

## NEWS CLIPS

### CURRY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL MAGAZINE EDITORS GROUP

George E. Curry, editor-in-chief of *Emerge* magazine, made history on May 2 when he became president of the American Society of Magazine Editors, the first African-American and the first non-New York based editor to hold the association's top position. Prior to his election as president, Curry held the office of vice president for the organization. As Curry prepares to assume leadership of the prestigious organization, he has outlined an agenda to help ensure that the world of magazine publishing continues to thrive, while striving to be more inclusive and aware of the need for diversity in newsrooms. "In 1970, I could get a job with *Sports Illustrated*, the largest sports magazine in the world, but I couldn't get a job at my hometown newspaper in Tuscaloosa, Alabama," Curry said. "Now, 30 years later, I've been elected president of the American Society of Magazine Editors. We've come a long way to go." "The complexion of our nation is rapidly changing," Curry said. "If the magazine publishing world wishes to continue to flourish, it is of paramount importance that newsrooms accurately reflect the communities that they serve."

### COBI KICKS OFF INVESTMENT MONTH WITH NASDAQ, AMEX TOUR

WINSTON-SALEM, NC —The Coalition of Black Investors announced it will kick off May as National Investment Month with a news conference and tour of The Nasdaq Stock Market's new MarketSite in the heart of New York City's Times Square. During the kick off celebration COBI will also tour and attend an investment workshop at the American Stock Exchange, the second-largest floor-based securities exchange in the United States. The National Association of Securities Dealers, the parent of Nasdaq and Amex hosts the kick off celebration. "The May 1st celebration at the Nasdaq MarketSite and AMEX symbolizes an emerging African-American focus on saving and investing. Through these and other education programs, COBI National Investment Month will heighten awareness and emphasize consistent saving and investing as a means to build wealth for our families, our communities and our future," said COBI founder, Duane Davis. COBI activities for May include a student essay contest, an investment conference in Houston, Texas next week and the month culminates with Pay Day on May 26.

### CLINTON-LED COALITION COMMITS \$100 MILLION TO DIGITAL ACCESS

The Kaiser Family Foundation commits to a media campaign to motivate young people to "Get Connected." Magic Johnson and Rebecca Lobo will star in the public service announcements that will air on 13 major networks. Black Entertainment Television will also produce and air public service announcements to encourage African-Americans to participate in digital economy. Toward this end, the following commitments have been made: — Hewlett-Packard announced \$15 million partnership to expand digital opportunity in three communities, including East Palo Alto. — Gateway launched program for technology training for 75,000 teachers including all East Palo Alto teachers. — QUALCOMM committed \$25 million to bridge the digital divide in San Diego including \$7 million for math and science education. — PowerUP committed to expanding to 250 technology centers for underserved youth across the country - with major support from aol (100,000 free accounts valued at \$26 million annually). — Novell will donate \$20 million in software to non-profits devoted to underserved Hispanic populations. — Cisco Systems pledged \$1.4 million to develop 10 pilot networking academies. — Applied Materials pledged \$1 million for digital divide projects - including a partnership with the Rainbow/ PUSH Coalition to create a high-tech job-training center in East Palo Alto. — AT&T pledged \$1.2 million to the academy of information technology. — PeoplePC will provide 300 computers and Internet access to schools in the East Palo Alto community. — govWorks's Community Commitment Program will donate computer equipment to communities it serves.

## Anti-affirmative action petition drive stalls

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — A petition drive to place an anti-affirmative action measure on the statewide ballot was called off Monday by the man who started similar campaigns in California and Washington.

Organizer Ward Connerly said there is not enough time to gather the necessary 500,000 signatures by the August deadline. He promised to try another petition drive in 2002.

Connerly's move came only days after the Legislature passed portions of Gov. Jeb Bush's One Florida plan, which bans consideration of race and gender in university admissions and contracting decisions.

Bush had called Connerly's ballot measure divisive. His plan toughens anti-discrimination laws and guarantees admission to a

*"It reminds you of that old commercial — where's the beef?"*

—Organizer Ward Connerly

state university for the top 20 percent of each high school class.

Connerly said Monday that Bush's plan didn't go nearly far enough in ending traditional affirmative action programs.

"It's like a 39-cent hamburger," said Connerly, of Sacramento, Calif. "Big bun, no pickle, no lettuce, no tomato, teeny-weeny patty. It reminds you of that old commercial — where's the beef?"

There was no immediate reaction from Bush. His spokesman didn't return calls.

Since the governor's One Florida plan was announced in November, it has drawn a

torrent of criticism from minorities who said it would eliminate hard-earned gains from the civil rights era. Two legislators staged a sit-in inside the governor's offices, and 11,000 people marched on the Capitol during the opening of the Legislature.

As the protests wore on, Bush scaled back parts of the original proposal.

In February he said he would not pursue legislation to extend a ban on racial and gender preferences in contract awards to state agencies that do not report to the governor's office.

Connerly said Monday that Bush had caved in to the protesters.

Connerly's group, The Florida Civil Rights Initiative, was sponsoring four proposed amendments. One would have barred preferences in public education, contracting and employment based on gender, race, color, national origin and ethnicity.

Three smaller measures would have outlawed preference on the basis of race, color, national origin and ethnicity — but not gender — in public education, contracting and employment.

The Florida Supreme Court heard arguments in March but had not yet ruled on whether Connerly's petition was legal. The court reviews all citizen initiatives to make sure they deal with a single subject and that the ballot titles and summaries clearly explain the proposed amendments to the state's constitution.

## Ex Klansman refuses plea bargain in bombing

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — A former Ku Klux Klansman suspected in the 1963 Birmingham church bombing that killed four black girls was offered probation if he would plead guilty to reduced federal charges, but rejected the deal, his lawyer said last week.

Defense attorney Don Smith said U.S. Attorney Doug Jones and FBI agents told Bobby Frank Cherry of Mabank, Texas, about six months ago that if he did not plead guilty to transporting explosives across state lines, he would be prosecuted for the bombing itself.

"The FBI had pretty much promised him he would be on probation for the rest of his life just to get this over with," Smith said. "The FBI told Mr. Cherry that would satisfy (Attorney General Janet) Reno to close it."

"They had the plea papers ready for him to sign," Smith said. "He came in and talked to me and said, 'I don't want to plead guilty to something I had nothing to do with.'"

## Pittsburgh mourners urge end to racism

ALIQUIPPA, Pa. (AP) — Mourners who gathered to remember a 22-year-old black man shot to death in what police say was a racially motivated killing spree pledged last week to rise above racism and not answer hate with hate.

Garry D. Lee, gunned down at a karate school, was the last of five people killed in Friday's shooting spree in the Pittsburgh suburbs.

Police say 34-year-old Richard Baumhammers, charged with five counts of homicide and seven hate crimes, chose the victims because of their ethnic groups.

"Color meant something to the man that shot him, but color means nothing to me," Melvin Jones, a close friend of Lee's, told about 400 people gathered for the memorial service.

A letter from President

Clinton expressing sympathy to Lee's mother, Zetta Lee, was also read out loud. "Violence in our society hurts us all, but few have had to endure its effects so personally," Clinton wrote.

Bishop Melvin E. Clark of Church in the Round, which Lee attended about 20 miles northwest of Pittsburgh, called on members of the mostly black congregation to pray for guidance to end racism and hate.

"Tell him about a world of racism and strife," Clark said. "It didn't just start. Racism is alive in America and God is going to judge it. God despises it."

The others killed in last Friday's shooting spree were a Jewish woman who lived next door to Baumhammers, an Indian man at a grocery, and a Chinese manager and Vietnamese delivery driver at a restaurant.

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