

NEWS CLIPS

NAACP BACKS LEGISLATION ON SLAVERY REPARATIONS

The NAACP has strongly endorsed H.R. 40, a legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives that would provide reparations for America's enslavement of Blacks, and has placed it at the top of its 1999-2000 agenda. "We need to be pushing the issue, starting a grassroots movement, leading an education and information campaign, and it will happen," said Marie Davis, San Mateo County, Calif. NAACP president and leading spokesperson on the issue. "The Reparations Act would establish a commission to review the institution of slavery, the resulting racial and economic discrimination against African Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African Americans. The bill would also acknowledge the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 colonies between 1619 and 1865," stated a release from NAACP President Kweisi Mfume and Washington Bureau Chief Hilary Shelton.

REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM L. CLAY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Congressman William L. Clay, D-Mo., recently announced at a gathering at Harris-Stowe State College in St. Louis that he will not seek re-election to the U.S. House of Representatives at the end of his term. Clay, 68, was elected to the House in 1968. He was the first Black congressman from Missouri. "You cannot begin to imagine how proud I am to have had the privilege of representing the citizens of this district for over 30 years," Clay said. "It's a reality that only a few have experienced and by the very nature of the position, only a few will ever suffer the emotional pleasure and exhilarating anxiety involved in the process." Clay is currently the third most senior member of the House and the ranking Democrat on the Committee on Education and the Workforce. His legislative achievements include Hatch Act Reform, The Family and Medical Leave Act, Pension Reform, laws governing plant closing notification, and increased wages, health and safety benefits for working class people.

O.J. MAY BUY HOUSE IN SOUTH FLORIDA

MIAMI (AP) — O.J. Simpson was in no mood to skimp during a house-hunting excursion in South Florida. The former football star is scouting some of the area's finest real estate — homes priced from \$870,000 to \$1.2 million, *The Miami Herald* reported last week. Simpson rejected a five-bedroom home because it didn't have enough baths to allow daughter Sydney, 13, and son Justin, 10, to have their own, the newspaper said. He also checked out a \$995,000 home in a gated community in the Coconut Grove neighborhood. Simpson was acquitted of murder in the 1994 slayings of former wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend, Ronald Goldman. Simpson was found liable in a civil trial and ordered to pay \$33.5 million to the victims' families. The verdict excluded his football pension plan, which pays him up to \$25,000 a month.

CLINTON NAMES NEW AIR FORCE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton said Wednesday he would nominate F. Whitten Peters to be secretary of the Air Force.

Peters, the current acting secretary, was named under secretary in November 1997. The Air Force's top civilian job has been vacant since Sheila Widnall resigned in October 1997 to return to teaching at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The administration's original choice for the post, attorney Charles Curtis, a former Energy Department official, withdrew his name in April over concern that his confirmation would focus on the issue of lax security at the nation's nuclear weapons labs. The secretary of the Air Force oversees all matters affecting its 380,000 active duty and 115,000 civilian personnel. Peters previously served as the Defense Department's principal general counsel. Before moving to the Pentagon, he was a partner at the Washington law firm of Williams & Connolly. A 1976 graduate of Harvard Law School, Peters was president of the Harvard Law Review before clerking for the U.S. Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia and Justice William Brennan on the U.S. Supreme Court.

White cops sue for discrimination

BOSTON (AP) — Eight white officers have filed a federal discrimination lawsuit against the Boston Police Department, saying it illegally schemed to promote black people.

The officers — seven men and a woman — say they were unfairly passed over for promotion while three black officers who received the same exam score got the jobs.

The officers allege the police department and state human resources officials targeted the cluster of three

black officers for promotion as a way to maintain an internal quota for black officers.

"They identified three black officers and decided they needed them to reach their goal, and excluded other officers by doing this," said lawyer Michael McLaughlin, who successfully challenged the race-based admissions policies of Boston's prestigious public exam schools.

The suit, filed last week, alleges the department altered

an original plan to promote 30 officers who took a sergeant's exam in 1997.

Twenty-seven officers scoring in the 90s and high 80s — all white except for one — were chosen. The department then tried to skip down the list to select three black officers who had scored 84, the suit says.

When the state Civil Service Commission advised that practice was illegal, the department promoted six extra white officers who had scored 85 so that the three

black officers scoring 84 could be chosen. No whites who scored 84 were promoted, however.

The department's legal advisor, Mary Jo Harris, said there was no manipulation, just a clearly stated goal to maintain minority representation in all levels of the force. She said the department has the right to select candidates on the basis of race, language skills or other specialized training from a pool of same-scoring applicants.

NH House votes to add King holiday

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — The lawmaker leading the effort to create a permanent Martin Luther King Jr. holiday in New Hampshire said the civil rights leader's teachings helped him endure the 20-year wait for victory.

"I think we can all learn this lesson from Martin Luther King - never give up," said Democratic Rep. Jim Splaine. "From now on, kids from New Hampshire and everywhere will appreciate an important and great man and important and great principles."

The state House approved a bill last week that would make New Hampshire the 50th state to honor Martin Luther King Day each winter. The Senate is expected to pass the measure as well and the governor has said she will



MARTIN LUTHER KING sign it.

A King holiday bill first came before the Legislature in 1979 and has been introduced nearly every session since. The latest attempt failed by one vote in the House in 1997.

Fear that the state's distinction as the only one

without a permanent King holiday has harmed recruitment efforts at companies and prevented others from relocating here influenced lawmakers, said Rep. Lionel Johnson, D-Manchester, a sponsor of the measure.

Gov. Jean Shaheen joined about 75 people who gathered on the Statehouse steps after the vote. About a dozen clasped hands and sang "We Shall Overcome."

"I want to congratulate all the people who worked so hard in passing this legislation, not just today but for the last 20 years," Shaheen said. "It confirms what our history is - supporting all people equally."

Opponents objected to the way the birthdays of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln get lumped together as Presidents Day. They argued if Washington and Lincoln don't get recognized independently, why should

King? (Technically, the federal and New Hampshire state holiday on the third Monday in February marks Washington's birthday, but it is popularly known as Presidents Day.)

Republican Rep. Donald White said he opposed the bill "for the simple reason that the history of this great nation reflects the pride and energy of all our people."

Lawmakers tried to fashion a compromise in 1991 with the creation of Civil Rights Day to honor "the many people from a variety of cultural backgrounds who fought and died in the struggle to gain freedom and equality for all individuals."

As successive Legislatures shot down the King bill, New Hampshire governors in the mid-1990s issued proclamations each year turning Civil Rights Day into Martin Luther King Day.

The new bill makes the change permanent.

Stanley

(Continued from Page 1) don't sue for a million."

It is the latest development in an odd case. Four months after they fired Curry, company officials told police he was plotting to plant racist and homophobic e-mail in their computers.

Curry was arrested last August on charges of forgery, coercion and computer trespass.

But the Manhattan district attorney's office dropped charges against Curry on Wednesday and is now investigating Morgan Stanley and an informant who tipped them to the alleged plot.

The informant, C. Joseph Luethe, was a college acquaintance of Curry's who told Morgan Stanley about the e-mail scheme and at the same time put Curry in touch with a computer hacker — actually an undercover police officer, authorities said.

Curry's lawyer, Earl Rawlins, admits that Curry paid the hacker \$200 to plant the phony e-mail.

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