

Not a face

Obama targets voter intimidation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Barack Obama, a former lecturer on constitutional law turned presidential candidate, argued last Thursday for passage of a federal law that would target voter intimidation.

The Illinois Democrat, the legislation's chief sponsor, said his proposal was designed to send a message to would-be intimidators.

"Some of this is prophylactic," Obama testified at a Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing. "If people know the law takes this seriously, they won't do it."

Under the measure, an offender could face up to five years in prison for knowingly deceiving people about the time, place or manner of conducting a federal election, or the qualifications for or restrictions on voter eligibility.

Its goal is to eliminate practices such as distributing misleading leaflets like one once handed out in Franklin County, Ohio, that told Republican voters they should vote Tuesday while Democrats should vote Wednesday "because (of) the confusion caused by unexpected heavy voter registration."

Obama's bill has a House version sponsored by Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and is supported by a variety of groups, from Common Cause to the NAACP.



Obama

Kentucky court upholds racial discrimination ruling against lottery

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The Kentucky Lottery Corp. lost another round in a racial discrimination case last week when the state Court of Appeals upheld a jury award for two former lottery employees who claimed they were targets of racial insults.

In a 2-1 ruling, the appellate court panel sided with Ursella Riles and James Maddox III, both of whom are black, and rejected the lottery's claim of trial errors. A Jefferson County Circuit Court jury in 2004 awarded \$1.5 million to Maddox and about \$1.1 million to Riles.

Riles, a marketing promotions coordinator at the lottery, claimed she was routinely snubbed by the marketing director. Riles, a veteran lottery employee, said her immediate supervisor gave her menial duties and was overly critical of her work.

When she complained to the lottery's affirmative action coordinator, she was given a lateral transfer to the sales department. She claimed the lottery's human resources director dismissed her complaint and told her to get back to work. After her transfer, she claimed she was taunted and insulted by the marketing director and her former immediate supervisor.

Riles eventually resigned and found another job at lower pay. Writing for the court, Judge James Lambert said that a "reasonable juror could easily have found that the lottery was guilty of creating a racially hostile working environment, of retaliatory conduct and of discriminatory discharge."

British "Big Brother" contestant booted after allegedly using racist slur

LONDON (AP) — A contestant on the British reality TV show "Big Brother" was kicked off the show after allegedly using a racist slur.

Emily Parr, a 19-year-old student, was removed from the show after using a derogatory term about a black contestant last week, broadcaster Channel 4 said. The remark was not broadcast live.

Channel 4 was forced to apologize three weeks ago after regulators ruled the "Celebrity Big Brother" program broke broadcasting rules by airing footage of racist insults being hurled at Bollywood star Shilpa Shetty.

The January incident sparked a firestorm of international protest, while Britain's broadcast regulator received a record 44,500 complaints.

Channel 4 said Parr regretted the outburst and that she had spoken carelessly rather than maliciously. But it explained that in light of the reaction drawn by the previous show, it had no choice but to expel her.

"In the wake of 'Celebrity Big Brother' we must consider the potential offense to viewers regardless of Emily's intentions and her housemates' response," Channel 4 said in a statement.

The program — created by Endemol NV in the Netherlands in 1999 and produced in dozens of other countries — features a group of contestants who are confined in a house for several weeks under constant camera surveillance. Viewers evict the contestants one by one until someone is chosen as the winner of a cash prize.

Fox News apologizes for tape goof on indictment story

NEW YORK (AP) — Fox News Channel issued a second on-air apology last week for mistakenly running a tape of a different congressman while reporting on the indictment of Rep. William J. Jefferson on bribery charges.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers of Michigan, whose picture aired while Fox anchors talked about Jefferson's indictment, had been unhappy with Fox's apology. Both congressmen are black.

Conyers was reportedly upset that Fox's first apology was nonspecific and didn't mention he was the victim.

Fox News anchor Martha MacCallum explained to viewers that a production assistant picked up a tape that had been identified as a meeting about Jefferson. The picture showed Conyers.

"We regret this mistake," MacCallum said. "We in no way meant to suggest that there was any connection between the Jefferson indictment and Congressman Conyers. We have extended our apology privately to the congressman and we do so here as well."

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The Power of the Black Father

African-American men share their reflections

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY
NNPA CORRESPONDENT

LAS VEGAS — Some Black fathers come home wearing a suit and tie every day. Some may arrive wearing coveralls, speckled with paint. Others come wearing a blue-collar uniform after riding the garbage truck. Still others come home after a long day of just looking for work.

No matter the circumstances, if they arrive in the spirit of love, they bring a power to the home that cannot be substituted.

That is the sentiment of men interviewed by the NNPA News Service during the 100 Black Men of America's 21st Annual Conference in Las Vegas, last week.

With the theme, "Taking Control of Our Future" as a backdrop, they all concluded one thing: The experiences of a Black man in America can be transformed into a mobilizing force that every child can look up to and admire.

"You look at the way that this country was built on the backs of Black men," says record producer Kashif, a former orphan who is now raising two foster children as a single father. "You look at the fact that millions of us survived



Photo by Malcolm Ali

Albert Dotson Jr., chairman of the 100 Black Men of America, Inc., says his son, Albert, 9, is beginning to emulate him.

the journey from Africa to here. And we survived the journey of America. So, we have the power to instill in our young people how to build a nation of resources," he says.

"The knowledge, the energy, the development, when we're there, the whole world is an unlimited uni-

verse," says the now millionaire, who, as Michael Jones grew up in at least eight foster homes in Brooklyn, N.Y. "But, when we're absent, obviously that takes away from the power of the Black family. Black men bring power into a family, even if it's not our family, just creating a family like

I did by adopting two boys."

According to the National Urban League's State of Black America 2007 report, the future of the Black man is critical to the "American family." Statistics on the Black man run the gambit from being

See Fathers on A9

President Walter Broadnax: I am staying

BY ERRIN HAINES
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — Even though dozens of faculty members and hundreds of students at Clark Atlanta University want him gone, school president Walter Broadnax expects to lead the historically black college for years to come.

Speaking in his office last Thursday, Broadnax spoke candidly to The Associated Press in an exclusive interview about the tough decisions his administration has made since he took over the school in 2002, and optimistically about his hopes for the future of Clark Atlanta despite the demands for him to step aside.

He admits many on campus still don't know him, since not a lot of people would be eager to sit and talk to the man who fired their colleagues and cut beloved programs to reduce a \$25 million deficit.

"I regret that we had to go through what has been a very trying period at the university," Broadnax said. "Not a lot of people have been beating down the door to see me. For them, I have been the face on the difficulty."

Broadnax's five-year contract expires July 31, and the school's board has not voted yet on whether to renew it or not. Board members are being pressured by faculty and students to remove Broadnax, but they have remained supportive.

In April, more than 100 faculty members cast a vote of

"no confidence" against Broadnax and called for him to leave, citing a "crisis of ineffective and dysfunctional leadership." Some faculty members said his administration was intimidating and not inclusive of faculty and that Broadnax has done little fundraising of his own for the school.

Clark Atlanta, founded in



Walter Broadnax

1988 by the merger of Atlanta University and Clark College, is the largest of the United Negro College Fund institutions, with an enrollment of 5,000 students. It is the only private historically black college classified as a doctoral or research-intensive institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Walter

See Broadnax on A5

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