

# NEWS CLIPS

## EVERS-WILLIAMS SEEKS TO ESTABLISH INSTITUTE NAMED AFTER LATE HUSBAND

Myrlie Evers-Williams announced Feb. 10 that she will not be a candidate for re-election as chairman of the Board of Directors of the NAACP, and will instead seek to establish an institute named for her late husband, civil rights martyr, Medgar Evers. Evers-Williams has served as NAACP Board Chair since 1995 when she won election by a single vote. "When first elected Chairman, I promised to work with the Board and our members to restore credibility, financial integrity and focus to the NAACP," she said. "Together we have accomplished that mission." During the first year of her chairmanship the NAACP reported cash balances increased \$1.32 million, expenses were reduced by \$6.7 million (36 percent decrease) and for the first time in more than five years, the contributions, revenue and support exceeded operating expenses. Evers-Williams will remain a member of the NAACP Board of Directors through February 1999. "As a member of the NAACP Board, I will continue to have input into the direction of this great organization. Today, I am confident that the NAACP has the stability and the support needed to meet the challenges facing our people," she said. She is currently consulting with social justice, civil rights, business and political leaders to refine the concept of The Medgar Evers Institute.

## BLACK INVESTORS COALITION CALLS FOR NATIONAL WEEK OF INVESTMENT

The Coalition of Black Investors has called for a National Week of Investment, April 20 - 24, 1998. The observance aims to heighten African-American consumers' awareness of the need to save and invest more aggressively. "The unequal distribution of wealth, power and resources has stagnated growth in Black communities," COBI President Carol Davis said. "To build wealth, African-Americans must get into the habit of saving and investing and do so at a higher rate." COBI asks that on Friday, April 24, designated as Pay Day, African-Americans commit at least \$25 or more to deposit in a bank or invest in stocks, bonds or mutual funds. "If we participate as we did in the Million Man March and Million Woman March and two million of us saved an average of \$50, the net worth of our collective Black community will increase \$100,000,000 in one day," Davis said. During the Week of Investment, COBI will also be sponsoring a student essay contest and calling on black investment professionals to host seminars targeting children, women, senior and investment clubs. The National Urban League has endorsed this event and Urban League affiliates nationwide will host seminars. For information on investment opportunities, including a list of Black publicly-traded companies, managed mutual funds and resources for locating Black financial institutions and financial advisors, visit COBI's website at WWW.COBIINVEST.COM. For more information on the National Week of Investment call (910) 945-8977.

## TNT'S 'GLORY AND HONOR' TELLS STORY OF FIRST BLACK TO REACH THE NORTH POLE

On April 6, 1909, two men conquered the North Pole for the first time. One came home to a hero's welcome; the other slipped into anonymity, all but forgotten by history. Turner Network Television on Sunday, March 1 at 8 p.m. will present the film biography of Matthew Henson, the unsung hero of Commander Robert E. Peary's famed North Pole expedition, in "Glory and Honor," a TNT Original adventure-drama. Delroy Lindo ("Malcolm X," "Clockers") plays the role of Henson, the first Black man to conquer the Arctic, with Henry Czerny ("Clear and Present Danger," "Mission Impossible") as Robert E. Peary. Peary, a civil engineer, who was consumed with reaching the North Pole. He hired Henson to be his personal valet in the early 1890s and during the 18 years together, which included nine attempts to reach the North Pole, Henson — by virtue of the fact that he learned to communicate with the Inuit people, served as Peary's translator and drove the dog sleds — became indispensable to the expedition. Henson lived a quiet life after the successful expedition. His glory came 79 years later, when, on April 6, 1988, his body was moved from a cemetery in New York and reentered with full honors in Arlington National Cemetery, next to Peary. On the tombstone, Henson is credited with being "co-discoverer of the North Pole." Encore presentations are scheduled throughout the month; check your local listings.

# Noted scribe to grace writers conference

## Special to Sentinel-Voice

Sandra Jackson-Opoku, the Chicagoan who earned critical praise for her first novel, "The River Where Blood Is Born," will be the featured guest during the first Local African-American Writers Conference.

The conference is set for Feb. 27 and 28 at Borders Book Shop, 2190 N. Rainbow Blvd. The conference starts at 6:30 p.m. each night.

Jackson-Opoku's book — which centers around females straddled with a bevy of life's troubles and trying to find peace — has garnered high praise from the likes of Gloria Naylor (The Women of Brewster Place) and the Library Journal.

David Jonas, general manager of Rainbow bookstore, said he was happy that the award-winning fiction writer, poet, journalist and teacher — she works in the Fiction Department at Chicago's Columbia College — accepted the invitation to be the featured writer and national guest for the two-day event.

"We wanted a national guest who reflects the experience and spirit needed not to give up on writing and the dream of getting published," he said. Sandra Jackson-Opoku embodies this

*The Local African-American Writers Conference will feature more than a dozen local scribes who have written, edited or contributed to the growth of writing as a vocation.*



SANDRA JACKSON-OPOKU

experience and spirit.

"Her participation in the Local African-American Writers Conference will give our writers an example of (some)one who didn't give up," and who kept "pressing toward the higher goal of getting published."

The Local African-American Writers Conference will feature more than a dozen local scribes who have written, edited or contributed to the growth of writing as a vocation. A panel discussion, question-and-answer session and book signing are scheduled for Friday.

Saturday is Jackson-Opoku's day. The mother of two, who is at work on her second novel, will discuss the writing process, host a question and answer session and sign copies of her book.

"The River Where Blood Is Born" is "part folktale, part spiritual, part modern romance," said a review in the Library Journal. "The novel focuses on strong female characters as they journey through poverty and family conflicts to seek love, fulfillment,

justice, and, ultimately, peace. Jackson-Opoku molds many diverse voices into a powerful chorus in this excellent debut. Highly recommended."

# Baptist leader hires attorney F. Lee Bailey

## Special to Sentinel-Voice

ST. PETERSBURG, FL — Dr. Henry J. Lyons, the scandal-plagued president of the National Baptist Convention, has hired well-known attorney F. Lee Bailey to defend him against any charges stemming from his wife's alleged arson attempt.

In a Feb. 11 press conference here, Bailey praised Deborah Lyons, who had set fire to a Florida waterfront house deeded to her husband and a female convention employee.

Deborah Lyons, who has since recanted from her original story, stood beside her husband and their youngest daughter, Vonda Lyons, during the press conference.

The couple has been married 26 years and have three children.

"Mrs. Lyons is sticking by her man in a way the song never contemplated," Bailey said.

The Lyons believe the St. Petersburg Times, the newspaper in the reverend's hometown is out to destroy his image and erode his credibility among members of the nation's largest black religious organization. The newspaper, they contend, has crisscrossed the nation, interviewing National Baptist Convention members, Lyons' friends, business and civic associates and anyone connected with the Baptist leader.

"They have twisted every kindness he has ever shown to others and that is deplorable," Deborah Lyons said, referring to the St. Petersburg Times.

"For whatever reason, the media have called for Lyon's scalp repeatedly and consistently," Bailey said. He called on the media "to show some responsibility in its coverage."

Bailey has represented defendants in several "trials of the century," such as O. J. Simpson, Dr. Sam Sheppard and heiress Patty Hearst.

"He is my kind of a guy," Bailey said of Lyons. "I am very proud to be asked to represent him."

# Condition of man convicted of '68 King killing improves

## Special to Sentinel-Voice

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The condition of James Earl Ray, convicted of assassinating civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968, improved Saturday, according to corrections department medical personnel.

Ray, whose condition has fluctuated following hernia surgery last week, was upgraded from critical to serious, said Correction

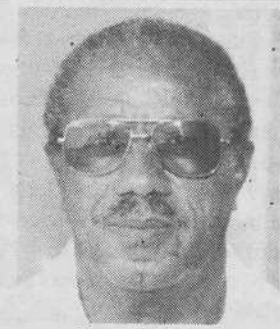
Department spokeswoman Pam Hobbins.

Ray, 69, has cirrhosis of the liver and has been in and out of the hospital several times during the past year.

Hobbins said doctors did not know when he would leave the hospital and return to prison.

Ray is serving a 99-year prison sentence for King's 1968 slaying in Memphis. He says he was framed.

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