

NEWS BRIEFS

NAACP sets nonviolence day

NAACP President/CEO Kweisi Mfume and National Youth & College Director the Rev. Jamal Harrison Bryant have called for a National Day of Non-Violence April 4, the 31st anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to encourage young people around the nation to take a stand against the violence that is plaguing America's communities.



Mfume

"On this day, it is our hope and our dream that no young person is shot, no woman is hit, no youngster killed and no hate crimes committed," Bryant said. "We want the youth of this nation to say enough is enough. It is time to stop the violence and start the love."

Programs have already been scheduled in Dallas, Texas; Memphis, Tenn.; Oakland, Calif.; and Baltimore, Md.

Control returned to DC mayor

President Bill Clinton recently signed the District of Colum-

bia Management Restoration Bill of 1999, which will return the authority of Washington, D.C.'s nine largest agencies to the mayor.

"This is a new day in Washington," said Mayor Anthony Williams. "President Clinton's signature on this bill is yet another tangible demonstration in the belief that elected officials in the District of Columbia have what it takes to run the city."

The bill repealed the Faircloth attachment to the District of Columbia Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, which ceded control of the management of the agencies to the D.C. Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority, also known as the Control Board.

Jackson opens Chicago Wall Street Office

Making good on his promise to escalate his national fight for corporate inclusion for minorities, the Rev. Jesse Jackson recently opened his Rainbow Push Coalition LaSalle Street Project office in Chicago.



Jackson

During a press conference, Jackson said, "In the ghettos, there is no talent deficit. There's an opportunity deficit. When minority talent goes untapped, undeserved communities to fail to prosper, but corporations also curtail their growth and profits."

"The mission of the project is to have inclusion in corporate America in all ranks," said Darice Wright, executive director of the office. - *The Chicago Defender*

Mohammed, younger Farrakhan worship together

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed, a son of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and a prominent leader in the Muslim world, was embraced by Mustapha Farrakhan, son of Minister Louis Farrakhan, during the Nation of Islam's annual Saviour's Day in Chicago. The Imam attended at the special invitation of Minister Farrakhan in an effort to continue the process of resolving differences between the communities of followers of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad since 1975.

"I couldn't resist coming here knowing that [The Nation of Islam] was observing this day. I haven't lost my friendship with Minister Farrakhan," said Muhammad, adding that the day is coming when he and Minister Farrakhan will be one.

"Allah knew that we would have our differences, but Allah knew that in time we would settle our differences and become one community, and one nation," Ishmael Muhammad, the assistant minister of Mosque Maryam and a son of Elijah Muhammad, told the congregation of Muslims. - *James Muhammad*

Asia to invest in African

TOKYO (IPS) - It opens on April Fool's Day, but Asia's first official information center for investment in Africa is no joke. Aimed at promoting trade between Asia and Africa, the still unnamed center is expected to stimulate Asian business interest in more African countries. This despite the current economic crisis in Asia, which has seen business slowing down on this side of the world.

"There are many small Asian companies that might want to invest in an African country but cannot do so for lack of expertise and information on joint ventures," says an optimistic foreign ministry official who declines to be named. "The center will fulfill this role."

According to the official, the center, which will have a site on the Internet as well as host workshops and seminars, was the "result of strong urging from African officials, aid organiza-

tions and Asian governments."

Economists say the prospects of Japanese investment in Africa are not promising because companies are more bent on keeping money at home rather than expanding overseas. They say that Japan is hoping other Asian countries will be able to help Africa despite their own troubles. - *Suvendrini Kakuchi*

Meningitis strikes African city

KHARTOUM, Sudan (IPS) - In response to an outbreak of meningitis that is claiming an average of 30 lives a day in the capital city of Khartoum, a door-to-door meningitis vaccination campaign has been coordinated by a group of police officers, students and non-governmental organizations according to Sudanese health officials. Dr. Bashir Mukhtar, a senior official at the Ministry of Health, said that about 140 people have died of the disease since the outbreak began in February. Unconfirmed reports, however, say the figure could be upwards of 1,000. The death toll is especially high in the shanty towns of Khartoum where more than three million displaced by the civil war in southern Sudan live. The disease also has hit western Sudan's northern Darfur state, on the border with Chad. Meningitis, an inflammation of

the brain or the spinal cord due to infection by viruses or bacteria, is common in tropical zones.

The disease, whose spread is aggravated by high temperatures and overcrowding, causes an intense headache, fever, loss of appetite, intolerance to light and sound, and rigidity of muscles, especially those in the neck. - *Nhial Bol*

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THE KING AND I (G)	1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30
MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (PG-13)	1:30 4:00 7:00 9:30
SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (R)	1:30 4:00 7:00 9:30
OCTOBER SKY (PG)	1:30 4:00 7:00 9:30
THE RAGE: CAROL 2 (R)	1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30
FORCES OF NATURE (PG-13)	1:30 4:00 7:30 9:30

COMING SOON

STADIUM SEATING

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WING COMMANDER (PG-13)	1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30
CRUEL INTENTIONS (R)	1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30
THE CORRUPTOR (R)	1:30 4:00 7:00 9:30
ANALYZE THIS (R)	1:30 4:00 7:00 9:30
THE KING AND I (G)	1:30 4:00 7:00 9:30
SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (R)	1:30 7:00
RESUME (R)	4:00 7:00
DEEP END OF THE OCEAN (PG-13)	2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30
THE RAGE: CAROL 2 (R)	1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30

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TRUE CRIME (R)	1:30 4:30 7:00 9:30
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THE CORRUPTOR (R)	1:30 4:00 7:00 9:30
CRUEL INTENTIONS (R)	1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30
BABY GENIUS (PG)	1:30 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:30
WING COMMANDER (PG-13)	1:30 4:00 7:00 9:30

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Florida battleground for minority issues

By JOHN PACENTI THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI - Florida looks like the next battleground to abolish racial and gender preferences.

California businessman Ward Connerly, a black conservative, officially announced his intention Monday to start a petition drive to put an initiative on the ballot to roll back state-sponsored preference programs because he says they foster resentment.

Opponents, though, say it is Connerly who is fostering resentment with a divisive amendment to the Florida Constitution that will polarize the state. He plans to lead a ballot initiative drive in either 2000 or 2002.

"Florida doesn't need somebody from California to come here and tell it how to write its Constitution," said U.S. Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla.

Connerly, who made announcements in Jacksonville and Altamonte Springs before a similar announcement planned for Miami, said there is a problem in Florida with set-asides that must be corrected. A poll he commissioned within the last three weeks shows 80 percent of Floridians

believe college admissions and the awarding of state contracts should be color blind.

A member of the University of California Board of Regents, Connerly helped lead successful initiatives to end racial preferences in California and Washington state. He also considered Nebraska and Colorado for his initiative push. A bill pending in the Arizona Legislature mimics his initiatives.

He first approached Florida with the proposal in January, meeting then with Gov. Jeb Bush. When Bush and other Republicans balked, he considered going to Nebraska or Colorado but felt Florida would give the cause more national publicity.

Connerly would need to gather 435,073 signatures to put the measure on the Florida ballot.

He said he might submit an initiative proposal for approval by the state Supreme Court as early as May. If the court rejects it, he could draft an alternative in time for either the 2000 or 2002 elections, he said.

In California, Connerly had the support of Republican Gov. Pete Wilson. But Bush, who met with Connerly in Tallahassee in January, said he will not support it.

"Gov. Wilson in California cooperated with Ward Connerly," said the Rev. Jesse Jackson. "It seems like Gov. Bush will not. Florida must avoid the mistake made by California."

Washington Gov. Gary Locke, though, opposed the measure in 1998 and it passed with 58 percent of the vote.

Bush's press secretary, Nicolle Devenish, said the governor feels such an initiative would be divisive.

"His goal is to build a consensus around issues we should be focusing on - and those are education, fighting the drug war, protecting the developmentally disabled," Devenish said. "His focus is not going to be on this political debate right now."

Bush wrote a letter to Connerly stating his opposition to such a ballot measure. He had no comment Monday.

Jackson, in Miami to talk about AIDS in the black community, said Connerly was "trying to peddle fear." The issue is not about race, but about job training, he said, adding that in Silicon Valley companies recruit out of state because there are no trained Californians to fill those slots.

THE CHRONICLE

SPORTS WEEK

COMMUNITY FOCUS

People open health for WSH's O'Leary Library

THE CHRONICLE

Single women welcome to dating

Chile leads in health for CIAA

Shades an addition to hotel

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From left, Vincent Parker, Principal of North Hills Traditional Academy, Dorothy Wheeler, Director of Best Choice Center, Sandra Pennington, Director of Literacy Initiative, Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin, Represented her husband Larry Hamlin, who was out of town, Earline Parmon, Forsyth County Commissioner and LIFT Academy Director, Courtney Sanders, Director of Empowering Families Center and Linda Bowman-Hopson, Executive Director, T-Cal...The Center for Accelerated Learning.

Local black leaders recognized

Special to THE CHRONICLE

Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., recognized local black leaders making history in the community.

During a program held at the Glade Street YWCA, during Black History Month, the above people were given certificates to acknowledge

their contributions to our community.

The Praise Dancers of Mount Zion Baptist and one of our own, Sorror Shirley Miller, entertained us. The committee responsible for the organization of the program was Sorror Nancy Green, Sorror Tressie Ellis and Sorror Jimmie Sudler.