

NEWS CLIPS

ARYAN LEADER FINED FOR INTERFERING WITH POLICE

COEUR d'ALENE, Idaho (AP) — The leader of the Aryan Nations avoided jail time with a suspended sentence and fine for interfering with police at a disturbance outside the white supremacist group's compound. Richard Butler received a 10-day suspended jail sentence and a \$150 fine last week for the misdemeanor. Prosecutors had sought a jail sentence, but Magistrate Barry Watson denied the request, saying Butler's offense didn't involve violence. Butler, 80, is the founder and leader of the Church of Jesus Christ Christian outside Hayden Lake. Police went to the compound last summer to investigate a report that a man with an assault rifle was stalking another man. As officers held four men at gunpoint, Butler approached police and ignored their orders to stop. They then sprayed him with pepper spray. Prosecutors said Butler was hindering police. Butler said he only wanted to help.

NATION'S LARGEST LENDING DISCRIMINATION CASE SETTLED

President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore recently announced the largest lending discrimination settlement in American history — \$6.5 billion in mortgages and special programs designed to help 78,000 minority and low- to moderate-income families become homeowners. The Department of Housing and Urban Development negotiated the record settlement with Columbia National Inc., which was accused of violating the Fair Housing Act by discriminating against minorities seeking home mortgages. The settlement closes HUD's investigation of lending discrimination charges, which grew out of a November 1997 complaint against the Columbia, Md. based firm by the Forth Worth Human Relations Commission. Columbia operates in 28 states.

BLACK NEWSPAPER, PERIODICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY PUBLICATION UNVEILED

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress recently heralded the publication of "African-American Newspapers and Periodicals: A National Bibliography" with a reception in the James Madison Memorial Building. "This is the first comprehensive guide to the vast body newspapers and periodicals by and about African-Americans," said center director John Y. Cole. "It draws on the resources of the Library of Congress and other research libraries, large and small, but particularly on the collection at the Wisconsin Historical Society, where the editor, James P. Danky, is newspapers and periodicals librarian." Danky is also editor of "Black Periodicals and Newspapers" (1979). The two-volume set contains more than 6,000 entries. It uncovers hundreds of new sources for African-American studies from the United States, Canada and the Caribbean in newspapers, magazines, letters and literary, historical and popular writings.

NAACP DECRIES EXCESSIVE FORCE IN KILLING OF N.Y. IMMIGRANT

Kweisi Mfume, president and CEO of the NAACP, has called for federal and New York law enforcement to move swiftly to ensure that justice prevails in the investigation of an unarmed West African immigrant who was shot by police while in the hallway of his apartment building. Amadou Diallo, a 22-year-old Guinean, was shot 19 times by four plainclothes policemen. The lawyer for the officers, who are all members of the NYPD undercover street crime unit, said his clients thought the victim had a gun. "This shooting is a representative case of excessive force at its worst. I am asking both the U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno and New York city Mayor Rudy Giuliani to reassure the nation that these types of incidents will not be tolerated and to state publicly that they will use every possible vehicle to get to the facts involved in the case and make sure that justice is fair and swift," Mfume said. He said police behavior in this incident deserves the same response as the Abner Louima case involving an Haitian immigrant, who was tortured in a Brooklyn police station bathroom. "The NAACP will not sit by idly watching the incidents of police brutality go up as part of an effort to make crime figures go down while the rights of innocent, unarmed, hard-working people are aggressively attacked," Mfume said. "The association will be joining with other concerned citizens in an attempt to underscore the absolute foolishness of police brutality that has reared its ugly head again in New York, and again involving another person of color."

Bill touted to boost accuracy of census

WASHINGTON (AP) — Welfare recipients would be able to hold temporary census jobs without fear of losing government benefits under legislation introduced last week by two Florida lawmakers who don't find themselves on the same side of an issue very often.

Rep. Carrie Meek, a Democrat, and Republican Rep. Dan Miller, chairman of the House panel on the census, said the bill is aimed at getting a more accurate count for the 2000 census.

During previous counts, census takers have missed significant numbers of people living in poor minority and immigrant neighborhoods. The 1990 census missed an estimated 1.4 percent of the population.

Research has shown that accuracy is increased when members of those communities help in counting, Miller and Meek said.

"We want to make sure to do our very best to count each head," Meek said. "We know the key to getting an accurate count is to count the people who have been undercounted in the past. ... We need to have as much local involvement as we can."

Under current laws, additional income earned by participants of various welfare programs can put them at risk of losing government benefits, including health care and food stamps.

Miller said he expects little opposition to the idea, except possibly from members of Congress who object to the federal government getting involved in decisions that usually are left to state officials.

A welfare overhaul passed in 1996 gave states the option of removing restrictions on recipients of public assistance.

"I'm looking at this as a

constitutional issue," Miller said. "We have to do the census. ... If it will help get us a better census, then it's worth pushing for."

The Constitution requires the government to count every U.S. resident every 10th year, and the resulting numbers determine how many seats each state will have in the House and how to divide about \$182 billion a year in federal aid among cities and states.

Miller headed the Republicans' successful fight against using statistical sampling during next year's census, and Meek was among Democrats who supported sampling.

The counting system has been in political dispute because the people and areas most likely to be undercounted involve those who tend to vote Democratic. The use of sampling to add them could put Republicans at a disadvantage in elections

Whom the 1990 census missed



The 1990 census left out 8.4 million people or 1.6% of the population.

Missed most: Minorities

Percent of population by race, ethnic group not counted:

Asian, Pacific Islanders	2.3%
Blacks	4.4%
Hispanics, all races	5.0%
Native Americans*	12.2%
Non-Hispanic whites	0.7%

Why census matters

A census every 10 years, mandated by the Constitution, is used to:

- Draw congressional and other legislative districts
- Guide distribution of federal funds for education, public health, transportation, housing
- Monitor compliance with Voting Rights Act of 1965, other civil rights laws
- Develop demographic data used by business, industry

*On reservations. SOURCE: Leadership Conference Education Fund

after 2000.

The Supreme Court ruled (See Census, Page 13)

Defense opens defense of Baptist president

LARGO, Fla. (AP) — Members of the Rev. Henry Lyons' black church group don't believe he misused funds or abused his power as president of the National Baptist Convention USA, several ministers testified last week as Lyons' defense began. Lyons is on trial with his alleged mistress, Bernice Edwards, on racketeering charges.

The Rev. Edward V. Hill told jurors he led a convention

ethics commission that investigated Lyons' conduct. It focused only on whether he stole money from its treasuries, not on his deals with corporations seeking to do business with the group.

"We didn't want to go any further," Hill said.

After issuing a report saying they found no evidence Lyons stole from the treasury, the convention's members voted to keep Lyons as president and adopted a

resolution supporting him.

The ethics commission was formed after Florida prosecutors began investigating Lyons' finances in 1997. He and Edwards are accused of swindling more than \$4 million from companies hoping to sell cemetery products, life insurance policies and credit cards to the convention's members.

Defense lawyers say the failed business deals are not

criminal matters. They spent much of last Wednesday presenting testimony from convention ministers who said they believe Lyons has the right to earn profit from his post as president and to spend the money as he chooses.

"I cannot think of anything he did under this administration that the previous presidents did not have the privilege to do," said the Rev. Lacy Curry.

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