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Everything that can be thought at all can be thought clearly.
Everything that can be said can be said clearly. —Ludwig Wittgenstein

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S MINORITY VOICE-SINCE 1981

54th NAACP Meet Elects Skip Alston

By Cash Michaels

Staff Writer

NAACP State Conference President Melvin "Skip" Alston, appointed last May after months serving as interim, overwhelmingly won the vote of confidence he sought from the majority of the 300 delegates attending the 54th annual state convention in Raleigh Saturday.

Alston, who aggressively worked to ensure his mandate, polled 188

votes, or more than 63 percent, to Duplin County Branch Pres. Jesse Smith's 68 votes, and District 8 Director Min. Curtis Gatewood's 41 votes. Terry Darnell Belk, Political Action Committee chairman of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg branch, dropped out of the race Saturday, throwing his support to Smith. He tallied only 1 vote.

"I'm just glad that people recognize that we've been trying our best, we've been trying to address

the issues... and when you get overwhelming support like that, that shows they're happy with what's going on," Alston told.

He promised stronger lobbying efforts now in the state Legislature, and that the state chapter would be more visible in speaking out about welfare reform and affirmative action rollbacks, and more proactive on issues like economic development, troubled youth and education.

Alston's landslide was the culmination of a three-day state conference convention that promoted strong, positive messages for youth, community and church involvement, political activism, and economic empowerment with the theme, "And Still We Rise."

Wake County's three NAACP branches, Raleigh-Apex, Wendell-Wake, and South Central Wake, were roundly applauded for cohosting the 54th annual meeting.

There were signs long before the first vote was cast Saturday, that whoever the winner was, would face healing the deep fractures caused by the State Conference's first hotly contested presidency.

Many members The CAROLINIAN contacted, both moderate and progressive, expressed the strong feeling that the state chapter needed a more decisive, determined direction in addressing the issues that plague the African-American community. They saw new leadership as the first step towards making that difference, and wanted to make a change.

Alston's supporters, on the other hand, felt that despite his decade-long participation under the previous administration as first vice president, he deserved a chance, and a full term, to be the leader, and show that he is capable of taking the state NAACP in that new direction.

Even Alston, 40, acknowledged that the divisions existed, but seemed to challenge his opponents to carry the responsibility of healing.



A PRETTY LIL' FACE—Bright eyes, brilliant smile, and dimples to boot...our camera captured this picture of happiness recently and we just had to share it with our readers. (Jim Rouse Photo)

Congresswoman Clayton Tells Of Bill Passage

Washington, D.C.—Congresswoman Eva M. Clayton (D-N.C.) today announced passage of H.R. 1119, Defense Authorization, which includes a much needed pay raise of military families and housing improvements.

The bill authorizes a total of \$268.2 billion. "I am happy that military families will get a 2.8 pay raise," said Clayton. "We have more than 11,000 military families receiving food stamps to make ends meet. This is not a good position for servicemembers who are serving their country."

"It is important that we take care of our military families," said Clayton. "I am pleased that we received an overwhelming vote in the House to support our service men and women. I look forward to similar support in the Senate."

The bill will provide funding for the continued deployment of troops to Bosnia beyond 1998 only if the President makes a detailed report to Congress regarding the purpose, duration and exit strategy for the operation. The agreement does not

authorize any additional base closing and it includes language setting out strict competitive bidding rules for Air Force maintenance contracts that effectively require private contractors currently operating at Kelly and McCallan.

"I am hopeful that because of the much needed dollars for military families, the President will not veto the bill due to the conflicts with the military depots," said Clayton.

Clayton had earlier submitted an amendment to reimburse Army Reserve and National Guard members, who were deployed to Europe on the second rotation of Operation Joint Guard. The amendment was stricken from the bill, but Clayton will reintroduce it Thursday as an independent piece of legislation.

"This bill will facilitate reimbursement to the soldiers who used personal funds to pay for shipment of personal items which the Army normally paid for in the past," said Clayton. "The bill has been drafted to cover all soldiers who may have been affected while the policy was still in effect."



MAKE GRANT PRESENTATION—Sen. Martin and Rep. Linwood Mercer were on hand to make a formal grant presentation at St. Luke's Church of Christ in Princeville. The \$45,000 grant, accepted by Princeville Mayor Walter Plemmer, will be used for cleanup and maintenance efforts on the Princeville cemetery. The funds will be used in an ongoing effort to get the cemetery recognized by the Federal Historical Registry. Pictured are: (l.-r.) Rep. Linwood Mercer, Princeville Town commissioner Linda Worsely, Sen. Bob Martin, Mayor Walter Plemmer.

Poetess Maya Angelou To Shaw Homecoming

Maya Angelou, renowned poet and author, will be performing for Shaw University's Homecoming on Thursday, Nov. 20, at 8 p.m. in the Raleigh Memorial Auditorium.

The event is being held as a special fundraiser to complete the final stages of renovation of Estey Hall.

Estey Hall was erected in 1873 as the nation's first women's dormitory on a coeducational campus. It has been marked as a historic site by the state of North Carolina and is included in the National Register of Historic Places.

Angelou's autobiographical account of her youth, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, was a PBS special in 1979. She has more than 20 published works to her credit, including "On the Pulse of the Morning," which was written at the request of then-President-Elect William Jefferson Clinton and delivered at his inauguration in 1993.

She has many bestselling books of poetry and prose to her credit, including *Gather Together in My Name*, *Oh! Pray My Wings are Gonna Fit Me Well*, *The Heart of a Woman* and *Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey Now*. Most recently, she released an autobiogra-

phy titled, *Even the Stars Look Lonesome*.

The award-winning author has contributed articles to a wide variety of magazines including *Essence*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and the *New York Times Magazine*.

In addition, she has made hundreds of appearances on cable and local television and radio talk shows.

Angelou's awards and honors come from virtually every field. In August she was named "Woman of the Year" by the North Carolina Black Publishers Association at its first annual Awards Banquet.

She has received the Chubb Fellowship Award from Yale University, a National Book Award nomination in 1970 for *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, a Pulitzer Prize

nomination in 1972 for *Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'Fore I Die*, and a Tony Award nomination for her 1973 performance in *Look Away*.

She is the recipient of the Matrix Award and has had more than 30 honorary doctoral degrees conferred upon her from colleges and universities nationwide.

A resident of Winston-Salem, Angelou was appointed in 1981 to a lifetime position as the first Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University.

Shaw University, founded in 1865, is the oldest historically black institution in the South. Since 1987 the university has been under the leadership of President Talbert O. Shaw.

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At Large
• Winterville elects Doug Jackson Mayor



HEAD START AWARENESS MONTH—Shown here is the staff of the Martin County Community Action Head Start Center and several well-wishers who attended a Head Start Awareness Breakfast. It was all a part of the observance of October as Head Start Awareness Month. Pictured are: Jeffrey Savage, Pitt County Commissioner; The Hon. Nancy Jenkins, Mayor of the City of Greenville; Chuck Autry, member of the Greenville City Council; Melvin McLawhom, member of the MCCA Board of Directors; Reginald Speight, Executive Dir. MCCA; Myrtle Stallings, MCCA Program Director; Valerie Bell, St. Gabriel's Head Start parent; Cathy Rivera, Greenville Det.; Cleatrice Herbert, St. Gabriel's Head Start Supervisor; Edward Barnett, St. Gabriel's Maintenance; Pamela Harper, St. Gabriel's Head Start Family Service Worker; and Marcella Perkins, St. Gabriel's Head Start Family Service Worker. (Jim Rouse Photo)

A Mind Is
A Terrible
Thing To
Waste.

Church Briefs

BY FAYE WHITE
Associate Editor

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

Holy Mission Holy Church (1811 South Pitt Street in Greenville) would like to remind everyone that their Outreach Center is open daily (Monday through Friday) from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. "If we can be of help to you, please give us a call" at 756-6944.

"Life Star Ministries" (producing lives that shine as stars because of the cross) -- presents the drama "God Remembers" at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 9, at the W.H. Robinson Elementary School (449 North Railroad Street in Winterville), sponsored by Bishop W.H. Mitchell and the Good Hope Free Will Baptist Church Youth Department. Life Star Ministries is

a nonprofit organization affiliate with the St. Rest Holy Church. Our mission is to reach the lost, restore lives, and build strong solid families for God.

The St. Mary's New Horizon Mass Choir will celebrate their Ninth Anniversary at 3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 9. Witness for Christ will be presented in concert.

York Memorial AME Zion Church will hold appreciation services to honor their pastor, Rev. Charlie O. Caldwell, Nov. 9-16. Services will begin at 7:30 p.m. nightly and 6 p.m. on Sunday. Scheduled to participate in this celebration: Monday - Rev. Blake Phillips and English Chapel; Tuesday - Bishop T.L. Davis and Progressive; Wednesday - Rev. Sidney Locke and Cornerstone; Thursday - Bishop Ralph Love and Holy Trinity; Friday - Rev. Howard Parker and Sycamore Hill; and, Sunday - Rev. Rosie O'Neal and Koinonia. An Appreciation Benefit Dinner (See CHURCH BRIEFS, P. 2)

Affinity: Perspectives

Dee Apetsi and Jackie Bourier Kaiper

Dear Jackie and Dee:

My boyfriend and I have been dating for about a year. He is separated from wife and has custody of their daughter. I really love this man and love his child as my own. His wife has visitation rights every other weekend. About two months ago she began coming over to visit during the week, now she is spending every other weekend with them—day and night. He tells me there is nothing going on between them and that he is doing this for his daughter's sake. When she is not there everything between us is fine and he reassures me that he loves me, but when she is visiting he tells me that I should not call or come over. I have tried to be understanding. What should I do?

Trying To Understand

Dear Trying to Understand

I commend you on being very understanding. However, let's take a look at what your boyfriend is saying and compare it with his behavior. He says he loves you, on the other hand, his behavior is conveying something else. He is sending mixed signals to you and the woman he is separated from. One would have to wonder if they are really separated. Try patience. Patience always brings us truth. The more patience one invests in a relationship the more truth is revealed about the parties who are involved. Then and only then can you make an intelligent decision regarding this relationship. Forget what he says. After all, as an intelligent woman you have a gut feeling, don't you???

Jackie

Dear Jackie and Dee:

I have been dating a man for five years. Well, I found out he has been seeing another woman. The other woman and I began to communicate. She pretended to be religious and claimed that she had my best interest at heart. This made our mutual friend very uncomfortable. Therefore the other woman gave him an ultimatum and he married her. Keep in mind that he dated me all during his engagement without me knowing he was engaged. We had a date one week and he got married the next week. How can a human being do such a thing?

Left Hanging

Dear Left Hanging

Girlfriend, you were not left hanging. You are still standing and I hope with your head held high. Think about it, who did wrong in this situation? Both of them. She practiced deception toward you in order to befriend you and he was deceptive to both of you. He did you wrong and the girl he married. So why do you think marriage is going to correct the deception in their lives? It will not. Their hearts have to be dealt with. That's God's job. On the other hand, when a woman has to give a man an ultimatum to get to the altar, it makes a statement that says she wasn't chosen as a mate, but is a part of a settlement that was made. Usually settlements are made for selfish reasons. There aren't any winners. What happened to a man asking for a woman's hand in marriage? Don't forget to forgive your ex for hurting you and if you find it in your heart pray for the Mrs. Take my word, she will need it. Ask God to help you to wait to be "chosen".

Jackie

Dear Trying to Understand

You've got one smooth operator. He's seeing two different women on alternate weekends for his daughter's sake. RIGHT! If you really want to wait it out that's fine. Maybe he is on the up-and-up, in that case he's worth waiting for. Or maybe he really does love you (or both of you) and is trying to figure out which of you he needs. Then he deserves a little time. Give it some time and give him the benefit of your doubt, but if your woman's intuition tells you that this turkey is playing you, you've got to let him go with dignity and grace. Let him go.

Dee

Dear Left Hanging

AFTER A WHILE

by Veronica A. Shorttall

After a while you learn. Holding a hand and chaining a soul. And you learn. That love doesn't mean leaning and company doesn't always mean security. And you begin to learn. That kisses aren't contracts and presents aren't promises. And you begin to accept your defeats with your head up. And your eyes ahead. With the grace of a woman. Not the grief of a child. And you learn to build. All your roads on today. Because tomorrow's ground is too uncertain and futures have a way of falling down in mid-flight. After a while you learn that even sunshine burns if you get too much. So you plant your own garden. And decorate your own soul. Instead of waiting for someone to bring you flowers. And you learn that you really can endure. That you really are strong. And you really do have worth. And you learn. And you learn. With every good-bye you learn.

Dee

CHURCH BRIEFS

Continued from page 1

will be held in the Luther Brown Fellowship Hall of York Memorial at 6 p.m. Saturday. The public is invited to share in this celebration for this great manservant of God. For more information, contact chairperson Johnny Wooten at 757-1135 or York Memorial at 758-6077.

Haddock's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Route 1, Winterville, will hold Quarterly Meeting Services Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 8-9. Rev. Clinton Anderson and the Rock Bottom Holy Church of Winterville will be guests for the 7:30 p.m. Saturday service. Bishop Stephen Jones, Pastor, the combined choirs and ushers of Haddock Chapel and St. Matthew, will be in charge of the 11 a.m. Sunday Service. Rev. Jerry Parker and the White Oak Baptist Church of Grimesland will be guests 3 p.m. Sunday afternoon.

St. Rest United Holy Church, Winterville, will observe SENIOR CITIZENS DAY Nov. 9. Pastor LeVanice Simmons, of Deeper Life Church, Goldsboro, will deliver the morning sermon. Music will be rendered by St. Rest's Male Chorus.

Tabernacle Center Of Deliverance will host Revival November 10-14. Services begin at 7:30 p.m. Prophetess Janie Suggs of Brooklyn Tabernacle in Brooklyn, New York, (a native of Pitt County) will be the evangelist for the week.

The Canaan Free Will Baptist Church is celebrating the church's Fifth Anniversary, Nov. 12-16. Participating in this celebration: Wednesday, Elder James "Shorty" Wilkes; Thursday, Elder Tommy Ford and Parks Chapel Church of Fayetteville; Friday, Elder Matthew Ward and Haddock's Chapel; and on Sunday, Bishop Paul Thomas and the Victory Christian Assembly.

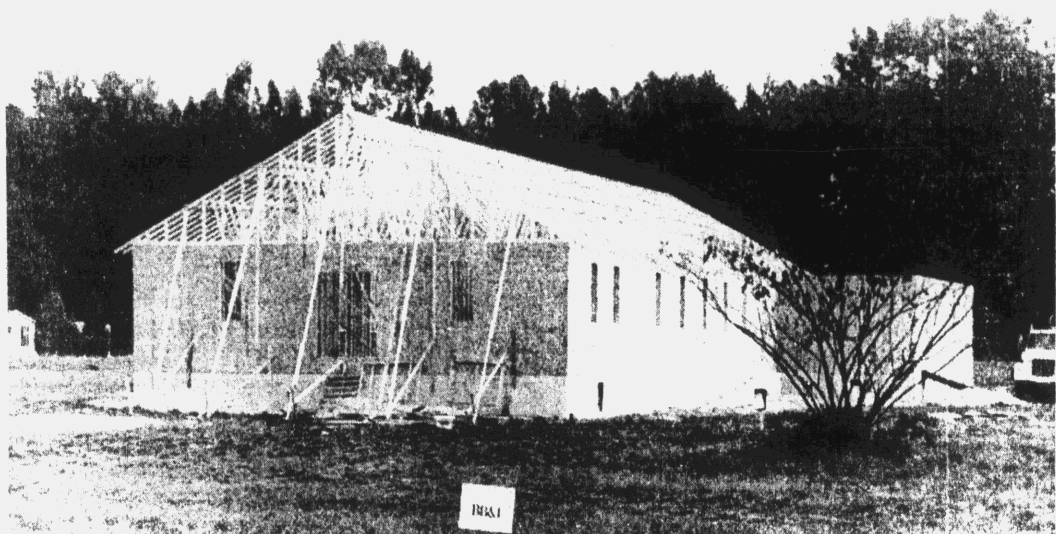
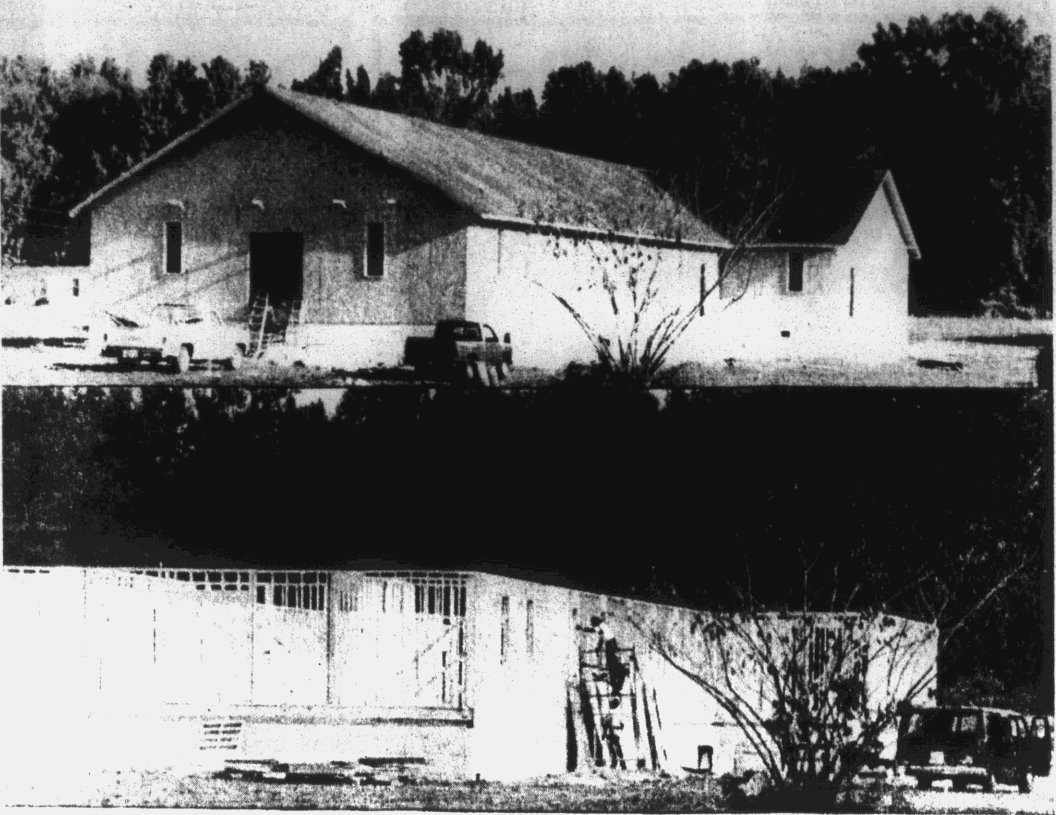
New Vision Faith Church (106 Ficklen Street) will celebrate WOMEN'S DAY, 3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 9. Eldress Betty Joyner will be the guest minister. Music will be rendered by the Anointed Gospel Pearls.

The Tina Edwards Memorial Scholarship Service will be held at 7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 8, at English Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. Scheduled to appear: The Edwards Sisters, The Rock Island Singers, The Junior Consolators, The Virginia Aires of Chesapeake, Virginia, Shekinah Glory Mass Choir, Brother "Snap" and New Vision, "Slim" & The Southern Wonders, and "Revive" of Henderson, North Carolina. Donations will be accepted at the service, or, you may send contributions to The Tina Edwards Memorial Fund, Post Office Box 1982, Greenville, N.C. 27835.

Selvia Chapel Free Will Baptist Church (400 Watagua Ave.) will host a Gospel Crusade, Nov. 10-14. Minister Robert Holland, of Suffolk, Va., will be the guest minister. Services begin at 7:30 p.m.

Call Made For Black Music Tapes

Nashville, TN—Demo tapes are being solicited for a compilation of contemporary black music. The anthology, tentatively titled "No Oppression, is being assembled by Nashville freelance writers Bill Friskics-Warren and Grant Alden for spring release on Checkered Past, a Chicago-based independent record label. The project is being produced in cooperation with the



CORRECTION—The picture caption UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH was incorrect in last week's edition, it should have read: Pictured here is the structural beginnings of St. Peter's Church (located on Red Banks Road in Greenville). Real Progress in the making. (Jim Rouse Photo)

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The Little Willie Center announces the sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Agriculture funded Child and Adult Care Food Program. The same meals will be available at no separate charge to enrolled participants at the center(s) below, and will be provided without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Any person who believes that he or she has been discriminated against should write immediately to: Administrator, Food and Consumer Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

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	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced
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2	13,793	19,629	1,150	1,636	266	378
3	17,329	24,661	1,445	2,056	334	475
4	20,865	29,693	1,739	2,475	402	572
5	24,401	34,725	2,034	2,894	410	668
6	27,937	39,757	2,329	3,314	538	765
7	31,473	44,789	2,623	3,733	606	862
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To All Veterans!

November 11th
at 11:00 a.m.

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THE MONSTER

Have you a monster in your life? In your home? In your neighborhood? In our city? Is the monster in your head, constantly telling you, "I can't, you can't, you can't? Monsters come in any form - friends, family, cohorts, colleagues. Talented, educated, ignorant, young or old; he is an equal-opportunity demon. He comes in most crippling forms: Insecurity, self-hatred, self-doubt. So many of us have struggled with our self-value: The young man or woman pursuing a diploma or a degree, a job promotion, maintaining good grades, going to the head of the class, struggling to overcome bad habits, not knowing if people like you for your self or because of who your father is or was, and people telling you, "you'll never amount to anything, or you're never going to make it".

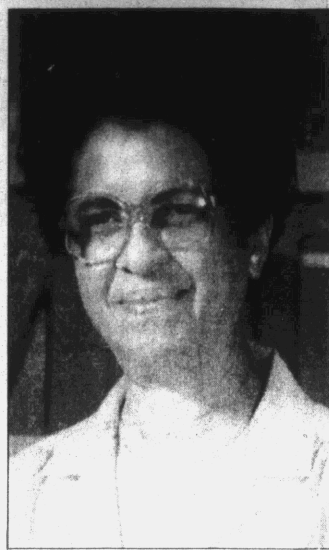
The monster can be scary but don't give it power; instead, look right into your fears, talk to yourself, don't listen to negative people and negative thoughts, for you can do anything you believe you can.

Read and listen to Harriet Tubman, Colin Powell, Maya Angelou, Mary McLeod Bethune, your parent, your grand parent, among many others. These didn't let monsters seduce or destroy their dreams. Immobilize, paralyze and neutralize them into success. Only you can turn your monster into realities, causing your dreams to come true.

LIVE LONGER

To help you live longer, healthily, the United States Department of Agriculture and Health and Human Services has some dietary suggestions that, if followed, could help you live healthily. Their suggestions are:

1. Eat a variety of foods (includ-



Mrs. Beatrice Maye

ing all those from the seven basic food groups).

2. Maintain weight.
3. Avoid too much fat from animal sources, saturated fat and cholesterol (thereby practically eliminating fried foods from your diet).
4. Eat foods with adequate starch and fiber. Doctors say that a daily diet of high fiber could reduce your risk of colon and rectal cancer, the second leading cause of cancer deaths.
5. Avoid too much sugar.
6. Avoid too much sodium. Salt reduction is necessary to control hypertension, but most Americans, nutritionists say, consume up to three times more than the recommended 2000 milligrams a day.
7. If you drink alcohol, do so in moderation (no more than two drinks a day).

And let's not forget exercise or physical activities, such as aerobics, jogging, calisthenics, tennis, and walking. Routine physical activity has been linked to reduction

of the risk factors related to several ailments, particularly heart disease, which remains the No. 1 cause of deaths in the country.

Researchers believe that vigorous exercise lowers cholesterol in the blood, clears plaque from the arteries, keeps blood pressure down and promotes general good health habits.

Periodic examinations are among the most important steps you can take to possibly add years to your life, doctors say. If some life threatening conditions are detected soon enough, they can be cured.

10 COMMANDMENTS OF LOVE

1. Put your spouse before your mother, your father, your son and your daughter - your mate is your lifelong companion.
2. Do not abuse your body with excessive food, tobacco, drink or any foreign substance that goes into your arm or up your nose.
3. Remember that cleanliness is a virtue.
4. Permit neither your business nor your hobby to make you a stranger to your children; the most precious gift a parent can give his or her family is time.
5. Willingly share all of your worldly goods with your mate.
6. Do not forget to say, "I love you." Even though your love may be constant, your spouse needs to hear those cherished words often.
7. Remember that the approval of your spouse is worth far more than the adoring glances of a hundred strangers, so be true to him or her, and forsake all others.
8. Keep your home in good repair, because out of it comes the joys of old age (not to mention its resale value).
9. Forgive with grace, because who among us does not need to be forgiven?
10. Honor the Lord your God every day of your life, and your children will grow up and bless you.

Today, be a sweetheart. Call someone you love and say, "I love you." Make two or three calls; who says you can't love more than one person - in different ways, of course.)

Go through your closets and give all those clothes you've been saving until you lose 10 pounds to your favorite charity. Call someone who's lonely and say, "I'm thinking of you". Or, better yet, say, "I'll be over tomorrow to take you to lunch, or to give you a ride."



LT. COL. MINNIE BEVERLY

Lt. Col. Minnie Beverly and friends from North Carolina who visited with Lt. Col. Ann Lawrence of Fort Washington, Md. were among those who were present for a recent series of ceremonies for the 1.8 million women who have served from the Revolutionary War to the present.

These women were honored with the dedication of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial, that was placed at the gateway entrance to Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

The \$21.5 million women's memorial, which is a 35,000-square-foot education center, was 13 years in planning. Using computers, visi-

Lt. Col. Minnie Beverly Among Those City

tors will be able to call up photographs and personal stories explaining the role women have played in the armed services.

Vice President Al Gore told the cheering crowd that "This memorial has been forged by the countless acts of bravery and sacrifice of generations of America's servicewomen."

There was also a gala, featuring

star-studded entertainment in honor of America's heroines in uniform. Stars of stage and screen told the many stories in songs and tributes to the courage and determination of women in the wars.

The reunion that followed the next day rekindled camaraderie and the personal sharing of memories with others, many of whom had not been reunited for years.

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Obituaries

PEARLIE MAE BROOKS

Ms. Pearlle Mae Brooks transcended from this life at her home on Thursday, Oct. 30, 1997. She was born on Sept. 28, 1925 in Pitt County. She was reared in the Beaufort County area where she attended public schools in Aurora, N.C. She returned to Pitt County as a young adult and remained in the Greenville, N.C. community until her passing.

Pearlie Mae retired from her employment as a Domestic Worker in 1990, but continued to live of her invaluable time by helping with children. She was preceded in death by her loving husband Jessie Lee Brooks.

Pearlie Mae was loving, caring and giving to her church, family, friends and community. Even through her extended illness her smile, her gentle spirit and her courage gave strength and encouragement to all who touched her.

She leaves to cherish her loving memories: one daughter; Deloris Ferebee of Greenville; three sons; Jessie Lee Brooks and wife Daniele of Greenville, Anthony Brooks of Greenville, and Onession Brooks of the home; four sisters;

Lizzie Williams of Greenville, Ernestine Chapman of Ayden, Margie Bell and Margaret Hayes of Baltimore, MD, three brothers; Alton Ray Dixon of Ayden, Rocky Dixon of Philadelphia, PA and Charles Robinson of New Castle, Delaware, four grandchildren; Shana Ferebee of Greenville, Davon Clark of the home, Kandis and Toni Brooks of Takoma, Washington, nieces, nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

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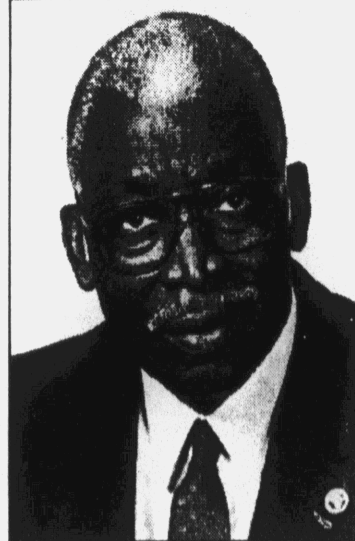
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- 40,000 - 602 E. Gum Rd., 2 Bed Rms. Dwelling, 1 Bath, Central Heat, Garage, Fenced, Rent 250.00.
- 42,500 - 105 S. Melvin St., BR., 1 Bath, Cement Blk. Freshly Painted, Kinston, N.C.
- 47,500 - 550 County Ac, 5 Rms, 3 BR., 2 Bath, Cement Blk, Grifton, N.C.
- 47,800 - 1231 Davenport St., 5 rms, 3 BR., 1 bath, Brick., Rented 325.00.
- 41,500 - 304 Rountree Dr., 2 BR., 1 Bath, Brick, Cent. Heat Carport Lot 93 x 130, Greenville.

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OPINIONS

COMMENTS

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Credo of the Black Press

The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and natural antagonisms when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color or creed, full human rights. Hating no person, fearing no person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

Looking The Other Way

Black people, at least some of them, are still having a tough time when it comes to powerful blacks and their feet of clay.

Consider the case of the late, unlamented Field Marshal Dr. Idi Amin Dada, former president-for-life of Uganda.

His cruelty, capriciousness and depravity were the stuff of legend.

His thugs imprisoned, tortured, and murdered hundreds of thousands (some say more than a million) young black men. They raped thousands of young black women in villages across the country, simply because they knew they could.

The world was horrified. Amin was universally reviled.

But in the United States, Amin became a hero of sorts among the black elite, because of his open disdain for and mocking of powerful whites.

The feeling was, if white America finds this black man so revolting, he can't be all bad.

Fast-forward to two years ago. Nigerian Gen. Sani Abacha's stranglehold on his country is squeezing out the fragile democracy movement.

Dissent, freedom of expression, and crushing of any attempts to pull the country out of its endemic corruption have made it a buzzword in international circles.

International groups everywhere had joined in calling for him to give up power and release from jail the man, Chief Abiola, who won the office of president fair and square.

Almost everywhere. From the pages of black publications in the United States came excuses.

The most amazing one was that "Western countries can't impose their style of democracy on Africa; it must move toward democracy at its own pace."

The idea, apparently, was that this was some kind of new "African-style

democracy" that white people wouldn't understand.

A dictatorship. Crushing of dissent isn't a difficult concept, regardless of one's ethnic background. Political terror is terror; corruption is corruption; and jail is jail, everywhere.

Well, almost. A group of black publishers went on a "fact-finding" tour of Nigeria, bankrolled by the Nigerian government.

They stayed in luxurious hotels and were chauffeured about the country by government officials, where they were given the opportunity to ask "ordinary" citizens what they thought of the government.

They reported, wide-eyed and straight-faced, that there was no corruption or repression in Nigeria, that the people loved their leader.

Then there was Dr. Henry Lyons' recent shenanigans. With everybody in the country lambasting him, voices arose within the black community to defend him.

Leave Dr. Lyons alone, they said. He's ours, and it's not any of your business to choose who we follow.

That, unfortunately, seems to be a recurring theme. The fact that white people are outraged by certain people, and are taking a great deal of pleasure in reporting their shortcomings, is viewed as reason enough for the community to rally behind them.

It reminds us of the time when the opponents of black freedom said Jim Crow must be defended, because the communists were reporting our problems with such glee.

It was a silly argument then, and it is now.

We need to decide, once and for all, that if a black leader is killing, torturing, raping, or even stealing from and lying to other black people, it is actually worse than if someone from outside the community does it.

Not better.

Another Controversy

It was bound to happen.

The national black holiday, Kwanzaa, is starting to take off in the black community.

After about 20 years of not knowing exactly what to do about the new, "made-up" holiday, African-Americans have incorporated it into their holiday ritual.

It makes a nice bridge in the holiday season between Christmas and New Year's, which black folks have not given up.

So it shouldn't be too surprising that, with its increased importance, certain groups (possibly hoping to increase *their* importance) have begun pontificating on how it is and is not to be observed.

A couple of years ago those groups, notably that headed by Conrad Worrill, demanded that Kwanzaa-based advertising be pulled by national chain stores. It sullied the holiday's spirit, they said.

The latest fuss is over Kwanzaa stamps and merchandise to be issued by the U.S. Postal Service.

The twist this time is that it is the inventor of Kwanzaa himself, Dr. Maulana Karenga, who is being targeted by a watchdog group, the National Leadership Council of Elders.

This group was furious that Karenga, who understandably considers Kwanzaa *his* holiday and his

the final word on how it should be observed, made a deal with USPS for the stamps and merchandise.

They said that in doing so, he was guilty of "an affront to the African-American community, an assault on the preservation of the cultural integrity of Kwanzaa."

What exactly made the "cultural integrity" of this African-American holiday their personal purview isn't clear, but they further demanded that Karenga clear any future deals on the holiday with them.

Uh-huh.

The whole argument seems pretty silly to us. Not because it is Karenga, and not this group, that should make decisions about the holiday.

No, it is pointless because as of a few years ago, nobody has that power anymore.

The holiday is now the property of the African-American people, not Dr. Karenga and not any one or two or three groups who have decided that they and they alone know how it is "supposed" to be observed.

It has its own life now, and will go, for better or worse, in whatever way it will.

The best each of us can hope to do is to observe it in our own way, and try not to get too worried about how other people are doing it.

It won't help, anyway.



Pets Are A Danger To All Writers

BY TREY BANKHEAD



I don't care WHAT the so-called experts say...these animals in our apartment are plotting something!

I've been trying for three hours to write this week's column. It's supposed to be on the United States Supreme Court's rejection of a challenge to Proposition 209. If you'll remember, that is the new Californian law that makes Affirmative Action programs illegal, as well as setting back minority and women's rights by decades.

I'm starting to wonder, though, if I'll EVER get the column finished! When I got home from classes, I went straight to the computer and turned it on. I then left while it booted up, and put my jacket away, and laid out all my other stuff that I have to work on tonight.

I went back to the computer, only to discover one cat (Sam) lying in the chair, and the other (Twinkie) lying on the keyboard. Thanks to Twinkie, the computer was making the most God-awful screech, the electronic equivalent of "Get your big butt OFF me!" It wouldn't have done the poor machine any good: Twinkie's deaf, anyway.

I pulled Sam off, pulled Twinkie off, and looked down to discover Sam BACK in my chair!

Have you ever had a moment while dealing with an animal when, although you can't prove it, you just KNOW that it's laughing at you? Try it with two cats.

I grabbed Sam, snatched up Twinkie just as he made a leap for the keyboard, and carried them to the living room. I went back into the den and sat down, calling up my notes on Proposition 209. While I was reading through them, Twinkie brushed up against my leg. I just ignored him for a while. The he jumped up into my lap, knocking my hands off the keyboard in the process.

I dumped him onto the floor, and went back to my reading. He repaid me by sinking his claws into my foot.

I jumped straight up, a hard thing to do when your legs are under the desk. Needless to say, I hit the computer desk with my knees, nearly sending the computer screen toppling over, and definitely sending Twinkie scampering out of the room.

("Hello? Humane Society? I'd like to report a case of animal abuse. No, it hasn't happened yet, but it will if you can't get here soon...as in right NOW.")

I was tempted. God knows I was tempted. Still, they're just cats, and I'm human, so I figured they'd just give up.

Shows what I know.

I don't know HOW he figured it out, but about ten minutes later, Sam unplugged the computer. I didn't even know he was in the room, let alone under the desk. So you can imagine my surprise when, in the middle of my typing a sentence, the computer shuts down. Any kids outside the window learned some new words tonight.

I looked under the desk just in time to see a black and brown tail disappearing out the door. That's when I saw what he'd done. I plugged the computer back in, then chased him around the apartment, trying to catch him. ("Hello, Humane Society? I'd like to report a pesticide. No ma'am, not a PESTicide, although what I may be killing is a bit of a pest right now. A PETicide. Well, a homicide is when you kill a person, right? Well, our two pets are about to die.")

Sam managed to hide under the couch, far enough back so that I couldn't get to him. That's when I heard the computer screaming for help again. I ran back to the den, and cleared the door just in time to trip over a furry blur of motion moving the other way. I lost my balance, hit a chair, and hit the floor a second later. You know what it sounds like when a 215-pound man hits a floor at full speed? No? Be grateful. What it sounds like is nothing compared to what it FEELS like, believe me!

By this point, I'd given up. The furdemons had won. I shut down the computer, went out to the living room, and

turned on the VCR and TV. Nothing like a good action flick to get your mind off violence, right?

That notion lasted until Twinkie hopped into my lap. Twinkie's our anti-social cat. He HATES people. But then, he's been acting weird lately, anyway. I mean, THIS is the cat whose eyes glow red when he hisses at something!

They planned it. I can't prove it, but I just KNOW they planned it. About thirty seconds after Twinkie got settled in my lap, Sam came rocketing in from another room. He jumped onto the arm of the couch, up to the back, down the length of it, bounced off my head, down to the floor, and whoooosh out the room. Twinkie just sat there, watching, and ever-so-innocently pinning me to the couch while his brother used me as a springboard.

And they say cats aren't intelligent. HA!

Want to guess what I'm tempted to do NOW? ("Here, dear. I made you a pair of furry socks and some fuzzy mittens. No, no special occasion. The cats? I don't know. I haven't seen them moving around since I started on the gloves.")

Other Viewpoints

WHY GARY, INDIANA STILL CRIES

By Harry C. Alford

President/CEO, National Black Chamber of Commerce

Gary, Ind. was once a very proud city. A literal suburb of the great "Windy City," Chicago, there should be no reason why the wealth and vitality of its massive neighbor cannot flow into its streets. But Gary gets none of the economic overflow of Chicago. Gary is no longer bustling. It has become one of the most depressing cities in the nation and no one is to blame but the people of Gary themselves.

Gary cries today because of a strategic error made by the black leaders of the area. They decided to become politically empowered without first, or even considering, becoming economically empowered. This is a good study on how not to govern a locality.

Politics controls everything in Gary. If you want a job you must be approved by the local Democrat apparatus. If you want to start a business or seek a loan, the local political leaders must bless it. Nothing has to do with ability, potential or compatibility, it all has to do with politics. Sadly, the politics is even one-sided—Democrats. Thus, Gary has very little leverage with the state capital of Indianapolis. Democrats take them for granted and Republicans won't give them the time of day. The only gains that are made are through the collective efforts and leveraging of the Indiana Legislative Black Caucus. What we have in Gary is a few political party cronies overseeing a population that is totally alienated from the process.

Under the Richard Hatcher administration, Gary went through 20 years of largesse. Every citizen with a hint of "hustle" became a player. Former President Jimmy Carter was a sucker for black cities such as Gary, Detroit, Cleveland, etc., and the federal grants poured in at a phenomenal rate. More than \$1 billion poured into Gary during the Hatcher years and no one knows what exactly they got for the money. There became a long line of indicted people who were carted off to federal prison as the corruption became apparent.

With the corruption at full scale, serious inflation, Clean Air Act costs and the oil embargo, Gary, like many other cities, faced serious decisions. Unfortunately, at this critical time, Gary could not function as a normal governmental entity. Big business became frustrated and began to leave. With the quick reduction in job availability and a frustration caused by the leadership void, youth began to leave as soon as they graduated from high school. The talented and unpoliticized black middle class also began to leave, following the big flow of white residents.

People finally had enough of Hatcher and voted him out in favor of Thomas Barnes. The Barnes administration proved to be no more capable or less corrupt. The first big decision this black mayor made was to eliminate the affirmative action plan put into place by Richard Hatcher. Imagine, a black mayor of a black city abolishing affirmative action. You see, affirmative action gets in the way of patronage and corruption.

We would refer large black businesses to consider Gary for opening up new offices and providing job growth. Every one of them was "hit up" by the local politicals to the point of disbelief and horror. Their positive attitudes quickly changed.

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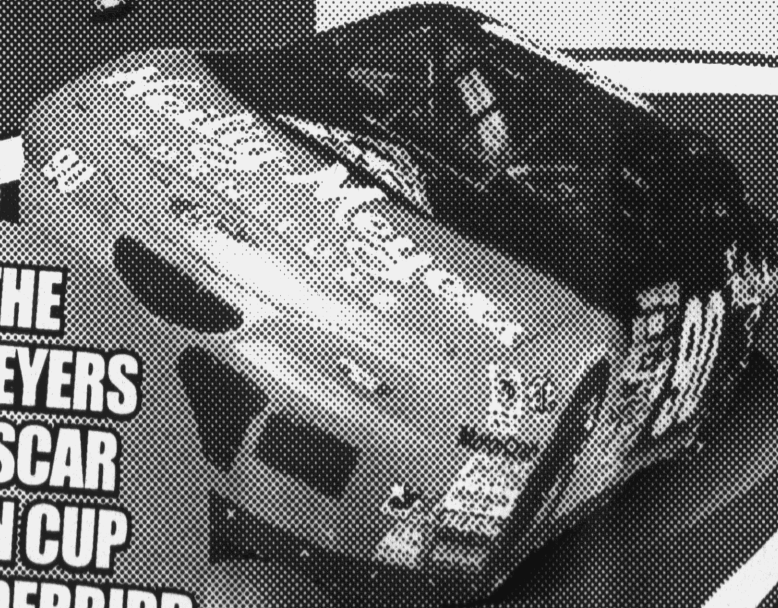
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MEN OF GOD, STAND TALL!—Elder Timothy Ward (l.), Pastor of Redeeming Love Christian Center and Minister Lester Howard (r.) pause from their busy activities outside of their new facility for our camera. Redeeming Love is growing by leaps and bounds...attesting to God's goodness. (Jim Rouse Photo)



I DON'T FEEL NOWAYS TIRED!—Pictured here is Brother Golden Frinks (l.) who has been taking a stand for civil rights since the days when he marched with Martin Luther King, Jr., and a brother (r.) who supports the efforts of civil rights for all our brothers and sisters. (Jim Rouse Photo)



ATTEND FOUNDERS' DAY CELEBRATION!—Elder Terry Bynum (l) and Brother Jeff Davis (r.) flank Bishop Paul Thomas (c.) recently. The three were gearing up to be ready to receive all the blessings they knew would be shared during Victory Christian's Founders' Day celebration. That's what happens when you "call those things which are not as though they were". Claiming your blessings in advance, expecting to receive!! (Jim Rouse Photo)

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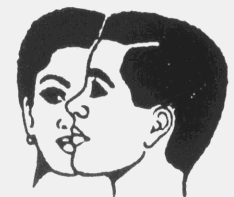
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As HE keeps on blessing you, won't you be a blessing to others?

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What Is Farrakhan's Wedding Gift?

By John William Templeton

An Analysis

Anyone who plans to host one million wedding guests should be expected to give an appropriate wedding gift.

According to estimates, Minister Louis Farrakhan and the organizers of the Million Man March will have brought at least an additional \$27 billion into the African-American community by the time of the planned million families event in 1999.

That's the tally from one of three major consequences of the Million Man March, despite what some say is an extensive effort to erase the memory of its effects from the black consciousness.

The march is credited, in part, with passage of the first increase in the minimum wage rate in eight

years. That means between \$9 billion and \$20 billion per year for the six million African-American workers at the minimum wage.

Most of these workers are part-timers, but many actually work a full week without the benefits of full-time. The lower figure reflects the impact at 20 hours per week; the higher figure at 40 hours per week.

Another result attributed to the march is a continuing drop in violent crime. According to the FBI, murders were down 22 percent last year nationally. Supporters say this drop stems from one million men and their friends embracing the call for finding better ways to resolve disputes, both among themselves and with the opposite sex.

Like the minimum wage, fewer murders also have economic conse-

quences: longer work lives and greater accumulation of wealth; more willingness to establish businesses in safer communities and less family wealth spent on recovering from catastrophe.

As we remember, critics of the Million man March said that the only way it would be successful was if it reduced crime. Well, crime has gone down since the march.

There is also the derailment of the Republican Contract With America. Once one million men expressed their concern, other parties such as the White House, retirees and environmental groups seized the opportunity.

Without the MMM, many say, there would not have been the presidential resolve to force a government shutdown. In fact, it is said, the march may have had more to do with the reelection of President Clinton and the smaller Republican House majority than

all the campaign contributions and soft money.

Despite that victory, however, two big challenges made it through, welfare reform and Proposition 209 in California.

Though there is disagreement as to the lasting effect, the march empowered local organizing coalitions of existing grassroots organizations.

One march goal that goes unmet is the creation of investment funds for black economic development. If you have a problem putting your money into someone else's hands, it is good enough to invest it somewhere through real estate, your own business, stocks, bonds, annuities, life insurance or foreign investments, particularly in Africa.

The community already has \$36 billion of its \$450 billion in investable dollars, so it makes sense that part of the MMM windfall should go into enduring wealth.

CHRONICLE OF THE CINEMA (DK Pub.: \$59.95). "There is only one thing that can kill the movies, and that is education." Humorist (and film star) Will Rogers made that observation before movies were 40 years old. One wonders what wry comment Rogers would have today on the cinema's durability as opposed to education's deficiencies. Whether credit for the introduction of "movies" belongs to Thomas Edison, the Lumiere Brothers in France, or numerous innovators, motion pictures have fascinated audiences worldwide since the 1890s. This large volume records that long history in a chronological news-style format featuring items about stars, techniques, and memorable films. The 4,000 illustrations alone offer a marvelous album of the

medium's past and present. Fifty-five pages indicate the scope of this edition—a "delight" for buffs, a "must" for researchers ... Leonard Maltin's MOVIE & VIDEO GUIDE (Signet: \$7.99) grows in size yearly—and in reader value. The 1998 edition adds some 400 new titles to bring the film summaries to 19,000, as well as video and laserdisc entries. Mr. Maltin's reference remains THE guide to old or new movies and TV shows for occasional viewer or couch potato ... Mr. Maltin also guides readers through radio's Golden Age in GREAT AMERICAN BROADCAST (Dutton: \$36.95), a marvelous trip down memory lane via recollections of stars, directors, and writers who effected the "communications explosion." © 1997 King Features Synd., Inc.

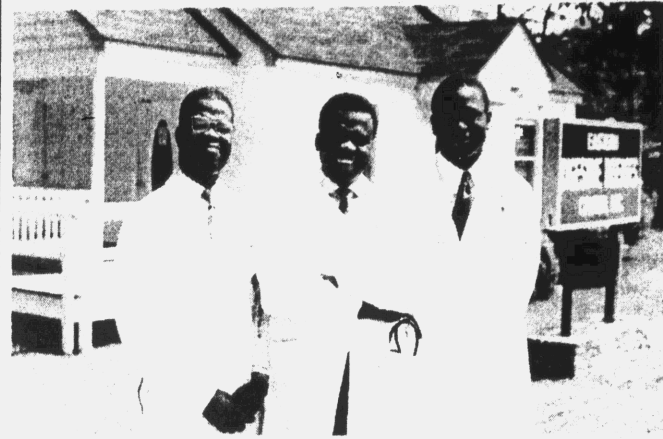
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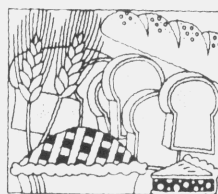
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I'LL ALWAYS LOVE MY MAMA—Deacon Wheeler Brown proudly shows off the love he feels for his mom...Mother Sadie Brown...who was celebrating her birthday recently. Deacon Brown readily attributes his success to the God-fearing upbringing he received from mom. Even the "Good Book" says the child that is brought up the way he should be shall not depart from it. (Jim Rouse Photo)

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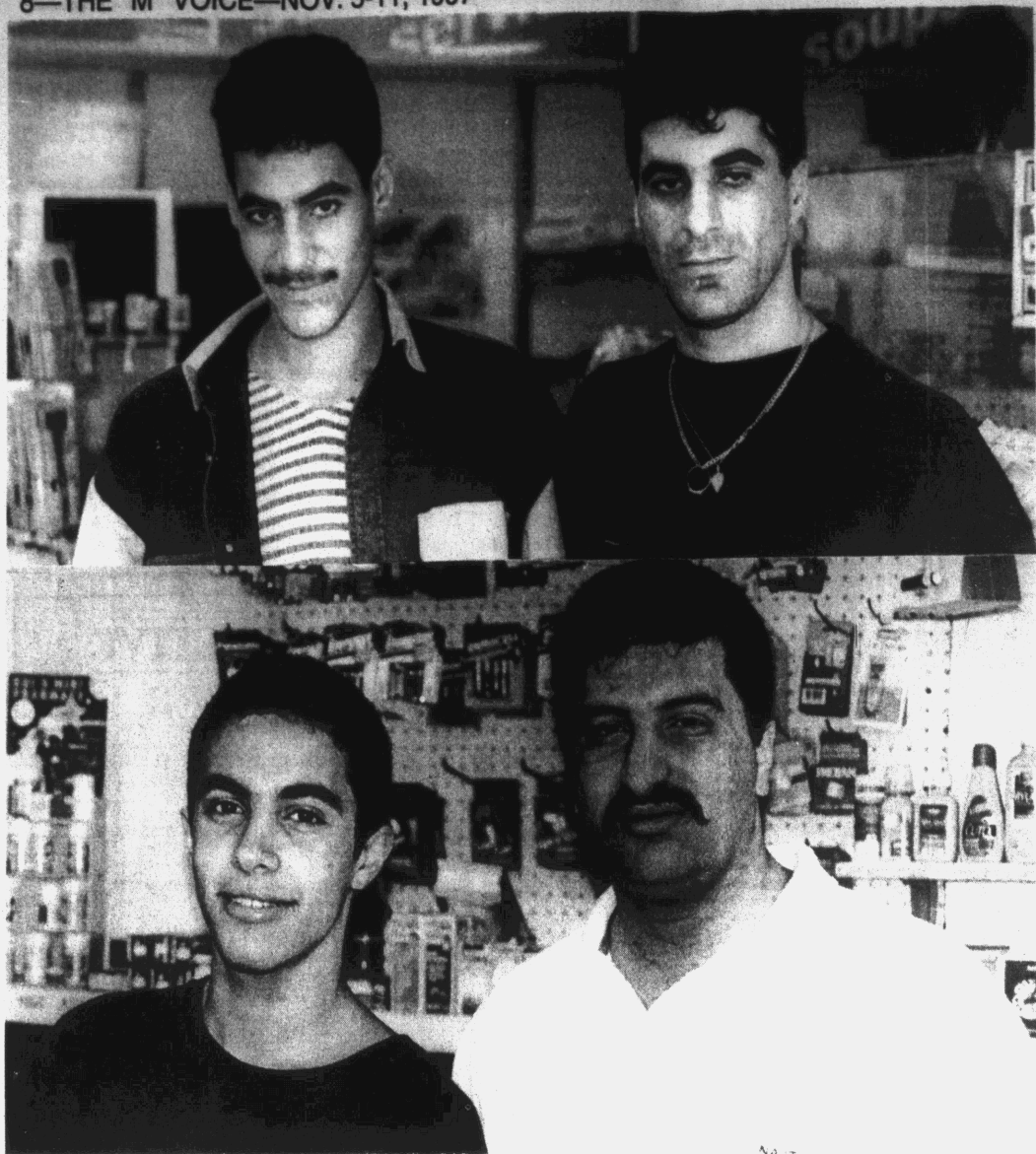
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DIVERSITY IN THE COMMUNITY—Adding to the community's economy, our camera caught up with brothers Nadar & Shuckeri Salahdeen (above) at the Bravo Mini Mart and more brothers who operate a convenient mart on Mumford Rd. in Greenville. (Below)



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Does Eating Dirt Balance Diet?

DANBURY (AP)—Want a balanced diet? Two Canadian scientists say you better eat a little dirt from North Carolina, a little from China and perhaps a dab from Zimbabwe just for good measure. That's right, they say dirt can be

nutritious.

"The sticky point is today, you don't want contaminated soil," Susan Aufreiter, one of the researchers, said Friday in a telephone interview from her lab in Toronto. "What with industry, you don't

know what's in it."

But her research does clearly show there are some benefits from eating certain types of dirt.

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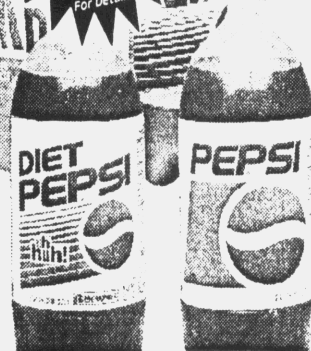
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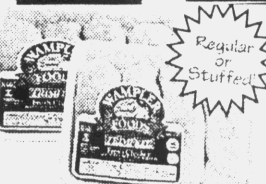
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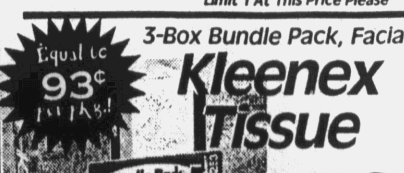
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