

NEWS CLIPS

JUDGE OKS LIVE BROADCAST OF STROHMEYER TRIAL

A judge has given his approval for Court TV to broadcast live the entire Jeremy Strohmeier murder trial. The Long Beach, Calif. man is accused of killing 7-year-old Sherrice Iverson of Los Angeles on May 25, 1997 in the restroom of a hotel in Primm, 43 miles south of Las Vegas. Attorneys for the 19-year-old defendant have been trying to block publicity about the case. Former judge Don Chairez ruled that local television and newspaper cameras would be allowed, but Court TV would not be. Chairez stepped down from the bench earlier this year to run for Congress and District Judge Myron Leavitt took over the case. Leavitt ordered Monday that Court TV could broadcast the proceedings. Jury selection is scheduled to begin Aug. 17.

CHURCH OFFICIAL ENTERS INNOCENT PLEA IN FRAUD CASE

TAMPA, Fla. — A former public relations official for one of the large black church denominations pleaded innocent last Wednesday to swindling millions in church money to buy cars, jewelry and other luxuries. Bernice Edwards, 40, told a U.S. magistrate she didn't have the money to hire an attorney because the government has frozen her assets. She was given until Aug. 3 to hire a lawyer or come back to court for a hearing. Edwards remains free on a \$250,000 bond. She pleaded innocent to 25 counts, including fraud, conspiracy, money laundering and tax evasion. The Rev. Henry Lyons, Edwards and Brenda Harris, who arranged meetings for the National Baptist Convention USA, are accused of using multiple bank accounts to receive, transfer and misuse church money. Lyons, the church's leader, and Edwards are accused of swindling money from corporations that thought they were paying to have credit cards, life insurance policies and cemetery plots promoted to convention members.

MUHAMMAD ALI GETTING TREATMENT FOR PARKINSON'S

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Muhammad Ali reportedly is trying an experimental and unconventional treatment for the Parkinson's syndrome that slowed his reflexes and made it difficult for him to talk. A retired dentist and oral surgeon claims his resonance machine, which emits a weak magnetic field, could cure the former heavyweight champion. Ali has received five treatments, which consist of sitting between two magnetic black, 8-foot high circles on a beach chair, according to *The Palm Beach Post*. "I've been to 15 different doctors," Ali said. "None of them have been able to do anything." Jerry Jacobs' device was not familiar to Dr. Robert Brodner, a West Palm Beach neurosurgeon who has performed brain surgery on about 60 people with Parkinson's. "I don't know what this fellow is talking about. I only hope that he does," Brodner said. "Any treatment that doesn't have the potential to harm a patient can be considered."

ROSA PARKS: BUS BOYCOTT WAS SPONTANEOUS

HILLSDALE, Mich. — Civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks told children in southern Michigan that she didn't plan to thrust herself into the limelight and wasn't looking for complete integration when she refused to give up her seat on an Alabama bus in 1955. "It was not a planned boycott, but completely spontaneous," she said last week at a seminar for 10- to 17-year-olds at Hillsdale College. "A few more seats was all we asked for. 'But the powers-to-be did not want to compromise. They wanted to make us feel as inferior as possible.' Society has progressed, Parks said, but there are still more things to overcome. "We need to learn to work together," she said.

VIRGINIA SENATOR'S AMENDMENTS SHOULD HELP BLACK FARMERS' CASE

Two amendments attached to the U.S. Senate Agriculture Appropriations Bill by U.S. Senator Charles Robb, D-Via., and passed on the floor of the Senate July 23, should move the Black Farmers discrimination complaints closer to resolution, says a spokesman of the Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association. The first amendment put in a set of credit reforms that Black farmers have long advocated but were unable to win until recently. The legislation in effect reverses provisions of the 1996 Farm Bill, which outlines severe restrictions on USDA borrowers who accepted debt write downs or forgiveness as a provision of primary loan servicing. The new legislation would lift many of those restrictions. The second amendment waived the federal statute of limitations under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act for farmers and applicants to USDA's rural housing programs who have discrimination complaints backlogged in the Department's Civil Rights Division.

Powell: Preferences useless if youth unprepared

Special to Sentinel-Voice

ATLANTA — Retired Gen. Colin Powell told NAACP members in Atlanta, Ga. it makes no sense to preserve affirmative action programs if black youth aren't ready academically or socially to take advantage of them.

Powell offered a strong defense of affirmative action but said improving schools and strengthening home life should be the top priorities of the NAACP.

"The choice before us is either getting back to the task of building all children or just keep building more jails," Powell said to waves of applause from delegates to the civil rights group's annual convention.

"But there is no point in creating (affirmative action) opportunities if we bring up children who can't use the English language. If this generation of youth don't take advantage of those opportunities, what's the point?"

"The choice before us is either getting back to the task of building all children or just keep building more jails"

— Colin Powell



Powell laced his address with tales of how an entire community took an active role in his upbringing. After touching on a broad range of topics, he concluded with his vision for a new America. The message could have been mistaken for a political stump speech by the man who two years ago flirted with the idea of running for president.

Powell has been viewed skeptically by some in the black community ever since declaring himself a Republican before the 1996 presidential election.

How, they wonder, could Powell be an effective spokesperson for minority interests while working in the party of House Speaker Newt Gingrich and North Carolina Sen. Jesse Helms?

"I think he's a little mixed up about what side he's going to be on. He's at a crossroads," said James Bealer Jr., a drug treatment counselor from Drew County, Ark. "He has to make a choice if he's with us or with them, but he can't keep sitting on that fence."

Others like Mary Johnson, a teacher from Gary, Ind.,

aren't so much worried about whether Powell would advocate for blacks as much as how long he would survive if elected president.

"I would love for him to run for office but I'd be scared to death," Johnson said. "Look at what happened to Kennedy. A lot of us wanted him too."

Powell implored the audience to vote, regardless of their political leanings.

"Vote Democrat, vote Republican, split your ticket but just vote so your voice will be heard," he said.

Powell, who in 1991 earned the NAACP's Spingarn Award, its highest honor, acknowledged that his path to success vastly differs from that of many of his audience members who earned their civil rights stripes marching, sitting-in or organizing for change.

"They marched so I and others would have the opportunity to rise to the top of my profession," said Powell, who fought in Vietnam during the early 1960's.

The rebirth of the Black Panther Party?

By Reginold Bundy
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Not many people noticed that following the killing of a Black man in Jasper, Texas, by three Whites, a group of Black dissidents bearing weapons and calling themselves members of the Black Panther Party emerged during a Ku Klux Klan rally.

The leader is Malik Z. Shabazz, an attorney who reportedly revived the group following the June 7 slaying of James Byrd Jr., the African-American man who was beaten and fatally dragged behind a pickup truck down a rural road. The three White men charged with murder in the killing reportedly had ties to White

supremacist groups.

During the Klan rally held earlier this month, Shabazz and 49 other Black men carrying weapons and shouting "Black power" began a counter-demonstration. They pointed shotguns, rifles and handguns in the air as they marched.

Dressed in black T-shirts, black pants and the traditional black beret, symbols of the Black Panther Party of the late 1960s and early 1970s, these new Panther members appeared determined to wrestle with trouble, had it broken out.

"These men are here to freely exercise their divine and, yes, (See Panther, Page 5)

Ousted judge claims he was discriminated against

Special to Sentinel-Voice

LINCOLN, Neb. — An ousted judge who admitted signing papers "Adolf Hitler" and tossing firecrackers in a colleague's office says the real reason he was removed from office was that he's fat, diabetic, white and a Christian.

Former Douglas County Judge Richard "Deacon" Jones filed a discrimination complaint Tuesday with the state Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

If it is not resolved by the commission within six months, Jones' attorney said, a discrimination lawsuit will be filed. The state Supreme Court cited a "continuing pattern of misconduct" in removing

Jones from office July 17.

He admitted signing court papers with names such as Hitler and Snow White and setting off the fireworks. He described some of his actions as pranks that went afoul and said they did not violate any rules. He denied other accusations, including improperly touching a female judge, saying he just accidentally brushed against her.

He was also accused of setting absurd bond amounts of 13 cents or a "gazillion pengos" and using profanity in addressing court workers.

Jones' complaint names as defendants the state; state Sen. Ernie Chambers, who initiated

the investigation leading to his removal; Douglas County Judge Jane Prochaska, who filed complaints against him; and the Supreme Court that removed him.

Jones, who weighs more than 400 pounds, claims Chambers and Prochaska made disparaging remarks about his morbid obesity, and says the state failed to accommodate his obesity and treated him differently from other employees.

"There were a lot of jokes

made about his illness," his lawyer, Carl Hartmann, said. "Obviously, he's an easy target because of his size."

Jones, who is white, also alleges that Chambers, the Legislature's only black senator, has demonstrated a pattern of racism and is anti-Christian.

Chambers called Jones' filing an act of desperation that "has reached the point of being pathetic." Others targeted by the complaint declined to comment or did not return calls.

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