

# News at a glance

## Civil rights group, media agency partner for digital TV campaign

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund (LCCREF) and New America Media (NAM) have launched a radio PSA campaign aimed at informing consumers how to prevent their older, analog televisions from going dark when television stations begin all-digital broadcasting on Feb. 17.

Studies indicate that 12.5 percent of African American households and 13 percent of Hispanic households are currently using analog televisions, and are not ready for the digital transition. In addition, households with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 are five times more likely to be unprepared for the digital conversion than households earning more than \$75,000.

"We are very concerned that a new digital divide will be created by all-digital TV broadcasting," said Wade Henderson, LCCREF's CEO and president. "To bridge that divide, we are engaged in a campaign to inform consumers about how to navigate the DTV Transition. It's crucial that low-income people and communities of color stay connected to news and information, and have access to emergency announcements."

Henderson said that LCCREF and NAM have produced three radio PSAs providing information that will help consumers with the DTV Transition.

## Life sentences praised by Liberians

(GIN/NNPA) — The son of former Liberian President Charles Taylor has been handed a life sentence for the extreme torture of Liberian citizens during his father's rule. The decision was praised by many Liberians living in the United States.

The sentence of 97 years was announced Jan. 9 in a Miami court for Charles Emmanuel McArthur Taylor, also known as "Chuckie." It follows his conviction last October under a 1994 law that makes it a crime for citizens to commit torture overseas. Emmanuel, born in Boston, was a U.S. citizen.

The judge was strong in her statements: "It is hard to conceive of any more serious offense against the dignity and the lives of human beings," said U.S. District Judge Cecilia Altonaga as she imposed the sentence. "The international community condemns torture."

Charles Taylor Jr. was found guilty on charges that he headed a paramilitary 'Anti-Terrorist Unit', which became notorious for carrying out heinous acts of violence against civilians, while his father ruled Africa's oldest republic from 1997 - 2003.

Chuckie Taylor is the only person so far to have been tried and convicted for crimes committed during the violent 14 year Liberian conflict, which the United Nations says killed over 300 thousand people and displaced over a million more.

The elder Taylor is still on trial in The Hague, Netherlands for war crimes by a U.N. Special Court.

## Jones kicks-off series in newspapers

CHICAGO — The Tribune Company, which includes newspapers like the Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune and The Baltimore Sun, has debuted a special series of articles and viewpoints written by some of the world's most recognized figures in music and the arts.

The series will be carried by all of the company's newspapers and their websites, and was launched over weekend in the Chicago Tribune and Hartford Courant with a piece authored by humanitarian, composer, producer, and music icon Quincy Jones. Other Tribune newspapers carried the piece on Monday, as the nation celebrated Martin Luther King Day, and it will be syndicated by Tribune Media Services around the country.

In the piece to be published Jones writes: "...as I sat with family and friends watching the election results, I resigned myself to tempering my emotions. Like all of Barack Obama's supporters, I was encouraged by the strength, poise and deftness with which he ran his campaign. I knew that he was the best person for the job. But as a black man in America, I knew from experience to not let what I wanted to happen stray too far from the reality of what I knew could happen."

## Utah lawmakers now off on King Day

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Salt Lake branch of the NAACP honored three current and former lawmakers on Monday for their role in changing the state constitution so the Legislature no longer convenes on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Ralph Becker, now Salt Lake City mayor; Sen. John Valentine, R-Orem; and former House Speaker Greg Curtis received the Martin Luther King Jr. Award at the 25th annual luncheon of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Salt Lake branch.

In November, voters approved a change to the state constitution that moved the opening day of the legislative session to the fourth Monday in January instead of the third Monday to avoid a conflict with the holiday.

This year, that means lawmakers will convene their 45-day session on Jan. 26. The constitutional amendment passed with more than 70 percent of the vote in November.

In Utah County, more than 2,000 students from Brigham Young University and Utah Valley University were expected to participate in service projects to honor King, followed by a candlelight procession, the Daily Herald of Provo reported.

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# Report: Racial discrimination rampant in advertising industry

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Madison Avenue has a problem with black folks. That is the conclusion of a recently-released study that probed the nation's advertising industry and its treatment of African-Americans. The study found bias against black professionals in the advertising industry in areas such as pay, hiring, promotions and assignments.

The study was initiated by a coalition of legal, civil rights, and industry leaders who created the Madison Avenue Project in 2008 to address advertising's deep-rooted racial bias. Cyrus Mehri, Project leader, and a prominent civil rights lawyer, called the findings "absolutely astonishing in this day and age," while Angela Ciccolo, interim General Counsel of the NAACP, another Project partner, commented that "the time has come to stand-up to change this industry."

According to the Project's report, racial discrimination is 38 percent worse in the \$31 billion a year advertising industry than in the overall U.S. labor market, and that the "discrimination divide" between advertising and other U.S. industries is more than twice as bad now as it was 30 years ago.

- Among the findings are that:
- Black college graduates working in advertising earn \$.80 for every dollar earned by their equally-qualified White counterparts;
  - Based on national demographic data, 9.6 percent of advertising managers and professionals should be African-Americans. The actual percentage in 2008 is 5.3 percent, representing a difference of 7,200 executive-level jobs;
  - About 16 percent of large advertising firms employ no black managers or professionals, a rate 60 percent higher than in the overall labor market.



See Advertising on A7

## King Center honors Clinton

BY SHANNON MCCAFFREY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — Mere days before Barack Obama made history as the nation's first black president, the woman who battled him for the Democratic nomination was honored by a leading civil rights organization.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. senator

from New York and secretary of state designee, received the "Salute to Greatness" award at a fundraiser Saturday night for the King Center in Atlanta. The event came just before the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Monday, marking what would have been the slain civil rights leader's 80th birthday.

Clinton echoed King's theme of service and called on Americans to rally behind Obama, the man who defeated her for the Democratic nomination for the White House.

"This is an all hands on deck moment for America," Clinton said.

She praised Obama as "a young man of such enormous promise" and said his election brought King's dream within reach.

"The election of Barack Obama is a big step closer to the realization of that dream, but that doesn't let us off the hook, does it?" Clinton said.

She said the nation still faces challenges in providing health care and economic opportunity to all.

And she recalled being transfixed when, at age 13, she heard King speak on a chilly January evening in Chicago.

Clinton was introduced Saturday night by former Atlanta mayor and United Nations ambassador Andrew Young.

Young said she has worked throughout her career to fulfill King's ideals.

"She has symbolized and epitomized throughout her life the things that he spoke about and dreamed about and prophesied about," Young said.

See Clinton on A4



MCT Photo

Hillary Rodham Clinton is slated to be confirmed as the nation's next secretary of state.

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**Wed., Jan. 28, 10:00 a.m.**

Winston-Salem Hampton Inn  
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Winston-Salem  
(Near Hanes Mall)

**Fri., Jan. 30, 10:00 a.m.**

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(Off 601N)

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