HE M' VOICE

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S MINORITY VOICE - SINCE 1981

WEEK OF JUNE 6-21, 1996

Black church burnings escalate

The burning of Black churches in America continues to escalate. The major media has paid slight attention to these incidents of desecration of our houses of worship. Talk show hosts feature guests who question the racial basis for these burnings. In fact, the media and the pundits make all efforts to dismiss these burnings as usual vandalism by juveniles or disorganized miscreants. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), has assumed a leadership role in protesting the burnings, pleading to law enforcement officials to bring the criminals involved to justice. As an SCLC member and a very concerned citizen activist, I am running relevant excerpts from the recent statement made by our SCLC President, Dr. Joseph Lowery, concerning the burnings before the Judiciary Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday, May 21, **1996.** The excerpts are as follows:

"Mr. Chairman and members of the Judiciary Committee: The Department of Justice, through the Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division, has advised us that, as of April 24, 1996, they have investigated fires and incidences of desecration at 46 different houses of worship in 15 states, since 1990. Of the 46 incidents listed, 29 remain unsolved. Thus far in 1996, 25 incidents have been reported and 23 remain unsolved.

We have been outraged at these continuing attacks on places of worship—and sorely disappointed that until recently, law enforcement, in particular, as well as government and media, in general-have seemed only mildly interested in focusing on these acts of terrorism. Scant notice was given by the national media until a church, where the assistant pastor was a well-known professional football star, was torched. In late

1995, the SCLC intensified its protest and plea to law enforcement resourcesf to bring these criminals to justice

In early 1996, we visited the sites of burned churches in Alabama and Louisiana. Subsequently, Assistant Attorney General Deval Patrick visited our offices in Atlanta to assure us that the investigation of these fires would be given top priority. An official in the enforcement division of the Treasury Department, the ATF, also called and informed us that a Joint Task Force with the Justice Department, consisting of approximately 100 person, had been assigned to the investigation.

We were advised that two of the officers originally assigned to the task force had been removed after it was discovered that they had been amony ATF agents attending a 'Good Ole Boy Roundup," where shameful racist activities



CONGRESSWOMAN EVA CLAYTON (2nd from left) ... spoke at a teen forum held at Rose High School. Issues affecting teens...teen pregnancy, peer pressure, relationships, etc., were discussed. Shown above are Dr. Diane Campbell, Eva Clayton, Dr. Gwendolyn Knuckles and

Gov. Hunt appoints task force to target racial and religious violence

force of top law enforcement and government officials, ministers and black leaders—with Attorney General Mike Easley as chairdesigned to protect black churches around the state from raciallymotivated fires.

"North Carolina is not going to tolerate racial or religious violence, and we're sending that message

Gov. Jim Hunt is forming a task loud and clear," Hunt said. "We need law enforcement experts, community leaders and concerned citizens to focus on one common goal: how can we stop these violent attacks on our churches? And we need tougher penalties to make sure that those who instigate such violence are punished appropri-

In addition, Hunt and the Legis-

lative Black Caucus are developing legislation to stiffen penalties for church burning. The legislation-drafted by the Governor's staff-would increase the penalties for damaging a church with fire or an explosive device; reclassify church arson as a violent crime; and stiffen the maximum sentence for church arson from four to six

(Continued on page 4)

Paul Jones appointed to district court judgeship by Governor Hunt



Paul L. Jones, director of community legal services at North Carolina Central University School of Law, has been appointed as district court judge for the Eighth Judicial District which includes Greene, Lenoir and Wayne sense of justice to this post," Hunt said. "He will serve the people of Greene, Lenoir and Wayne counties well."

Jones served as a staff attorney and assistant clerk of court for the U.S. Supreme Court.

He also served as chief legal assistance officer for the 2nd Armored Division at Ft. Hood, Texas. He was discharged in 1979 after three years of service after reaching the rank of Captain.

Jones also served two years as

the managing attorney for Eastern North Carolina Legal Services Inc., in Wilson. He was in private practice from 1982-1992. He served as supervising attorney for the Civil Rights Litigation Clinic at the N.C. Central University School of Law from 1992 to 1995

Jones received his B.S. from N.C. A&T State University in 1971 and his J.D. from N.C. Central School of Law in 1974. He also graduated from the U.S. Army's Judge Advocate Officer's basic and advanced training courses in Charlottesville,

He is a former president of the Lenoir County Bar Association and past president of the Eighth Judicial District Bar Association.



When Congress goes out of session for one of many recesses, those of us who cover the Hill get the opportunity to pursue other types of stories.

In the case of this columnist, my travels took me to a courtroom in the D.C. Superior Court to observe the case which involves former NAACP Executive Director Benjamin Chavis and Mary E. Stancil, who has filed a lawsuit against Chavis and the NAACP for alleged sexual harassment and breach of contract. She is seeking in excess of \$200,000 fo her loss of employment and the alleged harassment.

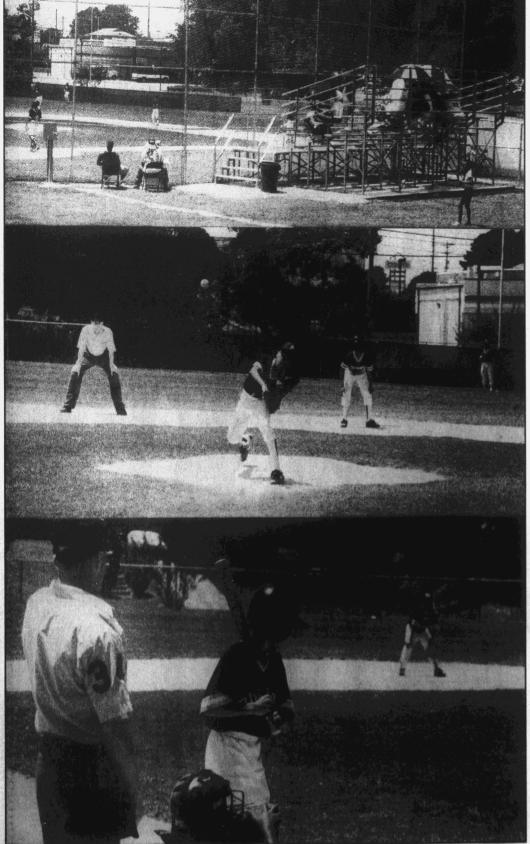
The third party in this lawsuit is the NAACP, the nation's oldest civil rights organization. The NAACP takes the position that they shouldn't be held liable to pay Ms. Stancil and that Chavis should pay of the jury finds that he is liable. The result of these conflicting interests is a table full of lawvers and some graphic testimony describing sexual liaisons between Chavis and Ms. Stancil. And at least, one other member of the group's executive board.

The trial has given a "bird's eye" view of how the nation's premier civil rights organization works. What seems to emerge is an organization with over 60 board members. This number of persons would appear to be too many to effectively arrive at any conclusion on a given subject. It also becomes clear that persons not of African American ancestry exercise control over the organization. This is readily apparent when you observe who is arguing the case on behalf of the NAACP

Unless some pages have fallen out of my history books, I thought that the NAACP was a group that fought for the inclusion of African Americans into every realm of American society, including the legal profession. If that is the case, why are the African American attorneys playing a secondary role in the trial? It would appear that the nation's oldest civil rights organization is subscribing to the old wisdom which held that, "One

man's ice is colder than your own." In courtrooms, there are winners and losers. However, in this case, it's difficult to see and clear cut winner emerging, no matter what the jury decides. If the jury decides that the claims of Ms. Stancil have merit and that Chavis alone has to pay, it is clear that the

(Continued on page 4)



THE JACKIE ROBINSON BASEBALL LEAGUE ... is currently in their new location (old Eppes Athletic field) at Tom Foreman Park. For some wholesome fun, come by...root for your favorite team...bring the entire family.

Photo by Jim Rouse



SOME OF THE ROSE HIGH GRADUATES... of 1966 held a cookout at the Green Springs Fark to celebrate their success. Conmgratulations to all area grads. Photo by Jim Rouse

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The 'm' Voice

from the desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



BEATRICE MAYE

BY-LAWS FOR IN-LAWS

1. Don't feel that you are entitled to know everything about your married children's lives (whom they entertain, what they do every night, how much money they make, what their friends are up to, etc.).

2. Don't complain that visits with your children and grand-children are too infrequent. If your son takes you to lunch, don't tell him it should be every month, and then call him to make sure that it is. Be content with whatever time he can give you.

3. Don't try to force your mar-

ried children to spend time with their married siblings. We are old enough to arrange our time together. (My mother-inlaw is constantly suggesting that we should entertain my brother and his wife every week. We love them, but neither of us has the time, money or desire to do so.)

4. Don't correct your grandchildren constantly, nor should you expect perfection. Enjoy them. Raising them is not your job.

5. Don't ask to be included when your married children tell you of some special plans. If they want to include you, they will.

6. Don't criticize your child in front of his or her spouse, and don't criticize the spouse. Neither one appreciates this.

one appreciates this.
7. Don't phone every day unless

you are asked to do so.

8. Don't drop in unexpectedly.

Ever.

9. Do develop your own friendships and your own hobbies. Your children should not be made to feel

responsible for entertaining you. 10. Do compliment your child's spouse and say thank you when thanks are due instead of behaving as if a thoughtful gesture took little time and no effort.

Cosby's 10 Commandments

Looking to be a better parent? Here, exclusively for <u>Redbook</u> readers, are Bill Cosby's 10 Commandments on childrearing.

1. Be loving, caring and generous in your praise for your child's accomplishments and efforts.

2. Be involved in your child'splay and activities.

3. Be a teacher, helping your child follow up on his or her natural curiosity and desire to understand the world.

4. Be patient, especially with young children and understanding of the fact that it takes time for them to learn.

5. Be fair but consistent disciplinarian. Be clear and reasonable when setting rules and predictable in enforcing them.

6. Teach your children responsi-

bility by giving them household chores appropriate to their ages.

7. Avoid spanking and other corporal punishments; substitute "time outs" or a restriction of privileges instead.

8. Recognize that children have rights and opinions of their own and those should be acknowledged as much as possible.

9. Offer opportunities for your child to gain experience in sports, music and dance, either through lessons or by attending events together.

10.Remember that each child has a different personality and temperament. Get to know each of your children as individuals.

Inmates work in Kinston

KINSTON - A bus loaded with 35 minimum custody inmates leaves Greene Correctional Center at 7:30 Monday through Friday mornings taking the men to their jobs working for the city of Kinston.

"We were looking for a way to save money and get more things done," said Ervin Keaton, Kinston's assistant city manager. "We've accomplished both."

"We've accomplished both."

The city signed a labor contract agreement with the prison last July. Keaton looked at the impact of that agreement after the first 78 days and found the city had re-

ceived services valued at about \$73,000. It costs the city one dollar per inmate each day.

The inmates have painted buildings including the police and fire stations, maintained ditches, kept equipment and vehicles clean, installed traffic lights and cleared weeds. One crew is even building a house.

"We look for inmates who have skills that meet the city's needs," said Bob Aiken, the prison's assistant superintendent. "We also train city staff so they'll know our guidelines for supervising inmates."

The city oversees their inmate workers and provides their transportation between the city and prison. City officials say the inexpensive manpower provides needed laborers that improve the city's appearance and free city employees to work on other duties.

Three inmates working for the city's codes and inspections office have built a twobedroom home on a city-owned lot. The city plans to sell the home to a needy resident for about \$25,000.

"We've put about \$6,000 into the construction so far and expect that it will costs about \$19,000," said Keaton. "These inmates and our staff built the house from the foundation up."

Greene Correctional Center contracts with eight state and local government agencies to work 132 inmates. The inmates work in Goldsboro, Greenville, Kinston and Wilson.

In North Carolina, 581 inmates work under contract for 29 local governments and 27 state agencies.

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Community News



HOST DESERVE BREAK... Brother Reggie Price, host and Sister Pamela Short Little, new co-host, of VIDEO INSPIRATIONS enjoy a well-deserved break from taping a recent episode of the show. VIDEO INSPIRATIONS can be seen each Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. on WFXI,

Letter To The Editor

Mr. Mrs. distinguished, constitu-

ents, my reason's for submitting this letter of intent is to welcome

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your publication to be an guest to cover our allocated, inaugeral meeting workshop, called "Jesus is the Light" and way. My incentives posthumously varies for although in president, reporter of the Sampson County 4-H Club is the children are our future located in Clinton, at current in teaching poetry and philosophy at Brantwood apartment sin Roseboro. Simultaneously most of my novices are ages 6-14, but there's adult participations as well. By way of, being an scholastic major and theologich, I feel the communical division of out greet state should be exposed to the empowerment, of each striving particular, congeniency. For more information contact, either Miss Terry Melvin 910-592-0189, 910-525-3130, Mrs. Alice Gray 910-525-3761

Sincerely yours, James S. Robinson Organization Leader

McDonald's is proud to present:

Graham praises tobacco group, pledges support for golden leaf

RALEIGH — North Carolina's tobacco industry remains a strong \$1 billion crop in the face of opposition, but growers should be prepared to leap more hurdles in the months and years ahead, state Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham told a tobacco organization here Friday.

"Friends, the tobacco industry stands at a crossroads," Graham told members of the Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corp. "We are heading into a new century. Many challenges are before us. We have been able to leap a number of obstacles that were in our path. But some await.

Graham repeated his opposition to a proposal that the fedleral Food and Drug Administration regulate nicotine as a drug

"Nicotine should not be regulated as a drug," he said. "It's the first step toward a total ban, and we know that prohibition doesn't

"As for underage smoking, nobody wants our young people to use tobacco," he said. "I say enforce the local and state laws already on the books. Don't write new federal laws.

The Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corp., celebrating its golden anniversary, administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture's flue-cured tobacco

Interesting facts

In case you find yourself among the British peerage, you might like to know that a marquess-also known as a marquis-is higher than an earl or baron but not as high as a duke. A marquess' wife is a mar-

The flying lemur can glide through the air for nearly 100 yeards — the length of a football field -at a time

Read The 'M' Voice

price support program. Flue-cured tobacco states are North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Virginia.

"Through the years, the tobacco program has been a stabilizing force, "Graham said. "We need to maintain this program. I fully sup-

Graham called 1995 a "year of ups and downs for tobacco." Production, hurt by blue mold and target spot, was down, he said, but prices were good. "Despite all of the challenges and hardships, tobacco remains the bedrock of North Carolina agriculture," Graham

said. "It also plays a large role in running North Carolina's economic engine.

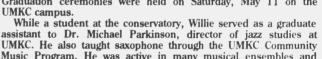
Graham reminded corporation members that to bacco - the state's top cash crop - has provided the capital for agricultural diversification, helping North Carolina climb to first in turkey and sweet potato production and to second nationw; de in hogs, cucumbers and

"There is more good news," he said. "Exports and manufactured products continue on an upward spiral. This is good for growers and workers.

Dr. Willie L. Morris, III

The son of Willie L. Morris, Jr. and Connie Morris, has completed the requirements for the degree of Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Missouri at Kansas City Conversatory of Music. Dr. Morris's degree emphasis was in saxophone performance and jazz pedagogy. His 364 dissertation is titled "The Development of the Saxophone Compositions of Paul Creston." Graduation ceremonies were held on Saturday, May 11 on the

UMKC campus.



Music Program. He was active in many musical ensembles and served as president of the student chapter association of the International Association of Jazz Educators. In 1992, Mr. Morris was the wind finalist for the UMKC Conservatory of Music Concerto Aria Competition.
Dr. Morris attended J.H. Rose Senior High School from 1974 1977. He received his Bachelors of Music Education degree from East Carolina University in 1982. Dr. Morris attended Stephen F.

Austin State University from 1982 - 1984 where he received the Masters of Arts degree. He also served as a graduate assistant to the Director of Bands at SAFES. Dr. Morris has served on the faculties of Alcorn State University in Lorman, Mississippi and the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama where he taught applied saxophone and jazz studies including the jazz bands at both institutions. He is currently teaching

at the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio where he teaches applied saxophone and is Director of Jazz Studies, Director of the University Jazz Ensemble and Assistant Director of Athletic Bands. Dr. Morris is also active as a saxophone performer and clinician. He recently performed at the North American Saxophone Alliance National Conference in Gainesville, Florida and will be performing at several colleges and universities in Indiana, Tennessee, Mississippi

and Louisiana in October of this year.

Willis is married to Shirley Elaine Morris whom he met while he was a graduate student at Stephen F. Austin. They have three sons, Willie IV age 5, Matthew Sterling age 4 and Joseph Doyle age eighteen months. They are expecting their fourth child in late December. Willie is a member of the South Dayton Presbyterian Church where he performs with the worship leadership band and is the Pointman for Promise Keepers at the church. He adds that he give thanks to the Lord for being his strength and to his parents for raising him to become the man he is today.

CELEBRATING BLACK MUSIC MONTH

Saturday, June 1st

NC Wesleyan College, Dunn Center Rocky Mount, NC Artist: **Dottie Peoples** 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 8th

Word of God Fellowship Church Raleigh, NC Artist:

Reverend James Moore featuring the Word of God Fellowship Mass Choir 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 16th

The Hilton Hotel Greenville, NC Artist: Vanessa Bell Armstrong 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 23rd

UNC - Wilmington Kenan Auditorium Wilmington, NC Artist: Christopher Gray and the NC Mass Choir 6:00 p.m.

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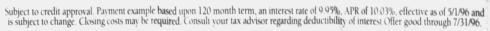
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From Page 1

Hunt has issued an Executive Order creating the Governor's Task Force on Racial or Religious Violence and Intimidation. It will comprise 21 members, including SBI Director Jim Coman; Sec. of Crime Control and Public Safety Richard Moore; a district attorney; a U.S. attorney; a police chief; a sheriff; a state Senator and state Representative; a Federal Bureau of Investigation representative, an Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms representative; four ministers; four citizens; and a member of the Hu-

Rules of Order.

Board of Commissioners.

man Relations Council and the Martin Luther King Commission.

Hunt, who will appoint the task force in coming days, has charged the group with developing strategies designed to protect religious freedom, including:

• Establishing a uniform statewide system for reporting, recording and responding to incidences or arson, vandalism and bomb threats against racial or religious

· Establishing a central location for the collection of data relatingf to racial/religious vio-

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Task Force

vated violence and intimidation. · Establishing a statewide assistance and support network for racial or religious groups that are victims of racial violence.

• Researching policies, procedures, and laws pertaining to hate

group activities and racially moti-

· Educating the public and law enforcement officials about racial and religious violence and intimidations and provide training in responding to such activities.

· Coordinating all activities related to racial and religious violence and develop a plan of implementation and monitoring.

The task force will report to Gov. Hunt at regular intervals and submit a final report by Dec. 31, 1996.

"We must do all we can—and we must work together-to stop church arsonists," Hunt said. "I've been meeting with church leaders in recent weeks to discuss how best to do that, and we will continue work side by side to protect our places of worship." Almost two weeks ago, Hunt began discussing with church and NAACP leaders the idea for the task force and tougher penalties.



THE PARENTS OF CHILDREN ... who attend the "Little Willie Center" were honored recently. Mrs. Rene Arrington (2nd from right) expressed her gratitude for the support they have shown throughout the year.

Slim & The Supreme Angels to record live album to be released on Intersound

Intersound legendary Quartet, ing to James Bullard, Intersound's Slim & The Supreme Angel, will record a live album on Monday, June 24, at Branch Memorial Tabernacle, located at 500 Gulley Street, Goldsboro. This spectacular event will take place promptly

Ken Mathews, program director of WFMC-FM radio in Goldsboro, is the M.C. of the concert. Accord-

Vice President of Gospel, "This is the first time a major recording will lake place in Goldsboro and this live concert album should be very well attended." He adds, "This area of the country is one of the strongest for supporting Quartet

Friends Helping Friends! is the theme of the concert and justly so, as Slim & Supreme Angels' friends, the Canton Spirituals and

The William Brothers, are coming to help out their friends, by sharing the stage to perform in the special. This album will he released in September.

to be released on June 25th. Everyone in the Carolinas is invited to take part and witness history at Branch Memorial Tabernacle in Goldsboro.

Slim & The Supreme Angels and The Williams Brothers are freshly

coming off a once-in-a-lifetime live

recording in Atlanta, called The

Gospel SuperBowl, which also fea-

tured the Mighty Clouds or Joy,

and is a new album on Intersound,

titled Together As One - A Tribute

To The Heritage Of Quartet Music

For more information, please call Ken Mathews at WFMC radio, 919

From Page 1

Sad Spectacle

obligation will be met over an extended period of time. If the NAACP has to pay, it would be a difficult blow to an organization that is struggling to rebuild itself financially as well as membership. Finally, if Ms. Stancil prevails, the price for winning a lawsuit would be high.

During the course of the trial, the jury has listened to graphic descriptions of certain things that appear to have happened in personal relationships with at least two men. Her competence in doing a job at the NAACP has been called into question and finally, in a town where reputations counts for ev-

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year were saying: We are deeply concerned about our future, about our children. We want to re-create who we are — as men, as fathers and husbands, as members of our community. When Minister Farrakhan told them that in the area of politics, Black America must become an independent third force, he was saying that African Americans could not trust the existing political institutions — we have to reconstruct ourselves po-

By Dr. Lenora Fulani

As I travel the country, advocat-

I think not. Frankly, I think if

that both "Americas" are saying

The Black men at the Million

Man March on Washington last

something very similar.

When 19 million white Americans voted for Ross Perot four years ago. they were saying: We're going to break a cardinal rule. We're not going to vote for a presidential candidate because we believe he will necessarily win. We are voting for him because we are concerned about our future, about our children. We no longer trust the institutions that run this society. We want to reconstruct how politics is done, how budgets are done, how policy decisions are made and who makes them.

Black and white America have a basis on which to come together. Still, even people who see the common need for a new party will ask: Don't we have to solve the race problem in order to come together? No. In fact, it's just the opposite. It's the process of bringing white Americans and Black Americans together to build a new party that solves the race problem in America.

The Black community has invested a great deal in the Democratic Party. But our return on that investment is diminishing rapidly. Bill Clinton wants our support, but not our participation. That's why he calls for curfews in Black neighborhoods and still expects us to vote for him. Some Black leaders are working over-

Famous quote

Hope is a good breakfast, but it is a bad su<mark>pper.</mark>

Francis Bacon

Prosperity doth best discover vice, but adversity doth best discover virtue

Francis Bacon

Everything is funny as long as it is happening to somebody else. Will Rogers

The art of pleasing consists in being pleased.

William Hazlitt

munity that we have to support Clinton, because there is no other

I believe that we do have another choice. It would serve the African American community well to go independent in 1996, and to do so by depriving Bill Clinton of enough votes to cost him the election A Black exodus to the Reform Party, together with other tradi-tionally liberal voters who feel in-

time to convince the Black com- creasingly abandoned by Clinton accomplishes two important things. It tells both political parties that African Americans will not be taken for granted. And it propels the Reform Party into the position of creating a new plurality coalition in American politics. In a three-party situation, the one with the plurality wins. That is why my message to the Black community this year is Dump Clinton and Build Reform.



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DEADBEAT PARENTS

These ten parents are being sought by the Edgecombe County Department of Social Service's Child Support Enforcement Unit for not paying their child support. If you have any information about any of these parents, please call (919) 641-7950 or (919) 985-5030.



JASON ASHLEY

Age Found As Of
Hair from
Lyes: Brown
leight Eyes: Brown Height: 6' Weight: 160 lbs.

Last Known Whereabouts

Occupation: Construction

Rocky Mount, NC

64 62 CARL LEE JOHNSON

Past Due Support As Of 02-02-96: \$16,838.20

Age: 38 Hair: Black Eyes: Dark Brown Height: 5'10" Weight: 140 lbs. Last Known Whereabouts Tarboro, NC Occupation: Factory Work



MICHAEL JONES

Age Foundas of Hair: Foundas of Eyes: P Eyes: B. wn Height: 6' Weight: 175 lbs. Last Known Whereabouts Durham, NC

Occupation: Delivery



PAULA ROGERS GREGG

Age: Found's Of Hair b Jac Eyes: Blue leigh Eyes: Blue Height: 4'11" Weight: 110 lbs. Last Known Whereabouts

Castalia, NC Occupation: Exotic Dancer



ELLIOT DUBOSE FORTE

Age: 3 COLING As Of Hair: 1 Brown Height: 5'7" Weight: 180 lb Rocky Mount, NC Occupation: Laborer



DONALD BRYANT

Age Round As Of Hair Eye Eyes: drown Height: 5'4" Weight: 140 lbs. Last Known Whereab Rocky Mount, NC Occupation: Laborer



MICHAEL ANGELO REDMAN

Past Due Support As Of 02-29-96: \$17,552.00

Age: 32 Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'5" Weight: 160 lbs. Last Known Whereabouts: Waterbury, Connecticut Occupation: Farm Laborer



JOHNNY LYNN DILDY

Past Due Support As Of 03-06-96: \$9,951.20

Age: 39 Hair: Black/Gray Height: 5'7"
Weight: 170 lbs.
Last Known Whereabouts:
Fayetteville, NC
Occupation: Factory Industry



RICKY LEONARD COLLINS

Found to or Height: 5'11" Weight: 185 lbs. Last Known Wher



THORNE

Past Due Support As Of 03-06-96: \$18,970.00

Age: 34 Hair: Brownish/Black Eyes: Brown
Height: 5'9"
Weight: 215 lbs.
Last Known Whereabouts
Battleboro, NC
Occupation: Retail Sales

EDGECOMBE COUNTY WORKS FOR CHILDREN

Eyes: Brown

BETWEEN THE LINES

Charting Our Children's LEARNing Course by Privatized Education

By A. ASADULLAH SAMAD

The continuing discussions about breaking up the nation's second largest school district, Los Angeles Unified School District, has again

made student instruction the center of attention. Needless to say, it has always been the center of attention in "certain schools" among "certain people."

Just follow the distribution and application of educational resources to ascertain which ones were "student" focused on instructional learning and which ones are "adult" focused on administrative politics. Where you find schools focused on instruction, you find creative alternatives to public education bureaucracy that give schools the necessary empowerment to make decisions regarding a child's learn-

Where you find a school focused on administration, you find



A. ASADULLAH SAMAD

resistance to alternatives that empower the school (and the surrounding) community's ability to make decisions regarding a child's learning. And when you examine where the creative alternatives are, the LEARN schools and the Charter schools, not only are very few in our communities but the resistance to expanding these opportunities are great.

Everybody's trying to get out of LAUSD, to get into refocusing and reestablishing public education's instruction base that focuses on children again. Yet, our schools are being encouraged to swim against the tide and reject a movement that everybody else (and their children) are accepting as the first steps of public education reform. Why is this? It makes no

Just like big business is downsizing and public agencies are privatizing to run more efficiently and more cost-effective (profitable), public education is slowly but steadily being privatized as the basis for the reestablishing instructional based education for children. Private school performance has literally forced public school reform and it has come in the form of the LEARN project and in this latest wave of charter school proposals.

LEARN has proven, among its skeptics, to be an excellent model to institute public education reform initiatives. It operates out of a very fundamental premise that "every child can learn." Not a position espoused very often in inner city schools, many of which have become holding tanks for the prison system.

While inner city private schools, like the University of Islam and Marcus Garvey School, has espoused for years that there is no such thing

as an incorrigible child and that every child can be taught, public inner city schools continued to promote the notion that social environment prohibits our children from learning. Meanwhile, LEARN incorporated many private sector business attributes to education that refocused public schools back on instruction.

By allowing schools to manage their own budgets, reducing the ratio of administrators to line staff, establishing clusters that put students on educational feeder patterns that allowed students to receive community services before their parents, decentralizing management services which allow school stakeholders (students, teachers, parents, community) to have a greater input into the direction of the school and most importantly, getting rid of bad (and ineffective) teachers, LEARN has created the kind of educational collaborative that encourages learning. Yet there is only one cluster attempting to go LEARN clusterwide and less than a half dozen LEARN sites in South Central Los Angeles.

Schools eligible for LEARN in South Central have been bogged down with misinformation, union politics and manipulation by administrators that spend more time trying to educate teachers on LEARN so they can vote on it than educating the children that can benefit from what LEARN proposes. So public education reform is passing us by.

Charter schools, another public education reform initiative looking to head-off the mass exodus that public choice (voucher) initiatives would bring about, is another alternative where instruction curriculum can be modified to accommodate the learning focus of the child.

URBAN PERSPECTIVE

Ron Brown: An Emotional, Insightful Speech By a Great Man

By LARRY AUBRY

On Jan. 25, Commerce Secretary Ron Brown spoke at the National Policy Institute in Washington, D.C., a quadrennial gathering of black elected officials, civil rights leaders, community activists, clergy and policy experts. I attended the institute and was struck by the spontaneity and sincerity of Ron Brown's speech

Ron Brown discarded his prepared text and spoke with passion about the need for African Americans to assume leadership and adapt to the dramatic changes taking place in the world. He also warned that blacks must resist efforts to reverse the gains of the 1960s and '70s, and work cooperatively with those who share our interests.

Of course, just two months later, Ron Brown was the victim of a tragic plane crash in the Balkans. The speech at the National Policy Institute was one of his last and most poignant. Ex-

cerpts from that speech are as fol-

"I am very appreciative and very pleased to be here in your warm embrace. With all I go through every day, I need a warm embrace!

"I'm going to remember the admonition of my father, who always



LARRY AUBRY

told me, 'Ron, your speeches do not have to be eternal to be immortal.' I came tonight with a prepared text and have decided not to use it ... because I'm among brothers and sisters who understand what the

struggle is all about. "I'm going to tell the truth tonight. To be here with a group of leaders—leaders of organizations, people who are connected to our communities and to have a chance to dialogue with you and feel your energy and strength is a very special privilege.

"We live in extraordinarily challenging times. We have many challenges within our own community, and it is certainly appropriate for us to focus on those challenges. But it seems to me if we're really interested in making a difference, we need to put our concerns into some broader perspective. We need to understand what is going on in the world around us and how that relates to us and how that causes us to re-evaluate the way we think and the way we approach things. Change is going on all over this globe and

we are now more interrelated and interdependent than we have ever been before.

"Who in this room, for example, would have considered eight years ago that there would be no more Soviet Union? It doesn't exist anymore. Who would have believed or predicted enormous changes taking place in Eastern and Central European countries that have been moving from dictatorship and totalitarianism to democracy, and from statecontrolled economies to marketdriven economies? And who would have predicted what is happening in China? We have to be in China if we are to protect our commercial interests and create economic growth and jobs here at home.

"Consider Latin America. We had a summit of the Americas in Miami, Florida in December 1994, the first one in almost three decades. In the 1960s, almost all the leaders who attended came in military uniforms. This time, the participants came in civilian dress, popularly elected by the people of their nations.

years after Nelson Mandela's release, he is leading his country from the ugliness of apartheid to the beauty of nonracial democracy. These are all dramatic, incredible changes that have got to influence the way we think about our role in America and the world.

"For the first time, we in America are realizing that we have a tremendous advantage in this new world because we have the most diverse society in the world. Look at where the new markets are in the world. They are in Asia, Latin America and Africa. America has substantial numbers of people from these countries. Maybe, just maybe, for the first time in all of U.S. history, women and minorities will be looked at as assets instead of liabilities.

"You know some of our adversaries in America have a very interesting way of operating. Whenever you step out beyond your community, they label you as something different, so that you feel no responsibility for your community and

"Look at South Africa. Just five it feels no real interest in you, or even in protecting you. That's a pretty scary thing and we've got to change that mentality.

"Those of us who have had opportunities and achievements need to always remember that we can never disconnect ourselves from our communities. And those of you on whose shoulders we have stood should not leave us out there by ourselves.

'We must have unity. But unity doesn't mean that you can't walk down different paths and take on different responsibilities. Unity means looking out for each other. It means understanding our commonality. It means understanding your responsibility to your community.

"We must be steadfast and focused. We must plan together and struggle together and reach out to each other and embrace each other and love each other.

"I think we have a special responsibility and that responsibil-

MINORITY REPORT

Black Males Going Into Jails as Black Girls Study Social Whirls

By JAMES ALSBROOK, PhD

Hundred of young black women attending historically white colleges are condemning young black men for dating white women. Some of their complaints are reported in the May 10 issue of the prestigious and widely-circulated Chronicle of Higher Educa-

tion. Its front page features an integrated couple walking on the campus of Brown University, the highly-respected Ivy League pride of Providence, R.I.

The large photo shows Rachel Davidson, a white sophomore, clinging to the arm of Ralph Johnson, a black sophomore and treasurer of Brown University's largest black student group, the Organization of United African Peoples. Johnson spent much time scheduling speakers for Black History Month and once each week he serves as mentor to black high school students at a community center in Provi-

The Chronicle reports that Johnson said, "Two people



JAMES E. ALSBROOK, PhD

and other black men who date white women are condemned by Brown's black women and their names are posted on the dormitory room door of one "neglected" black female student.

One factor affecting black women at Brown Univ. is that for every four black women on campus there are only three black men. Brown has 211 black female students and only 154 black males. On a nationwide basis, the ratio is even worse. The U.S. Department of Education reports that for the approximately 900,000 black women in college, there are only 550,000 black men.

Various reports show that the wide differences in the number of college-attending black women and college-attending black men exist ecause the black family traditionally has valued its women more than

The black family seemed to think that a black male could get a job, work hard and be a man by finding and marrying a good woman and raising a family. The young black man could not get pregnant and could not get raped.

But the girls in the black family usually by tradition have been "special." They needed more family protection, the reasoning goes, and therefore they needed whatever special advantages a family could bestow. Their options increased when they had a college degree and they did not have to "work in the white folks' kitchens." With college training she could find a job teaching school, be a respectable lady and a good "catch" for a professional man such as a doctor, lawyer, teacher, merchant or undertaker.

With this education and status she would become an influential and contributing member of the local black community. Her parents

love each other and there should be nothing wrong with that." Johnson and kin folks, therefore, would grow in community status and in

Moreover, the parents of black girls knew some who had 'worked out in service," seldom came back home to visit and never became married. Some had half-white children by the white heads of households and were trapped in shame and unimportance, untrained except for menial service outside the black community. Her family loved her but felt pity and embarrassment for her. The thinking black family followed this reasoning and used its limited resources preferably to educate the young black female.

The same reasoning in reverse usually applies to white families and their young white males. The white young male has been looked upon as a potential family and community leader and defender. He was becoming a WHITE MAN. The family image was tied to HIS success. HE would perpetuate the family name and the family fame.

White girls, on the other hand, have never been prized as highly as white boys and if only one sex could go to college, preference went to the white boy.

For many years, only white males were admitted to the highest-rated schools such as Harvard, Yale and other private

Long ago, the black family should have sought upward mobility by training its black men as well as its black women. Yesterday, the choice was kitchen work or teaching for girls. Today, it is becoming either college or prison for the boys.

(James E. Alsbrook, PhD, is professor emeritus at Ohio University.)



Gantt: "Defend Our Own Churches"

By Cash Michaels

Staff Writer Democratic U.S. Senatorial hopeful Harvey Gantt says that, given the rash of black church burnings across the South and possible racdefend our churches."

"If we don't get the protection from the normal law enforcement functions in the cities—police and sheriff's departments—we have to protect ourselves," Gantt, 53, told The CAROLINIAN exclusively during his visit to state Democratic Party headquarters in Raleigh Saturday.

"We have to increase our own security, and [there] may be a sacrifice to it, but we should defend our churches. That is the last institution we've got left in the commu-

places of worship.

rican-American community "should up in white racist, white supremacist idealogy from destroying their churches. If you do that, you create a war," warned Rev. Mac Charles Jones, Associate General Secretary of the National Council of Churches.

"That means I'm gonna have to sit out in front of my church with a gun... [and the violence] will not stop in rural areas given the climate of this country. It will be like a tinderbox, and this country will explode. It is that serious."

Gantt, a former Charlotte mayor, was clearly disturbed by the torch-

Several black pastors in Wash- ing, two days earlier, of the historic last occurring in Greenville, Texas ington D.C. Monday disagreed, Matthews-Murkland Presbyterian Sunday night when the New Lightthough, saying it was the Church in the Queen City. A 13government's job to safeguard their year-old white female was arrested damage 40 miles east of Dallas. and charged Monday with starting "You cannot talk about black folk the blaze in the rear of the 93-yearist conspiracy behind them, the Af- preventing those who are caught old structure June 6 which had not been used for several years, and was slated for renovation.

Authorities say the teen acted alone with no apparent racial motivation, and no national connection to the crime.

It was the second of three black church burnings since June 3, the

house of Prayer suffered extensive

So far, 36 black church fires, including some in Washington, New York, New Jersey, and Arizona, have been investigated by federal authorities in the last 18 months, according to ABC News, leading to 6 arrests, and two convictions.

STRONG STANDS—Like President Clinton, who visited a burned out church in South Carolina yesterday, Democratic U.S. Senatorial hopeful Harvey Gantt made it clear that he deplores the epidemic of black church terrorism and says if law enforcement can't do the job, then African-Americans have to protect their places of worship. (Photo by Cash Michaels)

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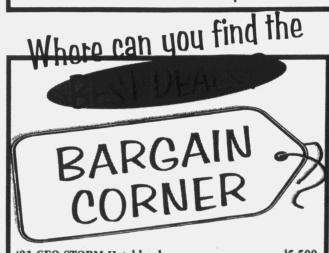
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East Carolina

355-3333

Black church burnings escalate

By Herb Boyd Even while 38 Black pastors were meeting in Washington, D.C., this past weekend to discuss the burning of their churches with government officials, another church was torched in Greenville, Tex., on Sunday. Over the last year and a half 32 Black churches-most of them in the rural southeastern part of the nation—have been firebombed.

A 13-year-old white girl has been arrested and charged with setting fire to one of the recent churches in Charlotte, N.C. Neither the

girl's identity nor motive has been established. And three suspectstwo white men and a Hispanichave been apprehended for the Sunday night fire in Greenville, Tex. They are also being held on alcohol-related charges.

"They have been burning down our buildings," said Rev. Dennis Lawson of Canaan AME Baptist Church in Mt. Pleasant, Tenn., but the church continues. Lawson's church was attacked in January 1995.

This message of resiliency and resolve echoed from minister to

minster during the two-day assembly in Washington that innity to exchange information about cluded meetings with Attorney General Janet Reno, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Congressional appointments with each pastor's respective representatives. The pastors also participated in a mini-revival at Rev. John Chaplin's Pleasant Lane Baptist Church.

"One of the good things about these meetings," said Rev. Dr. Justice of the National Council of Churches and pastor of St. Stephen's Baptist Church in Kanthe church burnings, to dialogue with government leaders and among ourselves."

Rev. Jones and the NYCC, along with the Center for Democratic Renewal of Atlanta and the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York City, have spearheaded the action to combat what many believe are race-motivated crimes.

The fellowship and solidarity among the pastors, and their determination to place the epidemic of domestic terrorism on the national agenda, reverberated all the way to the White House. On Wednesday, President Bill Clinton, who has already denounced the burnings on his national radio show is scheduled to visit the opening ceremonies of Rev. Terrence Mackey's rebuilt Mt. Zion AME Church in Greenleyville,

There is speculation that President Clinton has chosen to attend this ceremony—which has been accelerated to meet the demands of his schedule—to focus attention on church fires in a state that has

the highest number of reported fires and the fastest growing chapters of the Ku Klux Klan. Informed sources have also disclosed that a member of a hate group, the SS, led by a white supremacist who calls himself Adolph, has confessed to burning a church as part of his initiation into the organization. He alleges that other initiation rites included lynching a Black man and riddling a Black household with shotgun blasts.

Meetings with Reno and Rubin were highly productive, the pastors said, with each of them pledging to look into charges that agents from the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms are insensitive to the plight of the victims. "While we hav eyet to see any conspiracy in the church burnings, racial animus seems to be driving these incidents," said Deval Patrick, assistant attorney general.

"We will investigate every lead and check on charges that agents have been insensitive," Rubin told the pastos, who seemed pleased that the investigators were going to be investigated. Many of them had reported that the agents were more concerned with interrogating the victims than looking for the perpetrators. "In too many instances the victims were suddenly the suspects," Jones complained.

Another result of the Washington gathering will occur this week on Capitol Hill, where Cong. John Conyers (D. Mich.) will introduce a bill to combat racially motivated terrorism and hate crimes. According to Patrick, 20 of the crimes have been white males with connections to hate groups.

A major problem with arson cases, Patrick noted, was "that all the evidence burns, but we have 200 investigators in the field and this is the largest civil rights investigation at this time," he added. While federal authorities are reluctant to suggest a conspiracy in connection with the fires, it is the conclusion of many of the Black pastors and their supporters. "And if it's not a conspiracy," charged Ron Daniels, director of the Center for Constitutional Rights, "then it's even worse because that indicates that the climate for such actions reaches beyond a few hate groups."

In an effort to show their concern for the gravity of the situation, both Patrick and Jim Johnson, an assistant Secretary of the Treasury, attended the ecumenical service at Pleasant Lane Baptist Church in the southeast sector of the city. They heard graphic accounts of church burnings from several ministers at an affair that was moderated by Rev. Joan Brown Campbell of NCC, and which included Reggie White, the Green Bay Packer linebacker, who has been among the most outspoken foes of the terrorism since his church was fire-bombed in January, 1996.

"I am disappointed in the media and the response of the Black community, and my fellow Black athletes to these atrocities," White bellowed. "I say to the professional athletes in the major leagueswhether you play baseball, football or basketball-our churches are burning, and what are you going to do? Our Black entertainers need to step up and do something sbout this situation. Where is Bill Cosby, Oprah Winfrey, Michael Jordan, Denzel Washington? Our churches

are burning." Reverend Patricia Clowman, whose St. John's Baptist Church in Dixiana, S.C. was burned to the ground in the summer of 1995, moved the overflow crowd at the church with a spirited rendition of

"His Eyes Are on the Sparrow." Among New Yorkers in attendance were Ron Daniels, director of the Center for Constitutional Rights, Rev. Timothy Mitchell of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Flushing, and Rev. Lucius Walker of the Interfaith Council and Pastors for



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