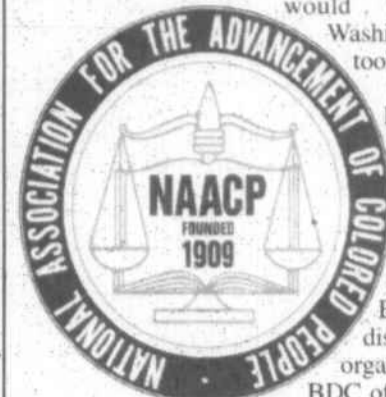


News at a Glance

City makes push to keep NAACP in Baltimore

BALTIMORE (AP) - The Baltimore Development Corp. is making a push to keep the NAACP's national headquarters in the city.

The civil rights organization announced in 2006 that it would move its offices to Washington, but the move never took place.



Now, the NAACP is looking at sites in Washington, Silver Spring and Baltimore.

The city's economic development agency has compiled a list of more than 15 locations in Baltimore's central business district that could meet the organization's space needs. A BDC official says the NAACP has visited four of those potential locations.

The BDC is also offering a \$500,000 grant to help cover relocation costs if the NAACP stays in Baltimore.

Leaders say they are convinced of Davis' innocence

JACKSON, Ga. (AP) - After meeting for nearly two hours with Troy-Davis last week, two Georgia congressmen and the president of the NAACP said they were convinced of his innocence and committed to saving his life.



Davis

U.S. Reps. John Lewis and Hank Johnson said they plan to return to Washington to pursue other legal means to resolving Davis' case, which is currently back in the U.S. Supreme Court on appeal. NAACP President Ben Jealous said the case is now a national priority for the organization.

Davis was convicted in the 1989 slaying of Savannah, Ga., police officer Mark MacPhail but his guilt is now in question after several witnesses from his trial have changed their testimony. Supporters are calling for a new trial for Davis.

Smaller crowds, fewer vendors attend SC bike rally

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (AP) - Officials say a smaller crowd showed up for a South Carolina bike rally and fewer vendors lined the streets of Atlantic Beach to sell merchandise.

Town Manager Kenneth McIver told The Sun News of Myrtle Beach that at least 175,000 people attended the Atlantic Beach Bikefest, which took place late last week. In past years, crowds of up to 400,000 people attended.

About 40 vendors participated this year. That's about half the vendors that showed up last year.

Officials with the NAACP this week plan to investigate complaints about possible abusive treatment.

Myrtle Beach officials passed 15 laws last year designed to get rid of the Harley-Davidson spring rally that attracts mostly white riders, and the Atlantic Beach Bikefest, which attracts mostly black bikers.

Multiracial people become fastest growing group

WASHINGTON (AP) - Multiracial Americans have become the fastest growing demographic group, wielding an impact on minority growth that challenges traditional notions of race.

The number of multiracial Americans rose 3.4 percent last year to about 5.2 million, according to the latest census estimates. First given the option in 2000, Americans who check more than one box for race on census surveys have jumped by 33 percent and now make up 5 percent of the minority population - with millions more believed to be uncounted.

Demographers attributed the recent population growth to more social acceptance and slowing immigration. They cited in particular the high public profiles of golfer Tiger Woods and President Barack Obama, who are having an effect on those who might self-identify as multiracial.



Golf sensation Tiger Woods.

Population figures as of July 2008 show that the states of California, Texas, New York and Florida had the most multiracial people, due partly to higher numbers of second- and later-generation immigrants who are more likely to "marry out." Measured by percentages, Hawaii ranked first with nearly 1 in 5 residents who were multiracial, followed by Alaska and Oklahoma, both at roughly 4 percent.

Utah had the highest growth rate of multiracial people in 2008 compared to the previous year, a reflection of loosening social morals in a mostly white state.

White House releases stimulus report outlining advances for blacks

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY
NNPA EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

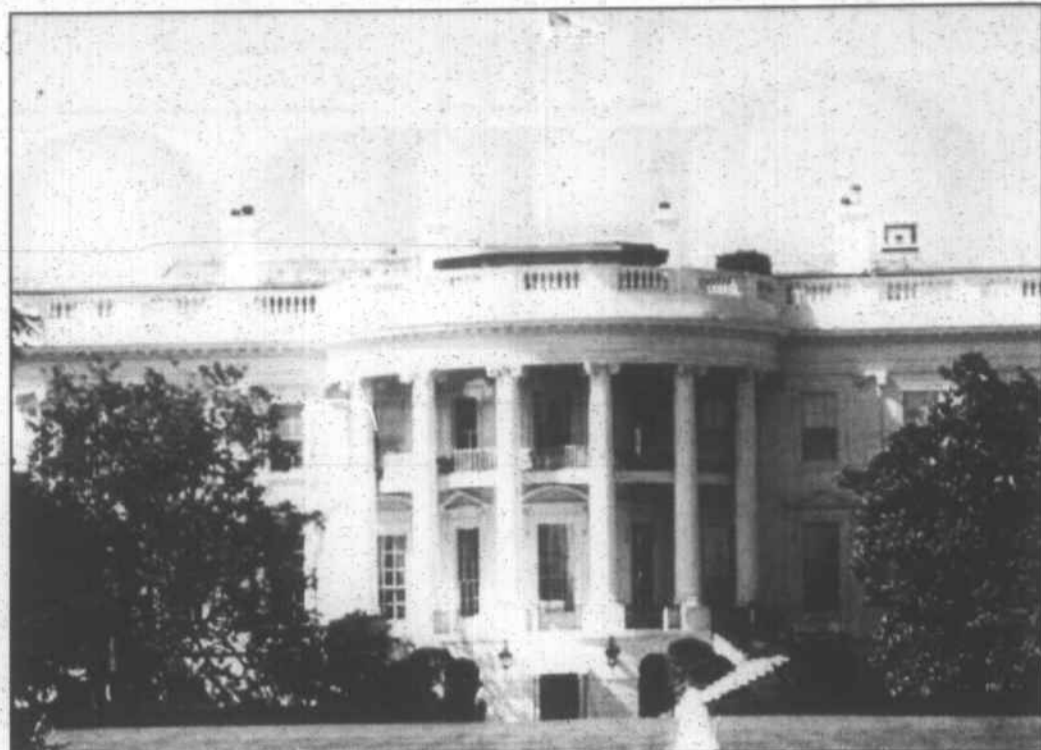
WASHINGTON - The administration of President Barack Obama has released a special report listing at least 100 Projects that it views as highlights of projects underway in Black communities around the nation, funded by the \$787 billion economic stimulus that he announced about 100 days ago on Feb. 17.

"Since President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 100 days ago, resources have made their way into African-American communities, with investments in schools, health care, clean energy and other infrastructure projects, saving or creating thousands of jobs," says a statement leading into the list of projects. "The Recovery Act is providing relief in hard hit areas and extending opportunity to those out of work and looking for a new path to prosperity."

The introduction continues, "Here is a sample of the projects from the 100 Projects, 100 Days' report that have impacted the African-American community."

The report states that since the Recovery Act was signed, "more than \$112,000 billion in Recovery Act funds has been obligated to stimulate programs and projects, and over 150,000 jobs have been created or saved by the Recovery Act."

The report was sent by e-mail from Corey Ealons, the President's director of African-American Media, in



the form of a news release. It was headlined, "President Obama Marks 100 Days of Recovery With 100 Projects, 100 Days' Report." The sub-headline said, "African American families, businesses, prepare for new opportunities from Recovery Act."

The release comes after last month's press conference during which Obama, the nation's first Black president, was asked about the rising rate of Black unemployment. His general answer "a rising tide lifts all boats," drew widespread criticism on Black radio and from columnists around the nation.

"I think the response to the president's strategy of the 'rising tides lifts all boats' was so negative on the part of many people, such as journalists, bloggers, and across the community and radio shows that I think the White House felt that it had to respond by putting together a specific list of projects for African-Americans who are benefiting," says University of Maryland Political Scientist Dr. Ron Walters. "There's been quite a bit of criticism that African-Americans were not feeling the weight of the stimulus money that's coming into the communities. Even though some of us have been trying to say they should

be forming task forces and things like that to begin to track those funds, they still feel that it has been a responsibility of the White House to direct these funds into those areas that need them most. And so they haven't heard that message. And I think this is an attempt to try to begin to get at that."

Among the national projects, programs and benefits listed in the White House 100 Days' report that the Administration says largely affected the Black community:

- Unemployed individuals, who were laid off, began collecting an extra \$25 a week in unemployment benefits paying 65 percent less for their COBRA health insurance.

See Stimulus on A10

Rugby club's "gangster" offends, raises eyebrows

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DECORAH, Iowa - Luther College in Decorah says it will change its diversity education programs after an incident involving the women's rugby club last month.

Members of the private school's women's rugby club wore baggy pants, bandannas and fake "grills" or coverings on their teeth as part of their annual spring social event. The theme of the May 14 event was "gangsters and preps" and some have complained that the attire was offensive and a stereotype of young black men.

Luther President Richard Torgerson sent an e-mail to students, faculty and staff discussing the incident and detailing changes the north-east Iowa college will take. The e-mail included an apology from the women's rugby club.

"It is clear that Luther needs to direct more attention to teaching students how to respect each other and how to acknowledge our differences in positive ways," Torgerson said.

In a recent meeting with college officials, team members admitted that, in hindsight, they could see how their actions could have offended someone. The team denied any malicious intent and members were deeply apologetic, the school's president said.

In its apology, the team said the experience should serve as an eye opener about theme parties and that imitating stereotypes.

"Clearly we did not take the time to realize that we chose a stereotype that some students struggle with on a daily basis. As a result, our ignorance hurt feelings and reflected poorly on the team," the team said.

Erik Clark, 25, is a Luther student who brought the incident to the attention of school administrators. Clark, who graduated last month, sent a letter to Luther officials and circulated it around campus.

He said he saw the team's actions. One student had a plastic gun in her belt and others were using disrespectful language, said Clark, who is black.



Torgerson

"This is a countrywide problem, this stereotype of what black men are," said Clark, of Madison, Wis. "But I wanted to eradicate it at my college."

Luther's Diversity Center Executive Director Sheila Radford Hill said college officials have received numerous e-mails supporting Clark's effort.

"We want to resolve it in a way that our community

realizes that, as an educational institution, we are moving toward helping students understand the consequences of their behavior," she said.

Members of the rugby team will lead campus discussions next fall and help determine restitution, which could include community service, fundraising or hosting forums.

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- We are not a walk-in clinic.
- We can't handle emergencies.
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The Chronicle (USPS 067-910) was established by Ernest H. Pitt and Ndubisi Egemonye in 1974 and is published every Thursday by Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co. Inc., 617 N. Liberty Street, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101. Periodicals postage paid at Winston-Salem, N.C. Annual subscription price is \$30.72.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636
Winston-Salem, NC 27102-1636