

NEWS CLIPS

MFUME URGES WHITE HOUSE TO APPOINT LEE DURING RECESS

NAACP President and CEO Kweisi Mfume is urging the White House to move forward with a "recess appointment" of Bill Lann Lee as assistant attorney general for civil rights. "A small group of obstructive senators have thwarted the will of the President on this appointment and their reasoning is based on frivolous and unacceptable excuses," Mfume said. "The president has every right under the constitution to make this appointment while Congress is in Winter recess and the NAACP strongly urges him to move forward immediately." Senate Judiciary Chairman Orrin Hatch and others in the Senate have blocked the appointment of Lee. Several Republicans including Colin Powell and Judiciary Committee Member Arlen Specter have urged the Senate to approve the nomination. "There is an urgent need for comprehensive civil rights enforcement in America and it is counterproductive to have this important post vacant for almost a year now," Mfume said. "Mr. Lee is basically being held hostage by a myopic group of U.S. Senators who feel he is unqualified because he agrees with the man who appointed him. The President ought to use his constitutional powers to move forward with this important civil rights appointment."

HEIGHT PASSES NCNW LEADERSHIP MANTLE TO SMITH

Dorothy Height, who led the National Council of Negro Women for the past 40 years, stepped down recently making way for Jane E. Smith to become the civil rights organization's third leader. The organization was founded by Mary Macleod-Bethune. The educator was also the group's first president. Macleod-Bethune's legacy was recently honored at the NCNW's 48th Annual Convention. Smith comes to the group from the Georgia-based (Jimmy) Carter Center's Atlanta Project where she served as director. The center was actively involved in initiatives to revitalize Atlanta's inner city. Height will remain the NCNW's chair of the council's board of directors.

BLACKS JAILED TWICE AS OFTEN AS WHITE DRUG OFFENDERS

Blacks convicted of drug crimes in Alabama are nearly twice as likely to receive jail time as White offenders, and nearly two-and-one-half times as likely to receive prison terms of one year or more, according to an analysis by the Birmingham Post-Herald. The study of nearly seven years' worth of drug convictions found that Blacks and Whites have equal chances of being found guilty. The disparity comes in the sentencing. Within every drug category, from misdemeanor marijuana possession to felony cocaine trafficking, Blacks were found to have a greater chance of getting jail time than do Whites. For example, 64 percent of Blacks convicted of cocaine possession received prison time, compared to 48 percent of Whites. On marijuana possession, 35 percent of the convicted Blacks received prison time, compared to 31 percent of Whites. For some critics of the Alabama legal system, the discrimination starts with the judges on the bench. As of late 1996, there were only six Black district judges of the 92 in the state. Of the 131 circuit judges there were only five Blacks. U.S. Representative Earl Hilliard (D-AL), said there is a "leniency factor" towards Whites because the judicial system is predominantly White.

SCHOLARSHIP HONORING BETTY SHABAZZ ESTABLISHED AT LINCOLN

Lincoln University President Niara Sudarkasa recently paid tribute to the late Dr. Betty Shabazz in an all-university convocation. She said Shabazz was a "beloved sister, leader and friend who touched so many lives that for generations to come her spirit will remain with us." The convocation also served as an opportunity to thank Black Entertainment Television (BET), Emerge magazine and Shabazz's daughters for the establishment of the Dr. Betty Shabazz Endowed Scholarship at Lincoln University which will be awarded annually to a female student who has demonstrated outstanding campus leadership and service to the wider community. Speaking on behalf of her sisters, Attallah, Quibilah, Gamilah, Malikah and Malaak, Ilyasah Shabazz said that it is most appropriate for the scholarship honoring their mother to be established at Lincoln University because she was "fond of the students and everything the school represented." She also said her mother was "an exemplary role model committed to improving the quality of life and committed to improving the quality of young minds through education." To date, \$31,000 has been given to the university: \$26,000 from BET and \$5,000 from Emerge magazine.

Boy Scouts set sights on West Las Vegas

Special to the Sentinel Voice

The Boy Scouts have launched an effort to involve West Las Vegas boys in the group's century-old tradition.

Starting with Scoutjam, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 20 at the Doolittle Center, 1901 N. J St., the local chapter of the Boy Scouts will focus its recruitment efforts in West Las Vegas. Scoutjam will include games and prizes for boys 6-13.

Championed by Troop 990, based out of New Bethel Baptist Church, the recruiting effort is directed by scoutmasters Victor Ingram and Jeff Harris.

They hope to instill the scout's motto "Be Prepared," as well as team-building and leadership skills in the recruits. Both were scouts as boys.

Ingram, a West Las Vegas received the scout's highest award, the Eagle Scout Badge. As a fourteen-year-old, Ingram recalled how the scouts shielded him from drugs and gangs.

"Boy Scouting provided me with an escape," he said. "Without the positive role modeling of my scoutmaster, I don't

really think I'd have the same outlook."

His experience motivated him to get a college degree.

He has used the lessons he learned throughout his successful military career and now in his job as a state law enforcement official.

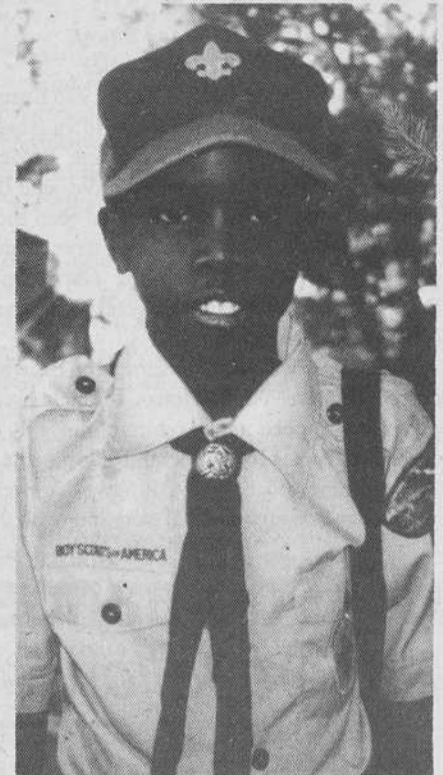
"The tenants of scouting provide youths with a credo to live by," he said.

Boys can participate in scouting from the ages 5-18. They are required to participate in a variety of meetings and complete tasks to advance in rank. One such requirement is for boys to learn the Boy Scout Promise.

That promise: "On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country, to help other people at all times, to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight."

Ingram, 30, still proudly recites the oath he memorized as a 12-year-old.

While the perils of gangs and drugs have continued to run rampant in the "old neighborhood", as he calls it, Ingram said scouting offers a positive route to solid moral character and goal attainment.



DUJUANE JACKSON

Racism

(Continued from Page 1)

giving its blessings to the proposed conference. The venue, date, and agenda are to be discussed next year, officials said.

The Assembly will express "grave concern" over the fact that despite efforts of the international community, the principal objectives of two previous "Decades for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination" have not been attained. As a result, millions of individuals have been victimized by varied forms of racism.

The Assembly will specifically single out recent technological developments in the field of communications, including the Internet, which "have been used for the dissemination of racist and xenophobic propaganda throughout the world."

One of the objectives of the proposed conference is to review the progress made in the fight against racism, particularly since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, whose 50th anniversary will be commemorated in 1998.

The conference will also "formulate concrete recommendations to further action-oriented national, regional and international measures to combat all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance."

Kuehl said the United States would not support a new international conference because the United Nations is also still far behind in implementing decisions taken at several global conferences since 1990.

"We are still working to implement the outcomes of the recent global conferences, including the results of the World Conference on Human

Rights held in Vienna in 1993, which dealt with racism and racial discrimination as a major concern," he said. But Kuehl said he will not force a vote on the issue for the sake of consensus.

Since the World Summit on Children in New York in 1990, the United Nations has hosted at least eight major global conferences: Focusing

on the environment in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992; on human rights in Vienna in June 1993; on small island developing states in Bridgetown in April 1994 and on population and development in Cairo in September 1994.

Additionally, the United Nations hosted two talk-fests in 1995: On social development in Copenhagen

in March and on women's issues in Beijing in September. The last two major U.N. conferences were in Rome and in Istanbul, both in 1996.

Last year the United States called for a moratorium on all U.N. conferences, pointing out that a cash-strapped world body cannot afford to spend money on lavish meetings outside New York.

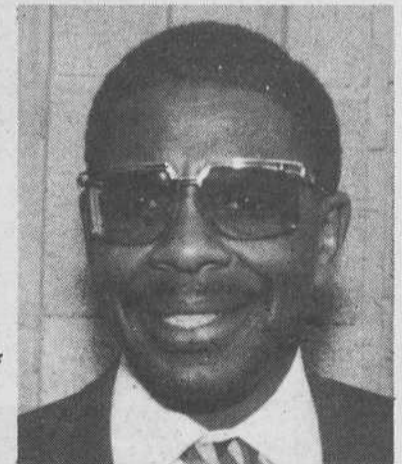
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