

## NEWS BRIEFS

### STUDY: STROKES MORE LIKELY TO KILL AFRICAN-AMERICANS

African-Americans in specific areas in the southern United States face the nation's highest risk of stroke-related deaths, according to a new study released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Based on statistics gathered from 1991 to 1998, African-Americans ages 35 and older who lived in South and North Carolina, some rural southern Georgia counties, and counties in Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee, were at higher risk of dying from a stroke than anyone else in the country. The report, titled "Atlas of Stroke Mortality," is the third in a series of CDC studies that focus on cardiovascular diseases and is the first to show county-by-county stroke-death rates. "Disparities as large as those reported in the Atlas tell us that scientific knowledge about the prevention of stroke is not yet being applied widely enough to communities," CDC director Dr. Julie Gerberding said. According to the study, 166 of 100,000 African-Americans died of stroke during the study period, compared to 117 of 100,000 Whites and 79 of 100,000 Native Americans and Hispanics. Overall, the median was 121 stroke deaths per 100,000 people. Strokes occur when the flow of blood to the brain is interrupted and is the third leading cause of death in the United States, following heart disease and cancer. Approximately 165,000 people die from stroke each year and an estimated 700,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

### RIGHTS GROUP OPPOSE PROPOSED CONFEDERATE FLAG REFERENDUM

Georgia's new Republican governor, Sonny Perdue, has released a referendum before the state legislature to reinstate the old State flag bearing the confederate symbol. The NAACP, Concerned Black Clergy, some White business leaders and unions oppose the idea. "Would you expect the Jewish community to participate in a campaign to raise the swastika?" Rev. Joseph Lowery, former head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said to reporters. The Legislature changed the flag in 2001 in response to growing racial tension. The new flag reduced the large Confederate emblem to a small insignia. The legislature has the final decision on whether to hold the referendum, which as proposed by the governor, would be nonbinding. "It's wrong. It's dead wrong," said Charlie Flemings, head of the Atlanta Labor Council. "We will not participate ourselves." Throughout the state, civil rights leaders warned that they would boycott the state-wide vote. Lowery said no Black person should participate in the referendum and addressed the new governor, saying: "If you insist on engaging in this type of political lynching, don't expect us to help put the noose around our necks."

### MICHIGAN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION LAWSUIT DRAWING MASSIVE SUPPORT

Supporters of the University of Michigan's admissions polices are turning out in large numbers and filing legal briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court. This spring the court will hear arguments from universities, corporations, public and military officials are speaking up in favor of the institution's admittance practices. "A Supreme Court decision turning back the clock on affirmative action would be a disaster for Connecticut higher education," Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, whose staff worked on a friend-of-the-court brief told reporters. Other groups, including the Bush administration, filed briefs earlier urging the Supreme Court to rule against Michigan. The cases were filed on behalf of two White students who were denied admission to Michigan's law school and its main undergraduate program. Former military leaders, including two former defense secretaries, William Perry and William Cohen; Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, who commanded the first Persian Gulf War; Adm. William Crowe, Gen. Hugh Shelton and Gen. John M. Shalikashvili, all former chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, have filed briefs that argue that affirmative action is needed for a diverse officer corps. "Briefs sometimes strike a chord that resonates with their values and their perceptions," said Supreme Court lawyer and Columbia Law School professor Jack Greenberg.

## Britons flock to hear NOI's Louis Farrakhan

Special to Sentinel-Voice

LONDON-Black Britons packed out a London nightclub on Sunday to hear U.S. black activist Louis Farrakhan preaching an anti-war message, circumventing his ban from the UK by appearing via videolink.

Several hundred followers, the men in trademark black suits and the women in

white robes, flocked to The Fridge nightclub in Brixton, south London to hear what Farrakhan said would be his last message before America goes to war with Iraq.

Hilary Muhammad, Farrakhan's representative in London, warned of "serious ramifications for us here in the UK" if Prime Minister Tony Blair backed the U.S.

in its plan to strike Iraq.

"We are living in an endangered democracy, because the ruling party is not listening to those who elected them," said Muhammad.

Close to one million Britons marched through London last Saturday demanding Blair pulled back from war.

Farrakhan, 69, who once called Judaism a "gutter reli-

gion," was banned from entering Britain in 1986 because the government said his views were anti-Semitic and racially-divisive.

He has been welcomed by some world leaders, last year visiting some of the West's biggest bogeymen, including Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe.

## Farrakhan

(Continued from Page 1)

steal a foreign nation's oil reserves and build an oil pipeline in Afghanistan.

Audiences in more than 100 cities and others in Canada, the United Kingdom and the Caribbean viewed Min. Farrakhan's address via satellite broadcast.

The Saviours' Day message, he said, is a light for those who desire to get safely through this period of war, revolution and unparalleled bloodshed. Saviours' Day is the official observance of the birth of Nation of Islam founder Master Fard Muhammad, teacher of The Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

"This is indeed a very, very dangerous time and we have

entered into a period of darkness, that President Bush's leadership is going to lead America to her fall," he said in his near two-hour presentation.

"There is no way to clock Pres. Bush and the actions of the U.S. government, unless you can compare what he is saying and what he is doing to what is prophesized in both the Bible and Holy Qur'an," he said.

"These are books (Bible and Holy Qur'an) that contain a plan of God for the salvation of His people and there contains warning for the rulers of the world, warning for the government of the United States of America. If you do not know where to place America in the Bible

and in the Qur'an, you don't know how to guide the people in such an hour," he continued. Min. Farrakhan warned that Iraq looks easy to America, but it is a trigger to a greater calamity.

"America will start rolling down the hill, I promise you, to total destruction. The America you think you know now, you will never know her again as a world power. Mark, my humble words," he urged.

After days of hospitalization and a brief inability to physically walk, the Nation of Islam leader stated his case scripturally as well as cited America's own history of past war efforts.

He spoke of how past presidents and members of

the U.S. Congress manipulated the patriotism of its armed forces and public opinion to prosecute wars on behalf of wealthy imperialists and colonial regimes.

Minister Farrakhan said America should concentrate the billions of dollars she is spending on war and the liberation of the Iraqi people, and instead liberate the people who are suffering in the United States.

"Why don't you liberate the homeless? Liberate the 42 million Americans that have no health insurance. Liberate the ignorant in America who want a college education, but can't get it because they don't have money. Liberate the American people!" he said.

## Reparations

(Continued from Page 3)

between a white lynch mob and blacks trying to protect a man accused of assaulting a white woman. The man was never prosecuted.

The lawsuit says about \$2 million in property was damaged in the day of rioting that ensued. It also alleges that police deputized a white mob, and says National Guard troops used violence to quell what they perceived to be an "uprising" by blacks.

Proving the case in court could be a challenge, said University of Oklahoma Law School Dean Andy Coats.

"Frankly I don't know of any case like that across the county where they've been able to recover anything more

than 70 years after something has happened," he said.

The Tulsa Race Riot Commission recommended last year that survivors and victims' descendants be paid restitution for the violence on May 31, 1921.

Neither the city nor the state has provided restitution, though the Legislature has set up a scholarship fund for college-bound descendants of riot victims and appropriated \$1.5 million for a riot memorial.

Private organizations have given the more than 100 survivors about \$300 each.

"That won't pay for a new house or the property the city took from us," said 100-year-old Otis Clark, who said white rioters killed his stepfather and burned his family's home.

## AWARDS ARE KIDS' STUFF

Surrounded by her biggest supporters, pupils from Wendell Williams Elementary School, teacher Ramona Muhammad rejoices with her Certificate of Appreciation from the Clark County School District's Northeast Region. Muhammad was honored for her "dedication to students and to the field of education."

Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

