

NEWS CLIPS

CHICAGO STREET HONORS NATION OF ISLAM FOUNDER

Admirers of the late Nation of Islam (NOI) founder, Elijah Muhammad recently celebrated the life of their leader and the formal naming of a street in Chicago's south side after him, reports the *Chicago Defender*. With Munir Muhammad, the NOI's business manager officiating, members of the Coalition for the Remembrance of Elijah gathered to rename 71st Street "C.R.O.E. Lane," the group's acronym. Munir said Elijah will be remembered for reforming the lives of prisoners nationwide and for creating schools, mosques, social service centers, farms, housing, rehabilitation centers and businesses in places like Detroit which also has a street bearing his name. Other honors have been extended nationwide: The late Richard J. Daley set aside March 29 to honor Elijah Muhammad, similarly Richard Hatcher then Mayor of Gary, IN, designated Dec. 13 as a day for remembering Muhammad and since 1975 still more public officials have reserved Feb. 3-9 for Muhammad Week.

RAINBOW HOLDS FORUM ON RACE AND RACISM IN SPORTS MEDIA

After examining the dearth of blacks in the sports media, the Rainbow Commission for Fairness in Athletics recently held a forum in New York City to examine race and racism in the sports media. The forum was held in conjunction with the National Association of Black Journalists Sports Task Force and the New York Black Sports Writers Association. Reverend Jesse Jackson said the forum was needed "to answer allegations of bias by the white dominated sports media as it relates to coverage and treatment of black athletes and blacks in the sports industry." Of 1,600 daily newspapers in the country, only 10 have a black sports columnist. At those papers, only two have black sports editors. About 80 percent of radio and television broadcasters covering professional sports are white. The NBA is 80 percent black, the NFL 67 percent black and Major League Baseball is 37 percent black or Latino, while almost 80 percent of the employees in those leagues' front offices are white.

DOCUMENTARY EXPLORES THE CHALLENGES OF MINORITY PROFESSORS

"Shattering The Silences: Minority Professors Break Into the Ivory Tower" is a 90-minute documentary that takes a surprising and provocative look at the success and distress of African-American, Latino, Asian-American and American Indian scholars in the humanities and social sciences at universities from Seattle to New York. Produced by Gail Pellett and directed by Stanley Nelson the "double-edged stories reveal the obstacles and challenges on the journey to the ivory tower." Minority scholars are introducing new perspectives and fresh questions in university classrooms. While they have invigorated disciplines by contributing a wealth of new scholarship, the number of minority professors is still alarmingly small and the pipeline is fragile. Across all disciplines 90 percent of professors are white. The program will air on PBS stations nationwide Jan. 24, 1997 at 10 p.m.; check your local listings.

GERONIMO JI JAGA BEGINS HEARING ON PETITION

On Dec. 16, Geronimo ji Jaga (Pratt), the former Black Panther Party leader who has been behind bars for 26 years, began a hearing on his petition to vacate his conviction, reports San Francisco's *Sun Reporter*. The Partisan Defense Committee (PDC) said new evidence shows that Geronimo was framed by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the FBI's Counter-Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO), in an attempt to destroy the Panther. The petition, submitted by attorneys Johnnie Cochran and Stuart Hanlon, documents three sets of FBI wiretaps on Panther offices in 1968 showing that Geronimo was 400 miles away at the time of the murder of the Santa Monica schoolteacher he is accused of killing. During the original trial this information was available to the FBI and the LAPD but was hidden from the defense, according to the PDC. Many supporters of Geronimo believe that the petition will lead to Geronimo's release. For more information call the PDC at (510) 839-0852 or (213) 380-8239.

NEW ZIMBABWE AIRLINE PREPARES TO FLY

Zimbabwe's latest privately-owned airline, Expedition Airways, took delivery of the first of its three planes bought from the United States on Dec. 28, Managing Director Denver Hornsby said. Captain Hornsby said the 19-passenger Beechcraft 1900c made its inaugural flight from Kansas City on Dec. 31. Expedition Airways will service markets such as Harare, Bulawayo, Masvingo, Gweru, Chiredzi, Victoria Falls, Hwange and Mutare on a charter. "Our objective is to bring air service to Zimbabwe's major center and make the once neglected smaller towns accessible by air," said Hornsby. "This will open up unique investment opportunities for the business person and allow the tourist to see a different side of Zimbabwe," he said. The airline has trained six pilots in New York City and three maintenance engineers are currently undergoing training in Kansas.

News Briefs are compiled from national and international news services.

U.N. outlook: 1997 brings new leader, same old problems

By Farhan Haq
Special to Sentinel-Voice

UNITED NATIONS — U.N. members will be seeking greater unity in 1997 after a year of bruising power struggles, bitter even by previous standards, in the world body which represents 185 fractious nations.

The new Secretary General, Kofi Annan, of Ghana, the first U.N. career officer to rise to the top post, will be in charge of the healing process. The battle to install Annan, who was supported by the United States at the expense of the incumbent Secretary General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali of Egypt, itself will require diplomacy after the fact.

"In January, we must embark upon a time for healing, to restore the confidence between governments and this institution in order to help replenish its financial strength and its political and moral authority," Annan acknowledged prior to his confirmation by the U.N. General Assembly.

The early weeks of 1997 also will be pay-back time on the debts required to get Annan approved in the face of widespread support for Boutros-Ghali. African nations, which endorsed Boutros-Ghali last June but were forced to accept another African for the top spot by December, are especially adamant that their compromises not go to waste.

"Annan should bring a consensus among the major countries, and particularly the United States, to come along and support the organization,"

said Ambassador Roble Olhaye of Djibouti. "That is what we are expecting, and that is what we will encourage."

Ultimately, to alleviate wariness over its arm-twisting to replace Boutros-Ghali, the United States must contribute more to the financing of the United Nations than it has done. Other nations have grown angry that Washington insists on calling the shots at the world body while remaining its greatest debtor, owing the United Nations some \$1.5 billion.

Some of that money will materialize soon, U.S. officials promise. They claim that, with Boutros-Ghali out of the picture, the conservative U.S. Congress can now be prodded to pay up U.N. dues and may even be encouraged to support an organization that had become a hot potato in U.S. politics during the 1996 election year.

The officials also point to the fact that the outgoing U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, is slated to be the next U.S. Secretary of State.

Albright, although viewed with alarm by many U.N. diplomats, is nonetheless a strong believer in the United Nations and has already spent several years lobbying Congress for increased U.N. funding.

The Clinton administration, anxious to end the memories of its abrasive lobbying, appointed Congressman Bill Richardson of New Mexico, known for his conciliatory skills, to replace

Albright at the U.N.

The price of Annan's victory, however, cuts both ways. Just as the United States must prove itself to be a good citizen by paying its dues, so too must Annan please Washington and court Congress for funds by continuing to cut U.N. expenses. With staff at the New York headquarters already reduced by 10 percent in 1996, further cuts will be painful.

Beyond the question of finance, the fight over Boutros-Ghali's removal also posed an existential question for the world body: Just whom does the United Nations represent?

By using its strength as a global superpower, the United States settled the question of replacing Boutros-Ghali, but it also convinced nations that Washington can win any issue it really wants at the United Nations.

Combined with lingering frustration among developing nations over U.N. sanctions against Iraq and Libya, and among European allies over tightened U.S. sanctions on Cuba, that perception threatens the United Nations' credibility as an impartial body. Insiders openly fear the prospect that the United Nations may become, in the words of one diplomat, "a tool for Washington to penalize whomever it wants."

But 1996 also showed a different side of the picture, one in which the United Nations often provided a counterweight to U.S. diplomatic maneuvering.

Despite months of protests over the shooting of four Cuban-American pilots off the coast of Cuba in February, Washington was unable to convince the 15-member Security Council to impose penalties on Cuba. Instead, the General Assembly overwhelmingly passed a resolution condemning the U.S. embargo against Cuba.

Developing nations were joined for the first time by the entire European Union (EU), following its own row with the U.S. over new penalties against third countries seeking to do business with Havana.

Boutros-Ghali showed similar independence — and possibly sealed his fate — following an April attack by Israeli forces against a U.N. refugee compound in Qana, Lebanon. Although the United States exerted some pressure to discourage investigation of the incident, the United Nations released a report that suggested Israel had deliberately targeted the Qana camp.

Perhaps most significantly, the holdout by India at Geneva's Convention on Disarmament throughout the summer effectively halted an agreement to ban all explosive nuclear tests. The General Assembly approved the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in September, and more than 100 nations have already signed it, but the treaty cannot go into force as long as India refuses to sign.

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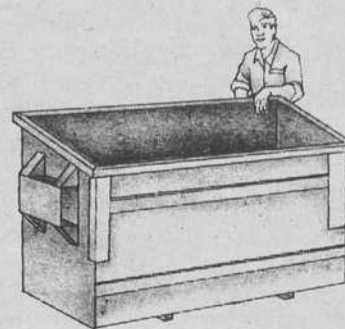
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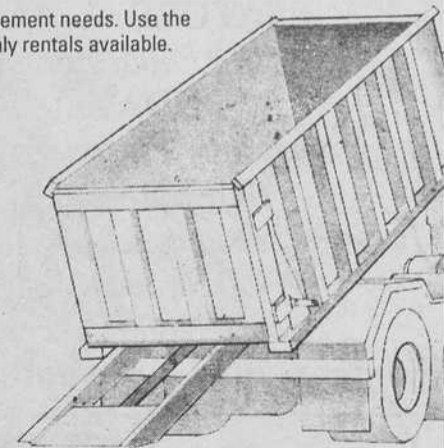
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