THIS WEEK IN BLACK AMERICA

MILESTONE: The nation's first black-owned cable network unveiled its' new $10 million facility in Washington, D.C. Black Entertainment Television (BET) is shown in 1,250 markets across the country. 22 million Americans currently subscribe to the network.

EDUCATION: More than 5,000 black students from across the country marched from their respective college campuses to their administration buildings to protest the increasingly hostile environments on predominantly white campuses and the reluctant or unresponsive university administrations. National Black Students Action Day was sponsored by the National Association of Black Students for Educational Advancement (NABSEA).

LAW: The lawyers for Former Buffalo Bills Running Back O.J. Simpson entered a plea of not guiltv in a Los Angeles, CA courtroom. Simpson is charged with one count of spousal battery for an event stemming from a New Years Eve dispute at his home in Brentwood, CA. Simpson's lawyer, Howard Weitzman recently represented Heavyweight Boxing Champion Michael Tyson in his divorce from Actress Robin Givens. Weitzman also represented Singer Al B. Sure in his much publicized rape case.

POLITICS: Democratic National Committee Chairman Ron Brown named two black women to senior advisory positions within the party. Alexis Herman was appointed chief of staff, and Yolanda H. Caraway will be the senior advisor to the chairman.

ENTERTAINMENT: At the Soul Train Music Awards in Los Angeles, CA, singer Anita Baker walked away with the nights most honors winning three awards including, best female urban contemporary rhythm and blues single; song of the year for "Giving You The Best That I've Got"; and for the best female urban contemporary album of the year.

NUL's BEEP meets in Atlanta

"The Corporation and the Campus: Strengthening the Ties" is the theme of the 20th Anniversary Seminar of the National Urban League's Black Executive Exchange Program (BEEP), meeting in Atlanta GA June 13-16.

John E. Jacob, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Urban League will be the keynote speaker at the Tuesday evening opening session on June 13 which begins at 6 p.m.

More than 5,000 corporate volunteers have been involved with BEEP over the past twenty years preparing students at historically black colleges and universities for the realities of the work world through credit-bearing courses.

Renee DuJean is the Director of BEEP.

The 20th Annual BEEP Seminar will focus on such topics as "Managing and Developing Creative People," "The Realities of Women and Minorities in the Workforce;"

"The Globalization of Corporate America," "Expanding Partnerships Between Black Colleges and Corporate America," "Increasing Minority Participation in Science and Technology;"

"Preparing for Retirement, Voluntary and Non voluntary Separation," and "Blacks in Corporate America: Beyond the Glass Ceiling."



NO CHURCH WEDDING — Not that there couldn't have been one, but State Rep. Jim Burke said his vows to Beryl Roberts on the floor of the Florida House of Representatives last week. It's a definite first.

Detroit to host NAACP convention

BALTIMORE — "80 Years Later — The Struggle Continues" has been selected as the theme for the 1989 Annual Convention of the NAACP to be held in Detroit, July 9-13, at the Cobo Conference/Exhibition Center.

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization with over a half million members.

The convention, one of the most important events in Black America, is expected to attract over 18,000 people.

The official opening of the Convention takes place on Sunday night, July 9th when Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, Executive Director of the NAACP, delivers his convention address at 7 p.m.

The following night at 7:30 p.m., Dr. William F. Gibson, Chairman of the NAACP Board of Directors, will deliver his convention address.

In addition to these two events, a series of plenary sessions featuring a number of the nation's outstanding leaders, as well as numerous workshops, business meetings and other programs have been scheduled.

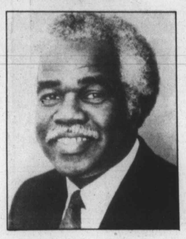
The convention concludes on Thursday with the presentation of the Spingarn Medal, the highest award the NAACP bestows on a man or woman African descent and American citizenship who has made the highest achievement during the preceding year or years in any honorable field of human endeavor.

Davis named chair of YMCA board

CHICAGO — The 25th Chairman of the National Board of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) is Harold Davis of Oakland, Calif.

The position is that of the chief volunteer officer of the system of 960 YMCAs that operate 2,045 units in 50 states and serve 14 million Americans yearly.

Davis, also president of the 1.6-million member American Baptist Churches, is executive director of the Housing Authority of the City of Oakland, Calif., and a labor arbitrator.



Harold Davis

PHILADELPHIA'S Africamericas Festival '89 May 3-14 "Spiritual Rebirth"

Experience the "Spiritual Rebirth" of the 1989 Africamericas Festival in Philadelphia with a fantastic array of visual and performing arts.

Special weekend events include:

SATURDAY, MAY 6
- Cultural Parade with more than 3,000 participants including celebrities, floats, bands, stilt walkers and much more. 11 a.m. from Hunting Park Avenue to Montgomery Avenue on Broad Street.
- "Hot Music, Cool Notes" jazz concert with George Howard, Amina Claudine Myers and Mean Machine. 8 p.m., Uptown Theater, 2240 N. Broad Street.

SUNDAY, MAY 7
- Black Sacred Music concert starring Vanessa Bell Armstrong. 3 p.m., Bright Hope Baptist Church, 12th Street and Cecil B. Moore Avenue.
- "Feet Messages" dance concert with Eleo Pamore Dance Co., Le'ja, New World African-American Dance Co. 8 p.m., Movement Theater, 38th and Chestnut Streets.

SATURDAY, MAY 13
- Philly's Dance Africa with the Traditional African Dance Co. 8 p.m., Uptown Theater, 2240 N. Broad Street.

SUNDAY, MAY 14
- Talent Express concert. 3 p.m., Uptown Theater, 2240 N. Broad Street.
- "Voices...We Don't Need No Music" a cappella and poetry concert with Take-6, Sweet Honey in the Rock, NANiKa and more. 8 p.m., Uptown Theater, 2240 N. Broad Street.

There's much more during the Africamericas Festival '89:
- Film Festival. May 3-13 at International House, 37th and Chestnut Streets.
- Art Exhibitions. May 5-15, at various locations.
- "Shelter" performance by the New African Grove Co. May 10-13, Freedom Theater, Broad and Master Streets.
- Folklore Week at library locations throughout the city. May 8-12, with a special Folklore Day in West Fairmount Park, May 13.

For more information about the Africamericas Festival, call: 215-232-2900

And for complete Philadelphia visitors information and hotel packages, call: 1-800-321-WKND or write the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau, 1515 Market St., Suite 2020, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

PHILADELPHIA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

PEOPLE

Jones cries frame up

Grace Jones says she is being framed on cocaine charges in her native Jamaica but she intends to make the most of the situation. Jones spent three days in a Kingston jail after being arrested last weekend and she plans to return to the jail to film footage for two videos, one of which is for an anti-drug song titled "Crack Attack." When Jones told police that she wanted to film their jail, "They sounded delighted," she said. Jones also told the Los Angeles Times that during her jail time, she wrote six songs and plotted another video. Police found .006 of an ounce of cocaine at Jones's home outside Kingston but she claims it was planted on her. "There's definite third-party involvement," she said. "This will be proven in court. Someone put it there."



Grace Jones

No bail for Todd

Despite a plea from actor Todd Bridges, a judge refused Friday to lower his $2 million bail on charges he nearly killed a man in a shooting in a drug house in February.



Todd Bridges

"What I can't understand is why I'm (perceived as being) a danger to society," Bridges, 23, the former child star of NBC's "Diff'rent Strokes," told Superior Court Judge David Horowitz.

"I can't undergo drug treatment while I'm in jail," Bridges said, as his mother and other family members looked on. "Mentally, I'm very unstable (while in jail). If you would talk to people in my neighborhood, you'd see that I'm not a dangerous person."

Despite Bridges' plea, Horowitz refused to lower his $2 million bail and ordered him to remain in custody pending a May 19 pretrial hearing.

In arguing for a bail reduction to $50,000, Bridges' attorney, Johnny Cochran, said his client has strong local family ties, owns a home in Sun Valley and does not have a long criminal record.

Cochran also argued that Bridges is "grossly overcharged" with a first-degree, premeditated attempted murder count.

Cochran said that when Bridges shot Kenneth Clay in the South Central Los Angeles drug house Feb. 2, "he was acting under the (influence) of the drug addiction he was under" and therefore could not have premeditated the attack.

Black roles are improving

Academy Award-winner Louis Gossett, Jr., who has portrayed characters ranging from a hardcore Army sergeant to a sensitive alien, said Friday that blacks are faring better in the entertainment industry.

During a visit to Hampton University, Gossett acknowledged the movie industry has often given blacks "one-dimensional" roles. But he said the American audience also must carry part of the blame for holding back the careers of black entertainers.

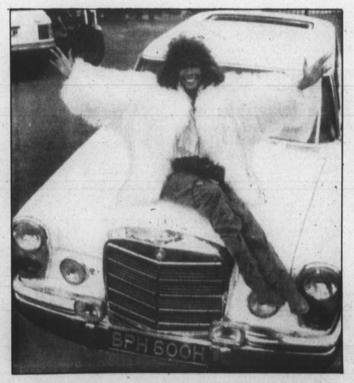


Louis Gossett

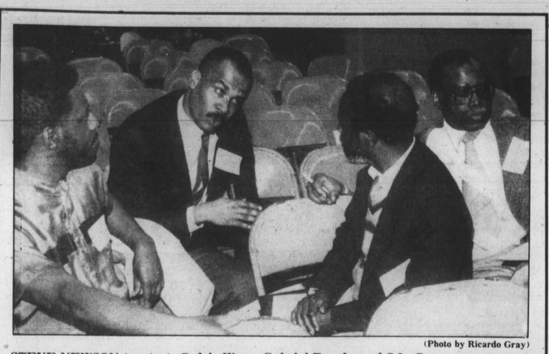
"Part of that problem is not in the actors and not in the industry, but in the public, who, whatever color they are . . . will watch a white show and will not complain," Gossett said at a press conference.

"Because it's not color, it's money and power," Gossett said, indicating that companies advertise to their potentially largest audience and often neglect minorities.

Gossett was visiting the school to lead a dramatic workshop for aspiring young actors and actresses and to speak about how black men are portrayed in movies.



MARY, MARY — Mary Wilson, of The Supremes, sits on the hood of her Mercedes limousine which was custom built for John Lennon in 1970. She is selling the car at auction later this month. It is expected to fetch over $170,000.



(Photo by Ricardo Gray)

STEVE NEWSON (center), Cedric Ware, Gabriel Tenabe and S.L. Green were among the many who gathered in Baltimore last week to discuss the possibility of a state ethnic heritage museum. Representatives from over 60 ethnic groups, museums, and cultural centers along with community, local state representatives were present.

Center opens for teen addicts

In response to Baltimore's growing need for a short-term chemical dependency center strictly for adolescents, a team of physicians and nurses at The Francis Scott Key Medical Center has opened Maryland's first four-to-seven-day inpatient center for adolescent drug addicts.

The new center has three goals: to provide a means for detoxification and medical evaluation of adolescents (to age 18) separate from adults; to educate the patient and family about dependency and the importance of aftercare and, to develop an individual aftercare program.

Although experts agree drug use among Maryland youth is leveling off, in 1988, over 5,300 adolescents were referred to public or private rehabilitation programs throughout the state. The 1987 referrals numbered approximately 2,300.

"The most important aspect about a center such as this is to have not only medically qualified staff, but a staff that is sensitive, caring and concerned about the young people," says Zelda Childs, chief of the Baltimore City Health Department's Comprehensive Alcoholism Service — Division of Mental Health and Addiction, and director of the department's Youth and Adolescent Programs. "This unit provides that kind of care and more. It will be a positive addition to the community's efforts to assist young people on drugs."

Most inpatient programs provide detoxification and rehabilitation over a 30-day, 45-day (or longer) period; outpatient programs provide only rehabilitative services.

"Most addiction programs do not want — or simply are not equipped — to properly handle a young person with an acute need, because doing so requires a detoxification program and a multi-disciplinary pediatric unit. But that's where the need exists," says Donald R. Jasinski, M.D., associate professor of medicine and pharmacology, director of the Center of Chemical Dependency and co-medical director of the center.

Experts say that too often when a young person is diagnosed an addict he or she must wait for a bed to open in either a private facility — if there is a means to afford it — or a long-term, public program. According to Archie Golden, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics and international health, chief of pediatrics at the Medical Center and co-medical director of the center, "One of the strengths of this center is the immediate ability to admit that young person upon referral to begin the long process of rehabilitation — which starts with a four-to-seven day acute detoxification.

Although the new center does not provide aftercare (follow-up) services, anyone admitted there must commit first to an aftercare program tailored to individual needs.



ISALINE BOSTON, employment manager of the League for the Handicapped and Tony Randalls, director of education for Program Systems, Inc., recently participated in a networking forum at the League.

Just Say No

More than 500 students converged on the football field of Frederick Douglass Senior High School in a first-time effort to join forces in support of the war against drugs, Tuesday.

Seven busloads of elementary and middle school children met with Douglass High students at what has been called an old-fashioned pep rally.

Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke, Housing Commissioner Robert W. Hearn, City Council representatives and other prominent members of the community were on-hand to help kick-off the 5th annual City-wide "Just Say No To Drugs" Campaign sponsored by the Housing Authority of Baltimore City.

Douglass' celebrated Junior ROTC Drill Team performed a demonstration, and the school's choir opened the program in song.



Stuart Simms

Sickle Cell walk May 21

Fifteen years ago, a group of Harford and Cecil County high school youngsters, who were members of a local social/cultural activities group named Black Youth In Action (BYA), lost one of their members. The young lady had fallen victim to a disease called Sickle Cell Anemia.

Sickle Cell Anemia is a genetic disease which affects the blood cells of its victims, causing the red blood cells to form crescent shapes (sickled) when the oxygen level in the cells is too low.

The disease is found mainly in blacks, but is also found in other ethnic groups from the Mediterranean Sea area.

The group, under adult sponsorship, was responsible for hosting the first Walk-athon in the fight against Sickle Cell Anemia in the United States.

A foundation was established and this body set up a walk-a-thon committee which handled the business of the walk. That first walk was an instant success and very popular among Harford and Cecil County residents.

The money raised through the pre-walk-a-thon events and the walk-a-thon itself is given to Harford and Cecil County hospitals to help provide support for persons in the two counties who have the disease and must frequently spend time in a hospital.

It also supports screening programs and is used to help finance some of the research conducted at Howard University in Washington, D.C. to develop new methods for treating patients when they go into a crisis. Money is also used to help educate the community and hospital staff regarding the causes and treatment of the disease.

This year's walk will begin at 7 a.m. on Sunday, May 21st at Hilldale Elementary School in Aberdeen. The rain date is June 4, 1989.

Refreshments will be provided along the route at each check point and at the end point in Perryman, at the V.F.W. The total distance of the walk is 30 kilometers (18 miles).

There will be prizes for those who turn in the highest amount of money within three weeks after the walk and prizes for the first three who finish the walk.

Sponsor sheets may be obtained in schools, libraries and at the Sickle Cell Office at 346 North Philadelphia boulevard in Aberdeen.



CHRISTOPER ALEXANDER WALKER, 18-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. James Walker, III of Bel Air, Md., is this year's Sickle Cell Anemia, Inc. poster child.

Law Day activities set

Law Day Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke, State's Attorney Stuart O. Simms and City Solicitor Neal M. Janey will lead a group of 50 prominent lawyers in a special educational program in Baltimore City high schools on Law Day, May 1.

Called "Access to Justice," the program is being sponsored by the Public Education Committee of the Young Lawyer's Section of the Baltimore City Bar Association.

The committee is chaired by Audrey J. S. Carrion. Other committee members organizing and participating in the "Access to Justice" program are Kathleen A. Birrane, Yvette M. Bryant, John H. Denick, Kenneth D. Hornstein, Mary-Dulany James and Norman Johnson, Jr.

In commenting, Ms. Carrion said, "The program is intended to be a dialogue between the visiting lawyers and the students. Our primary goal is to impart information to high school age students about our legal system.

In the process, students will learn that justice is not just an abstract concept that they learn about in school, but is a process that is accessible to them.

"Most importantly, the program is designed to help students realize that they are not just subject to the law but are also benefactors under it," she concluded.

In other Law Day activities, feel legal advice and consultation will be available to all Maryland citizens, Monday, May 1, 1989 when the Maryland State Bar Association presents "Ask A Lawyer."

This award - winning program gives Maryland citizens an opportunity to discuss their legal problems with an attorney free-of-charge over the phone.

Hundreds of Maryland lawyers will be volunteering their time and knowledge to answer legal questions from around the state.

From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 1 Marylanders may call "Ask A Lawyer" at Baltimore: 752-3270; Statewide: 1-800-345-2049 to be referred to an attorney in their area.

Callers may discuss such topics as writing a will, buying or selling a home, divorce and separation, medical malpractice and other topics.

MACPA race set

The Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants sponsors its third annual 10040-K Road Race, Saturday, April 22, at 9a.m.

The run begins at Rash Field in the Inner Harbor. It is open to all age groups and each runner will receive a t-shirt, mug and refreshments following the event. For information call 296-6250 (day) or 282-5455 (night).

Baltimore The City That Reads The Afro-American NEWSPAPER

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