

# News at a Glance

## Los Angeles pastor to retire from influential black church

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Rev. Cecil "Chip" Murray, pastor of one of the most influential black congregations in Los Angeles for 27 years, is retiring from the pulpit.



Murray

Murray, 75, will give his final sermon at the First African Methodist Episcopal Church on Sunday.

A Florida native, Murray came to the ministry after serving in the Air Force and soon became a prominent voice in the local black community. He helped organize volunteer groups to rebuild the city after the 1992 riots as well as community housing projects and neighborhood patrols to fight gang violence.

"You have been a great shepherd in our city and shown a humility that has been an example to all of us," Mayor James Hahn said.

Former President Clinton, mired in the controversy over his affair with Monica Lewinsky, came to First AME to seek forgiveness and received Murray's blessing. Nelson Mandela spoke there after his release from prison in South Africa.

Murray is also credited with increasing the church's membership to nearly 17,300 from 300. Two years ago, he underwent surgery for prostate cancer.

Sunday's service will follow a ceremony designating an area in front of the church in his honor.

## NAACP headquarters blocks Cleveland chapter's invitation to education secretary

CLEVELAND (AP) — The state NAACP has withdrawn a convention speaking invitation to U.S. Education Secretary Rod Paige at the request of the group's national office.

Paige, who was invited three weeks ago to discuss education reforms, was cut from the weekend program at the request of the national office. Ohio NAACP President Sybil Edwards-McNabb said last Thursday.

The state meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People opened Friday in Cleveland.

Edwards-McNabb said national NAACP leaders told her there was an "imbalance" in her slate of convention speakers. She said she had invited President Bush and the Democratic nominee for president, Sen. John Kerry. Bush agreed to send Paige, she said.

The Rev. Al Sharpton, who spoke at Friday's opening session, represented the Kerry campaign, said Brendon Cull, spokesman for the campaign in Ohio.

The NAACP national president, Kweisi Mfume, said Friday night that he was unaware of who in the national office might have sent a directive to withdraw the Paige invitation.

Mfume said the NAACP doesn't withdraw invitations based on partisan issues.

## Jackson booed at Baptist convention

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Members of the nation's largest black church group booed U.S. Housing Secretary Alphonso Jackson when he said during a speech last Thursday that the Republican Party is committed to helping blacks.

Jackson, who is black, appeared at the annual meeting of the National Baptist Convention USA a few hours before Democratic presidential hopeful John Kerry was scheduled to appear.



Jackson

A few of the men in dark suits and women in bright dresses, most of them middle-aged or elderly, laughed derisively at Jackson's comment. Then a quiet chorus of boos started, and went on about a minute. When it showed no signs of ending, the parliamentarian, Arkansas Court of Appeals Judge Wendell Griffen, stepped to the podium.

"My brothers and my sisters, let us allow ourselves to be the people of dignity that we are," he said.

"We need not agree," he continued, to scattered, quiet amens.

"But we need not be disagreeable." The same people said amen again.

Jackson spoke only briefly after that. He did not cut his speech short, he told The Associated Press.

He said he had expected boos.

"I am pleasantly pleased that I didn't get more," he said. "I have spoken in churches where I got called names."

The National Baptist Convention USA, based in Nashville, Tenn., has 7.5 million members. About 30,000 were registered for the convention, but only about 1,000 were in the hall for the speech.

## Funds sought for Central's anniversary

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — U.S. Sen. Mark Pryor is urging his colleagues to approve \$5.8 million to complete construction of the Little Rock Central High School Visitors Center in time for the 50th observance of the school desegregation crisis.

The Democrat from Arkansas, who attended Central High in the 1970s, spoke last Thursday on the floor of the Senate. He introduced a resolution that called for the completion of the Visitors Center in time for the 2007 observance.

The school was designated as part of the national park system in 1998. In 2002, more than 24,000 people visited the historic site, with estimates of a potential 60,000 visitors by 2007. But Pryor said the National Park Service last year decided the project should not be a priority.

Pryor said the Visitors Center has only 500 square feet devoted to exhibits, allowing a capacity of about 35 people. The center needs more space and more resources to fully tell the story in the early Civil Rights Movement, he said.

Fifty years ago the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Brown v. Board of Education that school segregation was illegal. In September 1957, Little Rock became the testing ground for school desegregation when then-Gov. Orval Faubus used troops to block nine black students from attending classes at Central High.

# Letters link between Thurmond, daughter

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The carefully worded letters lack anything personal, but show a lifelong link between the late U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond and his long-secret biracial daughter, Essie Mae Washington Williams.

For all their businesslike tone, the letters show Thurmond took an interest in Williams' life and the lives of her children — his grandchildren.

Among 8 million pages of Thurmond documents archivists are preserving, the earliest known letter between Thurmond and Williams was in April 1946, The State of Columbia reported Sunday.

Publicly, Thurmond was at the time a segregationist, opposing any mixing of races. Privately, he had a child with a black woman and kept in touch with his daughter for decades.

Their correspondences — most from the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s — are among the late senator's letters and documents archived at Clemson University, his alma mater.

The records include Father's Day, Christmas and birthday cards from Williams to Thurmond. They also reveal Thurmond's ongoing efforts to help Williams and her family.

Dan Carter, a University of South Carolina historian, said the letters are valuable because they help document Thurmond's "bizarre double life of maintaining contact with someone who is your flesh and blood — important to a



Essie Mae Washington Williams and her attorney answer questions at a news conference.

Southerner — yet at the same time managing to separate that completely from your politics."

By having a child with a black woman, Thurmond violated taboos on interracial sex, Carter said.

At the same time, he was a leading segregationist. The new records will help "historians trying to figure out who Thurmond was," Carter said.

Last December, 55 years after her mother died and six months

after Thurmond died, Williams publicly announced Thurmond was her father. Thurmond's relatives accept her claim as true. Ultimately, her name was added to a monument honoring Thurmond that lists his other children.

Williams said she was born Essie Mae Butler on Oct. 1, 1925, the result of a liaison between the then-22-year-old Thurmond and a black maid in his parents' Edgefield house, Carrie Butler. Butler was 16 at the time, Williams has

said. Early in his 48-year Senate career, Thurmond instructed Williams to write "very personal" on the outside of envelopes of her letters to him. Staffers put letters with that notation on his desk unopened.

"These were more or less business letters," Williams told The State. "There was never anything personal in it. Of course, my reasoning behind that was, in case

See Thurmond on A9

# Obama: Abandon 'One Black Syndrome'

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY  
NNPA CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senate Candidate Barack Obama, singled out for his exceptional speech at the Democratic National Convention in Boston, says blacks have moved past the need for a single national leader.

"We're beyond the point where we just have one messiah," Obama says in an NNPA interview during the Congressional Black Caucus' Annual Legislative Conference. "What we need is collective leadership helping to move the ball forward. I think everybody's got a contribution to make."

The 42-year-old Illinois state senator, former civil rights lawyer and Harvard law school graduate, became a household word after his rousing primetime speech. Some pundits immediately hailed Obama as the "Tiger Woods" of politics and predicted that he will eclipse Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton in popularity.

"There are people like myself, who hopefully can work within an institution like the United States Senate and do important work," he says, rejecting the notion that African-Americans must choose between him, Jackson or Sharpton. "There are going to be other people like Rev. Sharpton, who will be using a different platform. And I don't think those things are contradictory. Rev. Jackson is a constituent and family friend, and he was an important early supporter of my campaign. I continue to draw from the wisdom and knowledge of those who paid enormous sacrifices to help people like myself

have the opportunities that I

Obama's quick rise outside his home state has caused political observers to scrutinize him closely.

"The rap in Chicago was that he was not black enough. And so, that's still going to be a lingering question," says University of Maryland Political Scientist Ronald Walters. "But his legislative record tells you

that he has been good on progressive legislation. He seems to be a liberal. He seems to have really taken some time to deal with urban issues."

Walters did not always hold this opinion. He admits he was among the first to question Obama's racial allegiance because of the belief that he had been a member of the Democratic Leadership Committee, a

centrist group that works to

move the party to the right. "It was said that he was sort of a paper member of it, but that was to give himself some entrée," Walters says. "My interpretation was that he was covering all bases with the Democratic Party."

Obama declares that no such relationship with the DLC ever existed.

"The Black Commentator, the Web site, saw my name as one of the 100 up-and-coming that the DLC had listed and assumed that somehow that

See Obama on A4

The employees of Sara Lee Branded Apparel invite you to a

# HUGE RUMMAGE SALE

DATE: **Saturday, Sept. 18**  
LOCATION: **LJVM Coliseum**  
**Winston-Salem**  
**(off University Pkwy.)**  
HOURS: **8 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Fabulous finds including:  
furniture, toys, accessories and of course, new clothing from Hanes, L'eggs, Champion, Playtex, Wonderbra, Bali, barely there and Just My Size.

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT  
THE UNITED WAY  
OF FORSYTH COUNTY

FREE PARKING!

CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED



together, we do what matters.



### Attention Homeowners

Homes 1 year and older need to be checked for termites



"A flea circus is a good act but it takes termites to bring a home down."

Call  
Triad Pest Control  
1535 S. Martin Luther King Drive  
Winston-Salem, NC  
788-3020

<b>I N D E X</b>	
OPINION.....	A6
SPORTS.....	B1
RELIGION.....	B6
CLASSIFIEDS.....	B9
HEALTH.....	C3
ENTERTAINMENT....	C7
CALENDAR.....	C9

The Chronicle (USPS 067-910) was established by Ernest H. Pitt and Ndubisi Egemonye in 1974 and is published every Thursday by Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co. Inc., 617 N. Liberty Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101. Periodicals postage paid at Winston-Salem, N.C. Annual subscription price is \$30.72.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636  
Winston-Salem, NC 27102-1636