

News at a Glance

Rapper indicted gun charge

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) - Jadakiss, the rapper who wrote controversial lyrics about President Bush and the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on New York City, has been indicted on gun and drug charges.

Using his real name of Jason Phillips, Jadakiss entered a not guilty plea last Thursday to charges of possessing a loaded handgun and marijuana.

He was arrested Oct. 7 with three other men in his native Yonkers. Police said they stopped the car he was in after smelling marijuana and then found the gun.



Jadakiss

"I have yet to see or hear of any evidence connecting my client to possessing this weapon," said the rapper's lawyer, Clement Patti. He said Jadakiss was in the back seat and didn't know there was a gun in the front console.

If convicted on the gun charge in Westchester County Court, the maximum sentence he would face is 16 months to seven years in prison. The law was toughened in November to provide a minimum sentence of 3 1/2 years.

Two of the other arrested men face similar charges. No indictment of the fourth was announced.

NBJC applauds NBA's Amaechi for coming out as gay

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The National Black Justice Coalition, www.nbjc.org, America's only Black LGBT civil rights organization, last week congratulated John Amaechi, a former NBA player, on his decision to come out as gay.

Amaechi, whose autobiography is scheduled to be released next week, has revealed in the book that he is gay, making him the first male basketball player to come out in the U.S. During his career, Amaechi played for the Orlando Magic, Houston Rockets and the New York Knicks.

The National Black Justice Coalition has included Amaechi in its month long Black History series honoring highly accomplished Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and same-gender-loving individuals past and present. The National Black Justice Coalition is a multi-layered organization with extensive and multiple initiatives which focus upon Media relations, Religion Affairs, and Youth mentoring as it directly relates to Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities.

On Saturday, March 10, the organization will host its 2nd Annual Black Church Summit which will bring together Black iconic intellectuals such as the Rev. Dr. Michael Eric Dyson plus several other religious leaders both anti-gay and gay affirming. They will discuss and facilitate discussions ranging from HIV and the Black Church to debating the legitimacy of scripture referring to homosexuality.

Accidental drug mix said to kill Levert

CLEVELAND - R&B singer Gerald Levert's death last fall was an accident caused by a fatal combination of prescription narcotics and over-the-counter drugs, a coroner said.

The drugs in his bloodstream included the narcotic pain relievers Vicodin, Percocet and Darvocet, along with anxiety medication Xanax and two over-the-counter antihistamines, Geauga County Coroner Kevin Chartrand said. The official cause of death was acute intoxication, and the death was ruled accidental.

Chartrand said his office received a report last Thursday from the Cuyahoga County coroner's office, which conducted the autopsy.

Levert, 40, son of O'Jays singer Eddie Levert, died Nov. 10 in his suburban Cleveland home. He was a member of the R&B trio LeVert, whose hits included "(Pop, Pop, Pop, Pop) Goes My Mind" and "Casanova." He sold millions of albums and had numerous hits over his career.

Andy Gibson, a family spokesman, said Levert was taking the pain medication because of chronic pain from a lingering shoulder problem and surgery in 2005 to repair a severed Achilles tendon. The autopsy revealed that Levert had pneumonia. Levert also took Xanax for anxiety attacks, Gibson said.

Black leaders concerned over Denver police promotion

DENVER (AP) - Several black community leaders want to meet with Mayor John Hickenlooper and Manager of Safety Al LaCabe after the city's police department chose a Latino over a black commander for a key promotion.

On last Thursday, Police Chief Gerry Whitman announced that District 1 Cmdr. David Quinones was promoted to division chief of special operations. Division chiefs are two levels below Whitman and above commanders.

The department does not have any black officers above commander. Including Quinones, it will have two Latino men and one Anglo woman above commander.

"(Quinones) is solid, very responsive to the community," said LaCabe, who is black. "He believes strongly in community service and he believes strongly in accountability."

LaCabe and Whitman were responsible for the selection. City Councilwoman Elbra Wedgeworth said she was disappointed that Quinones was chosen over District 3 Cmdr. Tracie Keese.

"It has nothing to do with (Quinones)," Wedgeworth said. "I was very disappointed because I know (Keese) was the best candidate."

Sgt. Joe Unser, former president of Denver's Black Police Officers Association, said Keese was the most impressive among the candidates.

"She's created programs that increased community satisfaction with the police department," he said.

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Black History 'Left Behind' in educational initiative, say educators

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY, NNPA CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON - One-hundred and forty-one years since the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery, Black history scholars and education experts say elementary and high school students across America have few or no textbooks that fully incorporate Black history.

"Clearly there's not enough being done on a curriculum to incorporate African-American topics into the day to day learning of students in schools," says Daryl Scott, chairman of the Department of History at Howard University and vice president of the Association for the Study of African-American History (ASALH) at Howard. "But, when we look out and say African-American students are not getting enough Black history, we could also say African-American students are not getting enough history of any sort."

Scott says the "No Child Left Behind" Act, the centerpiece of Bush's education initiatives, in fact, leaves history behind.



Scott

"No Child Left Behind," signed into law by President Bush on Jan. 8, 2002, calls for

"strong standards in each state for what every child should know and learn in reading and math in grades 3-8," a White House citation describes. "Schools will be held accountable for improving performance of all student groups, so every school will be performing at proficient levels within 12 years."

Scott says the act could have a detrimental effect on the emphasis of history in America's schools.

"The only history that many kids are going to get - White or Black - is coming out of their community. And so, this is the larger problem," Scott says. "I'm more concerned about history in general being restored to the classroom...I'm as concerned about that as I am about the Black History component. It's a larger problem because ultimately, you're not going to understand African-American history if you do not understand American History just like we also say you can't understand American history if you're not understanding African-American history."

This is the reason that the ASALH has started a special project with Holt, Rinehart and Winston—a leading publisher of textbooks and educational materials for grades six

See History on A15

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Klan buster Stetson Kennedy still active at 90

BY RON WORD, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. - Stetson Kennedy still gets threatening phone calls, six decades after he gained fame for infiltrating and exposing the Ku Klux Klan and other domestic terrorist groups.



Kennedy

In some, the caller says, "This is Klan." To which Kennedy replies, "This is Klan buster."

Another caller says, "We think about you every time we drive by your house."

Kennedy, who turned 90 in October, is not letting age nor the Klan slow him down. He's working on his autobiography, "Dissident-at-Large," and another book on Key West. Kennedy, who is miffed at recent allegations that some of his writings about the Klan were fabricated or exaggerated, is also giving a speech this month at the Pentagon. To top it off, he just got married for the seventh time.

"He gets more serious work done in a day than most people half his age," said author and

See Kennedy on A14

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