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THE MINORITY VOICE

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S MINORITY VOICE - SINCE 1986

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 23, 1996

Black communities around the country preparing for Kwanzaa

By CONRAD W. WORRILL

The Kwanzaa season is right around the corner and, once again, the National Black United Front (NBUF), Chicago chapter, is preparing for our sponsorship of the annual citywide Karamu Ya Imani (Feast of faith) Kwanzaa celebration.

This year's Karamu Ya Imani Kwanzaa celebration will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 1997 at Kennedy King College, 6800 S. Wentworth. The celebration will begin at noon.

It is estimated that more than 18 million African-Americans participate in some sort of Kwanzaa event. In the wake of the rising African Centered Education Movement in America, it is important that every segment of the African-

American community begins preparing for the Kwanzaa season. In order for this to occur, parents, teachers, principals, ministers, business people, and community activists must begin preparation immediately.

The first question that should be asked in preparation for the Kwanzaa season is, what is Kwanzaa and why is it as important for African-American people? In the 1960s, the Black Power explosion shook up America and successfully began the dismantling of the legal system of racial segregation in the south. However, many Blacks felt there was a deeper meaning to the ideas of freedom, justice, and equality that had not been advocated by the Civil Rights Movement. The call for Black

Power by Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Kwame Ture (a.k.a. Stokely Carmichael), and others gave a new impetus for the Black Liberation Movement in America.

When the smoke cleared from the Watts rebellion in 1965, an organization emerged in the Los Angeles, California area called "US." Its leader, Dr. Maulana Karenga, became a noted spokesman for the independence, liberation, and the acquisition of power for African-American people.

After intense study of African cultural traditions, Karenga established the only nationally celebrated, indigenous, non-heroic Black holiday in the United States that he called Kwanzaa. The

concept of Kwanzaa, as Karenga established it, was derived from the African custom of celebrating the harvest season. Karenga explains that "the origins of Kwanzaa on the African continent are in the agricultural celebrations called the 'first fruits' celebrations and to a lesser degree the full or general harvest celebrations. It is from these first fruit celebrations that Kwanzaa gets its name which comes from the Swahili phrase 'Matunda Ya Kwanzaa.'

Karenga further explains, "The first fruit celebrations are recorded in African history as far back as Egypt and Nubia and appear in ancient and modern times in other classical African civilizations such as Ashantiland and



Sister Teresa McCoy, personality of Radio Station WOOW's "Life Situations" has lots of reasons to smile these days... one of which is the fact that her efforts to help save the South Greenville Boys & Girls Club have not been fruitless. Donations were received to allow the Boys & Girls Club to remain open. Happy Holidays to all are sent from Sister McCoy!

Staff Photo: Jim Rouse

D.C. Police Continue Probe Into Deaths of 125 Black Women Several Suspects Under Questioning In Ballou Students Case

BY ALVIN PEABODY

The head of the Metropolitan Police Department's Homicide Division has told the *Informer* that his agency is "making an efforts" in trying to reopen hundreds of unsolved cases involving the strangulation deaths of more than 100 African-American females within the last 10 years in the District of Columbia. At least 40 of those cases occurred east of the Anacostia River.

"Let me tell you," said Commander Alan J. Dreher, "we are doing everything in our power to not only re-open these unsolved cases, but we're also doing everything

we can to find out how and why they were killed."

Increased attention was brought to the public when two Ballou High School students were found murdered last April just blocks apart from another in southeast Washington, D.C. Then two months later, the body of an unidentified Black female was found gagged near a vacant apartment complex and several weeks after that, another Black female was discovered in a wooded area, approximately three miles from where the bodies of the two Ballou female students were found. And in nearby Prince George's County, Maryland, Nia Owens, a student at Northwestern Senior High School, was found dead near her school.

"We have been in contact with Prince George's police and we have concluded that there is certainly

no relationship between the murder in D.C. and that of the young student," Capt. Dreher said Tuesday.

Since the deaths of 15 year old Chameka Lazenby and 15 year-old Nickesia Semple, pressure by community activists and residents have been placed on the Metropolitan Police Department to bring closure to most of these unsolved murders of Black women in D.C. In the interview new, Capt. Dreher told the *Informer* that several suspects have been brought in for questioning regarding the Lazenby-Semple murders.

"Yes, there are several individuals we are looking at, some of whom have been reinterviewed by our Cold Case Squad," said the Homicide commander, who refused to

identify the suspects. "We rely heavily on community assistance for any information that can help us," "I've heard that there were suspects in the case and I'm very pleased to hear that," said Rahim Jenkins, head of the Lazenby-Semple Community Task Force, which is comprised of various business, and civic leaders.



Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church recently installed a new pastor... Rev. Barry Berryhill, who is shown above with his wife and family while on a leisure shopping visit to one of the local malls. Congratulations to Tabernacle and best wishes to Pastor Berryhill.

Staff Photo: Jim Rouse

Coach Robinson Pleads For One More Year

By HOWIE EVANS
Am News Sports Editor

The Grambling State University community is being ripped apart as Coach Eddie Robinson fights to continue for one more year. Now 77 years of age, with the past 55 as Grambling's head football coach, Robinson refuses to resign and assume the duties of vice

president of development. "I deserve this," says the winningest coach (405-157-16) in college football history. "I would like the chance to go out a winner," insisted the coach as media types from across the country invaded the campus this week.

Robinson has his supporters on and off the campus, as well as around the nation. But there is

also a groundswell movement of people, some loudly suggesting the coach should retire. A large group of influential alumni are pressuring Grambling president Dr. Raymond Hicks to force the coach to resign, or outright replace him. James Bradford, Grambling's national alumni president, is among those seeking a change. One of the most influential Blacks in the state of Louisiana, Bradford says "No one can question what Coach Robinson has meant to Grambling. But at some point, we have to think about what is best for the future of this university, not what is best for Eddie Robinson. No football coach

See, Coach Robinson, page 2



"BE ALL YOU CAN BE"... That's just what Private Dante Johnson intends to do. A '96 graduate and former Rose High football player, the 'M' Voice staff watched our brother grow into quite a young man. Dante, shown above, visited with his mom, Sister Sharon Grice, and other members of his family following the successful completion of his basic training. He is now on his way to Fort Hood, Texas, to continue his military obligations.

Staff Photo: Jim Rouse

Why African - Americans continue to resist Kwanzaa

By STEPHEN FRALEY

Kwanzaa was born out of the Black nationalism of the 1950s and 1960s. As large numbers of African nations gained independence, our cultural identity with the motherland bloomed. For the first time, we became proud of our African ancestry.

When Elijah Muhammad, Malcolm X and others spoke of nationalism, physical separation was the ultimate goal. This frightened many of our people. The idea of a separate nation has lost favor over the years, but the mention of nationalism still engenders those old fears.

Fortunately we have more palatable definitions of nation. We've put too much blood and sweat into the United States to just walk away. And the thought that America would surrender part of herself for any cultural or ethnic group is beyond comprehension. Black nationalism in the modern sense is focused on the mental, emotional, economic, political and social aspects of our lives. The essence of a nation is not separate territory but common interests, customs, origins, history and language.

Kwanzaa is a Kiswahili term which means "the first fruits of the

harvest." It is an annual event observed from Dec. 26 through Jan. 1. During this time, we pay tribute to our ancestors and celebrate our rich culture. Dr. Maulana Karenga, a Black studies professor founded Kwanzaa in 1966 as an expression of cultural nationalism.

Nguzo Saba, the seven principles of Kwanzaa, are excellent guidelines for lifting ourselves and redoubling our efforts toward human rights and equal opportunity. We must do our best to incorporate the Nguzo Saba into our most fundamental beliefs, values, thoughts and goals. The seven principles are: Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity), and Imani (faith).

Kwanzaa has been observed in America for 30 years. Why do so many continue to resist celebrating it?

The first day of Kwanzaa follows so closely after Christmas that many Christians misperceive it as a competing religious holiday. Others find it difficult to celebrate Kwanzaa after a busy Christmas season. It remains secondary or forgotten.

Second, some of our people are simply unaware of Kwanzaa. It is unfortunate that in 1996 so many are still linked by common problems rather than common goals, failing individually rather than succeeding as a group. A common consciousness is needed.

Third, there are others who have lost hope in our progress and choose not to "waste" their time. Apathy is our worst enemy, and these brothers and sisters ought to think long and hard about the legacy they're passing on to their children.

Fourth, alienation also keeps Black people from celebrating Kwanzaa. All of us have been brainwashed by the media's negative portrayals of Africa. These negative images continue to control many. They are so alienated and confused that the mere mention of African words or customs embarrasses them. It is difficult to reverse this trend because we lack mainstream media support. If folks saw Kwanzaa covered in the news, on talk shows and in dramas and sitcoms, they would gradually embrace the concept. There should be an annual television special which would delineate the seven principles with discussion, celebration and entertain-

ment.

Finally, I believe that some African-Americans refuse to celebrate Kwanzaa due to subconscious fear of offending white people (e.g. supervisors, colleagues and friends). There is the assumption that to embrace one's culture is tantamount to denigrating another culture. Folks need to realize that it is not about superiority, but choice.

Embracing Kwanzaa demands open-mindedness. It demands that we learn about ourselves and become involved in the struggle for independence, dignity and respect. Kwanzaa implores us to identify with our African heritage and to be proud of our accomplishments the world over. It demands that we have the courage to change and the commitment to continue growing. In essence, to overcome our resistance to Kwanzaa demands that we develop a new perspective on life. Stephen Fraley is a graduate teaching assistant at the Consortium of the Niagara Frontier, a prison college program. He is also resident director of the Community Preparation Center and editor of *Echoes Literary Magazine*, a college publication. He is doing 20 years to life for murder and will be eligible for parole in 2001.

from the desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



BEATRICE MAYE

10 Habits of HAPPY FAMILIES

- 1: Physically and verbally expressing your love.
- 2: Talking out problems. When you don't talk about things that bother you, they fester and often get worse.
- 3: Having shared goals. common goals serve to unify a family and give members a reason to support one another, like a vacation together, can make your family

- feel like a strong unit.
- 4: Pulling together in times of adversity. Teamwork is crucial during tough times because without it, it's easy for a family to draw apart and start blaming one another for whatever is wrong.
- 5: Sharing fun together, fun times. Doing things together - whether eating meals, going to church or spending Saturday afternoon at the movies - gives families a needed break from routine chores. "This break lets them relax together and see new interesting sides to one another".
- 6: Making your marriage a priority. Couples would be wise to put as much energy into their marriage as into their kids because a strong marriage makes for a strong and happy family. Knowing that their parents' marriage is safe and stable makes the children feel secure, and gives everyone in the family a solid base of love to grow on.
- 7: Giving children chores. Picking up clothes, their clothes, rooms cleaned every day and helping out with the nightly dishes. While kids sometimes gripe about doing things around the house chores actually help them feel happier about themselves. This is because completing their chores proves to kids that they can be responsible.
- 8: Limiting how much television your family watches. The

- happiest families watched half as much TV as the average American family - 7 1/2 hours as opposed to 15 hours a week, says Phillip R. Kunz, Ph.D., pro of sociology at Brigham Young University and co-author of a 10 year study on happy families. Why does TV add up to a happier family? Simple: "If you spend less time watching TV, you will naturally have more time and energy to spend doing family things that will bring you closer", says Kunz.
- 9: Celebrating family history. Allyson Denning has raised her kids on tales of her grandmother and grandfather, who worked their way up from poverty to become a store owner. "Even though my children have never met them, they are their heroes", says the 42-year old nurse.
- Allyson is smart. When you pass down family stories and traditions, you give your family the sense that it is special and unique, adding to its overall happiness, says Kunz..
- 10: Having outside friends and activities: Families who do everything together run the risk of either growing bored with one another for taking one another for granted. The key - is to have a good balance between family activities and outside ones. That way, you really appreciate the them you do have together.

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WORDS TO LIVE BY

By: Sarah Ban
Breathnach

LESSEN THE STRESS

1. Learn to live simply, focusing on what's truly important.
2. Don't answer the telephone during dinner.
3. Stop trying to please everybody. Start pleasing yourself.
4. Carve out an hour a day for solitude.
5. Set aside one day a week for rest and renewal.
6. For every "Yes", let there be a "No".
7. Don't squander precious resources: time, creative energy, emotion.
8. Never make a promise you can't keep.
9. Allow an extra half-hour for everything you do.
10. Always carry something interesting to read.
11. Breathe - deeply and often.
12. Drink pure spring water - lots of it.
13. Always opt for comfort.
14. Cultivate gratitude
15. Be instead of do.
16. Exchange security for serenity.
17. Luxuriate in your senses.
18. If you don't love it, live without it.
19. Let Mother Nature nurture.
20. Go to bed at 9 o'clock twice a week.
21. Move - walk, dance, run, find a sport you enjoy.
22. Begin and end the day with prayer, meditation, reflection.
23. Strive for realistic deadlines.
24. Approach problems as challenges.
25. Nurture friendships.
26. Honor your aspirations.
27. Savor beauty.
28. Cherish your dreams.
29. Don't be afraid of your passion.
30. Search for your authentic self until you find her.

Coach Robinson

wants to go out losing, but in satisfying the coach, should we watch our school continue to fall?" questioned Bradford. "It's about winning," said Bradford.

People don't pay to come and watch a losing team." In a meeting with Robinson on Tuesday (Dec. 3) after Grambling's 17-12 loss to Southern in the Bayou Classic, Hicks respectfully asked Robinson to resign so the university could move forward. Robinson denied he had been asked to resign. But his wife Doris said indeed it was true. "He feels the university hasn't been fair with him," said Doris Robinson, who for a number of years has urged her husband to resign.

Robinson publicly states he will step aside if asked, but will coach next season "if they let me." For his part, the man in the middle, Hicks, says, "We have had ongoing discussions about Coach Robinson's future, but we have not issued any ultimatums to him."

James Bradford says, "This issue with the coach is not new. It's been going on all season. Even before the losing continued. We wanted to be fair and let him make the decision as to when he would leave. But he never did. It's not fair to the school." Hicks has no desire to have as his legacy, the man who fired Eddie Robinson, who obviously has the upper hand in this controversy. Coaches and administrators within the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) and around the country are supporting Robinson.

Hicks is in a Catch-22 situation. Public sentiment is against the firing of Robinson. But he realizes Robinson's departure would be in the best future interests of the school.

If Hicks gives in to Robinson, he will be perceived as "weak" by the alumni and his future at Grambling would definitely be jeopardized. "It's his call," said a former Grambling All-American.

"It's sad too see Coach go out like this. But Hicks must do what is

best for the school. Coach Robinson is a great man. But he can't go on forever. He must realize what he's doing. He has to stop thinking about himself. I know, I had to walk away myself. It's hard. We all love Coach, but this is killing all of us."

Earlier this week, a source in Ruston, La., told the Amsterdam News, "Coach was real upbeat about being considered to coach for another year. It would probably be a smart thing to do if all parties agree to give him another year. The 400 wins killed him," said our source.

"He was so busy going around the country, he ignored recruiting. They missed out on a lot of players."

Robinson, realizing his back is against the wall, has hit the recruiting trail. Saturday, he will be in the New Orleans State 5 different class championships at the New Orleans Superdome.

"One more year would mean a lot to me," said Robinson, who agonized through a second consecutive losing season (3-8), and the fourth in the past 10 years. "I know a lot of the alumni want me to go," says Robinson, "but I love Grambling and it's hard to just give it up."

Those urging Robinson to resign point to some serious issues surrounding the program. He faced up to his team in 1995 when they didn't receive their Heritage Bowl rings from the 1994 game as promised. A potential boycott was prevented. The players eventually received their rings.

The school's athletic programs, in particular the men's and women's basketball programs as well as the football program, has been under NCAA scrutiny for the past eight months. Charges of grade changing, illegal practices and other infractions have been cited.

"I'd like to go out coaching," said Robinson. "The fish don't bite for me. The golf ball doesn't roll. Football is all I know. I want to go out swinging."

Many say the coach has finally struck out, and now it's time to let someone else step to the plate. But there are strong indications Rob may get another year. When you think of all his accomplishments and what he has meant to Grambling, perhaps he should get another year. But another losing season will severely hamper the program.



What Is Kwanzaa?

Kwanzaa is a holiday that honors African American people and their past. It begins on December 26 and lasts for seven days until January 1. It is not a religious holiday like Christmas or Hanukkah.

Kwanzaa was first celebrated in 1966 by an African American teacher named Dr. Maulana Karenga. Dr. Karenga started the holiday so that African American people could learn about their African history and customs.

When Dr. Karenga began planning a celebration for African Americans, he looked at their history. He learned that the ancestors of many African Americans came from the western part of Africa. Many of the ethnic groups or tribes that African Americans descended from have their own languages and ways of communicating. Dr. Karenga searched for an African language that represented all Africans to explain his holiday.



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Blame game for economic, social woes must stop

At the Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh, Pa., is an exhibit portraying youthful African Americans that have been killed and a number of poems and portraits done by

local residents.

Ironically, there is a portrait done by a youth, who had been charged (found "not guilty") with the murder of a person whose name

and photograph appeared on the blackboard.

As I drove home, I reflected on the question, what has the community really done about the shoot-

ing, murder and terrorism that runs rampant throughout our communities?

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation and in the 60's we sang "We Shall Overcome."

In the 1990s, a small minority of our children have gone completely over the edge. They show no respect for the lives or property of other people.

We wring our hands and complain, but far too many of us have permitted this minority of hoodlums to intimidate us.

It's common on certain corners to see these thugs with all kind of hair styles, strutting and swagging, trying to look as intimidating as possible.

These hoodlums double park in the streets and dare you to blow your horn. They congregate at bus stops to the extent that some people will ride to the next stop to get off. One of the most devastating aspects is those animals, who get away briefly, brag and tell others

how they snuffed somebody. They don't realize, and may not even care, that they are doing the Klan's work. The only difference is they wear colors instead of whitesheets.

What will we, the community do about this situation? Who is the majority community? The majority community consists of you and I, mothers and teachers, concerned adults, preachers, police, politicians and any person, who wants to make our communities safe and livable.

Do we stand up for our communities on moral or monetary basis or both? Must we get paid to inform? Have we reached the point that enough is enough?

Are we really scared of these punks or is that just another excuse to allow someone else to take the lead?

When do we stop blaming all our problems on the alleged White oppressors, on the White educational system, on the White-controlled news medium? When do we stop denying that our kids, our loved

ones, sell drugs, rob, steal, rape, kill, shoot? And that some of our kids are hoodlums who must be treated like the animals they are.

If we really and truly believe that Black is beautiful, if we really understand the significance of Black history, if we really are aware of the great contributions that Blacks have made since the beginning of time, (i.e. Africans had steel instruments 2,000 years before the western world had brain surgery), we must also focus on the fact that we are not only the descendants of slaves, but also the descendants of kings and queens.

If we can put these achievements into proper perspective, then we as African American men and women will rise up and take back our communities. We must do whatever is called for.

In conclusion: It is apparent not only to me, but to many other people, that the first step in addressing this severe problem lies in the hearts and minds of African Americans.

In loving memory

ROBERT LEE GASKINS, SR. was born on December 16, 1935 to the late William & Annabelle Gaskins in Pitt County, North Carolina. Robert graduated from South Ayden High School on May 24, 1956. Robert met his future wife as a sophomore in high school, it was love at first sight. Immediately after finishing high school, he relocated to Jersey City, New Jersey. Over the years the relationship continued into holy matrimony on May 18, 1961. Out of the marriage they had four children, Marilyn L. Gaskins Mills, the second child, which was a girl, was stillborn, followed by his only son, Robert Gaskins Sr. and last, Maurice Gaskins.

His first job was employment at a radiation company, after several years it was relocated to Buffalo, New York. At that time, he was given the option to relocate with the company or attend a training program to prepare him for further employment. He selected to train in auto body repair in Newark, New Jersey. During his apprenticeship he was given a job in Bayonne, New Jersey. Out of that employment was born the Gaskins Auto Body Repair. He was self employed for seven years. Then, after discussing with his wife, they decided to relocate to Silver Spring, Maryland in which options seemed more favorable.

When first relocated he was employed at Al Packer Ford Body and

Fender Shop with the intention of working self employed part time, but soon after relocating he developed an allergy to paint. His whole life seemed to shatter. He then heard about a landscaping program which was recently implemented at the Montgomery County government, he worked there until the landscaping program was contracted out in 1985. He and his family moved to Baltimore, Maryland in 1979. He attended St. Mark's diligently for many years. In 1982 under the leadership of Rev. Bernard Keels, he joined St. Mark's United Methodist Church. Then he had an option to apply for employment in several areas, he decided to apply for a bus driver position and since then and until he departed his life he had been employed as a bus driver for Montgomery County government. He had received numerous awards for safe driving record such as certificates, cups, plaques and a gold watch.

He leaves to mourn: his wife of thirty-five years, Verna Ruth Gaskins; two daughters, Marilyn L. Gaskins Mills and Maurice Gaskins; one son, Robert Gaskins Jr.; one grandson, Robert Gaskins III (his pride and joy), one granddaughter, Danyell Johnson; his sisters, Mary Gaskins Benekins of Jersey City, New Jersey, Willie Carol Forbes, Alice Forbes Wilson and Gloria Forbes of Ayden, North Carolina; two brothers, Grady

Gaskins of Greenville, North Carolina and Donald Forbes of Newark, New Jersey; six sisters-in-law, Mary Lawson Ellison of Flushing, New York, Vernell Gaskins of Greenville, North Carolina, Rosalee Moore, Ellen Moore and Ella Moore of Grifton, North Carolina and Carol Forbes of Newark, New Jersey; five brothers-in-law, Ronnie Benekins of Jersey City, New Jersey, Rev. Charley Wilson of Ayden, North Carolina, Willie Ellison of Flushing, New York, Jonas Moore and William Moore of Kinston, North Carolina. He leaves approximately fifty nieces and nephews; one uncle, James Ellison and one aunt, Mattie Cannon.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven; a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to rend and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8



Brother Herman Amis, of Radio Station WNJR in Newark, visited our fair city recently to promote an album by the Original Keynotes Gospel Music Singers.

Staff Photo by Jim Rouse

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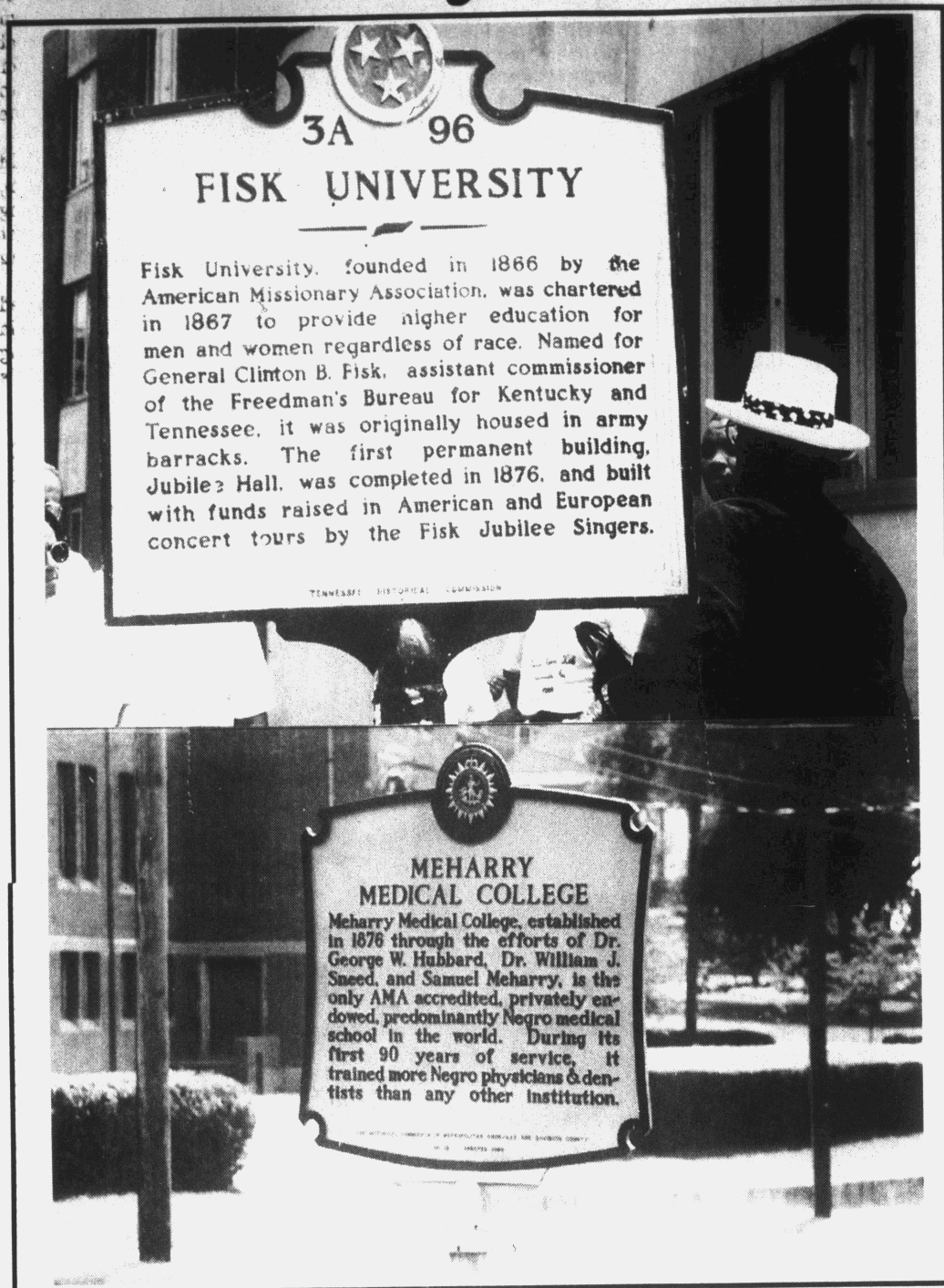
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Fisk University Meharry College



National Landmarks that have stood the test of time... Fisk University and Meharry Medical College... were visited during a summer trek by our staff photographer, Brother Jim Rouse. Many of the great African-American legends are products of these two institutions.

Affirmative action programs deserve a second chance

Californians recently voted to end affirmative action programs. We are thoroughly convinced that they made their move too soon and are hopeful that other states will not follow suit. African-Americans, other minorities and women have been treated as second class citizens for centuries in this great nation. Affirmative action programs, which have existed for only 30 years, have attempted to correct these long-term abuses. Despite that attempt, there is no way in the world that such programs have righted the wrongs. That being the case, the healing has not been completed and should be allowed to continue. For decades, the United States has been called the "Land of Opportunity" and has also engendered in many of its citizens a quest to share in the so-called "American Dream." Affirmative action programs were

originally drafted to extend the previously mentioned "opportunity" and "dream" to millions of people who had been traditionally locked out of the system. Some people called affirmative action programs discriminatory because a number of the programs wrongly permitted less-qualified women and minorities to go to college, to get jobs and contracts while denying more qualified White males. That was wrong and was never the intent of the original affirmative action laws imposed by the federal government. Andy Porter, a 67-year-old White voter in California, said, "I've been working 40 years and the only discrimination I've seen has been toward me because of affirmative action. (Employers) say, 'Today we have to hire a Black person or a brown person,' even though the White or other is more qualified."

That, however, is not what affirmative action is supposed to do. It was never supposed to place an unqualified person ahead of a qualified one. Neither was it intended to be used as a tool to showcase Blacks or minorities as inferior. Mistakes were made in many affirmative action programs, but that does not mean that the concept and its many properly implemented programs deserve to be terminated. Thirty years of affirmative action programs have brought about, in the total measure of things, only inches of progress for the nation's minorities and women. As a result, such programs should not be ended but, instead, deserve to be extended. Anyone who questions that should remember the recently revealed Texaco tapes and how executives at the company labored to allegedly keep minorities from being promoted.

African-American students are embracing the Empowerment Agenda

By Celina Inman
Challenger Staff Writer

WILMINGTON—During the past few months, Black student leaders at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and Duke University in Durham, N.C. have joined a growing number of leaders and organizations that are promoting the National Black Family Empowerment Agenda. The general consensus appears to be that as future leaders, the Agenda offers an opportunity for them to develop leadership skills in a context that will benefit the overall Black community. The student leaders are in

the process of defining the role that they should play in the Agenda movement and developing strategies to contact Black student associations all over America. Because many of the Agenda activities will be coordinated via the Internet, student leaders are ideally suited to serve as intermediaries between the developments on the Internet and churches and community organizations. Churches and community-based organizations are being identified to receive various information relative to church and community-based Agenda models that will make up the heart and soul of the Empowerment Initiative. The Duke

Black Student Alliance will present the Black Family Empowerment Agenda at the Southeastern United States African American Student Leadership Conference being hosted by the UNCW Black Student Union January 31 through February 2, 1997 in Wilmington, N.C. Attorney Peter Grear, the founder of the Empowerment Agenda, considers the involvement of Black student associations essential to the Agenda's success. Organizations and individuals wanting more information or to join the Empowerment Agenda Movement should call 1-800-222 8009.

State Board and Superintendent-Elect Promise Joint Effort to Strengthen Public Schools

The State Board of Education and State Superintendent-Elect Mike Ward are pledging to work together in a joint effort to strengthen public schools in this state.

At their monthly meeting in Raleigh this week, State Board members indicated they will approve a resolution in January to restore the authority of the State Superintendent as the chief admin-

istrative officer of the Board.

Dr. Jay Robinson, chairman of the State Board, heralded the new spirit of cooperation that he sees on the horizon.

"The State Board of Education is excited about the opportunity to work with Dr. Mike Ward, a talented educator who is dedicated to public schools, as we go about the business of improving K-12 education. The challenges facing education today are too great for there to be any divisiveness in leadership. We have to have everyone pulling together for our schools. That's what I see happening as we begin the new year."

Dr. Robinson told Board members at the meeting this week that he, Deputy Superintendent Richard Thompson and Superintendent-

Elect Ward have been meeting to discuss roles and relationships in the new administration. Dr. Robinson indicated that the Board's resolution will result in the Deputy Superintendent reporting to the State Superintendent, and the State Superintendent reporting to the State Board. He said that he and the Board members have every confidence that Superintendent-Elect Ward and Deputy Superintendent Thompson will make a strong leadership team.

Superintendent-Elect Ward will be sworn into office on Jan. 11. The Board is expected to approve a resolution setting out the duties of the Superintendent and the Deputy at its next meeting, Jan. 7-8, in Charlotte.

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No Praise for King in Promoting first \$100M fight

By **HOWIE EVANS**
AmNews Sports Editor

Two weeks after Evander Holyfield whipped Mike Tyson in an epic battle at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, around the nation, gleeful sportswriters and sportscasters are still swooning over Holyfield's win, while castigating Tyson.

An overwhelming number of media types are calling for Evander to retire and join Muhammad Ali as the only fight to win the world's heavy weight championship three times.

But they all have one hidden agenda. Most wouldn't care if Holyfield fought until he was 60 years of age. The real reason they

want Evander to retire is Mike Tyson.

The unbridled scorn and hostility targeted towards Tyson by the mainstream media would have Holyfield retiring without rendering Tyson an opportunity for a rematch. Keeping Tyson away from a rematch, and making the journey to gaining an other championship that much longer, would satisfy a legion of journalists.

But there's another agenda item. By keeping Tyson on the front burner, they deny what everyone in the entertainment industry of pay-per-view and boxing is talking about Don King!

The main stream media burys Tyson, while refusing to

acknowledge the record-setting accomplishments of Don King. America's promoter produced boxing's first \$100 million fight, aided by huge international sales.

Tilted by a record 1.7 million pay-per-view cable/satellite subscribers, gross receipts soared to \$85 million. And combined with another Don King record, an in arena crowd of 16,325 set a record live gate of \$14,150,700, the biggest live gate in boxing history. Yeah! you can bet they'll do it again.

The combination of Tyson and King, perhaps the most vilified duo in sports history, is responsible for keeping boxing in the public's eye, regardless of media attempts to downplay King's promotional

genius.

Immediately after signing Holyfield to a promotional contract, King said, "I want to make this the biggest fight ever. All stops are out," said America's promoter, who put a \$50 million price tag on the fight. "That's what it's going to cost to bring this fight to the public," said King.

Now King is working on a rematch, and is only waiting for confirmation from Holyfield. Tyson is set. "He'll do it if he likes making money, and not philosophizing," said Iron Mike.

"We're going to put together the biggest rematch in boxing history," King promised of the anticipated sometime in June (21st?) of 1997

rematch. "It's going to be bigger than Holyfield - Tyson 1."

King's projection of a June 1997 fight was sweet music to casino owners in Las Vegas. They took a major hit, losing millions of dollars by Holyfield's upset victory. So the casino sports books are also eagerly awaiting the rematch.

But shed no tears for the casinos. They got theirs back in every conceivable way, doubling up prices on rooms. You couldn't get a room in the town. At the gaming tables, on the weekend of the fight, minimum bets at blackjack, craps and roulette were \$25 and \$100.

Gaming-wise, the casinos throughout Vegas raked in millions. Some hotels lost as much as \$1

million or more through their sports books. But they got it back at the tables: A high percentage of \$100,000 high rollers were in town for the fight, Tyson's presence at the MGM where he's contracted for two more fights, has been an economic shot-in-the-arm to the Vegas casinos.

The fight against Holyfield proved beyond a doubt that Tyson, as he is promoted by Don King Productions, is the greatest individual, money-making attraction in sports.

And that Don King is denied praise and admiration by the media for his efforts is just another glaring indictment on the nation's predominant white media.

Military is one of country's last Precious resources

One of the most remarkable things about the potential for war and the realities of being a member of the military is that a person might be placed

in a situation where his or her life may be put at great risk. That being the case, the people who have served time in the military honorably representing America are among the most valuable natural resources our great nation

has. For Veterans Day, we were honored to salute them, praise their contributions and commend their ability to overcome great trials and tribulations. It is a joy to know that many of them are still with us, continuing to constructively contribute to our continuance as, perhaps, the most extraordinary country in world history.

We are fully aware that the

United States has survived and thrived in great part due to the contributions of the veterans that we have produced. Those men and women, from many races and all walks of life, have shown the world heroism at its very best. Our veterans have fought around the globe to free people who were enslaved, bring justice to the abused, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, treat the diseased,

protect the weak, shelter the homeless and do countless other humane and life saving acts. The world is truly a better place because of the wide-ranging contributions made to the long-life welfare of humanity by our veterans. It is really wonderful to know that we have such heroic, yet down-to-earth people in every state of our nation and in various places around the world.

Course with Marine Corps Detachment

December 2, 1996 (FHTNC)—Marine Pfc. Johnathan S. Hart, son of Doris A. and Billy R. Hart Sr. of Route 21, Greenville, N.C., recently completed the Heavy Vehicle Operators Course.

During the course with Marine Corps Detachment, U.S. Army Engineer School, Fort Leonard Wood, MO., students receive classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction on the operation and capabilities of five-ton trucks. Defensive driving techniques, "rules of the road" and preventive maintenance are also included in the course.

The 1993 graduate of Greene Central High School of Snow Hill, N.C., joined the Marine Corps in March 1996.



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Staff Photo: Jim Rouse

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Resumes must be received no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, January 10, 1997 by Robert J. Paciocco, Executive Director, Mid-East Commission, PO Box 1787, Washington, NC 27889. The Mid-East Commission is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applicants must be willing to reside in the region.

LOAN OFFICER

A regional planning commission in Eastern North Carolina is seeking an individual with education and experience in commercial and public sector loan programs, knowledge of business credit analysis and loan packaging; and experience in computer use, administrative and loan document preparation work, and excellent people skills. This individual will work in Bertie and Hertford Counties. Requires a BSBA with emphasis in finance or marketing, or equivalent combination of experience and education, with an emphasis in loan packaging and administration. A complete job description will be sent upon request.

Salary range begins at \$20,186 with the starting salary based on education and experience.

Deadline for submitting resumes is 5:00 pm, Friday, January 10, 1997.

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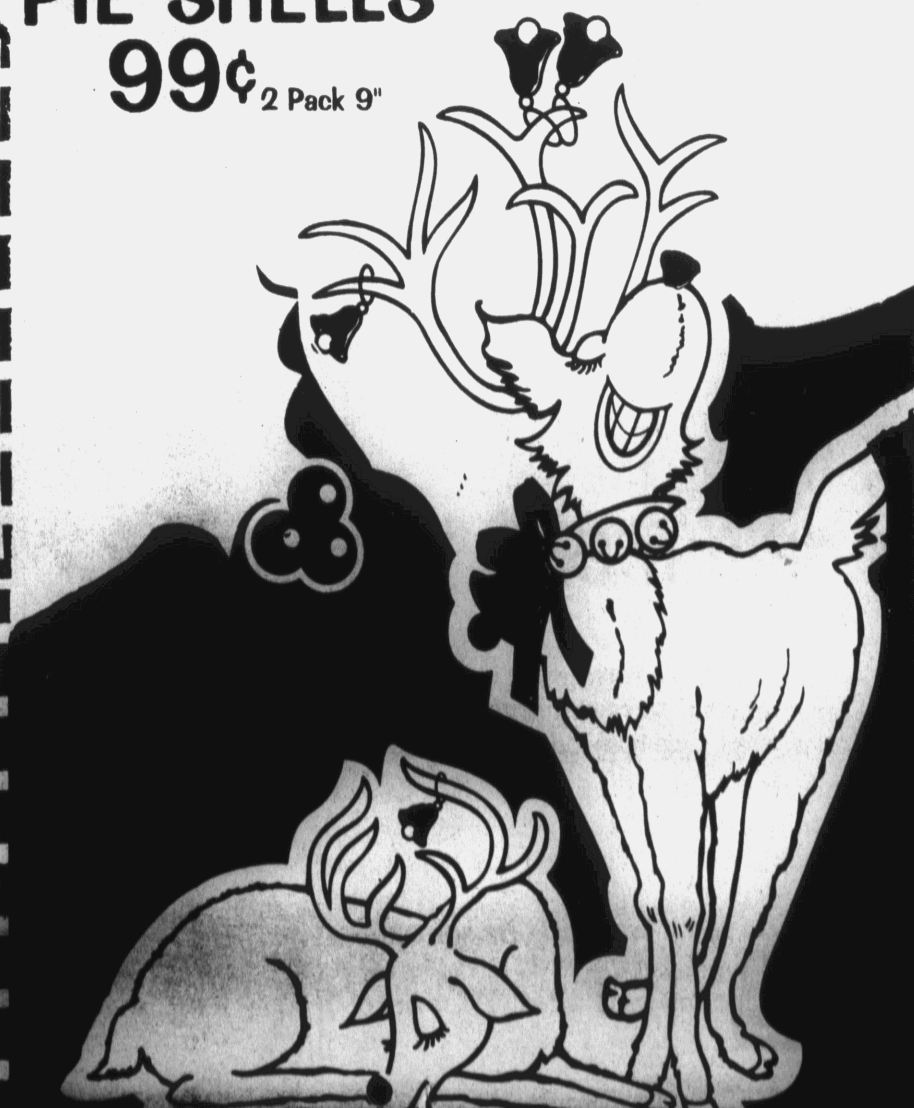
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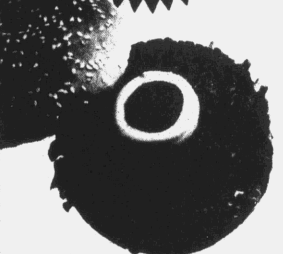


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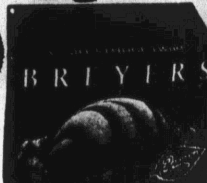
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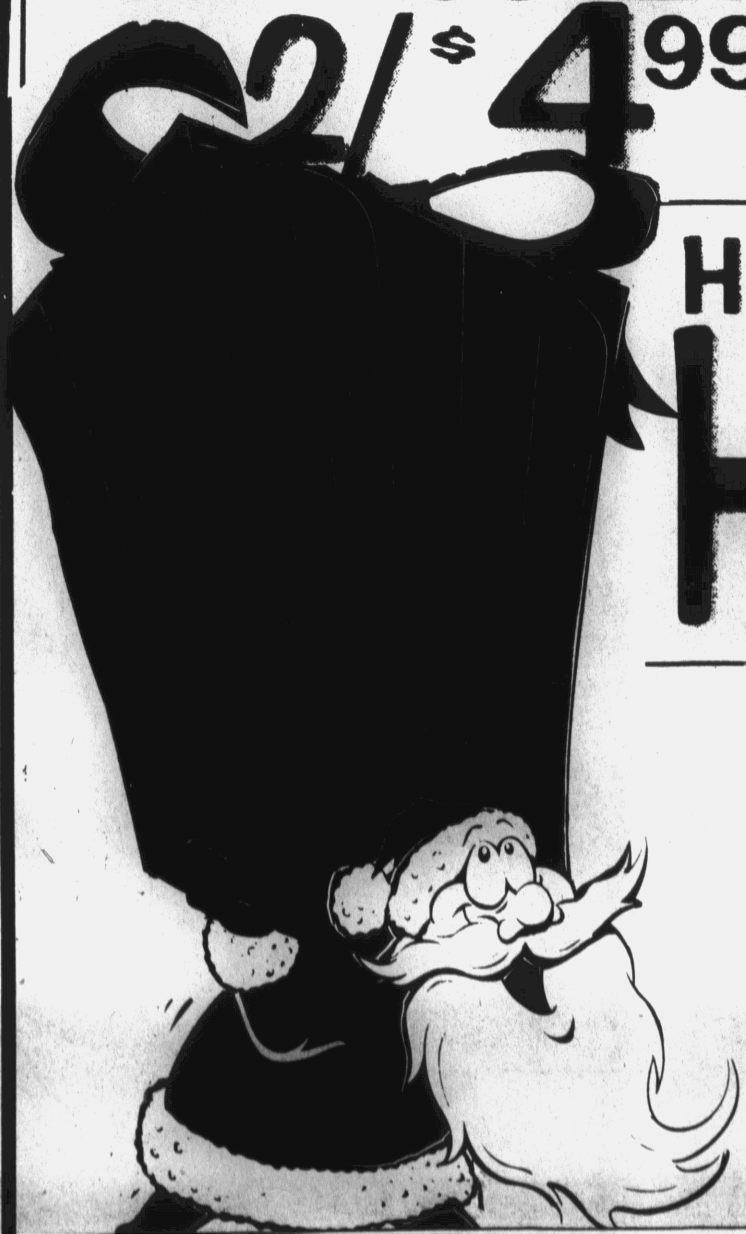
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Selective amnesia prevalent in Simpson's trial coverage

By DENNIS SCHATZMAN
Special to the NNPA

The O.J. Simpson civil and child custody trials are being reported to the majority community by a biased and, some say, "racist" news media. One would have to be severely mentally challenged not to see that these trials are being covered in an extremely one-sided way.

Take for example the Brown family and their quest to wrestle custody of Justin and Sydney Simpson away from their father. You have not read, and you will not read, in the nation's mainstream media that the Browns, according to Jeffrey Toobin in his book, "Run For

His Life," are the same parents who raised to the best of their ability three daughters with serious flaws.

Nicole (may she honestly and sincerely rest in peace) worked a total of two months at a restaurant and two weeks at a boutique where she sold not one stitch of clothing. According to her friend, Faye Resnick, Nicole popularized one of the latest crazes in upscale West L.A.: the "Brentwood hello." That is, performing fellatio on unsuspecting strangers who fall asleep at parties. It is also alleged that Nicole carried on an affair with Kansas City Chiefs running back Marcus Allen, one of O.J.'s

best friends.

Her sister Denise is unceremoniously nicknamed "Denise the Piece" by O.J.'s running buddies. Denise testified in the criminal trial that she was concerned about her sister's welfare after she saw O.J. carry on a drunken tirade one night and throw everyone out of his house. Yet, she didn't tell the jury that a few days later, she borrowed \$5,000 from Simpson, who gave it to her under the condition that she not tell Nicole.

Younger sister Tanya, a paragon of virtue, sold several photos of Sydney and Justin to a supermarket tabloid for a cool \$35,000. We are told that she did this with-

out telling her parents, her sisters or then-family lawyer, Gloria Allred. As far as we know, none of the proceeds benefited the children.

You see I don't have a problem with my memory but most reporters, with the notable exception of the San Francisco Chronicle's Harriett Chaing, apparently do. Petrocelli got rave reviews in the mainstream media when he pounced on Simpson about how the blood of his estranged wife and Ronald Lyle Goldman got in his Ford Bronco. Simpson said he didn't know. But Petrocelli knows, and so does Newsweek magazine.

A balanced reporting of the ex-

change would have revealed that Simpson's lawyer, Robert Baker, according to Newsweek, will be calling an LAPD officer to testify that he had played with the blood-soaked Akita dog and then later without changing clothes got in the Bronco. Petrocelli was also elevated to deity by the mainstream media after he bore in on Simpson about his whereabouts on the night of the murders between 9:30 and 10:55 p.m. Simpson said he stayed around the house doing a number of things. Petrocelli, however, says Simpson was out and about killing two white people. The cheers were deafening. But Petrocelli had no doubt

read Donald Freed's blockbuster novel "Killing Time." Freed and his co-author, Raymond Briggs, used computer simulations to analyze an assortment of murder "time lines." According to these men, under no circumstance could Simpson have had time to kill two people, get home, shower, and shave, then catch a plane to Chicago.

Dennis Schatzman, a former district court Judge in Pittsburgh, Pa., is an NNPA syndicated columnist, a journalism professor at California State University at Fullerton, and the co-author of "The Simpson Trial in Black and White."

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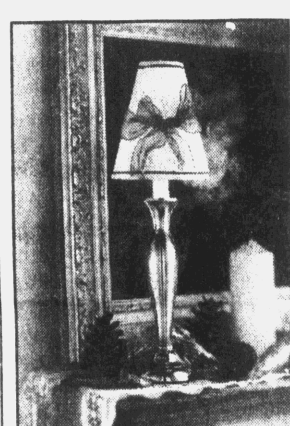


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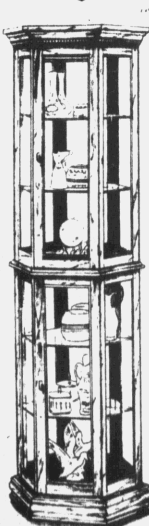


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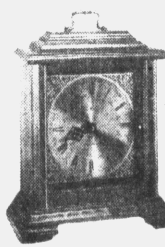
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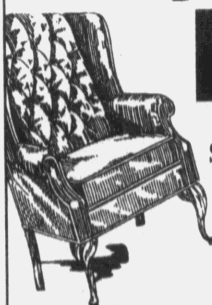
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Have a merry (consumer) Christmas: Six steps to real savings

By MARK GREEN

The closer it gets to the holidays, the more tempting it is to dispense with smart shopping in the scramble to cross every body off your holiday shopping list. But you'll be sorry when the credit card bills arrive in January. So spend some time before you spend your money - and you'll have more of it left for your spouse and child.

Jewelry

Boyfriends beware. Buying jewelry is like buying works of art: The uniqueness of each gem or piece of jewelry makes it inherently difficult to evaluate without a trained eye. Don't end up like the unhappy man who spent \$350 on a "cultured" pearl necklace for his daughter that turned out to be imitation pearls worth about \$75. To avoid similarly tarnishing your gift-buying experience:

- Look for the "quality mark" telling you the gold or silver content of both the jewelry and the clasp; a common trick is to put a good clasp on junky jewelry. — Don't buy a gem without getting an independent appraisal; an honest jeweler should allow you to

have the appraiser of your choice authenticate the value, rather than insisting on his (friendly) appraiser.

- Get a detailed written receipt specifying the type of setting, quality of gold or silver, and quality of the gem (cut, color, clarity, carats).

Electronic gear

As if the technical hurdles of keeping up with the latest innovations in electronic goods weren't enough, you can count on unscrupulous merchants to test your diligence. Whether you're shopping for a new TV or a new PCI the process is in many ways the same:

- Beware bait and switch, when the store lures you in with phenomenal prices on name products and then, saying they're out of stock, sweet-talks you into a product more expensive than you intended.

- Beware decoys. An advertised item may not be the same item you find in the box; or the store may try to pass off last year's model as this year's or a used product as new; compare model numbers, check for a warranty, and look for scratches

- Use your plastic. If you charge the purchase on a credit card, you'll be protected if you have a legitimate dispute with the merchant

- Your best warranty is a superior product; extended warranties aren't worth it.

Cars

If you want to splurge and give someone a car as a gift, don't tell the dealer. Buy the car as if it were for yourself and you had all the time in the world:

- Entering a dealership with out having a very few models in mind is akin to grocery shopping while hungry. Choose a few models that suit your purposes and find out the dealer's cost from Consumer Reports, AAA or an outfit like CarBargains; then bargain up from the dealer's cost; \$300 to \$500 dollars is a reasonable markup on all but the most popular models.

- Negotiate a trade-in or financing separately from the price of the car.

- Don't give in to a deal that's only good today. A good deal should be waiting for you tomorrow, if not at that dealer then at another.

- Don't be a tiger on price and

then a pussycat on "extras," you rarely need all that paint sealant, rust-proofing, etc., but it can add thousands to the carefully negotiated price and undo all your diligence.

Toys

Each year, nearly 150,000 children are injured playing with toys. To keep your child safe and your holidays happy:

- Read and heed toy age recommendations. Even your precocious 2-year-old niece may still put things in her mouth and is too young to play with toys with small (i.e., swallowable) parts the leading cause of toy-related deaths and injuries to children under three.

- Avoid toys with sharp points and edges and with cords and strings more than 12 inches long.

- Get appropriate protective gear to go with bikes, in-line skates, and all-terrain vehicles; a helmet is a must.

Health club memberships

The message you'll be sending with this gift is between you and your loved one, but beware of appeals that reduce your wallet more than your weight:

from long-term contracts. As good as you think (or hope) the gift recipient's intentions might be, recent research shows that only half the people who begin exercising stay with the program six months or longer.

- Visit the club during the hours your friend is likely to be using it to see how crowded it will be; and pay a visit to the locker room as well as the exercise floor to check out cleanliness and to be sure there is enough of every type of equipment.

- Make sure the contract has a cancellation provision ensuring full or prorated refunds in case of injury or relocation.

Credit cards

Personal debt is at an all time high, as are personal bankruptcies, but especially at holiday time you can increase your financial health by choosing and using credit cards wisely:

- Get a 12 percent interest rate card and use it to pay off debt on your 19.8 percent interest card; you can get a list of low interest cards from Bankcard Holders of

America. (Send \$4 to BHA, 524 Branch Drive, Salem, Va. 24159).

- Beware late fee increases, shrinking grace periods, and offers of low teaser rates that banks jack up once they've hooked you; news that the GE Rewards Mastercard was to begin penalizing card holders who pay their bills in full each month made big news earlier this year, but the costs of using a credit card has been creeping up for the last few years.

- Use a debit card instead of a credit card. Debit cards offer the convenience of credit cards with the discipline of checking accounts - because you present a card for payment, but instead of getting a bill a month later, your bank account is debited on the spot.

- Don't use your entire credit limit just because it's there. When the bills come in January, pay them promptly - at least the minimum balance - to avoid hefty late fees. Happy shopping! Mark Green is the elected public advocate for New York City and the author, most recently, of "The Consumer Bible: 1001 Ways to Shop Smart."

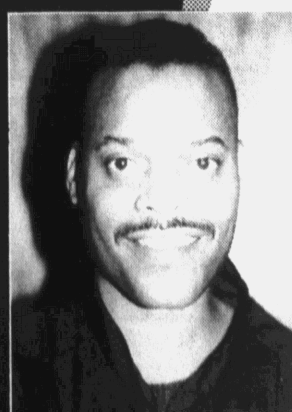
Philippi Church family salutes Bishop Randy Royal at a banquet last week in support of his many efforts to God, to his church members, family, wife, children and to his communities. The church flea market will be held each Saturday morning and breakfast will be served. Drop by and support our brothers and sisters.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS,
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
MAY GOD BLESS YOU
THROUGHOUT THE
NEW YEAR!**

May I, have this wonderful time of the year, extend the warmest of greetings and express appreciation for all those who do things to improve the lives of others.
Merry Christmas and Happy Kwanzaa.

**Pitt County Commissioner
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LEAD POISONING IS TARGET OF EPA GRANT PROJECT

A community advisory board will meet at 6 p.m. Monday at North Carolina Central University's Miller-Norgan Building to continue planning a \$250,000 project to address the problem of lead poisoning among children in the No-thea4t Central Durham area.

The project is supported by a \$250,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to NCCU and a community partnership. Cases of lead poisoning have been identified in

the project area by state environmental health officials.

The primary targets for intervention will be home day care facilities in the area, as well as other identified at-risk houses, according to Barbara T. Baylor who directs the project for the NCCU Department of Health Education.

The project, called Partnership Effort for the Advancement of Children's Health (PEACH), will include training of the area's young people, as well as adult

supervisors, to reduce or remove lead hazards from homes. Training will be provided by the N.C. Department of Environmental Health and Natural Resources.

The project will continue for two years.

Members of the advisory board for the project include Mike Cunningham, Durham Chapter, the American Red Cross; John Mickle, Community Health Coalition; Kenneth Spaulding, Dr. Howard Fitts, Janet Kennell, and Exter Gilmore of the Durham

Committee on the Affairs of Black People; Phillip Edwards and Dr. Janice Stratton, Durham County Health Department; Susan Perry-Manning, Durham Day Care Council; Shirley Johnson, Durham Public Schools; Dr. Robert Elias, Environmental Protection Agency; Dr. Evelyn Schmidt, Lincoln Community Health Center; Dr. Elaine Hart-Brothers, Metropolitan Durham Medical Group; Dr. Yolanda Banks Anderson, NCCU Environmental Sciences Program; Ed Norman,

N.C. Department of Environmental Health and Natural Resources; Rogelio Valencia, Effie Steele, Michael Page, the Rev. Carl Kenney, Jackie Wagstaff and Lenora Smith of the North East Central Durham Community Association; and Dr. Irva Hertz-Picciotto, Department of Epidemiology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

NCCU faculty members managing the project are Dr. Ted Parrish and Dr. Charles George, co-principal investigators; Dr. Tun

Nyien and Dr. Amal Abu-Shakra, co-investigators; and Ms. Baylor.

Ms. Baylor said, "Faculty and community both agree that this project will be a productive health protection and health promotion activity that will bode well for the health of the children and their families in North East Central Durham. In addition, they believe that what we learn from this initiative will have significance for unregulated day care centers in North Carolina and the rest of the nation."

What Happened to Our Rhythm? Holiday Season May Cause Parental Stress

By Gary L. Davis
12/9/96

My, how we as black people have changed over the years. I am forever hearing folks talk about the good old days this and the good old days that. The truth of the matter is that there was a period we could call the good old days. Those were the days when the whole city block was like family.

All the neighbors knew each other and cared about each other. The kids were able to walk to school and the teachers knew their parents. It did not really matter whether or not the teachers knew the parents because the teachers could handle discipline problems without worrying about being charged with a crime.

There was a such thing as an extended family and the old people were respected. Yes, those were the good old days for black folk. Black businesses prospered because white businesses would not respect or treat blacks right even if the blacks paid them.

Those were the days of black social clubs, black schools, black

restaurants, and black stores. We had to stick together because we were all in the same boat. We were in the so-called vicious boat of segregation and discrimination. Some people would call those days hard times.

The question, however, is whether or not they were really hard times? We were tolerant of each other and the black community actually thrived. There was a rhythm in the black neighborhoods and the rhythm protected the heritage of the black community. What happened to that rhythm?

Let me try to answer the question. I think we lost our rhythm when we gained our freedom. Not the freedom that Lincoln conferred on the slaves, but that freedom which we gave ourselves.

The freedom to shop and live where we please. Once we were free to give our money to white people regardless of how we were treated, we took great advantage of that freedom. We flocked out of our neighborhoods, abandoning our clubs, our schools, our

restaurants, and our stores to shop in the malls and shopping center owned and operated by their white counterparts.

We were free to move into the so-called white neighborhoods, draining the life blood from our old areas. Now I am not saying that shopping white stores and/or moving into white neighborhoods is wrong. What I am saying is that abandoning black stores or black neighborhoods for no other reason than to shop white stores or to live among whites is wrong.

How many black stores have failed because of lack of support from black people. Why is it so wrong for black people to support black causes and black businesses? We must realize that if we do not support our own, we go under. We have to get our rhythm back. We must realize that when one brother succeeds we all succeed. Contrary to popular belief, we must still, even in this day and time, help each other to succeed.

No black business should go under for lack of black support. We must not let others call us racist for supporting our own. We are so happy to have white America accept us, that we do not realize that they always support their own. This is America, designed by

white folk, for the enjoyment of white folk.

White America has no rhythm, and whenever we cross over, we give up our rhythm. If you hate black people, you got no rhythm. It does not matter if you wear African clothing or the latest rap craze. If you do not support black causes, you got no rhythm.

How do you get your rhythm back? Find a quiet place, sit back and meditate on your life. Think back to the time when you forsook your blackness to make it in a white world. Listen carefully for the drums. After 400 years here in America, the drums still beat. Hear the drums, and your rhythm will return.

When your rhythm returns, so will your blackness. Let me finish by saying that when you hear white folk wishing for the good old days, you better watch out. What they are really wishing for is the time when they did not have to deal with black folk directly.

Some are wishing for the return of Jim Crow, others are wishing for the return of slavery, still others are wishing we were never brought over from Africa. We must wake up and feel the beat. Support your own, and maybe your rhythm will return.

Prevent Child Abuse

Dear Editor:

The holiday season is upon us. Unfortunately the season is not a happy one for many children across North Carolina. Over 96,000 children are reported as abused and neglected each year in our state and 40 children died last year from abuse.

Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina was founded in 1979 on the belief that no girl or boy should be abused. PCA is the single, statewide, not-for-profit organization dedicated solely to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. We have developed the attached "Holiday Stress Prevention

Tips" for parents to help prevent abuse during the hectic holiday season.

We hope that you will use the enclosed article. I am available for interviews and can provide more detailed information about parenting techniques for specific ages of children. Please feel free to contact me at 1-800-354-KIDS with any questions, and have a relaxing and enjoyable holiday (whether you're a parent or not!).

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer L. Tolle, MA
Executive Director



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Journey to Justice
Johanne L. Cochran
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(Autobiography) Ballantine
ISBN: 0-345-47653-8 \$26.00

Mandela
An Illustrated Biography
Nelson Mandela
More than 200 striking photographs, text drawn from the author's best-selling memoir, *Long Walk to Freedom*, provides unprecedented access to Mandela's remarkable life. Featuring many rare, newly published images of Mandela, a young anti-apartheid activist, a brave political prisoner, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, and a determined father and grandfather, the book brilliantly captures the uncompromising spirit and compassion of one of the world's most important leaders. (Autobiography) Little, Brown & Co.
ISBN: 0-316-55086-6 \$29.95

Don't Block the Blessings
Revelations of a Lifetime
Patricia LaFelle with Laura B. Randolph
In this long-awaited memoir, soul gospel and disco diva Patricia LaFelle reveals the exciting story of her rise to fame, describes how she overcame career setbacks, and how she overcame her personal tragedies. (Autobiography) Riverchapel Books
ISBN: 1-57322-039-6 \$24.95

As featured on cover
GOOD HAIR
Bentley Little
Good Hair: A Novel
When a Newark girl meets an upper-crust Boston boy, sparks fly, backgrounds clash, and readers enter a rarely observed aspect of African-American life in this glamorous, romantic, funny, and poignant debut novel by the former arts and entertainment editor of *Time*.
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Van Slyke & Bray Publishers
ISBN: 0-9633435-0-4 \$19.95

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Weed & Seed News & Notes

SEPTEMBER 11, 1996

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson D. D. Garrett at 8 a.m. at the Moyewood Center. No minutes were available.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Religion Subcommittee. Dr. Royal reported that he met with the Mrs. Pruitt to coordinate the clean up of homes in target areas. Mr. Bullock assisted him by making referrals of residents. Dr. Royal will submit a list of problems noted during clean ups that require assistance from City officials.

Law Enforcement Subcommittee. Greenville police officers made 38 arrests this summer (June through August).

Medicine/Health Subcommittee. Mrs. Earnestine Haselrig and the programs. Will seek input from Mrs Council.

No reports were received from Economic Development Subcommittees.

Chairperson Garrett informed committee that Mr. Jim Rouse agreed to serve as coordinator of the block captains. Names of the block captains will be subject to approval by steering committee. Motion was made by Dr. Royal and seconded by Dr. Best said persons be appointed as block captains. Orientation session will be conducted by Attorney Cole with block captains at 6 PM on September 30, 1996 at the Moyewood Center. Motion was made by Chief Hinman and seconded by Sergeant Hines that personnel be given carte blanche authority continue to add block captains.

Chief Hinman presented to the committee sample decals for review. Police Attorney will draft document of common consent for businesses to sign. Motion was made by Attorney Cole and seconded by Dr. Best that decals be approved as presented. Chief Hinman will coordinate the cost element.

Motion for adjournment was made by Dr. Royal at 9:37 a.m. and seconded by Mr. Monk.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn E. Stephenson
Secretary

OCTOBER 9, 1996

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Andrew Best at 8:04 a.m. at the Moyewood Center. Prayer by Dr. Royal. Minutes of the last meeting were read by Carolyn Stephenson. Motion was made by Mrs. Pruitt and seconded by Dr. Royal that minutes be approved as read.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Religion Subcommittee. Dr. Royal proposed to increase drug awareness in our city via campaigns throughout churches. Requests that area churches open for one hour each week to serve as counseling center or satellite center. Plans to have concept in place by first of November.

Medicine/Health Subcommittee. Dr. Best reported that projects for this subcommittee hinge upon the selection of a new health director.

Law Enforcement Subcommittee. Sergeant Hines informed membership that he was readily available for assistance as needed.

Beautification Subcommittee. Subcommittee has targeted Bancroft, Fleming and Fourteenth Streets and general area for clean up and decoration program for Christmas holidays and will be recognized for doing so. Mrs. Pruitt thanked Dr. Royal and Mr. Bullock for their untiring assistance working with clean up crews during the summer.

No reports were received from the Education or Economic Development Subcommittees.

Chief Hinman circulated the approved decals and pledge for review by membership. Police officers will distribute decals and get pledges signed by participants. Mr. John Minges generously agreed to cover the \$1,400 cost. First batch of decals will be distributed at no charge. Publicity committee will schedule press conference to inform the public.

Approximately seven residents attended the block captains meeting.

Mr. Bullock requested of Mayor Jenkins that City Inspector meet with Weed and Seed to get report of violations noted in target areas. Mayor Jenkins recommended that the City Manager handle getting City Inspector's participation once a month.

Chief Hinman reported that Greenville Police Department has received the grant award to purchase flip phones for block captains, HELP Team, and victims of Domestic Violence. Upon receipt, these phones will be programmed with certain emergency numbers. The deadline for submitting Weed and Seed application is December 31, 1996.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

AMENDED

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn E. Stephenson Secretary

NOTICE

The Greenville Housing Authority will commence accepting applications for Section 8 Assisted Housing programs on Wednesday, January 8, 1997 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and each Wednesday thereafter.

James E. Barnhill
Executive Director

Church Calendar

Faye White
Associate Editor

(Editor's Note: If you would like to have your church's special event included in this column, please submit it to Faye White, 'M' Voice Church Calendar, at least two weeks prior to the event.)

The Pitt County Chapter of the North Carolina A & T University Alumni hosted "An Evening of Gospel Music" with the A & T State University Fellowship Gospel Choir and Witness for Christ at the Sycamore Hill Baptist Church on Sunday, Dec. 7.

Bishop Randy Royal was honored by the church family of the Philippi Church of Christ in observance of his eighteenth anniversary on December 1st. Other observances included a banquet at the Ramada Inn on Friday, Dec. 13.

Wooten's School Of Music announces their annual Christmas Program, "A CHRISTMAS MUSIC EXTRAVAGANZA" to be held on Sunday, December 22 at the York Memorial AME Zion Church. This program will include students enrolled in the School of Music, along with members of the community, the Combined Voices, and the Pitt County/Greenville United Fellowship Male Choirs. This program is designed to enhance the cultural enrichment of the Performing Arts, a much needed element in the "west side" community.

The SWEET HOPE FWB CHURCH celebrated the Anniversary of their Pastor, Elder Melvin Murphy, on Sunday, December 15. Minister Roland Gay delivered the sermon at the 11:00 morning worship service. Elder Gregory Ellis, of Mt. Shiloh, was the guest at the 3:00 service. The members of Sweet Hope will be "pounding" their pastor the entire month of December.

WATERSIDE FWB CHURCH, located on Hines Street in Farmville, installed Rev. Malcolm Moore, as their new pastor on Sunday, December 15.

A "MARRIAGE FELLOWSHIP" will be held at salvation & Praise Full Gospel Church in Farmville on Saturday, December 21. The speakers will be Pastors Marion and Clara Joyner, of Life of Christ Christian Church.

Philippi Church of Christ will honor their church's musician with ONESSION "POPCORN" BROOKS DAY on Sunday. A fellowship dinner/reception will be given by the members of the Mass Choir and Male Chorus in the fellowship hall on Saturday, December 14 at 6:00 PM. Elder Mary Houpe will be the speaker and special music will be rendered by Big James Barrett & the Golden Jubilees of Greenville.

A Christmas Musical "FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN" will be presented at the TABERNACLE CENTER CHURCH OF DELIVERANCE, 1300 Dickinson Ave. in Greenville, at 7:15 PM. on Sunday, December 22. Tabernacle's Pastor—Dr. George A Hawkins—arranged and will conduct this musical along with accompanists Mr. Lonnie Perkins, Mrs. Eleanor Barber and Miss Carolina Wallace. This musical will feature a performance by the Tabernacle performing Cherubs. The public is invited.

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