

# Black journalists awards ceremony spotlights Chicago Defender

Todd Steven Burroughs  
NNPA Staff Writer

John H. Johnson, founding publisher of Ebony and Jet magazines, said he owes a Black newspaper for his leaving Arkansas as a young man in the 1930s.

"The Chicago Defender made it possible for me and my family to be in Chicago," he said, referring to the way it successfully called for tens of thousands of Southern Blacks to leave the lynch-filled terror and poverty they were experiencing to the possibility of better lives up North. History books now call

it "The Great Migration."

Vernon Jarrett said he moved to Chicago in the 1940s to write for the same newspaper. He became a Defender reporter in 1946. It was the beginning of a more than 50-year journalism career working for the city's newspapers, radio and television.

"I saw my name appear in the same newspaper as W.E.B. Du Bois and Langston Hughes," he recalled.

The two were at the 95-year-old newspaper to receive their John H. Sengstacke

"Against All Odds" awards, awarded by the NNPA during its 60th anniversary convention, held in Chicago. The awards are named after The Defender publisher who founded the NNPA in 1940. The event was sponsored by UPS.

The other recipients were Wilbert A. Tatum, publisher emeritus of The New York Amsterdam News, Nation of Islam leader (and founding Final Call publisher) Louis Farrakhan, longtime Chicago journalistic legend Lu Palmer, and Charles Tisdale, publisher of The Jackson

(Miss.) Advocate. The others were unable to attend but sent representatives.

During segregation, The Defender was one of the largest newspapers in Black America. Its national edition could be purchased in any major Northern city with a significant Black population. When Southern towns banned the paper, Pullman porters secretly distributed it.

The Defender was the place where Langston Hughes created his "Simple" character in the 1940s. It also was a major force in the fight to desegregate major league

baseball. It became a week-day daily in 1956, one of the few Black papers that published more than three times a week.

The NNPA award was more than a name. Johnson referred to Sengstacke, who died in 1997, as "a very good friend for a long, long time." Jarrett recalled that as a child in first grade, a school game in which students would pretend to be Black notables had him as Defender founding publisher Robert S. Abbott, encouraging his classmates to read the newspaper.

Johnson, who attended the

ceremony with Ebony executive editor and historian Lerone Bennett Jr., said the Black Press is far from obsolete.

"I think it will continue to grow, continue to prosper, because it's needed," he said, saying there were still "so many lies, so many distortions in the general press."

Jarrett, who accepted his award from Defender publisher Eugene Scott while standing in the newspaper's lobby in front of Abbott's portrait, said that without the Black Press, as a people "we are through."

## Trial

(Continued from Page 6)

Lombardi's attorney, Tim Jansen, also said last week he couldn't comment before the trial.

Lombardi, whose only previous run-in with the law was a long-ago DUI, has maintained his innocence. During a pretrial hearing, Jansen said the government's case against his client was weak.

"There's no evidence he in fact manufactured any item," Jansen told the judge who ordered Lombardi held in prison until the trial. "They can't prove he made the device, they can't even prove he was at FAMU."

Police painted Lombardi as a racist whose former co-workers told them he doesn't like black people and frequently used racial slurs.

Detectives said they were led to Lombardi after former co-workers identified him from a photo taken at a home improvement store and recognized his voice from a tape of the call to the TV station.

## Trade

(Continued from Page 12)

been exchanged between SACU and Mercosur so that the individual nations know how the different trade blocs operate," says Erwin.

Erwin says Brazil has become a key strategic partner of S.A. in international trade negotiations. Apart from working on a free trade zone between the two countries, S.A. and Brazil are working hand-in-hand in trying to gather together developing nations around a common agenda for a new round of global trade talks in the World Trade Organizations.

According to Erwin, Brazil had proposed the new framework agreement to kick-start negotiations towards a free trade area between SACU and Mercosur. Oto Maia, Brazilian ambassador to South Africa, says ambassadors from the Mercosur countries meet regularly in Pretoria to discuss relations with S.A.

Maia says the time is right for S.A. to apply for associate membership of Mercosur. "The ball is now in S.A.'s court," says Maia.

## Disparities

(Continued from Page 6)

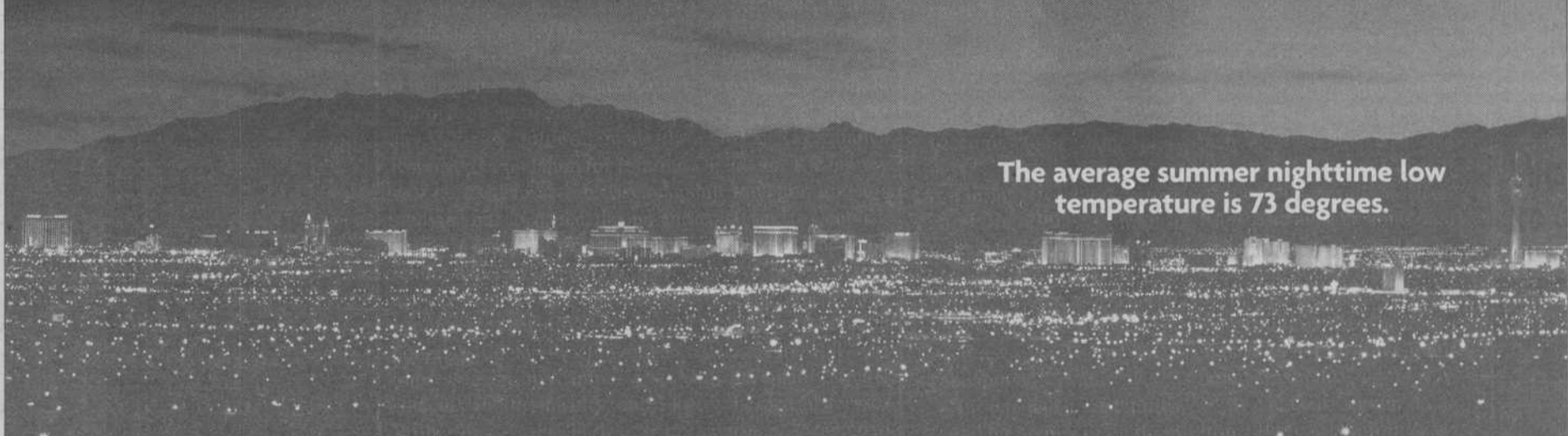
saying children should not be held accountable for their acts, but it's in our best interests to drive that number down."

Details are often found by department officials who investigate roughly 700 schools a year where parents and students have complained of discrimination.

"You find a number of variables in the discipline process," said Raymond C. Pierce, who has overseen the department's enforcement of civil rights laws for seven years. For example, he said, poorer parents — usually disproportionately minority — are less likely to challenge a school's decision than a more affluent family.

"That takes us to the next step of sitting down with the district and getting their understanding of what their discipline policies are," said Pierce. "You'd be surprised of the receptiveness of local school districts when the Office of Civil Rights sits down with them."

The average summer daytime high temperature is 103 degrees.



The average summer nighttime low temperature is 73 degrees.

You do the math.

Water between 2 am and 5 am.

JUNE

7 days per week  
3 times a day, between 2 am - 5 am  
4 minutes each watering

\*The actual amount of time you water may vary due to different soils, sprinkler systems and weather.



It's a fact: If we water in the summer heat, we can lose thousands of gallons a month to evaporation. The time has come to change your watering schedule to the cool of the early morning, between 2 am and 5 am. You'll also want our free Lawn Watering Guide that will show you how to change

your watering schedule each month to save the most water.

Call the Water Conservation Hotline at **258-SAVE** for your Lawn Watering Guide and information on other free water-saving programs and services. You can also dial **\*H-2-O** on your cell phone (it's a free call) or visit **snwa.com**.