

## NEWS BRIEFS

### NNPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECEIVES 'EMERGING LEADER' AWARD

WASHINGTON — The National Coalition for Black Civic Participation recently awarded its "Emerging Leadership" award to NNPA Executive Director Benjamin Todd Jealous at its fourth annual "Spirit of Democracy" awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. Jealous, a 28-year-old journalist-activist who cut short his Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford University to join the NNPA, was honored for his commitment to civil rights activism through the Black Press. He has served as NNPA Executive Director since the fall of 1999. He and Stacey H. Davis, president and CEO of the Fannie Mae Foundation, received "Emerging Leadership" awards. Other awards went to the following: NAACP President and CEO Kweisi Mfume; Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich, executive director of the Black Leadership Forum; Milton Bins, chairman of the Douglass Policy Network; Ingrid Saunders Jones, senior vice president of corporate external affairs for the Coca-Cola Co.; William Lucy, president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, and the on-air staff of "The Tom Joyner Morning Show," the nationally syndicated radio program.

### BLACK PUBLISHERS TO HOLD CONVENTION IN ATLANTA

WASHINGTON — The National Newspaper Publishers Association, a Washington, D.C.-based federation of 200 Black community newspapers, is holding its annual conference in Atlanta, Ga. from June 13 to June 17. Invited speakers/workshop presenters include Ed Gordon, "BET News" anchor and host of the BET program "Conservation With Ed Gordon," the Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Lowery, the former president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and Georgia State Rep. Tyrone Brooks. A highlight of the conference is the 2001 Merit Awards ceremony, which honors the best in Black Press journalism. The NNPA, founded in Chicago in 1940, holds its annual convention every June and a mid-winter conference every January.

### MOTHER OF SLAIN BLACK OFFICER SUES FOR \$20 MILLION

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) - The city was hit with a \$20 million lawsuit last week over the shooting death of a black off-duty policeman who was mistaken for a suspect by two white officers. Sgt. Cornel Young, Jr. was shot because he was black, his mother said, flanked by her attorneys, including O.J. Simpson lawyers Johnnie Cochran and Peter Neufeld. "I can't bring my son back," Leisa Young said tearfully. "And I can't live with myself if I do nothing about it and it happens to somebody else." The civil rights and wrongful-death lawsuit, filed in federal court, also seeks unspecified punitive damages against the two officers, their supervisors, the police department and the city. Cornel Young Jr., 29, was killed by officers Carlos Saraiva and Michael Solitro in January 2000. The two policemen were responding to a report of trouble outside a diner.

### WHITE SUPREMACIST SENTENCED FOR THREATS, VANDALISM

SAN DIEGO (AP) - A 25-year-old man who published a white supremacist Internet newsletter was sentenced Monday to three years in prison for threatening a Jewish congressman and other officials and vandalizing two synagogues. The man pleaded guilty in March to conspiracy to violate civil rights as part of an agreement with prosecutors. As part of his plea, Alex James Curtis also agreed to apologize to his victims and not to engage in any white supremacist activity during the three years of probation he must serve after his sentence. Curtis, who published the monthly National Observer newsletter from his parents' home in the San Diego suburb of Lemon Grove until his arrest last November, apologized in April to four of his victims, including Rep. Bob Filner. In 1997, Curtis and an accomplice twice defaced the windows of Filner's office with stickers depicting Nazi swastikas that included phrases such as "White Power," "Hitler was Right," and "Yabba Dabba Doo, Kill Every Jew," according to a federal indictment.

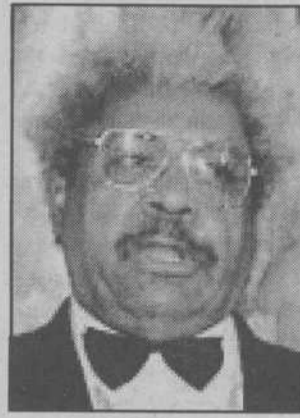
# Court reinstates King lawsuit

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Supreme Court on Monday reinstated a racketeering lawsuit against boxing promoter Don King by a rival promoter who claims he represents heavyweight champion Hasim Rahman.

The 9-0 ruling said the federal racketeering law permits the lawsuit even though King and his company, Don King Productions, are legally considered separate entities. King is the president and sole shareholder of his company.

A corporate employee who conducts the corporation's affairs through an unlawful pattern of activity "uses that corporation as a vehicle whether he is, or is not, its sole owner," Justice Stephen Breyer wrote.

The opinion clarifies when people can be sued for allegedly conducting racketeering activity through a business. The federal Racketeer Influ-



DON KING

enced Corrupt Organizations law allows civil lawsuits, seeking triple damages, against people accused of conducting an "enterprise's affairs through a pattern of racketeering activity."

King was sued in 1998 by rival Cedric Kushner Promotions. Kushner filed the lawsuit in New York, accusing King of interfering with Kushner's contract with Rahman.

The lawsuit, which sought about \$12 million in damages, said King paid Rahman not to go through with a fight that had been arranged through Rahman's contract with Kushner.

A federal judge dismissed the lawsuit, saying the RICO law required the person and the enterprise to be "distinct" from each other.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed.

Breyer wrote that the lower court rulings would immunize from RICO liability "high-ranking individuals in an illegitimate criminal enterprise."

Rahman earned the International Boxing Federation and World Boxing Council titles in April with a surprise fifth-round knockout of Lennox Lewis.

In May, after the Supreme Court heard arguments in the RICO case, Rahman signed

with King for \$5 million. Kushner claims Rahman is still under contract to him.

On the same day the Supreme Court ruled, Rahman was in federal court in New York defending himself against a separate lawsuit that goes over much of the same ground.

Lewis has also sued over alleged interference, claiming he should be Rahman's next opponent. King has matched Rahman against David Izon in a bout this summer in China.

Rahman told U.S. District Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum that his exclusive contract with Kushner expired in October 2000, freeing him to sign with King and rendering Kushner's deal for a rematch with Lewis invalid.

"I felt like I was a free agent," Rahman said Monday, as Lewis and King looked on.

## Risk of blood pressure drugs studied

CHICAGO (AP) - Blacks with kidney disease caused by high blood pressure fare much better if given an ACE inhibitor drug instead of the medication commonly used to treat them, a study found.

The study compared two blood pressure drugs: the ACE inhibitor ramipril, sold as Altace, and amlodipine, or Norvasc, a calcium channel blocker.

While both drugs were equally effective at controlling blood pressure, patients who took the ACE inhibitor had a 48 percent lower risk of death, dialysis and dan-

gerous drops in kidney function over three years.

They also had a 36 percent slower decline in kidney function.

"This was a surprise," said Dr. Janice Douglas, head of the study's steering committee and chief of the hypertension division at Case Western Reserve University. The study "helps us go beyond blood pressure and look outside the box" in treating blacks with kidney disease.

Previous studies have suggested that ACE inhibitors do not work as well as some calcium channel blockers in

treating hypertension, or high blood pressure, in blacks. Calcium channel blockers thus are often used to treat hypertension-related kidney disease in blacks, who are disproportionately affected by both conditions.

The study, involving 1,094 blacks ages 18 to 70 with mild to moderate hypertension-related kidney disease, appears in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

Lead author Dr. Lawrence Agodoa of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases said

similar results would probably be found in whites.

About 15,000 cases of kidney failure caused by high blood pressure are diagnosed in the United States each year. Blacks face an increased risk; those ages 25 to 44 are 20 times more likely than whites to develop it.

The two conditions are closely linked because extra pressure on blood vessels can damage the kidneys' ability to filter wastes from the blood.

The drugs' makers and the National Institutes of Health helped fund the study.

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