

# War

(Continued from Page 3)

LAPD gang detail officers were nearby and heard the shots. The officers went to the scene, saw Eddie Hicks, 35, fleeing, ordered him to drop his weapon and arrested him without incident.

Bonds was taken to a hospital, where he died. Hicks is being held on \$1.7 million bail. Police believe Bonds was the target of the attack, but a motive for the shooting is unknown.

While patting himself and the police chief on the back for lowering citywide homicides, Hahn has made no comment about this sudden spike in killings, which, paradoxically, occurred just as the U.S. began invading Iraq.

The former chief, Councilman Bernard Parks, had scheduled a news conference April 3 to address the spate of killings in the city, but his event was canceled by the LAPD so the department could unveil its new Compstat crime-fighting tool to the ministers in the Black community.

Parks said the sudden increase in violent crime is the result of external factors, which law enforcement cannot control, as well as some deployment changes within the LAPD.

Parks noted that after a steady reduction in crime after the rate peaked in 1992, the largest increase in crime has occurred within the last 14 months. He said this is attributed to, among other things, the city's increased popu-

lation, significant growth of its "crime-age" population, the significant down-turn of the economy and an erosion of education and recreation programs.

"The numbers of people out of work and people out of prison in our communities are also high," Parks said.

"About 40 percent of the people paroled throughout the state turn up here in Los Angeles County and they create crime problems," Parks said.

The councilman said the deployment of police to prevent and fight crime is effected by the officers' three-day and the detectives' four-day work week schedules and the removal from the streets of 168 senior lead officers and 200 officers who are working on consent decree tasks. (Another 23 officers were added to that total by city council action last week).

In addition, Parks said an estimated 1,000 officers who have some form of medical disability are unable to perform police work and more than 100 officers are on military leave fighting the war in Iraq. The former chief said: "When you look at all of that happening during the last 14 months, plus the dynamics of economics, there shouldn't be any surprise that crime is on its way up."

Betty Pleasant writes for Wave Community Newspapers.

# Simone

(Continued from Page 9)

Greece in 1998.

In 1999 she received a lifetime achievement award in Dublin and an award for excellence in music from the Association of African American Music in Philadelphia.

Though she remained a top concert draw in her later years, she was quite frail.

At a 2001 concert at Carnegie Hall, she had to be helped to the stage, and was later seen sitting backstage in a wheelchair.

She was survived by a

daughter, Lisa — a singer who goes by the stage name Simone.

She's currently starring in Broadway's "Aida" and has recorded with the group Liquid Soul.

# Earl King

(Continued from Page 9)

motor.

Scenes and acquaintances from his life often found their way into his lyrics with little editing. A story King's grandmother told about his father, a blues pianist who died when King was a boy, inspired "Trick Bag."

In the song, the protagon-

ist sings to his wayward significant other, "I saw you kissing Willie across the fence, I heard you telling Willie I don't have no sense/ The way you been actin' is such a drag, you done put me in a trick bag."

Funeral arrangements had not been finalized late Friday evening.

# Apartheid

(Continued from Page 14)

the U.S. Alien Tort Claims Act of 1789 allows district courts to hold liable any institution in violation of the law of nations.

This law allowed Holocaust survivors to successfully sue Swiss banks and German and Austrian companies who used slave labor. U.S. lawyer Ed Fagan, who won the case, has since launched a multibillion-dollar lawsuit on behalf of South African claimants against mining giant Anglo-American and De Beers, the world's leading diamond producer.

USA Engage - a group representing more than 650 U.S. businesses - is lobbying to have the law repealed to protect its members from similar suits.

But the founder of the Apartheid Debt and Reparations Campaign, Neville Gabriel, believes Shezi and other South African plaintiffs have more than legislation on their side. "Our case is based on a broader moral foundation because there is overwhelming evidence that crimes against humanity were committed," he said.

Gabriel said the case is currently in a "discussion phase." But for Shezi there has been enough discussion.

The mother of two adult children said: "I have to continue fighting for wrongs to be addressed. Even if we lose, it will not be the end of the road, but the beginning of a new struggle for all of us."

# Roots

(Continued from Page 6)

blind sampling methods were used to obtain DNA sequence data from individuals.

The firm offers two DNA-based genealogy tests and each test costs \$349.

Darden said that African Ancestry also has access to DNA sequence information that other sources collected from throughout the African continent.

"This wealth of information, for the first time is being marshaled in order to help African-Americans genetically determine their African ancestry," said Darden.

Gina Paige, president of African Ancestry, said the firm is proud to employ the latest science and technology to help anyone probe for any African roots he or she may have.

"As an African-American, I feel privileged to be involved in this revolutionary effort," Paige said. "We are at least able to shine a light for an unknown number of people who want to find out what they can about the long, dark mystery of their African ancestry."

J. Zamgba Browne writes for the New York Amsterdam News.

# Morris Brown

(Continued from Page 6)

ris Brown is the only college in Georgia founded by and for Blacks.

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Among the college's alumni are civil rights leader Rev. Dr. Hosea Williams; Pulitzer Prize-winning author James A. McPherson; and retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Albert J. Edmonds.

Cynthia Post writes for Atlanta Daily World.

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