



KING NATIONAL MEMORIAL COMMEMORATED!



The Martin Luther King Jr. sculpture display in Potomac Park in Washington that is to be dedicated during Sunday's ceremonies precisely 48 years after the civil rights leader's famed "I Have a Dream" speech.

Ceremonies Set 48 Years to The Date of March on Washington

By CALVIN S. SCRIBNER
Special to the Chronicle

WASHINGTON—The Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial is scheduled to be dedicated on Sunday in the West Potomac Park southwest of the National Mall in Washington.

That Aug. 28 date is precisely 48 years from the time the historical March on Washington was held, at which the civil rights leader gave his famed "I Have a Dream" speech.

Back then, Andrew Young, confidante to King, left his hotel and walked through the quiet morning to the National Mall. He worried there wouldn't be enough bathrooms. He looked for the first waves of people coming by bus, train and plane.

It was Aug. 28, 1963, and King's coalition was getting ready for the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. The first Tang commercials appeared on TV and false eyelashes were in vogue.

Martha and the Vandellas' "Heat Wave" topped the charts, John F. Kennedy was president and the country reeled from the arrests of children in Birmingham, Ala., during a voting rights protest.

This was an important day for King's circle.

"We were trying to achieve a certain level of respectability," Mr. Young, former ambassador to the United Nations and Atlanta mayor, said the other day. "Even my parents, the middle-class Black community, were very uncomfortable with these big marches and demonstrations."

The result was bigger than the organizers could have imagined.

An estimated 250,000, per-



The civil rights leader greets the crowd prior to giving the historical speech that set the tone for the Civil Rights Movement.

haps more, spilled off the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and around the Reflecting Pool and heard King deliver a defining vision of freedom that resonates today.

On Sunday, on the 48th anniversary of the "I Have a Dream" speech, President Barack Obama is scheduled to help dedicate a memorial to King on the National Mall. Most monuments on the space in downtown Washington

memorialize presidents or wars. But the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial is the first major memorial that does not.

It also is the first for a Black American.

On the day of the March on Washington in 1963, federal and local authorities feared a riot. Washington's Metropolitan Police

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Henderson Wants An Apology 'Rent-a-Negro' Comment Draws Ire of Councilor

By JOHN W. SIMMS
Special to the Chronicle

TULSA—A "rent-a-Negro" comment made by a radio talk-show co-host has drawn the ire of a city councilor, as well as a demand for an apology.

City Councilor Jack Henderson (Dem., District I) said Monday that a KFAQ (1170 AM) Radio talk-show co-host should apologize for making racially charged comments related to the councilor's acceptance of campaign funds from TulsaBizPac.

The political action committee was established by current and previous Tulsa Metro Chamber leaders to support City Council candidates.

Councilor Henderson received \$2,500 and an endorsement from the PAC.

Eddie Huff, one of the co-hosts of the "Pat Campbell Show," responded to Mr.



Councilor Jack Henderson is offended by a comment made about him by a radio talk-show co-host.

Campbell's question as to whether the PAC's support for Councilor Henderson was "white guilt."

"It's rent-a-Negro," Mr. Huff responded.

Mr. Huff, who is Black, repeated the phrase, saying: "It's rent-a-Negro. That is what it is."

Councilor Henderson said Mr. Huff is "totally out of touch, and is a racist in the worst way because he's a racist against his own people."

Mr. Huff accused Councilor Henderson of being an ineffective councilor who does nothing.

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Ballard, Dreyer Vote in Favor Of Commuting Prison Sentence

Parole Board Recommends Dashing Drug-Dealer's Term

By CHRISTOPHER V. PORTER
Chronicle Staff

TULSA—Currie Ballard of Langston and Rev. Marc Dreyer of Tulsa voted in favor of commuting the life-without-parole sentence of Kingfisher County drug dealer Larry E. Yarbrough, 61.

The convicted man is serving life for a 1994 drug-trafficking case following five prior felony convictions.

Both Mr. Ballard and Dr. Dreyer are Gov. Mary Fallin's appointees to the parole board.

The board has five members. Three were appointed by Gov. Fallin and two were appointed by state appellate courts.

The overmor said she is open to possibly commuting the sentence acknowledging the chance of it leading to his release on parole.

The board voted 3-2 to recommend a sentence commutation earlier this month for Mr. Yarbrough

Governor Fallin said she has not seen reports on Yarbrough's case, but is willing to consider



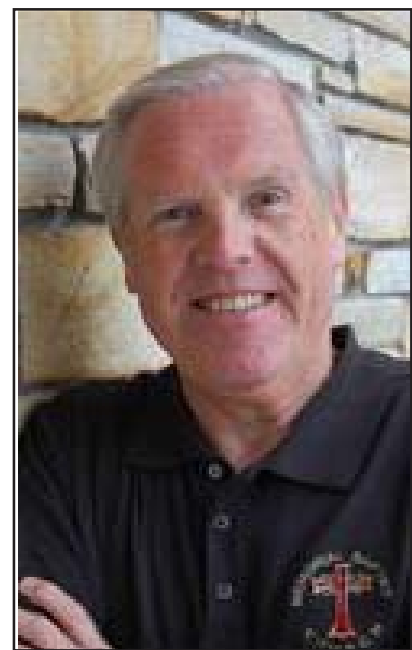
Currie Ballard (left photo) and Dr. Marc Dreyer (right photo) both voted to recommend commuting the life sentence without parole for a convicted drug dealer.

commuting his sentence upon recommendation by the board.

"There's a system in place that the Legislature has put in place," Gov. Fallin said.

"The parole board has a job...and that is to review these cases before they ever come to the governor's desk."

"We should allow the system to work and not prejudge any-



thing before it comes to my desk," she added.

A spokesman for Gov. Fallin, Alex Weintz, said that although the governor is willing to assent to the recommended commutation, that doesn't mean she will sign it or that Mr. Yarbrough will be released from prison.

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Pittman Is To Serve On Committees She's to Represent State Legislature On National Body

By W. ORLANDO PIERCE
Special to the Chronicle

State Rep. Anastasia Pittman (Dem., Oklahoma City) has been appointed to serve on three national committees as a representative from the State Legislature.

Speaker Kris Steele (Rep., Pottawatomie County) made the appointment of the state representative to three standing committees of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

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Pittman

