

## News Briefs

### FREE AIDS EDUCATION SEMINAR

The Clearinghouse & Network Center for AIDS Education along with the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance will sponsor an AIDS Education Seminar on June 16, at Community Baptist Church 4821 Barbee Rd., from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The seminar will target the reality of AIDS in the black community. The focus will be on the black church and its response to this devastating epidemic. The general public is invited to attend. A light breakfast will be served.

### NEW STUDY SAYS MAJORITY OF BLACKS IN OR NEAR POVERTY

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Although the black middle class continues to grow, a recently released study by a group of business and academic leaders concludes that a majority of the nation's African-Americans live in or very near poverty. The study by the Business-Higher Education Forum found that approximately 33% of blacks lived in poverty and that another 25% of blacks lived in poverty earning minimum wage and not qualifying for government assistance. Meanwhile, an estimated 36% of black families had yearly incomes of at least \$25,000 and could be considered middle class by traditional measurements. However, there are strong indications of a growing "class gap" among blacks. Other studies have found that while 10% of blacks are doing very well and may be actually catching up with their white counterparts in terms of income; another 10% of blacks appear to be getting worse off. The Forum calls for an end to racism and better educational and business opportunities as remedies to the problem.

### MANDELA HOPES "TO INSPIRE" U.S. BLACKS DURING TRIP

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA — Saying he was feeling on top of the world" South African black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela last week began a 45-day trip during which he will visit the United States and countries in Africa and Europe. The trip started shortly after Mandela successfully underwent surgery to remove a cyst on his bladder. Mandela is 71. The once jailed leader of the struggle to end white minority rule in South Africa said he "especially looked forward" to visiting seven U.S. cities to inspire black Americans who are at the front line of the struggle. His U.S. visit starts in New York on June 20. He will also visit Washington, D.C.; Boston, Detroit, Miami, Atlanta and Los Angeles.

### D.C. MAYOR HOPES TO PUT GOVERNMENT ON TRIAL

WASHINGTON, D.C. — As jury selection got underway last week in the cocaine possession trial of D.C. Mayor Marion Barry, it became clear that Barry's lawyers may attempt to use the trial to focus upon what they believe has been a nearly ten-year harassment of the popular black mayor. Barry's attorneys are expected to focus on the fact that the U.S. attorney's office and the FBI spent up to \$10 million over a ten-year period investigating, bugging and trying to entrap Barry. Barry is accused of using crack cocaine and lying about it to a grand jury. Current indications are that the jury which decides Barry's fate will be all black. Despite his troubles he remains popular among a sizeable segment of the city's 70% black population.

### MICHAEL JACKSON "OK" AFTER CHEST PAINS

LOS ANGELES, CALIF. — Superstar Michael Jackson was reported "feeling fine" late last week after complaining of chest pains during a dance exercise earlier in the week. Doctors at St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica said the entertainer's expain was caused by an inflamed rib cage which could take weeks to heal. Jackson is 31. He was working on a new album when he experienced the discomfort.

### POOR, BLACK FAMILIES HURT BY FOOD CUTBACKS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Through the states, the Federal Government provides food vouchers to poor families in a program known as W.I.C. — Women, Infants and Children. It is widely viewed as one of the nation's most effective anti-poverty programs. However, without much public notice nearly half the states in recent months have moved to reduce the food allotments — and in some instances cut them all together for thousands of poor women and children. The states cite rising food costs and reduced government aid as reasons.

One of the most devastating cost-cutting programs has taken place in Texas where cereal allowance for small children has been reduced one-third and an estimated 27,000 women and children will soon be dropped from the program. Critics assert the cuts will lead to the further destruction of black families and prompt an increase in crime.

### MILITARY CUTS TO HIT BLACKS HARD

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Expected cuts in U.S. military spending will significantly reduce opportunities for blacks, according to several analysts. The Army, for example, is expected to reduce the number of officers from the current 750,000 to 500,000. Blacks will be hit especially hard because they make up 28% of Army troops and occupy many of the lower ranks where most cuts will take place. Military benefits have allowed hundreds of thousands of blacks to attend college and purchase homes. Those benefits will be lost.

### BLACK MEN MAY BE PREDISPOSED TO HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

CHARLOTTE — A recently released medical school study suggest black males in American may be genetically more predisposed to high blood than any other segment of the populations. The study found that black men, during exercise, averaged 8 heartbeats a minute more than white men. Generally, the more heartbeats per minute means the heart is having to work harder to pump blood through the body. The same was not true for black women. Their heart beats during exercise were the same as that for white women. The researchers at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine urged further, more extensive studies to determine the reasons for the disparity and ways to combat it.

ROME, ITALY — A large influx of Africans into Italy in recent months is said to be generating a host of problems and anti-black sentiment. Authorities fear trouble this summer.

## Students From Historically Black Universities Take Part In Unusual Program At Duke

For the first of four consecutive years, a group of students from five historically black universities are foregoing traditional summertime pursuits to participate in an unusual program at Duke University.

The 30 students are studying at Duke as part of the Program on Preparing Minorities for Academic Careers. The program, funded by the Charles A. Dana Foundation, addresses the need for increased numbers of black teachers in institutions of higher learning.

"So far as we can tell, this program is unique in its scope and depth," said Robert E. Wright, Ph.D., director of the program at Duke. "We look for students from throughout the liberal arts who are interested in scholarly teaching careers, rather than industry or pure research. Their participation in the program, at their home campuses and at Duke, spans a period of two full years."

According to Wright, the Dana Foundation was established in 1950 to support programs in health and higher education. Wright said the foundation was particularly interested in innovative programs that address pressing needs.

Recently, reports began to indicate that the number of blacks in Ph.D. programs was declining, Wright said.

"The foundation wanted to confront this problem in such a way as to increase the number of black graduate students and, thereby, the number of black faculty in colleges and universities nationwide."

Each of the five historically black colleges (Hampton, Morehouse, Spelman, Tuskegee and Xavier of Louisiana) annually nominates students for review by the program's national selection committee, chaired by John Hope Franklin, Ph.D., James B. Duke

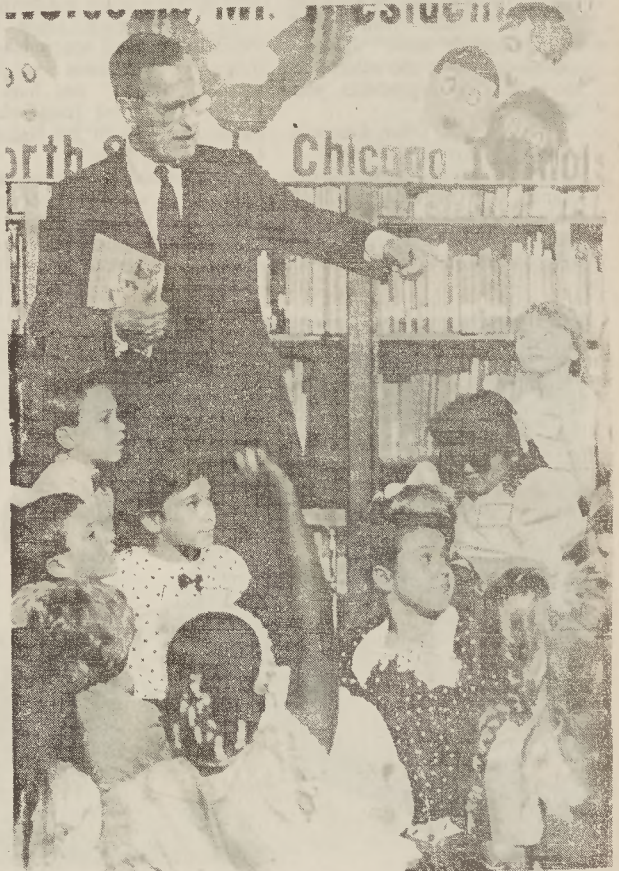
Professor Emeritus of History at Duke. Each student must possess an outstanding academic record, be recommended by two faculty members and submit a personal essay. Students selected for the program, up to eight annually from each school, spend their junior and senior years working with faculty mentors at their home campuses on research projects and in teaching assistantships.

Program participants travel to Durham following their junior year for a summer term of research with Duke faculty. The Dana Foundation provided Duke a grant of \$246,000 for the periods 1989-94, which the university will match with an additional \$200,000. The funds cover living and research expenses the students incur while at Duke, from May 17 to June 30.

Wright said that the students are pursuing a wide range of research projects.

"We have students working in biochemistry, literature, marketing, genetics, communications and mass media, the fine arts, and a number of other areas," he said. "One sociology major is researching teen pregnancy and related social issues. A voice major is studying the history of black composers. A psychology student is working on the problems of language and memory. A math major is looking at the problems of queuing in banks. An English major is studying the drama of West Africa, the West Indies and African America. The students' academic interests are very diverse."

Even after the 30 students have returned to their own campuses they will continue their work, Wright said. The students will return to Duke for a mid-fall conference to present their research findings.



CHICAGO — Youngster (foreground) tries to get the attention of President Bush as he points to another child during a reading session at the Farnsworth Elementary school. Bush read the children a story called "The Wednesday Surprise," about a woman who reads to her grandchildren. (UPI Photo)

## U. of Alabama-Birmingham Agrees To \$25,000 Settlement In Discrimination Suit

ALABAMA -- The U.S. Department of Labor announced a settlement agreement in which the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) will provide \$25,000 in compensation to 70 individuals allegedly denied employment in non-secretarial clerical positions because of their race. The consent decree is a result of a 1988 compliance review conducted by the Labor Department's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) charging the university with violating Executive Order 11246.

Under the Executive Order, federal contractors are prohibited from discriminating in employment on the basis of race, sex, color, religion or national origin, and they must take affirmative action, to hire and promote minorities and women.

Without admitting or denying this allegation, UAB and the Board of Trustees have agreed to institute a new personnel policy and information retrieval system to insure equal employment opportunities for minorities and will place the 70 individuals on a priority hiring list. As job openings occur, the individuals will be offered employment in the order in which they originally applied.

As part of the agreement, UAB also committed \$500,000 for use as incentives, scholarships, fellowships and awards related to its Comprehensive Minority Faculty Development Program. The program is designed to enhance the recruitment of minority faculty applicants.

Carol Gaudin, OFCCP's Atlanta regional director, said, "We are pleased that UAB has agreed to settle this case without having to go through further contested legal proceedings. These efforts by UAB represent a responsive and responsible commitment to equal employment and promotional opportunities."

The compliance review of UAB was conducted by OFCCP's district office at 2015 2nd Avenue, North, Birmingham, Ala., 35203; Telephone (205) 731-0820.

## Probation And Parole Rolls Swell, As Prison Population Records Are Set

The state's probation and parole rolls increased at the rate of 192 offenders a week in April, while the state's prisons reached another all time population record in May.

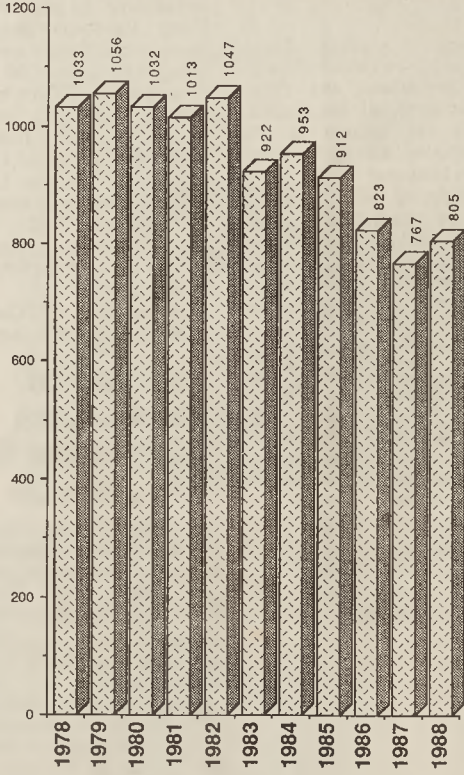
The Division of Adult Probation and Parole (DAPP) supervised 84,289 people during April 1990, the latest month for which figures are available. That's an increase of 769 people over the March 1990 total of 83,520. In April, there were 75,613 probationers and 7,757 parolees. The number of offenders under parole in April is 197 higher than the 7,560 parolees in March 1990, and marks a 20 percent increase over the 6,455 parolees being supervised in April 1989.

The average daily prison population for May was the highest ever--18,180--higher than the record set in April 1990 of 18,128. The month's largest single day population of 18,263 was reached twice, May 25 and May 30. The record single day population was 18,319 on April 4, 1990.

The continuing increase in the prison population did not result in a prison population emergency during May, because amendments to the Prison Cap legislation allowed the prison population's legal limits to rise.

In March, the Emergency Prison Population Stabilization Act was amended to allow a three-step phase-in of new legal limits on the prison population. From 18,000, the population cap was raised to 18,525 on March 28 and to 18,650 May 15. Under the amended Prison Cap, the final step will take place June 15, when the legal limit rises to 18,715. That means when the prison population goes over 18,341 for 15 straight days, a population emergency will be triggered and the Parole Commission will be required to reduce the population to no more than 18,153 within 90 days.

The raising of the Prison Cap was made possible by newly-completed dormitory construction and through the introduction of an emergency housing plan that is consistent with legal commitments the state has made.



African-American Doctorate Recipients in the U.S., 1978-1988

Source: National Research Council

## EX-KLAN MEMBER'S BILL PASSES LOUISIANA HOUSE

NEW ORLEANS, La. — A bill to ban affirmative action programs has passed the Louisiana House of Representatives. The anti-black measure was sponsored by former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke. However, Louisiana's 20-member Black Legislative Caucus last week predicted that the ban will not pass the state senate. Several blacks charged that Duke introduced the bill to aid his campaign for the U.S. Senate by stirring anti-black feeling among whites. Affirmative action programs are generally designed to benefit blacks and other victims of past discrimination. But Duke and many whites charge such programs discriminate against whites.

## NEWS NOTES

\* ATLANTA, Ga. — The possibility that former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young could become the first black governor of Georgia has increased in recent weeks. In fact, the latest public opinion poll shows him with a slight lead over all his opponents in the upcoming Democratic Party primary.