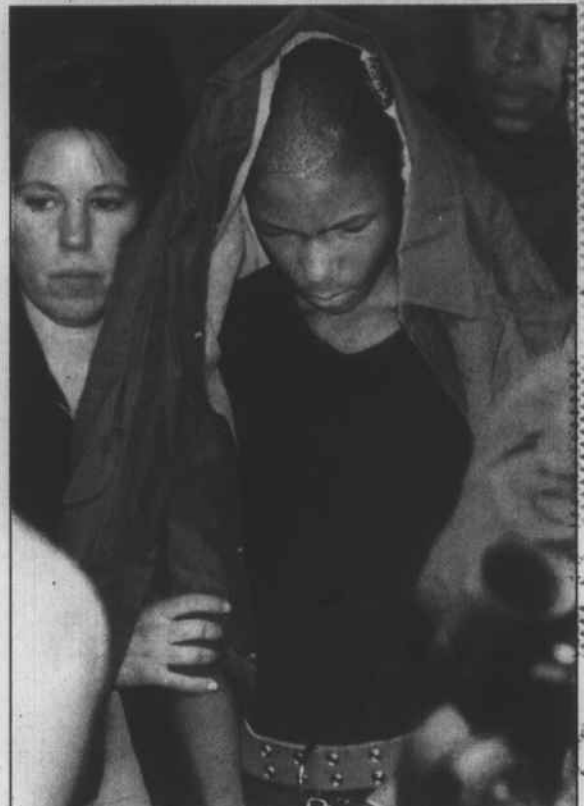
Malcolm's aunt, Ilyasah Shabazz, of Peekskill, N.Y., the daughter of Malcolm X, with whom the teenager lived for much of his life, said she visited him the day after Christmas.

"I saw his lip was busted and a lot of his arm had like punch marks and then scratches and stuff.... He was beaten up. He was beaten up," Shabazz said in an interview with the NNPA News Service.

Shabazz and Kuby said the injuries are not serious, but the harassment has been consistent.

"They're trying to break his spirit," Shabazz charges. "He has become more and more focused. He has used the time there very wisely, with the reading and going deeply inside of himself, becoming spiritually grounded and trying to understand who he is and what everything is around him."

The teenager, convicted of second-degree attempted rob-



Malcolm Shabazz is led out of court in 1997 after a hearing related to a fire he set that killed his grandmother, Betty Shabazz.

See Shabazz on A9

Milwaukee gets its first black mayor

Marvin Pratt will serve until residents go to polls in April

BY CARRIE ANTLINGER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MILWAUKEE - Common Council President Marvin Pratt took over the helm of Wisconsin's largest city Friday, becoming its first black mayor.

He replaced John Norquist, who left office four months early to take a job as president and chief executive officer at the Congress for the New Urbanism in Chicago.

"I see wonderful things ahead for Milwaukee," Pratt said during the ceremony in which he was sworn in as the city's 38th mayor. "I have faith in the people of this city."

Pratt said he planned to hold a cabinet meeting last week with his department heads to outline his mayoral plan. He also said he plans to hold a job fair at city hall, a town hall meeting for citizens to talk to city department heads and ask city workers to each mentor one student. His spokesman Bill Zaferos said he had not yet worked out a timeline for those things.

He also said he wanted to improve economic growth and improve the quality of education, among other things.

Pratt said after the ceremony that he was firing Julie Penman, head of the Department of City Development, and Zaferos said Mike Soika, the head of the Department of Administration, was quitting.

Norquist, who attended the

ceremony with his wife, Susan Mudd, said his last duty as mayor was to declare Friday "Marvin Pratt Day."

"Marvin Pratt has distinguished himself as a member of the Common Council. The city will be in good hands in the next three and a half months."

Norquist was in office for nearly 16 years and until Friday was the nation's longest-serving mayor in a city of more than 500,000.

Pratt will be acting mayor until voters elect one in April. He

is among 17 people vying for the



Pratt

role as acting mayor will come

first, according to a city hall news release.

In 1987, Pratt won a special election to become an alderman and has been re-elected for four terms. Before that, he had 15 years of city government service, working as a property appraiser in the city assessor's office, a library assistant with the Milwaukee Public Library System and an intern in the office of then-Mayor Henry W. Maier.

Norquist wouldn't say which candidate he preferred in the April election.

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