

NAACP APPAUDS FILING OF FEDERAL CHARGES IN RODNEY KING CASE

With the indictment on federal charges of the four Los Angeles police officers involved in the Rodney King beating, the NAACP has issued a statement strongly supporting the action and expressing the hope that this time justice will be served.

The statement came from Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, the NAACP's Executive Director/CEO, following the announcement on Wednesday, August 5th, that a federal grand jury in Los Angeles had indicted the officers on federal charges of violating Mr. King's civil rights.

At a state trial in Simi Valley, Ca., the officers were found not guilty on April 29th by a predominantly white jury of all charges except one against a single officer, Lawrence Powell.

Here, the jury was deadlocked and Powell faces retrial on Oct. 19th for excessive use of force. The acquittals touched off violence in Los Angeles that left more than 45 people dead and damage estimated at \$800 million.

Specifically, the federal indictment charges the three officers who beat Mr. King during an arrest in March, 1991, with violating his Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable arrest.

It accuses their sergeant of depriving Mr. King of his 14th Amendment due process rights by failing to restrain the officers. Each of the officers faces a maximum penalty of ten years in

prison and a \$250,000 fine if convicted.

In his statement, Dr. Hooks said:

"Justice was not served in Simi Valley last April. Our hope for justice now lies in the federal court where the officers involved have been indicted under civil rights status.

"We are hopeful that in this flagrant incident of police abuse, that those whose faith in the judicial system was shaken by the incomprehensible verdicts rendered earlier, will find reason to once again believe in that system."

After the state verdicts, 14 to 17 FBI agents were assigned full time to work on the case.

CHARLES BUSH

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police officials that were charged. Apparently no one from the FBI or Justice Department ever made an effort to gain any information or facts concerning the case, nor did they interview Terri Siddoway, the control figure in the matter. Siddoway was Bush's girlfriend and pregnant with his child at the time of the incident.

Bush was in bed when a confrontation erupted, and an officer put him in a headlock. Other officers then unlawfully entered his apartment, without a warrant or consent, to talk to him about Siddoway, who had been arrested minutes earlier on a prostitution charge.

The first count of the indictment names officers, Powell, Theodore J. Briseno and Timothy Wind — who are seen striking Mr. King on the videotape.

It charges that "while acting under the color of the laws" of California they "did willfully strike with batons, kick and stomp Rodney Glenn King" thereby violating a 1909 federal law making it a crime to deprive any person of a Constitutional right "under color of law."

Sgt. Stacey E. Koon was charged in the second count with willfully failing "to prevent this unlawful assault," thereby depriving Mr. King of "the right to be kept free from harm while in official custody."

Susan Quig-Terry, Cal Potter and Thomas Peterson, three lawyers with private practices, will represent the Bush family in a civil damage lawsuit alleging that the Metropolitan police department violated charges Bush's civil rights.

A trial has been set for early '93, that will involve the county, Sheriff and three police officers.

"It's been over 13 years since we've had a Department of Justice that cared," added Kendrick. He concluded by saying, "Until there is a change in the White House, things will not change."

"(If Bill Clinton was elected) there would be a significant improvement."

STREETWISE ALIVE TO HOLD WET 'N WILD SUMMER SPLASH

StreetWise Alive is hosting the hypes party of the summer! On Monday, August 17, Las Vegas' anti-gang, anti-drug youth organization, StreetWise Alive, is having a Summer Splash Spectacular at Wet 'N Wild from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The private picnic area is reserved exclusively for an entire day of family festivities.

A party ticket includes unlimited soft drinks, food coupons, sand volleyball, karaoke

contests, a disk jockey, laser light show at sunset, karate and skateboarding exhibitions, limbo races, prizes, a \$5 off return visit coupon, information about several positive Las Vegas youth organizations and more. There's no better way to end the summer than at this Summer Splash!

Tickets are available at the StreetWise Alive office, or at Wet 'N Wild. Tickets are only \$20 for age 10 and older; \$17 for ages 3-9; and children under three

are free. Tickets cost \$1 more the day of the event. Call 367-3733, 457-1652 or 734-0088 for more details.

Parents are welcome to come out and enjoy the family fun and visit the community awareness area. Learn more about StreetWise Alive, as well as other Las Vegas youth programs you can involve your children in. Find out what options Las Vegas provides that help rear healthy, happy streetwise children.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN DELEGATES

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Lackland is recognized as a strong community leader and as a participant in many outstanding organizations.

She was the first woman elected as president for the Columbus chapter of the NAACP. Regarding her involvement with the Republican party, Ms. Lackland said, "I consider it an honor to have been selected to play a leadership role at the convention."

Anita King, a small business

owner in Los Angeles, California and Chairman of the Black Republican Council of California, and also a former delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1984 and 1988, will be a delegate to the 1992 Republican National Convention. Ms. King said, "I am absolutely delighted to be able to participate again in the national convention."

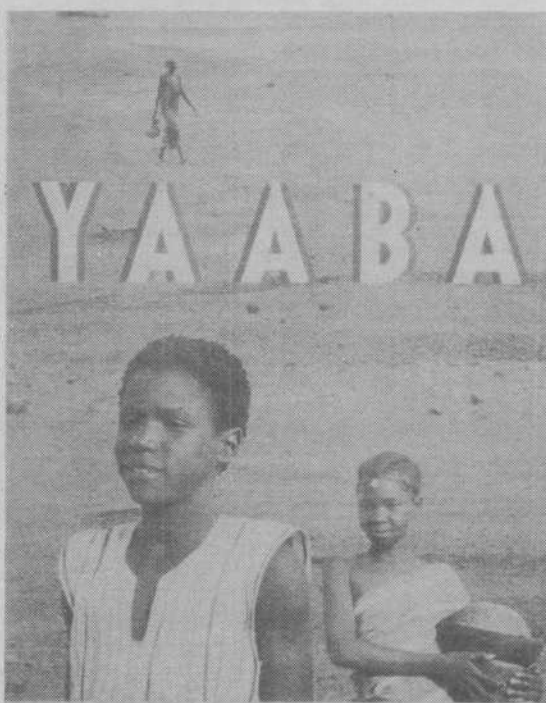
African-American participation in the 1992 GOP Convention process is the latest chapter

in a rich history of political involvement with the Republican party. Four African-American men served as delegates to the first Republican national convention in Chicago, Illinois. These were P.B.S. Pinchback, representing Louisiana, James Harris, elected by North Carolina, Henry Hane of South Carolina, and Gregory Ruby of Texas. These men paved the way for future African-American delegates to participate in the political process.

1992 AFRICAN DIASPORA SUMMER FILM FESTIVAL

Now in its final week, the 1992 African Diaspora Summer Film Festival, sponsored by the Black Cultural Awareness Society, will feature YAABA (Burkina Faso, Africa). Possibly the most acclaimed African film since the heyday of Ousmane Sembene, Idrissa Ouedraogo's second feature confirms a major new voice in Third World cinema. A hauntingly and refreshingly humanistic tale of rural African life, "Yaaba" centers on Bila, an alert, independent, 12-year-old boy, and Sana, an outcast old woman shunned as a witch by the rest of the community. Bila, something of an outsider himself, strikes up a friendship with the odd but dignified crone, calling her "Yaaba" (Grandmother). It is through this nearly wordless but deeply felt relationship that the maturing Bila crystallizes his position in relation to the community, sexual roles, tradition, superstition and prejudice.

The careful, unhurried rhythm of the film, together with its frequent use of serenely beautiful earth-toned long shots, knit humans and nature together with a profound sense of harmony and continuity. Ouedraogo, who shot the film in his own village, has said, "Yaaba is based on tales of my childhood and on the at kind of bedtime story-telling we hear just before falling



asleep." Poised adroitly between daily life and legend, between real time and dream time, "Yaaba" captivates the viewer with a directness and purity that makes nearly all other recent cinema seem needlessly affected.

For showtimes and locations call 893-0105.

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