

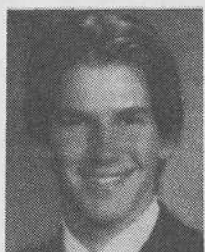
# NEWS CLIPS

## INSURANCE COMPANIES CHARGED WITH DISCRIMINATION

Four of the nation's largest insurance companies have been accused of racial discrimination under the Fair Housing Act. Fair housing groups said the companies turned down or limited home insurance policies to residents living in minority and integrated neighborhoods. The Prudential Insurance Company of America, The Travellers Group, Aetna and Liberty Mutual Group allegedly restricted, limited or denied homeownership insurance in African-American, Latino and integrated communities. The National Fair Housing Center, Metropolitan Fair Housing Center and Home of Richmond, who all filed the complaint, said that the insurance companies had violated the Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination in real estate related transactions. "If our findings confirm the complaints are correct, we will end any discriminatory practices and take steps to see that such violations are prevented in the future," said Housing Secretary Andrew Cuomo. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) must investigate the complaints and determine whether there is reasonable cause that the act has been violated. The case will be given to an administrative law judge who may provide victims with monetary or injunctive relief and civil penalties. The complaints against the four insurance companies were based on a study authorized by HUD's Fair Housing Initiatives Program of 1985.

## TRIAL FOR TEEN SUSPECT ON SCHEDULE

Jeremy Strohmeyer's April 20 trial is on target, his attorneys said Monday. The 18-year-old Long Beach, Calif., man is charged with murder in connection with the May 25 death of 7-year-old Sherrice Iverson. The Los Angeles second-grader's body was strangled and sexually assaulted in the women's bathroom of the Primm hotel in Primm, 43 miles south of Las Vegas. District Judge Don Chairez mandated 30-day status checks on the case after the Clark County District Attorney's Office and defense lawyers Richard Wright and Leslie Abramson fueded over a suitable trial date and if the trial should proceed. Wright and District Attorney Stewart Bell, who is personally prosecuting the case, had quipped over whether evidence was turned over to the defense. The two sides said they reached an agreement Monday. Chairez signed an order confirming the sharing of information and evidence. Strohmeyer was not present at Monday's status check. Wright also asked the judge to order a contact visit between Strohmeyer and his parents at the Clark County Detention Center where he is being held. If convicted Strohmeyer could get the death penalty. He was not present at Monday's status check. But he will be in court next Monday when his lawyers argue that the charges against him should be dismissed. His lawyers say there have been improprieties in the indictment process. They are highlighting the issue since a lawyer for a key witness was allowed to be present during the grand jury process.



STROHMEYER

## NUMBER OF MINORITY TEACHERS LOW IN CONNECTICUT

Efforts to get more students interested in teaching careers have not closed the gap between minority teachers and the larger numbers of minority students in Connecticut schools, the *Philadelphia Tribune* reports. Minorities account for only 6.5 percent of teachers in the state, while 29 percent of students are minorities, state education figures show. "If our students don't see people who are like them in positions of authority and responsibility, then it is very difficult for them to imagine themselves in those positions," said Cynthia Jorgenson, a state education consultant who tracks minority hiring. Many educators believe Connecticut needs to entice young minorities into the education field by starting student clubs for aspiring teachers and offering more scholarships and financial incentives. Of the 166 school districts in the state, 112 had two or fewer minorities last school year. Some had none at all. There are even fewer minority administrators. Last year 136 school districts had no minority administrators and 150 had two or fewer. Officials say that they seek qualified teachers, no matter what their race. Last year, the Wallingford, Conn., district received 75 applications from minorities, but none were hired because others were more qualified, said Dale Wilson, Wallingford's assistant superintendent for personnel. The district employs 445 teachers and 44 aides. However, the only certified black employee is a social worker. There are only two Latino teachers and one Latino teacher's aide.

# Black Panthers monitor police abuse

By Peg Tyre  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

NEW YORK — Once known for their staunch black nationalism, the Black Panthers have taken to the streets of New York, armed with cameras to highlight police abuse.

Now known as the Black Panther Collective, they have formed a kind of civilian patrol to record arrests and document examples of police brutality against the African-Americans and Latinos.

"The purpose is to deter police brutality and also to educate the community of their rights," said George Morrilla, a member of the collective.

The videotaped beating of the Rodney

King incident, by Los Angeles policemen was a major factor in the group's organizing.

That tape and the recent alleged torture of Haitian immigrant Abner Louima by New York City police confirmed what many activists had been saying for years — that police brutality runs rampant in minority communities.

The program reflects the community activism once synonymous with the Panther movement of the 1960s.

An endowment funded by the late William Kuntzler, the lawyer famed for his involvement in activist causes, has meant increased financial backing for the group, further boosting the nostalgia.

'Don't smile, this isn't candid

camera' "The main idea is to keep the tape rolling," Morrilla said. "There's evidence there, you gotta have that tape on."

Police officials refused to comment on the program, but police on the beat say they don't like the idea.

They say they hope the collective will find ways to work with police rather than against them.

Neighbors too are tight-lipped. But the Black Panthers say that by exerting pressure the police will be forced to change.

"I want them to feel that they're watched," Morrilla said. "I want them to feel it, and then maybe, just maybe, we can deter some of that there."

# Proceeding begins in racial killing case

Special to Sentinel-Voice  
INDEPENDENCE, Va. —

A white man talked about plans to "kill a Negro" hours before a black man was burned alive and beheaded outside a backwoods trailer, a witness testified in a hearing Tuesday.

Chrisy Harden described Louis Ceparano and Emmett Cressell Jr. as longtime buddies. The two are accused of dragging 40-year-old Garnett P. Johnson from a trailer where the three had been drinking. Johnson was set afire. Later, the corpse's head was severed.

Judge Daniel Bird ruled there was enough evidence to have a grand jury hear the case on Oct. 24. The grand jury will decide whether to indict the

men. The 42-year-old Ceparano faces preliminary capital murder and robbery charges and could receive the death penalty if convicted.

Cressell Jr., 36 — the alleged accomplice — faces preliminary first-degree murder and robbery charges and could be sentenced to life in prison.

Harden testified during the preliminary hearing that the three men and another woman were in the trailer to celebrate her 21st birthday.

Following a long night of drinking — shortly after 4 a.m. on July 25 — she said Ceparano and Cressell carried Johnson, by his hands and feet, out of the trailer.

Johnson asked Ceparano, "Why don't you just shoot me?" Harden testified.

A few minutes later she looked out a window and saw something burning. "I seen G.P. on fire," she testified.

Ceparano and Cressell, she testified, smelled like gasoline when they returned to the trailer.

Harden testified that earlier in the evening, Ceparano told his girlfriend that "he was going to kill a Negro."

Outside the courtroom, she said Ceparano called Johnson a "nigger," not a "Negro". She couldn't bring herself to say the word before the judge, she said.

Neither defendant testified nor did the defense present

evidence. Cressell contends Ceparano doused Johnson with gasoline, set him afire and later decapitated him. Cressell said Ceparano called Johnson "his sacrifice," according to his statement.

Ceparano's attorneys say they will try to finger Cressell in the slaying. Cressell made numerous racist comments before the slaying and has a history of violent behavior, they said.

In a statement Ceparano gave to investigators, he said Cressell told him, "Let's get him and tie him up in the woods."

The FBI is investigating whether Johnson's death was a racially motivated hate crime.

# Cuomo, Jackson urge reinvestment in public housing

By Chinta Strausberg  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Andrew Cuomo has joined the Rev. Jesse Jackson in supporting the transformation of public housing from institutions to communities.

Cuomo said during a recent radio broadcast that public housing "was a good idea gone bad," that, "in some cases was poorly implemented."

Calling public housing "too big, too dense, too concentrated, too isolated and didn't provide people with the services they needed," Cuomo said a transformation is needed.

In outlining HUD's commitment to re-energizing America's public housing, Cuomo said that residents must assume some responsibility in thinking their "way out of poverty." He said HUD will empower people to do just that.

Since home ownership will not work for everyone immediately, Cuomo said the key to transforming the situation is education and jobs.

Cuomo said progress will not happen if the press continues to paint public housing in a negative light.

Jackson agreed.

"The media must be a factor in ending the stereotypes about public housing," Jackson told

*"Once we break these stereotypes, we can use our political leverage and our votes for reinvestment."*

— Rev. Jesse Jackson

reporters. A product of public housing himself, Jackson said that while the facilities offer a step up for some families, "these shackles must now be broken."

Jackson said the change will take time. Like Cuomo, he said jobs must key the transformation.

"Welfare-to-work requires an infrastructure, job training, daycare, transportation and a job. That's part of the mix in this move towards affordable housing," he said. To achieve this, people need access to capital, he said.


"Once we break these stereotypes, we can use our political leverage and our votes for reinvestment," Jackson said. The concept of public housing, he said, "didn't come from heaven. It came up from hell."

Over the last 10 years, Jackson said the government has failed to invest in America's poor working families or adequately address the social conditions that allow the total disintegration of the public housing system,

creating havens for

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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