

An InDepth Look: Money Troubles and Mental Health

The Minority Voice

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"Deal with yourself as an individual worthy of respect and make everyone else deal with you the same way."---Nikki Giovanni, educator and poet

Wrongly convicted men awarded millions

CHICAGO (AP) -- Four Black men wrongfully convicted of murdering a couple nearly two decades ago have won \$36 million from the county in what their lawyers say is the biggest settlement ever reached in a civil rights lawsuit over police misconduct.

The four had sued Cook County, claiming the sheriff's officers who investigated the 1978 case were racists who hid evidence that would have helped the defense while ignoring leads pointing to the real killers.

"No amount of money can be satisfactory for what has been done to us," said one of the men wrongly sent to death row, Dennis Williams.

"If someone asked me 18 years ago, 'Can I buy your life for \$100 million or can I borrow your life for \$100 million for 18 years?' I would have said hell, no."

The four were freed from prison in 1996 and pardoned after a group of student journalists at Northwestern University proved a state witness had lied. Three other

men were later convicted of killing the couple.

Attorney Mark Ter Molen, who represents one of the group now known as the Ford Heights Four, said March 5 he would petition the county's chief criminal courts judge for a special prosecutor to investigate the case.

"The amount of the settlement reflects the gravity of the misconduct that occurred in this case," Ter Molen said. "We believe the evidence we found warrants review by a special prosecutor."

The settlement was approved March 5 during a meeting with Circuit Court Judge William Maddux.

Williams, Kenny Adams, Verneal Jimerson and Willie Raines were in their 20s when they were convicted of the 1978 gang rape and double murder of a south suburban couple, Carol Schmal and Lawrence Lionberg. The two were abducted from a gas station. Their bodies were found in the Chicago suburb of Ford Heights.

Williams and Jimerson went to

death row; Raines and Adams were sentenced to life in prison.

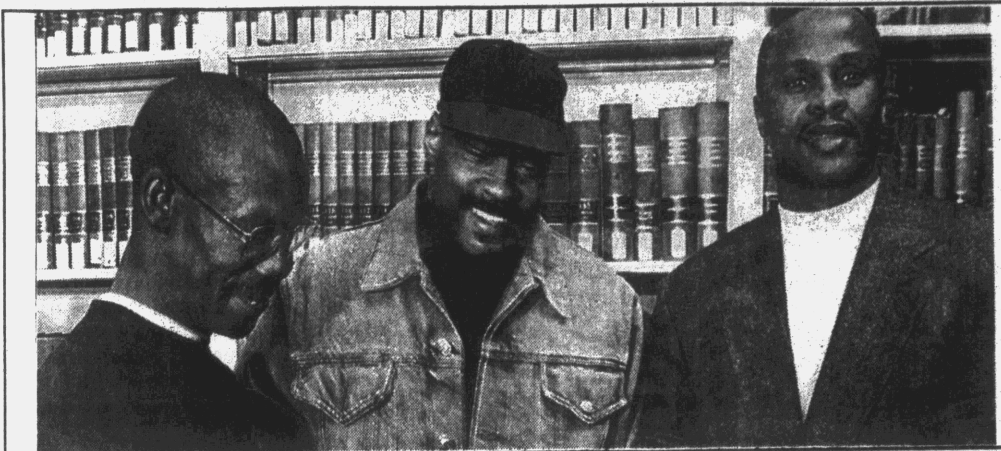
"It's something that never leaves you," said Adams, referring to his time in the penitentiary. "You think about it every day. You can never feel comfortable again."

After months of discussions about how to wrap-up the embarrassing case, the Cook County Board decided to authorize the settlement.

"While the plaintiffs cannot recover the years they spent incarcerated, this settlement compensates them fairly," said Cook County State's Attorney Richard Devine. He said the settlement represents less than half of the \$77 million the four had requested.

In all, 11 men have been released from death row in Illinois since capital punishment was restored, including one man who was freed last month after Northwestern professor David Protess and some of his students found evidence of his innocence.

Williams now works with Protess investigating cases. He said



(Pictured left to right) Verneal Jimerson, Dennis Williams, Kenny Adams, and Willie Raines (not pictured) attend a press conference in which they announce the court's decision. The four men received a \$36 million settlement after being imprisoned 18 years for murders they did not commit. They were freed after a college journalism class uncovered evidence contradictory to what was presents at their original trials.

the group expected to donate some of the settlement to efforts to help free other inmates who have been wrongly convicted.

Adams is employed at United

Parcel Service and Jimerson does detail work on cars. Raines, who lives in Wisconsin, did not attend a news conference with the three others. As of a year ago, he was a

maintenance man at a nursing home.

The settlement will be paid out in three installments over two years, officials said.

Owner of Norcott Funeral Home dies



The late Gratz P. Norcott, Jr., shown with his wife, the late Mattie Macklin Norcott.....Services for Mr. Norcott were conducted Friday, March 12, at the Zion Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Ayden.

Mr. Gratz P. Norcott, Jr., of 706 South Lee Street in Ayden died Sunday, March 7, at Pitt County Memorial Hospital in Greenville. Memorial Services were conducted Friday, March 12, at the Zion Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Ayden. Entombment followed the ceremony.

Mr. Norcott attended Fleming Street and C.M. Eppes High Schools, and graduated from South Ayden High School. He served in the United States Navy during World War II. In 1948, he graduated from the American Academy School of Embalming and Mortuary Science in New York City. He served his apprenticeship with the Baker Funeral Home in Tarboro, N.C.

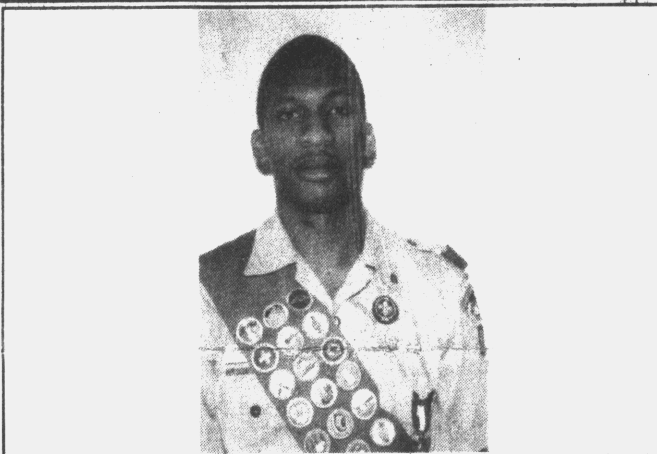
Mr. Norcott was the owner of Norcott and Company Funeral

Home. He was a member of Zion Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, former chairman of its trustee board. He had served as First Vice-President of the Funeral Directors' and Morticians Association of North Carolina, and held memberships in the Queen of the South Masonic Lodge No. 77, the Knights of Pythians Clearfield Lodge No. 32, the Wisdom Chapter No. 37 O.E.S., and the Bachelors Benedict Club.

He was married to the late Mattie Macklin Norcott.

Survivors include: his brother, Boston Norcott of Ayden, NC; his foster parents, Charlie and Marina Darden of Ayden, NC; his foster son, Daniel Worthington of Greenville, NC; as well as several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Youth leader earns rank of Eagle Scout



Walter B. Council II recently reached the rank of Eagle Scout, an honor only one percent of all Boy Scouts ever achieve.

Walter Baker Council II recently received his Eagle Scout rank in two ceremonies: one at his church, Holly Hill Free Will Baptist Church on December 18, 1998; and at Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church on February 14, 1999. About one percent of all Boy Scouts reach this highest rank. As his Eagle project, he decided to perform an extensive landscape project for the West Greenville Community Development Corporation headquarters. This included clearing the area and planting several types of shrubbery.

The son of Walter and Mildred Council, he is a member of Troop 832, which is chartered by Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church. He has been the Senior Troop Leader, Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, and served as Scribe for Troop 1512 at the Boy Scout National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, in 1997. The Eagle Courts of Honor were on each occasion conducted by Bill Sanders, the Troop's Scout Master. Other participants were Assistant

Scout Masters Rodney Kelly and Michael Gorham, as well as Laura Dupree and Sharon Little, who presented the qualifications of the candidate.

Council is a senior at J.H. Rose High School. He is Vice-President of the senior class, and was previously President of the sophomore class. He has also been a member of the National Honor Society, the Science Journal Club, the Chess Club, the Minority Affairs Club, the Interscholastic Scholastic Advisory Council, the Environmental Science Club, and the NAACP. He has played the violin in the orchestra, and participated in football, basketball, and track. He was recently named to the "Who's Who Among High School Students" list, volunteered as a sickle-cell camp counselor at Campe HOPE, and has been recognized as an Outstanding Teenager by the Greenville Jaycees.

Council has earned 27 merit badges in the last five years.

Washington sailor contributes to Navy's diversity

SAN DIEGO -- In Washington, N.C., Ernest and Janice Stevenson have every reason to be proud. Their daughter, Kimberly Y. Stevenson contributes to the Navy's diversity, an important characteristic for any organization.

Stevenson, who holds the rank of Petty Officer 3rd Class, is a one-year Navy veteran.

"My heritage is important to me because I can go anywhere I want to go and belong to almost any organization without worrying about the color of my skin," she says. "I can go to school and work for the same opportunities as anyone else. I'm glad my ancestors fought for us so I wouldn't have anything to worry about."

The nineteen-year-old is stationed aboard the USS Bonhomme Richard, an 880-foot and 40,500-

ton Wasp-class amphibious assault ship. Manned with a crew of 1100 officers and sailors, the Bonhomme Richard is capable of transporting landing craft, air-cushioned vehicles, helicopters, and 1800 Marines to any beachhead in the world. Stevenson, a communications specialist, transmits and receives radio messages linking her ship with other naval activities.

As with most sailors, Stevenson wanted to join a diverse organization that afforded her the ability to advance.

"I joined the Navy to see the world and go to college," she said.

A 1997 graduate of Washington High School, Stevenson believes there is a reason for her success in the Navy. Like many other African-Americans, Stevenson believes in certain tenets to carry her through



Petty Officer 3rd-Class Kimberly Y. Stevenson is proud of her heritage.

life.

"The secrets to success are to talk to your parents, take their advice, and pray to the Lord in times when nothing seems to go right," advises Stevenson.

The United States Navy celebrates an aspect of ethnic diversity every month, which each month being devoted to a different ethnic group.

Whites-only government plot revealed

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) -- Two men accused in a murderous campaign to overthrow the U.S. government and set up a Whites-only nation drowned an Arkansas family and then joked that the victims were on a "liquid diet," a federal prosecutor said March 8.

Chevie Kehoe, 26, of Colville, Wash., and Danny Lee, 26, of Yukon, Okla., are charged with murder, racketeering and conspiracy. They could get the death penalty if convicted.

Kehoe and Lee are accused of using a campaign of violence to set up a Whites-only nation in the

Pacific Northwest.

The crimes associated with their alleged plot include a 1996 bombing at City Hall in Spokane, Wash.; shootouts with Ohio police; the slayings of two people in Idaho; and the drownings of a white Arkansas family of three.

U.S. Attorney Dan Stripling told the mostly Black jury during opening statements March 8 that Kehoe's beliefs were based on those of Robert Mathews, the founder of the Aryan Nations White supremacist group. Mathews was killed in 1984 when his hideout caught fire during a shootout with federal

agents in Washington state.

The prosecutor said Kehoe and Lee robbed the Arkansas family in 1996 and killed them by taping plastic bags over their heads, weighing them down with rocks and throwing them into a bayou.

Later, the defendants told Kehoe's parents that the family was on "a liquid diet," Stripling said.

The judge has issued a gag order in the case, but Lee's mother, Lea Graham, said her son is innocent and no racist.

New York sued over alleged racist policies

NEW YORK (Reuters) - A group of Puerto Ricans and Blacks sued New York City's police department March 8, alleging that a special street crimes unit was carrying out a racially motivated stop-and-search policy.

The department's Street Crimes Unit has been engulfed in controversy since four of its officers, all of whom are white, fatally shot an unarmed African immigrant, Amadou Diallo, last month. A grand jury in the Bronx is investigating the shooting.

The lawsuit, which was filed in

federal court in Manhattan, was brought by the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights and two African-American men who were searched by police. Defendants in the lawsuit included the city and the police department.

The suit alleged the unit violated the U.S. Constitution by carrying out unreasonable searches and seizures. It also charged that police officers were wrongfully stopping people based on race and national origin.

"The targets of these stops and frisks and searches and seizures are

predominantly males of color," the suit alleged.

The lawsuit described the unit as "an elite, commando-like, squad," and alleged that the police department actively encouraged officers with the unit to be "overly aggressive." The suit said an example of this policy can be found on official bulletin boards that carry the slogan "We own the night," and on T-shirts the unit members wear carrying this quote from Ernest Hemingway, "Certainly there is no hunting like the hunting of a man, and those who have hunted armed

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What's Going On?

New Jersey top cop fired for racial remarks

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) -- Not too long ago, Gov. Christie Whitman stood firmly behind New Jersey's top cop when a Black ministers' group demanded his resignation, citing a racial profiling controversy. But after State Police Superintendent Colonel Carl A. Williams, Jr., was quoted in The Star-Ledger of Newark on February 28 as saying that minorities were more likely to be involved in drug crimes, Whitman swiftly fired him. "The comments were insensitive and absolutely counter to bolstering confidence in law enforcement,"

said Whitman's spokesman, Pete McDonough. "There are vast segments of the New Jersey public whose confidence in the system is shaken." The state Council of Black Ministers and the state chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People had been calling for Williams' ouster for weeks, saying he wasn't acknowledging a history of racist practices on the part of the state police. Minority groups say Williams stated what a lot of his colleagues

probably believe. "If these feelings are of the state superintendent, one can only imagine how deep they may be among the rank and file," said the Rev. Reginald Jackson, executive director of the Black Ministers Council of New Jersey. Williams and the State Police have come under fire over allegations that the agency practices racial profiling, targeting minorities for traffic stops. The issue was inflamed by the April 1998 shooting of three minority men during a stop on the New Jersey Turnpike.

Troopers said they fired on the unarmed men in a van because the vehicle was backing up at them. In The Star-Ledger interview, Williams said he did not condone racial profiling, but said it is naive to think race is not an issue in drug crimes. "Two weeks ago, the president of the United States went to Mexico to talk to the president of Mexico about drugs. He didn't go to Ireland. He didn't go to England," Williams said. "Today with this drug problem, the drug problem is cocaine or

marijuana. It is most likely a minority group that's involved with that," said Williams. "They aren't going to ask some Irishman to be a part of their (gang) because they don't trust them." But he said some generalizations can be made. "If you're looking at the methamphetamine market, that seems to be controlled by the motorcycle gangs, which are basically predominantly white," he said. "If you're looking at heroin and stuff like that, your involvement there is more or less Jamaicans."

Whitman said the state's law enforcement system must be carried out free of bias. She said Williams' comments "are inconsistent with our efforts to enhance public confidence in the state police." Last week, The Associated Press reported that the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division has been investigating New Jersey's state police for two years. Earlier this year, State Attorney General Peter Verniero ordered his office to review State Police policies to determine if troopers engage in racial profiling.

Mayor accused of racism resigns

TRENTON, N.C. (AP) -- The mayor of a small North Carolina town who said Blacks had no capacity for leadership and preferred to work for Whites has quit following calls for his removal. Joffrey Leggett, 81, resigned March 2 as mayor of Trenton, about 90 miles southeast of Raleigh, a week after a newspaper quoted him as saying he and the Town Council did not want Blacks to take over town government. "This is just the beginning," said Daniel Johnson Willis, whose lawsuit challenging Trenton's annexation policy prompted Leggett's comments. "The mayor has helped us trigger what will be a major, major change in Trenton." Willis, 64, claims the City Council has refused to annex three predominantly Black areas in order to maintain a White majority in its elections. Trenton's voter rolls include 131 Whites and 49 Blacks. Leggett, who served as mayor for 16 years, told The Free Press of Kinston last week that Blacks were not "leaders," and that a "Black man would rather work for a White person." The state National Association for the Advancement of Colored People called for Leggett's resignation. On February 26, the town council did the same, adopting a resolution saying Leggett made "reprehensible and derogatory

comments." Leggett said he doesn't understand the attention his comments have drawn. He said he's had enough after getting two death threats and dozens of angry calls. "I didn't do anything wrong," he said. "But I think it's best if I get out of here and let somebody else deal with what's coming." Leggett had said that if three Blacks worked in a store together, "within a few years they'd be stealing from each other, and they'd be out of business. They're not leaders." He later said he was referring to three Blacks like one of the six plaintiffs in a federal lawsuit accusing the town of racist annexation policies, but stood by the rest of the statement. Black residents responded with political and economic pressures. The NAACP took an interest, and local residents organized a boycott of all downtown Trenton stores. On March 8, the NAACP withdrew the boycott of the town after the city council agreed to look into annexing the surrounding Black communities. On March 10, the city council agreed to annex the Black communities, stating that it might take as long as a year to get the whole annexation process organized. Trenton, a community of 200 people, currently has only 23 Black residents.

Courts deemed unfair to minorities

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Too many Americans believe the nation's courts do not provide equal justice for racial minorities, the American Bar Association's president said, as the group released a poll showing nearly half of Americans feel that way. "This is a very serious problem... we cannot afford to ignore," Little Rock, Ark., lawyer Philip Anderson said February 23. "We are concerned that the current perception of bias will eventually erode confidence in our system of justice." Of 1,000 people surveyed by telephone in August, 47 percent said they strongly disagreed with a statement that "the courts treat all ethnic and racial groups the same." Only 39 percent agreed with the statement, and 14 percent voiced no view. Asked whether courts treat men and women alike, 55 percent said yes, 30 percent said no, and 15 percent expressed no view. Anderson noted that another recent ABA poll indicated great disagreement between white and black lawyers over the justice system's racial fairness. "This raises the obvious question that if people believe the justice system is tainted with bias, how long can they expect the courts to remedy bias elsewhere in our society?" Anderson said. "Right now, the high degree of confidence in the courts exists side by side with the perception of bias in the courts. As the minority populations increase in America, will the perception of bias increase?" He said the 350,000-member ABA "will intensify our efforts to

eradicate gender and racial bias in our courts." The poll released February 23 contains some seemingly inconsistent findings. For example, most people -- 51 percent -- believe the justice system "needs a complete overhaul," but 80 percent also believe America's system is the world's best. A large majority of Americans, 78 percent, also voiced confidence in the jury system. "Those numbers are high, and we can feel good about them," Anderson said. Among the poll's other findings were that 90 percent believe wealthy people and companies often wear down their opponents by dragging out legal proceedings; that 77 percent say it costs too much to go to court; and that 27 percent believe the best lawyers are selected to serve as judges. Anderson said the poll indicates most Americans need and want to know more about the justice system. One tool, he said, could be increasing public access to the nation's courtrooms by televising most proceedings. "I cannot think of a better civics lesson than ... to be able to see and hear every argument before the Supreme Court of the United States," Anderson said. "One television camera in the Supreme Court will educate more people more effectively in one morning than the traditional methods can reach in one year." All federal court proceedings currently are closed to radio and television coverage. The poll's margin of error is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Powell would consider cabinet post

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) -- Retired Gen. Colin Powell says he would consider a cabinet post in the next presidential administration. "I've never said that I would not return to government, and I would consider it," the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said

March 3 before delivering a speech at Vanderbilt University. As chairman of a group called American's Promise: The Alliance for Youth, Powell emphasized the welfare of the nation's youth. "It's time to stop building jails and get back to the task of building children," he said.

New guidelines aim to help teen substance abusers

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Saying teen-agers are not just "little adults" and should not be treated that way, U.S. government experts released Wednesday new guidelines for identifying and helping adolescent substance abusers. The guidelines, drawn together by experts from all over the country, offer 'red flags' for parents, teachers, doctors and other social workers to look for, and provide detailed treatment guidelines. "These new publications give us the warning signs of a potential problem -- such as significant changes in grade point average, increased school absences and behavior problems," Nelba Chavez, administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

Administration, told a news conference. "Some other red flags can be frequent accidents, injuries and illness. While a number of these warning signs describe the typical adolescent, they also provide an opportunity to open a conversation and listen to children about what is going on in their lives." She said common wisdom often conflicts with science in dealing with teens. "We know that treatment efforts to address adolescents as 'little adults' are bound to fail. And the treatment of a 13-year-old should not be identical to that of an 18-year-old," she said. Ken Winters, an expert in adolescent substance abuse at the University of Minnesota, said old-

fashioned approaches to discipline often fail. "There has been a tradition that you have to get confrontational with teenagers to get them to change," he said. Appealing to logic does not always work, either. Instead of debating the "everybody does it" argument on drinking, for instance, Winters suggested pointing out that not everybody then gets behind the wheel of a car and has an accident. And more modern "12-step" systems may not work on people who are, after all, children. Winters said younger teens may not have the attention span or self-awareness to go through a standard adult treatment program. And while adults have control over

their lives and can change things, teens often do not. "They probably have to go back to the same school, the same neighborhood," he said. Chavez said while inroads are being made against teen-age drinking and drug use, there are still many who are abusing substances. "The fact is that the number of adolescents under 18 receiving substance abuse treatment on any given day in the U.S. almost doubled between 1991 and 1996, from 44,000 to 77,000." SAMHSA warns that their figures, while alarming, only represent an estimated 10 percent of teens who abuse substances.


Baptist leader Lyons convicted

LARGO, Fla. (AP) -- The head of one of the nation's most influential Black denominations was convicted Saturday of swindling millions of dollars from companies seeking to do business with his followers. The case stemmed from a suspicious fire and a supposed mistress. The Rev. Henry Lyons, president of the National Baptist Convention USA, also was found guilty of grand theft in the disappearance of almost \$250,000 from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, money intended to rebuild burned Black churches in the South. "Somewhere along the line, he traded the Good Book for the bank book. That's what this case is all about," Assistant State Attorney Bill Loughery told the jury in closing arguments February 25. Lyons remains free on bail pending his sentencing hearing, which was not scheduled. He faces three to seven years in prison. A member of the convention's executive board of directors said the board would likely meet next week to discuss Lyons' conviction. "We've never had this experience before," said Stuart Cureton. Convention bylaws say that if a president is incapacitated he can be replaced by the vice president at

large -- which is Cureton. The bylaws do not explain what incapacitated means, he said. A candidate for convention president said Lyons should resign. "We have no tolerance for a convicted felon to continue as a spiritual leader of the churches," said the Rev. W. Franklyn Richardson, of Mount Vernon, N.Y. While keeping Lyons as its leader, the convention had said he stole no funds from them and committed no wrongdoing, attorney Grady Irvin said. Lyons, 57, did not react when the verdict was read and would not comment to reporters as he left the courtroom holding hands with his wife, Deborah. They were surrounded by supporters and lawyers. Defense lawyer Grady Irvin said Lyons later went to Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church in St. Petersburg, where he remains pastor. They have not yet decided whether to appeal, he said. The six-member jury acquitted Lyons' co-defendant and alleged mistress, Bernice Edwards, the convention's public relations director, on the racketeering charge, the only count she faced. Ms. Edwards, 42, sobbed after the verdict.

"I just want to go home to my children," she said, biting her lip. "I thank God and I thank my lawyer. ... It's been very hard, very difficult." Jurors deliberated more than 12 hours after a five-week trial. Prosecutors began investigating Lyons' finances in July 1997 after his wife set fire to a \$700,000 waterfront house bought by her husband and Ms. Edwards. Mrs. Lyons told deputies she found the deed in her husband's briefcase and believed he and Ms. Edwards were having an affair. Mrs. Lyons, later convicted of arson and sentenced to probation, since has said she supports her husband and does not believe Ms. Edwards was his mistress. Ms. Edwards, a convicted embezzler from Milwaukee, denied having a sexual affair with the minister. Convention aide Bonita Henderson, however, told jurors Ms. Edwards bragged of having a sexual relationship with him. Lyons still faces a federal trial in April on 54 counts which include tax evasion, money laundering and extortion. Ms. Edwards faces similar charges. Prosecutors accused Lyons and Ms. Edwards of stealing more than

\$4 million from corporations wanting to sell cemetery products, life insurance policies and credit cards to the convention's touted 8.5 million Black members. Prosecutors called the membership figure a hoax and said the convention had closer to 1 million members. They said the defendants duped the companies by promising a membership mailing list that never existed -- at one point, according to testimony, even making up lists from \$90 computerized telephone directories that led one company to send letters to such non-Baptists as a grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan and a Catholic priest. The pair then went on lavish spending sprees, buying a diamond ring "the size of a dime," the waterfront house, a timeshare condominium in Nevada, several luxury cars and expensive clothing, according to testimony. Defense lawyers attacked prosecutors as acting as "the moral police," saying the minister's failed business deals were not criminal matters and maintaining that the case actually was about religious freedom.



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Money Troubles and Mental Health: An InDepth Look

What's the problem?

As you've probably heard, Pitt County Mental Health is in trouble. You know when you write out a bunch of checks for things that you need, but, because you haven't balanced the checkbook lately, you forget that there's not enough money in the account to cover them all? Yeah...THAT kind of trouble.

For several years now, the Mental Health agency has been the victim of financial mismanagement, poor leadership, and repeated departures of the people who were responsible for maintaining the

agency. Abruptly, the agency found itself with a new director and a new finance staff....all of whom desperately tried to make sense of the financial mess their predecessors had left them. Every time they solved one problem, a new one popped up...all related to the years of mismanagement.

Finally, the new agency head went to the people the people in charge of providing the money to mental health.-- the Pitt County Board of Commissioners -- to ask for more money to help dig the

agency out of its hole. Upset and disgusted over the number of times the previous director had done exactly the same thing, the request was denied. After all, why give more money to an agency that has managed to "mis-spend" 2.8 million dollars, thus proving its ineptitude at funds management?

Desperate to find a way to keep the agency afloat until problems could be ironed out, the director appointed a commission to look for alternatives. The bottom line was that they had to cut back on

expenses...severely. And, since 90% of the operating costs were in salaries, that meant some people had to go. 38 positions were cut in order to recoup some of the monies needed. Several programs were reduced in power by the lay-offs, a few being gutted completely. Still, it might not have been enough. It is possible that the satellite agencies -- those mental health offices that are actually a part of the communities they serve-- may be affected, if not cut all together.

What all is involved?

Perhaps one of the biggest problems people have when thinking about Pitt County Mental Health is that the name is misleading. "Mental health" isn't a place where all the crazy people are sent.

In fact, chances are that the person who sits next to you at work has gone there at some point, in order to get some help...maybe because she's had trouble sleeping, or he's worried about his sexual performance. Maybe their son needs some help to control his impulses...either through teaching

him the proper ways to behave, or perhaps by administering a medication. Maybe their daughter needs help dealing with the fact that she was raped.

The point is, it's ordinary people like you and me that go in for services. But, people don't just go in. Many times, the counselors, psychologists, therapists, and psychiatrists might go to their patients. Pitt County Mental Health interacts with Pitt County Memorial Hospital, East Carolina University, the Pitt County Sheriff's

Department, the Department of Social Services, Pitt County Schools, Pitt Community College, United Way, New Directions, DARE, ARC...just to name a few.

Still, not everyone can make it to the main center. Maybe they work during the regular week. Maybe they don't have a car, or money for the bus or a taxi. Maybe they live in an area where the busses don't run (like Bethel, Ayden, or Farmville, just to name a few). Or, maybe they just suspect that "those people working in that big, cushy

main center don't understand nothing about how I live," so they're scared to go in. In any event, they need help, but can't get it. Ordinarily, it'd be "So sorry, you're out of luck."

Fortunately, Pitt County Mental Health had the foresight to realize that this would become a problem. So, in an innovative move, they created four smaller offices where clients could get help...right in their own communities!

These smaller centers are called satellites.

How does that affect me?

Perhaps a better question might be, "what don't the satellite offices handle?" The list would be much shorter. There's so many functions that the satellites handle, it would take this entire newspaper just to list the events and issues they deal with in a six month period. Perhaps the easiest way to remember what they do, however, is to simply say that they're there to help.

"The satellites have a tradition of being collaborative in their communities, especially in the schools," says Nash Love, the Coordinator of the Bethel Counseling Center, one of Pitt County Mental Health's satellite offices. "We form a partnership with the family, showing them what resources are available to them to help them overcome their difficulties." Love noted that the satellites try to create, or strengthen, the lines of communication between families, schools, and whatever other agencies might be involved, such as a hospital, the police, or social services. When dealing with children, Love stated that they try to get the "family and school to work together for the betterment of the child." Forming partnerships between the family and the involved agencies allows them to

"work all together to get the family back on track."

A dangerous illusion is common, however...that of "he has a problem...it has nothing to do with me." In truth, anyone in a family that is having a difficulty affects everyone else in that family, or anyone that interacts with that person. Referred to as systems theory, the concept is simplified when compared to a machine. Any relationship is like a machine with many parts. The more people involved, the more parts there are to the machine. If one part begins having difficulties, it will affect the rest of the machine. If the problem "part" is ignored, it will continue to affect the overall machine, until it becomes damaged or is destroyed completely.

"Everyone has rough spots," says Love. "We may not have all the answers, but we help people find the resources so they can get the right answers...or the solutions to their problems."

Harry Cain, who helps supervise the clinical functions of the satellite offices, agrees. "We believe in people's strength. Their competence, their faith, their fellowship at church...all of these are resources that can be used to overcome

problems." Cain notes that most people, when dealing with a crisis, may forget what strengths they have. "We try to build on their values, their beliefs, their traditions. When problems come up, they may forget those strengths."

The list of issues that the satellites deal with is endless. They've been known to deal with everything from simple sleeplessness to domestic violence, shyness to sexual abuse. Because they're located in the communities, notes Love, the therapists might be more aware of what issues are affecting the clients that are native to that area....something those at the main center may not see.

"We treat them as experts on their own problems," says Cain, "because they're more familiar with their own problems than we are. We don't think of therapy as a way of life, but as a way to help get them back on their feet. We're trying to make people not be afraid to come in for help that they need....because everyone has rough spots."

This isn't the first time the satellites have been threatened. In 1993, an effort to close the satellites was halted when the communities that the satellites serviced protested. A similar attempt in 1997 met with similar results....the communities protesting the potential loss of services they needed.

"People often don't realize that a satellite in Bethel doesn't just service the town of Bethel," warns Love. "The Bethel satellite services the entire area surrounding Bethel, including the smaller, more remote areas." Together with the main center, the satellites service the entirety of Pitt County. "People don't really understand just how big Pitt County is, or how many people want our help every day."

"There are between 600 and 700 events each month that the satellites deal with," Cain provided. "I see 35 to 40 people a week by myself." He added that the Ayden, Bethel, Farmville, and Greenville offices "really represent a networking of services across the county."

Love warned that the people have no idea what type of repercussions would occur if the satellites close...or even if their hours are reduced. "There would be a lot more people institutionalized that could have received outpatient care instead. There'd also be far more

incarcerations, drug abuse, teen pregnancies, crimes, and students suspensions and expulsions."

He added that the results would be catastrophic. "The results would further tie up the already overburdened police and sheriff's departments, the hospitals, and the school system." In addition, he noted that the closings or cutbacks would affect East Carolina University and Pitt Community College, as well. "Most don't realize that the satellites also act as training sites for psychology, marriage and family therapy, and social work students."

When asked about the apparent lack of empathy from the Pitt County Board of Commissioners, Cain stated "We're catching the sins of our forefathers."

He elaborated, saying that the true size of the financial difficulties are hard to grasp. "It's hard to imagine the depth and scope of this mess. The Commissioners have the responsibility of providing funds, but they also know that there have been some problems, which they want fixed." He shakes his head. "I don't blame them....They have a concern that the money be used wisely, and they we fulfill needed services to the community."

Rhonda Jordan, the administrative supervisor of the satellites added, "The sad thing is that the County Commissioners don't realize that the people there now aren't the same people that got us into this financial situation."

Cain agrees: "There are knowledgeable people there who came in to do a job, but ran into problems. It wasn't until they started looking at the problems that they realized just how bad the problems are."

Cain, Jordan, and Love are unanimous in their support of Lynn Stelle, the new director of Pitt County Mental Health, noting that she's doing a good job under very

difficult circumstances. "She's reorganizing the financial management system, and requesting as many independent audits as possible," Love said.

The three therapists, however, are concerned that the efforts to save the satellites won't be enough.

"If the satellites didn't exist, a lot of people would not get the services they need," says Jordan. "The community needs to know that to lose the satellites is to lose a resource that is necessary to the well-being of Pitt County."



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Politics & Point of View

Political Insights

by Tyson King-Meadows

Capitalizing on Exploitation: Monica, Clinton, and the "Grease"man



The American economic and political system thrives off exploitation, whether by class, gender, ethnicity, or social status. Without a doubt, the last eighteen months have proven just that. American have been inundated with President Clinton's sexual and obstruction of justice scandals, the 1998 congressional elections, the House impeachment and failed Senate conviction saga, and the recent two-hour interview of Monica Lewinsky by Barbara Walters on ABC. Never before in the history of out polity has such a presidential scandal elevated our discussion of morality, leadership, the rule of law, partisanship, and constitutionalism. At the same time, however, those very elements have been exploited for political and monetary gain.

It seems that everyone has benefited. For example, bookstores across America now have more information on Clinton, this time from political commentator George Stephanopoulos, the former senior policy advisor and communication director for the Clinton Administration. We also can not forget ABC, who asked for and received an average of \$800,000.00 per 30-second commercial aired during the interview of Monica Lewinsky.

On the other hand, during this whole time, Black America has continued to suffer from racist attacks, political and cultural exploitation, and America's failure to respond to rumblings of class frustration, the gender-race-age-poverty connection, and those recently exposed alliances between congressional decision makers and avowed White supremacists. Where were the mainstream political commentaries or the morally

outraged citizens during the trial of John William King, charged with the dragging death of James Byrd, Jr.? After two days of testimony, an East Texas jury sentenced King to death. The media did not take this opportunity to place a full assault on how King wanted to use Byrd's death and the resulting notoriety to recruit members for a Texas chapter of the Confederate Knights of America. It failed to acknowledge that, while America waited for more "Monica," Black Americans in Texas and then in New York City were again forced to relive those pre- and post-antebellum days of fear: days where Whites casually lynched, castrated, sexually assaulted, and menaced Blacks with impunity.

To add insult to injury, after the verdict was announced, the media pounced on the fact that jury foreman Joe Collins was the sole Black juror. Journalist after journalist asked Collins if the verdict and his selection as foreman was a message to America, sometimes explicitly connecting the actions of the Texas jury to either the jury that acquitted O.J. Simpson or the jury that found O.J. liable in the civil suits against him. Each time it was called "the Byrd trial" and the "O.J. Simpson trial," missing the obvious fact that while Simpson was the person charged (thereby making it "his" trial), Byrd was the murdered victim! Nevertheless, race matters!

While ABC showcased Lewinsky's telling her story of sex and various invasions of privacy by Linda Tripp, Kenneth Starr and others, fired radio personality Doug "The Grease"man Tracht -- whose on-air comment sympathized with King's method of killing was spoken immediately after playing a sample of Grammy Award nominee (and later winner) Lauryn Hill's music -- told his story on Tavis Smiley's show on BET. His story was one of redemption, failed judgment, and hope of racial reconciliation. Unlike Lewinsky, Tracht wanted to "face the music" and "suffer the consequences" for his comment, and be judged by his willingness to open a frank dialogue about racism. For all the apologies that Tracht offered, callers expressed obvious outrage about his words and doubted his sincerity. Tracht, however, continued in a Clinton-esque fashion and told BET viewers of his desire to address the issue through spiritual and intellectual introspection. And, like President Clinton, Doug Tracht honestly suggested that his actions did not warrant removal from his position of prestige, influence, and discursive might. Black Americans (political and auditory consumers) were again being asked for forgiveness. Where Clinton failed in exercising proper moral, political, and sexual judgment, Tracht failed to exercise moral, cultural, and political judgment. Given Clinton's success in making the 1998 elections a litmus test of Black political sophistication, Black America must be ever vigilant in Tracht's endeavors to make the next few months a test of Black sensitivity to human frailty and redemption. More importantly, since both have testified to the depth of their sorrow for inflicting such pain, Black America must continue to watch and see if this sorrow correlates with progressive political activity. This should be done irrespective of Tracht's recent appearance on Jesse Jackson's CNN show or Jackson's post-1992 relationship with Clinton.

If Lewinsky is truly a hot topic, then a majority of Americans are missing the next cleavage in race relations since the infamous O.J. trial. Estimates suggest that forty-eight percent of American households were watching Lewinsky provide details of her emotional relationship with Clinton. Other televisions were on BET, witnessing Black America again

trying to elevate political discourse on racism, cultural exploitation, and the powerful impact messages have on actions. In addition, while ABC strategically placed commercials for Cleopatra (who "seduced the most powerful politician in the world") and Maytag ("to remove those really tough stains"), Black media personnel again exposed personalities who misused and abused their offices. I doubt ABC executives will contemplate directing some of those revenues generated by Lewinsky to poverty or substance abuse. Nor do I believe ABC will honestly direct some of those revenues to strengthening leadership development institutes, cross-cultural communication workshops, or self-improvement seminars for women.

In the overall scheme of things, the effect Monica Lewinsky has had on American political culture is enormous. The Presidency has been weakened, and the stench of partisanship has intensified. The inconsistency of public opinion toward leadership has again been proven to misguide, conceal, confuse, and impede the true discovery of citizen preference. Our taste for sex, scandal, and tidbits of information may in the end prove detrimental to citizen confidence in participatory democracy. Our insatiable appetite for controversy, as opposed to governance, may in the end vindicate the founders' mistrust of democracy. After all, they did structure a government where there would be direct popular election of the House, indirect election of the Senate and the President, life appointments for federal judges, and the necessity of supermajorities to remove sitting presidents or amend the Constitution.

Yet, if the events surrounding the Presidential scandal eventually prove the strength of American democracy, the price of strength comes at a high cost for Black America. The preoccupation with Lewinsky has essentially muted widespread discussions on poverty, the growing political strength of White supremacists, the inequities in the justice system, the continued disenfranchisement of Black males through felony conviction, and the use of race for political profit by both Republicans and Democrats. Both parties will stand up for Rosa Parks during the 1999 State of the Union Address, but how many have signed onto House Resolution 573, sponsored by Rep. Julia Carson (D-IN), seeking a congressional gold medal honoring Parks' contributions to America? If Lewinsky deserves cultural icon status and the coveted ABC airtime, then surely Americans deserve an analysis of the politics behind HR 573, which concerns a humanitarian and civil rights icon. Or, are HR 573 and Rosa Parks not capable of being exploited for political, economic, or social profit? If they are not, thank true morality and the rule of ethics.

Biased advertising practices challenged

FCC Chairman Kennard issues challenge to mainstream advertisers to halt racist practices

New York (FCC)-- On February 22, William E. Kennard, the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, gave a speech addressing the unofficial practices of commercial advertisers to avoid dealing with minority-owned companies before the American Advertising Federation in New York City. The following is a copy of his speech from that event.

Thank you, Wally Snyder, for that kind introduction. For a moment there I thought that Donnie Simpson was going to introduce me. And knowing the limits of my musical ability, I wouldn't do much for his ratings - and forget about his advertisers.

I also want to thank Wally Snyder and the American Advertising Federation for hosting this meeting. The initiative that AAF has shown on this issue gives me hope that business, government, and indeed the entire nation can work together to make our country stronger and greater.

To do that, of course, takes leaders - leaders like Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, Congressman Bob Menendez, and Commissioner Mozelle Thompson - public servants who work tirelessly in Washington on behalf of their constituents and consumers. They are good friends of mine and allies to all friends of opportunity.

There is a leader here today who has left Washington, but - luckily for me - has entered the communications industry so I can continue to work with him. Henry Cisneros has been a public servant of the highest order and now he is making his mark in the broadcasting industry. I am happy to welcome him here today.

And, of course, it takes a national leader, too. A leader with vision and with determination. We are all lucky that we have that in Vice President Al Gore.

Last year, he raised the issue of advertising practices and minority broadcasting and focused our attention on it. For his leadership, for his friendship, I thank him.

In the course of my tenure as chairman of the FCC, I have come across many issues and problems that are important. Many people have studied them, and many are interested in them.

But is rare that you come across an issue - one that affects us all -- and you can't believe that no one has done anything about it. The advertising practices towards minority radio stations is such an issue.

The American way has always been that if you work hard, if you are the best, you will be fairly rewarded. In radio, this means that if you have more listeners, you will have more advertising dollars. Sadly, the FCC found that this is not the case for minority broadcasters.

The use of minority discounts and "no urban/Spanish dictates" has had a significant effect on minority broadcasters' bottom lines. In fact, the minority broadcasters interviewed in our study estimate that these practices reduce their revenues by as much as two-thirds.

For broadcasters, advertising is their lifeblood. It is what enables them to develop programming, invest in new equipment, and serve the public.

But these practices do not hurt only broadcasters. They hurt advertisers, consumers, and indeed, us all.

For advertisers too, these practices hurt their bottom line. Their failure to realize that there are untapped markets right here at home in the neighborhoods of our long-neglected minority communities, deprives them of a whole range of customers.

And as our country becomes more diverse, this myopia - this failure to understand that there is not only a diversity of peoples in America, but a diversity of types of people within each group - will

tomorrow, Madison Avenue must recognize the reality of minority consumers and the power of minority-formatted stations in reaching them.

By staunching the free-market flow of dollars to these stations, consumers in these communities suffer as well. As companies decide not to advertise on minority radio stations, African-American and Hispanic families find themselves bypassed by some of our biggest companies -- on the outside looking in to our national marketplace. If radio stations can't tell their listeners about new products or great sales, how can they serve their listeners? How can these listeners be full equals in the most equitable arena there is - the marketplace?

And if these stations can't provide the news, community information, and public affairs programming that their listeners count on, who will?

In the end, these advertising practices don't just hurt these stations, they hurt us as a nation. Economically, we can not prosper if the purchasing power of all Americans is not respected and unleashed. Politically, our democracy is weaker if our airwaves and our national debate lack strong voices from all corners of our country.

Looking out and seeing all of you - advertisers, broadcasters, and community leaders - gives me hope that we can solve this problem.

I have always believed that the best solution to a business problem is a business solution. Where the government can, it should let industry find answers on its own. Where it can not, it should help them. That is what we are doing today.

Where it can not, it should help them. That is what we are doing today.

In its role as the expert agency on communications, the FCC can help in our search for a solution.

First, I am happy to announce that the FCC's State of the Radio Industry report will now include a section on small and minority-owned stations.

In addition, we have amended our broadcast licensee reporting forms to begin collecting information that will help us identify minority and female-owned licensees. By gathering this information we hope to help provide what you need to identify problems and work on solutions.

Also, I am proposing to you today a set of principles of fairness in communications. A foundation for a voluntary code of conduct which I hope all companies and organizations who use our broadcast media will adopt.

These principles are few in number but draw on the many values which we cherish as a nation. They call on companies to:

Use accurate information about consumer purchasing practices to ensure fair access to information.

Promote fair competition.

And expand opportunity for all Americans.

By dedicating themselves to these principles, I hope that companies will be able to create an open and fair broadcasting marketplace - one where stations at the top of the ratings won't find themselves at the bottom when it comes to revenues.

For with a good faith effort and cooperation, all of us will win.

Minority broadcasters will get the attention and revenue that they deserve.

Companies will be steered to untapped markets.

Those that listen to these stations will be respected and better served by the marketplace.

And we, as a nation, will have a radio system open to a wide range of views and fair to all.

Thank you.

BET urges support for Vice President's plan to combat racist advertising practices

NEW YORK (BET) -- BET announced February 22 that it strongly supports the principles and goals set forth by Vice President Al Gore and FCC Chairman Bill Kennard at the CEO Summit and Issues Roundtable on Diversity and Multicultural Advertising as a first good step in an ongoing process. The CEO Summit met February 22 in New York City.

"The announcement by Vice President Gore at the CEO Summit of a five-step action plan to combat advertising practices that limit minority consumer choices is a good first step toward the elimination of certain practices in the commercial advertising industry. We believe these practices unfairly impact commercial broadcast stations or program networks that serve minority audiences," said Debra L. Lee, president and COO of BET Holdings, Inc.

On January 12, the FCC issued a study documenting the existence of discriminatory advertising practices. The study concluded that minority-owned radio stations and stations that target minority listeners draw significantly less advertising revenue per listener than other stations.

"We particularly commend FCC Chairman Kennard for this important study and providing the guiding principles which helped to formulate today's five step proposal for consideration by the government and the advertising industry," said Debra Lee. "We look forward to the creation of a federal interagency working group to further examine the impact of industry and government commercial advertising practices, particularly in broadcast and cable television."

BET Holdings, Inc., is a media entertainment company which owns and operates Black Entertainment Television (BET), the first national cable network targeted toward African American consumers. BET is currently available in 56 million cable households nationwide.

Law for rape victims struck down

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) -- An appeals court struck down a federal law allowing rape victims to sue their attackers for civil rights violations, ruling the law was a "sweeping intrusion" into matters traditionally handled by states.

Women's groups hoped the March 5 decision by the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals would be reviewed and overturned by the Supreme Court.

"It would be a tragedy if this became the law of the land," said Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority Foundation.

Smeal called the 1994 Violence Against Women Act the first major advance for women since Congress banned sex discrimination in federally funded schools in 1975.

The 4th Circuit held that Congress stretched too far its interpretation of its right to regulate interstate commerce when it passed the law.

"Such a statute, we are constrained to conclude, simply cannot be reconciled with the principles of limited federal government upon which this nation is founded," Judge J. Michael Luttig wrote.

The ruling is binding in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Eileen Wagner, lawyer for plaintiff Christy Brzonkala, said she expected the case would be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"They can either give it a thumbs-up -- in which case people will use this law, which they are reluctant to do now -- or a thumbs-down, which would encourage Congress to go back to the drawing board and rewrite the thing," she said.

In her suit, Ms. Brzonkala, a Virginia Tech student who has allowed her name to be disclosed, sought unspecified damages against two football players whom she said had raped her in dormitory.

She did not report the alleged incident for several months and no charges were filed against the players. Their lawyers did not return calls for comment.

Ms. Brzonkala's lawyers defended the Violence Against Women Act by arguing that gender-motivated violence affects commerce by imposing medical and legal costs on victims, inhibiting travel by those who fear violence and lessening productivity.

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Please call the Habitat office at

(252) 758-2947 for more information



Telling It Like It Is.....

Letter of "Apology" to Blacks circulating the Internet

Dear Black Americans:

After all of these years and all we have been through together, we think it's appropriate for us to show our gratitude for all you have done for us. We have chastised you, criticized you, punished you, and in some cases even apologized to you, but we have never formally nor publicly thanked you for your never ending allegiance and support to our cause.

This is our open letter of thanks to a unique people, a forgiving people, a steadfast people, and a brave people: Black Americans.

We will always be in debt to you for your labor. You built this country and were responsible for the great wealth we still enjoy today. Upon your backs, laden with the stripes we sometimes had to apply for disciplinary reasons, you carried our nation. We thank you for that.

We thank you for your diligence and tenacity. Even when we refused to allow you to even walk in our shadows, you followed close behind, believing that someday we would come to accept you and treat you like men and women. Your strength in the face of adversity cannot be understated. You are truly a great people, and we thank you so much.

We publicly acknowledge Black people for raising our children, attending to our sick, and preparing our meals while we were occupied with the trappings of the good life. Even during the times when we found pleasure in your women and enjoyment in seeing one of your men lynched, maimed and burned, some of you continued to watch over us and our belongings. We simply cannot thank you enough.

Your bravery on the battlefield, despite being classified as three-fifths of a man, was and still is outstanding and beyond the call of duty.

We often watched in awe as you went about your prescribed chores and assignments, sometimes laboring in the hot sun for 12 hours, to assist us in realizing our dreams of wealth and good fortune. You were always there, and we thank you.

Now that we control at least 90 percent of all of the resources and wealth of this nation, we have Black people to thank the most. You were there when it all began, and you are still with us today, protecting us from those Black people who have the temerity to speak out against our past transgressions. How can we thank you for your dedication? You warned us about Denmark Vessey. You let us know about Gabriel Prosser's plans; you called our attention to Nat Turner. And you even sounded the alarm when old John Brown came calling on Harper's Ferry. Some of you still warn us today. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Now, as we look out upon our enormous wealth, and as we assess our tremendous control of the resources of this country, we can only think of the sacrifices you and your families made to make all of this possible. You are indeed fantastic, and we will forever be in your debt. To think of how you have looked out for us for hundreds of years and to see you still doing the same thing today, is simply amazing. Thank you for continuing to bring 95 percent of what you earn to our businesses. That is so gracious of you. Thanks for buying our Hilfigers, Karans, Nikes, and all of the other brands you so adore. Your purchase of these products really makes us feel that we are at least giving something back to you for your patronage. After all, in the past, the brands we put on you were quite painful, but those of today can be proudly worn because they give you as sense of self-esteem, right? But it's the least we can do for a people who have treated us so well.

Your super-rich athletes, entertainers, intellectuals, and businesspersons (both legal and illegal) exchange most of their money for our cars, jewelry, homes, and clothing. What a windfall they have provided for us! The less fortunate among you spend all they have at our neighborhood stores, enabling us to open even more stores. Sure, they complain about us, but they never do anything to hurt us economically. You are a very special people. Thank you.

Oh yes, allow us to thank you for not bogging yourselves down with the business of doing business with your own people. We can take care of

that for you. Please don't even trouble yourselves with it. Yes, you were very successful at it after slavery ended and even as recently as 1960, but you know what happened when you began to build your own communities and do business with one another. Remember Rosewood? Some of the "lower ones" of our kind burned you out time and time again. So, why bother? In today's business environment, your own people will not support you anyway. You just keep doing business with us. It's safer that way. Besides, everything you need, we make anyway, even Kente cloth. You just continue to dance, sing, fight, get high, go to prison, back-bite, envy and distrust and hate one another. Have yourselves a good time, and this time we'll take care of you. It's the least we can do, considering all you've done for us. Heck, you deserve it, Black people.

Your dependence upon us to do the right thing is beyond our imagination, irrespective of what we do to you and the many promises we have made and broken. But, this time we will make it right, we promise. Trust us.

Finally, the best part. You went beyond the pale and turned your children over to us for their education. With what we have taught them, it's likely they will continue in a mode similar to the one you have followed for the past 45 years. When Mr. Lynch walked the banks of the James River in 1712 and said he would make you a slave for 300 years, little did we realize the truth in his prediction. Just 13 more years and his promise will come to fruition. But with two generations of your children gone through or education systems, we can look forward to at least another 50 years of prosperity. Wow! Things could not be better.....and it's all because of you.

For all you have done, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts, Black Americans. You're the best friends any group of people could ever have!

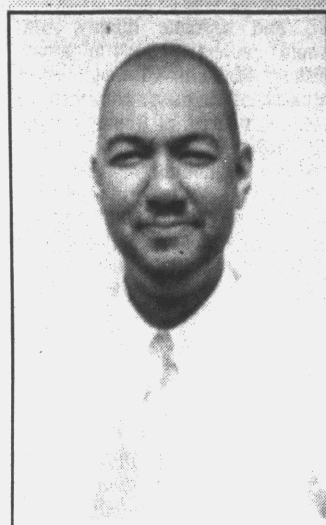
Sincerely,
All other Americans

(Source unknown)

The Perspectives

of Stephen Johnson

Saluting a
great role
model
for
Black
Americans



I would like to personally thank Joffre Leggett, ex-mayor of Trenton, North Carolina, for your racist comments. Your saying that Blacks had no capacity for leadership and would rather work for a white man, and that you don't want Blacks in the government has pulled the Black community together like never before, boycotting Trenton businesses and even calling for your removal. Not only have you shown us that we do have leadership abilities, as evidenced by your resignation, you have led the way for much needed changes in the town of Trenton.

A lot of people, however, are outraged by your comments. Not me. I believe we need more outspoken political leaders like yourself so we can remove them from office as well.

Now, I realize that you are 81 years old, and are probably set in your views regardless of how outdated they may seem to everyone else, but I would hope you would realize that in a small town like Trenton, with a population of only 200, you could have only been exposed to a handful of Blacks — not nearly enough to represent Black America as a whole. But still, I thank you: Because of you, Blacks in the town of Trenton and the surrounding areas have shown North Carolina and the rest of the nation what type of changes can

happen if we pulled together to create them.

"This is only the beginning," said Daniel Johnson Willis, whose lawsuit challenging Trenton's annexation policy prompted Leggett's comments. "The mayor has helped us trigger what will be major changes in the town of Trenton."

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People called for Leggett's resignation on Friday, March 5. The town council did the same, adopting a resolution saying that Leggett had made reprehensible and derogatory comments.

It's rather ironic when you think about it: Blacks in the town of Trenton have spent years trying to annex the outlying Black areas. It is only after it was made clear by

ex-Mayor Leggett that Blacks shouldn't be involved in either government or business that we actually have a chance!

So, again, I thank you, Joffre Leggett, for your honesty, and I thank you for resigning. I hope you are happy in California, where its been rumored you'll be moving. I shall always remember you as a progressive icon in the struggle for racial equality, for you have truly inspired Black America to take action, and put the town of Trenton back on the right track for racial equality.

Should Black America support the death penalty?

by Keith Cooper

Since systemic racism is an infectious component of court systems and capital punishment nationally, the death penalty should be abolished. There are countless horror stories indicating that a person's race all too often determines who lives and dies in capital murder cases. Moreover, McCleskey v. Kemp, where the U.S. Supreme Court held that a defendant challenging a death sentence must prove that he was personally discriminated against through the prosecution, creates a doomed fate for Black defendants.

In Florida, a White judge who was preparing for the penalty phase of a Black defendant's trial said, "Since the nigger's mom and dad are here anyway, why don't we go ahead and do the penalty phase

today." Despite such overt racism, the defendant, Anthony Peek, was sentenced to death. The Florida Supreme Court upheld the sentence.

Missouri's Judge Blackwell, while presiding over a death penalty case against an unemployed Black defendant, said that "the Democratic Party places far too much emphasis on representing minorities....people who don't want to work." Despite this, the defendant, Brian Kinder, was sentenced to death.

In the late 1980's, the General Accounting Office reviewed 28 empirical studies on race and the death penalty up to that time. In

1990, the GAO concluded that in 82% of the studies, the race of the victim was found to have influenced the likelihood of being charged with capital murder or receiving a death sentence. A relevant case study is the state of Kentucky in 1996. There, 100% of the inmates on death row were there for killing a White victim; none of them were there for murdering someone Black. Incidentally, over 1000 Blacks have been murdered since the reinstatement of the death penalty.

One explanation for the discrepancies is that almost all of the district attorneys in states that possess the death penalty are White (98%) and nearly all male. Those seeking re-election are more likely to seek the death penalty in cases involving Black perpetrators and White victims. Such prosecutors

cater especially to prominent White families who demand the head of the Black perpetrator in a basket. Moreover, since 1976, only 11 Whites have been executed for killing Blacks, while 124 Blacks have been executed for killing Whites.

Sister Helen Prejean was on to something when she said: "When people of color are killed in the inner city, when homeless people are killed, when the 'nobodies' are killed, district attorneys do not seek to avenge their deaths. Black, Hispanic, or poor families who have a loved one murdered not only don't expect the district attorney's office to pursue the death penalty --

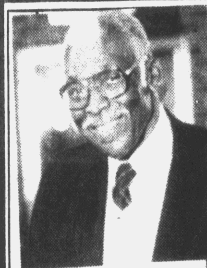
which, of course, is both costly and time-consuming -- but are surprised when the case is prosecuted at all."

Many Blacks have become converts to the philosophy that the death penalty is a sure way to mete out justice for those who murder heinously, as in the James Byrd case in Jasper, Texas. However, this is dangerous because the Byrd case is an aberration. That case is nothing compared to the Blacks who were lynched during both the 1800's and 1900's. Furthermore, many of the bodies were riddled by gunfire and then burned.

Prosecutors may seek the death penalty against Black defendants more willingly if they believe the Black community won't hold them accountable at the polls. At the very least, there should be a national moratorium on the death penalty until the issues surrounding its

discriminatory use are resolved.

Justice Thurgood Marshall was correct when he made the following assertion: "When in Gregg v. Georgia, the Supreme Court gave its seal of approval to capital punishment, this endorsement was premised on the promise that capital punishment would be administered with fairness and justice. Instead, the promise has become a cruel and empty mockery. If not remedied, the scandalous state state of our present system of capital punishment will cast a pall of shame over our society for years to come. We can not let it continue."



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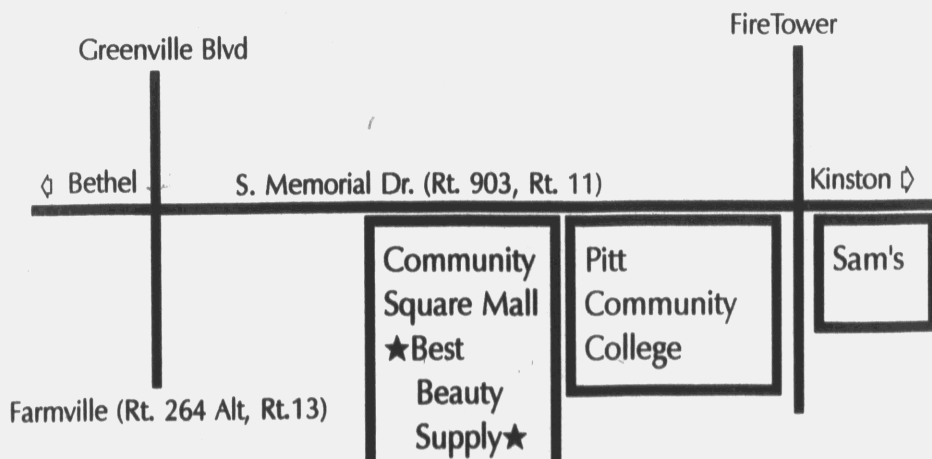
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Faith and Inspiration

From the Desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



March is National Women's History Month. The theme is "Women Putting Our Stamp on America."

Women have always made an impact on America, directing and leading their children more or less by example. Parents, especially mothers, are their children's first teachers, counselors, nurturers, disciplinarians, and role models.

Today, women who exemplify the characteristics of caring, honesty, respect, responsibility and right leadership, will assuredly not contribute to the erosion of the family unit.

A few women whose lives are exemplary are Mary McLeod Bethune, one of the most visible and influential African-Americans and an extraordinary woman who founded a college and fought for civil rights; Barbara Jordan, a woman of power, strength, charac-

ter, and supreme dignity, who would accept no limitations; Hillary Rodham Clinton, whose strength of character embraced an exemplary sense of dignity during her difficult years; Dr. Malene Irons, a humanitarian; Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State who travels with courage and fortitude for her country; Katie Couric, the anchor of NBC's Today Show; Oprah Winfrey, the richest woman in television; Eva Clayton, the only Black woman to ever represent North Carolina in Congress; and our own Mayor Nancy Jenkins, who combines a brilliant intellect with panache.

These are a few of the many women who have put their stamp on America, making significant contributions to society.

Before you beat a child, be sure

Precious Thoughts

that you are not the cause of the offense.

He who prays as he ought to will endeavor to live as he prays.

Children have more need of role models than of critics.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you an automobile.

We must interpret a bad temper as the sign of an inferiority complex.

The future destiny of a child is always the work of the mother.

None preaches better than the ant, and she says nothing.

The tongue is but three inches long, yet it can kill a man six feet tall.

He is a Christian who is manfully struggling to live a Christian life.

He who would govern others should first be master of himself.

Profiles of inspirational, courageous, focused and contemporary

Profiles

African-American women achievers portrayed in *The Daily Reflector* for the month of February were so appropriate, and served as a prelude to the month of March, where we celebrate National Women's History Month with the theme, "Women Putting Their Stamp on America."

The following women were profiled: Annie Brown, Congresswoman Eva Clayton, Ruth Glover, Virginia Jones, Beatrice Maye, and Carolyn Smith, the daughter of Bishop James Smith.

Read and explore the history of women this month, of their shattering records and smashing barriers in a variety of arenas. Their strength and dignity, their dedication to goals, their perseverance in overcoming obstacles has resulted in extraordinary women who have shaped world history. Yes, women have made a difference by putting their stamp on America.

Out of the mouths of angels.....

Anyone who has ever had a child, has small children, has even ever known a small child can relate to the following:

One Sunday in a Midwest city, a young child was "acting up" during the morning worship hour. The parents did their best to maintain some sense of order in the pew but were losing the battle. Finally the father picked the little fellow up and walked sternly up the aisle on his way out. Just before reaching the safety of the foyer the little one called loudly to the congregation, "Pray for me! Pray for me!"

A daddy was listening to his child say his prayer: "Dear Harold. At this, dad interrupted and said, "Wait a minute....how come you called God, Harold?"

The little boy looked up and said, "That's what they call Him in church. You know the prayer we say, 'Our Father, who art in Heaven, Harold be Thy name.'"

One night Mike's parents overheard this prayer.

"Now I lay me down to rest, and hope to pass tomorrow's test. If I should die before I wake, that's one less test I have to take."

A little boy's prayer: "Dear God, please take care of my daddy and

my mommy and my sister and my brother and my doggy and me. Oh, please take care of yourself, God. If anything happens to you, we're gonna be in a big mess."

A five-year-old said grace at family dinner one night. "Dear God, thank you for these pancakes."

When he concluded, his parents asked him why he thanked God for pancakes when they were having chicken. He smiled and said, "I thought I'd see if He was paying attention tonight."

A Rabbi said to a precocious six-year-old boy: "So your mother says your prayers for you each night? Very commendable. What does she say?"

The little boy replied, "Thank God he's in bed!"

A woman invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to her six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I wouldn't know what to say," the little girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mommy say," the mother said.

The little girl bowed her head and said, "Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

Johnny had been misbehaving and was sent to his room. After a while he emerged and informed his mother that he had thought it over and then said a prayer.

"Fine," said the pleased mother. "If you ask God to help you not misbehave, He will help you."

"Oh, I didn't ask Him to help me not misbehave," said Johnny. "I asked Him to help you put up with me."

And this particular four-year-old prayed: "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if You can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am!"

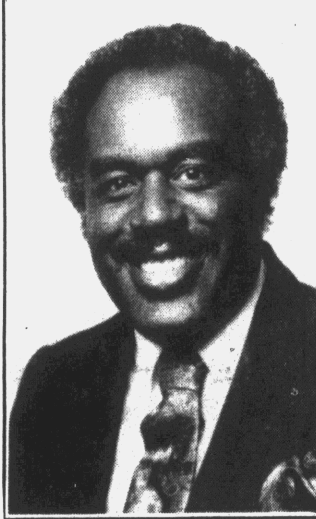
During the minister's prayer one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews.

Gary's mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence, and after church, asked: "Gary, whatever made you do such a thing?"

Gary answered soberly: "I asked God to teach me to whistle...And He just then did!"

(Source: Unknown)

Spiritual Thoughts



by Dr. George A. Hawkins

One would think that the people who were "called" to God were great men, wise, or learned men. One might think that the "call" would be restricted to the finest, the most noble, the most virtuous, or the most talented.

The Apostle Paul contradicts this erroneous thinking by saying: *Ye see your calling, brethren; how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called: but God hath chosen the foolish things of the*

world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are: that no flesh should glory in His presence. (1 Corinthians 1:26-29)

The simple explanation of this is that God had no intention that anyone should be able to boast that he had in any way or in any sense "earned" the great blessings bestowed upon him. The intention of

this matter is to illustrate the power of God to transform the base and despised one to noble and pure; not by force, but by the transforming power of the truth—working in the called ones, through the promises and hopes set before them, both to will and to do his great pleasure. This arrangement will result not only in the Father's glory, but also in the humility and everlasting good of those whom He will bless.

Dr. George A. Hawkins is the pastor of the Tabernacle Church of Deliverance in Greenville.

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3/19	Utah	7:25p
3/21	at Milwaukee	7:55p
3/23	at Orlando	7:25p
3/24	Chicago	7:25p
3/26	Orlando	7:25p
3/28	Cleveland	6:55p

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Introducing the six re-activating Charter Members of the Zeta Pi Sigma Alumni Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

The re-activating charter members are (L to R) Nicole Melvin, Tanya White, Jessica Mabry, Stacey Hargrove, Toya Sanders and Samantha Branch (not shown).

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For more information, please contact Stacey Hargrove at (252) 321-4764, or Toya Sanders at (252) 355-8804.

The Path to Healthy Living

Black Americans getting AIDS at record rates

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Black Americans are becoming infected with AIDS at record rates, receiving poorer care than Whites and dying faster.

Now, almost two decades into the AIDS epidemic, about 1,000 health care providers and activists gathered for the first medical conference on AIDS among Black Americans -- a frantic hunt for ways to fight the exploding racial divide.

AIDS in the United States is evolving from a disease that once mostly affected White homosexuals into one largely of poor Blacks, often infected from dirty drug needles or heterosexual encounters.

Blacks make up 12 percent of the U.S. population but a devastating 45 percent of new AIDS cases. AIDS has been the leading killer of Blacks between 25 to 44 for most of the decade. One in 50 Black men and one in 160 Black women are estimated to be infected.

"This is an historic event," Phill Wilson of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum told the conference February 25. "What we do ... will determine whether or not we make a difference."

"This is no less a daunting challenge than we faced in the civil rights movement," added Dr. Stephen Thomas of Emory University.

The doctors, social workers and activists sought practical, day-to-day advice on fighting HIV, the AIDS virus, in communities often wracked by poverty and drugs, where a legacy of racism has left distrust of the medical system.

"How do you get a drug user or a homeless person tested for HIV? How do you treat the hotel maid who can't afford the time off to go to a clinic only open weekdays? You're surprised that the bus driver quit taking the AIDS medicine you prescribed -- even though the main side effect was diarrhea?"

"We're talking about reaching ... people who might not have had a meal since noon yesterday, and they're still sitting in the clinic" for four hours because the doctor overbooked, complained Debra Hickman of Baltimore's Sisters Together and Reaching.

Then came the thorny issue of preventing and treating HIV in prisons. "Our men are in the jails. They do come home to their wives and girlfriends," warned a

California AIDS worker, describing one reason HIV infection is growing fast among Black women.

Nor do many Black doctors specialize in AIDS, complained a Colorado nurse who described herself as the only Black AIDS health worker in her town. White doctors "do care, but they don't understand when I say, 'Patients don't trust you.'"

President Clinton has declared AIDS among minorities a crisis. The administration is spending \$156 million this year and seeking \$171 million next year to fight back.

But Clinton last year refused to use federal money to buy clean needles for drug addicts, one way to prevent HIV's spread. Frustrated at the ban, administration doctors urged local communities Thursday to raise the money themselves for needle exchanges.

And critics questioned if the government's work is fair: One new program calls for 35 percent of AIDS research sites to be in minority communities, but two-thirds of new infections now occur in those communities.

The conference's main goal was to empower workers on the front

lines of AIDS, providing information and resources to help their communities, said Cornelius Baker of the National Association of People With AIDS.

He said, "We need to make care more culturally appropriate. Maybe clinics need Sunday hours, or you could give health care at church after Sunday services."

And grass-roots doctors who don't often get to the fancy international AIDS meetings hungered for the latest data, questioning experts on which drugs to use.

"We can be flexible," said Dr. Joel Gallant of Johns Hopkins University. Not everyone needs that much-publicized but expensive "protease inhibitor" cocktail right away, he said. Newly infected patients with low HIV levels might be all right not starting drugs for a while. Got a patient who won't swallow 15 pills a day? Some new drugs require far fewer.

But there were no easy solutions. Take Gallant's advice for doctors to test even newly diagnosed patients' blood to see if their HIV will resist certain drugs. The immediate response: Medicaid and other programs don't pay for those tests, so how can we use them?

AMWA stresses need for cardiac education

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) -- The American Medical Women's Association (AMWA), the nation's leading women physicians' organization, calls for increased awareness surrounding the issue of gender differences and gender bias in the treatment of coronary heart disease.

"The Georgetown University Medical Study published in the New England Journal of Medicine has reaffirmed what we at AMWA have emphasized for years," said AMWA President Clarita Herrera, MD. "Since coronary artery disease is the leading cause of death of all women, particularly minority women, there is a great need to educate physicians about risk factors that are unique to women." Dr. Herrera is trained as an interventional cardiologist and has experienced first-hand discrepancies in referral of patients for coronary angiograms.

In an effort to increase physician awareness, AMWA initiated a project on coronary heart disease in women in 1993 which trained practicing physicians nationwide to identify risk factors, prevention, symptomatology, treatment, and diagnostic evaluation of heart disease in women. "AMWA believes it is unacceptable that women are referred to heart specialists for cardiac catheterization tests only 60 percent as often as white males," said Debra Judelson, MD, AMWA Past President and Co-Chair of AMWA's Cardiovascular Disease Subcommittee. "We have known for too long that there is a lack of recognition by patients and the medical community of the different cardiac symptoms in women." This is not new information, and we at AMWA have been lecturing on this topic of racial and gender disparity for many years.

Presently one in two adult women will die of cardiovascular disease. African American women have a higher mortality rate after heart attack, twice that of other women. These numbers can and should be lowered if the medical community works together to heighten the awareness of this alarming and unacceptable problem.

"No longer should women, especially minority women, have to continue to receive inadequate therapy and diagnostic testing," said Patricia Davidson, MD, AMWA specialist on coronary heart disease in minorities. "AMWA urges all health care practitioners to become familiar with risk factors and clinical presentations unique to women, including minority women, and to support more gender-based research."

Founded in 1915, the American Medical Women's Association -- a national medical organization of 10,000 women physicians -- is dedicated to promoting women's health and furthering the professional development and well-being of women in medicine.

Black Americans hit hardest by cancer, report says

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Black Americans are being especially hard-hit by cancer, even though the projected 1.2 million new cases in 1999 represents a downward trend, the American Cancer Society said on March 3.

More than 563,000 Americans will die of cancer in 1999, the ACS added in its annual report on cancer rates.

Dr. Charles McDonald of Brown University, who is president of the American Cancer Society, said this is a downward trend in general.

"This incidence rates of breast cancer in young women and lung cancer in men are down, as are those of colon and rectal cancer in both men and women," he wrote.

But while the rates look comforting, the good news really only applies to majority whites, McDonald said.

"Among major ethnic groups, African-Americans continue to have higher incidence rates of cancer," McDonald wrote in the

ACS journal CA.

"They are also at greater risk of dying of cancer than is any other racial or ethnic group."

For example, although Black women are less likely to develop breast cancer than White women, when they do get it they are more likely to die.

"Also, African-American men are 1.5 times more likely to develop prostate cancer than are White men and twice as likely to die of the disease," McDonald wrote.

"Rather than being encouraging, these new figures ... are quite disconcerting," he concluded.

For the report, Scott Landis and colleagues at the American Cancer Society in Atlanta estimated cancer rates using US Census data and cancer rates collected by the National Cancer Institute. Unlike some other countries, the United States does not have a nationwide cancer registry.

They estimated there will be 1,221,800 new cases of invasive

cancer in 1999. Most common will be prostate cancer with 179,300 cases, lung cancer, with 171,600 cases, breast cancer with 175,000 new cases, and cancer of the colon and rectum with 129,400 cases.

An estimated 37,000 men will die from prostate cancer, 158,900 people will die from lung cancer, 43,700 people will die from breast cancer and 56,600 will die from colorectal cancer.

Other cancer incidences include:

- *Stomach cancer, affecting 21,900 people and killing 13,500
- *Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, affecting 56,800 people and killing 25,700
- *Melanoma (skin cancer), affecting 44,200 people and killing 7,300
- *Pancreatic cancer, affecting 28,600 and killing an equal number
- *Brain and nervous system cancer, affecting 16,800 and killing 13,100

*Leukaemia, affecting 30,200 and killing 22,100

The figures do not include the estimated 1 million basal and squamous cell cancers of the skin -- the most common cancers -- or carcinoma in situ of the bladder and other organs. Such cancers usually do not spread or kill.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States, after heart disease.

Globally, the American Cancer Society estimates there will be 8.1 million new cases of cancer, with 5.2 million deaths.

Worldwide, lung cancer is the biggest killer, with 1,037,000 cases projected and 921,000 deaths. Stomach cancer follows, with 798,000 cases and 628,000 deaths. Breast cancer is projected to affect 796,000 women worldwide and kill 314,000.

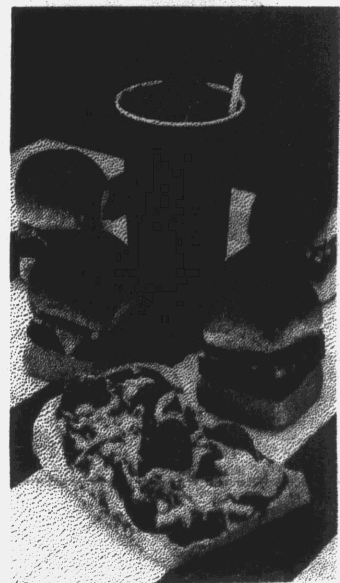
Cutting back on fat is healthier

by Mrs. Beatrice Maye

If you want to eat in a more healthy manner this year, then cut back on hamburgers and fries, suggests Bonnie Liebman, Director of Nutrition at the Center for Science in Public Interests' Nutrition Action Health Letter in Washington, D.C.

A single McDonald's quarter-pounder yields 21 grams of fat, of which eight are saturated fat, which clogs arteries. Add cheese, and you've got 30 grams of fat, nearly half of which will clog your arteries.

"You're talking a half-day's quota of fat," Liebman says, "and that is without the fries, which have about as much fat and calories -- 450 -- as the main dish. That's what they really are."



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Any input or suggestions will be greatly appreciated!

- 1.) Do you or any of your family/friends have diabetes?
yes no If so, who? _____
- 2.) Are you aware of the radio program, "Your Life In Diabetes", that is broadcast every Wednesday morning at 7:10 a.m. on WOOW 1340AM?
yes no
- 3.) Have you ever listened to "Your Life In Diabetes"? If so, how often do you listen?
yes no every week once a month once every two months
- 4.) If you have listened to the show, do you find it helpful?
yes no
- 5.) Whether or not you listen to the program, what topics would you want to hear if you listened? _____

Thank you for your time and input!

Could we please contact you in a couple of weeks to ask you if you or your family listened to the radio shows? yes no Name _____ Phone / _____

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Arts & Entertainment

CELEBRITY SPOTLIGHT



Lauryn Hill

"Now hear this mixture, where hip-hop meets scripture, develop a negative into a positive picture."

----- Lauryn Hill

Multiple-Grammy winner Lauryn Hill is more than your "average" singing sensation. She is devoted to serving her community, and making a positive impact on the world.

Who is Lauryn Hill?

The 26-year-old singing sensation is well known for her association with the hit group, "The Fugees." She's also known for having sold 3.5-million copies of her hit album, "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill," which won the Album of the Year trophy at last month's Grammy Awards.

It is not, however, her award-winning songs that make her such a success....it is her commitment to making a positive impact on this world.

In 1996, Hill founded a non-profit organization, The Refugee Project, Incorporated. This organization was founded

with the express intent of encouraging positive social action from youth described as "disadvantaged."

The organization's main goal is to remedy the problems of social interaction and to provide positive activities and educational experiences for youth that are often overlooked. The aim is to generate long-term results with consistent, insightful and transformative social programs.

The organization is aptly named because most of the participants have few if any outlets to escape the social ills which pervade our society. In this context, they are Refugees, and the organization provides safe and transformative havens for them through social programs.

The objective of the Refugee Project "is to transform the lives of young people for the better," according to Hill. "We will change the conversation, agenda and social fads of youth from negative to

Project "is to transform the lives of young people for the better," according to Hill. "We will change the conversation, agenda and social fads of youth from negative to positive. We seek to change the attitudes and social agenda of youth from violence to non-violence, from drugs to sobriety, from miseducation to education, from lack of values and respect to understanding of and appreciation for cultural aesthetics."

The project's objectives are achieved by implementing recreational and cultural programs that consistently affect and positively transform "disadvantaged" youth.

One such program, Camp Hill, is

Roscoe, NY. Campers enjoy social and recreational activities where the kids build teamwork skills and self-esteem. Camp activities include, but are not limited to, physical and mental olympics, camp pageant for Mr. Camp Hill and Ms. Camp Hill, the annual Camp Hill talent show (produced and directed by the campers), attendance at workshops and lectures by guest speakers, arts and crafts, chorus, dance, athletics and daily evening activity arranged by the counselors. Camp Hill hosts Family Day on the second Saturday that camp is in session. Family Day is a time for family members to visit the facilities and see the children put on a performance. Family involvement and attendance on Family Day is required in order for campers to participate.

Another such program is the Circle Mentoring Program. Hill so named it because the circle is history's most ancient metaphor for community, support and protection.

visit the facilities and see the children put on a performance. Family involvement and attendance on Family Day is required in order for campers to participate.

Another such program is the Circle Mentoring Program. Hill so named it because the circle is history's most ancient metaphor for community, support and protection. Today, in this age of breaking circles, new ones are needed to replace the old. The Refugee Project created the Circle Mentoring Program to provide a crucial sense of community, support and protection for the most vulnerable group susceptible to breaking circles - our children. The

sional work. The undergraduate students and the professionals represent fields ranging from the arts to technology to finance. Through this program children flourish while cultivating an appreciation for the unsung heroes - the men and women who, through their various daily tasks, keep the world functioning. The men and women who love their families and work to enrich their communities. Each mentee in the Circle Mentoring program is required to perform community service in his or her respective communities.

The Annual Halloween Scare

program is required to perform community service in his or her respective communities.

The Annual Halloween Scare Affair is run in conjunction with 100 Black Men of New Jersey to entertain the young people of Essex County in New Jersey. The event is held annually on the 31st of October in East Orange, New Jersey. The Annual Scare Affair is a fun and safe way for young people to enjoy Halloween. Young people come dressed in their finest costumes and delight in the "haunted" mansion.

The Book Worms Reading Club is a fantastic way to get young people to turn on to books. Created

novice reading. Reading sparks the imagination, adventure and discovery. Through reading, Book Worms promotes a positive response to reading, improves reading skills and enhances vocabulary. There are currently 14 members, ages 2 - 13. To meet the needs of each age group, age appropriate reading is used. Field trips are also scheduled to libraries and book stores.

The Refugee Project is also currently working on other activity groups, which hopefully will be running by the end of the year.

NEW ARTIST RELEASE



Charity's Temple Junior Choir was originally organized and founded in the Charity Temple Holiness Church Ministry. The group is composed of four lead vocalists and nine background vocalists, accompanied by one pianist, one drum percussionist, and two members of the horn line. The group members are youths between the ages of 11 and 18 years old.

One day, during choir rehearsal, the group began juggling with a variety of words and tunes which fascinated them. They experienced an encounter with the Spirit, which left the entire group flabbergasted. As the Spirit moved among the group, they discovered that the more they sang, the more the words and the rhythm began to flow.

The choir knew that something miraculous was happening to them.

They continued to harmonize words and melodies for several hours. The choir president, Chiquita Clark, brought it to the attention of the Church Overseer, Bishop James E. Clark, Sr., what God had done in their practice.

The choir came before the church on a fourth Sunday and began ministering music in the new tunes and lyrics that God had bestowed upon them. As time progressed, the choir continued to

practice and allow the Spirit of God to come upon them and enhance their musical talents. The Church Overseer immediately recognized that God had given the church talented and gifted young adults to minister music with their very own unique style and identity.

After several months of strenuous and dedicated practices, the Junior Choir was now ready to perform before the community and let everyone see with what gift God had endowed them. The Junior Choir held their first concert at the Gallery Theater in Ahoskie, N.C., on March 21, 1998, where the recorded their first release entitled *God is Good*. The Junior Choir's name was then changed to the Charity's Temple Junior Ensemble.

Because of the musical ministry of Charity's Temple Junior Ensemble, man souls have been saved and added to the church congregation. The Ensemble's music has impacted the lives of many young people. It has also become an inspiration and example for many young adult choirs and groups to pattern themselves. The Ensemble praises God for the gift He bestowed upon them, allowing them to choreograph and write their own lyrics and music.

Charity's Temple Junior Ensemble

HEALTH

Learn to recognize early signs that your child may have asthma

and seek medical advice from your physician. Symptoms

include frequent respiratory infections, coughing episodes at

night, wheezing, tightness in the chest, itchy, sore throat,

watery eyes and dark circles under the eyes. The good news is,

with proper management, these symptoms can be controlled.

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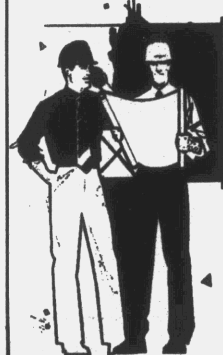
Sealed proposals will be received until 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 18, 1999, in the office of the Owner, Mr. Viren Tailor, North Carolina, (919) 716-3443, for the construction of the Greene County Correctional Center Vocational Building, at which time and place bids will be opened and read.

Complete plans and specifications for this project can be obtained from EDA-Greenville, 201 West 1st Street, Suite 202, Greenville, North Carolina 27858, (252) 758-3138, 758-0553 Fax, during normal office hours after after February 22, 1999, or are available for examination at Construction Market Data Plan Room, 2300 Rexwood Drive, Suite 130, Raleigh, North Carolina 27607, Associated General Contractors Plan Room, satellite Office, c/o McGee Reprographics, 801 Dickinson Avenue, Greenville, North Carolina 27834, Dodge Plan Room, 1110 Navaho Drive, Suite 402, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609, or Eastern Carolina Contractors Plan Room, 415 N. Queen Street, Kinston, North Carolina 28501.

Plan Deposit: One-hundred dollars (\$100.00).

The state reserves the unqualified right to reject any and all proposals.

Signed: Viren Tailor, Project Manager
NC Department of Corrections



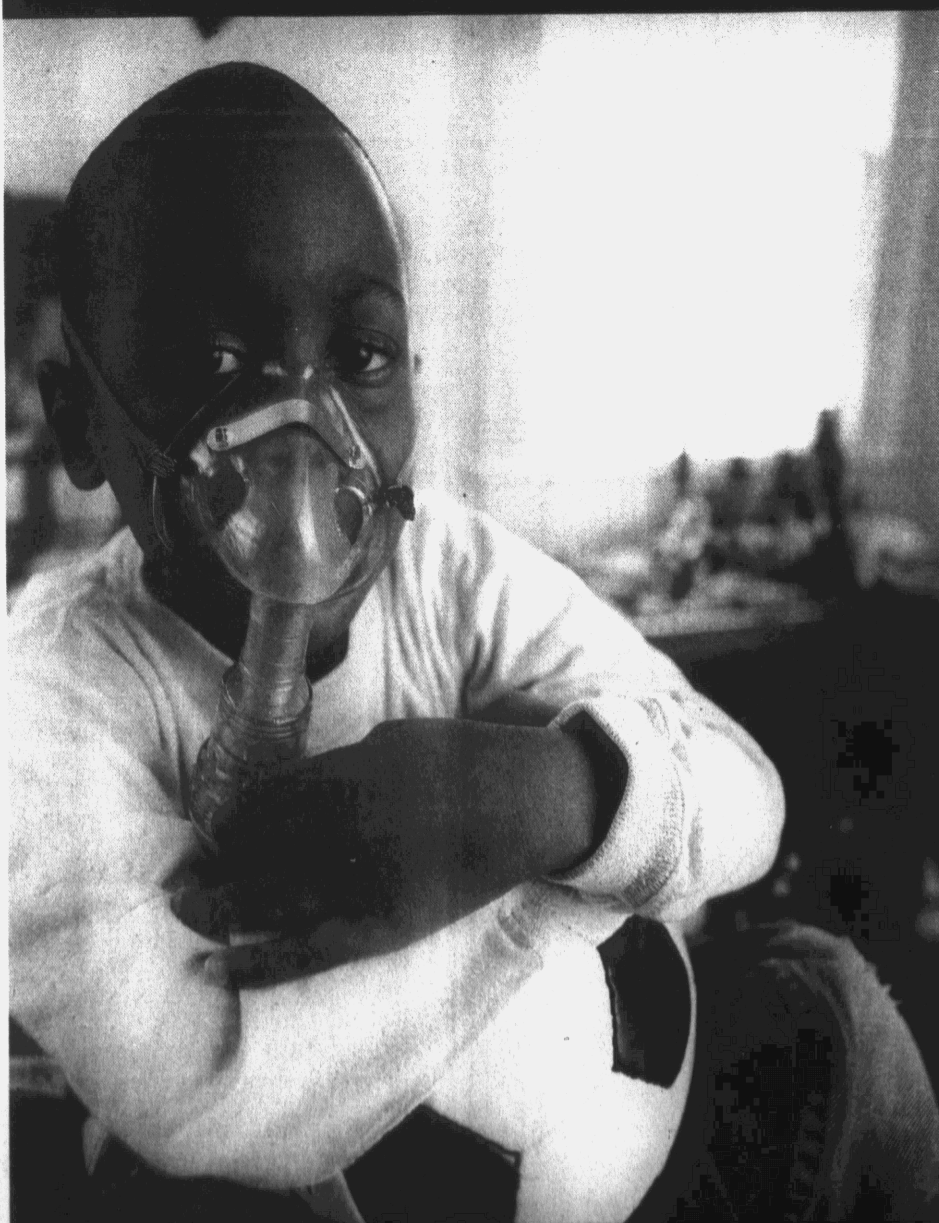
During an asthma attack, the muscles that wrap around the airways leading to the lungs tighten. At the same time, the linings of these airways become swollen and congested, blocking them even more. Breathing becomes very difficult. Asthma is the number one chronic childhood disease and there is no cure.

The symptoms leading to an asthma attack, however, can be controlled. And the Pediatric Asthma Program at University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina in Greenville helps doctors develop action plans for asthmatic children, so that those kids can grow up as healthy and happy as their friends.

The results, so far, have been nothing short of dramatic: Fewer hospital visits, lower school absenteeism and shorter hospital stays.

But because the health of all children

Want to know what it's like to have asthma? Take a deep breath.
Hold it. Now read the rest of the page.



CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina

in the area is important to us, University Health Systems' Children's Hospital offers many other services and outreach programs as well. From Education Nurse Specialists who visit schools, emergency rooms and daycare centers, to the only Level III neonatal intensive care unit in the region.

It's all part of a dedication to excellence and a commitment to providing the right care at the right place through a network of outstanding hospitals. For more information on the University Health Systems hospital nearest you, Pitt County Memorial in Greenville, Roanoke-Chowan in Ahoskie, Heritage in Tarboro, Bertie Memorial in Windsor or Chowan in Edenton, call 252-816-4526. Or, if you prefer, visit us at www.uhseast.com.

Oh, almost forgot, you can breathe out now.

Monte's Dining.....Open for Business!!!!



Monte Williams has successfully combined the fine dining experience with a comfortable atmosphere and great taste of home cooked food. Like the famed Georgia's restaurant in Los Angeles, California, Monte's Dining is definitely going to be the place where the who's who of Greenville's most elite come to network during lunch, while family and friends enjoy a delicious dinner.

If his grand opening on March 11 is any example of what is to come, the restaurant is already a hit. Monte's Dining hosts a buffet-style breakfast, lunch and dinner and is open Monday through Friday from 11 to 3 and from 5 to 8:30, Saturdays from 7 to 8:30, and Sunday from 11 to 4. Selections is sure to vary, but at the grand opening included fried chicken, spaghetti, macaroni & cheese, collard greens, corn on the cob, rice and gravy, a salad bar, and many other items....much too many to name..

Good food coupled with a great atmosphere and excellent service. Monte has definitely created a winning combination that is sure to enjoy continued success for years to come and for all to enjoy.

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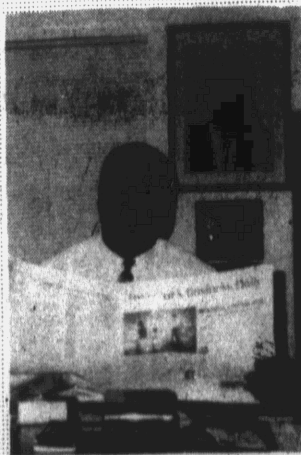
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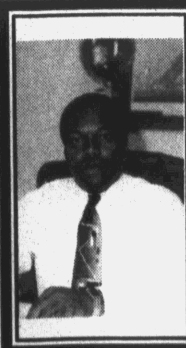


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