Leland remembered

HOUSTON — Rep. Mickey Leland, killed in a plane crash in Africa last week, was eulogized at his alma mater Friday night as a man who "brought the Bible to life" in his struggle to help the hungry and downtrodden.

Some 5,000 people, including black leaders from across the nation and a large congressional contingent, remembered Leland during a two-hour ceremony at Texas Southern University that followed a memorial service earlier in Austin.

"He made the loaves and fishes a reality to tens of thousands of those who would have died of hunger," said Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan, representing President Bush. "We will not forget his cause. I know that I will not forget."

Leland, 44, was on his sixth trip to Africa as chairman of the House Select Committee on Hunger when his plane crashed into an Ethiopian mountainside last week, killing him and 15 others.

The casket in which Leland will be buried when his remains are returned from Ethiopia was placed before the speakers at the service. It was Leland's wish to be buried in a "plain pine box" as was John de Menil, the late Houston millionaire whom Leland credited with exposing him to art and culture.

At the beginning of the ceremony, children brought lettuce, bread and other food to a basket to symbolize Leland's work to help the hungry. A black gospel choir sang some of Leland's favorite songs.

Sullivan said Leland was "too aware, too acquainted with the life" in an effort to solve these woes.

Jesse Jackson received several standing ovations as he related Leland's efforts to those of leaders who died violently, including Robert F. Kennedy, John F. Kennedy, and Martin Luther King.

Jackson said these men died young but contributed greatly to their societies.

"Live every day with wisdom and care," Jackson said. "You have no days to throw away. There are no bad days. It may be a rainy day. It may be showing, but there are no bad days."

Leland is survived by his pregnant wife and 3-year-old son, Jarrett. Both attended the ceremony, which included a videotaped biography of the Houston congressman.

Representatives of the family were presented with a Texas flag and a resolution by Texas House members honoring the late black leader.

A private funeral for Leland was scheduled for Saturday morning at St. Anne's Catholic Church in Houston.

Hailed by fellow Texan President George Bush, as a hero who died for a "noble cause" in trying to aid the hungry in Africa and the U.S., 44-year-old Congressman Leland was surrounded by the best and brightest in government service on his final, tragic mission.

The victims included: Patrice Johnson, committee chief of staff and a graduate of Fisk University, New York U. and Princeton; Hugh A. Johnson, Jr. (no relation), staff team leader who was a graduate of Morehouse College and Columbia U.;

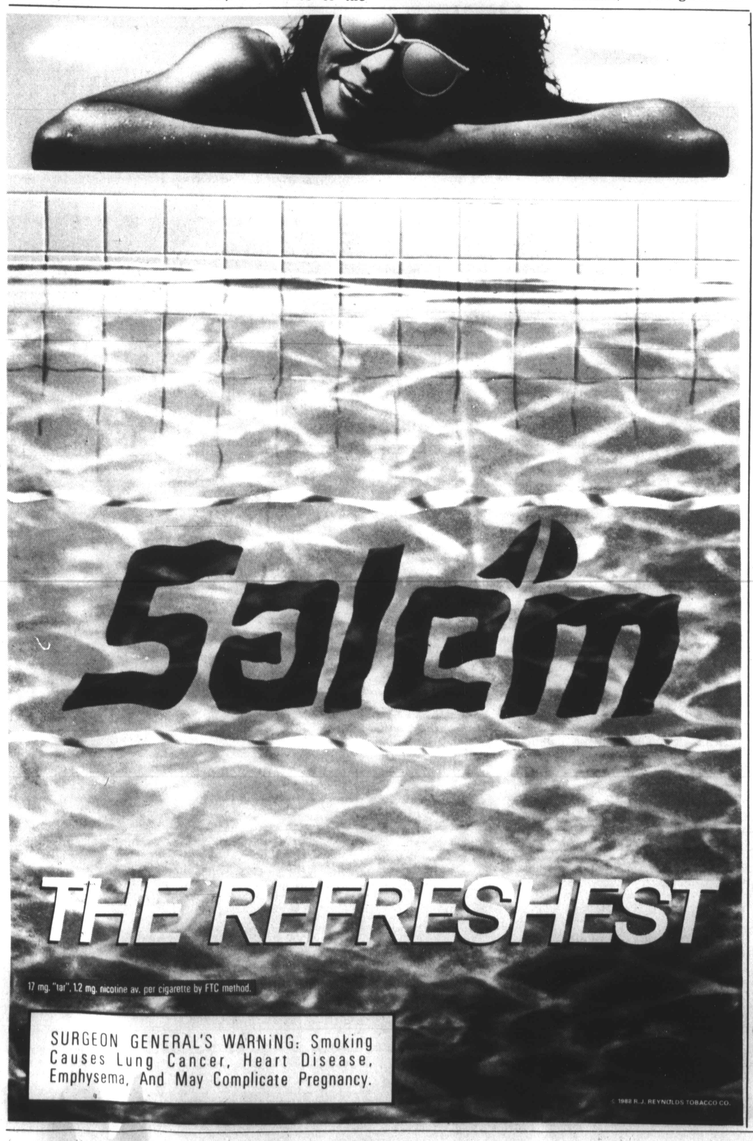
Joyce F. Williams, a graduate of Florida A&M University and Howard U., was a House District Committee staff member who cancelled her vacation to join the delegation.

The extended mourning began last weekend with a candlelight vigil in the Capitol by the Congressional Black Caucus before the crash was confirmed.

HOUSTON — Memorial services for Rep. Mickey Leland were held last week. Mrs. Alison Leland (3rd L), family and friends sit behind a symbolic wooden coffin at the services. This was just one in a series of memorial services which will be taking place in many different places.

Rep. Walter E. Fauntroy (D-DC) led a memorial service sponsored by the Black Senate Legislative Staff this week after the crash was confirmed. Senate staffer Jackie Parker postponed a trip to southern Africa to arrange the memorial.

Leading the tributes to Leland, Congressman Dellums issued the first statement, saying "we (in the CBC) . . . who knew and loved Mickey Leland around the world are devastated at the loss of this extraordinary human being who devoted his life's work to others.



U.N. anti-drug plan urged

NEW YORK — Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley warned Friday that drug cartels have formed "an international criminal conspiracy on a scale the world has never seen" and urged the United Nations to adopt his plan to battle the scourge.

Manley outlined the scope of the international threat presented by drug traffickers and detailed his program for the creation of a multi-lateral anti-drug strike force, which he said has been endorsed by Congress and a regional organization of Caribbean states.

"Our analysis of this situation is that we are dealing with an international criminal conspiracy on a scale that the world has never seen in its history," Manley said at the National Association of Black Journalists convention.

What were once separate drug operations around the world — trafficking in heroin in Turkey and Southeast Asia, cocaine in Latin America and marijuana in places like Jamaica — are now integrated, Manley said.

"What has happened is the cartelization of that criminal structure," he said.

Manley told reporters that drug cartels have reached a level of sophistication comparable to multinational corporations and have adopted similar techniques.

He outlined his international program, under which the United Nations would be the focal point of a wide-ranging effort that would include an anti-drug strike force under U.N. auspices as well as an intelligence clearinghouse and training center for drug agents.

The program would also include a clearinghouse for information on drug education for countries that are interested in starting such programs but do not have the know-how or resources, and funds for crop substitution in drug-producing nations, Manley said.

Manley said Jamaica would introduce a resolution on the program to the United Nations in November.

Stokes may run again

CLEVELAND — A revised version of Carl Stokes's autobiography goes on sale Monday, discussing what he calls the issues in this fall's mayor campaign, but Stokes refuses to say whether he will be a candidate for the office he left 18 years ago.

Stokes, 62, thrust into national prominence in 1967 when became the first black mayor of a major American city, said he will announce Tuesday whether he will again be a candidate for mayor of Cleveland.

Asked about the timing of the release of his book, one day before disclosing his political plans, Stokes said, "Yeah, I guess it is a coincidence."

"I think this prologue will be kind of a blueprint for whoever wants to be mayor of Cleveland this year," Stokes said. "I think the issues are set out there in what the needs of the city are."

The filing deadline was Thursday.

George Voinovich, mayor since 1979, is not seeking reelection because he plans to run for governor next year.

Those who have already declared their candidacies for the non-partisan election are Cuyahoga County Commissioner Timothy Hagan, Clerk of Courts Benny Bonanno and state Sen. Michael White.

The political future of Stokes, now a municipal judge, became clouded this summer when he was charged with petty theft involving a $17.25 bag of dog food, but a jury in Shaker Heights Municipal Court found him innocent earlier this month. — UPI

Wilder gets union boost

NORFOLK, Va. — Democratic gubernatorial candidate Douglas Wilder, embraced by 500 cheering labor leaders, credited working men and women with supporting him even "in the dark days of 1985" when he was a long-shot candidate for lieutenant governor.

The leadership of about 400 local unions of the AFL-CIO, jumped to their feet when AFL-CIO President David Laws yelled from the podium, "Does anybody in here like Doug Wilder?"

Earlier in the day, Laws delivered a blistering denunciation of the statewide Republican ticket, but warned Democrats not to take labor's support for granted.

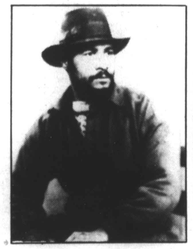
ENTERTAINMENT/ LIFESTYLE

Harlem Renaissance highlighted at NY museum

ALBANY, N.Y. — Works by five pioneering Black American artists who were central figures in the cultural awakening of Harlem during the 1920s are featured in "Harlem Renaissance: Art of Black America," on view at The New York State Museum Aug. 26 through Oct. 29. The exhibition is organized by The Studio Museum in Harlem and sponsored by Philip Morris Companies, Inc.

More than 130 works by Carl Van Vechten, Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller, Palmer Hayden, Aaron Douglas, and William H. Johnson are included. Many of the pieces, dating from 1900 to 1964, have never been exhibited to the public before.

Focusing on the cultural and artistic flowering of Harlem in the 1920s and 30s, "Harlem Renaissance" chronicles an important and neglected time in the black experience and in American history. The beginnings of the struggle against racism, the migration of American Blacks into the Harlem community, the emergence of the Black artist as an identifiable part of American culture are documented and embodied in the works of these artists.



William H. Johnson

Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller

Carl Van Vechten

James Van Der Zee

Countee Cullen

Portraits of major historical figures like Alain Locke and Countee Cullen by Carl Van Vechten and photographs by social documentarian James Van Der Zee give us a visual account of those dynamic times.

Sculpture and paintings by Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller, Palmer Hayden, Aaron Douglas and William H. Johnson show us the first definitions of a visual vocabulary for Black American Art.

The exhibit was curated by Dr. Mary Schmidt Campbell, formerly executive director of the Studio Museum in Harlem and now commissioner of New York City's Department of Cultural Affairs, and Professor David Driskell, lecturer and past chairman of the Department of Art at the University of Maryland.

A 200-page catalog provides an amply illustrated history of this vibrant era in American history. The book, published by Harry N. Abrams, Inc., in association with The Studio Museum and sponsored by Philip Morris Companies, Inc., is available from The Museum Shop at $19.95 soft cover, $37.50 hard cover.

For more information on the exhibit call 518/474-5877.

Show biz scenes

Moore 'Simply Heavenly'

PHILADELPHIA — Tony Award-winning actress, Melba Moore, will light up the stage of the Shubert Theater in an all new production of the famous Langston Hughes stage hit, "Simply Heavenly," Sept. 19 thru Oct. 1, presented by Freedom Theatre in association with Moe Septee.

The only pop singer to give a solo concert at the Metropolitan Opera House, with more than a dozen record albums to her credit and her own TV series, Melba Moore will star in this richly detailed portrait of Harlem during the 1950's.

"Simply Heavenly" will have performances from Tuesday through Saturday at 8 p.m., with matinees on Saturday at 2 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Sunday evening performances are at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are now available at the Shubert Box Office, 250 S. Broad Street and at Ticketron (1-800-223-4050).

Oprah weighs role

Oprah Winfrey was one of the main attractions Monday night at the opening of the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston - Salem, N.C., but she didn't let it go to her head. Winfrey joked that most people came to "see if I gained the weight back." The gala included a performance of "Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope" by the North Carolina Black Repertory Company and Winfrey spoke on the importance of Black Theater. "What black theater does is lift us up. It represents who we are," she said. "I'm grateful tonight for Black theater because it held me up and took me where I belonged and didn't even know it." The weeklong festival also will include Maya Angelou, Roscoe Lee Browne, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, Lou Gossett, Jr., James Earl Jones and Cicely Tyson.

Guy singer arrested

LOS ANGELES — An arrest warrant has been issued for the lead singer of the rhythm and blues group Guy for an alleged attack on his girlfriend, sheriff's officials announced Friday.

Aaron Hall, 27, is accused of assaulting Diana Grandy June 30 at the Hyatt Hotel in West Hollywood, where he was staying while on tour, Deputy George Ducoulombier said. Details of the attack that allegedly occurred between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m. were not available.

Ducoulombier said deputies looked into the incident but did not arrest Hall pending further investigation.

He said sheriff's officials presented their case Thursday to the District Attorney's Office, which obtained the arrest warrant from a Beverly Hills municipal judge who set bail at $6,000.

The New York-based group's record, "Guy and Uptown," was ranked 10th in Billboard's top 20 black albums chart for this week and a single from the same LP, "Spend the Night," was 18 among Black Singles

MCA Records, Guy's Label, said Hall and his brother, Damion Hall, and Teddy Riley formed the group in 1987.

Whitney Houston's zoo?

Whitney Houston is a friend of animals. The singer plans to donate a pair of lion cubs to the Bronz Zoo and she's made arrangements to feed and care for them for a year. Houston's father, John, gave her two Akitas puppies Saturday at the big party she threw herself at her New Jersey home to celebrate her 26th birthday. The guests also included Houston's mother, Cissy, Eddie Murphy, Malcom-Jamal Warner from "The Cosby Show" and singers Bobby Brown, Natalie Cole, Nicholas Ashford and Valerie Simpson.

Concert violinist in touch with Africa

GAINESVILLE — Critics continually tell Elwyn Adams that he is the only accomplished black concert violinist around.

That's nothing out of the ordinary for University of Florida Department of Music faculty member Adams, who is aware that he is in a special category.

On a recent trip to Dakar, Senegal, Adams found the custom of communication through music to be very much alive when he improvised with an African kora player on a traditional melody.

The kora is an African stringed instrument, held in both hands and plucked with the thumbs and forefingers. "The Senegalese musician was a virtuoso, and after we played together I played some classical violin music," said Adams.

"After intermission there was a fantastic performance by the Senegal Folk Ballet. It was my first trip to Africa and it was a great time."

The 56-year-old Adams travels and performs throughout the world, with regular trips to Europe and around the U.S. In explaining his success, he credited his parents with providing the inspiration and discipline that launched his career.

Elywn Adams instructs Carl Rousseau in violin technique.

His younger years were spent in a musical Cleveland, Ohio, neighborhood. "There were many families enjoying music - making in our neighborhood," said Adams. "We exchanged musical activities, going into each other's homes, sharing music and inviting composers to visit."

When Adams was 8 years old, his family moved to Boston where he took after-school and weekend classes at the New England Conservatory of Music. After high school, he went to the conservatory for his college degree.

His intense musical education, as well as a high school diploma from the selective Boston Latin School and years of study and performance in Brussels, has left Adams with a very clear sense of how chamber music should be played.

Adams has strong opinions on other issues as well, ranging from space-age technology to childrearing on planet Earth.

Tina's 'Best'

Tina Turner's first single, "The Best," from her forthcoming Foreign Affair LP debuted on MTV's "Now Hear This" show Aug. 21.

"I had an idea for 'The Best' video from the first time I sang the song," commented Turner. "Everytime I listened to the track a galloping horse came into my head. I had a dream and they made it a reality."

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