

Pan-African NGO Bioresources Development and Conservation Programme, was devoted to the West African medicinal plant *Garcinia kola* Heckel, also known as "bitter cola," containing antiviral, antiinflammatory, antidiabetic, bronchodilator and antihepatotoxic properties, and found recently to have potential for treatment of the Ebola fever.

The conference opening ceremony, "The Festival of Living Culture," featured West African healers and musicians conducting traditional welcoming ceremonies with plants, music and dance, followed by a Native American healer who performed a traditional Cherokee ceremony. This dramatic opening demonstrated how the core elements of traditional medicine are inherently integrated with science, spirit, art, dance and ritual.

The conference, held in Silver Spring, MD from November 3-5, 1999, included several hundred world wide participants. It was organized by national and international research, training and teaching organizations including the Bioresources Development and Conservation Programme ([www.bioresources.org](http://www.bioresources.org)), the Alternative Medicine Foundation ([www.amfoundation.org](http://www.amfoundation.org)), American Herbal Products Association ([www.AHPA.org](http://www.AHPA.org)), Axxon Biopharma, Inc. ([www.axxonbiopharm.com](http://www.axxonbiopharm.com)), the Missouri Botanical Garden ([www.mobot.org](http://www.mobot.org)), the National Center for Natural Products Research at The University of Mississippi ([www.olemiss.edu](http://www.olemiss.edu)), Bastyr University ([www.bastyr.edu](http://www.bastyr.edu)) and the Healing Forest Conservancy ([www.shaman.con/Healing\\_Forest.html](http://www.shaman.con/Healing_Forest.html)).

THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CELEBRATES ITS 150TH ANNI-  
VERSARY

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 16, 2000*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, as the senior member of the Los Angeles County Congressional delegation, I am honored to pay tribute to the County of Los Angeles on its 150th anniversary.

On August 1, 1769, a Spanish expedition under the command of Gaspar de Portolá came upon an Indian village called Yang-na along the banks of a river which Portolá named El Rio de Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Angeles de Porciuncula, (the River of Our Lady the Queen of the Angels of Porciuncula), which was quickly shortened to Los Angeles. This was the site of present-day Los Angeles, but the Spanish did not return to Los Angeles until 1781, when a party of 44 colonists from Mexico was settled by Don Felipe de Neve, California's provincial governor, as part of Spain's effort to strengthen its control over its territories in the north. These first Angelinos fashioned a crude settlement to produce grain, just as the friars of San Gabriel Mission had done for a decade.

Americans first arrived in Los Angeles by way of nearby San Pedro, then an unimproved roadstead port. Beginning in 1805, U.S. vessels traded intermittently with the area's farmers and, in 1818, Joseph Chapman, a crew

member, stayed long enough to help with construction of the town's first church. In 1826, the fur trapper Jedidiah Smith became the first white man to reach Los Angeles by traveling overland from the Missouri frontier, but he was followed by few others. It was not until the 1830s, with the arrival of whaling and seal hunting ships, that Americans became a regular presence in the provincial community.

Los Angeles had been affected little by the revolution that replaced Spanish rule with that of an independent Mexican government in 1821. Mexico's Congress declared Los Angeles the capital of California in 1835, but the provincial governor refused to move south from San Francisco, so the city's relative isolation and the local authority of its prosperous farmers and ranchers remained unthreatened. By the 1840's, Los Angeles had become the largest settlement in Southern California, attracting its first party of American pioneers, led by William Workman and John Rowland, in 1841.

The Mexican-American War of 1846 ushered in a new era for Los Angeles. The city was occupied in August by U.S. troops under Commodore Robert Field Stockton and Captain John C. Fremont, but the 50-man garrison left to hold the farm town was driven out by local residents a few months later. Stockton returned in January 1847, supported by land troops from New Mexico under General Stephen Watts Kearny, and retook the city in a battle with Mexican forces that had retreated there. They soon were joined by Fremont's California Battalion and, on January 13, Fremont signed the Treaty of Cahuenga at Los Angeles, which ceded California to the United States.

American influence grew steadily thereafter, with the first English-language school and the first Protestant church arriving in 1850, the same year Los Angeles was officially incorporated and named the county seat. During the Gold Rush years in northern California, Los Angeles became known as the "Queen of the Cow Counties" for its role in supplying beef and other foodstuffs to hungry miners.

In 1876, seven years after the completion of the transcontinental railroad, Los Angeles was finally connected to the nation's rail system when the Union Pacific put in a line from San Francisco. The next year, local growers sent off their first carload of oranges, adding a new agricultural industry to the County's economy. Then, in 1885, the Santa Fe Railroad reached Los Angeles with a line that connected directly to eastern markets and touched off a fare war with the Union Pacific that would bring rates as low as one dollar for the trip west from St. Louis. Within a few years, more than 100,000 newcomers had arrived in the area, creating a real estate boom that drove land prices skyward.

Oil became a key ingredient in the Los Angeles economy in 1892, when Edward L. Doherty and Charles A. Canfield drilled the first well in a resident's front lawn. Soon there were 1,400 wells within the city and more in the surrounding area. By this time, however, Los Angeles was beginning to fear a shortage of water. Located in a semi-desert region, it required more than El Rio de Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Angeles, now called the Los Angeles River, to sustain its growing popu-

lation and expanding industries. In 1904, William Mulholland, chief engineer of the Lost Angeles water department, proposed bringing water by aqueduct across the Mojave Desert from the Sierra Nevada range, and by 1908 the project was underway. In just five years, Mulholland constructed an aqueduct more than 200 miles long, running through 142 tunnels, tapping the Owens River, and virtually opened the floodgates on a milestone in the engineering and environmental history of the West.

The early decades of the 20th century also saw the completion of Los Angeles harbor in 1914, just in time to profit from the shipping traffic working its way up the California coast from the newly completed Panama Canal. Los Angeles became the home of the American motion picture industry in these decades as well. Producers flocked there for the steady sunlight, which was vital to the outdoor filming techniques of the time, and found that Los Angeles could provide a variety of backdrops, ranging from desert wilderness to awesome snow-capped peaks. Beginning in 1911, they settled in a community that had been established by a pious land speculator during the boom years of the 1880's—a community that turned into the legendary Hollywood we know today.

The population of Los Angeles soared, doubling by the 1920's. The war years brought more manufacturing and industry and, with it, more people. Los Angeles today is a diverse County, ethnically and economically. It has become one of the United States' major urban centers. It is a leading manufacturing, commercial, transportation, financial, and international trade center. Aerospace production has flourished, and the entertainment industry has broadcasting as well as production centers in the area. Tourism is an anchor of the Los Angeles economy. There is an extensive system of freeways and major transcontinental and regional railroad lines. Los Angeles International Airport is one of the busiest in the U.S., and the port of Los Angeles-Long Beach, on San Pedro Bay, handles more cargo than any other U.S. port on the Pacific Coast.

Today, instead of Los Angeles' riches coming from the surrounding hills of gold, our riches come from the great wealth of people, culture, and diversity. As the largest County in California, with an economy larger than all but eight countries in the world, we owe our prosperity to the men and women who have sacrificed and dedicated their lives to the social and economic strength of our County.

Spanish explorer Gaspar de Portolá bestowed upon us the name, the City of Angels. Today, the County of Los Angeles will begin a year-long celebration of its 150th anniversary. During this historic celebration, I encourage the people of the County to make a personal covenant with each other to honor our history, respect our diversity, and challenge ourselves to ensure a prosperous future.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has proclaimed February 18, 19, and 20, 2000 as "Los Angeles County's 150th Birthday Days," beginning with special open houses sponsored by various County departments, opening the County's museums and gardens free to the public, a parade of Nations

with hundreds of floats and marching bands, and a Festival of Nations with over 35 countries participating with native costumes, food, arts and crafts, and music.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the County of Los Angeles on its 150th anniversary. Our golden history is reflected throughout the County and is a constant reminder of the wealth of opportunity that continues to grace the people of the County of Los Angeles.

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TRIBUTE TO ROBERT E. STEPHENS

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 16, 2000*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to an outstanding public servant from my home state of New Jersey, Mr. Robert E. Stephens, the Director of the Division of Operations at New Jersey Department of Corrections.

Mr. Stephens began his career with the State of New Jersey in 1975 as the Superintendent of Newark House, a community-based service center. In 1982, he became Assistant Superintendent for the Mid-State Correctional Facility. In 1984, he advanced to the position of Superintendent of the Mid-State Correctional Facility, where he remained until 1986 when he became Administrator of Northern State Prison. In 1993 he was appointed Deputy Director of the Division of Operations, and in 1994, he became the Director of the Division of Operations.

During his tenure, Mr. Stephens has earned an excellent reputation as a professional of the highest integrity, competence and ability to bring people together. He is well respected for his outstanding leadership and for his many accomplishments over the year.

On February 18, 2000, friends, family and colleagues of Mr. Stephens will gather to honor him for his many years of service. I know that my colleagues in Congress join me in offering our appreciation to Mr. Stephens for a job well done and our very best wishes for continued success.

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CONGRATULATIONS FOR STEPHANIE JACKSON OF ASHLAND, KY

**HON. KEN LUCAS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 16, 2000*

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Stephanie Jackson of Ashland, KY, who is being recognized for outstanding service to her community. Ms. Jackson has been named one of Kentucky's top honorees in The 2000 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. This honor is annually bestowed upon the most inspiring student volunteers nationwide.

The Prudential Insurance Company of America, in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, insti-

tuted their Spirit of Community Awards in 1995. These awards applaud young people who so generously donate their time and effort to bettering their neighborhoods and towns. In 5 years, The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards has become the largest youth recognition program based solely on community service in the United States. I'm proud to say that Stephanie Jackson is one young lady who is certainly deserving of such recognition.

Ms. Jackson is at the age of 15, the founder of the Boyd County branch of the Kentucky Youth Council of Volunteerism and Service. Through this group, she has already implemented two service projects to better her community.

Stephanie Jackson is a positive example for young people across the nation, and I am proud to say, an indication of great things to come in Kentucky. It is with pride and gratitude that I congratulate her on being recognized for her dedication to community service.

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TRIBUTE TO THE CHESTERTON HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE TEAM

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 16, 2000*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to the outstanding achievements of an exceptional group of students from Chesterton High School, located in Indiana's First Congressional District. On Saturday, February 5, 2000, the Chesterton High School Debate Team won its 11th state debate title.

Chesterton entered four Policy debate teams, four Lincoln Douglas debaters and five Congressional debaters. All 17 debaters broke out of the preliminary rounds and competed in the elimination rounds. Additionally, Chesterton won all three championships—Policy, Lincoln Douglas, and Congress—for a complete sweep of the tournament. No school in the state had ever accomplished this feat. Joel Cavallo and Paul Babcock survived the field of 44 teams to win the State Policy Debate title. In Lincoln Douglas debate, Matt Gregoline was named the top debater in a field of 66. John Jernigan took the Congressional debate title, outlasting 86 competitors.

In addition, I would like to recognize the other members of the State Debate Championship Team: Dave Blumenthal; Meredith Chase; Aaron Dartz; Eric Galamback; Katie Hurley; April Jenkins; Stephanie Kendall; Christian Nallenweg; Sherry Nelson; Dave Odefey; Mike Podguski; Owen Sutkowski; and Amber Zehner. The team's success is also due to the outstanding ability and leadership of its teachers and coaches. In particular, James Cavallo, Carol Biel and Kirsten Turnak should be commended for the devotion they have demonstrated as coaches. Additionally, Chesterton Principal Janice Bergeson and Dr. Kenneth Payne, Duneland Superintendent of Schools, should be recognized for their strong support of the debate program. The accomplishments of these outstanding individuals are a reflection of their hard work and dedication to scholarship. Their scholastic effort, deter-

mined preparation and rigorous approach to learning have made them the best in the state. They have also brought pride to themselves, their families, their school, and their community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again extend my most heartfelt congratulations to the members of the Chesterton High School Debate Team for their commitment to excellence as well as to the faculty members who have instilled in their students the desire to succeed. I am proud to have been given this opportunity to recognize these future leaders, and I look forward to their future achievements as they continue to rise to the top!

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CARTER G. WOODSON HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE STUDY ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

**HON. MIKE McINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2000*

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to be with you today.

As we gather here on this special occasion, we owe thanks for the opportunity to celebrate Black History Month, and most importantly, for the study of Black History, to Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

Born to parents who were former slaves, Dr. Woodson spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at the age of 20. He graduated within two years and later went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard.

Woodson, always one to act on his actions, decided to take on the challenge of ensuring the story of Black Americans was told in our nation's history. He established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915, and later founded the widely respected Journal of Negro History. In 1926, he launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history.

Understanding and appreciating the African-American experience not only enriches our national life, but it also reminds all Americans of their ethnic roots and the uniqueness of the great American experience: the nurturing of mutual respect for different traditions and backgrounds.

Woodson choose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly impacted the American Black population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

It was Douglass who said, "We are one, our cause is one, and we must help each other; if we are to succeed."

And it was Lincoln who said at that famous address at Gettysburg, "we are highly resolved that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

The theme of this year's Black History Month is "Heritage and Horizons: The African-American Legacy and the Challenges of the 21st Century."