

ABU-JAMAL

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disqualify himself on grounds of bias.

Sabo on Monday granted Abu-Jamal an indefinite stay of his Aug. 17 execution to give him time to complete his appeals.

Asked if he still felt, despite the surprise stay, that the retrial hearing was a repeat of his 1982 trial, Abu-Jamal said, "I probably feel it more right now than before."

Nevertheless, Abu-Jamal said he was now confident in his

attorneys. In 1982, he sought unsuccessfully to reject his court-appointed attorney and defend himself with the aid of John Africa, leader of the militant back-to-nature group MOVE.

"What they (his attorneys) have shown throughout this hearing is what should have happened during the (first) trial. Had they been representing me then, the results would have been astoundingly different," he said.

Abu-Jamal said his own

behavior at the retrial hearing, where he sits studiously and takes notes during testimony, is a marked change from 1982, when he was frequently ejected from the courtroom for quarreling with his lawyer.

But he said he doubted more subdued behavior would have made much difference earlier, citing current difficulties.

"These are things that are happening while I am sitting silently, which tells anyone with

half a brain that had I sat silently at my original trial it wouldn't have been very different, either in the result or in the so-called controversy that resulted from the trial and the sentence itself." French President Jacques

Chirac on Monday asked for his death sentence to be overturned, and last week German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said Bonn had asked Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge to halt the execution.

JACKSON

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provoked a backlash from Jewish voters after describing New York City as "Hymietown."

Some black leaders who supported his previous campaigns may not be eager to do so this time with a Democrat in the White House. Behind

Jackson's words lies an abiding anger at the ever-worsening plight of the mainly black underclass in America's decaying inner cities as well as a deep frustration at the country's political swing to the right. Jackson, a Christian minister who began his career as a young

lieutenant of the Rev. Martin Luther King, has nothing but scorn for the Christian Coalition, a powerful force for social conservatism in the Republican Party. "For 250 years when we

were in slavery, the white Christian church backed slavery. It endorsed segregation after slavery. Now they don't put forward any remedy to offset the lasting impact of racism," he said.

CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

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Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Meanwhile, the clock ticks and the death penalty train rolls for Mumia Abu-Jamal. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court can stop the train. Governor Ridge can stop the train. Write him and ask him to stop the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Write him, in the name of justice. Write him. (Governor Thomas Ridge, Main Capitol Building, Room 225, Harrisburg, PA 17120. Fax 717-783-1396.)

LEARNING HEALTHY

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received standard, brief consultation from a dietitian did not understand food labels as well, had a lower knowledge of fat content in foods, and were not as well-versed in general nutrition.

"Type II diabetes is considered epidemic among African-American women, but this group is also the least knowledgeable about risk factors for the disease," says Wendy Auslander, Ph.D., principal investigator and associate professor of social work at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University.

Training the Trainers

Researchers began the program by spending five days providing intensive training to 17 women who served as peer educators. The day-long training sessions concentrate on general nutrition, fat and sodium content of food, and label-reading.

"Sometimes it's difficult to figure out calories and fat content when the food label is telling you the soup is 135 calories per serving, and that the can contains two and a third servings," says Cheryl Houston, co-investigator and a registered dietitian at Washington University School of Medicine, who trained the peer educators.

"The peer educators started out with low knowledge levels regarding nutrition," she says. "They had some general concepts that have been translated through the media, but there were a lot of myths and a lot of misinformation," she says.

In general, while the peer educators understood basic concepts about dietary fat, the women had to be taught about the difference between fat and cholesterol. They had to be trained to think more incrementally. "For many it was 'all or nothing' in that they thought of healthy eating as either being on a diet or off," she says.

Nutrition knowledge improved dramatically during the five days of training. Participants saw videotapes, discussed ways to make

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POLL

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head.

The Times said that what the Congressional Republicans have done since winning the elections last fall has been good for the country in the view of 48 percent and bad in the view of 33 percent of those surveyed.

President Clinton has a job approval rating of 45 percent, compared with 43 percent who disapprove of the way he is doing his job.

Frustrations were running deeper than at any time during Americas history, the Times said.

The other major findings of the poll:

- 59 said there was not a single elected official whom they admired.

- 79 percent said the government was run by a few big interests looking out for themselves.

- Another 79 percent said they trusted the federal government to do the right thing only some of the time.

- 58 percent said that people like themselves have little to say about what the government does.

FOOD PROGRAM

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School, 4921 Pennwood; Mabel Hoggard, 950 Tonapah; Madison, 1030 N. "J" Street; Booker Elementary School, 2277 N. Martin Luther King (open site).

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