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NATION UPDATE

Clinton addresses race, stereotypes in sports

HOUSTON — Narrowing the focus of his national dialogue on race, President Clinton gathered with an all-star lineup of sports figures Tuesday to discuss stereotyping and other race issues in athletics.

As an avid fan of college basketball and major professional sports, Clinton is well versed in such sensitive issues as white dominance in coaching and sports team ownership.

The Houston meeting, scheduled for 90 minutes and to be broadcast live on ESPN, was the second of Clinton's three planned nationally televised town hall meetings on race. The first was in Akron last December.

Clinton's first town hall meeting on race, at Akron, covered a wide range of topics. His hope in Houston was to narrow the focus to sports in a way that would engage Americans who might not otherwise want to discuss race issues.

Black employees sue Ford Motor Credit Co.

BALTIMORE — Black employees at a Maryland service center sued Ford Motor Credit Co. for \$660 million, claiming racial discrimination in the hiring, evaluation and promotion of workers.

Ford officials said they had not seen the lawsuit, filed Tuesday in federal court, but took such allegations seriously and would investigate the claims.

Black employees at the Regional Operations Center in Columbia said they were asked to train new employees, only to have white hires soon surpass them in pay and position. Black employees also said they were punished more harshly for minor infractions than their non-black counterparts, the lawsuit said.



The 1997 JCPenney Golden Rule award winners and finalists pose with James Kunkle, JCPenney general manager, left, and Valdosta Mayor James Rainwater, far right, after Tuesday evening's ceremonies at the Valdosta Country Club. Pictured from left, Kunkle, Arlene McClain, Casilda Woodward, Talesha Williams, Malinda Morrison, Pam Lightsey, Roger Sparks, Cindy Pistelli, Ray Cumrine (representing his wife Hilda), Vivian Hollenbeck, Charles Howell, and Lee Beth Andrews. — Times photo by Paul Leavy

Golden Rule

From page 1-A
the \$5,000 scholarship and \$5,000 contribution for the youth awards.

"I can't think of a better opportunity to come and celebrate the volunteer efforts of so many who have to do so much with so little, but who have made such a great difference in this community," U.S. Rep. Sanford Bishop, the guest speaker, said.

Valdosta JCPenney Manager Jim Kunkle said the awards are based on the principles of James Cash Penney, who named his first store, The Golden Rule Store. The awards began 15 years ago, and the local business began participating last year.

Mayor James Rainwater and Grace McCray, who served as chairperson of the judging panel, helped present the

awards. Kunkle presented McCray with a \$1,000 contribution for the Coastal Plain E.O.A. Senior Service Center, where she is national senior volunteer services director. McCray urged those attending to volunteer.

"Our money is getting tight federally, state and locally," she said. "We've got to get out and put our hand to the plow."

Finalists were Cindy Pistelli, parent volunteer, for her work at Sallas Malone; Roger Sparks, youth volunteer, for his work with the March of Dimes; VISTA Volunteers — group volunteers, for its work with health and community concerns; Charles Howell, adult volunteer, for his work with the dental clinic; and John Sparks, adult volunteer, for his work with the YMCA.

Finalists received \$250 contributions for their volunteer organization and framed cer-

tificates.

Those receiving honorable mention were Reena Shah, youth volunteer, for her work at South Georgia Medical Center; William Eager, adult volunteer, for his work with the United Way, Valdosta Food Bank and the Valdosta Country Club; and John "Jack" May, adult volunteer, for his work with the Red Cross.

Others who were nominated were Dr. Stan Andrews, Cathy Bradley, Robert Clyatt, Kimberly Council, Dr. Jerry Hardee, Blake Hunter, Robert L. Jefferson, Dutton Miller, Katherine Mixon, Elsie Goodson Nicholas, Mary Jo Norman, Verilette Parker, Mel Peters, Phillip Arthur Storer, the Rev. Willie Wade, Bob Young, Helping Hands, Camp 680 Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Valdosta Opera Guild.

Thursday, April 23, 1998 5-D

The Valdosta Daily Times



NATION UPDATE

Hospital criticized for 'no blacks' sign

DETROIT — A hospital has come under fire after a nursing supervisor, acting at the request of a patient's family, posted a sign instructing black staffers to stay away from the 90-year-old white man.

Relatives of the patient had said he was senile and feared blacks, and they asked that no black nurses, housekeeping staffers or other employees be allowed into his room. A nursing supervisor posted a message in a nurse's room April 14 asking that the family's wishes be honored.

Court says employee was retaliated against

The Associated Press

SAVANNAH — A federal court has ruled that Savannah's city manager, while serving in the same job in Columbus, retaliated against an employee who disagreed with a hiring decision.

A jury found that Michael Brown retaliated against Roy Reese, then Columbus' director of administration, when Reese questioned his decision to hire a black woman rather than a white man as human resources manager.

The court ruling is costing

Columbus \$275,000 for back pay and damages. Jurors in the March 26 case also said Brown should pay \$25,000 in punitive damages.

Brown, who disputes the retaliation charge, served as city manager of Columbus from March

1989 to December 1994 before coming to Savannah.

The court case stemmed from Brown's dispute with Reese in 1993, when Reese offered the human resources job to Wendell Hawkins, who is white.