

Winston-Salem Chronicle

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"Power concedes nothing without a struggle." — Frederick Douglass

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Rev. Mendez Views in Line With PNBC

By STAFF AND AP REPORTS

The Rev. John Mendez of Winston-Salem supported the Progressive National Baptist Convention as it outlined positions on several issues at its conference last week.

Nearly 3,000 delegates at the 34th annual gathering of the Progressive National Baptist convention in Charlotte called for an economic boycott of California after university officials repealed affirmative action programs.

"That is absolutely correct," Mendez said. "We (blacks) pay taxes there. They don't deserve our support."

Mendez, the pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church, was among delegates from five Winston-Salem churches who attended the convention where President Clinton, the Rev. Benjamin Chavis, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, and Dr. Henry Foster spoke.

Foster, the unsuccessful nominee for the U.S. Surgeon General post, also attacked recent threats to affirmative action at the convention.

He said the potential damage from dismantling affirmative action could hamper blacks for years.

Foster alluded to the recent decision by the University of California system to end affirmative-action programs and of recent attacks on federal affirmative-action programs.

"Real freedom does not exist without economic freedom," said Foster, who was presented with a Distinguished Service Award by the PNBC. "If you don't have the green stuff, you're still segregated."

The convention passed a resolution urging the government to lift its economic embargo of Cuba. "We have done the right thing with Vietnam, let us do the Christ-like thing in Cuba," the group said in a statement.

Mendez has preached revivals in Cuba and said that the country is no threat to the United States.

"There is no rationale to continue to punish this little country," he said. "It is not right to continue a trade embargo, which is causing undue suffering on the people there."

The PNBC, a predominantly black denomination has about 2.7 million members, among them civil rights leaders Ralph Abernathy and Benjamin Hooks. The Rev. Martin Luther King was a member.

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FA-A-A-NTASTIC!

Chandler Lee: An American Dream

By VERONICA CLEMONS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Three years ago, Chandler Lee jumped on a business opportunity and purchased a financially distraught car dealership here. He's been steadily increasing profits since then.

"It was a big risk," said Lee, owner of Classic Cadillac on North Point Blvd. "There were no employees, no inventory. But I always wanted a Cadillac dealership."

In 1994, Classic Cadillac's profits were about \$18 million. Lee said now the company is doing about \$20 million.

Contributing to that success, Lee said Classic Cadillac offers high quality service that exceeds customers' expectations and excellent mechanical service.

Prior to purchasing Classic, Lee was president, CEO and chairman of Chandler Lee Motors, Inc., in Southern Pines. He sold that business after purchasing Classic.

When seeking another dealership, Lee was not particularly looking at Winston-Salem, but he said it was a good location.



"Winston-Salem is an excellent business market because of low unemployment and there's a lot of wealth relative to other cities in the state," he said.

Ernie Pitt, publisher of the *Winston-Salem Chronicle*, said he met Lee in Pinehurst at a golf tournament before the Cadillac dealership became available. When the opportunity did present itself, Pitt said Lee called him to get his opinion.

"Of course I told him it was a great opportunity not only because of his personal commitment but because the city was big enough and we have a strong African American community," he said. "I knew he was the kind of individual to make significant contributions to the community."

Lee, 42, said the key to his success as a businessman is keeping a positive attitude 100 percent of the time; never, ever thinking about failure. When people ask Lee how he is doing his

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250 Register for D.C. Rally

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

Nearly 250 African American men and women in Winston-Salem have registered to attend the Nation of Islam's Million Man March scheduled for Oct. 16 in Washington, D.C.

"We want to promote a more inclusive atmosphere surrounding the Million Man March under the Minister Louis Farrakhan," said Minister Scott X (Fletcher), the chairman of the Local Organizing Committee for the March. "The purpose of the March is to establish a black agenda - to force presidential candidates to come to us and address our agenda."

Scott X discussed the participation of local African Americans during the committee's meeting Tuesday night at the F. Roger Page Business and Technology Center in Winston-Salem.

About 20 people attended the planning session including Larry Leon Hamlin, the founder and artistic director of the National Black Theater Festival, and North Ward Alderman Nelson L. Malloy Jr. Local blacks registered to participate in the March for free, but they will be asked to donate between \$1 to \$10 to help defray transportation expenses.

Several Black Muslim men, women, and children gathered to hear Scott X outline the Nation of Islam's plans for the March. Registering 5,000 African Americans in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County to participate in the March is the committee's goal. The March is only two months away, and is expected to draw blacks, Latinos, and other minorities from every major American city.

"Minister Farrakhan has called the event a day of atonement for black men who have been rejected by black women and the black family," Scott X said. "Black men are the despised and hated people on this Earth. We are trying to clean up the mental condition of Black America."

The committee needs \$100,000 for 100 chartered buses to transport the demonstrators to Washington.

"It is going to be difficult to raise the amount of money in this city," Hamlin told the committee members. "If this organization is taking the lead, they you must reach out to local community organizations."

He suggested a modest fee for people who want to ride buses to the nation's capital.

"Everyone should pay \$20 to ride," Hamlin said. "You would want to use chartered buses because Greyhound may make too many stops."

His remark sparked laughter from everyone at the meeting.

Malloy encouraged the committee to move

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Ito Becomes Spotlight in O.J. Trial

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Judge Lance Ito ruled today that another judge will have to decide if the O.J. Simpson jury will hear explosive tapes of Detective Mark Fuhrman deriding Ito's wife and uttering racial epithets.

"I love my wife dearly, and I am wounded by criticism of her as any spouse would be. And I think it is reasonable to assume that that could have some impact," Ito said, choking back tears.

"As I mentioned, women in male-dominated professions learn to deal with this and those who

are successful, I think we all observe, are tougher than most, but having said that, the appearance of a reasonable concern that this court could impartially rule on these issues is there," he said.

The extraordinary ruling capped a wild day that started with the release of transcripts of sidebar conferences about Fuhrman's comments in taped interviews with a screenwriter. At one point, Ito said he may have to withdraw entirely from the case.

"Just when you thought we couldn't have anything crazier happen," Ito said.

Just before Ito's ruling, defense attorney Johnny Cochran Jr. said no one went uncriticized in the Fuhrman tapes.

"He has no respect for anyone. I'm just pointing out to you that if you send it to a woman, he doesn't like them, send to a Mexican, he doesn't like them ... he doesn't like anybody unless they're white, Anglo-Saxon police officers. ... I'm telling you you're going to have a problem no matter where you send this case," Cochran said.

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Johnnie Cochran



Laura Hart McKinny

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WHERE TO FIND IT

This Week in Black History

August 18, 1965
 Vice Admiral Samuel L. Gravely Jr. Assumed command of the U.S. Third Fleet.

Poor Funding Threatens NBTF's Survival in Winston-Salem

By VERONICA CLEMONS
Chronicle Staff Writer

The requests by some people to have Larry Leon Hamlin move the National Black Theatre Festival to another city may be given serious consideration if the founder and artistic director of the event does not get increased support from the city.

"Until you hear differently, the festival will be here," Hamlin said "The location will depend on the amount of funds that we will be able to attract from this area."

Hamlin asked the city to contribute

\$50,000 to this year's festival. The \$220 million city budget originally has allotted the request but alderman unanimously approved an amended budget that reduced the \$50,000 to \$35,000, the same amount contributed to the 1993 Festival.

City Manger Bill Stuart recommended that the Festival should only receive that amount from the Occupancy Tax Fund to maintain its level of prior support.

East Ward Alderman Joycelyn V. Johnson supported the board's decision because the Festival receives funding from other sources.

Hamlin said he would ask the city for \$150,000 for the 1996 festival which will be the event's fifth year.

Fred Nordenholz, president of the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce, said it was too early to know whether the Chamber can increase its commitment to the festival. The Chamber did double its contribution to the '95 event from \$15,000 to \$30,000.

However, Nordenholz said there would be a void in the city if the festival were to change locations.

"Everyone in the community would be disappointed if that happens," he said.

"It's a special and unique event that gives the community national recognition."

The festival brings national names and more than 20,000 people to the city for a week and has a profound effect on its economic impact.

At the present, however, the noise level at the North Carolina Black Repertory Company's office has lowered. The festival staff is gone and the phones are not ringing off the hook with people calling about festival schedules or tickets.

Hamlin says he is getting back to his

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