NAACP Moves to End to War on Drugs

Calling for equity, justice and effective law enforcement

day.

"Today the NAACP has taken a major step towards equity, justice and effective law enforcement," stated Benjamin Todd Jealous, tive officer. "These flawed drug policies that have been mostly enforced in African American communities must be stopped and replaced address the root causes of drug use nia State Conference of the and abuse in America."

locking up low-level drug offenders and eradiated."

The NAACP passed a historic -mostly from communities of color. resolution calling for an end to the African Americans are in fact 13 war on drugs at their 102nd annual times more likely to go to jail for the convention in Los Angeles Thurs- same drug-related offense than their white counterparts.

"Studies show that all racial groups abuse drugs at similar rates, but the numbers also show that African Americans, Hispan-NAACP president and chief execu- ics and other people of color are stopped, searched, arrested, charged, convicted, and sent to prison for drug-related charges at a much higher rate," said Alice with evidenced-based practices that Huffman, president of the Califor-NAACP. "This dual system of The resolution outlines the facts drug law enforcement that serves about the failed drug war, highlight- to keep African-Americans and ing that the U.S. spends over \$40 other minorities under lock and billion annually on the war on drugs, key and in prison must be exposed



The FBI and police hunt down suspected drug dealers.

Instead of sending drug offenders to prison, the resolution calls for the creation and expansion of rehabilitation and treatment programs, methadone clinics, and other treatment protocols that have been proven effective.

"We know that the war on drugs has been a complete failure because in the 40 years that we've been waging this war, drug use and abuse has not gone down," stated Robert Rooks, director of the NAACP Criminal Justice Program. "The only thing we've accomplished is becoming the world's largest incarcerator, sending people with mental health and addiction issues to prison, and creating a system of racial disparities that rivals Jim Crow policies of the 1960s."

The resolution will encourage the more than 1,200 active NAACP units across the country to organize campaigns to advocate for the end of the war on drugs.

Hate Crime Killer Dies

(AP) -- A Portland man convicted of murder in a notorious 1988 hate of hepatitis C.

rections says Kenneth Mieske fell on a Portland street corner. ill at the Oregon State Penitentiary

Mieske was sentenced to life in crime has died from complications prison after his conviction for using a baseball bat to fatally beat an The Oregon Department of Cor- Ethiopian student, Mulugeta Seraw,

On Nov. 12, 1988, Mieske and and died July 26 at Salem Hospital at two companions with the skinhead

gang East Side White Pride handed out racist leaflets at Pioneer Courthouse Square. They left a beer party early the next morning and spotted Seraw on a southeast Portland street corner talking to two countrymen.

Mieske and his friends drove up and ordered the men to move. After the two groups of men exchanged angry words, the skinheads jumped out and attacked the Ethiopians.

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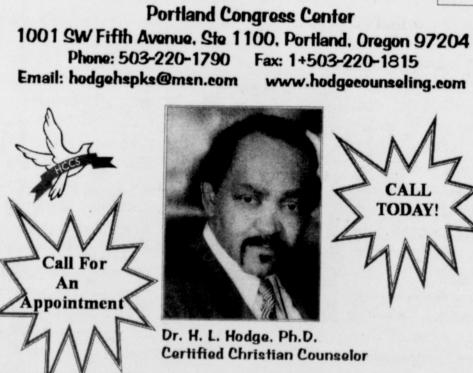
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