THIS WEEK IN BLACK AMERICA

Mrs. James Brown pleads

The wife of imprisoned singer James Brown says she shouldn't have to do jail time after pleading guilty to possession of the drug PCP. Adrienne Brown will be sentenced in three weeks after her lawyer entered a guilty plea Monday to charges from her April 19, 1988, arrest at an Augusta airport. James Brown is serving a six-year prison term in South Carolina on an assault conviction.

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It's Dr. Winfrey now

The commencement season commenced. Oprah Winfrey not only spoke at the Morehouse College graduation ceremony and received a doctorate of humane letters, but she also left behind a $1 million scholarship fund. "The world awaits what you have to give," she told the grads. "The pressure is on you" . . . Bill Cosby's wife, Camille, spoke to the graduates of another Atlanta college, Spelman, to which the Cosbys gave $20 million last fall. "I do not stand here as a woman who got lucky—a wealthy woman whose money has isolated her and closed her eyes so that our hurts and needs are not seen," she said. "People assume that money gives those who have it amnesia."

Stevie's on the move

Stevie Wonder is taking his Peace and Freedom Tour to Eastern Europe. He opened in Warsaw, Poland, Saturday, moved on to Prague, Czechoslovakia, Monday and also has shows scheduled for Athens, Greece, Budapest, Hungary, and Austria. Wonder's record label worked out a deal with Poland's government-owned Polskie Nagrania record company to press 50,000 copies of Wonder's latest, "Characters," and the royalties will go to the Polish Foundation for the Handicapped.

Tyson still facing charges

Mike Tyson's attorney asked city Traffic Court for an adjournment of the heavyweight champion's trial for two speeding tickets. Tyson was arrested for speeding on the same Albany street April 26 and May 5 in his white Lamborghini. Both times he was apparently racing another car. Tyson grew up in nearby Catskill.

Tyson's Albany attorney John Hicks refused to discuss the case Tuesday after his appearance at Traffic Court. "I went to court to try to get an adjournment for my client," Hicks said. "I'm not at liberty to talk at the moment . . . until I've spoken to my client. That's all you're going to get out of me today."

Albany Traffic Court officials were not available to discuss a trial date. Under state Department of Motor Vehicle regulations, Tyson is in danger of losing his driver's license for the speeding tickets. Officials said because New York has reciprocal agreements with the other 49 states, it is likely the champ will not be allowed to drive anywhere in the country if convicted in Traffic Court.

O. J. and wife beating charge

Football great O. J. Simpson pleaded no contest to charges he beat his wife during a New Year's Day argument, allegedly screaming "I'll kill you" as he slapped and kicked her.

Simpson's attorney, Howard Weitzman, entered the no contest plea to one charge of spousal battery in West Los Angeles Superior Court, City Attorney's Office spokesman Mike Qualls said. Simpson did not appear in court.

The Heisman Trophy winner faces up to one year in County Jail and a fine of $1,000 when he is sentenced. Authorities said the alleged beating occurred in the early-morning hours on New Year's Day during an argument at the couple's Brentwood home. Weitzman said Simpson, 41, and his wife, Nicole, 29, have since reconciled and "decided mutually" to enter the no contest plea.

Black Civil War veterans are reinterred in S.C.

BEAUFORT, S.C. — A special reinterment ceremony to honor 19 black Union soldiers missing in action since 1863 took place Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, at the National Cemetery in the city of Beaufort.

Anthropologists at the University of South Carolina have documented the remains as those of members of the 55th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment of Infantry;

And possibly, members of the legendary 54th Massachusetts, the first black regiment in American history.

The 54th was formed in February, 1863, with the sanction of President Abraham Lincoln.

The soliders' remains were discovered during new construction on Folly Island, S.C. The area was the scene of some of the most brutal combat of the Civil War, in particular, the campaign to take Charleston.

The 54th Massachusetts, which counted among its ranks two sons of legendary black abolitionist Frederick Douglass, departed Boston by boat in May, 1863 and bivouacked at Beaufort.

In July, the regiment saw action on James and Morris Islands off Charleston, where it saved the Tenth Connecticut from defeat and massacre.

Without food or rest, the 54th volunteered to lead the final assault against Fort Wagner, a gigantic impenetrable earthenwork bastion, guarding Charleston.

Though the regiment fought heroically, the assault failed and the 54th suffered heavy losses.

A memorial to the 54th Massachusetts and its fallen leader, Colonel Robert Shaw, by sculptor Augustus Saint-Guadens, was dedicated at Boston Common on May 31, 1897.

Booker T. Washington and William James addressed the memorial dedication crowd.

The critical contribution of black soldiers to the Union effort is not widely documented.

In the months following the gallant efforts of the 54th at Fort Wagner, more than 180,000 black soldiers enlisted in the Union Army, almost 10 percent of the total force.

The first black soldier to receive a Congressional Medal of Honor was Sgt. William Carney of the 54th Massachusetts, for heroism beyond the call of duty at Fort Wagner.

Sgt. Carney was the first of 17 black Civil War soldiers to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

In President Lincoln's opinion, the bravery of black soldiers tipped the balance of the war in favor of the Union.

The soldiers' remains were buried in full accordance with 1863 Army Regulations. The ceremony will be performed by 144 black and white Civil War re-enactors and a period military band and fife and drum corp.

HOLLYWOOD—Comedian Arsenio Hall poses for the photographers as he holds the award for Supporting Male in a Motion Picture which was presented him during the third annual American Comedy Awards. He won the award for his role as Eddie Murphy's sidekick in the movie "Coming to America."

Together they stood and saved their company.

When Dr. Bill Picard took over Regal Plastics in 1985 it was bankrupt. He gambled on his own vision and some valuable human resources he identified within the company itself to save the situation. He assembled a business team, motivated them to work together, and together they've brought the company back.

General Motors stood by Regal Plastics during the dark times and today they are a major supplier of injection molded parts to some 25 plants producing our new cars and trucks. At General Motors we believe that standing behind the people who buy our Chevrolets, Pontiacs, Oldsmobiles, Buicks, Cadillacs and GMC Trucks is more than just a corporate responsibility—it's good business.

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Morristown Coll. to reopen this Fall

KNOXVILLE, Tenn, (UMNS) — United Methodist - related Morristown (Tenn.) College has officially been acquired by Knoxville College here and will reopen this fall as a satellite campus of the Presbyterian-related school.

Representatives of the two historically black institutions met here May 17 to sign deeds, bills of sale and other legal documents.

Knoxville College has acquired assets of Morristown College and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church.

Part of the property at Morristown was owned by the denomination.

The Morristown acquisition includes land and facilities valued at $3.1 million. As part of the agreement, Knoxville College acquired, along with the assets, about $500,000 in liabilities.

Morristown College, founded in 1881, has faced financial and accreditation problems in recent years. Last spring it lost its final appeal for accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

When Morristown closed in the fall, 100-200 students transferred to Knoxville College. Enrollment at Knoxville College this spring was 1,027.

BOSTON—Mark Bowie, 10, of Dartmouth, Mass. waits patiently in the stands at Fenway Park, and keeps an eye on the weather prior to the Boston Red Sox-California Angels game, which was delayed and eventually cancelled due to rain. Ah, well . . . at least he stayed dry.

Friday Plus

THE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE FOR THE BALTIMORE AND WASHINGTON AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS

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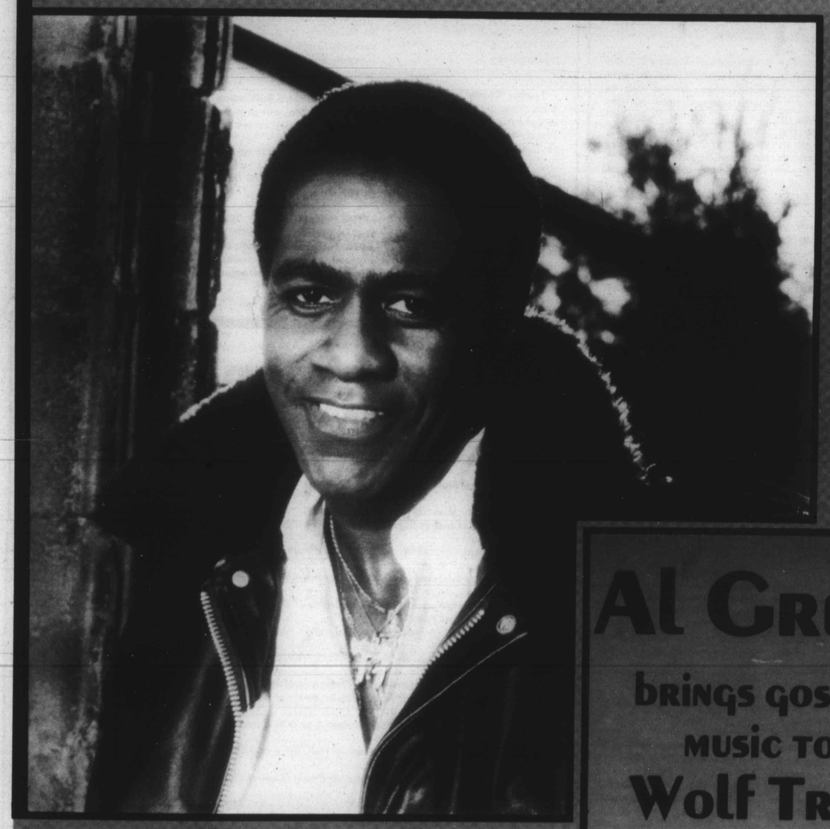

Al Green brings gospel music to Wolf Trap