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ISSUE OF DEC. 10 - DEC. 16

Affirmative Action Fight Underway

Staff Writer

Reportedly, Broad's call has already either diluted or sounded the death knell for several programs that were exclusively geared toward helping black and other students of color. N.C. State Univer-

black conservative member of the University of California Board of Re-

On Tuesday, the Carolina Conservative Coalition, a student organization reportedly committed to the end of affirmative action in both UNC admissions and hiring policies, brought Connerly in to speak at UNC-Chapel Hill.

(See AFFIRMATIVE, P. 2)

Town Of Winterville Sued

In addition to the monetary sum, the Winterville resident is seeking a public apology from town officials and a court order to force the resig-

A magistrate approved Ms. Dunn's warrant against Knox for simple assault, and a judge found him not guilty in Pitt County District Court in July. The town has since discontinued using reserve police officers.

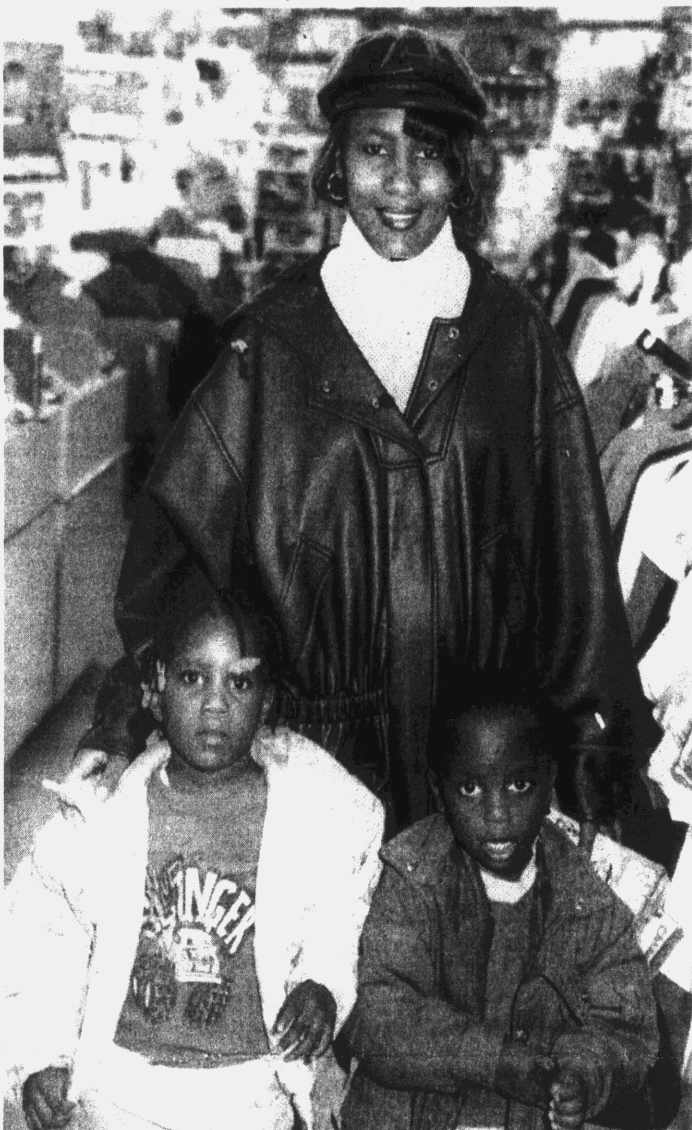
Town Manager Bobby Crawford, who is mentioned in the complaint
(See SUEd, P. 2)

NAACP Asks Probe Of Church Fire

The Spiritual Singers, The
Johnsonaires, The Junior

Kwanzaa: An Overview

Will you and your family celebrate Kwanzaa this year?



HOLIDAY SHOPPING!!!—Shown here doing some holiday shopping with her lovely children. *(Staff Photo)*

**CONNERLY**

HATS OFF TO OUR SISTERS—Shown here is Sen. Frank Ballance, Sister Harold of Pitt County and Sister Hines, who were hanging out with the AKAs in Martin County. (Staff Photos)

Affinity: Perspectives

by
Dee Apetsi and Jackie Bouvier Harper

Dear Jackie and Dee:

My boyfriend and I broke up in May. I was feeling so lonely I decided to go to a club to meet someone else. Well, the guy I met was very nice but he kept pressing me to go to bed with him. I really didn't feel I was ready but after a lot of pressure I gave in. After a couple of months, he dropped me like a hot potato. Why do guys do this? What did I do wrong?
Still Lonely in Greenville

Dear Still Lonely:

There isn't any one reason why guys do this. Then, maybe there is because we allow them to do this to us. As for you, the only thing you did was to allow someone else to pressure you to do something you didn't want to do.

Jackie

Girlfriend, Girlfriend!

We've all asked ourselves that question. But when you dance to the music, you pay the piper...what kind of man did you expect to meet in a club? Next time follow your conviction which is guided by your spirit...wait 'till it guides you to your true spirit-mate.

Dee

Dear Jackie and Dee:

I am so embarrassed and hurt. A few months ago I decided to make my old boyfriend who works with my son sit up and take notice of me. I wore the tightest and most revealing (my shape, not my body) outfit I had and strutted in front of him when he was getting off work. What I didn't know was that my son's other co-workers were there too. They used to respect me, now they think I'm a whore. I don't know what got into me! How can I fix this situation and get their respect back?

Too Late?

Dear Too Late?:

Believe me, respect is earned, but in this case let sleeping dogs lie. The most important thing is that you learn from this mistake.

Jackie

Dear Too Late?:

I agree with Jackie! While fashion is a matter of individuality, taste, occasion, and perception (one man's whore is another's queen) there is a line between looking fashionably "sassy" and whorish. A line that for women, unfortunately, is unconsciously crossed from time to time. Try this: my rule of thumb is...to view myself in a full-length mirror and if I think three times about it...I don't wear it.

Dee

Dear Jackie and Dee:

I am in love with a married man who I used to date. I know that he also cares for me, he shows it every way he can (we work together). He comes to my office three to four times a day and lately we have become very flirtatious with each other. I want to do the right thing but I suspect that things might get out of hand. What should I do?

Me and Mr. Jones

Dear Me:

Believe me, the proof is in the pudding. Stop while you are ahead of the game. Otherwise, you may begin to question what is the right thing.

Jackie

Dear Mrs. Jones-NOT:

Short version: You want somebody to love? Get a parakeet honey because that dog is getting ready to bite! I know you love him, but you're walking on dangerous ground and I don't want you hurt. Pray on it, ask for guidance and I am sure you will do the right thing.

Dee

Dear Jackie and Dee:

My husband and I are just "housemates". Sad to say, but we have been married for less than a year. He is a workaholic. I saw this same behavior before we were married, but I thought things would get better after we married. I still feel lonely and incomplete. HELP!

Housemate

Dear Housemate:

Whatever behavior you see before marriage that is the same behavior you will see afterwards unless GOD intervenes. Although communicating your feelings to your mate is a must, you need to keep in mind that a man doesn't complete you, completeness comes from the inside knowing who you are, your purpose, and what you have been called to do.

Jackie

Dear Housemate:

Jackie's right...but also, give him something GOOD to come home to. You're still honeymooners! Forget complaining and pouting. Remember what you did to get that first date, to get that ring, then to get to the altar. Recreate the love, excitement, and romance you felt early on. We forget too soon what knockss a man to his knees and keeps him there...our righteous love.

Dee

Affinity: Perspectives (incorporation and logo pending) is a weekly, independent newspaper column giving advice to dating singles. It is owned and operated by Diane "Dee" Apetsi and Jacqueline "Jackie" Bouvier Harper, all rights and entitlements are reserved. Please forward correspondence to "Affinity", c/o WOOW Radio Station; 310 Evans St. Mall; Greenville, NC 27834. Any similitude to characters or situations other than those expressly related to is purely coincidental and strictly prohibited.

AFFIRMATIVE

Continued from page 1

that this issue is inevitably going to arise in the UNC system, in the state legislature, in political campaigns of the future."

That "issue" is one that the state, and the nation, has had to deal with ever since it was forced to admit that institutional racism and its resulting systematic denial of equal opportunity, was in clear contradiction to the U.S. Constitution's prime credo that "all men are created equal."

"You do not take a person who, for years, has been hobbled by chains and liberate him, bring him to the starting line of a race and then say you are free to compete with all the others, and still just believe that you have been completely fair," said President Lyndon Johnson during his 1965 commencement address at Howard University.

These remedies are well over 100 years old, researchers note, starting directly after the Civil War during Reconstruction with the Freedman's Bureau, to rectify the vestiges of slavery. Only when the federal government withdrew its support, did those efforts falter.

During the 1960s, President John Kennedy was the first to use the term when he issued Executive Order 10925, requiring federal contractors to "take affirmative action to ensure" equal opportunity in hiring.

But it was with the passage of Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act that legal teeth were added to the government's affirmative action policies, and now private industry was also compelled to fairly consider all qualified applicants for open positions, or else face punitive measures.

According to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in October 1977, affirmative action is defined as "any measure, beyond simple termination of a discriminatory practice, adopted to correct or compensate for past or present discrimination from recurring in the future."

Proponents stress that affirmative action is meant to break down barriers, both visible and invisible, erected after decades of discrimination and unfair practices by the white majority. By leveling the playing field, it's applied only in situations where there is evidence of past racial bias, and guarantees qualified students and job applicants only equal opportunity, proponents say, not equal outcome.

But conservatives rail against the "compensation" component of the policy, saying that it creates further division among the races, and deprives whites who had nothing to do with the past actions of their forefathers, of a fair opportunity. Minorities and women aren't being hired because they are qualified, those critics say, but because they're members of "protected groups".

SUED

Continued from page 1

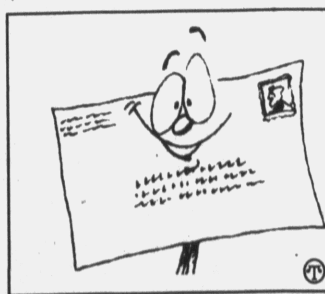
but not named as a defendant, said the lawsuit had not been served to the town yet.

"I don't know how to react because this is brand new to me. I know it's been an on-going thing," he said.

The lawsuit could take months to be heard. Ms. Dunn filed the lawsuit herself and is considering hiring an attorney, she said.



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For information about flood insurance, contact an insurance agent or call 1-800-713-FLOOD (1-800-713-3566) for the name of agents in your area.

For information about bathware materials and a free Bath Buying Guide, call Lucite at 1-800-253-8881.

Movavian Church Has Slavery in Its Past

Kathleen Bitting Mock makes her way up the walk from Old Salem's Main Street to the door of the unused Greek Revival brick church in Winston-Salem, N.C. She has made this walk many times before, but not since the late 1930's, although she lives just across Salem Creek on "Happy Hill."

Even though no service has been held here since 1952, the pews remain in place. Mock recognizes the potbelly stoves on each side of the room that warmed the congregation in winter.

"I thought I would never see the inside of this church again," Mock says. "It is a good feeling. Those were good times."

Kathleen Mock was revisiting St. Philips Moravian Church, known until 1913 as the Negro Moravian Church, founded in 1822, it is the oldest black church in North Carolina, according to Old Salem officials.

St. Philips represents a chapter in Moravian history the 300,000 people who visit the beautifully restored Old Salem Village each year rarely hear—the period when the Moravian Church owned slaves and rented them to the white residents of Salem.

The popular image of Salem is that of a village of thrifty, hard-working, God-fearing people who lived in cozy brick homes and whose ovens produced delicious sugar cakes and Moravian cookies. They lived at all times under the watchful eye of the Moravian Church.

But what is missing from this picture is that by the time the children and grandchildren of the original 1760 Salem settlers came of age, they had become more Southern than German. They embraced the South's slave economy.

Although the modern Moravian Church hasn't tried to hide its slave-owning past, it hasn't gone out of its way to publicize it, either.

"Owning slaves is not something you want to beat your breast about," says Mel White, Old Salem's director of African American Programs.

"But it's the truth," he says. "And people want to hear the truth."

That truth, White says, will be fully told in 1998 when Old Salem opens an exhibit—"Across the Creek from Salem: The Story of Happy Hill." It will be part of an effort to restore and reopen St. Philips.

In the exhibit, old photographs, books, documents, artifacts and oral history will explain the 130-year period when slaves and their descendants walked Sundays from Happy Hill to their church at the bottom of Salem's main thoroughfare.

A log cabin served the congregation until 1861, when the Moravian Church headquarters built for the slaves the brick Greek Revival church that stands today.

The story of St. Philips can't be separated from that of Happy Hill, which before the Civil War was known as the "slave quarters."

After the Civil War, the Moravian headquarters began selling small plots to the freed slaves. The church asked that the community be named Liberia, after the African nation founded in the 1830s by a group of freed American slaves.

But by 1874, the freed Salem slaves were calling their neighborhood Happy Hill, perhaps because freedom had brought happiness to the village on a hill. The main thoroughfare, however, was named Li-

CHURCH BRIEFS

Continued from page 1

Anointed Spiritualettes, and The Shekinah Glory Mass Choir. There is no admission.

The Shekinah Glory Fellowship Choir invites all church choirs, groups, and people in the community to a "Christmas-Fest" Gospel Singing Program at the Selvia Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, 400 Watauga Ave. in Greenville, on Saturday, Dec. 13. Registration begins at 7:30 p.m.

The Third Pastoral Anniversary Observance of Elder Curtis Wilder, Sr., Pastor and Founder of the Solid rock Church of Christ held December 9 through 14 offered nightly services, culminating with Pastor Walter Blount and the St. James Church family guests at 11 a.m. on Sunday, and Pastor Larry Baker and the Pleasant Grove Free Will Baptist Church of Dunn, N.C. guests at 4 p.m.

Attend The Church Of Your Choice!

beria Street, and it remains as such, though most of the original Happy Hill dwellings are long gone.

Happy Hill's population is still black, but most residents today come from someplace else. Kathleen Mock, though, has never lived anywhere else. Some Happy Hill old timers trace their last names back to the original Salem slaves, who adopted the German names of their masters: Bitting, Hauser, Fries, Zevely, Waugh, Shober and others.

Mel White says Old Salem hopes to raise \$1.5 million that would go for restoring the church, and reconstructing the original log church and a barn that stood behind the brick church.

If the Moravian headquarters approves—the church will own the building—Old Salem will reopen St. Philips for weddings and other occasions.

Old Salem leaders today regret the Moravian Church's slave-owning past, but point out that the church treated slaves better than they were treated elsewhere in the

South.

White Moravians addressed churchgoing slaves as "brother" and "sister." The church educated slaves. Some even learned German. A slave named Jacob translated English spoken by guests at Salem Tavern into German so the tavern keepers would understand.

In preparation for next year's exhibit, Mel White has been using ads in newspapers inside and outside North Carolina and announcement at black churches to gather old photos and artifacts.

The end of slavery changed Happy Hill, but not St. Philips church.

The ruling Moravian Church continued to insist that the black congregation be led by a white minister and white Sunday school teachers. Not until 1947, did a black man, George Hall, occupy the pulpit. Five years later, Hall moved the congregation from Salem to Happy Hill.

The church has since moved again, out of Happy Hill. Its pastor, the Rev. Cedric Rodney, is the first ordained black Moravian pastor.



PORTRAITS OF BLACK WOMEN ON EXHIBIT—Left to right: Wanda Johnson and Judie Jennett are very excited about the exhibit being shown by the Beaufort County Arts Council through Jan. 20, "I Dream A World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America."

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Bishop James L. Smith Show 'Heart Of Plenty' In Feeding Needy

Bishop James L. Smith knows what it's like to go to bed hungry.

As a poor child growing up in Jones County during the Great Depression, he learned to appreciate meals when food was available.

"I have seen times when things were very, very, very rough," Smith, 69, said, "I've said things will get worse and worse. But in my spirit, I say they can't get no worse than they have been with me and my family in times past, because we have been to the point we didn't have anything. But the Lord provided, and He has done great things in these last days, and He's still doing great things."

Smith, pastor and founder of First Born Holy Church in Grimesland, is now determined to end hunger for as many people as possible.

About two years ago, he founded the First Born Community Development Center, which currently

provides meals to about 1,000 people monthly.

"We're just down here working for the Lord. I don't know any other way than by helping the people," Smith said. "It was just laid on my heart. The Lord just kept driving me to help the people. We found out about this Food Bank of North Carolina, and after checking into it, I found it was a way I could buy some food and give it to people."

The Food Bank, in Raleigh, sells bulk amounts of contributed food to agencies that help the needy. Once a month, Smith drives to stock up on hundreds of items at 14 cents per pound.

Monday's trip yielded a bounty of meats including chicken and fish fillets and beef patties. The selection often varies, Smith said.

"We're going to be passing out some good stuff this Saturday, the Lord willing—but we don't get that

every time," he said. "We're liable to go one time and they don't have (any) meat. I would like for it to be so I could get 50 cases of this and 25 cases of that, but we can't get it like that. We just have to get whatever is contributed."

Volunteers distribute boxes of food at the center twice a month. Families with incomes under \$13,000 and all welfare recipients are eligible for assistance.

"We give to white and black—anybody who comes in. If you come in and have a need and meet the qualifications, we help," Smith said. "We started out with the idea of just helping the elderly and people that lose their jobs. One thing I've seen down through the years is young folks unable to get any assistance when they lose their jobs. It's very hurtful."

Smith, who moved to Pitt County in 1938, started First Born Church about 30 years ago. The church now has about 200 members.

The First Born Center has drawn support from the community, Smith said. Burroughs Wellcome Company and the United Way of Pitt County each provided \$10,000 donations. The United Way last year also accepted the center as a continuing agency.

Still, while the building frequently bustles with activity, it sits unfinished. About \$15,000 to \$20,000 worth of items and equipment are needed, Smith said, including bricks and a heating system.

"It's not quite completed, but we're using it," he said. "We did enough so we could get into it. We're just waiting, hoping, and

praying that somebody will see what we're trying to do and make an attempt to help us."

The center recently received a Governor's Award from Governor Jim Hunt, and a community service award from the Pitt County United Way. Smith said he appreciates the awards but is not motivated by the promise of recognition.

"No, no no. I didn't have no thoughts (of that), not in my heart of in my mind. I was doing it to the glory of God," he said. "When I got these awards, I said, 'Well, bless the Lord, I'll take them and I'll go on.' It just says somebody's looking at you, somebody cares. But I did not go in to help feeding God's people for rewards."

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This Christmas, give yourself, or someone you know, the greatest gift of all—the gift of reading. Call Literacy Volunteers. We match adults with volunteers tutors, who work one-on-one to build reading skills. This service is free and confidential. Call Literacy Volunteers at (919) 353-6578. That's 353-6578!

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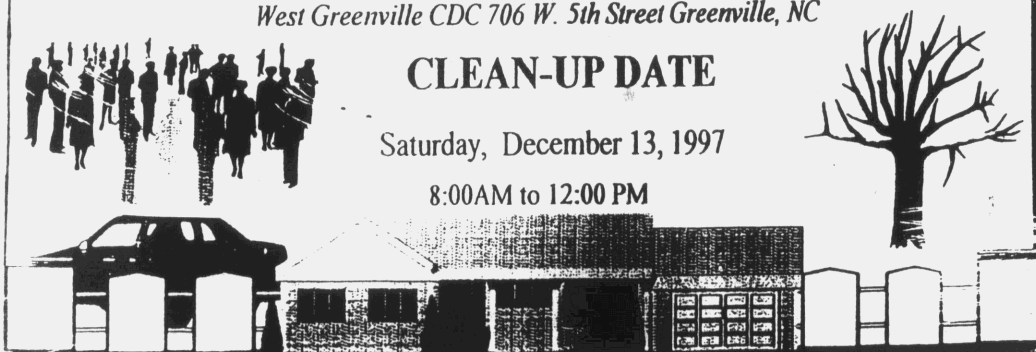
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Sam Solomon, President
Bull Creek Corporation

Six families in Franklin County had a bold vision: they've turned their tobacco fields into a golf course. Before they went to First Citizens for financing, they had completed a fourth of the project themselves.

"We picked up rocks, we cut bushes, we worked on the tractors," explains Sam Solomon, president of Bull Creek Corporation. "We get out there and we grab the shovel."

When loan officers from First Citizens saw first hand the sweat equity the families had put into their vision, they were impressed. "First Citizens was very receptive to us when we went to them," says Solomon.

"When we went to them with our proposal for financing this project, we didn't run into any obstacles at all!"

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OPINIONS

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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.

Wrong Case, Wrong Message

Something happened in New Jersey last week that will definitely send shock waves through the black community.

You may have heard about it already; if not, it's on our front page.

Basically, a bunch of civil rights groups, including our own National Newspaper Publishers Association, got together and agreed to pay 70 percent of the settlement in a reverse-bias case.

The suit had been brought by a white teacher in New Jersey who was hired the same day as a black teacher. When it came time to let one of them go, the school board kept the black teacher and the white teacher sued.

Now, the black teacher had a master's degree, so it should have been no contest. Unfortunately, at the trial, the school board never mentioned that fact.

They stonewalled, citing affirmative action as their reason for choosing the black teacher. The white teacher won. That decision was upheld on appeal.

That brought the case to the Supreme Court, and people started getting nervous. It was too late to start bringing up the qualification issue, since the school board in its original arguments had essentially stipulated that the two were equal in everything else.

Based on those narrow criteria, the civil rights groups that had been monitoring the case and the school board itself were afraid that the decision would go against them, with widespread repercussions.

So the decision was made to fold, with the help of some of our fellow newspapers.

It is an understandable decision, which has been applauded by everybody from Jesse Jackson on down. After all, it prevents yet another adverse affirmative action ruling from being set in stone.

Nevertheless, the case and the decision to settle it will definitely come

back to haunt us.

The average citizen, black or white, worker or manager, principal or school board member, personnel director or CEO, doesn't worry about such niceties.

The message they will get will be unmistakable. A white teacher, less qualified than a black teacher, sued because they kept the black teacher... and won.

And civil rights organizations knew they would lose, so they paid the settlement fee.

None of that stuff what the defense brought up or didn't bring up will make any difference at all.

It has long been understood that a black applicant for the same position had to be at least twice as qualified as a white applicant to get the job.

Now, in the minds of much of America, that requirement will have been codified into law.

Personnel directors across the country are going to ask themselves, when considering applicants, "Can I demonstrate in court, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that this black man is more qualified than these white people?"

For them to be able to say "Yes," the difference is going to have to be substantial.

Better yet, just to be safe, make sure you hire the white guys in most cases.

It probably won't be too long before white "civil rights activists" are scouring the records of companies to see if too high a percentage of its employees are black.

That would be hard evidence that they had used "illegal" preferences in their hiring policies.

Now, these probably wouldn't stand up in court. But, with the message that has been sent by this case, how many medium-sized companies would take the chance?

It was an understandable decision. But it will change the face of the American workplace forever.

Get Paid On The Net

Katy does research and writes rough drafts for term papers for college students. Last week, she made \$650.

Joan just attended a class to teach her how to do her new job. She will work transcribing notes for doctors. If she gets seven of them to use her service, she will make more than the job she does now.

What do these two women have in common? They are among the thousands across the country who are making their living on the Internet.

The future when we all would be able to do much of our jobs from home has been bogged down in the need for special phone lines, modems, and retooling of offices.

But a few enterprising people have decided that, if they have Internet access and the company does too, they don't have to actually put together all that extra stuff.

It started with companies simply becoming aware that the Internet was out there and was a fantastic resource for information.

Then, companies realized that they could use the resources it provided to both advertise and sell their prod-

ucts.

Now, they are realizing that actual work can be done over the Internet.

With the Internet, state (and even national) boundaries don't matter—or even exist.

The number of people who are realizing this potential is growing.

The Internet represents a gold mine for black folks. If it's going to be harder and harder for African-Americans to get hired by government, schools and industry, there is going to have to be a way to make a living.

And the Internet could be the answer. It is a place where literally millions of potential customers can be contacted with little expenditure.

For the person who is savvy and in touch, the Internet can be a way out—and up—for his or her company.

Of course, for this to happen, black folks have to learn to use computers.

Yes, it's a \$1,000 to \$2,000 investment. But how many of us have spent that and more on trips, car accoutrements, and other trivia?

It's time to learn. It's time to invest.



Other Viewpoints

WHY THE BLACK PRESS IS STILL NEEDED

By Thomas C. Fleming

Special to the NNPA

A lot of things have changed in San Francisco since I began my career as a journalist for the black press in 1944.

About that same year, the big hotels downtown started letting blacks in for the first time. One reason was because some papers were sending black correspondents to the Pacific war, and because blacks started coming through the city as captains and majors. The hotels didn't like the negative publicity generated when they refused accommodations to these men.

The downtown hotels then had no black employees. They did during the early years of this century. But when the hotel workers were unionized in the 1920s and '30s, the black workers were thrown out.

Racial discrimination was very powerful in San Francisco in 1944. A lot of restaurants wouldn't serve black customers—even the big restaurants in Chinatown. There weren't any black policemen or black firemen in the city at all. There wasn't a single black teacher in the public schools.

San Francisco had four daily newspapers, and Oakland across the bay had two. But none of them hired a black reporter until 1962.

The San Francisco Municipal Railway, which runs the city's transit system, didn't have any black employees until about 1941. During the war, they had to hire blacks because of the shortage of white manpower.

The black population of San Francisco jumped dramatically due to the influx of war workers. When Roger Lapham was mayor of San Francisco (1944-48), I was invited to a press conference he held, and afterward, he came up and asked, "Mr. Fleming, how long do you think these colored people are going to be here?"

I looked him in the eye and said, "Mr. Mayor, do you know how permanent the Golden Gate is?" He said "Yes." I said, "Well, the black population is just as permanent. They're here to stay, and the city fathers may as well make up their minds to find housing and employment for them, because they're not going back down South." He turned red in the face. That was the only exchange of words I ever had with him.

When the Reporter began publication—it later became the SunReporter—it was accepted right away by the black community, because the daily press ignored the existence of blacks almost entirely, with the exception of crime stories. I think most black people still depend upon the black papers, particularly for their social events and news about their churches.

In the black press, you read the stories of the lynchings when they happened, the jobs you could get, the instances of discrimination, the hotels you could stay in. You wouldn't see those stories in the daily papers. Without the black press, black people wouldn't have had any kind of voice at all. The black press started as an antislavery tool, and it has always led the fight for complete integration. The civil rights movement started with the black press.

One difference with the black press today, compared to the '40s, is that you no longer have national black papers that circulate all over the country. Local black papers are now able to write about events in their own communities better, and get them in the paper quickly. Now they have black news services like the National Newspaper Publishers Association's News Service, that can send the news out to the local papers and get it in the next issue.

Also, the black press now gets full-page ads from big corporations, which it didn't before. In the 1940s, they looked upon it as charity. Then they realized that blacks bought in the same quantities as whites.

When I look back at how much effect the black press has had in solving racial problems, I can only say that it's made a slight dent, because the problems still exist. You can see that by the adverse attitude about affirmative action, not only in California, but nationwide.

I have no regrets about spending my entire career with the black press. I might have enjoyed it better with the white press, but I had no choice then. At least I tried to get in, but they weren't hiring us.

If a young black journalist asked me today whether he should work for the black press or the mainstream press, I'd tell him to get a job wherever he could, because jobs in the media are very limited now. I don't think it's necessarily an advantage to start out working for the black press.

Today, the daily papers and TV and radio stations have more objective coverage of the black community because of the addition of black editorial staff members. They have stories about black events that at one time got only in the black press. Black reporters might make suggestions about what to cover. Their interest is greater, because their private lives are spent mostly in the Black community.

But there's still a need for the black press. If the daily papers covered all the different facets of black society the way they do white society, there wouldn't be a black paper in existence.

As long as there's racism in America, there will be a black press.

Copyright ©1997 by Thomas C. Fleming. A writer for the Sun-Reporter, San Francisco's weekly African-American newspaper, which he co-founded in 1944, Fleming wrote this essay in November 1997, on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

VANTAGE POINT

Articles and Essays by Ron Daniels



BREAKING THE CHAINS OF X-MAS

The rush of X-MAS is once again upon us. In the weeks from Thanksgiving to the New Year consumers crazed by capitalist induced consumerism will spend hundreds of billions of dollars thereby bolstering the bottom line of giant retail establishments. In large measure the real meaning of Christmas as the birthday of one who came to liberate humanity from suffering and bondage has been buried by an almost obsessive commercialism. Christmas has become a prisoner of X-MAS. Unfortunately, African-Americans, an oppressed people still plagued by racism and economic exploitation, are also caught up in this counterproductive charade.

An oppressed people must be deliberate and purposeful about plotting their liberation. It should be clear, therefore, that Africans in America cannot afford to participate in and support X-MAS. El Hajj Malik Shabazz, Malcolm X, called upon Black people to achieve liberation by "any means necessary." One of the most important weapons at our disposal as an oppressed people in this capitalist, greed-driven nation is our hard earned, precious dollars—green power! By some estimates black consumers now spend some \$400 billion each year, much of which goes to feed huge businesses/corporations—which are the pillars of U.S. capitalism—the he backbone of this oppressive system.

Beyond a few jobs, these corporations contribute nothing to the social and economic uplift of black communities. Indeed, it is in their best interest to keep us in chains, slaves to a mindless consumerism that drains desperately needed resources from our communities to fill their corporate coffers. X-MAS is an integral part of this scheme. I would venture to say that black consumer dollars constitute the critical margin of profit for most retail establishments during the X-MAS season. In fact proportionately black consumers spend more than any other group during X-MAS. And, since X-MAS is the make or break season for retail concerns, the black dollar in effect is the major factor ensuring the profitability of these giant companies on an annual basis.

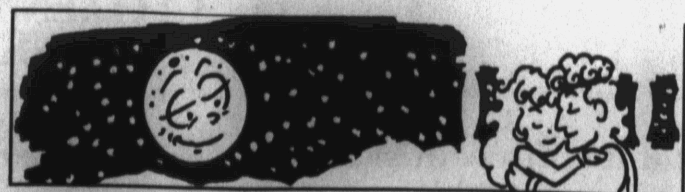
We must break the chains of X-MAS if we are serious about our liberation. If the Black Nation can mobilize millions of men and women for the Million Man March (MMM) and Million Woman March (MWM), then we should be able to educate, mobilize and organize millions of captives of X-MAS to escape the plantation of self-destructive consumerism, striking telling blows with an awesome weapon which we have in our own hands—black dollars.

For years Bob Law, host of the nationally syndicated radio program "Night Talk," has been urging Africans in America to utilize economic sanctions as a means of advancing our struggle. Simply stated, economic sanctions is withholding our dollars from

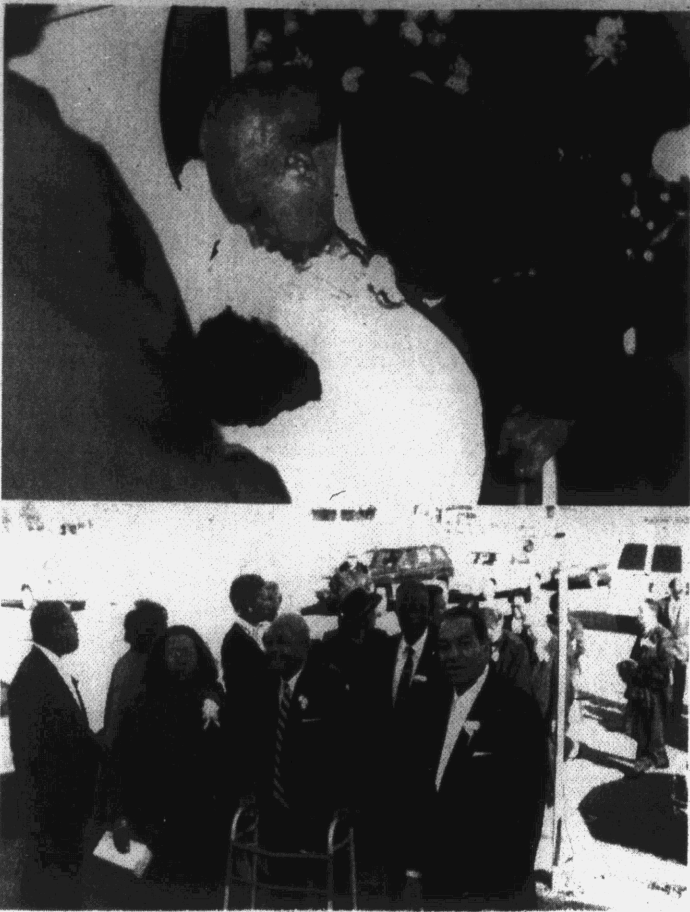
corporations and business concerns outside of our community for the purpose of investing those dollars in Black businesses and community-based economic development ventures inside our community. For example, instead of spending \$1,000 on X-MAS with retail establishments outside of the black community, you could make a conscious decision to spend \$1,000 with black businesses, or better yet, invest \$1,000 with one of the economic development ventures being organized by Dr. Claud Anderson's Harvest Institute.

In addition to the economic sanctions concept, I have been advocating a full-scale boycott of "White Christmas" tied to the demand for reparations. Again, if we can mobilize millions of people for massive demonstrations like the MMM and MWM, we must use the same organizing skill, energy and resources to mobilize millions of people to use their dollars to target a specific political-economic objective like reparations. There is no better time than the X-MAS season to flex our economic muscle to strike a major blow for our liberation. I am still advocating a highly publicized, well organized and effective boycott of X-MAS in the year 1999 to carry us into the new century/millennium forcefully pressing the demand for reparations.

An oppressed people must use any and all means at its disposal to achieve liberation.



Ancient Greeks thought couples getting married during a full moon would be prosperous and happy.



SERVICE OF TRIUMPH—Husband, Gratz, family and friends say farewell to Ms. Mattie Olivia Macklin Norcott. She departed this life on Nov. 26, 1997, at her home in Ayden, N.C. It is with love and fond memories that Mattie will be remembered by her husband of 48 years, Gratz Norcott, Jr. of the home; her mother, Bizzell Joyner Parker of the home; foster son, Daniel Worthington; sister, Lela Dell M. Hinton of Rocky Mount, three brothers-in-law, and parents-in-law, Charlie and Marina Darden of Ayden, N.C., a host of nieces and nephews, a devoted companion, Lois Williams of Ayden, other relatives and friends.

health hints

Fever, Facts & Fallacies

(NAPS)—Did you know that 98.6° is not a normal temperature? In fact, it is an *average* of most people's normal temperature. What many people don't know is that everyone has his own "normal" temperature. In any event, when a child gets a fever it can be alarming, especially for first time parents. The following are some common misconceptions and realities, compiled by Dr. Thomas Terndrup, associate professor of emergency medicine and pediatrics at Syracuse University, that should help reduce parental anxiety when a child runs a fever.

- Fallacy: A fever is an illness.
- FACT: A fever is a positive sign that the body is fighting an infection.
- Fallacy: If a child has a fever, place him in a cold or alcohol bath.
- FACT: Sponge a child in a bath filled with tepid water (85°-90°). Never add alcohol—it can cause serious illness and possibly a coma.
- Fallacy: Be sure to keep a child with a fever warmly dressed.
- FACT: If a child has a fever, dress him lightly and keep the room comfortably cool.

- Fallacy: A child with a fever should stay in bed.
- FACT: A child with a fever can be up and about the house, but should not overexert himself.
- Fallacy: Everyone's "normal" temperature is the same all the time.
- FACT: Everyone's temperature is highest between late afternoon and early evening, and lowest between midnight and early morning.
- Fallacy: An accurate temperature reading can only be achieved by taking it rectally.
- FACT: When your child does have a fever, an easy, convenient and accurate method of taking his temperature is with a Braun ThermoScan™ instant ear thermometer. It takes a temperature in just one second by taking a "picture" of the infrared heat given off by the eardrum and surrounding tissue. The Braun ThermoScan then calculates body temperature, converts it to an oral or rectal reading, and displays it on the digital readout. Reducing the time and hassle surrounding temperature taking can help lessen the anxiety for both parents and children.

Dr. Marcus L. Martin NCSU Fall Finals Orator

Dr. Marcus L. Martin, professor and chairman of emergency medicine at the University of Virginia since 1995, will deliver the commencement address at North Carolina State University's fall graduation exercises on Wednesday, Dec. 17, in Reynolds Coliseum.

Martin is an NC State alumnus and a founding member of the NC State Board of Visitors.

In his speech, "Common Threads," Martin will focus on how graduates of N.C. State are linked together by the common threads of educational and environmental experiences, love for their alma mater and pride in the Wolfpack.

On behalf of the N.C. State faculty and trustees, Chancellor Larry K. Monteith is expected to award two honorary doctor of letters degrees and more than 2,300 associate, bachelor's, master's, doctoral and professional degrees.

Graduation ceremonies will begin with a concert by the N.C. State British Brass Band at 8:30 a.m. and the academic procession at 9 a.m. Individual colleges and departments will distribute diplomas at various locations on campus beginning at 11:30 a.m. A joint Army, Navy and Air Force commissioning ceremony will be held at 4 p.m. in the Ballroom, University Student Center.

Commencement activities will begin on Tuesday, Dec. 16, when Chancellor and Mrs. Monteith will receive the graduating students, families and friends from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the University Student Center Ballroom.

Martin received a bachelor's degree in pulp and paper technology in 1970 and a second degree in chemical engineering in 1971 from N.C. State. A member of the charter class of the Eastern Virginia Medical School, he earned a medical degree in 1976.

Martin is no stranger to public service. As a commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, he served at the Public Health Hospital in Staten Island, N.Y. and at the Gallup Indian Medical Center in Gallup, N.M.

Martin completed his emergency medicine residency training at the University of Cincinnati in 1981. Until 1995, he worked at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh as staff physician, associate director for clinical operations, program director for the emergency medicine

residency and interim chairman of emergency medicine. He received the 1994 Emergency Medicine Residents' Joseph F. Waeckerle Founder's Award, is a board member of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine, and is president of the Council of Emergency Medicine Residency Directors.

Aside from his patient responsibilities, Martin teaches medical students and residents and mentors high school and grade school students interested in medical careers.

A native of Covington, Va., Martin and his wife, Donna, have four children and live in Charlottesville, Va.

Dostoevsky was one of those neurotics who recover their health and even their serenity when disaster at last occurs

—V.S. Pritchett

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- 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.
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Saturday mornings, Mary Hopkins-Navies lets local students transform her three McDonald's parking lots into car washes. Last year alone, the Clinton, Maryland teens raised over \$8,000 for groups like the Boys and Girls Club. Mary also donates 10 yearly PSAT scholarships, offers weekly senior citizen bingo games, tutors math, and has helped raise over \$22,000 in the last two years for neighborhood causes.

As founder of the Jackson, Mississippi chapter of "100 Black Men," LeRoy Walker, Jr. serves as a role model by mentoring to disadvantaged black teens. As owner of 10 McDonald's and Chairman Elect of the Jackson Chamber of Commerce, LeRoy is dedicated to the economic development of his community and to improving local education and race relations. This former high school teacher and football coach is a true community activist, leader and visionary.

Louis C. Henry, Jr. is about "getting kids productive and giving them a chance." Louis meets with local police, clergy and schools to identify needy "at risk" teens in St. Paul, Minnesota, and helps teach them work and life skills at his four inner-city McDonald's. He's also Vice-Chairman of the Mayor's Workforce Development Council, supporting student programs which provide tutoring and jobs. Last summer alone, Louis' dedication and commitment helped find 1,000 jobs for the youth in his community.

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Today's Black News Is
Tomorrow's Black History!



CO-HOST MUSICAL EVENT—In celebration of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday holiday, Central City Productions presents the "Thirteenth Annual Stellar Gospel Music Awards", a two-hour television tribute and awards show honoring contributions of the African-American Gospel music industry. Pictured are: Miguel A. Nunez (l.) co-host, and Robin Givens (r.), a presenter.



JOIN IN GOODWILL DRIVE—The Zeta Phi Beta Sorority sisters of Shaw University recently joined in a goodwill drive for the holiday season held on the university's campus. (See Story)

Shaw University Students Take Part In Goodwill Drives

Sororities and fraternities on Shaw University's campus held several goodwill drives this holiday season. The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., spearheaded a Penny Drive, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority handled a Canned Food Drive, toys were collected by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority coordinated a Clothing Drive.

Many items including hundreds of dollars to purchase food were secured by the organizations during their annual drive. All donated items, including purchased food, were displayed in the lobby of the Willie E. Gary Student Center on Monday, Dec. 8. Students hand-delivered the majority of the merchandise collected to the Helping Hand Mission in Raleigh.

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THE FACES BEHIND THE CARDS—Artists Bill Breedon and Lynn Beard design Christmas cards for American Greetings. Breedon's cards often pictured charming New England village scenes and Victorian houses while Beard specializes in painting whimsical teddy bears in storybook settings.

Ellen Foster Film To Air Dec. 14th

CBS' Hallmark Hall of Fame movie, Ellen Foster, to be aired on Dec. 14, will poignantly portray the grim realities an abused child faces after the death of her mother.

Unfortunately, the hundreds of "Ellen Fosters" right here in North

Carolina do not survive the way Ellen did. That's why N.C. statutes call for a volunteer Guardian Ad Litem to advocate on behalf of the abused child's best interest.

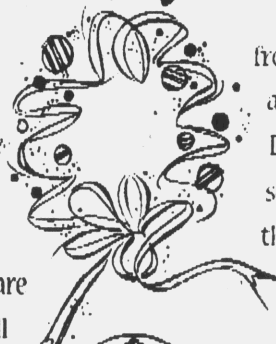
There are not enough volunteers to go around. During 1997-98, over

3,000 children in North Carolina will go to court without the strong voice of a volunteer advocate.

The North Carolina Guardian Ad Litem Program has issued a plea for qualified volunteers.

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**The Black Press..
Use It or Lose It!**

Amistad Lawsuit Questions Whose History?

By John William Templeton
An Analysis

when the news of this movie came based on her Amistad book to out. She had sent a movie proposal DreamWorks founder years before.

Whose history is it, anyway? That's the question Barbara Chase-Riboud is asking in a lawsuit about who tells the story of one of the most critical events of African-American history.

Her suit also highlights one of the biggest problems faced by today's African-American businesses—protecting their ideas and intellectual property from big companies whom they approach for distribution and capital.

Amistad was a ship that African captives seized from their captors and sailed into a U.S. port. Their case made history because an American court upheld their freedom, in a case argued by former President John Quincy Adams.

The name Amistad, like that of Nat Turner, Denmark Vesey and the maroons, has become a symbol of courage and commitment to fight for freedom.

Chase-Riboud, who has built a solid literary career with historical novels on such topics as Amistad and Sally Hemings, took notice

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AKAs SHINE IN WILLIAMSTON—Shown here are the sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha celebrating the 11th Annual Debutante Ball in Williamston. (Staff Photo)

Ms. Winston Delivers Youth Day Address

Ms. Shirkeymu Winston, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Winston, was the Youth Day guest speaker at Rogers Chapel CME Church in Fuquay-Varina during the 3 p.m. service Sunday, Nov. 23.

The theme was "It's Thanksgiving Time: How Much Harvest Will You Bring In," with scripture taken from Acts 1:8 and 2:17.

The speaker encouraged the youth to be spiritual witnesses for Christ and not be ashamed to

claim Him and magnify His name.

Shirkeymu is currently a junior enrolled at Enloe High School and president of the Top Teens of America, Raleigh Chapter.

A member of First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church, had much support from her family, adult and youth friends of several churches, including Bazzell Creek Baptist Church, Fuquay-Varina; First Cosmopolitan, Raleigh; Word of God Fellowship Church, Raleigh; and First

Baptist Church, Raleigh.

Several of the staff and faculty members from Willow Springs Elementary School were present and enjoyed the message.

Her uncle, Rev. Bobby Winston, pastor of Rogers Chapel Church, says he recognized early on Shirkeymu's ministry as a special gift from God and extended her the opportunity to be Youth Day speaker.

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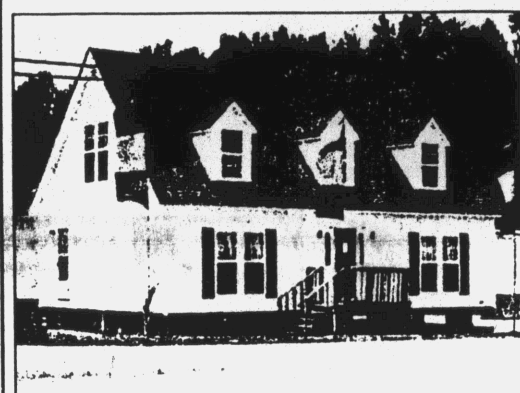
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Documentary Views Facts Of Slave Trade

For more than 300 years, the transatlantic slave trade was one of the most profitable businesses in the world. Slave ships made roughly 39,000 voyages from Africa to the New World, wrenching millions of men, women and children from their homes and launching what would turn out to be the largest forced migration in human history. Both Africa and America are still paying the price for this brutal crime—but how much do Americans know about its inner workings?

On Thursday, Dec. 11 from 9-10 p.m. and 1-2 a.m., "Slave Ship," Discovery Channel's world premiere documentary, examines the facts: Who managed the slave trade? Who profited? What role did Africans play? How were the Africans enslaved, and under what conditions were they shipped?

Clearly outlining the triangle of economic dependency that linked the U.S., Europe and Africa from the 16th through the 19th centuries, "Slave Ship" travels to Africa's western "slave coast" and leaps through the pages of European history—virtually every major nation took part. It details the inhumane conditions under which shackled Africans, packed into the cargo holds of filthy ships, traveled through the infamous "Middle Passage"—the ocean voyage to the Americas. Viewers can "board" a period ship to get a feel for the cramped slave decks and hear the appalling observations of a British doctor who in 1788 detailed what he saw.

"Slave Ship" also tells the story of the Amistad rebellion, the only time slaves in transit were able to fight back, win their freedom and return home. The 1839 incident and its tortuous aftermath captured the world's attention and resulted in a U.S. Supreme Court fight for liberty that pitted one American president against another. This epic event is also the basis for *Amistad*, Steven Spielberg's forthcoming dramatic film, set to debut Dec. 12.

"Slave Ship" weaves the story of the Amistad into its broader investigation of the slave trade. In 1839, on an illegal slave ship bound for Cuba, 53 African captives broke free and took over the ship. Forcing a Cuban slave owner to sail them back home, the slave owner instead deceitfully sailed to the States instead of back to Africa.

Captured off the eastern seaboard, the Africans found them-

selves at the mercy of the American justice system. Abolitionists launched a court battle on their behalf that went all the way to the Supreme Court. There, President Martin Van Buren, courting Southern votes, sought to send the Africans to Cuba.

Former President John Quincy Adams, ailing and doubting his advocacy skills, returned to Washington to plead for their freedom. "Slave Ship" tells what happened next, using Adams' own words, and rounds out the story using other authentic records.

Period art, correspondence, jour-

nals and news accounts; archival footage; illuminating maps and careful dramatizations accompany the insights of experts.

They include: Sheila Walker, director of the Center for Africa in African American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin; Paul Lovejoy, distinguished research professor at York University in Canada; Cheryl LaRoche, archaeologist and conservator for John Milner Associates and the African Burial Ground Project; W. Jeffrey Bolster, associate professor of history, the University of New Hampshire; and Warren Marr, a writer and histo-

Some say it was luck. A very few might argue that it was planned. But it was definitely a miracle. It certainly turned me on to football as a youngster and I will never forget this day—the best in NFL history!

Franco Harris' "Immaculate Reception" in the final seconds of the 1972 AFC playoff game was exactly the miracle the Pittsburgh Steelers needed.

The Steelers had to get a touchdown to beat the Oakland Raiders and advance to the AFC Championship game, but with only enough time for one more play and a long 60 yards to the end zone, even the most loyal of Steeler fans had cause for concern and panic.

The ball was thrown ... deflected ...



FRANCO HARRIS

rian with Amistad Affiliates who is helping to build an authentic fullscale reproduction of the ship Amistad at Mystic Seaport, Connecticut.

Discovery Channel is one of the United States' three largest cable television networks, serving 72.6 million households across the nation. Discovery Networks, a division of Discovery Communications, Inc., operates and manages Discovery Channel, TLC (The Learning Channel) and Animal Planet.

Rick Wilson's New York, New York

and Harris took his finger-tip reception to the end zone. Currently, all of Franco's spare time is funneled into promoting and serving his "Youth Bike League" pro-

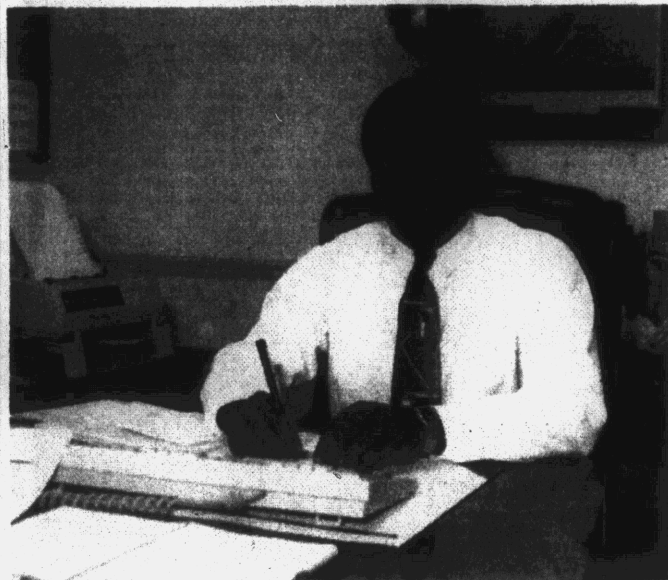
ject, which teaches bike safety, riding skills and bicycle racing to kids in urban areas.

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LEGAL NOTICE

JANUARY 15, 1998

The North Carolina SweetPotato Commission, Inc. will hold a referendum among sweetpotato producers on Thursday, January 15, 1998 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. as provided by the North Carolina Enabling Act. (G.S. Article 50, Chapter 106). Purpose of such referendum shall be to determine if sweetpotato growers wish to approve continuation of assessing themselves fifteen dollars per planted acre for "fresh", "processed", or "canner" sweetpotatoes.

The purpose of this assessment is to promote sweetpotato marketing, research, education and consumption. The polling place will be located at the Wilson County Cooperative Extension building, 1806 South Goldsboro Street, Wilson, N.C. Collection of such assessments shall be made in a manner mandated by the Board of Directors of The North Carolina SweetPotato Commission, Inc.

Metropolitan A.M.E Zion Church

Rev. David L. Moore.....Pastor

Church Directory

Worship Services	11:00A.M.
Sunday School	10:00A.M.
Noonday Prayer Services	12 Noon Daily
Vaick Christian Endeavor	6:00 to 7:00 P.M. Sunday
Bible Study - Prayer Meeting	6:00 to 7:00 P.M.
Young Women	3:00 to 5:00 P.M. Saturdays
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Rev. David L. Moore, Pastor

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HOME for the Holidays

We'd like to deliver our very best wishes for a wonderful season, to all who visited us. You're always welcome during the holidays and all year long!

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Manager
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Reverse Bias Suit Settlement Gets Mixed Reviews

By Kendall Wilson

Special to the NNPA from The Philadelphia Tribune

Affirmative action advocates and opponents are offering mixed reviews over the high-profile case settled by the Piscataway, N.J. school board with Sharon Taxman, a white teacher who claimed she was laid off in violation of her civil rights.

On Nov. 20, the school board decided it would not appeal Taxman's case before the U.S. Supreme Court and voted 5-3 to settle the \$443,500 suit.

The move came after the Black Leadership Forum (BLF), an alliance of civil rights groups that includes the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), agreed to pay 70 percent of the settlement.

Board members said they decided to take this action because they believed the nation's highest court has grown increasingly hostile to race-based policies in recent years, and that the court was expected to yield a major ruling on affirmative action in the process.

Taxman was laid off from her teaching position in the business department in 1989, while Debra Williams, a black teacher, was retained. Both were hired the same day and were considered equally qualified by the school board. But while Taxman had more teaching

experience, Williams held the superior academic credentials with a master's degree.

Taxman, 50, said she was "glad" the case was over, and called the settlement "kind of anticlimactic."

Williams, in tears after the con-

firmation of the settlement, still insisted she was far more qualified than Taxman and contended that having an advanced degree apparently means nothing "but a slap in the face."

Meanwhile, advocates and oppo-

nents of affirmative action read different settle messages.

"The great debate on affirmative action will go on in Congress, the states and the lower courts because affirmative action is legal," said Kathy Rogers,



MORGAN FAMILY OF FOUNTAIN N.C.—Shown above in the midst of all the holiday shopping, the Morgan family with the nieces, nephews, and grandkids, shows us that the kids are worth every minute of it!!!

Top Rhythm/Dance

1. Total "What About Us" (Arista) New Entry
2. LSG "My Body" (East West/EEG) Last Week: No. 4
3. Martha Wash Feat. RuPaul "It's Raining Men — The Sequel" (Logic) Last Week: No. 3
4. Missy "Misdeameanor" Elliott Feat. DaBrat "Sock It 2 Me /The Rain" (Supa Dupa Fly)" (EastWest) No. 5
5. Uncle Sam "I Don't Ever Want To See You Again" (Stonecrest/Epic) No. 9
6. Destiny's Child "No, No, No" (Columbia) New Entry
7. Naughty By Nature "Mourn You Til I Join You" (TommyBoy) No. 3
8. Robyn "Show Me Love" (RCA) No. 10
9. Mystikal "Ain't No Limit" (No Limit/Jive) No. 9
10. Big Punisher "I'm Not a Player" (Loud) No. 14

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November 10
thru
Sunday
December 14

classes
begin

Tuesday
January 13

FOR course
information



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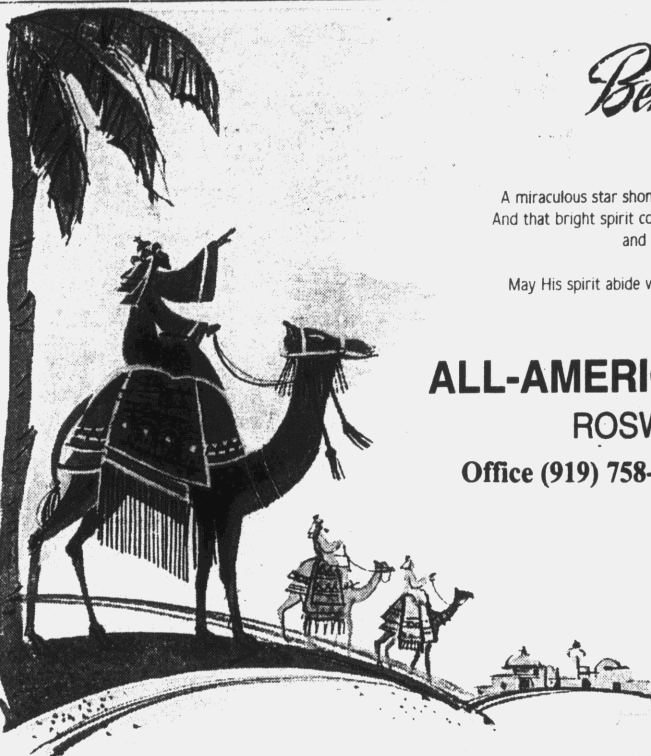
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May His spirit abide with you throughout the holy season and for all time.
Merry Christmas!

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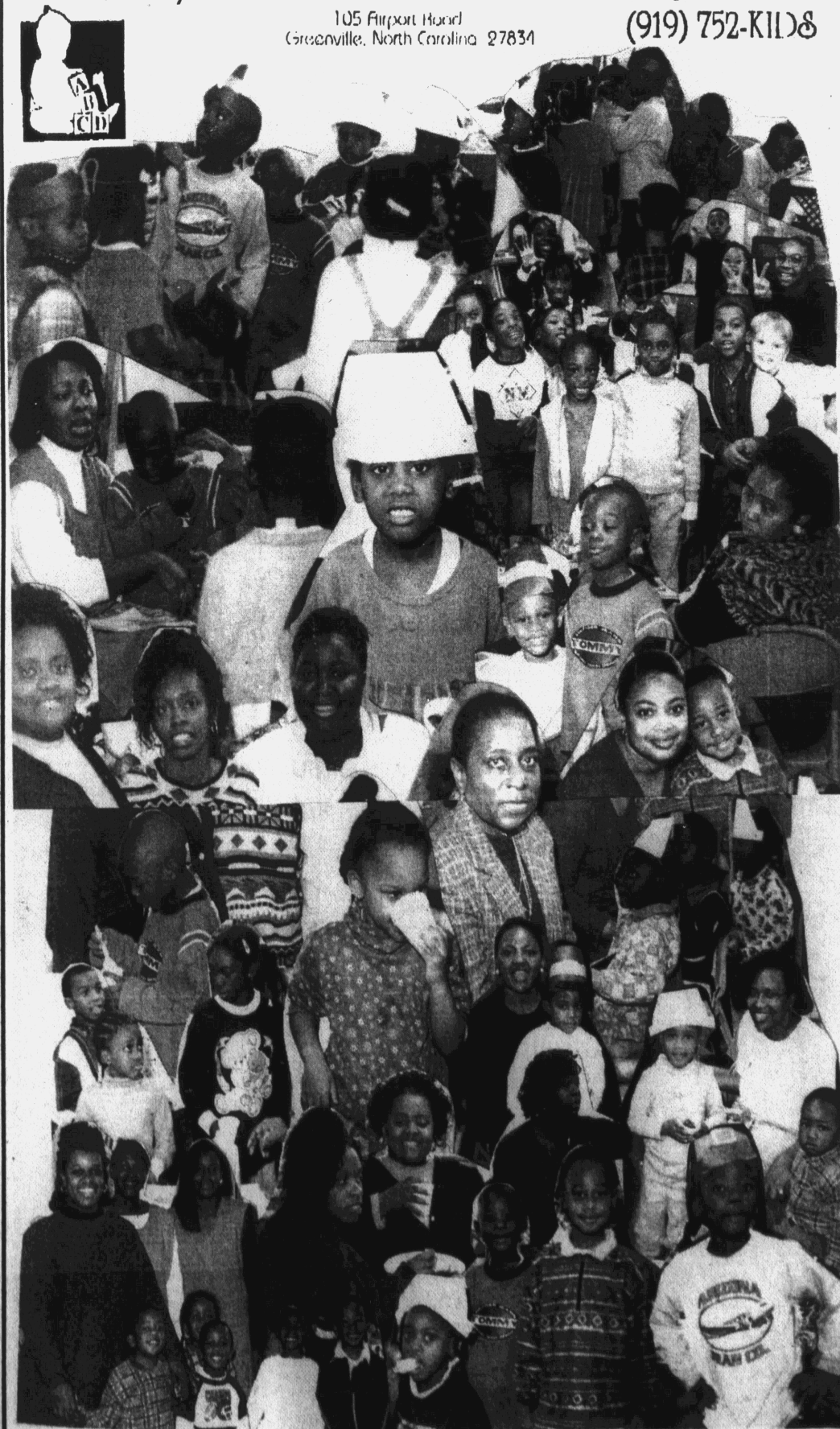
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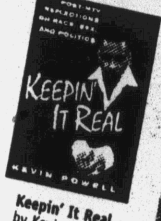
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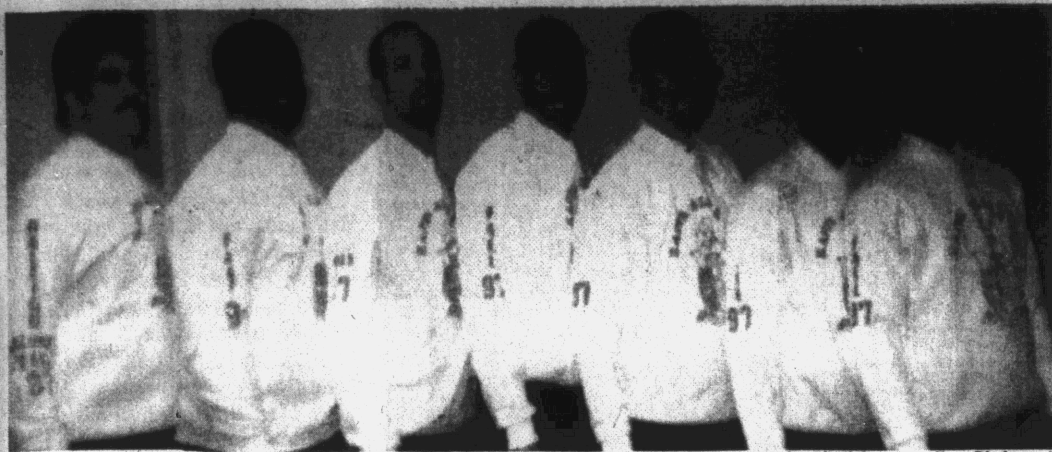
HEADLINES II

410 Evans Street (Mall)
Greenville, NC 27834 Monday - Saturday, 10-5 PM

Prices are subject to change.



SOLID AS A ROCK—Elder Curtis Wilder is shown with friends and supporters at a banquet held at the American Legion last Friday. God has encouraged Solid Rock Church to grow in the Spirit of the Lord. (Staff Photo)



NEW KAPPAS—Raleigh Kappas initiate seven men during intake ceremonies held recently. Pictured above from left to right are Anthony Johnson, Kedrick Elley, Gregory Mitchell, Ryan Hayden, Walter Gould, Ricardos Smith, and Sekou Kaalund.

EVERY YEAR THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN ARE MISSING AND EXPLOITED. MOST OF WHICH WILL NEVER SEE THEIR FAMILIES AGAIN. PARENTS PLEASE TEACH YOUR CHILD SAFETY TIPS. THEIR LIFE DEPENDS ON YOU!

CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE. THEY ARE OUR MOST PRECIOUS GIFT FROM GOD. IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP THEM SAFE FROM HARM. PARENTS, TEACH YOUR KIDS NOT TO TALK OR GO WITH STRANGERS. LET THEM KNOW THAT THEIR SAFETY MEANS EVERYTHING TO YOU.

THEY SAY A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS, DON'T LET YOUR CHILD'S FACE BE ON THE NEXT MILK CARTON. TEACH YOUR CHILD SAFETY TIPS.

ATTY. ROBERT L. WHITE WANTS YOU TO KNOW THAT CHILDREN ARE OUR MOST PRECIOUS POSSESSION AND IT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS PARENTS TO MAKE SURE THEY STAY SAFE. PLEASE TEACH YOUR KIDS TO STAY AWAY FROM STRANGERS AND SECLUDED PLACES. THEIR LIFE IS IN YOUR HANDS.

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year

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TAKE A LOOK AT SOME FAMILY PHOTOS**

 Sandria McFadden Class of 97 College Instructor	 James Gaynor Class of 1977 Occupational Therapist	 Ronita Cutler Class of 1994 Electrical Technician
 Mabel Hedgebeth Class of 94 Practical Nurse	 Scott Ellis Class of 1980 Pharmacist	 Christy & Jennifer Ange Class of 1999 ?

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