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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Mfume: Bush prostituting Blacks

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – NAACP President and Chief Executive Officer Kweisi Mfume says President George Bush is treating the Black community like prostitutes by claiming to want the Black vote while snubbing the NAACP's annual convention for four consecutive years.

"We're not fools. If you're going to court us, court us in the daytime, but not like we're a prostitute where you run around at night or behind closed doors and want to deal with us, but not want to deal with us in the light of the day," says Mfume. "Mr. Bush has now distinguished himself as the first president since Warren Harding (1920-1923) who has not met with the NAACP. So, we've got a 95-year history and a president that's prepared to take us back to the days of Jim Crow segregation and dominance, an era where dialog is required, not distance."

Bush was invited to be keynote speaker at the convention, which starts Sat-



The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's annual convention starts Saturday in Philadelphia, President George W. Bush is not expected.

urday in Philadelphia. Mfume says the non-partisan civil rights group, the oldest and largest in the nation, had hoped to have both Bush and his Democratic challenger, Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) at the event. Kerry has confirmed. In a brief letter from the President's scheduler, Melissa S. Bennett, the White House said: "Your request has been given every consideration.

Unfortunately, due to scheduling commitments, we are unable to accommodate your request. Thank you for understanding. The President sends his best wishes."

Mfume was not surprised. "It's business as usual at the White House," he says. "They don't view the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization as any way of significance or importance. In their minds, we do not

exist. And that's a dangerous course to take and a dangerous path to go down because you immediately then begin to write off a whole community of people simply because ideologically you may not agree with one another."

Hilary Shelton, director of the Washington Bureau of the NAACP, says the letter of invitation was sent (See Mfume, Page 6)

Workshop focuses on female health

By Albert C. Jones
Sentinel-Voice

When it comes to heart disease and stroke, African-American women are more at risk than any segment of the nation's population. African-American men are second most at risk. Hypertension, another risk factor for heart disease and stroke, is higher in African-Americans than any other group.

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death among African-American women and men. In fact, of the deaths of African-Americans recorded in 2000, 33.5 percent in men and 40.6 percent in women were caused by cardiovascular disease.

Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health 2010, a federally funded project, is conducting a series of workshops that educate African-Americans in reducing risk factors for heart disease and strokes. Educational programming will continue with \$850,000 per year funding.

"Loving Your Heart," a workshop for and about women, will focus on a variety of healthy habits, and will

be the latest on giving good care to your heart, said Joyce Woodson, associate professor of the University of Nevada's Cooperative Extension.

"This is an important workshop for women," Woodson said. "We spend a lot of time taking care of other people and not enough time taking care of our own health. This workshop will help you to commit to taking charge of your heart health. What better thing can you do for those who love you and yourself than to take care of your heart health?"

The Loving Your Heart workshop will be held July 10, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Tuscan Hotel, 255 E. Flamingo Road. Interactive breakout session will be held on stress reduction, nutrition, exercise and yoga. The workshop is free, but registration is required.

"People are responding to this information and they are making changes," said Dr. Larry Gamell, professor of Healthcare Administration at the University of Nevada's College of Cooperative Ex- (See Heart, Page 2)

Activists: Promises of 1964 Civil Rights Act still remain unfulfilled

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – When the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed, it capped years of struggle to have Congress enact legislation that would explicitly outlaw discrimination.

"I was working on it at every level," says Dorothy Height, 92, president of the National Council of Negro Women. "The Civil Rights Act did not come easily. We had the Civil Rights Movement. We had the March on Washington. And then, in the Congress, we had a terrific filibuster. We had to break the filibuster; then we finally



"There are still places where Blacks have been segregated in 2004."

— Mary Frances Berry, chairwoman of the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights.

got the act passed."

Height was among millions of Americans who commemorated the 40th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act last week, signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson after the House of Representatives passed it on June 19,

1964 and finally in the Senate in what is now known as the longest debate — 57 days, including six Saturdays.

But Height and other civil rights pioneers now say that despite the jubilation that accompanied passage of the (See Civil Rights, Page 12)

Local support led Muto to crown

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Twenty-four years ago, Elizabeth Muto was abandoned as a baby at the Reno airport. Over the weekend, she was crowned Miss Nevada.

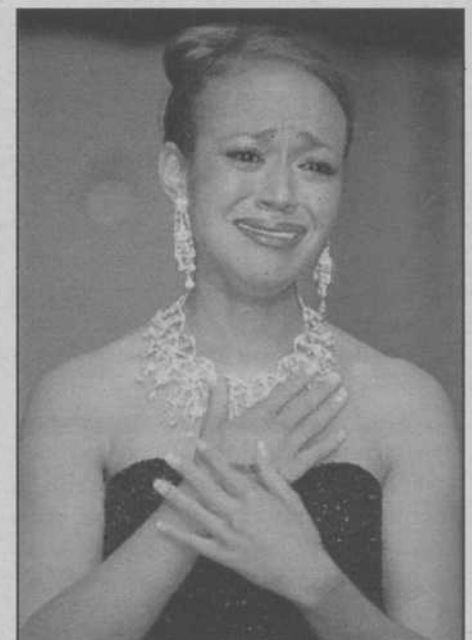
The Las Vegas woman beat out 11 other women Saturday night to become the first Black Miss Nevada and to advance to the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City, N.J., in September.

"I've been Nevada's own since I was 10 days old," Muto said. "Since then, the people of Nevada have loved and supported me."

Muto, a University of Nevada, Las Vegas graduate who majored in international business, was the winner of last year's Miss Black USA pageant in Miami.

She was abandoned on Jan. 17, 1980, atop a counter at Reno/Tahoe International Airport. Two pilots finally noticed her in an infant seat.

The Reno couple who adopted her thinks (See Miss Nevada, Page 2)



Miss Black USA, Elizabeth Muto, reacts after winning the Miss Nevada beauty pageant Saturday night in Carson City.