

News at a Glance

Steele says all-white club should reconsider policy on blacks

BALTIMORE (AP) — In a change of course, Maryland's lieutenant governor says he understands the anger of blacks and other minorities at the membership practices at the all-white Elkridge Club, telling a radio station that the club should reconsider its policies.

Michael Steele, the state's first black lieutenant governor, spoke Saturday to WBAL-AM about the criticism surrounding a June 20 fund-raiser that Republican Gov. Robert Ehrlich held at the exclusive Baltimore club, raising \$100,000 for the 2006 re-election campaign.



Steele

"With Elkridge, the core issue there is the perception of discrimination is just as insidious as the reality of discrimination, so we need to tackle it on all fronts," said Steele, who is considering a run for the U.S. Senate in 2006. "There is a sensitivity with respect to this issue, particularly in the African-American community, that cannot be lost. ... The symbol of this club grates."

No policy at the club bans blacks, members have told The (Baltimore) Sun, but there has never been a black member. After a state law was passed prohibiting country clubs from getting a property tax break if they discriminated in their membership policies, the Elkridge Club gave up its tax break in 1977 rather than give its membership list to the state, Robert A. Zarnoch, an assistant attorney general, told The Sun.

The fund-raiser drew strong criticism from black leaders, some of whom pointed out that Ehrlich attended an event at a club where Steele wouldn't be welcomed as a member.

National NAACP endorsing two Connecticut tribes

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Two Indian tribes in Connecticut have the support of the NAACP in their quest for federal recognition.

Meeting at its annual convention in Milwaukee, the civil rights group endorsed a resolution supporting the Eastern Pequots and the Schaghticoke, who have had their federal recognition overturned.

"We believe the resolution was a first step in calling national attention to the unrelenting and unfair attacks being mounted against both the Eastern Pequots and the Schaghticoke," said James Griffin, president of the Greater Waterbury Branch of the NAACP and author of the resolution. "We can't afford to sit by and let lies and distortions destroy two legitimate Native American tribes. We must make the process fair."

The resolution states, "The NAACP will vigorously oppose, through legislation, public rallies and court action, any and all attempts to discriminate against Native Americans in the federal recognition process."

The federal Bureau of Indian Affairs is reconsidering the federal recognition of both the Eastern Pequots and the Schaghticoke. In May, an appeals board at the Interior Department overturned the recognitions of both tribes. A decision is expected by October.

Federal recognition gives tribes access to federal funding for education, health care and housing. It also makes tribes eligible to operate casinos.

Black state senator claims racial profiling by Chicago police

CHICAGO (AP) — A black state senator said he was the victim of racial profiling when a white officer pulled his car over and waved a gun in his face.



Meeks

Sen. James Meeks, who is also a minister, said the confrontation happened recently when his driver was taking him, his wife and his son home from the 10,000-seat House of Hope Church, where he is pastor.

Meeks said the officer pulled over their vehicle after they passed his police car stopped in the middle of a street. When Meeks got out of the car, the officer allegedly pulled out his gun and repeatedly yelled at Meeks to get back inside his vehicle.

"If this is the way a respected clergyman, the pastor of the largest church in Illinois, a state senator and the chair of the Illinois Black Caucus is treated, I know the average young black person on the street doesn't stand a chance," Meeks said in a statement.

The officer issued four tickets, including one for failure to stop at a stop sign and another for an unfastened seat belt, the senator said.

Department spokesman Dave Bayless said that no action had been taken by the department against the 34-year-old sergeant, whose name was not released. He said the 10-year veteran remained on duty pending the outcome of an internal investigation.

Mayor Richard Daley promised a thorough investigation.

Two radio personalities are suspended over comments about police officers

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Two hip-hop radio personalities have been suspended for an on-air discussion of ways to fight police officers — comments made not long after an officer was slain.

Officials at KATZ-FM would not detail the comments but said the remarks made last week related to ways to hurt or disarm police officers.

The two suspended disc jockeys, whose professional names are DJ Kaos and DJ Syllii Asz, were discussing with callers on their morning show how to fight for an officer's radio so he or she cannot call for help, the station said.

Lee Clear, general manager of the station, apologized for the comments, calling them "entirely inappropriate."

The radio personalities, whose real names were not immediately available, also apologized.

Clear noted that the station's owner, Clear Channel Communications, had just used its stations to ask the public for information to help find the killer of Sgt. William McEntee, who was fatally shot July 5 in the St. Louis suburb of Kirkwood. A suspect has been arrested.



Black men continue to be absent from families.

Stock Photo

Study: Blacks' problems are tied to slavery

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY
NNPA CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — The tenets of American slavery, with its disregard for the cohesion of the black family — the auctions and sales of family members and use of the black man as a stud to increase the slave owner's stock — may be a main cause of what appears to be a modern-day failure of the black family, says a study released by a Boston, Mass.-based black Christian think tank.

"The unique historical experience of slavery has exacted a high price on black people in the United States," said the report by the Seymour Institute for Advanced Christian Studies. "The impact of the decay of marriage among black people has been enormous, resulting in higher poverty rates among black families, school failure among children, and the intergenerational transmission of high teen pregnancy rates and female-headed households."

"Sociological research has implicated fatherlessness in violence, drug use, and criminal behavior, especially among young black males."

The Seymour Institute is headed by the Rev. Eugene Rivers III, co-founder of the Azusa Christian Community in Boston.

The report, titled, "God's Gift: A Christian Vision of Marriage and the Black Family," says a significant answer to the crisis in the black family is the black church returning to its leading role in being an example and speaking out against social ills and immorality.

Statistics compiled by Seymour, in part, from 2002 U.S. census data, paint an ominous picture:

- Blacks were 38.6 percent less likely than whites to be married at all, 35 percent to 57 percent.
- With 8.8 million black families and 53.6 million white families in the United States, nearly half of the black families, 48 percent, were intact, married mother-

See Slavery on A5

Interracial marriages on the increase

Black men more likely to 'intermarry' than black women

BY JIM LOBE
IPS/GIN

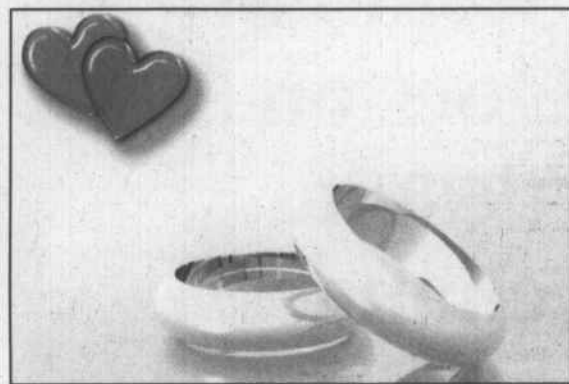
WASHINGTON (NNPA) — The number of interracial marriages in the United States increased more than tenfold between 1970 and 2000, according to a new report that concludes that U.S. attitudes toward interracial dating and marriage have undergone a "sea change" over the past generation.

Owing in part to increased immigration and higher educational levels, the percentage of interracial couples grew from under 1 percent in 2000 to more than 5 percent of the estimated 57 million couples recorded in the 2000 census, according to the report by the Washington-based Population Reference Bureau (PRB).

That translated into an increase from roughly 300,000 interracial couples in 1970 to 1.5 million in 1990 to more than 3 million in 2000, according to the 36-page report, "New Marriages, New Families: U.S. Racial and Hispanic Inter-marriage."

That trend, which shows no sign of slackening, suggests that the United States is shifting increasingly from a "salad bowl" — where racial groups maintain their separate identities and resist marrying outside their groups — to an updated "melting pot," where they are far more open to relations, including marriage, with people of a difference race.

And interracial marriage means more bi- or even multiracial children. Of the 281 million



people enumerated in the 2000 census, more than 2.4 percent, or 7 million people, reported "multiple race," a figure that PRB suggested probably understates the actual number.

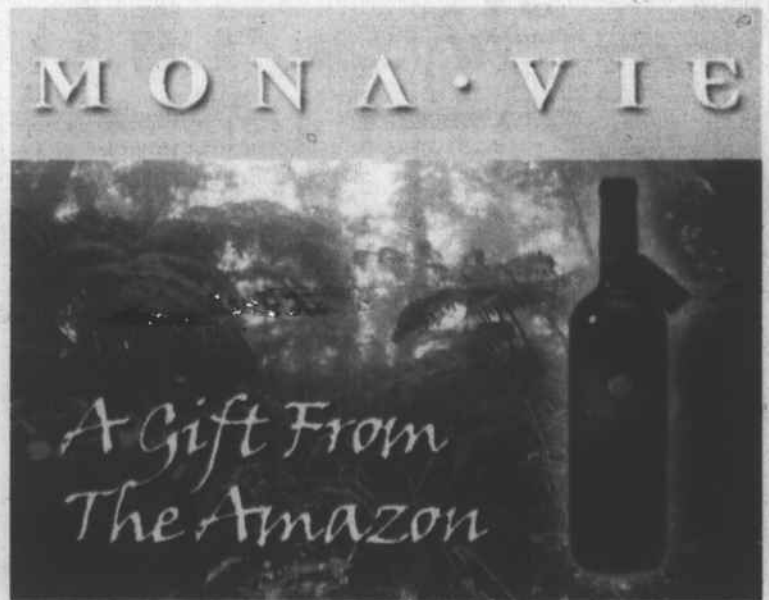
The 2000 census was the first in which the "multiple race" category was listed as an option for respondents to check, along with 15 other categories, including 11 Asian and Pacific subgroups.

The "melting pot" metaphor became even more popular years ago when advertising executives on Madison Avenue remade the

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INDEX

- OPINION.....A6
- SPORTS.....B1
- RELIGION.....B6
- CLASSIFIEDS.....B9
- HEALTH.....C3
- ENTERTAINMENT....C5
- CALENDAR.....C7

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