

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 1998

# South Bend Tribune

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**Early member recalls founding of local NAACP**

By MAY LEE JOHNSON  
Tribune Staff Writer

**SOUTH BEND**—Dr. B.W. Stevens, a retired dentist, has a personal philosophy that he often shared with his patients. "Your problems are my problems, too."

That philosophy helped to make him one of the leaders in the black community here back in the late 1940s. He was one of the early members of the South Bend branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Charles Willis, a local lawyer, founded the local branch in 1949.

Nationally, the NAACP was organized in 1909. It involved blacks and whites working together to secure equal rights for people of color.

Retired now and living near Niles, Stevens, 86, and his wife, Odie, remember the discrimination blacks had to endure until things began to change in the 1960s.

"There was a large migration of blacks that came here in the late 40s and early 50s, but Stevens was from Logansport. Many moved here because of the factory jobs and others because it was a nice city in which to live.

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**Area members back Bond as new leader**

By MAY LEE JOHNSON  
Tribune Staff Writer

**SOUTH BEND**—Local members of the NAACP are looking forward to the return of Allen Bond as national chairman of the civil rights organization.

Bond, a college professor who was an active member of the civil rights movement in the 1960s, was elected in February to head the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

He stepped down after choosing not to seek another term. Under her leadership, the organization has begun to bounce back from financial turmoil and mismanagement.

"Although I think Allen Bond will make a good president, I don't think I know for sure, and that is to be honest," said Bond.

"I am really excited to see Allen Bond back in the NAACP," said Myrtle Evers Williams, a member of the South Bend branch of the NAACP. "I am really excited to see Allen Bond back in the NAACP because she did such a good job." Williams said. She is a beautiful, caring person, and she

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**Baseball '98**



**New York Mets base runner**  
Eugenio Suarez gets a hit in the fourth, courtesy of Baltimore catcher Chris Fick in a play at the plate. Suarez gets a day to recover full range of motion in his left leg after Major League Baseball's Opening Day.

AP Photo/Roberto Soto

**BATTER UP**

**Dust off the plate**  
Major League Baseball closed its exhibition season Sunday. The games begin Tuesday. The Tribune's sports staff previews the Diamond Backs, the Silver Sox, and offer a whimsical month-by-month look at the Chicago Cubs and the White Sox by columnist David Hough and Bill Moor.

Section BB

**FIVE-AND-DIMES SURVIVE**

**Still making change**  
Nostalgia and economics help balance the ledger for the remaining variety stores still open for business.

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**WEATHER**

Windy, warm, late 1st rain. High 72, low 54.

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**SPECIAL SECTION**

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL'S BIG TIME**



**Louisiana Tech's P.J. Brown** battles Tennessee's Dominique Wilkins during the women's championship game of the NCAA Division I basketball tournament. The Lady Techs of Tennessee took an unprecedented first NCAA title on Sunday, 83-75, led by tournament MVP Wilkins. The men's title, Kentucky vs. Utah, is on the line tonight in San Antonio. See full NCAA basketball coverage in Sports, Page C1.

**Doubts about Doubleday**

**Niles descendant not sure he invented baseball**

By LOU MUMFORD  
Tribune Staff Writer

**NILES**—What's in a name? A lot, if you're Lloyd and Jan Doubleday of Niles.

For baseball fans, Doubleday is a meaningful name.

Although controversy over the game's origin may never be resolved, some say that Albert Doubleday invented the game in Cooperstown, N.Y., in 1845.

And Lloyd Doubleday, the yard manager at Williams Lumber & Hardware in Niles, is Albert's great-great grandson. He said when he tells people his name, they often bring up the baseball connection.

"I get that about six or seven times a year. They say, 'You're not related to that baseball guy, are you?'" he said.

Doubleday, who works as a transportation director for the Niles Community Schools, recalled that when he was growing up in Spring, N.Y., his parents had a baseball glove that had belonged to his great-grandfather. He said "glove" is the proper word, as it has no resemblance to modern baseball mitts.

"I barely covered your hand, and it had a little pad right in the center of it, that was it," he said. "I was told it was ultimately donated to the Hall of Fame."

The Hall of Fame's location in Cooperstown, a community of just 2,000 in central New York state, stems from Albert Doubleday's supposed baseball connection. But was he the game's inventor? Even Lloyd Doubleday said that may be stretching the truth.

"My understanding is that he was instrumental in organizing the sport in the U.S.," he said. "But as far as his coming up with the idea, I'm not sure if that's the true story."

Those who believe Albert Doubleday struck out as baseball's inventor argue his place in history should be tied to the Civil War, not baseball. As a captain, he fought

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**Republican proposal targets uninsured workers**

**Plan offers tax breaks for employers**

By ROBERT PEAR  
N.Y. Times News Service

**WASHINGTON**—House Republicans are drafting an election-year tax bill that would create new tax breaks to help people who receive no health benefits from their employers in buying health insurance.

The chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Bill Archer of Texas, is leading efforts to write the legislation and is working closely with Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Their bill would also create new tax incentives for small business owners to buy health insurance for themselves and their dependents.

The price of the tax package would be more—perhaps substantially more—than \$10 billion over five years, Republicans said.

Republicans plan to pay for the tax breaks with revenue raised from higher cigarette taxes, saying they would try to impose such taxes to raise cigarette prices and discourage smoking by teen-agers, even if Congress could not agree on comprehensive tobacco legislation this year.

But, the Republicans said, rather than spend the new revenue on child care and other government programs as proposed by President Clinton, they want to return the money to taxpayers in tax cuts intended to stimulate health care, health insurance and biomedical research.

"The Congress move forward to pass this smoking," Archer said, "one of my top priorities will be to return the revenue raised to the American people for health-related tax relief."

Currently reviewing a health-related tax relief package that will make health care more available and affordable for millions of people while also creating incentives for researchers on drug and cure diseases.

The political outlook for the Republican proposal appears favorable. Many Democrats, including Clinton, have supported more generous tax deductions for the health insurance costs of self-employed individuals.

The proposal, highlighted in a recent report by the Congressional Budget Office, would reduce the growth of uninsured workers on new or existing government programs and to regulate the insurance market, while Republicans usually prefer to use the tax code as an instrument of social policy.

Forty-one million Americans lack health insurance, and the number has been rising in recent years. Eighty percent of the uninsured are workers or dependents of workers. Many companies are cutting back coverage, especially for dependents. Small business owners are cutting most of the nation's new jobs, but they are much less likely than big businesses to provide health benefits to employees.

Chris Jennings, a White House aide, welcomed Republican interest in an issue that has preoccupied Clinton for years.

Key members of Congress who suggest ways to expand health insurance coverage should be considered," Jennings said. "But how do you make sure that changes in the tax code increase the number of people with insurance, rather than just providing benefits to those who already have it?"

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