

NEWS CLIPS

NATIONAL DAY OF NONVIOLENCE SET FOR APRIL 4

NAACP President/CEO Kweisi Mfume and National Youth & College Director Rev. Jamal-Harrison Bryant have called for a National Day of Nonviolence April 4, the 31-year anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, to encourage young people around the nation to take a stand against the violence that is plaguing America's communities. "On this day, it is our hope and our dream that no young person is shot, no woman is hit, no youngster killed and no hate crimes committed," Bryant said. "We want the youth of this nation to say enough is enough. It is time to stop the violence and start the love." Programs have already been scheduled in Dallas, Texas; Memphis, Tenn.; Oakland, Calif.; and Baltimore, Md.

MANAGEMENT CONTROL RESTORES POWER TO D.C. MAYOR

President Bill Clinton recently signed the District of Columbia Management Restoration Bill of 1999, which will return the authority of Washington, D.C.'s nine largest agencies to the mayor. "This is a new day in Washington," said Mayor Anthony Williams. "President Clinton's signature on this bill is yet another tangible demonstration in the belief that elected officials in the District of Columbia have what it takes to run the city." The bill repealed the Faircloth attachment to the District of Columbia Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, which ceded control of the management of the agencies to the D.C. Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority, also known as the Control Board.

JESSE JACKSON OPENS CHICAGO WALL STREET OFFICE

Making good on his promise to escalate his national fight for corporate inclusion for minorities, the Rev. Jesse Jackson recently opened his Rainbow Push Coalition LaSalle Street Project office in Chicago. During the press conference, Jackson said, "In the ghettos, there is no talent deficit. There's an opportunity deficit. When minority talent goes untapped, undeserved communities fail to prosper, but corporations also curtail their growth and profits." "The mission of the project is to have inclusion in corporate America in all ranks," said Darice Wright, executive director of the office.

W.D. MOHAMMED JOINS FARRAKHAN FOLLOWERS AT SAVIOUR'S DAY

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed, a son of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and a prominent leader in the Muslim world, was embraced by Mustapha Farrakhan, son of Min. Louis Farrakhan, during the Nation of Islam's annual Saviour's Day in Chicago. The imam attended at the special invitation of Farrakhan in an effort to continue the process of resolving differences between the communities of followers of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad since 1975. "I couldn't resist coming here knowing that [The Nation of Islam] was observing this day. I haven't lost my friendship with Minister Farrakhan," said Imam Muhammad, adding that the day is coming when he and Farrakhan will be one. "Allah knew that we would have our differences, but Allah knew that in time we would settle our differences and become one community, and one nation," Ishmael Muhammad, the assistant minister of Mosque Maryam and a son of the Hon. Elijah Muhammad, told the congregation of Muslims.

EX-AGRICULTURE SECRETARY ESPY RETURNS TO PUBLIC LIFE

WASHINGTON - The Clinton administration Thursday named former U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, acquitted of charges of accepting illegal gifts, to a government advisory panel on energy and technology issues. Espy, who resigned under a cloud in 1994, will return to public life as a member of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson announced Espy's appointment to a two-year term on the board, which provides independent advice on energy security, science and technology issues. Espy, 45, was a congressman before he became the first black to head the U.S. Agriculture Department. He now practices law in Jackson, Miss., and has been described as a possible candidate for future political office in the state.

Interest declines on segregation memos

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — The long-secret files of Mississippi's old segregation spy agency were unsealed with much fanfare.

Reporters converged from all over for a chance at boxes of reports and yellowed newspaper clippings collected by the once-feared Sovereignty Commission.

The enthusiasm quickly fizzled with the realization someone had gotten there first — the agency's censors.

Now, as the anniversary of the files' release nears, a federal judge is considering whether to unseal a final batch of 7,200 pages held back at the request of individuals who argued their privacy would

be violated.

Before the release of the first collection of documents on March 17, 1998, speculation had risen that the files might contain secrets of Ku Klux Klan killings or names of civil rights figures thought to have been on the commission's payroll.

While some documents raised eyebrows — in 1964, the watchdog agency dispatched one of its "spies" to Philadelphia, Miss., to sketch a map of the muddy site where the bodies of three murdered civil rights workers were found — there were no major revelations.

Veteran Mississippi journalist Bill Minor, himself

a target of commission spying, says many of the damaging files likely were destroyed.

"To a real extent, the damage this group did will really never be known," Minor says.

"To fully understand what the Sovereignty Commission did, you had to live through the times."

Minor says a lot of the agency's activities were never written down, but rather were simply shared by word of mouth.

Many of its dirty deeds were never recorded, he says.

The Sovereignty Commission was created in 1956 to "protect the

sovereignty of the state of Mississippi and her sister states" from federal interference. In practice, it worked to preserve segregation.

In secret, the commission harassed and spied on activists, branding many of them racial agitators and communist infiltrators.

The commission disbanded in 1977 and the Legislature promptly sealed its files. The American Civil Liberties Union sued to force the files open.

The case stretched 21 years before the ACLU's arguments prevailed.

David Ingebretsen, (See Segregation, Page 17)

Florida target of anti-preference drive

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — If California businessman Ward Connerly had his way, Florida could become the next state to abolish racial and gender preferences.

Connerly, who helped lead successful initiatives to end affirmative action in California and Washington, is leading the fight to roll back preference programs here because he says they foster resentment.

"People feel like they're the victim of reverse discrimination," Connerly said. "That resentment is a very real problem we have to confront."

He plans to make three appearances today in Florida to announce his campaign, *The Miami Herald* reported

"People feel like they're the victim of reverse discrimination."

— Ward Connerly

in today's edition.

But while Connerly had the support of Republican Gov. Pete Wilson in California, local leaders oppose his efforts.

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Miami Mayor Joe Carollo called Connerly's movement divisive and said they will not support it.

Bush's press secretary, Nicolle Devenish, said the governor is opposed to "quotas and set-asides."

But, she said, "we don't want to have a divisive political debate waged at a time when the governor's

priority is improving schools and improving the lives of children, the elderly and the developmentally disabled."

To get his measure on the November 2000 ballot, Connerly needs at least 435,073 signatures and is confident he could win public opinion at the ballot box.

Miami-Dade Mayor Alex Penelas has promised to lead a campaign against putting the measure on the 2000 ballot.

Connerly, a black conservative, is a member of the University of California Board of Regents, which in

1995 voted to end racial preferences in college admissions.

He also pushed for Proposition 209, a 1996 ballot measure approved by voters that eliminated race and gender preferences in California's hiring, contracting and education.

A poll commissioned by Connerly within the past three weeks shows 80 percent of Floridians support his belief that college admissions and the awarding of state contracts should be colorblind, Connerly said.

"Florida is going to be a target for our national movement," Ward Connerly told the *St. Petersburg Times* on Saturday. "I have concluded there is a problem in Florida."

Law Firm of Smith & Williams

ATTORNEY AT LAW



TIMOTHY C. WILLIAMS

Timothy Williams is a member of the Nevada & Illinois State Bar, practicing primarily in personal injury cases.

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