

Entertainer interested in NFL's Cleveland Browns

Special to Sentinel-Voice
CLEVELAND—Bill Cosby and brothers Larry and Charles Dolan said this morning if they became owners of the Cleveland Browns they would try to put role models on the field, not just winners.

"We want to put on the field as soon as possible a winning football team," Larry Dolan said. "Our second goal: we want a socially responsible team."

Cosby said last month he would join the Dolans, natives of the Cleveland area, in their



BILL COSBY

bid to buy the new Cleveland Browns franchise from the NFL. Under the proposed deal, the brothers and a Dolan family trust each would own 30 percent, Cosby would own 5 percent and 5 percent would be held in reserve for the Dolans or another investor.

The three men held a news conference at a downtown Cleveland hotel to outline their interest in the Browns.

The comedian said he wants to help players develop as responsible adults. Part of his interest

Put role models on the field, not just winners

in becoming an owner arose from a visit to a professional team's locker room, he said.

"In this locker room, there were maybe 12 millionaires, all in their 20s," Cosby said. "There was not one Wall Street Journal in the room."

The NFL, which has begun reviewing applications, hasn't specified the price and said it would conduct a "managed auction."

Most talk about the price starts at \$250 million to \$300 million.

Larry Dolan is a suburban Cleveland attorney and his brother is chairman of Cablevision Systems Corp., which owns a majority interest in the NBA's Knicks, NHL's Rangers and Madison Square Garden in New York.

The Browns moved in 1995 to Baltimore, where they are known as the Ravens. The replacement team will begin play next year in a new 72,000-seat stadium at the site of the old Cleveland Stadium.

Jury screening underway in trial of Cosby murder suspect

Special to Sentinel-Voice
SANTA MONICA, Calif. — Jury selection began Monday for a Ukrainian immigrant charged with killing entertainer Bill Cosby's son Ennis while he changed a tire on a Los Angeles freeway.

Superior Court Judge David Perez also on Monday rejected a defense request to seal jury questionnaires, saying Mikail Markhasev had failed to show a compelling reason for keeping the 20-page questionnaires secret from the media

and public. The defense argued that the request would keep the trial from deteriorating into a circus-like, trial-of-the-century spectacle, much as the O.J. Simpson murder case did.

But other attorneys chided the defense's claims, saying the coverage of this case has been remarkably minimal and that in most cases, the names of jurors, their occupations and answers to questions are public record.

Ennis Cosby, 27, was shot Jan. 16, 1997,

while changing a flat tire on a dark road. Markhasev, 19, who has a history of gang affiliations and a previous brush with the law, was arrested nearly two months later. Cosby has said he will not attend the trial, and that he's confident police have arrested the right man.

Dozens of jurors were excused Monday because they would be unable to finish the trial, expected to last a month. The reasons ranged from prepaid vacation plans to employers who would not pay their salaries during the trial.

Those that remained filled out the questionnaire and were told to return June 16 to be questioned in person. Their questionnaires were not immediately made public. Altogether, 450 potential jurors were to be called.

Battling Cosby's celebrity, incriminating evidence and the defendant's supposed confession to a friend that "I shot the nigger" will be challenging for Markhasev's lawyers.

The judge will let the confession be admitted at trial if the friend is called as a witness.

Black workers suing Goodyear warehouse in New Jersey

Special to Sentinel-Voice
NEWARK, N.J. —

Alleging white managers denied them promotions, berated them with racial slurs and assigned them the harshest work at an area supervisors called "the plantation," black workers at a Goodyear tire warehouse are suing for more than \$124 million.

The lawsuit was filed Monday against Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. and some of the

managers at its warehouse in North Brunswick.

About a dozen employees, including three men who have worked there for more than two decades, asserted that no black worker has ever been promoted to a supervisory post and that blacks are punished for infractions that bring no sanctions against whites.

The workers said that the abuses continued despite grievances filed with their



union and complaints to the New Jersey Division of Civil Rights.

Goodyear, based in Akron, Ohio, said in a statement that it has "zero tolerance" for behavior in conflict with its discrimination policies.

All workers at the

warehouse will lose their jobs in about a year because Goodyear is consolidating several depots at a new, nonunion facility under construction in York, Pa., spokesman Chuck Sinclair said.

The 47 hourly workers and

14 salaried employees are being offered severance packages but not jobs.

The lawsuit said about one-third of the hourly workers are black.

Supervisors repeatedly called black workers "nigger," according to the lawsuit.

Mostly blacks were assigned to unload rail cars, a strenuous task done outdoors, the lawsuit said. It typically took one man all day to move

—one by one—an average of 2,500 tires onto pallets, said Cornell Ross, one of the workers who are suing.

When supervisors ordered black workers to the rail car, they told them to "report to the plantation," Ross said.

When black workers questioned why few whites had to unload the rail cars, a supervisor replied, "We know you big black bucks can get it done," according to the lawsuit.

Nine-month school year ends June 4

Special to Sentinel-Voice
The 1997-98 school year comes to an end Thursday, June 4, for about two-thirds of CCSD schools. A shortened schedule will be in effect that day at nine-month schools. Students in grades one through five will be in session from 8:55 a.m. to 12:05 p.m. or 9:05 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., depending on their school's start time. Nine-month middle schools end at 11:40 a.m. and all high schools end at 10:50 a.m.

Breakfast and lunch programs will not be available at nine-month schools that day. Bus transportation will be provided for students who normally receive it.

Meanwhile, it will be business as usual at the nearly one-third of district schools that are on a year-round calendar. As of this school year, 52 elementary schools and 10 middle schools are year round. The end of classes at year-round schools depends on track and grade level, as the year-round elementary and middle school calendars are different.

Whether nine-month or year-round, the first day of the 1998-99 school year is Monday, August 24. For the first time in district history, more than 200,000 students are expected to enroll in CCSD schools. The official projections is 202,388 students.

Hotel chain settles suit with \$1 million

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OAK LAWN, Ill. — A Holiday Inn in this Chicago suburb agreed to pay \$1 million to settle a lawsuit accusing the hotel of discriminating against black job applicants and guests.

The settlement, announced Friday, will be shared by about 1,000 black people who were turned down for jobs from 1990 to 1995.

Federal investigators said the motel coded job applications from black people with the number 8, after the black eight-ball in pool.

Desk clerks also were told to place blacks

in first floor rooms so police "would be able to get them out quickly if they came to arrest them," said Equal Employment Opportunity Commission lawyer Gregory Gochanour.

The EEOC filed a class-action suit against the hotel in 1996.

Hotel attorneys admitted the job application coding but denied the other allegations, saying most were made by a disgruntled employee.

The hotel settled to avoid the cost of fighting the suit and is not admitting guilt, attorney Steven Adelman said.

Choir

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a home-school program that allows choir members to keep up their studies while traveling. They will be schooled here for two days at the A.M.E. Church.

After the concert, the children will visit their host families. From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., its off to school. They will leave town directly from the church on Tuesday.

To accommodate the children, who come from various countries and cultures, supervisors distributed guidelines, replete with suggestion for meals, bedtime hour — at 8:30 p.m. — and preferred recreation. Electronic media, money or store-bought

items are prohibited. "These children know how to entertain themselves," the guidelines advise.

Joyce Thomas, program director at the West Las Vegas Library Theater, has opened

her doors to one child.

"I'm a parent and a foster-parent," Thomas said, so "I think this will be good exposure for my foster children — to meet other orphans from across the country and beyond."

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