

# News at a Glance

## Family says Coretta Scott King improving

ATLANTA (AP) — Coretta Scott King is slowly recovering from a stroke that had left her unable to walk and barely able to speak, and she has been singing with a speech therapist, her daughter said Sunday.



King

"It's not in the soprano voice that she has," Bernice King said of her mother, a trained classical singer. "But it's in a voice that's good to hear."

Doctors say the 78-year-old widow of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. suffered a stroke last week that left her weakened on the right side of her body and mostly unable to speak.

At a prayer vigil at The King Center, Bernice King said her mother was able to lift her right leg Sunday.

About 400 people attended the vigil, including Christine King Farris, the sister of Martin Luther King Jr., and civil rights activist and comedian Dick Gregory.

The Rev. Joseph Roberts, senior pastor at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Martin Luther King Jr. preached, noted Coretta Scott King's courage in the days after her husband was assassinated.

"That kind of person can never be put down," he said. "We know the same spirit that carried her through the moments of sorrow ... is available to her even now."

Dr. Maggie Mermin, King's personal physician, said she is expected to remain at Atlanta's Piedmont Hospital for another week or so.

## Crenshaw loses its accreditation

LOS ANGELES (NNPA/Wave Newspapers) — Crenshaw High School — the school in the Los Angeles Unified School District with the greatest number of African-American students — has lost its accreditation, and officials are scrambling to determine what effect such a loss will have on the value of the school's diplomas.

The Accrediting Commission for Schools of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges denied accreditation for the school based on the reports of two evaluation visits to the school by accrediting teams within a two-year period.

The commission also expressed concern about Crenshaw's "capacity to address other critical areas for follow-up through a single schoolwide action plan that has integrated all initiatives."

Sharon Curry, Local District 3-superintendent with oversight over Crenshaw, took a pounding from the community and Councilman Bernard Parks when she transferred four of Crenshaw's five top administrators out of the school this summer.

"We've been very aware of the deficiencies at the school and its potential accreditation challenges," Curry said.

Curry said she is exploring an appeal of the accreditation denial.

## Morial's uncle pleads not guilty on embezzlement charges in federal court

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The parade of figures from the era of former New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial hauled up on corruption charges continued Friday, as the ex-mayor's uncle pleaded not guilty to embezzlement in federal court.

The summer has seen a steady stream of Morial-era officials, businessmen and associates at the downtown courthouse here, with the government stepping up a campaign to expose what it depicts as systematic wrongdoing at city hall in the 1990s.



Morial

Friday, it was the turn of Glenn Haydel, brother of Morial's mother, Sybil, Tall and distinguished-looking in a dark suit, he is accused of steering \$550,000 from the city's perennially cash-strapped public transport system, the Regional Transit Authority, to his own management company, then putting a \$350,000 chunk of that sum into his own personal bank account.

Standing before U.S. Magistrate Louis Moore here, Haydel said firmly, "I plead not guilty." He faces up to 25 years on three counts of wire fraud, theft and money laundering.

Long the subject of questioning over the highly lucrative contract his company received for, purportedly, running the city's buses and streetcars, Haydel is fingered in the indictment only for a single transaction that benefited him less than his deal with the RTA. Under that deal, his company got a minimum \$300,000 "base management fee." Haydel himself got about \$45,000 a month in the year 2000.

He offered no comment as he stepped into an elevator at the courthouse here with one of his lawyers, but he has previously, through a lawyer, denied any wrongdoing.

## Longtime Urban League head dies

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Clarence L. Barney, the first black to serve as chairman of the Louisiana State University board of supervisors, has died at the age of 70.

Barney, who died last Thursday at a hospital of pulmonary fibrosis, was also the longtime head of the Urban League of Greater New Orleans and served on the Superdome Commission.

He was born in New Orleans and lived in Paulina and later eastern New Orleans for many years. In recent years, he was president of C. Lyle Barney Consulting Inc.

Barney graduated from Southern University in Baton Rouge and served in the Army. After working as a teacher and a football coach in Vacherie, Barney joined the Urban League in 1964 as director of community service and rose to the organization's top post in 1967.

Aside from a year of leave to complete a master's degree in social work at Tulane University, he was head of the New Orleans chapter of the Urban League until his retirement in 1996.

In 1969, the Orleans Parish School Board appointed Barney to study racial disturbances in high schools. About the same time, he worked with the Social Apostolate to integrate Orleans Parish parochial schools.

Survivors include his wife, Marie Porter Barney; two sons; and a brother.

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Photo by Kibee Park/Sipa Press

PETA protesters evoke slavery on signs used to protest outside of the Toronto Rameses Shrine Circus at East York Town Centre in July.

# PETA 'slavery' campaign halted

Many found comparison between treatment of animals, blacks offensive

BY AMECIA TAYLOR  
NNPA CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON — The scenes are graphic. The charred body of a black man is juxtaposed with a burning chicken. A shackled black leg is shown next to the leg of a chained elephant. A woman is branded next to a panel of a chicken getting branded.

The message is unmistakable: Animals are suffering the same fate as African-American slaves.

That's the point of a controversial campaign by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). The online exhibit has been placed on hold

amid a flurry of protests.

The central question in the emotional debate is: Do animals deserve the same respect and rights as black people?

To William H. Horton, associate professor of history and philosophy, Grambling State University in Louisiana, the answer is an emphatic no.

"When you compare slavery to animals, it sends a negative message," he explained. "It's not what you say, it's what

you don't say that's communicated. In essence, you're saying that slaves and animals are equivalent."

Dawn Carr, director of special projects for PETA, defends the online exhibit.

"Animal Liberation project is about many cruelties: slavery, child labor, oppression of women and Native Americans," she said.

But some see that as a stretch.

"NAACP is opposed to animal cruelty, but valuing chickens over people is not a proper comparison," said John C.

White, director of communications for the NAACP. "PETA shows that it is willing to exploit racism to advance its cause. Is PETA saying that as long as animals are butchered for meat, racists should continue lynching black people?"

PETA officials reject the charge that it is exploiting racism and says the idea for the campaign came from an unlikely source — Dick Gregory. The black comedian serves on the board of PETA and gave a knowing grin when asked whether this was his idea.

Regardless of who came up with the idea, it's still a bad

See PETA on A4



Gregory

# Rappers tell youngsters to get their money right

BY BETSY TAYLOR  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Drawing on some high-wattage star power, the Hip-Hop Summit rolls into town on Saturday, with the city's famed rappers helping spread a message

about financial empowerment.

Hometown rappers Nelly, Chingy and J-Kwon will join music and fashion mogul Russell Simmons and financial experts for the event.

They'll talk to young people about basic banking, credit scores, car and home ownership, asset management and entrepreneurship.

The Hip-Hop Summit Action Network began in 2001 as a nonprofit coalition of artists and leaders who believed hip-hop music and culture could serve as an influential agent for social change.

The network addresses quality of life issues, from improved public education to reform of the criminal justice system. Last year, summits



Nelly

were held around the nation, including St. Louis, to encourage young people to register and vote.

This year's program is called "Get Your Money Right."

"We learned a lot of young people were ruining their credit by age 20," said Benjamin Chavis, president and chief executive of the hip-hop network and former president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The summit aims to teach people aged 18 to 35 money lessons, how to plan now to reach future financial goals.

"The artists themselves talk to young people about their own financial journey toward empowerment," Chavis said.

Many of the hip-hop stars speak about making smart

See Rappers on A5

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