

Oil

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ties run by ExxonMobil and other oil companies are, in neglect, emitting toxic chemicals that have caused serious diseases among citizens in mostly minority and low-income neighborhoods where the plants are closely located. It's a matter of those major companies truly practicing Christian values and social principles, he said.

"I'm here because I'm a Christian, a concerned citizen and a man of conscience," Stovall said. "The corporations are not just responsible to its shareholders; they're responsible to the other stakeholders. That includes people in the communities where they have facili-

ties. That includes the environment and the world community."

ExxonMobil is the first station under SCLC's boycott, to end June 12. The boycott will then "roll" on the 12th of each month to Shell, British Petroleum, Chevron and Phillips 66.

"It is simply immoral that everyday Americans face a gas crisis that is literally destroying homes while a company like ExxonMobil makes nearly \$10 billion in profits during the first quarter alone," Steele said. "The only way that gas prices are going to be brought down is if Americans take a stand and break the stifling silence of acceptance."

HIV

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have no clue of their HIV status because of a lack of mandatory testing of inmates.

"We don't know what the actual numbers are. At a recent training, a health professional estimated that there are 1,200 people in prisons who are HIV infected, but their internal numbers were upward of 3,000. That's a big discrepancy and we don't have a handle on the amount of prisoners in California or nationally who are infected or know their status," Davis said.

Davis supports legislation to test inmates, including Rep. Maxine Waters' proposed Stop AIDS in Prison Act of 2007, which was introduced in April.

The act would allow for routine non-mandatory HIV counseling and testing upon entry and release and enable prisoners to request testing without being penalized.

"This would help determine numbers more accurately, because often if you're found to be positive, then you lose a lot of privileges that are afforded non-HIV positive inmates, like certain jobs, housing status and even worktime credit. They'll send you to an institution that primarily cares for people with HIV/AIDS, but once persons are comfortable in an institution, they don't want to move," Freddie Williams said.

Inmates also don't want to extend their stay by losing work time credit if they report their status, he said.

Williams speaks from experience. He spent 20 years in prisons in Arizona and California and contracted HIV in 1994 as a result of drug abuse. Today, he is an HIV prevention and certified substance abuse counselor in Lancaster, Calif.

AIDS researchers say any decline in numbers is a result of more advanced medications, but federal and state funding needs to target more outreach and education, especially to minority communities.

Despite an increase in new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in 2006 among Whites and Asians/Pacific Islanders, the disease is still more prevalent among Blacks and Latinos. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2006 AIDS statistics were:

- Blacks - 67.7 AIDS cases per 100,000;
- Latinos - 25.5 AIDS cases per 100,000;
- Whites - 8.2 AIDS cases per 100,000;
- Asians/Pacific Islanders - 6.7 per 100,000.

"When AIDS first struck, the CDC labeled it 'G.R.I.D.' meaning gay-related immunodeficiency disease, and tried to combat it using a social model instead of a medical model; and, of course, the White, gay, male population began to get a handle on it through education and funding, but now that it has become a people of color disease, they don't have any money to fund it," Williams said.

He adds, "Looking forward, we need to begin to mobilize community by community, and we need to mobilize through our churches, because if we don't do anything to get a handle on this and recognize that it has become a people of color pandemic, we will be in a world of trouble."

Charlene Muhammad writes for the Final Call.

"Enough is enough!"

With oil prices exceeding an all-time record high \$130 a barrel, the average price of gas has risen 21 cents in just the past two weeks. Since October of 2005, average prices have risen 53 percent, from \$2.49 to \$3.80. With some cities seeing regular unleaded gasoline surpass \$4 a gallon, it has caused many independent trucking companies to go under, as the average cost to fill an 18-wheeler tank has exceeded \$1,200. Other companies are implementing four 10-hour workday schedules, as opposed to the standard five 8-hour days weekly, so that their employees can commute less to their jobs.

A recent poll by Kaiser Family Foundation reports that 44 percent of the American population now cites the price of gasoline as a "serious problem," while 63 percent of families with incomes

of less than \$30,000 see soaring gas prices as a serious concern. More demand for oil from developing foreign nations, as well as the United States, has been tagged as the main reason. According to the Energy Information Administration, the price of oil in 2002, before the United States entered the War in Iraq, was \$22 a barrel.

"People don't have to put up with it," Stovall encouraged. "The shareholders should get in touch with their humanity and their human heart and think about what it means for a parent to be by the bedside of a child dying of cancer or asthma."

Some shareholders have. Resolutions introduced at the annual meeting included recommendations, such as ExxonMobil formally establishing greenhouse gas emissions goals, strengthening the policy on renewable energy products and conducting en-

ergy technology studies on how the company can be more energy conscious and independent.

"Do this in a way that's going to move this nation toward energy independence," said Michael Crosby during a press conference of consciously minded shareholders the day before the annual meeting.

He proposed the Energy Technology Report resolution. "Right now ExxonMobil is totally locked into sourcing from more and more volatile nations, whether it's things going on politically or a pipeline problems. They're locked into a model that is getting more and more apparent that it's no longer going to be viable. Things have changed so rapidly in the past year."

Civil rights activist Peter Johnson also called for oil companies to end "overt environmental racism."

"I'm with the voices against exploitation of American citizens with the price of oil and gas and also against our sacred earth," Johnson said.

Via a press release, Rex Tillerson, ExxonMobil chairman and CEO, said his company is consciously aware of all the issues plaguing the community. "Energy security, economic growth and environmental impacts are increasingly on the minds of people today," Tillerson said. "We're focused on safely and reliably meeting the growing energy demand while working to reduce our impact on the environment."

Steele added that the SCLC's direct action campaign will include demonstrations at various oil companies, working with politicians to hold congressional hearings and other strategies.

Gordon Jackson writes for the Dallas Examiner.

Your Horoscope Says... June 4-11

ARIES

What a blessed week this will be. Spend it meditating on all that God has given you. This week think hard about some form of worship. Curtis Mayfield wrote a song called "Who Do You Love?" Someone should write one called "How Do You Love?" For your love lesson, the second song would be the one you should sing.

Soul Affirmation: New intuitions create new plans and a new cast of characters.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 16, 25

TAURUS

Your self-discipline helps you to do more this week. People will be watching as you zip around with style and grace! Broaden your cultural horizons by trying new foods and meeting new people. You'll be pleasantly surprised!

Soul Affirmation: I am patient with all that comes my way this week.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 4, 14

GEMINI

The urge to chase off on a tangent may be strong this week. Take a few minutes to study the big picture and make sure any whims serve the bigger purpose. It's a good week to do what needs to be done.

Soul Affirmation: Luck is my best friend this week.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 10, 15

CANCER

You'll be full of good ideas this week, so make sure you write down the ones you don't have time to put into action. You'll want to share your thoughts on a grand scale, and your mind will seem truly universal to you. Try to be patient with those who are staggered by your brilliance.

Soul Affirmation: Light from my soul shines in many directions.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 3, 9

LEO

This week, let your gentle spirit shine through. Your rough-and-tumble side is not appropriate for the relationships that you'll encounter. Someone will need your understanding and sympathy. Give it with sensitivity.

Soul Affirmation: My life itself is my greatest creation.

Lucky Numbers: 30, 37, 44

VIRGO

You're faced with a formidable task, but when you defeat it, you'll take big steps toward a goal. Weigh in and give it your best. Your energy is high. The task looks larger before you start. Compromise with a partner. The immediate future promises love.

Soul Affirmation: I enjoy the spirits of people whose spirits are akin to mine this week

Lucky Numbers: 33, 34, 52

LIBRA

Yield to the harmony that lies below the surface of any seeming disagreement. Serenity is more important than your sense of righteousness. Questioning the motives of others will make your mind too suspicious to benefit from the unclear way in which love will present itself this week.

Soul Affirmation: Freedom of mind is the greatest gift for me this week.

Lucky Numbers: 12, 53, 54

SCORPIO

Always remember that loved ones make the world a wonderful habitat. Otherwise, it is an empty place, and no amount of material gain can give it the excitement you want and deserve.

Soul Affirmation: I let my luck work for me.

Lucky Numbers: 16, 23, 46

SAGITTARIUS

Do not travel in the company of those who work against you. Move towards people with words of encourage-

ment and an extended hand. Release the grudge that you have for someone who betrayed you. You will find liberation and lightheartedness in forgiving. Follow your heart when it comes to a love interest.

Soul Affirmation: Intelligent information does not have to come from intelligent sources

Lucky Numbers: 4, 29, 41

CAPRICORN

Stay adaptable, and all will be fine. Flexibility is easy for you when you want it to be. The situation you'll face this week will require that you alter your way of thinking about someone with whom you're involved in business or friendship.

Soul Affirmation: Facing down challenges makes me feel good about myself.

Lucky Numbers: 19, 29, 48

AQUARIUS

Modesty doesn't mean cowardly. It can mean gracious. Let a friend have the credit for something that you did. Be cool. It's good exercise. Tooting your own horn doesn't get you the biggest notice. The people you want to impress this week will be more impressed by your graciousness.

Soul Affirmation: I am willing to do more than my part to get the job done this week.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 12, 53

PISCES

Give birth to some new impulses about love. The ones you've been using have led you to a place you do not wish to be. Give yourself a break. Change. Be less critical. Accept love even from those you do not completely agree with.

Soul Affirmation: I keep in mind the practical side of life this week.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 13, 24