



# WORLD NEWS



## Tropical Storm... cont.

**CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE**  
turn to North Padre Island after Corpus Christi police reopened the causeway.

Bret had top sustained wind of 45 mph and some higher gusts, the National Hurricane Center said. The minimum for a hurricane is 74 mph.

Bret had been rated a Category 4 storm when it approached over the Gulf of Mexico with 140 mph wind, piling waves 26 feet high at one offshore weather buoy, but made landfall with wind down to 125 mph.

The center of Bret moved across rural southern Texas, going west-northwest at 6 mph.

It was expected to turn westward toward Mexico, where more than 3,500 people living near the Rio

Grande in Nuevo Laredo, just across the border from Laredo, Texas, had been evacuated because of the possibility of flooding, the government news agency Notimex reported.

Thousands of residents from Brownsville to Corpus Christi had fled north and west as the hurricane approached on Sunday. Windows throughout the region were taped and boarded in anticipation of the worst storm since Hurricane Allen, another Category 4 storm that struck roughly the same area in 1980, causing \$55 million in damage.

"I think it was overpublicized," said Ralph Huff, who defied conventional wisdom - and an evacuation order - and stayed in his cinder block home overlooking Baffin Bay, just east of this small agricultural town. His

phone and power were still working late Sunday.

Even though the storm's center passed less than 10 miles to the south, "there wasn't even any storm surge," he said.

President Clinton issued a major disaster declaration Sunday night for seven counties, freeing funds to help local governments with emergency supplies and debris removal, said FEMA Director James Lee Witt.

Texas hadn't been hit by a hurricane since Hurricane Jerry killed three people in October 1989. However, the state's 367-mile-long coast has been struck by tropical storms since then, including Charley, which dumped 18 inches of rain and killed 19 people after it moved inland in August 1998.

## Talk Show Host Montel Williams Has MS

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NEW YORK (AP) - Montel Williams has been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis but told reporters Monday he won't quit his talk show.

"This disease is not going to stop me," said Williams, who was accom-

panied by his wife, Grace, at a news conference.

"We don't know how long I've had it for, but I've been misdiagnosed for 10 years," he said.

Williams, 43, is considering several recently approved drugs and is starting a fund drive to find a cure for

the crippling disease.

MS is a degenerative disorder of the nervous system. Victims typically typically lose some problem-solving capacity and short-term memory. Most end up in wheelchairs or need help walking.

## Jackson Says Dollars Undercutting U.S. Democracy

CHICAGO (Reuters) - The Rev. Jesse Jackson said on Wednesday he believed the flood of campaign dollars represented an effort to "purchase and privatise" the presidency.

Without mentioning by name any of the contenders for the presidency in 2000, the U.S. civil rights leader said that campaign finance laws are undercutting democracy.

"There is an effort to purchase the presidency and privatise it," Jackson told reporters and supporters at the start of his Rainbow/PUSH Coalition's annual meeting.

"Our destiny is not in the hands of the candidates (for president). Their destiny is in our hands," he said.

The race to attract millions of dollars of campaign dollars has been tracked as closely as the early polls. The Republican front-runner, Texas Gov. George W. Bush, has captured the lead by raising \$37 million in the first six months of the year and turning down federal campaign matching funds.

Jackson also cited campaign finance as a factor behind the Republican-led \$792 billion tax cut bill, which

he said favoured the rich, criticising figures such as Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott as being influenced by campaign contributions.

"Democracy has been undercut - neutralised - by dollars," Jackson said.

Reiterating his themes of economic empowerment for the poverty-stricken and an end to "economic apartheid" in the United States and the world, Jackson said the U.S. civil rights movement had entered the fourth stage where "access to capital" was the catch phrase.

## Wounds Remain 10 Years After Killing

By JUDIE GLAVE

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NEW YORK (AP) - The night held the air of youthful promise as 16-year-old Yusuf Hawkins and his three friends embarked on a typical teen-age rite of passage: looking for a used car.

Instead, it ended in violence when about 30 club-wielding white youths - one with a gun - confronted the blacks, mistakenly thinking they were coming to the largely white neighborhood for a party being thrown by one attacker's ex-girlfriend.

Shots rang out and Hawkins lay wounded on a street in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn. With his death that night on Aug. 23, 1989, the city's oft-mended and fragile cloth of racial civility was torn wide open.

"If Howard Beach was the chip in the wall, Bensonhurst probably was the sledge hammer that knocked the wall down," said the Rev. Al Sharpton, referring to the fatal beating of a black man by another white mob in the borough of Queens three years earlier.

Eight people were tried for the attack. Three went to prison; two others were convicted but given probation; three were acquitted.

Only the gunman, Joey Fama, remains jailed. Convicted of second-degree murder, he is not scheduled for parole until 2022.

Protesters who came to the neighborhood after the killing were met by residents shouting racial slurs. Some chanted "useless, useless," a play on the slain Hawkins' first name. One spectator spat in the face of the victim's father, Moses Stewart.

"Do you know how that felt to hear those people shouting 'useless, useless'?" It nearly tore my heart out," said Stewart, who still blames the neighborhood for silently supporting his son's attackers.

Bensonhurst, once a stronghold for Italian immigrants, now has a much more diverse flavor. Chinese, Korean and Russian stores dot a main drag, and hundreds of Mexican immigrants gather each morning, hoping to get day jobs in construction and gardening.

At St. Dominic's Roman Catholic Church, the Rev. Italo Barozzi said the neighborhood would rather forget the incident and the dozens of marches it set off.

"It was shocking to the people. They don't expect that here," Barozzi said. "But all those marches? We must solve problems in a better way. What, after all, is the importance of a march? What are you protesting?"

Still, the killing spurred political change.

It helped create an activist movement that was recently revived with the police killing of unarmed black immigrant Amadou Diallo in a hail of 41 bullets. It also catapulted Manhattan Borough President David Dinkins to victory in that year's Democratic mayoral primary. He became the city's first black mayor.

"David Dinkins walked into City Hall over the body of Yusuf Hawkins," said Hawkins' father, his voicing tinged with both pride and sadness.

The night of the slaying began innocently enough. Hawkins and three friends went by subway to Bensonhurst to look at a used 1983 Pontiac. After stopping to buy candy, they were suddenly surrounded near the house of Gina

Feliciano, who had angered a neighborhood youth, Keith Mondello, by asking some black and Latino teen-agers to a party.

Mondello had vowed to keep minorities out of the neighborhood. He and the others had spent the day drinking beer and smoking marijuana, then gathered up baseball bats, golf clubs and sticks.

Stewart said his son and the others never understood what was happening. Shots rang out and Hawkins fell, still clutching a candy bar. None of the other black teens was seriously hurt.

Thinking back on that night, Stewart remembers the new pants, shirt and shoes he had bought his son - a B-plus student with dreams of being an engineer.

"When I came back from the hospital after seeing my son lying so still, like he was sleeping, I saw the clothes hanging in the closet," Stewart said. "I was waiting for him to come home to give them to him, but he never came home."

Last year, Mondello asked Stewart's forgiveness after serving eight years in prison. But Stewart said the meeting could not mend his hurt.

"It was a nice gesture, but I told him up front that I am in no position to offer forgiveness - that's God's job."

Mondello, now a college student, could not be reached for his thoughts on the case. Stewart, a former truck driver who now works with Sharpton fighting bias, said the killing changed his life.

His relationship with his longtime sweetheart, Diane Hawkins, ended three years after Yusuf's death. Ms. Hawkins has never spoken of the shooting. Their younger son, dis-

## U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor To Speak At UO Law Building Dedication

Students at the University of Oregon School of Law are enjoying a momentous start to the new academic year, which kicked off on Wednesday, Aug. 18. They are the first to attend classes in the new William W. Knight Law Center and can look forward to a visit from U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor for the center's dedication ceremony.

O'Connor will address law students, faculty, alumni and other guests at a noon dedication ceremony on Wednesday, Sept. 15, in the rear courtyard at the new law center, 1515 Agate St. The talk is free and open to the public, but seating will be limited. A private reception will immediately follow the ceremony.

"Having Sandra Day O'Connor speak at the dedication of our new building will help set a tone for the kind of educational experience that we hope our students will have in the new law center," says Rennard Strickland, UO law school dean. "As the first woman on the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice O'Connor symbolizes

the changes that are evolving in law and legal education. We are honored that she accepted our invitation."

During the dedication ceremony, Dean Strickland will confer upon O'Connor the law school's highest honor, the Meritorious Service Award. The award is given by the UO law faculty in recognition of outstanding service to the administration of justice and legal education.

During her visit, O'Connor also will meet privately with UO law faculty and students.

President Ronald Reagan nominated O'Connor, 69, as associate justice of the United States Supreme Court, and after the U.S. Senate confirmed her appointment, O'Connor took the oath of office on Sept. 25, 1981, becoming the first woman to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Previously, she was appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals by Gov. Bruce Babbitt and served from 1979 to 1981, and was elected judge of the Maricopa County Superior Court, Phoenix, Ariz., where she

served from 1975. O'Connor also served as an Arizona state senator from 1969 to 1975, and as an Arizona assistant attorney general from 1965 to 1969.

Born in El Paso, Texas, O'Connor received her bachelor's degree in 1950 from Stanford University, where she received her doctor of laws degree in 1952.

The dedication ceremony kicks off three days of activities for the public, students, law alumni and supporters, in celebration of the new law building. Among these is the free public lecture, "A European Civil Code: A Project in Progress," to be delivered by Guido Alpa, distinguished professor of law at the University of Rome Law School and the University of Genoa Law School. The lecture takes place from 4-5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 17, in Room 184 of the law center.

A renovated Grayson Hall, which formerly housed the law school, will now provide classroom and office space for the UO College of Arts and Sciences.

gusted with New York, has moved away; a third son is reclusive.

Asked if he has managed to find peace in the decade since the slaying, Stewart replied:

"It depends on what you call peace. Can I sleep at night a little better? Yes. Has some of the rage in me calmed? Yes. As far as me being peaceful about the racial overtones - no. I am still just as up in arms as the day after my son died."


## The Salvation Army Accepts Financial Donations For Earthquake Relief

The Salvation Army is accepting financial donations to aid victims of the devastating earthquake in Turkey.

Checks should be made payable to The Salvation Army, earmarked "Turkey Earthquake Relief" and ad-

ressed to: The Salvation Army, P.O. Box 2823, Portland, OR 97208; (503) 234-0825.

Until further notice, The Salvation Army is not collecting in-kind donations for this disaster.



### EDUCATION CRISIS TEAM

Upcoming meetings:

**Thursday, August 12, 1999**  
and  
**Thursday, August 26, 1999**

**7:00 p.m.**  
**Self Enhancement, Inc.**  
**3920 North Kerby Avenue**  
**Portland, Oregon 97227**

- ◆ The Urban League, Self Enhancement, Inc., the Albina Ministerial Alliance and the Black United Front are forming Education Crisis Teams to reverse the educational crisis that is crippling our children.
- ◆ Please join us on August 12<sup>th</sup> and August 26<sup>th</sup>. We will discuss specific steps our community must take to rapidly improve our children's poor academic performance. The plan's dual focus is on holding Portland Public Schools accountable for providing children a quality education and the development of a community-wide mobilization to address this education emergency.
- ◆ All participating organizations agree this education crisis is causing irreparable harm to children and severely limiting their future. This crisis is impairing the ability of children, families and our community to successfully compete in today's technology-based economy.
- ◆ Our choice is clear, respond to this emergency and take the necessary steps to prevent our children from joining the growing ranks of dropouts and high school graduates that possess few marketable skills.
- ◆ Please plan to attend these meetings. Our children need us, we have promises to keep.

**Bishop A.A. Wells . . . Tony Hopson . . . Lawrence Dark . . . Ronnie Herndon**

