

NEWS BRIEFS

KING USED 'DREAM' REFRAIN IN NORTH CAROLINA

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Nine months before giving his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, Martin Luther King Jr. apparently tested the phrasing for the first time in Rocky Mount, N.C. "My friends of Rocky Mount, I have a dream tonight," King told a crowd of nearly 2,000 people. "I have a dream that one day right here in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will meet at the table of brotherhood." King gave his famous address at the March on Washington in August 1963. Scholars had believed his first use of the "Dream" refrain came in Detroit in June 1963. "This is the earliest I've heard," said Clayborne Carson, director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Papers Project at Stanford University. Carson said the speech wasn't authenticated until last week, when The Charlotte Observer found a transcript and a contemporary news account of the November 1962 speech in Rocky Mount, about 40 miles east of Raleigh.

CHARGES REINSTATED AGAINST GUARD IN CHOKING DEATH

DETROIT (AP) — A judge reinstated involuntary manslaughter charges last week against a store security guard in the suffocation death of a black man who was put in a hold during a shoplifting investigation. Circuit Judge Brian Sullivan overturned a September ruling that there was insufficient evidence to try Dennis Richardson, 29, Richardson, a guard for Lord & Taylor, and other guards confronted 32-year-old Frederick Finley on June 22 in a parking lot because they suspected Finley's girlfriend's 11-year-old daughter of shoplifting. Richardson used a neck hold to subdue Finley, who later died. A judge ruled Sept. 6 that there was insufficient evidence to conclude Finley died of asphyxiation, saying the man had an enlarged heart and the confrontation may have triggered heart failure. The death sparked protests by activists such as the Rev. Al Sharpton, who accused the store of using black security guards like Richardson to watch minority shoppers to avoid the appearance of discrimination. The store denied the accusation. The U.S. Attorney's Office and the FBI are investigating Finley's death for possible civil rights violations. Defense attorney Gerald Evelyn said he will appeal Thursday's decision but remains hopeful Richardson will prevail in the end. He could get up to 15 years in prison. Attorney Geoffrey Fieger, who is representing Finley's family in a lawsuit against Lord & Taylor parent May Department Stores Co., said he was disappointed that Richardson does not face a more serious charge. "This is murder," Fieger said.

NEW BLACK MAGAZINE TO PREMIERE IN JANUARY

Savoy, a Black general interest-lifestyle magazine, will premiere this month, The New York Post recently reported. The periodical, published by Keith Clinkscales' Vanguard Media, will replace Emerge: America's Black Newsmagazine, which Vanguard discontinued last summer. Vanguard is the operator of Black Entertainment Television's magazine division, which includes "Heart & Soul" magazine, a Black women's health publication, and "Honey," a young Black women's magazine. "It's been a long journey," Roy S. Johnson, the new publication's editor-in-chief who conceived of the magazine six years ago, said in an interview with The Post. Johnson, currently editorial director of Heart & Soul, left his at-large-editor job at Fortune to head the new effort. It will feature articles on fashion, entertainment and other topics of interest to affluent African-Americans. The new magazine will use Emerge's old subscriber list and start at about 200,000 circulation, The Post said. With BET now a unit of Viacom, Vanguard's role with BET has not been publicly defined. Emerge's cancellation had saddened Black opinion-makers and journalists around the nation, who said there is a pressing need for more Black-controlled national news vehicles. Emerge's former editor, George Curry, has begun writing a column for the NNPA News Service while planning his own news magazine, tentatively entitled "Clarity."

Report: Florida recount costs add up

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Florida and its counties already face expenses totaling more than \$3 million for ballot recounts and lawsuits over the disputed presidential election, and the bills are still coming in, The Orlando Sentinel reported Sunday.

At the state level, the total expense so far for the Legislature, state agencies and the governor's office is up to more than \$1.24 million. That includes more than \$6,000 for the Supreme Court to copy 365,000 pages of documents.

The largest single bill so far is for \$682,266, submitted by the law firm of Steel, Hector and Davis to represent Secretary of State

Katherine Harris in 40 lawsuits around the state. One item on that bill is \$10,000 for a chartered airplane to take attorney Joe Klock from Tallahassee to Washington to appear before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Expenses for a special legislative session ordered by House Speaker Tom Feeney and Senate President John McKay to consider whether to appoint the state's electors for George W. Bush total more than \$425,000.

Counties are faced with employees' overtime charges, legal expenses and security costs for the statewide manual recount ordered by the Florida Supreme Court

on Dec. 8 and halted by the U.S. Supreme Court the following day.

Palm Beach County, home of the infamous butterfly ballot that many Democratic voters claim caused them to erroneously vote for conservative Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan, has amassed the largest election-related county expenses at about \$525,000.

Like most counties, Palm Beach was hardest hit by the overtime and fringe benefits for the employees called in to examine more than 500,000 ballots, and by the need to provide security or handle crowds of the media and public.

Costs for Broward and Palm Beach counties combined add up to nearly \$1 million. Totals for Miami-Dade County are not yet complete.

Among the smaller bills for counties is \$2,500 for jail cooks to feed Volusia County ballot counters.

But even the smallest bill can wreak havoc.

"For our little county, any expense is a major expense," said supervisor Marcia Wood in Liberty County, with just 3,600 registered voters in the Panhandle and a \$400 overtime bill. "There's only myself and one employee, and we had to amend our budget."

Minority politicians oppose Whitman's nomination

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Minority politicians and civic leaders accused Gov. Christie Whitman of exhibiting racial insensitivity and said last week they fear she might practice environmental racism if she takes over the EPA.

Meeting with New Jersey's U.S. senators, they urged them to press the Senate to reject President-elect Bush's nomination of Whitman to head the Environmental Protection Agency.

U.S. Rep. Donald Payne, D-N.J., and members of the New Jersey Legislative Black and Latino Caucus became the first New Jersey politicians to oppose the governor's selection. Besides advocating 'No' votes on Whitman, they also asked Sens. Robert Torricelli and Jon Corzine to reject former Sen. John Ashcroft, chosen



DONALD PAYNE

by Bush as the next attorney general.

The group was joined by the president of the New Jersey NAACP, black ministers and the Rev. Al Sharpton, who said Whitman's handling of alleged racial profiling by New Jersey law enforcers showed poor judgment.

"How can we trust her judgment in where to put toxic waste dumps?" Sharpton asked. "How can she deal with subtle, institutional racism when it took her three years to find blatant racism on the highways that she travels every day?"

Whitman spokeswoman Jayne O'Connor said Whitman has a strong environmental record.

Minority leaders have said Whitman was too slow to acknowledge that New Jersey State Police troopers were targeting minorities for traffic stops. Whitman admitted to racial profiling after the 1998 shooting of minorities by troopers on the New Jersey Turnpike and ordered changes in training and patrol procedures to end it.

A half-dozen state legislators from the New Jersey Legislative Black and Latino

Caucus said Whitman has been insensitive in other ways to minority issues.

They cited a picture of the smiling governor frisking a black youth during a 1996 ride-along with police.

"The governor has a pattern of behavior that we would regard as anti-minority," Assemblyman Bill Payne said, which "may very well cause the more siting of dumps" in urban areas if she should head the EPA.

Whitman spokeswoman O'Connor said her program of cleaning up urban "brownfields" is cited as a national model, and the ministers and politicians have few statistics to back up their claims of toxic sites in urban areas. Whitman was "the first governor in the country to acknowledge that racial profiling existed," O'Connor said.

Report: High number of Blacks nominated for Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — A record 70 black candidates were nominees for Congress in 2000 — 46 Democrats and 24 Republicans — but the result was the same as in the just-ended Congress.

Congress will have 36 black Democratic representatives, one black Republican representative, and two black Democratic delegates. A record number of black nominees from the two major parties, 29, ran in white majority districts though only nine won, said a report released Monday by the Washington-based Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. The report examined the roles of black voters and candidates in the 2000 election.

Democratic presidential nominee Al Gore received 90 percent of the black vote, a larger share than President Clinton's 84 percent in 1996, while Bush got 8 percent of

the black vote, down from 12 percent for 1996 GOP nominee Bob Dole, according to Voter News Service.

"The second Clinton term saw blacks making big gains in income, record low unemployment, increased college attendance," said David Bositis, the center's senior researcher who wrote the report. In addition, Bositis said, "The second term was when he made his outreach to Africa, crime was down and Clinton and Gore defended affirmative action."

Bositis said blacks continue to mistrust the Republican Party with its Southern Republican-dominated leadership.

"Also, blacks didn't like the impeachment of President Clinton and our polling suggested that the more blacks saw of George W. Bush, the less they liked him," he said.

In states such as Alabama,

Georgia, and Louisiana, Gore received a bigger share of black votes than Clinton did

in 1996, yet Gore lost those states because his support among white voters was low.

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