

NEWS CLIPS

JOINT CENTER POLL: GORE LEADS BUSH, BRADLEY AMONG BLACKS

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies recently released its 1999 National Opinion Poll on politics, showing Vice President Al Gore the favorite among African-Americans. Gore was viewed favorably by 69 percent of African-Americans, and Governor George W. Bush and Bill Bradley by 43 percent and 41 percent, respectively. Vice President Gore's rating among African-Americans is essentially unchanged since 1997, but the support for Governor Bush is up eight percentage points from his 1998 rating. This is the first year the Joint Center has included Bill Bradley in its poll. Other public figures included in the 1999 poll are President Bill Clinton, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Reverend Jesse Jackson, Colin Powell, and Congressman J. C. Watts (R-OK). In addition, for the first time since 1996, Jackson was rated more favorably than President Clinton among both Blacks and Whites. While only slightly improved among Blacks, his ratings among Whites improved substantially, due in part perhaps to his role in the release of the three U.S. servicemen captured during the Kosovo conflict.

MALCOLM'S GRANDSON FACES ANOTHER YEAR IN DETENTION

Former Mayor David N. Dinkins and Percy E. Sutton, chairman emeritus, Inner City Broadcasting, both lawyers, combined their legal expertise earlier this month to defend the grandson of Malcolm X in family court in Yonkers, N.Y. Malcolm Shabazz, 14, who is currently in juvenile detention in Westchester County, was charged with escaping from the facility on July 28 with a 15-year-old companion. He was sent to the center after he reportedly admitted setting a fire that killed his grandmother, Dr. Betty Shabazz. Dinkins said it was determined during the court proceeding that young Malcolm "needs a more secured facility where he wouldn't be able to escape in the future." The court ruled he be placed through the Office of Children Family Services, formerly the state Division of Youth, for another year starting Aug. 3. "If and when a suitable place becomes available," Dinkins said, the court agreed to place him in a residential facility. Authorities said this was Malcolm's third escape from the facility. He pleaded to juvenile manslaughter and arson in connection with setting the June 1, 1997 fire in his grandmother's apartment in Yonkers. Shabazz died three weeks later, suffering third-degree burns over 85 percent of her body. Malcolm served an original 18-month sentence in a juvenile detention center in Massachusetts.

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

The marriage capitol of the world now offers certified copies of marriage certificates online. For just \$7 apiece, including tax and shipping, users can order wedding documents with Visa or Mastercard via the Clark County website, www.co.clark.nv.us. There were more than 108,000 marriages recorded in Clark County last year. The county's webpage also links to thousands of other county marriage records. Use of e-commerce, security electronic credit card technology, ensures safety and privacy of online purchases. County officials hope to use enlist e-commerce for customer use — to pay property taxes, fees and order tickets for special event.

REHNQUIST CRITICIZED FOR SINGING 'DIXIE'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's largest organization of black lawyers wants Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist to quit singing "Dixie," a song it calls a "symbol of slavery and oppression." The 18,000-lawyer National Bar Association passed a resolution at its recent convention in Philadelphia urging Rehnquist to "refrain from such offensive behavior in the future." A Supreme Court spokesman said Tuesday that Rehnquist had no comment on the resolution. Rehnquist, the nation's top federal judge, led judges and lawyers in a rendition of "Dixie" during a conference in Hot Springs, Va., in late June. He attends the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals conference each year, and each year leads a sing-along. The annual event has for several years included "Dixie," widely associated with the Southern cause in the Civil War, as well as the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," similarly associated with the North during the war. The *Washington Post* reported that some lawyers had avoided the event because they objected to singing "Dixie," a sentiment Rehnquist apparently was unaware of until he was told so at the end of this year's sing-along.

Special to Sentinel-Voice Tri-State Defender

Several members of the Congressional Black Caucus are urging Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman to nominate civil rights activist Joseph Lowery as the monitor of the multi-million dollar discrimination settlement with Black farmers.

"It is imperative that the monitor exhibits a strong commitment to overseeing the overall responsibility of resolving problems that any class member may have," the lawmakers wrote in a letter dated July 29.

"Rev. Lowery has a proven track record and would lend a tremendous amount of credibility to this office," the letter said.

Lowery is a former associate of the Rev. Martin

Luther King Jr. and served as president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which King founded.

Efforts to contact Lowery were unsuccessful.

The letter was written by CBC Chairman James Clyburn, D-S.C. and four Black lawmakers serving on the House Agriculture Committee: Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., Rep. Earl Hilliard, D-Ala., Rep. Sanford Bishop, D-Ga., and Rep. Eva Clayton, D-N.C.

Glickman asked the representatives' recommendation after the judge in the case asked the plaintiffs' and defendant's attorneys to submit two nominees to be considered for the monitor position.

"It is up to the judge to



JOSEPH LOWERY select the monitor," said Laura Trivers, Glickman's spokesperson.

The Black farmers reached a settlement with the government in January that is expected to cost millions of dollars.

They filed a discrimination lawsuit two years ago for unfair access to

government loans and subsidies.

U.S. District Judge Paul Friedman, who has overseen the case, gave final approval to the deal in April.

Under the settlement, farmers with less documented evidence of discrimination would receive a \$50,000 payment and have their government debts forgiven. Farmers with more evidence could opt to go before an independent arbitrator and seek larger damages. Farmers could also choose to opt out of the lawsuit and pursue their own cases.

A final price tag won't be known until all eligible farmers have been located. Plaintiffs' attorneys meanwhile have estimated the settlement could eventually reach the billion dollar mark.

Probation, parole numbers top 4 million

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans on parole or probation at the end of 1998 numbered more than 4 million for the first time ever last year, but differences in policies made for wide variations among the states, the Justice Department reports.

There were large declines in the number of adults on parole in several states, including Virginia, down 37 percent, and North Carolina, down 30 percent, the department's Bureau of Justice Statistics said Sunday. In contrast, Ohio had a 66 percent increase in parolees and Idaho reported a 55 percent jump.

A change in Ohio law contributed to its increase, said Thomas P. Bonczar, a bureau statistician. "A lot of states are passing mandatory parole," he explained.

At the same time, the increase in the number of

parolees was balanced by states that have toughened their laws to keep offenders in prison longer.

The national release rate declined from 37 per 100 prisoners in 1990 to 31 in 1997, while average time served increased from 22 months in 1990 to 27 months in 1997, Bonczar said.

Overall, 3,417,613 people were on probation and 704,964 were on parole at the end of 1998, up from 3,296,768 and 694,787, respectively, a year earlier. Adding those in prisons or jails, the U.S. correctional population totaled 5,890,300 last Dec. 31, up from 5,726,500 when 1997 ended.

A probationer is a person convicted of a crime and sentenced to supervision outside jail; a parolee is an offender under conditional supervision after serving a prison term.

Idaho and Vermont each

reported a 21 percent increase in their probation populations, the largest among the states, while 11 states reported declines.

Bonczar noted that while violent crime has declined in recent years, there have been increases in drug abuse violations and convictions for fraud and forgery, which tend to be the types of crimes for which people are sentenced to probation.

Some 96 percent of parolees had been convicted of a felony. Fifty-seven percent of those on probation had committed a felony, 40 percent were convicted of misdemeanors and the rest were found guilty of other

infractions.

The 1998 parolee population was 55 percent white, 44 percent black, 21 percent Hispanic — who can be of any race — and 88 percent male. In 1990, 52 percent of parolees were white, 47 percent black, 18 percent Hispanic and 92 percent male.

Among those on probation, 79 percent were male, down from 82 percent in 1990. Whites made up 64 percent of probationers, down from 68 percent, while the share of blacks grew from 31 percent to 35 percent. Hispanics made up 15 percent of probationers, down from 18 percent in 1990.

Welfare

(Continued from Page 3)

tier — those making between 75 and 112 percent of the poverty line. They came out ahead, but only by an average of \$110 per year, bringing their average income up to \$15,857 per year.

Essentially, these families were able to replace welfare with work and come out ahead, if only slightly, but would have fared better had they kept the food stamps they were entitled to. They lost an average of \$530 in stamps between 1995 and 1997.

Primus suggested that, given the strong economy, they would be doing even better. Haskins said the law was designed so people would replace welfare with work: "The system is working exactly the way you drew it up on the chalkboard," he said.

President Clinton also expressed concern about declining food stamp rolls. Speaking at a welfare-to-work conference in Chicago this month, he called it "the only piece of troubling news in this whole happy scenario."

He said the administration has been unable to figure out why the rolls are falling, though some suspect families do not know they remain eligible for food help when they leave welfare. "We have to work on that," Clinton said.

**WHERE DO
SOUTHERN
NEVADA
EMPLOYERS
FIND THE WORKERS
THEY NEED?**



NBS
NEVADA BUSINESS SERVICES

A Human Resource and Career Training Service

Free employee screening, assessment and training services for Southern Nevada Businesses.

• 930 West Owens • 638-8750 or 638-1159 TDD •

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program; Auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

