

## NEWS CLIPS

### SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO HEAR APPEAL FOR NEW ABU-JAMAL TRIAL

The U.S. Supreme Court recently refused to hear an appeal for a new trial filed by celebrated death row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal. The Court decided not to act on an automatic appeal arising from a decision made last October by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to reject Abu-Jamal's request for a new trial that included compelling new evidence of gross misconduct by Philadelphia police and prosecutors. This action by the nation's highest court, fully expected by Abu-Jamal's defense team, sets the stage for two significant events in coming weeks. Lawyers for Abu-Jamal will file a new appeal in federal district court presenting evidence of misconduct by Philadelphia authorities and deliberate errors by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and Gov. Tom Ridge will sign a new warrant for Abu-Jamal's execution as required by state law. Spokesmen for Ridge concede that a federal judge will grant a stay of Abu-Jamal's execution until the federal courts decide on the new appeal. Abu-Jamal, an award-winning journalist, is on death row for the 1981 murder of Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner. Prosecutors say Abu-Jamal shot Faulkner, who was beating Abu-Jamal's brother.

### USDA REMEMBERS DR. GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

Recently United States Department of Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman proclaimed Oct. 4-8 as "George Washington Carver Recognition Week." Among the weeklong activities was the naming of the USDA headquarters in Beltsville, Maryland as the George Washington Carver Center. Glickman was joined by Thurgood Marshall Jr. and Dr. Bennie D. Mayberry during the ceremonies. "Dr. Carver was a remarkable man," Glickman said. "His outstanding and creative research improved the health and living conditions of the southern farmer." While Dr. Carver is remembered for his scientific work with the peanut, this chemist also developed industrial applications from other agriculture crops and discovered hundreds of new uses for soybeans, pecans and sweet potatoes. His development and instruction in crop rotation methods for conserving nutrients in the soil is a practice that has revolutionized the farming industry. Dr. Carver is recognized as one of the finest scientists ever known.

### HOWARD PROFESSOR RECEIVES AWARD FROM OLDEST JOURNALISM SCHOOL

Dr. Clint C. Wilson, professor of journalism in the Howard University School of Communications and graduate professor in the Howard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, has been elected by the faculty of the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Journalism to receive the Missouri Honor Medal. This lifetime achievement award has been presented by the university since 1930. Some its recipients include Winston Churchill, Walter Cronkite, Tom Brokaw, Carole Simpson, Charlayne Hunter-Gault and more than 350 other distinguished communications professionals. Wilson is journalist and author. He serves as faculty advisor to the HU student-run Hilltop, and has written for various news agencies including *The Associated Press*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Los Angeles Sentinel* and the *Washington Post*. He has also authored and co-authored several books including "Race, Multiculturalism and the Media: From Mass to Class Communications" and "History of the Black Press."

### SOME TOUTING OPRAH FOR PRESIDENT

CHICAGO (AP) — She's a multimillionaire talk-show host, actress and — most recently — college professor. Now some Reform Party members are talking about President Oprah Winfrey. Party members from Minnesota have created a Website to draft Ms. Winfrey for the 2000 presidential race. "It is Jesse Ventura times 100," said Paul Larsen, chairman of the draft committee and a party leader from suburban Minneapolis. "She's got a thousand times as much money, 100 times the name recognition. She has a sterling reputation for honesty." The queen of talk is not interested, a spokeswoman said. But Larsen said he is not giving up and will ask Ventura, Minnesota's governor and the nation's highest elected Reform Party official, to help persuade her to run. Ventura spokesman Doug Friedline said the whole situation "has gotten kind of weird. ... It's almost like we have celebrity — it is in the Reform Party."

## Study examines obesity, mortality Data on overweight black women unique

Associated Press

In the largest study ever done on obesity and mortality, researchers reported last week that people run the risk of dying earlier simply because they are overweight.

The risk was also there among people who didn't smoke and were otherwise healthy during their middle years, according to the study of more than 1 million Americans.

It was conducted by the American Cancer Society and published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

It settles once and for all any lingering questions about whether weight alone

increases the risk of death and disease, said Dr. JoAnn Manson, a Harvard University endocrinologist and preventive-health specialist.

"The evidence is now compelling and irrefutable," Manson said. "Obesity is probably the second-leading preventable cause of death in the United States after cigarette smoking, so it is a very serious problem."

The study found an especially clear association between excess weight and a higher risk of dying from heart disease or cancer.

And unlike a similar 1998 study that suggested being overweight is less of a

problem as people grow older, this study found many more deaths among overweight people of all ages, especially those over 75.

More adults and children are overweight than ever before, with 55 percent of American adults weighing more than they should.

"The message is we're too fat and it's killing us. We need to come up with ways as a society to eat less and exercise more," said American Cancer Society epidemiologist Eugenia Calle, lead author of the study.

Manson said: "It's going to take a coordinated campaign to turn this around, at the community level, at the

environmental level, with changes in the food industry and marketing industry, having more bike paths and sidewalks."

Black women were found to be the only exceptions to the rule. The study found that most obese black women did not have a significantly higher risk of premature death than slender black women.

That poses a fascinating scientific riddle, said June Stevens, a University of North Carolina professor of nutrition. "Although I had seen this in several other studies, I wasn't ready to believe it was true," she said.

"Now I'm thinking maybe

(See *Obesity*, Page 13)

## Beauty contest under fire for selecting 'brown' winner

Howard Campbell

Special to *Sentinel-Voice*

KINGSTON (IPS) — The beauty contest, long a favorite leisure event for Jamaicans, has come under fire recently, for what critics call a bias against darker-skinned contestants.

It has been over one month since Desiree Depass was crowned the 1999 Miss Jamaica, but promoters have been accused of being prejudice since the selection.

Depass, a contestant of mixed race, was declared the winner on Sept. 4. A clear favorite from the elimination round in July, her selection was still greeted with criticism by those who believe there is little chance for a contestant with an African-American appearance to win.

Writing in the opinion pages of one local daily newspaper, one citizen said, "For the past four years, the girls we have chosen to represent us have been 'brown skinned and have long hair.' Why do we stereotype our astute African princess?"

Barbara Gloudon, a respected journalist, joined the debate in her weekly newspaper column. She agreed the selection of Miss Jamaica had become nothing more than a cosmetic process.

According to Gloudon, judges of local pageants are caught in a time warp and are out of touch with the times. "The triumph of Wendy Fitz-William (Miss World 1998 of Trinidad and Tobago) should have served notice to our beauty contest organizers that the world is changing," she wrote.

"The Paris fashion runways are ruled by dark

women."

Fitz-William is an Afro-Trinidadian. Gloudon also pointed out in the United States, the Miss America pageant is no longer limited to glamour, but has been transformed into a contest calling for beauty with brains.

In Jamaica, however, class attitudes also prevail. Most of the contestants — and

winner — are from the middle or upper class. Some are not even residents of the country.

In a bid to stem the flow of criticism the contest has drawn over the years, Mickey Haughton-James, who has promoted the event since 1978, expanded the elimination process to rural areas.

Winners from each county automatically gain qualification for the national pageant. Their runners-up are also afforded opportunities. But, even though eight girls from working class backgrounds made the final 20 this year, only two were named among the top five finishers.

(See *Beauty*, Page 12)

## PUBLIC NOTICE!

### Proposed CAT Fare Increase Public Notice

The Regional Transportation Commission of Clark County, Nevada (RTC) is proposing a fare increase for the 30-day CAT Pass, full cash fare, reduced cash fare, full token fare and reduced token fare on Citizens Area Transit (CAT). The proposed change would increase fares in the following manner:

Residential Routes	Current Fares	Proposed Fares
30-Day CAT Pass	\$20.00	\$30.00
30-Day Reduced Fare CAT Pass	\$10.00	\$15.00
Full Cash One-way Fare	\$1.00	\$1.25
Reduced Cash One-way Fare	\$0.50	\$0.60
Bag of 40 Tokens	\$15.00	\$20.00

CAT has been named one of the most efficient and cost-effective transit services in the country. CAT ridership trends have shown that ridership is far exceeding the system's ability to meet service demand. The revenue from this proposal will be used exclusively to meet the growing demand for transit service in our community.

Until now, RTC has never proposed an increase to residential fares or monthly pass prices; however, during the past seven years costs for fuel, maintenance and labor have increased considerably. In addition, current funds are fully allocated to existing bus operations. Without additional funds from the proposed fare increase, growth of the system to meet demand is severely limited. A document detailing the proposed fare increase will be made available to the public for review and comment at the RTC offices beginning on October 11, 1999.

**Public Comment Period.** Comments on the proposed fare increase are welcomed during a thirty day period from October 11, 1999 at 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on November 10, 1999. Written or phone comments are accepted at 228-7433, or to: Fare Increase Public Comment Office, 600 S. Grand Central Parkway, Suite 350, Las Vegas, NV 89106.

**Public Meetings.** The RTC will also hold public meetings related to the proposed fare increase. The first meeting is scheduled for: **Tuesday, October 26, 1999**

Flamingo Library, Jewel Box Theater  
6-8 p.m.

Tuesday, November 2, 1999  
Sahara West Library, Conference Room C  
6-8 p.m.

For more information, call the RTC at 676-1500.

