

News at a Glance

Prince denies assault accusation

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Prince is denying allegations that he instructed his bodyguard to assault a college student who took the musician's photo at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.



Prince

Prince filed a counterclaim last week in Hennepin County District Court, alleging the student invaded his privacy and violated trademark and copyright law.

Anthony Fitzgerald of Edina sued Prince and his bodyguard in April for damages of at least \$50,000. Fitzgerald claims he was assaulted at the airport Dec. 29 and that his new digital camera was confiscated when he took a photo of Prince as the rock star was getting off a plane.

Prince's countersuit also seeks at least \$50,000 in damages.

"His (Fitzgerald's) claim has no legal basis and we will be fighting this in court," Prince's lawyer, Kristen Naros, told the Star-Tribune.

Fitzgerald's attorney, Kari Berman, also called Prince's counterclaim baseless.

"He is a public figure walking through a public airport. There's no expectation of privacy, and he knows it," Berman said.

Church apologizes for turning away African-American Christians in 1964

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. (AP) — A church that shunned black Christians and civil rights activists in 1964 recently apologized for the racist acts.

First United Methodist Church also honored two women, Audrey Willis and Janice Boles, who were turned away from the St. Augustine church as children.

"We regret our actions," said Pastor Pat Turner-Sharpston. "We regret the hurt we caused you. We ask your forgiveness."

An elderly white woman had walked Boles and her sister, both child activists, to the church, which was surrounded by reporters. A church leader told the woman the girls were not welcome, Boles said.

"The deacon said, 'You can come in, but the little monkeys have to stay outside,'" Boles said. "I would like to say to all of you that I forgive you because I am a Christian."

Willis described being arrested when she tried to enter the church. "If I had it to do over again, I would," she said.

First United Methodist Church voted to accept all worshippers shortly after the girls' arrests, but the memory of that incident has resurfaced yearly, Turner-Sharpston said.

"If we could, we'd go back and undo it," he said.

Local filmmakers Jeremy Dean and Tyler Fuller, whose work has included documenting the civil rights struggles in St. Augustine, proposed the event, Turner-Sharpston said.

N.J. grants boxing license to Mike Tyson

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Hours after Mike Tyson was granted a boxing license in New Jersey, Gov. James E. McGreevey said he wouldn't allow the former heavyweight champion to fight at any state-owned or operated facility.

The governor also said he would ask the state's Athletic Control Board to review the decision made Monday by its commissioner.

"The governor doesn't think Mr. Tyson has the temperament to engage in good sportsmanship," McGreevey spokesman Micah Rasmussen said.

The governor's decision limits the venues available to Tyson by rendering off-limits the Meadowlands, Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall and the Atlantic City Convention Center, Rasmussen said.

Tyson was granted the New Jersey license Monday, nearly six years after he swore at regulators during a licensing hearing.

"He's been behaving himself for quite some time," Athletic Commissioner Larry Hazzard said.

The 38-year-old former heavyweight champion, who has fought only three times in the last four years, was granted a license by Hazzard on behalf of the state Athletic Control Board.

The board has been in talks with Tyson's camp for six months and Tyson filed the application last week, Hazzard said.

The boxer hopes to fight former European champion Danny Williams on July 30 in Louisville, Ky., but the date isn't official yet.

The fight would be Tyson's first since Feb. 22, 2003, when he knocked out Clifford Etienne in 49 seconds in Memphis, Tenn. Tyson has fought only three times since 2001.



Tyson

Pioneering African-American surgeon Dr. Dorothy Brown dies

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Dorothy Brown, a pioneering black female surgeon and legislator, died June 13 of congestive heart failure. She was believed to be 90.

According to the National Library of Medicine, Brown was the first black female to become a surgeon in the South, a Tennessee legislator and a single adoptive parent in the state.

Born in Philadelphia, Brown was reared by orphanages and foster families. The exact year of her birth is unknown, but she eventually used her recollections and census records to conclude she was born Jan. 7, 1914.

A 1948 graduate of Meharry Medical College, she held the position of chief of surgery at Riverside Hospital for 25 years in Nashville and received numerous awards and accolades for her work in medicine.

In 1966, she served a term in the state House of Representatives and co-sponsored the legislation that created "Negro History Week," which grew to become Black History Month. She also introduced a 1967 bill to legalize abortion in cases of rape or incest.

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Docs explore why weight gain is more dangerous for whites

BY DANIEL Q. HANEY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

While much research suggests even a little extra weight can be bad for people's health, the hazard is much less clear for black people than for whites.

Several studies show little or no association between rising weight and the risk of death for U.S. blacks, especially women. In fact, being overweight but not obese could even be a benefit rather than a hazard.

The question is why. Are blacks truly less susceptible than whites to the ill effects of fat? Or are the studies somehow so flawed that they fail to measure this effect?

"People don't know what to make of it," said Dr. Steven Heymsfield of Columbia University. "Blacks still have a lot of strokes and heart attacks, but maybe it's for reasons other than BMI."

Also unclear is whether the same is true for people of African descent in other parts of the world, experts said, since large studies like those in the United States have not been done.

One of the largest reports to look at this, an analysis of American Cancer Society data on more than 1 million U.S. adults, found strong ties between weight and longevity for whites but much less solid evidence for blacks.

For instance, the study found only about a 20 percent increased risk of death among overweight black women, and even then only when their body-mass index exceeded 35, which is well into the obese range. The risk for black men began to rise when they reached the overweight category, but the increase was small.

The rising risk was not considered statistically meaningful for either men or women, but that might have been because only about 12,000 study participants were black, too few to show a clear trend.



KRT Photo

Weight on white people is more hazardous to their health.

Jackson State announcer killed by father

THE JACKSON ADVOCATE

JACKSON, MISS. (NNPA) — The contributions of the late Edgar Maurice "Bob" Carpenter, general manager of Southern Urban Network, far exceed his relationship with Jackson State University as its longtime radio sports announcer.

Although his efforts led JSU to become recognized as a vital component to any radio station's sports programming, Carpenter served the larger African-American community as a seasoned journalist at WOAD.

Carpenter died recently in Greenwood at the hands of his father, 73-year-old Walter Carpenter, who was apparently unable to control his anger. The deadly assault from a single bullet wound to the chest stemmed from the younger Carpenter shielding his mother, Jewell Carpenter, 69, from a physical confrontation with his incensed father.

"Bob" was able to do news and sports at the same time. I remember when I was teaching journalism at Tougaloo College, he was assistant news director at Mississippi Network," recalled Lynnette Johnson Williams, now director of media relations for the Global Health Council in Washington, D.C.

"I met Bob the night we were both covering the gubernatorial election of Bill Allain. That was November 1983. I was so impressed that a black man was assistant news director in our state at that time. He was very professional and had this great voice. He helped me to learn how to cover news," said

Williams, a former UPI reporter.

Carpenter covered several major campaigns during his broadcast career. Among those he interviewed were U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran, former U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley Braun, former Surgeon General Dr. David Thatcher, and Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala, and every Mississippi governor.

He provided news coverage of Spike Lee during his release of "Four Little Girls," the film about the vicious murders of four black girls, in



Edgar Maurice "Bob" Carpenter

the 1963 Birmingham, Ala., church bombing.

Williams said she and Carpenter had mutual respect for each other. "I was in awe of him, and he admired me for my accomplishments. It's funny now, but I remember when I was working in Washington for Thad Cochran, Bob taught me how to unplug the phone line and connect a recorder to it so I could feed audio of the senator back to Mississippi. Sen. Cochran thought I was so efficient,"

See Carpenter on A6

THE CHRONICLE

The Choice for African-American News

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