# News at a Glance

## Singer Elisabeth Welch dies at 99

**LONDON (AP)** – Elisabeth Welch, the American-born singer who introduced the Charleston on Broadway and had show-stopping successes with Cole Porter's "Love for Sale" and Harold Arlen's "Stormy Weather," has died at the age of 99.

Welch died on July 15 at a retirement home in north London.

Born in New York City to a Scottish-born mother and a father of African-American and Native-American blood, she sang from an early age, in school productions and in the choir of at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church in New York, which was invited in 1923 to sing a Broadway show called "Runnin' Wild."

Welch

Her first big part on Broadway was in the chorus in Lew Leslie's "Blackbirds," which starred Adelaide Hall, Ada Ward and Bill "Bojangles" Robinson. She went with the show to Paris. She later appeared in Porter's "New Yorkers," singing "Love for Sale," a song that caused scandal by referring to prostitution.

Welch had first appeared in London in an all-black review, "Dark Doings," at the Leicester Square Theater in 1933, in which she introduced Harold Arlen's haunting "Stormy Weather" to British audiences. She settled in England, becoming a star of stage, film and radio.

Her London credits included the stowaway Cleo Washington in Ivor Novello's "Glamorous Night" (1935), Novello's "Arc de Triomphe" (1943), and the revue "Tuppence Colored," in which she sang the Edith Piaf song "La vie en rose."

She also appeared in the radio show "Soft Lights and Sweet Music" and films including "Song of Freedom" (1936) and "Big Fella" (1937) with Paul Robeson, where the two performers broke new ground for black actors by playing the stars, rather than simply servants in the background.

In the 1970s, she garnered rave reviews for her appearance as the grandmother in the musical "Pippin" and starred in "Tempest," director Derek Jarman's unorthodox film of the Shakespearean play, in 1980.

Welch had great success off-Broadway in 1986 with her one-woman show, "A Time to Start Living," and won an Obie award. The same year, the Broadway version of her London hit, "Jerome Kern Goes to Hollywood," brought her a Tony nomination, prompting critic Frank Rich to declare her "a national resource too rare and precious for export."

Welch was briefly married in her youth; there were no children. The funeral was held July 21 at the Breakspear crematorium in Ruislip, north London.

## Jones negotiating to fight Tyson, Lewis

**MIAMI (AP)** – WBA heavyweight champion Roy Jones Jr. could fight either Mike Tyson or Lennox Lewis later this year, but has not entered into a deal for any future bouts, his adviser said last week.

Brad Jacobs, Jones' adviser, denied reports that circulated Tuesday saying Jones will fight Nov. 8 near Nairobi, Kenya, with Tyson as the probable opponent.

Tyson

"We have been talking directly with Mike Tyson and Lennox Lewis for prospective opponents for Roy's next fight," Jacobs said. "But as of yet, nothing is in stone."

Promoters in Nairobi announced last week that Jones will defend his title at the 60,000-seat Moi International Stadium. But neither Jacobs nor Linda Padgett, Jones' personal assistant, said they were aware of that fight being finalized.

Jones

Jones (48-1) became the first man in more than 100 years to make the climb from middleweight champion to the heavyweight title when he defeated John Ruiz earlier this year for the WBA crown.

Lewis, the WBC heavyweight champion, said earlier this month he was considering several options, including a matchup with Jones. But he is more likely to fight a December rematch with Vitali Klitshcko, who was beating Lewis last month when the fight was stopped after six rounds because of cuts.

Tyson hasn't fought since stopping Clifford Etienne in the first round in February.

## Miami mayor apologizes to NAACP for 1990 Mandela snub

**MIAMI (AP)** – Miami-Dade County Mayor Alex Penelas apologized July 14 to the NAACP for the snubbing former South African President Nelson Mandela received from local officials 13 years ago.

Penelas told 10,000 delegates at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's 94th annual convention that he went to Mandela's home two years ago to apologize but that the South African leader was ill and unable to meet with him.

Penelas

"I sat there to correct the wrong. I hoped to offer then, and I offer now, an apology to Nelson Mandela for the way he was received in Miami," Penelas said to a standing ovation.

A three-year black tourism boycott of the Miami area began after some city and county officials refused to welcome Mandela in 1990 when he spoke to a union's national convention at Miami Beach. Local Cuban and Jewish leaders had condemned Mandela's links to Cuban dictator Fidel Castro and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Penelas is one of five Democrats seeking the U.S. Senate seat of Bob Graham, who is running for president.

"I am proud of how far we have come," Penelas said. "President Mandela's visit was one of the many challenges we have learned from."

The NAACP convention ran through July 17. It was the first NAACP annual convention in South Florida since 1980.

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# Trailblazing tennis sisters get their due

BY JON KRAWCZYNSKI
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**MONTGOMERY, Ala.** – Long before Venus and Serena, there were "Pete" and "Repeat."

Tuskegee University sisters Margaret "Pete" Peters and Matilda Roumania "Repeat" Peters dominated the national tennis scene from the late 1930s into the early 1950s and, in doing so, forged a path for other black players – such as Venus and Serena Williams – to succeed.

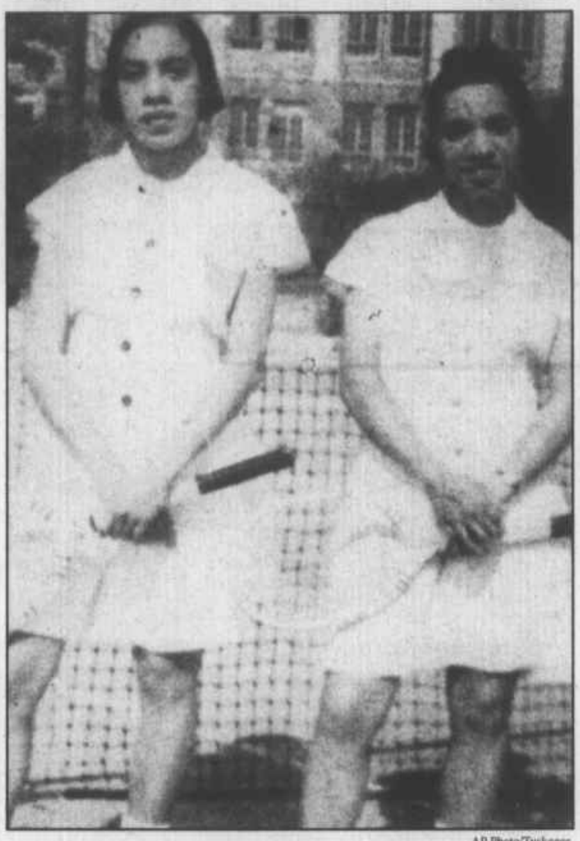
Yet despite their tremendous success on the court, the Peters sisters are mostly forgotten names in tennis lore.

"They are a shining example of a tennis legacy that's unknown to most of America," said Camille Riggs Mosley, who is co-writing "Outside the Lines," a history of blacks in tennis.

While black tennis greats such as Althea Gibson, Arthur Ashe, Zina Garrison and Venus and Serena Williams have been recognized for years, the Peters sisters are just now getting their due.

The once unbeatable doubles pair will be honored with an achievement award at this weekend's U.S. Tennis Association Federation Cup tournament in their native Washington, D.C. They also will be inducted into the USTA's Mid-Atlantic Section Hall of Fame on Nov. 15.

Roumania Peters Walker died May 16 at the age of 85 after a bout with pneumonia.


AP Photo/Tuskegee

***Margaret "Pete" (left) and Roumania "Repeat" Peters are shown in this undated handout photo.***

Margaret Peters, 88, suffers from Alzheimer's disease.

The belated accolades are coming from an organization that would not allow them to compete in its tournaments in their playing days.

In the face of racial segregation, the sisters joined, and flourished in, the American Tennis Association, which was created in 1916 to allow blacks to play competitively.

"Pete" and "Repeat" won a record 14 ATA doubles championships on two streaks from 1938-41 and 1944-53.

Roumania also won ATA singles titles in 1944 and 1946, the latter coming at the expense of Gibson, who began in ATA, competed professionally against whites for the first time in 1950 and has long been considered the most successful black woman in tennis history.

Mosley said their success inspired blacks to do more than just play tennis.

"In large measure, because of the success of the Peters sisters, tennis introduced the whole notion that college is something 'I can do,' 'I'm expected to do,' 'I should do,' and 'There are people who look like me who are doing this,'" Mosley said.

The two began their careers on the clay courts of Washington, playing what many at the time considered to be a white person's game.

Playing in the ATA, Margaret first gained the attention of Tuskegee Athletic Director Cleveland Leigh Abbot in 1935. Abbot offered Margaret a full scholarship, but she decided to wait until Roumania graduated from high school. The two entered college together in 1937.

"They were very close," said Frances Weekes, Roumania's daughter.

So they headed to the South together, into the heart of segregation.

"Imagine piling into the car to drive south to college to

See **Tennis sisters** on **A4**

# *Sharpton calls for black input on Liberia*

BY EDWARD HARRIS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**ACCRA, Ghana** – Black Americans should help U.S. officials decide whether or not to send peacekeeping troops to Liberia, Democratic presidential candidate Al Sharpton said Sunday in Ghana – where negotiators are working on a peace plan despite fresh fighting in the war-torn West African nation founded by freed American slaves.

U.S. President George W. Bush is considering whether to send troops to bolster a promised West African force that Liberians hope will end more than a decade of fighting in the country.

"The African American community can have a lot of impact on what position will come from the U.S. government based on where we want to go and recommend," said Sharpton, a civil rights leader who plans to run in the 2004 U.S. presidential elections.

Sharpton is leading a delegation of prominent black Americans, including Princeton African-American studies scholar Cornel West, to Ghana's capital, where Liberian peace talks are being held.

The group hopes to travel to Liberia to meet with embattled President Charles Taylor although the fighting has become increasingly fierce in recent days with a rebel push into the capital.

"The carnage must stop," Sharpton said.

Sharpton told The Associated Press after meeting with rebel and government delegates he had yet to decide whether he thought the United States should commit troops to the country.

"America should do whatever it can in conjunction with African leaders. What that should be, we'll make that determination after the talks," with other delegates and possibly Taylor, Sharpton said.

Bush has made Taylor's departure a precondition for sending troops. Taylor, a former warlord and indicted war criminal, has accepted a Nigerian offer of sanctuary but said he would only leave when what he described as a "sufficient" number of peacekeepers were on the ground.

The west African regional bloc mediating peace efforts in Ghana has promised to send 1,500 peacekeeping troops in the coming weeks to monitor a June 17 cease-fire agreement between forces loyal to Taylor and rebels seeking his ouster.

The United States – under international pressure to send

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Sharpton

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