

# California Black Caucus convenes fairness hearing

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Assemblyman Kevin Murray (D-Los Angeles), chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus, announced last week that the Caucus will convene a special legislative hearing to assess the impact of anti-affirmative action measures on minorities and women.

The free public hearing will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10, in Hearing Room 4202.

Titled "The State of the State: California in the Aftermath of Proposition 209," the hearing

will focus on the impact of several measures designed to eliminate consideration of race and gender:

- Governor Pete Wilson's June 1995 Executive Order W-124-97, which eliminated voluntary programs and advisory boards in state entities;

- University of California Regents' resolution SP-1, adopted in July of 1995, which changed admissions considerations in the UC system; and

- Proposition 209, recently passed by California voters and upheld in the courts,

which will eliminate considerations of race and gender in public employment, contracting and education.

"We are now starting to see the devastating effects of these measures on minorities and women," Murray said. "In many instances, Californians were misinformed about their intent and the potential results.

"Affirmative action never has been and still isn't about preferences, it's about equal consideration.

"What we're experiencing is a loss of opportunity for select groups of Californians

and the entire state is suffering for it. We are not willing to see California devoid of the contributions minorities and women bring to business and the academic community," Murray said.

He will call on local, state and federal government officials, and the private sector to report on the status of programs and to discuss ongoing efforts to retain diversity in contracting, the workplace and educational institutions.

For additional information, visit the Caucus website at <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/lbcweb> or call (916) 445-8800.

# Women clergy hold historical gathering in Atlanta

*By Rev. Dr. Linda Hollies  
Special to Sentinel-Voice*

The gathering was awesome. The sight was beautiful. The networking was powerful.

The information was inspiring and the education was relevant. The sisterhood was phenomenal. The preaching was excellent, well-crafted and delivered with grace. The music was thrilling and uplifting. It was an historic event, a "homecoming" of 21 mainline denominations and African, African-American and Caribbean clergywomen.

Over 350 "sistas" met recently on the sacred grounds of Clark Atlanta University and the Interdenominational Theological Center.

We were housed in the new residential dormitory, built for the 1996 Olympics.

We had early morning prayer, teaching plenaries and met seminary professors, attorneys, pastors, authors, clinicians and state legislators. We attended workshops and ate home cooked meals in the student union.

The black educational metropolis - including Spelman, Morehouse and

Morris Brown - runs about six blocks. Those red-bricked roads were part of a precious journey as preaching daughters of Africa participated in an Harambe.

I've seen some spectacular sights in my life. One was standing outside "The Door of No Return" on Goree Island in Africa. As I watched the waves crash against the rocks and boulders, the story was retold of slave traders who sprinkled water to baptize "black heathens" for their journey to the Americas.

But during the opening night of The Holy Convocation, I watched two black female pastors lead two lines of clergy dressed in black with Kente stoles to a solemn drumbeat. Each one was waving a small hand-held flag of Africa. Two Black female pastors sprinkled them with water as the daughters of Africa "returned" to celebrate the motherland and be reunited in this historic gathering.

There is no human explanation possible to describe this stirring sight. You would have had to see it for yourself.

The opening worship was

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held at Hillside Chapel of Truth, where Dr. Barbara King is founder and pastor of more than 7,000 members in a multi-million dollar facility. Standing at 6'5," she is a true example of a warrior queen.

Presiding at the opening worship was the Rev. Dr. Linda Lee, chairperson of Black Clergywomen of the United Methodist Church (UMC) and a district superintendent of 70 congregations in Detroit. The preacher for the night was the Rev. Cynthia Wilson-Felder, anointed recording star of New Songs of Zion and minister of worship for the Ben Hill Church in Atlanta. Wilson-Felder brought Ben Hill's praise group and praise dancers to lead us in high praise and victorious celebration. It was the beginning of a glorious week!

Each morning began with a 7 a.m. prayer using different formats and traditions, led by the Rev. Janette Chandler-Katy of Dallas. This was an

ecumenical event where all black Christian clergy were invited to worship God and to celebrate our unity in Christ.

After breakfast, we were given solid instruction, teaching and guidance to assist us in being better servants of The Most High. The theme was "I Have An Appointment!"

The first teaching session was led by the Rev. Delores Brown Daniels, a Baptist clergy who is vice president of Religion and Health for Advocate Health Care Systems in Chicago.

Preaching that night was the

Rev. Neriah Edwards, pastor of Aldersgate UMC, a 600-member congregation outside of Cleveland, Ohio. An ecumenical gathering of sisters celebrated Holy Communion.

On Wednesday, the Rev. Dr. Eleanor Miller, a clinical abuse specialist, taught us about issues of self-care. Preaching that night was the Rev. Mother Anita Baird from the Roman Catholic Church, and presiding over the sacred meal was Evangelist Wilma Taylor of the Church of God in Christ.

On Thursday, I had the opportunity to teach about God's personal organization of The Tabernacle, which represents our bodily temples. The Rev. Florence Luster, a Christian Methodist Episcopal

pastor from Florida, celebrated our noon Communion service. That night, we all dressed in African garb as we had a banquet to honor the sisterhood.

Closing our historic gathering was the Rev. Brenda Little, preacher extraordinaire and pastor of Bethany Baptist Church of Christ in Evanston, Ill. She challenged us to go home with a power stance as directed by Ephesians 6. Then theologian, professor and sister-friend Dr. Jacquelyn Grant, African Methodist Episcopal, celebrated our closing communion.

The Rev. Dr. Linda H. Hollies is associate council director of Outreach Ministries with the West Michigan Annual Conference.

## Jackson urges boycott

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

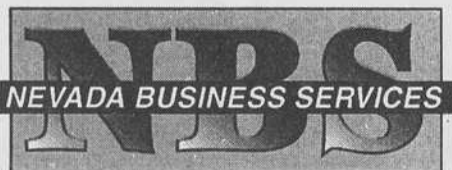
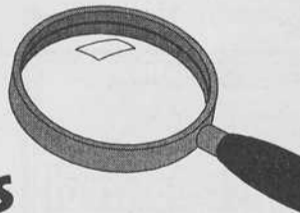
AUSTIN — The Rev. Jesse Jackson urged University of Texas students Tuesday to skip classes taught by a law professor who said black and Mexican-American students can't compete with their white counterparts.

"We're not the problem, he is the problem," Jackson told the nearly 5,000 students assembled below the steps of the campus' main Tower. "You have no obligation to be in his class."

Lino Graglia, a 67-year-old professor of constitutional law, told the Students for Equal Opportunity - a group he advises which supports a

(See Boycott, Page 16)

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