

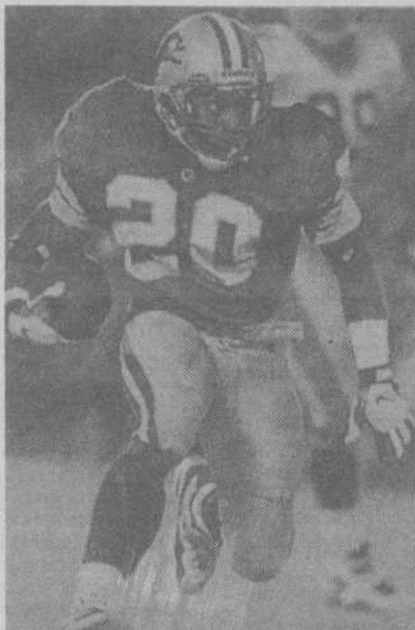
Barry Sanders' retirement statement

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Shortly after the end of last season, I felt that I probably would not return for the 1999-2000 season. I also felt that I should take as much time as possible to sort through my feelings and make sure that my feelings were backed with conviction. Today, I officially declare my departure from the NFL.

It was a wonderful experience to play in the NFL, and I have no regrets. I truly will miss playing for the Lions. I consider the Lions' players, coaches, staff, management and fans my family. I leave on good terms with everyone in the organization.

I have enjoyed playing for two great head coaches, Wayne Fontes and Bobby Ross, who are good coaches and leaders. I am not involved in a salary dispute of any kind. If I had played this season, I



BARRY SANDERS

would have earned a more than satisfactory salary.

The reason I am retiring is simple: My desire to exit the game is greater than my desire to remain in it. I have searched my heart through and through and feel comfortable with this decision.

I want to thank all of the fans and media who made playing in the NFL such a wonderful experience. I have had the pleasure of meeting many of them.

Although I was not able to honor many of your requests for autographs and interviews, it was not because I overlooked the importance of those who asked. Finally, I want to thank my family and friends for their support and guidance. I wish my teammates, coaches and the entire Lions organization all the best.

Hill

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both deejays just turned it out. Both of them started switching back and forth on the wheels of steel, ducking around each other while mixing, scratching and changing records.

The acrobatics were amazing and that should've ended the challenge. But Hill kept going, sounding a little upset about how the deejays rocked it. It didn't matter, even if she did put some cute

words to "Scrubs."

Then the deejays played some more hot beats and Lauryn had to pull out her stops singing Bob Marley's "War."

To wind down the concert, Hill joined the battling forces on stage, and played a little guitar while singing "Sweetest Thing I've Ever Known" followed by "To Zion." She ended with "Doo Wop," and left the stage. The audience refused to let that

be it. Hill had to come back out to stop the audience from stomping in the rafters, no doubt threatening the structural integrity of the arena.

She responded to the encore calls with "Killing Me Softly," and "Everything is Everything."

Now, the lyrics were always a little muffled through the sound system, but I suppose sound in an arena isn't the greatest acoustic

experience.

As one Hill fan, Geoff Carter said, "Do you see hockey teams playing in one thousand seat clubs? No. Why should musicians play in hockey arenas?"

But, the show was well worth sacrificing the loss of intimacy between performer and audience and with the audience singing the lyrics to all of the songs, anyway, I didn't miss a word.

Market

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in: money - our money.

You may see a new store (owned by someone other than a black person) or a new insurance company in your neighborhood, but don't be fooled. Don't be lulled to sleep in economic never-never land by window-dressing. As a matter of fact, pay no attention to it.

Here's a better idea: form local investment clubs to purchase your own stores and franchises. Now that really would be an emerging market. If new businesses do move in and show some level of altruism, let their generosity result in something being owned by a black person or group. Don't let them off the hook by allowing them to merely give you another outlet through which your money will flow out of your neighborhood.

The economic uplift of our people will not come because corporations bring "loss-leaders" to our neighborhoods. True economic empowerment will come to the black market when we understand that we are a potential economic force in this country, when we practice - everyday - some form of cooperative economics, and when we say once and for all, "Our dollars will not be taken for granted."

Let's start being a real black market - not a free market, which means no one has to pay for it, we just give it away. Let's stop falling for the hype, the public relations, the photo shoots and all the other things that are done to pacify us. Let's take charge of our black market, and if someone wants to buy from it, make them pay!

James Clingman is the former editor of the Cincinnati Herald newspaper. He is the founder and President of the Greater Cincinnati African-American Chamber of Commerce and author of the book, "Economic Empowerment or Economic Enslavement-We have a choice." (www.enterzone.com/power). Contact him at P.O. Box 6722, Cincinnati, Ohio 45206; 513 489 4132 or j_cling@fuse.net

History

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to play on the US Davis Cup tennis team.

AUGUST 2

1847 - William A. Leidesdorff launches first steamboat in San Francisco Bay.

1924 - James Baldwin is born in New York City.

1945 - Jewell Jackson (later McCabe) is born in Washington, D.C. She will become president of the Coalition of 100 Black Women, whose mission is to develop a forum for African-American women leaders.

1966 - The Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School (later Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science) is chartered in Los Angeles, Calif. It is the only African-American-focused medical school west of the Mississippi.

1967 - In the Heat of the Night, starring Sidney Poitier and Rod Steiger, premieres.

1982 - Jackie Robinson, the first African-American to break the color barrier in major league baseball, is honored by a commemorative stamp issued by the US Postal Service, the fifth in its Black Heritage USA series.

AUGUST 3

1832 - Edward Wilmot Blyden is born in Saint Thomas, West Indies. By the age of 24, he will migrate to Liberia and become an established author of the pamphlets *A Voice from Bleeding Africa*, in which he attacks slavery, and *A Vindication of the African Race*. Throughout his life, he will be an advocate of African-Americans' returning to their ancestral homes.

1908 - A site plan for the town of

Allensworth, Calif., is filed with the Tulare County recorder. The town is founded by African-American Allen Allensworth "in order to enable black people to live on an equity [basis] with whites and to encourage industry and thrift in race."

1960 - The Republic of Niger achieves its independence from France.

1972 - The Federal Communications Commission upholds a political candidate's right to broadcast paid commercials with racist content if such broadcast presents no danger of violence or incitement to violence.

AUGUST 4

1875 - The Convention of Colored Newspapermen is held in Cincinnati, OH.

1890 - Sam T. Jack's play *Creoles* opens in Haverhill, Mass. It is the first time African-American women are featured as performers on stage.

1931 - Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, heart surgeon, founder of Chicago's Provident Hospital, dies.

1936 - John Woodruff of the University of Pittsburgh wins a gold medal in the 800-meter run at the Olympic Summer Games in Berlin. He, like Jesse Owens (who had won his second medal earlier in the day), will be snubbed by Adolph Hitler, who believed that blacks are incapable of athletic achievement.

1980 - Maury Wills is named manager of the Seattle Mariners. He is the third African-American to be named a major league manager.

This Week in history was compiled by Shantee Cooper, intern for the Las Vegas Sentinel Voice.

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