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EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S MINORITY VOICE - SINCE 1981

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 24 - DECEMBER 8, 1995

'Charter' schools defended

Bill's author answers segregation charge

By Susan Dryman
staff writer

To those who say independent schools would cause a return to segregation, Vernon Robinson says in complete seriousness: "Who cares?"

The black author of the state's bill to establish independent schools under contracts or "charters" says all-black and all-white schools are just fine with him, as long as students area learning.

Robinson says people have forgotten why schools were desegregated.

"It was not so that folks would get to know each other," he said. "It was so that white boards could not discriminate in the allocation

of resources. Your integrated system hasn't done anything but integrate lunch lines and water fountains."

Robinson wrote the charter schools bill, which has passed the N.C. House but is undergoing major changes in the Senate. Blacks across the state, he said, are liking the idea more and more, but Robinson has his opponents, including members of the Black Caucus.

Robinson challenges them to come up with something better.

"That's my big beef with the black caucus. They said this is the wrong solution, and they don't have an alternative."

Robinson's alternative has been

a lifetime in the making.

Growing up middle class in the Bronx and south central Los Angeles, Robinson said he had lofty, naive ideas about creating the perfect society. He was a socialist.

A stint in the U.S. Air Force commanding a combat crew that launched missiles began to change that. Then, while he was studying business management at the University of Missouri at Columbia, a professor handed him a book on reforming public schools. The book reformed Robinson, too.

"I think he was trying to redirect my domestic policy," Robinson said. "He detected that I was still exhibiting signs of socialism, and he wanted me to join the right

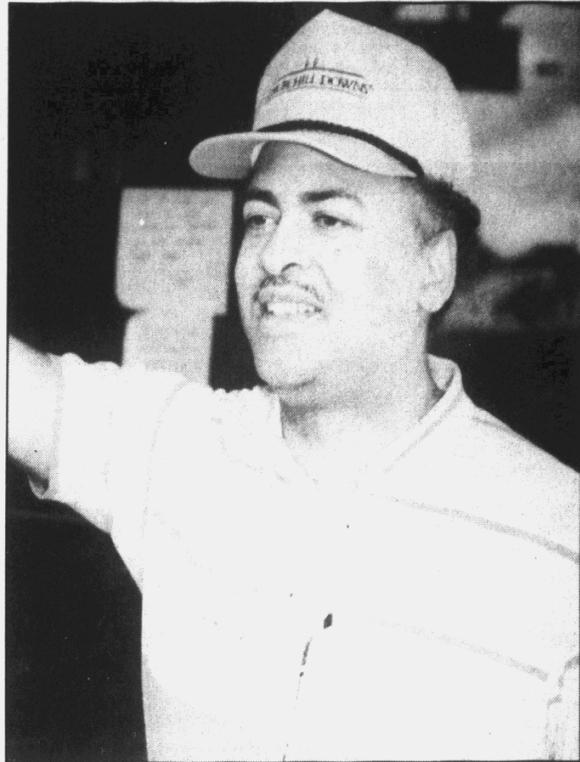
road. It worked."

An incident while he was teaching computer technology at the predominantly black Winston-Salem State College completed the political 180-degree turn he had started years before in graduate school.

He had asked his students to find out what the number 200 was a percentage of. They thought it was a trick question—had no clue how to solve the problem—and he started yelling at them.

"I guess I beat up on the students, and it wasn't their fault," he said. "No one had told them they were unprepared. I was irritated and I decided the only way to solve

(Continued on page 2)



CHIEF RAYMOND CARNEY... the first African-American fire chief in the City of Greenville, North Carolina.

Staff photo Jim Rouse



REV. ARLEE GRIFFIN... former pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church and Rev. Sidney Lock, present pastor of Cornerstone, held a brief friendly "Tete-A-Tete". These smiles indicate that "All is Well".

Staff photo by Jim Rouse

Nation of Islam to sue HUD for contract violation

By Abiola Sinclair
Media Editor

"It's a damn shame!" said Ms. Dorothy Scott, president of the tenants association at Flag House Court. "They might as well tell the drug dealers to take the buildings back." She was referring HUD canceling the housing security contract of the Nation of Islam-affiliated security firm in Baltimore.

The steady two year decline in what was at one time an intolerable amount of local crime seemed not to impress HUD, who claimed their move was not politically motivated. They plan to give the multi-million dollar contract to Wells Fargo.

HUD denied that the congressional investigations held earlier this year intomany of the security firms had anything to do with the decision, and instead claimed Wells Fargo security came in with a lower bid for the service.

However, HUD did admit that, beginning in April of 1995, it was investigating several security firms associated with the Nation of Islam for possibly supplying false tax information when they competed for the security contracts to patrol several housing projects in Blatimore.

Black Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke, whose own mother and father were robbed in the streets, maintained he was decidedly against the removal of the N.O.I. security patrols, stating "This is tremendously disappointing to me. We do not do this voluntarily." Schmoke maintained the decision was made because of the security firm's alleged ties to Min. Louis Farrakhan.

Many in the Black community

see this measure as a meanspirited and cynical attempt to break the back of the Nation of Islam by draining off funds. At the same time taking jobs away from Black men associated with Nation of Islam security firms. It also undermines the message of the N.O.I. with regards to clean living, etc. The federal government, under pressure from whatever quarters, would rather see drugs, crime and despair in the Black community.

HUD spokesman Alex Sachs claimed a review of the records showed the N.O.I. security firm was rated higher than Wells Fargo although Wells Fargo's bid was lower than the N.O.I.'s by \$1 million. As the bidding was secret, the N.O.I. had no way of knowing how to underbid Wells Fargo, although it perhaps could have if given a chance, but many in the Black community feel the bid is not the real issue.

Scott, whose own husband was gunner down in a lobby of one of the buildings in 1991 before the N.O.I.-affiliated security firm was called in, says "The N.O.I. was the best thing that happened to the high-rises."

While everyone associates the security firms with the N.O.I., in fact the firms are owned and managed by individuals. This issue came up at the congressional hearings. Hearings that Rep. Waters (D-California), and several other members of the Congressional Black Caucus likened to the House Un-American Activities Committee hearings chaired by Sen. Joseph McCarthy.

Under the HUD orders, which Schmoke said he would not chal-

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Baptists exile Jesse Jackson Was free speech denied?

By J. Zamgba Browne
Amsterdam News Staff

Former presidential candidate Rev. Jesse Louis Jackson's wing was clipped recently by the no-nonsense head of the 8.5 million-member Baptist Convention U.S.A. over last month's Million Man March held in the nation's capital.

The Rev. Dr. Henry Lyons, who was chosen a year ago to lead the Convention in an election that was marred by charges of fraud, was reportedly persuaded to designate Jackson, head of the National Rainbow Coalition, to serve as liaison between the White House and the group.

But it was not long before relations between the two religious leaders became soured and Lyons did not hesitate to establish who is the boss. He reportedly branded Jackson a "liar" and then stripped him of his White House portfolio.

According to Baptist Conference insiders, ministers with churches are never ousted and rarely censored. Jackson has neither a church nor a pulpit. The White House liaison is Jackson's only paid position within the Baptist Convention hierarchy.

Lyons was quoted as saying in published reports that Jackson over-stepped his authority and misrepresented the Convention to Minister Louis Farrakhan, head of the Nation of Islam, and chief organizer of the Million Man March.

Jackson was accused of Informing Farrakhan that the Baptist Convention had given its full blessing to the Million Man March. But Lyons and other key officials of the religious group said it was a flat out lie.

They said Jackson had no authority whatsoever to commit the Convention in any shape or form. Some even said it was a gross disrespect not only to Lyons but to the entire Baptist group which also claims some millions of members abroad.

Jackson seemed to play down the incident and said through his

Farmville student writes President

The president, it seems, is listening to 12-year-old Fatimah Shahid-El of Fountain.

The seventh-grader at Farmville Middle School wrote President Clinton in June about the situation in Bosnia. And, in late October, she received a reply from the White House.

Fatimah wrote to the president after watching the news with her mother, Amina J. Shahid-El, and complaining about the war in Bosnia.

"I told her, 'Just write him if you don't like it,'" her mother said. "I didn't really think she was going to take me seriously."

In her letter, she said that she did not think weapons should be given to one side and not the other.

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press aide that the entire matter was a "big misunderstanding." He has apologized to the Baptist hierarchy if his unilateral action caused any major harm.

Since his ouster, the Amsterdam News has learned that the two time U.S. presidential candidate has been working desperately behind the scenes, asking for forgiveness and trying to persuade Lyons to give him back his White House portfolio.

A Harlem-based Baptist preacher who declined to be identified by name, said Jackson was "trying to be smart and got burned in the process. I don't think he deserves to represent us at the White House," said the minister.

Meanwhile, this is not the first time Jackson has lost a key post. He was fired back in 1972 by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference from his position as executive director of Operation Breadbasket in Chicago.

Jackson's ouster was said to involve finances. He was reportedly accused of sloppy bookkeeping and failing to make accurate accounting for funds received by Operation Breadbasket, an arm of SCLC which was formed by slain civil rights crusader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

It was not too long after his dismissal that Jackson made the decision to work for himself. He launched Operation Push which became a major civil rights outfit. The several years later, when he was about to run for White House, Jackson formed the National Rainbow Coalition.

Another of Jackson's big disappointments was almost three years ago when he was interviewed at length for the appointive post of executive director of the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People. He lost in a crowded field to the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Chavis.

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Against all odds: U.S. vs. Don King-mistrial

By Harold Bell

In a trial that lasted for six weeks, a mistrial has been declared in the Don King insurance fraud case. Against a stacked deck with 12 jurors that looked like anything but his peers (eight whites, two Hispanics, one Asian and one Black) the U.S. government was TKOed (technically knocked out) anyway.

The prosecutors, not to be outdone, petitioned the N.Y. Appeals Court to have the 12 jurors called back until they could reach a (guilty) verdict, but in a later development the prosecution withdrew their request. Don King, the most powerful and influential Black man in the world of professional sports, cannot rest on this decision or his laurels. It is now being rumored that the U.S. government will spend the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays seeking to move the trial to Simi Valley and reunite the jury that heard the Rodney King case or to Indiana where the Mike Tyson case was tried! To add a little color they are hoping that Clarence Thomas will take a leave of absence from his duties on the Supreme Court to hear the case!

On a more serious note, you can bet one thing: the next press conference that Don King holds and uses his favorite rallying cry of "Only in America" he will add, "With the exception of New York City, Indiana and Simi Valley." The question about this case that needs to be addressed is, how is it

that a Black man can be on trial in one of America's largest urban centers, where Blacks are in abundance, and only one Black can be found in a jury pool who is qualified to hear the case? Don King and his brother Rodney are good examples of why this American judicial system needs to be overhauled.

We make up 75 percent of the prison population, but we are only 12 percent of the entire American population! This proves that the American justice system is anything but color blind and is fatally flawed when it comes to Black America. There is still "Justice" and Just Us! And why is it that when the same system works for white America it is called the greatest system in the free world, but when it works for the O.J. Simpsons, Rodney Kings, and Don Kings there is something wrong?

For example, lawyers are now being accused of using the "race card" to defend and get their Black clients acquitted. This system would have us believe that we invented the "race card!" The "race card" is as American as "apply pie." Unlike the O.J. Simpson trial where the jury was predominantly Black, the jury that heard the King case was predominantly white and they still cannot accept the decision! Bert R. Sugar, the nationally noted boxing historian and publisher, cited in a recent national televised show with Geraldo Rivera that "King was now a card-carry-

(Continued on page 5)



THE DAWSON GOSPEL MUSIC... promoters recently held their annual gospel music awards program. The host was none other than Dr. Bobby Jones. Dr. Jones (2nd from right) is pictured here with Mr. Dawson (C) Mrs. Georgia Rouse (R) and other gospel music enthusiasts.

Staff photo by Jim Rouse

From Page 1

Charter schools

the problem was to run for senate."

He ran for state senate in 1988 and 1990 and lost. A bid for state superintendent of schools in 1992 also ended in defeat.

"When I lost the campaign, I was sort of a vagabond," he said. "I went to D.C. and became the spokesman for the national school choice coalition for Bush/Quayle,

'92...then tried to create a national organization looking for money from people who agreed with me on school choice. We put voucher initiatives all over the place, but that didn't work."

So back to North Carolina he came. In 1993, he hung out a shingle three blocks from the legislative building in Raleigh and called himself the N.C. Center for

Education Reform.

His speeches to civic groups and whoever else will listen have two purposes; raising awareness and raising cash. There have been times when he almost couldn't pay the rent on his small office, he says, but he's managed to stay afloat for 22 months now.

Robinson is critical of schools but acknowledges he got a good education in public schools. Schools were better then, he said, mostly because gender barriers kept talented women from doing anything else.

Although he has seen his share of losses, he fully expects the charter school bill to become law in about a month. He has concerns, however, about the senate version, which he says makes charter schools much more difficult to establish.

But he says his ideas are catching on.

"I feel good that the debate has

shifted in my direction," he said. "We have the education establishment in full retreat....The folks are very concerned with what they see. They see the 19th century, regulatory, centralized government bureaucracy has failed to educate kids—black or white."

from the desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



BEATRICE MAYE

Where to find these in the Bible:

1. The Prodigal Son, Luke 15:11-32
2. The 13 characteristics of love/charity, 1 Corinthians 13
3. The Psalm of Praise, Psalm 100
4. The Shepherd's Psalm, Psalm 23
5. The 12 Disciples, Matthew 10:2-3
6. Family Duties, Ephesians 6
7. The 10 Commandments, Exodus 20 and Deut. 5:7-21
8. The First Murder, Genesis 4:1-15
9. The Fall of Adam and Eve, Genesis 3:1-23
10. Behave Wisely, Ecclesiastes 10
11. The Lord's Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
12. Counsel for the Young, Ecclesiastes 12

DEATH

Death is inevitable. Like love, it is uncompromising. One thing to learn at death is a friend who is as close as family, is this: You will get through it. And it has many precious lessons to teach about the sacredness of life and the human experience. Death's arrival helps us better understand our own lives.

Tears at the passing of a friend are one of the greatest tributes you can give. They express a sense of pride, of honor even, of having known someone who left behind the legacy of a life well-lived. And how thankful we can be for friends and family! We do not have to face life and death alone. We are born into a web of relationships. Paul put it well in Romans 7:8: 'For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord'.

John Donne, a close student of Paul's writings, expressed this human sense of community. "No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main, any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind". Wise words, well put.

Finally, when friends are like family; their cares and fears, their griefs become yours.

SALVATION - What is it? It is spiritual rescue from the consequences of sin; redemption, a saving or being saved from danger, evil, difficulty, destruction.

Question: What is the church doing about crime and violence, knives, guns and weapons, the killing of Black brothers to Black brothers, domestic violence children disrespecting adults, authority or even other children? Poor study habits? Little or no time for books and reading? The Black church must do more than preach, sing and pray and shout.

Belief + Achieve = Success
1995 will soon be history. We are moving closer toward our own meeting with the Lord. The passing of each year reminds us of the brevity of our present earthly sojourn and the importance of living for eternity. As we give thanks for past blessings, let us also be alert to the present challenges and the work yet to be done. Keep looking up! Christ is coming! Perhaps today! A Blessed Christmas to all from the entire staff of the "M" Voice and WOOW radio station,

and all of us who make contributions.

Christ lives through us.

Think About It...

Most couples were healthy when they began their marriage. But every couple faces illness at some time. Men/women, care for your wives/husbands with compassion and kindness and manage your health problems well.

Ecclesiastes 9:9: "Live happily with the woman you love through the fleeting days of life, for the wife God gives you is your best reward down here for all your earthly toil".

Ecclesiastes 8:5: "The wise man will find a time and a way to do what he says".

"Shallow men believe in luck; strong men believe in cause and effect. Emerson

God commands parents to discipline their children His way. His words "nurture" and "admonition" of the Lord describe His kind of training. Nurture means discipline, training with structure; admonition or instruction means seeing something in that child's life that you know is wrong and must be changed, verbally confronting him with God's Word about what is wrong, and be reaching down inside to touch his heart and soul, attempting to effect the change for his benefit.

The Reverend Leon H. Sullican, Pastor, Zion Baptist Church, Philadelphia PA, said: "For Black people to reach the Promised Land, develop 3 C'S:
Confidence - Believe in yourself
Competence - Blacks won't be able to compete in today's world without it
Cooperation - The greatest enemy facing Blacks today is not racism and discrimination, but jealousy and envy among ourselves.

ENVY is usually the mother or gossip.
ENVY provides the mud that failure throws at success.

A person usually criticizes the individual whom he secretly envies.

Advice for seniors: The Ten Commandments of Retirement
Terry Rohe

1. Thou shalt make plans. Take up a new hobby. Get active in your community, anything that keeps your mind and body active. /do

2. Thou shalt look at the brighter side. Be optimistic. Remember, aging is a positive life experience.

3. Thou shalt not whine. It's a time-waster and won't win you any friends.

4. Thou shalt write one cheerful letter to someone every week. Sharing your thoughts makes you feel great.

5. Thou shalt laugh often, deeply and loudly. Laughing is not only good for the heart, but it also reminds others you still have sense of humor.

6. Thou shalt make a list of twenty things you've always wanted to do and do them one at a time. Consider retirement an invitation to finally make your dreams a reality.

7. Thou shalt wear out rather than rust out. Spend your time creating new memories. Stay active.

8. Thou shalt think big thoughts and enjoy small pleasures. Don't restrict yourself.

9. Thou shalt travel. There is no time like the present to see sites or visit family and friends.

10. Thou shalt sign your living will. Don't think of this as a negative. It's the smart thing to do as an adult.

PEOPLE MANNERS...

We use good manners out of respect for ourselves and others, not because others are courteous, but because we are. Even those who are rude to us should be treated politely. We shouldn't let a rude person create the atmosphere around us.

When we are gracious, we show kindness and warmth. When we are courteous, we show good manners toward others. When we are considerate, we are thoughtful and attentive. When we are respectful,

we admire and appreciate others.

We're gracious when we: Ask, "May I, please?" Respond, "Thank you". Say, "Excuse me" or "Sir?" or "Ma'am" when we haven't heard what was said. Say, "Excuse" when we walk in front of someone.

We're courteous when we:

Open and close doors for others.

Assist others with coats and packages.

Walk nearest the outside, or curb, of the sidewalk.

Carry an open umbrella for another.

Stand aside and permit women to enter an elevator first.

Give up your seat to an older person or a woman on a subway or bus.

We're considerate when we:

Don't whisper in front of others. Don't tell secrets confided in us. Don't gossip or tattle.

Don't crack knuckles, pop gum or crunch ice publicly.

Promptly return what we borrow - and in good condition.

Never draw attention to those who are different.

Are prompt for appointments.

Pick up things that don't belong on the floor.

Go up and down stairs quietly.

We're respectful when we:

Never contradict our parents (or our spouse) in public.

Show proper respect for elders and all those in authority.

Give others the same respect we appreciate from them.

Make everyone in our presence comfortable.

Don't worry about memorizing a list. Just remember the Golden Rule from Luke 6:31; "Do to others as you would have them do to you". Actually, that's all you need to know about good manners.

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SMALL BUSINESS COUNCIL GOAL ACHIEVED

Raleigh—Businesses vying for state contract work can now see what's available by simply going "on line." As of this month, the North Carolina Small Business Council's recommendation to advertise all state contracts on the statewide computer network has

now been implemented. Vital information regarding the contract, the buyer, and the date the bid is to be opened will be updated daily on the Internet.

Lieutenant Governor Dennis Wicker, chairman of the Small Business Council said, "I'm pleased we are now utilizing the latest technology to help businesses better compete for state contracts. This should make it

faster and easier than ever for businesses to learn what kind of work is available. We're also saving taxpayers money by hopefully bringing about more competition and better prices."

The complete listing of all current state contracts up for bid can be found on the Internet by entering the following access code: <http://www.dca.state.nc.us/PandC/> The state's term contracts, agree-

ments already established, will also be listed on the Internet. Businesses seeking to offer the lowest price will be able to look at what the state currently pays for a particular product.

North Carolina spends nearly \$2 billion dollars a year on goods and services, buying a variety of products including office supplies, building materials, computers and cars. During the last two years, the Small Business Council has initiated several new policies designed to help more businesses bid on state contracts, including publishing a first of its kind "How to Business with the State of North Carolina" guidebook.

"We want to help more businesses, especially small businesses, compete for state contract work," said Wicker. "I believe North Carolina businesses can offer the best quality and best price for any product or service the state needs. Getting more of our businesses to compete for the state's business will benefit everyone."

Meanwhile, state contracts will continue to be advertised in the newspaper and in bi-weekly publication available at public libraries.

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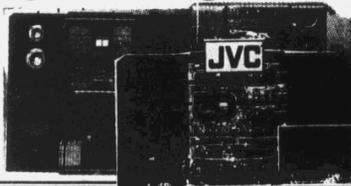


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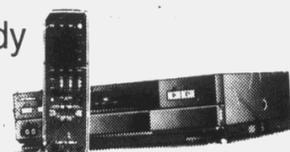
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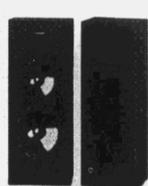
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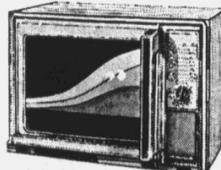
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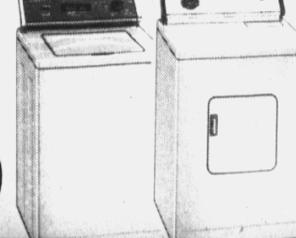


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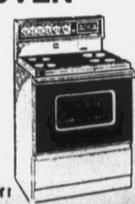
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Read The 'M' Voice

HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

From Page 1

lenge, the N.O.I. security firms' \$4.6 million contract will be canceled immediately and Wells Fargo, a white firm, will be awarded the HUD contracts to provide security for the largely Black federal housing developments.

N.O.I.-affiliated security firms have federal contracts in several cities including Chicago, Washington D.C., Baltimore, Buffalo (N.Y.) and Dayton (Ohio).
Lawsuit

Nation of Islam

As of Monday, November 13, the Baltimore based N.O.I. Security Agency announced they will sue HUD for canceling their one-year contract to patrol the city's housing developments.

"There was no HUD violation. We're going to prove it in court," declared Abdul Arif Muhammad, who blamed pressure from the Anti-Defamation League and the American Jewish Committee for the cancellation.

In rebuttal, HUD claimed it can-

celed the contract because the city failed to adequately document why it rejected a much lower bid from Wells Fargo, but Schmoke said the N.O.I. security agencies had a proven track record of crime reduction and thus the contract was worth the price.

Schmoke reiterated his charge that the cancellation was politically motivated because of the security agency's ties to Farrakhan, who is widely accused of making anti-Semitic statements.

From Page 1

Against all odds

ing member of the "White Collar Crime Family of America," indicating that this was an exclusive club for "White Men Only!" If that is the case, no one should be surprised by this mistrial. American history has proven over and over again that a white man found guilty of stealing millions of dollars will be sentenced to 20 hours of community service (or to one of their country club institutions for 20 months) and a Black man caught stealing food to eat and clothes to wear would face that same judge and get 20 years in Alcatraz. Only in America!

A decision will be made over the holidays to determine a new trial date for King. The plans of the U.S. government to make King its turkey for Thanksgiving and giving him a jail term as a Christmas gift has backfired for the moment. The prosecutors are planning to serve him papers after Christmas wishing him a happy New Year and welcome back to New York City for a new trial. It would only seem logical for the U.S. government to get over this setback and move on the more serious problems that face this country such as police corruption, drugs, AIDS, unemployment, public school education, teenage violence, abused and homeless children. Taking a realistic look at America and its priorities, at the top of their list it seems is keeping Black men "in their place." Don King, the message is loud and clear. You are rich and internationally famous, but you are still Black. Your entry into "The White Collar Crime Family of America" has been officially rejected! It is still a "white only" club. And this is one club membership you can do without.

Harold Bell has known Don King for over 20 years. He is a pioneer in radio and television sports talk shows in Washington, D.C. and is the president and founder of (K.I.T.) "Kids in Trouble."

From Page 1

Farmville student

"If any weapons were going to be used, I think you should have distributed them equally," she said in her letter.

The president, in a letter dated Oct. 27, thanked Fatimah for sharing her thoughts on the subject. He explained the United States' role in working toward peace. In his letter, he said:

"This past summer, I decided that the time had come to launch an all-out effort to achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict. We had made important progress through NATO's use of air power to protect the safe areas in

Bosnia. I was convinced that this provided an opportunity to achieve a comprehensive settlement. Since mid-August, an American negotiating team has been working nonstop, and thanks to U.S. leadership, important results have been achieved.

"Many difficult issues remain to be solved in the coming weeks, but I believe we may be closer than at any time in the past for years to a lasting peace in the former Yugoslavia."

And he commended her for speaking out.

"I'm encouraged that young people like you are taking an interest in issues of international importance, and I wish you the best for a wonderful school year," President Clinton said in his letter.

Fatimah said she was surprised to get the response from Clinton.

"At first I thought he'd write me back, but after about a month I kind of gave up," she said. "I was shocked he wrote me back. I showed my teachers the letter."

Fatimah said she'd never written to him before, but she hoped that other young people share their opinions with him too. She said she's still following the situation in Bosnia.

"I know now they have a peace treaty," she said. "I don't know if my letter helped or not."

Fatimah, one of six children, is also the daughter of the late Jamal A. Shahid-El.

Regularly on the honor roll or principal's list, she is active in National Junior Honor Society, cheerleading, Math Counts, yearbook and band.

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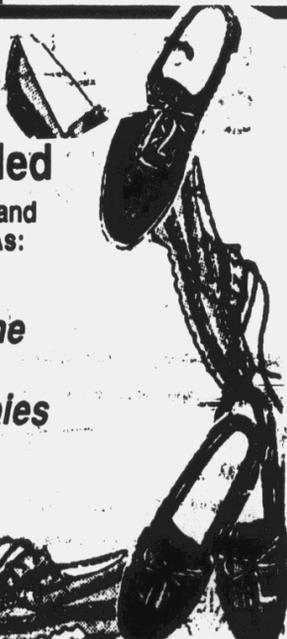
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From Page 1

Jesse Jackson

Meanwhile, it's unclear if Lyons will take Jackson back as his chief White House representative. Lyons' Chief of Staff, the Rev. Timothy P. Mitchell, who attended Yitzhak Rabin's funeral, pastor of Eberneza Baptist church in Brooklyn, declined any comment on the subject, and has decided to have his boss Lyons do the talking. Mitchell was invited to Israel by President Clinton, riding on Air Force One.

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Greenville Utilities "Smokes Out" Sewer Problems



GUC is conducting a smoke testing program designed to "smoke out" costly leaks on its sewer system. By "smoking out" costly problems, we'll be able to make repairs that will end up saving money for both GUC and customers.

Smoketesting is currently being conducted in the area of ECU Campus, College Hill Drive and Ficklen Stadium (see map at right).

Smoke testing involves using an air blower to force large volumes of air and smoke through the sewer lines. The smoke follows the sewer mains to the surface, pinpointing problems such as poor joints, leaks in manholes - anywhere there is an open break in the sewer line.

During the test, it will be normal to see smoke coming out of vent pipes on top of homes. And if there are plumbing problems, customers may notice smoke both outside and inside their homes when testing occurs. The smoke is nontoxic and nonstaining. As a precaution, however, customers with respiratory problems should vacate the premises if smoke enters the interior of the home. The smoke should last for only 3-5 minutes.

If customers are unsure whether the smoke is due to smoke testing or not, please call the Fire Department.

If you have any questions about GUC's smoke testing program, please contact 551-1551.



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Staff photo by Jim Rouse

The Power of People

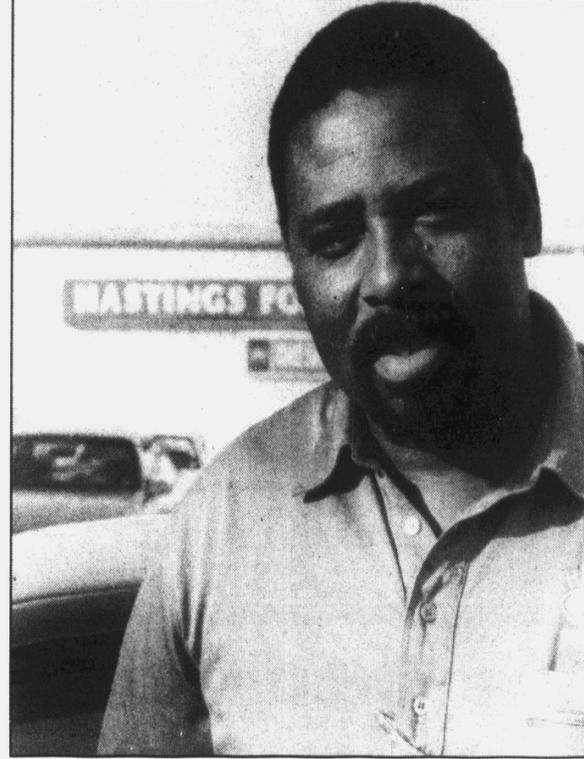


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HAVE YOU MET OUR MAIN MAN . . . Brother Otis Jeffries? He's ready to put you in a B-A-D ride. Stop by Hasting Ford today and tell him "Hello". Staff photo by Jim Rouse

Christmas Open House

The staff of Aycock Birthplace invites everyone to join them in preparing for the holiday. From 1-4 p.m. in Saturday, December 9, folks in late 19th century costume will decorate the old Aycock homestead and a Christmas tree in appropriate style. At the open-hearth fireplace, they will be cooking up traditional Christmas dishes to show visitors what a sit-down, Christmas meal would have looked like.

The one-room school house at the site will be filled with the sounds of Christmas as the Primitive Baptist Singers perform in this intimate setting.

As the weather became colder, this was also the season to slaughter and preserve pork for the year ahead. Outside at the smoke house, a staff member will describe how the meat was smoked and cured while also showing some of the antique tools used.

Also part of the open house, in the visitor center there will be a special exhibit and visual program on the Historic Sites Section 40th

anniversary.

Candlelight Tours

Follow a costumed guide by lantern and step back in time to experience a 19th century Christmas. On Tuesday and Thursday, December 12 and 14, from 6:30-9 p.m. each night, Aycock Birthplace will offer candlelight tours of the historic building.

Greeting visitors as they enter the birthplace of North Carolina Governor Charles B. Aycock will be a warm fire and the smells of a Christmas meal being prepared in the open-hearth fireplace. In the one-room school house a shadow play will entertain visitors, while in the visitors center the Primitive Baptist Singers will perform.

The site is very dark at night and it is recommended you bring a flashlight to help light the way to and from the parking lot.

Christmas spirit touches Triad market

Christmas trees will be donated Saturday, December 2 to the American Home for Children in Lexington through the Piedmont Triad Farmers Market in Colfax near here. Santa is also scheduled to pay a visit that day.

"Market vendors are anxious to share Christmas with the American Home children by giving the home Christmas trees," said Dexter Hill, market manager.

Hill said market operating hours have been extended during the holiday season. Retail hours are from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday. Holiday hours will remain in effect until December 23.

Other holiday events include a Saturday, December 9 demonstration on selection, care and preservation of Christmas trees by North Carolina Department of Agriculture tree specialists.

On Saturday, December 16, the market will celebrate an Old Fashioned Christmas with basket weaving demonstrations, corn shucking, handmade pottery and hot cider and apple butter making.

Bring a homemade ornament for the market tree and get a 10 percent discount coupon towards a Christmas tree purchase at the market.

The Piedmont Triad Farmers Market is operated by the N.C. Department of Agriculture.

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PHILIPPI CHURCH OF CHRIST... recently held a food drive to help feed needy families for Thanksgiving. Shown here are some of the volunteers who were on hand to welcome those who came seeking assistance.

Staff photo by Jim Rouse

Dixon reported for duty at Marine Corps

Marine Sgt. Duane D. Dixon, whose wife, Kosannya, is the daughter of Mary J. Harris of 1807 W. Conley ST., Greenville, recently reported for duty at Marine Corps Recruiting Station, Iselin, N.J.

Dixon's new assignment is an example of how Navy and Marine Corps men and women are assigned to ships, squadrons and shore commands around the world. Whether serving in the Persian Gulf near Iraq or in the Adriatic Sea near Bosnia, people like Dixon are making a difference as they work to improve their knowledge and skill as part of the most highly technical naval force in history.

The 1985 graduate of Ayden-Grifton High School of Ayden, joined the Marine Corps in September 1985.

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Dependents				
One	Two	Three	Four	Five or More
2	2	2	1	1
Residence				
With Parents	Rent Furnished	Rent Unfurnished	Own Mortgage	Own Clear
1	2	3	4	5
Years at Present Address				
Under 2 yrs.	2-4 yrs.	5-8 yrs.	9-14 yrs.	15 yrs. or more
1	2	3	4	5
Gross Monthly Income				
\$1,000-\$1,500	\$1,501-\$2,000	\$2,001-\$2,700	\$2,701-\$3,500	Over \$3,500
3	4	5	6	7
Years With Present Employer				
Under 2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	4-6 yrs.	7-10 yrs.	Over 10 yrs.
1	3	4	5	6
Years With Previous Employer				
Under 1 yr.	1-3 yrs.	4-6 yrs.	7-10 yrs.	Over 10 yrs.
0	1	2	4	5
Monthly Income Remaining (After monthly obligations)				
Less than 10%	10% to 24%	25% to 32%	33% to 49%	Over 50%
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Bonus Points (Circle all that apply)				
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Places & Faces



What's Going On With Our Young People!

What is stopping the young people from getting saved? We all want to see the young people live and serve God. God wants to use his young people to glorify his name. He said in his words "Suffer little children that come unto me, for such is the kingdom of Heaven," but what is the hold up on our young people.

I've asked five young teenagers what was stopping them from getting saved, and these are some of the things they said:

"I'm scared to get saved because I'm going to miss hanging out, going to parties, and listening to loud rap music," says Nacretia Blackledge, 17-years-old.

"I'm not ready to give up my rap music. When I get saved I want to be serious, and some young Christians, and preachers are not setting good examples of christianity," says Felecia Worthington, 20-years-old.

"I don't think that I can live up to the Christian life. What I'm saying is if I get saved I might back-

slide, but I really believe prayer changes things," says Kashonda Braswell, 16-years-old.

"I want to get saved, but I'm scared I might miss something. I don't think I'm ready yet, but I don't want to go to hell," says Stacy Smith, 16-years-old.

Parents, Christians, so called Christians, do you see what's stopping our young people from coming to christ. God used me at Bojangles to ask these teenagers this serious question. I was looking into their eyes as they were answering them. They want to be saved, I really feel it in my heart that they want to be saved, but they don't see what I see. I see satan driving them down a road heading for a cliff.

They're so caught up into what's going on right now that they can't even see what's about to happen later. Get it right it's time to make a change young people! Several of them have come up to me and said, "Aida I need to make a change." I tell them all the time it's time for

a change get saved. Stacy Smith said that she was not ready. I said Stacy there's no better time than now, God said in Mark 13 he will give signs to the people to let them know that he's soon to come. Kashonda Braswell said, when she got saved she don't think she can live up to the Christian life. I told her that prayer changes things and she believes that. God said have faith of a grain of mustard seed. Felecia Worthington said she don't think she can give up rap music. She loves rap music so much she thinks it would be very hard to give it up. I told Felecia, I said Felecia when you get saved, you pray and you stay in the word of God, and be serious about what you're doing for God. You will lose interest of those things. God said in his word for you are a new creature, old things have passed away and all things have become new. I told Nacretia Blackledge the same things, you will lose interest in parties, hanging out, and loud rap music.

Always keep our young people in prayer. Continue to pray that God will continue to use me, and that I will become even bolder and stronger doing God's will.

God Bless you,
Aida Taylor

Bible Quiz

- Ager up to 12 years old.
- 1) Who baptized Jesus?
a. Paul, b. John, c. Jonah, d. James
 - 2) Satan is often called?
a. The tempter, b. Lord of Lords, c. Wonderful, d. Prince of Peace
 - 3) How many disciples were there?
a. 12, b. 22, c. 15, d. 2
 - 4) Who did Jesus call to repentance?
a. The Saints, b. The Woman, c. The Angels, d. The Sinners
 - 5) What were Jesus' last words of the Bible?
a. Surely, I will come, b. Surely, I come quickly, c. Behold, I come

- 6) Who wrote the book of Revelation?
a. James, b. John, c. Paul, d. Moses
- 7) What is the unforgiveable sin?
a. Murder, b. Blasphemy, c. Stealing, d. Cursing
- 8) How many souls were saved on the day of Pentacost?
a. 3,120, b. 120, c. 31,120, d. 1,220
- 9) Who betrayed Jesus?

10) What does a person have to do to go to heaven? _____

Extra Credit
There are _____ that bear witness in Heaven.

First person who answers all the question right, bring the sheet with you, and contact Aida Taylor at 830-9344 or se me personally.

Him that have an ear, let him hear what the spirit is saying unto the youth. Fret not...and weep no more. Your time has finally come. You were once considered disobedient, disrespectful, violent, and unruly. Society had turned its back on you. Instead of compassion, you became despised and rejected.

But the spirit said, "If the fruit is spoiled, let us not cast it down, but let us examine the tree from whence it came.

God has now began the fulfilling of the prophecy of his word. "For ye are a chose generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."

Which in time past, were not a people, but are now the people of God." Him that hath an ear, let him hear what the spirit is saying to the churches.

Lester Howard

Always Pray
Whenever you pray and you pray straight from your heart, that's when the Lord will deliver. I wish that the world could see the trouble that their is if they don't get God in their lives. For the time for the Lord to come back. So we need to pray and keep God in our lives. In times like today you need to pray. Praying keeps you relaxed. It's a wonderful thing to do. Plus you stay close to God. That's another good thing. Stay as close to God as you can.

Kim Randolph

Our young people which are

abedient to the will of God are being blessed in a way which is unique to this generation. God is pouring his spirit upon the church, but even more upon his babes in Christ. God, Himself, is moving in their lives. He is allowing them to peel his presence and his anointing. God is giving out gifts to the youth. Spiritual gifts are being given to those youth who have pure hearts, those who have made up their minds to who they are serving, and those who want to praise him. God does not need your praise, but he works miracles through praise. Praise allows God to come down and work in our lives. He delivers us from those things which hinders our blessings through praise. Our young people are being delivered through their praise. Yes, God acknowledges our prayers to be delivered, but he wants us to praise him and the youth aren't ashamed. When you see our youth praising God, you should know that God is blessing in their lives. In these last days, God refuses to move in the lives of adults who continue to go astray and refuse to return. God has found a generation who will make a difference in the lives of others.

Demarcus Brewington

The World
This world today is dangerous as you can see
Being a Christian is the best thing to be.

Stealing, murdering, raping what have you proved... another soul we can't afford to lose.

As Christians we have to pray that God will move upon these hearts...

Cause they're killing like it's a game, living in the dark.

Talking about it is not the answer,

but the solution is seeking Jesus in your life,

cause this world will get no better... Just more strife.

Poem by Aida Taylor

"A Rose Under the Sun"
You and I are as one...
Like a beautiful rose under the sun...

Join together by God above...
Join by his sweet love...

In the end we'll be as one...
My beautiful rose under the sun...

While playing in the garden is all so fun...

My beautiful rose under the sun.
Adn in the end we'll still remain friends

to play in our garden once again.

By Mary Jenkins

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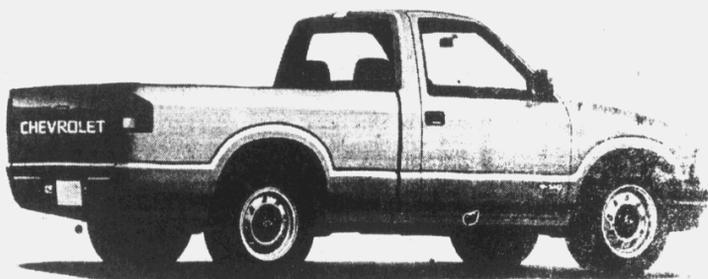
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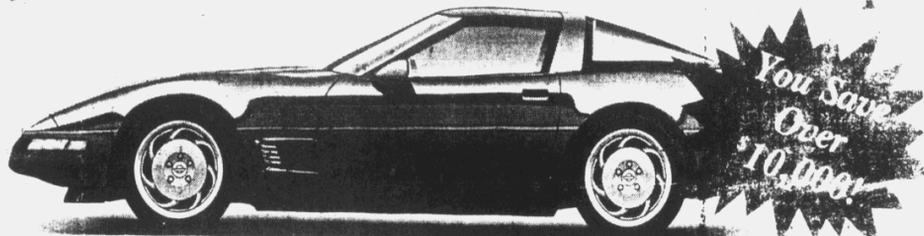
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Norfleet completed basic training

Navy Seaman Recruit Steven L. Norfleet, a 1995 graduate of North Pitt High School of Greenville, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

During the eight-week program, Norfleet completed a variety of training which included classroom

study, practical hands-on instruction, and an emphasis on physical fitness. In particular, Norfleet learned naval customs, first aid, fire fighting, water safety and survival, and a variety of safety skills required for working around ships and aircraft.

Norfleet and other recruits also received instruction on the Navy's core values—honor, courage and commitment; and what the words mean in guiding personal and professional conduct. Norfleet joins 55,000 men and women who will enter the Navy this year from all over the country.

Men and women train together from their first day in the Navy just as they do abroad ships and at shore commands around the world. To reinforce the team concept, Norfleet and other recruits also were trained in preventing sexual harassment and ensuring equal opportunity.

Even as the naval service gets smaller over the next few years, highly motivated young people like Norfleet, are still finding an opportunity to improve their knowledge and education as they become part of the most highly technical naval force in history. This year alone the Navy will have more than 57,000 job openings and opportunities, most of which include guaranteed training.

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27th annual Christmas chorus planned at Playhouse Theater

The Playhouse Community Theatre will host the 27th Annual Christmas Chorus on December 7-8 at 7 PM and 8:15 PM and on December 10 at 2 PM and 3:15 PM at The Playhouse Theatre, 1169 Nashville Road, Rocky Mount. The

vocal music concert is under the musical direction of Jim Wiggs and Jan Browning, accompanied on piano by Sharon Casey.

This year's theme, "CHRISTMAS IS...," features selections that express what Christmas means

around the world and in Rocky Mount. Audiences can expect to hear many holiday classics in addition to beautiful new works and witty new arrangements. The production will be enhanced by a fully decorated Christmas village set

and lighting, designed by Playhouse director, Jerry Sipp, assisted by Sally Ellison.

This year's chorus, 50 voices strong, includes sopranos Wanda Alford, Darla Angel, Carol Banks, Terri Booth, Helen Bosic, Terrie

Buckner, Laura Cobb, Suzanne Ellis, Janelle Green, Gail Harwood, Maria Howard, Dorothy Hunter, Linda Hones, Heather Lawrence, Roleene Rhodes, Sue McMillan, Kathy Stallings, Barbara Story, and Sandy Winstead. The altos are Mary Ann Bass, Ruth Cain, Patsy Carter, Georgia Conway, Berry Sue Davis, Alta Dozier, Patsy George, Leslie Harrison, Wanda Higson, Mollie Horton, Luane Jones, Wilma McClure, Jessica Morton, Jane Parvin, Belinda Powell, Lin Varney, Marie White, and Corrine Willcox. The tenors are Carl Carter, Brad Dunn, Steve

Krall, Jeff Muller, Sam Tolar and Roger Townley. Bass singers are Mike Caffey, Joey Jetton, Harold Lovell, Crayton Overton, John Willcox and Joe Williams. A special appearance will be made by North Pole native, Santa Claus.

All seats to the 27th Annual Christmas Chorus are \$5. For more information and reservations, call The Playhouse box office at 972-1266 between the hours of 9 AM and 4:40 PM, Monday through Friday. The Playhouse Community Theatre is a program of the Arts Center, a division of The City of Rocky Mount parks & Recreation Department.

Presidential politics: The untold story

By: Dr. Lenora Fulani

You probably caught the news on TV about Bob Dole winning the Florida straw poll. No doubt you saw the headlines about the so-called budget deal between the Democrats and Republicans, with both sides claiming victory—and a better shot at the White House in 1996. And perhaps you read an editorial or two analyzing the Colin Powell campaign—that never was.

Here are some of the stories you didn't read. You may find that these stories—small, and for the most part unreported—ultimately have more significance for the future of Black empowerment and development than all the hype.

The National African American Leadership Summit met in Washington, DC this weekend. With a televised town hall meeting that featured Minister Louis Farrakhan, the Reverends Ben Chavis and Jesse Jackson and Dr. Joseph Lowery, and workshops and issues committees which hammered out a Black Agenda, the Summit built upon the momentum of the Million Man March.

My representative at the discussions, Mamie Moore of Richmond, Virginia, brought a report of the many inquiries I have been receiving from around the country since the March and Minister Farrakhan's call to create an independent "third force," and urged the Summit to extend its dialogue on third party politics. March participants have been asking me how to register as independents, how to vote as independents and how to participate in building an independent party through which the African American Agenda may be

achieved. If you are interested in joining this process, call me at 1-800-288-3201.

At the same time that Minister Farrakhan and others are calling for a "third force" in Black politics, some Black voters and activists are building bridges to the Ross Perot-led third party movement. I gave my support to Mr. Perot's drive in California to create a new political party there. (Out of 120,000 new registrants in the California Reform Party, about 10,000 people from the African American, Chicano and gay communities were registered by my supporters.) Next, I was asked to be of help in Perot's next drive—in Ohio—which was just completed on November 20. In particular the Perot forces asked for my involvement in bringing them into the inner-city communities in Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati and elsewhere. The Black activists in my networks who hooked up with Perot's organizers encountered a very positive response among Black voters to the creation of a multi-racial independent party. Thousands signed the petitions. A similar relationship is evolving in South Carolina, where the head of the Patriot Party there (I am a founder of the national Patriot Party), African American businessman Wayne Griffith has visited and dialogued with the head of the Citizens Committee to Establish a Reform Party in South Carolina.

Some have said that Perot is not interested in support from Black voters. I disagree. I believe that Mr. Perot is well aware that if his party-building effort is to go beyond what his independent presi-

dential run accomplished in 1992, he is going to have to reach out to other—and other kinds of—voters. I think his efforts—through

me—to build bridges to the inner-city communities is a sign that he sees such a new coalition in the making.



MRS. CONNIE MORRIS (L) ... and Mrs. Beatrice Maye (R) were in attendance at the black caucus meeting where strategies were mapped out for "Where we go from here" following the Million Man March. Staff photo by Jim Rouse

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- '93 Plymouth Grand Voyager SE
- '93 Dodge Caravan - White
- '92 Dodge Grand Caravan SE - Teal
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Winners of the West Greenville Community Beautification Awards

West Greenville Community Development Corporation hosted a Community Beautification Committee meeting on November 7, at 2:00 p.m. The Community Beautification Program is a program designed to bring positive changes into West Greenville neighborhoods. The committee members are Ms. Emma Whitehurst, Ms. Peggy Hammond, Ms. Josephine Gatlin, Mr. Aronald Taft, Ms. Rosa Harris.

Any residents or businesses located west of Greene St. to the south, all property north of Dickinson Ave; East of Memorial

Drive and including Moyewood Housing Project with homes and property in Moyewood when maintained by local residents; and all homes south of the river that is located between the eastern and western borders.

Properties are judged on the basis of historic preservation, renovations, flowering & gardening, maintenance of vacant lots or houses, painting; maintenance of group victory gardens or community maintained playgrounds.

Winners selected were based on committee recommendations. Winners for this quarter are: Mr. and

Mrs. Willie Morris for home renovations, 801 W. 4th Stree; Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Taft for renovation and home maintenance, 706 W. 4th

Street; Mr. and Mrs. James Staton for flowers and yard maintenance. Each family was awarded a Good

Neighbor Certificate. Anyone interested in recommending a neighbor for the award

can contact any of the committee members or contact West Greenville CDC at 919-752-9277.

USDA Official announces increased funding for rural business loans

Dayton Watkins, Administrator Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) brought good news to a meeting of North Carolina minority business leaders concerning the availability of capital for new and

expanding businesses. Watkins stated that President Clinton's budget increase of 40%—up to \$700 million—for rural business loans will provide opportunity for local lenders to advance loans to rural

businesses. "This increase for 1996 is the Administration's commitment to form ongoing partnerships with the private sector will expand employment and improve the economy for rural America. We



DAYTON WATKINS

will be able to make over 500 loans to rural businesses and create or save an estimated 61,000 jobs", Watkins said.

Locally the RBS business and industry loan program is delivered by the Rural Economic and Community Development staff. "I'm excited about the opportunity provided by the increased funding level. I want all rural business persons and lenders to be aware of the program and how it works to increase capital for development," said the James C. Kearney, State Director of RECD.

The program provides guarantees to commercial lenders who make credit available to establish or maintain businesses in rural areas. Loan funds may be used to purchase land, buildings, and equipment; working capital; and in certain cases to refinance debts. Priorities place special emphasis on saving existing jobs as well as creating employment opportunities. Application for a loan guarantee is made at the office of a local lender who, in turn, contacts the state office of RECD for assistance.

For information, contact Bill Champion or Steve Byrd at the RECD state office in Raleigh (919-790-2731).

Local districts key to success

Local initiatives by soil and water conservation districts coupled with state resources will help ease animal waste problems across the state, including recent hog lagoon woes, state Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham said Friday.

"Agriculture is here to stay," Graham told members of the Person County Soil and Water Conservation District. "We do have some problems here and there as we saw this summer with the seven lagoons that failed.

"But, please remember that over 99 percent of our animal operations did not discharge during one of the wettest Junes on record," he said. "I doubt many other industries or businesses rate that well."

Graham addressed the group during its 1995 awards banquet.

He predicted North Carolina's soil and water conservation districts, with help from NCDA and other agencies, can fix animal waste problems. He said focusing on pollution issues now will make agriculture stronger in the years to come.

"Soil and water districts have been getting the job done for more than 50 years and it's time some folks in Raleigh and Washington took notice," Graham said. "Local initiative is the key to success."

"Soil and water conservation districts are a part of our heritage and I promise that I will stand with you with whatever resources I can muster," he said.

Early leaders in North Carolina's conservation efforts helped Tar Heel agriculture grow into a \$6.4 billion industry, Graham added.



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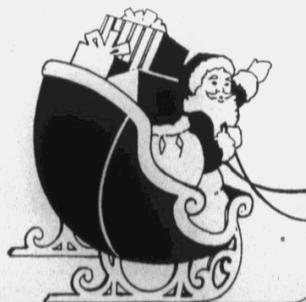
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