

NEWS CLIPS

DISPARATE VIEWS PRESENTED AT AFFIRMATIVE ACTION FORUM

DETROIT (AP) — Affirmative action has put society at risk because it has lowered standards for fire fighters, police officers and students entering medical schools, state Sen. David Jaye says. Jaye, R-Washington Township, presented his view at an affirmative action forum Friday in Detroit. The event was sponsored by the Black Caucus Foundation of Michigan. Alma Stallworth, foundation director and a former state representative, said the organization held the forum with an eye on the year 2000. Some state legislators are trying to put a proposition similar to California's Proposition 209 on the Michigan ballot in 2000. The passage of that proposition in 1996 effectively eliminated affirmative action in California schools and government. Stallworth said the foundation is trying to educate people. Political consultant Adolph Mongo responded testily to Jaye's comments about the lowering of standards. "We didn't have a black trooper in this state until 1972," he said.

VOTE APPROVED TO DESIGNATE MALCOLM X'S HOUSE A LANDMARK

BOSTON (AP) — A proposal to designate a boyhood home of Malcolm X a historic landmark has been unanimously approved by the city's Landmarks Commission. The single-family house, built in 1874 in the city's Roxbury section, is owned by the son of Malcolm X's half sister Ella Little-Collins. The commission's vote last week — reached after a study determined the house met legal requirements for landmark status — sends the proposal to Mayor Thomas M. Menino, who has 15 days to approve or overturn it. If the mayor approves it, the decision will be transferred to the City Council, which has 30 days to decide whether to approve the designation. Landmark status grants a building protection from demolition and major changes. In 1941, a 14-year-old Malcolm X, then called Malcolm Little, arrived from Lansing, Mich., at the three-story house at 72 Dale St. He stayed for three years, during which he engaged in petty crime until an arrest put him in jail and on the path to civil rights activism.

BANKRUPT SINGER TONI BRAXTON BATTLING LAWSUIT

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Toni Braxton hasn't made payments on her leased 1997 BMW Z3 for a year, according to a lawsuit against the bankrupt singer. Financial Services Vehicle Trust contends in a lawsuit that it has title to the \$31,000 roadster but hasn't been able to track down the car to repossess it. The lawsuit, filed in Superior Court, says a friend of the singer has possession of the car in Van Nuys. Company lawyer Neil Rubenstein of San Francisco refused to comment last week. Arista Records, which distributes Miss Braxton's albums on the La Face label, referred calls to her manager, Barry Hankerson, who didn't return phone calls. Braxton filed for bankruptcy in January, citing large debts. Her hits include "You're Makin' Me High" and "Un-break My Heart," and she won two Grammy Awards last year for best female pop vocal performance and best female R&B performance.



BRAXTON

BLACK MAN'S DEATH SPARKS INVESTIGATION INTO KENTUCKY JAIL

COVINGTON, Kentucky — James Franklin, a 68-year-old severely diabetic Black man with heart problems, ear damage and bad memory, died last June naked and alone lying in his own waste in an isolation cell. His death at the Kenton County Jail in Covington, Ky. (across the bridge from Cincinnati, Ohio) has exposed a jail in crisis and sparked an investigation and lawsuit. Franklin, a retired state employee and licensed private detective, was arrested June 13 after an altercation with police. Less than two weeks later, he was found dead. His family believes he was abused, beaten and neglected. They have filed a \$50 million wrongful death suit against county and jail officials. The incident has triggered intense local media coverage and has uncovered other reports of abuse and neglect. Officials have tried to intervene, but Jailer Don Younger has refused to cooperate.

Baseball slugger Sosa honored by cardinal

By Timothy Williams
NEW YORK (AP) — The Sammy Sosa juggernaut rolls on.

Last week, the baseball slugger was honored during a special mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, the start of a visit to the Big Apple in which he is also to be the star of his own parade.

At the Spanish-language mass to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the pontificate of Pope John Paul II, Cardinal John O'Connor awarded the Medal of John Paul II to Sosa and four others who have been active in the Roman Catholic Church.

Sosa, who hit 66 home runs while playing for the Chicago Cubs this year, captured the nation's imagination as he and St. Louis Cardinal first baseman



SAMMY SOSA

Mark McGwire dueled for the home run title. Both shattered the major league home run mark of 61 that had stood since 1961. McGwire hit 70 home runs.

Sosa, from San Pedro de Macoris in the Dominican Republic, is especially popular in Dominican neighborhoods in New York City where he is regarded as

a hero.

A parade taking Sosa through the Canyon of Heroes in lower Manhattan took place Saturday afternoon.

Inside St. Patrick's last Friday, Sosa was given a standing ovation by many of the 1,000 or so worshippers as he received the medal for his sportsmanship and charity efforts. Several people waved Dominican flags.

Sosa, dressed in a dark suit, gave his trademark gesture in which he taps his heart, kisses his hand and looks skyward in a silent salute to honor his mother.

After awarding him the medal, the cardinal placed a red skullcap, called a zucchetto, on Sosa's head. It was similar to one worn by the cardinal.

"Once you were a little

Cub," the cardinal told the slugger, "now you are a big Cardinal."

In a brief speech, Sosa said that the idea that he — who as a 7-year-old shined shoes and washed cars in the Dominican Republic to help his family survive — could be honored with a medal from the cardinal was difficult to fathom.

"I never thought there would be a day like this," he said in Spanish. "But it shows that if you keep going, you can accomplish anything."

Sosa, who still lives in the Dominican Republic, has bought ambulances and founded a baseball academy near his hometown. After Hurricane Georges ravished the island nation last month, he led efforts to provide food and medical supplies to victims.

Apartment complex settles discrimination lawsuit

By Sara Olkon

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Owners and managers of a Richmond apartment complex where an employee allegedly told a white tenant she was "keeping the niggers out" have agreed to pay \$480,000 in damages, federal officials said last week.

It is the largest such settlement in Virginia history, officials of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Justice Department said.

Wedgewood Village Apartments owners and managers will pay \$200,000 to apartment applicants against whom it discriminated, \$195,000 to a fair housing group that investigated Wedgewood, \$45,000 to two blacks who filed complaints and \$40,000 in civil penalties to the U.S. Treasury.

They also agreed to develop a fair housing policy and require their employees to attend fair housing training. The settlement must be approved in court.

HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo said via telephone from Washington during a news conference that the settlement should send a message that housing discrimination will not be

tolerated.

Henry Spalding, an attorney for Wedgewood, said apartment complex officials would not comment.

The 160-unit Wedgewood Village gets federal subsidies in exchange for renting to low- and moderate-income families. Last November, HUD accused Wedgewood of a seven-year pattern of discrimination against blacks.

HUD said Wedgewood rented only 9.6 percent of its units to blacks. Surveys found that at least 65 percent of the tenants in nearby properties were black.

The investigation began when two blacks complained they were denied apartments. A nonprofit group, Housing Opportunities Made Equal, filed similar complaints after white tenants reported discrimination against blacks.

HUD said former Wedgewood Village manager Rita Baines Lewis told Hazel Clark, a white tenant, that she was trying to keep blacks out and asked her not to baby-sit black children.

Larry B. Hall Jr., who is black, claimed he tried to rent an apartment, but Lewis told him a person had to be handicapped, a single parent or a Social Security recipient

to live there. A white friend living at Wedgewood later told Hall that no such requirements were placed on whites.

Rokena Dunaway, a black mother of two, was on a waiting list for eight months while six whites who applied after her got apartments, HUD said.

Telephone messages left at the homes of Hall and Dunaway were not immediately returned.

HOME sent three black women and three white women to Wedgewood posing as prospective tenants.

According to HUD, Lewis discouraged the blacks from applying while telling the whites that apartments were

available.

HUD also alleged that Lewis chastised white tenants with black friends. The complaint quotes Cheryl Evans, a white tenant, as saying Lewis told her to "tell your son not to bring any more niggers on this property who don't live here."

Lewis has denied making the comment, using racial slurs and discriminating against blacks. There is no local telephone listing for Lewis.

The defendants were Lewis; the apartment owner, Provident United of Columbus, Ohio; and two corporate officers, Michael Braunstein and John W. Helgeson.

SOME IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER FOR THE NOVEMBER 3 GENERAL ELECTION:

Early Voting: October 17-30

Election Day: November 3 (at polling place)

READY SET VOTE

For more information on voter registration, the sample ballot or early voting, please call 455-VOTE.

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