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Truth knows no color; it appeals to intelligence.  
Ralph Wiley

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EASTERN-NORTH CAROLINA'S MINORITY VOICE - SINCE 1981

APRIL 28- MAY 7, 1997

## Race, media, American law and O.J. Simpson

by Dennis Schatzman

JUSTICE WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS, noted Nat Hentoff in a post O. J. Simpson civil trial verdict column, used to say that "the history of liberty is the history of due process—and its abuse."

Hentoff, a leading authority on the Bill of Rights, explained that although Simpson's second trial "was a civil trial, he (was) tried for the same crimes twice, and very few of the legal experts and other commentators seemed concerned by this basic violation of due process, even though it is permitted."

"And because the civil trial has lower standards of proof," Hentoff continues, "it is obviously easier to convict the second time around."

Funher, Hentoff adds: "Most Americans are not expert in the law and react viscerally when they believe a murderer has been allowed by 'the system' to go free. Yet if the charge had been that Simpson had murdered his first wife, who is black, (instead of the white Nicole Brown Simpson and the Jewish Ronald Lyle Goldman) would the public and legal experts have been interested for more than a month? And if Simpson had been acquitted of that crime in a criminal trial, would there have been a second trial?"

To understand this saga is to understand that many social, political and legal aspects of this case were largely about race. Oh, it was about other issues as well, the violation of due process, as mentioned above; media

and judicial bias, even murder, and *who* many people "believe" committed them. But essentially, both the criminal and civil trials, and how the media, the juries, the various ethnic publics, and the legal system reacted to them was all about race. Pure and simple.

Hentoff wasn't the only respected authority to take exception to what many consider unapologetic violations of Simpson's right to due process. Bruce Morton of Cable News Network said of the civil trial: "This is a second trial for the same offense with real penalties. In that sense, this is double jeopardy."

Yale Kamisar, a law professor at the University of Michigan told the New York Times: "It's really a second crack at O. J. The reason most people don't mind is because most people, or most white people, think that O. J. did it. It's so easy to forget about principles." Seven of the eight jurors and alternates who spoke with the media after they awarded the Goldman and Brown families \$25 million in punitive damages claimed that "race had nothing to do with" their verdict. When I heard that, I could not help but be reminded of the words of the late Baltimore Sun journalist H. L. Mencken: "It's hard to believe that a man is telling the truth when you know that you would lie if you were in his place."

Lisa Theriot, a 25-year-old administrative assistant for an outdoor advertising agency, sat on the civil jury. She told a March 13, 1997 audience at Los Angeles'

Loyola Marymount University that she held for the Browns and the Goldmans because Simpson "had time to commit the murders."

Since then, Theriot says she has had second thoughts about the culpability of Simpson since she admits that she is now privy to evidence—the lack thereof—not in her possession during the civil trial. Yet she told an audience at California State University at Fullerton that she sticks by her jury's decision to saddle Simpson with a \$33 million liability. But race, she says, "had nothing to do with it."

The lone black juror to survive the trial, however, disagreed. She said race had everything to do with the verdict. She's right, of course. And she has 355 years of legal history to back her up.

On due process and disparate treatment the legal annals are chocked full of examples of how race plays into the verdict equation frequently when the disputes are between blacks and whites. In his classic legal textbook, "In the Matter of," and also in his more recent treatise, "Shades of Freedom: Racial Politics and the Presumptions of the American Legal Process," retired Federal Appeals Court Judge A. Leon Higginbotham cites a number of them dating back to pre-Revolutionary days.

In 1640, for example, John Punch, a black indentured servant, ran away from his white master along with two Dutch servants in Jamestown, Virginia. They were captured and brought before the local justice of the peace. The two white servants were given

four additional years on their indentured servitude, along with a public flogging in the town square.

Punch was not only beaten before his turn before the judge came up, he was also beaten soundly after the judge remanded him to remain an indentured servant "for the rest of his life."

In law the term, "stare decisis," means,

"let stand what has already been decided," has relevance here. Stare decisis is the basis for what is called precedence, the historical road map for all legal rulings. What "In Re: John Punch" turned out to be was the precedent case establishing the legal slavery of the black man in America.

Continued on Page 12.



Community Christian Church. Shown above is Pastor James Corbett and his wife, Delores Corbett. Recording star William Beckon and the Rev. from Tulsa, Oklahoma, who is a Christian rapper who played before Beckon's live concert at Community Christian Church. The Church was jumping to Jesus, live all the way! Long live the word!

(Photo by: Jim Rouse)

## Protest at Piggly Wiggly

by Gary L Davis

Let me first say that I was a picketer, so this will not be the Piggly Wiggly version of the story. I was a member of the picket line on the first day and I was on the picket line on the last night with many cold and rainy days in between. I am not a card carrying member of the Coalition Against Racism (CAR) so I feel I can be objective. I am, however, a dedicated member of Philippi Church of Christ, and there is a special place in my heart for Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church. However, what follows will be the facts as I know them and if you have a problem with what I write, send your comments in letters to the M-Voice editor. I will be happy to hear from you.

Let me tell you that CAR was not the only civil rights organization involved in the protest. The effort included participation by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the National Association of Colored People (NAACP), the Local Organizing Committee of the Million Man March (LOM), as well as many other independent people and groups opposed to racism and discrimination. Support even came from students at ECU and from people who just felt compelled to support the cause.

Early in protest, Pastor Royal asked other local pastors to support him so that he could present a united front to Piggly Wiggly. He initially received active support from one local pastor, Rev. Sidney A. Locks, who would later return to help resolve the situation. Other pastors not only did not support Bishop Royal, but a couple would cross the picket lines many times to shop at Piggly Wiggly. Bishop T.L. Davis and Bishop Ralph Love were frequent shoppers at Piggly Wiggly up until the final three weeks of the protest when they finally had a change of heart.

In August, Shawan Sutton and another cashier of the Piggly Wiggly store approached CAR complaining that they were unfairly suspended for doing their jobs. CAR asked them to tell their story, and this is that story:

A white woman pulled up into the Piggly Wiggly parking lot,

and she had her 15-year old daughter with her. The white woman decided to send her daughter, into the store to buy cigarettes.

The 15-year-old went through Shawan Sutton's checkout and asked for the cigarettes. Shawan noticing that the young white girl seemed a bit young asked her for proper identification. The girl told Shawan that her mother was out in the car and had sent her to get the cigarettes. Shawan stood by her guns and said that her mother would have to get the cigarettes for herself. The 15 year old went out to the car and told her mother that the cashier would not sell her the cigarettes. So the mother got out of the car and went storming into the store. The woman went straight to Shawan and started telling her exactly how she felt. For some time the white woman berated Shawan, even using racial epithets to get her point across. Finally Shawan could stand no more and started returning the angry words and terrible language back to the woman. Another cashier

joined Shawan in rebuking the white woman. The white woman was shocked to hear black women talk to her in such a manner. The white woman decided that she would go to the assistant manager of the Piggly Wiggly and have those insolent black women dealt with. The owner/manager Rick Jackson was called and told about the situation. Rick decided to not do anything over the weekend and planned to deal with it upon returning to store on Monday. When Rick returned on Monday, he interviewed Shawan and the other cashier who was involved and decided to suspend them for one week without pay.

Another incident involving Shawan Sutton would later occur at Piggly Wiggly. A former employee, Sandra May, came out to the picket line and told me this story: Sandra May said that she was in the break area eating a burger that she had purchased from a local fast food restaurant. Sitting on the counter next to her was a sandwich

Continued on Page 14.



## Moyewood Project...

The community came together last Saturday for the annual Fun Day that took place in the Moyewood Housing Project. Shown above is Greenville Housing Authority Community man, Brother Best, shown with a young resident who is expressing her love for Brother Best as they pose for our camera.

(Photo by: Jim Rouse)

## Rep. Clayton to sponsor job fair

Dear Mr. Rouse:

In an attempt to address the needs of constituents and employers within the First Congressional District, I am sponsoring a Job Fair in my District. The Fair will provide individuals an opportunity to meet potential employers within the area.

I invite you to participate by joining us on Monday, June 9, 1997 at Pitt Community College Learning Resources Center located on US Highway 11 South in Greenville for my "1st Annual Job Fair". The event will be held from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. The event will give employers an opportunity to interview potential employees and take applications and/or resumes. If your company is able to participate, we would greatly appreciate your sending one or two company representatives and appropriate displays, job applications and information about your company. There is no fee to participate in the Fair.

Please note that I am not asking your company to commit to any specific number of jobs. It is my hope that by participating in the Job Fair, your company will interview or meet individuals that could



be assets in terms of employment with your organization.

I hope your company will join me in this effort to make a positive impact in the community. Please call Ms. Tallee Dillard in my Greenville District Office at 1-800-274-8672 or locally at 758-8800 if you require additional information or if your

company would like to participate. If you are interested, please respond by May 16, 1997.

I look forward to seeing your company at the Job Fair.

Rep. Eva Clayton



## Health Talk...

The Post office is where good conversation and old friends meet to discuss issues especially when each of these ladies make their living in the medical field. Left to right, Young Miss Artis, Dr. Best's office assistant, and Doctor Artis' wife, are shown talking health.

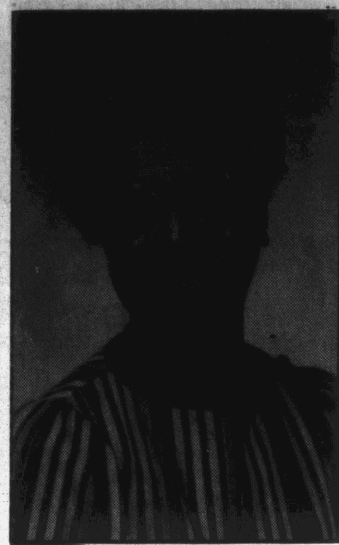
(Photo by: Jim Rouse)



from the desk of

**Mrs. Beatrice Maye**

## GO TO THE HEAD OF THE CLASS



**Mrs. Beatrice Maye**

### HEARSE

When the hearse goes by - Those who are properly reared know that you should pull over to the shoulder of the road and respectfully wait until the entire procession has passed by. Surely the five minutes it takes will not put too much of a wrinkle into anyone's schedule. There should always be time to be polite and respectful.

### CONGRATULATIONS!

The birth of Noah Alexander, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Faison, Jr. Grandparents: Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Faison, Sr. Noah Alexander was born, Wednesday, April 16, 1997 in Columbia, Maryland.

Salita Lynn, the daughter of James and Kathy Streeter Greene, Wednesday, February 12, 1997 in Durham North Carolina, and Brianna Simone, the daughter of Brian and Hope Streeter Tyler, born Saturday, April 12, 1997 in Rocky Mount North Carolina. These babies are the granddaughters of Mrs. Sallye Streeter, 1112 West 4th Street, Greenville, North Carolina.

ters of Mrs. Sallye Streeter, 1112 West 4th Street, Greenville, North Carolina.

### RECOVER

A speedy recovery is expressed to Mrs. Agnes Walters Jones. Reverent Sympathy

Reverent sympathy is expressed to the Rufus Gardner, the Lucy Hunter, Mildred Graves Thompson Families and to others we do not know of.

Tips to Keep Your Child Away from Tobacco

1. If you don't want your children to smoke, tell them so.

2. Set a good example. If you smoke, quit. If you don't smoke, don't start. Statistics show that teens are more likely to smoke if their parents do.

3. Point the irony of smoking to your child. Most kids smoke because they want to be cool. Yet it's really immature, not acceptable from a health stand point and not acceptable in many social circles.

4. Help your children build self-confidence so they can withstand peer pressure. They need to be able to stand up for themselves and say, "No".

5. Point out the social consequences of cigarette smoking, such as the high cost of cigarettes, holes in clothing, yellow teeth, bad breath and the fact that no one likes to kiss a smoker.

6. Also point out the health risks of smoking - addiction, cancer, lung diseases, premature wrinkles, danger to unborn babies, etc.

7. Encourage your child to take a part in school, church and other youth groups where smoking is unlikely to be an issue.

8. Know where your kids are, who they are with and what they are doing.

Meet their friends and their parents to make sure they have the

same values as you do.

9. Have zero tolerance from smoking and other illegal activities.

With evidence like this, it's a wonder anyone would ever light up. Yet, after a 20 year decline, the rate of smoking is increasing among our youth. A recent report from the American Cancer Society shows that smoking has increased by 30 percent among eighth graders from 14.3 percent in 1991 to 18.6 percent in 1994. During the same period, smoking rates among tenth graders have increased from 20.8 percent to 25.4 percent. In Nebraska, 32 percent of the 2,037 youth who took part in the 1995 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Of Nebraska, adolescents had smoked at least one cigarette every day for the past 30 days.

Why are American youth ignoring the well-publicized dangers of tobacco? This is a question health experts and youth advocates across the nation are pondering. Part of it may be the teen mentality, says Mary Peterson, program director, American Lung Association, "Teens think they are invincible. That nothing is ever going to happen to them". They aren't worried about premature wrinkles, cancer, or other diseases.

Let me stress, cigarettes don't make you cool. They don't make you grown up either. Grow up, young man, young lady.

Beware! Ladies cross their legs at the ankle, not the knee.

### Things That Money Cannot Buy

Have you ever thought about the things that money cannot buy? Some of them are listed below:

1. Money can buy a house, but it cannot buy a home.
2. Money can buy medicine,

but it cannot buy health.

3. Money can buy a clock, but it cannot buy time.

4. Money can buy a picture, but it cannot buy a sun set.

5. Money can buy a wedding, but it cannot buy love.

6. Money can buy people, but it cannot buy friends.

7. Money can buy expensive items, but it cannot buy happiness.

8. Money can buy eye glasses, but it cannot buy sight.

9. Money can buy clothes, but it cannot buy character.

10. Money can buy an education, but it cannot buy wisdom.

### Importance Rating

Rate the following item from 1 to 10, with 1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest rating possible.

- Owning a large home
- Studying the Bible daily
- Helping needy people in the community

- Visiting exotic places
- Being a millionaire
- Sharing the Gospel
- Serving in the church
- Buying a sports car
- Praying daily
- Going to the country club
- Having a good family
- Being the president of a large company

### Do Southern Men Make Better Husbands?

Condensed from: JET, February 3, 1997

Some women maintain that Southern men make better husbands for these reasons:

1. Accept a woman unconditionally
2. More nurturing

3. Higher respect for their mother, which determines how he treats a Date

4. More traditional with values instilled

5. Hardworking, the family comes first

6. Children are products of their environment. If father puts the family first, you'll be that way as a husband.

7. Believed to make better husbands because of how they are perceived

8. More courteous, sensitive, religious and family-oriented because in the South the church is a major base.

9. Northern men are perceived as overaggressive, fast-paced, ambitious, insensitive and arrogant, but these geographical distinctions are fastly eroding.

10. More determined and committed toward making a relationship work, which more than likely make them a better marriage partner

11. They value family

12. They are viewed as role models and considered "good men".

### Memorization

Has memorization become obsolete in schools today? How many children know the following?

1. "The Gettysburg Address"
2. the Preamble to the Constitution
3. Anthony's funeral oration over Caesar - "Brutus is an honorable man"
4. Lady Macbeth's famous line - "Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow"
5. "Twas was the Night Before Christmas"
6. "Only God can make a tree"

7. "Listen, my children, and you shall hear/Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere"

8. Some proverbial wisdom from "Poor Richard's Almanack"

9. "Sunset and evening star", from "Crossing the Bar"

10. Langston Hughes' "Mother to Son"

### THE WORLD NEEDS MEN

... who cannot be bought;

... whose word is their bond;

... who put character above wealth;

... who possess opinions and a will;

... who are larger than their vocations;

... who do not hesitate to take chances.

... who will not lose their individuality in a crowd;

... who will be as honest in small things as in great things;

... who will make no compromise with wrong.

... whose ambitions are not confined to their own selfish desires;

... who will not say they do it "because everybody else does it."

... who are true to their friends through good report and evil report, in adversity as well as in prosperity.

... who do not believe that shrewdness, cunning, and hardheadedness are the best qualities for winning success;

... who are not ashamed or afraid to stand for the truth when it is unpopular, who can say "no" with emphasis, although all the rest of the world says "yes."

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# Black women at highest risk from nation's no. 1 killer

by Susan K. Wilson

Nearly twice as many women will die this year of heart and blood vessel disease as from all forms of cancer combined, including breast and lung cancer.

For black women, the statistics are even worse. This group will have a 69 percent higher rate of death from cardiovascular disease than their white female counterparts.

Yet few women are aware that heart disease, an equal opportunity killer, stalks them in numbers almost equal to men. And even more black women than black men die of heart disease.

"Most women, black or white, do

not know that the No. 1 killer for women is heart disease," says Cheryl R. Martin, M.D., a cardiologist in private practice in Milwaukee, Wisc. "Yet American women are the sixteenth longest-living group of women on earth," she says. In contrast, "Japanese women as a group live the longest. All American women are doing poorly, but African-American women are doing worst of all."

Martin spoke at the American Heart Association's conference "Saving Our Lives: African American Women Fighting Heart Disease" recently held in Washington, D.C.

Statistics from the AHA show that of the approximately 487,000

heart attack deaths that occur each year, nearly half are women. Another 91,000 women die each year of stroke. Heart and blood vessel disease — largely coronary heart disease and stroke — combined claim more than 500,000 women's lives each year.

Black women are at the high end of this risk spectrum. Not only is their death rate from heart attack about one-third higher than their white female counterparts, but the death rate from heart attack between the ages of 35 and 74 is more than 38 percent than that of white women. According to the AHA, in 1991 the death rate from cardiovascular disease among black women was 69 percent higher than for white females.

Why are American women, and particularly black women, dying in such large numbers from a disease in which so many of the risk factors are lifestyle-related? And more importantly, what can women do to reverse this grim trend?

Education and counseling about heart disease, including its causes and the preventable risk factors, seem to hold out the best hope.

According to Debra Judelson, M.D., a cardiologist with the Cardiovascular Medical Group of Southern California in Beverly

Hills, there are significant differences between men and women when it comes to coronary artery disease.

"The fact is, the typical woman is as likely to have a heart attack as a man," she says. But the typical woman is at least a decade older, has more body fat, less muscle mass, and a different metabolism. She has been exposed to a different hormonal cycle, is more likely to have diabetes and high blood pressure, and is exposed to stress through non-medical concerns relating to family and family care. And she is more likely to be non-white than the typical male cardiac patient.

Black women frequently lack access to health care services, and as a result may be less informed about heart disease, its risk factors and prevention. Lack of access can mean a delay seeking care for potential cardiac problems, and can lead to the increased likelihood of heart attack or stroke outside the hospital setting.

The female patient also tends to present her symptoms to the physician differently than the male patient. She will report to the emergency room approximately an hour later than her male counterpart because she doesn't believe she's having a heart attack. Because she is usually older and less active, she will be less likely to have the classic chest pressure or pain than a man; her complaint may more often be shortness of breath or lack of physical energy. She may not appear to be as sick. Or she may appear hysterical to the doctor, and be treated for an anxiety or panic attack when in reality she is having a heart attack.

She will be less assertive about her symptoms. Where a man might enter a hospital emergency room shouting "I'm having a heart attack," a woman may say, "I don't feel well." The man will be taken care of more promptly than the less assertive woman. Even when

a woman is thought to have heart disease, she is only half as likely as a man to receive invasive testing such as cardiac catheterization, even when other tests strongly indicate the presence of coronary disease, says Patricia Davidson, M.D., a cardiologist in private practice in Washington, D.C.

The AHA is working to increase awareness of women's risk of heart disease among both physicians and women. But what action can women take to protect themselves?

"Learn what your personal risk factors for heart disease are," says Anne L. Taylor, M.D., an associate professor of medicine in the Division of Cardiology at Case Western Reserve School of Medicine in Cleveland. "Then, be aggressive in seeking advice and education from a physician."

**Risk Factors That Can't Be Changed**

Some factors affect everybody's risk, whether male or female. They include:

- **Increasing age** — The older one gets, the more likely one is to develop heart disease.

- **Gender** — Men develop heart disease earlier than women. But after menopause, the gap between men and women narrows rapidly.

- **Heredity** — If other members of the family have had heart disease, you are more likely to develop it. Black Americans are at even higher risk, in large part because they have higher average blood pressure levels.

**Risk Factors That Can Be Changed**

There are some risk factors people can reduce through changing their lifestyle. Focus on these:

- **Stop smoking** — This may be the single most significant risk factor for women. Smokers are at two to four times greater risk of heart attack than their non-smoking counterparts. The best advice is, if you smoke, make every effort to stop now.

- **Monitor and control high blood pressure** — On average, 58 percent of all women over age 55 have high blood pressure. An astonishing 73 percent of black women age 65-74 have high blood pressure, compared with 53 per-

cent of white women.

**Monitor and control blood cholesterol levels** — The higher your blood cholesterol level, the more likely that fats and cholesterol will build up in your artery walls, narrowing them and slowing blood flow. When left untreated, this condition can lead to a heart attack or stroke.

**Get physical** — The AHA lists physical inactivity as one of the four leading risk factors. More than 40 studies have shown that heart disease is almost twice as likely to develop in inactive people as in those who are more active. And women are much less active than men at all ages, beginning at age six.

**Lose excess pounds** — Body weight (obesity) is an important independent risk factor for women, which, in combination with other factors such as adult-onset diabetes, high blood pressure, high levels of bad cholesterol, smoking and/or sedentary lifestyle, increases risk for heart disease.

**Have your physician monitor your hormonal status** — During the years a woman is menstruating, her risk of heart disease is low. After menopause, however, a woman may be a candidate for estrogen replacement therapy. Hormonal therapy is prescribed on an individual basis, weighing all risks and factors.

**Learning about heart disease and taking steps to control it are two of the most important actions a woman can take to preserve her good health, the doctors agree.**

If a woman suspects she has heart disease, says Dr. Davidson, "She needs to be sure she is seeing a physician who also will aggressively look at the disease."

"She needs to be in touch with her symptoms," adds Dr. Judelson. She should be able to describe them accurately to her physician, and if she feels she is not getting satisfactory attention or answers to her questions, she should not hesitate to seek a second, or even third opinion.

For more information about women and heart disease, contact your local American Heart Association or call (800) 242-8721.

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# Injustice...Down On The Farm

By George Wilson

In spite of denial by some, there are very few African Americans who can't trace their roots back to a farm. Current actions by the U.S. Department of Agriculture threaten to put African American farmers in the same category as dinosaurs.

African Americans say that the USDA forecloses on farms owned by African Americans at an accelerated rate, delays the issuance of certain types of loans and generally, makes life miserable for those who earn their living from the land and who happen to be African American.

Joe Boyd is a third generation farmer

who raises poultry and some grains on his farm, which is located in Mecklenburg County, Virginia. Boyd also heads the National Black Farmers Association. During a recent conversation, Boyd carefully outlined the plight of African American farmers and the lack of activity on the part of the Agriculture Department to come to their aid.

"Our struggle has been with the Department of Agriculture's discrimination in its lending program, racial bias and even fraudulent practices. We, in the National Black Farmers Association, believe that there is a 1,500 case backlog of complaints against the USDA, with 163 occurring in the state of Virginia. To my

knowledge, only one of these complaints has been resolved. We protested in front of the White House in December and the Secretary of Agriculture (Dan Glickman), declared a moratorium on foreclosures. However, they have not adhered to that decision. The Office of the Inspector General for the department, stated there have been over 1,000 foreclosures since December. Myself and others are being forced to wonder when is the department going to do right by Black farmers?"

According to Boyd and others, in 1940 there were approximately one million African American farmers in the U.S. In 1997, that figure is down to 18,000. The U.S. Civil Rights Commission has indi-

cated in a report that if the current land loss continues, Black farms will be extinct by the year 2000. As we march headlong into Spring, most farmers are planting their crops. Unfortunately, too many African American farmers are still waiting for checks from the Agriculture Department. If USDA takes its usual six months for more to fully process loans, African American farmers will be damaged more by stumbling bureaucracy than bad weather or insects could ever do. The flight of African American farmers has a profound effect on all of us who eat. In addition, history has taught us that a land less people is indeed a powerless people. It is a

frightening prospect to think that there could be a circumstance in this country where African Americans can no longer have a hand in the food we consume. The National Black Farmers Association is not sitting on their plows. They are returning to Washington to once again press their case to the Agriculture Department and any others who will listen and take action. Members of the Congressional Black Caucus, African American employees at USDA and others will visibly show their support. And a fully dressed mule will participate to symbolize what our ancestors walked behind for free while this nation was being fed.

## National Black Farmers Demonstrate

Black farmers in the United States are about to become extinct because of racism and discriminatory practices on the part of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and its field agents. According to the 1997 report issued by the USDA's Civil Rights Action Team, field agents in the past routinely denied loans to black farmers, cut the amount requested without legitimate reason, took three times as long to process black loan applications, denied them access to subsidy programs designed to help them, and aggressively foreclosed with the loans feel behind.

The National Black Farmers Association (NBFA) called for a demonstration on April 23 at the USDA, located at Independence Avenue and 14th Street, S.W., in Washington, D.C.

According to John W. Boyd, Jr., president of the National Black Farmers Association, "What is at stake is the existence of the small family farms." Said Boyd, "Although the USDA has come a long way, there's still a long way to go."

After the farmers demonstrated in

Washington in December 1996, the USDA held "listening sessions" around the country to investigate civil rights abuses in USDA programs. Then it issued a report showing that systemic abuses have occurred. The report included 92 recommendations for change. However, few of those have been implemented. "Most pressing now is the issue of money for spring planting", said Boyd.

Between 1920 and 1992, the number of Black farmers in the U.S. declined from 925,710 to 18,816 or by 98 percent. African Americans are losing land at a rate of 9000 acres per week. In 1950, Black farmers owned 15.6 million acres of farmland nationally. In 1982, Black farmers owned 3.1 million acres of farmland nationally. "Although African Americans have suffered the greatest loss, the issue of discrimination within the USDA affects all small family farmers," says Gary Grant of the Land Loss Fund, Tillery, N.C.

Farmers who have been denied loans to plant their crops in the past are not getting them this spring. If something is not done, they will be that much further be-

hind as another crop cycle begins. Black farms have been disappearing even faster than other farms, and report after report has shown that they are on the verge of extinction.

The Coalition of Minority Employees of the USDA, which has been battling for fair treatment of employees, has pledged to support the farmers. Lawrence Lucas, president of the coalition, said, "It's all part of the same problem—the culture in the Department of Agriculture."

The march and rally is an effort to keep these issues before the USDA in order to ensure that progressive action is taken. Speakers included: Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D) Calif., (Chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus); Congressman Bennett Thompson (D) Miss.; Lawrence Lucas (President-Coalition of Minority Employees, USDA); Dick Gregory (invited guest); John Boyd (President-National Black Farmers Association); Gary Cornelius (Farmer-Iowa); Eddie Ross (Farmer-Miss); Phil Givens (Farmer-OK); Gary Grant (Director-CCT/LLF); Kaye Ginnis (Farmer-SC). A press



**Support for Farmers!** Shown above is Gary Grant who has appeared on C-Span with the Congressional Black Caucus to support Black Farmers at the TV taping of Minority Voices show that was cancelled by WITN.

conference is scheduled for noon. At 12:30 the march will start at the USDA and end in front of the Capitol. Representatives also met individually with farmers to hear their complaints and try to find solutions.

A number of other organizations, including the Concerned Citizens and the Land Loss Fund of Tillery, pledged to support the farmers in this effort and future efforts.

## More than A Million Americans To Gather for May 1 National Day of Prayer

Colorado Springs, CO - On May 1, Americans from all ethnic, political and socio-economic backgrounds will gather nationwide for the 46th annual National Day of Prayer. The prayer celebration has grown to over a million participants, making this year's NDP the largest in American history. Observed the first Thursday of May each year, NDP is a unifying force among all denominations of Christians, Jews and those sympathetic to the need for God in our culture.

"Our nation is in desperate need of a spiritual renewal, as crime, drug usage, child abuse and fam-

ily breakups continue to plague us," says Shirley Dobson, Chairman of the National Day of Prayer. "There is no other answer for these staggering social ills than to appeal for the mercy and grace of God. America was birthed in prayer, and its future depends on the trust and devotion with which we began."

The theme for 1997 is "In God We Trust." This well-known phrase has been imprinted on all American currency since 1865. The NDP theme is based on Psalm 20:7, "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name

of the Lord our God." Mrs. Dobson notes, "At a time when so many people rely on symbols of power, the National Day of Prayer reminds Americans to re-focus their attention and trust in God."

Locally-organized celebrations are held simultaneously across the nation. Nearly 40,000 volunteers organize more than 15,000 prayer events in churches, schools, statehouses, courthouses, stadiums, prisons, hospitals, and nursing homes. School campuses are a popular gathering place for student-led assemblies. One of the most visible gatherings each year

is the observance at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., which features prominent political, religious, and

military leaders. To contact a coordinator in your area for a list of local events, please call the office

of the National Day of Prayer Task Force.

## Hays scheduled to visit Barton Library

Wilson, N.C.—Barton College Friends of Hackney Library will welcome David Hays, co-author of "My Old Man And The Sea" and founding artistic director of the National Theatre of the Deaf, to the campus for an evening of dinner and selected readings on Tues-

day, April 29. The annual spring literary event will begin with a reception in the Barton Art Museum at 6 p.m. Dinner will follow at 7 p.m. in Hardy Alumni Hall.

Tickets are \$20 with reservations accepted through April 25

while space permits. Members of the Barton College Friends of Hackney Library may reserve tickets for \$15 with reservation priority until April 18. Contact Carol Sabella at 399-6505 for reservations or additional information.

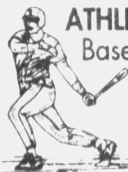
### GREENVILLE RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT

#### 1997 SUMMER PROGRAMS

Some of the programs offered for youth are:

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Art Fundamentals  
Beginning Watercolor  
Mom & Me Clay  
Nature Craft workshop

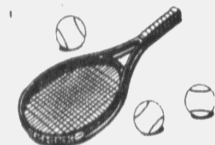


##### ATHLETICS

Baseball, Ages 5-12; T-ball, etc.  
Basketball (under 17)

##### TENNIS

Pee Wee Lessons  
Junior Novice League  
USTA/Junior Team Tennis



##### SWIMMING

Infant Swimming Lessons

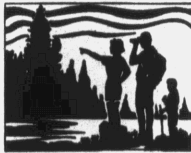


Pre-school Lessons  
Child Lessons  
Public Swimming

Please stop by Jaycee Park Administration Building, City Hall, City Libraries, or any of the Recreation and Parks Department facilities and pick up a new summer brochure! Phone 830-4567 for more information.

##### DAY CAMPS

Aquatics & Fitness  
Center Day Camp  
Camp Sunshine  
Cheerleading Camp  
Eppes Recreation Center Day Camp  
Jaycee Park Day Camp  
South Greenville Day Camp  
Teen Center Day Camp  
Nature Explorer's Camp  
Advanced Outdoor Living Skills Camp  
Tot Lot  
Baseball Camp  
Golf Camp  
Tennis Camp



##### VARIOUS PROGRAMS

Karate  
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Theatre Workshop  
Puppet Show - Pinocchio  
Skateboarding & Rollerblading Safety  
Kid's Dog Show



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FAMILY SWIMMING  
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##### PICK UP A BROCHURE TODAY!

Registration for city residents is April 29 and April 30, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM; On May 1 and every day, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, residents, as well as non-residents, may register, as long as vacancies are available. **SOME PROGRAMS HAVE LIMITED REGISTRATION.**

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#### Little-known 'vitamin' makes love grand

McKinney, TX—Little did Dr. Philip Handler know, back in 1941, that his newly discovered nutrient "Vitamin 15" would one day have men and women all over the country smiling quietly to themselves.

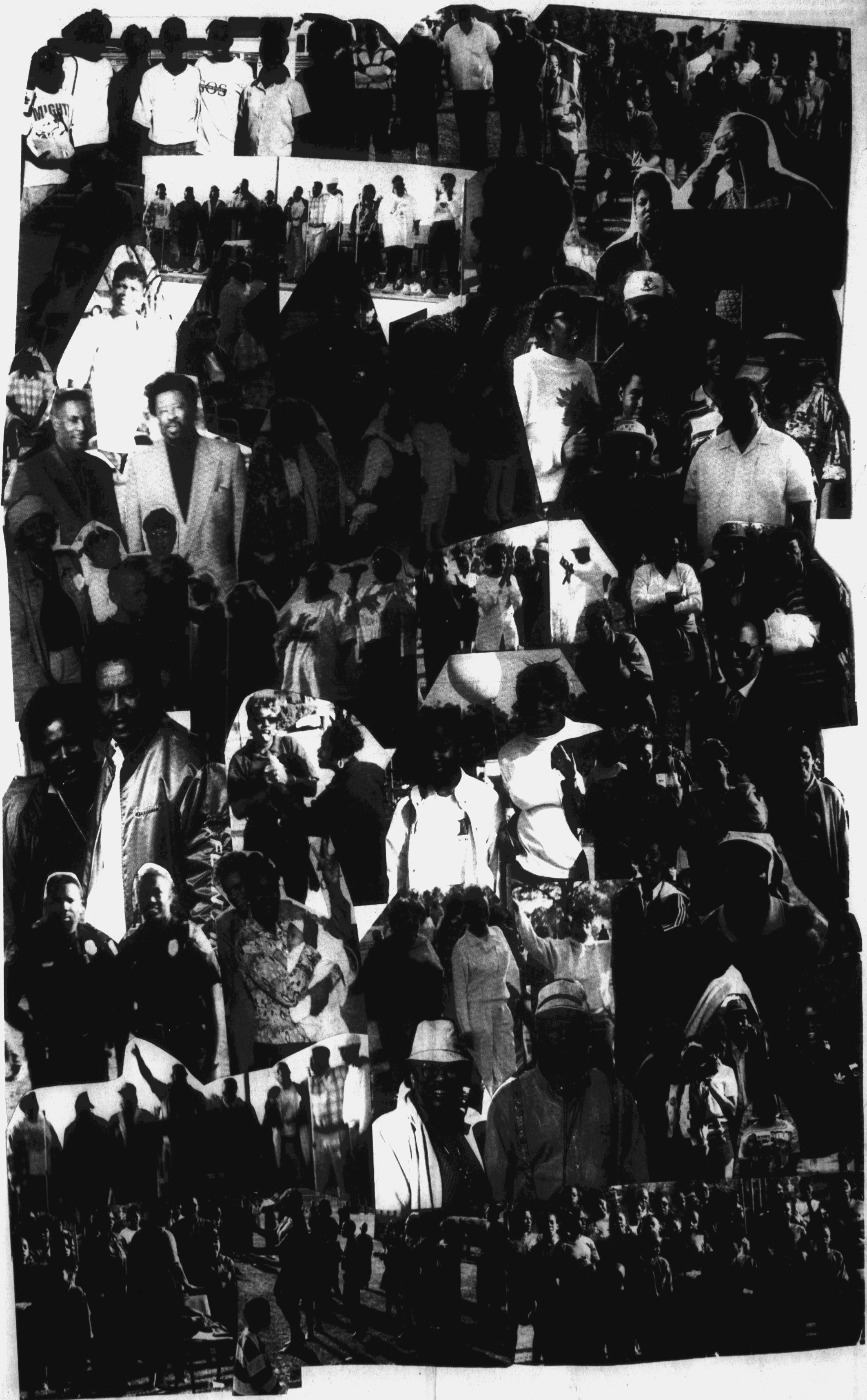
Today, N,N-Dimethylglycine (DMG) is no longer classified as a vitamin. But it has changed the lives of thousands of men and their mates.

A naturally occurring nutrient sold under the brand name Nutri-Surge (but more often called simply "The Love Pill"), DMG works by increasing energy, improving metabolism, enhancing oxygen utilization and increasing the flow of blood to key areas of the anatomy.

Nutri-Surge has a cumulative effect: the more you take it, the better it works. Most users take two, but up to six tablets may be taken daily. Satisfaction is guaranteed.

See for yourself why thousands swear by Nutri-Surge. Send \$29.95 plus \$4.95 postage & handling for a 60-tablet supply to TDM Research, Dept. NSC31, 123 South St., Oyster Bay NY 11771. Or call toll free 1-800-645-9199 and ask for Operator C31. Use the whole supply; then, if you are not completely satisfied, return the box for a full refund.







## Son of Greenville resident helps evacuate Americans from Albania

by David G. Schmidt

ONBOARD USS NASSAU — What started out as a routine Mediterranean deployment for Marine Cpl. Madison Bailey, developed into a real-time, life or death operation, recently as the Sailors and Marines of USS Nassau were called upon to evacuate American civilians from the nation of Albania.

"I'm pleased my unit could be a part of something that has had a positive effect," said Bailey, son of Hassell Bailey and Shelby Bailey, both residents of Greenville, N.C., (27868 and 27834). "We've trained for this exact kind of mission and in that respect, I'm glad we had the opportunity."

While a major role of the Navy is to protect the United States from our enemies in time of war, it also supports U.S. foreign policy in time of peace.

Ships like USS Nassau are forward deployed around the world to maintain a U.S. presence and provide rapid response in time of crises, such as the Albanian evacuation. Sailors and Marines like Bailey are often the first to arrive in situations ranging from humani-

tarian relief efforts to combat operations.

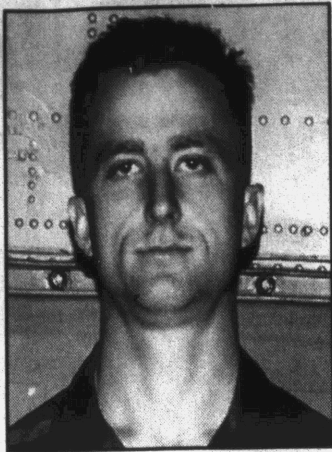
"I'm a machine gunner for Bravo Company. I was on a "sparrow hawk" or, short notice stand by team," said Bailey.

The mission of an Amphibious Ready Group, like the one Nassau is the lead ship of, is to support the operations of a Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), which normally consists of a reinforced infantry battalion, a helicopter squadron reinforced with the fixed-wing AV-8 "Harrier" jets, and a MEU service support group.

Onboard Nassau, the 26th MEU is the Marine contingent assigned to support and take action during situations that develop in its area of responsibility.

Nassau and its support ships were operating in the southern Adriatic, and helicopters from the USS Nashville were the first to begin evacuating the civilians. By the time the evacuations were over, 400 American citizens and 489 third-country nationals had been evacuated.

Albania had been enduring civil violence since January, during mass protests by people who had



Cpl. Madison Bailey

lost their life savings in failed pyramid investment schemes. By March, Albanian officials had declared a state of emergency due to the escalating violence which has resulted in the evacuation of American civilians.

After the Albania encounter the crew of the Nassau were called to another "hot spot" off the west coast of Africa. The Nassau ARG is part of a joint task force standing by for a possible evacuation mission in Zaire, should the clashes between rebel forces and government troops endanger U.S. citizens.

## A-Muse-Ment for impotence

HEALTH CARE (212) 873-4867

Whenever a wife brings her husband to my office, it isn't because he has heart trouble, stomach complaints or joint pain. Most of the time, she is concerned about his ability to have or sustain an erection, which is medically known as impotence. In other words, he is experiencing erectile dysfunction. Although impotence is troublesome to the wife, I can only tell you that it is not very amusing to her husband, whether he be young or old. In fact, most of the time, his wife may accuse him of having extra marital affairs, which is often not the case. This suspicion has broken up many a happy home. Men have great difficulty in admitting that they are impotent. I would advise you ladies to take it easy on them.

It is important to realize, however, that erectile dysfunction can be caused by such medical conditions as diabetes, hyper tension, thyroid disorders, sickle cell anemia, smoking, alcohol abuse, cocaine, water

pills, prostate surgery and many others. As there are many causes, there are also many treatments. The most common cause of this condition is arterial disease, and the second most common cause is diabetes.

Treatment for erectile dysfunction can include everything from sex therapy to penile revascularization (bypassing of a blocked artery leading to the penis). Usually a urologist will determine the type of treatment necessary based upon his findings.

Well, wives, you can now tell your husbands (especially if they haven't read this column) that there is a new product, or should I say medication, that can make everybody, and I mean every body, happy. This medication appears to be very promising in the treatment of impotence. Now, I don't want to build up any false hopes, but nothing is worse than a failure but a try.

The chemical name for this medication is Alprostadil (Al pros-ta-dil), and is known in the market place by

the name of Muse. I guess the manufacturers adapted the name from the word a-muse-ment (which means to entertain in a light or playful manner). Anyhow, Muse has the ability to produce and sustain an erection in the record time of 10 minutes and lasts for a total of 45 minutes to an hour.

The medication, which is in the form of a pellet, is inserted into the urethra (a tube running through the penis), and is absorbed into the erectile sensitive tissue, causing the erection. There are some side effects of this medication, which are minimal. There are also contra-indications in using this medication. A physician should always supervise its use.

In closing, let me say that impotence is not amusing but there appears to be some promising treatments on the horizon. Finally, impotence should be thoroughly evaluated by a urologist. If you have any additional questions about Muse, you can call toll free. 1-800-MUSE.

## Tutu Questions Amnesty Effort

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP)—Despite promising cooperation, the governing African National Congress has yet to submit sufficient applications for amnesty to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, chairman Desmond Tutu said.

Tutu told the South African Press Association he would meet with top ANC leaders to discuss the matter Friday, just over three weeks from the deadline for seeking amnesty for political crimes during the apartheid era.

The meeting comes less than a week after the Truth Commission, formed to investigate apartheid-era political crimes and grant amnesty to people making full confessions, for the first time issued subpoenas requiring anti-apartheid figures to testify.

Since it began its work in December 1995, the Truth Commission has devoted most of its attention to ille-

gal activities of apartheid security forces. But some of its work also has studied crimes by anti-apartheid groups.

The white-led National Party, which governed during apartheid, has accused the commission of being biased against whites, a charge Tutu denies.

He said the meeting with ANC officials would examine a lack of amnesty applications from ANC members, including top party officials known to have committed political crimes such as sabotage.

"The last time we met (the ANC), the assurance we got was that they supported the process and there were applications in the pipeline, but these have not been forthcoming," said Tutu, the retired Anglican archbishop who won the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize for his anti-apartheid activities.

Tutu previously threatened to quit as chairman of the panel because

ANC officials indicated they would refuse to apply for amnesty.

ANC officials have said any acts committed to fight apartheid were justified and should never be equated with the actions of apartheid police and others in enforcing the system of discrimination and oppression.

On Sunday, the Truth Commission announced it issued subpoenas requiring two anti-apartheid figures to testify, including Robert McBride, an ANC official convicted in the 1985 bombing of a Durban bar that killed three white women. McBride was freed under a 1992 amnesty negotiated by the ANC and the then-ruling National Party. Previous subpoenas issued by the commission were for former police officers.

The Truth Commission is considered a crucial exercise in revealing apartheid-era atrocities, forgiving the perpetrators and deciding on reparations for victims.

## Public Service Announcement

### Coastal Carolina Credit Counseling

From time to time we all experience personal financial worries. If you need a hand getting control of your credit debt, there is help available. Coastal Carolina Credit Counseling helps people everyday to manage their money. CCCC has an office in Washington to serve those confronted with financial problems in paying off their debts. Services are free and completely confidential with no cost or obligation. For assistance or an appointment phone 974-0669. That's Coastal Carolina Consumer Counseling 974-0669. Find out how CCCC can help you. Coastal Carolina Credit Counseling is a non-profit organization and a Beaufort County United Way agency. Coastal Carolina Credit Counseling 974-0669. Call today!

## Flanagan and Perkins Funeral Home Salutes Its Staff



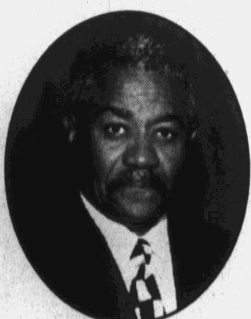
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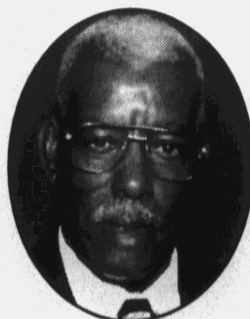
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STRANGE THINGS

Well put

In Honduras, legislator Julio Villatoro, reacting to the bigamy charged filed by his wife said: "I have problems with my wife, even though she knows a handsome man is not for every woman but for several. God gave me a physique attractive to women, and I take advantage of it."

And in Lesotho (Africa), King Lestie, 23, imploring other southern African monarchs and dignitaries to help him find a wife said, "The pressure on me to find a wife soon is heavy, especially from my mother. I sometimes get jealous when I see other leaders getting partners with such remarkable ease."

Not nice to fool...

Two Chilean police officers who stopped 40 motorists for using cellular telephones while driving in Santiago's wealthy eastern suburb discovered that 15 of them were only pretending to talk on their phones, and they were made of plastic or wood. "I was only doing it to look better," the newspaper *La Tercera* quoted one driver as telling the police. Another pointed out that in Chili people have to "show off" to get ahead, and using a fake phone was cheaper than the real thing.

Criminal motives

In Boynton Beach, Fla., Kevin Carter, 21, and Michael Harrison, 26, were charged with murder and armed robbery. Their motive: to raise money to attend the police academy.

And in Appleton, Wis., Darrel Vocks, 38, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for stealing \$100,000 worth of pigs from his employer. His motive: to pay for breast implants for a stripper at a club he patronized.

It can help!

At New Jersey's Middlesex County jail, Ralph Bailey, 78, a Baptist preacher who has played the accordion at the jail for 40 years, said that accordion music can help rehabilitate prisoners. "It seems to reach their souls more quickly than words ever could. The music gives them a measure of serenity they couldn't get any other way. Sgt. Joe de Matteo agreed, smirking, "After the sessions they become real pussycats."

'Intriguing' idea

According to a recent story in the *Nashville Tennessean* about state government engineer Ken Robichaux's whose lonely, 10-year crusade to wipe out both the U.S. system of measurement and the metric system, in favor of one that combines weight, length, and volume into a single set of measures denominated as "robies," has finally met with some acceptance. He said Al Gore called the idea "intriguing."

Gun play

Timothy Foreman, 21, a psychology student at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, returned to his apartment after a night of drinking and discovered that a sandwich was missing from his refrigerator. He jokingly told roommates that he would shoot the person who stole the sandwich. To make his point, he got a handgun and fired at a paper bull's-eye he had taped to the wall of his room. The bullet went through the wall and wounded a roommate in the next room. Indiana County Coroner Tom Streams said that when Foreman realized what had happened, he shot himself in the head and was pronounced dead at Indiana Hospital.

Comes with the job

In addition to their journalistic duties, reporters at Orion Radio in the southern Rumanian town of Cimpulung have to take turns climbing on the radio station's roof and shooting at the scores of crows that have taken to roosting on the antenna. Their weight causes the antenna to shake, interrupting broadcasts.

Strange doings

Four strippers at the Scene Karaoke and Coconut Karaoke bars in Pattaya, Thailand, were fined a total of \$80 for indecency for an act in which live ducklings were placed inside plastic bags (with air holes) and inserted into the women's bodies; they would "lay" the eggs, which would then hatch.

Big mouth

The 26-year-old driver of a 1989 Ford Probe that ran off the road and into a tree in rural Anne Arundel County, Md., told a motorist who stopped to help that he was intoxicated and needed to get out of the area before police arrived. The driver of the second car identified himself as Detective Thomas Middleton, an undercover police officer who said that the drunk driver then admitted also having 14 grams of marijuana.

Oops!

John O'Neil, 73, had to be rescued by firefighters in Huntington, N.Y., after he wondered out of a bar late at night and somehow got wedged between two buildings. He was stuck so tight that he had to be pulled out from above.



Williamston, N.C. - Posing for the camera outside Hiks Fashions located in the WalMart shopping center, these happy faces show the love of African Americans in Eastern, N.C. The bottom photo shows a mother and her daughters shopping on a Saturday afternoon.

(Photo by: Jim Rouse)

Brain Attack Warning Signs Need Emergency Care

If you miss the warning signs of a brain attack, you may be putting your senses, speech and memory in danger in a matter of minutes.

Brain attacks, commonly known as strokes, affect different people in different ways. When a brain attack occurs, severe injuries in mental and bodily functions—even death—can result. Knowing the warning signs of stroke and seeking immediate medical treatment if you notice any signals are critical in avoiding the No. 3 killer in the United States, according to the American Heart Association.

American Heart Association volunteers work year-round, particularly during Stroke Awareness Month in May, to reduce the incidence of brain attack. The theme for this special month is "Stroke Is a Brain Attack. Know the Warning Signs."

AHA volunteers nationwide are pooling their efforts to conduct awareness campaigns about brain attack—the leading cause of serious disability in the United States. Stroke Awareness Month is designed to alert the public about stroke's warning signs, how it might be prevented and resources available through the American Heart Association.

Stroke killed 154,350 people in 1994

and accounted for about one of every 15 U.S. deaths. It's the third largest cause of death, ranking behind diseases of the heart and cancer, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

A brain attack occurs when the blood supply to the brain is cut off. Both brain attack and heart attack are diseases of the circulatory system caused by rupturing or blocking of arteries. During a brain attack, the brain is starved for oxygen and brain cells begin to die within minutes. That is why immediate medical attention is crucial.

"Much of the general public is unfamiliar with the warning signs of a stroke," said Dr. James R. Harper, Jr. MD, president of the American Heart Association North Carolina Affiliate, "Stroke must be treated with the same sense of urgency as a heart attack. In order to receive immediate treatment, people must be able to recognize the warning signs of stroke."

The warning signs associated with stroke are:

- Sudden weakness or numbness of the face, arm or leg on one side of the body.
- Sudden dimness of loss of vision, particularly in one eye.
- Loss of speech, or trouble talking or understanding speech.
- Sudden, severe headaches with no

apparent cause.

- Unexplained dizziness, unsteadiness or sudden falls, especially along with any of the previous symptoms.

If you experience one or more of the warning signs of brain attack, get medical help immediately. Early intervention can minimize brain injury, and preventive care may reduce the risk of stroke, according to the American Heart Association.

"About 10 percent of brain attacks are preceded by 'temporary strokes,'" said Dr. Harper, "These can occur days, weeks or even months before a major stroke."

Temporary strokes, also known as transient ischemic attacks or TIAs, result when a blood clot temporarily clogs an artery and part of the brain doesn't get the supply of blood it needs.

"The symptoms are like those of a full-fledged brain attack. They occur rapidly and last a relatively short time, usually from a few minutes to several hours," Dr. Harper said.

High blood pressure is one of the risk factors of stroke. The higher your blood pressure, the greater your risk of stroke. Some groups are more prone to developing high blood pressure than others. In this country, African-Americans, Mexi-

Continued on Page Nine.

AFRICA DIGEST

ZAIRE

New fighting erupts

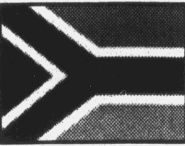


Zairian rebels and Rwandan soldiers began a new wave of fighting in eastern Zaire this week which has caused at least 60,000 Rwandan refugees to flee squalid jungle camps.

Rebels barred aid workers for a third day from entering the camps south of Kisangani on the Zaire River's west bank to help the refugees or even what was happening to them. The rebels say their forces and former Rwandan Hutu soldiers started fighting after Zairian residents near the camps went on a rampage, blaming the refugees for the killing of six local people. The mobs looted food supplies and attacked aid workers and journalists.

SOUTH AFRICA

Armed robbers get \$1 million

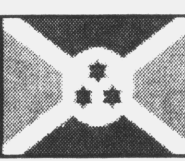


In Pietersburg, South Africa, armed robbers set up a roadblock on a major highway and forced an armored car to stop, then fled with about \$1 million on cash.

About 15 men surrounded the vehicle after forcing it to halt on the N1 highway between Pietersburg and Louis Trichardt. A shootout left one robber seriously wounded. His companions dragged him into a waiting get-away car.

BURUNDI

100 Killed in fighting

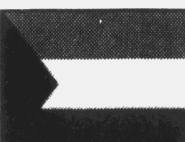


A Burundi army spokesman said this week that about 100 people have been killed in fighting between the army and rebels in southern Burundi.

Makamba province Gov. Gilbert Manirabona told state-run *Radio Burundi* that fighting has been going on in the area since April 14. Lt. Col. Isaie Nibizi blamed Hutu rebels for the killings in Kayagoro, a village in the Vugizo community of Makamba province, an area where there have been historic clashes. He said the rebels had summoned the people of Kayagoro village, where Hutu and Tutsi lived together, to meet and then shot them all.

SUDAN

Gov., rebels sign peace pact



Four southern rebel groups and Sudan's Islamic government this week signed a peace treaty to end a 14-year-old civil war.

Under the treaty, signed by Sudan's Vice President Lt. Gen. Zubaie Mohammed Saleh and rebel leaders, a referendum will be held after a four-year interim period in which southerners will decide whether their large and underdeveloped region should secede or remain in Sudan. The treaty also gives the mostly Christian and amnist south more power in running their daily affairs, including using their local customs instead of the Islamic law that is applied in the north. Mohammed el-Amin Khalifa, head of Sudan's Peace Council and who negotiated the accord, said an amnesty will be granted to the rebels, who will be allowed to keep their weapons during the interim period.

ZIMBABWE

Too many elephants



Zimbabwe's game parks have twice as many elephants as they should, and the big animals are smashing down trees, digging up roads, flattening farmland and attacking other animals and humans.

The game reserves, which make up 13 percent of the country's surface is facing an ecological problem of major proportions, an international environmental agency said this week. There are now approximately 65,000 elephants roaming around in various locations and destroying the land, the agency said. They claim the parks can only support about 35,000 elephants. Zimbabwe officials are campaigning for an international convention on elephant products in an effort to bring the rising population to a manageable level. Internationally, elephants are on the endangered species list and the exportation of elephant products is banned in many countries including the United States. Zimbabwe has a unique problem, the agency said, that will call for some creative solutions. Poaching the elephant populations for ivory should not be on Zimbabwe's agenda.

ANGOLA

U.S. warns of Angola visits

The State Department this week warned Americans against traveling to Angola because of unsettled political and military conditions and violent crime, and it advised Americans in Nicaragua to be cautious. "Travel within Angola remains unsafe due to the presence of bandits, undisciplined police and unsettled troops," the department said in a communique to the embassy there.

# GRAPHIC



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## Continued from Page Eight - Brain Attack

can-Americans, Cuban-Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Asian-Americans often have higher blood pressure than other groups. Compared to whites, young African-Americans have a two-to-three-fold greater risk of cerebral infarction, and African American men and women are 2.5 times more likely to die of stroke.

Millions of people are challenged by the devastating aftermath of stroke. Until recently, no formal, national network linking members of the stroke community existed to aid in their emotional and physical recovery. The American Heart

Association's Stroke Connection is a grass roots network of alliances, coalitions, outreach programs and more than 1,000 stroke support groups dedicated to improving the quality of life for survivors and caregivers. If you or someone you know has had a stroke, you can reach the Stroke Connection at 1-800-553-6321.

For more information on brain attack prevention and Stroke Awareness Month activities call your nearest American Heart Association at (919) 968-4453 or 1-800-AHA-USA- I or online at <http://www.amhrt.org>



### Family Support Network of North Carolina

offers services and information to families, physicians & service providers who care for children with or at risk for special needs

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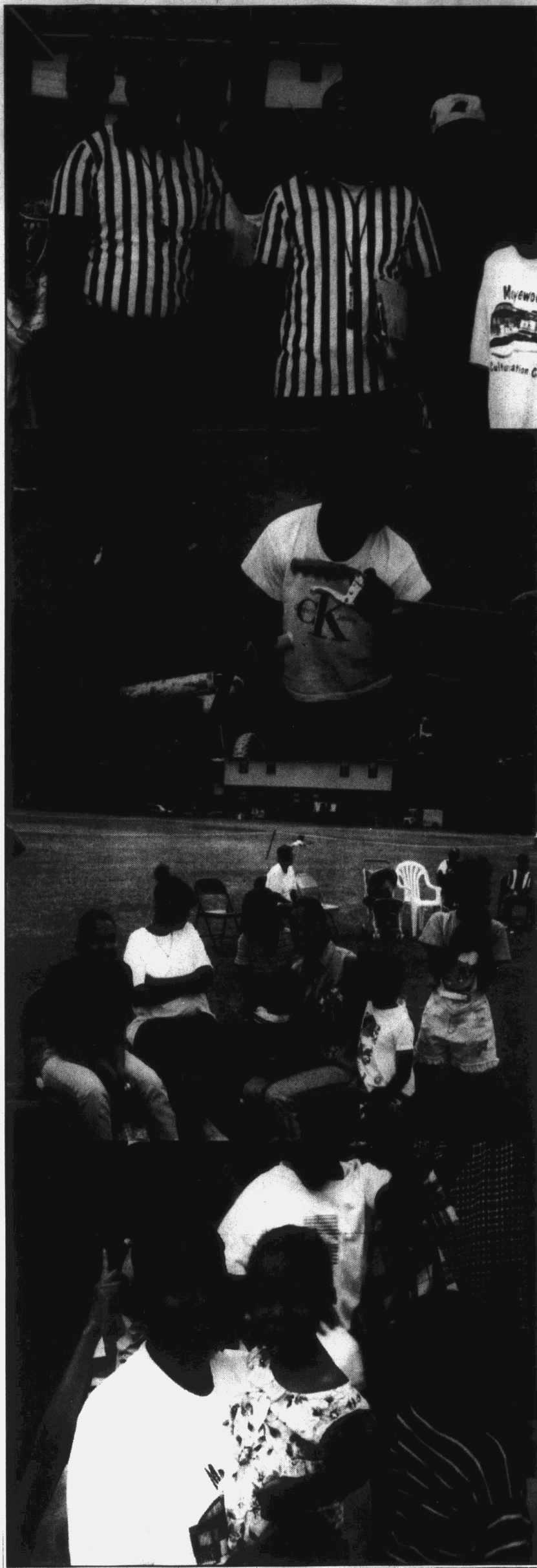
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## Moyewood Housing Project Family Day

**The children are all of our concerns.  
Look at the love on these faces.  
Pictorial in our next edition - LOOK  
FOR IT!!**

(Photo by: Jim Rouse)

## Reception for NCCU Students

Chancellor Julius L. Chambers and Mrs. Chambers hosted a reception for North Carolina Central University's international students Sunday afternoon April 13 at their home. Attending were 41 international students and almost as many faculty and staff members.

Nations which are represented in NCCU's international student population of 122 include the Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Bermuda, Bosnia, Cameroon, China, Denmark, Eritrea, Ethiopia, France, the Gaza Strip, Ghana, Grenada, India, Iran, Kenya, Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, South Africa, the Soviet Union, Sudan, Syria, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain, Venezuela, Vietnam, Zaire, and Zimbabwe. The number includes some naturalized citizens and permanent residents of the United States.

Attending the reception were students from Bahrain, Bermuda, Bosnia, Cameroon, China, Ghana, India, Iran, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Trinidad and Vietnam.

Mrs. Vivian Chambers served her guests an expansive buffet including chicken and vegetable dishes.

During the program, the international students heard descriptions of services made available to them at NCCU.

## MASTER'S THESIS EXHIBITION

**Wellington B. Gray Art  
Gallery**

**APRIL 28 - MAY 23, 1997**

The Wellington B. Gray Art Gallery is proud to present the work of four artists graduating from the Master's program in the School of Art at East Carolina University. The exhibiting artists are Cynthia Blamire, Jonathan Mugmon, Margaret Angell Shields Volney, II and Linda Werthwein.

Jonathan Mugmon received a BFA in painting and drawing from the University of Central Florida in 1995. He says of his work "Newness rises from repetition, it is the unfamiliar found in the midst of the most familiar sight."

Margaret Volney received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Environmental Design from East Carolina University in 1983. "Having been born and raised in New Bern, North Carolina, I have always loved New Bern and her historic landmarks. My grandmother, Annie Shipp Shields, was a strong influence guiding me to understand and appreciate the passion she had for preservation, as she worked diligently on saving the Judge William Gaston House located in New Bern, North Carolina."

Linda Werthwein has studied at numerous institutions including Northern Illinois University, University of Utah, and the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh. Linda says of her large contiguous painting, "From the quiet stirrings of beginnings to the full culmination of life, my work is inspired by the presence of the living God and my life in the West Indies. On an environmental scale semi abstract imagery features contemplation of a tranquil sea, moving to an ever increasing power, sun, rain, earth forming, foliage culminated in a blossom."

Cynthia Blamire received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in ceramics from the University of Florida, Gainesville in 1973. Her sculptural ceramic art reflects her urban roots. The work takes a humorous look at pop culture.

The Wellington B. Gray Gallery is located off of 5th Street and Jarvis Street on the campus of East Carolina University in the Jenkins Fine Arts Center. The gallery will be open for viewing 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Monday through Saturday, and until 8:00 PM on Thursdays, April 29 May 9. Starting May 10 summer hours for the Gray Gallery will be Monday through Thursday, 10:00AM-5:00PM and Fridays, 10:00-11:30 AM. All exhibits and receptions are free and open to the public. Jenkins Fine Arts Center is handicapped accessible.

For more information, please contact Gilbert Leebrick, Gallery Director, at (919) 328-6336.

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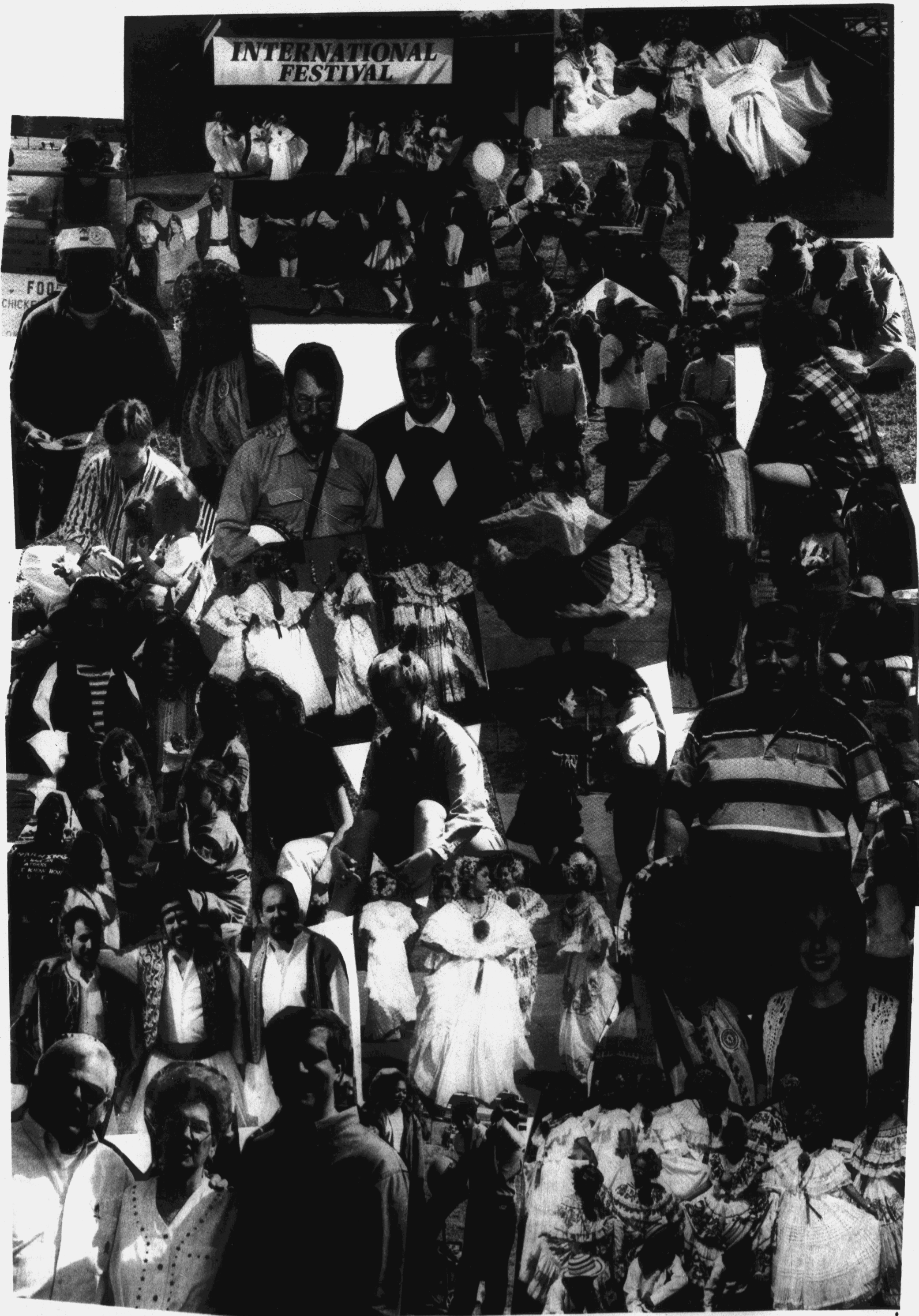
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**Call: 830-0468  
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# City of Greenville Annual International Festival on the Town Common "1997"



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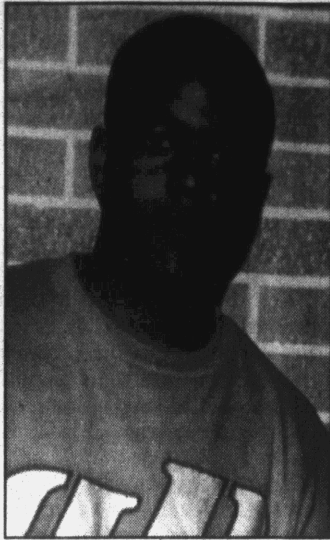
## Question of the Month: What do you think of the East & West Coast Rivalry?



**Renee West**

She thinks they should let it go and let peace come. No more beef!

Ayden, NC



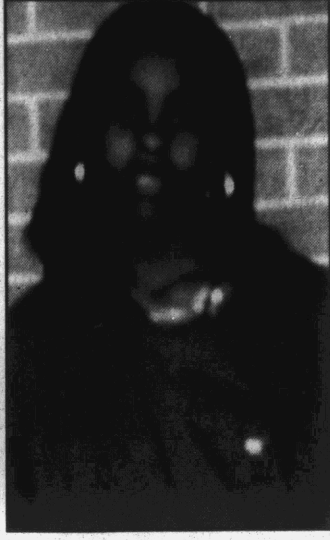
**Recardo Tucker**

The rapper situation is sad because we as a race (black) need to unite, and stop the violence period. We're fighting a no-man's land war, and no one's winning, but murderer.



**Linwood Phillips**

It should be about the music. Why the beef? Stop the Beef! Raleigh, NC



**Marsha Vines**

East Coast - West Coast is not very far apart, just a thing line and it goes with the statement, It's a thin line between love and hate. Everyone needs to just chill. Greenville, NC

THE 'M' VOICE - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28 - MAY 7, 1997 - 11

## Fabulous Thunderbirds Headline Carolina Lite Blues Festival

GREENSBORO, NC—The Fabulous Thunderbirds, long considered one of the most popular and enduring of blues bands, will headline the 11th Annual Carolina Lite Blues Festival, Saturday, May 17, from 4pm-11pm at Castle McCulloch in Jamestown, NC. The annual blues event is presented by the Piedmont Blues Preservation Society and is sponsored by Miller Brewing Company in Eden, NC.

The Festival line-up features pianist-vocalist Marcia Ball, former Muddy Waters Band guitarist Luther "Guitar Jr." Johnson, zydeco artists Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Cats, traditional bluesman Alvin Youngblood Hart and last year's Amateur Talent Contest winners Johnny Whitlock and the Blues Caucus.

The Fabulous Thunderbirds, led by singer/harmonica player Kim Wilson, have been touring and recording since the 1970's. Formed by Wilson and guitarist Jimmie Vaughan in Austin, Texas in 1975, the Thunderbirds started out as the house band at the legendary Atone's Blues Club.

In 1990, Jimmie Vaughan departed to form a band with his younger brother, Stevie Ray Vaughan. The Thunderbirds carried on with a new line-up and a 1991 release. But soon after, Kim Wilson, considered by many to be the consummate blues harmonica player, left the Thunderbirds to record two well-received solo albums.

The band later reunited with another fresh line up, featuring

Continued on Page 12.



Every day, every moment with the Lord is precious. The mother of Rev. Arlee Griffen and her Granddaughters. She is the mother of Joy 1340 AM, Radio, the Gospel Music Mix Party afternoon driveman, Brother Reggie Price. By the way, Mother Griffen is on her way in Cornerstone Missionary church to hear God's word from her Pastor Rev. Locke, live over Joy 1340 AM, each third Sunday, at 11am until Cornerstone Choir is through.

(Photo by: Jim Rouse)

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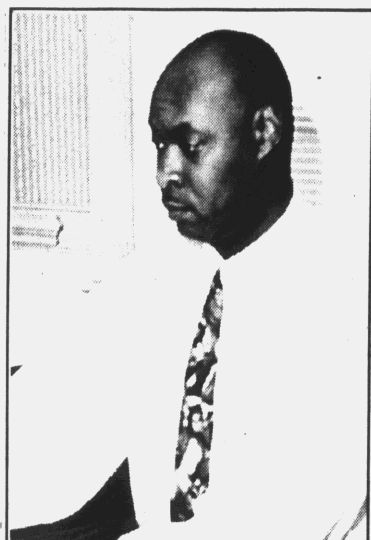
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50,000	\$681. <sup>84</sup>	\$560. <sup>47</sup>	\$466. <sup>74</sup>

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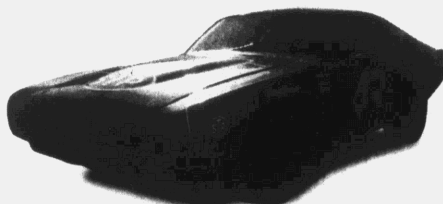


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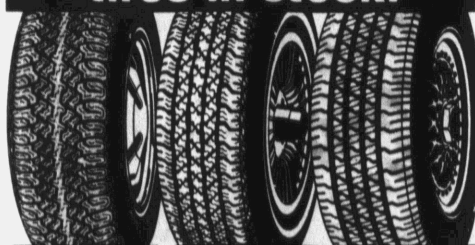
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# From Page One, O.J.

turn before the judge came up, he was also beaten soundly after the judge remanded him to remain an indentured servant "for the rest of his life."

In law the term, "stare decisis," means, "let stand what has already been decided," has relevance here. Stare decisis is the basis for what is called precedence, the historical road map for all legal rulings. What "In Re: John Punch" turned out to be was the precedent case establishing the legal slavery of the black man in America.

Many legal commentators have blamed Simpson's wealth and fame for the criminal trial acquittal instead of the obvious lack of real evidence and overabundance of planted and tainted evidence. History shows that wealth has no bearing on a black person who is pitted against mainstream interests whether the person is a defendant or a plaintiff.

In 1668, for example, Hannah Warwick, a white servant was accused of stealing from her employer, a black innkeeper, also in Jamestown, Virginia. Although the justice of the peace found Warwick guilty of the infractions, he neither gave her any jail time nor required her to pay a fine because, "the person she was bound to obey" was a black man. Even though the black innkeeper made more money than the judge, the black employer had no social or legal standing in the eyes of the judge's court.

"Racism has been perpetrated by the court," reminds Judge Higginbotham, "due in part to the insensitivity of judges."

In recent years "In Re: Hannah Warwick" has been psychologically used to strip down many other wealthy blacks in the eyes of the court.

In Southern California, pop singer Rick James was arrested after he was accused of torturing one of the two white women he was smoking crack cocaine with over a three-day period. According to the other white woman, James' girlfriend, the accuser was loving every minute of the three-day orgy—until the drugs ran out.

# From page 11, Thunderbirds

guitarist Kid Ramos and keyboardist Gene Taylor, to release their most recent CD, *Roll Of The Dice*, in 1995. The Fabulous Thunderbirds remain in demand on the blues club, festival and blues cruise circuit.

Louisiana-born Marcia Ball made an indelible impression at her first Carolina Lite Blues Festival in 1992. She returns this year with critical praise still ringing in her ears. That praise underlies the current opinion of blues connoisseurs who believe that Marcia Ball is simply the best live female performer working the blues circuit today.

Filling the Chicago blues slot this year is Luther "Guitar Jr." Johnson, a Muddy Waters alumnus from the 1970's. But Johnson's roots run deeper into the West Side Chicago blues scene. Arriving in Chicago from his native Mississippi in the mid-1950's, Johnson developed his guitar style by listening to Magic Sam and Otis Rush. After a long apprenticeship with Magic Sam, Johnson joined Muddy's touring unit. A Grammy award-winning artist and powerful live performer, Johnson tours regularly with his backing band the Magic Rockers.

Zydeco returns to the Carolina Lite Blues Festival this year with Blind Pig recording artists Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band. Their ferocious accordion/rub board/percussion sound has earned Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band engagements at the New Orleans Jazz Festival, the Bull Durham Blues Festival, and the Chicago Blues Festival.

Traditional blues is always a mainstay at the Carolina Lite Blues Festival and Alvin Youngblood Hart is one of the hottest new acoustic blues performers. Rounding out this year's line up is Greensboro's own Johnny Whitlock and the Blues Caucas. Whitlock, the 60-year-old blues singer with the rich, deep voice, is backed up by an impressive assortment of local blues talent, featuring guitarist Max Drake (Minister of Sinister, The Extrordanaires), Bryan Smith (The Charismatics), and bassist Bobby Kelly (Tornado).

For more information on this event, call (910) 275-4944. The Piedmont Blues Preservation Society is a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to keeping the blues alive.

The Greensboro Area Convention & Visitors Bureau is an independent, nonprofit, governmental authority. Its mission is to promote economic development through travel and tourism.

Nonetheless, James was held on \$1 million bond, tried, convicted and sentenced to several years in jail.

Meanwhile, other stars have been accused of slapping their spouses or girlfriends around (Dudley Moore, Burt Reynolds, Geraldo Rivera and others) and were, in most instances, not even charged with a crime. Why? Could it be that none of the above men were black men accused of harming white women?

Which brings us to the subject of interracial sex and marriage and what it means in social and legal American history and the Simpson trial.

Derrick Bell says that although the laws banning miscegenation have been struck down by the courts, "the concern over interracial unions remains pervasive." Even the jury foreman in the

Simpson civil trial was on record as opposing interracial marriages.

In his book, "Race, Racism and American Law," Bell, former dean of the University of Oregon School of Law and a professor on leave from Harvard Law School, reminds us that interracial sex was common in all the English colonies. Quoting from historian Winthrop Jordan's 1968 book, "White over Black," Bell, reminds readers that white men routinely slept with and often married black women with no legal ramifications. However, that was not the case for black men sleeping with or marrying white women.

In 1664, Maryland established a law entitled, "An Act Concerning Negroes and Other Slaves," providing that "any white woman who married a slave, too, became a slave." In other words, that white woman became "inferior."

It wasn't until 1948, in the case, *Perez vs. Sharp*, (32 Cal. 2d 711, 198, P2d 17 [1948]) that the California Supreme Court struck down

the state's miscegenation statute by a slim 4-3 vote.

Even as recently as 1967, in the U.S. Supreme Court case, *Loving vs. Virginia* (388 U.S. 1[1967]) the Court noted that the trial judge, after sentencing the interracial couple to one year in jail, told the court: "Almighty God created the races white, black, yellow, Malay and red, and He placed them on separate continents. And but for the interference with His arrangement there would be no cause for such marriages. The fact that He separated the races shows that He did not intend for the races to mix."

In his 1941 seminal study on race, "An American Dilemma," Sociologist Gunnar Myrdal lists what he describes as the "white man's order of discrimination."

1. Interracial marriage
2. Sexual intercourse by non-whites with white women
3. Use of public facilities
4. Political franchise
5. Legal equality

## 6. Employment

On the flip side, Myrdal found that in the scheme of things, "miscegenation was not high on (blacks') list of grievances against white racism." It ranked last.

Perhaps a more telling indication of what race means to the mainstream when it comes to issues involving blacks, other minorities and whites, can be seen in Professor Oliver Cox's famous 1948 treatise, "Caste, Class and Race." "Both the Negroes and their white exploiters," noted Cox, "know that economic opportunity comes first and that the white woman comes second; indeed, she is merely a significant instrument in limiting the first."

Which brings us to the real issue involved in the second Simpson trial. The money. Revisiting, what CNN's Bruce Morton said: "This is a second trial for the same offense with real penalties."

While the civil trial jury took Simpson's present and future money, rendering him a pauper,

the opposite occurred when a federal jury sentenced two Los Angeles Police Department cops to jail time for the violation of black motorist Rodney King's civil rights. This happened after a

Simi Valley state jury acquitted four officers for the March 3, 1991, brutal beating of King. After the second trial, the two officers became millionaires as they sat in a minimum security federal prison.

In legal practice, wealth and property rights always supersede human rights. The prevailing wisdom is that the life of wealth and property is "perpetual" while human life lasts but only a short time.

In issues involving race, influential mainstream interests will often claim the money and property as the real prize in a dispute. In 19th century Frederick, Md., for example, white bankers with political allies seized the property of my ancestors, the Murdocks and

Continued on Page 13.

# EDGECOMBE COUNTY'S 10 MOST WANTED DEADBEAT PARENTS

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



**MICHAEL ANDES JOYNER**

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Age: 28  
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Last Known Whereabouts: Greenville, NC  
Occupation: Machine Operator



**TIMOTHY ALLAN YOUNG**

Past Due Support As Of 07-19-96: \$32,320.00

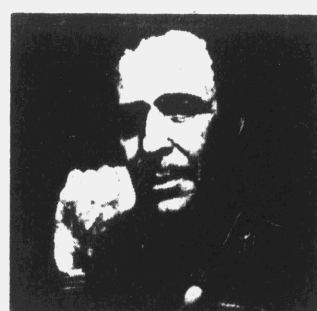
Age: 35  
Hair: Brown  
Eyes: Brown  
Height: 5'7"  
Weight: 150 lbs.  
Last Known Whereabouts: Rocky Mount, NC  
Occupation: Construction



**JOY CHESTER PARKER**

Past Due Support As Of 07-24-96: \$18,866.76

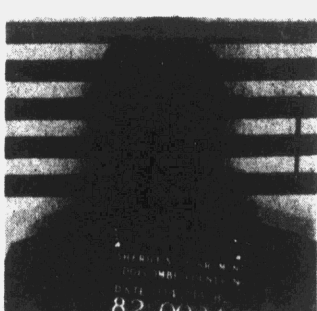
Age: 39  
Hair: Black  
Eyes: Brown  
Height: 5'5"  
Weight: 135 lbs.  
Last Known Whereabouts: Raleigh, NC  
Occupation: Unknown



**LEONARD WAYNE FAIRCLOTH**

Past Due Support As Of 07-19-96: \$12,502.00

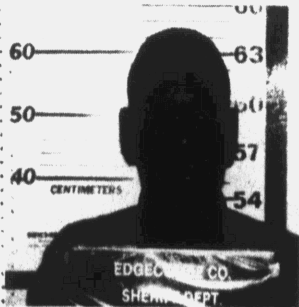
Age: 43  
Hair: Sandy Blonde  
Eyes: Hazel  
Height: 5'6"  
Weight: 160 lbs.  
Last Known Whereabouts: Shallotte, NC  
Occupation: Truck Driver/Heavy Equipment



**JOE NATHAN JENKINS**

Past Due Support As Of 07-30-96: \$13,751.64

Age: 40  
Hair: Black  
Eyes: Brown  
Height: 5'8"  
Weight: 160 lbs.  
Last Known Whereabouts: Wilson, NC  
Occupation: Laborer



**CLIFTON AVIS MOORE**

Past Due Support As Of 07-30-96: \$11,070.20

Age: 32  
Hair: Black  
Eyes: Brown  
Height: 5'15"  
Weight: 160 lbs.  
Last Known Whereabouts: Rocky Mount, NC  
Occupation: Welding



**CARL LEE JOHNSON**

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

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



**MICHAEL ANGELO REDMAN**

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

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



**JOHNNY LYNN DILDY**

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

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



**PAUL ANTHONY THORNE**

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

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

## EDGECOMBE COUNTY WORKS FOR CHILDREN



# From Page One, O.J.

Museum (Ca. 633087 [1990]).

In that case, the plaintiff, Glenna Wilson, a deeply religious security guard with supervising and training responsibilities, was placed on probation for "unsatisfactory professional conduct" shortly after she complained that she had been the subject of racial slurs.

Even though Wilson's attorneys cited a litany of cases supporting the admission of racist statements, Fujisaki ruled that the slurs could not be introduced to the all-white jury because the evidence tended to be prejudicial against the defendant. Yet he allowed the defense to introduce statements from Wilson's subordinates claiming that she had made sexual advances towards them.

As my late University of Pittsburgh track coach, James E. Banner, once told me: "Leopards don't change their spots." Perhaps this was why Fujisaki was chosen to hear this case. Knowing that the lives of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald are, unfortunately, no longer significant, the families went after the property and wealth of the person whose life is technically still significant. O. J. Simpson. In doing so, the legal system established a sort of unwritten nouveau stare decisis, which was explained in one of my columns following the civil verdict:

"It's official. In Los Angeles County, the price of a white person's life that the mainstream 'believes' was snuffed out by a black man, is worth upwards of \$12.5 million. Since 1992, however, the life of a black person seen murdered on video tape is worth—\$500.

"Worse, the family of Latasha Harlins didn't even get the \$500. The state did."

Adding fuel to this insult was the unapologetic bias in coverage by a media pool of predominately white and Jewish journalists and, worse, the on-air analyses by biased legal commentators and the national talk show hosts.

Unfortunately, the African American/Jewish perception of the trial coverage is important here because the Simpson trials pitted, as Boston College Law Professor Neil Gotanda points out, a Jewish "model" minority against the African American minority refereed by a "middleman minority," Judge Lance Ito in the criminal trial; Judge Fujisaki in the civil trial—two Japanese Americans.

This rift goes back to the coverage of the Latasha Harlins/Soon Ja du controversy where a Jewish judge, Joyce Karlin, gave the convicted defendant, a Korean shop owner, probation and a \$500 fine. Supporting wholeheartedly Karlin's ruling

was the Los Angeles Jewish Journal, whose editor, Marlene Adler Marks, openly editorialized in its March 31, 1992 edition that the support of Judge Karlin "was a Jewish cause celebre."

Furthure, Nat Weinstein, author of the "The Legal Lynching Or O. J. Simpson," published in the March, 1997 issue of Socialist action, and his editor, Michael Schreiber told a reporter of how they, like many Jews, received a solicitation letter from Fred Goldman early last year. Several blacks living in Chicago, New York and Los Angeles, with Jewish sounding names also report that they received the same letter.

I knew and covered both trials alongside nearly all of the journalists, legal commentators and have appeared on all the major talk shows. Most of the journalists have openly told me and others that they "believe" Simpson "got away with murder." Among them, Mike Fleeman of Associated Press, Ira Reiner of NBC, Roger Cossack of CNN, Thomas Elias, formerly of Scripps-Howard and co-author of our book, "The Simpson Trial in Black and White," Stephanie Simon and Henry Weinstein of the Los Angeles Times, Dan Abrams of Court TV, Jeffrey Toobin of The New Yorker Magazine, Stan Goldman of Fox Broadcasting, and talk show hosts Geraldo Rivera, Gloria Allred, Tammy Bruce, Gil Gross, Charles Grodin and Larry Kine, just to name a few.

The coverage these men and women provided was less than objective by anyone's measure, largely because most of the media pool loathed Simpson and revered the vitriolic Goldmans.

This is not to say that all Jewish journalists and commentators covering the trial were biased against Simpson. Linda Deutsch of Associated Press, Shirley Perlman of Newsday, Professor Laurie Levenson of Loyola Law School were consummate objective journalists. All of them are Jewish. But most Jewish journalists who covered the Simpson trials did little to hide their contempt for Simpson.

For example, the Associated Press' Fleeman was absolutely livid after the criminal trial acquittal. I believe he carried his contempt for the verdict into his coverage of the civil trial as well.

One morning during the civil trial, Fleeman leaned over to me and explained how Judge Fujisaki was practically telling Goldman family lawyer Daniel Petrocelli what to say so he could rule in his favor. "He does that all the time," Fleeman told me in earshot of reporters from National Public Radio and the Chicago Tribune. "Knowing where Fleeman's sentiments lie, I just set him up. "Are you going to write about that, Mike?" I asked sheepishly. "No," Fleeman answered. "I'll let you write about it."

Fleeman was not the only reporter who overlooked the obvious bias in Fujisaki's courtroom. Reporters like the Los Angeles Times' Simon gave Herbert MacDonell, one of the world's leading blood experts, just one paragraph on his testimony about how the victims' blood was planted onto Simpson's socks. The rest of her, and other reporters' stories, focused on noted pathologist Michael Baden and whether or not he was lying on a "Rivera Live" broadcast

when he said Goldman could have stood and fought his attacker(s) for upwards of 10 minutes. But during brutal cross examination, Baden admitted that Goldman might have stood on his feet as little as four minutes.

What was not reported was that Baden confirmed that Goldman stood long enough to have pounded on his assailant(s) so hard that he bruised his knuckles and presumably the bodies of his murderer(s). No bruises were found on Simpson in the days following the murders. The reporters, however, didn't think that fact was newsworthy. Since the trial was not televised, as was the criminal trial, the readers and viewers have to take their word for it.

Also, the stories about the alleged photos of the Bruno Magli shoes unanimously missed one important fact. In the 30 shots deemed to be "authentic" by the FBI, Simpson is wearing a sports jacket with a stickpin in the lapel and a silk handkerchief in the top pocket. In the other photo considered a "fake," by the defense, he is wearing a different sports jacket sans the stickpin and hankie. But both photos have Simpson wearing the same trousers and, of course, the Bruno Magli shoes. Both sets of photos are said to have been taken at the same Sept. 26, 1993 Buffalo Bills football game.

Toparaphrase the late actor James Mason in his role as the cantankerous lawyer Concannon in the movie, "The Verdict": "Which (photo) is the truth and which is the lie?" We get no help in this regard from the mainstream news media.

Further, every night the non-sequestered civil jury went home where they were exposed to the local and nationally syndicated radio and television talk shows and also the Los Angeles Times. Combine that with the steady onslaught of negative publicity prior to the civil trial against not only Simpson, but also against the predominantly black criminal trial jury and the majority of African Americans who agreed with the criminal verdict and what you have is a form of embracery, the act of attempting to influence a juror or jury in its most high-tech form.

The embracery didn't stop after the trial was over. On the first day of jury deliberations, a never-before-heard audio tape of a suicidal

Simpson was played on all the talk shows and local and network television news shows. Worse, after the new juror was picked to replace the lone black juror on the panel, the New York Post ran a story about how Simpson had hosted a Pro Bowl party when in fact, he was somewhere with his children about as far away from a television as one can get. The story ran on the international wires.

At the turn of the century, a woman who ran a boarding house in Chicago was accused of killing one of her tenants with arsenic. The police could find no sign of the poison in the woman's house though, and it looked as if the prosecution would have no case.

The Chicago American's Arthur Pegler, however, conducted a thorough search and found a container of arsenic in the cellar.

That was enough for the jury which then sentenced the woman to death.

Pegler had actually gotten the arsenic from a photographer and planted it in the cellar because he "was convinced of the woman's guilt." Eventually, Pegler's editor discovered the ruse. But instead of disclosing the fraudulent evidence, he started a crusade calling for the state to show compassion for the "poor, misguided killer." The woman's sentence was commuted to life in prison.

The key phrase here is that Pegler "was convinced of the woman's guilt," lack of evidence notwithstanding. A former college teammate of mine, a corporate attorney in

Pittsburgh, Pa., asked me recently whether I thought justice was served with the civil trial verdict. My response was that "retribution was meted out rather than justice being served."

This retributive civil verdict reminded Temple University Journalism Professor Linn Washington of how a message was sent to recalcitrant America-bound slaves on Gorree Island off the coast of West Senegal. The wayward slaves were not hanged by the neck until dead. Rather, the slaveship owners would hang them by the waist in the hot sun and let them slowly die of starvation. Then they would let the rotting torsos continue to hang to serve as a message to any other slaves who did not adhere to the company line.

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Duties: The Chief Executive and Top Manager of Martin County Community Action, Inc. The Executive Director coordinates, directs and implements all aspects of the Agency including both its administrative and programmatic areas. He/She is responsible generally for the effective operation of Martin County Community Action, Inc. in accordance with the terms of all grants and contracts and the overall policies of the Board.

Qualifications:

Masters Degree in Administration preferred. College Degree B.A. or B.S. with considerable experience in lieu of thorough knowledge of CAA's organization, programs and functions; Considerable knowledge of federal, state and local laws affecting programs and funding; excellent management skills and a broad understanding of programs and problems in the field of socio-economic development, considerable knowledge of the process and preparation of grants and proposals in written and oral forms.

Closing date - May 24, 1997

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# From Page One, Piggly

belonging a male employee of the store. This employee, she said, had stepped out of the store to take care of some business. Shawan went on break and seeing Sandra May eating her food asked for a little bit. Sandra May said she gave Shawan a piece of her burger. Shawan then noticed the other meal next to Sandra May and asked her who it belonged to. Sandra May said she told Shawan that the sandwich was purchased for the male employee. According to May, Shawan said that she just saw him leave the store and she did not think he would be back. Fact is, however, Shawan and two other employees shared the sandwich. Shawan later offered to pay the male employee for the food, but he went and complained to Rick. Rick decided to only terminate Shawan.

CAR would meet with Rick Jackson many times seeking to resolve the incidents concerning Ms. Sutton. CAR informed Jackson that Sutton was not treated fairly and that she should get her job back. Rick said he would never hire her back, and that he would close before considering any requests by CAR. CAR decided that a picket line at the Piggly Wiggly store would be an effective strategy to inform customers and convince Jackson to relent.

Picketing began on November 1, 1996. CAR was initially hoping that the issues of the protest could be resolved quickly even after the picketing had started. Communications were established with the other owners of the Piggly Wiggly, and attorneys Jerome Ramey for CAR and Catherine Piwowarski for Piggly Wiggly became involved. After one week of protest, CAR announced that a resolution was near and that the protest would be suspended. Some of the picketers even began to shop at Piggly Wiggly again as a sign of good will on November 10th.

There was a meeting at City Hall between CAR and Piggly Wiggly store owners Rick Jackson and Dexter Floyd which lasted for two hours. This meeting, however, would serve as the last face to face negotiations between CAR and Piggly Wiggly. All of a sudden, negotiations were called off and Piggly Wiggly stated that they would no longer communicate with CAR. The protest resumed the following day.

I personally believe that the reason the initial negotiations fell through, was because certain individuals convinced Rick Jackson that the protest could be broken without him admitting that he made a mistake. Jackson said that

Sutton would not get her job back, no one can tell him how to spend his profits, and that he would never admit that he was wrong. Piggly Wiggly then began a very costly campaign to break the resolve of CAR and to discredit Ms. Sutton. On Thursday, Piggly Wiggly announced that it would donate \$3,000 to the South Greenville Boys & Girls Club, create a scholarship for a Dickinson Avenue area student to attend Pitt Community College, and start a 'Church Receipts' program. Jackson was trying to undermine the resolve of the picketers and gain the sympathy of the black community at the same time. I must admit that I thought that he had succeeded.

On November 22, CAR held a press conference where a report from a hearing held by the Employment Security Commission (ESC) was released. The hearing was held on November 15th and was attended by Rick Jackson, Shawan Sutton and other witnesses. The decision mailed five days later concluded that: "There is . . . no sufficient competent evidence upon which to base a conclusion of misconduct or substantial fault in connection with the work of Shawan Sutton." The ESC report short circuited any successes Jackson would later claim and the protest continued in earnest. Classic strategies such as a slow motorcade around the store were held on certain days. Picketing times were staggered to keep Piggly Wiggly and its security force off guard.

Piggly Wiggly had hired a private security firm to supposedly keep driveways clear and customers, picketers and employees safe. Pro-Tek Services went beyond their stated purpose and used many strike breaking tactics to harass and threaten the picketers. Security would drive their vehicles in a reckless manner speeding towards picketers and avoiding them at the last moment. They would also park in front of the picketers and blast country-western music from their vehicles. Piggly Wiggly would later do their part by having speakers mounted on the roof of the store and using loud music to annoy the picketers.

Even Piggly Wiggly employees harassed the picketers, certain baggers would come out and throw the middle finger at the picketers and shout profanities at them. The picketers were constantly harassed by one of the assistant managers. He called the police more than once exaggerating incidents to try to get the picketers arrested or at least moved off the property. He constantly referred to the picketers as 'those people' even though

he was also black. The picketers were frequently accused of threatening the customers and employees. There is one thing I can assure you, the picketers never used profanity towards anyone. The customers, however, used profanity daily, threatened constantly, and attempted to attack picketers at least three times. Black people laughed as they went into the store, one night someone even pulled down their pants and bared their behind at the picketers. Never before, have I ever seen such conduct by black people.

On November 20th, Piggly Wiggly published an open letter to CAR and to the people in general extolling the virtues of the Piggly Wiggly store. The carefully crafted letter basically reemphasized the fact that Piggly Wiggly would never give in to the demands of the picketers. CAR promptly published an open letter describing its relationships with Piggly Wiggly in the past involving other employees and its current involvement with Shawan Sutton.

The Public Forum of the Daily Reflector became a battle ground where some very racist comments from a Mike Walston were printed. Mr. Walston attacked the reputation of Bishop Randy B. Royal, who is one of the leaders of CAR. Walston used many racist code words to inflame the white community and the white community responded by coming to shop at Piggly Wiggly in droves. Walston also ridiculed all of the good work of Dr. Martin Luther King and using innuendo accused King of some very terrible things. Mr. Walston seemed to be trying to make a name for himself by attacking CAR but all he really did was convince CAR that they were doing the right thing.

A group calling themselves the Concerned Businessmen of Pitt County purchased a half page ad in the Daily Reflector appealing for people to cross the picket line. I am unsure of the success of this ad, but it once again shows that Piggly Wiggly would do anything to try to break the protest.

A candlelight vigil was held December 5th in the parking lot of the Piggly Wiggly store. This was another rainy and cold night, but it helped to once again solidify the resolve of the picketers.

Other interesting facts were that Texaco, Avis, and even Wal-Mart were exposed in cases of discrimination that even made Dennys look good. Racism is real and it cannot be ignored. Pagets in Durham began receiving num-

bers that connected them to hate recordings by white supremacist groups.

Bishop Royal had never stopped seeking support from the other pastors in the community. Early in December the pastors came together, this group included Rev. H. Parker, Rev. Caldwell, Bishop T.L. Davis, Bishop Love, and Rev. Locks. Bishop Royal was able to get them to commit to honoring the picket line even if they would not join it. Once the pastors were committed, they began to earnestly try to end the protest. The owners of Piggly Wiggly, who had publicly stated that they would not ever negotiate with CAR again, would decide in the end to talk to the group of pastors led by Rev. Locks. Piggly Wiggly stated that Bishop Royal and Rev. Clarence Gray could not attend the negotiations. Rev. Locks became the principle negotiator for the pastoral coalition.

Rev. Locks diligently worked to pass information back and forth between Piggly Wiggly owner Dexter Floyd and Shawan Sutton. CAR advised Ms. Sutton that it would support any decision she might make concerning the negotiations with Piggly Wiggly. Ms. Sutton ultimately received terms that she was pleased with and she was able to settle with Piggly Wiggly.

On Friday, December 20th, the protest at the Dickinson Avenue Piggly Wiggly store officially ended.

In the end, another strategy was beginning to develop where certain members of the black community were taking it upon themselves to call on CAR to stand down. These individuals were try-

ing to imply that the need for a grocery store in the neighborhood required us to accept certain levels of racism or discrimination. They also implied that the employees as a whole were more important than any one individual. Luckily, no one told Rosa Parks that the need to ride the bus to work was greater than her desire to be treated equally as a customer. Otherwise, we would still be beriding in the back of the bus and giving up our seat to white folk just because they're white. Once again, we must remember that racism ignored is racism perpetuated. Well deserved congratulations

go to Bishop Royal, Dan Cavallini, Elder John Barnes, Rev.

Dr. Clarence Gray, Deacon Bill Worthington, Brother Bennie Roundtree, and sister Shawan Sutton. There were many, many others who either walked the line or supported the cause and they are all appreciated.

On a personal note, CAR is still very hard at work evaluating cases from all over eastern North Carolina. Piggly Wiggly was not its first case nor was it the last. CAR will always be a watchdog for the minority community forever ensuring that justice is served for all communities.



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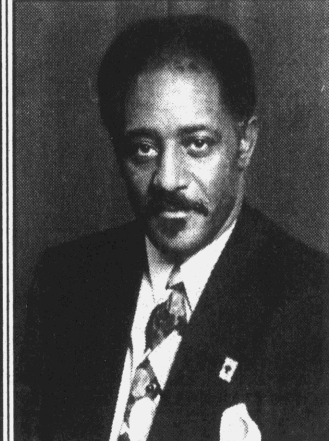
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Martin County Community Action, Inc. Project Head Start is now accepting applications for the 1997 Fall Enrollment for children and including children with disabilities. Eligibility is determined by HHS Income Guidelines, family needs, disabilities, and/or special conditions of the child. Children who will be enrolled will be exposed to a broad educational curriculum that will prepare them for preschool social and educational experiences. Health, nutrition and mental health are also important factors in the development of these children. These areas are also facilitated in the daily routines of the children. Parent Involvement and other program services as mandated are required and are fully utilized by the program. Ten percent (10%) of Head Start Enrollment is identified as: "health impairment, emotional/behavior disorders, speech/language impairments, mental retardation, hearing impairment/deafness, orthopedic impairment, visual impairment/blind, learning disabilities, autism, traumatic brain injury, and other impairments for children who require special education and related services."

Head Start is a comprehensive developmental program for children ages 3-5 years old. This program is based on the premise that children share certain needs and that children from low-income families, in particular, can benefit from a program designed to meet those needs. Head Start operates nine (9) months of the year, - September through May. The centers are open Monday through Friday and the hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Head Start has been operating in the Martin County area since 1965, currently there are 192 children. Nine (9) classrooms are comprised 4-5 year old and one (1) classroom consists of three year old must become three by October 16th; Beaufort County has been operating since 1977 and presently serving 99 children. Five (5) classrooms of 4-5 year olds are accommodated in this county.

Pitt County originated in 1985 and serving 222 children in twelve (12) classrooms accommodating 4-5 year olds.

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

#### 1996 FAMILY INCOME GUIDELINES FOR HEAD START PROGRAMS

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

For Family Units with more than 8 members, add \$2,560 for each additional member. Please contact the Family Service Worker at the Head Start center in your area:

Martin Co: North Everetts 792-5353

Pitt Co: St. Gabriel (752-9755)  
Ayden (746-4298)  
Farmville (753-8036)

Beaufort Co: 264 Washington (946-5632)  
Aurora (322-5543)  
Belhaven (943-3006)

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

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