

# NEWS CLIPS

## MICHAEL JACKSON WINS COPYRIGHT SUIT

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Michael Jackson has successfully defended a copyright infringement lawsuit in Italy, his lawyer said Friday. The lawsuit was filed in 1992 by Italian singer Albano Carrisi, who claimed Jackson's hit "Will You Be There" was copied from his song "I Cigni di Balaka" ("The Swans of Balaka"). Jackson's copyright lawyer, Eve Wagner, said she received official notice this week of a ruling by a three-judge panel. "Michael Jackson has once again been vindicated, and we are delighted that justice has been served," she said. "Unfortunately, celebrities are too often the target of baseless lawsuits." Wagner said Carrisi was ordered to pay legal expenses to Jackson and his label, Sony.

## ANGELOU, OTHERS INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

SENECA FALLS, N.Y. — Poet Maya Angelou is among 21 new inductees of the National Women's Hall of Fame. Angelou is known for her 1970 autobiographical novel "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," and her poem, "On the Pulse of the Morning," recited at President Clinton's inauguration in 1993. The 1998 inductees announced Saturday will join 136 Americans enshrined in the hall, all of whom were selected for making lasting contributions to society and to the progress and freedom of women. The July induction also marks the 150th anniversary of the first women's rights convention. Secretary of State Madeline Albright, astronaut Shannon Lucid, opera star Beverly Sills, pioneering nuclear scientist Chien-Shiung Wu and Bradley University founder Lydia Moss Bradley.



MAYA ANGELO

## CHAT WITH PRESIDENT ON RACE SPARKS NATIONWIDE TALKS

Congressman John Lewis, D-Ga., Kweisi Mfume of the NAACP and Hugh Price of the National Urban League were a few of the national leaders President Clinton called on Jan. 12 to attend an Oval Office meeting at the White House for a discussion on the progress of the President's initiative on race. The meeting came on the heels of a similar meeting with conservatives held shortly before the holiday break in late December. On that occasion, Clinton used the discussion to hear conservative views about the race initiative effort and the success and failure of affirmative action policies in the government. Lewis has been an outspoken advocate for a national dialogue on race. "We must lay down the burden of race by working toward reconciliation in this country. It would be a grave misfortune for this national dialogue to become mired in politics. A conversation requires give and take. I think that is why the President called us to the White House. He want(ed) to have an open discussion with all views represented," Lewis said. On Jan. 15, Martin Luther King Jr.'s 69th birthday, 60 cities across the nation kicked off forums to address race issues in their respective areas.

## BLACK TEENS DYING INCREASINGLY FROM PREVENTABLE INJURIES

More African-American youth are dying in traffic crashes in proportion to other teenagers, a new study reported. According to research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, African-American teens are 50 percent less likely to buckle up than their White or Hispanic counterparts. "Tragically, the statistics show that more of our young people are dying from injuries that could be easily prevented," said Arthur Anderson, director of the California Office of Traffic Safety. Today, traffic crashes are the leading cause of children's death. Every year crashes claim the lives of more than 2,100 children and seriously injure more the 300,000. And young adults age 16-25, the nation's highest-risk drivers, are the least likely age group to buckle up. "For some people, wearing seat belts seems like old news," Anderson said. "But the fact is nearly 8,500 Americans die each year in automobile crashes simply because they didn't wear a seat belt." Current national seat belt use stands at only 68 percent. It's even lower among African-Americans, at slightly more than 50 percent.

# Black journalists target ethics fairness

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The Las Vegas Association of Black Journalists (LVABJ) believes the concerns expressed Wednesday, January 21, 1998 by Citizens United for Equity for Clark County Commission Chairwomen Yvonne Atkinson Gates have great merit. We—as do most members of our profession—strive to be fair and impartial in our reporting, it is not easy to accept this criticism.

However, we agree some members of the local media have been allowed to release an inordinate volume of stories and editorials with no new information about the ethics case pertaining to County Commission Chairwoman Yvonne Atkinson Gates. In some cases, journalists have even gone so far as to pass judgement, even before the Nevada State Ethics Commission could make a ruling.

We're equally disturbed about the

one-sided coverage of this issue. Little time or space is allocated for opposing views.

Barbara Robinson—the only African American columnist in a mainstream publication in Southern Nevada — has been all but silenced. Robinson's weekly column in the Las Vegas Review-Journal has recently been cut back to publication only twice a month. And funding has been pulled for her television program on KLUX Channel 10, which places that forum in jeopardy, as well.

Similarly, the Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice—Nevada's only African American newspaper—is not getting due support, and is not suitably recognized as a legitimate voice for the community it represents.

Part of our mission is to monitor and sensitize the media to the needs of our multi-cultural community. Behind the

scenes, many LVABJ members have been communicating concern about the coverage of this issue to our various media outlets.

But it is almost impossible to achieve and maintain balance in news coverage without clear input from the community. One or two voices can be perceived as whiners. Dozens of voices, giving constructive criticism, comments and suggestions speak much louder and demand more respect and ensure the appropriate response.

We therefore encourage continued viewer, listener and reader initiative and input to apprise the media of the need for sensitivity, balance and fairness in reporting. We encourage the media to maintain the objectivity and sensitivity that is expected of our noble profession.

Las Vegas Association of Black Journalists

## Ala. school board member wants KKK name dropped

Special to Sentinel-Voice

GADSDEN, Ala. — Hoping to remove reminders of the South's past, a black school board member is campaigning to rename a school named after a Confederate general who became the first grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan.

Roberta Watts, one of two blacks on the seven-member city school board, wants to change the name of General Forrest Middle School which is named for Nathan Bedford Forrest, whose raiders chased Union troops in 1863.

Watts, who will ask the board to change the name next month, describes Forrest as a slave-owning, uneducated Klan leader. But it won't be easy. "Public education is not a choice," Watts said. "Those children and their parents are required to attend that school. I've brought it up before in a board work session. They said, 'No, we can't even think about

that (changing the name)."

The school, with more than 500 pupils, is about 35 percent black.

Fred Taylor, superintendent of city schools, said the board had never been asked to change the name before.

But even if it had, Taylor said, the board won't change the name just because of the Klan, which Forrest left in 1869 because it had become too violent.

"He had a right to be in the organization as much as these (black) folks have a right to be in the NAACP," said Taylor, who is white.

"That doesn't mean he wasn't a hero in the war."

Taylor said black activists are using the media to create controversy for their own ends.

"Blacks will get on anything," he said. "It helps to create membership in their organizations and such."

Blacks aren't the only people complaining.

A white couple, Alfred and Carol Faulkenberry, recently sent letters to about 70 civic leaders asking that Forrest's name be taken off the school.

"No one seems to care except for a couple of people who called to tell me Nathan Bedford Forrest was a great Confederate general who founded the KKK to protect Confederate widows," Carol Faulkenberry said.

Forrest, widely credited with creating modern guerrilla warfare tactics, is revered by many Southern whites for his

tenacious pursuit of Union forces throughout the South. Countless Southern males bear his name, including Alabama Gov. Forrest "Fob" James.

A Tennessee state park is named for him, as is a county in Mississippi.

City Councilman Robert Avery, who is black, agreed that any change would face strong opposition from whites, but said Forrest's Klan ties require a change.

"That's a heck of a person to have a school named after," Avery said.

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## Corneas removed without permission

Using a 1987 law, medical workers in Jefferson County, Ala. have removed the corneas (dime-sized, clear slivers of tissue) of hundreds of dead people for use in transplant operations without informing the family of the deceased.

Jefferson County's medical examiner and Alabama Eye Bank board member Dr. Robert Brissie proposed the Birmingham-area law.

The Alabama Eye Bank receives 15 percent of its corneas through the coroner's office.

Doyce Williams, executive director of the Eye Bank, said that more than 1,000 Alabamians over the last decade have been given their sight because of the procedure.

"It's my opinion that this is one of the most important pieces of legislation to give sight to the blind since the 1920s," Williams said. Corneas (See Corneas, Page 4)



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