



# Gun

opportunity promotional programs for blacks.

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black leaders and celebrities, praising black

historical figures, scientists, artists, events and promoting their sponsorship of scholarship, business and equal

It's worked. In 1991 Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis Sullivan found out how much when he invited black publishers to a discussion of tobacco advertising's adverse affects in the black communities. Only a handful of newspapers, and no

magazine publishers, showed.

The tobacco industry's largesse doesn't stop with ads. Attached to nearly every major black cultural event during the past decade is a tobacco or liquor company as its primary sponsor. Cigarette makers provided major funding to the Alvin Ailey Dance Company, the Dance Theater of Harlem, the Annual Harlem Week Festival in New York, and the 200-city *Ebony* magazine fashion fair.

By doling out millions in gifts and contributions to the National Urban League, the Congressional Black Caucus, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the NAACP, the United Negro College Fund, and the National Caucus of Black State Legislators, the industry has cloaked itself as a champion of civil rights and black causes.

Many of these groups claim that they must get funding wherever they find it, in the wake of congressional budget cuts in funding to arts and non-

profit organizations. They say that the tobacco companies contributions come unattached. Others even hail the companies as good corporate citizens whose contributions enrich black life.

These are self-serving arguments. Many black organizations have raised significant amounts of money for cultural and educational causes, and many black leaders have waged effective campaigns for civil rights and political empowerment minus the tobacco money.

Black anti-smoking activists realize that when they fight the tobacco companies they are bumping heads with one of the best organized, best financed and propaganda-savvy industries on the planet. But with the health of thousands of young African-Americans at stake, it's well worth the fight.

*Dr. Earl Ofari Hutchinson is the author of "The Assassination of the Black Male Image."*

## Dealings

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brightest negotiators, labor leaders and managers set about taking over some of the major corporations in South Africa with 15 new publicly-traded black companies in the past two years. The Johannesburg Stock Exchange has blacks holding half the seats on its governing boards. And guess what? The only blacks who work in a factory for Nike are in South Africa.

The lesson is not that black preachers shouldn't meet with corporate heads when the opportunity arises, but that they should bring some accountants, investment bankers, diplomatic specialists, lawyers, environmental scientists, entrepreneurs, publishers and strategic planners along with them. All these professionals are sitting right in their congregations.

*John William Templeton is executive editor of the Griot, the African-American, African and Caribbean business daily based in San Francisco.*

## Graduation

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Four other Republican state legislators have also promised to challenge the University of Michigan's affirmative action policies.

Rep. David Jay of Washington Township, Deborah Whyman of Canton Township, Michelle McManus of Lake Leelanau and Greg Kaza of Rochester Hills, said they were seeking potential plaintiffs for a lawsuit.

The national study also focused on other racial minorities. It found that Hispanics fell behind whites and blacks in completing high school, with a rate of 57 percent.

Among Hispanics, ages 25 to 29, less than nine percent completed at least four years of college in 1995.

That number varies significantly from the 26 percent for whites and the 15 percent for blacks, the highest recorded for

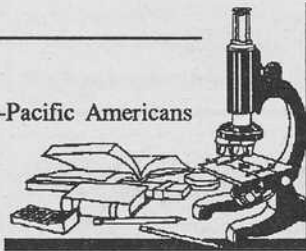
both groups since 1975.

Another section on Asian-Pacific Americans sought to dispel the myth that they, as a group, are a "model minority."

Students from the group "are perceived as well-behaved, diligent high achievers who persevere and are educationally successful despite socioeconomic and linguistic obstacles," the report said.

But the report also notes that this stereotype conceals a wide range of educational experiences.

College participation ranged from 66 percent for Chinese-Americans to 26 percent for Laotian-Americans, the report said.



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## SPORTS BRIEFS

### BIG TIME TOURNAMENT HITS LAS VEGAS

The third Big Time tournament, which drew a record 182-team field, began Tuesday at four local high schools. The tournament, which includes three local teams, will run through Sunday and has 452 games scheduled at Durango, Cimarron-Memorial, Silverado and Green Valley high schools. The field features teams from 41 states, Brazil and Canada. The Las Vegas Stars and Las Vegas Heat have rosters filled with local players, and Mad Moves has a mixed state roster with six locals. Games will be played from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. the first three days. General-admission daily tickets for the tournament, good for all games at all sites, will be sold at the door for \$6 each.

### CAMACHO COMMENTS STIR CONTROVERSY

During a press conference last week to promote his September 13 bout with Oscar De La Hoya, Hector "Macho"



**CAMACHO**

Camacho made offensive comments about the African-Americans in Mike Tyson's camp. He was asked about his opinion of the punishment of Tyson by the Nevada Athletic Commission for biting Evander Holyfield's ears. Camacho responded by saying, "That's what Mike's problem is, he's got too many niggers around him." During a Friday conference at Caesars Palace, he attempted to

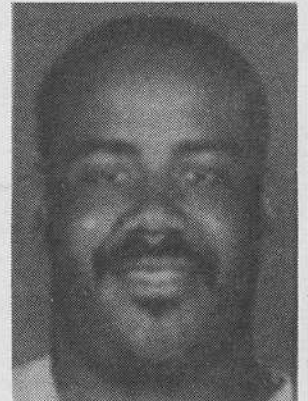
apologize but dug himself in a deeper hole by continuing to use the offensive term. "And I also want to clear up a little thing that people are repeating around about niggers," Camacho said. "OK, when I made the comments about Mike Tyson, they asked me, 'What do you think about Mike and what is going to happen to Mike?' I said, 'Mike is a very unhappy character. Instead of having classy African-American people with class who make him look good, he got all these nigger-attitude people around him that make him act the way he does, like a little beast. And he ain't. I love Mike. He's a great man.'"

### PROMOTER DON KING BREAKS SILENCE

Promoter Don King made his first comments on Mike Tyson's license revocation and \$2.98 million fine by the Nevada Athletic Commission last Thursday. "The Nevada Athletic Commission did what they felt they had to do, and I am not going to second-guess the decision. Instead, I am going to do everything I can for Mike Tyson," King said in a prepared statement. "I am not making any excuses for Mike, but I know him and I know he's a good human being. He's my friend, and I stand with him. What happened that night it was an aberration, a sad episode that all of us wish could have been avoided. It has never happened to Mike before, and I believe it will never happen again."

### SEAHAWKS' MONTGOMERY DIAGNOSED WITH GEHRIG'S DISEASE

Glenn Montgomery, a reserve defensive tackle for the Seattle Seahawks, has been diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease, a fatal neuro-muscular ailment. Those afflicted have a life expectancy of two and five years. Montgomery, 29, was a draft day acquisition of the Seahawks in 1996 after seven years with the Houston Oilers. He played seven games with the Seahawks last season, starting one. Montgomery's illness was discovered during checkups after surgery last December.



**MONTGOMERY**

He experienced diminished strength in a chronically bad shoulder during the season. Doctors, at first, determined the shoulder was affected by arthritis. Later they found amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease, was weakening the muscles. The disease is diagnosed in about 5,000 Americans each year.

*Compiled by Diamond Ross  
Sentinel-Voice staff writer*