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Issue Date: Week of December 29, 1997

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S MINORITY VOICE SINCE 1981

New Evidence Suggests that Law Knew of CIA-Crack Connection

By Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA)

There is enormous interest in the tale of C.I.A. operatives smuggling crack cocaine into the U.S. in the early 1980s. While some segments of the media dismiss this story, evidence continues to accumulate which demands a thorough investigation.

Let me briefly outline the story and try to explain why this well-documented series of articles by reporter Gary Webb, researched over a full year's time and printed in the San Jose Mercury News, is so important to so many people.

What Gary Webb has proven incontrovertibly is that Norwin Meneses and Danilo Blandon, two notorious Nicaraguan drug dealers,



Congresswoman Maxine Waters were involved in trafficking cocaine -- and weapons -- into

South-Central Los Angeles in the early 1980s. They also were clearly linked to C.I.A.-directed efforts to raise funds for the Nicaraguan Contra rebels, when they were trying to overthrow the Nicaraguan government.

Blandon has testified that the proceeds from the drug profits he made in Los Angeles went to fund Contra efforts. He also has said that he, along with Meneses, worked with such well-known C.I.A. operatives as Adolfo Calero, the commander of the Nicaraguan Democratic Front (FDN), and Enrique Bermudez, another high level, FD/N/C.I.A.-operator.

The charges raised, and their implications, are so severe in this

case that nothing short of a full-scale exploration of this unholy alliance of drug dealers, C.I.A.-operatives, and U.S. foreign policy will put these questions to rest.

I recently visited the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department unannounced and obtained documents which previously had not been made public, and, in fact, which reporter Gary Webb had been told didn't exist. The documents, only turned over after I demanded them, reveal that in the mid-1980s, the sheriff's department confiscated drugs and drug paraphernalia in a raid of Mr. Blandon. According to affidavits released last Monday, one informant testified, "All of these persons [people connected to the Blandon

drug ring] are either Nicaraguan and/or sympathizers to the Contra movement."

Moreover, the documents reveal that Blandon's carrier, someone who ran drugs between Central America and the United States, Ron Lister, who was also raided, had military training manuals and was quoted as saying he worked for the C.I.A. when law enforcement officials seized his property.

These events make one wonder why, if these drugs were seized, were Danilo Blandon and Ron Lister never arrested. Why also had the federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) asked the L.A. Sheriff's Department to back off their investigation of Danilo Blandon? Finally, to this day, much

of the evidence seized during these raids cannot be located and is not accounted for. This is only the most recent incident which raises a startling pattern of questions that have not been answered.

The Mercury News articles chronicle how the Meneses-Blandon-"Freeway" Rick Ross (the primary distributor of crack cocaine in South-Central Los Angeles at the time) network spread into other inner city areas of the United States, once their business took hold in South-Central L.A. This nexus, and the specificity of its description, sheds new light

WATERS continues on Page 8

4 year probe ends...

Jury Exonerates Former Agricultural Secretary Mike Espy of all Charges

WASHINGTON -- After a four-year investigation which costed more than \$17 million a jury found former Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy innocent of accepting expensive sports tickets and other freebies from companies his office regulated.

"It's cost a lot, it's been tough, but I knew from day one that I would stand here before you completely exonerated," said Espy, 45.

The jury acquitted Espy, the only African-American and Clinton's first agriculture chief, of all 30 counts after nine hours of jury deliberation and a seven-week trial.

Independent counsel Donald Smaltz, who won convictions and guilty pleas from some companies and lobbyists who gave gifts to Espy, said the costs of the prosecution were worth it and that "we met our obligation, and the jury has spoken."

However, Espy viewed himself as



Atty. Mike Espy
Former Agricultural Secretary

being victimized by a prosecutor "with all the money, all the power, very little supervision, and no timetable."

Espy said he did nothing wrong by accepting \$33,000 in gifts and entertainment favors from chicken producer Tyson Foods and other

firms because he did nothing in return for them.

The largest gift included \$6,000 in extra tickets to an inaugural dinner for Clinton back in 1992 plus tickets to the 1994 Super Bowl, a Chicago Bulls playoff game, a Knicks game and the U.S. Open.

There were also free luggage, limo rides and lodging for Espy, while agriculture businesses bought plane tickets and gave cash to his live-in girlfriend.

Federal ethics laws barring expensive gifts to officials do make some "exceptions" for presents

between established friends. Espy said that loophole fitted many of the gifts.

Witnesses said that in some cases, Espy had sought out the tickets and made no attempt to conceal their sources, but farm executives testified that they nei-

ther expected nor received anything for their generosity.

Other legal sources remarked that what carried the day for Espy was the fact that nobody was able to tie any official act or omission to

ESPY continues on Page 8

Black Farmers Discuss \$125M Proposal Settlement

WASHINGTON -- Black farmers said they are considering a deal of at least \$125 million to settle their discrimination lawsuit against the Agriculture Department.

Attorneys for the farmers held three meetings around the country this week to gauge support for the deal. About 300 farmers attended a meeting Friday in Durham, N.C., participants told The Associated Press. Attorneys also met with plaintiffs Wednesday in Selma, Ala., and Thursday in Pine Bluff, Ark.

"I think the farmers are going to

take" the prospective deal, said John Boyd, president of the National Black Farmers Association, who said he talked to about 15 farmers who went to Friday's meeting.

The settlement would give each of the 1,000 plaintiffs about \$50,000 and resolve any outstanding debt with the government. The average plaintiff's debt is estimated at \$75,000 to \$100,000.

The offer, which farmers said government attorneys made recently, is significantly higher than

the \$15,000 per farmer offer the agency made this summer, plaintiffs said. But the total would be far less than the \$3 billion the farmers initially sought.

Laura Trivers, a spokeswoman for Agriculture Secretary Dan

Glickman, said, "Settlement discussions are going very well and the secretary is both eager and optimistic that this lawsuit will be settled in the near future."

FARMERS continues on Page 8

FCC Proposes Requirement to Recruit but not Hire Minorities

WASHINGTON -- Broadcasters and cable companies would be required to recruit minorities and women to fill vacancies but wouldn't be forced to hire them under a plan offered by federal regulators Nov. 19.

The Federal Communications Commission, without dissent, proposed rules designed to ensure that TV, radio and cable systems cast a

wide net when filling vacancies. The action responds to a court decision that overturned the agency's equal employment opportunity rules for TV and radio stations.

To satisfy the court's ruling, however, stations and local cable systems would no longer review whether their work forces reflect the racial composition of the

markets they serve. The FCC wouldn't either.

The commission could adopt new EEO rules sometime next year, after hearing public and industry comments.

In April, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia scuttled the FCC's 30-year-old equal employment opportunity rules for TV and radio stations, declaring

them unconstitutional.

Specifically, the court said the FCC's practice of comparing a station's work force with the racial composition of its market is illegal. The court said this pressured stations into hiring minorities and had the effect of a minority hiring quota. The overturned rules didn't

Former Black Panther Challenges Chicago's Daley in Mayoral Primary

CHICAGO -- U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush, a former Black Panther leader, is ready to announce a primary challenge to Mayor Richard M. Daley, aides to the Democratic lawmaker say.

Mr. Rush, 51, will launch his campaign for mayor at a recent rally attended by friends and

supporters, the aides said Friday.

Mr. Rush has long been expected to take on Mr. Daley in the February primary and lately has been saying the announcement was only a matter of days.

In the 1960s, Mr. Rush was a leader of the Black Panther Party, a group known for radical rhetoric

and occasional clashes with police. But he has long since joined the Democratic establishment.

He was a business executive and Chicago alderman before going to Capitol Hill in 1992, and sits in local party councils as a Democratic committeeman from the South Side. As the congress-

man from Chicago's 1st District, he is a member of the House Commerce Committee. Mr. Daley's office had no comment.

"I think we'll wait until he makes an announcement rather than respond to his announcement of a coming announcement," spokesman John Camper said.

Greenville Man Wins Essence "Whatta Man Contest"



"What A Man," "What A Man," *What A Mighty Good Man!!!* Greenville native Dallas Little was selected as the winner of Essence magazine "What A Man" contest after his daughter Latonya submitted a letter saying her father should be considered. Dallas captured first place in a national contest that emphasized the essence of a pure Black Man. Little who will soon be traveling to the Big Apple to receive his award has been confined to a wheelchair for most of his life and will also be featured in the March "99" issue of Essence magazine. Above, Mr. Dallas Little, winner of Essence magazine's national "WHATTA A MAN CONTEST" is being congratulated by Herb Gardner (member of newly proposed blacked owned bank MILLENNIA) and Attorney Derek Brown. WHAT A MAN!!! Photo: Jim Rouse

Commentary

by Trey Bankhead

"Remember always, the first rule: The sword is an extension of the body, the body of the mind, the mind of the soul. For the true warrior to engage in combat, and

emerge in triumph, these four elements must work in harmony."

Even though it's been ten years since that first martial arts class, I can still clearly remember the instructor's opening words.

Nyika O. White Wins His Division...



EDEN, NC -- A meet held November 21st in Eden was attended by four young gymnasts from the Rose's Gymnastic Training Center of Greenville. Shown with them is their coach, Chris Young (center) who returned recently from Australia after putting in a number of winning performances at a recent tournament held during the Australian Gymnastic Championships. Chris is also the first gymnast from North Carolina to win an International Championship in this sport. We will keep a look out for Chris in the 2000 Olympics competitions.

Nyika O. White, competing in his first meet of the 98/99 season, NC Mens Judges Cup came out the winner of the Class Two division-competition capturing first place in 5 out of six events posting scores of 9.15 on the vault, 7.9 on the floor events, 7.3 on the rings, 6.2 parallel bars, 6.2 on the high bars but landing 3rd place on the pommel, and concluding the event with an all around score of 41.65.

Pictured with Chris and Nyika are fellow gymnast Eric Peel and Will Flemming (far left) and Brandon Lennox (right) who is recovering from injuries.

If the Black community is to survive and flourish then we must use that martial arts philosophy of total harmony when acting. However, in our case, rather than speak of the sword, body, mind and soul, we must focus on what I call the "Three E's": Esteem, Education, and Economy. A sense of esteem leads to education, education leads to strong economy, and economy leads back to a sense of esteem, where the cycle begins

anew. A closed circle, self-sustaining.

A sense of self-esteem is critical to success in education. The thing I've always found horrifying as a teacher is that so many of today's youth, particularly Black teens, have no sense of hope for the future. They don't believe that the future holds any promise for them. Instead, they focus on being more "now" - oriented, doing what feels good now, what looks good now.

They reason that, since they won't get ahead in life anyway, why bother trying? And, truly, who can blame them? One of my students broke it down to me like this: "Mr. Bankhead, as a teacher, you make what?..twenty, twenty-one thousand a year? I can show you people that make that in one MONTH, and they ALWAYS get paid!" He could have been talking about either basketball stars or drug dealers.

In order for them to take pride in

themselves, someone must SHOW them what pride IS. On average, many Black teens don't have a role model. No, pro ball players and rappers do NOT count. A real role model is something more like a mentor, a teacher, a parent.. someone the child can talk to, trust, and be supported by. Many of today's youth are more motivated by money

Millennium continues on Page 5

News from Around the Nation

Coming Soon ...Harlem, USA

NEW YORK -- One of Harlem's most talked about developments is one step closer to reality as public and private partners closed on HARLEM USA, THE 275,000 square foot retail and entertainment complex at West 125th Street and Frederick Douglass Boulevard.

Grid Properties, the Commonwealth Local Development Corporation (CLDC), Chase Manhattan Bank and the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone (UMEZ) signed off on the \$64 million project that will create 500 permanent jobs and 200 construction jobs. In addition to the jobs created for community residents, CLDC, a local non-profit organization who spearheaded the project for a decade, is the owner of the land upon which the complex will be built and an equity partner in the venture.

Harlem USA will house retailers including The Disney Store, HMV

Records, Cineplex Odeon, Old Navy Modell's and the New York Sports Club. Chase Bank will also operate a branch on the site.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held to celebrate Harlem USA's development. Local and national business leaders, public officials and community residents attended.

Ms. Barbara Norris, a Greenville native, is Commonwealth Local

Development Corporation's president. Her sister, Mrs. Joyce Norris Norfleet, resides in Greenville.

Clayton Cautious About Tobacco Settlement

WASHINGTON -- U.S. REP. EVA CLAYTON (D-N.C.) said that she was cautious and concerned about the latest tobacco settlement proposal. The agreement provides for payments of \$238 billion to the

states and includes a variety of public health provisions for the states that joined the compact.

"It is good to see movement on a proposed tobacco settlement agreement between the various states and the tobacco industry, however, once again, small tobacco farmers, their families and the communities that

Nation's Black News Continues on Page 6

And around the State...

Justice Department visits Hoke County

RAEFORD -- A mediator with the Justice Department says a community meeting is a start in healing racial tensions in Hoke County. The mediator met with about 200 county residents Thursday night at a church near Raeform. Most had come to the meeting with complaints over the treatment of sheriff-elect Jim Davis.

Ernie Stallworth, U.S. Department of Justice said, "I've taken everything you said very, very

seriously. You have given us information that we need to go forward with what we have to do to ease potential conflict and tension in this community," said Ernie Stallworth, U.S. Department of Justice.

Davis, who is black, won the November election, but his swearing-in has been delayed until complaints surrounding his election are settled. Some residents have accused Davis of campaigning inside polling areas, something he has denied.

"He came to Hoke County to help

us. Please talk to him and let him know what you need. I assure you that he has the right ears to hear your voice," said Davis.

Stallworth is expected to take all the information he gathered at the meeting on Thursday night and meetings Friday and take it to the proper federal authorities.

Don King Receives Honorary Degree, Pledges Millions

RALEIGH -- Boxing promoter State's Black News Continues on Page 6

An Affront to the Black Press...

On Friday, Oct. 30, 1998, a full page advertisement appeared in USA TODAY encouraging African Americans to vote on Nov. 03, 1998. The advertisement read: "The Black Leadership Forum, Inc., and Black Entertainment Television, Inc., urge African Americans to vote on Nov. 03, 1998 for the political party whom you believe will deliver results on: improved education, quality health care, jobs, affirmative action, sentencing parity for drug convictions, equal justice for all, and fair urban and rural policies." The ad carried a photo of Bob Johnson, Pres. Of

BET, surrounded by African Americans leaders who participated in a BET press conference. The ad also listed 21 national African American organizations affiliated with the Black Leadership Forum, Inc., including (without our permission) the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

This advertisement prompted immediate response, angry response from African Americans publishers who are members of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the trade group for more than 200 African American newspaper. There are several reasons for their

anger.

Number One: While African American newspapers were carrying free editorials and op-ed articles for the past several weeks on the critical election issues at stake for us and imploring our readers and their families to vote on election day, our newspapers did not receive a penny for national advertising from any source.

Number Two: The fact that the Black Leadership Forum and BET decided to spend approximately \$67,000 for a one page ad in a white newspaper (which is not read by the masses of African

Americans) is an insult to African Americans publishers, who are struggling small business enterprises. The Black Leadership Forum and BET did not run a similar ad in a single African American newspaper. We take issue as to the sincerity of such an effort that was supposedly targeted to reach African Americans and we ask the question who "really" was the ad designed to reach?

Number Three: NNPA has been battling the US Federal Government, the Department of Housing & Urban Development and the White House Office of

Drug Policy, in particular, for receiving \$ 195 million appropriated by the US Congress for a national education campaign, and in the past has placed advertising in white media exclusively in 12 states, half of which had large African American populations. For years, the Black press has been fighting Fortune 500 companies which depend on African American consumers for their profit margins, but have done no business with African American newspapers.

Some of our publishers have described the USA TODAY ad as "shameful" and demand an apology

from Bob Johnson, President of BET and from the Black Leadership Forum and its members for such a conspicuous affront to African American newspapers which have been in the business of representing our people since 1827. We can expect white to spend their funds with white media, but not for African Americans to do the same, while spending not a penny with their own media, it is, indeed, shameful !!!

Mrs. Dorothy Leavell, President, National Newspaper Publishers Association.

Connerly's Usage of Racialized Language Betrays Position and Intentions

by Tyson King-Meadows

Recent statements by ward Connerly, the champion of the fight to prohibit racial and gender preferences in government programs, present Americans with a different picture from the staunch egalitarian self portrait. Quite to the contrary, Connerly's choice of words to describe the mental state of pro-affirmative action opponents depict a man socialized by racism, intoxicated by classicism, and contributory to the explicit marginalization of minority groups, for some unconvinced by anti-affirmative action proponents, Connerly's statements after the passing of Washington's Proposition 200 seem

to contradict a man determined to oppose inequality, ensure equal protection and due process, and vindicate the stigmatized majorities who oppose racial preferences.

A closer examination of Connerly's statements highlight an interesting dimension to the man who truly intends to eradicate state sponsored preferential treatment based on race, ethnicity and gender in the public employment, education, and contracts. Ward Connerly's statement that proponents of affirmative action "would have to be out of their cotton-picking minds to throw that kind of money in another state" in efforts to mobilize support for affirmative

action betray his fundamental position of equal protection and treatment. It contradicts his notions of egalitarianism. Racialized language such as "cotton-picking" deemed acceptable in majority discourse, reinforce and legitimize the psychic and physical injury incurred by minorities unprotected by government from verbal, symbolic, and actual forms of discriminatory behavior. Connerly did, however, refrain from using equally egregious words like "pickanninnie" and "coon" which are abundant in the Southern literary tradition. All three terms refer to simple-minded, submissive, animal like-like, playful laborers who are content with

their existence. at no time should such individuals expend their intellectual resources in the futile attempt to gain freedom, to reconstruct the social and political order, or to focus their attention on a greater and collective good. Perhaps Connerly did not realize the content and history of his chosen phraseology. Perhaps Connerly chose to simply remind America of his enduring efforts to end discrimination.

Nevertheless, Ward Connerly's language reminds minorities of the permanency in which America's legacy of institutionalized racial hostility, exploitation, and oppression is ingrained in simple things

like our descriptive analyses. By dismantling affirmative action policies, Ward Connerly suggest, these ingrained practices cease, or at least have the chance to become altered. In fact, Connerly pushes this further by suggesting that the discrimination faced by both majorities and minorities will cease to exist its most invidious forms: the unequal treatment of whites and the admittance and promotion of less qualified minorities. But the language used to convey these messages illuminate the tenuous nature of any position when using the master's tools to deconstruct the master's house and create environments where discrimination is nei-

ther rationalized nor supported through discursive constructions.

Even if Ward Connerly had used any number of other expressions to depict the imagery of his position, the importance of and timeliness of this particular racialized language in political discourse should not be overlooked. One of the major contributions of recent efforts to implement and expand the Hate Crime legislation after the brutal attack on Matthew Shepard was to remind America of the connection between discourse, citizen action, and government responsibility. as feminist, and other critical race

Continues on Page

Further Evidence of a Cover Up

The ECU Housekeepers have obtained a copy of the university's investigation report on the offensive racial posters that were being hung in the art building. It provides further evidence that a cover-up has occurred. It is primarily based on speculation and most of the "facts" were gathered only during the first of the ten month investigation. The univer-

sity concluded that the posters were hung to demonstrate that racism still exists today and where it can be found. The photographs were historical with no current depiction of racism. The university's speculation that the showing of the gruesome racial photographs and the highlighting of the negative meanings of the word "black" were a way of demonstrating how racism

is taught is pure nonsense. The conclusion that the posters did not communicate a threat of violence failed to consider the emotional violence communicated. The university based its report upon an anonymous letter from a "student." They felt the letter was highly credible because the "student"

Continues on Page

ECU's Conclusion About Posters is Flawed

East Carolina University's conclusion that the hanging of offensive racial posters in the Jenkins Art Center was an artistic expression meant to promote discussion on racial issues can not be taken seriously. Was the recent burning of a black church in Pitt County a form of pyro-artistic expression aimed at raising the consciousness of racial harmony?

Those posters were not part of any formal exhibit, hung in the hallways of only the black housekeepers, and were meant to intimidate and harass the housekeepers in retaliation for their efforts to organize for the purpose of seeking better and safer working conditions. Was the noose that was found hanging from a file cabinet also

meant to promote discussion? The Eakin administration justified its position based upon two anonymous letters by the Eakin administration to justify their actions is nothing new.

One just has to read the Daily Reflector for the past year to realize allegations against the Eakin administration that claim racial discrimination.

Continues on Page

from the Desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



Mrs. Beatrice Maye

To the Editor:

SPREAD PEACE THIS CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a very important time of the year. It's a time of year when the whole world is hearing the message of the birth of Jesus. It's a time when people are tenderhearted.....the perfect time to plant seeds of love in the lives of those you meet.

Sometimes those seeds may just take the form of a kind word in the middle of rush hour shopping. Other times, you may get the opportunity to pray and minister to someone. But whatever the situation, keep a sharpeye out for even the smallest chance to assist people. I've had some outstanding expe-

riences giving a few dollars to someone in need. As they are taking the money, I tell them, "This money is from the Lord Jesus Christ. I serve Him. He is the One who instructed me to help you."

It's amazing how many people are ready to hear what you have to say when you say it in love. They're starved for someone to really care. Be that someone this Christmas season. Spread the Word about the peace that's available in Jesus. Tell about His goodwill toward men.

Who knows how many of those small seeds may one day take root and bring one more precious person into the glorious kingdom of God? Scripture reading: Luke 2:1-20

WORDS FOR YOUR FAMILY

I'm proud of you.
Way to go !!
Bingo---you did it.
I knew you could it.
What a good helper.
You're special to me.
I trust you.
What a treasure.
Hurray for you !!
Beautiful work.
You're a real trooper.
Well done.
That's so creative.
You make my day.
You're a real joy !!
Give me a big hug.

MORE WORDS FOR YOUR FAMILY

You're such a good listener.
You figured it out.
I love you.
You're so responsible.
You remembered.
You're the best.
You sure tried hard.
I've got to hand it to you.
I couldn't be prouder of you.
You light up my day.
My bottoms are popping off.
I'm praying for you.
You're wonderful.
I'm behind you.
By: Beatrice Maye

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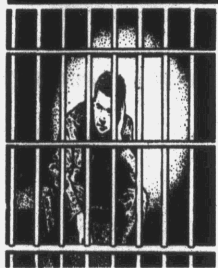
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Connerly's Usage of Racialized Language Betrays Position and Intentions

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theorists, have asserted for many years, political positions are verbalized only through language and incorporated into the legal, economic, historical, and cultural practices of societies. Language underscores the reality of power relationships.

In the *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* Paulo Freire forcefully argued that only through ownership of language could the powerless describe alternative scenarios

where they became empowered, powerful, and equal. Anything short of totally erasing preferential treatment would reinforce power differentials where some citizens owned their reality, while others had reality forced upon them. Surely, Connerly and other "egalitarians" would echo such sentiments by asserting that culture must nurture the moral restraints incumbent on private individuals to discriminate against others; that government must remain vigilante in guaranteeing personal liberty; and that

morally justifiable regimes promote citizen development by eradicating hierarchical systems which differentiate between and across citizens. Conversely, Connerly and others who oppose affirmative action would reject being labeled reactionaries: reminiscing about a racially insensitive society long since passed. The past, however, [because of the temperament of this language ejects us into, and now] becomes the present in the context of Connerly's language of exclusion and his politics of exclusion --

disguised as inclusion and equal protection. That is, when Connerly characterized his opponents' mind-state using the particular phraseology he reaffirmed the power of the majorities to socially construct the realities of the minority.

The controversy involving the legitimization of words like "nigger" by the major publishing companies aside, the reluctance of anti-affirmative action advocates to scrutinize their own racialized language and the context in which that language occurs is startling.

Even if Ward Connerly and others agree that the standard of "strict-scrutiny" should be applied to such language, the position in which it takes places advocates, and opponents, is more complicated than merely dismissing this of poor choice of words.

Given the reality of power differentials in society, how effective are such words in obtaining support from the uncommitted? If America truly envisions a society that empowers individuals to perform without government assistance, how does racialized or gender, language reinforce notions of supremacy? Do anti-affirmative action supporters agree with supremacist notions? I would suggest that most do not. Even further, I would submit that notions of equality and fundamental fairness inspired voters in California and Washington when going to the polls. Undoubtedly a connection with groups who spout hatred, exclusion, violence, and retrograde history would open advocates up to moral, ethical, and theoretical challenges.

Even if we accept that Ward Connerly and others are miles away from attempting to gain favor through race baiting and the exploitation of fear, such words portray a blatant disrespect for the history of minorities, and an unwillingness to acknowledge the significance slavery played in the development of America. Only through using words that speak to inclusion and fundamental fairness can Connerly convert the unconvinced or the unconvinced. So, however illuminating the misspoken or misplaced word, Connerly has aligned himself with the very forces he claimed to be resisting. Connerly missed the opportunity to highlight the inclusiveness of language, the power of a collective voice, and the ability of a man

groomed in a racially insensitive society to speak volumes about biracial coalition building. Yet, supporters of Connerly point to his economic and political successes as demonstrative of Black America's ability to succeed without government assistance without victimization, and most importantly, all within a framework of equality.

For supporters of affirmative action then, Ward Connerly's most credible indictment may spring from analyzing the language used to present his very position. For supporters of Connerly, perhaps this language used to present his very position. For supporters of Connerly, perhaps this language is not racialized but merely the insertion of words America has culturally incorporated into the description of social relations. For egalitarians, however, this latter position reinforces the point. Once Connerly asserts that race should not matter, and perhaps in his defense that words are neutral, he abdicates his responsibility to contextualize culture, politics, and power within a coalition building strategy. He also fails to introduce new terminology that could describe such a strategy.

America is in dire need for such new terminology and an innovative coalition building strategy. Until one is presented, Black and White Americans need to interrogate language, politics, and the intentions of coalition leaders. Connerly, my dear friend, if Jesse Jackson can label individuals racist and chill debate on race, racism, and affirmative action, then does your language make the debate all the more necessary?

Tyson D. King-Meadows Lectures and teaches Political Science at East Carolina University and be by calling (252) 328-1062 or Fax at (252) 328-4134. You can also E-Mail him at kingmeadows@mail.ecu.edu

All Things Unequal, My Dear Hon. Maxine Waters



Alton H. Maddox, Jr.,

Mumia Abu-Jamal and other political prisoners in this country must be looking with amazement at the impeachment inquiry of President William Jefferson Clinton and, especially, the zeal of the Congressional Black Caucus in defense of a president who converted the White House into a house of ill-repute. The zealotry of the Congressional Black Caucus

is unprecedented and, to be sure, no political prisoner has ever been a beneficiary of this assembly's zealotry.

I am requesting that the Congressional Black Caucus zealously and persuasively encourage the Federal Bureau of Investigation to release its investigatory files into the kidnap and sexual abuse of Tawana Brawley between November 24-28, 1987 in Dutchess County, New York. This case remains unresolved notwithstanding a grand jury cover-up purportedly describing her ordeal as a hoax.

During a defamation trial styled *Pagones v. Maddox, Mason, Sharpton and Brawley*, it was disclosed that the FBI was in possession of 18 volumes of investigatory files. Justice S. Barrett Hickman of Dutchess County Supreme Court ordered that fewer than two hundred pages should be disclosed to the defense. These few pages, however, were an eye opener. The complete files should aid immensely our effort to obtain the truth in the Tawana Brawley matter.

On March 13, 1998, with information from Tawana Brawley, I had fingered Steven A. Pagones, an

assistant district attorney in Dutchess County as being involved in the attack on fifteen year old Tawana Brawley. The grand jury, without the benefit of the FBI files, cleared Pagones. The FBI files disclosed that Pagones was not only a suspect as early as January 1988 but he had also refused to cooperate with the FBI investigation and had refused to take a lie detector test. This information was withheld from the 1988 state grand jury investigation.

Of course, the entire 18 volumes should be disclosed immediately to the public. Even without the transcript, it is clear that the FBI committed perjury before a state grand jury, especially as it related to pagones. In addition, Pagones had an ongoing social relationship with a female agent of the FBI. This relationship was never disclosed even though this female agent had interrogated the Brawley family and had testified before the state grand jury. This female agent also refused to consent to the release of her testimony before the state grand jury for use at the defamation trial.

Tawana Brawley was kidnapped and sexually abused by white men including law enforcement offi-

cials. Since people of African ancestry were initially kidnapped from Africa for the Americas, I know of no case in this country in which a white man has ever been convicted of raping a woman of African ancestry. New York State has gone to great lengths to silence me, C. Vernon Mason and Rev. Al Sharpton from speaking out against practices and patterns of racial injustice in New York including a kangaroo trial in Dutchess County seeking monetary relief for allegedly defamatory statements attributable to us during our defense of Glenda and Tawana Brawley.

I have as much right to expect your assistance in a matter of human rights as President Clinton regarding his peccadilloes. I am not only a person of African ancestry who, during the 1960's, fought for the right to vote in the South but I also attended law school with a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, defended several members of the Congressional Black Caucus in legal proceedings and have worked with other members on matters that are of particular interest to our community.

Alton H. Maddox, Jr., United African Movement, Brooklyn, NY



To kick off the second annual Seventeen/Cover Girl Volunteerism Awards, Cover Girl "Role" Model Tyra Banks wrapped gifts with local teens at Saint Vincent's Hospital in New York City.

Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. Members Initiated



The Greenville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., initiated 24 members Sunday, Nov. 22, at the Greenville Hilton Inn. A sisterhood banquet followed the initiation and the theme was "Answering the Challenge: Scholarship, Service, & Sisterhood."

President Patricia Alexander welcomed more than 100 sorors. The keynote speaker was Mary Sutton, Past (NC) State Coordinator and member of the Rocky Mount Alumnae Chapter.

New members are Annette D. Anderson, Shontelle N. Artis, Barbara G. Brown, Sebrina N. Cooke, Barbara J. Cotten, Bonita P. Crandol, Mildred M. Daniels, Pamela C. Gaines, Sonya J. Goddard, Ila L. Harper, Latonya D. Harris, Tara M. Honesty, Chona L. Manuel, Sharon L. McLawhorn, Ruth E. Robinson, L. Karennia Senors, Lia D. Shorter, Towanna C. Spruill, Valjeane Stephenson, Nikki R. Waddell, Lakeisha W. Waters, Rhonda D. Wilkins, Connie M. Wilson, and Geneva M. Windley.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., is a non-profit public service organization founded January 13th, 1913 on the campus of Howard University, Washington, DC. Its five point thrust focuses on educational development, physical, and mental health and political awareness and involvement.

The Greenville Alumnae Chapter was established in 1965. It ranks consist of more than 75 members.

South Lee Neighborhood Improvement Center Sponsoring Home Ownership Workshop Series

Marlene Anderson, Katina Bobbitt, and Leslie Bell recently completed the South Lee Street Neighborhood Improvement, Inc., Home ownership Workshop Series. The workshops are designed to guide the participants through the home buying process. Topics discussed during the Workshop Series were Planning/Preparing for Home ownership, Credit Analysis, Budgeting, Shopping for a Home,

Choosing a Realtors Obtaining a Mortgage, Closing and Life as a Homeowner. Once the participants attend all the workshops and complete the worksheets they receive a Certificate of Achievement and a Letter of Certification which they can take to their Lender when they are ready to apply for a home mortgage loan.

In addition to the Home ownership Workshops Series, The South

Lee Street Neighborhood Improvement Inc., (SLSNI) offers free, one-on-one Home ownership counseling sessions to teach participants about the Home ownership process, the importance of good credit & budgeting skills, and life as a homeowner. We evaluate the participants credit report and help to develop a family budget and saving program. The goal of the Home ownership Counseling and Education Program is to provide to participants with all the skills and knowledge that they may achieve their goals to becoming a homeowner. Home ownership is a way to strengthen our neighborhoods and attract new businesses to our communities.

Mark your calendars now!!! Our next Home ownership Workshop Series will be Feb 20 & 27, 1999.

For more information about the SLSNI Home ownership Counseling & Education Program please call:

Gloria H. Kesler
NCAHAC Certified Housing Counselor
(252) 746-28513

"Putting it all together----- All we need is YOU !!!"

The SLSNI Home ownership Counseling & Education Program receives funding through the Z. Reynolds Foundation, Inc.

If you watch a game it's fun. If you play it, it's recreation. If you work at it, it's golf.

—Bob Hope


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Mark Your Calender for Entertainment

GREENVILLE -- The East Carolina University School of Music presents the Third Annual 'Sounds of Support,' a benefit concert for people living with HIV. The concert will take place on Sunday, Jan. 24, 1999, at 2:00 pm. The ECU School of Music will present a benefit concert for PICASO, The Pitt County AIDS Service Organization, Inc., at Fletcher Recital Hall on the campus of ECU. The performance will bring together the varied talents of faculty from the East Carolina University School of Music, the Department of Theatre and Dance and the dancers from Dancespace of Ayden, NC. All proceeds will go directly to support the client service and community education activities of PICASO. Tickets may be purchased at the Central Ticket Office, Mendahall Student Center on the ECU campus, or by calling either 328-4788 or 1800 ECU ARTS. Admission is \$10 for adults, and \$6 for students and seniors. This year's Sound of Support production will be unique blend of theatre, dance and music. The program will feature readings from The Quilt, Stories from the Names

Project performed by Patricia Pertalion. Other acclaimed performers include vocalist John Kramer, pianist John O'Brien, clarinetist Nathan Williams, Joanne and Charles Bath, Mark Ford and the Panama Steel Band and the talented dancers of Dancespace under the direction of Cindy Mancini and ballet master Joseph Carow. PICASO is a not for profit agency dedicated to providing support services for people living with HIV disease, and to slow the spread of HIV in Pitt and surrounding counties of Eastern North Carolina. Presently, PICASO provides assistance to 93 families living with HIV/AIDS in Pitt County. These services include, but are not limited to, case management/benefits advocacy, specialized food pantry, social support, and appropriate referral and collaboration with supporting agencies. In addition, general education programming has reached 3,403 individuals in Pitt surrounding counties. PICASO, a United Way agency, also receives funding through federal, state, and private grants.

Red Cross Toy Drive For Children Families Who Experienced House Fires...

During the week of December 14-18, 1998, the Pitt County Chapter of the American Red Cross in conjunction with the Greenville Pain Relief & Prevention will be having a toy drive for those in need of gifts for the holiday season.

In an effort to help insure the success of this toy drive Dr. Bruce D. McCrea of the Greenville Pain Relief & Prevention is setting aside the week of Dec. 14th through the 18th, as a *special examination week*. Anyone who desires to have a chiropractic examination can receive one for a drastically reduced fee of \$26, or a toy of equal or more value. These services will include a consultation, examination, x-rays, and a doctors report of findings.

The normal price for these services can range to over \$400.

On Thursday of that week, any patient who is currently under Dr. McCrea's care can also come in and get treated at no cost if they bring in a new toy. The proceeds from these events as well as the toys collected will be donated to those families and children who have been the unwitting victims of house

fires.

Dr. McCrea will also donate \$26 to the Red Cross for every new patient that comes in that week, whether from the toy drive, or from other sources.

All additional moneys and toys donated from people that week for the Red Cross will also be given to them.

For more information concerning this toy drive you can stop the Red Cross offices at 60-F Country Club Drive, Greenville or call at (252) 355-3800 or fax at (252) 355-8831.

Dr. McCrea's office is located at the corner of Fifth Street at 402 S. Memorial Drive. His office can be reached by calling (252) 757-0004 or fax at (252) 757-0095.

The Red Cross can replace clothing and medicine after a house fires, but toys are considered non-essential, and therefore will not the pay money to replace them. This leaves traumatized children without toys to play with and this holiday season without presents to look forward to.

By James E. Booker
Special to the AFRO
New 33-cent stamp to honor Malcolm X; N.C. college cancels course on 'happy' slaves
TOP DRAWER STUFF

BELIEVE IT or not! With the support of Jewish militant groups, including the Anti-Defamation League and B'nai B'rith International, the U.S. Postal Service will issue a new 33-cent stamp honoring Malcolm X, as part of its Black Heritage series. **RANDOLPH COMMUNITY COLLEGE** in Archdale, N.C. suddenly canceled its college course which claimed most slaves were happy, after civil rights groups

planned a public forum to counter the claims and spotlight the situation.

BISHOP WILLIAM GREGORY, 50, Of Belleville, Ill., was elected vice president (and in line to succeed the president) by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, another first for the church group.

DEMOCRATS DON'T expect to be left out of the valuable year 2000 presidential sweepstakes. The Rev. Jesse JACKSON called upon House Democrats to add more "minorities and women" to its congressional leadership.

TWO PROMINENT White women poets, Carolyn KIZER and Maxine

KUMIN, have submitted their resignations as chancellors of the Academy of American Poets, charging that their pleas for admitting Blacks to the board have fallen on deaf ears.

THERE HAS never been any Blacks on the board, which was founded in 1934 and only two African-American poets, Jay WRIGHT and Robert HAYDEN, have been awarded the prize fellowships which were established in 1946.

AS AMERICA'S Black poet laureate Langston HUGHES wrote long ago, "By what sent the White kids, I ain't sent: I know I can't be President." And he can't be a

member of the American Academy of Poets either.

THE MAYOR of Lubbock, Texas, Windy SITTON, flew to Hampton University in Va., Nov. 20, to hold a press conference and personally apologize to Hampton women's basketball coach Patricia BIBBS, her husband Ezell, and assistant coach Vanetta KELSO, who had been handcuffed and jailed in Lubbock on Nov. 6, but never charged, in an alleged flimflam scheme.

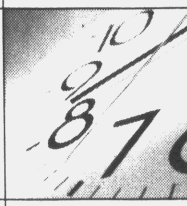
THEY WERE there for a game against Texas Tech, which was canceled after the arrests.



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WE'RE THERE WHEN YOU NEED US THE MOST

When there's an emergency, who do you count on? Family. Friends.

Neighbors. How about CP&L? With skilled technicians, faster response times and excellent customer service, CP&L is there for you when you need them the most. So, whether it's a downed power line, natural disaster or a neighborhood power outage, CP&L is on the job 24-7; 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for you and your family.

CP&L

Funds Under Emergency Food and Shelter Under National Board Program

Pitt County has been chosen to receive \$ 48,982 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the area.

The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and consists of representatives from the Salvation Army, American Red Cross, Council of Jewish Federations, Catholic Charities USA, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA and United Way of America which will provide the administrative staff and function as fiscal agent. The Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country.

A local board made up of City and County officials, Department of Social Services, Greenville Utilities Commission, United Way of Pitt County, and representatives from local non-profit organization will determine how the funds awarded to Pitt County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local services organizations in the area. The Local Board is responsible to recommending agencies to receive

funds and any additional funds available under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local government or private voluntary organizations chosen to receive funds must: 1.) Be nonprofit. 2.) Have an accounting system. 3.) Practice nondiscrimination. 4.) Have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 5) if they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board. Qualifying organizations are urged to apply.

Pitt County has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously with Greenville Community Shelters, Ayden Christian Care, First Born Community Development Center, Salvation Army, Pitt County DSS, New Directions, Mental Health Assoc., JOY Soup Kitchen, and Victory Deliverance Center participating. Further information on the program may be obtained by contacting: Ms. Linda Clark, Community Services Dir., at United Way of Pitt County, PO Box 1028, Greenville, NC 27835. Or telephone at (252) 758-1604. The deadline for application is Dec. 31, 1998.

COMMUNITY



Geta Astlaw's idea of neighborhood involvement began in his home of Ethiopia, and he continues it today as a McDonald's® owner in Denver. Geta sponsors programs like the NAACP Voter Registration Drive, school book drives, and his own special free Thanksgiving Day dinner to seniors, which attracts up to 300 people a year.



Being the owners of five San Diego McDonald's, Harold and Tina Lewis have been part of the community for over 10 years. In addition to supporting local causes such as UNCF, Black Law Enforcement Network, and a drug abuse education program, the couple started the McDonald's AVAIL (African-American Visionary And Inspirational Leaders) Scholarship Program, awarding over \$125,000 in scholarships in 1996 alone to local high school seniors.



Theda Rudd's love of children and education, combined with being a successful owner of six McDonald's, keep her a busy member of the Lansing community. Not only is Theda chairing a board to open an area Ronald McDonald House, but she also volunteers time reading to and speaking with school children of all ages. Each year, she even offers three of her McDonald's employees scholarships to her alma mater, Michigan State University.

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HAVING PAIN? Greenville Pain Relief & Prevention

Toy Drive
December
14-18



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\$26*

*The fee will be donated in its entirety to the American Red Cross to purchase toys and clothes for children made homeless by house fires.

Presents for Patients:

on December 17, all patients who bring in a new toy or youth coat receive **FREE** treatment!

Help Us Make The Difference For The Children In Our Community

To make an appointment or donation call Dr. Bruce McCrea at **Greenville Pain Relief & Prevention 757-0004** or The American Red Cross, 355-3800

If you decide to purchase additional treatment, you have the legal right to change your mind within three days and receive a refund. Actual Value Of Treatment Provided is up to \$420.

The Black Agenda for the New Millennium

Continues from Page One

than anything else. Fine. SHOW them the Black people that are making the money through honest and legal means. The hairdresser and barber up the street, the cop on the corner, the art shop owner... people who they see all the time, but give little thought to. The street-wise kid with the interest in

guns might channel that energy into a successful career in law enforcement. The talkative, argumentative girl with the eye for detail who dreams of being a cosmetologist could use those skills to put herself through college, and go on to become a lawyer. Since the kids don't KNOW their skills and interests have merit, it's up to us to

show them. Once they can take pride in their interests, instead of being shot down for them, they begin to take pride in themselves. It is that sense of self-esteem that allows them to work miracles. For example, as a syndicated columnist, I ended up being somewhat of a role model.

The educational system in this

country seems as though it is designed to tear down its Black students. There are administrators that gloat over the high Black drop-out rate, teachers that automatically assume that the big Black kid with the dreadlocks is definitely a drug dealer, that the pregnant young lady has no morals. The stereotypes are so pervasive that the students THEMSELVES begin to believe them. As a teacher, I've fought against that type of thoughtless stupidity every day, trying to get the students to recognize the unfulfilled potential within each of them. It doesn't help that many administrators and teachers are unwilling to change, such as the teacher that referred to February as "Nigger History Month," or the Superintendent that refused to address the issue. Such obstacles must be eliminated, or worked around.

The first step to bringing the cycle of self-hated and abuse around is to force the school systems to hire more teachers who are in touch with what TODAY's kids need. In this age of home schooling, private schools, and charter schools, many White parents are pulling their kids out, leaving "those trouble-making niggers" in the public school system which, not-so-coincidentally, gets less and less funding every year, bringing it to the brink of a collapse. Teachers that remain in the public schools, more often than not, are so burned out by so many rapid changes, and the overwhelming lack of support, that it is difficult to keep their minds open and flexible.

People do their jobs far more effectively when they feel supported. Blacks have been complaining for years that "their" schools don't have the resources needed.

Well, instead of whining about it, DO something about it! Vote on the measures designed to open new schools, hire new teachers, provide new resources. Yes, that means taxes will go up so these much-needed resources can be maintained. What? You don't want to pay higher taxes? Fine... vote for a state lottery that will channel its funds into education. And don't give me that trip about "good Christians don't gamble," unless you really want to explain the popularity of Bingo.

Many students feel that school is "just like jail." They don't have a choice but to be there, sitting through classes that (they think) have no bearing on their lives. Another tool the schools could use is expanding the roles of the guidance counselors. Rather than have them merely focus of getting the kids groomed for college, expand the roles to include mandatory classes on what the kids deal with in everyday life. Create classes on issues that affect teens that they truly care about, such as domestic violence, sexual abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, pregnancy, and so on, rather than pretending these issues aren't a valid concern, or sweeping them aside. If you want kids to be successful in school, and in the world, SHOW them that the school is there for THEM, instead of them feeling like the school has imprisoned them.

After the teen's self-esteem has been strengthened, and the schools have proven that they truly exist for the kids, it's time to bring in the third "E": Economy. Black consumers actually have a buying power that exceeds that of many small COUNTRIES. Black-owned businesses should get involved with teens as often as possible. Years

ago, skilled artists, builders, and warriors took on someone that might be called an "apprentice," to whom they would teach their skills. In today's world, the same concept would still work. A licensed cosmetologist might take a student under her wing, and show her how to do hair, and to get her own license. Now, the young lady has a way to support herself, using skills she enjoys, to get ahead. The child who "likes to draw a little" can be shown how to improve his or her skill, and might go on to become a graphic artist, cartoonist, or an architect. It can happen! Besides, teens that KNOW businesses with an interest in their welfare would tend to focus their buying power on those businesses. Remember what I said about Black buying power? Imagine the Black communities if most of that multi-billion-dollar spending power was focused on Black-owned businesses.

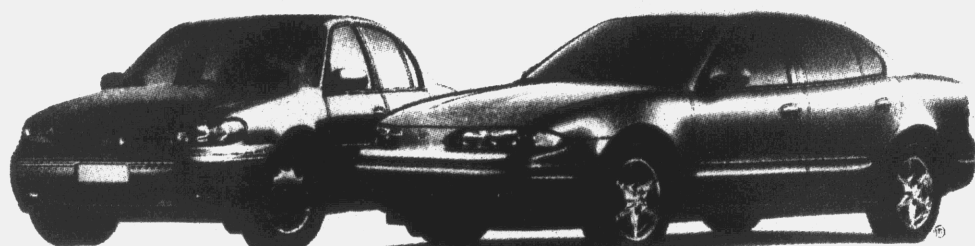
Case in point: many of my students (and their parents) make a special point to buy the newspapers in which my column is featured. Why? Because they KNOW me. My being involved in their lives said to them: "Here I am. I'm a successful Black man. A published writer. And I think you're so important that I'm going to spend time out of MY life teaching you." They got the message. And it made them realize that maybe their interests could secretly be dreams waiting to be made real. Once that lesson hit home, they began to believe in themselves, and grades started going up. And up. And I saw the hearts, minds and souls of the students began to soar.

Which brings us back to step one: Esteem. The teens who received the

Millennium continues on Page 6

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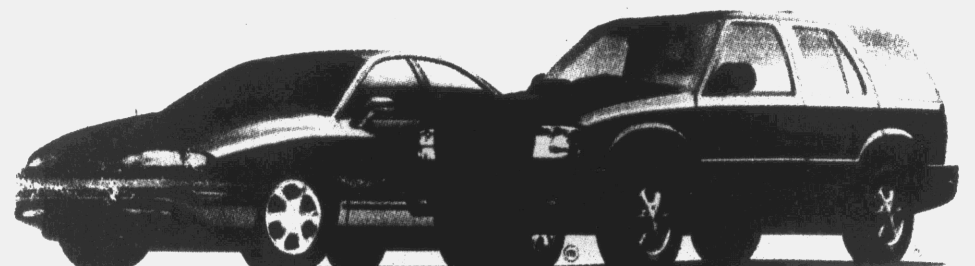
1999 Oldsmobile Cutlass

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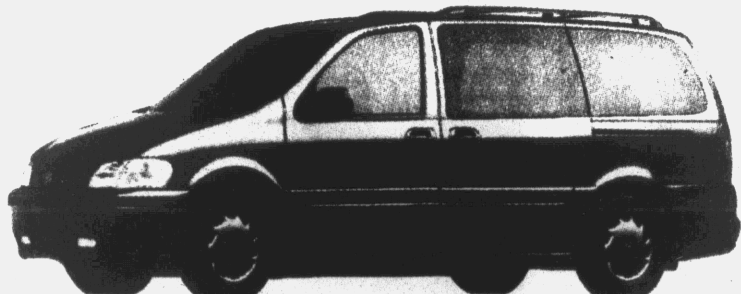
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1999 Oldsmobile Silhouette

New 1998 Oldsmobiles!

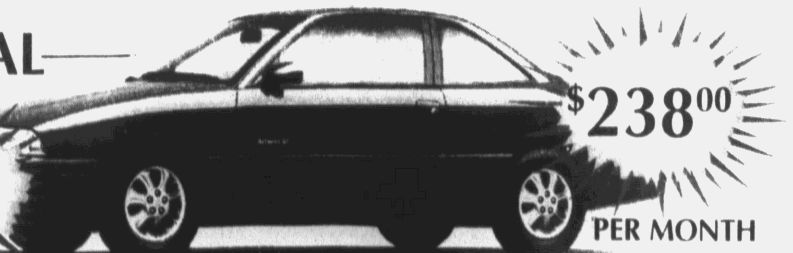


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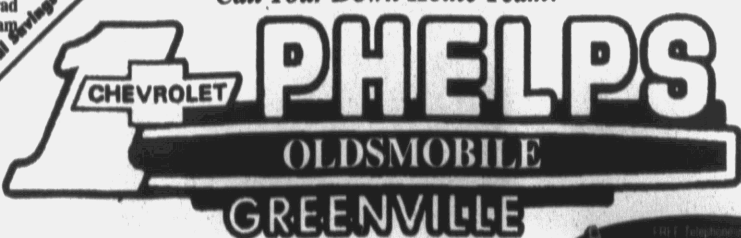


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News from Around the Nation

Continues from Front Page

depend upon them seem to be left out," Rep. Clayton said.

Eight Employees Sue State Agency

OKLAHOMA, OK -- Eight Employees of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority filed a lawsuit in federal court alleging various levels of discrimination. According to the suit, new positions at the agency are being filled by less experienced and less qualified whites. The employees are seeking \$3.3 million in punitive damages, and end to alleged discriminatory practices.

Mortgage Redlining Continues Report Says

NEW YORK CITY -- African Americans are still rejected more frequently than white applicants for commercial mortgages according to a new report by the community-based organization ACORN (the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now). In New York, African Americans were rejected 230 percent more than white applicants for conventional mortgages and 109 percent more frequently for government mortgages last year. This represents an increase of 25 percent in rejections over previous figures. ACORN

executive director Gwendolyn Jacobs, said the trend must be reversed if inner cities are to break their cycles of poverty and develop into thriving communities. Meanwhile, nationally, the growth in lending rates to Blacks between 1995 and 1997 was modest, under five percent, while the rate for Latinos fell by one percent, the study said. However, last year whites received seven times as many conventional mortgages as African Americans.

State Sued For Race Discrimination

CHICAGO -- The state of Illinois has been slapped with a racial discrimination suit. State employees say they've been past over for promotions even though they are qualified. The students also claims the state has violated their federal civil rights. The Illinois Association of Minorities In Government has expressed their interest in the case and pledges their support for the employees. The suit is asking for a review and overhaul of the state's key policies and practices.

UCLA to Study Poverty

LOS ANGELES, CA -- UCLA researchers have launched a study to develop an understanding of the

root causes of inner city poverty and unemployment. Lead researcher, Michael Stoll, says the study will examine race, geography, social networks and jobs. The objective of the study says toll is to develop insight into the factors that reinforce poverty and keep large numbers of minorities from becoming economically affluent.

Wilder says Technology Creating Greater Barriers than Race

LITTLE ROCK -- Douglas Wilder, the nation's first Black governor, told a group of educators that gains in technology present greater barriers for young Blacks today than racial prejudice.

The former Virginia governor, speaking at a United Negro College Fund fund-raiser, said, "The computer revolution has created very rigid class barriers...between the haves and the have nots. Our young people need to get a good education to get past these barriers."

Mr. Wilder, who himself wasn't allowed to attend White schools, said he believes the vast majority of Americans believe the nation has moved past problems in race relations that he saw in the 1950s and 1960s.

"We can't let our young people see

race any longer as a barrier," Wilder said at the fund-raiser Nov. 20.

Mr. Wilder became the nation's first Black governor in 1990. He previously served as Virginia's first Black lieutenant governor and first Black state senator since Reconstruction. He now teaches at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

First Black Mayor Honored

NEW ORLEANS, LA -- Pierre Caliste Landry, the father of seventeen children was elected nation's first Black mayor. He served as Mayor of Donaldson, Louisiana in 1878. A bust honoring his service was unveiled at a ceremony at the Bally's Casino in New Orleans. Mayor Landry also served in the state legislature from 1872 -1872 and from 1880 to 1884.

NAACP Launches Letter & Electronic Protest Against Supreme Court

WASHINGTON -- The NAACP will conduct an intensive five-day letter writing, phone, fax and E-Mail protest from Monday, Nov. 30 to Friday, Dec. 4 to urge Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist to meet with NAACP President and CEO Kweisi Mfume about increasing the num-

ber of minority law clerks hired by the justices.

"This Electronic Protest is another step in the NAACP's efforts to dismantle the present, unfair system of hiring Supreme Court law clerks. It is faulty and should be thrown out in favor of a process that promotes equality for all," Mr. Mfume said.

On Oct. 5, before 1300 protesters, President Mfume and 18 other activists were arrested during a mass demonstration on the front steps of the U. S. Supreme Court while attempting to deliver resumes of qualified minority law school graduates to the Justices.

Asians, Blacks and Latinos comprised of only 3 percent of the 428 law clerks hired by the sitting Justices. Three of the Justices have never hired an African-American law clerk and in the 200-year history of the court. No Native Americans have ever received a clerkship.

NAACP members in the 1700 units across the U.S. plan to participate in this protest. For information call the national headquarters at 410-358-8900 or Sheila Douglas at 410-486-9227.

Arizona State NAACP Want Answer for Beating

PHOENIX, AZ -- The State NAACP has asked the Arizona Police Department to do a full

investigation into the beating of a Black man who sat at a local bar and was beaten. Several white men beat the Black man whose name has not been disclosed. The local police say they believe he was the victim of a hate crime. Reportedly the men who beat the Black man had stated, "they were tired of seeing niggers in their bar." The man told the state NAACP President Oscar Tillman that doctors speculate he will lose sight in both his eyes as a result of the beating.

Holmes to New DC Chair

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Delegate Eleanor Holmes had brief comments regarding the new chair of the House D.C. appropriations subcommittee, U.S. Rep. Ernest Istook (R-Okla.).

"I look forward to working with Chairman Ernest Istook on the FY 2000 D.C. appropriations bill at a time when the District is quickly returning to financial and operational health," Del. Norton said.

"Wherever Congressman Istook may have stood on District matters in the past, as chair, I expect that he will want to work closely and productively with the new mayor, the new city council, the new control board and with me, to assure an efficient process that holds the District fully accountable while respecting local governance."

And around the State...

Continues from Front Page

Don King was the main attraction at Shaw University's Founder's Day when he pledged millions of dollars for a gym to bear his name.

At the convocation Nov. 20, King was also conferred with an honorary doctorate from the historically Black private college. The school occasionally awards honorary degrees for humanitarian efforts.

Past recipients include poet Maya Angelou, singers Dionne Warwick and Stevie Wonder and world heavyweight boxing champion Evander Holyfield, who is now a member of the Board of Trustees.

Mr. King was introduced by Willie Gary, chairman of the Board of Trustees -- who donated \$200,000 toward building the Don King Fitness Center.

Then Mr. King pledged the unspecified amount of money, saying: "If Willie Gary is going to pledge \$200,000 for a building named for me, I'm going to have to pledge some millions. This is a great country. You've got to make it work. God bless you all."

After receiving his honorary doctorate, King launched into an unexpected 45-minute sermonette about the role that Shaw University has played.

Durham Voters Usher in Smaller City Council

DURHAM -- Durham voters overwhelmingly approved slashing the size of their city council to seven members in a special election Tuesday.

In the city's first citizen-driven election, voters voted to cut the council by nearly a 2 to 1 margin. Sixty-three percent of voters approved the proposal while 37 percent opposed it.

The vote is in reaction to whopping raises city council members granted themselves.

The vote means Durham, now tied with Fayetteville for having the largest governing body among the state's cities, will have one of the smallest when the 2001 elections are held. The city's six at-large seats will be cut in half and six wards will be merged into three.

"I think its going to be particularly challenging," said councilman Floyd McKissick. "You're talking about only seven people as opposed to 13. We're a growing community, in most growing communities they're looking at increasing the size of councils and increasing representation."

"Raleigh has a smaller city council than we do and a larger population," said David Smith, with the Friends of Durham group that supported the council reduction.

Millennium

continues from Page 5

help who graduated and went on to become business owners, lawyers, doctors, politicians, and so on, would come back to try to demonstrate to the next generation of teens what pride is, and how to take pride in it. Those that end up owning fitness clubs and the like could provide physical fitness classes, how to eat healthily, martial arts... the impact of successful businesses in the Black would be phenomenal! Today's students become tomorrow's mentors and teachers... thus completing the circle for Black success.

It can happen. All it needs is a few good people to get the ball rolling, and an honest effort to keep it organized. Any volunteers?

Trey Bankhead writes about human, social, political, and cultural issues. You can reach him at the Minority Voice, or email him at: Knightnoir@aol.com.

Young Black Student Dies from Meningitis

SELMA -- Johnston County's health department confirmed Tuesday that a 16-year-old Smithfield-Selma High School student's death was caused by meningococcal septicemia -- bacterial meningitis.

Family and friends file into a memorial service held Tuesday afternoon for Jeremy.

Jeremy Scarboro, a junior at Smithfield-Selma, died last weekend.

Parents and students were notified his death Monday and health officials are making antibiotics available to students who had direct contact with Jeremy.

"We're working with about 100 students who felt that their proximity was adequate enough that they need to be very cautious and be ready to take any antibiotic that might be prescribed," said principal Donald Woodard.

Meningitis causes inflammation of the layer that surrounds the brain and spinal cord. Symptoms include headache, stiff neck, fever, chills and flu-like illness. But it takes intimate or extended periods of close contact to be considered contagious said Johnston County Health Director Dr. L.S. Woodall.

The antibiotic Rifadin is being given to students who feel they have had close contact with Scarboro.

He was a popular student at school and a memorial service for him was planned for Tuesday afternoon.

"We were best friends," said Laura Howard. "All through high school we've been close. Every day after school I was at his house."

Spike Lee Lectures

WAKE FOREST -- Filmmaker Spike Lee, brought his brand of humor and wit to the campus of Wake Forest. Students crowded the Benson University Center to hear what the filmmaker had to say. Lee believes he has come a long way since beginning his movie career in 1986, with the Black and White film, "She's Gotta Have It." Since then, Spike has made 10 major movies, starred in 25 commercials, and 35 music videos.

Civil War Course Canceled

ARCHDALE -- Faced with protests from civil rights groups, officials at a North Carolina community college canceled the final class of a Civil War history course that featured controversial claims by its instructors that most slaves were happy in captivity.

"We would never intentionally set up any class that is offensive to anyone in our community ... and obviously this class has done that," said Larry K. Linker, president of Randolph Community College. "Therefore, we are going to step back and take a close look at it ...

and at our process of approving courses."

Mr. Linker's decision to cancel Thursday night's final class came one day after civil rights leaders announced plans to hold a public forum in North Carolina so historians and other Civil War experts could counter the claims made by its instructors.

Mr. Linker also said there were no plans to offer the class next semester.


"At this time, it is not scheduled again," he said.

The instructors in the nine-week course entitled "North Carolina's Role in the War for Southern Independence" are members of a Confederate heritage group.

Lead instructor Jack Perdue did not join Linker at the news conference at the school's main

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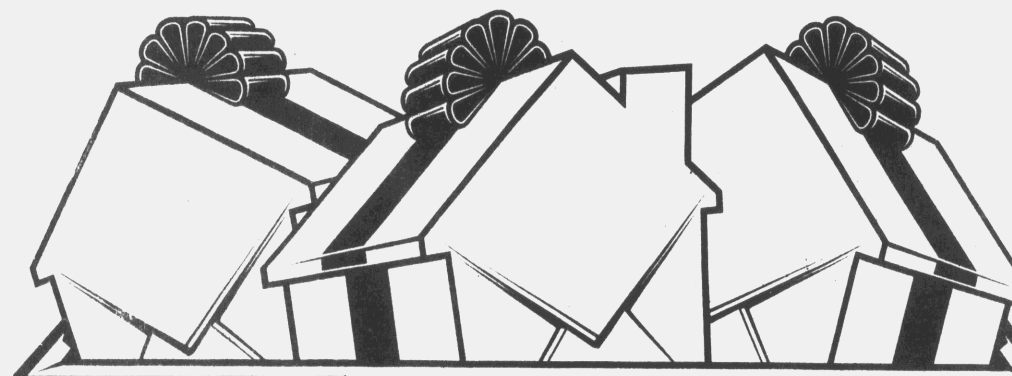
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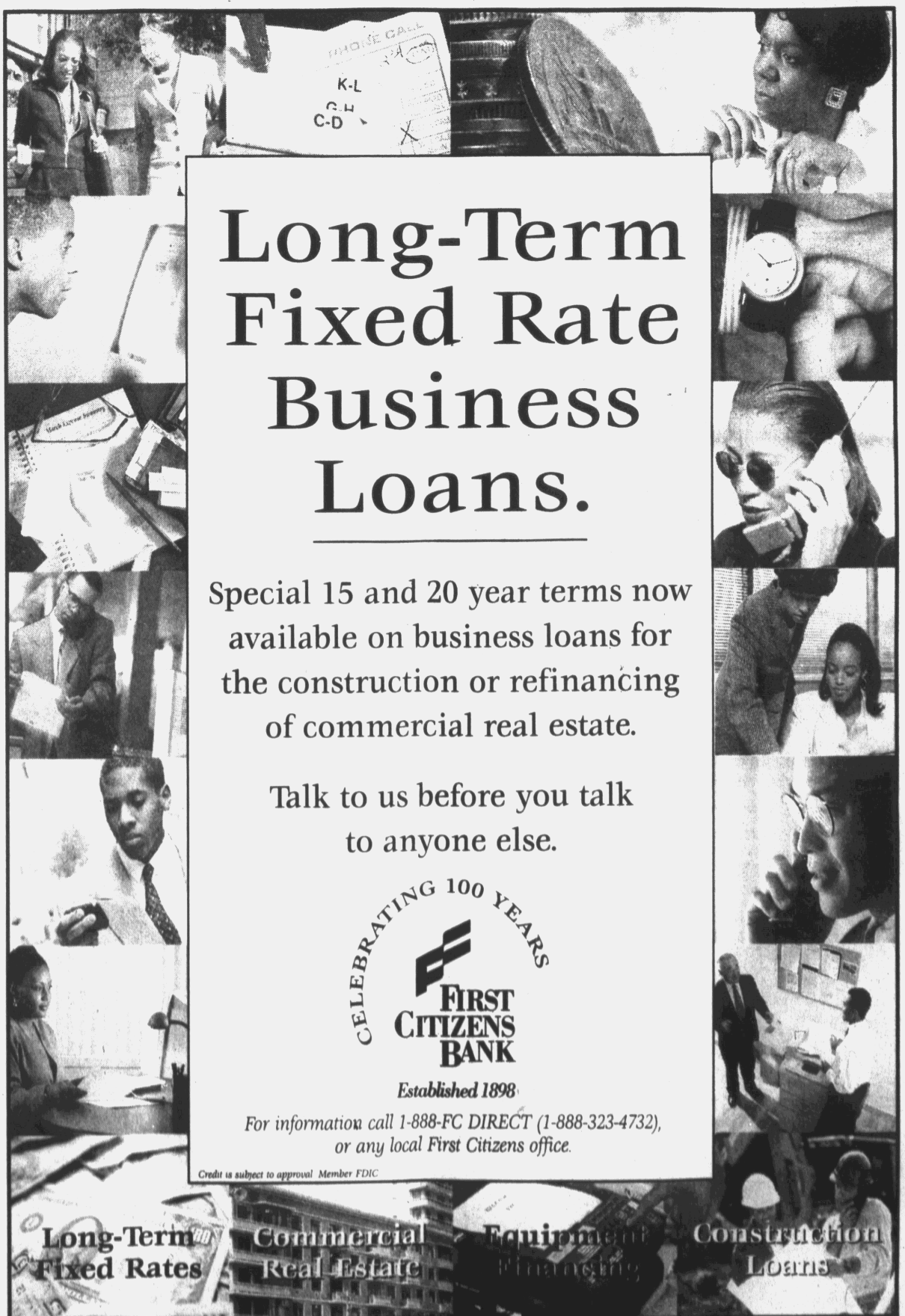
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Stokely Carmichael Layed to Rest Funeral Attended by Numerous Black Dignitaries

Friends, activists pay homage to father of 'Black Power'

By Tim Sullivan
Associated Press Writer
CONAKRY, Guinea -- Radical leftists and advocates of African unity paid tribute Sunday at the funeral of Kwame Toure, the 1960s revolutionary who spread the cry of "Black Power" throughout the United States and the world.

Toure, who changed his name from Stokely Carmichael after moving from the United States to Guinea in 1968, died Nov. 15 of prostate cancer at age 57.

He was a prominent figure in the civil rights movement and a man whose shifting politics took him from advocating nonviolence to urging armed revolt and eventually to calling for pan-African unity. Mr. Toure spent most of his life preaching socialist upheaval, living for what he called "the movement" long after he had moved to the political fringes and his radical contemporaries had abandoned the cause.

"Kwame is a struggler. He struggled all his life, he struggled until the last second of the last minute of the last hour of the last day," Bob Brown, a longtime friend of Toure, told 400 cheering people at a

Maxine Waters....
Continues from Page 1

on the beginnings of one of the great tragedies of American life -- namely, the introduction of crack cocaine, and all its associated realities, into the U.S.

What did the C.I.A. know, and when did it know it? That is what federal investigators must uncover in their various investigations. Thus far, the House Intelligence Committee, the C.I.A. inspector general, and the attorney general inspector general offices have launched their own investigations. These investigations have come about from pressure -- pressure from policy-makers, pressure from certain parts of the media, and pressure from citizens of this country. This is the type of action we must sustain as we continue our quest to find answers to this troubling case. We cannot wait for answers.*

Mike Esley
Continues from Page 1

any of the alleged gratuities that he got.

In 1994, the former Mississippi congressman was forced to resign when the allegations began to surface.

Espy was the first cabinet official to undergo a criminal trial since Ronald Reagan's administration Labor Secretary Raymond Donovan was charged with being involved in questionable business deals back in Black Farmers

Continues from Page 1

The proposed deal still faces obstacles.

"People left with mixed emotions," said Philip Haynie II, a Heathsville, Va., farmer who attended Friday's meeting.

Farrakhan Forms Political Wing of Nation of Islam

By NNPA News Feature
Nation of Islam Leader Minister Louis Farrakhan has formed a political wing in his nationwide organization and will run candidates for offices at all levels in all states.

In his message during a rally earlier this month at the Tabernacle MBC in Chicago, Minister Farrakhan said politicians need to be held accountable and should communicate honestly to their constituents. "We are going to form a political wing that monitors everybody that we send to any official position," he said. "Since you came from us, your service should be to those from whom you come. The way you vote should be important to us."

"Every 90 days we must call a town meeting. You have got to come back from Congress. You have got to come down from the judges' chambers. You have got to sit down with your constituents, and tell us why you voted this way and how you want us to help you do your job better."

"Tell us how much money you need so that big business people that want to give you money to control your vote and tell you how to vote, you can tell them you are not interested in their money," Min. Farrakhan said.

Leonard Muhammad, chief of staff for Min. Farrakhan in an interview with the Chicago Defender said, "We wanted an ability to be more forceful on behalf of our constituency base ... involving ourselves politically in America and involving ourselves in the nation's foreign affairs to influence our legislators on the U.S. Budget and foreign affairs as it relates to Africa."

"We believe with this third force that we'll be able to negotiate a much better relationship with both parties," Mr. Muhammad said.

"This is a mature position for Black people to take, and we believe there is a tremendous amount of support for this kind of concept in our community." -- From the Final Call and the Chicago Defender.

memorial service held earlier Sunday at Conakry's Gamal Abdel Nasser University.

Speakers, some of them aging radicals in graying dreadlocks, lauded Mr. Toure beneath a banner that read: "The CIA gave me cancer. Kwame Toure."

Conrad Worrill, chairman of the U.S.-based Black United Front, recalled his early efforts at fostering pride in African heritage.

"Kwame Toure made us realize we were no longer just Negroes, we were African. We now know that even if we were born American, we are all African," he said, ending his speech with Toure's own motto: "Ready for the revolution!"

Leftist rhetoric suffused the memorial service, with Guinean politicians and American activists invoking rallying cries from the

1960s. Again and again they decried capitalism and reactionary politics while celebrating the cause of revolution.

"We send our revolutionary condolences to the family of comrade Kwame Toure," Macheo Shabaka, a member of Toure's All-African People's Revolutionary Party, said in a typical statement.

No prominent figures were visible at the ceremony, although Cuba's Fidel Castro, Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan and Toure's first wife, the South African singer Miriam Makeba, had been invited.

Instead, about 400 people -- including Libyan and Cuban diplomats and a number of former comrades from Toure's activist days in the United States -- assembled in an outdoor pavilion.

Mr. Toure's coffin lay on a table adorned with pictures of Mr. Toure and his self-chosen namesakes -- deceased African leftist heroes Ahmed Sekou Toure, Guinea's former president, and Kwame Nkrumah, the first president of Ghana.

An ambulance with its sirens blaring led a 15-car procession to the funeral. Behind it followed Mr. Toure's own automobile, an unpretentious black and red Citroen Deux Chevaux.

He was buried in a public cemetery, where his 17-year-old son, Bocar, sobbed as the red clay was shoveled onto the coffin.

"I know that today my father is very happy -- happy because he will remain in Guinea," Bocar said.

Mr. Toure, who was born in Trinidad but raised in New York,

began his political career as a college student in the 1960s, helping to integrate public transportation in the American South as a freedom rider. He soon became one of the era's most fiery figures, popularizing the term "Black Power" and changing the way many Americans viewed the once-nonviolent civil rights movement.

He headed the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, a center for leftist activism in the '60s, and later became the honorary prime minister of the Black Panther Party.

Angered when the Panthers tried to ally themselves with White radicals, Mr. Carmichael left the group, changed his name and moved to Guinea in 1968, at the invitation of brutal Marxist dictator Sekou Toure.

Kwame Toure quickly became a fringe figure and a man largely forgotten except for his '60s activism.

He spent the rest of his life lecturing and writing, preaching Black power and championing socialism and pan-African unity.

Lost amid Sunday's political speeches was the human side of a man known for his gentleness toward his friends.

In the audience, Beverly Sylla, an American teacher married to a Guinean, said privately Mr. Toure often called to cheer her up after her son died of brain cancer early last year.

"He wasn't just about politics. He was caring; he was human. And they need to say that," she said, gesturing towards the speakers on the podium.

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