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VOICE

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 7-15, 1996

Black and Latino votes put Clinton on top for 2nd term

By J. ZAMGBA BROWNE
Amsterdam News Staff

Blacks and Latinos across the country helped William Jefferson Clinton to make history on Tuesday. Their overwhelming vote not only put him over the top and gave him a second shot at the presidency, but also allowed him to become the first Democrat since Franklin D. Roosevelt to be re-elected.

These voters were apparently convinced that Clinton, in his second four-year term, will continue to be sensitive to their economic and social plights, something which they didn't feel his chief Republican rival, Sen. Bob Dole, could do under a "mean spirited" GOP agenda.

As the Amsterdam News went to print Wednesday morning, Clinton had crushed Dole by some 50 percentage points, with Reform Party candidate Ross Perot trailing far behind.

Clinton also had an impressive showing in the Electoral College.

Clinton wasn't the only one celebrating the day after the big Democratic big upset for the White House. Several of his staunch supporters here and across the country also seemed elated that he was able to survive what critics described as a "sleazy campaign" waged by his opponents.

State Comptroller H. Carl McCall said Clinton's re-election should bring a collective sigh of relief for people of color across the nation. "The grim alternative, the election of Sen. Dole, would have been a big setback for the democratic process," he added.

McCall said he expects the Clinton administration to designate a cabinet that looks like America and to back key initiatives that will improve the lives

of minorities across the country. "No other president in history has demonstrated this kind of inclusion," said McCall.

He praised the president as one who has stood behind college student loan programs that would have been further slashed if "we had made a big mistake Tuesday and elected Sen. Dole to lead this nation." Congressman Major Owens said he was elated over Clinton's victory because he thinks the president would now be in a better position to turn back the regressive tide against social programs and affirmative action.

However, Owens, who represents Brooklyn's 11th Congressional District, wants the president's tactics for gaining grants and expanding programs with the African-American community to be sophisticated and focused.

City Councilmember Una Clarke said she was confident that Clinton, in his second term, will revisit a number of these issues, including welfare and immigration reform laws, to repeal the most odious provisions of the new laws and to address the common concerns of the poor.

"I have every confidence that in his next term, the president will work hard to rebuild a bipartisan coalition aimed at working with our urban communities on empowerment issues," said Clarke.

Councilmember Adam Clayton Powell IV said a second Clinton-Gore administration represents the best choice for the future of African-American and Latino communities. He added that Clinton is firmly committed to preparing young people for the 21st century by assuring they have access to the technology necessary for the 21st century.

(Continued on page 2)



NATIONALLY KNOWN RECORDING STAR...ROY C...(Center) will be coming back to Greenville on Saturday, November 16. Fans, friends and well wishers will share a Big Cabaret. According to Roy C., coming to Greenville is like "coming home"
Voice Photo by Jim Rouse

4 charged with church burning in North Carolina

By HERB BOYD
Special to the Amnews
If the Justice Department has been slow in its apprehension of

felons burning churches in the nation - most of them with predominantly Black congregations - it has increased the number of

arrests of those charged with cross-burnings.

Recently, four North Carolina men were charged with burning two crosses on the lawn of a home occupied by a racially mixed couple near Waynesville, N.C., the Justice Department reports.

This brings the number of cases stemming from cross-burning incidents to more than 20, involving some 30 defendants.

The men charged in the Waynesville arrests - Leonard Haynes, Martin King, Alfred Smith and Eugene Smith - face three count indictments, including violations of federal criminal civil rights laws.

The four men, the indictment charges, conspired to burn a cross in front of a trailer located in a rural area and occupied by Gordon Cullins and Hazel Annette, a mixed-race couple.

According to Deval Patrick, assistant attorney general for civil rights, "the case underscores our commitment to investigating these crimes until they are solved," he said. "Hateful acts like cross burnings strike at the heart of the community and must

be stopped."

Count one of the indictment charges the four with conspiring to violate civil rights statutes, Count two charges that the defendants used force or threat of Force against individuals exercising their right to occupy a dwelling, and count three charges the four with using fire to commit a felony. If convicted, each faces up to 21 years in prison and fines of up to \$600,000.

"We will continue to smother the flames of racial hatred," Patrick added. Meanwhile, on Sunday, Oct. 9, three Black teenagers were wounded in a drive-by shooting in a small town outside Columbia, S.C. The two men charged with the assault are allegedly members of the Ku Klux Klan.

The incident occurred a day after an anti-racism conference sponsored by the National Council of Churches, ended in Columbia. Whether the shooting was related to the conference is still being investigated. The three youths are reportedly out of serious danger, although one may be paralyzed for life.

On Tony Brown's Journal (PBS)

"Has The American government declared war on Black America?"

Tony Brown's *Journal*, one of the nation's longest-running television series, will examine the controversy surrounding the allegation that the CIA played a role in launching the crack-cocaine epidemic in the inner cities of the United States, the week of November 8-14 (check with local PBS stations for exact date and time).

This story reached national notoriety when the *San Jose Mercury News* began publishing a series alleging that the origins of the crack cocaine epidemic among inner city Blacks was started by two Nicaraguans. The article stated that the Nicaraguans raised millions of dollars for the CIA's contra army in Nicaragua by selling large quantities of cocaine to a South Central Los Angeles dope pusher who converted it into crack. The implication was that the CIA was aware of a scheme to introduce crack cocaine to raise money to fight communism while devastating American communities.

The CIA denies any involvement and mainstream news organizations such as *The Washington Post* and *The Los Angeles Times* reported that there is no evidence to support a CIA role or a master plan to traffic drugs in South Central Los Angeles in 1983.

However, PBS commentator Tony Brown examines the charges and the relationship between the federal government and Black America within a broader historical framework. "If the allegations about a CIA-sponsored crack-cocaine epidemic

that wrecked entire Black communities in the 80s and 90s are true, it could represent the continuation of a government policy that began in 1917," says Tony Brown.

Using documentation that he gathered for his book, *Black Lies, White Lies: The Truth According To Tony Brown* (William Morrow & Company), Brown examines the Military Intelligence Division's campaign against Black America during WWI. This domestic spy network was the largest ever assembled in a free country.

It is documented that this government intelligence against Blacks continued into the 1960s, and perhaps beyond. Brown noted that when the spy network was organized in 1917, President Woodrow Wilson and the government assumed that because Blacks were discriminated against, they would not be loyal to America during times of war. This domestic intelligence operation served as a forerunner of the COINTELPRO FBI-led counter-insurgency program of the 1960s, and perhaps others. Brown examines the connection between the Army's spy network and the U. S. intelligence community's surveillance of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. He reports that military leaders mobilized and dispatched troops including snipers, and scouted 124 cities as war zones in preparation for an outbreak of war with Black America, led by Martin Luther King, in April 1968, the month King was assassinated.

(Continued on page 3)



"STUMPIN' DOWN EAST"...Former President Jimmy Carter (bottom) came to Greenville to lend his support to Senatorial hopeful, Harvey Gantt (seen in top photo). They met with the kind of heart-warming hospitality that only the home folks 'Down East' offer.
Voice photo by Jim Rouse



FROM THE 'M' VOICE ARCHIVES...For a "blast from the past" ...this photograph of Rev. Howard Parker (L), Ms. Debra Leathers (C), and Mr. Donovan Phillips (R) surfaced recently. This trio of happy faces were present at one of the many community functions they support regularly.

Voice photo by Jim Rouse

From Page 1

Clinton re-elected

While many interests compete for the president's attention, Powell said he was confident that under a Clinton-Gore administration, at least one door is open to the nation's Black and Latino communities. "Under Sen. Dole, this door would have been shut," he added.

Powell predicts that Clinton's legacy will be made in his second term. "Since he no longer has to worry about re-election, there will be a battle in Washington to determine the direction his policies will take," according to the councilman.

But State Sen. David Paterson said now that Clinton has been re-elected, African-Americans, Latinos and progressive whites

have to be very suspicious of how his second administration will affect their neighborhoods.

"The lack of resources spent in our districts to solicit our vote during the campaign, combined with the way President Clinton pandered to conservatives by signing the Welfare Reform Bill, did not send the most-endearing message," Paterson declared.

Paterson said he held his tongue during the campaign because he knew that the Republicans were advocating draconian cuts in Social Security and Medicaid and putting the future of the poor masses in their hands would be suicidal.

Paterson said he was very loyal to the Clinton-Gore campaign,

but now it's time to raise some issues. "We need to pressure the new administration to create jobs for all the people who were kicked off a number of social programs," he added.

But Congressman Jose Serrano said he has no fear. "President Clinton has shown that he will stand up for the issues that are of importance to the African-American and Latino communities," Serrano declared. He praised the president for successfully reversing a host of "mean-spirited" provisions which the Republicans had included in the immigration reform bill. Had it passed, Serrano said it would have denied public education and other programs to immigrant children.

Serrano said he was confident that during a Clinton second term, the president will continue to stand up for the rights of those who are "most vulnerable in our society," including children who are too young to vote. Congressman Edolphus Towns said the state of African Americans after four years of Clinton's leadership in many ways is brighter than it was before he took office. "We are in a better position than we would before had the GOP in the White House," he added.

Towns said he would expect the president to continue his commitment to work with African-Americans to rebuild a better future for their children. "I also expect him to change elements of the new welfare law," he continued.

Assemblyman Roberto Camirez said that with Clinton's re-election, a clear message has been sent to supporters of the republican anti-immigrant and anti-affirmative action agenda; that Blacks and Latinos will stand up and make their voices heard.

While the Clinton administration made a great deal of progress in expanding trade, growing the economy and reducing the deficit, Congressman Charles B. Rangel said a lot more must be done, especially if America is to maintain its leadership in international trade. "We have the opportunity for tremendous economic growth into the next century," according to Rangel. "But we must make it clear to our trading partners that while we support free trade, we will insist on fairness and equity for U.S. companies and workers," he added.

Hugh B. Price head of the Na-

tional Urban League, said he wants Clinton in his second term to be the leading advocate to make sure that all American children are educated to world class standards and thus share the American Dream.

"We must end the Great Depression in urban America," Price declared. "We believe an urban policy must have a laser like focus on jobs for the inner city poor," he continued. "For the sake of our country, we ask the president and the nation's leaders to pledge that the sun will not rise on the 21st century without a national urban jobs policy," Price emphasized.

Attorney Moore said that although African-American and Latinos voted overwhelmingly for the Democratic ticket, the Clinton victory is not a "unmitigated blessing" for Black people. He stressed that there will be collateral benefits, such as a more liberal Supreme Court, and legislative policies that are less ideological.

Moore stressed that Clinton's victory on Tuesday masks an awesome fact that America is moving inexorably to the right, and that the president won by merely appearing above the head

of the Democratic constituency to woo the GOP and independent voters.

"The Clinton cabinet is going to be overwhelmingly white and male and his policies will place an emphasis on fiscal restraint rather than social compassion," Moore predicted. He also said that the president's victory is a "case of lowered expectation and hope deferred."

It looks like members of the New York City Council will have to start dusting off their resumes after voters Tuesday gave a big thumbs-down to their campaign quimed at extending term limits to three consecutive four-year terms.

New Yorkers, four years ago, had backed a referendum, limiting the number of term a City Council member could serve to eight years. But it seemed that most of the members, including Speaker Peter Vallone, didn't get the message. They mounted an aggressive campaign to reverse the decision in Tuesday's election, and lost. When the votes were tallied, 587,264 said no to Vallone and company, as compared to 505,477 who wanted the term extended.

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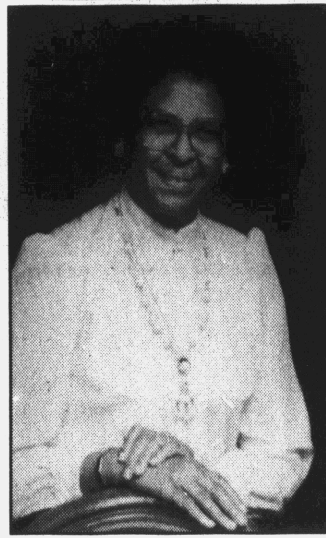
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from the desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



BEATRICE MAYE

To the editor

HARVEY GANTT, you're not a loser in the hearts and minds of working families, religious people who do not disdain causes for civil rights, and for a strong, government-backed safety net for the need and protection of the environment.

More specifically, in North Carolina, yes, Greenville and Pitt County still not ready for a welcomed change? Along racial lines, progress is yet minimal, still tokenism, but Greenville's slogan is - "Greenville Has It All".

We had a chance to put a man with vision, who's in touch with the 90's into office. It's time to put aside our prejudices. Let's help President Clinton build that bridge to a better future and hopefully Governor Hunt will include more minorities in his new crop of leaders to follow his path.

It just boils down to this: Regardless of credentials, qualifications, leadership skills, strength of character or achievement, a Black man's climb seems to be insurmountable. We are still fighting change and subtle prejudice is evident. Look at the money being spent on erecting jails. Criminals in jails exceed students enrolled in colleges and universities, and the breakdown in positive family relationships. We are tired of being sick and tired. Somebody needs to listen.

Beatrice Maye

BLADDER INFECTION

The symptoms of a bladder infection are pretty unpleasant: burning or pain on urination, drops of blood in urine or on the toilet paper, difficulty holding urine in or letting it out, lower back pain, a stream that's just a drizzle or a spray, and a frequent urge to urinate. If you have any or all of these symptoms, chances are high you have a bladder infection, which about one in five women will experience at least once.

So how did you end up with this evil thing? Doctors aren't totally sure, but they have some ideas. In about 80 percent of cases, the bacterium that causes a bladder infection lives in your bowel and is in your stools. The moral is: Always wipe from front to back so you're not helping the little guys migrate to where they can cause trouble. The other 20 percent of Bladder infections are caused by a bacterium that doesn't normally exist in your body, and doctors aren't sure why it makes a beeline for your urethra, but they suspect douching may be a culprit.

Bladder infections occur when urine stays in your bladder longer than it should. Normally, if you have any bacteria in your urine, it will be flushed out as soon as you urinate. If, however, it hangs out in your bladder for a while, it begins to grow and you risk developing an infection.

If you're one of unlucky girls who are prone to bladder infections (which may have to do with the shape of your bladder), you can take some precautions. Drink cranberry juice, which contains a compound that keeps bacteria from sticking to the lining of the bladder (neat trick, huh?). It's also a good idea to drink enough water - ideally, eight glasses a day, but do what you can - to flush out your system regularly.

From: THE SEVENTEEN GUIDE TO SEX AND YOUR BODY, by Sabrina Solin.... Call for it at Carver Library, please.

REFORMATION

We can have a reformation in our churches, if all the sleeping folk will WAKE UP

And all the lukewarm will FIRE UP.

And all the dishonest will SETTLE UP.

And all the depressed will LOOK UP.

And all the discouraged will CHEER UP.

And all the angered will MAKE UP.

And all the gossipers will SHUT UP.

And all the dry bones will SHAPE UP.

And all the church members will PAY UP.

Then the CHURCH will be ready to GO UP to the SAVIOUR when HE comes. (Could find no author).

AUTHORITY and GREED: Do leaders exemplify these two elements too much in their leadership?

Meet the Tate Family

The following selection comes from Rosemary Lucky, teacher of English at East, and is borrowed from a speech by Barry Edwards:

Do you work with any members of the Tate family?

There is Dic Tate who wants to run everything; while Ro Tate tries to charge everything. Agi Tate stirs up plenty of trouble with a lot of help from her friend, Irri Tate.

Whenever new projects are suggested, Hesi Tate and his friend, Vege Tate, want to wait until next year. Then there is Imi Tate who wants everything to be just like it was where he used to work. Devas Tate provides a voice of doom, while Poten Tate wants to be a big shot.

But these are not all of the Tate members. Facili Tate is quite helpful in many areas. And a delightful person in the Tate Family is Felici Tate. Cogi Tate and Medi Tate always think things through and lend a helping hand. And of course there is one renegade in our midst, Ampu Tate who has completely cut himself off from the rest.

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WASHINGTON, N.C. . . .The 'M' Voice Newspaper camera was on the campaign trail recently. Shown above are Brothers who care. name these brothers and the former Mayor of Washington and win a free dinner for two. Send answers to: The 'M' Voice Newspaper, 310 Evans Street, Greenville, NC 27834.

Voice photos by Jim Rouse

A Carolina Christmas Show coming to Raleigh

RALEIGH, N.C., Summer is waning and Christmas is coming. And it's all going to happen before you can get your jingle bells unpacked.

But while you are looking for your jingle bells, the elves at Carolina Concepts are putting together the Carolina Christmas Show, Raleigh's annual prelude to the holiday season.

The Twentieth Annual Carolina Christmas Show features more than 400 exhibitors from throughout the country displaying unique gifts and art work. They will be gathering in the Holiday Market place for six exciting days, November 19 - 24, 1996. The Show has Christmas decorations, working craftsmen, plants, music, miles and miles of beautiful green garland, red velvet Christmas bows, and excellent Christmas shopping. The Village pavilion will be romantic enchantment at its best. Don't miss the table, tree, door, and mantel decorating done by area professional designers. The theme for this year's show is "Colonial Christmas." Hannaford's Food and Drug Superstore is the show sponsor this year. They are distributing flyers in all their five stores in the Raleigh-Cary area. Also, when you attend the show, pick up a complimentary shopping bag, courtesy of Hannaford's, and make sure you register for the daily gift certificates they will be giving away at the show.

While at the show, you will find delicious foods, decorated trees, ornaments and gifts and crafts by the thousands, educational and entertaining exhibits and features for the whole family. Sanderson High School, in

cooperation with friends of the Performing Arts in Raleigh, will be providing gift wrapping to customers of the show as a fundraiser project. Let them do the wrapping for you this year! If you know someone who is a Civil War, World War II, Vietnam War, or Desert Storm buff, make sure you see Wayne Cox' Military Miniatures in Village H. Wayne is here from White Oak, North Carolina. He handpaints miniatures of all above-mentioned wars. And don't forget to register on the Mezzanine Level of the show for the \$500.00 cash shopping spree to be given away on the last day.

The Show dates are November 19-24, 1996. The Show is located in the Raleigh Civic Center. Show hours are 12 noon 'til 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday; 10:00 a.m.'til 9:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 10:00 a.m.'til 6:00 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$5.00 for adults; \$4.00 for senior; children under 16 admitted free. For questions or advance tickets, contact Frances Delk at 1-800-232-4936. Plenty of on-street and lot parking available. Eating facilities are available inside the Civic Center (even sit-down places!). Tour buses welcome.

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(formerly known as First Congressional Black Caucus)

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From Page 1

Tony Brown

Also examined is the infamous Tuskegee Experiment, a study in which government agencies, the U. S. Public Health Service and the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention, used Black men as nonconsenting quinea pigs in a syphilis experiment.

Appearing on the program to discuss the ramifications of the drug allegations against the CIA are Elombe Brath of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition and Jamaal Goree, a community activist and producer of "Front Page" on KJLH Radio in Los Angeles

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"WHAT A FELLOWSHIP" . . . Shown here are Ms. Minnie Edwards, her mother, Mrs. Dupree, a sister, Ms. Judy Rodgers (Owner of Southeastern Bus Lines) and other family members and friends who gathered recently to enjoy and share a joyous occasion. . . A baby shower for her Ms. Edwards' daughter.

Voice photo by Jim Rouse

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If so, we want to talk to you about participating in our project to learn how African-American men manage side-effects from prostate cancer treatment.

The aim of this project is to study and improve the health care received by African-American men with prostate cancer.

We need your help!

To learn more about this project and how it can benefit you, call 1-800-349-5858.



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Black Leaders deplore 'blatant racism' at Texaco and urge speedy redress

By J. ZAMGBA BROWNE
Amsterdam News Staff

Highly inflammatory racial epithets attributed to senior executives at oil giant Texaco Company were sharply denounced Tuesday by African-American leaders across the country, many of whom called for swift disciplinary action.

Even Roy Innis, executive of the Congress of Racial Equality, an ultra-conservative whose views are often diametrically opposed to those of mainstream African-American leaders, expressed outrage.

Innis described the Texaco executives as a "bunch of uncivilized savages" who have seriously "endangered attempts in the American society to 'do the right thing' about the country's racial problem."

However, Innis said he believed the incident at Texaco represents a small minority in the business community. He insists that the "savage racist" elements at Texaco be quickly identified and uprooted.

The Rev. Al Sharpton said the remarks reflect a spirit of "corporate racism" that is apparently supported by major heads at Texaco. "If people can make these kinds of remarks and not be terminated or disciplined," he declared, "then what will show us there is a fairer policy in contracts, jobs, and other things that relate to our communities when we are consumers of their products?" said Sharpton. "We must stop paying to be respected," he added.

State Sen. David Paterson wondered how many of those Texaco executives who denounced the action of their colleagues as "horrific and deplorable" probably have made the same remarks, but were not caught on tape.

"Whenever blatant racism is exposed everybody points fingers at the perpetrator while ignoring the gravity of the problem," Paterson explained.

According to Paterson, every day hardworking men and women of African descent are humiliated, degraded and dis-

graced at their jobs. But whenever the oppression rises to the level of where some employees take legal action, they are ridiculed and chastised, he added.

"I applaud the workers from White Plains for starting a case that showed up these vicious supervisors of theirs who would have shredded evidence that will now convict them," Paterson declared.

Dennis Walcott, executive director of New York Urban League, praised Texaco Company for securing the service of Michael Armstrong to conduct an independent investigation on the contents of the controversial tape as well as other issues pertaining to racism within the corporate structure.

"Armstrong is truly an independent individual who gets to the core of the underlying problem and makes the appropriate recommendation based on the complaint," said Walcott in a tele-

phone interview.

Attorney Stephen Jackson said the remarks do not surprise him. "As a practitioner whose cases primarily consist of African-Americans and other people of color who are victims of discrimination, I am all too familiar with the general lack of respect, sensitivity and the out right bias directed at minorities," he added.

The only way to change the situation, Jackson continued, is to seek redress in the courts and compel employers to eradicate racism in the workplace. "People of color must have the fortitude to expose these egregious situations whenever and wherever they arise," he declared.

African-Americans at Texaco have just about done that. They have already filed a \$250 million lawsuit against the giant oil company. Texaco said in published reports that it will probe the matter and if it finds any merit to the case, the perpetrators will be vigorously disciplined.

Coty US Inc. and Essence Magazine announce grand-prize winner of the 'What A Man!' contest:

Naval Chief Petty Officer Douglas L. Bryant, Sr.

New York, NY — ESSENCE magazine and Coty US Inc., are pleased to announce the winner of the ESSENCE and Preferred Stock cologne "What a Man!" contest. The grand-prize winner, who garnered more than 10,000 votes from ESSENCE readers, is U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Douglas L. Bryant, Sr., a family man who has dedicated more than 18 years of service to his country. Bryant is the maintenance chief of Squadron VR-56 Globemasters, on board Naval Air Station Oceana Virginia Beach, Virginia.

The contest, announced in the January issue of ESSENCE, sought nominations of men age 18 or older, whom the nominators considered exceptional. The nominators each submitted an original essay of 50 words or less describing her candidate's significant accomplishments in the areas of academic, professional, community-service, religious and family involvement. A panel of ESSENCE judges chose the top ten finalists, who were featured in the June 1996 issue of ESSENCE. Readers then voted for their choice by mailing in a coupon.

The grand-prize winner and his nominator each received a three-day trip to New York City, \$500, Preferred Stock and Sand & Sable gift packages from Coty US Inc. and a complimentary subscription to ESSENCE magazine. Chief Petty Officer Bryant will appear in a Preferred Stock cologne advertisement featured in the November 1996 issue of ESSENCE.

Chief Petty Officer Bryant, was nominated by his wife, Gwendolyn, who said in her es-

say, "ESSENCE, look no further. My husband should win! You ask 'why'? Here are a few good reasons: He's a strong, spiritual, Black family man, a leader in his field! A gentleman, yes! An exceptional role model. A man who knows what he wants and needs. 'I'm proof!' Bryant and his wife reside in Virginia Beach. They've been married 14 1/2 years and have three children: Douglas, Jr., and twin girls Tiffany and Tamara.

Chief Petty Officer Douglas L. Bryant, Sr., AMEC (AW) has collected more honors in 18 years than men who have been in the Navy twice as long: VFC-12 Sailor of the Year, Navy Achievement Medal, numerous Battle Efficiency Awards and the Humanitarian Award Medal. Upon learning that he was the grand-prize winner, Bryant said, "I am honored that my wife would do this for me and overwhelmed to have been chosen by ESSENCE readers. There are thousands of African-American men who, just like me, are striving to make a difference in the lives of their children by supporting family values and remaining committed to ensuring a brighter future for the generations to follow. I have been blessed with the opportunity to be of service to God, my family and this country."

With 8 million readers, ESSENCE is the preeminent magazine for Black women. Published by Essence Communications, Inc., it is the leading source of cutting-edge information relating to every area of African-American women's lives. For 26 years ESSENCE has celebrated personal achievement, chronicled social movements, documented struggles, showcased beauty, defined and set trends and illustrated the incredible journey of a resilient and splendid race of women.

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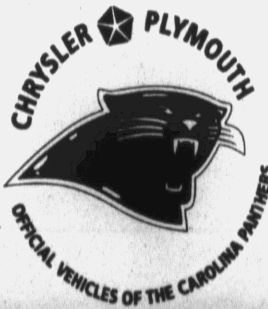
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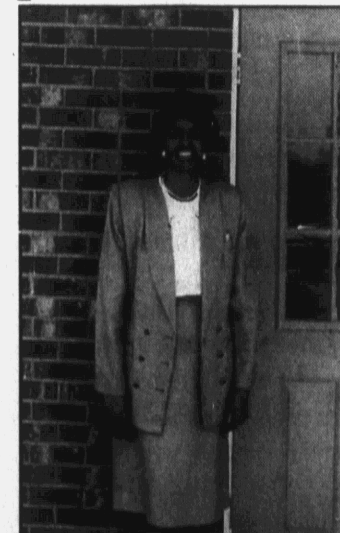
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Ask Us About Our Year Round Vacation

Letter to the Editor

THE "M" VOICE - WEEK OF NOVEMBER 7-15, 1996-5

Letter to the editor

Patrick Nelson
P.O. Box 7005
Greenville, NC 27835
November 08, 1996

The Minority Voice, Inc.
P.O. Box 8361
Greenville, NC 27835

First I'd like to commend the M Voice for providing many valuable services to the community. I well remember several years ago reading of a young girl stricken with leukemia. The Lord laid it upon my heart to try and help this girl and her family. With the help of a number of Christian people from different racial and denominational backgrounds, I organized a fund raiser on behalf of the family, providing much needed funds at Christmas. Had it not been for the M Voice, I never would have known of this need.

I do feel compelled to take issue with statements made in the October 31-November 6 edition regarding Sen. Jesse Helms. The article begins by criticizing Sen. Helms for his government pension. I'll concede that the retirement benefits of a U.S. Senator are lucrative to say the least. But to point the finger of blame at Helms is unfair. It is the same pension program that over 500 members of Congress participate in, as well as thousands of other government officials. And generous government pension plans were in place long before Helms took office in 1972. To criticize him for his retirement plan without criticizing all other participants is inconsistent.

The article also accuses Helms of proposing to dismantle Social Security. As I recall, he wasn't calling for dismantlement, but privatization, measures that would allow individuals different options as to how their money is invested. Privatization of Social Security funds would also protect citizens' funds from politicians who are notorious for raiding the Social Security Trust

Fund to fund all of their pet projects.

Under the current system, 7.5% of employees' earnings go into the Trust Fund. This is matched by a 7.5% contribution by the employer. Self-employed people like myself must pay the entire 15% tax themselves. I say tax because participation is not optional, it's mandatory. Every year I am forced to give 15% of my earnings to the federal government in addition to federal income tax, federal gas tax, capital gains tax, etc.

Unless drastic changes are made in the current system the Social Security Trust Fund will be broke in 20-30 years, making the net return on my 15% contribution zero. Under Helms' plan, current retirees would be protected and future retirees like myself would be free to invest my money where I please. If participation in the current system was ever made an option rather than a necessity, I would opt out without hesitation.

If I were free to invest 15% of my income on my own, I would retire a millionaire. As it now stands I am barely able to invest 5% of my earnings toward retirement because after I pay my bills and taxes, there is very little money left over. Regardless of what one thinks of Jesse Helms' positions, his Social Security proposal was one position that made sense.

The article writer (who, like so many other M Voice writers remained anonymous) then accused Helms of "trying to cut \$270 billion from the heart" of medicare. Excuse me for sounding brutally harsh, but that statement was an outright distortion. Helms supported cuts in the growth rate of medicare, not direct cuts in medicare. Like the Social Security Fund, the Medicare Trust Fund is scheduled for insolvency unless steps are taken. Both of my parents are on Medicare, and I appreciate the efforts of anyone, Democrat or Republican, who attempts to save the program.

Interestingly, an article appeared in the same issue of The

M Voice in which Helms opponent, Harvey Gantt, was lauded for his positions. Again the writer remained anonymous. It is not my desire to take issue with the accolades heaped upon Mr. Gantt. Harvey Gantt is without a doubt a great American success story. I certainly feel that he is a man of character and integrity. I must, however, take strong issue with a statement made in the article. In one paragraph of the article entitled "Equal Pay for Women", the writer stated that women who sell insurance are paid less than men who do the same job. I have been in the insurance business for a number of years and I've dealt with many different insurance companies. Never have I seen different commission structure for men and women. -he insurance business is the most fair and equitable business I know of. Everyone, regardless of race, creed or gender is paid the same percentage based on his or her individual sales. This wonderful business provides equal opportunities to all people willing to work and make things happen.

The purpose of my letter is neither to endorse nor repudiate Jesse Helms. Since the writer of both the aforementioned M Voice articles was not revealed, I must conclude that the expressed comments are the opinion of the M Voice. If that is indeed the case, I must say I am disappointed.

Again, let me reiterate my appreciation for all the good the M Voice does. For the sake of fairness, I would encourage you to do careful research before publishing articles that are critical of others. I further recognize that the M Voice is a private entity, thus you have no legal obligation to publish my letter. But I do feel that publication would make a strong statement for healthy dialogue, which is all too often a missing ingredient in modern journalism.

Sincerely,

Patrick Nelson
P.O. Box 7005
Greenville, NC 27835
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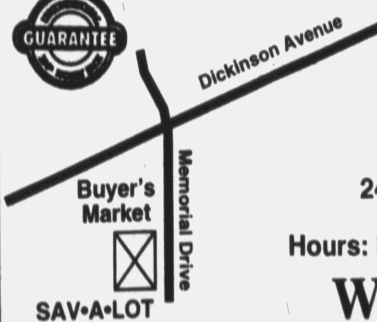
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Rev. Blake Phillips
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Letter to the Editor

The small town Cover - Up!!!!

January 26, 1995

I voluntarily went into the Tideland Detox Center in Washington, North Carolina. I was discharged on January 30, 1995 without any instructions about the medicines that I was given to me. Nobody at the center gave me any type of instruction on the medication that was given to me while I was in the Detox Center or when I was released. When I was in the Detox Center I was scared, confused, and stressed out. I thought the medicine was a sedative, something to help me sleep. I did ask the fourth day the name of the specific pill, because it looked unusual in shape and color. The nurse stated that it was for my seizures. So, I went ahead and took the pill, thinking that everything was okay. Two days later on February 01, 1995, I was

sitting at home watching TV that night between 8/9 pm, so I decided to go down to the store

and purchase 2 - 40 ozs. of beer. By the time I almost completed the 2nd beer, I started feeling funny, my vision got blurry, and my body started feeling tight. Immediately I grabbed the phone and phoned my sister, by this time, my speech became slurred.

My sister called the police. By the time the police got to my house I was unconscious laying on the living room floor. Briefly I came conscious for a moment. This moment was critical for me. This gave me a chance to raise my arm and unlock the door. From this point I do not remember anything else. I heard the policeman calling out my name, "Ms. Peartree - are you alright?" By then, I was rushed to Beaufort County Community Hospital. Briefly I came conscious again. I felt a tube going down my throat, and I was gasping for air, (what was happening here was that I was given a gastric lara). This information was never mentioned to my family or me. I found out the truth 4 months later. My niece arrived at the hospital to check on and see how I was doing, by this time the nurses ran her out. She said that she saw black stuff all over me, the bed, and the floor. I was dumbfounded by what kind of black stuff, and found out that they were pumping the pills out of my system that was prescribed to me from the Tideland Detox Center. The black stuff my niece saw all over me, was charcoal. This is only used in emergency situations whereas a person has been poisoned. So, I was transferred to Pitt County Memorial

Hospital in Greenville as comatosed.

Somewhere between the Tideland Detox Center and PCMH, my record were falsified and labeled me as a drug addict.

People I know and talk to about this says "they heard that I had took some pills, (OD), and drank some beer. I spent nine days in the Intensive Care Unit at PCMH.

I'm presenting this story because I want people to know that truth about what happened to me, and how doctors lied and made accusations that I had "needle-drug marks" on my right arm. The overdose of medication I received at the Tideland Detox Center have left me disabled. I underwent four painful months speech, physical occupational therapy. The doctors had my family convinced behind my back that I tried to committ suicide. They were brilliant. But when God gave me my life back on June 1995, I went to the Detox Center to get copies of my records, and the administrator - Lynda Watkins, threatened to call the

police on me. You're reading right!!!

One of her doctors trys to kill me and she wants to call the police on me for wanting to find out the truth. They went all out to point their negligence toward me. This is why I've been unsuccessful in a malpractice suit, because of their LIES!!!!

Written by

Ms. Carolyn Peartree
24 Sept. 1996

**Please
Drive
Carefully**

AMONG THE WELL-WISHERS ATTENDING A RECEPTION at the Law Offices of Earl T. Brown, P.C., was our lovely sister—Catherine Visage. Catherine would like for all her friends to stop by and see her at Heel-Sew Qwik where she operates an alteration shop. For all your sewing needs, from just "whipping" in a hem or completely making an original designer garment, stop by and say "hi" to Sister Catherine today.

Voice Photo by Jim Rouse

Course for older drivers offered at PCMH

GREENVILLE—Pitt County Memorial Hospital and the American Association of Retired Persons are teaming up to offer a 55 Alive/Mature driving program. AARP developed the eight hour classroom refresher course to help drivers 50 and older improve their defensive driving skills.

The two-part course lasts from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20 and Thursday, Nov. 21. It will be held in the PCMH Day Rehabilitation Center on Stantonsburg Road. Cost of the course is \$8.

Topics to be covered include handling adverse driving conditions, the effects of medication on drivers and a review of driving safety rules.

For more information or to register for the course, contact the PCMH Occupational Therapy Department at (919)816-6600.

ESL tutors needed

Volunteers are needed as tutors for English As A Second Language. A workshop will be held on Friday, November 15, 1996 at Pitt Community College from 8: 15AM to 12:30 PM in the Henry Leslie Building to train volunteers to be ESL tutors. For more information or to register, call Literacy Volunteers at 752-0439. Help an adult to learn English.

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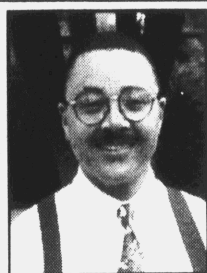
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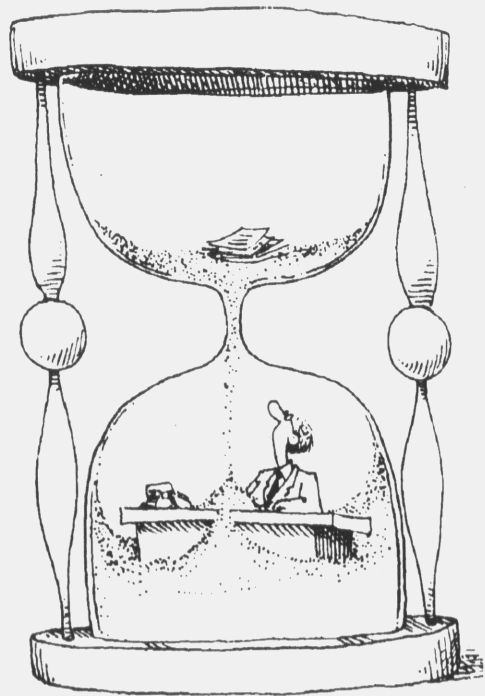
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Basket Boutique open in Blowing Rock

If you love baskets, you will love The Basket Boutique in Blowing Rock, North Carolina. Over 1000 basket styles and other woven items from all over the world fill this elegant store. Alan and Laura Packer created this store in February of this year after moving here from Grafton, Ohio. Their daughter

had gone to college last fall and they decided to "do something together". Alan's contracting business and Laura's real estate left little time together. The North Carolina mountains were inviting to both of them and with some research they discovered Blowing Rock. They never looked back.

Alan thought a basket business would be great in Blowing Rock, but Laura thought he was crazy until he pointed out ten baskets in her kitchen alone. That did it. They sold their house, wrapped up their businesses and headed south.

The Basket Boutique has baskets from one half inch in diam-

eter to extremely large. While they stock the basics such as handle, step, and flower baskets Alan and Laura pride themselves on finding those unique pieces from around the world that no one else has. They buy Nigerian bowls and mats from a young man who grew up in the village where they are made; collapsables from two Amish brothers in Ohio; and have the extremely hard to obtain Croatian willow market baskets. Others come from Portugal, Indonesia, Ghana, the Philipines, and China.

"Have always loved the charm of baskets and the beauty they add to the home or office," Laura says. "They are a gift that combines both beauty and usefulness." Alan loves the environmental advantage because baskets are made from natural products. They both get excited about the creative talent expressed by each basket weaver.

"We want everyone to be able to afford our baskets. While we have some very expensive pieces, we have something for every one." If they do not have it Laura can probably find it for you. She loves to research specific baskets for customers. They also ship baskets all over the country. "We want people to have fun when they come to our store. Many men are surprised how much they enjoy shopping here because it is not your traditional store."

The Basket Boutique also represents five North Carolina weavers. "They workmanship and love these ladies weave into their products is amazing." Laura deeply admires their skill as she has done some weaving herself. "There are so many creative people around us. This store permits us to meet many of them."

Crabtree & Evelyn soaps, lotions, and scents were recently added. "This was to broaden our appeal without losing the high quality image we have established," said Alan. "These products have very loyal customers and so do we; it is a perfect match."

Until Christmas the Basket Boutique is open seven days a week. For additional information call (704)295-3799.



HELLO EVERYONE. .this pretty little girl is Ambria Newsome. Ambria enjoys going to daycare, playing, and singing. Watching her grow and learn is a joy to her mother, Nicole.

GAC & VB launches WWW Site

<http://www.greensboronc.org>

Greensboro, NC - The Greensboro Area Convention & Visitors Bureau has a new presence in the global information system with a new Internet site accessible through <http://www.greensboronc.org>. The CVB launched this site to help promote Greensboro as a destination for all types of travelers.

Information available on the site includes a listing of all accommodations and their amenities, a listing of all restaurants with a brief description and information on location and hours, information on all attractions and events in Greensboro, a brief history of Greensboro, an area map of Greensboro, a listing of convention services offered by the CVB, information on golf courses and other sporting venues in Greensboro, and a current weather forecast with 5 day prediction.

"We have a new way to reach the many potential visitors who may want and need information about Greensboro. The printed word is certainly our mainstay but with this new presence on the Internet we can now reach the thousands of browsers who desire instant information," states Judith Grizzel, President of the Greensboro Area Convention & Visitors Bureau. "It is only reasonable for the informed traveler who may never have been here to want to explore Greensboro before they arrive. With all the information on our site one can get a well informed impression of Greensboro right from their home or office."

The Greensboro Area Convention & Visitors Bureau is a non-profit, independent, public authority whose mission is to generate economic development through travel and tourism.

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