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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Film focuses on U.S. reparations

By Lés Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

There is reparations legislation in committee in the U.S. Congress that seeks to pay descendants of slaves damages for the wrongs done to their ancestors and the devastating plight that lingers in slavery's aftermath.

A film titled "Building A National Reparations United Front" was featured on Saturday, Jan. 24 at the West Las Vegas Library Theater. Inkatha Youth Foundation for the Arts sponsored the film's showing. Speaking at this community event and introducing the focus on reparations were Lawrence "T" Inkatha, Minister Duke Muhammad and Chief Fafore Akinlana.

The original conference on reparations was held in October 2003 at Tougaloo College in Alabama. Minister Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, was the keynote speaker. This film captures that conference.

"More and more everyday Black people in America are beginning to accept the fact that America owes us something for what was done to our fathers in bringing our fathers into slavery," Farrakhan says in the film.

Slavery still has an impact, he says, "robbing us of the knowledge of self, the knowledge of God, and the knowledge of our history, rendering us completely blind, deaf, and dumb in a spiritually dead condition. It was their thought and their plan that light would never reach our mind, that we, our children, and our children's children into infinity would be the property of and the tool of service of white America and their children," Farrakhan says.

The National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America, (N'COBRA), is the group spearheading the recent efforts across the country bringing awareness to H.R. 40, a bill sponsored by U.S. Rep. John Conyers, D-Detroit, addressing the issue of reparations for African-Americans in the United States.

N'COBRA hosted last year's conference at Tougaloo College.

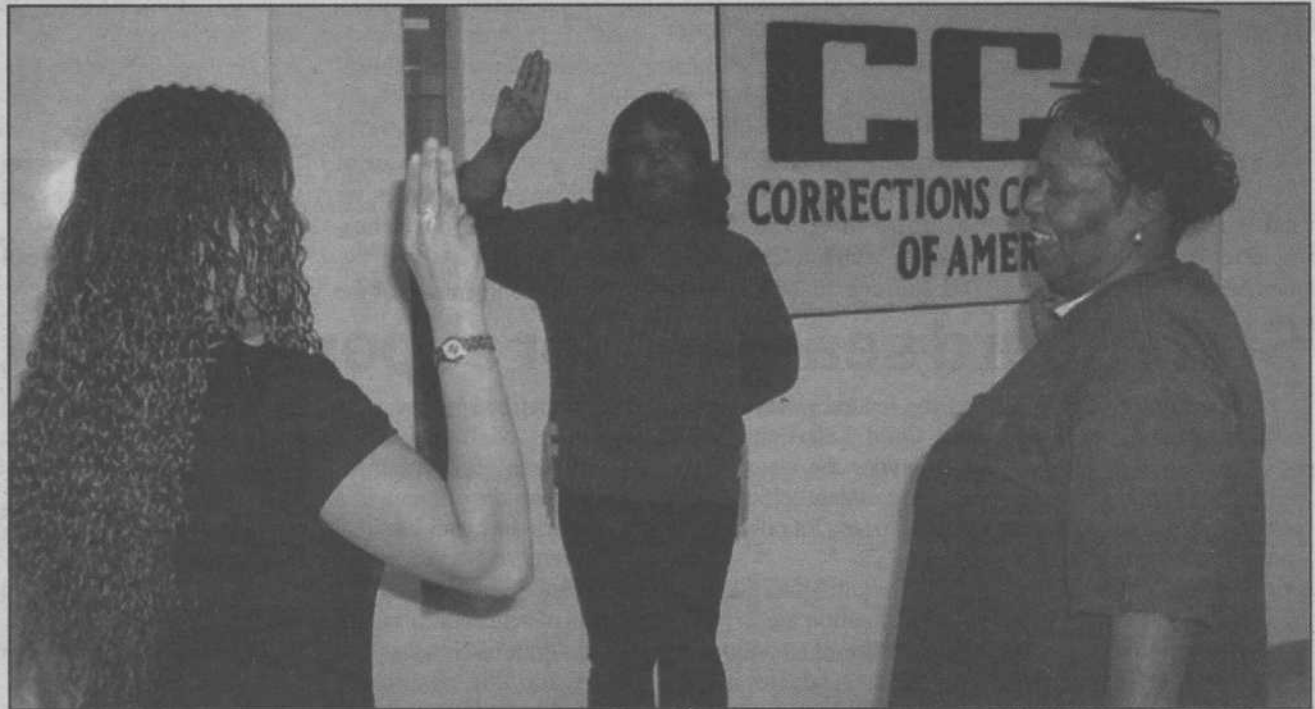
"This thing called reparations is a very serious quest and I have never known a time that we have wanted something and began to organize to get it," Farrakhan says in the film. "The enemy did not insert in the movement those who would take us off a proper course and confuse the issue of what we want. The moment we all agree that reparations is a principle of justice and we deserve it.

"Before we say anything to President Bush or anybody else, we have to be (brought) to an understanding exactly what we want to ask for so that nobody will be able to diffuse what justice is," Farrakhan says. "And then they will come up with some weak sort of thing that some foolish ones among us will accept in our name. We want to let everybody know you will not play with the future of our people (or) you will be played with your life."

Reparations are in the American psyche.

"We know that America detained thousands of Japanese Americans in concentration camps during WWII and confiscated their property," Farrakhan says. "The U.S. Congress now says that America treated Japanese-Americans wrongly and therefore they have agreed that several billions of dollars should be paid to the Japanese for reparations to repair the damage. The damage to the Japanese was material.

"The Japanese went into a concentration camp with a
(See Film, Page 2)



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Participants in *Girl Scouts Beyond Bars*, a collaborative effort between the Las Vegas-based Girl Scouts of Frontier Council and Corrections Corporation of America, which runs the Southern Nevada Women's Correctional Facility, raise their right hands and recite the Girl Scout pledge.

Inmates get second chance with daughters

By Kathi Overstreet
Sentinel-Voice

Estimates are more than 60 percent of the women incarcerated at the Southern Nevada Women's Correctional Facility are mothers.

Furthermore, studies show

that the children of inmates are hidden victims of parents' crimes. They are six times more likely than their counterparts to follow parents' criminal behavior and become incarcerated at some point in their life. This is

something akin to a "generational curse."

In the spirit of breaking the curse of incarceration, a collaboration between Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) and Las Vegas-based Girl Scouts of

Frontier Council has taken place since May 2000. Nashville, Tenn.-based CCA, the largest outsource corrections management company in the nation, operates the prison.

The Girl Scouts Beyond
(See Girl Scouts, Page 14)

Black newspaper publishers press for equality

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

ST. MAARTEN, Antilles (NNPA) - As America's Black Press continues its traditional role of protecting and defending the rights of African-Americans, the 177-year-old institution still has a dream of equality of its own, says the chairperson of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, a federation of more than 200 Black-owned newspapers.

"That common dream that we share basically amounts to the fact that we are looking for equity in advertising. We are looking for mutual respect in the newspaper industry and among our peers," Sonny Messiah-Jiles told NNPA members at its annual mid-winter conference in St. Maarten, Netherlands, Antilles last week. "But, more so, we dream of a day when our news will be judged for the character of its content, and not by the color of its publishers or its leaders."

Messiah-Jiles, elected



Sonny Messiah-Jiles, president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, addresses NNPA members at the group's recent mid-winter conference in St. Maarten.

chairperson of the organization last June, was giving her first "State of the NNPA" address at the conference. She says the organization must take advantage of every opportunity to assert its readership clout and historic mission as leverage to win economic equity for its readers as well as itself.

"As we sit here as NNPA

members, the Black Press of America, one of the most powerful tools that we have is we serve 15 million people," says Messiah-Jiles, publisher of the Houston Defender. The NNPA's target market has an annual buying power of \$572.1 billion, according to a University of Georgia study.

"We've worked hard," she

says. "We've had some good times and some bad times, but through it all, one of the premises that we continue to live by is something that was said by Frederick Douglass ... That is that power concedes nothing without a demand."

Not just African-Americans face discrimination. So do Black businesses, according to the publishers gathered here.

"They come up with all kinds of excuses not to advertise," states Robert W. Bogle, publisher of the 120-year-old Philadelphia Tribune, the nation's oldest continuously published Black-owned newspaper. He says some will note that many Black newspapers are not audited by Audit Bureau of Circulations, the nation's most respected auditing agency.

"Many daily newspapers are not audited by ABC," Bogle says. "Then they want to talk about our failure rates."

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