

Re-Scheduled Event
In Honor Of Dr. Andrew Best
March 2, 1996 - 6:30 P.M. - Dubois Center
For Information Call 328-4411

Quote

"When people of color see the world in many varied shades, we need to remember that our different views and talents empower us. We need to move past fear and move into the 21st century."

John N. Studivant

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EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S MINORITY VOICE - SINCE 1981

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22-29, 1996

Media chooses to ignore serial killer's confession

It is interesting that the major media has chosen to completely ignore the alleged confession of serial killer Glen Rogers that he killed Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman on the night of June 12, 1994.

According to a report appearing in the January 22 New York Post, lawyers for O.J. Simpson have uncovered a connection between Nicole Brown Simpson and cowboy killer Glen Rogers, who allegedly killed several women on a cross country odyssey from Florida to California. Rogers, 33, is charged with killing Sandra Gallagher, 33, a divorced mother of three who had just won \$1,250 in the lottery in California; Tina Cribbs, 34, in Florida; Linda Price, 34, a single mother of two in Mississippi; and Andy Sutton, 37, in Louisiana.

His modus operandi is usually stabbing, usually cutting the throat, although he has strangled on occasion and confessed to having killed between 70 and 100 women, though police believe he is lying about the number. He's

charged with killing six women inside of three weeks.

Rogers, blonde, blue-eyes, with carefully trimmed beard, wore western style clothing with silver buckled belt, clean jeans, and used charm to lure his victims. He spoke with a gentlemanly southern accent and liked country music.

Rogers and Nicole?

According to the Post report, the O.J. defense has had investigators on the case the entire time. What they uncovered was that Rogers, who often found work as a construction and home repair person, worked two houses down from Nicole's condo in Brentwood.

Simpson's private investigator Bill Pavelik maintained Rogers painted a house two doors down from Nicole's three months before the murders. It seemed just a coincidence until a friend of Rogers contacted Simpson at attorneys to tell them that Rogers told him he had killed Nicole!

Tony West, who met Rogers in L.A. two years ago, claimed he drove Rogers home from a club

last September 12. And while he had been drinking, Rogers was just high enough to tell West that he murdered Nicole and Goldman, and provide details of the crime. He told West he had met Nicole in Brentwood and they flirted with one another. Rogers claimed he'd been seeing her for almost a month, and knew she was O.J. Simpson's ex-wife and found the situation intriguing. Then suddenly she dropped him, claiming she had planned to go back with O.J. and give it another try.

Rogers claimed he was upset and didn't want to break it off and began watching her, stalking her. He claimed he was watching her the night Goldman came up to the house and rang the bell. He said she embraced Ron and he (Rogers) then came out of the bushes and "cold cocked" Nicole. He then struggled with Ron and stabbed him and then killed Nicole when she was still knocked out.

He claimed he deliberately tried to frame O.J. if he could and took

(Continued on page 2)



HARVEY GANTT was joined by the honorable Eva Clayton and many, many well-wishers when he was on a "Down-East" stomping jaunt just a few days ago to announce his candidacy for the US Senate along with Ed Carter who is running for the NC Senate. Also pictured is Barbara Fenner, Ann Huggins and Pastor Roscoe Locke

Staff photo by Jim Rouse

Harvey Gantt announces candidacy for U.S. Senate '96

Calling the 1996 Senate Bid a "FIGHT FOR WORKING FAMILIES" in a six-city kickoff campaign swing, Gantt said, "We need to recapture the American Dream for this generation and generations to come."

Saying he is "more convinced than ever that North Carolinians want and need a Senator for the 21st century who will care passionately about them a Senator who will fight for working families who want to see the promise of America made real for them and their children," Charlotte architect Harvey Gantt formally announced his candidacy for the United States Senator from North Carolina. Gantt's announcement tour took him through six cities (Raleigh, Greensboro, Charlotte, Asheville, Greenville and Wilmington) over two days.

Gantt's speech hit the themes of economic security, investment in people in the areas of job security, wages, education and health care, re-ordering priorities in an era of smaller government, and a renewal of the special values that made America great.

"What makes us special," Gantt said, "are our values of freedom and liberty, our strong religious underpinning, our belief in family — and the notion that hard work and effort have their reward in an improved life."

"This is America..." Gantt said, "where even a child born poor in wealth but rich in spirit could aspire to be anything he or she wanted to be. This is the America that can be again."

Saying, "we can do better," Gantt pointed to an economy "where folks are being downsized out of jobs they have held for twenty five years... when the same companies that are laying people off are making record profits."

"We witness an economy... where people have to work two and three jobs not to get ahead, but just to get by... where everything's going up... except paychecks," Gantt said.

"We witness today disinvestment in education at the very time we need to invest more... We witness a government that

cuts in school lunches... raising the premiums on Medicare... while providing a tax cut to the wealthy and massive loopholes for big corporations and special interests. There is something immoral about that, and I know we can do better," Gantt said.

"We can do better by getting back to the basics in this country," Gantt said. "Let's put the government to work to ensure opportunity for the striving families of the middle class."

"But," Gantt noted, "government in this day and age cannot do it all... It will be our own personal initiative and values that drive the American agenda in the 21st century." Gantt pointed to the experience of his own family, "a family limited in means, but unlimited in the values and spirit of America. A father who worked two jobs so that each of his five children could go to college... A mother who taught her children the dif-

ference between right and wrong." "Parents with a powerful faith in God... a strong belief in family, hard work, personal responsibility and education. Parents who worked hard and made the promise of American a reality in their lives of their children," Gantt said.

Gantt said these were the solid American values he got from his parents, and the values he and his wife have passed on to their own children. "Now," Gantt said, "somehow, we need to recapture that American dream for this generation and generations to come."

"As we approach the dawn of the 21st century, change is inevitable," Gantt said. "But the changes we know are coming shouldn't threaten the promise and opportunity that are basic to the American dream! North Carolina can do better, this nation can do better, our government can do better in preparing for the years ahead."

Monument To A Monument

The member of a Greenville church whose history reaches back to the 1860s dedicated a monument Sunday in memory of the former building—and all its blessings.

By Lynn Gibson
The Daily Reflector

Sycamore Hill Baptist Church members attend services on Eighth Street, but more than 100 years of its history are a half-mile away.

That's why the congregation of Greenville's oldest black church met Sunday on the corner of First and Greene streets to dedicate a monument where the church stood until 1968, when it was damaged in a fire and torn down to make way for the Town Common.

"This is holy ground," Deacon Matthew Lewis said. "Many souls

worship. Let us never forget those who came to pray here."

The sounds of traffic rushing by couldn't drown out the church members who sang "Amazing Grace" in remembrance of the church that was founded in 1860 as the Colored Religious Society, and later became First Baptist Church before being named Sycamore Hill Baptist Church.

"We need to remember the past," pastor Howard W. Parker Jr. said. "A lot of important things happened on this site. Souls were saved, marriages took place, funerals were held. As we work toward the 21st century, it's important to know where we came from."

Church member Beatrice Maye, who helped raise the \$1,500 needed for the monument, told the crowd how the idea turned into reality.

"Deacon Morris came by to fix my VCR, and as he left, he turned to me and said, 'Don't you think we

Woman blasts board's funding of officers' defense in lawsuit

By Lloyd Whittington
The Daily Reflector

A Greenville woman questioned the Pitt County Board of Commissioners on Monday for funding the defense of law enforcement officers she claims treated her family unjustly in a 1993 vehicle search.

Jeanette Teel Taft, who filed a federal complaint in July of 1993 alleging harassment of African-Americans by the city of Greenville and Pitt County, blasted the board for recently paying a \$25,000 insurance deductible for defending the case.

Her suit stems from a 1993 incident in which Pitt County sheriff's deputies and a Greenville police officer held her and several children at gunpoint while searching for a murder suspect.

Ms. Taft asked the board if paying \$25,000 to fight the lawsuit was proper use of taxpayers' money.

"I don't think so, especially when a simple handshake, a public apology, evaluation of the minor children and visitation of schools would have resolved the entire matter," she said.

The money would have been better spent training officers on how to conduct themselves during a vehicle stop when minor children were involved, she said.

"We also would like to know if a male sheriff had searched, handcuffed and held a gun on one of the county commissioner's minor daughters, would their vote to fund the \$25,000 still have been the same," she said.

Associate County Attorney

Pamela Best advised the board not to respond because the case is in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Commissioner Jeff Savage, who introduced the family, still commented, saying the allocation of the \$25,000 on February 5 had been handled routinely.

"Had I given it a little more thought... I know I wouldn't have voted in favor," Savage said. "I think it's important, too, that the public know that these people made simple requests (since the incident occurred) and were shunned."

Associate County Manager John Bulow said later that the county had no choice but to pay the \$25,000. If it failed to pay the deductible, the county could, in turn, be sued by the sheriff, Bulow said.

"The county is legally obligated to defend any county employee, including the sheriff, if sued for any reason in performance of duties," he said. "When they brought the case, they required us to respond."

The complaint names Pitt County Sheriff Billy Vandiford, Greenville Police Chief Charles Hinman, Greenville Mayor Nancy Jenkins, sheriff's deputies Terry Vines, Troy Boyd, Tim Peaden, Johnny Craft, Benny Dobbs and Greenville police officer Kevin Smeltzer.

Ms. Taft's initial complaint asked for a \$10,000 settlement for damages after law enforcement officers detained her and several family members on February 9, 1993.

At the time, authorities were searching for a man accused of shooting one man and murdering another in Stokes. Believed to be armed and dangerous, the suspect was thought to be in a blue Oldsmobile similar to Ms. Taft's. He had said he would not be taken alive, Vandiford said.

The complaint alleged that about 10:25 p.m. on February 9, Ms. Taft, her teenage son Onte Taft, daughter Kimberly Taft, niece Shamesa Teel and nephew Harry Teel Jr. were turning off Greene Street and onto N.C. Highway 33 when they were stopped.

Officers lost sight of the suspect car when it left a trailer park and Ms. Taft's vehicle was sighted moments later where they expected the vehicle to appear, Vandiford said.

Officers ordered her to throw her keys onto the road and get out of her car. The complaint alleged that officers cocked their weapons as the family exited the vehicle. Officers allegedly responded to Taft's questions by telling her to "shut up and be quiet."

The complaint alleged that officers pushed and shoved Ms. Taft, physically abused and illegally and unlawfully searched Harry Teel Jr., and unlawfully abused, searched and handcuffed Shamesa Teel.

Vandiford conducted an internal investigation at the time and still contends officers did what they were supposed to. It was unfortunate and traumatic for the family, but law enforcement does not take

(Continued on page 2)



BISHOP RALPH LOVE, SR., pastor of Holy Trinity holy church and member of the Pitt Co. Board of Education takes a moment to relax with friends. We know of no one who spreads love

From Page 1

place in a perfect world, he said Monday.

"I've got police officers out here who have families—who have a love of life. They're looking for a vicious individual who has vowed not to be taken alive. He has demonstrated that twice. Officers have a

right to live and exercise all due caution to prevent themselves or anyone else from being injured while hunting a person of this caliber," he said.

A flier the family has distributed around Pitt County puts the cost of the suit so far at \$76,000 of

Woman Blasts Board

taxpayer money. Bulow said so far he has seen bills for at least \$50,000.

The flier says all the Sheriff's Department needed to do was grant a public apology, have the

children psychologically evaluated and have officers speak to students about how to conduct themselves during a vehicle stop.

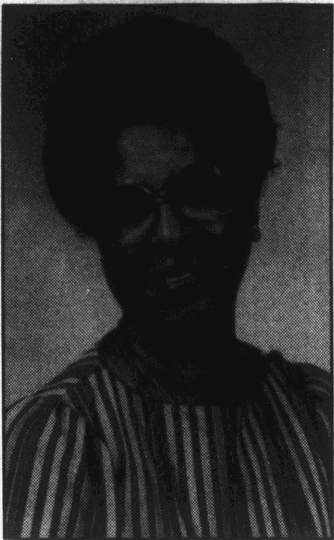
Vandiford said a public apology implies officers did something

wrong and opens the door for a civil suit. The Sheriff's Department does not have funds, or the obligation, to test those unnerved by justified actions, he said.

He said the involved officers had

met with the family but he had never heard the request to speak to school children about how to act during a vehicle stop.

from the desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



BEATRICE MAYE

A Monument Erected

The Sycamore Hill Baptist Church members and friends cooperated extremely well with the erection of a monument on the Corners of First and Greene Streets, Town Commons, which was dedicated with appropriate services, Sunday February 18, 1996, in commemoration of African-American (Black) History Month, with Deacon Matthew T. Lewis mentioning in his Dedication Prayer that "many souls have come here to pray, sing and worship".

This church was founded in 1860 with a handful of people who assembled in a house for prayer and services.

In 1968 it was damaged by fire, cemeteries were moved by Flanagan Funeral Home to Brown Hill Cemetery and it was torn down to make way for the Town Commons.

Reverend Howard Parker also stated that "souls were saved,

marriages performed, funerals conducted and it is important to know from whence we came".

Memorable history was made. Sycamore Hill is the oldest Black church in Greenville, North Carolina.

"If a race has no history, if it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thoughts of the world and it stands in danger of being exterminated", Carter G. Woodson, Father of Black History Month.

TRACEY BENNETT, daughter of Mrs. Dianne Williams Bennett and granddaughter of James and Mildred Williams, 1212 Davenport Street, Greenville, NC, was recently hired to the position of Associate Producer in the News Department, WITN-TV, Channel 7. Tracey, currently is the News Director and Morning Anchor for Oldies, WNCT Radio 107.9.

A word of ENCOURAGEMENT to Roundtree and Associates as they embark on their new business establishment of Dickinson Avenue. Stop by and wish this young man SUCCESS.

Though February's theme centers on and about women, we dare not omit men locally.

- 1. Attorney Robert White
- 2. Attorney Jerome Ramey

From Page 1

gloves from the house and left one at the scene, and another he drove over to O.J.'s and threw it over the fence from the neighbor's yard. He claimed he planted the knit cap also.

He said he smeared blood on the bronco, but did not put blood at the scene. He admitted the police probably "helped him."

It sounds like the ravings of a lunatic, but another person, in addition to West, who worked at the Oak Lounge in L.A. where Rogers hung out, confirmed that Rogers bragged that he had met Nicole at Rexall drug store where they were both trying on sunglasses. According to West, Rogers also told him exactly where O.J. Simpson lived. He said Rogers told him about Nicole twice. On two separate occasions. He said he had been with Nicole sexually "a couple of times."

West maintained Rogers told him he had killed 100 people but West would only know two of the victims, Nicole and Ron. West said Rogers called O.J. a "nigger" and framed him because Nicole dropped him for O.J.

West claimed he was willing to take a lie detector test but was never asked to do so. West claimed he was so shaken by the confession that he called the L.A.P.D. the very next day and told them. He said, "They blew me off right away, almost like I was the crazy guy."

West told the investigators that he didn't believe Rogers at first but questioned why someone would want to confess to murder, so he asked him, "If you killed them, what did you do with the knife?" At which point Rogers pulled a knife out of his boot and said, "Here

it is—you want to touch it?"

Delusions

If Rogers is delusional, and that's very possible, at least two people maintain that Rogers claimed to have known Nicole. West, and the other person who worked at the Oak Lounge.

It also tends to fit Nicole's m.o., as she was the type of woman who, even by L.A. standards, would sleep with anyone. And Rogers was a charmer.

Moreover, Rogers is indeed a killer. An incident happened in L.A. that displayed how enraged he could get upon getting rejected. Rogers appeared to be unraveling and was apparently finding it harder and harder to keep his temper under control.

Rein Keener, 24, met Rogers at the McRed's bar in Van Nuys, Calif., Sept. 28, 1995. Rogers was a regular in the bar and often bought drinks for everyone. Keener was a student at Pasadena City College. Rogers asked her to drive him home because he had been drinking and didn't like to drive when he was that drunk. She was about to, and, in fact, had her car keys in her hand, when a friend called out to her and she stopped to talk.

Suddenly a look flashed across Rogers' face that stopped her cold. She said to herself, "I'm a petite woman, no match for this big guy should he decide to turn ugly, and he's been drinking." So she blew him off, telling him she changed her mind and wasn't ready to leave yet. She told police later that he almost went crazy.

He cursed her loudly and stalked away. Two days later homicide detectives visited her and showed

15. Raymond Carney, Fire Chief, City of Greenville

16. Bob Casey, Currently, training officer for the City of Greenville

17. James Tripp, Program coordinator for Greenville Housing Authority/ Greenville Police Department and chaplain for the Police Department

18. Michel Best, Neighborhood Director for the Moyewood Center/ Greenville Housing Authority

19. Elvis Jones, Council member, town of Bethel

20. Roscoe Locke, Principal, Bethel Elementary School

21. Terry Anderson, Operations Manager, City of Greenville

22. Clarence Hunter, Postmaster, Greenville and President, J. R. Rose Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)

23. Calvin Henderson, Director, Sr. Citizens Organization, Winterville

24. Gary Taylor, Owner/Operator, Back to Herbs, Bell Fork

25. Dr. Wiley Hines, Dentist

26. Jim Rouse, Owner two radio stations and "M" Voice Newspaper

Media Ignores

her a picture of a woman, Sandra Gallagher, who had, in fact, been at McRed's that night.

She had been strangled and her pick-up truck set on fire with her inside the morning after Keener's blow up with Rogers.

An all points bulletin was issued for Rogers who was finally captured following a high speed chase in rural Kentucky on November 13. Keener speculated that he was so angry at being rebuffed by her that he turned and killed Gallagher out of rage, and because she had also revealed she has won the lottery, so he took money she had on her also.

The big question is why did the L.A.P.D. choose to ignore West's call? Rogers killed Gallagher after he claimed he killed Nicole. Picking him up for questioning and watching him may have prevented Gallagher's murder.

And why is the media choosing to totally ignore this information? Preferring to lick their lips and hope for another chance at Simpson via the civil suit, the press is saying the requirements for a civil suit is preponderance of evidence, rather than proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

As it is, the press has downplayed Glen Rogers and his crimes, preferring to gnash their teeth at O.J. Simpson. While whites were upset about O.J. Simpson, Glen Rogers was running all over the country killing women! No one is even angry at him! Most people never even heard of him. And the press did not dwell on his crimes. The press did not whip people into a fever about Rogers, nor, indeed, Timothy McVeigh nor any other white male who has done horrible things.

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Future looks bright for N.C. sweet potato industry, Graham says

The future looks bright for North Carolina sweet potatoes as consumers become more aware of the nutritional value of the golden spuds, said State Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham told the North Carolina Sweet Potato Commission annual meeting here.

"You will go into the next century with perhaps the most marketable North Carolina commodity," Graham told the gathering of sweet potato growers, packers and shippers. "But you must be aware

of the very real danger of sweet potato weevil infestations in this state, and the potential for economic distress."

North Carolina is a sweet potato weevil free state in production areas, with aggressive monitoring for infestations across growing areas. A total of 4,202 sweet potato fields covering 35,415 acres were trapped for weevils in 1995, with two locations identified with weevil problems. Both locations were treated and will be monitored in coming years, according to Howard Singletary, director of NCDA's Plant Industry Division.

Graham cited three reasons why the NCDA is concerned about the threat of weevils. Past winters have been mild, increasing the

chance of survival of weevils accidentally brought into the state; the increased amount of seed and equipment coming into North Carolina from other growing areas, and the dramatic increase in movement of migrant workers within the state.

North Carolina leads the country in sweet potato production, supplying almost 33 percent of the national crop with the bulk of the potatoes grown in eastern North Carolina. For additional information on sweet potato weevils, contact Howard Singletary with the NCDA at (919) 733-3930. For information on sweet potato production, contact Ross Williams with NCDA's Marketing Division at (919) 733-7887.



FIRST CITIZENS BRANCH MANAGERS were on hand at the third annual Black Business Expo recently. The day was very successful (due in large part to the support by First Citizens).

Photo by Jim Rouse

From Page 1

Monument to a monument

should find a way to remember the old church?" she said.

The church contacted City Councilman Rufus Huggins, who put them in touch with Parks and Recreation Director Boyd Lee.

"The Parks and Recreation Commission thought it was an excellent idea," Huggins said in a telephone interview. "I supported it

because it's part of our heritage, and years from now, it will remind us what was there."

Mrs. Maye spent two days and nights calling church members, asking them for donations.

"We received gifts not only from our church members, but from friends of the church who wanted to see it remembered," she said.

The church began when residents gathered at a home in 1860, Parker said. Eventually a church was built on the site and remained until 1968, when a fire damaged the building.

The Greenville Redevelopment Commission, a group charged with revitalizing downtown, was already negotiating with the church to buy the land, Huggins said.

"My understanding is they fought very hard to keep it there," he said. "It's a pillar of the black community in the City of Greenville, and it was looked up to throughout Pitt County."

After the fire, the church relocated to its present site on 226 W. Eighth St., but many congregation members haven't forgotten the old building.

"It will be nice for future generations to see the monument," said Nicole Dickens, whose grandfather, the Rev. Joshua Alpha Nimmo, was the pastor for 40 years. "I wasn't born yet, but I think it's important for people to see how we've progressed."

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'M' Voice

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"Supreme Court Justice"



Thurgood Marshall always cared about his fellow man. When he practiced law in Baltimore, Maryland, he represented many clients without getting paid.

Thurgood graduated with honors from Howard University Law School. In 1940, he was named chief counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. During his years with the NAACP, Thurgood and his staff won 29 out of 32 Supreme Court cases. His most famous victory came in the 1954 *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* case. This historic decision overturned the "separate but equal" doctrine that had justified segregation since 1896.

In 1965, Thurgood was appointed solicitor general of the United States. When a vacancy occurred on the Supreme Court, President Lyndon Johnson nominated him for the seat. In 1967, this great jurist became the first black justice of the United States Supreme Court. Thurgood Marshall has dedicated his life to protecting the rights of all Americans.

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Olympic excitement comes to Greensboro

Sport, an international traveling exhibition, lets you experience the science behind the sports we play and watch.

February 3 through May 6.

Pitch, climb and jump! Saturday, February 3 the Natural Science Center opens its doors to the thrill of participating in the games athletes play.

Twelve interactive 'hands-on' and 'body-on' displays give visitors the opportunity to test their athletic skills. Experience angular momentum in the Rotating Arena, and aerodynamics in the Bobsled Simulator. Discover how fast a fastball is an dthen try

pitching a baseball the regulation length of 60 feet 6 inches from mound to home plate in the Baseball Pitch. Scale a Rock Wall to practice strength, balance and endurance. Hop on a competition-sized Balance Beam and learn why some gymnasts say "It's all in the nose." Compete against friends in a Wheelchair Race or see how softly you can touch down at the Land Like a Cat display. Cool down by walking on a treadmill and discover your own walking gait as you See Yourself Walk. If you're an arm-chair athlete you can join other visitors in judging 5 Olympic per-

formances in You Be The Judge. Explore the different materials used in equipment; the effects of using drugs in sports; sports injuries; and women in sports.

What makes a fastball fast? How do judges rate a performance? How do rock climbers get a grip? Why do golf balls have dimples? How is a goalie's equipment similar to that of a gladiator's?

Join us for Sport and find out. We guarantee to bring out the Sport in you!

Hospitality volunteers needed for Telethon

Two people with experience in the food service or floral business are needed to serve as chairman and co-chairman of the Hospitality Committee for the local broadcast of the Children's Miracle Network Telethon, to be held June 1-2 to benefit the Children's Hospital of Eastern North Carolina.

The Hospitality Committee provides food, flowers and other hospitality items to guests and volunteers involved with the CMN Telethon. The local broadcast originates from the auditorium at the Brody Medical Sciences Building on the campus of the East Carolina University School of Medicine.

Interested persons should call the telethon office at (919) 816-5437.



BROTHER ED CARTER (Aspiring for the NC Senate) (L) and **Brother Edward X.** (R) discuss the issues of the day.

Photo by Jim Rouse

Bonitta Best - The First Black and the first female associate editor of the "Pro Football Weekly"

Bonitta Best is a 1977 graduate of D.H. Conley. In 1981 she received a B.A. degree in Theater from Towson State University. Her career began in 1987 with Maryland Public Television. There she



BONITTA BEST started as an Entry Level Transcript Assistant. By 1995 she reached the position of Associate Producer of the PBS program "Wall Street Week With Louis Rukeyser."

Bonitta's faith, ambition, education and experience have helped

her reach another goal. Now she is the first black and the first female Associate Editor of the "Pro Football Weekly". As the Associate Editor of this Chicago-based publication, she will write columns of "w-hats happening" in professional sports, the athletes, the coaches, and administrators. She will also edit news and information from other professional writers all over the country.

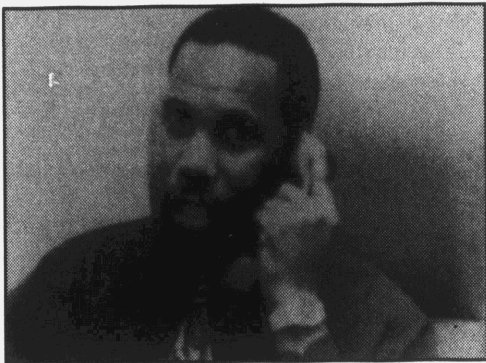
During her years as a faithful member of the New Antioch Baptist Church of Randallstown, Bonitta began the church newsletter. She was a member of the Food Pantry Ministry (where they distributed food to needy families while spreading the gospel). It was here under the grace of God and the leadership of the Reverend Kenneth L. Barney Jr. that Bonitta became a born again Christian. She is looking for a new church home in Chicago. Bonitta has truly made her family especially her parents Mrs. Bessie Best and the late Luke Best very proud.

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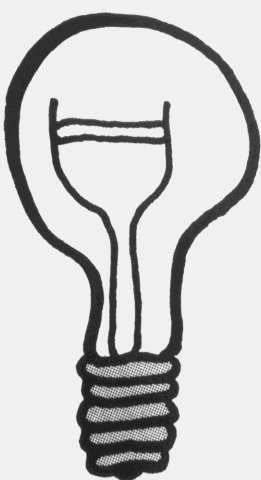
Every time you use these things...



Mailbox - Philip B. Downing
His design incorporated the
hinged door opening that is a common
feature on U.S. mailboxes.
Patent #462,093 - October 27, 1891.



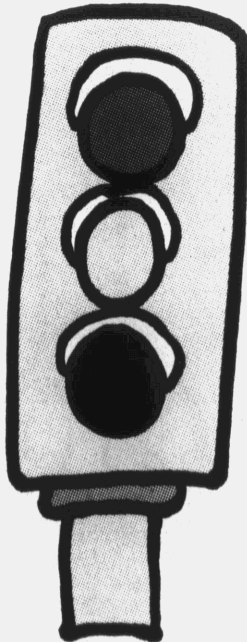
Golf Tee - George F. Grant - Prior to Grant's
invention of the golf tee, golfers used their hands to mold
a hitting surface from dirt or sand.
Patent #638,920 - December 12, 1899.



Electric Lamp with carbon filament
Lewis Latimer - He developed key innovations
in the electric lamp design resulting
in improved durability. These improvements
increased effectiveness and lowered cost.
Patent #247,097 - September 13, 1881.



Refrigerator - John Stanard - He patented an
improved refrigerator design with a water
cooler and faucet for the dispensing of cold water.
Patent #455,891 - July 14, 1891.



Traffic Light - Garrett A. Morgan - His invention
of the three-way automatic traffic signal helped
make the roads safer for all of us.
Patent #1,475,024 - November 20, 1923.



Fountain Pen - W. B. Purvis - He designed a
simple, durable and inexpensive fountain pen
which was ideally suited for general use.
Patent #419,065 - January 7, 1890.



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The Ways of White Folks

In South Carolina in the 1890s, my grandfather had land given to him by Cherokee Indians as a wedding gift. He had married a medicine man's daughter.

In 1909, whites, jealous of him, came and told him his house was too close to the main road and he had to move it more out of sight. He was a little slow in moving so they came by and burned it to the ground.

My nine-year-old father ran into the burning house and saved the family Bible that dated back to the 1700s. That was the only thing saved. There was my grandfather, a learned man, who could read and write, who taught penmanship, who could read and write music, was a professor of music at his church, standing out in the middle of nowhere barefoot, winter almost come, and no house. He was reduced to tapping turpentine trees for their sap that winter in order to survive. He had 13 children. They had to hire out to

the whites, which was what the whites wanted. He was too uppity anyway.

The older boys, rather than work for the whites, left home and scattered. With the older boys gone, local whites decided to rape one of the girls on her way home through the woods. My father, then only 14, heard her screams and fired several shots out, not sure where. That made them take off, but not before they had succeeded in raping her. But it stopped whatever else they may have had in their minds to do to her.

My father firing shots at white folks put the family in peril again and at 14 he had to leave, on foot, walking along the railroad lines going north, staying out of sight because they were looking for him. My grandfather had to apologize to the whites for the incident. Apologize to them.

Overrun with immigrants

There were race riots in New

York in 1909; and again in 1911. At the turn of the century, poor whites from Italy, Ireland, Spain, Germany, Hungary, Portugal and Russia came pouring into America. The country was overrun with immigrants and whites already here reacted with editorials, restrictions, etc.

Medical doctors and newspapers banned together to maintain these immigrants were bad for the country. For one thing their heads were too small! They didn't bathe, did not know how to care for their numerous children, nor contribute with any useful skills. They were uneducated. Many of them lived in such squalor and were treated so badly that they up and died leaving their children orphans. The situation was so bad, the orphans were sent out west in servitude or to orphanages that served meat once a month.

The Italian Mafia, The Jewish Murder Inc., Irish gangs who'd

break your legs for five bucks.

So consumed was the country with immigrants that they momentarily forgot about Blacks, and Blacks made great strides in the arts and small business at that time.

The distaste many urban whites had for the recent immigrants was so great that they began to look more fondly at Black Americans.

This laid the groundwork for the Harlem Renaissance; a movement that depended largely on white spending.

In 1898, Bert Williams and George Walder had their own production company, and challenged William K. Vanderbilt of 5th Avenue to a Cake Walking contest. In the "Gay Nineties," the beginnings of the Bohemian movement was

forming in France. Claude Debussy composed "The Children's Corner," with the composition "Golliwogg's Cake Walk" included as a tribute to the high stepping minstrels of the era.

Immigrants soon learned, however, that in order to cut their pain time, reflecting the prejudices of the dominant culture would assure short cuts.

Dixon received certificate of commendation

Marine Sgt. Duane D. Dixon, whose wife, Kasannya, is the daughter of Mary J. Harris of 1807 Conley St., Greenville, recently received a Certificate of Commendation while assigned at Marine Corps Recruiting Station, Iselin, N.J.

Dixon was recognized for his superior performance of duty. Dixon consistently performed his demanding duties in an exemplary and highly professional manner.

Dixon is an essential part of today's naval forces as they shift focus away from long-distance war

at sea to handling the challenges of regional conflicts affecting U.S. interests.

Whether helping provide humanitarian assistance and disaster-relief or projecting power ashore and providing forward presence, Marines like Dixon are making a difference as they work assigned to ships, squadrons or shore commands around the world. Dixon is not only improving his knowledge and skill, but is serving 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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NO BETTER TRIBUTE TO AFRICAN-AMERICAN MONTH than the values of pride and joy that our African-American sister Cathy Venable and her son share with each other.

Photo by Jim Rouse

ENROLLMENT ANNOUNCEMENT - HEAD START PROGRAM

Martin County Community Action, Inc. Project Head Start is now accepting applications for the 1996 Fall Enrollment for children and including children with disabilities. Eligibility is determined by HHS income guidelines, family needs, disabilities and/or special conditions of the child.

Children who will be enrolled will be exposed to a broad educational curriculum that will prepare them for preschool social and educational experiences. Health, nutrition, and mental health are also important factors in the development of these children. These areas are also facilitated in the daily routines of the children. Parent involvement and other program services as mandated are required and are fully utilized by this program. 10 per cent of Head Start enrollment is identified as: "health impairment, emotional/behavior disorders, speech/language impairments, mental retardation, hearing impairment/deafness, orthopedic impairment, visual impairment/blind, learning disabilities, autism, traumatic brain injury, and other impairments for children who require special education and related services."

Head Start is a comprehensive developmental program for children ages 3-5 years old. This program is based on the premise that children share certain needs and that children from low-income families, in particular, can benefit from a program designed to meet those needs. Head Start operates nine (9) months of the year, - September through May. The centers are opened Monday through Friday and the house of operation are 8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. Head Start has been operating in the Martin County area since 1965, currently there are 193 children. Nine classrooms are comprised 4-5 yr. old and one classroom consists of three year old who must become aged three by October 16th; Beaufort County has been operating since 1977. Presently, 98 children are enrolled. This center accommodates five classrooms of 4-5 yr. olds; Pitt County originated in 1985 now there are 222 children in the program. Twelve classrooms accommodate 4-5 yr. olds.

Funding for Martin County Community Action, Inc. Project Head Start is received from the Administration for Children, Youth and Families Unit, Department of Health and Human Services. In order for children to qualify, they must meet the family income guidelines. Below are the guidelines.

1995 FAMILY INCOME GUIDELINES FOR HEAD START PROGRAMS

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Size of Family Unit	INCOME
1	\$ 7,470
2	10,030
3	12,590
4	15,150
5	17,710
6	20,270
7	22,830
8	25,390

For family units with more than 8 members, add \$2,560 for each additional member.

For more information or to enroll a child, please call Ms. Teresa Greene or Mrs. Glorstein Mathewson at (919) 792-7141 or come by the Martin County Community Action Head Start Administrative Office at 106 South Watts Street in Williamston, North Carolina.

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THERESA GIBBS BONNER

"There is a life after....."
Theresa Gibbs Bonner, a student at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University is doing great after the at the Pitt County Board of Election.
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Davidson Announces Candidacy

Tom Davidson, a businessman and agronomist, announced today that he will be "throwing his hat in the ring" to be the next commissioner of agriculture. Davidson is a Republican.

Davidson holds both bachelors and masters degrees in agronomy from Clemson University. He began his professional career in agribusiness with Union Carbide Agricultural Products Company in 1984. Davidson worked for several years in field research and development in Texas, before moving to North Carolina to develop products for agribusiness. Davidson currently works as a senior sales associate for Rhone Poulenc Ag Company, Inc.

Tom Davidson sees North Carolina's agribusiness future as diverse and dynamic. As such, he believes the state needs innovative leadership in the Department of Agriculture—someone with the energy, enthusiasm and new ideas to lead North Carolina agribusiness into the next century. Tom's education in the field of agronomy and his 12 years of experience in the agribusiness industry make him a natural to run for Commissioner of Agriculture.

Commenting on his decision to run Davidson stated,

"I feel strongly that it is time for a change in the leadership of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. We must find ways to promote our state's products and increase our market presence and awareness both domestically and internationally. This will be one of my priorities as Commissioner of Agriculture." "we need to change the perception of agriculture. The increasing demands for food, feed and fiber are greater than ever before. Growers must be recognized for the important contribution that they make in feeding a hungry state and a hungry world. We must educate the consumer that if not for efficient agribusiness, food costs would be much higher than the current 10%* of disposable income. And that sticker on the gas pump or the scale in the meat market should be a reminder to the consumer that the North Carolina Department of Agriculture is a factor in their everyday life."

Davidson concluded his remarks by saying,

"We need energy, enthusiasm, and new ideas to successfully carry us into the next century. I bring to this campaign an agricultural heritage. And through my 16 years of education and experience, I bring a marriage of what has been wedded to the excitement of what can be in the future. But most of all, I bring a vision of where we need to go to succeed in the next century." Tom Davidson and wife Debbi have one son, Nick. The family resides in Durham where Tom is involved in many community activities.



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Another race for the king

With a country band and a director of fried trout, oysters and hush puppies, NASCAR legend Richard Petty kicked off his campaign to be North Carolina secretary of state Thursday.

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The man known to his fans simply as the King didn't choose a Raleigh hotel or conference room for his announcement. Instead, he stayed home in Randolph County, where a crowd of about 900 supporters gathered in a large tent between the Richard Petty museum and the shop that houses the famous blue Number 49 Pontiac.

"You know, common sense is really not all that common in Raleigh," Petty told the cheering crowd.

"I agree we need to reform the

secretary of state (office) but I also agree we need to reform the whole Council of State," Petty said.

"We figure in January we're going to go down there with a broom and bring a whole new team to Raleigh.

"Before you start a race, they say, 'Gentlemen, start your engines.' I'm starting mine tonight," said the man Republicans hope will help them sweep the Democratic Council of State in upcoming elections.

Dressed in a black cowboy hat with a gold band, gray slacks and a crisp navy blazer, Petty spoke for the television cameras before his public appearance.

During that news conference—held in the shop and closed to print reporters and photographers—Petty said he had no plans to use the secretary of state's job as a stepping stone to higher office. In addition, he talked about downsizing and possibly phasing out the secretary of state's office.

He also said he would have no trouble keeping his business and political lives separate, according to a freelance journalist who attended that news conference.

Petty later said his experience as a former county commissioner and as an active Republican Party member will help him in Raleigh.

Petty plans to continue endorsing products such as Pepsi, Goody's Headache Powders, Sears Diehard batteries and STP oil treatment if he becomes secretary of state. He will also continue as CEO of Petty Enterprises, with annual revenue estimated at \$20 million.

Later he told reporters, "I'll continue to do my business as usual. The only time it is a conflict is when you keep asking the question.

"I'm one thing at the race track and I'm something else when I go to Raleigh—I don't see any conflict whatsoever."

A host of Republican candidates turned out for the event, including Richard Vinroot and Robin Hayes, both running for governor; Mike Causey, insurance commissioner candidate; former State Rep. Steve Arnold, candidate for lieutenant governor; and Vernon Robinson, who hopes to head the Department of Public Instruction.

"I think he can win," said Vinroot as he shook hands in the crowd. "I think he helps the Republican ticket from top to bottom."

House Speaker Harold Brubaker told the crowd that he isn't worried about Petty's qualifications for the job.

Most in the audience weren't asking questions about Petty's qualifications. Many said it is enough that he has always seemed to be a man of the people despite his millions.

"You have people who feel like my vote doesn't matter," said Linwood Parker, former head of the Johnston County Republican Party, who came to the event with a bus load of Petty's supporters. "I think Petty allows them to feel like they are part of the process. I guess he's what you might call a folk hero for the average man."

The average man paid \$75 for a single ticket and \$125 for a couple to attend the event. That didn't seem to bother Nancy and Ricky Brady of Pinnacle. Nancy Brady is a retired teacher and Ricky is a tobacco farmer.

"We've been a supporter of his throughout the years as a race car driver," Nancy Brady said. "I like what he stands for, what he represents. We think he is a real honest person, down to earth. That's important to us."

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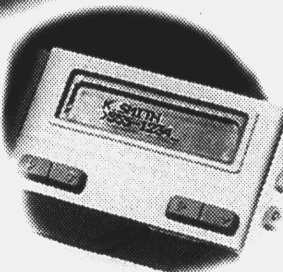
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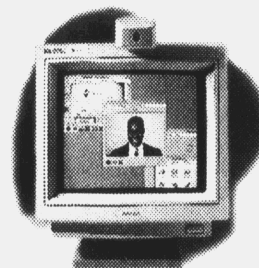
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