

The Minority Voice

Serving Eastern North Carolina Since 1981

February 24, 2000 - March 2, 2000

"We don't have eternity to realize our dreams, only the time we have here." --- Susan L. Taylor

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Crying Time for Cops "AKA'S National President Comes To Greenville!"

BY HERB BOYD
Special to the AmNews

Putting the final touches on their case, defense lawyers in the Amadou Diallo trial, where four white cops are charged with second-degree murder, summoned two officers and a professor of criminal justice to the stand.

Officer Michael Barrow of the K-9 division testified to the dimness of the vestibule at 1157 Wheeler Ave., where Diallo's body was riddled with 19 of 41 bullets fired at him last February. "The lights were so dim that I had to use my flashlight to see," Barrow told the court.

The next witness, Sgt. Robert Patelli, who, like the accused officers, is a member of the Street Crime Unit in the Bronx, recalled the conditions of the officers following the shooting. He said Officer Kenneth Boss appeared pale and that Officer Sean Carroll's face was red and his eyes were welled with tears. Professor James Fyfe spent a good part Wednesday morning and afternoon telling the court about the training, standards and practices police officer go through, and corroborated the officers' methods approaching and attempting to apprehend Diallo, who was unarmed and whose wallet, the officers be-

lieved, was a gun.

While their remarks substantiated previous testimony, they were anticlimactic compared to the stories the officers told when they took the stand, and none of the words from the officers were more dramatic than the teary testimony of Carroll.

Carroll could not hold back the tears on Monday as he recalled the events surrounding the shooting, and more than one spectator in the Diallo camp wondered where his compassion

and understanding was that fateful night last February, when he held his pistol and fired 16 of the 41 shots that rained down around Diallo in the vestibule of his home in the Bronx.

Visibly shaken, Carroll repeatedly removed his glasses and covered his face as prosecutor Don Levin peppered him with questions. "I don't know who fired the first shot," Carroll answered, when asked about the sequence of shots, adding, "There was no pause in my shots...if there was a pause it came when Officer McMellon flew past me."

Whether there was a decisive pause in the volley of shots, and whether Diallo was still standing after the heavy fusillade are the questions at the core of this 2-week-old trial in Albany, which has been attended each day by

Diallo's parents. "He was still standing," Carroll continued.

"My bullets seemed to have no effect... I thought he was wearing a bullet-proof vest...and he never made a sound."

The officer said he continued to fire because he believed the muzzle flashes he saw came from the alleged gun that in reality was a wallet. "Did you shoot Mr. Diallo while he was down on the ground?" Levin asked. "No," Carroll responded.

"Are you aware that the bullet that pierced Mr. Diallo's foot came from your weapon?" Levin persisted. One of many objections from the defense attorneys followed this question and Judge Joseph Teresi sustained it.

Most of Carroll's tears came when he recounted what happened after he discovered that Diallo's supposed gun was actually a wallet. "I bent down over him, pulled back his coat and saw that he had two wounds into his upper body," Carroll told the jury of six white women, four Black women and two white men.

"He was still breathing and I said, 'Please don't die, please don't die.' I held his hand and checked his vitals. I put my hand to his chest and pumped a few times. Then somebody grabbed me by the shoulder and told me there was nothing I could do."



"AKA's National President Comes To Greenville City!"

AKA 2000 Founder's Day Banquet was held last Saturday at the Greenville Hilton. Shown above are Greenville Mayor Pro Tem Mildred A. Council, City Council woman Rose Glover, AKA National President Norma S. White, Ms. Harold, and Ms. Vines. Shown above are others AKA members along with Miss Council

Photo by Jim Rouse

Insurance Fraud Don't Let It Happen to You



INSURANCE FRAUD DON'T LET IT HAPPEN TO YOU

By Faith May

Rev. Aaron Pittman was born and raised in Edgecomb County. He worked on a farm, sharecropping. In 1976 Rev. Aaron Pittman started working in the insurance business as a way to earn a living.

He became a licensed insurance agent/underwriter. When he first started out he was strictly into sells and making the money. He was not people oriented.

At the time he was young all he thought about was selling insurance. For three years he was one of the top insurance salesman in North Carolina.

October 4, 1978 Rev. Aaron Pittman lost his mother. He found out after his mother's death that she had paid on a life insurance policy for years. The person that serviced her was very kind and polite. He seemed to be concerned about his mother and her family. They did not have any reason to believe that they should have read over the policy and had the terms broken down and explained to them.

Because they trusted this person the policy was never reviewed. His mother just kept paying religiously on the policy. After his mother passed, the money was not there for funeral expenses. After thinking that everything had been taken care of the family ended up borrowing money to bury his mother.

The family was very hurt because of this situation. After working on the farm for years his mother was finally able to move off the farm and purchase a home of her own. She only spent one year in her home until she died. Rev. Aaron lost two sisters and his father in 1999. The Lord spoke

to him then and let him know what his calling was. His calling was in the ministry with special anointing to help people with financial difficulties in obtaining home ownership. He can help people purchase affordable medical and dental insurance also. He can also assist you in getting a loan for debt consolidation.

Rev. Aaron Pittman believes in total life prosperity "spiritual growth and financial growth". He says he serves El SHADDAI, and because he does he walks in prosperity and so can you.

For more information contact Rev. Aaron Pittman at (252)-641-5103.



"Shaw University comes to Eastern NC!"

Sycamore Hill Baptist Church presented a Shaw University concert last Sunday. Shown posing for the Minority Voice camera are concert organizers Dr. James Abbingtion and Ms. Myriam Carraway, the Choir was outstanding! You missed a treat if you weren't there.

Photo by Jim Rouse

Clayton announces relief from home heat oil crisis

Washington, DC -- Congresswoman Eva M. Clayton (D-NC), announced today that she was very pleased that President Clinton decided to release yesterday additional emergency home heating funds to relieve the impact on families with low-incomes of rising oil prices and unusually cold winter months this year. Of the \$125 million released for the country, North Carolina will receive about \$4.8 million.

Rep. Clayton said, "Before we could recover from the devastation caused by the storm winds and floodwaters of three hurricanes last fall, we were covered by

record snowfalls and extended unusually cold weather. This raised the misery index of many people who have meager resources to cope with such harsh conditions. It is fitting that the federal government help relieve their suffering."

North Carolina received earlier this year about \$4 million in emergency funds from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). These funds are available to people with incomes up to 150 percent of the national poverty line, or up to 60 percent of the median income in the state. President Clinton also announced that he would request

from Congress \$600 million in emergency supplemental funding for the LIHEAP to help more families through the current crisis and to help others who will suffer later this year when hot weather sets in.

Rep. Clayton represents in Congress the First District of North Carolina which consists of 20 mostly rural counties in north central and eastern North Carolina. She serves on the Agriculture and Budget Committees. She also Chairs the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and Co-Chairs the Congressional Rural Caucus.

MEN OF PRINCEVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.



Shown above are the brothers who are dedicated to the lives of every citizen in Princeville. It is clear to see as they pose for the Minority Voice camera, that these men are dedicated and proud of their town and communities.

Photo by Jim Rouse

City of Greenville Salutes Black History Month

GET INVOLVED IN CITY GOVERNMENT!

The City of Greenville is accepting applications from volunteers to serve on the following boards and commissions:

Affordable Housing Loan Committee
Board of Adjustment
Citizens Advisory Commission on Cable Television
Community Appearance Commission
Environmental Advisory Commission
Firemen's Relief Fund
Greenville Utilities Commission
Historic Preservation Commission
Housing Authority
Human Relations Council
Mayor's Anti-Drug Coalition
Pitt-Greenville Convention & Visitors Authority
Planning & Zoning Commission
Police Community Relations Committee
Public Transportation & Parking Commission
Recreation & Parks Commission
Sheppard Memorial Library Board

If you live inside the City limits of Greenville and would like to be considered for an appointment, please call the City Clerk's Office, 329-4423, to obtain an application to indicate your interest or send a written request to the City's Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 7207, Greenville, NC 27835. Also, you can access a resume form on the web at <http://ci.greenville.nc.us/>.

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN CITY GOVERNMENT!

Pitt County Chapter of NAACP Annual Banquet

Speaker: Rev. W.B. Moore, Pastor
Willis Building - 300 East 1st Street
Greenville, NC

Donation - \$20.00

March 18, 2000

Time: 7:00

Tickets; 758-7645/752-3343



BETWEEN THE LINES Alameda Corridor Round 6: Scapegoating the Vic(tim) in the Training Scam

Alameda Corridor fight for local (minority) participation, the MTA decided that it would review the project's hiring practices. The day after this editorial put ACTA on front street, a watchdog group brought a large group of frustrated out of work trainees before MTA's monitoring committee and later toured corridor sites—looking for workers.

The demand for project accountability now seems to be the question before the "higher-ups" while the lower-downs still are searching for answers. The whole turn of events has sent both ACTA and the prime contractor, Tutor-Saliba, scattering for scapegoats and they came up with one. Ironically enough, it was the one community partner that seemed to be halfway legitimate in this training process (and the only one that could be verified when ACTA claimed all these community collaborations), Opportunity Marketing Group.

Now it seems to me, and this is just my perspective (though many

others have asked the same question), that if you are under scrutiny and you need to show the project reviewers "who's performed" and who hasn't, "the ones that have performed would be the ones that would continue in the project and the ones that didn't would not. However, what appears to be the case in this "coverdown" situation is that the ones that "haven't performed" need the scapegoat and the ones that have performed don't have one.

Since the propaganda press (the Los Angeles Times) have (finally) gotten into the mix over the news of this training scam (and news of illegal dumping allegations on the prime contractor), the profile of this federally funded project has heightened significantly. So has the fingerprinting and the "who shot John" allegations as to why community people weren't working on the project.

The training administrator on the project, the person responsible for the \$5 million and for seeing that the trainers are properly supplied, is a group called ACJC Technology. This person, hired by the contractor, hires the trainers and is re-

sponsible for seeing that the trainees get work (which is the center of this controversy). This is also the group that hired the other trainer, CETI (the carpenter trades), and gave them \$3 million over 3 years when there's no carpentry work on the Alameda Corridor (nobody's yet to answer that question). ACTA Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority) is supposed to monitor the performance and contract compliance of both the contractor and the training program. Now, none of these entities can tell you why trainees aren't working (the project is up to about 10 trainees working on the corridor now—out of about 750 trained). The prime contractor hires ... he should know. The training administrator trains and places ... she should know. The monitor monitors for compliance ... they should know. But, as we say in the "hood," as far as this project goes, "don't nobody know nothin'." But they will all readily admit, the money for local training has been spent. As you follow the dots in this big mess, one entity points to the other for explanations. It looks pretty much like the ACTA logo

(two "road or rail-like" arrows flowing around a square with no end), which could be interpreted to stand for "the perpetual run-around." So what do they do? They (are trying to) substitute the only functioning portion of this little triad, OMG, OMG who was the project's "favorite child" for it came out that literally no investment had been made in its training component and its contract was up for renewal for "new terms." But there's a story to that too, for which this scapegoat piece is sown.

This whole series started when black contractors claimed they weren't working on the corridor. Some of the loudest "squeaks" in the "no work" wheel have been greased (let small contracts), however, not in the significant numbers that were promised. After a series of meetings were held, a local congresswoman called a public meeting with the contractor (which bought me in the loop). At the meeting, ACTA makes claims of community partnerships which those of us now on the congresswoman's "task force" (which never came about) tried to corroborate. We find

out they're nonexistent except one, and we talk to her to try and get the facts exact. And exact we got 'em. From that point, people come out of the woodwork claiming the training is a scam. We ask OMG are any of your trainees working?

She tells the truth and says no. The rest is easy work to track, but now she's being labeled a whistleblower on the project, when every person who was led to believe that if they were trained, they'd find work (which they were told) blew the whistle. The whistle just got louder when the discussion became more public.

Suddenly, the "fair-haired child of the project" no longer finds her services in need by the training administrator (they still can't figure out what she does). In the meantime, the project still has a promise to keep and trainees to train and hire. If this unjust substitution, which federal contracts prohibit, is allowed to take place, then the one that gave the project some community based involvement (and credibility) becomes a casualty solely because someone had to take the fall for what the project hasn't done

to date, which is hire trainees and minority contractors—neither of which OMG is responsible for doing.

This weird twist in what is supposed to be a review and rectification process, is only getting stranger by the moment. I'm always going to advocate for the "little guy" or the underdog. It seems like OMG is the only one getting squashed in this deal, and all the dirty work is not done yet. While MTA is reviewing this training and hiring situation for the Alameda Corridor, it might also look at retaliation protection for those coming forth to try to honestly and forthrightly correct a process gone awry. Or you can expect one of two things to happen. Others who speak in truth will also be punished and be without work. Or they will be intimidated into silence and still won't get work. And public works scams will continue to roll through underserved communities without fear of having to keep promises to the people who deserve to work where they live before anybody else. We'll see what's up next round in this fight. Nothing surprises us anymore.



KLEAVER'S KLIPPINS 1963 Memories of a Spring Day in Detroit

The first time I ever saw the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was on a Sunday in April of 1963. The late Rev. C.L. Franklin, pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit and head of the local Southern Christian Leadership Conference in that city, brought him there for a massive freedom march and rally.

For weeks before the event, signs were plastered all over town and the local radio stations played it up for all it was worth. The name of Dr. King was becoming a household word in the black community.

His picture appeared on a number of television news shows and in the various newspapers.

On that fateful Sunday, pastor Franklin had asked for the participation of at least 100,000 black people. Instead, there were at least 300,000 black people waiting to take part in the march. They had begun to form as early as 8 or 9 a.m.

... The march was not scheduled to begin until about 2 p.m.

Although the march had been advertised as a freedom rally or civil rights rally, as the people gathered, it was almost as if this was a sacred religious service. The highest-ranking black police officer in the city, Lt. George Harge, was assigned to meet Dr. King's plane and to be with him throughout the day.

This event had been so widely ballyhooed, that some of the biggest liberal names in town came to take part in the march. The front row of the march was like the who's who in Detroit liberal politics. Another aspect of the march and rally was that it took place, on the 20th

anniversary of the infamous Detroit riots which had rocked the nation in 1945 during WWII.

Walter Reuther, the late head of the United Auto Workers Union was on the front row. It is impossible to remember all of the celebrities who took part in this history-making event.

Dr. King's plane was late arriving in Detroit. The crowd, however, never grew impatient. The aura of the day was that something wonderful was going to happen and nobody wanted to miss a second of whatever was planned.

Finally, Dr. King arrived. I was prepared to see an average sized man, but instead, there was this diminutive, rather ordinary little man, with a hair line that looked as though it was ready to recede and a quiet, serious face. I had never heard him speak, and was not quite sure what to expect. As a matter of fact, I might have even been a little disappointed in what I saw.

The march took place without incident. Professor Thomas Shelby, minister of music at New Bethel, had pulled together a mass choir with about 1,000 voices. The choir had been singing while the march was going on and the people were filing into Cobo Hall in Downtown Detroit.

Never before in the history of Detroit, had there been such a gathering of black people in support of the civil rights struggle. As a relatively young newspaper reporter, this was the momentous event I had ever covered.

My managing editor, Albert J. Dunmore, had given me the assignment because he knew I had never seen Dr. King, and that I had no

preconceived notions. After the march, all of the reporters literally fought to get into the arena. Much to our surprise, there were at least five or six television cameras present and we had to share the platform space with them.

It was quite a struggle to juggle cameras and note paper during the rally. One of the things that stands out in mind as I recall all of the things which took place, was Dr. King asking for a box that he could stand on when it was his turn at the microphone. Somebody on stage found a Coca Cola case and placed it behind the podium for him.

As I took stock of my surroundings, I realized I was standing next to an attorney from nearby Pontiac, MI., named Milton Henry. Henry had an impressive freedom-fighting resume behind him. He had been an infantry officer in the U.S. Army, but had given up his commission to enter fight training and become a member of the famed "Spookwaffe." He had also been court-martialed for being one of the leaders of a group of black officers who went into a white officers club.

It is my opinion that Milton Henry had a sense of the importance of the day. He was an amateur photographer and was taking pictures all over the place. He had also brought his Nagra recorder and had recorded every word that was spoken in that packed arena that day.

From a musical perspective, there probably will never be a choir as large and as well rehearsed as those voices in that hall. They didn't need amplification. They were motivated to sing the Songs of Zion

and they did just that. I can see the looks of satisfaction on the faces of Professor Shelby and pastor Franklin.

Still, I had never heard Dr. King speak. Pastor Franklin was the presiding officer and he made the necessary introductions. It was truly a microcosm of the black leadership.

Then it happened. Pastor Franklin introduced his friend and colleague, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., in the split second it took for him to leave his seat and reach the podium, something wonderful happened. The room fell silent. Totally silent. When he opened his mouth to speak, people moved forward in their seats. Children stopped crying and mothers did not have to tell their offspring to be quiet. His mere presence created a sense of spiritual revolutions.

As he spoke, the Number 3 pencil with which I had been writing, broke for no apparent reason. My palms became wet and I could feel the hair standing on the back of my neck. When he talked about his children and white children playing together and being judged by the content of their character rather than the color of their skin, I knew I had heard the greatest leader, the greatest preacher, the greatest freedom fighter I would ever know.

When he came to the climax of the sermon-oratory-speech and said, "In the words of the old Negro spiritual, 'Free at last, free at last! Thank God Almighty, I'm free at last!'" I could not see the podium. I was blinded by my tears.

After that day, I never missed an opportunity to see and hear him.



URBAN PERSPECTIVE

Community Participation Critical in Selecting School Superintendents

Parallel processes are underway locally to select a superintendent in the Los Angeles Unified School District, which has over 700,000 students and in neighboring Inglewood Unified School District with 16,000 students. Both districts are seeking a chief executive to improve educational results and effectively manage operations and finances—LAUSD's budget exceeds \$7 billion annually and requires a team of accounting experts to understand its many ramifications. Most importantly, the superintendents must have a vision and strategy for reversing the culture of failure, especially for African American students who continue to languish at the lowest achievement levels.

Although essential, management and political skills alone are not sufficient to effectively impact the complex challenge of providing every child in every school a sound education. However the political will of school boards and others of influence in any school district is critical for educational success.

A community actively participating in the process of selecting a new superintendent actually helps validate that process. Without community involvement, school boards are left to traditional, unilateral self-serving decision-making. Historically, this has been the rule rather than the exception; community participation has been little more than window dressing, i.e., a "bragging point" for school boards with virtu-

ally no bearing on their actual decisions.

There is little the community can do to ensure that its input is considered, except regularly remind school boards that they are ultimately accountable to the people. (Appeal to school boards' integrity and good will have not been known to succeed.)

The Los Angeles and Inglewood districts are faced with a plethora of old and emerging problems that call for a superintendent who must practically walk on water. Both districts are seeking the community's views on what constitutes an effective superintendent. What do parents and other community members believe are the important characteristics and skills of a superintendent?

LAUSD established a Superintendent Criteria Selection Committee which is scheduled to conclude its work by Jan. 24. Thereafter, the board will likely name a selection committee which will probably help screen candidates for the board's consideration. A search firm has been hired to coordinate the selection process.

The top priority issues in both school districts reflect the need to improve achievement scores and address concerns around changing demographics. In addition, a host of other problems such as facilities, textbooks, teacher recruitment preparation and effectiveness are also pressing.

In LAUSD, some key issues for

the African American community include Magnet schools, raising academic achievement, improving attendance, upgrading school facilities, quality of school personnel, including principals and teachers, course selection (e.g.) Advanced Placement), safety in and around school campuses, school supplies, including textbooks and library books and increasing the number of African American students applying for post-secondary education.

To assist the Criteria Selection Committee, the district provided draft criteria which included the need for a strong leader and manager to integrate all aspects of the district to support student achievement; leadership, (e.g., consensus-building), management, (e.g., has record of transforming a large organization, including the business side), education, (e.g., must provide vision and instructional leadership), and strategic thinking, (e.g., proven record of charting) and implementing a strategy for a large, complex organization. In addition, a school community questionnaire was widely circulated, soliciting the community's views on the most important criteria for the board to apply to candidates in selecting a new superintendent.


The Inglewood Unified School District is also actively seeking community input in the superintendent selection process. At least, one well-publicized Town Hall meeting has been held to hear the community's thinking on what skills and qualities the board should be looking for in

hiring a new superintendent (arguably, any school board's most important responsibility is to select a superintendent.) The Inglewood School Board's outreach "recognize that the entire community has a substantial role in the process."

IUSD has also hired a search firm to coordinate its selection process and has sent surveys throughout the district "... The results will be used in recruiting, screening and interviewing of candidates for the position."


LAUSD and IUSD are engaged in the critically important task of finding a new leader, someone exceptionally equipped to meet the daunting challenge of urban education. Inglewood's problems and challenges are quantitatively but not qualitatively different from those in Los Angeles, the second largest district in the nation. The stakes are especially high for African American students, who remain among the poorest.


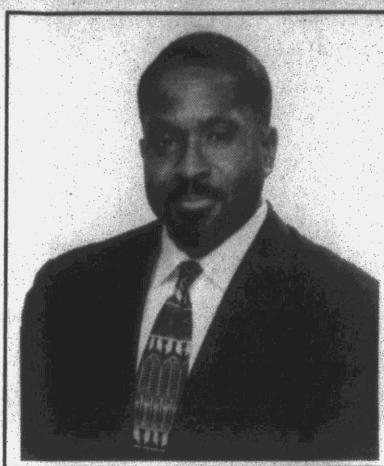
The selection process for a superintendent in Los Angeles and Inglewood should be informed by the needs of all students, particularly those most disadvantaged by the failure of public education. The community has a responsibility to participate in the superintendent selection process and both LAUSD and IUSD School Boards have a responsibility to seriously consider the community's opinions and concerns in choosing their next superintendent.



Faris Dixon

District Court Judge



May Primary 2000

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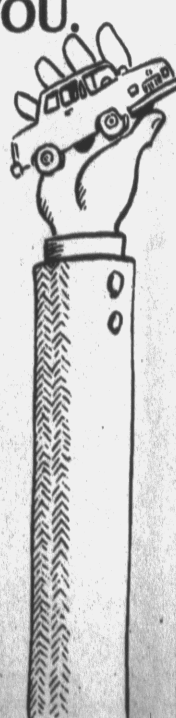
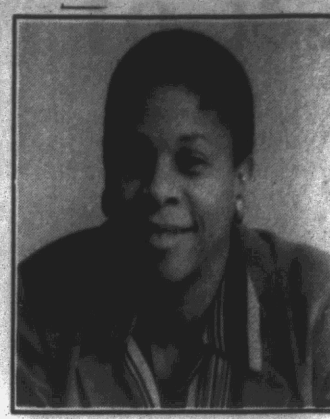
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Dr. Lenora Fulani

It's Time To End Minority Politics

The 2000 president election--not to mention the arrival of the new millennium--is a good moment to examine the political position of Black America.

African-Americans are expected to turn out in significant numbers in November for the Democratic Party presidential nominee no matter who it is. The projected Black voter alignment is 9 to 1 Democratic. Sadly, the Black vote has become the forgone conclusion of American politics.

But does this over-rehearsed scenario represent Black America's best interests? Where is the vision for the Black agenda?

Answering those questions requires taking a look at the current strategy. It's one fundamentally geared to influencing the special interests corporations, industry, finance, big labor in ways to benefit Black America. There is no question that this strategy has had some success. African-Americans have penetrated the political mainstream to a degree that was never the case before. We participate in the economic mainstream. And we are an undeniable force in the cultural mainstreams. But have we gotten where we want and need to go as a people--and as a country?

Decades of grassroots civil rights battles yielded the historic Brown v. the Board of Education Supreme Court decision in 1954, the Civil and Voting Rights Acts of 1964 and 1965 and other structural reforms which forced America to accommodate its Black citizens. Then, many of our Black leaders assembled in Gary, Indiana in 1972 at the National Black Political Convention to figure out how to consolidate these gains and

to move ahead. At that convention a tactic was chosen to campaign for the election of a maximal number of Black officials who could, in turn, work through the channels of the Democratic Party and its influence in government to impact on America's corporate special interests to our advantage.

On the one hand this strategy made perfect sense. It was the Democratic Party, after all, which had most notably yielded to the demands of the civil rights movement. The Gary strategy did produce an increase in the numbers of Black elected officials of over 400%.

But even with that increase and the accompanying institutionalization of minority politics, a closer look at the current status of Black America these two occurrences are notably disconnected.

This is not to say that some Black people aren't better off today than they were a generation ago. Still, Black poverty has not been eliminated--arguably, it has grown. Racial violence has not ebbed--it has continued. There is a huge Black underclass, with millions of young Black males in jail, on drugs, in the streets, and in gangs. Wall Street may be breaking every record in the book, but something isn't working for Black America.

The major party presidential candidates will tell you that the solution is simply that American must do more. America must "close the gap." America must "widen the circle." This is Bill Bradley's message. This is Al Gore's message. When the major Republican contenders bother to speak about Black people, they will tell you roughly the same thing.

But what if it's the case that America cannot do more? What if America--as it currently is structured--cannot widen the circle

or close the gap? What if the strategy--going back to the Gary Convention and the twenty years of struggles that preceded it--to impact the country's controlling special interests has been maxed out? What if the Democratic Party--which is made up at its base of varied constituencies, all of whom are competing with one another to produce greater gains for themselves--has done, roughly speaking, what it can do? That certainly is the message that the Clintonized Democratic Party has been sending us: that the party can only do for Black people, or any grouping of Americans, what is consistent with the Democratic

Party's need to remain in power. Doesn't that mean Black America must reconsider its situation and reevaluate our options?

My solution may outrage many people. Some--including many Black people--may think I'm calling for a deal with the devil himself. Because I believe that we must make a break with traditional "minority politics." We have to give up the illusion that our ghettoized niche in the Democratic Party gives us the kind of political power we need. Black America has to make a shift away from, or beyond, a political and economic empowerment strategy designed to work through the Democratic Party and make demands on the special interests, to making independent alliances with other Americans--and with white Americans, in particular.

Now, I know many of you are already saying, "but Black people have already done that!" Black people have coalesced with other communities, most especially the white community that's what Black voting patterns are all about. Indeed, many Black people will argue that we vote to elect white Democrats while white Democrats rarely vote in sufficient numbers to elect us.

This is true. In fact, in some ways, it is my very point. Black people, in our effort to gain influence over government policy and the special interests (in whose interests government policy largely works), are mobilized to support the Democratic Party. Other constituent blocs are, too.

The time has come to create a different kind of coalition, a different kind of partnership, outside of the existing partisan structures. I'm talking about ending "minority politics" and crating a new brand off majority politics. That's why I'm an independent and an advocate for the Reform Party. Reform makes it feasible to create new partnerships based--not on influencing the special interests to get more for ourselves through the existing institutions of political leverage--but on Americans coming together independently to create a new power base from which we jointly determine what needs to be done in our interests. The goal of this majority power coalition is not to advance the Democratic Party, or any party, but to achieve prosperity and justice for all Americans regardless of race, creed, color or political ideology.




Thomas F. Vines

Greenville area noble was installed as Potentate of Rofelt Pasha Shrine Temple #175, A.E.AeO.NeMeSe Thomas F. Vines was installed as the Potentate of the Oasis of Rocky Mount. The Temple covers 20 counties east of I-95 from the Virginia border southward to Wilson. The Desert of North Carolina has 16 Temples throughout North Carolina.

Rofelt Pasha Shrine Temple #175, a part of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine a charitable organization with international Temples, sponsors charitable contributions, several community enhancement activities throughout the year from health initiatives, civic pride and awareness, youth mentoring and scholarship incentives to care for widows, orphans, and the elderly. The focus of the Rofelt Pasha Shrine Temple is community service, participation, and unification. Potentate Vines is a member of Philippi Church of Christ and employed by the Pitt County School System. He is a member of Banner Cry Lodge #625 in Farmville, N. C. and the Roanoke Consistory #248. He is married to Gracie Mebane Vines. They have one son, Justin Mebane Vines.

JOY



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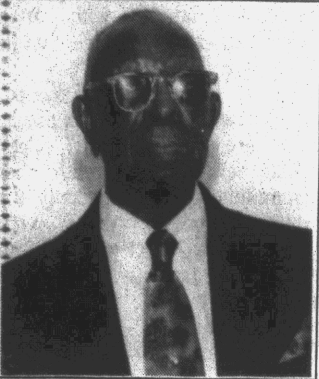
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OWNER: CATHERINE VISAGE

From the Desk of Mrs Beatrice Maye



Mrs. Beatrice Maye



Mr. Matthew T. Lewis

man his ears, but few his voice. He's not one seeking and adoring accolades. He's not so driven to express his views or vent his feelings that he doesn't really hear what others have to say.

He's a kind, usually peaceful and quiet man. He gives his service to the church, in his office by 8 o'clock a.m., accepting only \$12.50 weekly, saying he'd never take more though the church has tried so often to give him more. We finally gave up on that issue. He does what he does for the Lord, says he. Aren't those men rare? He is unique.

He's the first to arrive and the last to leave. When no one else will, he'll come open the doors. "Just call me" he says. He takes his calls personally, never using an answering machine. Isn't that what God does?

He assists with baptismal service, running errands for the church, making necessary repairs especially at the old site on 8th Street. Never taking a dime for anything he does or wherever he goes. Call him to your home, for he loves carpentry work, not a dime will he accept. What a man! Just once during the year, he's about his family's reunion. He is a committed and reliable officer. If no other officer is present, you will always see Mr. Lewis in his designated spot.

Pastors and he has served under four - the last Reverend J.A. Nimmo, Rev. Charles R. Mosely, the last Reverend B.B. Felder and our present Pastor, Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr. Friends, colleagues and congregational members love and respect him highly as a Christian gentleman and for his service to the church. He is and has been the

cornerstone. No one can replace him.

He teaches, inspires, challenges effectively, enriching the living of so many people of all races, creed and color.

Elaborating further on Mr. Lewis he has strength of character. Jesus is the center of his life. He yet

bears fruit by encouraging others and using his energy in God's service. His morals untouchable. He never loses his "cool".

He is devoted to his wife, Mrs. Christine Lewis of 65 plus years, his family, his friends, his church and his community. He lives with his wife at 921 Melody Lane (the Meadowbrook area), Greenville, North Carolina. His home was completely destroyed by the flood - Floyd - September 19th, 1999. Presently he's rebuilding.

Mr. Lewis, I salute you.

These lines summarize your life:

"Growing old but not retiring, Lord, the battle still is on; I'll go on without relenting. Till the final victory is won!"

Beatrice Maye

PARADOX OF OUR TIMES

The paradox of our times is that we have taller buildings, shorter tempers; wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints.

We buy more, but enjoy it less. We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences, but less time; we have more advanced degrees, but less common sense; more knowledge, but less good judgment; more medicine, but less wellness.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We have higher incomes, but lower morals.

We have been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new

neighbor. We've conquered outer space, but inner space is still a mystery to too many of us.

We have cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul; split the atom, but not our prejudices.

We talk too much, love too

seldom and hate too often.

These are times of steep profits and shallow relationships; world peace, but domestic warfare, more leisure, but less fun; two incomes, and more divorces.

It is a time when there is much in the show window and nothing in the stockroom; a time when technology can bring a letter to you in seconds, and you can choose either to make a difference or just hit "delete"

Thanks, Ann Landers

LEADERSHIP

"Leadership" is a word on everyone's lips. The young attack it and the old grow wistful for it. Parents have lost it and police seek it. experts claim it and artists spurn it, while scholars want it. Philosophers reconcile it (as authority) with liberty and theologians demonstrate its compatibility with conscience. Everybody agrees that there is less of it than there used to be.

Leadership is the pivotal force behind successful organizations and that to create vital and viable organizations, leadership is necessary to help organizations develop a new vision of what they can be, then mobilize the organization change toward the new vision.

Some great leaders are Moses, Pericles, Julius Caesar, Jesus Christ, Ghandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Winston Churchill among many others.

Management VS Leadership: Managers are people who do things right and leaders are people

who do the right thing. Let's get rid of management. People don't want to be managed. They want to be led. Ask your horse. You can lead your horse to water, but you can't manage him to drink. If you want to/ someone, manage yourself. Do that well and you'll be ready to stop managing. And

start leading.

Leadership involves communication. Communication creates meaning for people. It's the only way any group, small or large, can become aligned behind the overarching goals of an organization. Talent, genius, education will not make leaders, but persistence, determination are omnipotent.

Leaders might use five skills:

1. The ability to accept people as they are, not as you would like them to be.

2. The capacity to approach relationships and problems in terms of the present rather than the past, though we can learn from the past.

3. The ability to treat those who are close to you with the same courteous attention that you extend to strangers and casual acquaintances. We tend to take for granted those to whom we are closest.

4. The ability to trust others, even if the risk seems great.

5. The ability to do without constant approval and recognition from others. It should not really matter how many people like leaders. The important thing is the quality of work that results from collaborating with them. It is the large part of a leader's job to take risks.

To the successful leader, failure is a beginning, the springboard of hope. To worry puts obstacles in the way of clear thinking.

Effective leadership negates protest, grievance and career change as well as resignation and apathy. Lao Tzu said, "To lead, we must follow"

People want to do a good job and be associated with success. People will do a good job if:

They understand the need. They are provided:

Facilities and equipment
Procedures
Material
Know-how
Management that Leads
Their efforts are recognized and appreciated
We attach no blame to "failure"
Everybody assumes responsibility for the produce
We leave workers alone and allow them flexibility
The above will earn respect and belief, trust, satisfaction and fun.

Lao Tzu said, "Fail to honor people, they fail to honor you; but of a good leader, who talks little, when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will all say, "we did this ourselves".

Trust is the emotional glue that binds followers and leaders together. The accumulation of trust is a measure of the legitimacy of leadership. It cannot be mandated or purchased; it must be earned.

Trust is the basic ingredient of all organizations, the lubrication that maintains the organization. Personal qualities for leadership: persistence, self-knowledge, willingness to take risks and accept losses, commitment, consistency and challenge. Above all, learning. Leaders are perpetual learners. Never mentioned were charisma, or dressing for success, of time management, or any of the other glib formulas that pass for wisdom in the popular press. "Power shows the man" Sophocles, "Antigone"

We definitely need women and

men who can take charge. We hope that you, the reader, will be among them. What can be more consequential and inspiring?

Excerpts from LEADERS. THE STRATEGIES FOR TAKING CHARGE.

by Warren Bennis and Burt Nanus

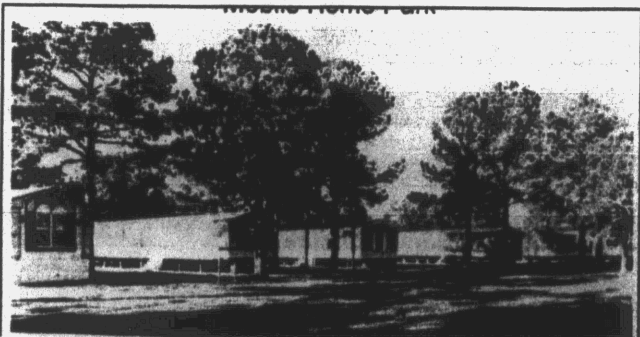
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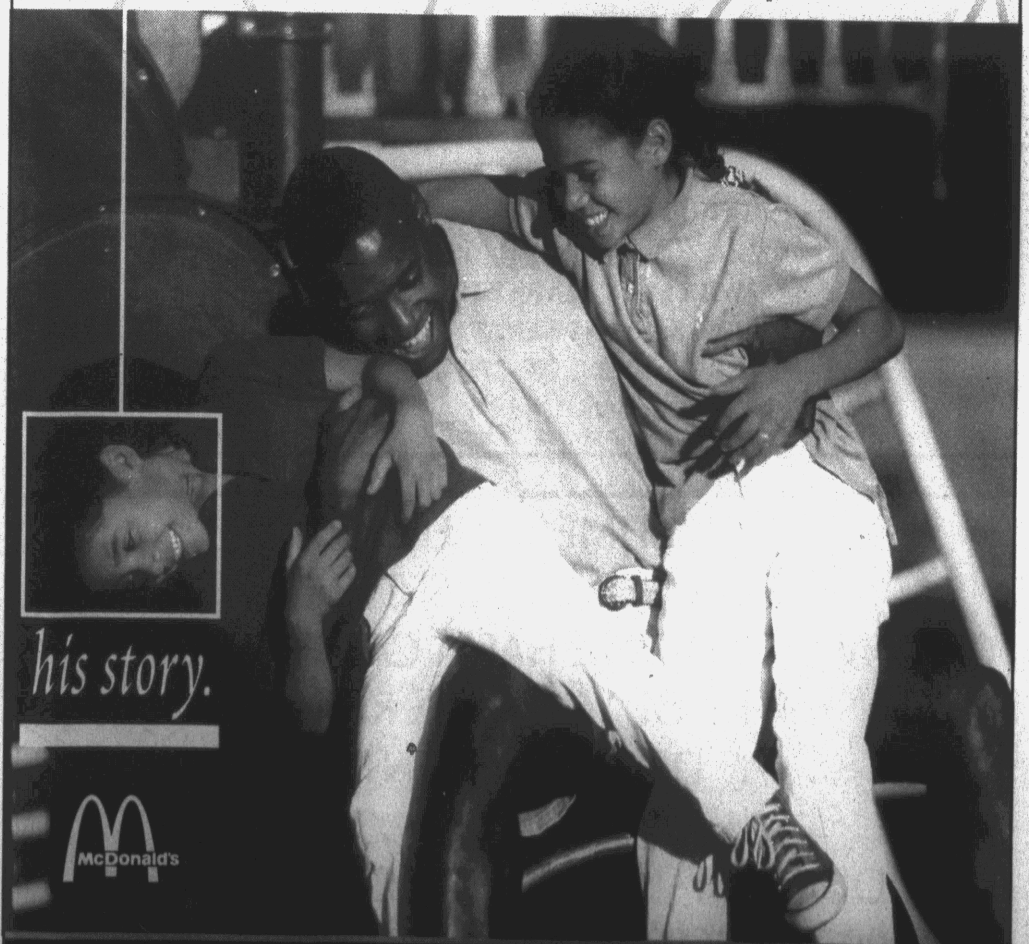
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Black History will soon be



his story.



As a part of a year long salute to African American Heritage, McDonald's celebrates Black History Month.

Let us Celebrate.



Atlanta, Ga's public schools visited Eastern NC under the direction of Dr. Holiday, shown with students from Atlanta's public schools to help with clean up efforts in Princeville, NC.

Corrections



History Files,

Brother Bobby Teel and his lovely wife Brenda (deceased) are shown in one of our file photos during happier days. Sister Teel was very active in the community and had a radio talk show on WOOW. She was a lovely person with a joyful personality. We Salute Black History Month.

File Photo Jim Rouse

Corrections

Triumph Missionary Baptist Church,



Shown to the left is Reverend Clarence Gray and his lovely wife who is now deceased. Reverend Clarence Gray is the Pastor of Triumph Missionary Baptist Church which was lost to Hurricane Floyd. The church is in the process of building a new sanctuary. This is a historical reflection of a great black man and woman.

File Photo: Minority Voice Archives

Black Colleges Are Getting Racist Threats

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—More than a dozen colleges in eight states have received racist hate mail since Christmas, with historically black schools specifically targeted.

The letters, all containing Fayetteville postmarks, began showing up in college offices just after Christmas, said Joe Roy of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Ala., which tracks hate crimes throughout the country. "The total destruction of your race is our mission in life," the letters state.

As of Friday, the SPLC had received calls from schools and groups in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

"It's the kind of thing you don't want to get overly upset about, given that it's coming from an anonymous source," said State Alexander III, executive assistant to the president at North Carolina's Livingstone College. "But you don't want to ignore it either."

The nation's oldest historically black college, Lincoln University in Oxford, Pa., tightened security on campus after receiving the letters containing threats directed at schools and prominent black figures, like Michael Jordan and the

Rev. Jesse Jackson.

The letters warned that in 2000, "the war" against blacks will escalate. And each letter ended with the words: "the white race will be preserved forever."

The letter to the historically black schools was among three different versions apparently sent out about the same time, Roy said.

The other two versions were sent to the American Jewish Community Center in Georgia and to chapters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

All three versions were typewritten in capital letters, laced with expletives and derogatory names. Confederate flags were printed at the bottom of two versions, and a swastika was placed at the bottom of the third.

The letter to the colleges used the word "rahowa," a term that means "racial holy war" among a group known as the World Church of the Creator, a successor to the defunct Church of the Creator.

Last fall, pipe bombs went off in restrooms at Florida A&M University, the state's only historically black public university. No one was injured in either blast. A man faces federal charges in that case.

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on

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Belvoir Elementary School

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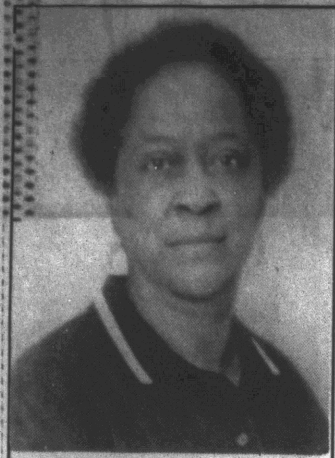
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Words of Faith



Suejette Jones

ELIJAH AND THE CHARIOT

Some contend that Elijah must be in heaven, inasmuch as they

suppose he was taken up into heaven in a chariot. But the record shows that the fiery chariot merely separated Elijah from Elisha. It was the whirlwind that caused Elijah to ascend into heaven. (II Kings 2:11). It should be remembered in this connection that the words "heaven" and "heavens" are often used in the Scriptures as describing the revolving atmosphere about the earth; and it was evidently into this "heaven" that Elijah was taken by the whirlwind that ended his eventful life. (Genesis 1:8-20, 7:11,23.; Zechariah 2:6)

The fact that in the figure-changing vision the disciples saw Elijah and Moses, does not mean that these two prophets were then actually alive some where in heaven. In coming down from the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus said to His disciples, "Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of Man be risen again from the

dead." (Matthew 17:9) A vision is not a reality. Peter saw a vision of unclean animals let down from heaven in a sheet, but they were not real animals. John, on the Isle of Patmos, had a series of visions in which all sorts of objects, living and still, appeared before him in a great historical panorama of two ages but none of the things he saw were realities. So the disciples saw a vision in which Moses and Elijah appeared, yet both of those prophets were actually asleep in death, and still are to this day, and will be until the resurrection (Hebrew 11:35, 39, 40)

This transfiguration vision was of the kingdom of Christ when established to reign over the earth. All true Christians, then exalted to heavenly glory, will reign.

Suejette Jones is currently enrolled in a religious studies program at Pitt Community College



Three generations of happy tenants reside at Westwood Village Mobile Home Park. Grandmother, mother and daughter posed for the Minority Voice Camera. They say that Westwood Village is a great place to live.

Photo by Faith May

WESTWOOD VILLAGE A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

By Faith May

Mr. Harold Dew purchased Colonial Mobile Home Park in June of 1997. His vision for the park was to make it a good, safe family environment. He has upgraded the park by getting rid of trash and cleaning up the park by cuttings down trash and weeds. Trees have been pruned and dead trees removed that were interfering with yard space. Trucks and old inoperable cars have been towed away. In addition, abandoned and derelict mobile homes had to be removed not only because they were an eye-sore but also because they were a danger to the health and safety of the community.

The Colonial Mobile Home Park

had large pot-holes in the street. They have been repaired. Conditions at one time was so bad that the park was called by some of the tenants "The Ghetto". Mr. Harold Dew does not want Westwood Village formerly Colonial Mobile Home Park to ever be referred to as "The Ghetto" again. He says, "There are good tenants living here and with the help of the tenants we have been able to clean up the yard around the mobile homes and keep the park clean so that everyone can be proud of the place they live in and the community around them.

Moving to Westwood Village is easy because your home is already set up on the lot. Westwood Village is a safe place for you and your family because every measure possible has used to ensure this by employment verification,

rental references, and criminal background checks being taken of every applicant. This measures are being taken to protect the children and families already in the park and to let applicants know that we are concerned about the safety and welfare of our tenants.

America's Best Homes moved the mobile homes here and set them up ready to be moved into, to make it easier for the buyers. There is a playground in the park also. Mr. Harold Dew would like to see safety of the parents and children remain intact. The children should be able to enjoy the park that they live in and the parents can be at ease knowing that their children are not in danger and do not feel threatened. Neighborhood watch is in effect also. The tenants take an active part in keeping the park safe. "Westwood Village A Community For The People".



Pastor George Hawkins relaxes at the Good-N-Tasty restaurant in Williamston. Pastor Hawkins and workers pose for the Minority Voice camera.

Photo by Jim Rouse

Smith's Convenient Store RFD 6 Riley Road Greenville, NC



Smith's Convenient Store, Mr. Wilton "Buddy" Langley stands in front of a sign at Smith's convenient Mart. Buddy has managed this store for over a decade. Come by for all your personal and household needs or call (252) 758- 7313

Photo by Faith May

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May Primary 2000

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Salute to Black History Month

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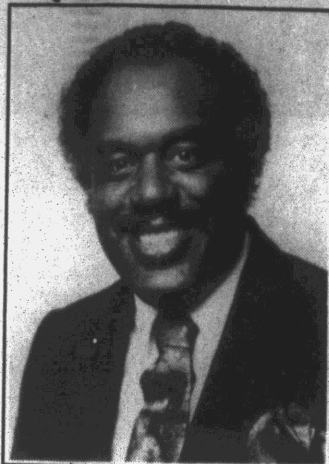
TUESDAY, MAY 2

2000

Competent, Compassionate, Committed

Paid for By The Committee to Elect Keith W. Cooper

Spiritual Thoughts



Dr. George Hawkins

Jesus put it "dead men's bones"

The Lord has led us on many fasts to deal with these problem areas of our lives, some believers change and others still denote serious problems. When you go on a fast and a certain fleshly attribute starts to manifest itself, that is the time for the believer to recognize what is being manifested and deal with it, not push it aside. By pushing it aside, you allow that spirit to get a stronghold on your life, thereby leaving an opening for other spirits to enter in. Sometimes problem areas are manifested after a fast. In any case, whenever and however they are manifested, right then and there is the time it deal with it. If you don't, you will not grow spiritually. You will be spiritually stunted. You will never come into the fullness of Christ and receive all that He has ordained for you.

We have really heard much preaching and teaching. What are we doing with it? Is it justifying us or condemning us? Is it bringing us closer to the Lord or sending us further in the opposite direction? Only time will tell.

Consider the parable of the wheat and the tares. Tares are nothing but weeds. The food seed was sown but the enemy came along and planted tares among the wheat and went his way. So to keep from uprooting the wheat (Good seed), the sower let them both grow together and at the time of harvest, the reapers were to gather together first the tares and bind them in bundles to be burned but gather the wheat into the barn.

In conclusion, I leave you with a question to ponder. When the reaper (Jesus Christ) comes, will He gather you as a tare to be burned or will He gather you as wheat to be harvested? Take an inventory of yourself. Beloved, it is time to be true to thyself.

I hear believers witness to the truth by "uh huh" and Amen, etc. and no sooner than the service has ended, nasty attitudes are manifested and attributes of the flesh are demonstrated before they can get out the door.

The Lord has revealed to me that in the natural, these believers appear normal when looking at them in the flesh and it seems like they are receiving the Word, but if you could see their spirit man as God sees it, you would see that their spirit resembles that of a severely deformed person or as

Read the Word of God and know the truth

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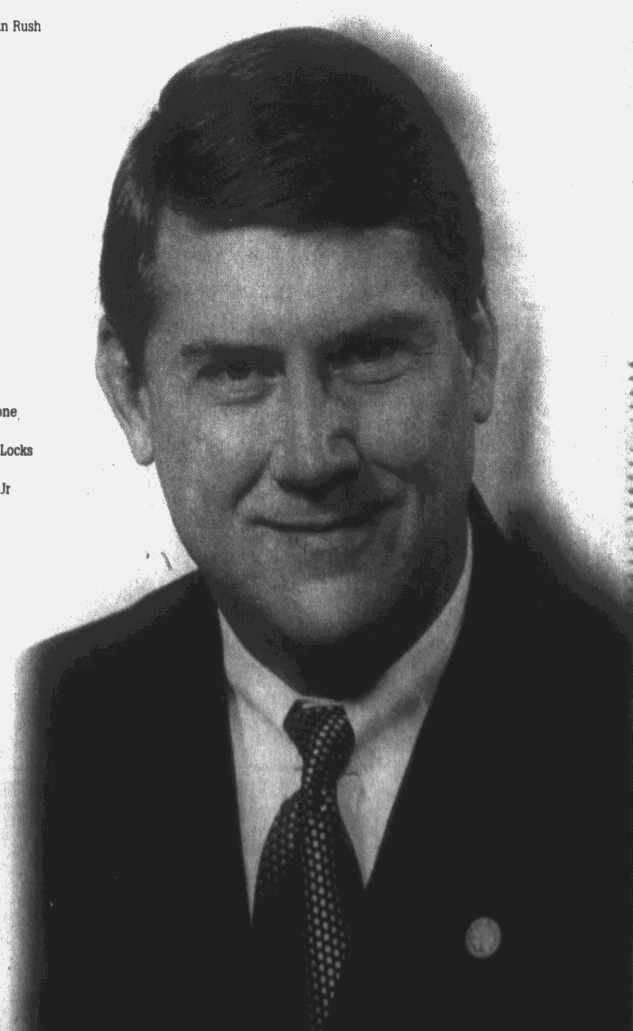
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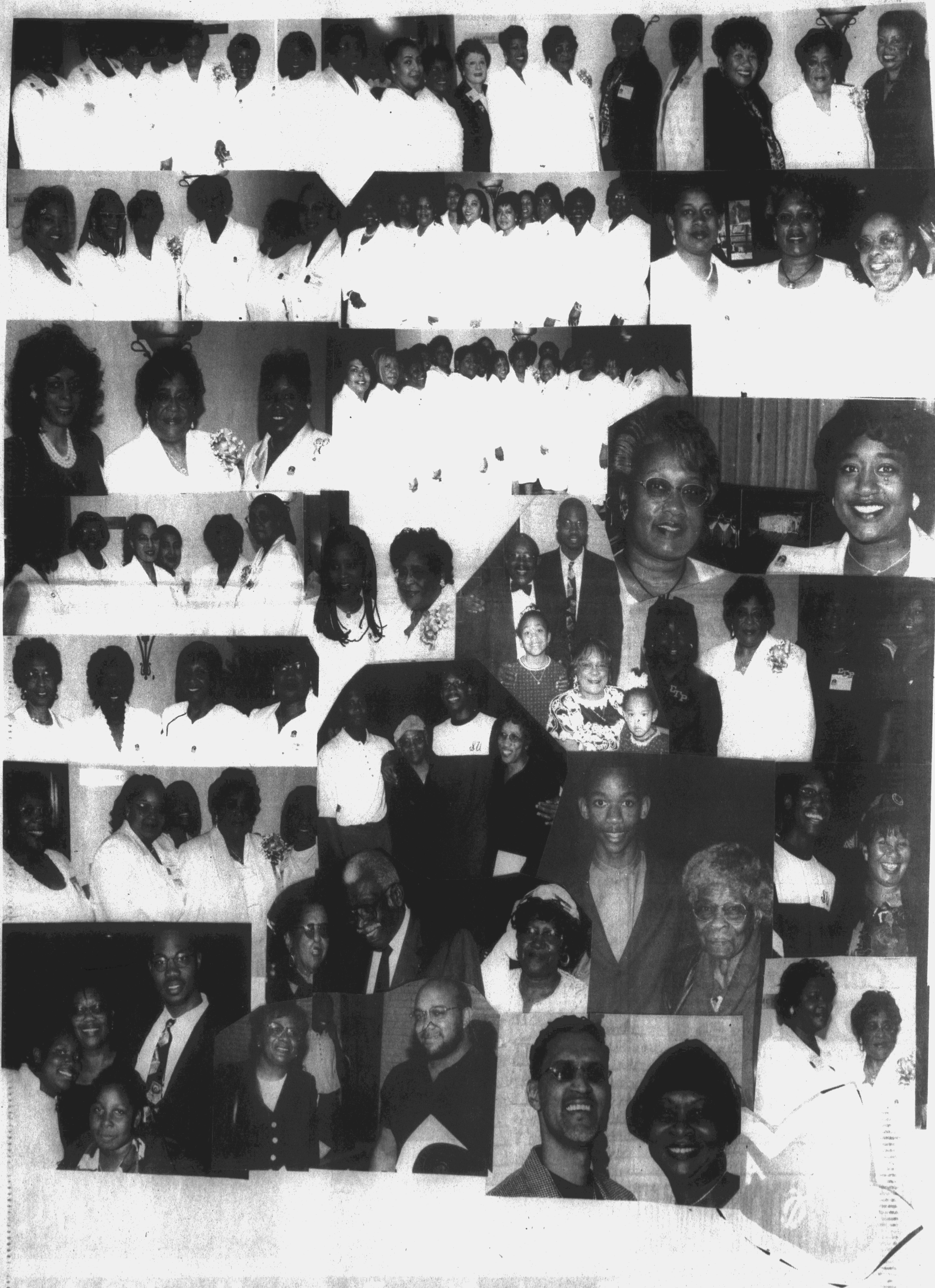
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Faces & Places



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Africa: Birthplace of Civilization?

Dr. LEROY VAUGHN
Sentinel Contributing Writer

President Thomas Jefferson said "Never yet could I find that a black had uttered a thought above the level of plain narration ... never saw an elementary tract of painting or sculpture.

Congressman Thomas Hardwick of Georgia in 1904 demanded and received the disenfranchisement of black people from the gains made after the Civil War. He said, "Black people never founded a government nor made a single step toward civilization that did not soon lapse into barbarism, except under the fostering care and guidance of white people."

Historian Arnold Toynbee wrote in his 1934 history book "It will be seen that when we classify mankind by color, the only primary race that had not made a creative contribution to any civilization is the black race."

Former President Richard Nixon was quoted in the Haldeman diary as stating that "the black race is the only race which never founded a civilization." Scientist and professor R.B. Carrell concludes that savages, including the whole Negro race should, on account of their low mentality and unpleasant nature, be painlessly exterminated.

Were white scholars and presi-

dents never taught the correct version of history, or has there been a conspiracy for the past 200 years to deny black civilization?

Before Greece, Rome, or Europe were ever established, there were multiple black civilizations throughout the world which were already thousands of years old.

All the elements of civilization first began in Africa including religion, art, science, government, mining, writing, mathematics, architecture, engineering, and agriculture. Dr. Charles Nelson at the University of Massachusetts states that animal domestication occurred in Kenya 15,000 years ago, and that agricultural sites have been carbon dated in Egypt to 18,000 B.C.

The oldest numeration system was found in Zaire by Dr. Jean de Heinzelin with markings on the Ishango Bone dated 8000 B.C. She also said that the people were familiar with prime numbers and multiplication by two since the markings were paired at 3-6, 4-8, and 5-10.

Astronomy and astrology are believed to have existed for almost 50,000 years. The oldest stellar calendar is dated 4241 B.C. It has 365 1/4 days and 12 months with 30 days in each month. The ancient Africans were also the first to divide the day into 24 hours and to begin the day at midnight.

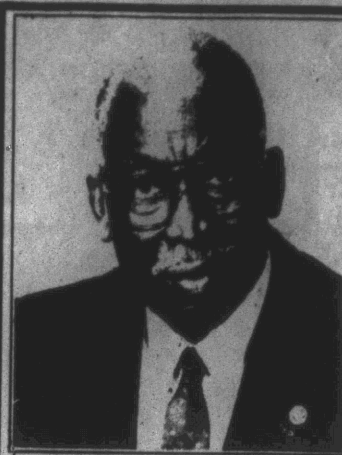
African medical textbooks have been found that are over 5,000 years old. Ancient Africans were very well versed in medical diagnosis and treatment with as many as 1,000 animal, plant, and mineral products used in the treatment of illnesses.

All religions are believed to have originated in Africa, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam. Gerald Massey states that the religious records of all religions including the Christian Bible are traceable and in many cases are direct copies of the religious records of ancient Egypt and Nubia.

St. Augustine, one of the founding fathers of Christian theology wrote that "What is now called the Christian religion has existed among the ancients and was not absent from the beginning of the human race."

The ancient black Egyptians created paper about 4000 B.C., which made the recording of history and science more practical for library storage. It is estimated that over 700,000 books were in the libraries of Egypt before Homer, the father of Western literature, was even born.

Could it be that black history is the best-kept secret in the world or have politicians, including past presidents denied black history to accelerate black disenfranchisement?



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- Because of Hurricane Floyd devastation, I would like to address the damages that were done to environment.
- I would like to help improve the quality of life for our Senior Citizens.
- I would like to increase resources and incentives for our county employees.
- I would like to address health issues in our county by working with Pitt Memorial Hospital and other countywide health organizations.
- I would like to improve the county infrastructure through building and rebuilding roads, facilities, and countywide water/sewer system for a better Pitt County.
- I would like to improve County security through crime prevention and intervention.
- I would like to encourage the most productive usage of our tax dollars. I will also examine other ways to generate revenue.

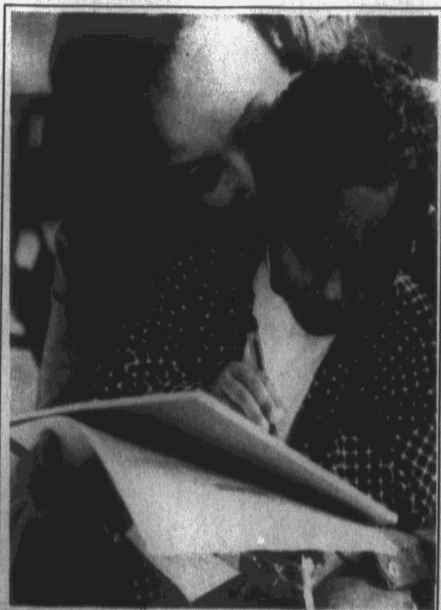
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