

# NATIONAL NEWS UPDATE

## Happy Birthday Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.!

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority celebrates its Diamond Jubilee birthday January 13, 1988. For 75 years women of this predominantly Black organization have carried out the mission set by its 22 Founders on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C., January 13, 1913. The then infant Sorority set out on a course of "public service" and has not wavered from that course in its colorful 75-year history.

The Sorority's ranks have grown to over 125,000 women in over 750 chapters throughout the U.S.A., Liberia, West Germany, and the Caribbean.

The local chapter, Portland Alumnae, was chartered in 1945. It has evolved into over 100 members who still strive to carry out the lofty ideals of those 22 Founders.

National celebrations will begin the weekend of January 29, in Washington, D.C., with gala celebrities including Honorary Members Lena Horne and Ruby Dee. A visit to the Howard University campus will be included. This Diamond Jubilee year will culminate with a Grand Celebration during Deltas National Convention in San Francisco, California, July 8-14, 1988.

Locally, Portland Deltas will hold birthday celebrations during their February 6 meeting.

## \$861 Million Lewis Amendment Signed Into Law

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Representative John Lewis (D-5th-GA) won a major legislative victory when President Reagan signed into law H.R. 2310, the Airport Improvement Act. This legislation contains the Lewis Amendment which mandates the issuance of not less than ten percent of contracts under the \$8.6 billion Airport Improvement Program to Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs). A total of \$861 million is set aside under this Act for disadvantaged businesses over the next five years.

"I believe we must open the doors of opportunity to everyone and this legislation guarantees that disadvantaged businesses will receive a fair share of federal contracts for improvement work at our nation's airports. I am particularly proud that my colleagues and the President supported this amendment. I feel this is one of the most significant pieces of legislation for small and minority businesses approved in the 100th Congress," said Rep. Lewis.

"In my hometown of Atlanta, Hartsfield International Airport, now the nation's busiest airport, stands as a model for the nation to show that small and disadvantaged businesses can make major contributions to the development of our nation's airports. I am confident that DBE project contractors participating under this Act will prove to be as successful as those who participated in the Hartsfield project," concluded Congressman John Lewis.

## King Announces Radio Coverage of Tyson vs Holmes Fight

Don King Productions announced today that National Black Network sports will have the exclusive English language radio rights to broadcast the world heavyweight championship bout between reigning champ Mike Tyson and former heavyweight champion Larry Holmes.

The fight will be broadcast on January 22, live from Atlantic City's Convention Center, and will be beamed by satellite to NBN's 125 affiliates across the country.

In making the announcement, promoter Don King said, "The time has arrived for radio to reclaim the

glory of yesteryear. I am totally committed and dedicated to being a part of the return of the fascinating, informative, exciting, and entertaining medium of radio.

Who knows the unparalleled excitement, the drama, the suspense that reveals itself to the sports and entertainment fan... listen to the radio and find out!!!"

National Black Network was the nation's first Black owned and operated line-connected radio network in the U.S. and has its headquarters at 10 Columbus Circle in New York City.

## Xavier University to Build Model Student Community Service Program

NEW ORLEANS — The Xavier University Office of Student Service has received a \$45,800 grant to establish a student community service organization that will be a model for historically Black institutions throughout the U.S.

The grant, awarded by ACTION, agency, will enable Xavier to create a campus service organization and set up a coalition among New Orleans schools that will pool resources and provide student volunteers for a range of community projects.

"It is our hope that this demonstration program will be replicated in communities around the nation," says ACTION Director Donna M. Alvarado. The program will provide numerous leadership opportunities for students. Results of the project's year-long activities will be disseminated nationally.

## 1988 Transamerica Bicyclists Wanted

Bicyclists from Oregon are gearing up now to take part in the Transamerica Bicycle Trek, the largest coast-to-coast, non-competitive bicycling event ever held in the United States.

Next summer more than 300 enthusiastic cyclists will ride in this second annual event which leaves Seattle in June of 1988 and arrives July 22 in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The route will take adventurous cyclists from Seattle through the rugged Cascade Mountains to Spokane, then northeast across the panhandle of Idaho to Montana. Going-to-the-Sun Highway in Glacier National Park will be one of the highlights of the trip. Heading east across the immense spaces of the Great Plains, cyclists will ride through Montana, North Dakota and Minnesota, stopping for a midwest welcome at many of the small towns where folks have time to be friendly. Continuing east, they will roam through Minneapolis, Wisconsin's rolling hills, Milwaukee, Chicago and the farmlands of Indiana and Ohio. In Pennsylvania, the challenge of the Appalachian Mountains awaits, then cyclists will head for the finish in Atlantic City with a very special welcome, seven weeks and 3500 miles from Seattle.

For information on how you can become a part of this cross-country bicycling adventure, contact the American Lung Association of Oregon — The Christmas Seal People — at 224-5145 in Portland.

## AIDS Prevention Must Reach Poorly Served Communities

AIDS prevention efforts must reach U.S. communities poorly served, if at all, by information and health care systems and who, therefore, are particularly vulnerable, the American Friends Service Committee said December 17, 1987.

"These groups include poor communities, men and women of color, prisoners, undocumented immigrants, farmworkers, and many young people," the Quaker organization's Board of Directors said in a formal statement entitled: "The AIDS Crisis, Education and Policy Issues." The AFSC said "Continued and intensified efforts to reach gay and bisexual men are imperative."

Stressing the importance of prevention education, the statement said "Evidence suggests that incidence of the disease is growing throughout the U.S. population. It has become increasingly clear that the issue is not risk groups, but risk behaviors."

"Education efforts will have to be tailored to the particular needs of each group if they are to be heard and acted upon."

Asia A. Bennett, AFSC Executive Secretary, said some of the worst tendencies in U.S. society, e.g., homophobia, racism and sexism, pit affected groups against each other. "AIDS has intensified these tendencies," she added.

## Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program

The program used to be called the Congressional Teacher Scholarship program, but was renamed by the U.S. Congress.

This is a federally funded pro-

gram to encourage and enable academically excellent students to pursue teaching careers. Applicants must graduate in the top 10% of the class from an Oregon high school, or obtain a GED which is equivalent to the above requirement. Applications must be enrolled or plan to enroll in an undergraduate course of study which will lead to a career in teaching. Recipients who do not teach must repay the funds at a substantial interest rate.

The Quaker organization said it opposes mandatory testing in which whole groups of people are singled out; however, it does not oppose testing in certain circumstances such as donations of blood, organs for transplant, and semen.

The Committee said each proposal for mandatory testing should be evaluated separately for its impact on the principles of (1) respect for persons; (2) harm to individuals weighed against benefits to others, and (3) justice, particularly avoidance of invidious discrimination and assurance of fairness.

The AFSC emphasized that society's responses to the AIDS epidemic must be based on the universal values of compassion, respect for the dignity of individuals, and equal treatment for all individuals and groups.

The AFSC said the Committee's concern with AIDS grew out of both the organization's spiritual values and its program experience. The Committee plans to share the statement widely with sister organizations and policy makers.

"These principles alone cannot rid society of AIDS," the Committee declared, "but they can assure that the disease does not attack the bonds of humanity and community."

For more information, contact the Grants and Administration Department, State Scholarship Commission, 686-4166.

## Black Scholars to Analyze Key Issues

John E. Jacob, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Urban League will lead a panel of distinguished Black scholars in an analysis of key issues confronting Black America during the release of "The State of Black America 1988" at 10 a.m. Thursday, January 14 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

The authors and articles are:

Dr. Niara Sudarkasa, "Black Enrollment in Higher Education: The Unfulfilled Promise of Equality"; Dr. Bernard C. Watson with Fasaha M. Traylor, "Tomorrow's Teachers: Who Will They Be, What Will They Know"; Dr. Dianne M. Pinderhughes, "Civil Rights and the Future of the American Presidency"; Dr. Price M. Cobbs, "Critical Perspectives on the Psychology of Race"; Dr. Charles V. Willie, "The Black Family: Striving Toward Freedom"; Dr. Bruce R. Hare, "Black Youth At Risk"; Dr. Lee P. Brown, "Crime in the Black Community"; Dr. Alvin J. Schexnider, "Blacks in the Military: The Victory and the Challenge"; Dr. David H. Swinton, "Economic Status of Blacks 1987"; Dr. Billy J. Tidwell, "Black Wealth: Facts and Fiction"; and Dr. Garry A. Mendez, "Crime is Not a Part of Our Black Heritage."

"The State of Black America 1988" will also be telecast via The Howard University Black College Satellite Telecommunications Network in cooperation with the League's Office of External Affairs and its affiliate network, to more than a million people across the nation.

"The State of Black America 1988" addresses some of the disparities existing in the country and is the most authoritative document examining the current status and conditions of Blacks in America. The report also gives insight into issues that need to be addressed and the work that must be done towards making a just and equitable society. The 1988 report is the thirteenth annual edition.

The book will be available to the general public through the National Urban League for \$18.00.

## Los Angeles Couple Gives Black Waitress Their Restaurant

NEW YORK — Lou and Anita Shulkin of Los Angeles, who hired a Black waitress in the 1950's, have now given her their restaurant business as a gift.

"Nobody in this day and age gives somebody else a business," Barbara Knox, the waitress, told a reporter for this week's Parade magazine, but that is exactly what the Shulkins have done.

Mrs. Shulkin explained, "Lou had thought about retiring for a while, but he worried about Barbara. After all, she had spent her entire life here. Both of our kids were taken care of. Barbara was a daughter to us. He wanted to make sure that she was taken care of. He had talked about what he was going to do, but I don't think she thought he would really do it."

The Shulkins, who are white, hired Mrs. Knox in 1955, when civil rights was just beginning to be talked about. "They just took me in," she recalled. "They treated me like one of their own."

Describing the relationship, Knox said, "We're family. We have been through a lot of ups and downs together. They have tried to help me with mine, and I have tried to help them with theirs."

Through the years, Knox, who is a devout Baptist, regularly invited the Shulkins to gatherings at her church, as well as family parties. The Shulkins, who are Jewish, invited Barbara and her husband, Warren, to religious feasts and family holidays. "We were as uncomfortable in an all-Black situation as she was in an all-white situation, until we got to know each other," Mrs. Shulkin said.

The restaurant, which had been called "Lou's Quickie Grill," is now known as "Barb's Quickie Grill." Explaining his action, Shulkin said, "We're all brothers and sisters under the skin. We need to love one another. We're all under one Lord, you know."

## U.V.A. Joins Consortium For Black Engineering Graduate Students

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. — The University of Virginia has been selected for admission to the National Consortium of Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering, Inc., known as GEM, by a vote of the group's current members.

The consortium is a network of 50 corporations and 53 comprehensive research universities that provide academic and financial support for minority students interested in graduate school. American Indian, Black and Hispanic students are eligible to apply, based on traditional underrepresentation of those ethnic groups in graduate programs.

Students may apply in their third and fourth years as undergraduates. Third-year participants are eligible for summer employment with one of the consortium's member corporations, and fourth-year participants may also be employed in the summer before the first year of graduate

school and each summer they remain in school.

Additionally, entering graduate students receive from the consortium a \$5,000 stipend plus funds covering a portion of their tuition charges. GEM accepts each year 125 students who must also apply and be accepted to specific member universities. In recent years, the GEM program has provided support to more than half of the Black, Hispanic and American Indian graduate engineering students in the country.

For more information on the GEM program and how minority students can take advantage of U.Va.'s participation in it, call Ron W. Simmons, assistant dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science, at (804) 924-6425, or Ralph Lowry, associate dean of graduate studies in the engineering school, at (804) 924-3050.

## An Educator's Opinion

### The Urban Challenge

In communities across America, lights of this special season sparkle. But in America's cities, hopes dim. The accident of geography deprives millions of children of their brightest source of hope: education.

Analysts trace this development to the 1970s, a decade during which the population drain from urban centers was swift and dramatic. Those who fled were those who had the means of mobility—in short, the affluent. They left behind a trapped people—the poor, the destitute, the deprived and the desperate.

They also left behind, many analysts believed, school systems that would die slow deaths, systems that would wither as the poverty rate spiraled and crime sprawled.

The analysts were right—and wrong. We in NEA know well the adversity that confronts urban school employees. But we also know that in the nation's most urbanized state—New Jersey—NEA members are breaking new ground in the attempt to rescue urban schools from the pulverizing impact of poverty.

Roughly 40,000 of our 126,000 New Jersey members work in urban districts that rank among the most disadvantaged in the United States. Among cities with populations exceeding 100,000, for instance, Newark is the nation's poorest.

But NEA members in New Jersey are resisting despair. The Urban Challenge, a project launched by our New Jersey affiliate (NJEA), aims to halt the callous pattern of neglect that has for so long victimized children who attend inner-city schools.

NJEA began the Urban Challenge project last year by sponsoring a statewide series of hearings on the problems besetting New Jersey's urban schools. The results made it clear that underlying all other problems within city schools—underlying the unmanageably large class sizes, the antiquated textbooks, the rat-infested buildings, the cycle of drug use, violence, and despair—are the stark funding disparities between urban and non-urban school districts.

The local tax bases of New Jersey's six larg-

est urban districts make a mockery of funding equalization formulas. In these districts, less than \$61,000 in taxable property value supports the education of each student. Statewide, by contrast, communities draw from over \$213,000 in property value per student. The Urban Challenge initiative aims to redress this disparity—to make access to quality education less dependent on the accident of geography.

The legal logic that supports this effort emerged from the landmark 1971 decision of the California Supreme Court. In *Serrano v. Priest*, California's highest court found the state's school finance system unconstitutional on the grounds that it made the quality of education a function of local taxable wealth. This system, the Court ruled, introduced massive funding inequities that clearly violated the equal protection provisions of the California State Constitution.

Ironically, the New Jersey Supreme Court issued a similar ruling in 1973 (*Robinson v. Cahill*). But today, 14 years later, inequities persist. And NJEA's urban initiative may best be understood as an attempt to end the violation of the equal protection clause that is the heart of Article I of the New Jersey State Constitution.

In short, NJEA is demanding nothing more and nothing less than fidelity to the principles of fairness and equality that the New Jersey Constitution articulates. Toward this end, NJEA formally recommended that the governor and the legislature move away from over-reliance on local property taxes. That action had impact: New Jersey's State and Local Expenditure and Revenue Commission is soon expected to make a similar recommendation to the state legislature.

NJEA's campaign is as much ethical as legal. The ideal that animates the Urban Challenge program is the ideal of sharing. And the understanding that sustains the NJEA initiative is the understanding that no state can for long prosper if a third of its young people are denied the gift of education.

In this season of gift-giving, we would all do well to heed that message.



Mary Hatwood Futrell  
President, NEA