

Depositions underway in AKA drowning lawsuit

By Lenea Austin

Special to Sentinel-Voice

LOS ANGELES (NNPA)—Depositions are underway in a lawsuit filed against Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (AKA) by the family of Kristin High, one of two women who drowned at a Playa Del Rey beach during alleged hazing activities last year.

Sam High and Patricia Strong-Fargas, High's parents, and her fiancée, Holman Authurs, on behalf of High's and Authurs' son, Skyler, filed an \$100 million wrongful death lawsuit against the organization and the mem-

bers and pledges present when she died in September.

Angela Reddock, an attorney with the firm Collins, Mesereau, Reddock and Yu, LLP., representing High's family, said potential witnesses in the case are being interviewed by attorneys for the defendants and plaintiffs.

Next month, Reddock said, she will be in Chicago taking depositions from AKA's national officers.

This month, attorneys for High's family will be taking depositions from "big sisters" who were present during the alleged hazing and named in the suit.

In a legal victory for Reddock and her colleagues, attorneys for defendant Wykida Casey, who also was pledging at the time of High and Kenitha Saafir's death, lost a motion to strike her name from the case, which according to Reddock, could mean similar demurs will be removed from the court's calendar.

Attorneys for High's family will, however, have to revise some causes of action for a third amended complaint.

According to the lawsuit, High was blindfolded then driven to the beach where she

was led into the ocean with her hands tied. The lawsuit calls this activity a "right of passage ritual" that was facilitated by High's "assigned...big sister," one of the sorority members. The women were students at California State University-LA.

Initially, police said there was no hazing involved, but according to the county coroner's autopsy report, released by the plaintiff's attorneys, "the manner of death could not be determined." Police are still investigating the matter.

During a press conference last September, the attorneys

said, "Two women who had their futures ahead of them died needlessly at the beach. We do not want this death to be in vain."

Collins said the plaintiffs "want to send a message to

fraternities and sororities around the country that pledging and hazing... must come to an end." The national AKA has suspended all pledging at the undergraduate level until this fall.

Black man named President of Indiana University

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Indiana University trustees have unanimously approved the appointment of Adam W. Herbert as the institution's 17th president.

Herbert replaces Mylès Brand, who left the university in December 2002 to become president of the National College Athletic Association. Herbert's tenure begins Aug. 1.

Herbert, an Oklahoma native, is currently Regents Professor and the executive director of The Florida Center for Public Policy and Leadership at the University of North Florida. He was the president of UNF for 10 years.

"He is the right man to lead our great university at this important time," said Frederick Eichhorn, president of Indiana's board of trustees. "He brings an unqualified depth of experience and knowledge to this presidency."

Herbert has served as the president of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administra-



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—Adam W. Herbert

tion and is a member of the National Academy of Public Administration. A member of the Knight Foundation Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics in 2001, Herbert was chair of the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Division II Presidents Council. He also served as the chair of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce in 1993, the co-chair of Gov. Bush's Reading Priority Transition Team for Florida and is currently Florida's Commissioner on the Education Commission of States and is a member of the Florida Federal Judicial

Nominating Commission.

"I accept this assignment with a great deal of enthusiasm for the Indiana University mission. I also accept in the belief that the next decade will offer unparalleled opportunities for the university to play an expanding role in shaping the future of Indiana and the nation," Herbert said.

He is the founding director of The Florida Center for Public Policy and Leadership, focusing on interdisciplinary research efforts on important public policy challenges in the state. He also led the nation's second-largest uni-

versity system, serving as the sixth chancellor of the State University System of Florida. There he oversaw a higher education system with a \$5 billion budget and 250,000 students.

Herbert received a warm welcome from the university's faculty.

"I have had a chance to observe his leadership close up and from afar and have found him to be consistent in his commitment to excellence and diversity," said Charlie Nelms, vice president of student development and diversity. Casey Cox, president of Indiana University Student Association, agrees.

"The student body needs a president who is approachable, likeable, and in tune not only with student needs, but student relationships. I am confident we have found those qualities in Dr. Herbert," she said.

Organizer of 100,000 Man Peace March found shot to death in LA

By James Bolden

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Los Angeles (NNPA)—A co-convenor of the October 100,000 Man March was one of two men found dead last Tuesday, shot several times and placed in the back of a sports utility vehicle parked in the Skid Row area of downtown, police said Monday.

The bodies of Emanuel Earl Johnson, 36, of Inglewood and Daniel Paul Funderburk, 29, of Los Angeles were found in a 1999 GMC Jimmy in the 400 block of Santa Fe Avenue. Police say a transient spotted one of the corpses in the vehicle and went to a local business, where he asked the owner to call 911, said Los Angeles Police Detective E. Badar.

Officers responded to the scene and found the two victims in the rear of the vehicle wrapped in plastic and bound. Both victims were shot several times in the upper body. Central homicide detectives were immedi-

ately notified and took over the investigation.

Although he was hesitant about describing the murders as a possible "hit," Badar stated "It's definitely something we're looking at." According to witnesses who frequent the area, the SUV had been parked at the curb since Saturday, Badar said.

As of Sentinel press time, no arrests have been made and the motive is still unknown.

Those who knew him say Johnson, known in the community as "Manny," was a long-time street-level peace activist who once worked with Jim Brown and the Amer-I-Can organization. He later founded the HUBB City Peacemakers in Compton with actor Todd Bridges. 100,000 Man March co-chair Daude Sherrill, who knew Johnson for more than 12 years, said in addition to his peace efforts, Johnson once coached football at Compton where he was responsible for many of the players going on to play on the university level and earned degrees.

'Bling-Bling' makes Oxford Dictionary

LONDON (AP) - Khazi, minging, bling-bling? Not some crazy new dialect, but standard British vocabulary, according to the latest edition of the Oxford English Dictionary, published Friday.

The publishers said they have added almost 6,000 new words and phrases that reflect 21st century life, including the frowner's favorite, Botox, passion-enhancing drug Viagra and sambuca, the aniseed liqueur served with a flaming coffee bean.

Among the 187,000 definitions in the latest edition, published by Oxford University Press, there is also bevvv - British slang for a beer; head-case, referring to a person who exhibits irrational behavior; and bling-bling, a reference to elaborate jewelry and clothing, and the appreciation of it.

Half-inch, Cockney rhyming slang for pinch, or steal, also makes it into the dictionary this time around.

Some of the new terms, including cut-and-paste, screensavers and search engines, reflect the growing influence of computers, while hands-free phones and phreaking, the expression for hacking into phone systems for free calls, acknowledge developments in telecommunications.

Other corporate-speak considered established enough for inclusion in the dictionary includes dot-coms, or Internet companies, and blipverts, subliminal TV adverts of just a few seconds' duration.

And J.R.R. Tolkien's fictional world in "The Lord of the Rings" is also recognized. Orcs are defined as "members of an imaginary race of ugly, aggressive human-like creatures."

The dictionary says the word probably comes from the Latin orcus meaning hell, or the Italian orco, meaning monster.

Getting down to basics, the new dictionary makes it now all right to describe the khazi (toilet) as minging (disgusting).

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