

News at a Glance

Minister Farrakhan talks of a 'new beginning' for Nation of Islam

CHICAGO (AP) - Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan stressed unity among religions, while still preaching a message of black empowerment, at a rare public event Sunday deemed "a new beginning" for the Chicago-based movement.

In the nearly two-hour speech, Farrakhan covered topics including immigration, public schools, violence and morality. He vaguely referred to the presidential election but did not specifically mention any candidates.

"We are all in a journey to become complete human beings," the 75-year-old Farrakhan told the crowd of thousands gathered inside Mosque Maryam and in white tents outside.

Farrakhan renewed a call for many to get back to the basic tenants of Islam, while still encouraging black pride.

"Black people must stop seeing themselves as inferior, and whites must stop seeing themselves as superior," he said, adding that black Muslims "have to keep going our own way."

Though other religious leaders and non-Muslims were invited to the public event, most of those in attendance were Nation of Islam followers.

Farrakhan did not lay out any specific plans for the "new beginning," but he offered his opinion on many topics and made a plea for understanding with immigrants south of U.S. borders.

"Our brothers and sisters from South America are not trying to take your jobs. They are trying to survive," Farrakhan said.

He noted the theme of "change" in the presidential election and said change must also come through religious communities.



Farrakhan

World prize goes to Cape Town mayor

(GIN/NNPA) - Helen Zille, mayor of Cape Town, South Africa, has won the 2008 World Mayor prize by City Mayors, an international urban affairs think tank.



Zille

Once a political journalist with the liberal Rand Daily Mail, Helen Zille was a leading anti-apartheid critic, famously exposing the circumstances behind Steve Biko's death in police custody in 1977.

At the height of apartheid, she joined the Black Sash White women's resistance movement and was a peace activist in her adopted city of Cape Town. She currently leads the Democratic Alliance party, South Africa's official opposition.

The City Mayors group commended Zille for dedicating her professional life to improving the well-being of South Africans.

The think tank aims to raise the profile of mayors as well as to honor those who have made "long-lasting contributions to their communities and are committed to the well being of their cities nationally and internationally."

SCLC: Candidates ignoring the poor

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) - Leaders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference say they fear that the presidential candidates aren't giving much thought to the poor.

Charles Steele Jr. is president of the Atlanta-based civil rights organization. During a conference in Dayton on Sunday, Steele said all the talk during the presidential campaign has been about the wealthy and middle class, but nobody is discussing the needs of the poor.

Meanwhile, Martin Luther King III cautioned the group that racism will not disappear even if Democratic nominee Barack Obama is elected the first black U.S. president.

King says Obama's election would be a monumental step. But he says while America may embrace Obama in the election, it doesn't mean the country has chosen to embrace blacks.

Rudy Ray Moore dies

AKRON, Ohio (AP) - Rudy Ray Moore, a raunchy 1970s comedian who played the title role of a flashy pimp in the movie "Dolemite" and influenced a generation of rappers, has died. He was 81.

Moore died Sunday evening at an Akron nursing home from complications of diabetes, said his brother, Gerald Moore.

Rudy Ray Moore was part of the heyday of black "party records." His stage personality featured blunt sex routines but, unlike contemporaries Redd Foxx and Richard Pryor, he never crossed over to mainstream white audiences.



Moore

The Washington Post said in a 1992 profile that Moore was an astounding renderer of "toasts," - elaborately boastful, profane and scatological tales of life in the old-style urban subculture of pimps, prostitutes, gamblers and badmen. His husky, down-home voice is ideal for it.

Moore said he developed the style, later a feature of rap music, by listening to men sitting outside joints "drinking beer and lying and talking (expletive)."

Moore played the fast-talking pimp and title character in the 1975 film "Dolemite." In later years Moore collaborated with 2 Live Crew, Big Daddy Kane and Snoop Dogg.

Moore's other acting credits during the "Blaxploitation" era of black action films included "The Human Tornado" in 1976 and "Disco Godfather" in 1979.

Dallas officials clash over naming street for famed Hispanic activist

BY PAUL J. WEBER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS - Some Hispanics in the nation's ninth-largest city are suspicious of why efforts for a "Cesar Chavez Avenue" in Dallas have stumbled.

The name of the famed labor leader and civil rights activist won handily when the city asked residents to come up with a new name for Industrial Boulevard, a dull strip lined with liquor stores and bail bond offices.

"Cesar Chavez Avenue" beat such names as "Riverfront" and "Trinity Lakes," but Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert said the survey wasn't binding.

Cesar Chavez Task Force leader Alberto Ruiz believes the city would have accepted the choice had it been someone other than the late Cesar Chavez.

"If the results would have come back for Stevie Ray Vaughan, it would have gone through," Ruiz said of the white Texas guitar legend, whose name was not on the survey.

Some question whether Chavez, who rallied fieldhands over low wages and exploitation, is relevant to Dallas history. Others say his name doesn't fit the marketing plan behind the surrounding \$2 billion Trinity River sector revitalization.

Developers envision Industrial, a gritty three-mile strip, becoming a destination of condominiums and upscale shopping.

"We were trying to create a marketing scheme for that entire street given its location to the Trinity," Leppert said. "That still makes sense."

Leppert said he wants to find another street to honor Chavez. Latino leaders say they won't compromise.

Ruiz and his supporters accuse Dallas leaders of brushing off the results of the survey, which cost the city \$20,000 and came back with Chavez as the 2-to-1 favorite. A key city planning commission



Cesar Chavez

vote on the renaming is expected in mid-November.

Ruiz, who calls the Chavez campaign a symbolic community battle in a city that is 43 percent Hispanic, now has his group going door-to-door on Industrial trying to shore up support ahead of the vote.

Ruiz said the resistance to Chavez for Industrial and another prominent Dallas street, Ross Avenue, has "a bit of a sentiment that it does have to do with race." Opponents say it's simply about finding the appropriate road.

But Ruiz said renaming Ross Avenue after Chavez would have made perfect sense if Industrial wasn't possible: It's where nearly a half-million marched in 2006 in support of citizenship for illegal immigrants, and the street faces a school that's already named for Chavez.

Leppert, a first-term mayor and former CEO of construction giant Turner Corp.,

said the city will find a street to honor Chavez. Just not Industrial, where the top destinations now are mostly auto scrap yards and the county criminal courthouse.

Industrial's rough reputation is supposed to soften under the Trinity River Corridor Project, the largest public works project in Dallas history. Areas of blight and neglect are planned to become lush parks and urban trails, and the street - whatever its name - will be a key gateway.

Leppert said the survey was intended only as one piece of input to help the city brainstorm street names.

Michael Phillips, who wrote about the city's racial roots in "White Metropolis: Race, Ethnicity and Religion in Dallas, 1841-2001," said the renaming fight is important to minorities in a city where a busy downtown freeway is named after R.L. Thornton, a former Dallas mayor and Klansman.

"That's just like a thumb in the eyes of blacks and Latinos if they're getting turned down with the proposal to name a major thoroughfare after Cesar Chavez," Phillips said.

Other Chavez backers have suffered similar defeat. A push in Portland, Ore., to name a street after Chavez fell apart last year after being met with fierce community opposition.

At Fuel City, a gas station on Industrial, owner John Benda doesn't want to see Industrial renamed for Chavez, or anyone for that matter.

"It's a lifetime situation, the name," Benda said. "It's bigger than any one person."



Leppert

Survivors of infamous riot see film tell their tale

There are only 66 survivors of the 1921 tragedy

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TULSA, Okla. - Twenty-five of the 66 known living survivors of the Tulsa Race Riot were honored here at a premiere of the documentary film, "Before They Die," which reflects on the 1921 riot and the survivors' struggle for reparations.

The documentary will be shown in New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and several other cities to raise awareness and money for the survivors.

The Greenwood area was home to between 8,000 and 12,000 blacks when rioters destroyed much of it on the night of May 31 and the morning of June 1, 1921. Dozens were killed, hundreds were injured, and thousands were left homeless.

The topic became especially urgent for the filmmaker, Reggie Turner, as there were 151 known living survivors when he began work on the film in February 2003.

"I felt something had to be done to right the wrong done to these survivors," Turner said.

Mayor Kathy Taylor declared Sunday to be "Journey to Healing Day" and said she had a response to a person at a recent riot event who asked why "nobody ever apologized."

"Let me as mayor say to the survivors of the 1921 race riot, we are sorry," Taylor said.

Alfre Woodard, an actress from Tulsa, said she admired the mayor's apology.

"It was such a bold and visionary statement that costs nothing, but is invaluable," she said. "It frees us all in this city and it free us all to move forward."

The oldest known living survivor - 105-year-old Otis Clark of Seattle - said he hoped the film would remind everyone of what happened

so people can learn from it. "It's wonderful we had nice changes and I think we put away a lot of the prejudices," he said.



Alfre Woodard



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