

NEWS CLIPS

NEW TREATMENT PREVENTS STROKES IN CHILDREN WITH SICKLE CELL ANEMIA

A treatment that prevents strokes in children with sickle cell anemia has been announced by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institutes of Health. New data from the "Stroke Prevention Trial in Sickle Cell Anemia" (STOP), show that administering blood transfusions every three-to-four weeks to children with sickle cell anemia, who are at high risk for stroke, reduces their rate of stroke by 90 percent. The results were so compelling that the study was stopped earlier than planned. "This is very good news for the roughly 2,500 children with sickle cell anemia," said Dr. Claude Lenfant, director of NHLBI. "Although this is not a cure, transfusions offer these children hope. "Of course, blood transfusions have their own risks," he said. "But for the patients and their families, the benefits of preventing strokes and their debilitating effects far outweigh the risks associated with repeated blood transfusions. And we continue to support research to develop other agents." Sickle cell anemia is the most common genetic blood disorder in the U.S., affecting approximately one in 500 African-American and one in 1,000 Hispanic newborns each year.

MEDIA MUST SHOULDER SOME BLAME FOR FARRAKHAN DEATH THREAT, SOME BLACKS SAY

Shock and outrage emerged from black leaders and observers in response to the arrest of an Indianapolis, Ind., man who made a telephone death threat against Nation of Islam leader Minister Louis Farrakhan. Police were contacted by NOI officials after a threatening phone call from Ronald Dearmin, a 37-year-old white male. He was arrested Sept. 1 and charged with possession of cocaine and marijuana. Minister Farrakhan was to deliver a speech in the city. Police confiscated shotguns, rifles, scopes, ammunition and drugs from Dearmin's home. He was released after posting \$1,500 bail. "The tenor and tone of many (mainstream) papers and commentators who report on Minister Farrakhan can enrage people to what may or may not be the truth," said Dorothy Leavell, president of the National Newspaper Publisher's Association. Dr. George Kiadii, a special envoy of the Republic of Liberia to the United States, said the media's mis-portrayal of Minister Farrakhan's actions and words are partially to blame. "If the media will be concrete and accurate in their reports of his lectures, things like this may never occur," Kiadii said.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN NOMINATED AS SURGEON GENERAL, ASSISTANT HEALTH SECRETARY

Dr. David Satcher, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) since 1993, has been nominated by President Clinton to serve as Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service and as the Health and Human Services (HHS) Assistant Secretary for Health. As director of CDC, Dr. Satcher, 56, leads the department of Health and Human Services, responsible for promoting health and preventing disease, injury and premature death. During his tenure the Morehouse graduate has spearheaded initiatives that have increased childhood immunization rates to 78 percent in 1996 from 55 percent in 1992; upgraded the nation's capability to respond to emerging infectious diseases and laid the groundwork for a new Early Warning System to detect and prevent food-borne illnesses. "Dr. Satcher is a physician, a scholar and public health leader of national stature who is uniquely qualified for this dual appointment," said Donna Shalala. Dr. Satcher still must undergo the scrutiny of Congress before he can assume his new position.

HARLEM ROAD KINGS SEEK MOST TALENTED, DEDICATED BASKETBALL PLAYERS

Loads of laughter, superb athletic abilities, fun family entertainment — that's what the Harlem Road Kings are bringing to audiences around the world with their outstanding show. Led by "Showboat" Robinson, the Road Kings combine the traditional, unpredictable fun of Harlem Globetrotter basketball with a unique education program that addresses the many risk factors that affect youth today. Their primary goal is to encourage kids to work hard, stay in school and avoid drugs and alcohol, organizers say. The concept of comedy-style basketball is not new, nor are the Harlem Road Kings. The name was founded by the original "Clown Prince of Comedy Basketball" Goose Tatum of the Harlem Globetrotters and is nearly 40 years old. Now the Harlem Road Kings are recruiting talented basketball players with comedy and/or professional basketball experience. All interested persons should contact Complete Sports Management at (800) 658-1946. Deadline for submitting applications for this season's tour is Oct. 9, 1997.

Farrakhan outlines Day of Atonement

By Latasha J. Bradley
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Nation of Islam leader Minister Louis Farrakhan recently outlined details for the Holy Day of Atonement/Day of Absences Oct. 16, the second anniversary of the Million Man March.

The day is to be observed with fasting from sunset Oct. 15 to sunset Oct. 16 and pre-dawn family prayer and scriptural readings on Oct. 16.

"America is dying as we speak from an internal rot due to a moral decline into the abyss of decadence," Farrakhan said.

"When a nation's evil outweighs its good, God has always sent down a decree of judgment and that judgment meant the termination of that society, that people or that nation," he said.

"America is now in that unenviable position. But before He (God) brings the full weight of punishment on America, He asks that America be called to repentance, to atone."

Farrakhan said that no money should be spent. No one should work or play and the Day of Atonement should be a time of reconciliation among family members with visitation to churches, mosques, temples or other houses of worship.

Farrakhan also requested that all pastors preach a sermon on atonement, reconciliation and responsibility on Sunday, Oct. 12 in preparation for the holy day.

For ministers of the Nation of Islam and others Farrakhan has asked them to encourage the atonement process by holding an afternoon rally during which youth from each racial group can address their elders.

"I am warning America. We are either going to come back to God and repent or God will destroy America as He did those before her and left them as a sign so that America might be guided

and warned by their failure to accept guidance and warning attacks and repent," Farrakhan said, adding that he is not worried about critics' opinion of the event.

"Even if we don't do all that we intended to do or desire to do, we've made a start," he said.

"When we called for a million men to be in Washington, God helped to make it a reality and all the naysayers who said it couldn't happen were there and they saw it happen."

During Farrakhan's current 90-city Million Man March revival tour, a 37-year-old man issued a death threat against him in Indianapolis. Ronald A. Dearmin was arrested and charged with possession of cocaine and police confiscated a cache of weapons, explosives and ammunition.

"I am waiting to see what Indianapolis does," Farrakhan said. "The man is out on \$1,500 bond. I don't understand that, but we'll watch and see. But I would say to America, 'be very careful how you handle me. If I am from God and you plot against my life, that will quicken the destruction of America.'"

Latasha J. Bradley writes for the Chicago Defender.



LOUIS FARRAKHAN

States off target on welfare deadline

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Federal law requires states to put welfare recipients into work activities, which could include a regular job, a subsidized position, community service, a limited job search or, for a small group, education and training.

States must have 25 percent of all families and 75 percent of two-parent families in work activities this year. They also get credit for people who left the welfare rolls the year before. Most states say they will meet the all-families target, but many fear they will miss the two-parent target.

This year, states are measured on their performance during July, August and September and must report their progress within 45 days of Oct. 1. States that started their welfare reform programs within the last six months have extra time to report.

These 17 states say they will meet the two-parent family participation target: Arizona,

Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

These six states say they probably will meet the target: Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Kentucky, North Dakota and Ohio.

These 17 states say they will not meet the two-parent family participation target: Alabama, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas and Vermont.

In addition, three states, Alaska, Minnesota and Virginia, say they probably will not meet the target.

These six states say they do not yet know if they will meet the target: Arkansas, Indiana, Kansas, New Mexico, Rhode Island and West Virginia.

Police pepper spray KKK protestors

Special to Sentinel-Voice

SAGINAW, Mich. — Police used pepper spray to disperse a crowd of protestors who tried Saturday to push down a fence keeping them from a Ku Klux Klan rally.

About 400 people protested the rally of eight Klan members. There were no arrests or injuries.

Police said they were forced to use pepper spray because they were being pelted by rocks and bricks and needed to rescue a skinhead and a couple giving "Heil Hitler" salutes.

Tiffany VanHollan, 12, of Saginaw said she and an 11-year-old friend were sprayed while holding a sign that read, "Don't be a coward, color goes together."

Chad Kirk, 18, a skinhead, said he came out to show support for the Klan philosophy and his German heritage.

"Just because I have some pride doesn't mean I'm an evil person," said Kirk, who wore a swastika arm band. "This is our rally. If they don't like it, they should stay home."

BOOK SIGNING



Randee St. Nicholas Photography

Gladys Knight will sign copies of her autobiography, **BETWEEN EACH LINE OF PAIN AND GLORY: My Life Story (Hyperion)** on Thursday, Oct. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at Borders Books, Music & Cafe Espresso. 2190 N. Rainbow Blvd. • 638-7866

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