

News at a Glance

Memorial marker honors King's speech

(Special to the NNPA) - A plaque honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has been placed on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, 40 years after his historic "I Have a Dream" speech.

Approximately 4 million visitors each year will see the \$8,300 project. The plaque, etched on a landing on the steps of the memorial, is 24-inches wide and 10-inches tall and reads:

I HAVE A DREAM
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON
FOR JOBS AND FREEDOM
AUGUST 28, 1963
Louisville attorney Tom Williams spearheaded the effort for the memorial when he visited the Lincoln Memorial in October 1997. After searching for a marker denoting the spot where King stood, he found none.



King

"It just seemed like an obvious omission," Williams told reporters.

After contacting his congresswoman, Rep. Anne M. Northup (R-Ky.), Williams requested that a marker be placed on the steps.

Kenyan wins literary prize

NAIROBI, Kenya (IPS/GIN)—This year's Caine Prize for African Writers has been won by Kenyan Yvonne Adhiambo Owour, for her short story, "Weight of Whispers."

The story is "narrated by an aristocratic Rwandan refugee in the aftermath of the 1994 massacres," said chairman of the judges at the prize-giving ceremony in Oxford University's Bodleian Library last week. "Its great strength is the subtle and suggestive way it dramatizes the condition of the refugee and also...incorporates so many large issues."

Born in Nairobi, Owour studied at Jomo Kenyatta University, Kenya, and then Reading University in England. She currently works as the executive director of the Zanzibar International Film Festival.

The Caine Prize is awarded to Africans for a short story by published in English by a writer born in African whose writing reflects that African background.

As well as \$15,000 prize money, Owour will be offered a travel grant.

Las Vegas assemblyman is criticized for making remark about black gays

LAS VEGAS (AP) - Assemblyman Bob Beers, R-Las Vegas, is being criticized for a remark he made about an AIDS awareness program that serves the black community.

In an interview with the Las Vegas Sun, Beers dismissed the Las Vegas-based Fighting AIDS in our Community Today as a program "dedicated to putting condoms on gay men in the black community."

Assemblyman Kelvin Atkinson, D-North Las Vegas, who is black, said the comment reflects Beers' larger perspective.

"To me it's a racist remark," Atkinson said. "It's something that shouldn't be tolerated in our district." Beers said his comments were not racist but descriptive of what the organization does.

Beers' comments came as part of a discussion about Assembly Bill 8, which included what he called legislative pork and "pet projects."

It's not the first time Beers has faced public criticism. In February, Beers was criticized for an e-mail sent to a constituent, in which he described casino workers as "prone to dropping out of school, reproducing illegitimate children, often while little more than children themselves, abusing drugs and alcohol more frequently, and even killing themselves more often than people who do value education."

Beers was criticized again in March for his response to an Episcopalian bishop who urged lawmakers to address a \$704 million state budget shortage.

Beers responded by saying: "There's gotta be more Episcopalian bishops besides you. ... Your opinion is pretty far out there and strikes me as an opinion of a woman with no taxpaying parishioners."

Marian Anderson's studio being restored

DANBURY, Conn. (AP) -The Danbury Museum and Historical Society is restoring Marian Anderson's rehearsal studio, creating a public exhibit celebrating her achievements. Anderson was a longtime Danbury resident who practiced for her concerts in the studio.

"She was larger than life and had this voice from God," said Brigid Durkin, executive director of the Danbury museum. "She broke all sorts of color barriers."

Durkin predicts the studio will draw large crowds when it is ready for the public in the spring.

Anderson sang for six decades around the world, and is popularly remembered for her 1939 Lincoln Memorial concert in Washington. It was arranged by first lady Eleanor Roosevelt after the Daughters of the American Revolution canceled the singer's engagement at Constitution Hall because she was black.

Anderson was the first black singer to perform at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City in 1955. She also sang at the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy and in 1991 was honored with the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. Anderson died in 1993.

Africans Americans feeling it worst in nation's current turbulent economy

BY DIANNE SOLIS
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

DALLAS (AP) - The employment picture is bleak. Nationwide, nearly 2.6 million manufacturing jobs have been lost since July 2000.

And that statistic has hit black Americans hard.

Black unemployment hit 11.8 percent in June, a new high since the recession began in March 2001. Hispanic unemployment

"Employers are happier to hire Latino males than black men. Black men are the most negatively perceived group."

-Harry Holzer, a Georgetown University professor

climbed as well, to 8.4 percent, from 8.2 percent.

But while both numbers have historically been higher than that of whites, blacks are being affected much more than Hispanics, whose educational rates substantially trail those of blacks.

The reasons may offer insight into globalization and migration.

Blacks are more heavily concentrated in manufacturing jobs, which have shed workers quickly during this downturn and may not ramp up to their former size because of global outsourcing.



Quenette Amadi holds son, Mantrell, as she fills out an unemployment form in Chester, S.C.

Hispanics are more concentrated in services and construction, two areas that are doing relatively well in this sour economy.

Moreover, a puzzling phenomenon is happening: Hispanic employment is climbing at the same time that Hispanic unemployment is creeping up. That reflects the population growth of

Hispanics, who are the nation's largest minority group and have a younger median age than blacks and non-Hispanic whites.

"What industry you are in is an important indicator of how well you will do," said economist Jared Bernstein of the Economic Policy Institute in Washington. "Construction is big for Hispan-

ics and that has been helped by the housing boom. ... Another is health care, and there are Hispanics, females in particular, working in the low-end of the sector."

Nationally, the construction industry has received repeated boosts from mortgage rates that are at historic lows.

See Economy on A9

'Kitchen of the civil rights movement' shuts down

BY HAL LAMAR
THE ATLANTA VOICE

ATLANTA (NNPA) - It's a done deal. Paschal's Center at Clark Atlanta University (CAU), the original civil rights landmark establishment, will close its doors for good July 28. About 30 employees of the restaurant have already picked up their last checks.

The restaurant once referred to as "the kitchen of the Civil Rights Movement" is now being labeled by school administrators as a financial "white elephant."

CAU President Walter Broadnax said he recognized the historical significance of the restaurant, and unfortunately it was a decision that had to be made.

"I make this decision with a heavy heart," he said during a news conference at the university. "But I have a compelling and fiduciary responsibility to CAU to make certain it carries out its principle mission of educating young minds."

Broadnax basically said that CAU just could no longer afford to keep the restaurant open. The former hotel space had been used for student housing. "We have been losing \$500,000 a year for the last three years. We have to address that staggering loss," Broadnax said.

He said several alternatives have been discussed in the past but that the one that suited CAU was closing the restaurant that would provide the school with "immediate debt relief."

He indicated that the historic building will be razed and that student housing would be built in the vacant space along MLK Junior Drive at an estimated cost of \$40 million. He said while the school cannot afford the demolition or construction costs, arrangements have been made for third-party financing. He declined to disclose the third party. He also quashed rumors that the school's bonding situation was in such dire straits that the Paschal's building was on the verge of foreclosure.

"I know of no outside entity forcing us to take this action," he said.

Broadnax said plans are

to preserve some portion of the former building's artifacts commemorating what the restaurant has meant to the Civil Rights Movement.

"This community is profuse with icons of the Civil Rights Movement. Paschal's was just one. You also have many areas of the city that serve that same purpose," Broadnax said.

Interestingly, though the school got a permit to demolish from the city in



Photo by Hal Lamar/The Atlanta Voice

The original Paschal's restaurant location has become a financial drain on its owners, Clark Atlanta University, and must be closed.

See Paschal's on A5



Beers

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The 2nd Annual National Black Film Festival

Movies in the Park
A Celebration of the Black Documentary Filmmaker

August 7th & 8th, 8:00 pm
Winston Square Park
(downtown beside Sawtooth Bldg.)
Winston-Salem, NC

Charles McClennahan
Founder and Filmmaker

The Films

Walk With Me... A True Story of Pain and Redemption
A North Carolina street preacher tries to maintain dignity in the face of the undignifying circumstances of his own life and the Jim Crow era. Thur. 8:00 pm

Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice, by William Greaves
A woman of superior courage fights alone against the growing horror of lynching in America. (back by popular demand!) Thur. 9:00 pm

Holler! (short documentary), by Miriam Perez
Are we as African Americans really ready to talk about AIDS? Friday 8:00 pm

Holocaust in America: After the Darkness, by Charles McClennahan
Given up for dead, one woman tells her story of the determination and motivation that gave her the will to embrace her life with new meaning. Friday 8:30 pm

The Last Barber Shop in NC Celebrating the Life of the late Elder E. L. Cundiff
Has the slow disappearance of these shops as 'gathering places' affected the African American community's ability to find a protective enclave? Friday 9:30 pm

*rain accomodation TBA