

The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBRIDED

USPS 091-380

VOLUME 72 - NUMBER 19

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA — SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1994

TELEPHONE (919) 682-2913

PRICE:30 CENTS

News Briefs

APARTHEID IS DEAD IN SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG — The world's last great formal racist institution was dumped onto the trash heap of history last week as the Nelson Mandela-led African National Congress (ANC) swept to victory in the first ever democratic elections in South Africa. While the formal system of white minority rule and the laws which maintained it had been crumbling for years, the ANC victory officially ended the system known as apartheid. Its candidates even won small majorities in areas of the country where the ANC was not supposed to be strong. The National Party (virtually all white) of out-going President F.W. de Klerk placed second with about one-third of the vote. The Inkatha Freedom Party of controversial Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi captured approximately 6% of the vote. Taking over this week, the first order of business was to elect Mandela the country's first black president, marking the true end of a system in which five million whites ruled forty million blacks.

MANDELA FACES TREMENDOUS PROBLEMS

JOHANNESBURG — The system of apartheid was good to the minority white population in South Africa. It gave them power and the highest standard of living on the African continent. But apartheid's legacy confronts President Nelson Mandela with a myriad of problems because the system was based on super oppression of blacks. The result: about half of all blacks do not have jobs; the vast majority of young people do not have high school educations; and, black family structure has been significantly damaged in urban areas. Further, apartheid's divide and rule tactics helped create divisions and animosities among various tribal groups. The Zulus, for example, could be a source of disruption, as well as right wing whites who want a "white only" homeland in South Africa. Many blacks expect the Mandela victory to immediately lead to a betterment in their standard of living, but given the enormity of problems Mandela faces, it will take time for solutions to be widely felt.

BLACK MAYORS DECIDE TO BACK CLINTON HEALTH PLAN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Clinton recently received an enthusiastic reception from the National Conference of Black Mayors meeting here last week. And he walked away with the organization's endorsement of his embattled national health care plan. Clinton told the gathering, "We are facing our problem and we're seizing our opportunities." Despite the reception, several mayors voiced opposition to the Clinton crime bill ("three strikes and you're out") fearing that it will result in more and more young blacks going to jail while fundamental social problems are left unaddressed. Over 100 black mayors were at the conference.

INFANT DEATH RATE DECLINING BUT RACIAL GAP WIDENING

ATHENS, GA. — According to government figures released last week, the infant mortality rate is declining for black and white babies, but the decline for whites is faster. The result: By the year 2000, black babies will be three times more likely to die before their first birthday than white babies. Infant mortality rates were 7.3 of every 1,000 white babies dying before their first birthday while 17.6 of every 1,000 black babies die before reaching one year of age. The primary cause appears to be mothers who do not get proper prenatal care and give birth to low birthweight babies. Such babies are less likely to survive.

'MAGIC' JOHNSON TO OPEN THEATER COMPLEX

LOS ANGELES — Former basketball superstar Earvin "Magic" Johnson and the Sony Corporation have announced plans to build a 12-screen multiplex theater in the Baldwin Hills-Crenshaw section of Los Angeles. Johnson and representatives from Sony promised the complex would be just the first they plan to build in minority areas. The complex is expected to cost between \$11 million and \$15 million.

REGGIE JACKSON'S FATHER DIES

PHILADELPHIA, PA. — The father of baseball great Reggie Jackson died last week in Philadelphia. Martinez Jackson was 89. During his youth he had been a second baseman for the Newark Eagles of the old Negro Baseball League.

CONSERVATIVES PUSH HARSH ANTI-WELFARE PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, D.C. — While blaming the nation's welfare system for everything from the increase in crime to out-of-wedlock births, a group of mostly Republican conservatives last week announced a plan that would dismantle the [current] system. Under the proposal, unwed mothers and non-citizens would be disqualified from receiving welfare. And if the mothers are unable to take care of their children without public assistance, they would have to put them up for adoption or in government run orphanages. The group is led by former Reagan administration drug czar William Bennett. One critic of the proposal said, "First the welfare system weakened the family by driving the man out of the home since mothers often would not get aid if a man was present. Now, these white conservatives want to totally destroy the family by driving the mother out of the home and putting the children in institutions."



☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

A NEW PROGRAM for children of Head Start at Operation Breakthrough has been initiated. It is a transition from Head Start into elementary school. The children visit various elementary schools in the area, and meet teachers and students. On April 27, we caught these children and Coordinator Joyce Peterson at Fayetteville Street School, where they were introduced to the principal and assistant principal and various teachers at the school. (Photo by Ray Trent)

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Black Leaders To Meet In Baltimore For 'Unity Summit'

By Sonya Ross
WASHINGTON (AP) — Black leaders will gather in Baltimore for a "unity" summit bringing together diverse black groups, but it was unclear if Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan would be included.

The NAACP, which is sponsoring the event, had said in February that Farrakhan would be involved.

But when asked if Farrakhan was still included in plans, NAACP executive director Ben Chavis said "we would rather not respond to that question." The Baltimore meet-

ing grew out of a "unity" pledge taken last fall by Chavis, Farrakhan, Jesse Jackson, Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif. and Congressional Black Caucus chairman Kweisi Mfume, a Democrat from Baltimore.

But some of the leaders, particularly Chavis and Mfume, have been under pressure to distance themselves from Farrakhan after one of his aides, Khalid Abdul Muhammad, made anti-Semitic statements in a speech before college students last November.

Chavis also drew heat from the

NAACP's board of directors for an April meeting in Detroit with about 40 nationalists, Pan-Africanists and others, to discuss "a pro-active, independent African agenda," apparently without the board's knowledge.

That meeting fanned a philosophical dispute between Chavis and the board over which issues the civil rights organization should emphasize as it reinvigorates itself.

Chavis said "there was no significant opposition within the NAACP" to holding the summit.

"The planning and sponsorship of

the summit has been an internal process within the NAACP over the last nine months," he said. "It's not a Ben Chavis summit. It's an NAACP summit." The civil rights group was considering five cities as possible sites, but settled on Baltimore because that is where the NAACP's headquarters is located, Chavis said.

Chavis would not reveal when the meeting will be held, or who was invited.

International Report: School Choice Can Worsen Segregation

By Carole Feldman

WASHINGTON (AP) — School choice, increasingly allowed in industrial countries, may result in more segregation of rich and poor, white and minority, and lead to the deterioration of all but the most desirable schools, an international study says.

"I think school choice is going to be seen more and more," said Donald Hirsch, author of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development study. "It's based on parents becoming more choosy, parents considering education more important. They no longer assume their local school is the most appropriate." If countries stick to the concept of "a single, local public school for all children," parents who can afford to are likely to find their own means of choice, whether it be sending their children to private school or moving to neighborhoods with high-quality schools, according to the study.

Choice has been around for decades in the United States, but the debate recently has centered on extending it to private schools.

California voters last fall overwhelmingly rejected a referendum to provide tuition vouchers to students who attend private schools.

Similar proposals also have been rejected in Colorado and Oregon. In one case being watched carefully, poor children in Milwaukee have been given state vouchers since 1990 to attend non-religious private schools.

Australia, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Sweden all provide some federal support for private schools, according to the report, scheduled for release Friday.

The study found no evidence that the competition created by choice improves school performance. But it said choice can enhance such things as leadership and sense of mission. "Choice that increases consumer satisfaction can be seen as desirable not only for its own sake, but also because parents and children who support a school help to make it more effective," the OECD said.

At the same time, the study found, "there is strong evidence in a number of countries that choice can increase social segregation." This results when higher-income parents are more active in choosing "desired" schools and those schools are in better neighborhoods.

The OECD recommended that countries pursuing choice provide greater diversity by creating schools with varied educational philosophies or specializations. It also recommended that popular schools be given money to expand and that disadvantaged groups be given more information and help with transportation.

The study examined choice programs in Australia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

In Australia, the government has provided subsidies to all private schools since 1973. "The existence of public subsidies has undoubtedly helped Australian private schools to survive and grow, and for Catholic schools in particular to improve their educational content through better resourcing the report said.

As far as the independent schools, the report said, the beneficiaries are those who can afford them. In 1991, 19.5 percent of Australian

schoolchildren were in Catholic schools and 8.4 percent were in independent schools.

In England, children may apply to any public school and must be accepted unless it is full, the report said. The country also has linked school funding more closely to the number of students enrolled. Yet, the report said, the system has failed to achieve its goal of creating more diversity in the school system.

The Netherlands finances public and private schools on an equal basis. Two-thirds of all primary and secondary students are enrolled in privately governed school, most of

them Catholic or Protestant.

Dutch schools segregate students by ability, and there is "de facto segregation in some cases by race and by class," the report said.

New Zealand has given its local schools autonomy, opening the way for competition for students, the report said. Since 1975, private schools in New Zealand have been able to become part of the state system, but many have opted not to do so because of state regulations.

In Sweden, private schools receive grants for at least 85 percent of the cost of educating students in the local municipal system.

FBI, Durham Police: City Gave Some Loans To Ineligible Parties

(AP) — FBI agents and Durham police are scrutinizing at least three cases in which the city gave housing renovation grants or loans to people who might have been ineligible.

In each case, the recipients either had close ties to city housing officials or are suspected of violating income eligibility rules.

The FBI and police began their probe of the city-county Planning Department's housing services division about a month ago. They are examining several programs financed with city housing bonds and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grants.

City Manager Orville Powell said it is clear that city officials were not properly checking to make sure

loan recipients were eligible for the money. He said he will meet with Planning Department officials next week to discuss the problem.

"It suggests we have a managerial problem I should have seen and corrected a long time ago," Powell said.

Meanwhile, a HUD representative is scheduled to visit Durham to compile an annual report on the city's housing rehabilitation programs.

Raymond Clapp of HUD's Greensboro office said the visit is unrelated to the criminal investigation. The agency's last review came in April 1993.

"A year is up," he said. "It's time to do this."