

# Mississippi will release '60s civil rights' files

**Special to Sentinel-Voice**  
 JACKSON, Miss. - Victims of civil rights crimes, civil rights violators and the curious are all anxiously awaiting the state's release of secret files from a group charged with defending white supremacy for nearly two decades.  
 The files are scheduled to be opened Oct. 15. The 120,000 pages of documents compiled by the Mississippi Sovereignty Commission are expected to shed light on the group's anti-civil rights activities from 1956 to 1973. A large portion of the files donated in 1989 to the University of Mississippi showed how the commission manipulated the media, helped

defend the Ku Klux Klan, pried into people's lives and drove out or shut down people and institutions deemed subversive.  
 The imminent release concerns some civil rights activists who fear many of the spying victims don't even know they are named in the files or that they may be tied to uncorroborated allegations of wrongdoing. Others, however, want the files opened. They say that the truth needs to come out so that justice, if warranted, can be pursued.  
 Nearly 1,000 people responded to newspaper ads announcing the release. Of the 974 respondents, 700

completed the detailed applications. Four hundred of those applicants are named in the documents.  
 In 1989, a federal judge ordered the files opened. They remained closed until this year, when a court battle over the privacy issue overturned the ruling.  
 A full scope of the commission's activities may never be known because an untold number of potentially damaging documents were destroyed in 1965 to prevent federal prosecution of state officials for interfering with voter registration. A federal judge has also noted other gaps in the records.

# O.J. prosecutor thanks African-American peers

Christopher Darden thanked black prosecutors for not kicking him in the teeth, given O.J. Simpson's acquittal in the racially charged case about the killings of Simpson's ex-wife and a friend.  
 "I don't know whether I should actually thank you or apologize, considering the way it turned out and considering some of the ramifications," Darden told a group of 200 Friday at the National Black Prosecutors Association meeting in Tuscon, Ariz.  
 "I know there were times you could have taken a shot at me and you didn't," he said.  
 One of two lead Simpson prosecutors,



Darden is on leave from the Los Angeles District Attorney's office. He published a best-selling account of the trial, "In Contempt," that detailed the inner workings of the trial in which Simpson was acquitted in the killings of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman.  
 Spare a few detractors who blame him and co-prosecutor Marcia Clark for losing the case, Darden said most prosecutors have afforded him a great measure of respect. The black prosecutors' group decided to meet in Arizona after boycotting California to protest that state's voter-approved ban on affirmative action.

# Protesters berate NY police's torturing of immigrant

**Special to Sentinel-Voice**  
 NEW YORK - With toilet plungers in tow, more than 4,000 demonstrators gathered Saturday at Brooklyn's 70th Precinct police building to protest the alleged beating and sodomizing of a Haitian immigrant.  
 Two officers were indicted Friday in the attack that occurred nearly two weeks ago inside a station house bathroom.

The protesters chanted "KKK must go!" and exchanged angry words with officers who stood outside the precinct where Abner Louima alleged that police hurled racial slurs at him while beating and sodomizing him with a toilet plunger. Louima is hospitalized with injuries from the attack.  
 The protesters shouted obscenities and insults at officers outside the nightclub where Louima

was arrested for disorderly conduct.  
 Police have since dropped the charges against Louima and provided him with protection because of death threats.  
 Louima said one attacker warned him not to make noise and not to tell anyone what happened. He threatened to kill me and everybody in my family, he said. "I thank God I'm still alive, and I want justice," he said from a hospital last

week.  
 Officers Charles Schwab, 31, and Justin Volpe, 25, were indicted Friday on charges of aggravated sexual abuse and first-degree assault.  
 They face up to 50 years in prison. A police commander and 11 of his officers have been pulled off active duty for the incident.  
 Louima is recovering from a tear to his colon and a laceration to his bladder.

# King relative assails gay rights legislation

**Special to Sentinel-Voice**  
 SACRAMENTO, Calif. - Saying sexual behavior does not deserve the same protections that race is afforded, Martin Luther King's niece fired a salvo against anti-gay discrimination.  
 "To equate homosexuality with race is to give a death sentence to civil rights," Alveda Celeste King recently told a 100-person rally on the steps of the state capitol building. "No one is enslaving homosexuals...or making them sit in the back of the bus."  
 She often used her uncle's famous "I Have a

Dream" speech as a premise for her stance. She said the slain civil rights leader would not approve of laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation.  
 "In California, injustice is being done to family values," she said.  
 King said the legislature possesses "forces that want to steal away the civil rights from under our very noses," citing openly gay Assemblywomen Carole Migden, D-San Francisco, and Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica.  
 Kuehl said King is trying to "make it appear that civil rights leaders feel it is inappropriate to

compare the struggles of the gay and lesbian community with the African-American civil rights movement." She sponsored the legislation.  
 Gay rights activists defended the legislation.  
 "No one has the right to a monopoly over what civil rights are about," said Eric Astacaan, a spokesman for LIFE, a gay and lesbian lobbying group. "It's not homosexual rights, it's every citizen's right to have protection under the law."  
 Kuehl's bill would expand job and housing laws to provide for greater protections concerning sexual orientation and gender.



# Police probe councilwoman, husband

**Special to Sentinel-Voice**  
 North Las Vegas police executed search warrants Tuesday on the home and business of North Las Vegas City Councilwoman Paula Brown and husband James Brown.  
 The warrants are part of an investigation into the Browns' possible connection to the Las Vegas methamphetamine drug scene.  
 Las Vegas narcotics agents searched the couple's home on 5625 Sageridge Circle and their business J.B. Chemical, 3880 E. Craig Road.

The warrants also enabled them to examine the couple's accounts with Bank of America and a storage building on Fortney Road near Blue Diamond Road.  
 Police sources allege that the couple profited from the sale of two ingredients key to making methamphetamine - iodine and red phosphorus.  
 Both chemicals can be sold legally if the vendor does not know of any intended illegal use.  
 The Browns, who are not

charged with any crime, have repeatedly asserted that they have done nothing wrong. Paula Brown is not a suspect.  
 Last month, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported that Las Vegas attorney Robert Lucherini told the newspaper that James Brown was working as an informant for the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.  
 Because of the allegations, at least one of Paula Brown's election opponents has called for her resignation.

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