

Once we find the fruits of success, the taste is nothing like we had anticipated. William Inge

## The Bad Mood of Black America

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson

In June Newsweek magazine boasted that many Black Americans are living better than ever before in America. They are better educated, make more money, live in better neighborhoods, and own more businesses. The message is that since things aren't nearly so bad as many blacks make it out to be—stop complaining about racial ill-treatment. But many do complain, and complain loudly. And with good reasons why they do and should.

•**Public Places:** Many blacks subjected to poor (or no) service, bad seating, long waits, special cover fees and prepayment requirements in restaurants. Even if the lousy service has nothing to do with race since it's difficult to determine whether it is deliberate discrimination management, inattentive waiters, or shorthanded help, the experience is deeply unsettling for many blacks who suspect that mistreatment has everything to do with race.

Then there's the perennial problem with cabs. Many blacks shake with rage as cabs ignore their signals then stop a few feet in front of them to pick up whites. Some cab drivers privately admit that they won't pick up blacks. They claim they fear being robbed or assaulted. But when was the last time a Cab driver was assaulted by a black business person dressed in a suit and tie or designer dress with an attaché case in their hand?

•**Retail stores and residential neighborhoods:** Black customers are

often followed by security guards and ignored by clerks and sales personnel. Many are frequently required to produce ID's or driver licenses to verify checks and credit cards even when they have accounts in residential neighborhoods, black contractors, plumbers, electricians, gas and telephone service employees are often watched and followed by residents and harassed by police.

•**The Glass Ceiling:** Corporations issue glowing press releases, brochures, assorted handouts and annual stockholder reports that boast of their commitment to diversity. Yet ten out of ten senior managers are white, and the number of black CEOs can still be counted on both hands. And many blacks still insist that they receive less pay, fewer promotions and or subject to greater harassment on the job than whites.

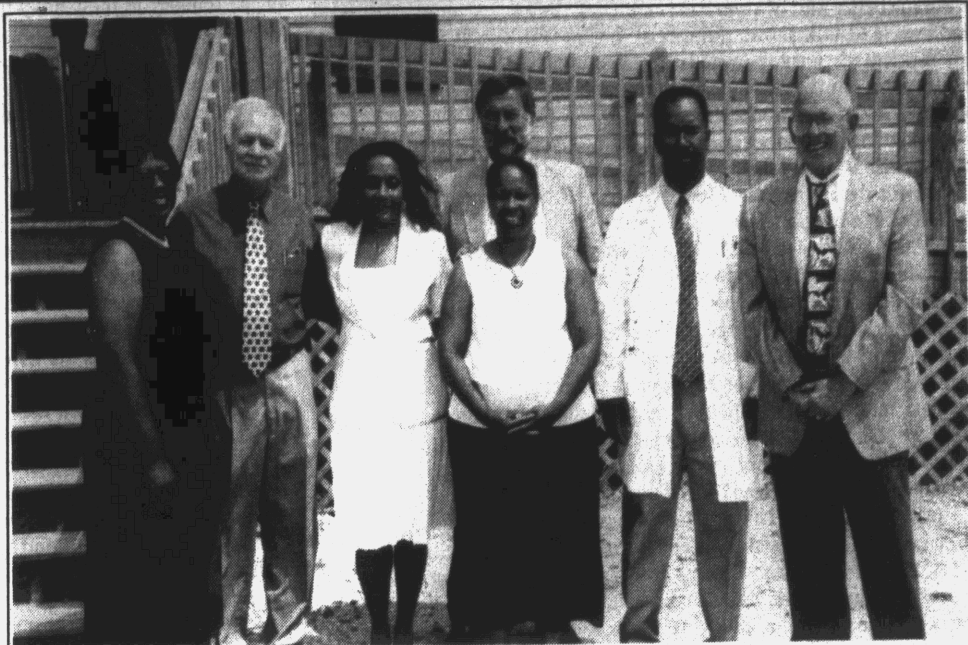
•**Business:** The biggest problem for black business owners is still securing capital. The majority of black businesses receive little if any capital from financial institutions, and many of those that do, pay higher interest rates on their loans than white-owned businesses. While black business has grown steadily in sales and volume of business it still is a poor stepchild in the corporate world.

•**Net Worth:** Nearly nine out of ten adult blacks in the work force depend almost solely on their wages to live on. They receive little or no income from stocks and bonds. While about one out of three Black professionals have incomes that exceeds \$4,000 monthly they have

few tangible assets in stocks, bonds and savings. The median black household net worth was one-seventh of the median for white households in 1992. That figure has not budged much higher since then.

•**Housing:** During the 1980's and 1990's about one in three blacks fled to the suburbs. However, they quickly discovered that the suburbs they moved into soon looked like the all-black neighborhoods they had left. In every metropolitan area the majority of black suburbanites were resegregated. And many blacks including affluent black families that live in predominantly white neighborhoods still complain that they or their kids experience insults or social ostracism.

•**Education:** More black students are trapped in crumbling, dilapidated public schools with more ill-prepared teachers, indifferent administrators, and outdated texts and equipment than two decades ago. Worse, many of these students are in urban public schools that are even more segregated than those schools were two decades ago. Even President Clinton at the commemoration ceremony in 1997 marking the fortieth anniversary of the Little Rock school desegregation battle shamefacedly admitted that the schools in Little Rock and other cities were nearly as segregated as they were forty years ago. These towering obstacles that no amount of cherry talk about how much progress blacks have made can erase. And that's why many Blacks are still in a bad mood!



## James Wynn nominated for US Court of Appeals

If Confirmed, Wynn will be the first Black to sit on 4th Circuit Court



(WASHINGTON) - North Carolina Court of Appeals Judge James A. Wynn Jr. was nominated last Thursday to fill a long-standing vacancy on the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Senator John Edwards, who had recommended Judge Wynn to the White House, urged the Senate to confirm his nomination by President Clinton.

"I am proud of Judge Wynn," Senator Edwards said. "I hope the Senate votes to confirm him so North Carolina will be represented on the court the way it deserves to be."

Judge Sam J. Ervin II is the only judge from North Carolina now sitting on the appeals court that reviews decisions by federal trial judges in, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

If he is confirmed by the Senate, Judge Wynn would fill a judgeship that has been vacant since December 1, 1990, longer than any of the of the 25 unfilled judgeships on federal courts nationwide.

A native of Robersonville, Judge Wynn, 45, now lives in Cary. He has been a North Carolina Court of Appeals judge since 1990, except for a brief period in 1998 when Governor Jim Hunt elevated him to fill a temporary vacancy on

the Supreme Court of North Carolina. He also serves in the Navy Reserve as a captain and a commanding officer in the Judge Advocate General Corps. He joined the reserve after his active duty enlistment in the Navy from 1979 to 1983.

Judge Wynn was a North Carolina Assistant Appellate Defender from 1983 to 1984. He was in private practice from 1984 to 1990 at the firm of Fitch, Wynn & Associates, which had offices in Greenville and Wilson.

Currently serving as vice president of the North Carolina Bar Association, Judge Wynn also is a member of the North Carolina Judicial Conference, the American Bar Association, the North Carolina State Bar, and the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers. No African American judge has ever sat the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Senator Edwards also has urged the Senate to act on the nomination of U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge J. Rich Leonard of Raleigh to be a federal trial judge to be in the Eastern District of North Carolina. Judge Leonard was nominated on March 24 for the position that has gone unfilled for so long that the Judicial Conference of the United States has declared the vacancy a "judicial emergency."

## Legendary Jim Brown faces judge in domestic violence disturbance

A trial date was set for Wednesday for Hall of Fame football legend Jim Brown, who faces charges in connection with a domestic disturbance.

Brown 63, pleaded innocent last week to misdemeanor charges stemming from an incident last month in which the football legend allegedly threatened to kill his wife and smashed her car windows.

The former Cleveland Browns star remained free on his own recognizance, but is charged with one count each of vandalism and making terrorist threats against his 25-year-old wife monique, during an argument at their Hollywood Hills home on June 15.

The couple was arguing over their relationship when Brown grabbed a shovel from the garage and started smashing the windows of his wife 1994 Honda Accord, said Mike Qualls of the City's Attorney's Office.

The wife ran to a neighbor's house and called police about 6:50 p.m. Qualls said. After interviewing her, Los Angeles police arrested Brown on suspicion of making a terrorist threat.

Monique Brown said at an earlier news conference that she was to blame for the incident.

"It was regrettable," she said of her 911 call. "It was rash. Jim would never harm me, or touch me. I was never in any fear of my life, or thought that he was threatening me in any way."

"I just wanted to use the power I thought I had at the moment, because I wasn't getting what I wanted," she said.

If convicted, Brown could face up to 18 months in jail and a fine, prosecutors said. Century City attorney William Grayson said his client is a victim of over zealotness by police and prosecutors.

"My client is not O.J. Simpson. The police and the prosecutors agreed that he did not beat up his wife," Grayson said.

Brown admitted breaking the car windows, but said he committed no crime because he bought the vehicle for his wife., Grayson said. "A neighbor saw her fall over the balcony and called police. The police assumed that he had thrown her over the balcony, but she had fallen. When prosecutors found that out they dropped the charges."

## New Clinic Opens in Washington

The Agape Community Health Clinic was established to develop and maintain primary health care in the Washington and surrounding areas for all residents desiring those services and especially for those who have limited access to medical care.

Agape will provide primary medical care, basic laboratory services, case management, eligibility assistance and pastoral counseling. We have received special funding that will allow us to provide services for a co-payment of \$5, \$10, \$15, or \$20 to those that are 200% or less than poverty guidelines and that meet program requirements. Please call our office to find out how to qualify.

At Agape the care team is led by a physician assistant under the supervision of our Medical Director.

We are also staffed by a medical office assistant (MOA), a licensed practical nurse (LPN), and a registered nurse (RN). Agape's business

practices are supervised by an office manager.

The Agape Community Health Clinic will strive to meet the needs of all residents of Beaufort County and Surrounding Areas by treating the entire individual.

We have a Spanish interpreter available for our multi-cultural population. We have literature, signs and MAP Applications available in Spanish.

We also participate in the State Migrant Worker Program as well as the State Immunization Program.

We are networking with the entire health care community to maintain a referral base of specialists and a local hospital where they have admitting privileges.

We are developing a Continued Quality Improvement Program to assure services provided meet high medical standards and are accessible, affordable and efficient.

We will continue to seek

funding and volunteers to accommodate the needs of the population we serve.

The determination of eligibility for the MAP Program is based on the Family Economic Unit (EU).

The EU is defined as an individual or group of children and/or adults who live at the same residence and pool their economic resources to pay for the group's living expenses.

An individual can not have any type of insurance and qualify for the MAP Program. Proof of income sources and Medicaid/Medicare and Health Choice denials required.

**Metropolitan Community Health Services, Inc.**

**AGAPE COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC**

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Appearing at Guy Smith Stadium, these young brothers will be singing all of Gods songs on Monday Sept. 6th 1999 at the annual Labor Day Gospel Family Reunion along with the Original Soul Stirrers, The Drifters, Willis Pittman, The Vine Sisters and many more look out for the Powell Tradition.

(Photo By Jim Rouse)



# Editorials

## A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

### Anatomy of a Lie

A 47-year-old substitute teacher announces he heard former Black Panther, Mumia Abu-Jamal, admit murdering a Philadelphia police officer. *Vanity Fair* magazine features an interview with Philip Bloch, who tells a reporter that Jamal made the admission to him during a visit in winter of 1992 at Huntingdon Prison. The FOP applauds Bloch's "courage," and the Philadelphia DA's office announces this is proof of Jamal's guilt.

For the better part of a week in summer of 1999 newspapers ran banner headlines, and talk shows did a brisk business in the above story. The gossip-oriented, Disney-owned "20/20 Show" called it a "significant development" in the Jamal case, and shamelessly hyped the show's new "witness," from a man who claimed he was a close personal friend.

In a startling departure from journalistic "standards," not a single newspaper or so-called "news" show bothered to check his tale with me, nor to check him out with the Pennsylvania Prison Society, the agency that he was briefly affiliated with during his visits to state prisons in Pennsylvania. Instead, using the old "they did it—so we can do it" justification, papers and other media leaped at the chance to sell papers with this "hot" new story! You could almost hear them drooling at this "scoop!" Stop the presses! Rarely has one lie drawn so much ink, so much videotape, or wasted so many trees!

Let us suppose (just for the sake of argument!) that Bloch is speaking the truth. Have you ever seen cops embrace snitches so warmly? In truth, cops hate snitches, as should be clear from cop cases where cops tell on other cops! Do you think the cops who testified as to the brutal assault on Abner Louima in New York were hailed for their "courage"? Or were they damned and ostracized? What do you think?

Bloch claims I was a "close personal friend" of his yet, admits his letters went unanswered for years! If his tale is true, isn't he a snitch and a traitor?

Yet, there is no truth to Bloch's revelations, as will be seen by his own words. Again, just for the sake of argument, let us suppose all he said is true. Why would he write the following words to me over 6 months after my "confession" to him? I watched the movie—"Incident at Ogalala" [sic] last month—after Peltier's [note: this refers to Native American political prisoner, Leonard Peltier] co-defendants were acquitted by the jury—in a separate trial—the FBI—(interviewed on camera) were saying that the jurors and their families had been intimidated by Indians. Then they interviewed the foreman of the jury—and he said that nobody on the jury had ever seen any Indians—there was no truth to the FBI allegations. Then the juror said to the camera—I thought that the FBI agents were going to kill all of us (the jury)—after the verdict was read. So—it is possible to get justice from a jury—not always—but sometimes. So, when you get a new trial—I think that there is a good chance of acquittal. (letter; July 17, 1993) [... Bloch] Question: Why write to a guy and write about new trials, or acquittals, if that guy confessed his guilt to you? Answer: Simple. There was no confession. Period. Mr. Bloch knew that six months after the time of an alleged "confession," which means he is lying now. Did Bloch, like the cops of the 6th District, conveniently "forget" this "confession" also?

I don't know, and frankly don't care why he has now come forward. Perhaps he's frustrated that he's still a substitute teacher, and wants a push from friends in high places? Perhaps he seeks the warm glow of the limelight.

Who knows? Who cares?

By his own words, it proves he may not be a snitch, nor much of a traitor—but a liar.

By this episode, he's proven how low so-called trash journalism can go.

Read Today's News  
It's Tomorrow's  
History

If you have any opinions or thoughts you would like to share send them to the "M" Voice Newspaper  
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## KLEAVER'S KLIPPINS

### The Adventures of Tough Tony Thompson

The corner bar was always a place to get a laugh. If you had a rough day at the Ford, GM or Chrysler plant, it was always a little easier to stop by the neighborhood tavern, enjoy a cold beer, and then go home.

That way, you tended not to take out your hostilities on your family.

Tough Tony Thompson worked in the foundry at the Chevy plant. He got his nickname because no matter how hot it got in the foundry or how the hot metal splashed as it was poured, he never wavered. He never stepped back. He always seemed to step right into the right spot.

That, however, was not the only reason he was called tough. He was known to turn out a bar if someone rubbed him the wrong way. There were a few things that frightened him. One of them was his wife and the other thing was a snake.

If a kid walked down the street with a toy snake, Tough Tony would cross the street so he would not have to come in contact with the kid or the snake. Conversely, the meanest guy in the neighborhood could look to have his clocked cleaned if he messed with Tough Tony.

One Thursday night, after getting his paycheck (in those days, many of the plants paid off on Thursdays), Tony decided he would stop in the bar and have a few drinks. He brought several of his friends with him and they started having a good time. A real good time. Tony would buy a round and then someone else would buy a round and so it went for the rest of the evening.

When the bar closed at 2 a.m., nobody was ready to go home. Tobey, one of the barmaids, suggested they all adjourn to her house and they could keep on drinking, just as long as they slipped her a few bucks for the inconvenience. Everybody agreed and away they went.

She called her live-in boyfriend and told him to run out to the boot-legger and bring in some booze. She also advised him to get some Polish sausage and bread, just in case they got hungry. Tobey saw her pockets getting fat.

Somebody stopped by the Cunningham drug store and bought several decks of cards. This was just in case somebody wanted to play a little poker or blackjack.

This promised to be quite an evening or morning, whichever was the case.

Tony and his gang began to come into Tobey's place. When the count was taken, there were 14 guys and three females in the party.

They drank and they drank and they drank. By now it was nearly five a.m. and nobody seemed to be getting tired. Tobey and her boyfriend were still pouring booze as the sun crept up over the horizon. And still they drank.

Some bright soul then introduced the idea of playing strip poker. This might have worked all right except Tough Tony wanted both Tobey and her boyfriend to play.

Now, Tobey was a fairly small but shapely young lady. She was light-skinned, lighter than café au lait, with freckles and red hair. Many of the patrons of the bar came into

just to ogle Tobey.

Anyway, the game got underway. But there were unforeseen developments. Tony and his gang didn't know that both Tobey and her boyfriend ran after-hours joints with gambling, all over the city of Detroit from time to time. So, when the game got underway, guess who the winners were? You got it! Tobey and her old man.

Well this didn't go over too well. Everybody was losing their clothing just as fast as Tobey could deal the cards. By now, Tough Tony was feeling no pain and he decided he would just ignore Tobey's old man and make a straight-out play for Tobey.

He waited until she had finished dealing and had gotten up from the table. He asked her for a drink and then followed her into the kitchen and made a play for her. He tried to get her in a corner so he could kiss her. Tobey, being as streetwise as she was, did not want to create a scene in her own house. That could get expensive. So she just kind of sidestepped him and kept on serving drinks and fixing food.

As the morning became more prominent, Tobey realized she would have to get these people out of her house if she was going to get any rest and be in any shape to come back to her job later in the day.

Tony, however, was determined to get to Tobey and he was relentless. Her boyfriend, recognized the problem she was having and tried to intervene, but Tony, just picked him up bodily and tossed him out of the house and closed the door on him.

Tobey, became sweet and atten-

tive and managed to collect her money from Tony, with an unspoken promise of better things to come. She managed to get Tony to come into the living room and stretch out on the couch. He quickly fell asleep. Tobey then went into his pockets and found his home phone number and called his wife. She explained he had a little too much to drink and was asleep on the couch.

The wife having been through this before, told Tobey he would sleep for at least five or six hours, but that he would be a bear when he awakened. Then she told her he was afraid of snakes.

This was the high point of the escape. Tobey's little sister had a little garter snake for a school project. It was just two feet long and she lived a block away. Tobey trekked to her sister's house, put the snake in an oatmeal box and came back home where Tough Tony was.

Tobey waited about an hour and then went into the kitchen and got a cold towel. She placed the towel on Tony's forehead and as he came awake, she dumped the contents of the oatmeal box in his lap. He sat for a second or two as the realization hit him. He began to shake and then roared with fear, jumped up and ran through Tobey's front door with some of his clothes in his hands. The rest were on the couch.

People who saw him, said he was running at least 20 miles an hour down the middle of the streets, partially naked, screaming at the top of his lungs. Word has it, he has not had a drink since that day. And that was in 1959.



## URBAN PERSPECTIVE

### Test Scores and African American Students

Even a cursory examination of the recently released statewide Stanford 9 Achievement Test results underscores the dismal performance of African American students, as well as the utter failure of school districts to educate these students. But who's raising hell, demanding that the system educate, not warehouse students of color? Has there been an outcry over the test scores by African American parents, educators, community groups or black community press conference experts?

The low achievement scores of black students and an array of related issues do not lend themselves to 30-second sound bites or vacuous pronouncements of bogus solutions. The failure of public education for black students causes barely a protest ripple, reinforcing the education status quo and ensure continuing abuse of the community's most precious asset—its children.

Lack of student achievement also involves teachers, the front-line professionals who have primary responsibility for helping develop students' potential. Among the reasons teachers fail to meet this responsibility are inner city administrators, school boards and politicians whose priorities often have little to do with educating children. Except for experimental programs, (which have limited time and limited funding), the bedrock issues in

urban education (and education reform) are often not addressed and amazingly, are not priority concerns for education officials. This has devastating consequences for African American students who score lowest and receive fewest resources.

A case in point—the recently filed lawsuit by Attorney Johnnie Cochran and the American Civil Liberties Union. It is a class-action lawsuit against the Inglewood School District and State Department of Education requesting that the court require Inglewood High School, as well as all other high schools in the state, to provide equal access to Advanced Placement courses. These classes provide advanced college credit, as well as the chance to receive five grade points for an "A," when non-AP classes can only give four grade points for an "A."

The case is based on the fact that Inglewood High School, whose students are virtually all African American and Latino, has only three AP classes, none of which is in science or mathematics, whereas, a school such as Beverly Hills High that has less than 9 percent African American and Latino students, offers 14 AP classes, including 6 science and math. In other words, students at Inglewood High School can only receive a 4.0 grade point average, putting them at a serious disadvantage in applying to such schools as UCLA, whose incoming class last year had a GPA of 4.19.

The fact that school districts such as Inglewood, Compton and Lynwood are governed by people of color, in no way absolves them of responsibility for educating all students. One would hope that these districts are especially motivated to provide quality education for their students. However, the Inglewood Board of Education was apparently oblivious to the ongoing inequity endured by its high school students, since it did nothing to remedy the situation. Unfortunately, all of this speaks volumes to the negligence in Inglewood and most other inner city school districts.

(Inglewood's failure to expand the AP courses is all the more reprehensible since the Inglewood High principal's proposal to expand AP course offerings was rejected by the district superintendent in 1995.)

Student achievement is the single-most important gauge of success in school. This is, in some ways, unfortunate because race, income and politics, among other factors, are major determinants of who succeeds and who fails.

Nonetheless, most probably quantifiable achievement tests will remain the preferred assessment tool for the foreseeable future in public education. Therefore, it is all the more important that African American parents and the broader community demand that their students be as prepared for higher education and the world of work as students in

more affluent school districts. Parents and community organizing campaigns aimed at securing access and equity in schools would be a start in the right direction.

Education reform in Los Angeles has had little or no impact on inner city schools which are populated almost exclusively by Latino and African American students. The Stanford 9 Achievement Tests results dramatically attest to this fact and curiously, perhaps predictably, those students who are most in need of the benefits of education reform are least likely to be affected by its programs.

Focusing on the educational needs of African American students and using the results of the Stanford 9 Test as the launching point—African American parents, elected officials, educators and interested others could develop strategies for mobilizing resources to turn education around for African American children. There is no higher priority than securing the future of children and it is past time that the entire school community began according the children's future highest priority.

Parents and interested others might begin by meeting together, drawing up specific concerns to be presented to boards of education, who are ultimately responsible for adopting policies responsive to the needs of African American students, and thereafter demanding that such policies be implemented.

## BETWEEN THE LINES

### Twisting the Black Male Image: Tired of Buffoons, Criminals, Gays and Drags?



This is a topic I haven't written about in a long time. But it's been a long time since I've been this enraged about a particular issue. I'm generally impassioned about most topics I take up, but this one, for some reason, really pissed me off.

Maybe it was a culmination of things. But what sent me off the edge was seeing a picture of all-time college rushing leader, Heisman Trophy winner and NFL top draft pick Ricky Williams in a photo with his new pro team coach, Mike Ditka.

The photo was a preview of this week's *ESPN* magazine (Aug. 9) cover shot about the upcoming NFL season. Ditka and Williams "are getting married," a reference to the New Orleans Saints' long-term commitment to Williams. Both are dressed as bride and groom. You can guess who was in the wedding dress. It was a sickening demonstration of image manipulation. If Ditka were still coach of the Bears, they never would have done this with quarterback Cade McNown (the Bear's top draft choice from UCLA) or any other coveted "white boy" with megamarketing potential. Still wouldn't do it. McNown's agent wouldn't have

allowed it. Ricky Williams agent needs his a\*\* kicked for having his client's image twisted just to get a magazine cover. Williams didn't need a magazine cover that badly. But they (media, television, marketers) are quick to twist a black man's image. In fact, they're "mainstreaming" the "black freak," the gay, the drag, anything twisted these days you can generally see it in print or electronic media ... in black face and a male.

While I've never been one for total political correctness, and "court the line" of free speech and freedom of the press quite regularly, I try to maintain some civil sensitivities about certain issues. Not this week. You're 'bout to see me "go off."

In the 24-hour period before I wrote this piece, I saw a "Spin City" rerun in prime time, of the black male homosexual character trying to get his male boxing acquaintance to "come out of the closet," three black homosexuals on "Jerry Springer" talking about "I got a secret to tell you," reruns of "Malcolm and Eddie" and "Between Brothers" with enough buffoonery in one hour to last one month; and photo man-hunts of alleged black robbers and an alleged black fanist on the nightly

news. Then, there was the infamous Heisman Trophy winner in the "drag" photo with my morning coffee.

And you wonder why people cross the street when they see a black man coming, suspect him of something ... anything, at first sight or have problems relating to serious black men in serious situations such as business, policy or social concerns.

The black man's image have become so twisted that society has almost come to expect what they see in our societal lens of mass communication. And, it's a global context whether we, as black Americans, want to acknowledge it or not. The "freak" you see in prime time today, is the freak that runs in perpetual (lifelong) syndication in Asia. So when they come here, they already have preconceived judgements of black men.

It took black soldiers who fought in WWII 30 years to eradicate the rumor that "black men had tails (like monkeys)." That was a stark reality of the twisted images of black men put out there by both Japanese and racist white soldiers frustrated with the success and notoriety of the

Tuskegee Airmen.

Now we are willingly play "the freak" for entertainment. The Williams piece was particularly disturbing because he had cultivated a kind of "loner-culturalist" image (with his quiet demeanor and Afrocentric "rasta" look) that had been accepted.

When you perform and create economic opportunity, people care less what you look like, particularly in sports and entertainment. People counter the argument with, "Well, what about Dennis Rodman?" Well, what about him? Rodman chose to have his image exploited in the most vile and twisted ways imaginable. The colored hair and tattoos I could live with. People have a right to express their individuality. The cross-dressing and bisexual innuendo I never accepted but the mainstream media had a field day with it. Now every black man is expected to have a dress in his closet somewhere and a secret to tell. Williams wasn't in that category. He's star quality that doesn't need *ESPN* or anybody else if he runs the football. They'll all come to him as a straight-up black man, like they did Jim Brown, Walter Payton and even O.J. Simpson.

*ESPN* recently did a "hack" job on "Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in its 'Greatest Athletes of the Century' series, saying he was 'moody,' 'militant,' and 'aloof' most of his career. Naw, he was serious, culturally centered and didn't take any bulls\*\*t off the media. So much for what *ESPN* thinks about black male images.

On the sexual orientation tip, I don't apologize for my "Neanderthal" views. I'm as open as the next individual about what a person does behind closed doors and would be out front to protect that right (of privacy). I don't perceive myself as particularly homophobic, but I could care less what your sexual preference is, and "who you do" behind closed doors (or in your back yard for that matter). I'm like the military in that vein, "I won't ask you, and please don't tell me." In fact, heterosexuals who brag about their orientation offend me. If you're a stud, great. If you're a freak, fine. Keep it to yourself and the one(s) who choose to deal with you. Whatever your preference, you don't have to wear it on your sleeve. But it is clear that the entertainment industry chooses to represent black men as

"soft," "feminine," or in many cases, straight out "flaming."

Fellow columnist and author, Earl "Ofari" Hutchison called this out in his book, *The Assassination of the Black Male Image*, and as a recent series on the decline of minorities in TV discussed, there is a "proliferation" of gay images in television roles. And that doesn't include the "freak" shows like "Jerry Springer" and "Ricki Lake" that can't find enough black images to exploit.

You rarely see white men "with secrets to tell" about sleeping with another man (another woman, maybe, or a woman sleeping with his woman—but another man, rarely). One of the few instances which it did occur ended up in murder and a wrongful death suit against the freak show producer "Jenny Jones".

But not a day goes by where one of these shows don't have some twisted black image before the world. I, for one, am tired of seeing 'em. And I'm tired of seeing them try to create more of 'em.

I hope Ricky Williams is pulled to the side on this one. He has too much going for him to be "dragged" into the denigration of the black male image before he plays one day of pro



### Teenage drug use fell in 1998: Government report

Teen drug use is beginning to creep down after climbing through the 1990s, the government reported Wednesday. An annual survey found that one in 10 teenagers uses marijuana or other illegal drugs — down from 1997 though still nearly double what it was in 1992.

President Clinton and others called the results solid evidence that the nation had reversed course.

### Woman fleeing sexual ritual gains asylum

A New York woman who fled Africa two years ago to avoid genital mutilation has been awarded political asylum.

The Board of Immigration Appeals granted the petition of Adelaide Abankwah on the ground that she had good reason to fear genital cutting if she returned to her native Ghana.

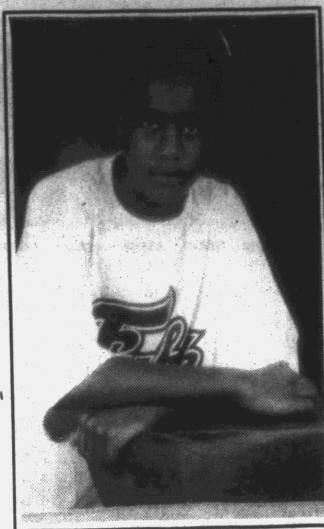
Abankwah, 29, is the second woman to win asylum in the United States because of the threat of genital mutilation, which millions of African girls and women undergo each year.

### Rev. Sharpton pleads innocent in St. Louis protest

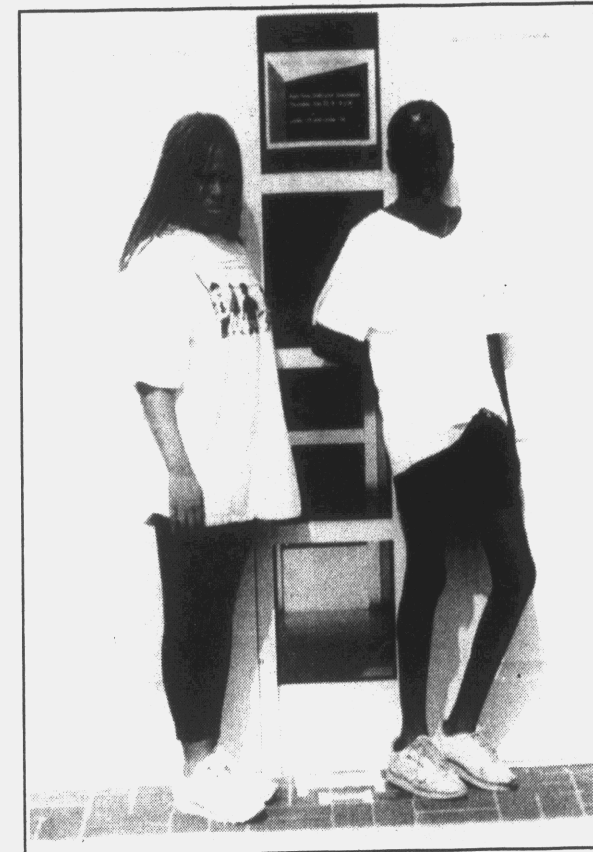
The Rev. Al Sharpton appears to be digging in for a protracted fight in the Midwest.

The New York civil rights activist refused to accept a plea agreement offered by the St. Louis City Counselor's office this week and instead pleaded innocent to charges of impeding the flow of traffic and failing to obey a direct order by police.

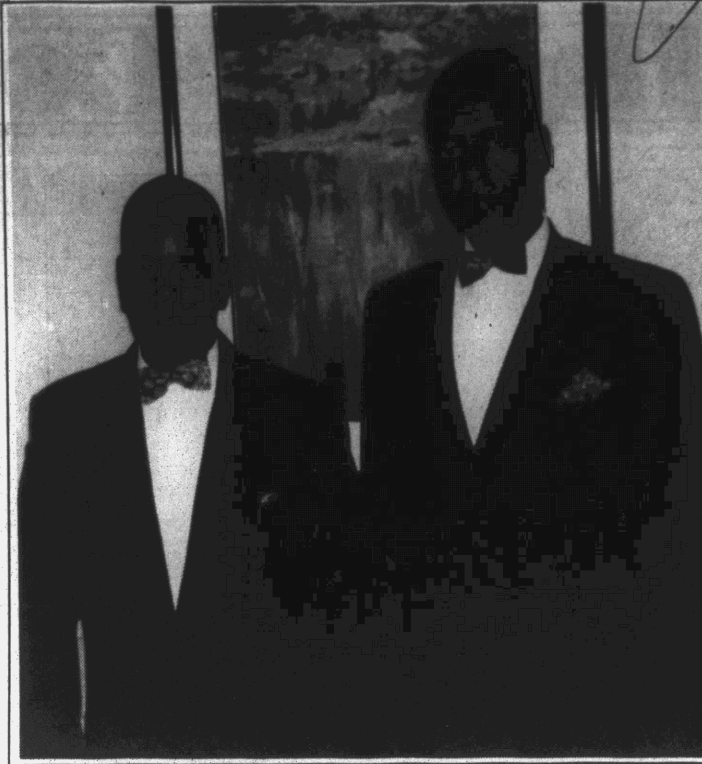
The case, which stems from a July 12 protest in which Sharpton and about 80 others temporarily shutdown Interstate 70, will now head to trial.



**Edwards Jr. High School Super Star**  
A.J. Mcneil wanted by all High School coaches is already experiencing the fame. The "M" voice would like to congratulate this young super star on his bright future.



Marquita Pratt and Nikki Jenkins are shown here standing at the front of the Leslie Building at Pitt Community College. They recently attended a two-week Kids' College Dance session held on the campus. They are members of the Performing Cherubs of Tabernacle Center Church of Deliverance (1300 Dickinson Avenue in Greenville). Dr. George Hawkins is their pastor.



**Brother Micheal Muhammad (L) Minister Ray Muhammad (R)**

Rocky Mount's National Representative for the **Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan**, Brother Minister Ray Muhammad took a few moments Friday July 2, 1999 to let local "M" Voice Representative Daniel Mayo do a quick interview. The Min. Ray Muhammad wanted to stress the illness of the Honorable Min. Louis Farrakhan. He said he spoke with the Honorable Farrakhan recently and the Honorable Min. Farrakhan was getting spiritually fit to prepare for the 40 City tour. The purpose of this tour would be to speak to 10,000 or more people about the changes that are going on in the New Millennium to come

that most minority communities will not be ready for. Min. Ray Muhammad also said that on Oct. 16, 2000 they are planning the Million Family March. The purpose of this gathering will be to really establish a 3rd political force and develop town hall meetings. Also the Honorable Min. Farrakhan would like to improve on Unity. If you are more interested in information concerning these agendas **Please Contact the Bro. Min. Ray Muhammad at**

2730 S. Wesleyan Blvd.  
(252) 985-1139

Friday - 7:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

By Myra Wooten

For many people their lives are saved in a hospital and their doctors' help do the saving. But for several people who call West Greenville home, their lives are being saved by Robin Days, a health educator who chooses condoms and bleach kits as her method of lifesaving. Robin is the coordinator of a state funded program called, Project Outreach which seeks to provide prevention, care and education to a designated population on HIV and STDs. The program has been in Greenville for the past six years, but Robin brings a different flavor to the program. As a 25-year-old Black female she believes that her race and her sex play a part in her acceptance into many communities, but if it helps save a life then she doesn't mind one bit. "I honestly think they take the condoms because they need them, not because I look cute on any given day."

Three days a week, two hours a day, Robin walks the streets of Greenville, armed with a black duffel bag, hundreds of condoms and bleach kits. She travels in the afternoon when she knows more people are out and about. She is recognized by many of the people who she encounters because as she says, "it's the same people". Many of the people in this targeted area are chronic drug abusers, having been in and out of several detox programs more often than not.

"Part of the problem," Robin says, "is that many programs only allow you to stay from between fourteen and twenty-eight days. That's only enough time to get the

drugs out of your system, before you go back looking for more." With the drug of choice for most addicts being heroin and crack cocaine, those few days just aren't enough time according to Robin. And so because of the many other problems that go along with addiction, Robin realizes that she must focus on one area. Now her focus is on the prevention of the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. "It's enough to be an addict, why complicate it with HIV?"

Her condom bowls can be found all around "The Block", an area that runs from Albemarle to Martin Luther King. This area, dotted with shooting galleries, liquor houses, restaurants and a spot known as the Outer Limits, allows patrons to come in and get condoms through an agreement made between Robin and the owners.

The condoms, Lifestyles with nonoxynol-9, are making a difference in the lives of a group of young men in the Moyewood housing area. Known as the Page Street Boys, they are happy and grateful that someone is looking out for them. Given condoms by Robin on many occasions they profess to use them and are always happy to see her.

Whether or not they actually use them no one knows but for Robin she admits that she can't work that way. "I give everyone the benefit of the doubt," she says. But what about the people who aren't in West Greenville, and who can't be found standing on corners? For them and anyone who will let her Robin does "House Parties". "At a house party we come to your house and bring lunch, pizza and drinks, and talk to you and some friends about "HIV and STDs," Robin says.

Through this type of outreach she gets to meet people that she probably won't encounter in the detention center or at Walter B. Jones where she also goes and speaks.

But what about the bleach kits? The bleach kits are given to intravenous drug users to help them clean their works. Most of the people who she distributes the kits to know how to use them and don't mind asking for them. "I have one client, who can't stay clean and so whenever she comes out of detox she knows to come find me. Even though they go back and forth they know to clean their works."

For Robin she is convinced that her presence is making a difference in this and many other communities. "Drugs are everywhere," Robin says, "there's a lot of it going on everywhere." Is she making a difference, is her assertive street outreach helping to change Greenville, or is it just a Band-Aid over a much larger problem? Without hesitation Robin responds, "Even with what I do being just a Band-Aid, it covers something." So maybe, just maybe that small part can begin to heal.

If you or someone you know needs help, or would like to talk with someone call Project Outreach at 758-2129.

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# In The Community



## TRADE MART CONVENIENCE STORE NUMBER #2

(pictured) - If you have to get up early each morning and you're looking for the best breakfast in town, drop by Trade Convenience Store on Dickinson. At Trade Convenience Store # 2, sisters prepare the best cheese biscuits in Greenville. Everybody love those cheese biscuits, so drop by for good service and a friendly smile. (Photo by: Jim Rouse)



Kerna Hiltz, 29, postponed law school to challenge incumbent Greenville Mayor Nancy Jenkins in the upcoming November election. Hiltz said she feels confident that she will defeat Jenkins: "It's time for a change," Hiltz said "We must go forward."

Hiltz, who earned a degree in communications and Journalism from East Carolina University in 1993, had planned to attend North Carolina Central Law School this fall to become a civil rights lawyer.

"I've worked hard over the past several years to prepare for law school and the LSAT, but this takes priority in my life right now," Hiltz said. "I don't believe Ms. Jenkins is the right person to take Greenville into the 21st century."

Ms. Hiltz, who is a member of the Philippi Church of Christ, said the city of Greenville can do a lot more to help lower income neighborhoods throughout the city. "These are proud people. They're not looking for handouts, they're looking for hope and fairness." "There is a lot of wasteful spending in Greenville due to the

lack of planning," Hiltz said. "Greenville does more reacting to the growth of the city than planning for it. That's the problem."

"The city doesn't need to raise taxes to remedy its problems," Hiltz said. "We just simply need to be fiscally more responsible. Believe me, there have been hundreds of thousands of dollars lost on that convention center alone that could have been done wonderful things if used properly in our communities. We have resources here in Greenville that could yield incredible things if we only recognize them and treat them with respect. This city does little or nothing in support of our businesses. Rule number one is - if we don't support our businesses, some other city will." Ms. Hiltz said that when she is elected, she plans to take more of a hands on approach to the office: "For a city to work, you must take care of the entire city. You can't forget or neglect any part of our community. We must unite and work together for the good of all who live in Greenville."

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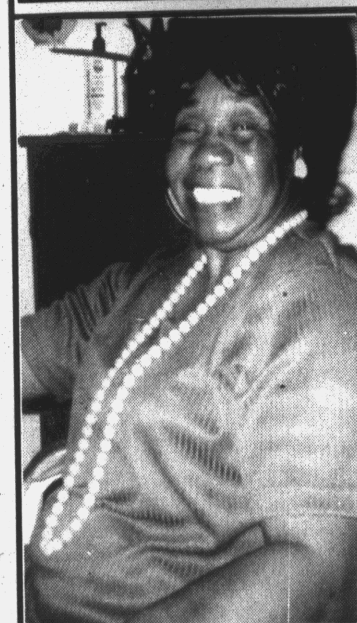


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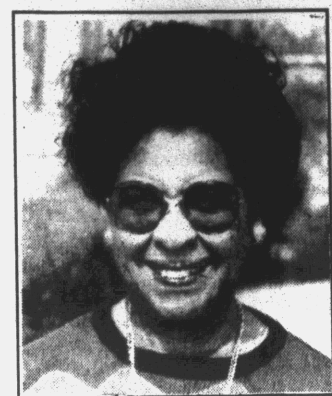
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# Faith & Inspiration

## From the Desk of Mrs Beatrice Maye



**DON'T ! DON'T ! DON'T!!**

1. Don't lick the silver or clean it on your napkin.
2. Don't play with your bread as if it were meddling clay.
3. Don't roll your napkin into a ball. Leave it on your lap.
4. Don't push your plate back when you've finished. It should remain where it is until taken away.
5. Never say: "I'm through". Put your knife and fork across the plate and everyone will know you've finished.
6. Never say: "I'm full".
7. Never clean your teeth by running your tongue around them while at table. It is ugly to see.
8. Don't lick your fingers, or wipe them on a chair seat or under the underside of the table. Use your napkin.
9. Never leave the table in a fit of anger.
10. Don't talk so much that it

interferes with your eating, or keeps others from taking part in the conversation.

11. Never be so slow or so talkative that everyone is kept waiting while you finish your food.
12. But, don't eat as though you were trying to win a race.
13. Don't drink the juice from the bottom of a dessert cup. Use your spoon
14. Never pile food on the back of your fork, or put your knife in your mouth
15. Don't lick bits of butter or jelly from your butter knife.
16. Don't chew with your mouth open, or talk while it is full.

**HAW To Be A GOOD SPORT**

A good sport is a person who is always fair in all his dealings with others and who is cheerful when things go wrong or when he can't have his own way. He knows how to take the bad as well as the good with a smile. everyone finds him pleasant to have around. Good sportsmanship should extend beyond games into everyday behavior at school, at home, or wherever you happen to be. Join cheerfully in whatever is going on in the way of games or other activities, and be good-natured when things don't suit you. You are not alone if you find it hard to be a good sport. Lots of people have the same trouble, but you can learn sportsmanship just as you can learn anything else.

**The Top 10 Ways To Build Your Self Esteem**

- Be proud that you are unique
- Develop your own special style
- Don't be discouraged by mistakes
- Be responsible
- Treat others the way you would like to be treated
- Think positively
- Believe in yourself
- Don't listen to negative people
- Do the best you can at whatever you do
- Take pride in what you do well

**THE TOP 10 REASONS WHY IT'S NO JOKE TO SMOKE**

- Smoking makes it hard to breathe
- You could use the Money for better things
- Nobody wants to kiss a Smokey mouth
- Smoking adds to air pollution
- It makes your teeth yellow
- It makes your clothes stink
- Smokers do poorly at sports
- Once you start, it's hard to quit
- It can make other people stink
- You can get cancer and die

**TOP 10 WAYS TO MAKE SMART CHOICES**

Smart people get the best jobs

- You can make a lot of new friends
- Every day there's something new to do
- Teachers will help you with your problems
- You can see the world from your desk
- You can play a sport on a real team
- You learn about interesting things
- The more you learn, the better you'll feel about yourself
- It's a safe place that belongs to everyone
- School is neat and better than the streets

**THE TOP 10 REASONS TO SAY NO TO DRUGS**

- Drugs and alcohol mess up your mind
- Drugs and alcohol mess up your body
- Drugs and alcohol are a waste of money
- Drugs and alcohol can be addictive
- The increase crime in your neighborhood
- Drug and alcohol users hurt other people
- If you get caught with them you will go to jail
- Drug and alcohol users are losers

**THE TOP 10 WAYS TO PREVENT VIOLENCE**

- Avoid places known for violence
- Use words to settle arguments
- Avoid drug and alcohol users
- Learn how to control your anger
- Think about the consequences before you act
- Never carry a gun or weapon to school
- Join a crime watch program
- Report anyone carrying a weapon to authorities
- Realize that violence doesn't solve problems

**HUGS**

" Hugs are better than drugs"

**How To Make A Request**

1. Look at the person.
2. Use a pleasant voice tone.
3. State request specifically.
4. Say please.
5. Say thank-you after request is granted.

**How To Resist Peer Pressure (Or Say No)**

1. Look at the person.
2. Use a calm voice tone.

3. Thank you for including you.
4. Explain that you do not want to participate.
5. Offer an alternative activity.

**How To Give Negative Feedback**

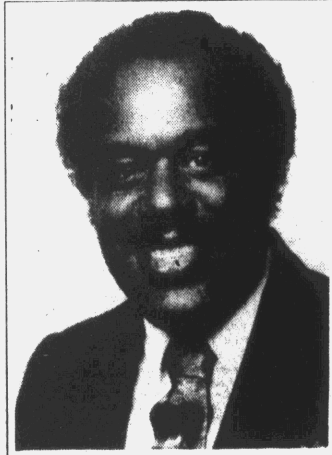
1. Look at the person.
2. Use a calm voice tone.
3. Make a positive statement for praise.
4. State the problem specifically.
5. Give a rationale why it's a problem.
6. Offer a solution.
7. Thank the person for listening.

**An Incredible Man**

CHUCK AUTRY, a remarkable man with a humanitarian spirit and heart, who may not possess a long string of honors and awards, but who is compassionate, caring, and Godfearing, a peoples' human being who enjoys helping, encouraging and supporting all, in spite of race, color or creed. His shop is an open door where individuals in all walks of life enjoy conversation, camaraderie and warm hospitality. He's a positive man, an asset to this community and to any group or organization that he's a member of. Thank you, Mr. Autry, for the inspiration, the guidance and the example you set for others to follow and for the stamina to speak the truth.

Beatrice Maye

## Spiritual Thoughts



Dr. George Hawkins

**The True Church**

The true church today is no different from the true church which Christ founded. the term "church" as found in the bible

does not refer to a building or structure, neither does it describe a particular denomination. Rather, it refers to the actual people who make up the church, those who are specially selected and called out of the world. In Scripture, the word "church" is a translation of the Greek word *ekklesia* which means "that which is called out." God is selecting or calling out those of the proper heart condition to be associated with His own dear Son as members of his body, together making up the church class. Jesus explained that the Father The true church is that company of people who have accepted the call of God, believe the teachings of Christ, and have become separated from the world and have become separated from the world and its spirit. Such separation is not a physical one, such

as seclusion in a monastery. The church remains in the world to be a light to those groping in the darkness, yet separated from it by her faithfulness and standards of the Christian way. (John 17:15) The church which is described in the New Testament carries many Bible names each one describing a particular aspect of the church. Some of these are: the bride of Christ, the royal priesthood, the saints, the elect, the little flock sons of god the church of the living God, Christians, overcomers, and new creatures. Denominational names such as Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran, and Baptist are not found in this list. They are human origin and tend to divide the church. Even though serve their purpose in identifying various groups of people who are trying to follow Christ, they do not necessarily represent

the true church. The denominational name is not as important as the doctrines which that group upholds, and the standing before the Lord of the individuals who make it. Only God has the ability to determine which individuals make up the true church. Membership in good standing in a particular denomination does not automatically ensure our salvation. Even if the groups adopted one of the scriptural names applied to the church such as St. John's or St. Mary's or St. Peter's, this in itself would not necessarily make us a part of the true church. What really matters is whether our individual names "are written in heaven" with those of "the general assembly and church of the first born." (Hebrew 12:23) This is dependent upon the degree of our willingness to serve Him

above all else. Many of today's churches are in Christian error. False religions, man-made doctrines and worldly procedures are not principles of the Lord Jesus Christ. Churches have deceived people and have led them away from the teachings of Jesus Christ. They have transformed the meaning of the true church and its purpose into a voting precinct, whereby a prospective member is "voted" into its membership - much like a social club where "members only" can attend or like fraternal organization where one "black ball" eliminates you. Our Lord Jesus Christ accepts all into His heavenly Kingdom without a voting system or a Roberts Rules of Order & Procedure. John 6:35, 37 reads: "He that cometh to me ... I will in no wise cast out." There is a difference between

opening the doors of the church for membership and getting an individual to accept Christ by acknowledging His sins, representing, and confessing. Being born again is God's only requirement for being accepted into His Kingdom. Voting is church error. It is not of God, and not required to be considered a citizen of heaven and a new creature in Christ.

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

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Date: August 20, 1999  
Contact: Ms. Miller (336) 724-9222  
Subject: Miss Black North Carolina, USofA Scholarship Pageant

The Miss Black North Carolina, USofA Scholarship Pageant is currently accepting applications for contestants. The state pageant is a preliminary to the national Miss Black USofA Scholarship Pageant.

The areas of competition include talent, interview, introduction, future speech and on stage question. Prizes will be awarded to and for the winner, first and second runner up, Miss Congeniality, community service and academic achievement.

For more information call toll free 1-888-837-1233 or (336) 724-9222.



# Around The Nation

## Do You Have Any Concerns About the Y2K Problem

## Blacks Should Help Do Away With "Death Tax"

By Hary C. Alford, Jr.

We, as a people, have been freed from physical slavery for over 134 years and we have yet to begin building wealth. We cannot begin utilizing all of the advantages of this free economy until we have gained enough wealth to actively participate. It's just not civil rights; civil rights can get you dignity and respect but we need more. It's just not political empow-

erment; look at Zimbabwe or South Africa where we now have enormous political empowerment but, yet, no power due to lack of Black wealth. Civil rights and political clout are nice but economic empowerment will get you freedom and authority. Freedom and authority are the keys to earthly happiness. The total net worth of African Americans is only 1.2 percent of the total net worth of the nation

-- when we are 14 percent of the total population. We have been stuck at that number since the end of the Civil War in 1965. Getting rid of the "death tax" will start to create a needed legacy and begin a cycle of wealth building for Blacks in this country. That would be a great start to breaking the economic chains that bind us. What is the death tax? The "death tax" is levied against the government -- assessed value of the deceased's estate. The rates can start at 37 percent and can climb to 55 percent. In essence, your last remaining parent dies and the estate they leave to you and your siblings will be reduced by the IRS by an amount equivalent to 37 - 55 percent of the total worth. Thus, the legacy left by your elders or left by you to your children can be significantly reduced or even wiped out.

We cannot begin to build wealth until we start to recycle our precious dollars. We cannot recycle our precious dollars until we have businesses and ventures to invest in. The "death tax" is in our way! Fortunately, we now have an opportunity to get the "legacy killer" out of our lives and future. There are two bills in the House and Senate as I write this editorial. HR 86 and S 56 will repeal the "death tax". HR 8 and S 38 will phase it out over a specified period of time. Please keep in mind that this estate tax only contributes about 1 percent of the total federal revenue, and of each dollar collected, 65 cents is spent on collecting the tax. The tax promotes virtually nothing but financial hardship and a serious insult to the hard work of our parents. These bills are making progress on Capitol Hill. However, we need to provide a needed boost, especially to members of the Congressional Black Caucus who, many times, aren't where they should be on financial gain issues. Please call your applicable congressperson or senator and tell them you support these bills to end the "death tax". Tell them it is all right for Black folks to begin building wealth in this country. It is not against the law and it certainly is more enjoyable than poverty. Building wealth will lead to better education, better health care, safer streets and sustainable communities. Poverty and the lack of economic empowerment will get you frustration and hopelessness. The only way to fight poverty is good government and laws that do not penalize hard work, success and savings. Let's put to death the "death tax"!

[Harry C. Alford, Jr., is President/CEO, National Black Chamber of Commerce, Inc., 1350 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 825, Washington, DC 20036 (202) 466-6888.]

## New-wave racists coming out this church's woodwork

They Are coming out of the wood work these days like termites on the run from an exterminator- new wave, high-tech racist- like the madman said to be responsible for the senseless July 4th weekend deaths of former north western University basketball coach Ricky Byrdson, Korean Won- Joon Yoon and the wounding of separate groups of Orthodox Jews and Asians. their racist propensity is fed from ignorance that leads to demagoguery, and much of their venom is incubated on the Internet. That hate groups thrive and even feed and breed off one of mankind's greatest inventions is a bane of modern society. There is no way that such groups can be prevented from spewing their hateful epistle over the Internet. It is a message that may have influenced the illogical, instance and racist actions of Benjamin Nathaniel Smith, 21. For sake of freedom of speech for us all, that has to be acceptable. But there must be more vigilance in overseeing the Internet. Groups like the World Church of the Creator, of which Smith is a member, say they do not condone violence, but their agenda begs to differ. The group advocates a holy war on what it calls "mud races," specifically Blacks and Jews. Before he allegedly set off on his

murderous spree, perhaps Smith also read the Church's "White Man's Bible" that advocates race hate, which it shamelessly peddles over its Internet site, as well as alternative music concerts and gunshows. Smith had been arrested in the past for distributing anti-Semitic and anti-minority literature. Maybe those arrest should have set off an alarm in somebody's mind that this man was very dangerous. Whether born, bred or made by groups like the World Church, racist like Smith and others with his penchant toward violence must be stopped, through some kind of legal and/ or moral means before more blood is spilled. For now our sympathy goes out to the Byrdson family and the families of all persons affected by such demented sprees of hate and violence, such as Littleton, Colo., and Smith's fourth of July binge. We pray there will be no further such incidents. The World Church of the Creator and other groups like it that have been implicated in several other hate crimes across the country - should be closely and carefully scrutinized and monitored by law enforcement officials.



**MOCHA**  
"Actually I have no major concerns. I feel like whatever is going to happen will just happen. I will prepare myself for some of the things that people say might happen. I'm like in the middle. If nothing bad happens, then there's nothing to worry about."



**JAMES JOHNSON**  
"I see business as usual. I feel like just like when eighteen hundred became nineteen hundred. I have no concern whatsoever. I do realize other people do have concerns but I think they are not seeing the true picture. Don't worry is what I would tell people."



**WILLIAM MAYS**  
"I should not have to worry about this because I pay taxes. The U.S. government should have the Y2K problem under control. The government should be totally responsible for this type of problem if it does occur. I feel totally at ease."



**ALMA FAYE JACKSON**  
"I don't think about it a lot. There has been some talk about running out of water and food. Also, there are concerns about missiles or nuclear weapons that would malfunction. It is the danger part that I do think about from time to time. I just pray and go about my daily business."

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# Black America

## Bill Richmond: The Black Terror

By GLENN C. SMITH  
Special to The Sentinel

### Part 1 of 2

The very first black American to attain prominence in British boxing circles was Bill Richmond. He was born William Richmond on Aug. 5, 1763 to slave parents in the little town of Cuckhold, Staten Island, New York. His mother was a slave to the Rev. Dr. George C. Charlton.

The story of her son is full of romance and adventure and of all the early bareknuckle fighters, there are few whose name resounds with more interest and thrills than that of Bill Richmond. That he became a pugilist was due entirely to environment.

It goes back to the days of the American Revolution. When American Colonies broke loose from the British and opened the War for Independence, Richmond's master fled to England, leaving his slaves to fend for themselves.

The American rebels had captured Staten Island and held it for a short time when Earl Percy, head of the British attacking army retook it. He found young Richmond and tak-



BILL RICHMOND "THE BLACK TERROR"

ing an interest in the boy pressed him into service as his valet. When

the Earl returned to England, he still had young Richmond with him.

The boy insisted on accompanying his new master as servant. Upon their arrival home, Earl Percy, who had now become the Duke of Northumberland, decided to educate his young charge and sent him to school.

During the three years of schooling Richmond progressed rapidly, and was ready for a career. He was given several trades from which to choose, and he decided on cabinet making. He was apprenticed to a handicraftsman in the city of York, and while studying there, the fee was paid for by the Duke who had become very fond of Richmond. The young lad was likable and had many friends.

Richmond, like some black people today, was extremely fond of gaudy clothes. The brighter the colors, the better he liked them and naturally he attracted undue attention. His colorful attire got him into several scrapes because of the taunts of the York populace. In spite of that, he handled himself in a manner that did him much credit. No tormentor was too big or too heavy—tackled them all and came through with flying colors.

Thus, without as much as a single

lesson in the manly art of self-defense, Richmond had become adept in the use of his fists. Those who were tempted to take liberties with him, were rather wary after several beatings he had administered to those who had badgered him. He was not a quarrelsome fellow. He minded his own business but would not submit to insults. When provoked, he was a terror.

He first gained public attention in 1791. Richmond and his master were part of a huge gathering at the York races on Aug. 25, to see the Ebor Gold Cup. Richmond's attire and his black face attracted the eyes of a bully, Docky Moore. Moore was a Sheffield knife-grinder, a ruffian who was known as the king of the trouble makers.

When Richmond passed him, Moore insulted him. Bill controlled his temper as best he could but Docky insisted on a fight and demanded that Richmond accept the challenge or take a thrashing.

Among the group who heard the commotion were Colonel Leigh, the Duke of Bedford, the Duke of Queensberry, Sir Charles Bunbary and Colonel O'Kelley. It was O'Kelley who ordered a ring to be

formed and offered a purse to be awarded to the winner.

As the two men were stripped, the slim form of the mulatto Richmond offered a direct contrast to the sinews of Docky (Richmond weighed no more than 154 pounds to 210 for his adversary), but that did not faze him.

The result proved a huge disappointment to Docky and his followers. Richmond whipped him soundly, closing both eyes and battering his face to a bloody pulp. All the conceit was knocked out of him.

Richmond was hailed as a hero. He was strongly urged to take up boxing as a profession but he refused. He said he had little inclination for fighting except when forced into it. For seven years after that battle, he continued in his trade with an occasional fight to break the monotony and in each he was successful. Each of his fights was a provoked affair.

For a time Richmond would fight only when necessary but finally he was forced to give in and he turned to professional fighting to earn his living.

**READ**

## THIS WAY FOR BLACK EMPOWERMENT



DR. LENORA B. FULANI

### Voting Reforms for the 21st Century

With two party control of the electoral process becoming a bigger and bigger concern, non-partisan elections elections run without party designation and without special privileges given to the candidates of the two major parties) are being considered as an alternative.

This summer New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani initiated a process to revise the city's charter

and one of the charter commission's proposed revisions recommends that elections for Mayor and other citywide offices should be conducted on a nonpartisan basis. This is done in major cities throughout the United States including Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Detroit and Dallas. The proposal was immediately mired in partisan controversy. The Democrats were reluctant to support this reform because it would weaken the Democrats hold on the electoral process. This kind of partisan maneuvering around democracy reform

makes the most eloquent case for why we need democracy reform. Still, in spite of the fact that the New York proposal is now nearly dead—as a result of partisan crossfire—the concept is a good one.

At hearings on the proceed reforms, Dr. Allan Lichtman of American University presented statistics to the commission on a recent study of 76 cities comparing nonpartisan and partisan elections for mayor. These preliminary statistics indicate that nonpartisan elections may be advantageous in terms of minority representation.

The sample of cities included only those with a population of 200,000 or greater (based on the 1990 census). In total, 24 of the 76 cities have Black or Hispanic mayors. Of those 24 cities with Black or Hispanic mayors, 20 had conducted their elections on a nonpartisan basis. Comparatively speaking, 33% of cities where the election is conducted as a partisan race.

Many Americans share the desire to make the political process less partisan and to involve more voters. Nonpartisan elections conducted by Instant Runoff Voting (IRV)—another kind of election

reform would be a positive step in that direction.

Here's how Instant Runoff Voting works: A voter ranks the candidates in order of the voter's preference. A computer program tabulates all of the first choice votes and determines whether any candidate received a majority. If not, the program eliminates the last-place candidate and transfer his or her votes to the next candidate ranked on each voter's ballot. This process continues until a candidate receives a majority.

Instant Runoff Voting would eliminate primary elections because the ranking of candidates in

order of preference accomplishes one of the things that primaries accomplish. It saves millions of dollars in runoff elections, and it guarantees that the winner is supported by a majority of the voters.

Growing interest in IRV has raised the issue of the compatibility voting equipment. Many jurisdictions are replacing older voting equipment with more modern technology.

Campaigns for IRV and/or serious studies about it have taken place or are taking place at the state level in Alaska, New Mexico, Vermont, Texas, and

North Carolina. The state of Oregon switched to an all-mail voting system and as a result is enjoying a higher voter turnout and cost-savings of around \$3 million per election cycle. In Florida, election officials have conducted a field test of Internet voting and the U.S. military is considering Internet for overseas members of the armed forces. The Reform party will conduct its presidential primary via mail, phone and computer balloting in 2000. The new technology can be helpful in empowering voters over parties, and making the process more non-partisan.

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The GAL does not serve as the child's legal guardian and is not expected to provide a home for the child. GAL volunteers come from all walks of life, with a variety of professional, educational, and ethnic backgrounds. No special legal knowledge is required.

The next training series is scheduled to begin in mid-October. For further information or an application please contact Eva Rogers at (252) 830-6217.

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# AKA & Alpha Family Day at Tommas Foreman Park



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J&D Flea Market, shown above at there Flea Market store across the Greene Street Bridge Brother William and Brother Little. You can buy every thing from used bikes to air conditioners to furniture, hammers radios just about anything you need they sell it. And they're open six days a week.  
(Photo By: Jim Rouse)





**To God be the glory!** Brother Michael Brown a member of Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church is proud to have released his new cassette, featuring Christian songs. The new cassette is available at all Christian music stores and the Cornerstone office.

(Photo By Jim Rouse)



**The late Attorney Richard Powell's Grand daughter to be lawyer:** Grandmother Lillie Powell is all smiles as she poses with her grand daughter Tara Nichols who was in town spending grandmother's money & doing some shopping for law school at Carolina East Mall. Grandpa would be proud of you.

(Photo by Jim Rouse)



**GARRIE W. MOORE**

### Black student leaders praise Moore hiring

Black student leaders at ECU roundly praised Chancellor Richard Eakin's choice of an African American as the school's first vice chancellor.

Garrie Moore, assistant to the chancellor and director of equal employment opportunity at East Carolina University, becomes vice chancellor for student life Sept. 1. He will succeed Alfred T. Matthews, who is retiring.

"Personally, I think it's a great step forward, and I think it's an excellent move for Dr. Moore," Adrian Cox, a graduate assistant at the Ledonia Wright African-American Cultural Center, said. "Regardless of race, Dr. Moore is a very competent and qualified individual."

The appointment demonstrates Eakin's "commitment to minority staff on campus," Cox added.

Ramsey Connor, president of ECU's chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Color People, said, "I thought it was a great opportunity for us to finally have a bigger voice on campus," adding that he was not speaking for the NAACP.

Eakin said race was "absolutely not" a factor in his decision to install Moor as a voice chancellor.

"That would be, in my judgment, insulting to Dr. Moore, and I told him that pretty directly," Eakin said. The chancellor said he has been "incredibly impressed"

with Moore's job performance and that he is well qualified for the position.

Moore joined ECU last year from Pitt Community College, where he had served as dean of students since 1989.

He holds a bachelor's degree in social work from ECU and master's and doctoral degree from N.C. State University.

The division Moore will oversee touches just about every facet of a student's life at ECU, including housing and dining services, recreation, student health services, financial aid, career services, testing and minority student affairs.

"I see it as very positive and proactive move on the administration's part to not only address the issue of diversity, but to make sure we serve the students the best way possible," Moore said of his appointment.

### GMWA Welcomes Devine Destiny Recording Co.

By: Michael Adams

The first Greenville based recording company touch base with the players of gospel music. Devine Destiny Recording Co. received much attention from the Gospel Music Industry when they attended the nationally acclaimed Gospel Music Workshop of America.

Never forgetting home base, Alfreda Hyman calls home to WOOW to do an on air interview. It has been said by many in the industry that North Carolina is the hub of gospel music. We can only give thanks to our people (Devine Destiny) for keeping it real.

Pictured we have Alfreda Hyman with Harvey Watkins of the *Canton Spirituals*, Rueben Clayton with Ms. Willie a person with years of experience in the Gospel Music Workshop of America (GMWA) and Taffye Benson Clayton with Lee Williams of the *Spiritual QC's*. There is much talk about this new recording company who is moving into the upper crust of the Gospel Music Industry. Devine Destiny truly lives up to it's name. Our prayers are with you.



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### PUBLIC NOTICE

North Carolina Department  
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Participation By Disadvantaged Business  
Enterprises in The Department's  
Federal-Aid Program

The North Carolina Department of Transportation has established an overall Department Goal for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in conformance with 49 CFR 26 for Federal Fiscal Year 2000. The overall goal will be 10.3%.

The Public Transportation and Rail Division has set an interim goal of 10.3%. Aviation Division has set an interim goal of 10.3%.

Your comments on these goals and the methodology used in establishing this goal is welcomed. All comments should be addressed within 45 days to Mr. Delano R. Rackard, Director, Civil Rights & Business Development Section, North Carolina Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 25201, Raleigh, NC 27611 and for further information at 1-800-522-0453 or (919) 733-2300 between 8:00am and 5:00pm.

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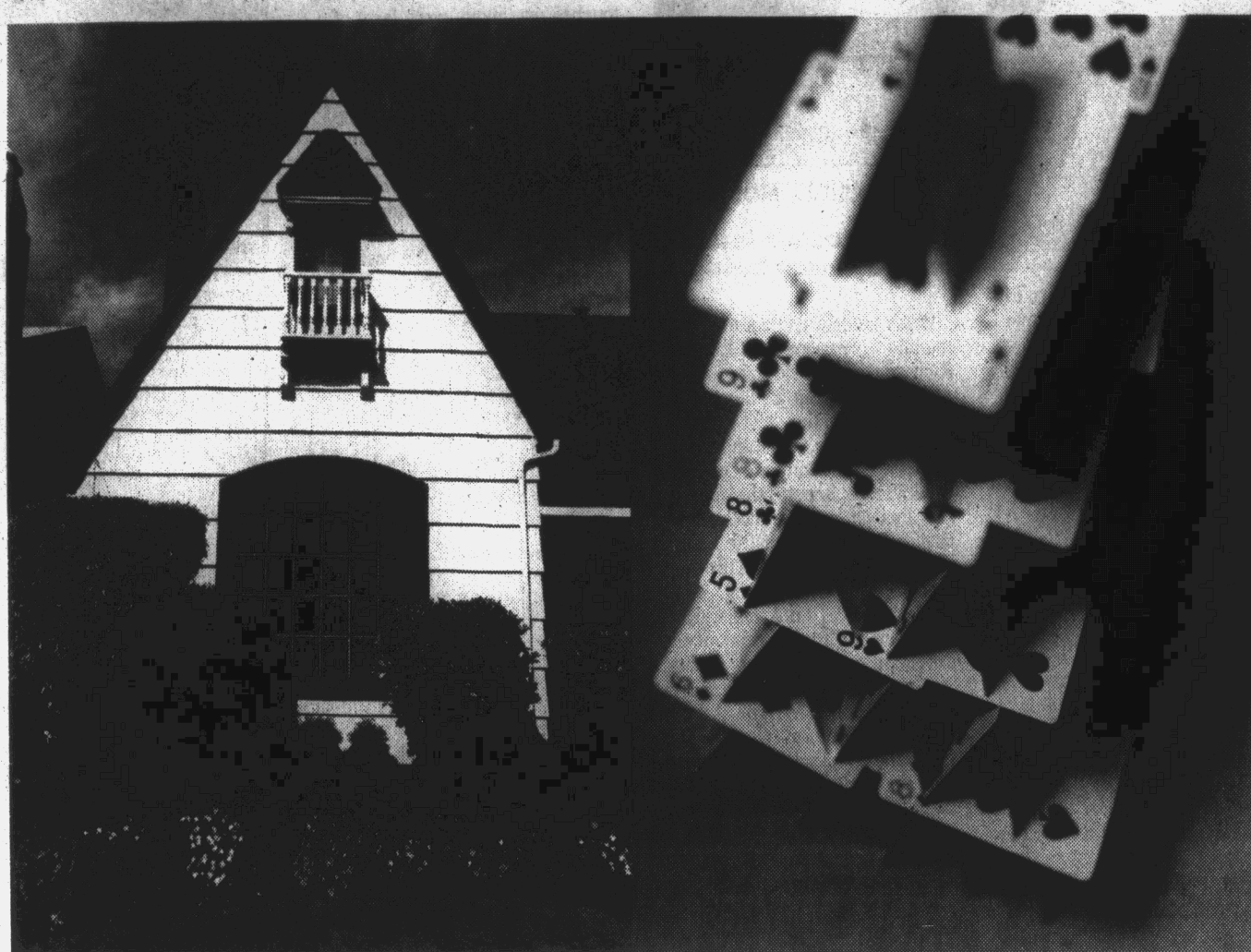


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# CONSUMER ALERT



## Don't let your home become a house of cards.

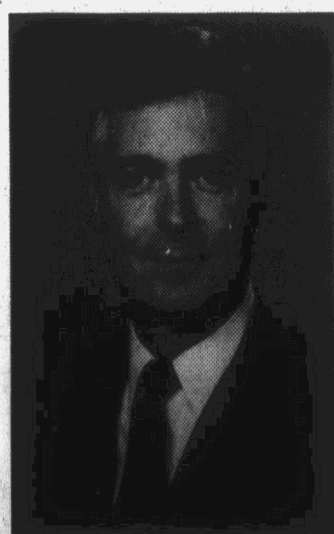
Your home is probably your most valuable possession. Borrowing money based on the value—or equity—of your home can sometimes be an option for consolidating credit card bills or paying for things like home repairs, medical expenses or college tuition.

Most banks and other financial institutions make home loans available with good terms, low rates and reasonable fees. But some unethical lenders offer mortgage loans that can strip the equity from your home.

These lenders act more like loan sharks, preying on seniors and low-income homeowners.

### Attorney General Mike Easley's tips for avoiding home equity scams:

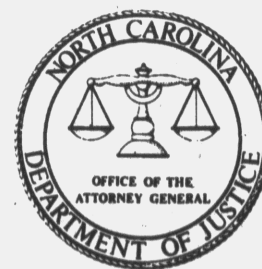
- **Always comparison shop.** Many lenders offer competitive rates and low fees.
- **Don't be pressured to sign.** Take your time and understand the commitment you are making.
- **Ask for help.** Read all items carefully. If you don't fully understand the terms or conditions, talk to someone you trust, such as a knowledgeable friend or an attorney.
- **Shop for credit locally.** Beware of unfamiliar or out-of-state lenders who call on the phone or visit your door.
- **Don't be "flipped".** Some lenders will ask you to refinance over and over, charging fees each time.
- **Beware of "packing".** Expensive extras like credit insurance can add thousands to the cost of your loan.



Attorney General Mike Easley

*"Your home is your most important investment. Don't risk it with a quick decision on a loan that you don't fully understand. Don't let your home become a financial house of cards."*

— North Carolina Attorney General Mike Easley



## Beware of Home Equity Scams.

A Consumer Alert from

North Carolina Attorney General Mike Easley

For more information or to report a home equity scam, call Attorney General Mike Easley's office at 919-763-6001.