

## NEWS BRIEFS

### SECRETARY OF STATE ACCEPTS LEADERSHIP POST IN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

CARSON CITY- Secretary of State Dean Heller has been named Vice President, Western Region, of the National Association of Secretaries (NASS). Heller accepted the one-year appointment at the organization's 2001 summer conference, which ended Tuesday in Little Rock, Arkansas. He has also been a member of NASS since the year 1995. The membership of NASS consists of 55 secretaries of state and lieutenant governors from the 50 states and US territories. The western region includes 13 western states and territories of American Samoa and Guam. NASS was founded in 1904 and is one of the oldest professional, nonpartisan organizations of major public officials in the United States. It provides a medium to exchange information among secretaries of state on such issues as elections and voter participation, securities, business registration and incorporation, and notary policy. "A leadership role in NASS is an added opportunity to serve both the organization and the state of Nevada," said Heller, who was also named Chair of the group's securities committees.

### JUDGE DENIES HOTEL CHAIN'S BOYCOTT REQUEST

BALTIMORE (AP) - A federal judge on Friday denied the Adam's Mark Hotel chain's request to limit a boycott by the NAACP. An injunction would have prohibited the boycott by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and placed limits on picketing. The NAACP and hotel chain have been at odds since 1999 when five guests sued the chain, saying the Daytona Beach, Fla., hotel labeled them security risks by requiring them - but not white guests - to wear orange wristbands during the Black College Reunion. The organization plans to picket Adam's Mark Hotels in several cities starting Aug. 11 but would not specify the locations. NAACP president Kweisi Mfume called the ruling a victory for free speech. The hotel chain said it would use it as a starting point for further talks. "Our focus will be to find common ground with Mr. Mfume and the NAACP," Adam's Mark President Fred S. Kummer said.

### MORE PEOPLE OF COLOR IN TV NEWS JOBS, SAYS ASSOCIATION STUDY

Nearly 25 percent of jobs in television news are held by people of color, the highest numbers in the industry's history, according to a recent report from the Radio and Television News Directors Association (RTNDA). The report, conducted by the association and Ball State University, included numbers from Spanish-language stations. The 24.6 percent number is up from 21 percent last year, but people of color are not filling top director and manager spots, RTNDA officials said. "While the industry is making gains in many areas, there is a critical need for more minorities in management positions," said RTNDA President Barbara Cochran. "To keep making progress, we need to identify the rising stars in the nation's newsrooms and give them the opportunity to succeed." The National Association of Black Journalists, the nation's oldest and largest association of journalists of color, congratulated the RTNDA for adopting a resolution at its board of directors meeting earlier this summer to push diversity initiatives at the broadcast news management level.

### JOINT CENTER REPORT FINDS YOUNGER BLACKS MORE HOPEFUL, CYNICAL

Blacks under 35 have divergent views about race in America than their older counterparts, according to a report issued earlier this summer by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a Black think tank in Washington, D.C. The study found that loyalty to the Democratic Party was stronger for Blacks over 35, with a third of African-Americans from 26 to 35, and 43 percent of those 18 to 25, calling themselves independents. This is significant because 62 percent of the Black voting population is under 44, David Bositis, a senior research associate at the center. He said the independent identification shows a drift of younger African-Americans from politics. Another difference was in federal government support. More than half of Blacks under 50 approve of shifting federal government's power to individual states, in comparison to only a quarter of Blacks over 65. The median age for an African-American is now 30, said center officials.

# King to SCLC: I know I'm not my father

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—Many of the nation's top civil rights leaders are rallying around Martin Luther King III as questions swirl around his leadership of the organization founded by his famous father.

Former U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young was among leaders standing with King on Sunday night as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference opened its national convention.

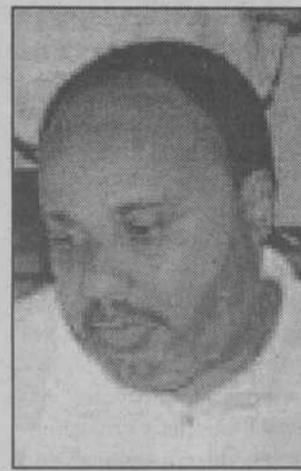
"I am impressed with him," Young said. "I think he can deliver with the support of all of us. He has my support. He has since he was 6 years old."

Moments earlier, the embattled SCLC president addressed the convention, telling the crowd of about 700 that he knows he's not his father, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

"I don't have my father's melodious voice," he said. "God only gave South Africa one Mandela. God only gave the United States one Martin Luther King."

"God has seen fit to give me just a flicker of the flame. I'm going to let it shine," said King, 43, as members of the audience waved "We love you Martin" signs.

The convention gave King an opportunity to fight off dissenters in the SCLC, who have reportedly called him an absent, ineffective leader. Board Chairman Claud



Martin Luther King III

Young sent King a letter in May criticizing King's inability to raise money, lack of communication, unexplained stints away from the Atlanta office and failure to set a clear

agenda for the organization, according to published reports.

Young has since said that the matter has been resolved, and promised to support the SCLC's leadership during a brief speech Sunday night.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson and King's mother, Coretta Scott King, were among the many key civil rights figures offering the SCLC president their support.

"The press is floating around here like buzzards looking for a funeral. We come here looking for the future," Jackson said.

Jackson said he hopes the controversy over SCLC leadership will attract more at-

tention to the convention and the SCLC's social agenda.

Former conference President Joseph Lowrey also attended the opening night of the meeting.

"I've come to sit beside my successor tonight to assure him that he has my support," Lowrey said.

King told the delegates he is committed to continuing the work started by his father, who founded the group following the Montgomery Bus Boycott in the 1950s.

"I know the recent challenges have been grave, but we are not going to let anyone turn us around," King said. "While we are busy

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## Group targets reparations, profiling

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) - The group founded by Martin Luther King Jr. at the dawn of the modern civil rights movement said Monday its agenda for a new century would include seeking reparations for slavery and ending racial profiling. Members of the group said in panel discussions Monday that blacks still suffer from the racism of the nation's past, and that they would try to fix the nation's lingering inequities.

"America owes us a debt," Chicago Alderman Dorothy Tillman said in a panel on reparations. "We built this country on our backs - black labor, white wealth."

Former SCLC President Joseph Lowrey, active in the group since its earliest days, said Monday that reparations should be paid to the descendants of black slaves in the form of scholarships, grants, low-interest loans and incentives for small

businesses.

"They need to devote a program that deals with the problems created by slavery," he said.

In a discussion on racial profiling, Leon E. Frazier of the Use of Force Research Institute said many police officers unfairly target blacks and blamed a lack of diversity in their departments.

"You wonder why we have so many of us in jail? It's because we have so few black police officers," he said. "The majority of people in jail look like us, and this is by design."

The SCLC was formed in the late 1950s as the movement for racial equality gained momentum from the Supreme Court's decision outlawing racial segregation of public schools and the Montgomery bus boycott that brought an end to racially separate public means of transportation.

## Black Press, Urban League partner on literacy project

By Hazel Trice Edney  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—When the Apostle Paul learned he would be spending the winter in prison, he cited three things that he needed in order to survive. He needed a friend for company, a cloak for covering—and he needed his books.

Using that Bible story to illustrate the importance of literacy for America's children, the Rev. Dr. William J. Shaw, president of the National Baptist Convention, told a National Urban League audience, "When people can read, it is impossible to enslave them."

Shaw was joining the announcement of a new plan by the Baptist Convention, the Urban League, the National Newspaper Publishers Association and Scholastic, Inc., the nation's top publisher of children's books. The press conference was held at the League's national convention here.

Scholastic is partnering to distribute 250,000 copies of "Read and Rise," a new magazine helping to teach parents how to improve their children's reading.

The magazines will be distributed free of charge throughout the community and in churches by members of the Baptist Convention. Excerpts of it will be printed in NNPA's 200 member newspapers.

Only 12 percent of Black children in the fourth grade could read on a fourth grade level last year, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress. For White children, the percentage of proficient readers in the fourth grade was 40 percent.

"Our people cannot afford to lose our great and honorable and powerful relationship with the written word," said NNPA Executive Director Benjamin Todd Jealous, reflecting on the nearly 175-year legacy of the Black Press

founding to "plead our own cause."

"The paradox of African-American progress in the last century is that so often we got what we wanted and lost

what we had," declared Jealous, saying that literacy—one of the most essential tools historically for Black liberation—must not be one of the (See Literacy, Page 5)

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