

SOUTH EAST BRANCH HEADQUARTERS IN COMPTON

# Celebrities join radio-thon to promote sickle cell awareness

By Ivan Crosbie  
Staff Writer

COMPTON — Southeast celebrities, along with others throughout the state and country, are observing September as "National Sickle Cell Anemia (SCA) Month."

The Southeast Sickle Cell Anemia Center, located in Compton, has scheduled Academy award-winning actor Sidney Poitier, actress Jane Kennedy and State Assembly Speaker Willie Brown Jr. to participate in a live 10-hour radio-thon Sunday, Sept. 2, over stations KACE-FM and KDAY-FM.

The Radio-thon, which will begin at 9 a.m. at 3039 43rd St., Los Angeles, is geared to raise \$100,000 to help the center finance its various freely-offered sickle cell treatments and educational programs, said Dr. Betty Jackson, director of the center.

The center provides free services to South Gate, Lynwood, Bell Gardens, Compton, Maywood, Car-

**Among Mexican-Americans, one out of every 50 has the Sickle Cell Anemia trait, while one out of every 200 whites is affected by it.**

son, Bell, Cudahy and other Southeast cities.

The three prominent individuals are participating as general co-chairpersons of the Radio-thon. During the broadcast, they are expected to interview sickle cell specialists and victims of the disease.

SCA not only plagues millions of black Americans but also affects people of Spanish, Greek, Sicilian, Turkish and Mediterranean descent, Dr. Jackson said.

ing at 9 a.m. simultaneous-ly, White said.

He said "no" entertained. But, besides its fundraising aspect, the program will be geared at enhancing community awareness of the disease and drawing support for the center's educational activities.

Jackson said that while there is "no medical cure" for the disease, it can be

"controlled through good preventive health care."

She said a person who suffers from the disease usually experiences symptoms such as "painful joints"—called "Sickle Crisis"—jaundice, frequent infections or slow growth pattern, and other medical problems.

Preventive health care, she explained, includes "regular medical examina-

And they "can pass the genes onto their children," Jackson explained. "It's like flipping a coin."

Actually, the disease originated in Africa centuries ago, she said. And as people migrated to that continent, intermarried and migrated to other countries, they carried the disease or its trait with them. But it was not until 1910

that a medical doctor discovered the disease in a patient. Consequently, it was named after its shape, which resembled a "crescent," the director said.

In addition to the Radio-thon, the center will conduct several other activities in observance of SCA month.

They will include a volleyball tournament set for Wednesday in

Westwood Park, a bowling tournament, Sept. 24 in South Gate's Bowling Arena, and a benefit dance scheduled for that same night at Los Angeles Little J's.

Jackson will also appear on a special sickle cell program at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21, on Channel 2.

The 30-minute program, taped Thursday, includes television personality An-

thony Davis and Ken Norton, actor and former heavyweight boxer.

The Compton-based center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. It is open on Saturdays, but provides services only by appointment.

To make pledges during the Radio-thon, phone 298-6311. For additional information, call Jackson at 639-0468.

## A SPECIAL MONTH

### Schools observe black history

By Ivan Crosbie

Staff Writer

Numerous activities designed to celebrate Black History Month have been scheduled by cities, organiza-

tions and schools throughout the Southeast. The month-long celebration, which began this week, is expected to be comparatively bigger and better than last year's, some officials observed.

They believe the month's celebration, observed nationally, will be enhanced as a result of last month's observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s holiday. Commemorative programs for the slain civil rights leader were conducted throughout January by some local schools.

Schools in South Gate, Huntington Park, Bell, Cudahy, Maywood, Lynwood, and Compton have scheduled various programs to celebrate black history.

Liberty Boulevard Elementary School in South Gate will hold an assembly at 12:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, in its patio area, said Gloria Bohler, director of special programs for Los Angeles Unified School District.

Bohler said Stanford Elementary, another of South Gate's schools, will conduct a special, combined program with the Brotherhood Crusade on Wednesday, Feb. 22.

Other public schools in the city will also put on various programs, she said. However, their schedules could not be obtained at press time.

Bell's Elizabeth Elementary School will conduct an assembly five different times on Feb. 16, Bohler said. The assembly will be held at 8:20, 9:20, and 10:20 a.m. It will also be conducted at 12:12, and 1:20 p.m.

Several other schools in the city will put on additional programs, she said.

Lynwood Unified School District plans to hold programs at its various schools throughout the month, according to Dr. LaVonia Steele, associate superintendent. Steele said Friday, she did not have a schedule of the programs available for release.

In Compton, the city's unified school district will conduct assemblies, classroom discussions, skits, presentations, and other activities during the month.

However, a list of the programs could not be obtained at press time.

Classroom discussions will be held in Maywood and Cudahy public schools, Bohler said. She said no special activities were scheduled in these cities schools at press time.

Home Avenue Elementary in Florence-Firestone area will hold a Black History Museum from Feb. 20 — 24, consisting of visual displays from the past and projections into the future.

It will also conduct an assembly Feb. 27. Fifth and sixth grade students will perform readings on "Black Women in Verse" during the assembly.

Bohler said a combined assembly will be held at Miles Elementary in Huntington Park Feb. 16. It will consist of black history and "Great America."

Additionally, the school will put on choral readings, biographical sketches, and group singing.

For the first time the city of Compton will sponsor a month-long program to be aired over its municipal cable channel.

The program, entitled, "Reflections in Black," is a celebration of black film classics, featuring a selection of "vintage black films," said spokeswoman Sumire Gant.

Gant said four films will be shown at 9 p.m. each Friday over channel 36.

Films will include: "The Song of Freedom," a 1937 production starring the legendary Paul Robeson; "Rock & Roll Revue" and "Rhythm & Blues Revue;" and "The Black Panthers," featuring live interviews with Huey P. Newton, Eldridge Cleaver, Bobby Seale, and Stokely Carmichael.