

# News at a Glance

## U.S. stamp to honor Little Rock Nine

**LITTLE ROCK (AP)** — One of the tentative designs for the 37-cent commemorative postage stamps for 2005 will feature the 1957 Central High School desegregation crisis, a U.S. Postal Service official says.

The stamp will be part of a 10-stamp collection paying tribute to the Civil Rights Movement of the mid-20th century. The collection, titled "To Form A More Perfect Union," includes a stamp titled "1957-Little Rock Nine." It depicts nine children, accompanied by two adults, standing in a line outside the school, according to Cynthia Pettis-Puryear, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Postal Service Stamp Services Division.

In 1957, nine black students were barred from the school even though the U.S. Supreme Court had ordered integration. The following year, legislation backed by Gov. Orval Faubus closed the public high schools for the year. They were reopened and integrated in the 1959 school year. The 2005 stamps will be formally unveiled in November.

## Kerry to speak in New Orleans at National Baptist Convention today

**BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)** — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry will speak to the nation's largest organization of black Baptists at their annual convention in New Orleans today, spokespersons for the group said Friday.

There was no official confirmation from the Kerry campaign. It would be the candidate's fourth trip to Louisiana this year. National Baptist Convention USA officials said Kerry had reached out to the group, asking to speak at their annual convention, and has been given a 4 p.m. speaking slot on Sept. 9.

"I understand he has expressed interest in coming, and as I understand it he initially wanted to come on a date that was already full, but was able and willing to rearrange his schedule," said Dr. Wendell Griffen of Little Rock, the National Baptists' parliamentarian.



Kerry

President Bush has not expressed similar interest, Griffen said, but would be welcome if he did, although the group, which has a membership of about 7.5 million, opposed the Iraq war and Bush's affirmative action policies.

"There have been some areas in which we disagreed and disagreed openly with this administration," Griffen said. "The convention has not turned Mr. Bush away, but Mr. Bush has not contacted us," he said.

Kerry's visit would underscore what campaign officials say is the candidate's desire to keep in play one of the few Southern states where the Democratic ticket could be competitive.

At the same time, it could serve to energize black voters, critical to the Democrat's prospects — and a group he has been criticized for neglecting.

## Teens accused of cross-burning plead guilty in federal court

**COVINGTON, Ky. (AP)** — Two teenagers accused of burning a cross in the front yard of a black family pleaded guilty Thursday in federal court.

Matthew Scudder, 18, of Hebron, and James Foster, 19, of Independence, pleaded guilty to violating the family's civil rights, intimidating the family and to aiding and abetting a juvenile involved in the crime.

The two face up to 10 years in prison at sentencing, scheduled for Dec. 16.

On July 2, the northern Kentucky family found a 3-foot-tall charred cross in its front yard in Burlington. The next morning, the windows were broken out of a family car.

The family moved out of Boone County after the incident.

Federal prosecutors said Scudder and Foster conspired to intimidate the family. They said Scudder and the juvenile burned the cross and threw bricks at the car's windows. The teens wore white hoods and shouted racial slurs as they targeted the family, the FBI said.

The case was prosecuted in federal court because under Kentucky law the teens would have faced misdemeanor charges and could have been sentenced to only one year in jail.

## NAACP state president apologizes to gubernatorial candidate for attack

**SEATTLE (AP)** — The NAACP's state conference president has apologized to gubernatorial candidate Christine Gregoire's campaign manager, after the president of the Seattle NAACP branch implied that Gregoire's participation in an all-white sorority 30 years ago was evidence of racism.

"You shouldn't charge people with being racist without some scientific evidence," NAACP state leader Oscar Eason said.

Eason wrote a letter of apology to Tim Zenk, Gregoire's campaign manager. He said the NAACP does not endorse candidates or get involved in partisan politics, "and we apologize for any statements that would suggest otherwise."

Eason didn't mention Seattle branch NAACP president Carl Mack by name. But he was responding to "inflammatory" comments made by Mack and others last week at a news conference organized by Mack, Eason said.

Mack and other speakers criticized Gregoire for joining Kappa Delta at the University of Washington in the late 1960s. Gregoire has said she deplored the sorority's exclusionary policy and worked for change from within. In 1973, after graduating, she traveled to the sorority's national convention in Virginia and unsuccessfully lobbied to get Kappa Delta to include nonwhites. Some black leaders have come to Gregoire's defense, pointing out her record of fairness as attorney general. Her primary opponent, King County Executive Ron Sims, who is black, said last week he doesn't believe Gregoire is racist.



Gregoire

# Credit can affect jobs, buying insurance, renting apartments

BY EILEEN ALT POWELL  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**NEW YORK** — Brenda Matthews thought she had a new job lined up at Johnson & Johnson headquarters in New Jersey.

After applying online for a position as a patent specialist, she was called in for interviews that seemed to go well.

"I met with the office manager, the supervisor I would have worked with," said Matthews, 27, a single mother who lives in Newark, N.J. "They loved me."

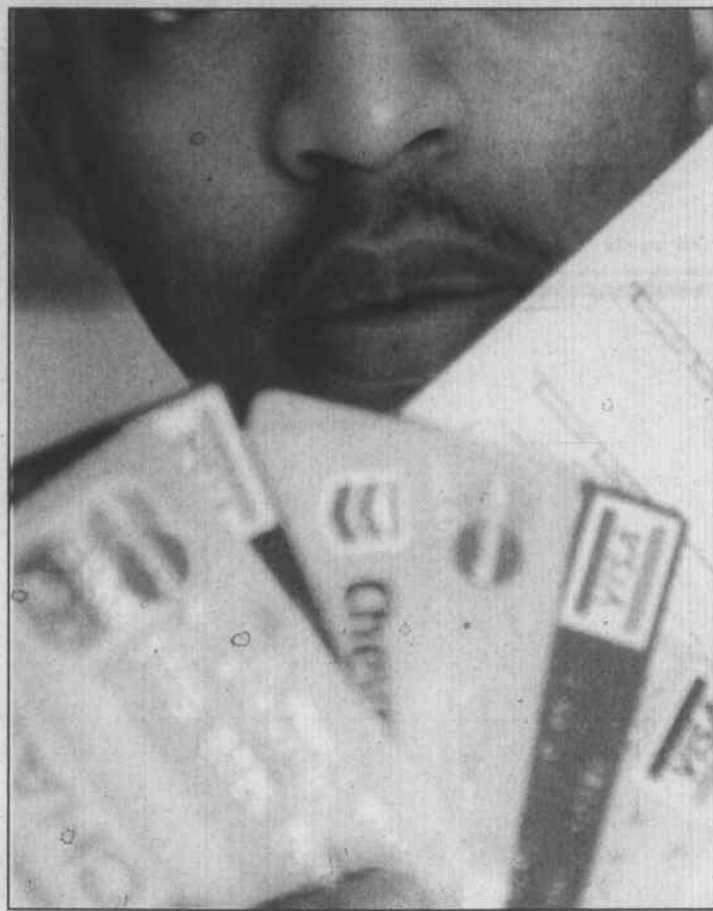
And, in fact, she was offered the job. But then Johnson & Johnson ran additional background checks and came up with information on her credit report the company found unsatisfactory.

"Just a few hours later, they wanted to take the offer back," Matthews said. "I told them, I've already told my employer I was leaving. I felt they were playing with my life."

Credit reports have long been used to determine whether consumers can get credit cards and mortgages, and the rate they'll have to pay on them. But these reports — and credit scores generated from them — are increasingly being applied to other things, from setting the price on auto insurance to analyzing prospective tenants and screening job applicants.

Consumer activists argue that the system is unfair to many Americans, especially those with little credit experience or with blemished credit records. And some people have begun fighting back in the courts.

"The reality is there are many permissible reasons for organizations to pull your credit report," said Evan Hendricks, a privacy expert who authored "Credit Scores & Credit Reports: How the System Really Works, What You Can Do." "At the same time, it's confusing, shrouded in mystery and constantly changing — and that works against consumers."



KRT Photo

Experts say people need to be especially careful with their credit these days because credit reports are now used for many reasons.

Credit reports are the records kept by credit  
See Credit on A9

# Black Republicans remain anomalies

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY  
NMPA CORRESPONDENT

**WASHINGTON** — No one can ever accuse Clarence Sailor and his wife, Rev. Deanna M. Petit-Sailor, of fitting the typical stereotype.

A staunch Republican and former president of the Republican Women's Forum of Detroit, Petit-Sailor is an avid supporter of affirmative action. Her husband, a retired union man of 30 years from the Ford Motor Co. and faithful Democrat, argues against affirmative action.

The Detroit couple are not a pairing one finds every day.

"I was a little perturbed with President Bush because of affirmative action," Petit-Sailor said of Bush, who announced his opposition to affirmative action in the University of Michigan cases last year on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. "I just feel that each American should be able to sit in a position that they're qualified for."

Sailor, a Bush supporter and pastor of the Christ United Methodist Church in Inkster, Mich., says though she sides with the Republican party on certain free enterprise issues and supports Bush on his faith-based initiatives, it is her personal experience as a black woman in America that keeps her in support of affirmative action.

"Being in the work system since I was 16 years old, I do know that there have been times that I felt that I was qualified for a position and I did not receive that position. And I knew in my heart and I knew by the mannerism of the supervision that it wasn't based on my qualifications. It was based on race," she said. "Affirmative action will help qualified African-Americans to get positions where they should be."

One of her staunchest detractors is her husband.

"Affirmative action is like you feel like someone is giving you something," he said. "We always worked and we never wanted anyone to give us anything. We endured kind of like making our own way."

Nevertheless, Sailor says he supports the campaign of Sen. John Kerry — a strong supporter of affirmative action — because he agrees with his opposition to war. "I hate it," said Sailor, who served in the U.S. Army for three years in the early 1960s. "I believe he would be the right man because I



Watts

don't believe in war."

The Sailors say they don't frequently argue over politics.

"I think the only thing that we kind of butted heads on was affirmative action," she explained. And when that happens, they agree to disagree.

In 2000, 90 percent of black voters supported the Democratic ticket, leaving about 8 percent to support the Republican ticket and 2 percent who voted for

other candidates. Therefore, black Republicans — even within the context of their own families — often find themselves a minority within a minority.

Bill Thomas, who calls himself a "Goldwater Republican" — a reference to Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona, the archconservative 1964 presidential nominee — recalls humorous spat with his "die-hard Democrat" mother.

"When I got my daughter into helping me with Republican activities, she would customarily threaten my daughter with not taking her to Disneyland," chuckled Thomas, director of governmental relations at Hampton University, a historically black University in Virginia.

Even though his wife is a Democrat, Thomas says his two college-age sons, and his daughter, now 17, are leaning more towards the GOP.

"They're more interested in what the government can get out

See Republicans on A11

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**INDEX**

- OPINION.....A6
- SPORTS.....B1
- RELIGION.....B5
- CLASSIFIEDS.....B8
- HEALTH.....C3
- ENTERTAINMENT....C7
- CALENDAR.....C9

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