

CARTON 9:13

THE BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS

C.L. Dellums Amtrak Station  
Pavillion

2007-2009

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38<sup>th</sup> Annual A. Philip Randolph Institute Educational Conference Event

# APRI CONFERENCE RECEPTION

## WHEN

Thursday, August 2, 2007 • 5:30 – 7:30 pm

## WHERE

C.L. Dellums Amtrak Station Pavilion • 245 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Oakland

## FREE ADMISSION



Take a step back in time to a train station of old — at this very special reception honoring C.L. Dellums, President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters following the retirement of Mr. Randolph.

**Music, exhibits, train memorabilia, entertainment, food and much more.**

*Transportation for Delegates from the Oakland Marriott will be provided.*

Information: Linda Joseph, 510-465-0120



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## **A. Philip Randolph Institute**

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### **Alameda County Chapter**

July 13, 2007

Mr. Robert L. Allen, Adjunct Professor  
African American Studies & Ethnic Studies  
University of California  
688 Barrows Hall  
Berkeley, CA 94720-2572

Re: APRI 38<sup>th</sup> Annual National Education Conference Opening Reception

Dear Professor Allen:

Thank you so very much for agreeing to be the keynote speaker at the APRI 38<sup>th</sup> Annual National Education Conference Opening Reception. We are so excited about the book you are writing regarding the life of C.L. Dellums and the train station named for him as the venue for the reception. We would like you to speak for 5-10 minutes on the life of Mr. Dellums and the overall contributions of the Pullman Porter to the black community. The reception is a tribute to Mr. Dellums and all of the black workers for the rail system.

I have enclosed the flyer for the event. You are welcome to bring a guest(s). Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions. Thank you again for the gracious contribution of your valuable time.

In Unity,

Linda Joseph  
APRI Conference Host Committee

Enclosure



# C.L. Dellums

## 1984 Earl Warren Honoree

C.L. Dellums, an indefatigable leader in the labor and civil rights movement whom the ACLU-NC honored with the Earl Warren Civil Liberties Award in 1984, died November 8 at the age of 89 after suffering a heart attack in Oakland, his home since 1923.

"He will be remembered as one of the most impressive and dedicated leaders of the civil rights movement, having labored since the 1920's to improve employment opportunities for blacks, women and other workers," said ACLU-NC Board Chair H. Lee Halterman.

In 1984, the ACLU-NC bestowed its highest honor, the Earl Warren Civil Liberties Award, on Dellums for the many successful civil rights campaigns he pioneered throughout his career.

Born in Texas, Dellums went to work as a Pullman porter on the railroad. In the 1920's, along with A. Philip Randolph, Dellums organized the first international black-led trade union, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. When he began his union organizing, the railroad fired him. He served as Vice President of the union from 1929-1966, and then succeeded Randolph as President.

During World War II, Dellums led a march on Washington that led to the creation of a wartime fair employment commission by President Franklin Roosevelt. Dellums later waged a 14-year fight in the California Legislature for the establishment of the California Fair Employment

Practices Commission in 1959. He was appointed to that Commission in 1959 by Governor Edmund G. Pat Brown and later served as its Chair.

Dellums also lent his formidable leadership to the Western Region of the NAACP, acting as chairperson from its inception in 1948 until 1967.

He is survived by his nephew, 8th District Congressman Ron Dellums, his daughter Marva Dellums and six grandchildren.



C.L. Dellums

Paul Winternitz

NAACP

MOWM  
FEPAC



## DELLUMS STATUE

12/8/99

OAKLAND -- Labor leader C.L. Dellums, who began his career as a watchdog for the rights of railroad porters and went on to fight for fair treatment of all California workers, will once again stand watch over the rails.

According to the San Francisco Examiner & Chronicle, Oakland officials and Dellums family members yesterday unveiled a larger-than-life bronze statue of Dellums at the city's Amtrak station in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of his death.

"I hope it instills a little fire in younger generations that nothing is impossible," said Dellums' only child, Marva Dellums of Fremont. "My father was a man for humanity, not just for African Americans."

A Texas native, Dellums boarded a train to California in 1923, hoping eventually to study law at the University of California at Berkeley. He ended up in Oakland on the advice of a porter, who told him the African American community was larger there than in San Francisco.

The next year he found work as Pullman porter. After experiencing the arduous hours and low pay, Dellums organized the West Coast chapter of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. His activism soon got him fired, though Pullman officials said it was because he was spreading Bolshevik propaganda from Moscow.

But Dellums did not give up. He rallied the troops with what became his motto: "What have you got to lose? You've only got



four things anyway: a hard job, low pay, long hours and a mean bossman."

"He knew it was work that would never be finished, but he knew it was work that could never be abandoned," said William Spires, a labor history specialist at Santa Rosa Junior College.

Dellums, an uncle of former East Bay Congressman Ron Dellums, was vice president of the porters union for more than four decades, until 1968. He then succeeded A. Philip Randolph as president of the union, serving in that role and as a vice president of the AFL-CIO until the mid-1980s.

In 1948, he also became chairman of the West Coast chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Dellums was instrumental in fighting for the state Fair Employment Practices Act and was named one of the first Fair Employment Practices commissioners by Gov. Edmund "Pat" Brown in 1959. He served on that commission until 1985.

Brown's son, Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown, yesterday called Dellums "a real hero and a fighter for justice."

Dellums' five great-grandchildren unveiled the statue, created by Oakland artist Carol Tarzier.

Marva Dellums told the crowd that her father never gave up the fight against injustice. A week before his death at age 89, in December 1989, he told her he wished he could keep fighting.

"As long as there are inhumanities to man," he said, "the fight is not over."



# Schwarzenegger sharpens the ax

INSIDE | A11

TEN THOUSAND California employees are slated to become victims of the budget stalemate if lawmakers don't reach an agreement by the end of the week, so warned the Schwarzenegger administration Tuesday. The mass layoffs would amount to 10 percent of workers paid for by the state operating budget. A spokeswoman denied that the threat was a tactic to pressure legislators, who continued negotiations Tuesday without any reports of a deal being reached.

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# Gloves come off, wallets open

## Inside:

■ New bank bailout sinks stocks as Dow drops nearly 400 points. C1

■ Columnist Drew Voros urges suspension of federal income tax for one year. C2

- Senate approves stimulus
- Obama unveils new bailout
- Fed sets sights on loans

By David Espo

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — On a single day filled with staggering sums, the Obama administration, Federal Reserve and Senate attacked the deepening economic crisis Tuesday with actions that

could throw as much as \$3 trillion more in government and private funds into the fight against frozen credit markets and rising joblessness.

"It's gone deep. It's gotten worse," President Barack Obama said of the recession at a campaign-style appearance Tuesday in Fort Myers, Fla., where unemployment has reached double digits. "The situation we face could not be more serious."

If any more emphasis were needed,

Wall Street investors sent stocks plunging, objecting that new rescue details from the government were too sparse. The Dow Jones industrials dropped 382 points.

The president spoke shortly after Senate passage of an \$838 billion emergency economic stimulus bill cleared the way for talks with the House on a final compromise. In a display of urgency, White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel traveled to the Capitol for meetings

that stretched into the night with Democratic leaders as well as moderate senators whose views — and votes — will be key to any deal.

Separately, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner outlined plans for spending much of the \$350 billion in financial bailout money recently cleared by Congress, and the Federal Reserve announced it would commit up to \$1 trillion to make

See STIMULUS, Page 17

## 'We had to stand tall and walk tall'



KARL MONDON/STAFF PHOTOS

TROY WALKER, 90, sits aboard Amtrak's Coast Starlight on Monday outside Oakland. Walker, below, from right, was among five retired Pullman porters, including James Smith, 83, Thomas Henry Gray, 71, Lee Gibson, 98, and Samuel Coleman, 80, honored at the Oakland C.L. Dellums Amtrak station Tuesday. The Pullman porters were African-American men who worked the sleeping and dining cars in rail's heyday.

## Judge: Oakland violated measure

■ City shouldn't have drawn on initiative funds to recruit, train police, tentative ruling says

By Kelly Rayburn

STAFF WRITER

OAKLAND — The city's \$7.7 million drive to recruit and train more police officers last year represented an "impermissible" use of funds from Oakland's 2004 public safety ballot measure, an Alameda County Superior Court judge has said in a tentative ruling.

Judge Frank Roesch's decision, which the city is expected to contest in court today, came in response to a lawsuit filed in April by Oakland resident Marleen Sacks after the City Council gave the go-ahead to Mayor Ron Dellums' plan to use \$7.7 million in Measure Y money to help the Oakland Police Department reach full staffing by the end of 2008.

At the time, Sacks said she agreed with the need for more police but argued that the use of the voter-approved funds for what she called a "generalized recruiting drive" was a breach of Measure Y, which was designed largely to enhance neighborhood problem-solving efforts.

"I believed from the get-go it was illegal, and the judge has agreed with me," Sacks said Tuesday.

City Attorney John Russo said his office disagreed with the judge.

See JUDGE, Page 17

## Porters ride in fitting tribute

By Cecily Burt

STAFF WRITER

TROY WALKER relaxed on Monday in a plush, rose-colored club chair on Amtrak's Coast Starlight and watched the scenery whiz by the window. It was 7:30 a.m., but Walker, 90, a habitual early riser, already was nattily attired and had enjoyed a hearty breakfast in the dining car.

As the train whistle blew and San

Francisco Bay came into view, Walker recalled the bygone days when he was the one serving passengers in the dining cars of the Railway Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Railway, not the other way around.

"I only made \$80 a month, but I made good tips," said Walker, one of thousands of African-American waiters, cooks and porters on whom railroad

See PORTERS, Page 17

## Change blows through press corps, too

AS I WATCHED President Barack Obama's news conference, I wondered: Where did they all come from?

All of those black reporters?

The White House press corps long has been an almost exclusive bastion of white men, with a not exceptionally generous sprinkling of white women. It has been so lily-white and so male for so long that even former President George W. Bush once remarked on the lack of African-American reporters



TAMMERLIN DRUMMOND  
Columnist

at White House press briefings.

When I was at the Democratic National Convention in Denver and, most recently, at

Obama's inauguration, I was one of very few flies in a very large vat of buttermilk that was the media section. There are very few nonwhites in mainstream media with plum assignments such as covering presidential campaigns and Washington politics.

In fact, if you are African-American, you probably have a better chance of becoming president of the United States than you do of covering one for a major U.S. newspaper, magazine or television outlet.

See DRUMMOND, Page 17



EVAN VUCCI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

BLACK REPORTERS were notably visible at President Barack Obama's news conference.

### Forecast

#### SHOWERS

Highs 50s, Lows 40s

Details on B6



### Plan draws fire

■ Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's plan to scrap the California Conservation Corps is drawing serious criticism from some sectors. A3

Food & Wine.....D1  
Business.....C1  
Class.....In Business  
Legals.....C6  
Metro.....A3

Obituaries.....A8  
Opinion.....A15  
Scores.....B5  
TV.....D7  
Wonderword.....D6

### Last Aztec warriors?

■ Archaeologists uncover skeletons at pyramid ruins site that could have been part of a resistance movement. A12





