

## NEWS BRIEFS

### DEATH-ROW INMATE MUMIA ABU-JAMAL'S FUND-RAISING GROUP CAN'T SEEK MONEY

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A state agency has ordered the main fund-raising organization for death-row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal to stop soliciting contributions in Pennsylvania until it clears up questions about its finances. The Bureau of Charitable Organizations, part of the Pennsylvania Department of State, sent the nonprofit International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal a terse letter listing alleged deficiencies. The agency's letter, dated July 9, demands the date the group first sought contributions from state residents and the amount received, and also asked for a financial form, an independent review or audit and a \$50 late filing fee. Group leader Pam Africa said Monday the group had given the agency everything it asked for and had offered to correct any deficiencies Abu-Jamal, a former Black Panther and radio journalist, was convicted of the 1981 murder of Officer Daniel Faulkner. Supporters believe he was framed, and he has become a symbol for activists fighting racial injustice and police brutality.

### MALCOLM X BIRTH SITE TARNISHED, DUMPED ON

WASHINGTON — At the site where internationally recognized human rights leader and Muslim activist Malcolm X was born there stands a large plaque denoting X's contributions to increasing Black empowerment and self respect. The site is also marred with garbage, discarded wheelchairs, toilets, magazines, clothing, old mattresses and other unsanitary waste, the NNPA has learned. For more than 20 years the site, near 34th and Evans Street in north Omaha, Neb., has been particularly susceptible to illegal dumping. Despite fines and threatened punishment, it is difficult to apprehend violators. Charles C. Stephenson Jr., who organizes an annual Malcolm X commemoration in Washington, D.C., is deeply troubled by the current condition of the memorial, seeing it as a great disrespect to the memory of X. He felt a need for the community to take more of an active role and be enlightened as to what X stood for and his "lingering effect on African-Americans, and all Americans." Malcolm X was born in May 1925 in Omaha, where he and his family resided for only a few months. Assassinated in 1965, he was an outspoken civil-rights activist who at one point was among the leadership of the Nation of Islam.

### McKINNEY DECRIES LACK OF RIGHTS ACTION FROM BUSH ADMINISTRATION

DECATUR, Ga.—Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney accused the Bush Administration of putting Black America on hold and ignoring blaring needs of Black Americans. McKinney recalls John Ashcroft's commitment to attack racial profiling within the first six months of his tenure as Attorney General. "In a dramatic meeting with the Congressional Black Caucus shortly after his controversial selection for Attorney General, John Ashcroft promised to attack racial profiling within the first six months of his Administration. Ashcroft has not advanced any legislation nor has President Bush signed an Executive Order outlawing the practice, which targets minorities on America's streets and at America's airports. Additionally, in meetings with President Bush the Congressional Black Caucus and the Democratic Caucus both addressed the critical need for election reform to restore faith in America's election system.

### HEAD OF DEATH ROW RECORDS BACK ON THE SCENE

The head of Death Row Records Marion "Suge" Knight was released last Monday from a federal prison in Oregon after serving almost five years. Knight told sources he's happy to be out of prison and looks forward to returning to work at Death Row. "I'm stress-free," Knight told the paper. "I want to try to do better things. Watch me. I'm going to the studio tonight." After arriving in LA, Knight was greeted by a huge billboard above the label's office that said "Welcome Home Suge." Even though Knight doesn't have a deal with a major label...at least for now...and despite losing some big names on Death Row, including Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg, Knight has signed a new group of unknown acts. "Better days is coming, man," Knight said. "It's like we're getting ready for the Super Bowl. We going to start having some fun again."

# Texas delays Beazley's execution

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) - A state appeals court halted Wednesday's execution of Napoleon Beazley several hours before he was scheduled to die, delaying a case that has fractured the U.S. Supreme Court and fueled fresh criticism of applying the death penalty to teenage killers.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals granted the delay to Beazley, who killed the father of a federal appeals court judge in a botched carjacking in 1994.

"Applicant is granted a stay of execution pending further orders by this court," the court's two-page order read. "The applicant presents 10 allegations challenging the validity of his conviction and resulting sentence."

Beazley, who was 17 at the time of the killing, was scheduled to receive a lethal injection Wednesday. He was writing a letter in a small cell next to the death chamber when he learned of the delay, authorities said.

"I just have to comprehend this," prison officials said he told them.

Beazley's attorney, Walter Long, expressed relief.

"It was absolutely the right thing to happen," he said. "But it is an ongoing battle and tomorrow is a new day and a new battle."

Prosecutor Jack Skeen said he was disappointed by



NAPOLÉON BEAZLEY

the ruling.

"We still hold the execution is proper and the just sentence in this case," he said.

Beazley, now 25, was to be returned to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Polunsky Unit, prison spokesman Larry Todd said.

Beazley never denied his role in the slaying, but his appeal to the state court listed 10 reasons for a reprieve, including constitutional claims, allegations of false testimony, jury bias and his age at the time of the killing.

The state Attorney General's office opposed the motion; many of the arguments have been made in earlier appeals and rejected by the courts.

Beazley still has an appeal before the U.S. Supreme Court seeking a broader review of his case, including whether the Constitution bars executing people who were under 18 when they committed their crimes.

Gov. Rick Perry also could issue a reprieve.

The case has drawn international attention and put the Supreme Court in an unusual position. The victim's son, Judge J. Michael Luttig of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va., has ties to three of the justices.

Luttig clerked for Antonin Scalia and advised Clarence Thomas and David Souter during their confirmation hearings. They did not participate earlier this week when the court refused to halt the execution in a 3-3 vote, with three abstentions.

Beazley would be the 19th U.S. prisoner to die since 1976 for a murder committed by a person younger than 18. He would be the 10th in Texas, where he was among 31 death row inmates who were 17 at the time of their crime.

In Texas, a capital murder committed at age 17 makes an offender eligible for the death penalty. In a 1989 ruling on a case from Kentucky, the high court said death sentences for defendants as young as 16 were constitutional.

Beazley was convicted of murdering John Luttig, a prominent businessman.

Luttig, 63, and his wife were returning home to Tyler when the slaying occurred in front of their house.

Testimony at Beazley's

trial showed he stood in a pool of blood while going through Luttig's pockets, searching for the car keys. He abandoned the car a short distance away after hitting a wall, damaging the vehicle. Beazley also fired at the victim's wife. He missed, but she played dead while her husband lay beside her.

"The acts of Napoleon Beazley that night were a predatory hunt-down," Skeen has said.

Beazley, a football star at Grapeland High and the senior class president, acknowledged a darker side driven by "peer pressure." He sold small amounts of cocaine and carried a pistol. The night of the murder, he had a sawed-off shotgun in his car.

"I'm a different person now," he said in a recent interview. "You come here and you grow. I was a different person then."

Death penalty opponents from around the world have inundated Skeen with letters and cards protesting the execution. The European Union, through the Belgian Embassy in Washington, has urged Perry to stop the execution.

Judge Cynthia Kent, the trial judge in Beazley's case, has also asked Perry to commute Beazley's sentence because of his age.

The governor, however, has refused to halt any of the (See Beazley, Page 18)

## Charity, fashion to make splash at MAGIC

### Special to Sentinel-Voice

Big Hollywood names from television, film and music, who compete in the NBA Entertainment Basketball League (NBA-EBL), will play in a charity basketball game to benefit the NBA's "Read to Achieve" and "Reading is Fundamental" programs, in conjunction with the MAGIC Marketplace.

Leonardo DiCaprio, Tobey Maguire, Bill Bellamy, Brian McKnight, and Ice Cube are just some of the celebrities scheduled to participate in this exclusive, invitational-only basketball league.

The game, which will run simultaneously with the MAGIC marketplace, will take place on Monday, August 27, at 7 p.m. in the Cox Pavilion at UNLV, adjacent to the Thomas & Mack Center.

Merchandise from the NBA Hardwood Classics apparel collection, Mitchell

& Ness, Majestic, New Era, Moonlight Graham, Twins, For Bare Feet and G-III will be showcased at this year's event.

"We are excited to partner with MAGIC by bringing the NBA Entertainment League to Las Vegas," said Salvatore LaRocca, NBA Senior Vice President of Global Merchandising. "This is an ideal way to connect sports and fashion, and an exciting way to express our brand."

OUNK (OUNow Know), a New York-based fashion apparel company, recently obtained an NBA license to produce activewear in silhouettes and fabrications. China Moon Rags, Had 2 Productions, Maxit Designs and OUNK, which will be unveiling its NBA line, will all have their new fashion designs on display at MAGIC.

The NBA-EBL has been in existence since 1999. Twice a year the League plays a 13-week season at an undisclosed location in Los

Angeles and holds its play-offs at the Staples Center there.

MAGIC International is the world's largest trade show for the apparel industry and

organizes many trade shows targeting the fashion crowd.

Tickets for the event are \$19.50, and can be purchased through the Thomas & Mack box office.

ABC  
Insurance Agency

BRANCH & ASSOCIATES  
Insurance & Financial Services

With 2 locations to serve the Las Vegas Valley

2041 N. Jones Blvd. #105

944-5360

1700 Civic Center Drive

649-1029

Auto • Home • Business • Life • Health

SAFECO

