

# The Minority Voice

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April 23 - April 30, 1999

"The man who views the world at fifty the same as he did at twenty has wasted thirty years of his life." -- Muhammad

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Support your community:

Shop at minority owned and operated businesses

## NC Attorney General targets predatory mortgage lenders

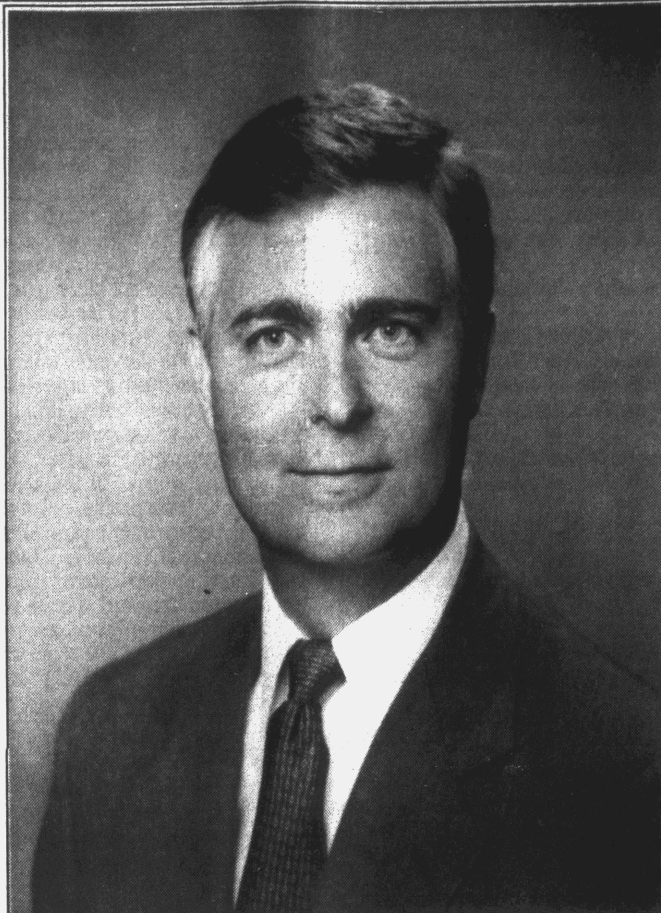
RALEIGH--Attorney General Mike Easley announced legislation designed to restrict predatory mortgage brokering and lending practices in North Carolina. Predatory loans are high rate, high fee loans typically targeted to borrowers who own their homes, but may have cash flow problems. Predator lenders focus particularly on elderly, minority and low-income homeowners.

"The effect of these loans is to increase the borrower's indebtedness, strip equity from their home, and to burden the borrower with oppressive repayment terms," Easley said. "People unknowingly incur huge fees and may ultimately lose their homes."

The Senate bill (SB 1149) is sponsored by Sen. Roy Cooper and the companion House bill (HB 1285) is cosponsored by Rep. Jerry Braswell and Rep. Phil Baddour.

The legislation targets common practices associated with predatory loans, such as charging excessive fees for originating or brokering the loan; adding balloon payment provisions so the borrower pays off almost no principal after many years of payment; "packing" the loan with thousands of dollars of unnecessary credit insurance; and repeatedly refinancing or "flipping" loans to keep the borrower continually in debt.

Some actual recent examples of predatory mortgage loan practices include:



Attorney General Mike Easley is attacking home mortgage companies that hide fees and surcharges into loan packages. Although it may be a good deal for the broker, say Easley, "it may not be a good deal for you." (photo by the Office of the NC Attorney General.)

1) A borrower in Fayetteville obtained a \$48,000 home loan which included a \$4352 origination fee; \$1089 in points, a \$200 processing fee; a \$175 underwriting fee and a \$175 "document prep" fee. The APR on the loan was 10%. The loan also included a balloon payment of \$43,000 which would be due after 15 years of payments. The borrower did not understand there was a balloon payment until months after the closing. To complete the financing, the lender also convinced this borrower to take out a \$13,000 second mortgage loan repayable over 15 years at 14%.

2) An elderly woman on a limited income responded to a TV ad about consolidating bills and lowering monthly payments. Her new loan increased her monthly mortgage payment from \$399 to \$462. On the \$33,800 loan, she paid over 8% in points and originating fees plus a \$500 underwriting fee, a \$400 application fee and a \$350 loan processing fee. The APR was 16.46%. Although the borrower was not aware of it, the loan had a balloon payment of \$35,000 at the end of the 15 year term. Her sister was required to cosign the loan at the last minute.

3) A couple in Montgomery County borrowed \$19,254 to refinance an existing mortgage loan and to pay other debts. They paid a loan origination fee of \$2,790 and an additional "loan fee" of \$370. The lender also sold and financed a

credit life insurance premium in the amount of \$4,124. With the closing costs and credit insurance factored in, the borrowers incurred an obligation of \$28,000 for what started out as a \$19,000 loan.

Predatory lenders often use high pressure tactics to snag their victims. Easley warns homeowners to be wary of anyone who calls them on the phone or comes to your door offering home equity "bargains."

"Don't let yourself be pressured into making a quick decision when it comes to your home," Easley said. "Beware of claims that an offer is good only for a very short period. Be suspicious of anyone you didn't contact first. If a solicitor calls on the phone or comes to your door offering to refinance your home, you can be assured it's a good deal for him. It may not be a good deal for you."

The legislation attacks predatory lending by creating a special category in the state's lending laws for "high cost home loans," making North Carolina the first state to

seriously address this problem. If the loan has fees or a rate that significantly exceed prevailing market rates, then special restrictions and protections apply. These new provisions are intended to make borrowers more aware of the consequences of high cost home loans and to create barriers to prevent predatory practices.

## WTOW 1320-AM returns to the airwaves



Back on the air! The new team at WTOW Joy 1320 are (left to right) James Page, Margie Robinson, Site Manager Brenda Rouse, and General Manager Buddy Jones. The voice of the community is back!

by Trey Bankhead

Washington, NC-- After a lengthy absence, WTOW 1320-AM, also known as "Joy 1320," has returned to the air, restoring Washington's premier gospel and talk radio station.

"This is something we've been working towards since the station went off the air," said station owner Jim Rouse.

Rouse, the President and CEO of the Jim Rouse Communications Group, says he is happy the station is back.

"It's under new management," he said. "I have total confidence in the new management and staff. That station is going to do great things."

It would seem he's correct: WTOW has already announced that it is joining its sister station --

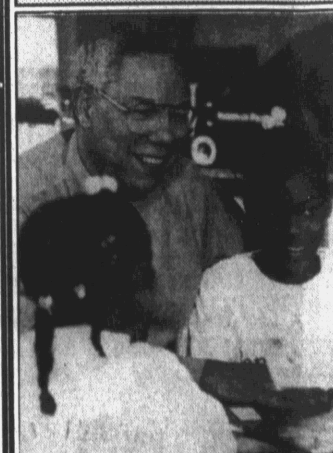
Greenville's WOOW 1340AM -- in sponsoring the First Spring Gospel Celebration in Greenville on May 18. It will also be joining WOOW and The Minority Voice newspaper, which are also part of The Rouse Communications Group, in promoting a Minority Business Expo and Job Fair on May 15.

While the station has reaffirmed its commitment to the community, it also is in need of the support of the community.

"We're going to be more active in the Washington community," said Rouse. "That's going to be apparent in the way the station is run."

"People will notice some changes in the station, but I think they'll like them," says Rouse. "It's a chance for a fresh start, and we're not going to waste it."

## Colin Powell leads effort to get youth more involved in communities



General Colin Powell in an informal moment with two students. (Photograph by Parade magazine)

by Trey Bankhead

General Colin Powell is well known as the first Black Chief of the Armed Forces. He is not, however, as well known in his role as chair of America's Promise, a group dedicated to helping children.

"We worry a lot about kids today, about them learning self-respect and moral values," he says.

Powell asserts that young people need adult role models to teach them how to become good, caring people.

"They'll learn to value themselves by a more mature standard, that their worth is not determined by having a flashier wardrobe but by the contribution they make to the world."

## Coca-Cola sued for discrimination

By Dan Sewell

ATLANTA (AP) -- Four past and current Black employees of Coca-Cola Co. are suing the soft-drink giant for discrimination, claiming Blacks are paid less and have fewer opportunities to advance than White employees.

"Not only do barriers exist for African-American employees seeking upward advancement within the company, but similar barriers virtually segregate the company into divisions where African-American leadership is acceptable and divisions where it is not," the plaintiffs said in the lawsuit.

The suit was filed April 22 in U.S. District Court in Atlanta by Washington attorneys Cyrus Mehri and Pamela Coukos. Mehri, a veteran of corporate discrimination cases, represented Black employees who sued Texaco in a case that resulted in a landmark \$176 million settlement in 1996.

"This is probably the next major glass ceiling case," Mehri said April 23. "We expect this to be an epic struggle going on over a period of years."

Coke spokesman Rob Baskin

said he couldn't comment on specific details of the lawsuit before seeing it, but he said the company doesn't believe the case has merit.

"Coca-Cola doesn't tolerate discrimination, and if any discrimination is found, we take action to stop it and prevent it from occurring," Baskin said.

The suit seeks to include about 1,500 past and current salaried Black employees at Coke.

Three of the plaintiffs still work at Coke. The complaint says that one of them, senior information analyst Linda Ingram, is on long-term disability because of depression blamed on her treatment at the company.

Another plaintiff, Kimberly Gray Orton, is a former supervisor who worked 13 years at Coke. The complaint says she was underpaid for years, at times supervising White employees who made as much as \$7,000 more than she did.

The complaint has scattered anecdotal examples of racial insensitivity, from alleged workplace insults to Coke marketers relying on racial stereotypes such as Blacks living in ghetto areas.

"We are just at the beginning of

this case," said Mehri, who said the complaint is buttressed by statistical evidence. It says the average Black Coke employee at corporate headquarters earned \$45,215 in 1998, compared with \$72,045 for the average White employee.

Baskin said an estimated 27 percent of Coke's U.S. workers are minorities, including 15 percent of U.S. managers.

The complaint says few of the Black managers reach the highest salary levels and tend to be confined to divisions like human resources and corporate affairs, which lack the advancement potential of White-dominated divisions such as global marketing or finance.

It also says Blacks tend to receive worse performance appraisals and are terminated at higher rates than Whites.

Coke has "failed to place the same importance on its African-American employees" as it has on marketing to Black consumers, who make about 25 percent of the purchases of Coke brands, the suit says.

## Don't forget about the Minority Business Expo & Job Fair on May 15th! Principal Jordan? Future Miss America?

By Darcel Rockett

CHICAGO (AP) -- Once you got past the 14-member security team and the barricades barring students from certain hallways, Marshall Metro looked like any other high school. To the left, the trophy case; to the right, Michael Jordan, the new principal.

"I was told that I would be getting a visitor, but I thought it would be someone like Al Gore or Clinton," said consumer education and American history teacher Carol Rolowicz. "But Michael Jordan? This is the biggest thing that's ever happened to this school!"

In an effort to get businessmen and companies to support the educational process, the Chicago Public School system came up with the "Principal for a Day" program to benefit the children and the educational system.

The 1,150 students were awestruck during an early assembly when they discovered that the man seated in front of them was ol' No. 23.

Requests for handshakes were abundant; confessions of love were few but adamant.

"I'm just glad Rodman didn't come," Rolowicz added.



Jessica Chaplin, a 12-year old sixth grader at E.B. Aycock Middle School, has been chosen as a State Finalist in the North Carolina American Pre-Teen Pageant, which will be held in Greensboro on July 10 and 11, 1999. Congratulations to all finalists! (photo by Olan Mills)



# Telling It Like It Is

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## Letters from Our Readers

Dear Minority Voice:

When I was 21, I was labeled with the disorder called schizophrenia. Since that time, my healing process has been a nightmare. Perhaps the worst part of the process was the discovery that members of the law enforcement community have a disgusting sense of contempt against those with mental illnesses.

In August of 1992, I had two disruptive situations in my life: I had just broken up with a boyfriend, and I had recently moved back in with my mother. She was constantly nagging and working my nerve, and we got into an argument. Finally, she threw a tennis shoe at me. I felt that she was purposely trying to hurt me, so I left her house and took refuge on a neighbor's back porch, giving her, and me, time to cool down. My mother called the police, claiming that I had attacked her with a frying pan, then thrown a table at her. She told them that I had schizophrenia, and that I was dangerous.

When the police came, they immediately handcuffed me and stuffed me inside of the police car. The cuffs were too tight, and they hurt, so I begged them to loosen the cuffs. They ignored me, then later flaunted a pair of larger cuffs. Due to my condition of having keloid skin, I continuously begged them to loosen the handcuffs. Once again they refused and then I proceeded to show them the keloid scarring on my ears, but the two officers made jokes like, "You sure those aren't milkduds on your ears?"

I remember thinking to myself, "prisoners on maximum lockdown get better treatment than this."

During the ride to Cherry Hospital in Goldsboro, they pulled over to a convenience store to purchase food and drinks for themselves. When I asked them again to loosen the cuffs, one of the deputies, Janice Spruill, threw the last of her drink in my face through the partition to shut me up.

Finally, after all of this humiliation, we arrived at the hospital. While still in the parking lot, the male deputy removed my handcuffs, and put on a pair of looser ones, this time cuffing my hands in front of me.

My degradation was made complete when I told the male officer that I was going to report their behavior, and he replied "Who is going to believe a nut?"

Years later, I found someone who believed me: Ms. Tallie Dillard, a representative of Eva Clayton. She listened, sympathized and offered me help. When I finally thought there was going to be some justice, the wind was again shot from my sails. The bad news was that it had been more than three years since the incident. In this state, due to the stature

of limitations, legal actions beyond three years are obsolete.

I'm trying to forget and move on, though the scars on my wrists from those handcuffs serves as constant reminders of the abuse I suffered. Unfortunately, it's not that easy. Because I know that there are more cops out there like the two that abused me that night.

Kimberly Whitehead is a 31-year-old resident of Plymouth, NC. She is currently attending Martin Community College, and will transferring to Elizabeth City State University this fall. One of her poems, "A Carolina Spring Morning," has been published in an anthology called *In a Different Light*. She is published under the name Kim Whitehead Bilal. "Bilal" is an African word that means "prayer caller."

Dear Minority Voice:

I have come to the conclusion that there is a major problem in the relationships between men and women today: God has taken a back seat to most of American family morals.

I believe that the current American family has no morals, no standards. Without standards, we have no platforms to build relationships with others. It all begins with love for the immediate family. If a man or women doesn't have a good foundation with his parents, sisters and brothers, then it is literally impossible for him/her to have a good relationship with their spouse, or whomever they fall in love with. I believe that, until men begin to gain respect for women, it will be hard to have unity and harmony of a happy family. I've watched many couples over the years disintegrate because of this.

I often hear females say, "Where are the good men?" My answer to them is: "Be a good woman, and a good man will find you."

To men, if they say, "I want a good woman," I would say "Prepare yourself to be a good man." The only way to being a good man is to be honest with yourself, and recognize where you are within yourself. It's funny when men think they are always right, but it takes a real man to admit when he is wrong. I myself, as a man, sometimes find it hard to face my failures, shortcomings, and inferiority. But facing my inferiority, shortcomings, and failures, brought me to an understanding of the reality of my existence. To know your existence is to know your purpose. If you do not know your purpose, how can you say to a woman, "Man is God's pilot to the family?" I do not boast in this statement. But in any situation, there has to be someone that says, "I am responsible." This is what the American woman is looking for today—responsibility.

Another main source of power that a woman looks for is security. Whether it's mental or physical, both men and women want to be secure, but one has to be secure within himself first. For instance: one's attitude. I personally believe that 90% of a person is his/her attitude. I've seen the wrong attitude make or break an individual. The wrong attitude will destroy any relationship, whether it's family, friends, whatever. I'm speaking strictly from a personal standpoint. I remind myself that this is the beginning of success or failure of a relationship.

You may think the word "attitude" is a very minute word, but it is the difference between success and failure, or love and hate. It takes virtually no effort to love. Love means that when there's nothing for you and me, will we feel the same way towards any situation, as if we had everything. But I have come to another conclusion, that love in the '90's is based on the two-story house, with a picket fence, and a poodle, with a Lexus in the garage.

To make a long story short, we, as a society have become too materialistic, contrary to what we think or believe. For example, losing your \$30,000 a year salary, not being able to sport around in your Lexus that's parked in your garage; not being able to impress your associates with your Tommy Hilfiger shirts, your Aigner shoes and Rolex watch. But I emphasize, there's nothing wrong with these possessions, as long as you control them, and not let them control you.

To conclude this segment on this topic, these are strictly my opinions and beliefs. I do not make these statements to sway your opinion or belief. I make these statements to bring about ideas or opinions for others. I must say that I want to thank God, whom I, in the beginning of this segment spoke of, for giving me the wisdom to put all of this in writing. Thank you very much for allowing me to voice my opinion in what I feel will change the American way of relationships.

Wren Locke is an employee of Pitt County. His inspirational sayings have been spotted displayed in various Pitt County offices.

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## Words of Wisdom

"Be a craftsman in speech, that thou mayest be strong, for the strength of one is the tongue and speech is mightier than all fighting."

-----attributed to Imhotep, designer and architect of the Egyptian pyramids, circa 2600 B.C.

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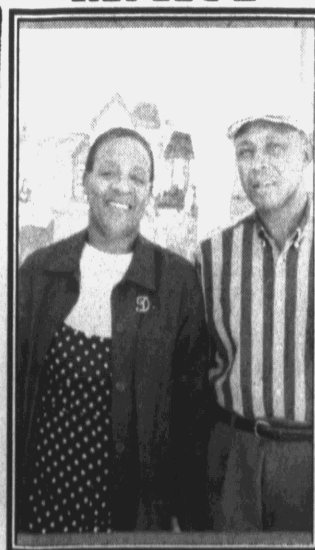
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## To the Reader:

Please excuse the absence of *An In-Depth Look* in this issue. At the *Minority Voice*, we take pride in the newspaper that we produce. As an editor, I did not feel that the article chosen for this issue was up to our regular high standards. Rather than present you with an inferior work, I opted to pull the article for revision.

*An In-Depth Look* will return next issue with a look at teen violence: What causes it? Does Pitt County have the resources to prevent another Littleton, Colorado?

Trey Bankhead, Editor

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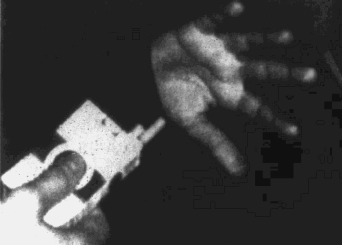
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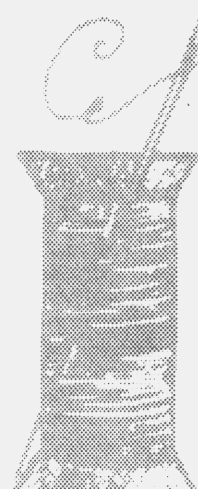
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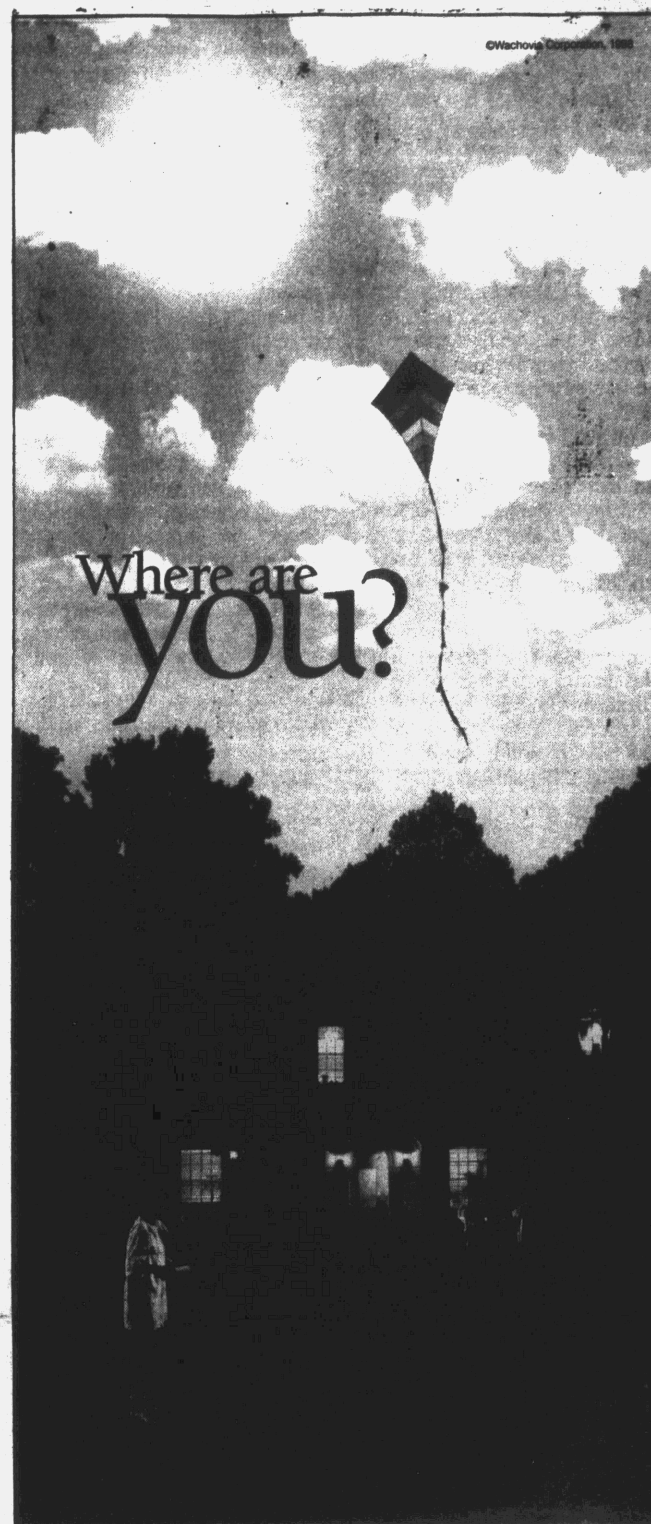


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# Political Perspectives

## This Way for Black Empowerment

by Dr. Lenora Fulani

### A Woman Runs For President

Recently, Elizabeth Dole announced she was a candidate for the Republican nomination for President. *The New York Times* described her as America's "first serious female presidential candidate." And certainly, if seriousness is measured by having a viable shot at the White House, she may well be.

In 1988, I had the distinction of being the first woman in U.S. history to run for President and appear on the general election ballot in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. I was also the first African American to do so. Of course, it goes without saying that Elizabeth Dole is closer to winning the White House today -- not yet on the ballot in a single state -- than I was when I was on the ballot in all 50 states. I assure you that when I ran, there were no feature pieces on *60 Minutes* about what a "feminized" White House would be like. Nor, for that matter, were there any articles about a potential "Africanization" of the White House. Everyone pretty much knew that I wasn't a "serious female presidential candidate" in the way Elizabeth Dole is. Elizabeth Dole is, after all, a Republican and will run for the White House -- if she does -- as a Republican with the full

weight of the Republican Party behind her. This means, of course, access to significant amounts of money, significant amounts of press coverage, automatic access to the presidential debates, not to mention the imprimatur of legitimacy that comes with being a Republican or a Democrat in U.S. politics. I, of course, was neither a Democrat or Republican. And though I did succeed in achieving access to the ballot in all 50 states and qualified for federal primary matching funds--becoming the second independent and first Black woman to do so--in fact, those achievements merely magnified the extent to which presidential politics and the political arena in general is a bipartisan and not a nonpartisan affair, no matter what barriers one breaks or "firsts" one achieves.

Indeed, this fact of political life in America, was the reason I ran for President. In other words, I was not a "serious" candidate for the presidency in the sense that I had any shot at the White House. But I was a serious candidate for the presidency insofar as helping to expose and breaking open the barriers to a more inclusionary and up-from-the-bottom multi-party democracy is a serious concern. In my opinion, this concern is ultimately more serious than the question of who wins the White House in any given election cycle. I polled nearly a quarter of a million votes in 1988, or about

25%, not exactly numbers that send the Republicans and Democrats running for cover. It would take a wealthy, white male independent and 20% of the vote to do that, an event of tremendous, and, in my opinion, deeply misunderstood political magnitude which occurred just four years later. In some respects, as I reflect back on the 1988 presidential run and all that happened since, I see the years that followed it as a kind of simmering cauldron of political revolt that exploded in 1992 on several fronts -- not the least of which was Ross Perot's independent campaign. I do not mean to suggest that my campaign was the cause of that revolt. Rather, it was in anticipation of it.

If my 1988 presidential run detected a bare murmur of public discontent with politics-as-usual -- it was, nonetheless, a clear statement about the myths of American democracy. My Democratic and Republican opponents had to gather about 40,000 signatures nationally on petitions to access the ballot. I had to gather 1.2 million signatures, the result of a patchwork of state laws all promulgated by bipartisan consent, to make access to the ballot virtually impossible for independents. The barriers

were not just structural, they were attitudinal. Virtually every time the press mentioned me, which wasn't often, my name was preceded by the words "fringe candidate." It was so frequent that I started to use it myself, sometimes to illustrate the gap between what I had achieved and how I was perceived. I would sometimes say, "Hi! I'm Lenora Fulani, the fringe candidate who qualified for two million dollars in matching funds from the United States Treasury." I even named my autobiographical account of my second presidential run *The Making of a Fringe Candidate*.

But as traditional political alignments and alliances melt away, and new alliances start to form, the "fringe" starts to occupy a more influential political position. Millions of Americans -- half the electorate, actually -- are on the fringes of American politics. They don't vote and they view the political process as having little or nothing to do with them. They're right. And that's exactly what has to be changed.

Reforming our political process to make it genuinely democratic, inclusionary and easy-to-use is the key. And those reforms could get us to the point where we not only could elect a woman or an African American to the White House, more importantly, we could elect an independent who brings a new way of doing politics, and up-from-the-bottom way of doing politics, to the highest office in the land.

## Groups study racial profiling and police brutality

By Paul Shepard

WASHINGTON (AP) -- In Boston, cries of police brutality are relatively rare. A beefed-up internal affairs division seems to be working, experts say.

In New York, on the other hand, anyone who has ever heard of Black immigrants Abner Louima and Amadou Diallo knows the nation's largest city has a problem when race and policing converge.

But whether these cities have the best and worst records in policing their police -- or whether police brutality is on the rise in American cities -- is difficult to say authoritatively.

No government agency keeps track, and few police departments collect information based on race.

The question has taken on crucial dimensions. Police shootings have taken the lives of Blacks in Pittsburgh and Riverside, Calif. In New Jersey, Maryland and Florida, state troopers have come under fire for conducting traffic stops based on a driver's race -- so-called racial profiling.

A picture can be cobbled together from hearsay and anecdotes but the lack of hard statistics riles civil rights advocates who believe Black and brown people are more likely to end up unjustly facing a policeman's gun or billy club than Whites.

"This is frustrating to me in large part because White America has refused to acknowledge a problem exists," said Rep. Gregory W. Meeks, D-N.Y. "Now in 1999,

we are seeing some of the same police brutality we saw in the Jim Crow days, but White America just doesn't get it."

Meeks, said the Congressional Black Caucus task force on police brutality, which he co-chairs, plans hearings in several cities, including Baltimore, Chicago and Dallas.

"At least it will be a starting point," said Meeks, a former prosecutor.

Said Ron Daniels, head of the Center for Constitutional Rights, a New York-based civil rights group, "We know we have a bad problem out there. We just don't know exactly how bad."

"Anywhere I've gone in this country, 15 minutes into the conversation we are talking about some police brutality," Daniels said. He organized a national anti-police brutality march in Washington in early April after four officers from New York's elite street crimes unit fired 41 shots at Diallo, an unarmed West African immigrant, hitting him 19 times. The officers have been charged with second-degree murder.

For years, civil rights groups have urged the Justice Department to collect nationwide data on excessive force cases. The collection of data was authorized by the 1994 Crime Act but not funded.

"So far we only have anecdotal information," said NAACP President Kweisi Mfume.

On April 14, Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., reintroduced a bill requiring the Justice Department to collect data on traffic stops by local police. "Stopping our citizens to be searched on account of their race is an unacceptable activity on the part of law enforcement," he said.

San Diego requires that police record the race of people they stop in order to assess whether officers rely on racial profiling in making traffic stops. Some of the 35 police chiefs and activists who met with Attorney General Janet Reno last week discussed adopting such a plan elsewhere.

But, generally, police officials are wary.

"If passed into law, the (Conyers) bill would place a burden on the police and lengthen traffic stops," said Robert Scully, executive director of the National Association of Police Organizations, which represents 4,000 police unions and associations. He said officers are vulnerable to attack during such stops and pausing to collect data "would make a dangerous situation worse."

"It's ironic that in the quest for a colorblind society, some people want us to keep track of people by race," said Jim Pasco, executive director of the Fraternal Order of Police, the nation's largest police labor organization, with 277,000 members. "We're opposed to any kind of racial tabulation," he said, opposing proposals to accumulate

data on police brutality cases.

Pasco said that police brutality hasn't been increasing. He notes the number of federal prosecutions of abusive cops has stayed at about 30 a year while the number of officers has sharply increased.

Available information hints that along with Boston, the police departments of Minneapolis and San Francisco have done the best jobs in curbing such abuses, according to a study last year of 14 cities by Human Rights Watch, an international human rights organization.

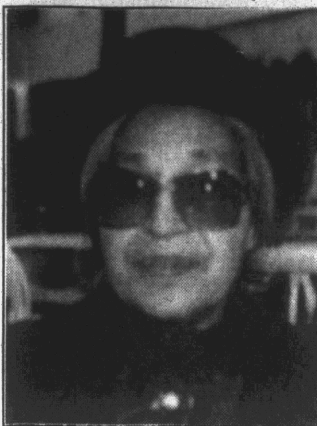
New York, Washington, D.C., and New Orleans appear to have the most serious problems of abusive officers on their forces, according to the report.

Los Angeles, where the Rodney King police beating led to riots, was judged to be "slowly on the mend."

Allyson Collins, the report's author, said the FBI, U.S. attorneys and Justice Department all have some information that could shed light.

"Bits and pieces of information are scattered everywhere," Collins said. "It's not a priority until we get some high-profile case that gets everyone talking and then the public is lulled back to sleep on the topic."

## Rosa Parks awarded Congressional Medal of Honor



Ms. Rosa Parks, the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement," is the latest person to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, was the only lawmaker to vote against the bill, which President Clinton is expected to sign.

"This courageous act changed her life and our nation forever," said Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla. "Passage of this bill will be our contribution to her legacy today."

Parks, an Alabama native, watched the debate on television from Los Angeles.

"Mrs. Parks is very excited to have this honor," said Anita Peek, executive director of the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development. Parks co-founded the nonprofit group in 1987 to help young people in Detroit, where she now lives.

She moved there in 1957 after losing the seamstress' job and her family was harassed and threatened. She joined the staff of Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., in 1965 and worked there until retiring in 1988.

She now travels the country lecturing about civil rights.

A guest at Clinton's State of the Union address in January, Parks has received numerous awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, and the Spingarn Award, the NAACP's top civil rights honor.

Lawmakers initially used the Congressional Gold Medal to honor military leaders but began using it during the 20th century to recognize excellence in a range of fields, including the arts, athletics, poli-

tics, science and entertainment. The first such medal was approved in March 1776 for George Washington for "wise and spirited conduct" during the Revolutionary War.

More than 320 medals have been awarded.

Recent honorees include Frank Sinatra, Mother Teresa, the Rev. Billy Graham, South African President Nelson Mandela and the "Little Rock Nine," the group that braved threats and jeers from white mobs to integrate Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., in 1957.

The bill is H.R. 573.

By Darlene Superville

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Rosa Parks is getting the gold.

Congress voted on April 20 to give the 86-year-old Parks a Congressional Gold Medal, its highest civilian award, for an act of defiance more than 40 years ago.

Often hailed as the "first lady" or "mother" of the civil rights movement, Parks was tired after a day's work as a seamstress in Montgomery, Ala., on a December day in 1955 and refused to give up her seat to a white man on a segregated city bus.

Her arrest set off a lengthy bus boycott by blacks that lasted until the Supreme Court declared

Montgomery's bus segregation law unconstitutional and it was changed. The boycott was led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., a local minister at the time.

"One brave act of a humble seamstress triggered an avalanche of change which helped our country fulfill its commitment to equal rights for all Americans," said House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo. "For her leadership and her example, Rosa Parks deserves to be honored with the Congressional Gold Medal."

The House voted 424-1 in favor of the measure, one day after the Senate passed it without dissent.

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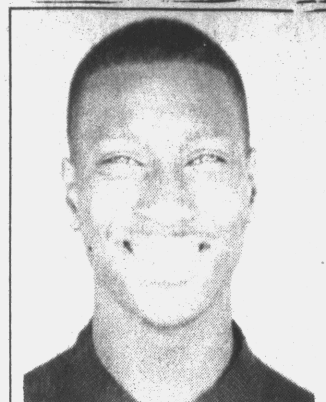
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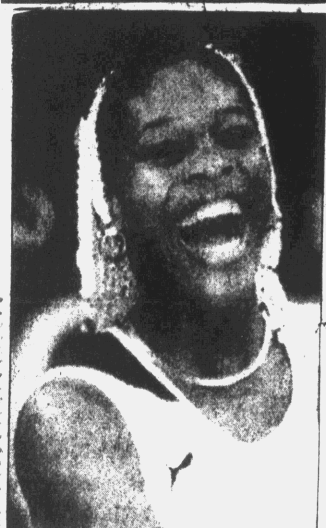
# Generations

## Ascending Star

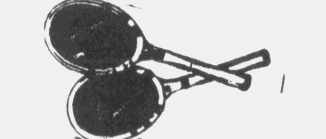


## Luther Hemby

Luther Hemby is a very quiet, but highly respected, young man. He has helped many people by running errands, cutting grass, cleaning yards and visiting the sick and elderly in nursing homes. Luther comes from a economically disadvantaged family; all three of his brothers have been incarcerated, and one sister is a high school dropout. Yet, he understands the importance of education and strives to attend school every day. Luther has participated in many school, community and church activities, and was elected vice president of the Future Homemakers of America Club. He has competed at the state level, winning second place in the category "Skills for Lifetime Management." He has worked as a volunteer, helping teachers in school. He has attended the Youth Leadership conferences in Atlanta. Luther Hemby was named Citizen of the Year in 1996. Other forms of recognition include Certificates of Participation, Achievement and Recognition. Keep up the good work!



**SERENA WILLIAMS GETS TENNIS WIN**—17 year-old Serena Williams, younger sister of Venus Williams, conquered Steffi Graf, 6-3, 7-5, recently to win the \$1.25 Million Evert Cup played in Indian Wells California. Sister Venus won the even last year.



## School shooting spree leaves 15 dead

### Authorities and parents asking "Why?"

By Steve Gutterman, Robin McDowell and Robert Weller

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP) — Two teen-agers in fatigues and black trench coats laughed and hooted as they opened fire on classmates in their suburban Denver high school, killing 15 people, including themselves, in the deadliest school rampage on record.

"One boy was running and suddenly his ankle just puffed up in blood," said 16-year-old sophomore Don Arnold. "A girl was running and her head popped open" when a bullet slammed into her skull.

They were the first to be shot in April 20th's bloody attack at Columbine High School outside Denver.

Arnold's girlfriend, Lindsay Hamilton, 15, was inside the school reviewing for a biology test when she heard shots and explosions.

"It's a good day to die!" she said someone yelled at one point. "We want everyone to die!"

She and 30 other biology students huddled up in the science room with their teacher for four hours while unspeakable tragedy unfolded outside.

The attackers marched into the library of Columbine High School with guns and pipe bombs, demanding that "all jocks stand up. We're going to kill every one of you," said student Aaron Cohn.

A gunman looked under a desk

in the library and said "Peek-a-boo," then fired, Cohn said. Anyone who cried or moaned was shot again. One girl begged for her life, but a gunshot ended her cries.

Cohn said one killer put a pistol to his head but did not shoot him. Instead, he said, the shooter turned his attention to a Black student, saying, "I hate niggers." Cohn heard three shots but couldn't see what happened.

The bodies lay crumpled in the schoolhouse where they were shot; officers delayed removing the corpses until the next day because of possible booby traps.

Sheriff's spokesman Steve Davis said close to 30 explosive devices were found at the school, in the suspects' vehicles and possibly at their homes. More than 11 hours after the shootings, a bomb on a timer blew up, but no one was injured.

"Some of these devices are on timing devices, some are incendiary devices and some are pipe bombs," Jefferson County Sheriff John Stone told ABC's "Good Morning America." "Some are like hand grenades that have got shrapnel in them wrapped around butane containers."

Meantime, frantic parents awaited word of their children into the night, watching as busloads of tearful students were reunited with

their families.

After hours of confusion on the precise death toll, sheriff's spokesman Steve Davis put it at 15; 12 students, one teacher, and the two gunmen. At one point, authorities had said up to 25 had died.

Some of the victims were found underneath desks, in cubicles or in boxes, slain while apparently trying to hide, Davis said. Witnesses said that during the rampage, the two teen-agers in black trench coats laughed and hooted as they opened fire.

Twenty-three people were treated at hospitals, most of them with gunshot wounds. Sixteen teens remain hospitalized this morning, including five in critical condition and five others in serious condition.

One teen suffered at least nine shrapnel and bullet wounds.

The gunmen were identified as Eric Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17. The two exchanged shots with police and were later found dead in the library with self-inflicted gunshot wounds and bombs around their bodies, sheriff's spokesman Steve Davis said.

"It appears to be a suicide mission," Sheriff John Stone said.

While the motive was unclear, several students said Harris and Klebold were members of a group calling itself the "Trenchcoat Mafia," outcasts who bragged about guns and bombs and hated blacks and Hispanics, as well as athletes.

Police who searched Harris' home said they found bomb-

making material. Students said the group was fascinated with World War II and the Nazis and noted that April 20 was Adolf Hitler's birthday.

The pair opened fire in the parking lot around 11:30 a.m. before entering the school cafeteria. Bullets ricocheted off lockers as students raced toward the exits.

Dozens of students hid in classrooms before escaping with the help of police in an armored car. Others were trapped for hours while SWAT teams searched for the gunmen and their bombs. Some had called their parents on cellular phones from inside the building to whisper they were OK.

Hundreds of police officers from throughout the Denver area surrounded the school. Helicopter ambulances used a sports field as a landing pad, and officers in helmets and camouflage gear took cover behind squad cars.

Although sheriff's deputies responded swiftly, at least two hours ticked before officers were able to surround the building and move in.

"We had initial people there right away, but we couldn't get in," Jefferson County Sheriff John Stone said. "We were way outgunned."

The two attackers were heavily armed with sawed-off shotguns, a semiautomatic rifle, pistols and homemade bombs stuffed with nails and shotgun shells. The sheer amount of ammunition and explo-

sives later led police to believe that the two gunmen probably had at least one accomplice.

This theory was seemingly confirmed upon the April 22 discovery of two large propane bombs hidden in the school's kitchen.

The discovery also could provide more evidence of a wider conspiracy, Sheriff Stone said.

"These subjects were not only on a killing rampage, but they were going to destroy the school. They were going to burn the school up," Stone said after the bombs were discovered and removed from Columbine High School.

Each of the bombs, placed inside propane tanks like the kind found on backyard barbecues, weighed at least 35 pounds, authorities said.

"It's drawing suspicion out here that they would have time to put as much ordinance in that school as they did without some help," Stone said April 22 after meeting with U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno. In Washington, President Clinton said the day of the shootings: "Perhaps now America will wake up to the dimensions of this challenge, if it could happen in a place like Littleton."

Littleton is a suburb of 35,000 southwest of Denver, where farmland is rapidly disappearing beneath suburban sprawl and soccer fields.

## Joy 1340

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## Other recent shootings involving U.S. schools:

**April 16, 1999** - A high school sophomore fired two shotgun blasts in a school hallway in Notus, Idaho. No one is injured.

**May 21, 1998** - Two teen-agers are fatally shot and more than 20 people are hurt when a 15-year-old boy allegedly opens fire at high school in Springfield, Ore. His parents are found slain at their home. He is awaiting trial.

**May 19, 1998** - Three days before his graduation, an 18-year-old honor student allegedly opens fire in parking lot at high school in Fayetteville, Tenn., killing a classmate who was dating his ex-girlfriend. He is awaiting trial.

**April 24, 1998** - A science teacher is shot to death in front of students at an eighth-grade graduation dance in Edinboro, Pa. A 14-year-old student awaits trial.

**March 24, 1998** - Four girls and a teacher are shot to death and 10 people wounded during a false fire alarm at a middle school in Jonesboro, Ark., when two boys, 11 and 13, open fire from the woods. Both are convicted in juvenile court of murder and can be held up to age 21.

**Dec. 1, 1997** - Three students are killed and five others wounded in a hallway at Heath High School in West Paducah, Ky. A 14-year-old student is arrested. One of the wounded girls is left paralyzed.

**Oct. 1, 1997** - A 16-year-old boy in Pearl, Miss., is accused of killing his mother, then going to his high school and shooting nine students, two fatally. He is sentenced to life in prison. Two others await trial on accessory charges.

(Provided by The Associated Press)

## What's YOUR Opinion?

- 1) Do you think the security arrangements in Eastern North Carolina schools are adequate? Please explain why or why not?
- 2) Could the Littleton tragedy have been avoided? Why or why not?
- 3) What suggestions would you make to improve the safety of your school?
- 4) If you had a serious problem and needed help, do you think a teacher would listen to you? Why or why not?

Please send your answers to *The Minority Voice*, "Generations," 405 South Evans Street, Greenville, NC 27834. Or call 757-0365. Answers will be printed in a future issue of *The Minority Voice*. All names will be held in confidence unless otherwise requested.

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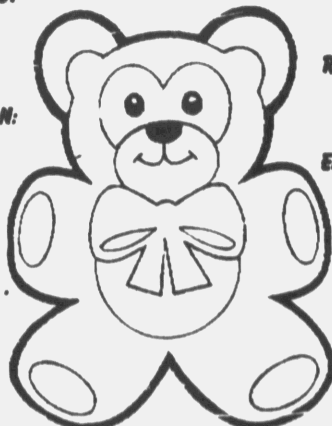
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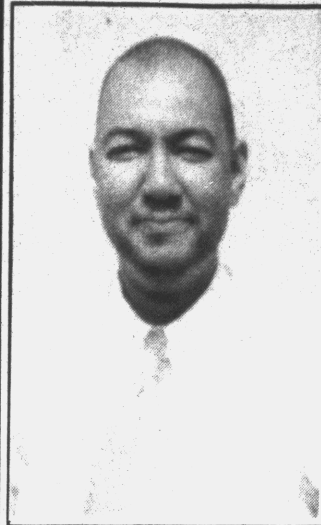
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North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service

## The Perspectives of Stephen Johnson



## Inside the Mind of a Skinhead

During the past weekend, I had the unique opportunity to meet and converse with a 16-year-old Skinhead.

His shaved head, tattoos and piercings are what first caught my attention. But what held my attention was the fact that he was lost. Somehow, he had gotten separated from his friends and didn't know how to get back. Amazingly, his hatred and fear prevented him from asking for directions, so he walked aimlessly for some time, trying to figure out how to get back to his friends.

All I could see was a little kid — lost, confused, and angry. So, I asked him, "Do you need any help?"

"Yeah," he answered. He explained his dilemma. Unfortunately, I couldn't tell him how to get back to his friends either. But it did open the door for us to talk and give me an opportunity to understand why a kid who has only spent 16 years on this Earth develop such a strong degree of hatred.

I asked, pointblank: "Why do you hate Blacks, immigrants, and anyone who is not White?"

Angrily, he answered, "Because my race can't achieve the things we want because of affirmative action. Because I used to have a safe neighborhood until all the Blacks and Mexicans moved in, and now I can't walk the streets wearing the 'wrong' colors....it's ridiculous."

I asked another question. "Are you doing anything to improve the situation?"

He replied, "What can I do? I joined with my brothers and together, we try to maintain the purity of our race while ridding the streets of...well, you know."

"Are you scared that other races are growing and achieving wealth at such a rapid rate that perhaps the White race will one day be the minority?" I wasn't sure how he'd react to this question, but I was curious.

"Regardless of who's in the majority or the minority," he said, "we want to be in power. No other race has proven a love for this country. Other races come here to exploit it...the Blacks want to destroy it. Only the White race can make and keep this country strong," he claimed.

At that point in our conversa-

tion, it was obvious to me that he was too confused and angry to truly discuss and understand his won feelings of hatred. Strangely enough, he didn't strike me as a lost cause. Every day, someone chooses the wrong path in their quest to discover who they are. Hopefully, they meet enough of the right people to help steer them back in the right direction.

So, when I see kids who lose their way, I try to be one of those people to try to lead them back in the right direction—regardless of my own feelings about the situation.

Finally, I asked if anyone had influenced his way of thinking. Quickly, he answered, "My father....when he was younger, he didn't understand Blacks. But now he tells me his way of thinking was wrong."

We should be careful of the seeds we plant. Often, parents do or say things and are unaware of the lasting effects our actions have on our children—creating a generation of angry children that we don't understand.

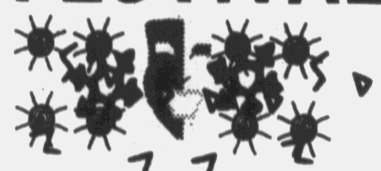
Hopefully, it's not too late to correct the sins of the fathers...before they become the sins of the sons.



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SATURDAY, MAY 1, 1999

ON THE TOWN COMMONS



# Faith & Inspiration

## From the Desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



*The Nine Requisites for Contented Living*  
Health -- enough to make work a pleasure;

Wealth -- enough to support your needs;

Strength--enough to battle with difficulties and overcome them;

Grace -- enough to confess your sins and forsake them;

Patience--enough to toil until some good is accomplished;

Charity-- enough to see some good in your neighbor;

Love -- enough to move you to be useful and helpful to others;

Faith -- enough to make real the things of God;

Hope -- enough to move all anxious fears concerning the future.

### A Note of Appreciation

To all my friends who expressed their condolences on the death of my brother, Dr. Elbert E. Jones of 5612 Second Place NW in Washington, DC, my thanks.

### Food for Thought

There is so much good in the worst of us, and so much bad in the best of us, that it does not behoove any of us to talk about (or to find fault in) the rest of us.

These hands are shaped like God's and so:

Let them be careful what they do

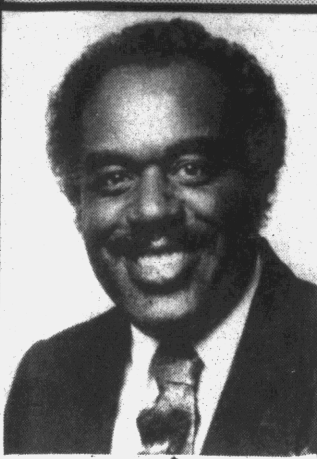
Let them be quick to lift the weak

Let them be as kind as they are strong

Let them defend the silent meek

Against the many--language wrong.

## Spiritual Thoughts



by Dr. George Hawkins

(NOTE: The word "tongues" refers to a group of non-language sounds that is a consequence of involvement in deep and meaningful spiritual worship.)

Glossolalia, a Greek word which means "tongues-speaking" or "speaking with tongues," was one of the miraculous gifts (charisma) of the spirit prevalent in the church during the time of the Apostles. Because the church failed to continue to exercise this gift and instead let the man-made traditions and formalities take the place of permitting the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, tongues-speaking seemed to fall out of popularity; nevertheless, the gift still existed as commanded by Jesus Christ.

Tongues-speaking today now claims a large denominational membership. The Pentecostal ranks

### On speaking in tongues.....part 2

have swelled, the Charismatic movement has penetrated into the Protestant churches. "Born Again" Catholics who speak in tongues are not uncommon today. Why has there been a mass flight to these churches? The answer is simple: First, Christians are seeking to experience the realities of the Christian life; secondly, the stagnation and hollowness of the mainline denominations have stifled the working of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of believers.

Speaking in tongues will help us to know what we do not know, understand what we do not understand, and prophesy with words that do not spring from our own minds. "The Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God" (1 Corinthians 2:10). When you pray in tongues, it is the Holy Spirit within you giving you the utterance and you speak it out of your utterance. "For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God, for no man understandeth him" (1 Corinthians 14:2).

Even though the interpretation of tongues is considered to be one of the gifts, there is actually no need for an interpreter since you are talking directly to God. He understands. Man does not need to understand because it is a dialogue between the Believer and God. Even in a corporate anointing such as a prayer gathering or in a church service, it would be very confusing to attempt to interpret every tongue

that is uttered. There are many evidences of tongues -- speaking in the Bible. Acts 10:46 reads, "For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God." Acts 19:6 reads, "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them and they spake with tongues and prophesied." Paul says (1 Corinthians 14:18) "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all." Jesus Christ himself said in Mark 16:17, "And these signs shall follow them that believe, they shall speak with new tongues."

There are many spiritual benefits from talking in tongues. First, "He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth (builds up) himself. (1 Corinthians 14:4). Secondly, tongues-speaking stimulates your faith in God and helps you to give thanks to God. Thirdly, tongues-speaking keeps us from thinking evil thoughts and talking in a manner that is not pleasing to God.

God promises to give to every reborn Christian the Holy Spirit as a gift, and the Apostle Paul commands Christians to be filled continually with the Spirit. It qualifies us for service and makes us more like Christ. Tongues-speaking is the expression for this continuous infilling.

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

### HEALTH TIP

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, an itchy, sore throat, watery eyes and dark circles under the eyes. The good news is, with proper management, these symptoms can be controlled.

### CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina

## Angel

Once upon a time, there was a child ready to be born. So one day he asked God, "They tell me you are sending me to Earth tomorrow, but how am I going to live there being so small and helpless?"

God replied, "Among the angels, I chose a very special one for you. She will be waiting for you and will take care of you."

The child said, "But tell me: here in Heaven, I don't do anything else but sing and smile - that's enough for me to be happy. And how am I going to be able to understand when people talk to me, if I don't know the language that men talk?"

God said, "Your angel will tell you the most beautiful and sweet words you will ever hear, and with much patience and care, your angel will teach you how to speak."

The child said, "And what am I going to do when I want to talk to You?"

God answered, "Your angel will place your hands together and will teach you how to pray."

The child said, "I've heard that on earth there are bad men. Who will protect me?"

And God replied, "Your angel will defend you even if it means risking its own life."

And the child said, "But I will always be sad because I will not see You anymore."

And God said, "Your angel will always talk to you about Me and teach you the way for you come back to Me, even though I will always be next to you."

At that moment, there was much peace in Heaven, but voices from Earth could already be heard, and the child in a hurry asked softly, "Oh God, if I am about to leave now, please tell me my angel's name."

And God said, "Your angel's name is of no importance. You will simply call her MOMMY."

## Read the Word of God and know the truth

### Words of Wisdom

"All of us fear one another more than anything in the world. The fear of the Other, of what the Other will do if he finds out we are afraid of him -- that is what has brought us to this pass. We must turn and realize that the Other is afraid -- and then say to him, 'You have nothing to fear from me,' in such a way that he knows it to be true. Another thing we have no desire to say! Each of us secretly desires to keep the Other in some slight fear of us, so that he can not harm us. But if we can only bring ourselves to say those terrible words, and have them to be true, then the Other will become what he should have been from the earliest days -- the constant companion, the source of delight in all his differences."

--- attributed to Surak



## The power of a Grandma.

Children have a very special relationship with Grandma and Grandpa. That's why grandparents can be such powerful allies in helping keep a kid off drugs.

Grandparents are cool. Relaxed. They're not on the firing line every day. Some days a kid hates his folks. He never hates his grandparents. Grandparents ask direct, point-blank, embarrassing questions you're too nervous to ask:

"Who's the girl?"  
"How come you're doing poorly in history?"  
"Why are your eyes always red?"  
"Did you go to the doctor? What did he say?"

The same kid who cons his parents is ashamed to lie to Grandma. Without betraying their trust, a loving, understanding grandparent can discuss the danger of drugs openly with the child she adores. And should.

• The average age of first-time

drug use among teens is 13. Some kids start at 9.

• 1 out of 5 American kids between 9 and 12 is offered illegal drugs. 30% of these kids receive the offer from a friend. And 12% named a family member as their source.

• Illegal drugs are a direct link to increased violence in many communities, to AIDS, to birth defects, drug-related crime, homelessness.

As a grandparent, you hold a special place in the hearts and minds of your grandchildren. Share your knowledge, your love, your faith in them. Use your power as an influencer to steer your grandchildren away from drugs.

If you don't have the words, we do. We'll send you information on how to talk to your grandkids about drugs. Just ask for your free copy of "A Parent's Guide to Prevention." Call 1-800-624-0100.

Grandma, Grandpa. Talk to your grandkids. You don't realize the power you have to save them.

Partnership for a Drug-Free America.

WOOW- Joy 1340 AM  
and  
WTOW- Joy 1320 AM

### Presents

### First Spring Gospel Celebration

At Selvia Chapel FWB Church  
1615 Halifax Street, Greenville, NC

May 18, 1999

Doors Open at 6:30 PM

Concert Start at 7:30 PM

\$10.00 at the Door

### FEATURING

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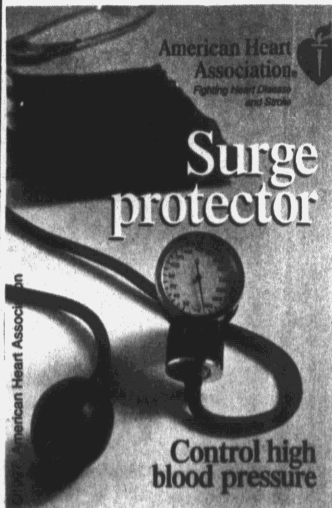
Bill Pinkney & THE ORIGINAL DRIFTERS

Tommy Ellison & THE SINGING STARS

Robert Blair & THE FANTASTIC VIOLINAIRES

THE SENSATIONAL NIGHTENGALES

\*\*\*\*\*



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# The History of Black America Carter G. Woodson

"If a race has no history, if it has no worth-while tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated." — Carter G. Woodson

Carter Godwin Woodson was born to former slaves, James and Eliza Woodson. James Woodson, who had fought for the Union in the Civil War, moved his family to West Virginia when he heard they were building a high school for Blacks in the city of Huntington.

Carter G. Woodson was born December 19, 1875, at New Canton Hospital in Buckingham County, Virginia. One of a large poor family, he could not regularly attend local schools. However, by teaching himself, he was able to master the fundamentals of common school subjects by the time he was seventeen.

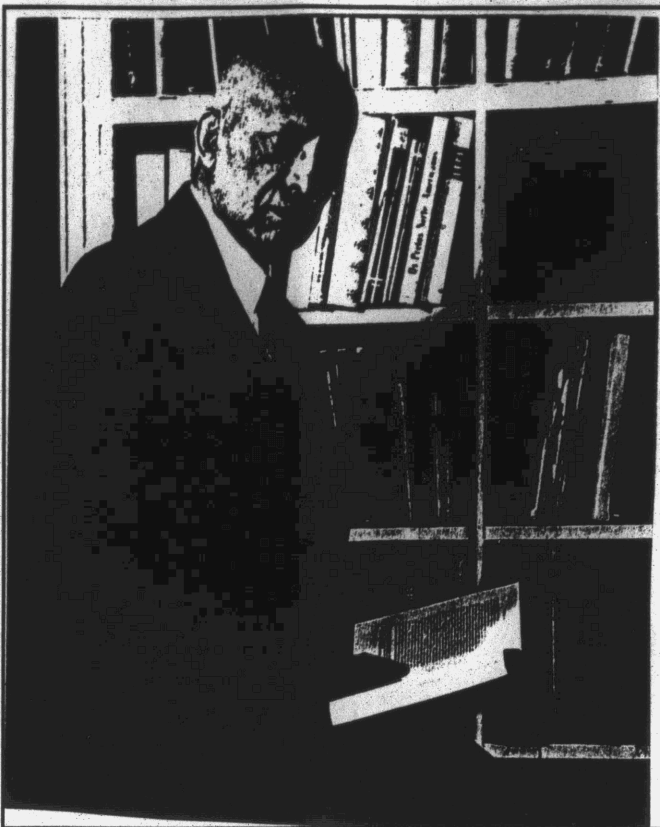
Hoping to further his education, Carter and his brother, Robert Henry, moved to Huntington, West Virginia. Unfortunately, he was forced to earn his living as a miner in the Fayette County coal fields. It was not until 1895 that was he able to enter the Douglass High School in Huntington, where he won his diploma in less than two years. He received his high school certificate with creditable grades. It is thus easy to understand that he earned the degree of Bachelor's of Literature (then called "Litt. B.") from Berea College, Kentucky, in 1901, after two years of study.

In his career as an educator, he served as principal of the Douglas High School; Supervisor of schools

in the Philippines; teacher of languages in the high schools of Washington, D.C.; and Dean of the Schools of Liberal Arts at Howard University and West Virginia State College. Always seeking more knowledge, he earned another B. A. degree, as well as a M.A. degree in 1908 from the University of Chicago. Four years later, he earned his Ph.D. degree in history from Harvard University, becoming only the second African-American to receive such a degree.

A year of study in Asia and Europe, including a semester at the Sorbonne, and his teaching and travels abroad, gave him a mastery of several languages. He taught in the Philippines following the Spanish-American War and the U.S. occupation of the former Spanish colony. He received a grant from Laura Spelman Rockefeller for a study of the 1830 census and listed the Blacks who had owned slaves.

Convinced by this time that, as far as the scholars of his time were concerned, the role of his people in American history and in the history of other cultures was being either ignored or misrepresented, Dr. Woodson realized the need for special research into the neglected past of the Negro. The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, founded in Chicago on



September 9, 1915, is the result of this conviction. The same year, he published one of his most well known books: *The Education of the Negro Prior to 1861*.

The following year, in January 1916, Dr. Woodson began the publication of the scholarly *Journal of Negro History* which, despite the

Great Depression, two World Wars, and the the loss of support from various foundations, has never missed an issue. The *Journal* publishes works of black and white scholars who research and write about people of color. Other works by Woodson include: *The Education of the Negro Prior to*

## 1875 - 1950

1861 (1915); *A Century of Negro Migration* (1918); *The Negro in Our History* (1922), which underwent numerous editions and was revised after Woodson's death in 1950; *The History of the Negro Church* (1927); and *The Miseducation of the Negro* (1933).

(Editor's Note: The Negro in Our History, now in its eleventh edition, has sold more than 90,000 copies.)

A chronicle of Dr. Woodson's far-reaching activities must include the following activities:

1) the organization in 1920 of the Associated Publishers, the oldest African-American publishing company in the country. This company made possible the publication of valuable books on Black Americans, which were then not acceptable to most publishers.

2) the establishment of Negro History Week in February 1926. For many years afterward, Negro History Week continued to be celebrated during one week in February. In 1976, Congress expanded Negro History Week to encompass the entire month of February, and changed the name to Black History Month.

3) the initial publication of the

*Negro History Bulletin* in 1921. This voice of the Associated Publishers has maintained continuous publication since 1937. It was created for teachers in elementary and high school grades.

4) the direction and subsidizing of research in Black History by the Associated Publishers

5) the writing of numerous articles, monographs and books on the experiences of Black America.

Any encyclopedia of the Black Experience would have to rely heavily upon the writings of Dr. Woodson, upon the *Journal* and the *Bulletin*, and upon the other publications of those whom he encouraged and inspired.

For his scholarly works and publications, Dr. Woodson is accorded a place among the ranking historical schools of the nation and the world.

In 1992, the Library of Congress held an exhibition entitled "Moving Back Barriers: The Legacy of Carter G. Woodson". Comprised of many pictures of Woodson, the books he loved, as well as over 5,000 items from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, it ably demonstrated the History of the Black Experience in America.

"According to the commonest principles of human action, no man will do as much for you as you will do for yourself." — Marcus Garvey, Pan-Africanist

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American Heart Association

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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.



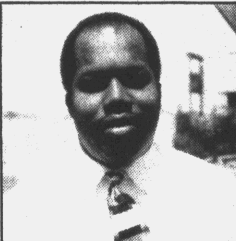
in the area is important to us, University Health Systems' Children's Hospital offers many other services and outreach programs as well. From Education Nurse Specialists who visit schools, emergency rooms and daycare centers, to the only Level III neonatal intensive care unit in the region.

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](http://www.uhseast.com). Oh, almost forgot, you can breathe out now.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  
University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina



## A black and white portrait of a man with a mustache, wearing a dark suit jacket, a dark shirt, and a dark tie. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a slight smile. The background is a mottled, light gray.



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## A black and white portrait of a young woman with dark, curly hair. She is wearing a dark, high-necked sweater. She is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background consists of vertical wooden planks, possibly a door or wall paneling. The lighting is somewhat dramatic, with shadows on her face and hair.

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# Familiar Faces The 20th Century Club: Still going strong!





# Local Attractions

## 10th Annual Harambee Festival & Jazz Concert

Friday, April 30

6pm-10pm: Candlelight Jazz Concert in honor of late native jazz musician Thelonious Monk.

Saturday, May 1

12pm-8pm: Festival that includes live entertainment (gospel, jazz, reggae, R & B, clowns, magician, african dance group, stilt walker) and activities (exhibits, games, rides, basketball tournament), and vendors (food, arts & crafts).

In Rocky Mount: Go to the 100th block of South Washington Street and 100th block of Tarboro Street. For more information, call (252) 442-5178.

## S.A.F.E. Walk

Saturday, May 1

Registration: 8:45am: This walk is sponsored by the TEDI BEAR Children's Advocacy Center, in order to raise funds services for abused children. The actual Walk begins at 10am and runs until 12pm. There'll also be food, games, and other activities.

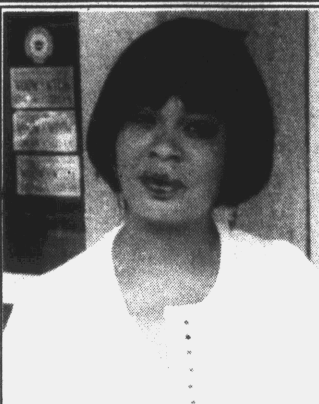
Registration is at the Willis Building in Greenville at the corner of First and Reade. The Walk will end at the Town Commons. For more information, call (252) 758-1200.

## Greenville International Festival

Saturday, May 1

Multicultural fair that introduces residents of Pitt County to foods, arts & crafts, and custom of different cultures and peoples. An all day event held in Greenville at the Town Commons.

## Culinary Delights



soul food a real treat.  
WHAT ARE THE HOURS?  
Mon-Thurs: 8:00am - 3:00pm  
Friday: 8:00am - 5:00pm  
Closed on weekends

Lunch delivery is available for orders of five (5) or more dinners. For more information about daily specials, call 757-1010.

RATING:  
Atmosphere - 4 Spoons  
Food - 5 Spoons  
Location - 3 Spoons  
Service - 5 Spoons  
Cost - 5 Spoons

This Week's Critic's Choice:  
ROUNTREE'S

There sits on Albemarle Avenue (also known as "The Block") a row of brick buildings, twin-like in every aspect. One building, however, is noticeably different.

One cannot tell by looks. However, the aroma of Mom's home-cooking fills the air. "Roundtree's" is a one-room eatery and dining delight.

### WHAT'S THE HISTORY?

It was founded 1976 by Marvin and Ann Roundtree.

After Mr. Roundtree's death in 1998, Ann kept the food coming and the business thriving. Along with Bridgett Bell and Evette Singleton, Ms. Ann makes eating

This week's Silver Spoon Award goes to Roundtree's Restaurant!

About the Food Critic  
As a veteran with 22 years of US military service, Ida "Marie" Andrews has probably tasted every cultural food around. Marie has traveled all over the world, sampling foods and collecting recipes. If you would like your restaurant to be critiqued and written about in the 'M' Voice, please contact the paper.

### About the rating system:

25 Spoons - GOLD  
20 Spoons - SILVER  
15 Spoons - ALUMINUM  
10 Spoons - TIN  
5 Spoons - PLASTIC

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## 6th Annual Minority Business Expo & Job Fair

Saturday, May 1

10am to 5pm: First Citizens Bank, Pepsi and The Jim Rouse Communications Group (home of WTOW 1320-AM, WOOW 1340-AM, and The Minority Voice newspaper) are sponsoring a Business Expo to introduce various businesses and services to the community. The Job Fair will feature various employers, who will be interviewing. Live entertainment includes gospel, reggae and R & B.

In Greenville at the Thomas Foreman Park (the corner of Memorial Drive and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive). For more information, call (252) 757-0365.

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- All Desserts
- Vegetables

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If there's an event coming up that you want us to know about, send it too us! Please send us information at least a week and a half before the event, so we can print it in a timely fashion.



DR. Calvin & Judy Ellison

## COME TO THE OASIS!

Formerly Known As Living Hope Ministries

FOR A TIME OF CELEBRATION

DR. Calvin & Judy Ellison & the Oasis Of Hope Church Family would like to invite you to join them as they celebrate their new

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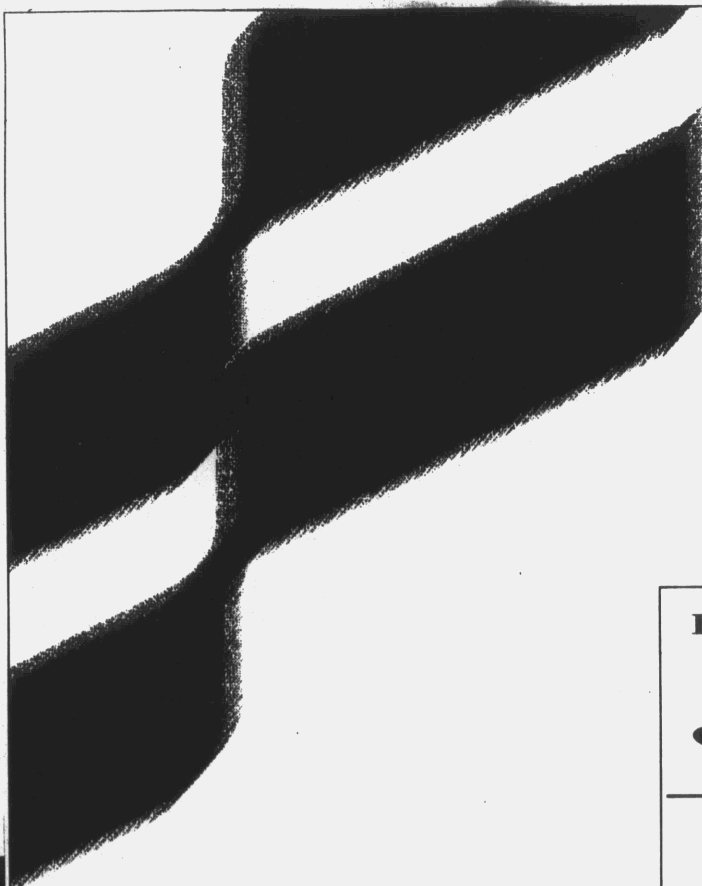
- MAY 10TH Apostle Donald Fozard, Mt. Zion Christian Church
- MAY 11TH Bishop Paul Thomas, Victory Christian Assembly
- MAY 12TH Pastor Zebedee Sheppard, Victory & Dominion Church
- MAY 13TH Apostle Norbett Simmons, Deeper Life Church
- MAY 14TH Pastor Walter Boston, City Of Praise Ministries

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