

Not a piece

Maryland to express 'profound regret' for slavery

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland (AP) — Maryland lawmakers approved an apology Monday for the state's role in the slave trade, expressing "profound regret" that it once "trafficked in human flesh."



Exum

Maryland follows Virginia in issuing a formal apology. The vote in the House of Delegates makes the apology official, because a resolution doesn't require the governor's signature. The state Senate already approved it. The resolution notes that slavery "fostered a climate of oppression not only for slaves and their descendants but also for people of color who moved to Maryland subsequent to slavery's abolition."

Co-sponsor Sen. Nathaniel Exum, a Democrat, said he was exhilarated that Maryland lawmakers decided to finally recognize the painful role the state played in slavery.

"Once we come to that recognition, maybe we will also recognize steps we need to do to get rid of the lingering effects of it on the people," Exum said.

In the 1700s, slave ships docked blocks away from the Maryland State House, and thousands of enslaved men and women arrived in the town. Slavery officially ended in Maryland with the adoption of a new state constitution in 1864.

Pilot seeks to be first black person to circle globe alone

OPA-LOCKA, Fla. (AP) — A 23-year-old aerospace student who built his plane from more than \$300,000 in donated parts took off Friday hoping to become the youngest person and first black pilot to fly around the globe alone.

Barrington Irving plans to arrive back at Opa-locka Executive Airport on April 30 in his single-engine Lancair Columbia 400.

He had planned to fly last year, but a lack of funding delayed his \$1 million project. He still needs about \$20,000, but that didn't stop him from setting out.

"I want this completed before the year is over so kids can see that someone who started off with nothing set a goal and completed it," he said just before takeoff. "Even with the challenges, everything is starting to fall in place. It's just my time."

Irving was born in Jamaica and grew up in Miami. He said he saw little chance for success until he met a Jamaican-American pilot at his parents' Christian bookstore.

The pilot, Gary Robinson, took Irving to see a Boeing 777. The 15-year-old was mesmerized. He turned down college football scholarships to become a pilot.

Irving is now studying at Florida Memorial University; he has private and commercial pilot licenses. He also founded Experience Aviation, a Miami-based organization that encourages minority youths to pursue aviation careers.

He will make stops in Cleveland and Farmingdale, N.Y., before passing into Canada, then crossing the Atlantic, through Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

Eddie Griffin wrecks rare Ferrari

IRWINDALE, California (AP) — Eddie Griffin crashed a rare Ferrari Enzo worth \$1.5 million into a concrete barrier while practicing at a racetrack Monday, destroying the car but escaping uninjured.

The comedian was practicing for a charity race to promote his upcoming film, "Redline," when he drove too fast around a curve at the Irwindale Speedway. Video footage showed the red sports car screeching before it ricocheted off the barrier with heavy damage to its front.

"Undercover Brother's good at karate and all the rest of that, but the brother can't drive," Griffin, referring to one his past films, said after the accident.

The film's publicist, Wendy Zocks, said Griffin was "doing OK."

"He walked away completely unscratched, but probably a little shaken," Zocks said.

The Enzo, valued at around \$1.5 million, was owned by the executive producer of "Redline," Daniel Sadek, whose exotic car collection is featured in the movie.

Only 400 Ferrari Enzos were ever produced, all between 2002 and 2004.

Griffin's credits include the comedies "Undercover Brother"; "Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo" and its sequel; "Date Movie"; and "Norbit."

Brooklyn library gets first black woman executive director

NEW YORK (AP) — Dionne Mack-Harvin has been appointed executive director of the Brooklyn Public Library, making her the first black woman in the state to lead a major public library system, the mayor said last Thursday.

Mack-Harvin, who has served as the library's interim executive director since June 2006, was unanimously approved to the permanent post by its board of trustees.

Brooklyn has the fifth largest public library system in the country. It serves 2.6 million residents and has 60 branches throughout the borough.

"A lifelong librarian and true success story, Dionne Mack-Harvin started in the Crown Heights branch more than a decade ago, and now has ... become its first African-American executive director," Bloomberg said in a statement.

He said Mack-Harvin was selected after a nationwide search.

She has held many key positions within the Brooklyn library system, including as director of central library and chief of staff.

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Disney could unlock controversial film

"Song of the South" was released in 1946

BY TRAVIS REED THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ORLANDO, Fla. — Walt Disney Co.'s 1946 film "Song of the South" was historic. It was Disney's first big live-action picture and produced one of the company's most famous songs — the Oscar-winning "Zip-a-Dee-Do-Deah." It also carries the story line of the Splash Mountain rides at its theme parks.



Iger

But the movie remains hidden in the Disney archives — never released on video in the United States and criticized as racist for its depiction of Southern plantation blacks. The film's 60th anniversary passed last year without a whisper of official rerelease, which is unusual for Disney, but President and CEO Bob Iger recently

said the company was reconsidering. The film's reissue would surely spark debate, but it could also sell big. Nearly 115,000 people have signed an online petition urging Disney to make the movie available, and out-of-print international copies routinely sell online for \$50-\$90, some even more than \$100.

Iger was answering a shareholder's inquiry about the movie for the second year in a row at Disney's annual meeting in New Orleans. This month the Disney chief made a rerelease sound more possible.

"The question of 'Song of the South' comes up periodically, in fact it was raised at last year's annual meeting ..." Iger said. "And since that time,

See Disney on A12



Who will be next NAACP leader?

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY NNPA CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON — The weighty issues now facing Black people in America indicate that the next NAACP president must be an aggressive, energetic leader focused on civil rights in the 21st century, says veteran civil rights advocates.

"I'd think they'd be looking for a relatively young person with vision and vigor who understands the mission of the NAACP to work to achieve social change, to work for increased economic opportunities for African-Americans, to fight discrimination at every level, to seek empowerment 'economic, political, and social empowerment for Black people' to find ways and means of hitting a level of global consciousness, to help organize our people in local communities around these issues, and to rise to a new level of dynamism and activism," says the Rev. Joseph Lowery, 85, known as the dean of the civil rights movement.



Lowery

Lowery, who co-founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference with Dr. King in 1957, says by 'young person,' he means someone who may have been born inside or outside the civil rights movement, but who is able to vigorously deal with the high level issues of inequality now facing America.

"I mean people who are energetic intellectually as well as physically energetic," he says.

The nation's oldest civil

See NAACP on A9

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