

At a Glance

News briefs compiled from the Associated Press



(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

Discussions on Iraq

Kofi Annan, secretary-general of the United Nations, arrives at the U.N. Monday, Feb. 16, 1998 for a meeting with representatives of the five permanent members of the Security Council to discuss the diplomatic impasse with Iraq.

Racial attack at college

GREENSBORO — Assailants knocked the student government president at Guilford College unconscious, then unbuttoned her blouse and wrote a racial epithet across her chest.

After Molly Martin announced her candidacy for reelection as student senate president on a slate that includes a black woman, racist fliers began appearing on campus and a letter criticizing Ms. Martin was sent to the school newspaper.

"Those kinds of messages have no place in this community," school President Don McNemar told a crowd of about 500 angry and frightened students on Feb. 12. "There is no reason, no appropriateness for those messages."

Martin was found by her boyfriend last Wednesday night with the words "nigger lover" scrawled on her. She told officials that she had been approached from behind and did not see who hit her.

Martin spoke to the crowd briefly last Thursday evening, saying she was feeling well and thanked the campus for its support.

On Feb. 2, an anonymous letter was sent to the student senate and the campus newspaper complaining that Martin engineered a plan to put two black students in the senate, McNemar said.



(AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)

Liberian President Charles Taylor gives a peace sign as traditional dancers honor him during a ceremony in Monrovia in this recent but undated file picture where Ghanaian immigrants crowned him Chief Okatakayie, "The Greatest of Warriors". Taylor, who fought a seven year civil war before being elected President of Liberia six months ago, will add the Chief title to his long name of honorifics "His ExcellenceDahkpanah Chief Okatakayie Dr. Charles Ghankay Taylor."

New trial date set

INDEPENDENCE, Va. (AP)—A lawyer for one of two white men accused of burning alive and decapitating a black man contend that the prosecutor forced a delay in the trial of the case "by either design or benign neglect."

Mark Claytor, an attorney for Emmett Cressell, said at a hearing Monday that a delay in having evidence from the scene analyzed may be used to seek an appeal if Cressell is convicted.

Cressell's first-degree murder and robbery trial in the slaying last summer of Garnett P. Johnson had been scheduled to open this week. But Circuit Judge J. Colin Campbell moved the trial date to March 23.

Cressell, 37, could be sentenced to life in prison if convicted. A second suspect, Louis J. Ceparano, 43, faces a capital murder trial beginning April 1 and could be sentenced to death if convicted.

Both men are being held in jail without bond.

Auction benefits children

Two of the world's top models, Naomi Campbell, left, and Kate Moss, talk during an auction for Mandela's Children Fund at the Grootesuur estate in Cape Town, Sunday, Feb. 15, 1998. Among other items, a Versace creation called the "Mandela shirt" was sold for 30,000 Rands or about 8,000 U.S. dollars.



(AP PHOTO/Sasa Kralj)

SIT-IN

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was Feb. 1, 1960. The young black males of valor were the late David Richmond, Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil and Dr. Jibreel Khazan.

They were honored at the on Saturday, Feb. 14 at the Koury Center in Greensboro. McNeil and McCain gave special remarks at the celebration, and Lynn Richmond, the daughter of the late David Richmond was present to thank the organization for honoring her father's efforts.

Dr. John Hope Franklin received the 1998 Trail Blazers Award, and Angelou was awarded the 1998 Alston/Jones International Civil and Human Rights Award.

Katie Dorsett, North Carolina secretary of administration, presented Dr. Jim Johnson with the 1998 Unsung Heroes Award; Louis Brandon and McArthur Davis presented John C. Holley, Doug Harris, and Wilbert Mapp with the 1998 Sit-in Participants Award.

Golden Heritage sponsorship awards went to Waste Management and Maxmedia (97.1 WQMG and 102 JAMZ). Judge Henry Frye served as Master of Ceremony.

When Robert Brown of B&C Associates came forward to make his presentation to Angelou, he thanked the co-founders of the Sit-In Movement, Inc., Melvin "Skip" Alston, Guilford County commissioner and Earl Jones, Greensboro city councilman, for their vision in founding the organization in 1993.

The annual awards banquet creates an arena to honor leaders who have made great sacrifices in the struggle for freedom and to give annually toward the International Civil Rights Center and Museum forthcoming in the year 2000.

"This has been an outstanding event, but we should call this 'The Evening of the Giants' — Dr. Angelou, Dr. Franklin — How good can you get?" Brown said.

Franklin is known for his revisionist approach to writing history, as he has often had to counter the myths and distortions of history he has uncovered. Perhaps his best known work is From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans, which is now in its seventh edition. Three million copies of this major work are in print.

When Franklin came forward to receive his award, from Dr. Edward P. Fort, chancellor of North Carolina A&T State University, he congratulated the Greensboro Four and all who had a part in moving the city forward in the area of race relations. Franklin expressed strong sentiments about



(left to right) Earl Jones, city councilman, co-founder of S. I. M. Inc. recognized Joseph McNeil, of the Greensboro Four; Melvin "Skip" Alston, county commissioner, co-founder of S. I. M. Inc.; Dr. John Hope Franklin, Trail Blazers Award Recipient; and Franklin McCain of the Greensboro Four during the reception in Dr. Franklin's honor.

Greensboro's efforts to establish the civil rights museum, as other cities had done the same: Detroit, Atlanta, Dayton, Chicago, New York, and many others.

Franklin recalled his partnership with A&T when he taught a summer session in 1937 and also his experience teaching at Bennett College in 1945 as a visiting professor. He reflected on his receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995 as President Clinton referred to him as "a prisoner of American racism," because of his many experiences with discrimination and his willingness to speak up for civil rights.

Most recently in June 1997, President Clinton selected Franklin to advise him on The Problem of Race in America. This appointment has given rise to a misconception, according to Franklin. "People often ask me how is the race problem going. But I let them know that it has been 315 years since the problem started, and I have only been empowered to stir it up, to start a dialogue on race," he said.

The three areas he and his committee focuses on is education about the status of the problem, discerning "promising practices" of various communities, and to request that the President use the office as a pulpit for race relations being accountable each month for using his executive powers and Congress to take action on the problem.

For example, already the President and the Attorney General has brought three suits against discrimination in mobile homes. Also, as a request in the 1998 budget, provisions were made of \$86 million for the enforcement of EEOC and other civil

rights legislation. This allocation should take care of the backlog of thousands of cases against employers that have yet to be processed. This announcement brought great applause.

One experience Franklin had in the 1960's after the Civil Rights Movement involved a white family on a bus headed to Greensboro one Sunday morning. The three children of the white family ran to the back of the bus to watch the receding skyline from the back of the bus. "I thought to myself. Those children have been underprivileged. . . Now they can see what the back of the bus looks like," he said with a chuckle. He called attention to the national freedom that came to all as a result of actions such as the sit-in. "We are all emancipated . . . it frees all of us to do what we want to do," he said.

Franklin also discussed his collaboration with Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall on a case in 1948 called Johnson vs. Kentucky. Lymon Johnson, a black man, wanted to attend the University of Kentucky, a historically white institution rather than the North Carolina College for Negroes, and Franklin was to examine the library of both institutions, the curriculums and the faculties to make a comparison. Though Franklin prepared well, he was unable to present his case because the judge ruled against the University of Kentucky before Franklin's testimony. However, Franklin added much to the success of the Brown Vs. Board of Education case.

Franklin has become an icon, a legendary figure among American historians.

He has been president of the lead-

ing professional historical societies in the nation, including the Organization of American Historians, The American Historical Association, the Southern Historical Association, the American Studies Association and the Society of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's leading scholarly society.

A graduate of Fisk University, he received the A. M. and Ph. D. degrees in history from Harvard University. He has taught at Fisk University, St. Augustine's College North Carolina Central University and Howard University. He is the James B. Duke Professor Emeritus of History, and for seven years was Professor of Legal History in the Law School at Duke University, holding 105 honorary doctorate degrees. Kim Deans performed a soulful salute to Dr. Franklin as she sang "Wing Beneath My Wings."

Angelou noted how honored she felt to be recognized alongside the legendary Dr. John Hope Franklin. She honored him as "one of the greatest minds of the twentieth century."

Robert Brown presented Angelou to the audience. He described her as an overwhelming figure who is loved around the world. He marveled that a child once mute could become so powerful.

"Only a God in heaven could transform a mute into what she is now," he said. He stood amazed that God would put so many gifts in one person. Brown made note of her Inaugural Poem "On the Pulse of Morning" delivered in 1992 and the poem read upon the 50th anniversary of the United Nations in 1995, and in 1996 was named UNICEF's National Ambassador.

Angelou came forward singing "Look where we've all come from/ Moving out of darkness/ Moving toward the light/ Look where we've all come from." Music by Duncan from Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church paid tribute to Angelou in the words of a song written by Duncan Alston Butler entitled "Courage to Care."

Angelou was appointed in 1981 as the first Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, and in 1987, she was honored with the North Carolina Award in Literature, the highest the state bestows. Her renowned autobiography I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings was a special for CBS in 1979. She has written countless books and articles and has even received an Emmy award nomination for her role as Kunte Kinte's grandmother in the 1977 production of "Roots."

"Maya Angelou has done it all . . . and in all arenas, she is on point," said Brown as he presented her with the 1998 Alston/Jones International Civil and Human Rights Award.

FESTIVAL

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were on hand selling their goods and doing their part to educate. "What we're trying to do is pull together African-Americans and people who have the interest of African-Americans at heart to try to promote what we are, who we are and also put those dollars back into us," said Ujamaa Market owner T. Dianne Bellamy-Small. Many people enjoyed the displays and works from the vendors. "Some of the pictures we saw brought back memories of some of the days I had as a child," said Robert Davis Jr., whose daughter is a graduate student at UNCG.

One of the more moving moments of the day came during the portrayal of Frederick Douglas by Charles Pace. "We want to get people talking about issues and ideas that are important to our world and one of the ways we can do that is that we can use clas-

sic text like Frederick Douglas," said Pace. Pace, who teaches Anthropology at Centre College in Danville, VA has been doing Frederick Douglas for over 20 years. He also does portrayals of Malcolm X and W.B. Dubois.

As the afternoon rolled on, various groups such as the Spanish American Student Latino Association (\$ALSA) and "Talking Drums" — a group that brought in the sounds of Africa — performed along with storyteller Andre Minkins of "7a.m. Productions," who told African-American folklore.

According to Pam Wilson, the Director of Minority Student Affairs at UNC, the program was a success at teaching the students and families who were there. "Within a college setting, trying to having an activity that is educational as well as something that the students can relate to is primarily why we decided to go with the cultural festival type thing," said



Seven-year-old Celeste Leon sits attentively while UNCG sophomore Tasha Logan paints a work of art on her face.

Wilson. "The idea of different types drama presentations and African dance presentations, all of that was to help in mind of the richness of our culture, but to make it a fun type of situation where people wouldn't mind being here to participate in."

RELATIONS

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Some of the students who were honored at the Human Relations Banquet are assembled here after receiving their awards.

Jackson, who graduated with honors from college and is presently an assistant branch manager for Wachovia Bank, urged the young people to stay committed to their goals and dreams.

"Don't let anybody! Don't let anything tell you you can't be what you want to be!" said Jackson with passion.

Ironically, Jackson's namesake, Jonathan Jackson, who was the brother of imprisoned Black Panther George Jackson, was killed when he was seventeen, the age of some of the award winners at the banquet. He was shot to death in 1971 after trying to free three Black convicts and take several hostages from a courtroom in San Rafael, California. His life and death is perhaps the result of what happens

when there is no hope, no harmony, no understanding, no justice or no human relations.

Today in North Carolina, there is a state Human Relations Commission and Carl Ross is a member of it. He also was a main speaker at the awards banquet.

Ross tried to inspire the youth to always do their best.

"Young men, young women do the very best you can from day to day, where ever you are and whatever circumstances you're in," said Ross. "Don't ever fail or refuse to use your gifts in the service of mankind," because when you use your talents to benefit mankind "you're also doing them for the King, and I must say that the King is very pleased with you."

ROSS

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Mitchell wrote, "I believe this letter of intent to resign or retire is premature and should not be accepted."

Although Law has submitted his letter of intent, Mitchell advised Ross that he "remains an 'at will' employee of the Experiment in Self-Reliance for such period as he chooses to remain or the Board of Directors chooses to retain him." The board has not yet accepted or rejected Law's resignation letter. If the board intended to fire Law, said Booker, it can.

Booker added that he and other board members were concerned about staff members calling Ross, which made it difficult for Law manage the office.

Law and Sheldon declined to comment directly on Ross's allegations. However, Law said that neither he nor Daniel Haire were behind efforts to restrict Ross's contact with the staff.

"I can't comment on the board's motives," Law said. He added, "But the instruction that Mrs. Ross not to come into the office was not mine or Mr. Haire's. That was an instruction from the board."

Ross, who has been a member of the ESR board of directors for a decade, became chairman in 1996. Her appointed term expires in 1999. According to Ross, she will serve the remainder of her term as a board member, not its leader.

Ross had already submitted her resignation letter to the board when she spoke with The Chronicle two weeks ago. After she submitted the letter of intent, Ross said that she

learned an outside study of the organization had been commissioned. Ross said that she intended to stay on as chairman until the study had been completed.

At the board's February meeting, however, her resignation became effective.

Since then, other members of the nonprofit's board of directors have denied her claim of a plot to oust her. Instead, some paint a different picture — one of a volunteer who's enthusiasm supersedes the responsibility of her position.

"Nobody is using Dorothy to get at Mr. Law," said C.P. Booker. Booker is one of three African-Americans serving on the nine-member executive committee that oversees the operation of the Experiment in Self-Reliance.

"How many organizations do you know that are run by the chairman of the board?" Booker asked. "That's why there is an executive director. He's paid to run the day to day activities."

According to Booker, part of the friction at ESR is related to the amount of time Ross has spent in the office. There have been times, he said, that Ross has come in and admonished or reprimanded Law.

"That type of thing should be done at board meetings, not in the office," Booker said.

Booker and Sheldon, who is now acting chairman, do not deny Ross's report of internal strife. However, they contend that the matter is has been resolved.