Terrorism, Legislation, and Healthcare

Disparate Headlines

Volume 31
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Twenty Five Cents Per Copy
Thursday, May 29, 2003

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Reviving America's Spirit of Optimism

By Martin Wright Edelman

A recent Children's Defense Fund analysis found that the number of Black children living in extreme poverty is at its highest level in 23 years. The U.S. Census Bureau, in its report of a booming economy, noted that Black families are the poorest and Black children the most vulnerable. Instead of using calculated changes in official poverty rates, the number of extremely poor Black children has increased. In the last round of welfare-to-work programs, Black children were the most likely to be poorest in the nation. The number of Black children living below the poverty line has increased since 1996.

By Marian Wright Edelman

Children are the victims of poverty and discrimination. They are the victims of the violence in their communities. They are the victims of the cuts in their city budgets. They are the victims of the cuts in their school budgets. They have no assistance despite their poverty. They have no support despite their struggles. They are the victims of the cuts in their communities. They are the victims of the cuts in their communities.

By Marian Wright Edelman

President and Founder of the
National Urban League

No Child Behind® is proposing massive new tax breaks for the richest Americans who are out of work and in need of assistance. This is a time of fiscal responsibility, and the fact that America is at war makes the situation even more critical than ever.

By Marc L. Morial

President and CEO

Aberdeen

Ms. Brown and White children too. But public policy is not inescapable. By saying we can't do anything about it, we are saying we have nothing to say about it.

By Martin Wright Edelman

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In the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, the source of official poverty statistics, the number of extremely poor Black children is at its highest level in 23 years. The U.S. Census Bureau, in its report of a booming economy, noted that Black families are the poorest and Black children the most vulnerable. Instead of using calculated changes in official poverty rates, the number of extremely poor Black children has increased. In the last round of welfare-to-work programs, Black children were the most likely to be poorest in the nation. The number of Black children living below the poverty line has increased since 1996.

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LIFESTYLES

Celebrating 30 Years of Serving the Community

Health
Fitness
Education

Page A-3

Thur/sday, May 29, 2003

North Fontana Celebrates Juneteenth

3. Celebrations commemorate African American freedom

The North Fontana Parade Committee and the City of Fontana are preparing for their Annual Juneteenth Celebration to be held on June 14, 2003 at the Jessie Turner Center. The event starts at 10 a.m. and lasts until 5 p.m. The City of Fontana is proud of this event as it exalts the emancipation of slaves.

Today Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and commemorates education and achievement. It will be an all-day event marked with music, vendors, talent and fashion shows, picnics, food booths, and entertainment. It will be a day for families of all cultures to reflect and rejoice. It will be a time for assessment, self-improvement and for planing the future. This year's Juneteenth will be held in a "picnic" fashion, to bring back the lawn chairs and pillows.

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved - then free now. Note that was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive Order. However, with the surrender of General Lee on April 16, 1865, and the arrival of General Granger's regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.

Later attempts to explain this two and a half year delay in the receipt of this important news have yielded several versions that have been handed down through the years. Often told is the story of a messenger who was murdered on his way to Texas with the news of freedom. Another, is that the news was deliberately withheld by the empresarios to make the labor force on the plantations. And still another, is that federal troops actually waited for the slave owners to reap the benefits of one last cotton harvest before going to Texas to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation. All or none of them could be true.

The reactions to this profound news ranged from pure shock to immediate jubilation. While many lingered to learn of this new employer to employee relationship, many let these first offers be completely off the lips of their former masters - at varying to the conditions on the plantations and the realization of freedom. Even with rouge to nose, many left that feeling that the war had ended and that the war had become official.

As we begin to consider possible June 19th was coined "Juneteenth" and grew with much participation from descendants. The Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassured family members in neighboring states to go to Galveston on this date. Many former slaves and descendants making an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston on this date.

For whatever the reason, conditions in Texas decades later, with many former slaves and descendants making an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston on this date.

Part IV

Race in Medicine - Part IV

Dr. Quincy - The Power of the Butterfly

In recognizing the celebration of Dr. Quincy, mother, brother, of siblings, friends and classmates, I could only step back a mere year and then a heartbroken Quincy at the conclusion of his medical school admissions and how hard it is to press on. News, begin to consider possible U.S. Supreme Court rules in The University of Michigan cases, we seem to win the point of how truly devastating a ruling that makes medical school admissions and how hard it is to press on.

We need to consider the possibility of U.S. Supreme Court rules in The University of Michigan cases, we seem to win the point of how truly devastating a ruling that makes medical school admissions and how hard it is to press on.

The majority of all African American physicians were trained at UC Berkeley, UCLA and the University of California, San Francisco. The re-admitting of the historical and logical destination and for many it represented true freedom, while the desire to reach majority in neighboring states the same into Louisian, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Setting into these new areas as free men and women brought on new realities and the challenges of establishing a heretofore non-existent status for black people in America. Recounting the memories of that great day in June 1965 and it's festivities would serve as a reminder that as well as a release from the growing pressures encountered in their new territory. The celebration of June 19th was coined "Juneteenth" and grew with much participation from descendants. The Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassured family members in neighboring states to go to Galveston on this date. Many former slaves and descendants making an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston on this date.

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Part IV

Sex Can Change Everything. Especially Your Future

**DO YOU KNOW...**

- 8 out of 10 teen pregnancies are unintended!
- 1 in 4 people will get a sexually transmitted infection (STI) in his or her lifetime!
- Only 1 out of 3 teen moms will ever finish high school!
- There's a place to go for confidential, no-cost, and personal health services!

If you're planning to have sex, or are already sexually active, there's a new teen health program that offers information and counseling services to help you make smart decisions. Family PACT (Planning, Access, Care and Treatment) is a program provided by the California Department of Health Services that offers no-cost, personal and confidential services for low-income and uninsured California teens, women and men.

Deciding to have sex is a big responsibility. It can lead to an unintended pregnancy, something that for the nearly 55,000 California teens who gave birth last year are dealing with today. It's up to you to make smart decisions so that you can go to school, spend time with your friends, play sports and go to the movies, instead of spending your time caring for a baby.

Smart decisions can help you in other ways as well. When you choose to be sexually active there are things you and your partner need to think about. STIs like Chlamydia can harm you if they go untreated. This can prevent you from having a family when you decide you are ready. You may not even know you have an STI. In fact, up to 85 percent of women and 40 percent of men who have Chlamydia do not show symptoms. By signing up for Family PACT you will have access to counseling, birth control methods including condoms, the skin patch, birth control pills and the vaginal ring as well as STI and HIV testing. And through Family PACT, you'll also have access to emergency contraception, which can prevent an unintended pregnancy when used within 72 hours after unprotected sex.

For more information, or to find a Family PACT provider near you, please call 1-866-FAMILY-PACT or visit the Web site at www.familypact.org.

**Family PACT**

is provided by the California Department of Health Services. It is California's innovative approach to provide comprehensive family planning services to low-income men, women and teens. There are more than 2,500 providers of Family PACT services throughout California. The program is a critical piece in health care for under-insured and uninsured Californians.

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ordered the man to drop the knife, but officers. He walked toward the offices. He immediately summoned medical aid. The officers repeatedly fired in front of his chest and the other. He raised the knife and partially extended them toward the police. Medics placed on paid administrative leave pursuant to Riverside Community Hospital where he was pronounced deceased. No officers or civilians were injured during the incident. The officers reportedly entered the house to stop the knife, but he did not comply with their commands. Both offices fired their handguns at the suspect. He was struck several times in the upper torso. The officers immediately summoned medical aid.

Dr. and Mrs. Leonard Jackson problems our children face in higher education. "We probe deeper into our children's world, and the barriers to higher education behind the scenes," said Gilles. Always available to share their knowledge, Dr. Ernest Levister presented a talk in a UCR series on depression and diabetes, two diseases that affect Black discharged. The officers repeatedly fired in front of his chest and the other. He raised the knife and partially extended them toward the police. Medics placed on paid administrative leave pursuant to Riverside Community Hospital where he was pronounced deceased. No officers or civilians were injured during the incident. The officers reportedly entered the house to stop the knife, but he did not comply with their commands. Both offices fired their handguns at the suspect. He was struck several times in the upper torso. The officers immediately summoned medical aid.

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Is THIS how you want them to learn about sex?

If not, empower young people by giving them the information they need to make healthy and positive decisions.

Teens need parents, mentors, teachers and other caring adults to answer questions about love and sex, reproduction and contraception. And they need accurate, age-appropriate information about preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.

According to a recent survey, African American adults view teen pregnancy as a very serious problem. They also report feeling comfortable talking with teens about sex and birth control. So take the time now to talk with a teen. You can make a healthy difference in their life.

Teen pregnancy is also an adult problem. Let’s solve it together.

For more information, visit www.letsgereal.org.

The “Get Real About Teen Pregnancy” public education campaign is funded by a grant to Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide from The California Wellness Foundation.
Local Churches Support St. Paul Mother’s Day Program

Covenants: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats” was the theme of the Mother’s Day program on May 11th, led by the Lay Organization of St. Paul A.M.E. Church. This year’s Mother’s Day event was held at the Metropolitan State San Bernardino. Quinn AME Church of Moreno Valley and the Women of 16th Street Seventh Day Adventist Church joined in the celebration. The models showed vintage hats owned by women of the churches. Youth from St. Paul, under the direction of Christina Clark and 16th Street (Little Harmony), under the direction of Marvina Moxley danced like David with their spritely team pace performances. Christian comedians and author Richard O. Jones, had the audience laughing uncontrollably with his jokes and stories. Trice, the church organist gave an outstanding recital using much of Paul Laurence Dunbar’s work. Event MC’s were Cheryl Brown and Linda Jackson. Kathy Ervin and Aldrey Huntington were the program’s directors. Huntington was the brass behind the theme, Apostle Morris is the President of the Life Organization.

For more information contact the church office at 909-888-3761.

The Black Voice News
Celebrating 30 Years of Serving the Community

Thursday, May 29, 2003

Religious Briefs
ST. ANTHONY’S NOCOS FLETA 2003

Min. Ron Pearson, a resident of Moreno Valley and a part of the Inland Empire Gospel Community, will be hosting his first video recording on May 30th 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at the Faith Pavilion 4225 Pudo Rd. in the City of Corona.

Min. Pearson has played with a number of professional bands but acts in the gospel world today like: Hendrick Walker, Andre Crouch, Judy McClain, Bishop Paul S. Morton, Daryl Coley, and Kurt Carr and the Kurt Carr Singers.

He has also played for and recorded with local artists like: Bishop Kenneth Wells & The Riverside Music Chorale, New Jerusalem Four Square Church; Place Place; Jerusalem; and various churches throughout the Inland Empire.

This Concert will feature Min. Pearson doing what he does best, from the set list: a song that will portray: God’s Awesome Power. For more information contact the church office at 909-887-3810 or Karen Pearson at 130-780-8221.

“Sunday Night Gospel Show” Celebrates Six-Year Run

The “Sunday Night Gospel Show” (KNES-FM 99.1), hosted by 15-year radio veteran Reverend Regional Marshall, Sr., and heard each Sunday evening from 9:00 p.m. to midnight (CST), has recently completed a successful six-year run.

Currently broadcasting from Pacific Field Studios, the show has been airing live worldwide via the internet, the program’s seventh season marks plans for the show to expand with the possibility of syndicating on KTCK 105.9 FM.

Reverend Marshall comments, “This past six years as the ‘Sunday Night Gospel’ have been the most enjoyable ones of my life. In this business, you never stop learning. Therefore, I can only pray that God will continue to use this show to offer the opportunity to develop my skills and talents into becoming all that he has planned for me.”

“Sunday Night Gospel” is, indeed, a Ministry in itself.

West Coast Faith Center International

Where Ordinary People Lay Hold of Extraordinary Success

Wednesday Night Service at 7:00 p.m.
Miracle Friday Service
Every Friday Night at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday Services at 3:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

The Worshippers are ordained by Dr. Creflo Dollar. If you love Worshiping you will love West Coast Faith Center.

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For information call (909) 658-6690 www.westcoastfaithcenter.org

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Holy Hippo - Sat. 1 AM-AM
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- **FREEWAY DISCOUNT:** $2,200.00
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- **FACTORY REBATE:** $3,000
- **TOTAL REBATE:** $5,894
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- **MSRP:** $41,199.00

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- **MSRP:** $28,895.00

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- **EVL FORD GRAND MARRIAGE:** $17,999
- **EVL LINCOLN NAVIGATOR:** $28,999

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  Excludes tires, batteries, cannot be combined with any other offer. Exp. 5-31-03

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1600 CAMINO REAL, SAN BERNARDINO
Women's Sexual Health: A Possible New Treatment New Research Tackles Female Sexual Dysfunction

E verywhere from women's magazines to radio talk shows to "Sex and the City," people are candidly discussing female sexual dysfunction. Yet, for a topic that everyone's talking about, why is it still so hard to talk about? Until recently, male impotence and erectile dysfunction were taboo subjects, even between spouses. Now, with the emergence of Viagra, men are boasting their virility virtually everywhere. Female Sexual Dysfunction, or FSD, is not a disease; rather, it's a term for a syndrome that includes a loss of libido or desire, decreased sexual arousal, lack of organs and pain during sex. According to the results of a 1999 national survey of people 18 to 59 years of age that was published in The Journal of the American Medical Association, 43 percent of women suffer from some kind of female sexual dysfunction. Additionally, FSD most commonly occurs in premenopausal women ages 18 to 50. Experts agree that one of the first steps in fixing sexual dysfunction is to realize there is a problem. The next step, and probably the hardest one for most women, is to ask for help from a professional. Doctors initially thought that FSD originated purely from psychological causes and treated them accordingly. However, it is now believed that there is a physiological basis to many sexual problems that could be alleviated with modern treatment and drug therapy. Certain medications and diseases, alcohol and drug use, as well as hormone levels can adversely affect libido. Menopausal and postmenopausal women and women who have had hysterectomies often suffer from FSD due to hormonal imbalances. "The development of pharmaceutical products that can help treat FSD could be a significant medical advance," said Lesland Wilson, president and CEO at Vivus Inc., a California company that specializes in products to improve sexual dysfunction. The company is currently testing a topically-applied over-the-counter treatment for Sexual Arousal Disorder, a major subcategory of FSD. Alista is being rigorously assessed in clinical trials to verify the efficacy and safety of the drug. "The medication only remains in the body for a very short period of time and will not produce the adverse side effects of testosterone-based treatments being developed to treat another type of FSD," said Wilson. Responses were favorable when women who participated in the trial were questioned during and after treatment on such topics as level of sexual arousal, patient satisfaction with level of arousal and level of sexual satisfaction. To find out more about female sexual dysfunction and Alista, visit the Vivus Web site at www.vivus.com.

Can You Spare Some Change?

Y ou know how it is when you start telling a friend something about another person. You can tell their attire, their financial state, or their viewpoint on a certain subject. That's when you start to think to yourself, "This person could be perfect, if only they could change." Now, let's say you're talking about one topic. Is it possible to change a person? And if you do master the art of change, will one change affect the whole person? You know, exchang­ ing one brick on the wall building to save yourself...

When you think about it, do you really want to try to change a person? It involves a lot of energy, time, frustration, and often, yes. Many have relevant experiences to share. After all, we all have friends and family members like "she’s going to learn him...", "I could just get him...", "only if she would..." This leads me to believe that this is part of the old saying - leave well enough alone. You never know what they might change into. As a whole, we have become obsessed with finding the perfect person. Don't get me wrong, there's nothing wrong with helping someone to reach their full potential but you shouldn't anticipate anything in return. We all hear the story of a person turning a drive into a walk and in return the swan flying to find a new owner. Remember, however, a friend once remarked "I'd rather meet another friend instead of Z and think he/she is perfect, if only they would just be themselves..." What my friend means is that we should step out on our own. Once Person Z and think he/she is perfect and build a person Z into A Person. Once Person Z notices that you have become A Person they step back, reassess, and maybe start remarks from my friends and family members like "she’s going to learn him...", "I could just get him...", "only if she would..." I think I know how it is when you start to think to yourself - "I should do this if I were in his shoes."

If there is truth to this, could it be that once we made what we think is the perfect person and think that we aren’t perfect? Or could it be that they just see themselves in another light? I think it is possible to change a person. Is it possible to change a person? And if you do master the art of change, will one change affect just the old self - leave well enough alone. You never know what they might change into. As a whole, we have become obsessed with finding the perfect person. Don't get me wrong, there's nothing wrong with helping someone to reach their full potential but you shouldn't anticipate anything in return. We all hear the story of a person turning a drive into a walk and in return the swan flying to find a new owner. Remember, however, a friend once remarked "I'd rather meet another friend instead of Z and think he/she is perfect, if only they would just be themselves..." What my friend means is that we should step out on our own. Once Person Z and think he/she is perfect and build a person Z into A Person. Once Person Z notices that you have become A Person they step back, reassess, and maybe start remarks from my friends and family members like "she’s going to learn him...", "I could just get him...", "only if she would..." I think I know how it is when you start to think to yourself - "I should do this if I were in his shoes."

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By Taylor Jordan

Roy Haynes, who would also become a legend in his own time, enjoyed a musical education that most instrumentalists even today could only dream of, worthily. The days, nights and years Haynes spent in the drum chair for seminal jazz pioneer Charlie "Bird" Parker from the late 1940s to the early 1950s were enviable for musicians at the time. The experience helped fine tune Haynes' drumming and timekeeping skills, ultimately leading to his distinction as one of America's finest jazz musicians. Haynes will headline Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts at 8 p.m. Friday, May 30. Tickets are $40, $45 and $50 and available at the Cerritos Center ticket office, (562) 900-4345, or online at www.cerritoscenter.com.

Joining the legendary percussionist for the one-night only engagement will be young lions Kenny Garrett on alto sax and bassist John Patitucci and.$

Haynes recently realized another achievement, the billboard magazine chart-topping trio album on Verve entitled "Birds of a Feather: A Tribute to Charlie Parker." The Cerritos concert will feature selections from this album as well as numbers which span a 50-year career and tributes to Parker, the bebop co-founder who has significantly influenced several generations of musicians in jazz and other styles.

Haynes has maintained critical acclaim, personal popularity with fans and warm camaraderie with fellow artists for more than five decades. "Haynes is in complete control of a combo that thrives on no-nonsense hard bop...all of the musicians are hard-driving, take-no-prisoners players, perfect for the material they're working on," asserted a Jazz Times magazine review of his latest effort.

According to a Downbeat magazine writer, Haynes' "touched touch" is a "flammable mixture of charisma and skill that ignites during each of his drum breaks to bring jazz to a boil."

The elder statesman of jazz has kept time for many legends within the industry, including Miles Davis, Bud Powell, Thelonious Monk, Sarah Vaughan and, of course, Parker. Haynes, Mas' Reck, Elvin Jones and Louis Bellson are considered among the world's premier living jazz drummers.

Patitucci is a busy bassist in the New York City jazz scene, but his acoustic skills have kept him in demand for festival, club concert and commissioned works worldwide. The second timekeeper in the combo led by Haynes has played and recorded with such notables as pianist/composer Herbie Hancock, saxophonist John Brecker and trumpeter Roy Hargrove.

His father, a tenor saxophonist named Garrett how to play the alto sax in the family's time. Enjoyed a musical education.

Haynes, with art director by Pat Metheny, "featured a guest appearance by Pat Metheny, dropped Don Ben's readers' poll and earned the alto saxophonist the coveted first-place award held by Phil Woods for 21 years.

Payton continues the tradition of great trumpeters from New Orleans. His predecessors include buddy Bolden, Louis Armstrong and Wynton Marsalis, one of his musical mentors. As a child prodigy and the son of legendary jazz bassist Walter Payton, he made his professional debut at age 10 with the Tuxedo Brass Band, led by his father.

At age 12, Payton and other uniquely talented 12-year-olds created the All-Star Jazz Band to play local gigs and tour European festivals. His prowess on the trumpet brought him to Wynton Marsalis' attention.

Marsalis recommended him to band leaders Elvin Jones and Marcus Roberts. As a teen-ager, he bussed high school students, additional academic and creative endeavors at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts and musical mentoring by Ellis Marsalis, Wynton's father and a professor at the University of New Orleans. Besides leading his own groups, Payton has worked with Clark Terry, Rogers, Jazz Futures II, the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra and the band of Count Basie and Duke Ellington. Payton served as Elvin Jones' musical director and, in 1996, made his film debut as Otis "Hot Lips" Page in Robert Altman's feature film "Kansas City." He also won a Grammy Award for best jazz instrumental soloist on "Standard" with Doc Cheatham in 1996.

The Black Voice News
Celebrating 30 Years of Serving the Community
MAY

May 31. Family Service Association will host their annu­al Juneteenth Celebration in June. They are looking for all types of entertainment. If you have talent you would like to showcase auditions will be held on May 31. For more information contact Ron Gibson at (909) 943-1342 or Dana Thomas at (909) 940-1900.

JUNE

June 6. Queen Lathif will be named "Pinch of the Year," at the 16th anniversary of the Essence Awards in Hollywood. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.com or by calling (213) 480-3232.

June 7. 12 noon to 6:00 p.m. The Riverside Juneteenth Celebration committee in con­junction with the Stratton Community Center/Riverside will be presenting its third annual Juneteenth Celebration at Stratton Center/Bedwell Park, 2008 Martin Luther King Blvd. For more information contact (909) 788-4959.

June 7, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. The Macedonian Missionary Baptist Church's Missionary Society will present their First Annual "We're Steppin' Up on Faith" showcase auditions will be on June 7, 2003 at 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the 16th anniversary of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service held on Saturday, May 31, 2003 from 12-5 pm at Fairmont Park in the City of Riverside. Come and experience the community of drum and dance rhythms shared by our world cultures. Bring the family and friends to enjoy drum and dance performances, ethnic foods, crafts and clothing to walk all the streets. The theme of this inaugural festival is "Celebration of the One" our enemies as human beings, and the one beat that sustains a rhythm and gives life to the dance. The festival is free to the public and will be promoted in a smoke-free event. Mark your calendars so you don't miss out on the fun. For more information please call (909) 751-3077 or (909) 880-6286.

June 14 & 15, 18, 19th Anniversary of the Playboy Jazz Festival at the Hollywood Bowl. Tickets can be purchased through Ticketmaster, the Hollywood Bowl box office, or online at www.playboy.com/art-entertain­ment. For more information about the Playboy Jazz Festival, call the festival hotline at (310) 445-4070.

The Black Women's Leadership Forum presents The Underground Railroad Theater and Movable Feast For information contact: (909) 683-7584

The 20th Annual "Bill Pickett Invitationale Rodeo" Saturday July 12th @ 1:30 PM Saturday July 12th @ 6:30 PM Sunday July 13th @ 3:30 PM At the Los Angeles Equestrian Center 480 Riverside Drive, Burbank, California General Admission Children (2-12 under): $10 Adults Advance $15 Adults at door $18 Kids under 16: $3 (All tickets $2.00 surcharge) For tickets, contact The Black Voice News Inland Empire Rodeo Hotline 909.888.8319 (leave message) or email: cherylbrown@blackvoicenews.com

The Black Voice News

The Black Voice News

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"H&L has my car running like the energizer battery; it just keeps going and going and going 400,000 miles later!" - Marion Black, Vernon Company, Rialto, CA

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H&L's Armstrong Transmissions

H&L's Armstrong Transmissions

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The Black Voice News
Recently in Southern California, an elderly widow paid $16,000— all but $300 of her life savings—to an unlicensed contractor who befriended her and took her money for promised ceiling work, data completely absent from the project. In another part of the state, a man was misled by an unlicensed plumbing contractor who convinced him he needed an expensive water filtration system to protect his family from contaminants. His family paid $6,000 for a system that he purchased for $290 at any home improvement store.

When it comes to home improvement, "buyer beware" is an understatement. Home improvement, according to the National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators and the Consumer Federation of America, has exploded out of reach as a top source of consumer complaints nationwide. It's a dubious distinction that highlights the need to inform consumers about how to hire and manage home improvement contractors.

Fortunately, California homeowners have a strong advocate. Since 1929, the Contractors State License Board, part of the California Department of Business and Consumer Affairs, has worked to ensure safety and high-quality construction practices. In addition to licensing, the Contractors State License Board enforces contractor law and provides free information to homeowners about how to hire and manage contractors.

The problem is, not enough homeowners are taking advantage of this free help. A recent survey showed that 40 percent of California homeowners are aware of the Contractors State License Board. However, only 17 percent of those have ever used the services of the Board. Many of them were unaware of some of their basic rights—for example, more than half of California percent of them have ever used the services of the law and provides free information to homeowners about construction practices.

A recent survey showed approximately 2,000 complaints a year, while most contractors are honest, hard-working professionals who take great pride in their work, some do not adhere to business and workmanship quality standards. A visited five home on property, scanning them out of thousands of dollars which can leave them with shoddy or unnecessary repair work, or projects that are abandoned after the consumer has paid for most or all of the work in front.

The Contractors State License Board urges homeowners to familiarize themselves with their Home Improvement Bill of Rights, which is available on the Contractors State License Board Web site, www.cslb.ca.gov. Consumers can also check the contractor's license status online and download other free information about how to hire a contractor and effectively manage home improvement projects.

By Gene Hale

Gene Hale
Contractors State License Board

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The Black Voice News
Congresswoman Maxine Waters Seeks to Restore Benefits to the Nation's Veterans

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) issued the following statement in support of the Democratic veterans' bill introduced this week:

"I am pleased to join my colleagues today to offer this comprehensive package that helps all of our veterans.

"Congress almost always manages to provide the resources needed for our soldiers in the field, but rarely provides the resources that our soldiers need when they return home. Many of us will remember the shame we felt when this Congress passed H. Con. Res. 104, which expressed the appreciation of the Nation for the members of the Armed Forces who are participating in Operations Iraqi Freedom, minutes before we witnessed the Republican House Budget Resolution which stripped nearly $28 BILLION from the Department of Veterans Affairs. It was one of the low points of my time here on Capitol Hill.

"Unfortunately, the Senate saw the danger in this and added more funding for the VA. But it was not enough. Congress can and must do more.

"VA facilities remain in poor condition. And the veterans who are not turned away, must wait six, sometimes even 12 months to see a doctor. These veterans, when they were called to serve their country, did ask, "What's it for me?" They sought that call to duty, and when asked, they fought for our freedom.

"Despite all the flag-waving rhetoric, the reality is that the Republicans and this White House have breached our back on our nation's veterans. Instead of living up to our promise of providing free health care, educational opportunities and other benefits, the Republican-controlled Congress is asking them to sacrifice yet again.

"With this package we, Democrats, begin to reverse this trend. The Democratic package will reduce waiting times for veterans and it will remove the increases in prescription drug co-payments and enrollment fees imposed by the administration. This bill will expand educational opportunities by improving benefits under the Montgomery GI bill. And importantly, the bill will allow conscientious receipt of retirement pay and disability compensation.

"This veterans package is a very good start, one that I am proud to support. But, I hope that this is just the first step in our efforts to keep our promises to our veterans.

"While I am not hopeful that they will buck the reality of the need to sacrifice yet again.

"A coalition of Veterans groups suggests that the VA needs $30.5 billion to fund the department.

"$333,000 extra cash to be a Plasima Donor

"HELP END THE BLOOD SHORTAGE

"DONATE YOUR PLASMA

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IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

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Drivers wanted:
RIVERSIDE NORTH DOMINATES AGAIN!

The girls from J.W. North take the CIF Track & Field title by a landslide.

By Jon D. Gaede

BVN Staff

RIVERSIDE NORTH DOMINATES AGAIN!

by a landslide.

The girls from J.W. North take the CIF Track & Field title in a career that has seen so many.

Several impressive individual performances during the day. Athens may be too soon, but look out for L.A. Baptist's Allyson Felix to hit the national scene in a superior performance at the highest level in many years.

Joh Geade can be reached at 909.640.0874

LOCAL RUNNERS SPRINT TOWARD A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Riverside North's girls run away from the competition and never look back!

by G. Montgomery

BVN Staff

Cerritos - The early morning hours of May 24th, 2003 were overcast and cool. Like thoroughbred horses in the paddock, the pristinetrack & field athletes of J.W. North High School gathered around coach Leathers for a few words of wisdom.

He calmly told Gayle Hunter and Lena Bettis to begin warming up and then report for their triple and long jump competitions. He then turned his head the other direction and informed super senior Ashlee Brown (Penn State bound) to gather her 400m relay team and begin to warm up.

Coach Leathers has been here before, however, could not have predicted the success and dominance his girls would experience and dish out over the next few hours.

Principal Dale Kinnear, friends, and family members were on hand to witness athletic competition and competition and never look back!

As impressive as North's dominance was, track and field fans are awaiting the battle between North, Poly and Wilson. These perennial power houses have combined for 8 of the last 9 State Championships, with every expectation that their dominance will continue in 2003.

J.W. North's girls team was overpowering. Running in Division II this year after the CIF realignment that restored school enrollment as the competition criteria.

North scored 136 total team points, with the next closest school scoring only 37 points. Long Beach Poly continued its dominance in Division I with both girls and boys teams finishing first, followed closely by crosstown rival Long Beach Wilson.

As impressive as North's dominance was, track and field fans are awaiting the battle between North, Poly and Wilson. These perennial power houses have combined for 8 of the last 9 State Championships, with every expectation that their dominance will continue in 2003.

CIF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Local Qualifiers

Division I

Canyon Springs Josh Gibson-Long Jump
Josh Gibson-High Jump
Adam Medina-Discus Throw

MO Valley View Brian Thompson-110 H/H
400 Relay

Murietta Valley Ian Ritchie-800 meters
Liza Pascuito-1600 meters
Redlands(EV)
1600 Relay Team

Division II

J.W. North Ashlee Brown-100 meters
Ashlee Brown-100-LH
Ashlee Brown-300-LH
Ashlee Brown-400 Relay
Ashlee Brown-100-LH
Tanika Ward-100 meters
Tanika Ward-400 Relay
Lili Calhoun-300 LH
Lili Calhoun-1600 Relay
Domenique Manning-100 LH
Domenique Manning-300-LH
Domenique Manning-400 Fy
Lorraine King-1600 Relay
Gayle Hunter-100 LH
Gayle Hunter-Long Jump
Gayle Hunter-Triple Jump
Lena Bettis-400 Relay
Lena Bettis-1600 Relay
Riverside King Orifsha Herion-High Jump

The CIF Master's Meet will be held on Friday, May 30th at Cerritos College Stadium. Field events start at 5 p.m.