

NATIONAL BRIEFS



NATIONAL

Stay of execution granted for Abu-Jamal

Shortly after the Congressional Black Caucus released a statement expressing its concern about the unresolved issues in the Mumia Abu-Jamal case, a stay of execution was granted.

Gov. Tom Ridge had signed a death warrant setting Abu-Jamal's Dec. 2 execution date after an appeal for a review in this case was rejected by the Supreme Court on Oct. 4.

U.S. Reps. Chaka Fattah, D-Pa., and John Conyers, D-Mich., spoke on behalf of the 38-member caucus, stating that justice can only be served through a new trial.

"The only thing we know for sure is that he has not been given due process and that alone is enough for a new trial," said Fattah.

A statement by the CBC said, "Even if he were guilty, there should be a more solid assurance of fact before he is put to death. If he is innocent, putting him to death on the basis of current evidence makes the government guilty of the very thing for which it is accusing Abu-Jamal."

In 1982, Abu-Jamal, a radio journalist and former Black Panther who criticized violence and racism within the Philadelphia Police Department, was convicted of killing Daniel Faulkner, a White Philadelphia police officer.

— Maishah English

Waters calls rejection of White racist

"We stand here today to draw a line in the sand, a line beyond which we will not allow anyone to cross," said Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., during a recent protest rally outside the U.S. Capitol, sparked by the Senate's Oct. 5 decision to deny the judicial nomination of Missouri Judge Ronnie White for a federal District Court appointment.

Although Republicans charge their actions were fair, this served as the first time since 1987 that a judicial nomination was rejected by the full Senate.

"Senator (John) Ashcroft, R-Mo., played the 'race card.' He played it by acting in the most racist way to deny a qualified African American his rightful position on the federal bench. I know a racist when I see one," Rep. Waters said.

Senate Republicans, who failed to act on the nomination during last year's 105th Congress, justified their actions toward Judge White as a vote against his opposition to the death penalty.

Others at the rally included: Reps. James Clyburn, D-S.C.; William Clay, D-Mo.; Elijah Cummings, D-Md.; Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas; Donald Payne, D-N.J.; Melvin Watt, D-N.C.; Albert Wynn, D-Md.; and Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton.

Recovery continues in Eastern North Carolina

As recovery operations for Hurricane Floyd reach the one-month milestone, residents in North Carolina's devastated eastern half continue to try to put their lives back together. With the help of monetary and material donations from around the country and assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the restoration process is moving ahead slowly.

"FEMA has been very responsive to the residents down there; so have a lot of volunteer organizations," said Michael Suggs, senior director of public affairs for R.J. Reynolds, after visiting Tarboro, where his parents and other family members lost everything in the hurricane. "There is a great spirit of volunteerism. People have really poured out their hearts and money."

Currently, federal funding to assist the state exceeds \$135 million with the largest components including: \$41.8 million approved for emergency housing and grants to individuals and families; \$65.5 million approved for 1,394 low-interest Small Business Administration loans; and \$28 million obligated to pay for 66 mission assignments in the disaster area conducted by other federal agencies.

However, Suggs said that the funds being allotted are insufficient based on the magnitude of the calamity, which he said resembles a third world country. "Low-interest loans are being offered, but a lot of the people don't have the ability to repay them. What they need are grants."

He said while the devastation is as bad or worse than depicted by the media, the survivors are optimistic.

"There is a real sense of going-forwardness," he said. "Their spirit has not been broken. They want to rebuild their city."

Since the presidential disaster declaration on Sept. 16, 61,840 North Carolinians have registered for assistance by calling FEMA's toll-free application hotline. — LaWanza Spears

INTERNATIONAL

U.N. approves peacekeeping mission in Sierra Leone

UNITED NATIONS (IPS) — The U.N. Security Council unanimously approved the creation of a new peacekeeping force in Sierra Leone, which is intended to deploy some 6,000 soldiers to the West African nation within one month.

The council's approval of the U.N. Mission in Sierra Leone, which will assist in demobilizing government and rebel troops and monitor a cease-fire in effect since July, marked the first major U.N. commitment to peacekeeping in Africa since U.N. troops withdrew from Rwanda and Somalia four years ago. — Farhan Haq

Beninois teachers refuse to return to Nigeria

COTONOU, Benin (IPS) — More than 90 Beninois teachers hired to teach French in Nigeria have refused to return to the West African country, citing poor wages and living conditions.

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This Week In Black History...

Oct. 4, 1943 — Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee founder H. Rap Brown is born in Baton Rouge, La.

Oct. 4, 1944 — Dancer Pearl Primus makes her Broadway debut. She will become known for blending African and American dance traditions.

Oct. 7, 1897 — Elijah Poole is born in Sandersville, Ga. He will become known as Elijah Muhammad, one of the most influential leaders in Nation of Islam history.

Blacks lead in computer purchases

By BENNIE M. CURRIE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — The increase in computer-related purchases by black consumers last year was considerably greater than the increase for whites, according to a market research firm's report.

The findings are published in "The Buying Power of Black America," a report compiled annually by Chicago-based Target Market News, which tracks black consumer trends. The firm attributes the increased spending to a hardy economy and a boost in black household income.

In 1998, black spending on Internet services, computer hardware and other computer-oriented services outpaced the previous year by 143 percent, according to the study. Spending on computer products by white consumers during the period rose about 10 percent, the study says.

Blacks spent \$1.3 billion on computer-related equipment and services last year, the study says.

See Computers on A10

Cardinal blessing



The Journal Gazette, Matt Sullivan

His Eminence Francis Cardinal Arinze, of Nigeria, president of the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue at the Holy See in Rome, gives a blessing to three Fort Wayne Catholic school children Monday at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, in Fort Wayne, Ind., celebrating All Saints Day. Arinze, who was the commencement speaker for Wake Forest University's May graduation ceremony, may become the first black pope in more than 1,000 years.

Census launches aggressive campaign

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The advertising starts next week and will culminate in March as the Census Bureau tries to make sure everyone knows the national head count is under way.

The agency kicked off its effort Wednesday, focusing on the theme: "This is our future. Don't leave it blank."

Officials are trying to increase the share of people who fill out and mail back their census forms because the agency's biggest expense is for the hundreds of thousands of people who go out in search of folks who do not respond.

The agency is launching a \$167 million paid advertising effort, including television, radio, outdoor and print — various ads in 17 different languages — seeking to reach everyone in America.

By next March the census will be the third largest broadcast advertiser, trailing only

Fight is on to get "hard-to-count groups," minorities to fill out forms

McDonald's and Burger King.

"America cannot have a successful census without the support of the American people," said Rep. Dan Miller, R-Fla., chairman of the House Government Reform's Census subcommittee.

Census Day is April 1, 2000. The results will be used to reapportion seats in the House and many state and local districts and to distribute \$185 billion in federal aid to

cities, states and communities.

In the past, census promotions have relied on free public service announcements, which usually ran on television and radio at odd hours when few were tuned in.

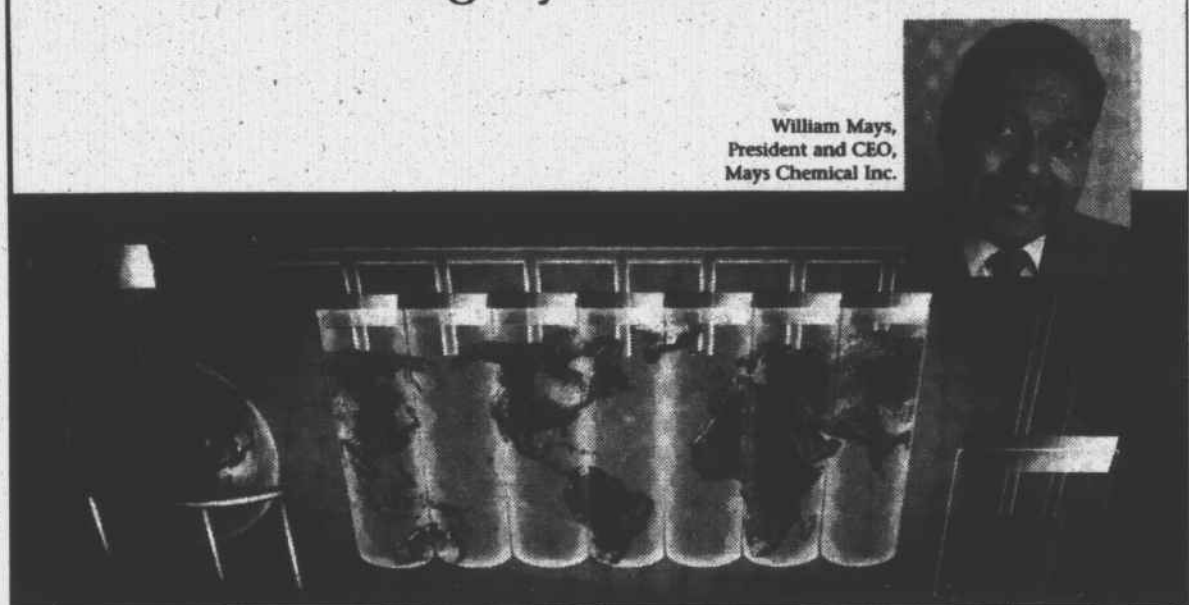
This year the ads will present messages about Census 2000 for the general public, as well as specific messages for blacks, Hispanics, Asians, American Indians, native

Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders and Alaska natives.

"Today's event underscores a broad-based commitment to ensure that Census 2000 is the most accurate, complete and fair count possible," said Commerce Secretary William M. Daley. The Census Bureau is part of the Commerce Department.

"This is the people's census," added Census Director Kenneth Prewitt. "We believe everyone counts, and we want this message to reach every person living in the United States, Puerto Rico and the island areas."

"GM is driving my business worldwide."



William Mays,
President and CEO,
Mays Chemical Inc.

After ten years as a thriving business, we were ready for the next big step. So when my company was awarded a General Motors contract, it was the catalyst we needed to do business worldwide.

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General Motors.
People in Motion

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\$4.50
ANY MOVIE BEFORE 9:30 PM
NO PASSES OR DISCOUNTS

Wynn Song 12 765-5875

STADIUM SEATING
IN ALL AUDITORIUMS

PRESENTED IN HX SOUND

AMERICAN BEAUTY (R) 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
MUSIC OF THE HEART (PG-13) 1:30 4:00 7:00 9:40
THE INSIDERS (R) 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
HOUSE ON HAUNTED HILL (R) 1:45 3:45 5:45 7:45 9:45
THE BONE COLLECTOR (PG-13) 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
OMEGA CODE (PG-13) 1:15 3:15 5:15 7:15 9:15

THREE TO TANGO (PG-13) 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30
THREE KINGS (R) 1:10 4:05 7:00 9:45
BRING OUT THE DEAD (PG-13) 1:10 4:05 7:00 9:45
RANDOM HEARTS (R) 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
STORY OF US (R) 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30
THE SIXTH SENSE (PG-13) 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30

Carmike 10 922-1301

PRESENTED IN HX SOUND

HOUSE ON HAUNTED HILL (R) 1:45 3:45 5:45 7:45 9:45
MUSIC OF THE HEART (PG-13) 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:40

BATS (PG-13) 1:10 3:10 5:10 7:10 9:10
STORY OF US (R) 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30
THE SIXTH SENSE (PG-13) 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:45
DRIVE ME CRAZY (PG-13) 1:20 3:20 5:20 7:20 9:20
THE BACHELOR (PG-13) 1:15 4:15 7:00 9:30
DOUBLE JEOPARDY (R) 1:30 4:00 7:00 9:15
RANDOM HEARTS (R) 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
THE BEST MAN (R) 1:15 4:00 7:00 9:30

Marketplace 6 727-1787

BONE COLLECTOR (PG-13) 1:00 4:15 7:10 9:35
THE BEST MAN (R) 1:30 4:00 7:00 9:30
BLUE STREAK (PG-13) 1:00 3:40 5:40 7:00 9:05
SUPERSTAR (PG-13) 1:00 3:45 5:45 7:05 9:05
BATS (R) 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
THE BACHELOR (R) 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE