

NEWS BRIEFS

REPUBLICAN ADS TARGET KERRY

A Republican-funded group is running ads on Black radio stations in Ohio and four other competitive states calling Democrat John Kerry "rich, White and wishy-washy" and criticizing Teresa Heinz Kerry for highlighting her South African background. People of Color United, an arm of a Washington-based group called DC Parents for School Choice, is spending \$70,000 over three weeks to run the ads in inner cities in Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri and Pennsylvania. The group's president, Virginia Walden Ford, a Republican, said most of the money came from fellow Republicans with the largest contributor being J. Patrick Rooney, an insurance executive. "I'm really, really tired of the assumption that Black people are going to vote for Democrats because that's what we've always done," she said. The Kerry campaign denounced the ads. One ad says: "Our community doesn't need another wishy-washy, rich, White politician. And boy, does Kerry come across as rich, White and wishy-washy." Another says: "His wife says she's an African-American. While technically true, I don't believe a White woman, raised in Africa, surrounded by servants qualifies."

DENISE MAJETTE MAKES HISTORY IN GEORGIA

ATLANTA (NNPA) — U.S. Rep. Denise Majette, with her recent runoff victory, is the first woman and the first African-American from Georgia nominated for the U.S. Senate. Majette and entrepreneur Cliff Oxford faced off for the Democratic nomination to succeed Zell Miller in the U.S. Senate. With 100 percent of the precincts reporting, Majette garnered 59 percent of the vote; Oxford received 41 percent. Majette will face Republican U.S. Rep. Johnny Isakson in the Nov. 2 general election. Isakson is favored to win in November. Carl Walton, visiting professor of political science at Morris Brown College, said, "The Democratic Party has to unite behind her. It is vital for Majette to get the word out about herself and her campaign. Outside of metro Atlanta, she has to reach out to voters in rural and south Georgia. Isakson is the frontrunner so Majette must run a viable campaign."

NIGERIA PROMISES BLACK FARMERS WON'T LOSE LAND TO WHITES

The local government in Nigeria's Kwara State has reassured local Blacks who were worried that their land would be seized and given to White Zimbabwean farmers set to arrive this month. No land would be taken from local farmers, said Attorney General Alhaji Saka Abimbola Issa. All that would happen, he said, was that 35 White Zimbabwean farmers were each being leased 1,000 hectares of land for 25 years, with the option to renew for a further 25 years. The aim of this move is to revive Nigeria's ailing agricultural economy. The highly-skilled Zimbabweans, who have been driven from their own land by their country's controversial land-redistribution program, would also be contracted to teach local farmers the latest farming techniques. Kwara's governor Bukola Saraki said that as well as export revenue and increased food security for Nigeria, the new farmers may well help support new local industries. "The majority of these (Zimbabwean) farmers are commercial farmers," he said. "They are thinking of the processing (and) people are already thinking about setting up processing plants."

PRO-APARTHEID PARTY IN SOUTH AFRICA TO DISBAND

The once pro-apartheid New National Party (NNP) has announced plans to disband the party due to a lack of voter support. The NNP, which ruled under the name the National Party from 1948 to 1994, polled just 1.7 percent of the vote in this year's general election. NNP leader Marthinus van Schalkwyk declared he will apply for ANC membership and has encouraged other NNP members to follow suit. When it was in government, the National Party had a policy of reserving the best land for Whites and entrenched a host of regulations designed to protect White privilege. This included preserving White-only beaches, benches and restaurants. It lost power to the ANC in the country's first truly democratic election in 1994. The NNP will continue to exist in name until September 2005, which is the next opportunity that members of parliament can officially change parties. However, in practice, the NNP will cease operations later this month and has said it will take part in all future elections on behalf of the ANC.

Entities team to ensure Black vote

By Hazel Trice Edney
NNPA Washington
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — If nothing else, the fiasco of the 2000 presidential election alerted activists and legal experts that they must take a different and more comprehensive approach this year to make sure the Black vote is cast and counted.

"The good news is that as a result of 2000, we have learned that we must do things differently this year to protect voters' rights," says Barbara Arnwine, executive director of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law. "If they try to intimidate African-American voters, if they try to run the illegal suppression scheme, we're going to be there to catch them. If they try to challenge Black folk without any basis, we're going to have them thrown in jail if we can. And if we can't get them thrown in jail, we're going to have them thrown out of the polls."

A non-partisan program called Election Protection, being led by the National Coalition on Black Civil Participation, an umbrella group of more than 80 organizations, including the D.C.-based



"The good news is that as a result of 2000, we have learned that we must do things differently this year to protect voters' rights."

— Barbara Arnwine, executive director of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law.

Lawyers Committee and People for the American Way, will be on guard this time around, Arnwine says. More than 6,000 volunteer lawyers and law students will be staffing precincts around the country and a toll free telephone hotline will be staffed by some 500 lawyers and voting rights experts. The toll free number is 1-866-OUR-VOTE or 1-866-687-8683.

"It is a critical new device to help voters," Arnwine says. "There are hundreds of us who are working on this program. So, when they get there, they're going to see the NAACP, National Urban League, National Bar Association, the American Bar Association, local bar associations, they're going to find us there in droves. And they're going to find that this

year, they are not alone."

Meanwhile, as Nov. 2 approaches, Arnwine says voters should VIP — Verify their registration, making sure their names and addresses are correctly documented; carry valid identification with them to the polls; and know their correct voting Precinct.

The Election Protection measures are being put in place just as a new study confirms that in every national election since Reconstruction, African-Americans have faced intimidation at the polls.

"With widespread predictions of a close national election and an unprecedented wave of new voter registration, unscrupulous political operatives will look for any advantage, including suppression and intimidation efforts," states the joint report

by the People for the American Way and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"As in the past, minority voters and low-income populations will be the most likely targets of dirty tricks at the polls."

The 25-page report concludes: "The bloody days of violence and retribution following the Civil War and Reconstruction are gone. The poll taxes, literacy tests and physical violence of Jim Crow era have disappeared. Today, more subtle, cynical and creative tactics have taken their place."

Among the documented violations:

- Students at predominantly Black Prairie View A&M University successfully challenged and defeated a district attorney's claim that they were not eligible to vote in Waller County where the school is located;

- In Philadelphia last year, a counter-intimidation worker reported men with clipboards bearing official-looking insignias. The worker, Tom Lindenfeld, said there were 300 cars with decals resembling federal agencies, such as the Drug Enforcement Administration. (See Voting, Page 13)

Gangs feared on rise in Philadelphia

Special to Sentinel-Voice

PHILADELPHIA (NNPA) — More than 30 years after Philadelphia erupted in gang violence, community leaders say signs of new groups forming are manifesting themselves in some neighborhoods across the city.

During the 1960s and '70s, countless gangs fought for control over street corners in Germantown, North Philadelphia and West Philadelphia. Today, a new generation of teenagers proudly boasts the names of gangs that once made their neighborhoods turf-war territories.

"That's a sign of potential gangs," said Bilal Qayyum, head of the Fathers' Day Rally Committee and co-founder of Men United for a Better Philadelphia. "That level is not there yet, but when youth are identifying with certain street names, it's a major concern."

Brickyard, Dogtown, the Moon and Young Guns are among the city's most infamous gangs young men are beginning to imitate. They are middle and high school students, all of whom are too young to remember the anti-violence slogans of "No Gang War in '74" and "Stay Alive

in '75."

"There are still some oldheads in the community who belonged to those gangs," Qayyum said. "They reminisce about the things they used to do back in the day, but kids are listening. Adults have to be careful about those discussions."

The Fathers' Day Rally Committee, city intervention programs and other organizations have pledged to suppress the problem before it starts. Men United for a Bet-

ter Philadelphia collected 917 firearms in its buyback program in May. Each person received \$150 for every gun turned in, but funds ran out at the end of the first week. Another gun buyback is planned for September. The group also holds rallies every Wednesday and Thursday in neighborhoods where drug activity is prevalent.

"We seek out people who can keep the movement going after we leave," said Mark Harrell, director of Men

United for a Better Philadelphia. "We all want the same things: to live in a nice neighborhood and send our children to good schools. People in the communities have to realize that it's not where you live, but how you live."

Unlike Los Angeles, Chicago and Gary, Ind., where gangs are common, activists are hopeful Philadelphia will not become a home to gangs again. Philadelphia is a survivor of its own gang wars in (See Gangs, Page 5)

LET'S BEGIN A NEW CLARK CO. SCHOOL ERA
*** ELECT ***

*** Jefferson Lee ***
for
School Board
District C

- College educated & bi-lingual
- A former juvenile correctional facility teacher/staff member
- A lifelong proven leader



WWW.LEE4TRUSTEE.COM

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT JEFFERSON LEE