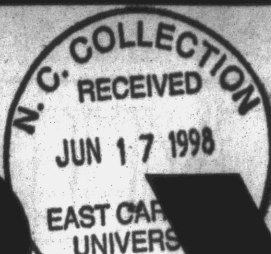


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EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S MINORITY VOICE-SINCE 1981

ISSUE WEEK JUNE 15-JUNE 21, 1998

CARNAGE IN NORTH TEXAS?

Exclusive to the M-Voice Newspaper
by Michael Journee, The Jasper NewsBoy

Here are the facts... See Page Two for Commentary and Opinions

JASPER, TX. A recent announcement of arrests in the James Byrd, Jr. murder was made to a national media gathering indicative of the disastrous proportions of this gruesome case.

Jasper County Sheriff Billy Rowles' announced on Tuesday, June 9th of the arrest and arraignment of three white men in the brutal murder of Byrd who was black.

In custody and charged with Byrd's murder were Shawn Berry, 22, of Jasper; Robert Russell Brewer, 31, of Sulphur Springs, Tx., and John William King, 23, of Jasper. All three are being held in the Jasper County Jail.

According to Rowles, Brewer and King are believed to have had ties with white supremacy groups

(such as the Aryan Nation and Klu Klux Klan) while serving prison terms. Both are currently on parole, while Berry is currently on probation.

Due to the possibility of the murder being a racial hate crime, early in the case Rowles contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which would have jurisdiction in such a crime. But as yet, Rowles says no determination has been as to whether the case will be tried in the federal or state judicial system. According to a statement by Berry to investigators and information provided by Rowles, Byrd was beaten, chained and then dragged behind Berry's vehicle for a distance of approximately three miles. At some point while being dragged, Byrd's head

and right arm became separated from his torso. Rowles said that Byrd may have been alive when initially dragged behind the truck. According to police, Berry told them he was driving Brewer and King around Jasper in Berry's primer gray pick-up truck after 12:45 a.m., Sunday, June 7, when he saw a black man walking along US 96 North in Jasper. Berry told police that he pulled over to give the man, who turned out to be Byrd, a ride.

After Byrd was in the truck, Berry told police, King became upset that Perry had given Byrd a ride, using racial epithets and profanity in describing Byrd who was riding in the back of the pick-up truck.

After a brief stop at a local

convenience store, Berry's statement (detailed in a police affidavit used to gain arrest warrants) said that King started driving and that he told both Berry and Brewer that he wanted to scare Byrd...again using racially derogatory language.

Upon stopping along a dirt road, the police affidavit said Berry told police that Brewer and King began beating Byrd to the point of unconsciousness. Berry contended that at that time he ran a short distance from the truck and the beating scene. Shortly thereafter, King drove the truck to where Berry was standing with Brewer as a passenger. Berry then entered the truck and they drove away.

It was soon after, officers related, that Berry said he realized

Byrd was chained to the back of the truck and was being dragged.

The police affidavit said when Berry protested, King threatened to do the same to him.

According to Rowles, Byrd's partial remains (which at the time were still unidentified) were found at approximately 8:20 a.m. on Huff Creek Road just east of Jasper. The head and right arm of the body were missing. Rowles said that a "trail of some type of brown substance" was seen by investigators leading from the body.

Soon afterward, police were notified that the head and arm from the torso had been discovered in a ditch about 1.2 miles from where the rest of the body had been discovered. At the location where

the head and arm were found, the same trail of brown substance lead in both directions of the road.

As investigators followed the trail to its origin, several items including tennis shoes, a shirt, a wallet and other personal items were found. Other items include a nut driver, with the name "Berry" inscribed on it, a cigarette lighter inscribed with King's nickname "Possum" inscribed on it along with a triangle that was identified as a symbol of the Klu Klux Klan.

Arraignments have been made in the murder by Jasper County Justice of the Peace Ronny Billingsley and Rowles says investigation of the case is still ongoing. A determination about whether the case will fall under federal jurisdiction will also be made as soon as possible, says Rowles.

West Greenville CDC Holds Awards Banquet



Rev. David Moore, CEO of the Metropolitan Low Income Housing of Beaufort County receiving award from Barbara Fenner, Director of the West Greenville Community Development Corporation.

The West Greenville Community Development Corporation (WGCD), a nonprofit agency located in inner-city Greenville sponsored an awards banquet, last Saturday at the Ramada Plaza Hotel. Approximately 150 persons were in attendance including the mayor of Greenville, commissioner Jeff Savage, other invited guests and the general public. The Challenge Speaker was Rev. David Moore, CEO of Metropolitan Low Income Housing CDC of Washington, NC. The guests were entertained by the York Memorial AMEZ youth signers, Darius and Sandra Shackelford, and Carroll Dashiell and his combo.

Awards were presented to individuals that have made a difference to the work of WGCD and the African American community. Specific awards went to Linda Gunn of the NC Rural Economic Development Center. Samuel Kosivi received the Directors Pacesetter Award. Eagle Scout Walter Baker Council received the Community Service Award along with Philip Church of Christ. Marvin and Renee Arrington received the Academic and Protective Service Award. Edgar Midgett of Floral Accents, Al Peterson of Al's Barber Shop, Daniel Bullock & family, Bobby Hardy, Sr. & family of Headlines I & II, Nellie Rogers of Act one Personnel Services, and William Nobles of the Dubois Center were recognized for their entrepreneurial ventures.

Mr. James Rouse of the Rouse Communications Group received the Entrepreneurial Award. Helena Edwards of Pitt County Department of Health received the Outreach Health Care Delivery Award.

Others receiving awards included the speaker Rev. David Moore and Valerie Thomas of the Battered Women Center. Businesses and organizations that were recognized for sponsorship included BB&T Bank, Wachovia Bank, ECU-Regional Development Institute, Pitt County Development Commission and the Daily Reflector. Organizations recognized for their outreach educational programs included: Cornerstone Baptist Church SOS Program, Right Step Academy, Terel Newton ECU Jr. Pre-Medical Student, Shaw University and Pitt Community College. Nike, Sports Graphics Inc. was recognized for good "corporate citizenship."

FORMER BLACK PANTHER SUES FBI, LAPD

Geronimo Pratt Claims Agencies Withheld Evidence in His Case

LOS ANGELES - A former Black panther freed after 27 years behind bars has sued the FBI and Los Angeles Police Department, claiming the agencies withheld evidence that proved his innocence.

In the civil rights lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court on Thursday, Geronimo ji Jaga, formerly Elmer "Geronimo" Pratt, claimed he was framed for a 1968 murder he didn't commit.

The lawsuit alleges malicious prosecution as well as evidence tampering, said Brian Dunn, a law firm associate of Johnnie Cochran, Jr., who represents Pratt in Los Angeles.

Pratt was arrested in 1970 and charged with murdering teacher Carolyn Olsen in a robbery on a Santa Monica tennis court.

Pratt maintained he was in Oakland attending Black Panther meetings at the time of the slaying and that FBI agents hid and possibly destroyed the wiretap evidence that would prove it.

The suit also states that prosecutors presented false evidence during Pratt's trial, Dunn said.

"The FBI wanted to get rid of the leadership of the Panther party and they were happy to frame him for something he didn't do," said Stuart Hanlon, Pratt's attorney in San Francisco. "We believe that members of the LAPD and FBI were involved in illegally locking him up for 27 years."

FBI and LAPD officials could not be reached for comment.

Pratt was convicted in 1972 and sentenced to 25 years to life in prison.

Orange County Municipal Court Judge Everett W. Dickey freed Pratt from prison last year after finding he didn't get a fair trial. Pratt and others have said numerous times that the charges were trumped up by the FBI during the turbulent 1960s.

Prosecutors have appealed the ruling.

More on James Byrd, Jr.

After attending a niece's bridal shower last Saturday night, James Byrd, Jr. bid farewell to everyone and began his journey home on foot in the small town of Jasper, Texas. The walk turned out to be his last because the 49 year old father of three never made it home. His life ended when he was chained and dragged on the back of a pick up truck by three white men who had suspected ties to the Ku Klux Klan. No determination has yet been made as to whether the case will be tried in the federal or state judicial system. NAACP National President Kweisi Mfume has urged the Justice Department to bring federal charges.

Byrd, a former vacuum salesman lived on disability due to an arm injury. He was described as an outgoing and friendly person who loved music and had a beautiful singing voice.

The arraignment of the three men was telecast live on the Cable News Network and has been broadcast worldwide by at least 150 media sources. The Jasper Ministerial Alliance and the Jasper Chamber of Commerce have encouraged all Jasper residents to show their support for Byrd's family. A prayer vigil was held on last Monday at the courthouse square.

Michael Dixon Says That, "Self-Empowerment Is The Issue..."



Dixon...

Michael Dixon, a Pitt County two-term school board member, applauds the work that the Coalition Against Racism (CAR) and the NAACP is doing in terms of the protest against racism in the Pitt County School System. Dixon does, however, feel that more important issues need to be addressed that are adversely affecting blacks in the school system.

"The existence of racism is nothing new and continuously harping on it is not the most effective way to change things. We, as a people need to focus more on pulling ourselves up by our own bootstraps," declares Dixon.

A graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill with a degree in political science, Dixon knows what it is like to pull one's self up by his own bootstrap. After graduating from college, he was unable to get a

professional job in his field and had to take a job in a manufacturing plant where he worked for 14 years.

Frustrated that the 'system' did not work in terms of rewarding him with a career that he deserved as a college graduate, Dixon decided to take matters in his own hands. With a masters degree in Theology, Dixon stepped out on faith and fulfilled his dream of becoming a full time minister.

"The 'system' seldom works for a person in the way that he wants, especially if you are black," says Dixon, who has been pastor of the Refuge One Church of Christ for the past 20 years. "You have to make it work for you. In the same way the African American community must come together about some of the serious and pressing issues and work toward solutions," explains Dixon. "Self-empowerment is the key. What are we going to have to start doing for ourselves if we want things to get better?"

Dixon feels that the school administration has dealt with many of the issues (protested) as well as any school administration could have done. "While I am not in agreement with all of the administration's decisions, I do feel that the system exhausted its power in most of the cases," says Dixon. "Every case is different and many issues are very complex."

"I feel that much harsher punishment should have been rendered for the Wintergreen teacher who used the 'N' word doing Black History Month. It is more to firing a teacher than realized. This

teacher was tenured with an exemplary record. There were also technicalities surrounding who heard the teacher say the 'N' word."

Dixon, who also serves as the International Chairman of The Board of Elders for the Apostolic Pentecostal Holiness Church, is gravely concerned that black males comprised 81% of the students who were suspended from school in Pitt County last year. "What are we doing to help solve problems like this one? Where are these children's parents?"

Dixon feels that leaders need to focus more on things like parent education, male mentorship and drug prevention programs. "How much would firing the Wintergreen teacher help toward black male suspension?"

Another issue that Dixon feels that the black community need to come together on is the lack of black representation in key employment positions in the school system. "Where are the black principals, teachers and top school administrators? What are we going to do to improve these type situations?" adds Dixon. He also questions the effect of integration on black student achievement since there have been fewer black students honored during awards day ceremonies.

Dixon feels that issues of apathy in the black community have added to the problems of racism in general. Economic, political, educational, and social empowerment are issues that he will continue to keep at the forefront as a community activist and school board member.

Whites Repent For Nation's Worst Race Riot in 1921

Mabel Little had something to say to those assembled on the 77th anniversary of one of the nation's worst race riot in Oklahoma.

"God bless you wonderful people!" said Mrs. Little who lost her church, her business and 35 blocks of her community when White mobs torched it in two days of rioting on June 1, 1921. Hundreds - both Black and White attended a emotional assembly of repentance" in a bare lot where Tulsa's thriving business district once proudly stood.

Ishmael Reed Among 'Genius Grants' Winners

An outspoken literary innovator and a pioneer of the World wide Web are among 29 winners of "genius grants" from the MacArthur Foundation this year. The fellowships announced this week by the John and Catherine T. Mac Arthur Foundation include five year stipends of from \$220,000 to \$375,000, depending on the recipient's age. There are no strings attached to how the money is spent.

Fortune Rates Jordan Effect on the National Economy

Chicago Bulls fans aren't the only ones cheering Michael Jordan. According to Fortune magazine, Jordan's stunning career has had a \$10 Billion impact on the U.S. economy in gate receipts for the NBA, TV Ratings and NBA sale of goods.

AIDS EPIDEMIC STRIKES EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

The Congressional Black Caucus, chaired by US Rep. Maxine Waters, is calling for a state of emergency over the skyrocketing death rate among African Americans between the ages of 25 and 44 years old. The problem of young blacks dying from AIDS is not emphasized because the number of new AIDS cases are dropping overall.

The Congressional Black Caucus is calling on President Clinton and Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to appropriate more funding for high risk areas. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, Blacks now represent 35 per cent of all reported cases and 43 per cent of new cases, even though blacks comprise only 12 per cent of the population. The problem of AIDS continue to be widespread in the black community due to poverty, low self-esteem, drug use and the lack of education concerning the disease. The Pitt County AIDS Services Organization (PICASO) in Greenville addresses these issues. Statistics in the Pitt County are grim and the problems associated with the disease are affecting many black families.

Mary Holland, director of PICASO, as evidenced in Pitt County, agrees that the problems of HIV and AIDS have reached epidemic proportions in high risk communities and should be considered a state of emergency, especially in terms of financial funding. It costs \$12,000 per year for health therapy for a person infected with AIDS virus and funds are limited," explains Holland. "For every dollar spent on prevention, \$42 must be spent on treatment."

Pitt County ranks 10th of the 100 counties in North Carolina in HIV cases and 5th of the 100 counties for Actual AIDS cases. Currently 23.1 persons per 100,000 people in Pitt County are HIV positive. "Eastern NC has one of the fastest growing rates of HIV in the state," reports Holland.

Holland reports that African-American Women is the fastest growing and most at risk group in the country. People between the ages of 13 and 18 are the fastest growing and most at risk groups in terms of age, with 50% of the AIDS related cases 25 years and under.

"We are beginning to see a growing number of cases of women (with young children) coming in for treatment, even though 90% of the cases are African-American males," reports Holland.

PICASO, founded in 1987, provides health care and therapy for HIV and AIDS victims. Services provided by the organization also include case management, outreach programs, family and victim counseling, and educational programs concerning AIDS. Anyone wishing to find out more about PICASO should call 830-1660.

OPINIONS

COMMENTS

Editorials

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.

STATEMENT ON THE MURDER OF JAMES BYRD

By Hugh B. Price, Jr. President
National Urban League

The brutal murder of James Byrd, Jr. of Jasper, Texas allegedly by three white men was a modern-day lynching that recalls the atrocities of an ugly era when racial discrimination ruled American society.

Today racial discrimination no longer rules American society.

But the slaying of James Byrd, Jr. - yet another episode of racism taken to the extremes of deadly violence - underscores the fact that racism remains a significant factor in American life.

For women as a group, and for blacks and other people of color, the substantial progress made in expanding opportunity has not eliminated the barriers they face in the workplace - nor in just living their lives free of racist and sexist violence.

Data on incidents of racism violence and hate crimes gathered by the Anti Defamation League and other organization show that organized white supremacist hate groups still constitute a serious threat.

But even more worrisome, those who closely track hate crimes say that hate groups actually commit less than 5 percent of them. The rest are the work of individuals.

"We are actually into an era of freelance hate," says Brian Levin, an expert on hate crimes, told USA Today this week. "You may have people who go to a Klan rally, or tap into a web site, but they're their own franchise."

Those words, chilling as they are, should not dismay us. They should energize us to do the work that needs to be done.

Mr. Byrd's murder, occurring as it did near the first anniversary of President Clinton's much-maligned race relations initiative, also underscores something very noticeable - and pernicious - about the discussion of race in America.

That is, that whenever an outrageous incident of overt racism such as this occurs, a deep silence seems to blanket part of the nation's racial landscape.

No, I am not faulting those whites, in Texas and elsewhere who have forthrightly condemned the reprehensible deed.

State and local officials in Texas appear to have acted with dispatch to arrest the men responsible for this act of horrific savagery, and they have pledged to investigate the crime fully and prosecute it vigorously.

And, as our sympathy surround Mr. Byrd's family and friends, we also acknowledge the decency and courage of Ronald L. King, whose son is one of the accused. The open letter of "apology" he issued last week was selfless act from one who from the depths of his own sorrow, urges all of us to follow the path toward redemption.

"It hurts me deeply," Mr. King wrote with obvious anguish, "to know that a boy I had raised and considered to be the most loved boy I knew could find it in himself to take a life. This deed cannot be undone, but I hope we can go forward in peace and with love for all. Let us find on our hearts love for our fellow man. Hate can only destroy."

Who can deny the truth of that statement? We have seen and continue to see hatred's destructive force acted out time and again in this country and around the world.

The looming question is: Will we go forward?

The challenge - has been posed in many different words this past week by those who have been urging the nation toward such a discussion - among them President Clinton, the Reverend Jesse Jackson, invited by Mr. Byrd's family to Jasper, leaders of the the Congressional Black Caucus, Kweisi Mfume, President and CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

But one group has been noticeably silent: Where is the comment from those who have been saying so vociferously that 'we should not pay attention to race, that we should be blind to color'?

Now, where is the comment - the contribution - of those conservative and so-called centrist media commentators, politicians, professors and think-tank fellows who've spent the past years disparaging the Clinton Race Initiative.

I've looked for them these past few days.

Instead, I found that profound "silence" from them which signals their retreat behind the walls of darkness and denial wait for the shock of the murder of James Byrd, Jr. to fade away, to wait for us to forget.

It's up to those of us who are not blind to reality to not forget the work that must be done.

That is why the National Urban League has joined with six other organizations to fight bigotry. Our partners are: the Anti-Defamation League, Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, the National Conference for Community and Justice, the National Congress of American Indians, the National Council of La Raza, and the National Italian American Foundation.

We must remember that if we Americans don't unite against all forms of racism, bias and bigotry, intergroup violence will continue to spread.

In that regard, it's not too late to improve the effort the President's Initiative on Race has made to encourage a frank, positive discussion of America's racial difficulties.

Mr. Clinton himself should devote more personal attention to it in order to sharpen its focus and tackle this really tough issue.

That is one way America can "go forward," and in so doing, redeem the suffering, James Byrd endured and repudiate the intent of his killers.

Remember the Alamo, the Maine, Pearl Harbor, Remember June First-98 and Remember PCMH!!

Submitted by Jean Leigh, Concerned Greenville Citizen

On June 1st 1998, Pitt County Memorial Hospital was given away by five county commissioners: Ed Bright, Tom Johnson, Sr., Kenneth Dews, Edith Warren and Mark Owen, Jr.. It was decided to the "Corporation." Would you care to guess who or what the "Coorporation" is? If you find out, please let me know. Not to worry, we have been told for sixteen months, "We will maintain control". My advise is don't listen to what they say, even if some of what they say is true, there are always to many "wigggle" words. Read what they sign.

We have three educators, one business man and one attorney in this five voter block. Somehow they managed to miss a vital legal constitutional guarantee. When you deed property to someone or a "corporation", it is gone. Legally, a clear deed indicates clear ownership.

May I add that the three educators have been in education twenty to thirty years each. I ardently oppose giving away the hospital, but looking at the track record of the schools, I would rejoice if we gave the schools away. Then our students could learn on a "level playing field". I can never accept that our teachers are incompetent nor that 22% of our students are exceptional. However, if we look at the past sixth grade English grammar book, the second rule reads, "ignore spelling, punctuation, and grammar, just write."

Mark Twain once wrote that when he was a boy of fourteen, he thought his old man was the dumbest man he had ever seen, but when he became a man of twenty one, he was amazed at how much the old man had learned in only seven short years.

Dave McRae, CEO of the "Corporation", the Board of Trustees of the "Corporation and the five voting block of the County Commissioners for the "Corporation" have moved diametrically opposite of Mark Twain.

Sometime between 1974 and 1976 the citizens of Pitt County were given the usual "snow job", of how smart we were. Our fiscal salvation was to vote to expand and build a medical center and start a medical school. We listen to the politics, demagoguery, rhetoric and some plain lying. I, like most of the citizens, voted to raise our property taxes to build the hospital.

In the last six months I, like you, have heard Dave McRae say that the public could not be educated to understand such esoteric items as "level playing fields", HMO's, doctors referral", etc., etc. As an after thought, McRae said that we would have to get permission from the General Assembly to vote on the hospital. Our constitution Federal and State, are badly crumbling but the last time I looked, the General Assembly is elected by the same people that cannot understand why we have to give our hospital away.

Fellow citizens, may I remind you that general elections are held in even years. This gives us only five months to learn what we need to know.. As a matter of fact, isn't it wonderful that we are smart for two or three days every other year?

The main idea I suggest we think about are some plain arithmetic skills. No high level math is needed. According to hospital's sources we are engaged with Chesapeake and Albemarle hospitals to build a hospital in Dare County with eighteen beds for eighteen million dollars. I figure that is a million dollars per bed. Again, according to the hospital sources, we can purchase Heritage Hospital in Tarboro for eighty million, actually "\$81,633,000". Heritage hospital has 127 beds. Our commissioners struggled valiantly for the best deal possible. Pitt County Memorial Hospital has 731 beds and after sixteen months of strenuous negotiations we will get thirty million on the installment plan. Are we, the citizens and taxpayers, of Pitt County looking at seven hundred millions dollar loss?

Americans seem to have memories even if they have short interest spans. Remember the Alamo, Remember the Maine, Remember Pearl Harbor, Remember June first, 1998 and Remember the second Tuesday in November when we get to vote and Remember PCMH.

Marshall Was Right

By James E. Allsbrook, PhD
The Minority Report

Thurgood Marshall, the great NAACP attorney, was absolutely correct when years ago he said that if civil rights laws were passed, the physical behavior of anti-black racist would forcibly changed the mental behavior and attitudes of the race bigots would remain unchanged. In other words, Marshall was saying that RESPECT, even if given reluctantly, is a vital ingredient to the realization of the full, equal and essential citizenship of black Americans.

Since the passing of civil rights laws in the sixties, black people have made many gains toward achieving greater respect, and progress towards establishing racial equality. We now have politicians like Carol Mosely Braun, the first female black U.S. Senator; Dr. Paula Mahone and Dr. Karen Drake, the two black physicians who delivered the world famous septuplets "alive and well" in Iowa; Harvard-produced, and lawyer-trained business expert Franklin Raines, who recently resigned as the head of President Clinton's Office of Management and Budget; Oprah Winfrey, leading talk show moderator in American; and Gen. Colin Powell, voted most popular potential U.S. presidential candidate for the year 2000. Other blacks have demanded respect because of the intelligence and knowledge they have shown in public through television shows such as Jeopardy" and "Wheel of Fortune".

But several stubborn impediments to full respect for blacks remain some relentless and stereotype - perpetuating media- the newspapers, magazines, radio, theater, and televisions. Black people too often are not presented with with accuracy, objectivity, and fairness of the media. But equally important is the distressing fact that black people reveal the psychological carry-over of slavery by degrading themselves and other black people. Consider these examples:

**When I was teaching at Central State University in the seventies, a young black female student presented a so-called "slice of Negro Life" for a cultural program in Robeson Auditorium. The audience was shock to hear her use very vulgar language in describing the so-called life in the ghetto. The program was suppose to be "cultural."

**When I went to Ohio University, I attended the senior recital of a black student graduating in drama. He also recited a monologue concerning "life in the inner city" and it also detailed the alleged whoredom of an imaginary sister, dope, drunkenness, and other revolting details of depravity. The audience, all white people except for myself, loudly applauded this revolting narrative. When he ended his presentation I went to the stage and berated him and declaring his performance a disgrace to his and my people. He then told softly, This s---t smells but this s---t sells. That's the way it is.

**About ten years ago a drama teacher at Ohio University advertised for a person to portray an old black man in a stereotypical "Uncle Remus" play containing "slave talk" for the black man and standard English for the white children. I read the script and was outraged by the obsequiousness required of the make believe black man. This piece of trash was never produced.

**When Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* appeared in book form, I brought a copy, but was unable to read pass the first two pages because of the lewd and vulgar references to sexual organs and intercourse. It's tone of moral degradation and mental poverty prevented me and others from reading further.

Black people are restricting their own progress by presenting themselves in movies, and on stage and television as naturally depraved immoral buffoons seeking immediate gratification, which is very stupid and unworthy of the civil rights progress won by the sacrifices of Dr. King and many others of both races.

An excellent and long-lasting service would be performed for the black community; if civic groups and civil rights organizations, wealthy black business people, athletes and others would become the "patrons" of talented and right thinking musicians, writers, and other creative people found in the black community. Just as it was and is of those wealthy patrons in Europe who enabled musicians, artists and others to produce musical, literary and artistic work of which all could be proud, so should wealthy black people Americans encourage black literary excellence and help win the respect ALL people can identify as their shared cultural endowment.

The suffering and the triumphs black have experience in America can be a rich source of creative excellence and motivation that would draw intense emotional response and universal admiration for an upwardly mobile people. Literacy, musical, artistic and other renditions of black excellence certainly will produce the respect Thurgood Marshall indicated and would help bring into full flower the long overdue equal citizenship requirements of all African Americans.

Jasper Speaks Out Against Byrd Atrocity

Special to M-Voice News from The Jasper NewsBoy/The Sunday Newsboy

From the Publisher, Jasper NewsBoy

By Willis Webb, Editor & Publisher

Unfortunately, a wonderful town filled with good decent people has blemished brought about by the senseless, brutal and wanton act of a few individuals who are not representative of the true nature of Jasper County.

The senseless killing of James Byrd, Jr. last weekend has focused world attention on the city and county of Jasper.

Most in this community are in shock. Many are wondering how in the world a family can cope with such a cruel incursion upon their lives. And what will someone say to those members of the Byrd family who are desperately trying to come to grips with this tragedy?

This community (Jasper) can begin by coming together as one people and reaffirming everyone's commitment to fairness, the equality of humans under law and in all minds. The coming together can continue as we see to it that all elements of the criminal justice system pursue truth and justice in this case.

And finally, we have the opportunity to show the world in these next few days that there is enough love and understanding in Jasper to overcome and overshadow any unwanted, cruel bigotry that is thrust upon us.

From the Managing Editor, Jasper NewsBoy

Michael Journee/The Jasper NewsBoy

I really don't understand how people can be absolutely vicious to one another.

Murder, drugs, drive- by shootings, gang activity and now a possible hate crime- all right here in Jasper. What's going on?

It all sounds like things you would read about in the metropolitan newspapers. Well, that's not anymore.

For the second week straight, our lead story has been about people killing people as Jasper County lawmen are in the middle of another murder investigation here in our typically quiet little town. James Byrd Jr. 49, was murdered in a most horrendous way this past weekend. What was left of his body was found floating in Huff Creek east of Jasper. Because of the circumstances surrounding Byrd's death- it being a possible hate crime- the Federal Bureau of Investigation will likely take over the case.

And the national media will take it over, too. Since I have started writing this column early Tuesday morning, three metropolitan (Houston and Dallas) news organization have called to talk to me and get an "inside" view of the community where such a thing could happen. But I'm just as perplexed as anyone - perhaps a little more, because I am "inside" and do know Jasper. It's very hard for me to accept that there are people in the town who could do such atrocious thing - obviously there are.

Human cruelty is perhaps the one thing in this world that truly sickens me most. It takes many forms - with what happen to Byrd being the extreme. It would take someone filled with venom and hatred to be so horrible and have such a heart of stone. My prayers and condolences go out to the Byrd family.

But this violent trend seems to be pervasive throughout our society. It must be if our small town is feeling the shockwaves.

Since I returned home to Jasper a little more than one year ago to work here at *The Jasper Newsboy*, I believe we have had more stories in the paper about serious crimes than ever appeared the entire time I was in high school.

I don't know this for sure- but in the Newsboy's 133- year history, I'd be willing to wager there have never been stories about two different murders in consecutive editions. Terrible- so very terrible.

Although this crime certainly warrants extensive coverage, I am beginning to have some qualms about the one thing that bothers me about my colleagues in the media- their tendency to make a feeding frenzy out of a tragic event. I know that the sheriff's office has been inundated by reporters of every stripe since Monday morning and certainly there are more to come. For the sake of Byrd's family and justice I hope this does not turn into one of those all too familiar "media circuses." It has all the making for it.

It seems that Jasper's most recent claims to fame - or infamy as the case may be - lately come along these lines. A Jasper dateline was on the front page of the Houston Chronicle this Tuesday in relation to Byrd's death. The last time that happened was in August of last year when Adaberto Vega's body was discovered buried in a shallow grave here. The picture of Jasper this paints for the world certainly is not an accurate one in my eyes.

The intrusion of such despicable crimes into our town is unstoppable. These are the severe growing pains that will have to be dealt with if we are to continue to grow and prosper as a community. I feel like Jasper is getting in on the ground floor in dealing with them with programs like the Boy's & Girls Club, some new programs in the schools and with strong support our local law enforcement community receive from our residents. Although there is obviously a long way to go, and despite the very small extremes that condone such atrocities, I believe we have a true community of neighbors here in my hometown.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Publisher and the staff of the M-Voice Newspaper wish to thank the staff and Publisher of The Jasper NewsBoy for its cooperation and help in providing this paper with facts and opinions regarding the tragedy that occurred in their community. Your comments and opinions are welcomed.

Kitty J. Pope, Editor

DEGREES OF MURDER

The injustice of a senseless, wanton and barbaric act of murder perpetrated against James Byrd, Jr., should never be a question in the eyes of the law, even though the idea of capital punishment questions the morals within society everyday. While we were sleeping, our brother James Byrd was ruthlessly dragged to his death...

from the Desk of Beatrice Maye...



Beatrice Maye

MEASURE OF A MAN

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.) The reason a dog has so many friends is because he wags his tail instead of his tongue. What is a man? Here's what a 16-year old high school sophomore wrote:

- ... A real man is kind.
- ... A real man is caring.
- ... A real man walks away from silly macho fights.
- ... A real man helps his wife.
- ... A real man helps his kids when they are sick.
- ... A real man doesn't run from his problems.
- ... A real man sticks to his word and keeps his promises.
- ... A real man is honest.
- ... A real man is not in trouble with the law.

CHARACTER

is what you are in the dark. (Dwight L. Moody) The first duty of LOVE is to LISTEN. (Paul Tillich) A successful marriage requires falling in love many times...always with the same person. (Mignon McLaughlin)

LOVE never asks how much must I do, but how much can I do? (Frederick A. Agar)

There are many ways to measure success; not the least of which is the way your child describes you when talking to a friend.

Let the wife make the husband glad to come home, and let him make her sorry to see him leave. (Martin Luther)

Mother's arms are made for tenderness, and sweet sleep blesses the child who lies therein. (Victor Hugo)

OPPORTUNITY

When one door closes, another opens, but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us. (Alexander Graham Bell)

For He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. (PSALMS 91:11)

Every man is entitled to be valued and by his best moments. (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

The Lord is near to all that call upon him; yea, he can feel breath when no voice can be heard for faintness. (John Trapp) HOPE - Faith is the bird that feels the light and sings while the dawn is still dark. (Tagore)

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.

Fear not tomorrow, for God is already there.

SIX TIPS FROM A PRO

I'm an interviewer for a large agency. Here's what I look for at a first meeting:

- 1) Be on time. Allow for traffic, etc. Being late makes the interviewer think you will be late for work.
- 2) Dress for the position. No shorts, T-shirts with logos, or heavy makeup.
- 3) Be aware that body language and tone of voice tell us as much about you as what you say.
- 4) Practice your smile. No gum chewing or smoking. Breath mints help.
- 5) Be prepared to talk about yourself - your education, aspirations, etc. Do not discuss your personal or financial difficulties.

Employers have their own.

6) Come with your Social Security card, and the addresses and phone numbers of references. (Roberta Horn, 62, Boca Raton, Florida)

"Going Through the Valley"

(Based on PSALMS 23:4)

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

These are the steps:

- 1) Live your life fully.
- 2) When you're down... look up.
- 3) Think of God as your partner.
- 4) Replace guilt with gratitude.
- 5) Face your fears with faith.
- 6) Let love lighten your load.
- 7) Hold on to HOPE.
- 8) Believe it... You CAN do it.
- 9) Your future will be fruitful.
- 10) Prepare yourself for life's fulfillment.

(From: Dr. Robert Schuller's sermon, Sunday, May 31, 1998)

QUOTES FROM THE HEART

FRAGRANCE Happiness is a perfume you cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself. (George Bernard Shaw)

I'm not so concerned you have fallen... but that you rise. (Abraham Lincoln)

MIND & HEART

And what is as important as knowledge? asked the mind.

Caring and seeking ... with the heart.

answered the soul. (Author unknown)

REAL FRIENDS are those who, when you've made a fool of yourself, don't feel that you've done a permanent job. (Erwin T. Randall)

WORDS THAT COMMUNICATE LOVE AND ENCOURAGEMENT

You do that really well.

May I pray for you right now?

... How are you, really?

... What you said helped me.

... I was wrong.

... Thanks for leading/serving.

... Have I offended you?

... I appreciate you.

... What can I do to help?
... Tell me about your day, job, kids.
... Please forgive me.
... I still love you.
... God is big enough to
... I'm proud of you.
... You're really growing.
... Please come over for dinner.
... I missed you.
... I'm so happy for you.
... I prayed for you today.
... That must be very difficult.
... I'll be glad, too.

There are no hopeless situations in life; only men who have grown hopeless about them.

Life is teaching you some painful lessons. But it is from adversity that strength is born. You may have lost the inning, but I know you'll win the game.

A man never discloses his own character so clearly as when he describes another's. (Jean Paul Richter)

If you're headed in the wrong direction

- God allows U-turns. The difference between holding on to a hurt or releasing it with forgiveness is like the difference between laying your head down at night on a pillow filled with thorns or a pillow filled with rose petals. (Loren Fischer)

The Imprint of the Father

Pastor James Corbett, The Community Christian Church



James Corbett

JONATHAN - THE NEGLECTED SON

Children, actually everyone, gravitate towards acceptance. Often, the reason young men want to run with the "wrong" crowd or to get into gangs is because they want to be accepted. In a recent TV documentary, gang members referred to their gang as the "family". Acceptance must be found at home. Attention, encouragement, support, rewards, etc. must come from home, especially from the father. What the father "thinks" is vitally important to children. The son longs for Daddy's approval. When he doesn't get it, he seeks approval from another authority figure.

Jonathan represents the rejected son. His father, Saul, called a fast but Jonathan did not hear it. After a battle in which the people were weak in faith, Jonathan tasted honey and gave it to the people. This revived the people and they went on to win a mighty battle. Saul, the King, pronounced a sentence of death upon the responsible party, which turned out to be his son. The people rescued Jonathan.

1 SAMUEL 14:24-31 24 And the men of Israel were distressed that day: for Saul had adjured the people saying, Cursed be the man that eateth any food until evening, that I may be avenged of mine enemies. So none of the people tasted any food. 25 And all they of the land came to a wood; and there was honey upon the ground.

And when the people were come into the wood, behold, the honey dropped; but no man put his hand to his mouth; for the people feared the oath.

27 But Jonathan heard not when his father charged the people with the oath; wherefore he put forth the end of the rod that was in his hand, and dipped it in an honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes were enlightened.

28 Then answered one of the people, and said, Thy father straitly charged the people with an oath, saying, Cursed be the man that eateth any food this day. And the people were faint.

29 Then said Jonathan, My father hath troubled the land: see, I pray you, how mine eyes have been enlightened, because I tasted a little

of this honey. 30 How much more, if haply the people had eaten freely to day of the spoil of their enemies which they found? for had there not been now a much greater slaughter among the Philistines?

31 And they smote the Philistines that day from Michmash to Ajalon: and the people were very faint. (KJV)

1 SAMUEL 14:43-45 43 Then Saul said to Jonathan, Tell me what thou has done. And Jonathan told him, and said, I did but taste a little honey with the end of the rod that was in mine hand, and, lo, I must die. 44 And Saul answered, God do so and more also: for thou shalt surely die, Jonathan.

45 And the people said unto Saul, Shall Jonathan die, who hath wrought this great salvation in Israel? God forbid: as the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground; for he hath wrought with God this day. So the people rescued Jonathan, that he died not. (KJV)

Jonathan later became best friends with David. David was anointed to be Saul's successor. Jonathan, by inheritance, was supposed to be Saul's successor. Jealousy caused Saul to be an enemy of David, yet Jonathan remained a loyal friend to David. On several occasions, Jonathan protected David from Saul. Jonathan was accepted in David.

1 Sam 18:3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. (KJV)

PITT COUNTY SCHOOLS CHILD NUTRITION SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM

The Pitt County Schools Child Nutrition Program announces its plans to operate a Summer Foodservice Program at fifteen school locations this summer. The program will be operated in the city of Greenville at the South Greenville School located on Howell Street, Sadie Sautler on Fleming Street, Eastern Elementary School on Cedar Lane, Third Street on West Third Street, and Wellcome Middle across from Glaxo Wellcome. Other sites are located as follows: Grifton Elementary located on Church Street in Grifton, Bethel Elementary in Bethel, Ayden Middle School in Ayden, W. H. Robinson School in Winterville, G. R. Whitfield in Grimesland, Stokes Elementary in Stokes, Falkland Elementary, Route 4, Greenville, and Sam Bundy School on Grimmersburg Street in Farmville.

The lunch meal will be served each day Monday through Friday beginning June 15 and ending on Friday, June 31. There will be some variances in opening and closing dates from location to location. The time of meal service will be from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM in most of the cafeterias.

The Summer Food Service Program for children provides a food service program during school vacation that is similar to the meal service offered in the schools during the school year. The program serves children 18 years of age or under at no charge. Handicapped children over 18 years of age who participate in a summer program are also eligible. All children will be served the same meals.

In the operation of the Summer Foodservice Program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, no child will be discriminated against because of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age or handicap. If any member of a household believes they have been discriminated against, they should write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

If there are questions concerning the operation of the program, interested persons may call 830-4226.

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The Piedmont Minority Supplier Development Council likewise recognized CP&L as the Corporation of the Year. And singled out our own Jerry Fulmer as MBE Coordinator of the Year. The Raleigh-Durham Minority Development Agency also honored Jerry Fulmer

— as Minority Business Advocate of the Year. And CP&L was recognized by the North Carolina Institute for Minority Economic Development for its continued dedication and support of minority business in North Carolina. We're always scouting new talent.

If you're in top form, we want you. Together we have what it takes to be a winning team. Just remember, we play to win.

And people notice.

To learn more about CP&L's Supplier Diversity and Business Development Program, write to Jerry J. Fulmer, Supplier Diversity and Business Development Manager, P.O. Box 1551, CPB-2C3, Raleigh, NC 27602, or call 919-546-2193.

CP&L

The Power to Lead

Happy Father's Day



All these Fathers grew up in Greenville and tell you about the old days of segregation and about intergration. Shown above are Deacon James Eddie Vines, Brother Ben Chapman, and Brother James Smith (Photo - Jim Rouse)

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

IT'S TIME TO MOVE ON TO INDEPENDENCE

by Du Lamora Fulani

On May 19, an African American businesswoman named Juanita Norwood took a stand. Ms. Norwood, a longtime Philadelphian and officer of the NAACP, ran as the candidate of the independent Reform Party to fill the seat vacated by Congressman Tom Foglietta in Pennsylvania's First District. She received 10% of the vote, the second highest number of votes for an African-American running for Congress as an independent in the country's history. Although the First District is predominately African-American and Latino, it has never been represented by a person of color. Out-spent by a well-financed Democratic Party opponent (the Democrats made several efforts to get her to drop out of the race) Norwood's results sent a

message to the Philadelphia political establishment that the Reform Party was working to become a contender in one of the country's most steadfast Democratic Party strongholds. Juanita Norwood's surprisingly strong showing (achieved in spite of the fact that she spent the last two weeks of the campaign in the hospital) are one more example of a discernible trend in African American voting patterns. The traditional loyalties to the Democratic Party are wavering. As Russell Verney, Chairperson of the national Reform Party, said in commenting on the Norwood vote: The disenchantment of the urban population is turning to disgust, and, in greater numbers, they are looking elsewhere. The

Republicans have nothing to offer them. But the Reform Party offers opportunities for everyone to provide leadership, and for Black and other minority voters to choose candidates who will do more than make empty campaign promises. Electoral campaigns are crucial forums for show casing the Reform Party as a vehicle of political empowerment for our communities and challenging the blank check loyalty that Black voters, in particular, give to the Democratic Party. Numerous campaigns by Black candidates, in addition to the Norwood race, have been launched, and one has even

been won! Wayne Griffin, the owner of an insurance company in Greer, South Carolina, who represented his district at the Reform Party's founding Convention last fall, returned home to win a City Council seat—beating a Democrat who was an eight-year incumbent. During the seven-month long campaign he helped register three hundred new voters from his community. Even if you're a newcomer to politics, it's possible to make a difference, he said. Lawrence Redmond, an attorney from Chicago now running for Governor on the Reform Party of Illinois ticket, has previous experi-

ence running as an independent with the Harold Washington Party. Joining the Reform Party gave me a new opportunity. I see it as an extension of the civil rights movement which brought about other social movements like women's movement and the Gray Panthers,

says Redmond, who defends inmates on death row at the Capital Litigation Division of the Appellate Defender's Office. What we learned is that politicians won't listen. So that's why we started becoming politically involved, he continued

Continues on Page 8

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The names of the talented African-American musicians who contributed to our musical history are too numerous to mention, yet their influence is undeniable. The rhythms and messages passed along to fellow African-Americans and the world beyond continue to inspire us and promote peace, joy, celebration and unity. For their many accomplishments, we salute the African-American pioneers of music.

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Photo Highlights from the West Greenville Community Development Banquet - Story Page One



TRACEY ELLISON - RONALD CLEVELAND EXCHANGE VOWS...



Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Cleveland

Tracey Renata Ellison, daughter of Mr. Larry Ellison, Sr., of Washington, DC, and the late Mrs. Erma Ellison (formerly of Greenville) and Ronald Oba Cleveland, son of Mr. Ronald, Sr. and Vallerie Cleveland of Bronx, New York, were united in holy matrimony at 3:00 PM on Saturday, May 16, 1998, at the Progressive Free Will Baptist Church in Greenville.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a full-length champagne sheath covered with seed pearls and iridescent sequins. Her shoulder-length illusion veil was attached to a seed pearl headress.

Elder Milton Sutton officiated over the ceremonies. Music was provided by Mrs. Carol Williams, soloist, and Tommie Davis, Jr., organist.

The bridal party included Ms. Micheala Seagant, Maid of Honor; Mr. Ronald Cleveland, Sr., Best Man; Brittany Manuel, Flower Girl; and Eric Ellison, Ring Bearer.

A reception followed at the Cherry Court Club House. After a wedding trip to Cancun, Mexico, the couple will reside in Greenville.

SMALL AND MINORITY FARMERS CAMPAIGN SET BY NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

RALEIGH -- Small and minority farmers are endangered species in North Carolina and the nation, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As a result of the decline, the N.C. Department of Agriculture and consumer Services has launched a support campaign for small and minority farmers.

North Carolina had 150,000 farms with an average size of 126 acres in 1970 according to USDA. Latest figures show a drop to 57,000 farms averaging 158 acres. Many of these farms have far less acreage and primarily grow produce. Some raise specialties such as goats and produce meat, milk, cheese and soap. These are the target farms of the support campaign. Nationally farms average 470 acres, well above the Tar Heel average.

The billboard, television, radio and newspaper campaign will encourage consumers to buy fruits and vegetables directly from small, local farmers' markets and pick-your-own operations.

"Consumers can make sure they get the highest quality and freshest produce possible," said state Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham. "Produce buyers will also keep small farmers farming and prices competitive."

The campaign runs from May through the growing season. It is headed by Archie Hart, special assistant to Commissioner Graham.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT BEGINS PROJECT HOPE

GREENVILLE While the state of North Carolina had a decrease in the number of new HIV cases last year, Eastern North Carolina had an 11% increase! Pitt County has one of the highest rates of HIV/AIDS in North Carolina. HIV has left no segment of the population untouched. However, in Pitt County, 80% of all persons who have tested positive for HIV are African-American. Many blame the lack of prevention education and services for the increase in the east.

The Pitt County Health Department and the Pitt County Mental Health Center developed Project Outreach almost 5 years ago to increase prevention services to the community. This month, the Health Department began offering expanded services to the citizens of West Greenville. The Department has developed Project HOPE, (Health Outreach through Prevention and Education), a new component of the Reach for Me Clinic. Through Project HOPE, the Health Department will be providing HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B prevention education and screening in the homes of Pitt County residents.

Project Hope began offering this door-to-door service in the Moyewood Community the second week in May. Nurses and other Health Department staff will be offering information about many health issues in addition to offering these tests. They also want to learn, from community residents, what other services should be offered door-to-door.

The Health Department will continue to provide services at the Reach for Me Clinic every Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 12:30 to 3:30. The Reach for Me Clinic is located next to the Greenville Community Shelter at 1600 Chestnut Street. Entrance to the clinic is from the back of the building. If you would like more information about Project HOPE, please call Rene Williams at the Pitt County Health Department at 413-1339.

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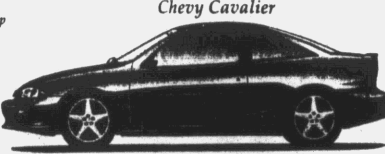
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PETTY OFFICER CASEY LANGLEY COMPLETES DEPLOYMENT

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Casey T. Langley, son of Vann T. and Diane I. Langley of 146 Edgewood Drive, Chocowinity, N.C., recently completed a six-month deployment to the Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf aboard the destroyer USS Ingersoll.

Langley departed his home port of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in November as part of the multinational interception force in the gulf to support U.N. sanctions levied against Iraq after the 1991 Gulf War.

While on deployment, Langley and crew members participated in exercise Iron Siren involving ships from the British Royal Navy and the United Arab Emirates. This training exercise consisted of damage control, ship-handling drills and tactical encounters.

During a visit to Australia, Langley and crew members enjoyed Anzac Day, Blending our Memorial Day, Veterans Day and the Fourth

of July, it's the only Australian holiday dedicated to the military, recognizing fallen veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf War. Langley's ship participated in several wreath-laying ceremonies and benefit events, and invited more than 10,000 visitors to tour the ship including 150 from a local children's hospital.

Destroyers, like Langley's ship, have traditionally been the workhorses of the U.S. Navy, defending battle groups against threats from land, air, above and below the sea. Equipped with Tomahawk cruise missiles, Harpoon anti-ship missiles and Sea Sparrow Missiles, USS Ingersoll is capable of hitting enemy targets hundreds of miles away.

In addition, Langley's ship carries two helicopters with sonar and torpedo capabilities, expanding the ship's reach.

He joined the navy in September 1989.

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NAACP PRESIDENT/CEO URGES U.S.D.A. TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF BLACK LAND LOSS

Baltimore, MD - NAACP President and CEO Kewisi Mfume has requested that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) take a much more aggressive approach in addressing the issue of Black land loss. "This is an

increasing dilemma for African American farmers and the NAACP has been concerned for some time now about long-term consequences," said Mfume. "The present condition of things is unacceptable. There continues to

be a growing number of foreclosures on Black farms, and the disclosure of widespread discrimination in lending, along with the backlog of several hundred pending civil rights cases, is alarming. I believe we must move quickly to

assess the seriousness of this problem so that African Americans are not relegated to a perpetual consumer class only." Mfume stated that "a close working relationship with USDA is paramount in developing an immediate plan of

action to prevent additional loss of Black-owned farms." As a result, the NAACP has established an Office of Rural Development Outreach. Further, at Mfume's request, the USDA has assigned a staff person to work at the National

Headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland, within the NAACP's Programs Department, to coordinate this effort.

The Office of Rural Development Outreach will work to help prepare NAACP branches to become advocates for small and minority farmers. While NAACP units across the country will benefit from this training, special consideration will be given to those rural areas already besieged by this problem. Additionally, the NAACP will be reviewing and investigating requests for aid, identifying short-term solutions, and developing a long-range and permanent approach to this predicament. "I don't necessarily expect that this will be a panacea," said Mfume. "The process will be a long and tedious one, however, it is certainly the first step in the right direction."

Mfume went on to say that "today, in 1998, there are less than 16,000 African American-owned farms across the nation. Overall, 500 small farms failed weekly, with African Americans losing 9,000 acres at the same rate. African American farmers are losing land at a rate of 1,000 acres a day." The Black Farmers Association, Inc., has protested, litigated, and met with high-level government officials without an equitable solution. It is evident that the discriminatory practices of the Federal government had resulted in a major decrease in the number of Black farmers in this country. Accordingly, the NAACP joins with members of the USDA Coalition of Minority Employees, and other organizations in support of the struggle of the Black farmers," said Mfume. He added, "all persons who believe in what is right must join together to urge the Federal government to settle all of the claims of the Black farmers and to take affirmative steps to ensure that discriminatory practices across the country are eliminated."

Highlights from Caldwell Scholarship Banquet



The Carol Wilson Caldwell Legal Scholarship Fund Banquet was held on Saturday June 21 at the ECU-Willis Building. Dr. Gloria Scott, President of Bennett College in Greensboro was guest speaker.

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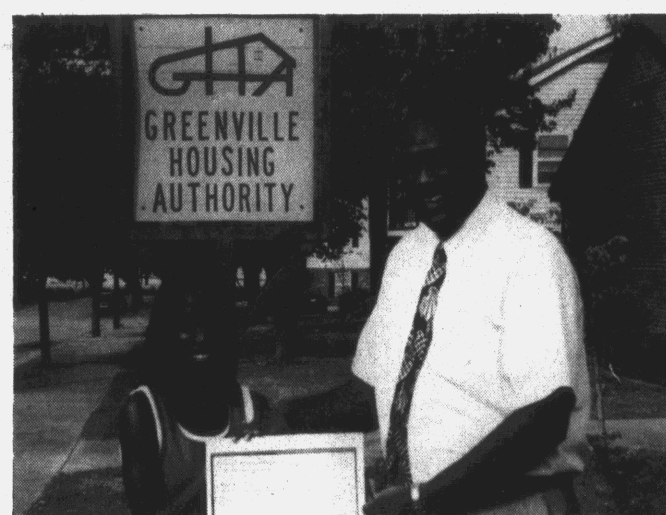
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Kammi Evans of Greenville is pictured receiving a \$1,000.00 scholarship from James A. Chapman, Chairman of the Greenville Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. The scholarship is sponsored by the Southeast Regional Section 8 Housing Association. Ms. Evans will be attending East Carolina in the fall.



Enjoying the fellowship of a family affair fundraiser. Shown above is Brother Bubby Coward with his daughters, pastor and friends on West 5th Street in front of Frizzell's Grocery Store selling Fish and "Ummm," fried chicken dinners. (Photos: Jim Rouse)

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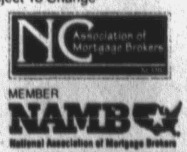
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OBSESITY JOINS AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION'S LIST OF MAJOR RISK FACTORS FOR HEART ATTACK

The American Heart Association announced today that obesity has been added to the association's list of major risk factors that people can control to prevent death and disability from coronary heart disease, the cause of heart attacks.

According to a 1996 Department of Health and Human Services Statistics report, approximately 35 percent of deaths in Pitt County alone are from cardiovascular disease. The incidence of cardiovascular disease is increased by major risk factors: smoking, high blood cholesterol, high blood pressure, sedentary lifestyle, and now obesity. Heredity, increasing age and being male are also regarded as risk factors by the association, but they cannot be changed.

The association upgraded the status of obesity from a contributing risk factor to a major risk factor for heart attack due to strong scientific evidence of obesity's impact on heart disease risk and due to the increased prevalence of the condition in the population. Research has shown that modest weight reduction -- 5 to 10 percent body weight -- can reduce high blood pressure and total blood cholesterol. Modest achievable weight loss can also help control diabetes in some people.

A recent survey (National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey III), conducted between 1988 and 1994, indicated that 22.5 percent of men and women ages 20 to 74 were obese.

If we broaden our definition of obesity to include people who are overweight, over 50 percent of American adults are 15 to 20 percent of our children are overweight today.

There are no simple answers as to why obesity is increasing at

this time. One reason for the epidemic is that although Americans are eating a lower percentage of total calories from fat, they are eating more calories overall. This may be due to confusing public health messages that stressed eating a low-fat diet without calorie restriction. Contrary to some widely circulated ideas about low-fat eating, calories do count.

Studies also indicate that Americans are more sedentary on the job and in their leisure time. Children are watching far more television and are less physically active than in the recent past.

Obesity can be treated through lifestyle strategies, such as calorie restriction and increased physical activity, medications, and in some cases, surgery.

The American Heart Association spent more than \$266 million during fiscal year 1996-1997 on research support, public and professional education, and community programs. With more than four million volunteers, the AHA is the largest voluntary health organization fighting heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases, which annually kill more than 960,000 Americans.

ATTENTION: Greenville Residents!!! Become Involved In City Government

The Mayor and the City Council will soon be considering appointments to the Board of Adjustments, Citizens Advisory Board on Cable TV, Community Appearance Committee, Environmental Advisory Committee, Greenville Utilities Committee, Pitt-Greenville Airport Authority & Visitors Authority, Planning & Zoning Commission, Public Transportation Commission, and Recreation & Parks Commission. If you live inside the city limits of Greenville and would like to be considered for an appointment, please call 830-4423 to obtain a resume form to indicate your interest or send a written request to the City Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 7207, Greenville, NC 27835

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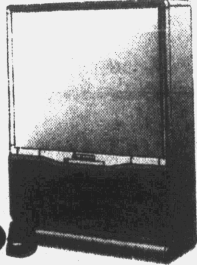
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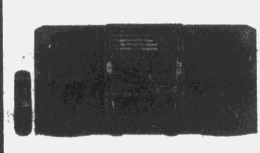
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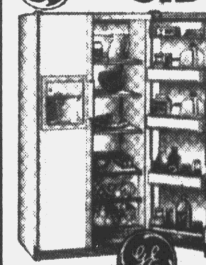


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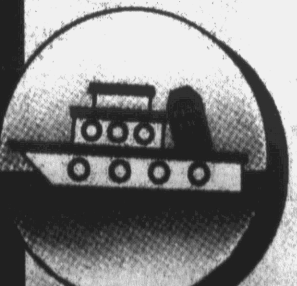
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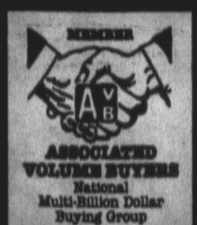


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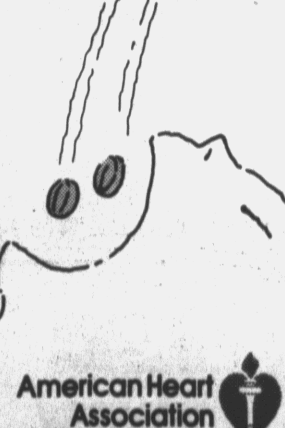
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Commissioner Savage
To Speak At Black
Reparations Conference

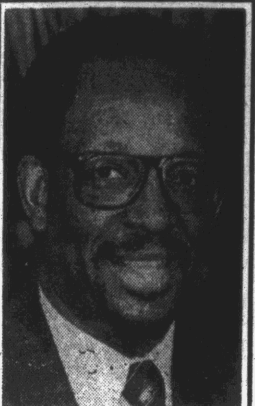


Pitt County Commissioner Jeff Savage will be a Speaker at the Black Reparations Conference to be held at the Dubois Center on Saturday, June 27th. The conference will feature renowned attorney Dr. Robert L. Brock, the President of the Self Determination Committee who defeated the U.S. Government in the U.S. Supreme Court laying the foundation for Black Reparation claims. Commissioner Savage feels that Black Reparation is a well placed 'ideal' whose time is over due. Savage says that Black Reparation would help toward giving blacks the ability and means towards self empowerment. Savage will speak on different approaches to black self empowerment for the 21st Century.

REPARATIONS: U.S. must pay to repair the damages of slavery!

By Ron Daniels

The crises we face today as Africans in America are directly attributable to the African Holocaust and slavery: the destruction of African nations and communities; the genocidal destruction of African people on an unimaginable scale; and cultural aggression, the calculated attempt to de-Africanize African people in order to retard



RON DANIELS

our ability to maintain functional African communities. The crises we face as Africans in America will never be completely overcome until the damages done by slavery are repaired. Reparations, restitution for the centuries of forced labor which built this nation, is a corrective and a major ingredient in the prescription to heal our people. To this point in history the U.S. has refused to acknowledge its moral obligation to make restitution for the damages done to African people by slavery.

After the Civil War, African captives were simply "freed" and made citizens through the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution. But there was no formal apology for the crimes of capturing and enslaving African people. And there was no 40 acres and a mule, no granting of property or capital as compensation for the long and tragic travail of slavery. Though a Bill which would have provided 40 acres and a mule did pass the Congress it was vetoed by President And-

There must be no peace, no reconciliation until America is forced to meet our righteous demand for justice ... and reparations!

rew Johnson. In effect Africans in the U.S. were made citizens and granted "political" rights without "social" rights.

The former slaves were freed without any meaningful provision for a substantial economic base to undergird their political freedom. Hence, the former slaves were often compelled to return to the very plantations they were forced to work on during slavery. This time they would be subjected to a new form of slavery/peonage as sharecroppers, tenant farmers and agricultural laborers. The political freedom of the former slaves was also challenged as white racist and terrorist organizations like the White Brotherhood, Knights of the White Camellia and the Ku Klux Klan unleashed a reign of terror designed to drive Africans from the ballot box and positions of power during the Reconstruction period. A rigid

system of apartheid was also installed and enforced by massive lynchings, brutality and terror. Thus the status of the new "citizens" of the U.S. was one of dependency, insecurity and continued oppression.

There have always been African leaders and freedom fighters who have had the foresight to see that Africans in the U.S. can never achieve real freedom until the condition of economic dependency and insecurity have been overcome. In an article entitled *Prophetic Liberator of the Coloured Race of the United States of America: Command to His People*, published by New Age Print in 1913, Arthur Anderson spoke as follows: "We, the colored race of the U.S.A. and our representatives, your wards and half brothers and sisters by blood demand \$600,000,000 indemnity for slavery, for the trail of blood sacrificed in human lives, the loss of country. The years of tyranny and oppression that followed and continues today on the ex-slaves and their offsprings, created by the institution of a cruel slavery by the American people of the U.S.A." Not merely content to accept the payment of cash as full restitution for slavery, Mr. Anderson went further to "...demand of the U.S.A. Government a suitable territory, a part of the United States, not some distant land over the sea, but the U.S.A. The land, every inch

of which is hallowed by the blood of the Negro, shed in the upbuilding of this empire." Anderson suggested that the plight of Africans in the U.S. be taken before The World Court at the Hague if the demands for indemnification were not met.

For the last few decades it was Queen Mother Moore, a brilliant warrior woman with roots in the Garvey movement, who relentlessly preached, taught and pressed the crusade for reparations. Queen Mother Moore's essential message has been that African people in the U.S. can never achieve real freedom and self-determination until we have been paid reparations as compensation for the loss of our inheritance—the damages resulting from slavery must be repaired.

Heeding the teaching of Queen Mother Moore and other freedom fighters, the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (NCOBRA), has helped spearhead the campaign for reparations. The critical focal point of NCOBRA's work has been to mobilize support for a Reparations Bill which has been introduced

in the U.S. Congress by Cong. John Conyers of Michigan.

H.R. 40, as the Reparations Bill is designated, would establish a commission "to study the social and economic impact of the institution of slavery on Africans and their African-American descendants and make recommendations for appropriate remedies." In the face of mounting support for reparations in the African-American community, hearings on H.R. 40 are scheduled for next month, before the Civil and Constitutional Rights Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee. These hearings are an initial step in what is likely to be a protracted and difficult struggle to win reparations. But, as Cong. Conyers notes in a letter to his colleagues in the House, "It is past time for the Congress to acknowledge the injustice and inhumanity of slavery."

(Editor's note: Among others at war with the U.S. about reparations is Atty. Robert L. Brock, who has instituted legal action in Los Angeles to force the U.S. to admit that America has two distinct forms of citizenship.)

NC OFFICE OF WOMEN'S HEALTH REPORTS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The first report of the new NC Office of Women's Health, presented to the General Assembly, calls for the development of a statewide strategic plan to address women's health needs throughout the lifecycle.

The document focus on the need for coordinated planning, better promotion of healthy behaviors, and ensuring that women's special needs are addressed in the provision of health care services.

Specific issues singled out in the report include reducing HIV infection among women, finding effective ways to blend public health and managed care strategies to provide optimal women's health care and educating providers about the needs of disabled women.

The report stresses the need for better consumer education and more widely available information about women's health issues, healthy behaviors and preventive health services. Among the recommendations is the development of a women's health information network, which would include Internet-accessible information.

Additionally, the report cites a need to increase health care providers' awareness of specific issues in women's health, particularly where men's and women's health outcomes differ. For example, the report notes that women with cardiovascular disease (the largest killer of women as well as men) are under-diagnosed by physicians and suffer higher rates of advanced disease and death because cardiovascular disease is widely viewed as 'a man's disease.'

The report is based on input from 11 diverse groups of women from across the state, analyses of health data, and recommendations from 130 experts in women's health who met at the first NC Women's Health Summit earlier this spring.

The Office of Women's Health was created by 1997 legislation to "expand the State's public health concerns and focus to include a comprehensive outlook on the overall health status of women." Located in the Department of Health and Human Services, the office is headed by Sheila Cromer, RNC,MS.

RER MAXINE WATERS COMMENTS ON DEATH OF ABACHA SEES POTENTIAL FOR MOVE TOWARDS DEMOCRACY

It is unfortunate when anybody dies. Our condolences go to General Abacha's family and friends.

General Abacha's death must be turned into positive possibilities for civilian democratic rule, and Nigerians must heighten their struggle for democracy.

General Abacha's leadership was questioned by some and denounced by others. However, we may never know what motivated him. He was said to have believed he was acting in the best interest of his people. However, democratic rule has proven to be the form of government that offers the best possibility of serving all the people with fairness and justice.

The Congressional Black Caucus will stand with our brothers and sisters in Nigeria in the pursuit of a non-violent, just, and democratic society.

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NAACP REVIEWS DEADLY COMBINATION OF RACE OF DEATH PENALTY SENTENCING AND PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS

Washington, DC. NAACP commends the Death Information Center (DPIC) for its two studies on racial disparity and the death penalty in the United States. DPIC's first study looks at the facts proving that African Americans are four times more likely to be sentenced to death than members of other ethnic groups.

This study coupled with DPIC's second study showing that 90% of American chief prosecutors empowered with the responsibility to seek the death penalty are white. This very troubling combination raises real concerns surrounding the racist application of the death penalty addressed for decades by the NAACP. This new study continues to support data brought to light by Professor David Baldus of the University of Iowa, in the mid seventies which was validated by the United States Supreme Court. Much like the renowned Baldus of the seventies which led to review of this subject by the Supreme Court in the McCleskey v. Kemp case, Dr. Baldus is joined by George Woodworth in this new study.


DPIC's study show that being black in Philadelphia works as an "aggravating factor" making a death sentence more likely. The study points out that it is comparable to legitimate aggravating factors such as whether the victim was tortured or whether the defendant inflicted great harm, pain, or fear on the victim.

The study goes on to show that the average death sentencing rate for African Americans in Philadelphia was 38% higher than the other defendants who committed like crimes.

These statistics coupled with data showing only 1% of our nation's district attorneys responsible for death penalty charging decisions are African Americans, with an additional 1% being Hispanic. This means that nearly 98% of all district attorneys responsible for death penalty charging decisions are White. Data from other states where race and the death penalty have been compiled over the past two decades reveal that in 93% of those states, death sentences were more likely if the murder victim was White than if the victim was African American. In almost half of the states, there was evidence of race of defendant discrimination.

These disturbing new statistics, once again, impress upon us the need for comprehensive evaluation of the death penalty and its disparate impact throughout the United States, and a need to fashion legislation to remedy this discriminatory problem.

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