

NATIONAL BRIEFS

From NNPA's National Black News Survey

Watt Heads N.C. Delegation to Ghana

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Melvin Watt, D-N.C., and Charlotte Mayor Richard Vinroot led a delegation of families, educators, business persons and public administrators from North Carolina on an official visit to Ghana for the ceremonial signing of the Charlotte Kumasi Sister Cities Agreement.

During the visit, Watt was made an honorary Chief of Friendship by the subchiefs of the traditional King of Asante Tribe. The ceremony took place at the Great Hall of the University of Science and Technology in Kumasi.

More than 80,000 people from all over the world, including kings and other leaders from Africa and high-ranking foreign dignitaries, filled the stadium in Kumasi to witness this historic event.

Watt, who represents North Carolina's 12th District in Congress, also met with Jerry Rollins, the president of Ghana, to discuss recent political and economic developments in Ghana and other countries in Africa. Watt and President Rollins pledged their support for promoting increased commercial and cultural linkages between North Carolina and Ghana.

Reynolds Resigns From Congress

CHICAGO — Facing a growing move in the U.S. Congress to expel him, black Illinois Congressman Mel Reynolds announced recently that he would resign.

The Reynolds decision comes three weeks after his conviction on charges of having sex with a minor, soliciting child pornography and obstruction of justice. Meanwhile the 43-year-old Reynolds maintains his innocence and says he will ask for a new trial or file an appeal.

Members of Congress do not have to resign if they are convicted of a crime but Reynolds has come under pressure from other representatives to step down or be forced out.

Among those who called for his resignation was the Senate's only black member Carol Mosely-Braun, D-Ill.

The former Rhodes scholar faces a minimum of four years in prison. However, he could receive up to 80 years behind bars. The woman who first brought the allegation said recently that she did not want to see Reynolds go to jail.

Beverly Heard was 16-years-old at the time she was allegedly seduced by Reynolds.

Black Gay Males Hit Hard by AIDS

ATLANTA — Officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have reported that there has been a dramatic rise in the number of AIDS cases among black male homosexuals.

During the first half of 1994, there was a 79 percent increase in AIDS cases among black gay males as compared to the same period in 1989. The rate of increase among white homosexual men was only 14 percent.

There was also a dramatic rise among Hispanic gay males. That rate increased by 61 percent. Despite some spread into the heterosexual population, approximately 90 percent of all AIDS cases are found within the homosexual and intravenous drug using communities.

The CDC also found that AIDS is spreading dramatically outside the major urban communities in small towns and rural areas. There is still no cure or vaccine for the deadly HIV virus which causes AIDS.

Howard's Hotel Set to Close

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In yet another blow to black economic empowerment, Howard University has announced that it will close the Howard Inn, one of the last African American-owned quality hotels left in the country.

The set down is set for Oct. 30. The hotel opened in 1978 as the Harambee House Hotel, the brainchild of Washington entrepreneur Ed Murphy. Howard purchased the hotel in 1981, but has never been able to turn it into a profit-making enterprise.

It is unclear as to whether another black group will attempt to buy the 150-room facility.

Simone Gets Suspended Sentence

PARIS — Black American singer Nina Simone was given an eight-month suspended jail sentence and ordered to pay \$4,600 in courts court by a French court recently for shooting at two noisy teenagers playing near her home.

She was also ordered to undergo psychological counseling for the incident which took place in July. One of the youths received minor injuries.

Simone, 55, has been more popular in France than in America in recent years.

Fewer African-American Pilots

ATLANTA — An industry survey shows that fewer than one percent of the nation's commercial airline pilots are African Americans.

"We had more black pilots in 1942 than we do today," said Perry Jones, the head of the Organization of Black Airline Pilots.

Even in the military, which has provided a

Community Leaders to Speak at Local Rally

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

African American men of Winston-Salem will hold a local rally and news conference on Thursday.

The purpose of the event is to mobilize support for the Million Man March on Washington to be held on Oct. 16 in the nation's capital.

The event starts at 5 p.m. in the fraternity yard on the campus of Winston-Salem State University. The march will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will travel along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to the Winston Mutual Building.

African American women and youth will participate in the local activities.

Planning for the two marches and related events is being done by both men and women in an effort to maximize levels of participation, publicity, donations and notable endorsements.

Speakers at the news conference will include Larry Leon Hamlin, the producer and artistic director of the National Black Theatre Festival, North Ward Alderman Nelson Mallow Jr., and Mickey X (Miller) a local minister of the Nation of Islam.

Other guests include Ernest H. Pitt, publisher of the *Winston-Salem Chronicle*, the Rev. Carlton Eversley, pastor of Dellabrook Presbyterian Church, the Rev. John Mendez, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, and Rasheed Bey, president and founder of Awakening Giants.

"The organizers have great expectations that this opportunity for African American men to collectively step forward will fashion in the minds of all concerned a new constructive image of African American manhood in the 21st century," said Larry Leon Hamlin, executive and artistic director of the N.C. Black Repertory Company.

Male and female marchers will show support for the idea of black men in particular, seeking spiritual atonements and social reconciliations "publicly"—in the nation's capital, Hamlin added.

The event precedes the official event the "Million Man March on Washington." Marchers for both events seek to promote the concept of African Americans collectively dedicating themselves to an annual spiritual "Day of Atonement" and social reconciliation with family and society.

One million black men are being asked to come to Washington, D.C. to participate in the largest, civil, and gender-specific demonstration in American history.

Specific objectives for the march are atonement to God and other another and atonement of /to black women.

Additional objectives included increased personal responsibility, increased voter registration and increased adoption of black children in need of families. A further recommendation is that African Americans focus on the "higher purposes" of the march, whether they attend the marches or not.

All are asked to pray and to fast to commemorate the promise the spiritual reflection and social investment of the day.

"At this critical point in our regional and national history, black men must take stock in themselves and take personal responsibility for both family and community needs," Hamlin said.

"Black people as a whole need to contribute to existing institutions and build new

ones. We must serve ourselves and our nation. We cannot as a people or as a male population in our global society afford the political or the economic luxury of not talking to one another. There are too many real problems facing us."

Many mayors across North Carolina and the United States will have a representative delegation at the official march in Washington.

There are 120 local organizing committees from across the country are preparing for the march.

Local committee members are hopeful that through these planned events set aside for self-reflection and rededication to God, family, and society, African Americans will have a permanent and positive impact on all black communities long after the march ends, Hamlin said.

As part of his proposed March on Washington, Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan is asking all blacks to stay away from work on Oct. 16 march day to demonstrate how much the United States needs them.

Farrakhan recently told a group of black journalists, "since America seems to be saying



Larry Leon Hamlin



Louis Farrakhan

she doesn't want us, we want her to see how she looks all white."

Farrakhan's plan strikes the same theme as "Day of Absence," a 1960s theatrical comedy in which whites awoke one morning to find all blacks had disappeared, then struggled to make it through the day without them.

Farrakhan says that the Monday, Oct. 16 event, billed as a male-only march, also marks a "holy day" for the black community.

Farrakhan polled by the Black Press as African Americans' "Most Influential Leader," hopes to draw a million men from more than 300 cities.

Foster Care & Adoption

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The Forsyth County Children's Services Department is seeking single adults and couples who are willing to foster and/or adopt children currently in protective custody.

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This Dealership's Owner Is Visible And Accessible

His name is Chandler B. Lee, and he works as hard as anyone else here. He's all over the place, telling everyone that everything is fantastic. It's fantastic this and fantastic that. Actually, he's pretty fantastic himself.

A people person, Chandler wants customers and prospective customers to talk with him. Telephone and ask for the owner. No one will ask who you are or what you want

because his calls are never screened.

He operates the same way in the community by serving on several boards, working on civic endeavors, and donating some of the money he and this place earns. And he keeps a sharp eye on the rest of us to make certain we follow his example. Actually, we like it because it helps make working and living around here fantastic.

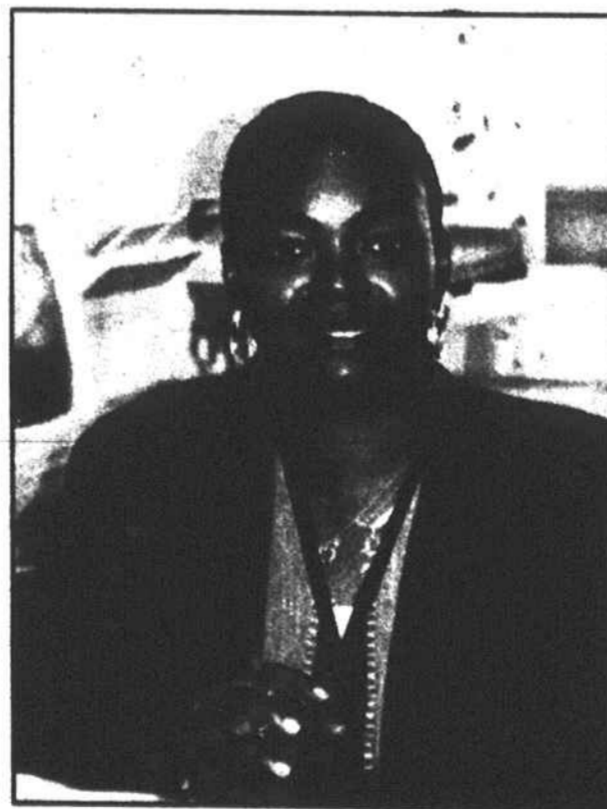


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Donnetta Wooten

The new director of Forsyth County's Head Start was incorrectly named in last week's *Chronicle*. Donnetta Wooten is Head Start's new director. The *Chronicle* regrets this error.

YWCA Offers Defense Classes

The YWCA and On Guard Services are presenting self defense classes for women and children. This is a two-part class meeting. The classes will be held Sept. 21 and 28 at 6:30 p.m. at the YWCA. The cost is \$39.95 for YWCA members and \$49.95 for all others.

For more information please call 722-5138.