

NATIONAL BRIEFS



Alzheimer's Association elects first black woman chair

The Alzheimer's Association has elected its first African American woman to the post of chair of the national board of directors. Orien Reid, former Philadelphia television and radio journalist, accepted her new role with great enthusiasm.

"It is a terrific opportunity to help more people understand that Alzheimer's is a major health issue in this country. I plan to lead the fight to help find a cure to end this disease."

Reid said her chief priority in the new millennium is to fight for an increase in federal funding to \$500 million for Alzheimer research, and increased support for programs to assist Alzheimer care givers and their families.

She began her volunteer career with the Alzheimer's Association in 1990 as a member of the board of directors of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter. She started the city of Philadelphia's first Memory Walk and has helped raise \$1.4 million for her chapter. Reid joined the national board of directors in 1992 and served as chair of several committees prior to being selected senior vice chair of the board in 1997.

After 26 years in broadcasting, Reid made a bold decision to retire in 1998 to devote more time to her volunteer efforts with the association. She is strongly committed because her mother, maternal uncle and aunt had Alzheimer's disease.

"Orien has been a true champion for the Alzheimer's Association," said Edward F. Truschke, president and CEO of the Alzheimer's Association. "Her passion, dedication, drive and sensitivity make her the perfect person to lead the association into the new millennium."

A 'Love Thang' in Georgia

Lovers, partners, couples attached at the hip, and lost souls searching for a new love are invited to It's A Love Thang. The one-day seminar, hosted by Infinite Love Inc., will premiere for the first year at the Georgia International Convention Center on Sunday, Feb. 6, 2000.

Sherry Y. Smith, seminar proprietor and former publisher of Assorted Chocolates singles magazine, said there will be mental, spiritual and sexual food for thought to nourish the healthy relationship that couples desire.

Among the dozen speakers scheduled to speak will be Dr. Gwendolyn Goldsby Grant, whose advice column, "Between Us," in ESSENCE magazine is read by more than 7.5 million readers.

There will also be a market place, a potpourri of corporate and small business vendors, offering lingerie, books, jewelry, bath and body accessories, travel packages and perfumes.

The seminar will travel to Philadelphia and then on to other major U.S. cities. According to Smith, the series will retrofit the way that African Americans maneuver, maintain and manage their love lives in the new millennium.

Minority women at greater risk for osteoporosis

Minority women are at a higher risk of developing osteoporosis than previously believed, according to a recent national study by the National Osteoporosis Risk Assessment program.

More than half of the women tested had low bone mass, placing them at greater risk for the condition and bone fractures. Of particular concern is the 40 percent of African American women tested whose results showed low bone mass.

"It was previously believed that African American women weren't likely to suffer from osteoporosis, so the fact that many believed they were lactose intolerant, and tended to drink less milk, wasn't a concern for health professionals," said Natalie Webb, M.S., R.D., L.D., founder of the Nutrition Network in Rockville, Md. "But now research indicates that this group may be avoiding dairy due to digestive discomfort, a real issue. Not consuming enough calcium by avoiding milk or foods with dairy puts them at a greater risk for developing osteoporosis."

"If you're lactose intolerant, you don't have to give up milk - lactose-free milk is a great alternative to regular milk. Whether you drink it by the glass or use it in recipes, it can be key to helping get the calcium and nutrients you need every day."

INTERNATIONAL

IMF sells gold for debt relief

WASHINGTON (IPS) - The International Monetary Fund began off-market sales of gold from its reserves earlier this month to finance debt relief for some of the world's poorest countries.

The gold transactions and the debt question, however, remain contentious. At issue is the financing of the IMF's share of the Heavily Indebted Poor Country initiative, the first comprehensive effort to reduce Third World debt owed to all creditors - bilateral, multilateral and commercial.

IMF officials say they expect to "sell" some of the agency's gold to Brazil and Mexico in a series of transfers starting Dec. 15 and running through spring 2000.

These countries have payments falling due to the IMF and have agreed to "buy" gold from the lender's reserves at the prevailing market price.

In turn, the IMF will take back the same amount of gold, at the same price, in lieu of cash settlement of the countries' debt repayments.

Thus, explains an IMF source, the countries will cover their debts to the fund while allowing the agency to revalue the gold, which otherwise would continue to sit on its books at values of 50 years ago, when first deposited by member states. - *Abid Aslam*

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This Week In Black History...

- Dec. 30, 1935 - Marion Anderson is hailed as "one of the great singers of our time" after an appearance at New York's Town Hall.
 - Jan. 1, 1804 - Haiti gains independence from France.
 - Jan. 1, 1808 - The slave trade is outlawed in the United States.
 - Jan. 3, 1989 - The Arsenio Hall Show premieres. The show is the first regularly scheduled late night talk show to star an African American.
 - Jan. 5, 1911 - Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity is founded on the campus of Indiana University.
 - Jan. 5, 1943 - George Washington Carver dies of anemia. Carver, who spent his career at Tuskegee University, is credited with making the peanut a staple in daily life. Among his many discoveries was peanut butter.
- From "I, Too, Sing America."



Curtis Mayfield, long a pioneer in soul music, died Sunday at 57.

Mayfield forged social conscience of soul music

BY RUSS BYNUM
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA - Curtis Mayfield urged black Americans to "Keep On Pushing" at the height of the civil rights movement, with songs that preached pride and perseverance.

His life imitated his art when an onstage accident in 1990 left him a paraplegic, but failed to stop his music. He continued to record new songs by singing flat on his back.

The gentle voice that sounded more like a pensive philosopher than a raging revolutionary was silenced on Sunday when Mayfield died at age 57.

With classics such as "People Get Ready," "We're a Winner" and "Freddie's Dead" in the 1960s and '70s, Mayfield put civil rights at the forefront of soul music when black radio was dominated by love songs and dance tunes.

"You don't have to break anything over anybody's head, no matter what you're trying to say. It doesn't have to be preached," Mayfield told The Associated Press in a 1996 interview. "What's important for me is that it's said in a manner where it gives food for thought."

Music critic Nelson George dubbed Mayfield "black music's most unflinching civil rights champion." Rolling Stone magazine declared in 1997 that "black music as we hear it today simply wouldn't exist without him."

Mayfield's socially conscious lyrics paved the way for rappers more interested in gritty urban landscapes than heavenly romance. The funk grooves on his album "Superfly" proved irresistible to hip-hop samplers.

Longtime manager and business partner Marv Heiman said Mayfield "wanted people to think about themselves and the world around them, making this a better place for everyone to live."

Mayfield was paralyzed when he was struck by a lighting rig that toppled while he was on stage performing in Brooklyn. The accident caused his health to deteriorate in recent years, and doctors amputated his right leg last year because of diabetes brought on by the injury.

Born June 3, 1942, in Chicago, Mayfield started singing gospel as a boy and taught himself to play guitar by tuning it to the black keys of the piano.

In 1956, he joined church choir member Jerry Butler, brothers Arthur and Richard Brooks, and Sam Gooden in a group called The Roosters. They changed their name to The Impressions two years later, and had a No. 11 hit with "For Your Precious Love."

The group went on to record a string of hits, including "Gypsy Woman," "It's All Right" and "I'm So Proud."

It was 1964's "Keep On Pushing" that marked a turning point for Mayfield, and broadened the parameters of black music. Widely regarded as the first rhythm and blues song to rally blacks behind the civil rights movement, "Keep On Pushing" became a Top 10 R&B and pop hit.

Mayfield continued putting black pride and social issues at the forefront in Impressions hits such as "We're a Winner," "This is My Country" and "Choice of Colors," which asked: "How long have you hated your white teacher? Who told you to love your black preacher?"

"Being a young black man, observing and sensing the need for

race equality and women's rights," he said, "I wrote about what was important to me."

Other black songwriters soon followed Mayfield's lead. Sam Cooke recorded "A Change Is Gonna Come" shortly before he was shot to death in December 1964. James Brown had a hit four years later with the strident "Say It Loud - I'm Black and I'm Proud." And Marvin Gaye joined Mayfield on the cutting edge of thinking man's soul in 1971 with "What's Going On."

After his accident, Mayfield found he could still sing by lying down, letting gravity put pressure on his chest and lungs. With vocals sometimes recorded lines at a time, Mayfield released his final album, "New World Order," in 1996.

Mayfield was a two-time inductee to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame - as a member of The Impressions, and as a solo artist. Though his songs often invoked bleak surroundings, they never lost sight of hope.

"Like a true nonviolent civil-rights activist, Mayfield looked for the best in antagonists as well as friends, gently prodding for change and rarely pointing an accusatory finger in anger," critic George wrote in his 1988 book, "The Death of Rhythm & Blues." "There was dignity in his approach, a feeling that his ideals were for the elevation of his listeners."

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| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| BICENTENNIAL MAN (PG) | 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:40 |
| STUART LITTLE (PG) | 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00 |
| TALENTED MR. RIPLEY (R) | 1:15 4:15 7:10 9:45 |
| MAN ON THE MOON (R) | 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:30 |
| GALAXY QUEST (PG) | 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:20 |
| ANY GIVEN SUNDAY (R) | 12:45 4:30 8:15 |

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| WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG-13) | 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:40 |
| DUCE BIGELOW (R) | 1:15 3:15 5:15 7:15 9:15 |
| SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) | 1:00 4:00 7:10 9:30 |
| BICENTENNIAL MAN (PG) | 2:00 5:00 8:00 |
| STUART LITTLE (PG) | 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30 |
| ANNA AND THE KING (PG-13) | 12:45 4:30 8:15 |

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PRESENTED IN **HX SOUND**

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| STUART LITTLE (PG) | 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00 |
| ANNA AND THE KING (PG-13) | 12:45 4:30 8:15 |
| GREEN MILE (R) | 12:00 3:30 7:00 10:30 |
| TOY STORY (G) | 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 FRI & SAT 9:30 |
| END OF DAYS (R) | 4:00 9:40 |
| WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (R) | 1:00 7:00 |
| GREEN MILE (R) | 1:00 4:45 8:15 |
| TALENTED MR. RIPLEY (R) | 1:15 4:15 7:00 9:45 |
| DUCE BIGELOW (R) 1:15 3:15 5:15 7:15 FRI & SAT 9:15 | |
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| GALAXY QUEST (R) | 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:20 |

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| 2096 PETERS CREEK PKWY. | |
| MAN ON THE MOON (R) | 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:30 |
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| STUART LITTLE (PG) | 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00 |
| ANNA AND THE KING (PG-13) | 12:45 4:30 8:15 |
| GALAXY QUEST (PG) | 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:20 |
| ANY GIVEN SUNDAY (R) | 12:45 4:30 8:15 |

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Grace United is Y2K ready

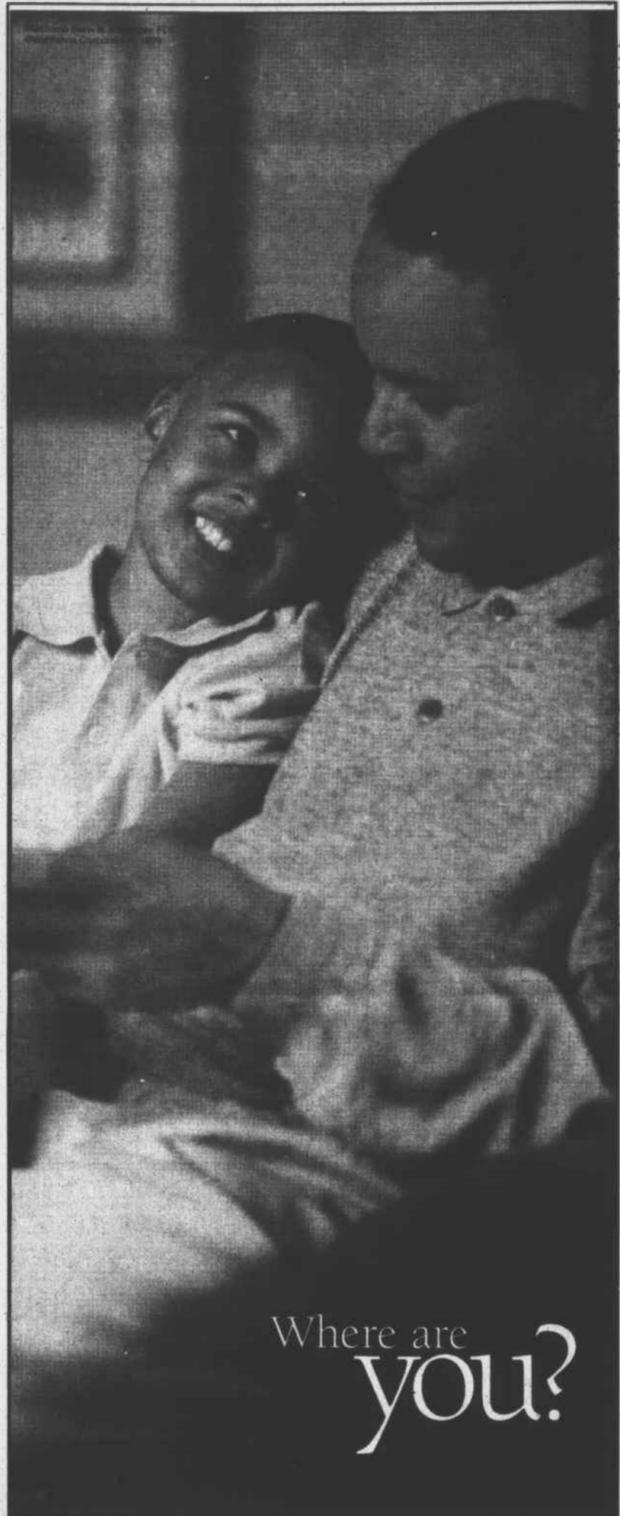
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

With the new millennium only a few days away, many may be concerned about the changes that the new year will bring. Many may worry about their bank accounts, computers, utilities, airplane flights and other things that are controlled by computers. The concern over this date change has been phenomenal. However,

Grace United Community Church has been Y2K ready for some time. For the new year, as in years past, Grace United is ready to Yield To the King. We are ready.

To bring in the year right, Grace United will join Spencer Memorial Christian Church, St. John Baptist Church and St. Matthew Baptist Church for a combined Watch Night service.

See Grace United on A5



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