

Farrakhan thanks supporters

Continued from page 1A
 blessed me to be alive," said Farrakhan, who was not scheduled in advance to be part of the Saturday broadcast. "I have good days and bad days."
 Farrakhan, who the newspaper said is recuperating at his farm in Michigan, added that medical professionals were "working to get me well so I can get back on the battlefield."

In his letter dated Sept. 11, Farrakhan wrote that he was suffering pain similar to what he endured in 1998, when he suffered from the after effects of radioactive seeds being implanted in his prostate following a 1991 cancer diagnosis.
 Doctors discovered an ulcer in Farrakhan's anal area during a visit to Cuba in March, but said his health was otherwise "near perfect."

Farrakhan said in the letter. The letter also asked his executive board to take on his responsibilities to prove the organization "will live long after I and we have gone."
 Farrakhan, known for his fiery extemporaneous speeches that can last hours, has been controversial because of his long history of harshly criticizing Jews, gays and other groups.

Illinois funds slavery study

By Merna Ayi
THE CHICAGO DEFENDER

CHICAGO — State legislators are hopeful that a study to be released in the spring will provide a clear picture of the negative effects of the transatlantic slave trade on black Americans.
 At a news conference last week, community leaders and five black legislators announced the establishment of the Illinois Transatlantic Slave Trade Commission.

A 2005 joint resolution funded a \$400,000 grant to the Center for Inner City Studies of Northeastern Illinois University, where elected officials and members of the 25-member commission discussed their plans improve the lives of those historically disadvantaged due to the slave trade.
 The commission includes Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich, state legislators and researchers and scholars from all over the country.
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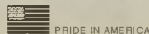
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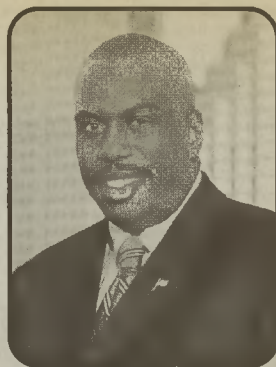
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