

NATIONAL BRIEFS



Farrakhan's prostate cancer in remission
CHICAGO - Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan's prostate cancer remains in remission, his assistant minister says.
 Ishmael Muhammad said Farrakhan's health is at "about 85 percent" and his spirits are excellent.
 Farrakhan, still battling the effects of cancer treatments, spoke publicly this week for the first time since February.
 During a 45-minute address to his followers at Mosque Maryam on Chicago's South Side, Farrakhan offered words of hope for the new century and thanked Nation of Islam members for their prayers.
 Farrakhan, who spoke on Sunday, has gained weight, and doctors said he is doing well, according to Muhammad.
 "He is full of vitality and energy and was very radiant and bright," Muhammad said. "His road to recovery has been a remarkable one."

Actress Shirley Hemphill dies
LOS ANGELES - Shirley Hemphill, who played a wisecracking waitress on the 1970s sitcom "What's Happening!!," was found dead Dec. 10 in her home.
 She was 52.

Gardeners called authorities Friday morning after they looked through a window and saw her face down on the bedroom floor, said Scott Gilmore, a West Covina Fire Department paramedic.

Paramedics forced their way through the garage door and pronounced her dead at the scene. It was not known how long she had been there, and the gardeners said they last saw her on Dec. 3, Gilmore said.

"We are handling the death as a natural death," said Lt. Dan Aikin of the Los Angeles County coroner's office.

The Asheville native played waitress Shirley Wilson on "What's Happening!!" The comedy, which ran from 1976-79, centered on three high school students who hung out together.

She also appeared on the series "One in a Million" in 1980, followed by a remake of the 1970s show called "What's Happening Now!," which ran from 1985-88.

Ms. Hemphill apparently lived alone at her home in West Covina, about 30 miles east of Los Angeles.

Volpe gets 30 years for Louima assault
NEW YORK - Ex-New York City police officer Justin Volpe was sentenced to 30 years in prison for sexual assault against Haitian immigrant Abner Louima in 1997.

U.S. District Court Judge Eugene Nickerson gave Volpe 30 years plus five years probation and ordered him to pay almost a quarter of a million dollars to Louima. Acknowledging he knew that Volpe could not pay it, the judge ordered Volpe to pay his victims \$25 a month.

Prosecutors had asked life imprisonment without parole.

Volpe, along with three other officers, arrested Louima in August 1997 after breaking up a fight at a Brooklyn club, where Louima was a security guard. Volpe claimed that during the melee he was hit and thought Louima did it. Subsequently, Louima was arrested and beaten while in the patrol car. The assault continued once inside the Brooklyn Police Precinct, where Volpe shoved a stick into Louima's rectum.

Student expelled for "threat" to kill teacher
 A Maryland woman, Deborah Wilder, has charged Anne Arundel High School with racism for expelling her son, Eric Jones, after he wrote about planning to kill his teacher during a typing exercise. She is planning on suing the school system.

The note is reported to have said: "My plans for next summer is to kill my keyboarding teacher with success. Not have the police to find me after I pop the teacher's head off. I will have a lot of fun as I do this. When I'm done I will take this summary to a publisher and get this book published about how I killed my keyboarding teacher. This will be the best book ever published. I will be the New York's best seller #1."

Following the incident, Jones was suspended and recommended for expulsion on Nov. 3, even though he was not in violation of a school policy. He insists his statement was purely fictional.

The incident comes in light of increased scrutiny over "zero tolerance" school policies across the nation and its impact on students of color. - Maishah English

International

Edelman to promote anti-racism conference
UNITED NATIONS (IPS) - Children's advocate Marian Wright Edelman was recently appointed by The United Nations as one of seven "Goodwill Ambassadors" to promote the World Conference Against Racism to be held in South Africa in 2001.

All leading figures from the worlds of literature, music and human rights advocacy, the other six include Indian sitarist Ravi Shankar, Moroccan writer Tahar Ben Jelloun, Nobel literature laureates Wole Soyinka of Nigeria and Seamus Heaney of Ireland, former Icelandic President Vigdis Finnbogadottir and Panamanian actor-musician Ruben Blades.

The World Conference is the first international conference addressing racism to be hosted by a post-Apartheid South Africa. Regional meetings will be held around the world and a preparatory session in Geneva before the conference. - Mithre J. Sandrasagra

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This Week In Black History...

- Dec. 23, 1867 - Sarah Breedlove is born in Delta, La. As Madame C.J. Walker, Breedlove will become the first female African American millionaire and a pioneer in the field of black hair care.
- Dec. 23, 1990 - Wendell Scott dies in Danville, Va. Scott was a pioneer in stock car racing, finishing in the top five in 20 Grand National races and winning 128 races.
- Dec. 25, 1932 - Little Richard is born in Macon, Ga. The flamboyant rock 'n' roll singer will be best known for his hits "Lucille" and "Tutti Frutti."
- Dec. 26, 1966 - The first Kwanzaa celebration is held in Los Angeles, Calif.
- Dec. 28, 1977 - Karen Farmer becomes the first African American member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Farmer can trace her roots back to Revolutionary War soldier William Hood.

Princeville rebuilding

BY ANGELA BURRUS
 CONSOLIDATED MEDIA

PRINCEVILLE - Riding through a ghost town of empty buildings, condemned houses and trailers, Rev. James Brown of Saint Luke Church remains certain Princeville will one day get back on its feet.

"Through all this mess, God's got a blessing," he said, overlooking empty foundation plots where trailers used to be. "This is a small thing to what could've happened."

Brown passes the lonely town's streets to work at his body shop, where he is limited to fixing one car a week. Despite the shop being behind part of the broken dike that caused major flooding in Princeville, it was spared major damage, as was Brown's Tarboro home. But Brown felt compelled to counsel residents who were in need.

"Over 80 percent of my congregation live in Princeville," he said. "When this thing first happened, I felt it was my responsibility to be with my people."

Brown explained the devastation of the town was a shock to many residents.

"When they were evacuating, they thought they would leave their home and come back tomorrow," he said. "But the water kept rising."

Resident Rayfield Perkins, husband of Mayor Delia Perkins, also took the flooding lightly in the beginning.

"I never had an idea," Perkins said. "I figure we will be back in two or three days. My son came and told me where he was staying water was all the way to the roof of the house."

But Brown is coaching his congregation to be patient, reminding them each Sunday during church services that they are blessed to be alive.

"We have our lives and our health," he said. "And most people

can go back to their land and start over. Most of their spirits are high." Brown is also working with other churches in the state in donating food, clothing and other necessities to victims.

He has also consoled several local police officials while they made rescue missions during the flood. He recalled such horror as seeing dead dogs tangled in the chains they were on before the flood.

When Brown is not working or aiding victims, he is making plans to rebuild his church, which was severely damaged in the flood.

"We're planning on building it from the ground up," he said.

Brown said rebuilding costs range around \$2 million in doing "what he wants to do."

"We were planning on building a children's recreational center in the area before the flood, because there was nothing for kids to do in Princeville," he said. "We're still going to do that. We also plan on having a GED program and a Work First program added."

Brown added that he admired the town officials' plan to rebuild the town instead of accepting federal buyouts from FEMA.

"That means people can have their land and rebuild," he said.

Brown mentioned several houses are already in the process of being torn down or rebuilt.

Nicole Owens, community outreach coordinator of Orange Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Durham, said helping rebuilding homes in the area gives her a sense of pride.

"I'm helping to continue the legacy, its heritage," she said. "Seeing the looks in the people's faces and having them say 'thank-you,' it feels good."

Owens said the church has made several trips to Princeville, perform-

See Princeville on A11

House Republicans join opposition to Fed proposal

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - Two dozen Republican members of the House Banking Committee have joined the opposition to a Federal Reserve proposal that would allow banks to collect data on the race and sex of people applying for loans.

The GOP lawmakers, led by Reps. Ron Paul of Texas and Bob Barr of Georgia, criticized the proposal in a letter Monday to the central bank, saying it could lead to racial lending quotas mandated by the government.

At any rate, the letter said, "It should be Congress, not the regulators, that decides government policy."

Also signing was one Democrat, Rep. Virgil Goode of Virginia.

Last week, Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, and other GOP senators told Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan they opposed the proposal.

Rep. Jim Leach, R-Iowa, the House Banking Committee chairman, was not among the 24 Republicans signing the letter. There are 32 Republican members of the committee.

The panel's senior Democrat, Rep. John LaFalce of New York, has expressed support for the proposal, which he says would help federal regulators enforce fair lending laws.

The Fed proposal comes at a time of growing sensitivity about financial privacy.

Early this year, federal banking regulators bowed to a public outcry over privacy concerns and scrapped proposed anti-money laundering rules that would have tracked the transaction patterns of bank customers. Gramm and Paul, both outspoken conservatives, had been leaders of congressional opposition to the rules.

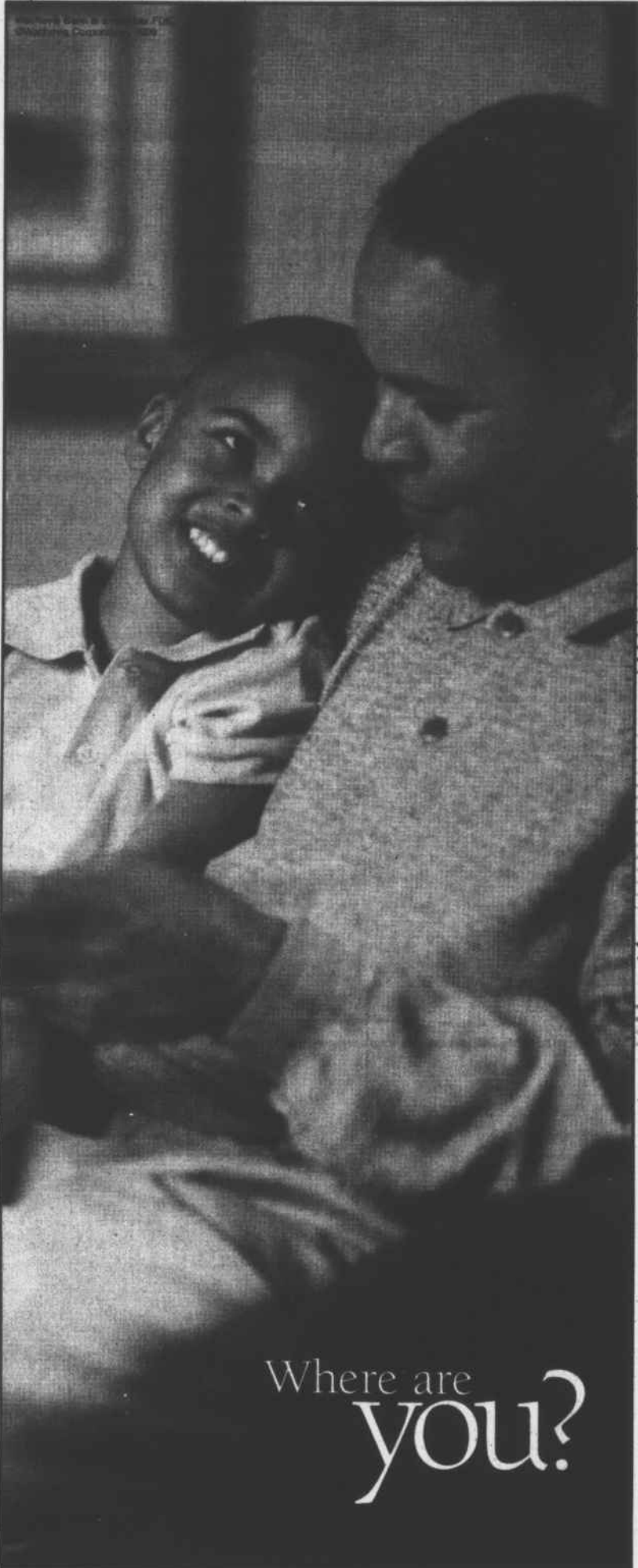
In August, the Fed issued for public comment the proposal allowing banks to gather racial and other demographic data. The central bank has said it was responding to concerns expressed by the Justice Department and some federal banking agencies about lending discrimination. The agencies said that being able to obtain and analyze racial and other data on credit applicants - as is now the case for mortgage applications - would help them enforce fair lending laws.

The proposal is supported by several community and civil rights groups, which contend it would help prevent discrimination.

The nation's bankers oppose the proposal, maintaining that such voluntary collection of racial data could eventually become mandatory and impose new costs and burdens on the industry. It also has drawn criticism from the Libertarian Party and the conservative Eagle Forum.



The foundation is all that remains of this house in Princeville.



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BICENTENNIAL MAN (PG) 1:00 4:00 7:10 9:40
 STUART LITTLE (PG) 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
 ANNA AND THE KING (PG-13) 12:00 3:45 7:30
 MAN ON THE MOON (R) 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:30
 BICENTENNIAL MAN (PG) 1:30 4:30 7:20 10:00
 ANY GIVEN SUNDAY (R) 12:45 4:30 8:15

WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG-13) 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:40
 DEUCE BIGELOW (R) 1:15 3:15 5:15 7:15 9:15
 SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) 1:00 4:00 7:10 9:30
 OMEGA CODE (PG-13) 1:15 3:15 5:15 7:15 9:15
 STUART LITTLE (R) 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30
 THE SIXTH SENSE (PG-13) 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:20

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PRESENTED IN HX SOUND

STUART LITTLE (PG) 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
 ANNA AND THE KING (PG-13) 1:15 4:15 7:00 9:40

GREEN MILE (R) 12:00 3:30 7:00 10:30
 TOY STORY (G) 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30 FRI & SAT
 WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG-13) 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:40
 GREEN MILE (R) 1:00 4:45 8:15
 END OF DAYS (R) 1:15 4:15 7:00 9:30
 THE BEST MAN (R) 7:00 9:30
 POKEMON (G) 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:00 9:15
 TOY STORY (G) 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:00 9:15 FRI & SAT
 DEUCE BIGELOW (R) 1:15 3:15 5:15 7:15 9:15 FRI & SAT

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