

NEWS CLIPS

WAGE GAP BETWEEN CEOS, LABORERS WIDENS

WASHINGTON (IPS)—U.S. corporate executives are amassing ever-increasing pay raises, widening the gap between themselves and their workers while irking some investors. Last year, chief executive officers of U.S. corporations pocketed 419 times the average wage of a blue-collar worker, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Corporate inequality has multiplied, with CEO compensation swelling from 85 times what workers earned in 1990, to 209 times in 1996 and 326 times in 1997, before surging to last year's level. That glaring disparity is moving a network of investors to sponsor efforts to tie CEO pay to the wages of the company's lowest-paid laborer. The group, Responsible Wealth, is backing proposals to be voted on in coming months by shareholders of seven major U.S. companies, including Citigroup, General Electric and AT&T.

HARLEM SCHOOL TEACHER STARS IN PBS MATH PROGRAM

Kay Toliver, a teacher at East Harlem Tech for 25 years, is the star of "The Eddie Files," a PBS series that encourages young people to get involved in mathematics and math-related careers. "The objective of 'The Eddie Files' is raising students' awareness of their opportunities," said Toliver, who has received Presidential and Disney awards for teaching. "I want to make sure that my students can survive in the real world. Kids need focus in life, and they need to know their options. Kids don't know options. They only know doctor, lawyer, Indian chief, and maybe the job descriptions of their parents. That's pretty limiting." Told through the eyes of 11-year-old Eddie from East Harlem, who is never seen on screen, "The Eddie Files" combines fiction and documentary-style interviews with various public figures, imagination and humor to educate its audience. To view "The Eddie Files," check your local listings for days and times.

TWO WHITES SAILED IN CROSS BURNING ATTEMPT

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP)—Two white teenagers convicted of trying to burn a cross on the lawn of an interracial couple were sentenced Monday to a few months in jail, prompting complaints from their victims. A judge followed a jury's recommendation in sentencing Richard J. Elliott, 19, to 90 days in jail and a \$2,500 fine for attempting to burn a cross with the intent to intimidate. Jonathan S. O'Mara, 19, pleaded guilty to the charge and one of conspiracy and was ordered to serve 45 days. Both teens remain free on bond while their attorneys appeal. James Jubilee, who found the 4-by-2-foot wooden cross with a burned spot in the middle on his lawn in May said the defendants should have to serve at least a year in prison. The maximum possible punishment on each charge was five years. "I'm really frustrated with the system," Jubilee, who is black, said outside court. "The system is supposed to be on the side of the victim. I don't think it is here."

OPRAH TICKETED BY SAN FRANCISCO METER MAIDS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Not even Oprah Winfrey has enough star power to evade the city's notoriously strict meter maids. Two limousines had just picked up Winfrey and her entourage from a downtown hotel two weeks ago when the talk show hostess dashed back into the hotel for a minute. Parking officers promptly began issuing tickets, ignoring the limo drivers' desperate pleas that Winfrey was on her way to deliver the keynote address at Mayor Willie Brown's women's summit. The drivers were cited with two \$43 tickets for parking in a commuter curb lane. At the women's summit, Brown was overheard joking: "The meter maid will be looking for a job tomorrow. Maybe in Chicago."

Perfect attendance wins a car for one student

John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

Students of Clark High School (CHS) have an opportunity to win a car—if they just go to school.

A new program called A.I.M. (Attendance Incentive and Motivation) targets the traunt problem by offering students a new Saturn.

A.I.M. is funded by \$10,000 in grant money from the Public Education Foundation and \$4,000 dollars raised from donors. The car is a donation from the car company.

"We (CHS) have a high rate of absences," Principal Wayne Tanaka said, "Work, babysitting siblings, unmotivated, school looks crummy, or the kid's don't like me', are some of the excuses students give for not attending school."

CHS is the first high school to implement A.I.M.

A.I.M. (Attendance Incentive and Motivation) targets the traunt problem by offering students a new Saturn.

with an average number of 15 absences per 130 students during the first nine weeks of school.

"If they are not going to do it for a car," Tanaka said, "then they are not going to do it."

Movie passes, prom tickets, food, athletic events, yearbooks, Wet-n-Wild passes, CD players, and limousine rides are just some of the other neat prizes students can win if they have three or less absences for the quarter.

If that's not enough positive motivation, new state laws and school district policies will not allow students to receive a passing grade if they have more than

10 absences.

"Anything they can do to improve student attendance is great," student Rasheedah Abdullah said, "The school is not ignoring the problem and trying to get kids to come to school."

At the end of the year the students who have complied with the trauncy rules and regulations are automatically entered into a raffle to win a brand new Saturn for an entire year.

"You can't do well in school if you can't get to school," said Rick Glen, a representative of Saturn.

Students who are not old enough to drive the vehicle or don't have a driver's license can have their parents

drive the car.

Car insurance and maintenance will be the responsibility of the winner.

"It's (the Saturn's) pretty cool," said, Jamal Russell, 14 and a freshman at CHS, "(It) Helps us to bring up our grades, improve our attendance, and handle any problems we're having."

"It's nice but not fair," student Tonce McDaniel said. "It's not fair because it awards just one student with a car and not all of us."

"One student came to me and said that a car would motivate them to attend school," Tanaka said, pointing out that the majority of his students walk to school or take the CAT bus.

If A.I.M. is successful, it will be utilized at all the high schools, with Valley High School being slated as the next site for its implementation.

Lawmaker urges rebuilding old schools

Sandra Douglass
Special to Sentinel-Voice

On Thursday, April 22nd, the Assembly Ways and Means Committee heard testimony on Assembly Bill 368, which requires the audit of any school district's building program with 150,000 pupils enrolled to determine whether money is being properly spent and if funds will be available to replace and reconstruct older schools.

Assembly Education Committee Chairman Wendell Williams testified in support of AB 368 saying that some of the older schools such as Booker, Quannah McCall, Matt Kelly, CVT Gilbert and Kit Carson are in appalling, inexcusable conditions.

Many Las Vegas parents are concerned about the decision they must make when deciding what school their child should attend. Most of the concern lies in

the fact that the school located closest to their home is still part of Prime 6, the school district's desegregation plan. Prime 6 allows parents in certain communities to decide whether they want their child to attend a new school far from their residence that would require busing, or to attend a school closer to home in poorer condition with less resources and facilities.

More than 600 million dollars was approved by the voters in 1996 for a school construction bond issue, and a 3.5 billion dollar financing package was approved in 1998 to build 88 schools.

According to an article in the Las Vegas Sun, Larry Spitzer, a lobbyist for the Clark County School District, told the Ways and Means Committee that the school district supports the audit and is willing to look at the concept of tearing down a school and rebuilding it. To voice your opinion on

Assembly Bill 368, call the legislative answering service free at 384-2225.

Problem children subject to psychological analysis

Assembly Bill 221 would require that children guilty of gun or animal abuse be detained until they receive a psychiatric evaluation.

The hearing of AB 221 in the Senate Judiciary Committee meeting ironically comes after the tragic deaths of 14 high school students that occurred last week in Littleton, Colorado.

This bill would require

local authorities to focus on children who may have psychological problems, or possibly be a victim of abuse. It also gives the authorities a chance to spot problems before they occur.

Dr. Richard Simmons, the veterinarian for the state's university system, also added that there is usually a link between the abuse of animals and abuse in the child's family.

For more detailed information on Assembly Bill 368 or 221, visit the Nevada Legislative website at www.leg.state.nv.us

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