



April 8, 2004  
Vol. 14

## **AFRO-AMERICAN CHILDREN'S THEATRE PREMIERES *PASS THE PEAS***

The Afro-American Children's Theatre (AACT) celebrates the 50th Anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education* in a powerful premiere production of "Pass the Peas." The play, written and directed by Dawn Womack, opens April 9, 10 and 11, and continues its run April 16, 17 and 18, 2004, at Spirit Square Center for Arts and Education in Charlotte, North Carolina.



"Pass the Peas" recognizes and celebrates the hundreds of children in Virginia and South Carolina who protested for better school conditions. The production is all about the children involved in the struggle for equality; about their desire for fairness and their ability to utilize local resources to peacefully demonstrate for what they believed was rightfully theirs--a quality education in quality schools.

"AACT's mission is about empowering young people and I couldn't think of a better way of doing that than to honor the youth of 50 years ago by telling what I think some of their stories might have been," said Dawn Womack, executive director of the Afro-American Children's Theatre.

Tickets are available by calling 704-372-1000. Senior and group discounts are available. Performance times are April 9 and 16 @ 7:30 PM, April 10 and 17 @ 3:00 and 7:00 PM, and April 11 and 18 @ 3:00 PM in Duke Power Theatre.

## **THE *BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION* CASES: AN EDUCATION UNIT ON THE CASES COMPRISING THE LANDMARK 1954 SCHOOL DESEGREGATION DECISION**

In an effort to inform high school and college students of the legal history of segregation, the Jim Crow Gateway has set up an [Education Unit](#) for teachers.

## **MEDIA MENTIONS OF "*BROWN*"....**

"[Play to mark \*Brown\* case anniversary](#)," by Ken L. Spear (Montgomery Advertiser)

"[Reporter's Notebook: Highlights from the 2004 OAH Convention](#)," by Rick Shenkman  
OAH Convention Highlights *Brown* (History News Network)

"[Massive White Resistance Over Place and Time](#)," by Derek Catsam (History News Network)

## COMMISSIONER PROFILE

Commissioner Jesse Milan, representing the State of Kansas, received a BS and an MS from the University of Kansas, and earned his Ed.S. from Emporia State Teachers College. Commissioner Milan has had a full career, having served as a professor, housing management specialist, contract compliance officer and policeman in the U.S. Air Force. He has received numerous awards, among them Educator of the Year, the Pioneer Award for contributions to the mental health field and an honorary doctorate from Baker University.



*"The Brown Decision drove the final nail in the coffin of Old Jim Crow. It laid the legal foundation to certify, once again, that 'Separate but Equal' doctrine was in fact a violation of the rights guaranteed citizens. In addition, that decision opened the door [to] equal treatment to all facets of American life: education, public accommodations, employment, terms and conditions of employment, entertainment, recreation, housing and many other phases of American life. .... That decision also gave rise to other groups to pick up the banner of oppression and seek relief. However, we still have a long ways to go to achieve the full intent and meaning of the Brown Decision and the rights guaranteed under the 14th Amendment."*

## INTERESTING **BROWN** LINKS

- [Indiana University](#)
- [Stanford University](#)
- [Southern Poverty Law Center](#)

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If you would like the newsletter to describe commemorative activities in your area or profile your website, please [contact the Commission](#).

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