

FREE

A salute to
Martin Luther King Jr.

FREE

THE 'M' VOICE

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S MINORITY VOICE - SINCE 1987

WEEK ENDING JANUARY 14, 1994

"Greenville Man Creates Drugo"

By Lynnette Riddick
Editor

A fun and exciting board game called, Drugo is helping to equip our area youth with knowledge that can shape how they deal with the society in which they live. Drugo is the name of an innovative board game that is quickly gaining popularity in the Pitt county area. It is unique in that it is informative as well as fun.

Drugo, created by health educator Wade Johnson, Jr. is played much like Bingo. It helps players to learn the facts about drugs and their harmful effects.

Wade Johnson, Jr., alcohol and drug coordinator for Pitt County Schools, developed this game after acquiring the position as drug edu-

cation consultant in 1979. The creation of this game was done to provide a fun and effective means for his students from grades 6-8 to learn about drugs.

Johnson later formed, W. Johnson Enterprises, Inc., the manufacturer of Drugo. The company consists of Johnson and his wife who work out of the home. As of yet, 4,000 games have already been sold. Johnson's goal, however, is extends far beyond that. He hopes to sell as much as 100,000 games.

"Always create something to make difference in others lives and market it. My goal is to be an example — you can use your own mind to benefit others. The benefit is not in making money but to

make a difference. There's a mission greater than money."

Many times parents have a hard time identifying with or even understanding their children. Johnson discovered that Drugo can cut down the barriers between parents and children. This in turn helps the children to open up to their parents.

Johnson added that after playing Drugo once, participants gain a 20% - 30% increase in knowledge base. As an additional benefit to his students, Johnson awards with comicbooks, pens, buttons, bumper stickers, posters, etc. "Learning should be fun," said Johnson.

Johnson said we are to encourage our youth to work for themselves, they have capability to de-

velop and market a product. And they must do it through education. This is the number 1 ticket for us. And, Whatever you do you must put God first.

Johnson asks all businesses purchase several Drugo games and donate them to area families.

to accomplish as much as Wade Johnson Jr., requires lots of determination, persistence, patience and just plain hard work. For those of you who have a vision or a goal to reach that would positively effect your world I encourage you to "Never go back . . . move forward even if it's gradual," said Johnson. Those who run in a race can't look back or else they will get off course. So, keep your eyes on the finish line!



Mr. Wade Johnson Jr. is known for teaching our young people about drugs. Mr. Johnson has now invented a game "Drugo." Drugo is to teach our parents and children about drugs. It is now time to help support Mr. Johnson for what he stands for. Fighting the war of drugs.

1993 in review: A year in Black and White

By Vinette K. Pryce
Special to the AM News

This time last year the nation looked to Washington where a regime headed by a Democrat readied in transition for a more optimistic tenure.

New Yorkers who helped elect President Bill Clinton focused on the inauguration rather than the Somali war which is still claiming victims.

With a new mayor entering Gracie Mansion, Black New Yorkers are not quite as happy or optimistic about the Republican promising to carry a big stick some believe aimed directly at the Black community.

But while 1994 rapidly advances, 1993 looms large as the year which began when Christopher Wilson, a Brooklyn-based Jamican immigrant, was kidnapped from his car, taken to a remote area in Tampa, Fla., and doused with gasoline and fire. The story made national news. For that same Brooklyn community, Nick Perry was installed as a member of the New York State Assembly.

By March, Rev. Alfred Sharpton was jailed. Along with Charles Barron, the pair was hauled off to Rikers Island but had to be moved to Brooklyn where authorities claimed it would be ideal for less interaction with other inmates. For days, protesters honked car horns demanding release of the activist.

Prof. Leonard Jeffries took the hotseat in April. But it was the incompetence of city University administrators, and politicians, including former Mayor Ed Koch, which glared brightly inside the Manhattan courtroom New Yorkers will remember.

The Essence Awards lauded women in April. During a paid tribute at the Paramount Theater, the women's magazine hosted a televised program which is becoming a highlight for each succeeding year.

On May 11, Jeffries heard the verdict. A victory for the activist, CUNY owes the Black educator a

bundle.

It was June when Rev. Calvin Butts decided to crush obscene rap music. Like Min. Louis Farrakhan in December, Rev. Butts wanted to know what happened to names like the Supremes. They've been replaced by Bitches With Problems, Ho's With Attitudes and Niggas With Attitudes.

Ike and Tina Turner exposed themselves during this wedding popular month. Tina's movie won her new respect by asking "Whats Love Got To Do With It?" Ike called a press conference to say he slapped his former wife and partner a few times but nothing like she portrayed in her movie.

The Crown Heights report beat the August anniversary when more Blacks were arrested for walking through their own neighborhoods that at any other time.

The Cigent report started a decline in popularity for there city's first Black mayor.

August was hotter than July for basketball hero Michael Jordan. The NBA conducted two probes on the star's gambling practices and was beginning to release information which tarnished his name. A brutal murder of his father and continued pressure from the media resulted in an early retirement. Jordan seems content that he quit at the top.

September showed David N. Dinkins was truly the Democratic candidate of choice. This was also the month Wilson say his racist attackers face to face. The 32-year-old stockbroker from Brooklyn was well enough to relish the fact that two of the men received life sentences for there heinous crime.

History will record the month when Yitzhak Rabin and Yassir Arafat shook hands in front of the world during a peace agreement witnessed by President Bill Clinton. Whoopi Goldberg made Halloween of Black arts. She also struck and uglier blow for Black women when she helped script denigrating monologue for her temporary lover. But Toni

Morrison certainly did Black women proud when she became the first Black woman to receive the Nobel Prize of Literature.

White Catholics decided a Black mayor should serve one term had them move out and while reports are that crime is down and the city was on an upswing, Mayor David Dinkins was told to leave by two percent of New Yorkers. It was a sad night at the Sheraton Hotel but a proud one because Mayor Dinkins took his licks with grace. Can't recall that happening in a long, long time.

At a time when Blacks and Whites give thanks for blessing, the world's biggest star who says "it doesn't matter if you're Black or White" found out it does.

After four months on the read with his "Dangerous" tour, her was forced off. Michael Jackson said her was addicted to pain killers. But her was also being tried and convicted by the American media which has been flooding newspapers with accounts of liaisons he reportedly hosted with youngsters. While they still have not found nay criminal facts, the stories continue.

Depression is high in December and a prime case is brutally revealed in the person of Colin Ferguson, and immigrant from Jamaica. Six people suffered his wrath. And for his actions he blames Blacks and Whites in the society whom he believed failed him. The Black community lost Thurgood Marshall. Jan. 24, Arthur Ashe, Feb. 7, Billy Eckstein in March, Marian Anderson in April, and many more to crime rather than natural causes.

David Koresh, a religious zealot who lured many people to Waco, Texas, perished in a fire which consumed 86 believers at the Branch Davidian compound. After 51 days of federal agents trying to extricate the cult, they were tear-gassed and later overcome by flames.

California will not forget the name Stacy Koon, a sergeant

whose name is forever associated with a motorist named Rodney King. In Black and White the names are indelible. Koon was convicted of violating King's civil rights. Laurence Pow'r, another cop who beat, cursed and denigrated the Black man, was also convicted.

Local forum to focus on fair housing laws

North Carolina law prohibits discrimination in most housing on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap or family status. A public forum is planned in Greenville to educate citizens about the fair housing law and to inform them on complaint and processing procedures.

The forum, sponsored by the N.C. Human Relations Commission and the Greenville Human Relations Commission, is set for Tuesday, January 25, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the West Greenville Recre-

ation Facility.

The N.C. Human Relations Commission is responsible for enforcing the state fair housing law. By mandate of the N.C. General Assembly and with oversight of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the commission has the ability to investigate, conciliate and litigate cases and complaints about fair housing on behalf of the citizens of North Carolina.

The 10-year-old State Fair Housing Act applies to private

homeowners as well as to real estate agents and others in the real estate business, according to William J. Barber II, executive director of the N.C. Human Relations Commission.

The Greenville public forum is one in a series planned throughout the state.

For more information, contact Evelyn Cohens at (919) 830-4497 or Quessie Peterson with the Human Relations Commission at (919) 733-7996.

PCMH campaigns to prevent shaken babies

In response to increasing numbers of babies diagnosed at Pitt County Memorial Hospital with serious injuries resulting from their being shaken, PCMH's Child Protection Team has launched a campaign to remind people of the potential harm that results from shaking a baby.

"Until a child is about two years old, his brain floats in a proportionately larger space of cerebral fluid than an adult's brain," said Jennifer Smith, pediatric social worker at PCMH. "This means that vigorous shaking of the child or throwing him into the air produces a whiplash-type to the brain."

Smith said shaking bangs the child's brain repeatedly against their skull, leading to permanent brain damage or even death. Several small injuries from shaking over time can cause the same damage as one violent incident.

To inform people of these dangers, the PCMH Child Protection Team of social workers, doctors and community representatives—supported by the Children's Miracle Network Telethon—recently began distributing brochures and posters throughout eastern North Carolina to child health and prenatal clinics, community hospitals, private pediatrician's offices, social service agencies, health departments, early intervention programs and military bases.

"The literature explains in frank, simple terms the injuries that can result from shaking a child," said Smith. "I also offers parents and caretakers reasonable, easy alternatives to shaking that will help

them calm down in moments when they feel they're losing control."

Smith pointed out that people who succumb to the urge to shake a child are usually not the same people involved in typical child abuse cases. Instead, they are often frustrated parents or caretakers who are trying to stop an infant's incessant crying. Victims are usually under one year of age and often under six months old.

"This syndrome occurs throughout all social and educational levels," said Smith. "Red flags for us are young parents with stressful jobs and no extended family nearby, especially around the holidays when people are under more stress anyway."

In 1993 at PCMH, six children were categorized as non-accidental shaken baby/head trauma cases; in 1992 there were nine. One-third of these children died as a result of their injuries.

"The thing we want to stress through this campaign is that if the victims of Shaken Baby Syndrome survive," said Smith, "they will probably be mentally retarded, deaf or blind, have speech or motor skill impairments, hydrocephalus or cerebral palsy."

"Shaken Baby Syndrome is one of the most deadly forms of child abuse," Smith continued. "But it's invisible in the sense that it leaves no bruises or scars, and it's almost always unplanned. It's also one of the most preventable forms of abuse."

The Child Protection Team's brochure will be reprinted for use statewide by the "Prevent Child Abuse in North Carolina" cam-

paign. The team also hopes to have a Spanish translation of their brochure available in the near future.

For more information on Shaken Baby Syndrome and how to prevent it, call the N.C. Chapter of the National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse at 1-800-354-KIDS.

Pure food campaign

Consumers across the country are protesting the approval of genetically engineered Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH) for use in dairy cows. Demonstrations, press conferences, and symbolic milk dumpings have occurred in over two dozen cities coast to coast, including Los Angeles, Chicago, New Orleans and New York. The protests are part of the Pure Food Campaign's (PFC) unprecedented national boycott of milk, dairy and meat products derived from cows injected with rBGH.

Over 18,000 activists in 900 communities will be leafletting millions of American consumers at thousands of supermarkets in the coming months. The rBGH boycott will be the largest food boycott in American history.

The PFC has also announced that it will be filing a federal lawsuit challenging the approval of the drug. The law suit charges the FDA with gross negligence in approving the drug without requiring long term study on it impacts (Continued on page two)



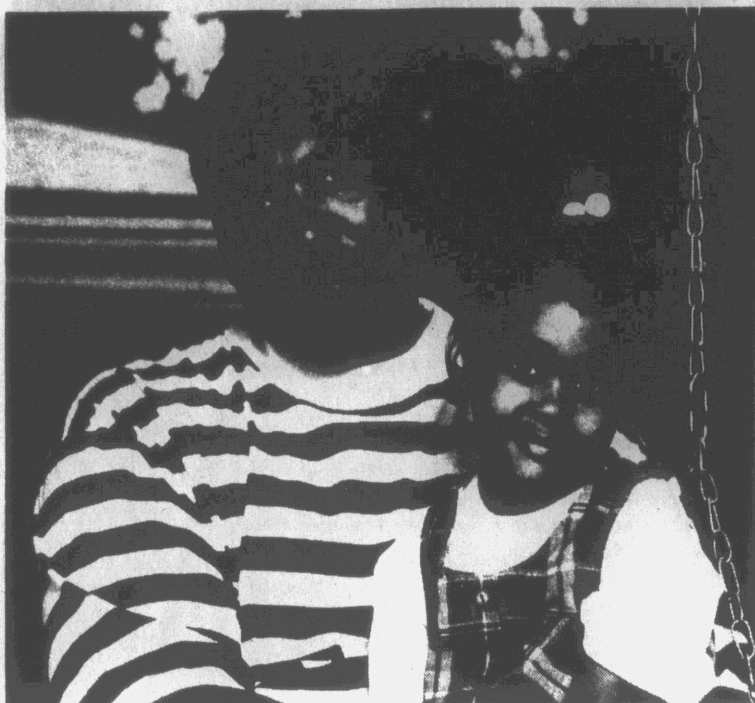
Superstar in Greenville... Jeff Sauage, Richard Washington and Mr. Rouse, standing with Rapper M.C. Lyte, after a press conference on stopping the violence among the black on black crime.

Photo by Chris Taylor

We Salute Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

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Pure food campaign

Continued from page 1

on human and animal health.

On November 5, 1993, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the sale and use of rBGH, despite serious potential health risks to both cows and consumers. Sales of the drug to dairy farmers will start on February 3, 1994.

The FDA admits that milk from rBGH-treated cows could be "visibly abnormal" with higher levels of pus (somatic cells). The agency also has stated the rBGH milk could contain increased chemicals and drug residues including antibiotics. What's more rBGH milk could have more saturated fats and less protein than normal milk.

Incredibly, the FDA will NOT require consumer labeling of milk and other products from rBGH-injected cows. To avoid hormone-tainted milk after February 3rd, consumers must seek out milk and dairy products that are labeled as free of rBGH.

Recently Consumers Union, the nation's most respected consumer watchdog and publisher of Consumer Reports magazine, blasted the FDA's approval of rBGH, saying it is unsafe for human health. The group also found that the milk from rBGH could have higher levels of a human growth factor, IGF-1, which is a suspected carcinogen.

The rBGH drug is the first billion-dollar product of food genetic engineering. Monsanto chemical company reduces rBGH under the name of "Posilac". When injected into cows, rBGH forces them to produce up to 20% more milk. Along with its impacts on human health the genetically engineered hormone is also bad for the farmer the taxpayer and the dairy cow. Studies indicate that the over-production of milk caused by rBGH will force up to 30 percent of American dairy farmers out of business by 1997. Moreover the use of rBGH to create an even greater milk surplus will cost the American taxpayers additional billions of dollars in price supports.

rBGH will also cause massive animal suffering. Cows injected with rBGH suffer from increased udder infections (mastitis). They also could experience high rates of ovarian tumors, uterus disorders, diarrhea, food disorders and birth defects.

Consumers and dairy farmers strongly oppose rBGH. Since 1986, surveys by university and industry researchers have shown that up to 98% percent of consumers want rBGH milk clearly labeled.

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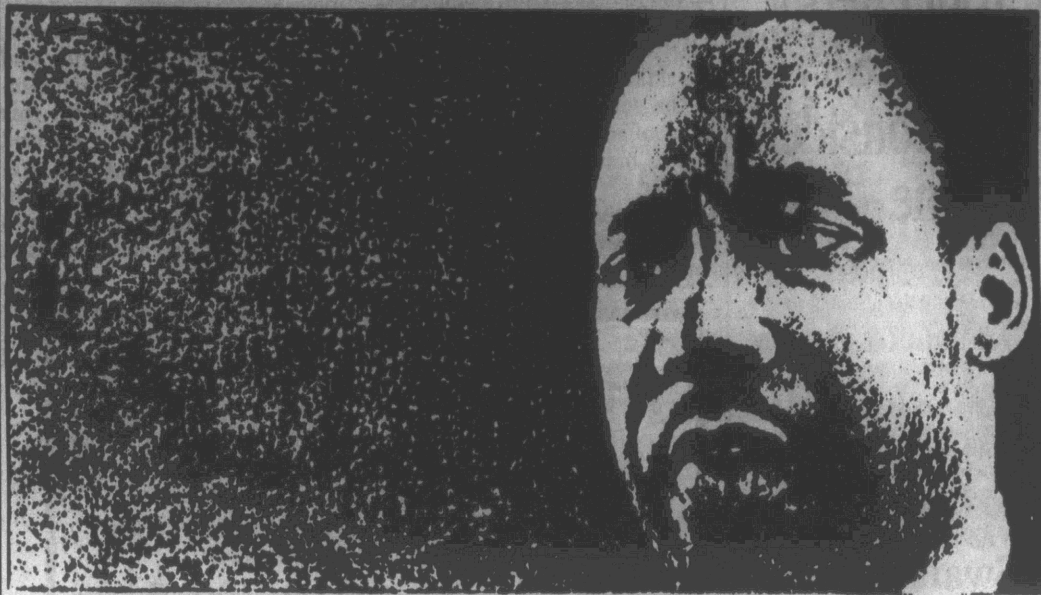
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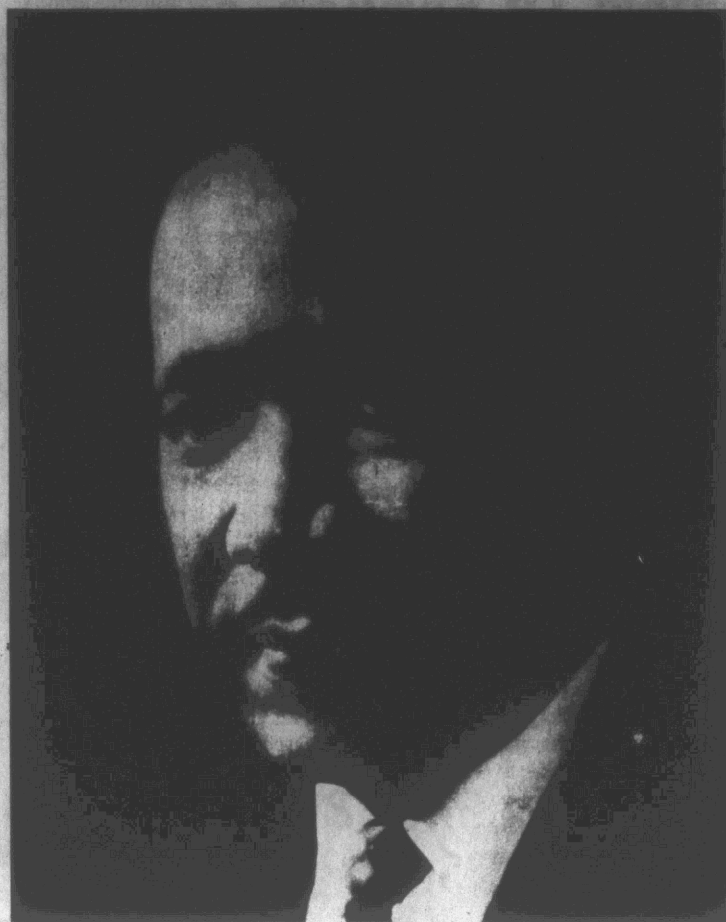
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Jewel Bachrach, a White woman refuses to be sidetracked when injustice against anyone is perpetrated against the innocent. She has written letters and telephoned as many of "right" people who can help. But to date the ending has yet to unfold.

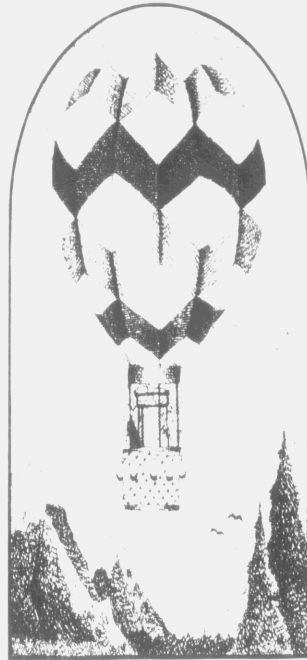
The incident took place on October 3, on the subway while she was a passenger minding her own business. Seated nearby her were two children, both African-Americans. They sat quietly with a puppy under one of the children's jackets. According to Bachrach, one of

the children was no more than five years of age. The other was perhaps 15 to 17 years old. The puppy was on a leash, quiet and silent, according to the woman. And suddenly, without warning, two transit officers grabbed the two youngsters and began to "overzealously" intimidate the children, going so far as to arrest them - putting handcuffs on them, and holding up the youngest child and making him sway in mid-air." The officer, a Mr. Martin, I later learned, held the child close to heavy iron bars in the subway station and later handcuffed him for crying and trying to move next to his older brother.

"When the children were taken to street level he was holding his head and could not stand without

assistance from a Sergeant Silverman because of the pain from something he received on the upper subway level," said Bachrach. "The sergeant permitted this young, hurting child to be handcuffed on the street. I was not alone in making a protest. There were other passengers willing to sign complaint forms against the officers. But to me, I was told not to move or face arrest."

"I replied that if I did not move, I could not leave the station and head for my home. I kept complaining until the officer, by this time were on the street, removed the handcuffs. I went to the precinct to lodge and protest, and in the precinct I noticed the handcuffs were again placed on the small child."



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The Measure of a Man

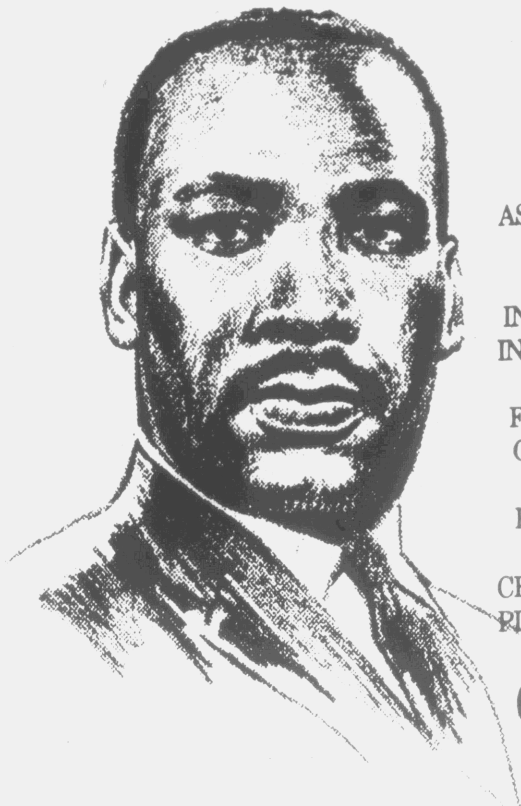
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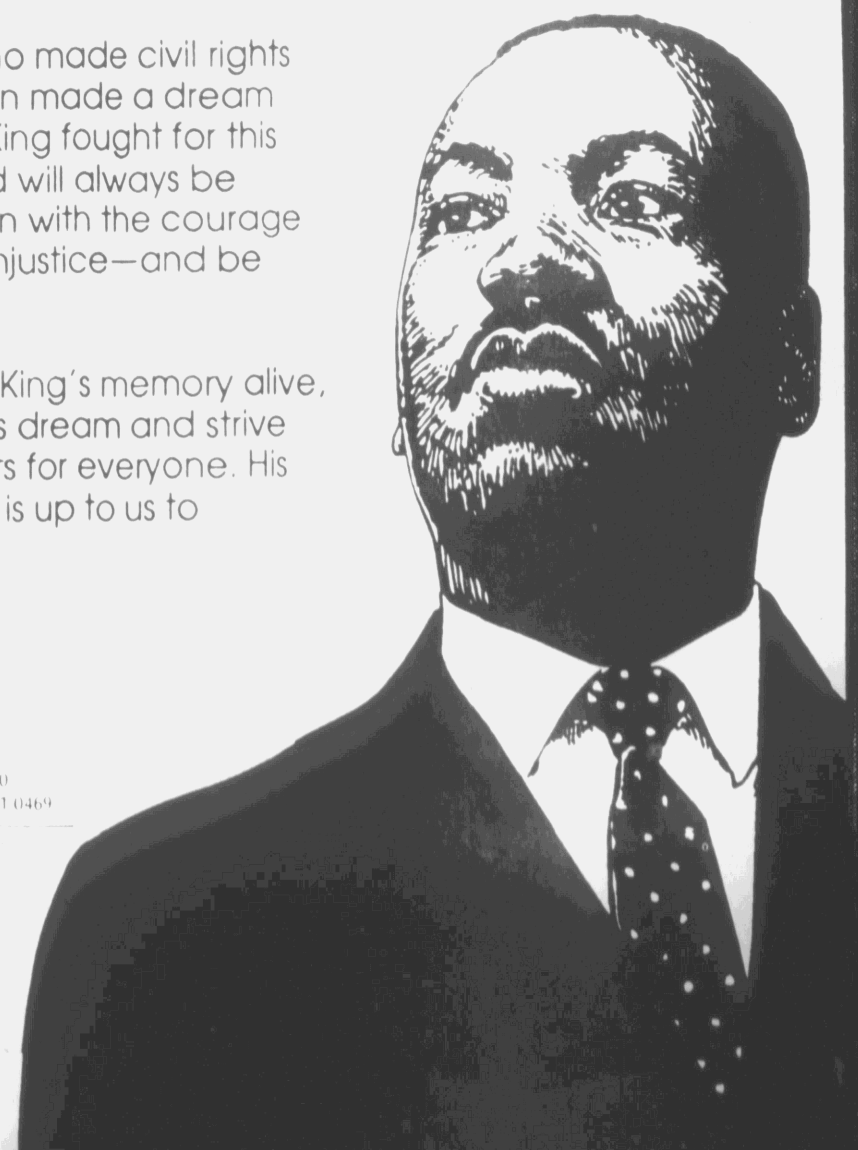
A Salute to Martin Luther King, Jr.

We salute the man who made civil rights a reality. His dedication made a dream come true for many. King fought for this dream peacefully and will always be remembered as a man with the courage to speak out against injustice—and be heard.

To keep Martin Luther King's memory alive, we must remember his dream and strive to achieve equal rights for everyone. His work is not finished—it is up to us to continue the struggle.

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PCMH campaigns to prevent shaken babies

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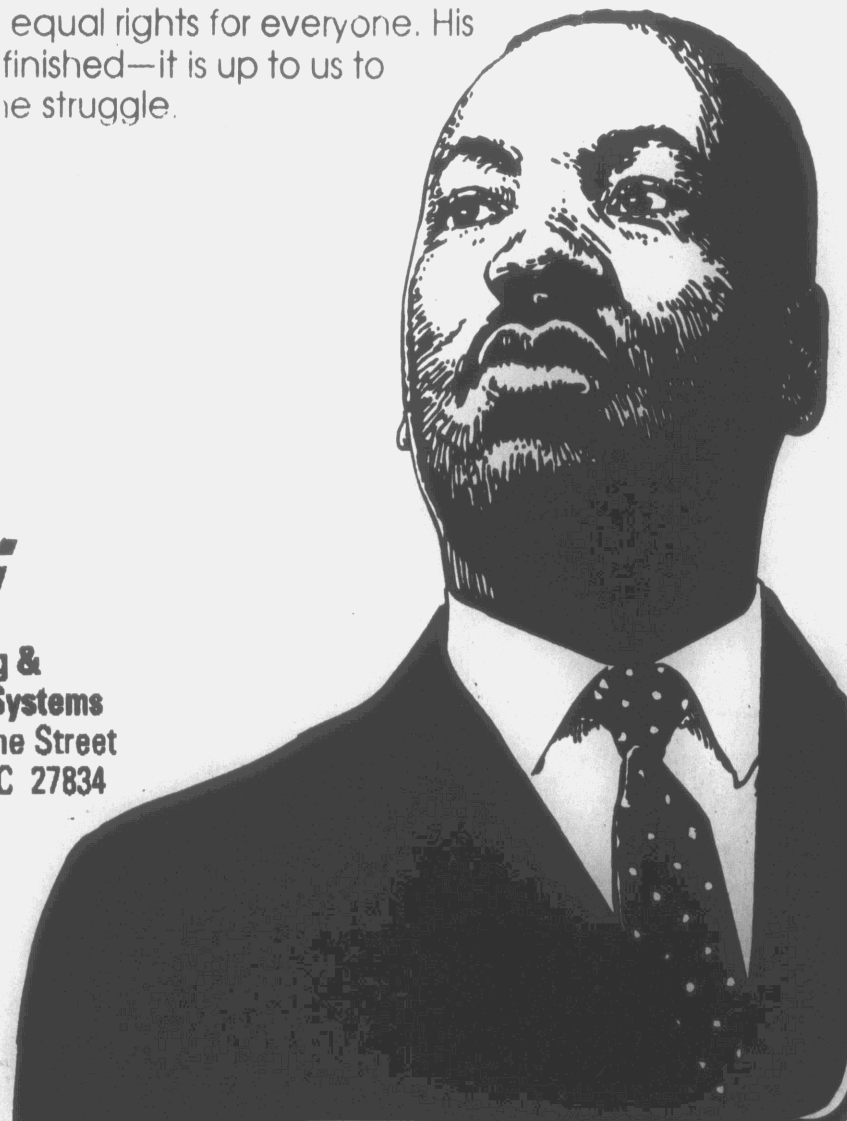
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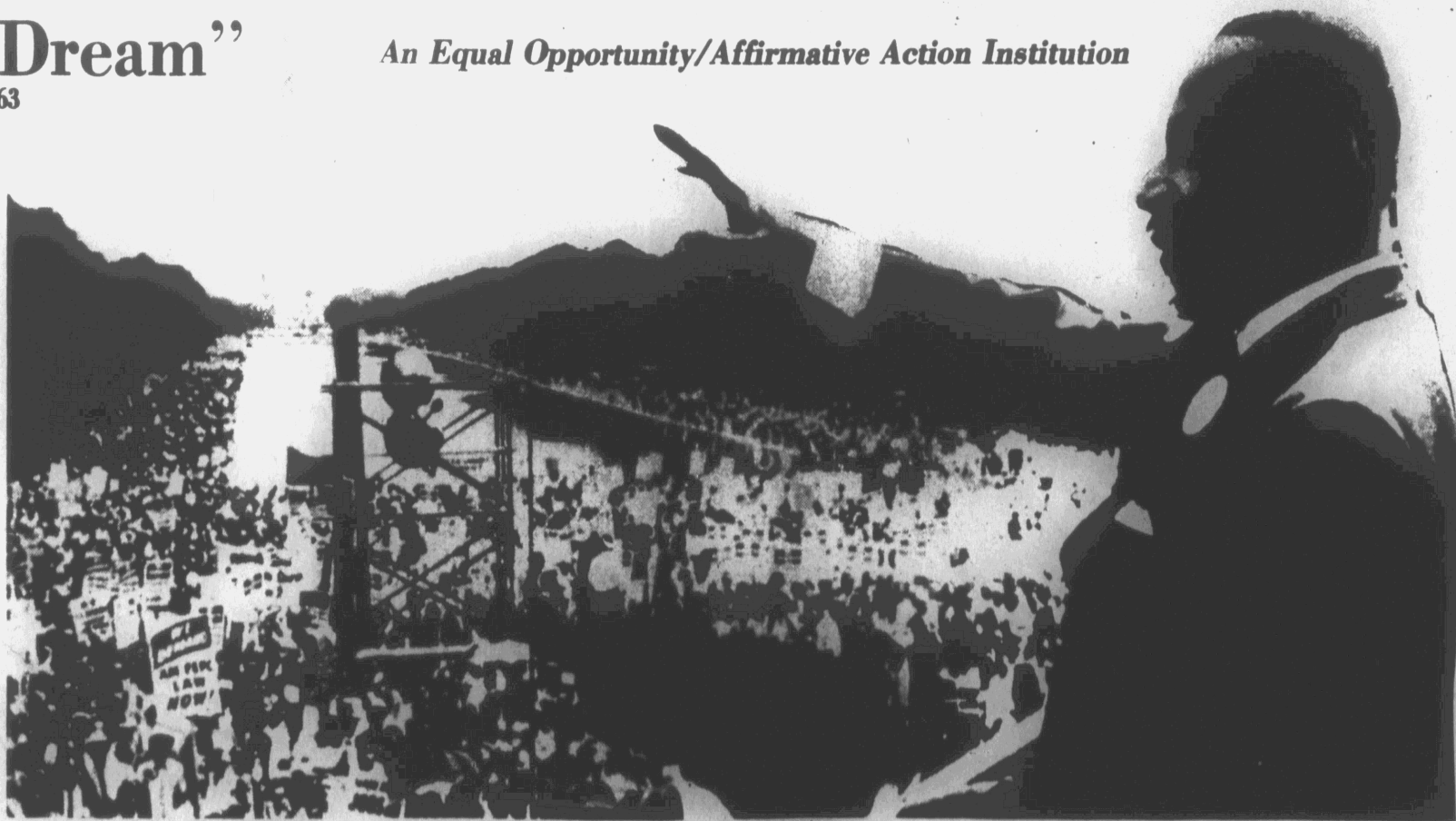
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Janet Jackson: 'Empowerment'

By Mel Tapley
Arts & Entertainment
Editor

If Janet Jackson's last New York hit appearance was called "Rhythm Nation," this one should be called "Empowerment."

Iyana Vanzant has a new book that tells women how to obtain empowerment. I don't know if these two dynamic young women have met yet, but Janet has gone beyond words with a movement underscored with color and energy and pulsating sound and hypnotic lighting that shout out empowerment.

She may be Michael's baby sister, but he can let "little sis" lead him.

I thought Michael's last show at the Garden was spectacular but this appearance of Janet's was a spectacular but this appearance of Janet's was a swinging superlative.

Big Apple Challenge

Coming to the Big Apple when the worms of doubt and carping criticism were hungrily gnawing away at two men she's been associated with: Brother Michael and Tupac Shakur, her co-star in "Poetic Justice," was quite a challenge. She didn't flinch picking up the gauntlet.

Janet dealt with Michael's problem by asking the audience to say a silent prayer for her brother. It was a dramatic, moving moment. (Ironically it was after a sequence, I think, when she performed one of her recording hits, "Nasty Boys.")

Tupac may be accused by a woman of abuse, but Janet subtly and swiftly turned the tables.

Remember the classic French

Anticipate the Backlash

During the last few days the U.S. has been shocked by a number of violent murders. Occurring sometimes in the most unlikely seeming places—Idaho, Nebraska they have involved a number of otherwise "ordinary" Americans in what has long been considered, strictly an inner-city problem.

We can and should expect a backlash from the heart of "middle America" over these shocking incidents.

While most of the gun-related tragedies in the last few days have taken among Whites, THE PERCEPTION STILL REMAINS THAT BLACKS IN AMERICA ARE THE SOURCE OF ALL CRIME, VIOLENT AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS...even at "Chuck E. Cheese" Pizza Parlor, or a suburban Wal-Mart store.

Whites have always been armed, but now are becoming increasingly angry at what they perceived to be a "too-liberal" court system that seems to coddle violent criminals and let them out on the streets too soon to "commit more crimes."

Never mind the one brave and courageous New York judge country who ACTUALLY RESIGNED FROM THE BENCH, rather than accept petty drug cases, because the MANDATORY SENTENCING GUIDELINES now effect in Federal drug cases would have required him to impose stiff, draconian sentences on petty drug criminals—the wrong people in his opinion. Never mind him because most White Americans are now calling for a crack-down on criminals.

I'm afraid that if the perception of lax law enforcement continues in the mind of the American body-politic, White vigilantes will organize and attempt to take matters into their own hands. In fact, I am convinced they are now poised and waiting for an incident—a case which would provoke national sympathy for retaliation against young Black men—before they launch their next all-out attack.

Let's be clear, White supremacist and race haters have already struck the first blow against Blacks in this society—they brought us here as slaves, and kept us in this condition for 310 long years. Had they meant to treat the slaves—who made this nation rich, with their free labor—as equals, as citizens, as "Real, True Americans," they would have kept their promises (of 40 acres and a mule, for example) to the Freed slaves 130 years ago.

Despite dozens of examples of positive achievement, good school accomplishments, good work habits, and general model citizenship by most African-Americans, there are Far Too Many of us engaged in anti-social and irresponsible behavior. The triflingness appears contagious, and with no jobs available even for qualified White candidates, there is painfully little hope that the circumstances that produced our social deterioration will improve sufficiently for any kind of a natural recovery.

Apache dancers where the guy slings the femme around and she crawls back, groveling at his feet? Tames the bully

Janet and company has the bully throw the dame around with the same abandon, but she comes back with six menacing mamselles dressed like Ninjas in black and

gives him a choreographed "whupping"

But even though that sequence was obvious, she seemed to literally "break down" when she tried to sing, "I'll Never Love Another You" the mirror Janets—the swagging Ninjas, seemed to be "Don't mess with me" women. "I'll love

you tenderly, but don't try to be rough-as Toni, Tone, Tony offered choices of smooth or rough with me," Janet's shapely shadows said. Their jaunty attitude, precision movements and no-nonsense booming backup and decibel ascending, vibrating sounds, softened here and there with romantic

input, coupled with fluid, hop-hop rhythms, captivated the crowd. Occasional pelvic twisting resisted Michael's "Ba-aad crotch grabbing and seemed natural rather than contrived.

"Go, Janet—Go Janet!" was the cry and she worded hard and successfully at maintaining the top

level of showmanship standards set by M.J. The enthusiastic audience punctuated their applause with Arsenio Hall "woofs" and even, at one point, a hundred or so waved improvised torches cigarette lighters—in the darkness like they had saluted Stevie Wonder and other greats.

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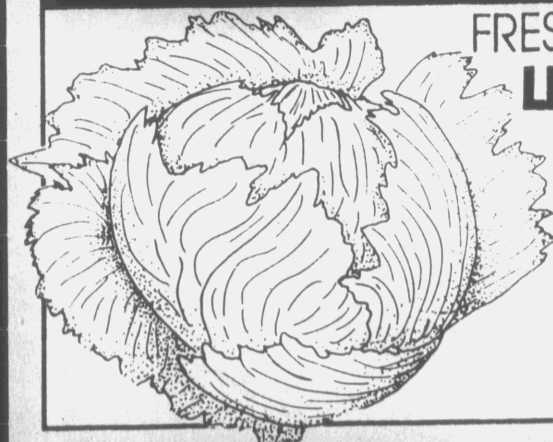
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Two Standards for Parole for Blacks and Whites

By Mujahid Farid
Special to the AM News
 Three prisoners of the Eastern Facility in Napanoch, New York, have filed a civil rights complaint in the Federal District court charging Gov. Mario Cuomo and State Parole Board officials with racial discrimination in their practices of granting clemency and parole.

The class action lawsuit alleges that White prisoners are systematically treated more favorably when they apply for clemency and parole than are Blacks and Latinos who apply.

The plaintiffs further allege that the defendants systematically mete out harsher treatment to prisoners whose convictions involve police officers named as victims, and also to those prisoners whose convictions entail "political" implications.

The problem with these practices, charge the complaint, is that this "Special" category is illegal, as it is not supported by legislative mandate or statute.

This lawsuit is the spin-off of recent reports and other lawsuits that have documented racism in the New York State criminal justice system.

After the studies were in, the N.Y.S. Coalition for Criminal Justice concluded, "Criminal justice in the New York State is the story of two nations: one White, the other Black. One resembles the European justice system which incarcerates at relatively low rates, the other exceeding South Africa in its rate of Black imprisonment."

The complaint brings this issue to the forefront with respect to the release policy. For instance, in a recent case decided by the State

Appellate Division, "King vs. Parole Board," the court unanimously ruled that the Parole Board had twice unreasonably denied parole to a Black prisoner who had made outstanding achievements during his 23 years of confinement.

The court declared that "it is difficult to imagine a case that cries out for parole louder than this one." The Appellate panel acknowledged that denials of this sort were a common practice of the Parole Board.

The prisoners not, interestingly, that the most zealous proponents of the harsh policy directed at minorities are the same Parole Board members who were recently exposed for attempting to released

one of the White Howard Beach defendants two years before he had even served his minimum term imposed by the court; thus making him ineligible for consideration.

Then, when this shenanigan was revealed, the Parole Board hurriedly claimed that it was all a mistake and rescinded the parole. The plaintiffs in the lawsuit note that "mistakes" like this are not likely to happen unless the prisoner is White.

The prisoners' basic contentions that it is one thing for politicians and the public to demand a strict

criminal justice system to enforce the laws and wage war on crime; it is totally another thing to tolerate an apartheid system of justice where Black and Latino lawbreakers are treated more harshly

than their White counterparts. Simply acknowledging that racism is an "inadvertent" ingredient of the "justice" system without taking firm measures to remedy the situation should not be tolerated.

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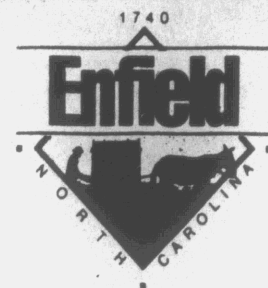
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Should we legalize drugs?

The reaction to Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders' suggestion to study the legalization of illicit drugs was quick, pointed and mostly negative. The White House repudiated Elders' suggestion, and a few Republicans urged President Clinton to either discipline or dismiss her. There was, however, applause from Baltimore Mayor

Kurt Schmoke, and Eric Sterling, President of the Washington, D.C. based Criminal Justice Policy Foundation.

Schmoke, who first urged decriminalization of illegal drugs in 1988, said that the nation's current anti-drug efforts will not prevail "unless we take the profit out of the distribution" of illicit drugs.

Eric Sterling said that "our drug strategy goal should be to take the management of the business away from mobsters, and turn it over to consumers and law-abiding business people subject to appropriate regulations." Sterling believes that placing illegal drugs under the law via government regulations and taxation would "eliminate most of

the violence that is in the commerce." He noted that illegal drug market conflicts are settled "violently because disputes over such matters a product quality and sales territory cannot—because they are illegal—be resolved in court, as is the case with other goods which are licensed and regulated by the government. According to

Schmoke, within the past six years homicides in Baltimore have increased by over 30 percent with "more than 45 percent of those homicides related to drugs."

Sterling stressed that studying the possibility of legalizing drugs is a "matter of shining the light of reality on our current policy," not an effort to increase the number of drug users. He said the message must continue to be sent from the public health community "that drug use is harmful." Sterling

urges a public health approach toward all drugs and drug users and asserts that honest comprehensive prevention programs work. "Cigarettes are as addictive as heroin or cocaine," he said. "Yet twenty-five million cigarettes addicts have quit in the last 25 years. This public health campaign succeeded without jailing or urine testing cigarette smokers, and despite billions of dollars of tobacco promotion annually."



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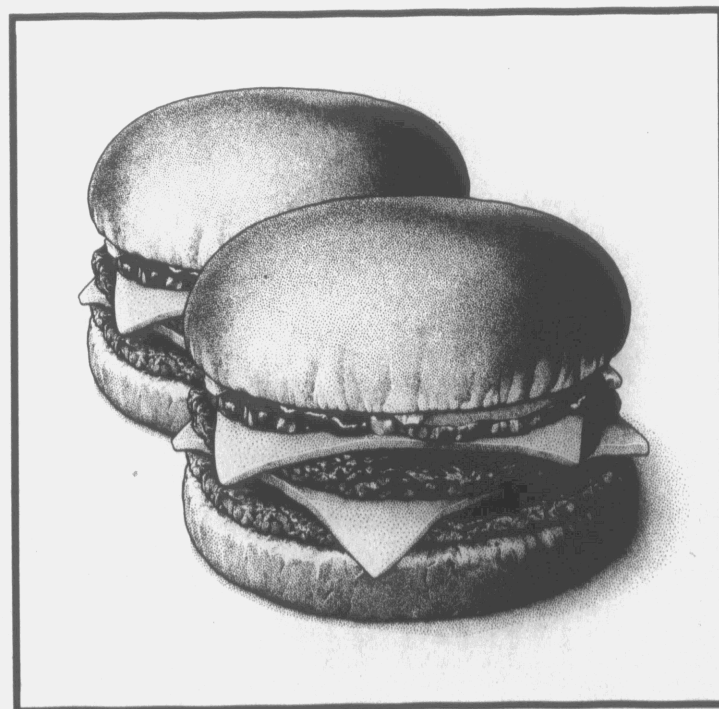


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