

## NEWS CLIPS

### CREDIT UNION FUNDING GOVERNMENT AWARENESS PROJECT

The Clark County Credit Union is producing and distributing more than 100 educational videotapes to help students understand the workings of the executive branch of the federal government. Middle schools, high schools, community colleges, universities, libraries, chambers of commerce and cable stations will benefit. "The videotape will be a valuable tool in educating students in our region about the Executive Branch of our federal government," credit union president and CEO Wayne Tew said. "By providing viewers with a clear understanding of how our government operates, we hope that they will want to participate in the voting process." The video entitled, "Your Executive Branch and You" was filmed to enhance voters knowledge about the federal government and the importance of participating in the electoral process. The significant roles that the president and his cabinet play in our democracy are spelled out, among other things. "With the presidential elections coming in November, it is especially important for students to understand the role the Executive Branch plays in our everyday lives," Tew said. "(CCCU) is grateful for the opportunity to ... provide these videotapes to Nevada students."

### EX-TROOPER PLEADS GUILTY TO ARSON

COLDSRING, Texas (AP) — A former state trooper, who sparked an internal affairs investigation of a 1988 party at which fellow troopers wore Ku Klux Klan hoods, has pleaded guilty to arson charges. Darron K. Anderson, 35, was sentenced last week to five years probation and ordered to pay his insurance company \$16,144 for the pickup truck he set ablaze in April 1999 in a botched scheme to collect on his policy. In January, while on suspension from the Texas Department of Public Safety for the arson charges, Anderson revealed pictures that showed as many as eight uniformed troopers wearing white Klan-style hoods. The pictures were taken at a Nov. 10, 1988 surprise birthday party for Anderson at the Livingston DPS office. An internal affairs investigation led to one trooper being fired and five other troopers being suspended. Two other troopers had retired. Troopers have said the party theme was a harmless, albeit tasteless, joke.

### BLACK MAN TO SERVE 48 YEARS IN HATE-CRIME CASE

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — A 19-year-old black man convicted of a hate crime in the beating death of a mentally disabled white man was sentenced last week to 48 years in prison. Terrence McCray was convicted May 26 on charges of second-degree murder and committing a hate crime. Under Florida law, he will be required to serve 85 percent of his 48-year sentence. McCray and Ledel Lawrence, 21, who was convicted and is to be sentenced next week, were among five young Jacksonville men charged in the Aug. 13, 1999, fatal attack on Gregory Griffith, 50. Griffith, who lived in their neighborhood, died 13 days after the attack. The other three men charged in the attack have not been tried. Witnesses said McCray had said the night of the attack: "I am going to beat the next cracker that comes down the street." White supremacist David Duke attended the scheduled opening of the trial and criticized as biased the media coverage of Griffith's death because the victim was white and the suspects black.

### RACIAL VANDALISM SPURS HIGH-SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AP) — Sixteen seniors were suspended and barred from graduation activities for allegedly scrawling racial slurs and stringing up a dead cat at Palm Springs High School. Police were investigating the incident as a hate crime. Racial epithets were apparently directed at the principal, who is black, school officials said. The vandals also drew swastikas with white shoe polish and poured gasoline on the lawn of the 1,300-student school. "This clearly exceeded what one might call a senior prank," said William Diedrich, superintendent of the Palm Springs school system. The students will graduate, but they cannot participate in graduation ceremonies or attend events like the all-night party at Disneyland, a tradition for graduating high school students in Southern California. All of the students, who Rode said were of various races, were younger than 18 and their names were not released.

## Study: HIV began in 1930s in Africa

WASHINGTON (AP) — AIDS evolved from a benign simian infection into a human-killer in the early 1930s, long before it was recognized as a disease, but it stayed in remote Africa until jet travel, big cities and the sexual revolution spread it worldwide, a new study suggests.

Researchers measuring the rate of genetic change in HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, found the current strains originated from a common ancestor that first evolved from a simian virus in southwest Africa between 1915 and 1941, with 1931 the most likely year.

"It could have been in humans even before that," said Tanmoy Bhattachary, a researcher at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, N.M. The study appears Friday in the journal *Science*.

Bhattachary said the most common form of HIV worldwide evolved from simian immunodeficiency virus, or SIV, that was in the chimpanzee.

SIV genetically converted to HIV either while it was in the chimp or after a human contracted SIV.

The disease did not become a worldwide menace, he said, until people left the isolated areas of Africa and carried the virus around the globe.

"It could have evolved in humans and stayed in a very

small population, such as a village," said Bhattachary. "That is typically what most new diseases do. They are in an isolated population and then something happens and it starts spreading all over."

The findings are consistent with earlier studies that suggested that HIV originated early in this century and then was spread when Africa became less isolated.

Bhattachary said the date when SIV first evolved to HIV makes it "very unlikely" that a polio vaccination campaign in the late 1950s can be blamed for the rise of AIDS.

Some researchers have suggested that a polio vaccine made using chimpanzee kidney cells could have transferred HIV into humans between 1957 and 1960.

Although the new research could not eliminate that possibility entirely, Bhattachary said, the fact that HIV originated before the polio vaccine means "you can probably discount that scenario."

A type of AIDS virus called HIV2, which occurs mostly in Africa, may have originated from sooty mangabeys, a type of African monkey, the study says.

But HIV1, the virus that has caused a pandemic, came from the chimpanzee, a primate more closely related to humans.

A form of HIV1 called Group M is the major virus spreading throughout the

world. It has infected about 50 million people and killed 16 million. Bhattachary said Group M may have crossed over from chimp to humans only once, or evolved from SIV in only one patient.

"Our study shows that the M group had a single origin," he said. "It could have come from one animal or from one human."

Other forms of HIV, he said, had "multi-introductions."

The most common form of HIV in the United States, called subgroup B, first evolved between 1960 and 1971, with 1967 being the most likely year, said Bhattachary.

Clinical symptoms of what later became known as AIDS were reported in the United States in the late 1970s.

AIDS was formally diagnosed and named in 1981. The HIV1 virus was isolated and confirmed in 1983.

John P. Moore, a microbiologist and AIDS researcher at Cornell University in New York, said the study by Bhattachary and his colleagues is "outstanding and significant. They have looked into this very carefully."

Moore said the findings emphasize how science needs to be concerned and alert to the risks of cross-species viral transmissions, many of which are lethal or cause se-

rious illness in humans.

Another researcher, Jim Moore of the University of California, San Diego, said the Los Alamos study is consistent with his findings that conditions in colonial Africa were ripe, starting in the late 19th century, for a new virus to take hold and spread.

Colonial powers forced people out of villages, causing many to live in the jungles, surviving by hunting and gathering, said Moore, who is unrelated to the Cornell scientists.

A major food was meat from chimps and monkeys.

"This created conditions ideal for the transfer (of a virus) from chimps and a spread into small populations," said Moore.

Later, he said, large work gangs were organized to build roads and mines, with some construction organizations promoting prostitution to keep the isolated workers content. HIV is a sexually transmitted disease.

In more recent decades, an age with easy transoceanic travel and the sexual revolution, millions of people have been in and out of Africa.

Moore said campaigns to vaccinate the African population against small pox and other diseases may even have helped HIV spread, saying, "They weren't using sterilized needles all the time."

## Colorado students fight slavery in Sudan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fifth-grade teacher Barbara Vogel was weeping as she met Francis Bok in front of the Lincoln Memorial. She wrapped his slim frame in a bear hug and cradled his face in both hands.

For the past three years, Vogel has led her students at Highline Elementary School in suburban Denver on a crusade to end slavery in the African nation of Sudan.

The students have raised more than \$50,000, which they have given to groups that go to Sudan and buy slaves to set them free.

Bok is a Sudanese who says he escaped in 1997 after being enslaved for a decade.

"Kids, take a look at this man, this beautiful man, because it's people like him that you have freed," Vogel said to her two dozen students. "Francis was enslaved when he was 7 years old. You are meeting an escaped slave, so there is hope."

Vogel and the youngsters

were in Washington on Thursday to ask the Clinton administration and Congress to put more pressure on Sudan to end the slave trade.

The State Department and human rights groups say slavery has flourished during a civil war in Sudan that has killed 2 million people.

The war is between the military government in the predominantly Muslim north and rebels in the black African south, where people practice traditional religions or Christianity. The State Department has criticized both sides for killing civilians and other atrocities.

The Sudanese government has denied allegations it supports or condones the slave trade.

A spokesman at the Sudanese mission to the United Nations did not immediately return telephone messages Thursday.

Vogel's students have come under fire from the U.N. Children's Fund and others

who say that ransoming

slaves actually encourages

the slave trade by making it

more profitable.

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