

**BUSINESS BRIEFS****SUBCOMMITTEE PUSHING FOR PRESIDENTIAL PAY HIKE**

A Congressional Appropriations subcommittee included in a fiscal year 2000 spending bill a provision to double the president's salary from \$200,000 to \$400,000, effective 2001. It's been 30 years since that office has had a pay raise, but public interest groups are opposed citing that with the travel and living expenses the president enjoys over a million-a-year in benefits. Against a list of the 800 highest paid corporate executives, the president comes in at number 785.

**SMALL BUSINESSES CAN TAP INTO FEDERAL CONTRACTS**

The Federal Government buys billions of dollars in supplies and services. Here's a sampling of information you can get from the Internet on contracting opportunities: General Services Administration - <http://www.gsa.gov>; Office of Enterprise Development and Forecast of Contracting Opportunities - <http://www.gas.gov/oed>; Minority Business Development Agency - <http://www.doc.gov/agencies/mbda/index.html>; Information for Women Entrepreneurs - [www.onlinewbc.org](http://www.onlinewbc.org); Small Business Administration - <http://www.sba.gov>; Commerce Business Daily - <http://www.govcon.com>. Get contracting opportunities information from the International Exchange Network, 2054 National Press Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20045 (enclose \$3 for shipping and handling)

**BLACK POLITICIANS CHAMPION FORGIVENESS OF THIRD-WORLD DEBT**

Why are so many black politicians talking about forgiving third-world debt? The statistics suggesting more attention to this problem are quite startling. On average, African nations spend four times as much of their income serving debt (paying on loan interests and/or principals) than they do educating their people. Momentum is building for debt-relief plans to bail out the world's poorest countries, who owe as much as \$200 billion to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. The lenders who can make the decision for forgiving the loans, are the Group of Seven (G7) nations, which are the world's richest countries led by the U.S. and European nations.

**STUDY TO GAUGE AFRICAN-AMERICAN THOUGHT ON REPARATIONS**

A lobbying effort and class-action suit is being organized by the Washington, D.C.-based Committee to Support the Reparations Study Bill. Information on how you can participate toward gaining reparations and attention to the subject by your local, county and state officials can be obtained by writing or faxing to: Attorney Norman Robinson, 405 16th Street, SE, Washington, D.C. 20006 - Fax (202) 547-1992.

**BLACK ELECTED TO BOARD OF NY STOCK EXCHANGE**

Black New York State Comptroller H. Carl McCall was recently elected to a two-year term on the Board of Directors of the New York Stock Exchange. McCall, sole trustee of the New York State Common Retirement Fund, is the only elected official on the 26 member board. McCall represents 880,000 New York citizens who are members of the Common Retirement Fund and has oversight of its \$110 billion in assets. The New York Stock Exchange is the world's largest equities market with nearly \$15 trillion in capitalization.


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**Blacks support Parks, reparations next?***Special to Sentinel-Voice*

Legislation easily passed the U.S. House of Representatives, the Senate, and was signed into law by President Clinton, awarding Rosa Parks the Congressional Gold Medal. Black leaders took great pride in their contributions toward getting Parks the highest recognition award Congress can give an individual.

Parks' getting the Congressional Medal shows the extent African Americans will go to get white folks' recognition. Although Rosa Parks was hardly the first black female bus rider to refuse to give up her seat in Montgomery, Ala. On March 2, 1955 a feisty high school student named Claudette Colvin was arrested for what Rosa would gain national acclaim for nine months later. African-Americans and whites have a mutual bond to record her as "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement."

While blacks could have

**Business Exchange**

By William Reed,  
Publisher of Who's Who in  
Black Corporate America.



passed the plate and gotten \$50,000 together to give Parks, they preferred to go to Congress and have them designate Parks as a real American hero.

An obscure Congresswoman from Indiana, Julia Carson, drafted legislation to get Parks the medal, and from there it was a turkey shoot. There was no way bill sponsors could lose on this one. On both sides of the aisle in the Congress, it was a race to honor motherhood and apple pie.

To be considered, legislation authorizing the medal needed at least 290 co-sponsors in the House and 67

in the Senate. When the bills were brought up, the House bill had 328 co-sponsors and the Senate bill had 82.

A NAACP legislative update said: "Much of the credit for this large amount of support belongs to Ms. Parks' supporters in the House and Senate, national publicity on radio and television shows and NAACP members who contracted elected representatives to support this legislation." Because blacks put the pressure on, the Senate passed its Parks bill by a vote of 86 to 0. The House passed its bill by a vote of 424 to 1.

Now that we've gotten

together to get Parks \$50,000 from the Congress, why don't we do something similar that will get all of us paid?

Every year since 1989, Congressman John Conyers has introduced H.R. 40 in Congress. H.R. 40 is a bill to establish a commission to review the institution of slavery and resulting racial and economic discrimination against African Americans. But, each year, H.R. 40 never moves forward due to lack of public and congressional support.

Why doesn't the African-American community provide the same type of broad support for getting themselves paid as they did for Parks?

In a poll among black newspapers, 70 percent of respondents said "blacks are owed a debt for wrongs done them during slavery and afterwards."

The same poll revealed that only 12 percent of respondents frequently discuss reparations.

**Searching for a computer can be complicated***Karen McCall**Special to Sentinel-Voice*

Anytime you spend a good amount of money, you want to make sure you're satisfied with your purchase. When contemplating the purchasing of a computer, you must use the same logic as buying a car. As soon as you take it home, it begins to lose its value. So, make sure you buy what you need.

The first step in contemplating the purchase of a computer is to remember that a computer is a tool. A tool that can automate your lifestyle, and in most instances, make you more productive. You must look at the things you do regularly, and ask the question, if I had a computer could it be done

faster?

For instance, the most commonly used task on the computer is typing documents. With a computer, you can type one document, save it, and print it. Next week when you need the same document, but with a few changes, all you have to do is open the document, make the changes, save it to a different file, and print it. You have saved valuable time by not having to type a new document from scratch. So, remember, a computer is not going to change your life, it's just going to make it better.

The second step is to decide what you will be doing with the computer, why you want a computer and what you are missing by not having

one. So, get a piece of paper and create a list of the things you would do if you had a computer and why.

The third step is to look at what is out there in the world of computers. Why buy a Ferrari to drive 5 miles to work, in bumper to bumper traffic. All that power and speed is wasted. There are many gadgets and accessories for computers, but picking

the wrong one can be costly. So basically, test drive a computer, go to the library or to school and start using them. Pick up magazines about computers and read the articles. Don't let your eyes get too big. Remember what you will be using it for.

Brought to you by Karen McCall, executive director of Priori Enterprise, Inc. a non-profit corporation.

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