

NEWS CLIPS

DEPT. OF EDUCATION GETS \$50 MILLION FOR CLASS-SIZE REDUCTION

The U.S. Department of Education has been given \$50.1 million to hire approximately 1289 teachers this fall to reduce class size in early grades across the nation. "These funds will enable schools to lower class sizes immediately," Education Secretary Richard Riley said. President Clinton has requested an increase in funds to continue this program for the next six years. Over that time he wants to hire a total of 100,000 teachers to reduce class size nationwide to 18 students in first through third grades. According to a 1998 Department of Education report, "Reducing Class Size: What Do We Do?" stated that research proved that reduced class size is related to increased student learning.

BLACK BUYING POWER UP 72.9 PERCENT SINCE 1990

African-American consumers have had a 72.9 percent increase in buying power since 1990, according to the Selig Center for Economic Growth, a public service unit of the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business. In a detailed report released last month, the center estimates that the buying power of African-Americans will reach \$533 billion this year, up from \$308 billion in 1990. This number can be compared with the 56.7 increase projected for overall national buying power for the same period.

100 BLACK MEN NAMES BURGER KING TOP CORPORATION

100 Black Men of America, a national alliance of African-American male mentors who help Black youth, recently named Burger King the "Corporation of the Year" during its national convention in Detroit. "Burger King has set a standard for community involvement, diversity and inclusion for other corporations to emulate," said Thomas Dortch, Jr., the association's president. "We are honored to have been selected as 'Corporation of the Year' by the 100 Black Men of America," said Burger King CEO Dennis Malamatinas. "Burger King Corporation is an employer of choice for people from all backgrounds. We will continue to make diversity a part of our core business values."

WILBERFORCE UNIVERSITY HOSTS ALUMNI CONFERENCE IN LAS VEGAS

The Wilberforce University Oversight Committee will host the Annual Conference July 18-22, at the Rio Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev. The conference will feature workshops on financial planning, a president's reception, awards luncheon and a dinner cruise on Lake Mead. General conference registration is \$35, while the financial members or non-alumni spouses conference package I is \$125 and the non-financial members conference package II is \$155. A number of suites have been reserved at the conference site at a special conference rate of \$65 per night. Delta and US Airways are also offering special discounted fares to conference participants. The University's Alumni are functioning in the market places of the country and internationally as responsible citizens and consumers. The alumni meet annually to renew their commitment to the importance of the education provided by a Historically Black University (HBU) and to raise funds for Wilberforce University. The university is the oldest HBU and has continued to operate, from the 1856 founding, to provide educational opportunities for African-American youths.

ABU-JAMAL DENIES REPORT HE CONFESSED

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Death row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal says a magazine article that reports he expressed regret for killing a police officer is a "rumor-turned-lie." Abu-Jamal, who has maintained his innocence, released a statement from prison Friday night, saying *Vanity Fair* was wrong and that he had never been contacted about the allegation by former prison volunteer Philip Bloch. "A lie is a lie," Abu-Jamal said. "I find it remarkable that this rumor-turned lie was never brought to my attention by the author, by Mr. Bloch himself or by *Vanity Fair* magazine, which never contacted me. Welcome to snuff journalism." Buzz Bissinger wrote that attempts to contact Abu-Jamal and his lawyer, Leonard Weinglass, were unsuccessful. Abu-Jamal, a former Black Panther was found guilty of killing officer Daniel Faulkner in 1981.

Million Youth March trial ends in hung jury

Nayaba Arinde
Daily Challenge

A hung jury in the trial of two men accused of assault during a melee following the controversial Million Youth March in New York has defense attorneys jubilant.

"I think this is a victory for us," defense attorney Roger Wareham told the *Daily Challenge*. "It is another setback for (Mayor Rudy) Giuliani. He lost in stopping the march, he lost on the day of the march, he lost with the proposed indictment of Khalid Muhammed and he lost today in court. They expected convictions and they got a hung jury."

Earlier Judge Michael Obus ordered the jury back for further deliberations after they announced a deadlock in the case.

Defendants James Washington and Patrece Petersen must now return to

court on July 28.

Meanwhile, Wareham added, Washington and Petersen's lives "are held in suspense by the criminal justice system."

Wareham said Petersen is still out on \$10,000 cash bail — which was raised by the community, "and it puts a stop on making plans for the immediate future."

In their closing remarks, defense attorneys called the Sept. 5, 1998 police "invasion of Harlem" an act of fascism.

"This case is about smoke and mirrors," co-defendant James (Shaheed Muhammad) Washington told the *Daily Challenge* outside New York Criminal Court. As attorney Tonya McClary laid it out, the D.A., commissioned by Giuliani, (was expected) to perform some great feat of magic and convince some jurors that we were guilty of something anything."

Co-counsel McClary told

the *Daily Challenge*, "I think we showed that Mr. Petersen was definitely a hero. He did not abandon the marchers. He tried to slow them [the police] down and although he was not successful, he was definitely one of the heroes. He tried to ensure that the people that were on that stage were able to leave without injury."

Portrayed from witness testimony as bullish aggressors, New York City police officers were slammed for their "criminal acts," during the Sept. 5 march as defense attorneys presented closing arguments.

McClary said the prosecution wanted to shift the responsibility from the police to her client.

"It's easier to bring in Mr. Petersen — a hardworking man, than to bring in the people who are really responsible — Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Police

Commissioner Howard Safir and other city officials."

All three defense attorneys emphasized that "reasonable doubt" about any of the charges was enough for acquittals, and they implored the jury to scrutinize the evidence carefully and come to the only logical conclusion possible ... not guilty.

McClary said there were "glaring inconsistencies" in police officers' testimonies. For example, she said the prosecution brought in police technical folks who manned video and still cameras.

McClary said that all of them said they were there to film "criminal activity," but began to film before anything happened. The officers testified that they did not observe any criminal activity until after 4 p.m., she said.

"There were no arrests, nobody was frisked ... the police were anticipating

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Protestors block Neo-Nazi parade in Idaho

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho (AP) — Members of the Aryan Nations paraded through downtown streets Saturday under the protection of a federal court order, but were outshouted by protesters who forced the marchers to detour. Four protesters were arrested.

After the 20-minute parade, a few of the two dozen Aryans saluted their supporters in the crowd with the Nazi straight-arm salute before they got into their vehicles to leave.

City officials had urged people to ignore the march, but thousands of opponents gathered along the parade route, chanting "No Nazis! No KKK! No fascists! USA!"

And three blocks into the parade, about 20 demonstrators sat down on Sherman Avenue and halted the march. Police immediately routed the Aryans on a one-block detour down a side street, then let them finish on a street they were detoured to.

"Where's that white power, guys?" shouted protester Brad Nelson of Coeur d'Alene.

Aryan Nations, based in nearby Hayden Lake, is the

political arm of the Church of Jesus Christ-Christian, which holds that God has ordained the formation of a whites-only homeland in the Pacific Northwest.

Police said four protesters were arrested on misdemeanor charges and released on their own recognizance.

The police department assigned 30 to 40 officers to monitor the parade, said police Capt. Carl Bergh.

The police force already was stretched thin because of a weekend hot rod rally and motorcycle show. The town has a year-round population of about 25,000, which can swell to as many as 100,000 in the summer tourist season.

In a similar parade in Coeur d'Alene a year ago, about 90 Aryan Nations marchers clashed with some 1,400 counter-demonstrators. Two dozen counter-demonstrators were arrested; some of them later won an \$80,000 settlement from Kootenai County after claiming civil rights violations.

On Thursday, U.S. District Judge Edward Lodge rejected a move by municipal officials to move the march out of the downtown area and to a route

beside a former garbage dump, ruling that it would be an unconstitutional infringement on free speech. The American Civil Liberties Union supported Aryan Nations in the case.

"Whites still have the right to speak as of this date," Aryan Nations leader Richard Butler said Friday.

Despite the city's pleas that people ignore the parade, the Coalition Against Nazis quickly promised to show opposition.

"The main thing we want to do is send a message that the type of white supremacist violence that happened in

Illinois will not be allowed to happen in the Northwest," said coalition member Ann Slater of Seattle.

White supremacist Benjamin Smith went on a killing rampage through Illinois and Indiana last weekend, attacking blacks, Jews and Asians. Two people were killed and nine others were injured before Smith shot himself to death.

Last weekend, there was shoving and shouting as about 80 white supremacists rallied in Coeur d'Alene City Park and were met by about 200 counter-demonstrators. No one was arrested.

NOTICE

The REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

of Clark County (RTC), has established a goal of 10% for *Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)* to furnish services under its *Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Assisted Transit Programs*. The Plan establishing this goal and how it was selected for fiscal year 2000 is available for inspection at:

600 South Grand Central Pkwy, Suite 350,
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106-4512
from 8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM.

Monday through Friday for 30 days from the date of this notice. Comments, for informational purposes only, will be accepted at the above address until July 30, 1999.

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