

McKinney urges blacks to concentrate on redistricting

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Georgia congresswoman Cynthia McKinney urged members of the National Newspaper Publishers Association not to forget the issue of redistricting and how it effects the lives of blacks.

"On redistricting we have a sleeper of an issue because folks say all those incumbents won. It's all right for the Supreme Court to take those districts away from minorities," she said referring

to the court's decision regarding the redrawing of several majority Black districts.

"I won in 1992 with \$38,000. In 1996, it took me \$1.1 million to win. That's the difference between a majority/minority district and a majority White district," McKinney said.

Blacks should also be aware of the changes in the Voting Rights Act which no longer protects people of color in the

elective process.

"You can't even tell what the implications and ramifications are yet, because the dagger was put in the heart of the Voting Rights Act ... Black incumbents were protected by the Voting Rights Act — we don't have that anymore."

Citing the undercounting of blacks in the 1990 census, the congresswoman reminded members that Black newspapers also have a vital

role to play in making sure that blacks are hired by the Census Bureau.

"We've got to pay attention to the redistricting issue. Because, we have had the protection of the federal government in (the decision regarding) whose districts got drawn, that's been taken away from us now.

"Can you imagine that these southern legislatures will draw Black districts because it's the right thing to do?"

"Are they going to draw Black districts because they are forced by the federal government to do it? No! Are they going to draw Black districts because Black people are paying attention to them? Maybe.

"You have got to educate the African-American community about this whole issue of redistricting because if we sleep on this one, this is the one where the [Black] incumbents won't be around."



CYNTHIA MCKINNEY

Activist wants investigation into harassment of black leaders

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The National Newspaper Publishers Association should create a national investigative team to search out and expose the real reasons for harassing attacks against black leaders, dinner keynote speaker C. Delores Tucker told members of the association gathered in Montego Bay, Jamaica for their 1998 Mid-Winter Workshop.

"Unless you do this, no Black leader who represents our people will be safe," said the head of the National Political Congress of Black Women.

"The Black Press is key to bringing all of our institutions together. It is the Black Press which has given us the truth about our condition, about our achievements, about our issues. And with its power, it is the Black Press that takes the lead in shaping the future for all of us in the coming century," she said.

Tucker also advised revisiting the idea of a national NNPA

editorial board which would allow the 210-member association to speak with one voice.

"This board would write editorials which would be published in every member newspaper... Everybody would know that you were together, that we were speaking with one voice and there is power in that kind of unity."

Tucker also talked about her campaign against gangsta rap and her lawsuit against the late rapper Tupac Shakur.

"I am simply demanding that the [music] industry treat Black women with respect. Over the years, the Black Press has been vigilant in helping us preserve our rich Black culture. And the Black Press has to be just as vigilant in helping to protect our children from the smut now served as entertainment, from gangsta rap on television [to] some of the videos," she said. "It has to fight to preserve the dignity of African-American women and correct the jaundice eye of our young Black males," she said.

Joyner-Kersey jumping into sports agent field

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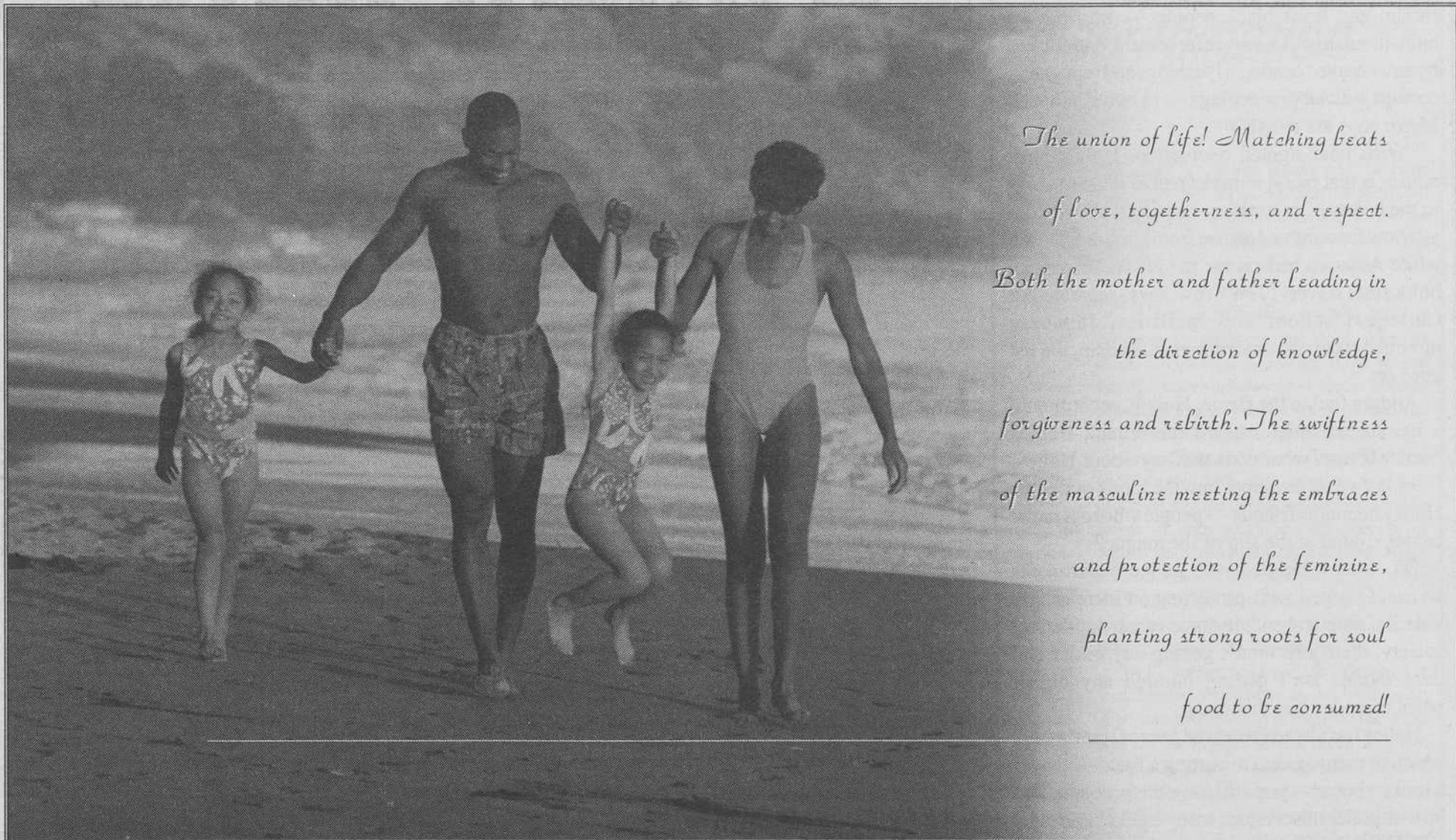
NEW YORK — Jackie Joyner-Kersey's next jump is into the sports agency field.

The three-time Olympic gold medalist said her final track and field competition will be at the Goodwill Games in July. She and her agent, Reggie Smith, already have formed Elite International Sports Marketing.

"I've been looking for another challenge," Joyner-Kersey said Monday. "With all my activities on and off the field, I've learned from a lot of people, and I've wanted to pursue it. It's a great diversion."

Joyner-Kersey, recently approved by the National Football League to be an agent, has signed up four senior college football players. She also has applied to the National Basketball Association to be an agent.

Joyner-Kersey, 35, has won six Olympic medals, including golds in the heptathlon in 1988 and 1992 and the long jump in 1988.



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