

NEWS CLIPS

STROHMEYER MURDER TRIAL MOVED TO AUGUST

The trial of a California man accused of raping and strangling a Los Angeles second-grader has been delayed for four months so that his lawyers can find out more about their client, a judge ruled last Friday. District Judge Don Chairez moved Jeremy Strohmeyer's murder trial to Aug. 17 at the behest of his defense team. Defense attorneys Richard Wright and Leslie Abramson said they needed the extra time to learn more about the 19-year Long Beach, Calif., native. They said they will use the time to study Strohmeyer, a former honor student — who they said has a very strange background — and to get the paperwork they need to help them — adoption records and confidential mental health reports from California courts. The defense attorneys said the delay will also give Strohmeyer's parents enough time to round up money to pay them; the defense team said it hasn't been paid for two months. Strohmeyer was set to go to trial April 20 for the May 25 slaying of 7-year-old Sherrice Iverson. The girl was found raped and strangled in a bathroom stall at the Primm Valley Hotel in Primm, 43 miles south of Las Vegas. Deputy District Attorney Peggy Leen reminded Chairez that Abramson and Wright signed an agreement with prosecutors promising not to ask for a continuance on grounds they were not prepared or they had other trials scheduled. Wright said the attorneys were prepared for trial but that the case isn't ready to go before a jury. Strohmeyer was captured on hotel surveillance video following Sherrice into a bathroom and later confessed to several friends and police in Long Beach, Calif., and Las Vegas about his role in the slaying.

DALLAS' FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN MAYOR TO SPEAK AT UNLV

The honorable Ronald Kirk, mayor of Dallas, will be the keynote speaker at a community luncheon on Saturday, April 4, at Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall on the UNLV campus. The luncheon, commemorating the 30th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., will be held at 11 a.m. Tickets are \$15. Kirk was elected the 51st mayor of Dallas on May 6, 1995, with more than 62 percent of the popular vote. He is the first African-American mayor of Dallas or of any major Texas city. Since taking office, Kirk's efforts related to economic development have helped secure 19,600 jobs and the investment of \$2.55 billion in Dallas. He serves on the advisory board of the United States Conference of Mayors and chairs the Standing Committee on Urban Economic Policy for the United States Conference of Mayors. Prior to being elected mayor, Kirk served as Texas' secretary of state under then-governor Ann Richards. In addition, he served as a legislative aide to U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen and as chair of Texas' General Service Commission. He also served as Dallas' assistant city attorney and chief lobbyist from 1983 to 1989. Recognized for his service to the citizens of both Dallas and Texas, Kirk has received numerous honors and awards, including being named the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Metropolitan Dallas Volunteer of the Year and the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Leadership Institute's Leader of the Year. The luncheon is being cosponsored by the UNLV Office of Marketing and Community Relations and the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee of Las Vegas. For more information, contact the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee of Las Vegas at 229-2128 or the UNLV Office of Marketing and Community Relations at 895-1939.

MICHIGAN STUDY FINDS RACISM ALIVE, WELL IN AMERICA

Young White Americans may harbor more racist attitudes than surveys have suggested in the past, according to a study of 451 U.S. college students by a University of Michigan professor. "Direct, overt expressions of racism are rare these days," said Eduardo Bonilla Silva, assistant professor of sociology. "When you compare the results of recent and past surveys of public attitudes towards Blacks and other minorities, it seems that racial attitudes have improved dramatically, but when you ask survey respondents to explain their attitudes about issues such as racial inter-marriage and affirmative action, you find a hidden reservoir of racial animosity." About 90 percent of those surveyed said they approved of racial intermarriage, but only 30 percent of those who were later interviewed about the topic approved of the practice. "This cannot be attributed to selection bias, since the survey answers of those who were randomly selected for interviews mirrored the results of the total sample; if anything, the students who were interviewed appeared to have slightly more racially progressive outlooks than the larger group who were surveyed," Bonilla Silva said.

Clarke's daughter: He's 'incapacitated,' wants assets

By Herb Boyd

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Nzingha Clarke, the 32-year-old daughter of esteemed scholar Dr. John Henrik Clarke, filed a petition last month in the New York State Supreme Court for the appointment of a personal needs and property management guardian for her father.

Her application charges that Clarke is an "alleged incapacitated person."

What is baffling about the allegation is that Clarke is married and, according to several respondents, doing quite well, despite a continuing illness that requires three weekly visits to a dialysis treatment center.

"My father married Sybil Williams in the spring of 1997," the petition reads. "She removed him to her apartment after his last hospital stay. My father, two months before his marriage, told his research assistant he had no intention of marrying Sybil Williams, whom he had casually known for a number of years. He also told me this a year or so earlier."

The petition also asserts that Williams-Clarke has abused and mistreated Clarke, who is blind, holds him under "house arrest," has alienated him from his family and friends and has kept him from his library and the continuation of his research and writing.

"These charges are baseless ... the petition is motivated by greed and the children's inability to accept their father's decisions."

—Williams-Clarke

"These charges are baseless and without any substantiation," Williams-Clarke told the Amsterdam News in a recent interview at her Harlem home. "The petition is motivated by greed and the children's inability to accept their father's decisions."

Clarke, who turned 83 in January and is considered by most scholars as the nation's preeminent African-American historian, refutes all the charges brought by his children.

"I am not under house arrest," he said firmly. "Nor am I being mistreated by my wife. I am getting about the best attention I can get given the circumstances."

When asked to explain his children's behavior, he said, "I don't understand it at all."

A number of close associates and a home care attendant have provided information that challenges the charges in the petition.

"For the last year I have been here with Dr. Clarke five hours a day, five days a week and I have never witnessed any

abuse or mistreatment from Sybil to Dr. Clarke," an attendant said on condition of anonymity. "Sybil has been a most loyal and devoted wife and I have no idea why the children would say what they are saying."

Several public appearances last month appear to contradict the allegations of incapacitation, particularly Clarke's presence at the Victorian Theatre for a special tribute by the Unite African Movement, an exhausting trip to Alabama and a lecture at the College of New Rochelle.

"All I want to do is get back to my work, completing my book and getting back on the lecture circuit," Clarke said.

"John is doing fine," Williams-Clarke said. "Nzingha says her father was only in the hospital one time, but I have the discharges to show he was there five times and she rarely visited him on these occasions."

Williams-Clarke revealed a parcel of vouchers, bills and discharge papers charting

Clarke's recent medical history, including a stay in the hospital last year when a pace-maker was placed in his heart. Since then he has had a stroke and because of kidney problems, must now have regular dialysis treatment.

"According to the evaluator assigned to the case by the court," Williams-Clarke explained, "she concluded that the petition is nothing but a bunch of lies."

Several calls were made to the office of the evaluator but there was no response at press time.

Attempts were also made to reach Nzingha Clarke who promised to return a call but failed to do so.

Nzingha Clarke's brother, Sonni, was reached at his Harlem home and said he shared his sister's concern about their father's condition and about the impact of "airing the family's affairs."

Williams-Clarke said though the situation is disturbing, her husband will survive the family feud and get back on track.

"I want the public to know that John's books are in safe keeping, he is gradually recovering from all the ailments and he will soon be doing what he has always done, serve the people."

Herb Boyd wrote this piece for the Amsterdam News.

Jackson

(Continued from Page 1)

A memorandum released by Latham's office declared neither Latham nor Rainbow/PUSH engaged in "any inappropriate conduct" during the March 2 conversation, calling charges of misconduct by Bell's lawyers "totally disingenuous."

Latham, during a telephone interview, said he is "shocked by the broad inaccuracies" of the charges from Bell's attorneys.

Attorneys for Robison & Belser, one of Bell's two Alabama law firms, sent Latham a seven-page letter on March 9, charging him with allegedly committing five ethics code violations during that disputed call.

Bell's lawyers assert Latham erred initially by simply participating in the conference call without first

getting their permission as required by ethics rules.

Davenport and Latham did not know Belser's attorneys were monitoring the call. Latham's firm, Shaw Pittman, responded with a four-page letter on March 18, asserting Latham "did not violate" any rules of professional conduct. However, Shaw Pittman's letter only responds to one of the five violations alleged by the Belser firm.

GM spokesperson Marsha McGee dismissed the Bell controversy as "allegations," saying GM has "the utmost confidence in Mr. Latham's integrity."

Further, McGee denied that Latham's dual role as independent auditor of the program and GM's mediator with Black dealers constitutes a conflict of interest, an assertion disputed by some

Black dealers and other observers.

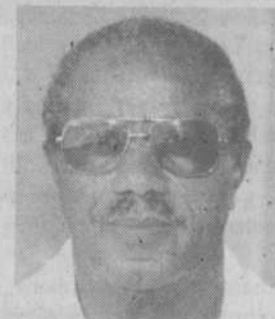
"I'm perplexed about this whole thing," said Dorothy Leavell, president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the Black Press group that is

assisting Black GM dealers.

"Latham's role is confusing and GM should have settled with Charles Bell years ago," Leavell said.

"It is unfortunate that GM is conducting business in this fashion."

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