

# NEWS CLIPS

## BLACK, HISPANIC LEADERS DENOUNCE MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESS PLAN

A group of prominent Black and Hispanic have joined forces to denounce a proposal by the National Minority Supplier Development Council to loosen rules defining minority-owned businesses by lowering the 51 percent ownership threshold as necessary for an enterprise to qualify as a minority-owned firm. The "Growth Initiative for Minority Business" was approved by the NMSDC executive committee and voted on Tuesday. The goal of the plan is to provide growth opportunities for minority businesses, but Black and Hispanic leaders strongly feel it has the potential of becoming a de facto national policy which could change the distinction between truly minority-owned companies and minority-managed companies. "Federal legislation established the 'at least 51 percent minority ownership' as the standard more than 20 years ago ... there needs to be a fuller understanding of the way in which the new standard would work and its impact on the survival and expansion of minority-owned businesses," said Andrew Brimmer, former member of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors and chief economist of the Black Enterprise Board of Economists. Among those opposed to the plan are: Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell; Congressman James Clyburn, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus; John J. Oliver Jr., president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association; Hugh Price, president and CEO of the National Urban League; Kweisi Mfume, president and CEO of the NAACP; Edward Lewis, publisher and CEO of Essence Communications; and Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez, ranking minority member of Small Business Committee.

## POLICE PROBE DEATH OF LAWMAKER'S SON

OAKLAWN, Ill. (AP) — Police said the department has taken one of two men sought for questioning into custody in the killing of the son of U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush. Authorities declined to identify the man, who was not considered a suspect. Huey Rich, 29, was pronounced dead at 12:59 p.m. Friday, according to Cindi Jaranowski, a spokeswoman at Christ Hospital and Medical Center in the Chicago suburb of Oak Lawn. Police say Rich was talking with some friends Monday night outside his South Side Chicago home when they were approached by two gunmen pretending to be police officers. One of them shot Rich in the groin and thigh and then fled in a car, police said. Police have said they do not believe the shooting was random. In a statement released Friday, Rush said he and his family "are filled with overwhelming grief."

## POLICE: TEEN SANG ABOUT SHOOTING

METAIRIE, La. (AP) — A 17-year-old boy collected \$25 for shooting and wounding a golfer, then told his friends about it in a song, police say. In a parody of a song made popular by Bob Marley and Eric Clapton, Patrick R. Cheron sang: "I shot the golfer, but not the man next to him," police say. Cheron was arrested Friday on an attempted murder charge. Also arrested were Matthew D. Scalco, 17, who allegedly drove the getaway car, and Mark D. Levy, 17, who police say offered the \$25 dare. Cheron used his father's .22-caliber handgun to shoot the 54-year-old golfer as he prepared to hit a shot on the second hole at Metairie Country Club, authorities said. The bullet left a quarter-sized hole in the man's pelvis and remains lodged in his body.

## OUSTED LEADERS TO HEAD KEY COMMISSIONS

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) — President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah has appointed Sierra Leone's rebel chief and the leader of an ousted junta as heads of two key commissions included in a July peace deal. Former junta leader Johnny Paul Koroma will head a commission responsible for overseeing implementation of the accord that ended eight years of civil war, Kabbah announced Friday in an address broadcast nationally on television and radio. In line with the accord, Kabbah also confirmed the appointment of rebel Revolutionary United Front leader Foday Sankoh as head of a commission to oversee exploitation of mineral resources including gold and diamonds. Relations between the rebels and their allies from Sierra Leone's ousted junta have been strained since Sankoh and Kabbah signed the peace deal in nearby Lome, Togo.

# GOP shows photo of governor in black face

WASHINGTON (AP) — Furious over accusations of racism leveled at Sen. John Ashcroft, Missouri Republicans contend a 39-year-old newspaper photograph of Gov. Mel Carnahan in black face shows Carnahan is not the progressive Democrat he claims to be.

The 1960 photo unearthed by the state GOP shows Carnahan, who is challenging Ashcroft for his Senate seat in 2000, as part of a white quartet wearing black makeup in a minstrel show.

The race issue emerged after Ashcroft successfully led efforts in the Senate, on Oct. 5, to reject the nomination of Ronnie White, the first black member of the Missouri Supreme Court, to a federal judgeship.

White's supporters say race was a factor, while Ashcroft maintains his concern was White's fitness for office, mainly his record in death penalty cases.

Research turned up the photo in the Rolla Daily

News, the governor's hometown paper, Missouri GOP executive director John Hancock said in an interview Sunday.

A glossy print of the photograph and a copy of the clipping, dated Oct. 12, 1960, were provided to The Associated Press by a Republican source on condition of anonymity. It shows Carnahan, then 26; his brother, Bob; and two other men performing at a Kiwanis Club fund-raiser.

Carnahan released a statement, apologizing for what he called "my insensitivity of 39 years ago."

The statement also said, "John Ashcroft has reached back almost four decades to try to find something to imply that I might harbor racist attitudes or would knowingly polarize our state."

"Senator Ashcroft's innuendoes notwithstanding, I'm proud of my long public record of fighting racial injustice, a public record that began almost four decades ago and continues through

today." Carnahan said minstrel shows were offensive and "just plain wrong."

"Nonetheless, 40 years ago, these shows were far too common," the statement said. "In those days, most white Americans — even many of us who support the cause of civil rights — failed to recognize the offensive nature of these performances."

Hancock denied a hand in the distribution of the picture. "A lot of people know about it," he said. "I'm guessing somebody might have had enough. I've had it e-mailed to me. It's out on the Internet. It's a shocking photo."

"I know a little bit about it, because I'm a ragtime pianist and a historian of that whole era," he said. "Minstrelsy isn't lighthearted. It's one of the most degrading, derogatory mockeries of an entire race of people that has ever existed."

"It bothers me when they inject race into politics, where it doesn't belong, when their

own leader has this kind of sorry, sorry record," Hancock said.

Roy Temple, Carnahan's campaign adviser and executive director of the Missouri Democratic Party, said the picture represents the last time such a show was performed for the Kiwanis Club. At the urging of Carnahan's brother, he said, the civic service group in 1961 abandoned the minstrel performance in favor of a variety show.

By that time, Carnahan's father had become the first U.S. ambassador to the new African nation of Sierra Leone.

Racial sensitivity in Missouri has progressed vastly since 1960, Temple said. "To put it in context, there were people like Frank Sinatra and Bob Hope doing these things in the major entertainment media," he said. "John Ashcroft can't defend what he did to Ronnie White, so he's trying to attack Mel Carnahan," Temple added.

# Former Baptist publicist gets two-year prison term

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — A former publicist for the National Baptist Convention USA has been sentenced to nearly two years in prison for failing to pay taxes on more than \$500,000 she received while working for the group.

Bernice Edwards was sentenced Monday to 21 months and must also pay \$109,000 to the IRS and serve three years of supervised

release.

Edwards was the co-defendant in the trial of the Rev. Henry Lyons, a former director of the large and influential black church denomination now serving a 5 1/2-year sentence for embezzling \$4 million from companies doing business with the group.

Edwards, 42, sobbed and asked U.S. District Judge

Henry Lee Adams for leniency because she is a single mother of four children, including an infant.

"I'm very remorseful of the acts that I pleaded to and I take full responsibility for it," Edwards said. "I don't know how we can make it."

Edwards, of Milwaukee, faced up to 10 years in prison and \$500,000 in fines.

The judge ordered that Edwards undergo mental

health treatment and not open new bank accounts or have any opened in her name.

Edwards was working as a publicist for the convention when she and Lyons, 57, were accused of purchasing real estate, jewelry and other items with money from the organization.

She was acquitted of racketeering charges but pleaded guilty to tax evasion in March.

# Philly newspaper backs GOP mayoral candidate

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — In a major blow to the Democratic frontrunner for mayor, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* has endorsed Republican challenger Sam Katz, who is trying to become the city's first GOP mayor in 52 years.

The endorsement, to appear in Sunday's paper, is another hit in the already foundering campaign of Democrat John F. Street, now neck and neck with Katz in the polls. The *Inquirer* last endorsed a Republican in 1971.

The editorial board praised both Katz and Street saying, "It's easy to imagine either man making a good mayor." But the board said the choice came down to whose style and strategy for improving the city would offer the most hope and reward in the next millennium.

"In this pairing, only Sam Katz has a chance to surprise and soar, to inspire and innovate in the way a gamble named Ed Rendell once did for a desperate city," the editorial said.

Rendell is a popular mayor who is prevented by term limits from seeking a third term.

The newspaper cited Katz's education reform proposals and his support for school vouchers as worth trying; Street is opposed to vouchers. They also liked Katz's approach at lowering the city wage tax and streamlining city administration instead of Street's more cautious plans.

Street has been a member of City Council for 19 years and was considered a strong frontrunner with near incumbent status just six months ago. But throughout the fall campaign of the businessman Katz has gained on Street in polls, and observers now call the outcome a tossup.

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