

Not a piece

Sinbad's death falsely reported

MIAMI (AP) — Actor-comedian Sinbad had the last laugh after his Wikipedia entry announced he was dead, the performer said last Thursday. Rumors began circulating Saturday regarding the posting, said Sinbad, who first got a telephone call from his daughter. The gossip quieted, but a few days later the 50-year-old entertainer said the phone calls, text messages and e-mails started pouring in by the hundreds.



Sinbad

"Saturday, I rose from the dead and then died again," the Los Angeles-based entertainer told The Associated Press in a phone interview. The St. Petersburg-based company, which describes itself as "the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit," leaves it to a vast user community to catch factual errors and other problems. Apparently, someone edited it to say Sinbad died of a heart attack. By the time the error was caught, e-mail links of the erroneous page had been forwarded to hundreds of people.

A note on Sinbad's Wikipedia page last Thursday night said the site has been temporarily protected from editing to deal with vandalism.

Wikipedia was created in 2001 as a Web research tool. It has more than 1.6 million articles, contributed by members of the public.

When asked if he was upset about the mix-up, Sinbad, whose real name is David Adkins, just laughed.

"It's gonna be more commonplace as the Internet opens up more and more. It's not that strange," the Los Angeles-based entertainer told the Associated Press in a phone interview.

Tuskegee Airmen to get Congressional Gold Medal

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, President Pro Tempore of the Senate Robert Byrd, Chairman Carl Levin of the Senate Armed Services Committee and Chairman Charles Rangel of the House Ways and Means Committee, announced last week that the Congressional Gold Medal will be conferred upon the Tuskegee Airmen in recognition of their heroism during World War II. The ceremony will take place on Thursday, March 29.

Legislation awarding the Gold Medal, Congress' most distinguished civilian award, was sponsored by Chairmen Rangel and Levin.

"The Tuskegee Airmen performed heroically during World War II, serving with honor and distinction," said Pelosi and Reid said in a statement. "Their unwavering commitment to protect and serve their country even in the face of segregation and discrimination is an inspiration befitting the highest congressional honor."

During World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen were the first African Americans to fly in the United States military, and their efforts contributed to President Truman's decision to desegregate the military in 1948. The Gold Medal will be presented to the Tuskegee Airmen collectively during a ceremony in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol.

Clyburn to make historic speech at S.C. Legislature next month

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn will address the South Carolina General Assembly next month, becoming the first black congressman to do so in more than 100 years.

The Legislature formally asked Clyburn to speak in a March 6 letter and the first black congressman from South Carolina since Reconstruction confirmed Friday the address would be April 10.

The speech will rekindle memories for Clyburn, who ran unsuccessfully for a state House seat in 1970. It was a close election, Clyburn said. He went to bed ahead 500 votes and woke up a loser by 500 votes.

"I'll probably say to them that I hoped to start off my career as a member of that body," Clyburn said. "And, so, I will finally get there in 2007. I will probably reminisce about how long it took me to get here."

He assumed the No. 3 job in the House earlier this year when Democrats took control of the chamber. Clyburn is the first black congressman from South Carolina since 1897.

FAMU still struggling with finances

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — More than a year after a state auditor found multiple problems with Florida A&M University's 2004-2005 finances, the school still has problems.

A recent, preliminary audit of the budget year ending in June 2006 found problems with the school's payroll and other areas, and this week administrators got a stern warning from lawmakers saying they would cut the school's budget if that's what it takes to fix the issues.

Looming large among the audit's 35 findings were payroll and salary documentation problems. The school failed to pay employees on time, give raises, properly perform annual evaluations, and document employees' leave time and sabbaticals, according to a report in the St. Petersburg Times.

The auditor also concluded that accounting records did not accurately reflect the budget approved by the school's trustees, and the trustees and president didn't approve budget amendments.

Employee cell phone use and the accounting for university property were also issues. Records to support \$1.8 million in athletic department collections were not retained.

The criticism comes as the school's interim president, Castell Bryant, is about to turn over Florida's only historically black public university to James H. Ammons, the former FAMU provost. The change happens this summer.

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"Dukes of Hazzard" stars blacklisted?

Some feel classic show was racist

BY LISA CORNWELL THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — Former Georgia Congressman Ben Jones, a former cast member of the TV series "The Dukes of Hazzard," is raising a ruckus over an orchestra's decision to cancel plans for a musical program featuring the stars of the series, John Schneider and Tom Wopat.

Jones, who played the wisecracking mechanic "Cooter" in the popular show, is waging a fight against what he calls a "blacklisting" of these guys out of some kind of political correctness that is just plain wrongheaded.

Jones said in a telephone interview Friday that Schneider told him the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra canceled a July 14, 2007, appearance that was to feature Schneider and Wopat because some in the Cincinnati community found the TV show that aired from 1979 to 1985 racist and offensive.

"This is a benign family show loved by people of all ages and races," said Jones. "I have fought racism and bigotry my whole life and worked in the civil rights movement, and there is nothing racist about it."

Jones said that apparently the orchestra decided some people could be offended because the Confederate flag was on the "General Lee" car



Photo courtesy of PRNewsFoto Catherine "Daisy" Bach, Tom "Luke" Wopat and John "Bo" Schneider pose with The General Lee, which features a Confederate flag.

See Dukes on A11

More black women going under the knife

BY SHAENA HENRY HOWARD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — Rachel (not her real name) has always committed herself to living a healthy lifestyle. She is a vegetarian, watches her diet closely, and can be found in the gym daily. However, after endometriosis Rachel noticed excess weight in her mid-section.



Hare

"I started developing this stomach ache that I did not have before," says Rachel, who asked to conceal her identity because of stigmas associated with cosmetic surgery. "I could see if I did not exercise and was overweight. It looked [as] though I was pregnant."

After years of camouflaging her stomach, Rachel decided to research surgical options to free her from the discomfort of accentuating her abdominal area. Her hair stylist referred her to Dr. Sheila Bond, a northern-New Jersey-based board certified plastic surgeon. Last year, Rachel put up more than \$6,000 for abdominoplasty and liposuction.

At Bond Plastic Surgery, Dr. Bond schedules one-on-one interviews prior to the surgery and a personalized treatment plan after the procedure to achieve the best results. Dr. Bond said that Rachel joins the growing number of African American women who no longer fear the stigma or shame associ-

See Surgery on A10

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