

# Not at a distance

## Town opens museum honoring Till

GLENDORA, Miss. (AP) — Photographs that captured a mother's grief and Emmett Till's mutilated body were on display as this tiny Mississippi Delta town opened a museum honoring the slain black teenager whose death was pivotal in the civil rights movement.

Among the items on display are family snapshots and a picture of Till's mutilated body that stunned the nation after the 14-year-old Chicago boy was brutally murdered in 1955, allegedly in retaliation for whistling at a white woman.

"I want the country to see this moment as an historic event of how far we have come in the civil rights movement and to open people's eyes to the many other injustices that have happened in other places besides the Delta," said Till's cousin, Priscilla Sterling.

The town converted a cotton gin into the Emmett Till Historic Intrepid Center, which includes oral histories, an audiovisual archive and a cotton gin fan like the one used to weigh down Till's body after it was dumped in the Tallahatchie River.

Two white men were acquitted in Till's case by an all-white jury. The two men later confessed in an interview with *Look* magazine.

The FBI reopened the case in 2004 but decided in March not to press charges. The case was turned over to District Attorney Joyce Chiles for possible state charges. The boy's case has never been forgotten in more than half a century.

The National Conference of Black Mayors commissioned the Till center as a model of revitalization for other small towns.



Till

## Deputies accuse sheriff of racism

LEWISBURG, W.Va. (AP) — Five Greenbrier County deputies have accused Sheriff Roger Sheppard of nepotism, neglect of duty and allowing employees to use racial slurs.

Deputies R.A. Martin, J.J. Martin, J.T. Williams, R.D. Baker and G.M. Baker sent a letter to the Greenbrier County Commission asking it for "a workplace with clear expectations, free from racism and bias, and equal punishment and privilege," according to *The Register-Herald* of Beckley, which obtained the letter.

R.D. Baker and G.M. Baker are brothers, while R.A. Martin and J.J. Martin are not related.

Commissioner Lowell Rose said the commission will investigate the deputies' complaints.

"They told me their concerns and we are trying to address them," Rose told the newspaper.

An unidentified member of the sheriff's department allegedly used a racial slur against blacks during conversations with several deputies but was not reprimanded by Sheppard, the deputies' letter said.

"It is the belief of the deputies that this is unfair and extremely prejudicial," the letter said.

Sheppard's two sons are employees of the department and the deputies contend that he cannot fairly and impartially promote, or discipline relatives.

## Princeton to expand black studies

PRINCETON, N.J. (AP) — Princeton University announced last week that it would double the size of its faculty in African American Studies and establish a new center on teaching and researching about race in America.

University President Shirley M. Tilghman said it's important that the Ivy League university, which is constantly ranked among the top in the nation, addresses the complicated issues surrounding race.

"As a university dedicated to 'the nation's service and the service of all nations,' Princeton must be in a position to contribute to this quest through research that yields valuable insights into the nature of racial identity and social justice, and through education that trains new generations of leaders to solve problems that have persisted too long, both in this country and abroad," she said.

The university's African American Studies program already is star-studded.

In 2002, Princeton hired Cornel West and K. Anthony Appiah away from Harvard and tried to convince Henry Louis Gates Jr., the chairman of that university's Afro-American Studies program, to follow. Those three men are among the biggest names in the field.

Princeton says the new center will increase the number of full-time faculty positions in the department from five to 11; more faculty members can be involved in the program through joint appointments.

Eventually, Princeton said, it will offer majors in African American Studies.



West

## Oprah says her lawyers overreacted

NEW YORK (AP) — Oprah Winfrey says her lawyers shouldn't have gone after the man who is trying to promote her as a candidate for president.

"Not because she's running, mind you. 'I feel flattered by it,' the 52-year-old talk-show host told *The Associated Press* on Monday. "My lawyers overreacted, I think, by sending him a cease-and-desist order because it really is a flattering thing."

It should have been handled in a phone call, said Winfrey, who said she's thinking of calling Patrick Crowe of Kansas City, Mo., herself.

Crowe has been campaigning to urge Winfrey to run for president for years, setting up a Web site that has its own campaign song. A month ago, Winfrey's lawyers sent Crowe a letter demanding that he remove her picture from his Web site.

Winfrey's smiling face remained on <http://www.oprah08.net> Monday.

Winfrey was in New York to promote *Oprah and Friends*, which launched Monday on XM Satellite Radio.

In February, Winfrey signed a three-year, \$55 million deal with XM Satellite Radio Holdings Inc. to launch her new radio channel, which joins her nationally syndicated television show and her *O, The Oprah Magazine*.

XM Satellite Radio boasts more than 7 million subscribers.



# Farrakhan turns over NOI control

Leader says he is seriously ill

BY GEORGE E. CURRY  
NNPA EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

WASHINGTON — Likening his predicament to that of Cuba's Fidel Castro, Minister Louis Farrakhan says he is facing some serious health challenges, causing him to turn over administration of the Nation of Islam to its executive board and cancel all appointments and personal appearances until further notice.

Farrakhan said his illness is related to the heavy dosage of radiation he received as a result of having prostate cancer in the late 1990s. He underwent surgery in November 2000 at Howard University and on a recent visit there was found to have an infection and inflammation.

"I have been suffering from the after-effects of an extremely high dose of radiated seed implantation that indeed killed the cancer cells that had broken the prostate capsule, but over time, these seeds have done severe internal damage," he explained.

Farrakhan said his illness represents "a period of testing" for his organization.

"In this period of testing, you can prove to the world that the Nation of Islam is more than the charisma, eloquence and personality of Louis Farrakhan," he said in a letter to his supporters. "In this period of testing, you can prove that the Nation of Islam is under-girded by an idea that represents the Kingdom of God on Earth, an idea that can never be uprooted, never be destroyed and can only increase its power, effect and influence over the hearts and minds of the people of the Earth."

During this period of recovery and testing, Farrakhan said, "I will be available to give guidance in any major situation that may arise, but I would prefer that the Executive Board of the Nation of Islam help solve the problems of the Nation, without asking me."

The Nation of Islam leader is recovering on his large farm in Michigan.

In his letter, Farrakhan said: "Commandante Fidel Castro had a very serious operation and he relinquished power to his brother and all those who were trained to carry on in his absence. While

Minister Louis Farrakhan is fighting a serious illness.

See Farrakhan on A10

# Candidate denies link to black GOP group

BY JULIE CARR SMYTH  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A national group airing radio ads in Ohio cities accusing Democrats of starting the Ku Klux Klan listed Republican governor candidate Ken Blackwell on its original list of national advisory board members, but Blackwell denies any association with the group.

Blackwell spokesman Carlo LoParo said Friday that Blackwell, who is black, was approached in 2005 by the National Black Republican Association to lend his name to the list, but he declined. He said the group's listing of Blackwell as a founding adviser, which appears on an August 2005 blog of the group's chairwoman, was unauthorized.

LoParo said Blackwell does not condone the ad, which accuses Democrats of starting the Ku Klux Klan, instituting the anti-black Jim Crow laws and siccing vicious dogs and fire hoses on blacks during the civil rights movement.

The 60-second spot, fashioned as a conversation between two female friends, also plugs President Bush's spending on education, health care and job training and criticizes Democrats' positions on abortion, gay marriage and religion.

"We find the advertisements inappropriate and distasteful," LoParo said. "I don't understand the purpose that an ad of this type would serve."

The same ad is running in Maryland, where Lt. Gov. Michael Steele, the black

Republican nominee for Maryland's open Senate seat, disavowed it Thursday as "insulting to Marylanders." He said his campaign asked the black Republican group to stop running it.

The Ohio ads were scheduled to end Friday.

A message seeking comment Republican Freedom Fund.



Blackwell

was left with Frances Rice, chairman of the National Black Republican Association. The ads were placed on urban radio stations aimed at black audiences in Columbus, Cleveland, Dayton and Cincinnati by the association's political entity, Black

The ad echoes the messages used elsewhere by the group, including on the Internet and in its glossy magazine, *The Black Republican*.

The publication included a recent article entitled "The Real History of Affirmative Action," which highlighted the role of President Richard Nixon, a Republican, in bringing the concept to fruition. It employed one of the same phrases used in the

See GOP group on A15

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