

NEWS CLIPS

SHARPTON-LED PROTEST ON EXPRESSWAY TARGETED PROFILING

The Rev. Al Sharpton led 500 protestors earlier this month to an intersection on the Atlantic City Expressway in New Jersey jamming up the main thoroughfare leading to the city's financial district. The demonstrators were protesting the racial profiling by New Jersey State Troopers. Seventy-five of the protestors, including Rev. Sharpton, were arrested. "We were detained for three hours," he said. "But, we effectively jammed the expressway for more than four hours." Further protests are scheduled.

BLACK HOLIDAY ASSOCIATION TO SPONSOR UNITY IN DIVERSITY DAY

Washington, D.C. (NNPA) — The African American Holiday Association will sponsor the first "Unity in Diversity Day" 12 noon-6 p.m. on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. There will be inspiring performances, speakers, spiritual and racial healing activities, exhibits and a cultural marketplace of ethnic food and craft vendors. There will also be a Racial Healing, Diversity and Justice summit on Aug. 8 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Founded by Ayo Handy-Clary, the AAHA is a non-profit grassroots organization in Washington, D.C. that perpetuates and preserves culture through traditional and non-traditional holidays, celebrations and rituals. Call (202) 310-1430 or (800) 996-7718.

CLINTON ORDERS \$100 MILLION FOR EMERGENCY COOLING ASSISTANCE

President Clinton recently instructed Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala to release \$100 million in Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program funds for 17 states in the New England, mid-Atlantic and Midwest regions of the country. The president said the funding is necessary to help cities cope with the extremely high temperatures. "These resources will help protect the most vulnerable among us as the current heat wave runs its course."

MIRANDA WARNINGS SITTING ON TENUOUS GROUND

WASHINGTON (AP) — "You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say may be used against you in a court of law." The Miranda warnings, familiar to generations of Americans who viewed countless arrests in the movies and on TV, are hailed by civil libertarians as "among our most widely respected and recognized manifestations of individual rights." But some conservatives say the required police warnings exact a heavy toll, seriously harming public safety. Might the warnings someday disappear? Police have been giving the warnings before questioning criminal suspects ever since a 1966 Supreme Court decision, *Miranda vs. Arizona*, said they had to. The nation's highest court, then far more liberal than today, sought to remedy the "inherently coercive" atmosphere of police interrogations by imposing procedural protections. The court said police must tell suspects they have rights, including a lawyer's help while answering questions, and inform them that a lawyer will be appointed to represent them if they cannot afford to hire one. The ruling flowed from the Fifth Amendment's guarantee that no one "shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself." But the court never explicitly said its decision or the police warnings were required by the Fifth Amendment. American law enforcement authorities initially hated the ruling but eventually credited it with improving police efficiency.

GARY COLEMAN ARRESTED OVER FINES

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former "Diff'rent Strokes" star Gary Coleman was arrested for failing to pay \$400 in fines for punching an autograph seeker. The diminutive actor was stopped on July 10 in Monrovia at a police drunken driving checkpoint, Lt. James McNerny of the Hawthorne Police Department said Friday. Officers cited Coleman, 30, for driving with expired registration tabs. A check of his license plate revealed that a warrant had been issued for his arrest. Coleman was booked into the city jail, where he spent several hours before posting \$26,000 bail, McNerny said. Coleman received a suspended sentence of 90 days in jail after pleading no contest in February to allegations he punched an autograph seeker. He also was fined and ordered to attend 52 anger management sessions.

Witness implicates police in Chicago shooting

Yaounde Olu, Ph.D.

Special to Sentinel-Voice

New details have been revealed by Raymond Smith, the driver of the car in which La Tanya Haggerty, a 26-year-old computer analyst, was fatally shot by a female Chicago police officer on June 4.

Smith and Haggerty were double-parked on the corner of 89th and Cottage Grove when they were approached by police officers. According to Smith's attorney, James Montgomery, the former corporation counsel who is representing the Haggerty family, Smith said he told the officer that he was about to move when the officer stated, "Move that piece of — out of the street, you stupid —."

Smith said he noticed the squad car a block later and pulled toward the curb. The male officer approached and asked for his license and proof of insurance. Smith said that he reached for his driving certificate — he had an official permit from the state reinstating his driving privileges after a recent suspension — but refused to lower his window all the way. When he attempted to pass the permit and insurance

statement to the male officer, he refused to take it, insisting that he roll down the window all the way. According to Montgomery, the officer said, "Put the window down before I break the window and snatch your — out of the car."

Smith said he became extremely afraid and decided to flee. During the pursuit, officers fired shots at his car at 95th and Cottage Grove. Smith drove his car in reverse down 95th Street while he frantically placed calls to his mother who was in the hospital, his father who was not at home, and an aunt he phoned twice.

He then decided to drive to his uncle's office at 64th and King Drive. Smith reportedly unlocked his doors, raised his hands and told Haggerty not to move unless the police officers told her to. While he was on the ground being hit and/or kicked by the police, Smith heard a gunshot and was told by a spectator "Your girl is dead," according to Montgomery.

A number of deaths throughout the Chicago area occurred at the hands of police officers prior to Haggerty.

Robert Russ, a

Northwestern University student, was killed within hours of Haggerty in another traffic stop. Two more people died while in police custody and another was shot under suspicious circumstances.

According to an anti-brutality coalition consisting of Neighbors Against Police Brutality, The Stolen Lives Project, The Village Vanguard and the Campaign to End the Death Penalty, Agenor "Junior" Roman is fighting for his life in the hospital after being shot by police. Officers said Roman fired a gun, but Roman has cerebral palsy that severely limits his arm motion, making him unable to raise a weapon or pull a trigger.

According to the same group, on June 21, the Latino news reported the death by "suicide" of Juan Oviedo Torres while in custody. Police say the Cuban American hung himself with his shirt. But, eyewitness accounts of the arrest indicate that police may have lied about the circumstances of Torres' arrest. They suggest that he may have been suffocated at the station and the suicide set up. Gregory Riley died in police custody

two weeks ago on Chicago's West Side.

Opponents of police brutality find these events evidence of a pattern of police brutality within the city. They argue that the killings are not "isolated events."

Anti-brutality groups are calling for changes that would include the creation of an independent civilian review board with the power to discipline officers and recommend criminal charges, the elimination of language in the Fraternal Order Police contract that allows brutality complaints against officers to be permanently purged after five and "sometimes three" years, and publicly make available information about brutality cases.

The Rev. Paul Jakes, chairman of the Christian Council on Urban Affairs who sees a need to "organize to get Daley and Devine out of office and a need to organize for affirmative action in the Chicago police department," is going to Washington, D.C. with an anti-brutality delegation.

Said Jakes: "My energies are focused on justice for LaTanya Haggerty, Robert Russ and others."

Attorney wants Atlanta child murders' case reopened

H.D. Stewart
Atlanta Voice

With judicial remedies all but used completely off, attorney for Wayne Williams, the convicted Atlanta child murderer, is now attempting to win his client a new trial by taking the case to the court of public opinion. Earlier this month, Lynn Whatley, who has been representing Williams for the last 17 years, appealed for help from Atlanta's Black preachers. Whatley said the idea came from the mothers of 10 of the 28 kids whose murder cases were never solved.

Williams, now 41-years-old, is serving a life term for the 1982 conviction of two of the 28 child murder cases reported between 1979 and 1981. His latest appeal to the Georgia Supreme court has not received a hearing date, but he continues to maintain his innocence. His supporters include relatives of some of the slain children.

Following that conviction in the Fulton Superior Courtroom of Clarence Cooper, who is now on the federal bench, police then used fiber evidence which they used to prove Williams' involvement with two of the murders to pin 16 others on him. The books on the infamous case, which all but

paralyzed the city for two years, were then closed.

"Wayne was convicted on the inference that he was the Atlanta child murderer. They brought then those other 10 cases even though he was only convicted of two of the murders," he said. "So, if you open the investigation of the children's cases, it would bring serious doubt into the efficacy of his conviction."

What Whatley asked members of Concerned Black Clergy to do was endorse a petition to be presented to Fulton District Attorney Paul Howard asking that the case be reopened.

Early last year, a Butts County State Court Judge rejected a motion filed several years before by Whatley and a team of attorneys requesting a new trial. Whatley is convinced that any chance Williams has of being vindicated will rest with how much public pressure they can mount to demand the case be reopened.

"When you're talking about justice for the African-American community, I think it becomes political. Look at the situations involving police brutality, the church burnings. Black people have always had to go to the court of public opinion to make people get serious."

But, he believes that getting to the truth of who is really responsible for the child murders will help solve other deep-seated concerns plaguing our neighborhoods.

"I think if we go back and retrace our steps, we'll find answers to today's problems while resolving things we let

be covered up," Whatley said. "I believe the Atlanta child murder investigation was a cover-up. I think we took the easy way out. We didn't address it. We didn't deal with it." CBC members said they had to meet with their executive board before taking a position.

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