

NEWS BRIEFS

SAN FRANCISCO LEADS IN PROPORTION OF BLACK EXECUTIVES

Almost one-third of the Black workers in San Francisco hold executive and managerial jobs, Blackmoney.com reports. In an analysis of 1998 Bureau of Labor Statistics data, the financial news site found that 31.7 percent of the African-American civilian labor force in San Francisco held executive, administrative and managerial jobs, three times the national average. The top ten cities were: San Francisco, 31.7 percent; St. Louis, 18.3 percent; Los Angeles, 15.3 percent; Indianapolis, 14.7 percent; D.C. 14.1 percent; Milwaukee 13.7 percent; Baltimore 12.8 percent; Dallas 11.2; New York, 10 percent and Detroit 8.6 percent. Blackmoney.com executive editor John William Templeton noted, "California has been a magnet for African-Americans for the past 50 years because of educational opportunities. People like Mayor Willie Brown were able to leave humble circumstances and rise to the highest responsibilities. Unfortunately, over the past five years, that has been reversed and our young people now leave the state for opportunities."

ORGANIZERS ASK FOR SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL BLACK OUT DAY

Organizers for "National Black Out Day," a boycott showcasing Black buying power, are on a public campaign to inform Black America about the event. Organizers released the following statement about the day: "There will be a day where Black People will not spend their money anywhere. "It is May 20th. Black people across America will not frequent any establishment to show White America that our money has spending power, that we can unify together and relay a powerful message. "The message is that we are not the minority. We are the majority. Our dollars keeps the economic system afloat. And if we do NOT spend money in any White establishments, they will be able to see the impact that what ONE single day can have on economics. So send this message to all of your friends and family so that this can be successful."

JACKSON CALLS FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT TO END SUDANESE CRISIS

The Rev. Jesse Jackson called on the United States to lead a global effort to stop slavery in the Sudan. "If the U.S. could take the lead in rallying its allies to intervene and stop the human rights violations in Kosovo and Kuwait, Sudan, with the current level of atrocity, deserves no less," said Jackson in a statement. "There has been a greater loss of life in Sudan than in Kosovo, Bosnia, Chechnya and Somalia combined," he added. Jackson's statement comes as more and more prominent Black Americans are taking fact-finding trips to the Sudan, a country in a state of civil war for at least three decades. The war, which has claimed more than two million lives, has been described as a conflict between the East Africa nation's Arab Muslim north and its African Christian South. The Sudanese slave trade is one primarily of northerners enslaving southerners. "Slavery violates fundamental principles of democracy and human rights, and we should oppose it anywhere it is practiced globally," said Jackson. "These principles transcend geography, ethnicity, culture, race, language and religion."

D.C. POLICE DISCIPLINED FOR SENDING RACIST, SEXIST E-MAILS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The District of Columbia's police chief said Thursday he was reassigning 19 patrol officers suspected of sending racist, sexist and homophobic e-mails from squad car computers. The officers will shift to positions where they will have no contact with the public, Chief Charles H. Ramsey said as the fallout continued from an e-mail scandal that has attracted the attention of Congress and the Justice Department. "They'll have an opportunity to respond," Ramsey said. They face punishment ranging from a reprimand to firing, Assistant Chief Brian K. Jordan said. The department's investigation, which is continuing, could target other officers and lead to criminal charges. The Justice Department is also looking into the possibility that some of the officers' conduct may have resulted in civil rights violations warranting prosecution.

FBI, Black agents reach settlement

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge approved a settlement Monday between the FBI and black agents who complained of racial discrimination in promotions.

The settlement calls for the FBI to establish a new promotions system by 2003. Black agents alleged that under the old system, they were unable to get supervisory jobs. Under the agreement approved by U.S. District Judge Thomas Hogan, black agents who believe their careers have been harmed can take their cases to an outside

mediator and, if they prevail, can win back pay, attorney's fees and up to \$300,000 in compensatory damages.

"To avoid expensive and protracted litigation, the parties agreed that the FBI would provide class members who had pending raced-based ... claims that are based on certain promotions, discipline or performance appraisals with an opportunity to elect an alternative review of such claims," said government lawyers representing the FBI in a court filing describing the settlement agreement.

The settlement comes eight years after the FBI first agreed to change its personnel practices, following a 1991 lawsuit filed by black agents who alleged that the bureau's system of evaluating agents for promotions was discriminatory.

The FBI had until 1998 to enact the changes, but did not meet the deadline. The agents asked a judge to reopen the settlement agreement.

The original settlement also called for a new disciplinary system and a new performance appraisal sys-

tem. The FBI missed the first deadline for making those changes but has since revamped its practices, said David Shaffer, attorney for the agents.

"We feel very positive now that the FBI is going to be reformed," said Shaffer.

Outside mediators will be chosen jointly by the agents and the FBI, said Shaffer.

The FBI was preparing a statement about the settlement, said an official in the FBI's press office.

The suit was first brought on behalf of 500 agents.

School increases arrest reward for racist threats

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — Penn State University and its alumni association have increased to \$25,000 a reward for the arrest and conviction of the person who made racist threats to students.

University President Graham B. Spanier and leaders of the NAACP announced the increase from \$10,000 dur-

ing a meeting Friday to discuss campus security.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has asked for extra security at the university's May 11-13 commencement ceremonies and for a Justice Department probe into the threats.

University spokesman Bill Mahon said the school

already has an escort service, and has plans for extra guards at the event and heightened security. He did not elaborate.

Students have complained about the racial climate on campus after several recent death threats against blacks. Frustrated by what they saw as university inaction, black Penn State students staged a

sit-in and demanded that Spanier address their concerns.

An eight-day standoff ended Wednesday with the announcement of an agreement with school officials to increase opportunities for black students.

Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies are investigating.

New FBI director candidates show diversity

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration is casting a wide net for potential candidates to replace FBI Director Louis Freeh. About a dozen people, including a GOP legal strategist for the Bush camp during the Florida recount and a former drug enforcement official, are considered potential candidates.

The administration will probably add more names in the coming days, said Mindy Tucker, spokeswoman for Attorney General John Ashcroft.

"We are looking for someone who has credibility in the law enforcement community, someone who has strong managerial skills and someone of high integrity," Tucker said.

President Bush's advisers and the White House counsel's office will do the initial interviews with candidates, after which Ashcroft will meet with the prospects.

White House aides and Ashcroft will then make a recommendation to President Bush, Tucker said.

Freeh announced Tuesday that he would retire next month.

Two senior administration officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said special care is being taken to make sure minorities are considered for the job. The most prominent candidate in that category is Ronald Noble, a former Treasury department official under the first Bush administration who is now the secretary-general of Interpol, an international crime-fighting group based in France.

Noble, who is black, was a high ranking enforcement official at the Treasury Department, where he oversaw the Secret Service, the U.S. Customs Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and other agencies. He led a study of the ATF's raid on the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas.

Black agents have accused the FBI of discriminating in promotions. This week a federal judge approved a settlement between the bureau and

black agents who complained of racial discrimination. The FBI has made a number of changes in its personnel practices and must establish a new promotions systems under the settlement.

Bush might also consider a woman. Mary Jo White, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, a Democrat who has prosecuted high-profile terrorism cases and is investigating President Clinton's last minute pardons, could be a

possibility.

Another is Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating, a former FBI agent and Justice Department official who had been mentioned as a Bush pick for vice president and later attorney general. He is popular among conservatives, but questions about his acceptance of \$250,000 for his family from a New York financier had seemed to cloud his chances for an administration job.

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