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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

NATIONAL NEWS

REYNOLDS ACCUSED OF BRIBERY

A 21-year-old Chicago woman testified today that congressman Mel Reynolds offered her \$10,000 in January not to cooperate with prosecutors and appear before a grand jury probing sexual misconduct allegations against him. Stephanie Adams said that Reynolds offered her \$5,000 before the trial was over and \$5,000 after it. Reynolds is not charged with bribing Adams. But prosecutors are using the testimony to show a pattern of obstruction of justice by Reynolds.

JACKSON TO TAKE PART IN PRESIDENTIAL STRAW POLL

WASHINGTON - In his most definite move yet toward mounting a 1996 White House campaign, civil rights leader Jesse Jackson said on Tuesday he would take part in a major presidential straw poll in November. Jackson told a news conference he would participate in the non-binding ballot known as City Vote, which will take place in 18 cities at the same time as local, city and state elections on November 7. "There will be a city vote November 7. In those cities, we are now organizing to be part of that preference to put a focus on the cities," Jackson said. Among the cities expected to take part are Boston, Baltimore, Minneapolis, St Paul, Tucson, Spokane, Tacoma, Rochester and Pasadena. Agran said on Tuesday that Jackson was one of 19 candidates already recommended for inclusion on the ballot. Jackson, who ran unsuccessfully for the presidency in 1984 and 1988, said he had not decided whether to make another bid.

Phone Company's Racial Sensitivity Questioned

By Victor S. Ingram

Some called it a humiliating depiction of an African American reminiscent of the era of black face, Buckwheat, and Sambo. Others said it was an inhumane attempt to capture an African American persona. A community caucus discussed the issue at length on Wednesday, August 9. Nearly 100 audience members discussed the July 1995 Sprint/Central Telephone book cover which depicted four youths of varying ethnic heritage. The depiction

of the African American youth was less than complimentary, according to critics.

The depiction showed a black youth on their knees with dreadlock twists elevated above his head. Some complained that the picture represented an over-exaggeration, saying they have never met an African American that resembles the picture. Others disliked the kneeling aspect of the character, implying that blacks must always be in a kneeling posture to the white establishment. "We've been depicted

as a monster from outer space with horns," says caucus moderator Lucille Bryant.

The issue sparked a barrage of complaints of racial insensitivity against the phone company, which immediately issued a public statement. "I want to again take the opportunity to let you know we at Sprint/Central Telephone-Nevada genuinely apologize to the residents of the community who were offended by the illustration on this summer's phone book cover," reads

statement by Sprint president Dianne Jett. While apologetic, the phone company did not comment on what action would be taken to appease those offended by the cover.

Organizers plan a massive phone book turn-in, scheduled for this Thursday at 11:30 am at the West Las Vegas Library. Also, a protest has been suggested for next Sunday during Mike Tyson's famed return to the ring at the MGM Garden arena.

(See photo of phone book cover, Pg 11)

Ten Youths Complete NAACP Youth Entrepreneurial Program

By Victor S. Ingram

Ten future business leaders recently graduated from the NAACP Youth Entrepreneurial Institute. In a ceremony held Friday, August 4, youths were honored for completing a 6-week program geared towards developing business and leadership skills. Youths were provided tours of existing businesses and workshop instruction as part of their formal training. Step-by-step instruction on how to open and manage a business included the development of a structured business and financing plan. Participants were taken to county business licensing and zoning departments to learn administrative requirements.

Youths, whose ages varied from early to late teens, were provided guest speakers who shared their real-life experiences about operating a successful business. "I learned

(See NAACP Youth, Page 11)



Ten graduates of an early entrepreneurial training program sponsored by the NAACP.

Photo by Victor Ingram

Abu-Jamal Wins Stay Of Execution

PHILADELPHIA - Former Black Panther Mumia Abu-Jamal, whose efforts to win a new trial in the murder of a policeman sparked growing foreign protests to spare his life, Monday was granted an indefinite stay of execution.

"I am now not under an active death warrant, although I remain under an active death sentence, thus I still sojourn in Hell," Abu-Jamal said in a note to civil rights leader Jesse Jackson.

Court of Common Pleas Judge Albert Sabo said at a retrial hearing that he was granting a stay of the August 17 execution date for Abu-Jamal, a teenage member of the militant Black Panther group and a respected radio journalist, to give him more time to complete appeals in his death penalty case.

Abu-Jamal was convicted in 1982 of the 1981 killing of Philadelphia policeman Daniel Faulkner. His quest for a stay of execution and new trial had drawn worldwide attention to the

increased use of the U.S. death penalty.

Calls by foreign political leaders and activist groups for his sentence to be commuted have grown in recent days. France, acting Monday, and Germany Friday, have both called to halt the execution.

"I am thankful to thousands and tens of thousands of people...who have battled on my behalf," Abu-Jamal said in his note to Jackson, who attended Monday's courts session and met Abu-Jamal as a spiritual adviser.

Jackson said after a 40-minute meeting that Abu-Jamal had told him a new trial would prove him innocent and that he regretted any pain Faulkner's widow, Maureen, was feeling, but that he did not kill her husband.

Abu-Jamal's petition for a new trial contends that the original conviction was tainted by inadequate representation, prosecutorial misconduct and court bias.

Prosecutors

and state officials had said Abu-Jamal was convicted fairly on evidence, including his gun with five spent shells found moments after the shooting.

The slain policeman's widow, Maureen Faulkner, said she will only feel peace "when the death penalty is carried out and this man (Abu-Jamal) is silenced as my husband was silenced 14 years ago."

Asked about Jackson's statement that Abu-Jamal had expressed his innocence and regret for her pain, she said: "I don't believe that. Mr. Jamal has never shown any remorse."



ABU-JAMAL

School District Comes to West Las Vegas to Answer Criticisms

By Victor S. Ingram

Clark County School District upper management showed up to answer a variety of criticisms from West Las Vegas parents during a community forum Wednesday, August 9, at H.P. Fitzgerald Elementary School, where invited members of the community presented their concerns. Panelists and members of the audience were invited to present questions to district officials, who were inclusive of school superintendent Brian Cram, who personally fielded the majority of the questions. Cram was assaulted with questions concerning the placement of a new middle school in West Las Vegas.

Marzette Lewis, the firebrand president of community action organization, WAAK-UP, lead the assault accusing the district of double standards and racial insensitivity. Cram, however, denied that the issue had racial overtones and was merely an administrative decision which must be made by district trustees and staff.

"As we see it, there are two main issues as to the placement of a new school-growth and history." The superintendent says district staff policy normally uses growth demographics to determine whether an area warrants a new school. Areas of peak growth are chosen for new school construction. West Las Vegas, while at its all-time peak for new growth, says Cram, doesn't exceed other areas which the district has highlighted for construction; subsequently, West Las Vegas hasn't been highlighted as a location for a

(See SCHOOL DISTRICT, Page 10)