

# NEWS CLIPS

## ATTORNEY COMPARES SIMPSON TO ANOTHER FAMOUS CLIENT

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — O.J. Simpson shares something in common with Sam Sheppard, other than being a one-time client of the high profile attorney F. Lee Bailey, the lawyer said. Both were smeared by reporters who questioned whether they were innocent even though they were acquitted of murder, Bailey said. "The press never apologized to Sam Sheppard and I don't expect them to apologize to O.J.," Bailey said after a speech Friday. Simpson was acquitted in the 1994 murders of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman, but a civil jury found the former football great liable for the pair's deaths last year. The deceased Sheppard was convicted but later acquitted of killing his wife. The case was the basis for the movie and television series, "The Fugitive." Bailey said members of the media jumped to conclusions about the Simpson case: "The press committed itself to a result, and when it didn't get it, said (the jury) was out of step."

## CIVIL RIGHTS LUMINARIES GATHERED TO HONOR KWAME TURE

The who's who of the civil rights movement gathered in Washington, D.C. April 8 for a testimonial dinner honoring Kwame Ture (formerly Stokely Carmichael). A large contingent of former and current activists in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Black Panther Party, Urban League, NAACP, CORE and the Pan-Africanist movement paid tribute to the past chairman of SNCC and present chairman of the All-African People's Revolutionary Party (AAPRP). Ture is battling prostate cancer. The occasion was used to celebrate Ture's life, political activism and raise funds for his medical expenses. Attendants included Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, Amiri Baraka, Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), Congressman Bobby Rush (D-Ill.), Joseph Lowery, chairman of the Black Leadership Forum, and Washington D.C. Mayor Marion Barry.

## BLACKS MADE UP NEARLY HALF OF NEW AIDS CASES IN 1996

Each hour, three African-Americans contract HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. And, according to a recent survey conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation, African-Americans, who represent 12 percent of the total U.S. population, accounted for 43 percent of new AIDS cases in 1996. AIDS is the leading killer of African-Americans between the ages of 25 and 44. More Blacks die from AIDS than from homicide, drugs and alcohol, cancer and heart disease combined. Of the nearly 380,000 people who have died from AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic in 1981, as of December 1996, 120,000 were African-Americans. "We must not be coddled by the media into believing that AIDS is over," said one trustee of the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care. Despite the drop in the number of deaths from AIDS, the number of African-Americans who become infected with HIV continues to climb, especially among our youth. Two-thirds of the new cases of pediatric AIDS striking children under 13 are Black, while Black men account for 13 percent of new AIDS cases among American men. Black women make up 60 percent of all new AIDS cases reported among American women, and have an overall AIDS case rate 16 times that of White females, the Kaiser survey noted.

## REPARATIONS REVIVAL MEETING HELD IN LIEU OF CLINTON TRIP

Congressman John Conyers, Jr. was joined by 150 supporters at a day-long conference on Reparations for Black Americans held at the historic Metropolitan A.M.E. Church in Washington, D.C. on April 2. Conyers had just returned from President Clinton's African tour and all but apologized for slavery. Conyers believes now is the right time to push the reparations issue, possibly using the president's race initiative as a vehicle. The meeting was convened by legal scholar Dr. Robert Brock, a leading expert on reparations, and focused on Conyer's Reparations Study Bill H.R. 40, first introduced in 1989. The purpose of the conference was to develop strategies for the passage of H.R. 40 and plans for mobilizing the public. Several national organizations participated in the conference including, the NAACP, the National Black Farmers Association, the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America, the Nation of Islam; the National Association of Black Lawyers and the USDA Minority Employee Coalition. Conyers told the group he would endorse lawsuits for damages stemming from slavery and said he would consider taking the case for reparations to the United Nations. The 9th Annual N'COBRA Reparations Conference will be held June 26-28 at Hampton University.

# Lyons: Legal ordeal has been 'a living Hell'

By Kendall Wilson  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

The embattled National Baptist Convention U.S.A. president recently described as "an absolute nightmare ... a living hell" the legal troubles and perception problems stemming from his federal grand jury indictments on racketeering and theft charges.

"But I've been able to cope, despite the constant flow of ongoing issues," the Rev. Henry J. Lyons said. "It hasn't been easy. It's been a living hell trying to stay focused and keeping the National Baptist Convention afloat. I've prayed each and every day and night and I anxiously await that day in court when the truth will be known and my name will be cleared."

Lyons said he was disappointed and hurt that dozens of protesters, including members of Mt. Olivet

Tabernacle Baptist Church in Philadelphia and their supporters blocked the entrance to the church and prevented him from addressing the Recognition Services of the Independent Ministers Conference of Pennsylvania and Vicinity.

He was able to deliver his address an hour later when the Rev. M. Lorenzo Shepard, pastor of Mt. Olivet and a founding member of the new ministers' group, was able to come up with a conference room several blocks away.

Carey Sims, chairman of the Mt. Olivet Deacons Board, said it was the will of the congregation that Lyons not be allowed to appear at the church. Protesters used a van to block the front doors.

"This was their vote," he said. "They did not feel it would be in the best interests of the church at this time."

"We didn't think he should be here, especially with all the controversy surrounding him," said one member. "The group should have selected a site where he was more welcomed."

Lyons admitted that he made "some mistakes" which led to his indictment by a federal grand jury, but continued to profess his innocence and said he is looking forward to his day in court.

"I'm hurt by this, but I understand that the people who are doing this really don't know me. If they did, this wouldn't have happened. I hold no ill will toward my brothers and sisters who saw fit to protest this meeting. But I anxiously wait for the day when I can clear my name."

Lyons said he was especially hurt by the demonstration because "my

main supporters have been the lay people."

When Lyons was finally able to address the ministers he began by apologizing for the controversy that has plagued him since last July and the cloud that has been placed over the National Baptist Convention.

Later, during a press conference limited to only four representatives of the press, Lyons said his church in St. Petersburg, Fla. was still solidly behind him.

"Why? Because they know me," he said. "For the misguided judgment and errors I did make I ask their forgiveness. But my plea to the deacons is 'Withhold your judgment until I at least have my day in court.'"

Lyons said the reason he remains president of the 8.5 million-member National (See Lyons, Page 16)



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Employees of the Greyhound Bus Station in Las Vegas are pulling together to help raise money for a slain co-worker's children.

## Greyhound

(Continued from Page 1) have been placed in — can support them without financial help. Trivia Smith's body was taken to her native Waco.

Trivia Smith suffered from a history of abuse. Edward Smith, a confidante of the slain woman, said her first husband stabbed her 10 times. Her second husband had a career in the Air Force, and was recently discharged shortly before retirement eligibility because of alcoholism.

Edward Smith said he pleaded with his friend to check into a battered women's shelter before the murder, but she

refused, believing that sticking it out was the best thing for her family.

Edward Smith says of the trust fund, "It's a statement that domestic violence is a terrible thing and should never happen; this is the effect it has on people's lives."

He said the murder had a devastating effect on both the children and the coworkers and urged employers to do more screening for drug abuse and domestic violence and to be more available and supportive to employees who have problems.

The trust fund is set up at

Bank of America, account #014473953.

Greyhound employees "have dipped into their pockets" to contribute to the

fund, Edward Smith said. "Everyone has given as much as they can and when we get paid on Friday, there will be more."

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