



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Right photo, different grades plant a variety of vegetables and flowers to be eaten and shared. Top photo, Tuesday after school, sister and brother, Kayla and Christopher Hooper, tend to the garden beds at Mable Hoggard Magnet School which has already produced some radishes.



Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

## Gardening

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Each garden bed requires: three yards of silt; one yard of nutri-mulch; 10 pounds of Ferta Humas, an organic soil conditioner and fertilizer; and three to five pounds of soil sulfur. The costs were offset by the lab fees the school charges.

Duncan said officials from the Meadows and Quannah McCall schools have visited the garden. She would like other schools to follow suit with gardens but realizes that the tremendous cost is a hindrance.

## California law makes church arson a hate crime

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Assembly Bill 51, authored by Assemblymember Kevin Murray (D-Los Angeles) to strengthen the penalties for committing arson against a place of worship was signed into law earlier this week by Gov. Pete Wilson.

"Church arson is an act that threatens the ability of people to worship in peace and sends messages of hate to communities. It is an ugly crime that takes away the freedom of people to congregate and worship without fear," Murray said.

AB 51 fights church arson by classifying arson against a place of worship as a "hate crime," making arsonists convicted of this crime subject to additional terms of up to 3 years in state prison. This new law becomes effective January 1, 1998.

"The objective of this bill is to stop the spread of vulgar expressions of hatred and religious intolerance by burning a church," Murray said. "People have traditionally sought physical and mental sanctuary in the church. This legislature is designed to restore peace to sanctified structures, thereby ensuring that people can worship in a place free from the atrocity of arson."

"This law will convey to would-be arsonists that burning any church out of hate is just as devastating to communities as setting a fire to destroy a million dollar building. I applaud the Governor's effort to help protect places of worship against the violating act of arson," Murray said.

## Atonement

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Muhammad said. "Atonement is just that process where we wipe the slate clean and make a fresh start. One of the things that impedes our progress as a people and creates some of the problems that we face as individuals and families face and communities face and nations face, is we can't seem to get past some of the things that have happened in the past, that nobody can undo.

"Mistakes were made, wrong acts were performed. Do you just sit there and stew in it for ever ... so we never get onto new business? [The] process of atonement is a form of conflict resolution, problem-solving that allows us to peacefully co-exist," he said.

This year's anniversary will also be marked by an evening satellite broadcast by Farrakhan to cities with large African-American populations. They include Atlanta, Houston, Chicago, Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles.

Over the next four years, Oct. 16 will celebrate various members of the African-American community, including the elders in 1998; black women in 1999 and in 2000, black families will be mobilized to return to Washington to attend the Million Families March and the "world's largest marriage ceremony."

Olive Vassell is news director for the National Newspaper Publishers Association

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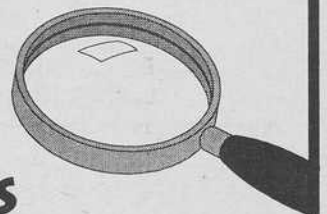
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