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NAACP Statement On Rodney King Beating

The national leadership of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) expressed profound disappointment and dismay at the "light" 30-month sentence imposed on Sgt. Stacey Koon and Officer Lawrence Powell in the Rodney King beating case.

The leadership stated that the sentences were unbalanced, when compared to the brutal acts with which these two men were charged and convicted, and added that the dictum of "let the punishment fit the crime" become a mockery by virtue of these sentences.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., executive director of the NAACP, said: "These sentences display a wanton disparity, discrimination and inequity, based on race. Once again a double standard of justice in the United States' legal system has been exemplified. The sentences represent not only a violation of Rodney King's civil and human rights, but also a violation of the civil and human rights of all Americans."

Dr. William F. Gibson, national board chairman of the NAACP, echoed Chavis' disappointment when he said: "We question the fairness of sentence, and ask whether they would have been as lenient if a white motorist had been assaulted and brutally beaten by several black assailants."

"We wonder whether their sentencing would have been reduced from a possible 87 months to a 'hand-slapping' 30 months. We question whether their possible fines of \$250,000 would have been eliminated together. My experience as a civil rights advocate for over 30 years tells me none of this type of compassion demonstrated, and the criminal justice record in this country bears me out."

"Judge John Davies displayed an overly sympathetic attitude to the defendants," noted Chavis. "His admonishments from the bench were directed at the victim of the violence, rather than at the perpetrators of the violence."

"This is a vivid example of why we must continue to march in the streets

of America for justice, jobs and peace, and why we must remain active and vigilant in the face of racial and economic injustice," said Chavis.

"In that regard I urge all people of conscience in America, to join the NAACP and other civil rights organizations for a massive march on Washington on August 28th to demand equal rights, fairness, justice, peace and economic democracy."

Gibson added, "Not only were the two defendants videotaped in the perpetration of their crime, but their post-trial attitude on various talk shows and interviews demonstrated a lack of remorse of any kind."

Both Gibson and Chavis called for restraint in the public response to the sentencing, while at the same time urging all citizens of good will to remain vigilant and persistent in the pursuit of justice.

Furthermore, they called on the U.S. Justice Department to immediately review and critically evaluate the sentencing in order to effectively begin addressing this country's awful double standard of justice based on race.

Big Conference Focuses On Change

Environmental equity law enforcement and the community, and other topics affecting African Americans are among a wide variety of issues that will be explored at the 15th Annual national training conference of Blacks In Government (BIG) August 19-21, 1993 in Los Angeles, CA. The theme of the conference is "Creating a Climate of Change."

Community leaders, government policy makers, and national experts will present more than 70 workshops and forums. Other topics will relate to substance abuse, elder care, teenage pregnancy, career development, the EEO process, and job-seeking skills. More than 3,000 government workers are expected to attend the conference.

Marion A. Bowden, national president of the organization said the workshops are designed to provide leadership training and career development guidance. "We selected those issues that will help government work-

ers do their jobs better and in general overcome obstacles to advancement," stated Marion A. Bowden, president of the organization. "But black government workers are also members of the black community who are concerned about the critical problems affecting the African American community, so many of the issues and workshops are designed to help them address community problems," he said.

Major speakers at the conference include Representative Maxine Waters, who represents the South Los Angeles District where the Rodney King riots took place; former Congressman William Gray, III, who as chairman of the House Budget Committee, was the highest ranking African American ever to serve in Congress before he assumed the position of director of the United Negro College Fund; Ben Chavis, executive director, NAACP, and Willie Brown, Speaker of the California State Legis-

lature. BIG is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of government workers from Federal, State, and local government agencies. It consists of more than 170 chapters from around the country. BIG seeks to promote a higher standard of public service through equality of opportunity.

Bowden said the conference provides participants a training experience that may not be available elsewhere. "Too many government workers are insulated from the results of public policy decisions. They need to hear other opinions, other ideas, and other perspectives about what is happening in the real world if they are to effectively reach the diverse publics they are responsible for serving" he said.

Registration is \$260 for members and \$295 for nonmembers. For more information, contact Toni Martin, Conference Chair, at (202) 667-3280.

Join Summer Reading

lots of good books to read.

Each child or young adult who competes a reading goal of at least 10 books is also eligible for the grand prize drawing for a trip for four to San

Diego for a year-long pass to Act III Theatres.

Local Conference To Address Banking Needs

Contrary to popular beliefs, banking services are not just for the rich and well-to-do. Everyone needs the services of banks and other financial providers, and a group of local bankers is spreading the word.

The Oregon Association of Urban Bankers (OAU) is holding a free workshop to bring basic financial information to people traditionally overlooked by financial institutions--low and moderate-income people and minorities. "How To Get What Everyone Else Has" will give participants information essential for understanding banking services and their benefits.

Individual workshop sessions will be held August 14 from 8am to 12pm, with individual counseling available from 12pm to 3pm. The event will take place at the Cascade Campus of Portland Community College, 705 N. Killingsworth, and the entire program, including refreshments, lunch and childcare for children ages 3-10, is free.

Walker Fleming III, a general manager for U.S. West Communications, and Noel Webb, owner of Temporary Staffing, Inc., will be the keynote speakers. For more information, please contact Margo Bryant at 697-2533.

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Dance 'Til Dawn With Delta

On Friday, August 20, the Portland/Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. presents "Dance 'til Dawn with Delta...Sunrise Magic," a unique entertainment event. From midnight to 5am, attendees can dance, socialize and relax with a Southern-style champagne breakfast. The event will be held at the Memorial Coliseum Complex, 1401 N. Wheeler Ave.

A disc jockey will spin tunes--everything from Motown oldies to disco-era favorites to today's best dance music--throughout the evening. In addition, a variety of options will keep attendees entertained. They include:

* A fashion show featuring stylish ensembles appropriate for creating your own "sunrise magic." These sophisticatedly chic styles--in a range of sizes and prices--will come from Portland-area stores and boutiques.

* A step show performed by Portland-area Greek organizations, including collegiate members of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

* Bask in post-midnight glow as local singers and poetry readers help usher in the morning.

* A full-service bar will be open from midnight to 2:30am. For more information please call: 230-4072 or 221-8298.

Tickets are available for all members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Pass the word on this one-of-a-kind affair!

Young At Heart Day Scheduled For August 31

Tuesday, August 31, is Young At Heart Day where those 65 years and older can enter the Fair absolutely FREE.

If that's not enough there are many activities and entertainers scheduled to please everyone.

There will be a special senior trade show in the Activity Tent on the Main Lawn Area, sponsored by the Spectrum Newspapers. Products and services geared toward senior audiences will be featured in the trade show. There also will be free bingo for prizes, speakers and music from Sunny 910 AM Radio.

Ed Hume, host of the syndicated television show "Gardening In America" will give a lecture titled "Northwest Gardening Tips" which will cover the "to do's" for late summer and fall flowers and vegetables. Hume will lecture at 10:30 am with a tour immediately following. His second lecture is scheduled for 2pm. Both lectures will be at the Floral gardens stage. During his presentation, Hume will also demonstrate how to properly care for your gardens and lawns.

Concert Scheduled In The Community

by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

Fifty-six youthful voices hailing all the way from Brooklyn, New York are scheduled to appear in concert on Saturday, August 14, 1993 at 7pm. These young voices make up the Brooklyn Tabernacle Youth Chorale which is a multi-national group of young people who have experienced the life changing power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and love sharing it with others.

The choir has recorded numerous gospel albums and are known and respected on a national level and throughout the world.

The New Azusa Christian Center, 44 Northeast Stanton, Portland, Rev. Wendell Wallace, senior Pastor, will be hosting one night of the concert tour. The concert tour will be begin in Edmonton, Washington on August 11th and will conclude its tour at People's Church in Salem, Oregon on August 15th.

The heart of their ministry is

evangelism and encouraging other believers to give their best to Jesus. Although the youth ages 14-22, come from diverse backgrounds, they share a common bond which is forgiveness through the blood of Jesus Christ and His unconditional love. Through the vehicle of song and drama, God has been faithful to use their ministry to share the Gospel in areas such as youth prisons, youth rallies, street rallies, youth psychiatric centers, tent meetings, and church services, as well as in their own home church, The Brooklyn Tabernacle.

Come enjoy an evening of worship and praise. Come and be blessed. Go to your neighbors and invite the unchurched, the down and outs, the down trodden and the disappointed.

Bring those who are oppressed so they may be blessed. To God be the glory for the things He has done and will do on Saturday night!!

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