

# Special Salute To Black History Month

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Gala Banquet  
Honoring Bro. Jim Rouse  
Feb. 23rd Call 757.0365

A Special Tribute  
G.R. Whitfield  
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# The Minority Voice

Serving Eastern North Carolina Since 1981

February 16, - February 23, 2001

What You See Is What You Get, What You Read Is What You Know And Save.

## Today's Black Family

By Talibah Chikwendu

Statistics show that over 30 percent of African-American children born into single-parent families. The majority of those have a female at the head of the household.

Social pundits say that female led families are at the root of societal problems ranging from learning issues to delinquency and violence.

However, the history of the African-American family, with the strong Black female at its head, tells a different story.

"I think the seeds of this phenomenon began in the period slavery," said Jonathan Peters, a professor at the University of Maryland Baltimore County campus. "There was this conditioning that took place in the beginning."

Africans were removed from their land, separated from their language, customs and traditions, and their immediate families. This isolation forced them to form new connections, which they had to build on the White man's terms.

These terms included learning the language of the master and being enslaved—working for no wages, for long hours, under deplorable conditions, and on subsistence rations, housing and clothing. Under these circumstance, the slaves managed to build a support system, based on new familial groups. They soon

found that even these family connections were not respected.

Though slaves often chose a mate, the master rarely respected that choice. Many times, slave wives were given to other males for breeding and a husband could not stop it. In fact, owners would engage in intercourse with a slave woman and her husband was powerless to protest or prevent it.

It wasn't odd for husbands and wives to be sold apart or for parents and children to be separated by a sale. To compensate for the ambiguous state of family life, the extended family was very important.

Grandparents, aunts and uncles, related by blood or informally adopted a family, played a crucial role in creating a stable, loving environment for children.

In the post-slavery years, the Black family continued to suffer from separations. These, caused by lack of economic and social opportunity in the South, were the result of a family member, usually male, going to another part of the country to get a job. The plan was often to earn enough money for the remaining family to follow. Often these separations stretched over years. During these times, children were raised by one parent, most often mother, who provided discipline, nurturing and stability. She was often

supported by an extended family system that included blood relatives and others willing and able to help.

Female led households After the womanize liberation movement, the stigma of single parenthood was diminished, taking the pressure off a couple to "do the right thing." It was in this time period that the influence of the extended family began to wane.

"Black family endures," said John H. Johnson, published. "It survived forced separation of husbands and wives, parents and baby, brother and sister during slavery, adverse social forces and the stress of urban life have battered it for generations, yet it remains intact, strong, perhaps because of the annealing process imposed by hard times."

During slavery, which was less than 150 years ago, the Black family, though it persisted, was set into a pattern of single parent households and forced separation. History shows that the structure of the Black family is no more diverse now than is any point in the history of the country. This unit, with a strong maternal figure at the head and extended family support, has produced men and women who have contributed much to the growth and development of this nation.



Elijah Muhammed Son Comes To Town !

Shown above posing for the "M" Voice Camera ECU's Catholic Priest, Chair of the Communications Dept., Nell Lewis Director of the Ladonia Wright Cultural Center and the Honorable W.D. Muhammed son of Elijah Muhammed. They are pictured at a lecture and luncheon on ECU's Campus at the Ladonia Wright Center. Below he is shown with Niam K. Akbar Chairman of the Diversity Committee as well as other ministers who were in attendance. Hats off to the organizers.

Photo by Jim Rouse.

## Celebrating The Life Of G.R. Whitfield



for their respective schools.

Mr. Whitfield died in 1950, but the seeds of education, which he planted in Pitt and other counties, are still germinating as we go marching to the beat of change.

In 1916, Mr. J. Bryan Grimes, then Secretary of the State of North Carolina gave a plot of land upon which the Pitt County Training School was erected. This was the only high school in Pitt County to serve the Negro youth at that time.

Donations for buildings came from families whom he sought out in the community, and the Rosenwald Foundation.

The Agriculture and Home Economics Department were added in 1920. The first two dormitories were erected in 1923, one for boys and one for girls.

In the early 1930's mules and farm equipment were brought and the land around the schools was utilized for raising food for the boarding students.

In the 1960's the total staff was desegregated. Mobile units were erected to meet the needs of an increasing enrollment.

At length, the Pitt County Board of Education saw fit to demolish the old frame structures and replace them with the present brick structure.

The name of the school was changed in 1967 from the Pitt County Training School to G.R. Whitfield during the principalship of Mr. M.Q. Wyche in honor of Mr. G.R. Whitfield who had served as supervisor of the Pitt County Negro Schools.

During the summer of 1968, all mobile units, except one, were moved away as some black students were assigned to previously all white schools.

In 1969 the school's second grade class joined the class that preceded them to a neighboring school. Many members of the upper grades and high school students were assigned to formerly all white schools.

In January, 1971, the remaining high school students left Whitfield to attend the recently completed area high school, D.H. Conley. Grades four through eight from Grimesland Elementary School came to join with the fourth through eighth grades already at Whitfield. This began Whitfield's first year as a totally integrated school.

In the fall of 1971, students from grades one through three at Grimesland Elementary School were assigned to Whitfield. This completed the exodus of Grimesland School District for all students, kindergarten through eighth grade...

Mr. Melvin W. Rountree, past assistant principal of the school, reminisced about the earlier days at G.R. Whitfield. He stated:

The students went to school from the beginning for September through the month of May. Most of the students walked to school; however, Mr. O.A. Dupree would sometimes drive his 1936 Ford to pick up students in the outlying areas. After arriving at their destination, the students cut and gathered fire-

wood for the freestanding wood heaters located in each classroom. It seemed to take the students a while to thaw out. Students brought their own lunches, often carrying the packed meal of sweet potatoes, cracklings, and molasses biscuits in a five pound lard bucket. The containers were stored in the cloakroom. The school water fountain was a hand pump located outside and behind the school building.

A scholarship in memory of George Raymond Whitfield of Pitt County has been established at Bennett College in Greensboro

by two of his daughters, Mary Logan and Beulah Mebane, and a daughter-in-law, Senora J. Whitfield. Mr. George Raymond Whitfield, Jr. is the only surviving son. Contributions from friends and family helped Whitfield's family reach its goal of \$14,000, which has been placed in an endowment fund at Bennett.

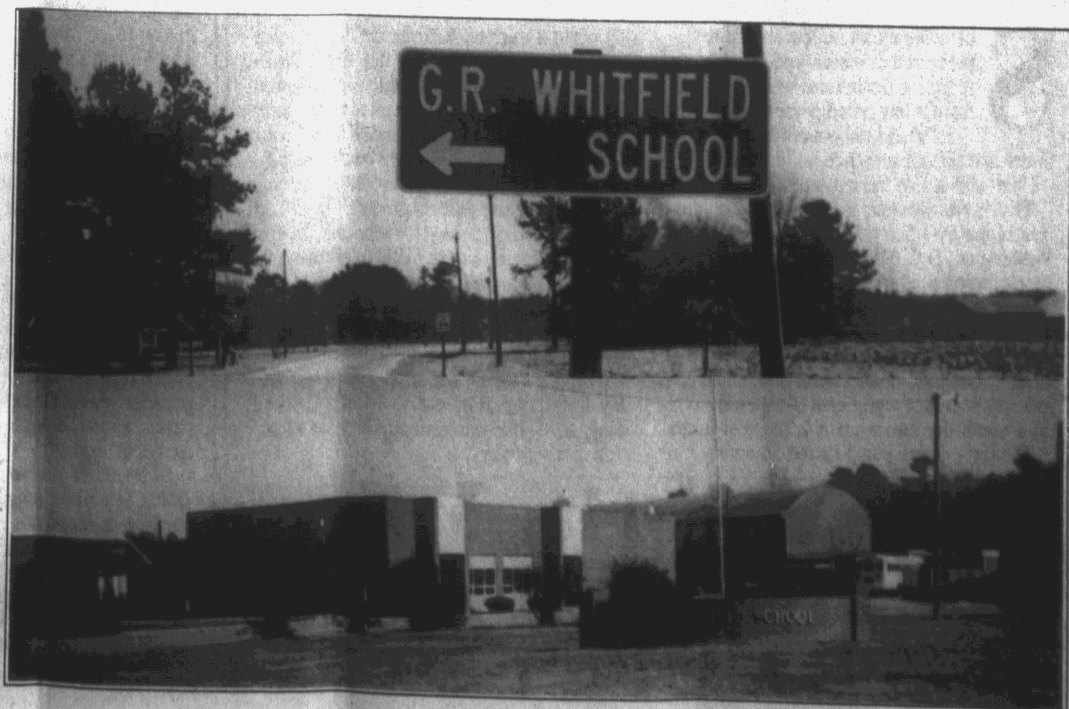
Beginning each school year, \$300 will be given to the senior with the highest grade point annually. Only a part of the interest is to be used for the scholarship.

Whitfield was a native of Stokes and completed secondary school at Elizabeth City Normal. He

later graduated from Lincoln University.

Whitfield became supervisor of the Black School of Pitt County and established the Pitt County Training School (boarding school) to allow black students the opportunity to complete high school. The land for the school was given by the Jay Byron Grimes family.

In 1965, Grimesland area citizens petitioned the board of education to rename Pitt County Training School for its founder, G.R. Whitfield Elementary School is located on N.C. 33 at Grimesland.





# Knowledge Is Power

## We need to re-examine our trends toward 'forgiveness'

There's something disturbing here folks...very disturbing!

There's something disturbing when we, en masse (s) rush to defend, pardon and forgive public lying, perjury, money-laundering, white-collar crime, false preachers and prophets, adultery and all other forms of fornication, while viciously bashing those who stand against, say for instance, abortion or the act some perceive as pre-meditated murder.

It's equally disturbing when we say crucify one for aiding and abetting a bruised, battered woman, while rushing to forgive fornication and, say adultery.

It's frightening when we tell our children and youth to "Just say no to drugs," but show them how to go full speed ahead to immorality, hatred, and disrespect for us, teachers and the law, while twitching, ooh hallaleujah! and lifting up whole hands toward heaven every Sunday and at least three days of the week in Bible studies, prayer meetings and all other kinds of improve-our-souls meeting during the week. Not to mention the seemingly-fruitless work of all the other do-gooder groups and organizations.

We criticize, dehumanize and ostracize gangs and their activity while ganging up in and under Acronyms to attack each other on what we perceive each one is or is not getting fairly while all seemingly are speeding to hell in a handbasket .....there is the White one who won't accept the Black one who won't accept the Red one who won't accept the Yellow one....and so on and so on....

"Our wisdom will be justified in our children."

We, Bible toters and quoters are hastening to hold up as a shield, "He who is without sin, let him cast the first stone....," while forgetting, "...as we..." (but, we'll come back to this ...

Evil communication corrupt good manners (thinking, behavior), y'all, leading us to ask: With whom are we communicating, especially those of us who, Sunday after Sunday, pack pews at churches, synagogues, centers, cathedrals, mosques and like places of worship? What—we know not who—is governing our thinking...principles...values...our morals? Are we so guilt-ridden and sin-laden ourselves that we have resorted to holding wrong up against wrong instead of up against the light of truth? Or do we know what that (truth) is now?

Leading us back to "as we forgive those who trespass against us...."

So let's forgive eeeeeeeeverybody.....

...first ourselves for personal participation, or finger-pointing, at society's evils for which we ourselves have to be delivered.

Let's forgive all those in and out of prisons—they didn't really mean to maim, murder, rape, torture those people; after all, they're only human. Let's forgive and pardon Mumia Abu Jamal, who maintains his innocence. After all....

Let's forgive the child-molester, the wife and/or husband abuser, the thief, the white-collar crook, the drug-dealer and the cop killers, right along with the false prophet, the false preacher, unscrupulous lawyer and politician....the list could go on....

Let's just forgive eeeeeeeeverybody and study war no more. That way folks, we can rid ourselves of all these disturbances that disrupt life for us all.

## Black men are now barking after the wrong character

Many people are unaware of the notion that the world is created through language. The Bible tells us "In the beginning was the Word, and the word was with God, and the word was God," giving us all a clue that the power of the word, i.e., the power of speech is very important. There have been whole movements crafted around this theme. Many motivational programs swear by this idea. And those who are familiar with the workings of the subconscious mind will tell you that the subconscious mind acts on what it hears you say or think. This is why it is so important to be careful about what you say.

It becomes possible to examine the major ideas flowing through a community by watching the words used by people to describe things. Now this is probably going to be hard for some of you to take, but the point in question is the very common use of the word "dog" to describe men, and especially, Black men.

It has long been said by our race of people that men are "dogs." But it seems that with the advent of hip-hop culture, this concept has become institutionalized. Why? Have you noticed that men now commonly refer to each other as Dog?? A common greeting is "What's up, dog?" The well-known rapper Snoop Doggy Dogg has taken this notion to the extreme. In his videos he is sometimes shown shape-shifting into a dog.

Many of you, no doubt, will consider this habit of men referring to each other as dogs to be a harmless bit of pop culture. It is a part of pop culture, but it may not be so harmless. Think on the following ideas for a moment. Dogs are animals, and though we love dogs when they are our pets, dog traits are not so attractive when exhibited by human beings. In other words, when we consider the creative aspect of language it becomes apparent that

our youth are creating a low-level image of themselves when they refer to each other as dogs. Dogs do not build institutions. Dogs, though probably a lot more intelligent than we suspect, basically act upon their instincts. They run in packs. Dogs are not responsible: they satisfy whatever desires arise in the moment. Male dogs, after siring offspring, do not stay around to raise their progeny. In short, dog behavior is not behavior that is desired from human beings in progressive communities. A progressive African-American community needs men who are responsible, men who love and whose intelligent decision-making enhances the community. Men are more intelligent than dogs.

This trend of Black men referring to each other as dogs brings to mind other unfortunate uses of language — the widespread prison slang that has crept into the population such as "lock down," and the slang phrase "You're blowing me" that had its origins in referring to someone who is blowing someone's high. And the common use of the words bitch, "hoe" and "bust downs" to describe women further fuels a disrespect for women and the sanctity of family values. (Bust downs are women who give men oral sex in exchange for favors like cigarettes, food or money).

We should be careful about what we say. Our words can become self-fulfilling prophecies. When we look at the condition of some African-American communities where going to jail is a daily fact of life and where more than 60 percent of Black children are raised without fathers, it becomes painfully apparent that something is going wrong. And though we know that some of the problems facing the community stem from chronic systemic oppression, we must realize the ways that we oppress ourselves. We can start by being careful about what we say. We create the world with our words.

## Airing out the racism in broadcasting outlets

Some broadcast outlets should be pressured to recruit and promote more minorities and women. Aside from a few noted personalities on the TV and radio airwaves, the minority and female presence on air is relatively nil here and across the nation.

That is why we take great umbrage at a recent ruling by a federal Appeals Court in Washington, D.C. For the second time in three years, these same magistrates have decided against implementing Affirmative Action rules for broadcasters, all but ending hopes — especially in the upcoming era of George W. Bush's "compassionate conservatism" that the industry will face significant obligations to recruit minorities and women in the near future.

The three-judge panel issued an unruly rul-

ing when it said the Affirmative Action edict on broadcasters "ultimately will not withstand constitutional review. It should have allowed the Affirmative Action mandates as concerns the broadcast industry to stand, as we would hope that the nation's highest court, the U.S. Supreme Court, will do when and if the crucial matter reaches its chambers.

To add insult to injury, the Appeals Court ruling also dismantles what William Kennard, the first-ever Black chairman of the Federal Communications Commission had hoped would be his legacy, opening up job and promotion opportunities for women and minorities.

Kennard's tenure officially ended last Friday — but hopefully not his Martin Luther King, Jr. — like mission: equality for all on America's airways.



### COMMENTS

## Parents need to partner in the education process

by Brenda Buford Shaw

Parents, and/or guardians, are you partners in your child's educational process?

Do you review the homework assignments and other papers that your child brings home? Do you attend PTA, PTO or other "parental" involvement groups? Do you encourage your child daily? Do you listen, or do you just talk to, but not with your child?

When it comes to your child's education, you should not only be just a parent, but also a coach, even his best friend. This means becoming a familiar face at your child's school, and not just at special programs, or when a particular problem needs to be addressed. It's also important not to depend on the school for your child's complete education. Take time to read to your child, discuss the issues that will effect him and do become active in school affairs.

For example, it's great to have a straight "A" student, but a child who only gets "C's" or below also needs to be encouraged and praised — not ridiculed about "not making straight A's." It's important to be a motivator, rather than criticize your child's efforts. In other words, try and become a "continuous parenting partner."

Parents must make critical use of study times. But rather than just tell your child to do his homework, study with him. And if there's something you don't understand, call one of the homework hotlines sponsored by the board of education. Do not be afraid to ask for help because teachers and guidance counselors at most schools are available to help.

It's also important to nurture your child and cultivate his well-being. Nothing should come before your child—not your job, a personal relationship or a hobby. Your child's well-being and your relationship with him should always come first. It's also important to remember that children have feelings, they have their moods and days when they aren't feeling well. Devote time out of your day to spend with your child, discussing the things that matter to him most. This will show your child that you are interested and concerned about his or her well-being.

You can also set a good example for your child by becoming involved in community affairs and civic organizations. This teaches children to develop a sense of civic pride and to become responsible and to care for others.

(Buford-Shaw is a music instructor for Memphis City Schools.)

## Breaking Barriers and attacking those that remain

by Hugh B. Price

There's been lots of celebrating on editorial and op-ed pages about the racial "first" President Bush made in appointing Colin Powell as Secretary of State and Condoleezza Rice as chief National Security advisor for his new administration.

And we at the National Urban League join in. We applaud the President just as we applauded when President Clinton named the "first" Black Secretary of Commerce, the "first" Black Secretary of Energy, the "first" Black Secretary of Labor, the "first" Black head of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and so on, during his years in office.

We're all for breaking as many of those old, restrictive racial barriers as possible — no matter which party holds the White House.

That's why we're applauding another appointment President Clinton made which marks a "first" long overdue. His "recess appointment" of Roger Gregory, a Richmond, Va. attorney, to the Fourth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Gregory, 47, is a one-time law partner of former Virginia governor L. Douglas Wilder. A graduate of Virginia State University and the University of Michigan Law School, he's a partner at a Richmond law firm. The Circuit Court is one of 11 regional circuit courts across the country whose judges sit at the level just below the United States Supreme Court. The Fourth Circuit Court has jurisdiction over five Mid-Atlantic States — Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina — a region which has the largest percentage of minority residents than any other circuit.

Yet, the Fourth Circuit, which has positions for 15 judges, has never had a Black judge. Until now, it was the only Circuit Court in the country whose members were all White. And it is widely regarded as the most conservative of all the Circuit Courts in its rulings on states rights' issues, challenges to death-penalty sentences, affirmative action cases, abortion legal issues, and criminal suspects' rights.

In terms of recess appointments of Black appellate judges, Gregory has sterling company.

From the 1940s to the early 1960s, four of the first five Black appellate jurists had to be appointed in this fashion. They include Judge William H. Hastie in 1949; Thurgood Marshall, who of course

went on to the Supreme Court; and Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, who later became the chief judge of the Third Circuit Court, in Philadelphia.

One might well ask how a Circuit Court of the United States of America could move into the 21st century without ever having had a jurist who was not White. It's certainly not as if some haven't tried to change it.

President Clinton had previously nominated three Black nominees, all from North Carolina, for a seat on the Circuit. All were blocked by North Carolina Republican Sen. Jesse Helms, who utilized a Senate tradition which allows a single member to block a nomination from his or her home state. Helms declared that, although five seats on the Court were vacant, it had enough judges.

The specific seat President Clinton named Gregory to had been vacant for more than 10 years. The length of the vacancy led the U.S. Judicial Conference to declare filling it a "judicial emergency."

Clinton first proposed Gregory for Senate confirmation last summer, but his nomination was stalled there, although he was supported by both of Virginia's senators, Charles S. Robb, a Democrat, and John Warner, a Republican.

President Clinton's "recess appointment" — the first time such a tactic has been used in 20 years — sidesteps the barrier in the Senate temporarily. It will enable Gregory to serve while his nomination is being considered by the full Senate and at least until the end of the next session of Congress, which is likely to be next October or November.

Of course, there's some politics being played here.

The Gregory appointment immediately presents Bush with a major test of his pledge to build a "diverse" administration and reach out to all Americans. But, in fact, this is a "dare," if you want to look at it that way. Bush ought to take — because he can win it.

What is there to "lose" in supporting a highly-qualified nominee for a seat on a federal appeals court that's been understaffed for years?

What is there to lose in supporting a highly qualified African-American nominee for a seat on a Circuit Court which has never had a jurist who is not White? There's nothing to lose. What's to be gained is a victory for all of American.

(Price is president of the National Urban League.)

## Opinions

### King's dream now nothing but a nightmare

Dear Editor,

As I awoke on the morning of Jan. 15, my conscience was induced with television images of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. amidst the supposed celebrations and honors of his birthday.

Parades with Blacks, White and other ethnic groups holding hands and preaching racial harmony on this annual commemoration. However, as a young so-called African-American male, my soul is empty for this supposed commemoration. Not due to Dr. King's "dream," but because of the contradicting values from many of the participants. In this post-millennium society, I wonder whose dream are we really celebrating? Black families are in a spiritual decline, young Black men still lead incarceration statistics, pseudo legislative politics wage over Confederate flags, hate crimes are on the rise, Black political prisoners such as Mumia Abu Jamal and others falsely accused still sit on death row, the ever-apparent financial and ideological separation between the Black middle-class and the Black working-class poor enhances, and cultural gaps between Black youth and Black adults continue to widen (many Black adults refer to misguided Black youth as "thugs" and "hoodlums").

As a young man who embraces African arts and clothing, I'm often met with cynicism, indifference, intolerance and prejudices from both mainstream Whites and Blacks in Dr. King's "racially-unified" dream society because I choose to partake in exercising this country's so-called constitutional freedoms of speech, cultural and religious expression. I'm often harassed by ignorant co-workers in corporate places, many of whom vainly celebrate Dr. King's birthday for one day, but later refuse to address the many ills of the very same American system which Dr. King, Malcolm X and other civil rights leaders diligently fought to change; furthermore, I've found that many mainstream Blacks and Whites view me and other young Black men, who can and will express ourselves, as "radical" threats to this systematic establishment and these morally-compromised beings may even go so far as to commit slander and defamation against us while blocking our chances for employment and financial opportunity due to our expression. If all of these things aren't contradicting to Dr. King's dream, then I don't know what is!

Apparently, Black men like James Byrd will still be dragged behind a pick-up truck by some Aryan Brotherhood members in places like Jasper, Texas. Ironically enough, Dr. King vehemently preached non-violence, yet he died being a victim of violence by the hands of hired assassin(s); so, instead of indulging myself in pseudo political causes with insincere march-dwellers, I'll just pray that one day humans will take the colonial/patriotic blinders off their eyes and face truth as it is.

Jahleel Shechem Eli,  
Memphis

### College students can lower cost of books

Dear Editor,

I am a freshman at Creighton University. If you know college-age kids or a family who does, I could use your help. Before entering Creighton, I was the Student Body President of Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo. Since the unfortunate incident brought upon my classmates, I have dedicated my life's work to helping my fellow students wherever I can.

As an incoming Creighton freshman, I was unaware of high costs of books for my classes. I spent over \$500 in books in just my first semester. It seemed like a lot, but I figured that I could make most of the money back when I sold the books back to the bookstore. Well, as you probably have figured out, I was wrong.

Out of the \$500 I spent, I made less than \$100 back. I lost over \$400 dollars. Not only did I loose my money, I had to wait in long lines at the bookstore to return the books, wasting valuable time. If I had to do this each semester until I graduate, I figure I could lose over \$3,200 dollars.

I talked with several friends over Christmas break and we came up with a web site that can save all of us money when buying books, and help us make more money back when selling books. With this concept in mind, we created the College Students Network (<http://www.CollegeStudentsNetwork.com>).

CSN is an online Internet database of items for sale, for college students all across American. Users can sign up for free and post books and other items online for sale at no cost. Finally, students can now buy/sell at better prices, which means we (all college students) can save tons of money immediately.

Mike Sheeham

## The Minority Voice Salutes Black History Month

WOOW JOY  
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## CONGO

### Young Kabila to army: Tighten security

New Congolese President Joseph Kabila summoned his army high command this week to tell them to tighten up discipline and efficiency, but added he would work for peace, his aide-de-camp said.

Eddy Kapend told state television that Kabila, brought to power after his father's assassination by one of his own bodyguards on Jan. 16, had summoned senior army officers to discuss the military situation across Africa's third biggest country, divided by a many-sided war.

"He gave precise instructions as to the management of troops' discipline and overall organisation in order to make the forces more effective and operational," Kapend said. "He gave 48 hours to examine all management issues regarding discipline and the new direction," he added.

But Kapend said Kabila had also told the 15 generals and nine colonels present that he intended to push for peace.

Congo's 30-month war pits rebels backed by Rwanda and Uganda who occupy swathes of the north and east against government forces supported by Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia.

Since Laurent Kabila's death, regional efforts have multiplied to revive a stalled 1999 peace deal.

## NIGERIA

### Obasanjo reshuffles cabinet

Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, facing widespread criticism of the quality of his cabinet and the performance of the economy, this week sacked 10 of his 49 ministers.

No key ministers in the economic and finance sectors were dropped, and political analysts said the list of nominees to replace the 10 would disappoint those who had looked forward to a radical shakeup of the nearly two-year-old government.

Those dropped in the reshuffle, announced in a statement by Obasanjo's spokesman, included Health Minister Tim Menakaya, Education Minister Tunde Adeniran, Police Affairs Minister David Jemibewon and Sports Minister Damisi Sango.

Also dropped were Agriculture Minister Hassan Adamu, Culture and Tourism Minister Alabo Tonye Graham-Douglas, Environment Minister Sani Zango Daura, junior Women and Youth Affairs Minister Bekky Igwe, and Minister in charge of the federal capital territory Ibrahim Bunu.

## ZIMBABWE

### Ex-President Banana freed

Former President Canaan Banana, jailed for sodomy, was freed four months early after receiving time off for good behavior, prison authorities said this week.

Banana, 64, was released Monday from a prison hospital outside Harare where he was being treated for high blood pressure.

The Methodist minister and professor of theology served as ceremonial president of Zimbabwe after independence in 1980 until 1987, when that post was abolished and then-Prime Minister Robert Mugabe became executive president.

Banana was convicted in 1999 on 11 counts of sodomy and abusing his power to rape, assault and carry out "unnatural acts" with men, most of whom were on his presidential staff. Homosexual acts are illegal in Zimbabwe.

## BOTSWANA

### Appeals court sends woman to gallows

Foreign judges of Botswana's top court this week dismissed an appeal by White South African Marietta Bosch against a death sentence for a love-triangle murder in June 1996 and said she should hang.

"She was a wicked and despicable woman. The murder had been planned over a long period, no doubt as a result of jealousy and infatuation," said Nigerian judge Timothy Aguda.

"There is a massive body of evidence to show that Bosch committed the crime...The trial judge was right in totally rejecting their (the defence's) evidence," Aguda added.

Bosch, who was in the heavily-guarded courtroom for her appeal, showed no emotion at the judge's words.

In a provision put in place when Botswana gained independence from Britain in 1966, the Appeal Court includes judges from England, Scotland, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Nigeria.

Bosch, 50, was sentenced in February last year to hang for the murder of her best friend Maria Wolmarans, whose husband she later married.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Anti-AIDS drug provision expanded

South African HIV-infected women will have access to the anti-AIDS drug Nevirapine in all the country's provinces as the government quietly backs down from its reluctance to provide the drug to the public.

Health department officials said the government had increased the number of hospitals and clinics where HIV-infected women could get Nevirapine (Viramune) to 22 from the two that were involved in clinical trials.

Collinge and Celicia Serenata, deputy director of the health department's HIV/AIDS programme, said the government was expanding the Nevirapine project as part of "operational research" to look at how it could be implemented countrywide.

The move represents a departure from the government's reluctance to provide Nevirapine to pregnant women in the public health sector on grounds of cost and lack of infrastructure to adequately administer the program.

## RANDOM NOTES

by Tim Butler  
Entertainment Editor

### Mogul goes to court for being a Bad Boy



Combs

It must be tough being rich! Sean "Puffy" Combs - who surely is about as rich as they come (relatively, speaking) - appeared in court this week in Manhattan at the start of his trial on gun possession and bribery charges. But will he get a fair shake?

Win or lose, the money he has in his bank account will play a big role in the public's mind. Should Combs - owner of Bad Boy Records and the Sean Jean fashion line, among other projects - win? people will most assuredly say his money bought him a stay-out-of-jail card. If he loses the trial and ends up behind bars, people (a lot of them) will say the jury stuck it to him exactly because he has so much money. Some will even say he got what he deserves because he is rich! Having money puts a lot of the wealthy between a rock and a hard place.

Just after Christmas last year, Combs was arrested after he fled a New York City nightclub where three people had been wounded in a shooting. The mogul is not charged with attempted murder, only with illegally possessing a gun - which some say he allegedly fired inside the club - and with bribery. Combs allegedly offered his driver money to say that the gun which was found in Combs' Lincoln Navigator belonged to him (the driver). If convicted, the rapper/businessman could spend up to 15 years in the big house.

Jamal "Shyne" Barrow, though, is charged with attempted murder and assault in the wounding of three club-goers. Barrow is a protégé of Combs' and is signed to his record label.

The trial is expected to last five weeks and will likely be a big draw in Manhattan. At the very least, tons of people will be most interested to see what Combs and his girlfriend, Jennifer Lopez, will be wearing to court each day!

### It's too early in the morning for this stuff!

This item from the "Now, Does That Really Make Sense?" Department: The closing credits for Wednesday's *AM@BET* show with host Laz featured this subtle plug - *Undergarments by Joe Boxer*! Why!! It's not like viewers can really see what kind of shorts Laz has on under his jeans!! It doesn't make sense.

\*No doubt, we'll soon see a credit telling us what kind of fragrance Laz is wearing - when we really can't smell it!!!!!!

### Quotes from notables: What you give you get

*Nothing comes to us except through the Law of Action and its consequences - Karma: all comes only as the fruits of actions in this life...and therefore logically are we alone to blame for whatever may happen to us. If we are overthrown or injured, or endure great suffering or grievous pain through the acts of another done upon us, or upon our place or fortune in life, that one in his turn shall not nor can he ever escape the due karmic retribution of natural law; but our suffering and our injury never could have come to us had we not planted seeds of present effects, as causes in the past.*

*Hence the teaching of all the great Wise Ones of the world, that the way by which to obtain wisdom and peace and happiness is freeing the heart and the mind from the corrosive influences of hatred and revenge, and planting in their place the seeds of kindness, love and unswerving justice to all.* Quoted from *The Esoteric Tradition* by G. de Purucker.

### Questions and more questions



Downey Jr.

With his support system in place at the Golden Globes Award ceremony, will Robert Downey Jr. now recruit more fans to stand by his side? He won a delay in his drug trial in California. The actor will next appear in court Feb. 21 to answer felony drug possession charges. If convicted, he faces a maximum

term of four years and eight months in the slammer. Last November, Downey was arrested just three months after he got out of jail. And he may soon go back. (Wonder what kind of jail he goes to that makes him (apparently) want to keep going back?)

Wonder why Jennifer Lopez "dressed down" for the *Golden Globe* ceremony? Can it be she is advancing to the degree that she no longer feels the need to call attention to her body? Or does the answer lie in a place that is not as lofty? (More likely the latter!)

Will book author Kitty Kelley need one, two or more dump trucks to unearth all of the dirt on the political Bush family? Kelley, who has slung mud on Jacqueline Kennedy, Nancy Reagan and Elizabeth Taylor to name a few, is penning a book on the family that has now given us two presidents.

# Savings & Loans



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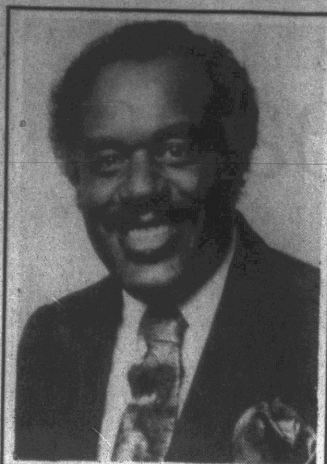
College  
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# Spiritual Thoughts



Dr. George Hawkins

## The Battle of the Mind

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ:

Satan's most frequent and consistent attack is directed against our minds. He sends his hosts out with an arsenal of weapons: lies, threats and intimidation, questions, accusations, lust and other enticements.

The attack often starts very early in life. If a child is abused at home, lies from the enemy appear in the thoughts saying the child deserves it or is not worth anything to anyone. Accusations surface in the thoughts that it is

the child's fault anyway.

As many children are developing, questions from the enemy often appear in their thoughts regarding their sexual identity. Over and over these thoughts emerge causing confusion, shame and fear.

Once a child begins to receive any lie as truth, more lies will appear to reinforce the central lie. After awhile, the child will begin to focus on its own shortcomings and perceive the rejection of others. Sometimes people are directed, by the enemy, into their lives to prey on them to add more reinforcement to the lies.

If parents do not reflect the character of God to their children, the children will project shortcomings on to God. For instance, if one or more parents is cold, lacking in emotion, rigid and constantly preoccupied with other things, the child will see God as lacking compassion, unloving and not there for them. The enemy will encourage these perceptions.

Many bring a lot of bad baggage along with them into adulthood from their childhood. Some grow up in homes where there has been considerable control, manipulation and emotional or physical abuse. Women are often "led" to find a man of similar qualities to continue the destructive negative reinforcements in their lives. We cannot underestimate the enemy's

influence in these situations.

In many cases, the enemy already has claims upon parents and even grandparents. Now the enemy focuses on the children, because he knows that the consequences of family sins can make the children vulnerable to similar attacks.

I have ministered to many adults who have been believing the enemy's lies about themselves for years. Often there are strongholds of low self-esteem and self-hatred.

Needless to say it is very difficult for them, as believers, to live by faith. The enemy continues to pummel them with lies and accusation; causing much doubt and hopelessness.

I have seen many adults who are full of anger, bitterness and unforgiveness.

Some time in their life, often in childhood, they have been hurt deeply by someone. The enemy will constantly give them "flash-back memories" of that situation in the past. The memories are so painful, that they constantly stir up the anger, bitterness and resentment, so strongly that it is very difficult for that person to forgive, even though they know they need to.

I could continue indefinitely with these scenarios, but it is my hope you have gotten the point concerning the enemy's activity directed toward your thoughts.

## 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 Utilities Commission

Historic Preservation Commission

Housing Authority

Human Relations Council

Mayor's Anti-Drug Coalition

Pitt-Greenville Airport Authority

Pitt Greenville Convention & Visitors Authority

Planning & Zoning Commission

Police Community Relations Committee

Public Transportation & Parks Commission

Sheppard Memorial Library Board

If you live inside the City 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 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/>.

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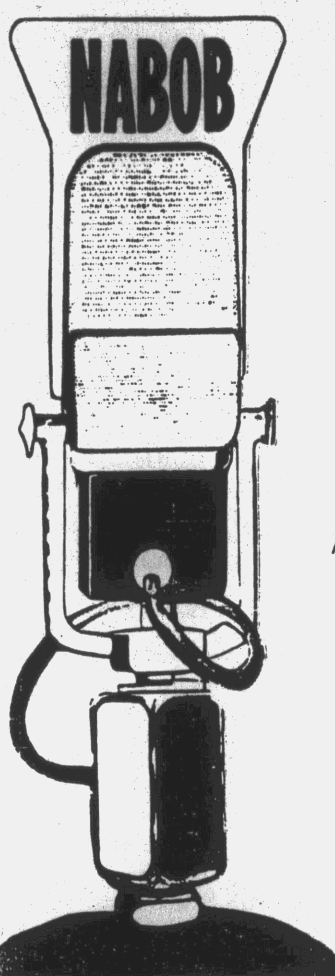
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## Celebrating Our Local Black Heroes



The Life and Legacy  
of  
Dr. Andrew Best

Place : The Ramada Plaza Hotel  
203 W. Greenville Blvd  
Greenville, North Carolina

## EVENTS

March - 30 Reception / Exhibit

March - 31 Banquet

Time : 6:30 pm - Sharp

Enjoy A Weekend With Dr. Andrew Best



# From the Desk Of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



ing auxiliaries/organizations: the Deaconess Board, Jr. Ladies recently merging with the Sr. Ladies, Pastor's Aid, a charter member of the J. A. Nimmo Choir and Sunday school Class #9.

She worked on any number of committees - Homecoming, Women's Day, Budget, Building, and Hospitality, and she contributed to agencies, organizations, clubs, charities and specifically, the Pitt County Chapter, North Carolina A. & T. State University annual fundraising project.

Family Night at Sycamore Hill was the Jr. Ladies Auxiliary 'big' celebration. Mrs. Wilson passed out a gift or gifts to the pastor and officers specifically as well as to each person present. Her joy was giving. Any invited speaker or performer received a gift from Mrs. Wilson. The Deaconess Board monthly recognized birthdays and anniversaries. As chairperson of the Hospitality Committee, a gift was presented to each lady whether present or absent.

Mrs. Wilson enjoyed the good life: food, clothing, jewelry, cars and homes, but her commitment to her church was her priority. She loved and cared for family (her nephew, Willie), and friends - deceased Mrs. Sallie Ann Early, Ms. Esther Rich, and Mrs. Clara Cherry, who now lives in a nursing home. She was a jewel that will be sorely missed. God's finger touched her and she slept.

We give thanks and gratitude to Mrs. Mildred Whichard, her guardian angel, a University Tower friend and helper, and

fellow church member, who assisted her with her physical and financial needs during her confinement in the hospital and nursing home, and in other tangible ways in death with her nephew, Willie.



## A YOUNG MAN WHO TURNED HIS LIFE AROUND

My name is Rufus Cooper, affectionately known as "Baldy." I am a native of Pitt County. My sister, Ms. Mary Ann Barrett of Washington, DC, and I were born and reared in the Belvoir Community. Our mother, Ms. Rosa Lee Cooper, deceased, and family friend of the church, Mother Arlene Ebron, helped mold and shape our character and values at a very early age. By the time I was in the fifth grade at Belvoir Elementary School, outside influences and social pressures began to take me down the road to destruction.

Never being a rude, disobedient or a boisterous child, it's strange how I turned away from my home training. I began to hang out with the wrong crowd. I fathered a son, Marcus Andrew Smith, out of wedlock. Marcus is now a freshman at NC Central University,

Durham, NC, studying to become a lawyer. I didn't finish school and became a high school dropout. I chose to live in the fast track of crime rather than the slow track of living for Christ. I ended up using and selling drugs. So, consequently, these wrong and sinful habits landed me in prison for over eighteen months. Before going to prison, however, I had hit rock bottom. I recall that my body

was so wracked with drugs that for a whole week I was only able to eat six hot dogs.

While in prison, I realized that such destructive behavior was not a part of my family background or me. I had no choice except to turn my life around. Drugs will destroy both the human body and the mind. My advice to all, but especially to young people, is to stay away from drugs because "Drugs will destroy you. Bad company is devastating. Use this precious life for the upbuilding of family and God's kingdom."

Once out of prison, I found the love of my life in Angela Worthington. We have been married now for nine years. I have been drug free now for more than thirteen years. Angela helped me to really turn my life around. I am now active in both church and community work. I am a member of the Mt. Calvary FWB Church, where I operate the van ministry to transport members of the church to Sunday School, church, and other church related activities. On weekends, I cook and serve meals from my truck at the corner of Vance and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard for all. The profits from this activity go into a "kitty" to help the elderly. Also, I am a member of the Community Van Club. Each member chooses two Senior Citizens a month to clean their yards, run errands such as grocery shopping or taking them to the doctor or visiting family and friends, and other chores.

I am Blessed and grateful for many things, but I'm especially Blessed, appreciative, and proud of the fact that I'm gainfully

employed with the Public Works Department for the City of Greenville. The morals and values that my mother and others taught me at an early age paid off I have integrity. I'm honest, reliable, and I'm never late for work nor do I shirk on the job. I'm convinced that if you want to make something of your life you must work hard for it. You can achieve what you set out to do and turn your life

into a respected and responsible citizen.

I am grateful to the Rich sisters, both dead, Miss Lucille, a retired school teacher and Miss Esther, a blind medical transcriptionist, for whom I enjoyed helping with chores, car maintenance, house-keeping, yard work, running errands, and many other things. Their love, encouragement, and support gave me the opportunity to purchase their home before Esther's death. For the first time in my life, I'm in a home. A home that I can call my very own.

I thank Mrs. Beatrice Maye, a lady whom I respect, for interviewing me, encouraging me, and giving me the opportunity to let others know how Christ has been working in my life. Because of Him, I am working hard every day supporting my family. Also, I'm encouraging my family and others to see that with a positive spirit, they, too, can achieve and be successful in any thing they want to do. If at any time I can help somebody, please let me know.

## Inventions From The Minds Of Black Folks

1. Alexander Mills, The Elevator
2. Richard Spikes, Automatic Gear Shift
3. Joseph Grammel, Super Charge System for Internal Combustion Engines
4. Garrett A. Morgan, Traffic Signals
5. Elbert R. Robinson, Electric Trolley
6. Charles Brooks, Street Cleaner
7. John Love, Pencil Sharpener
8. William Purvis, Fountain Pen
9. Lee Burrige Type Writing Machine

10. W. A. Lovette, Advanced Printing Press
11. William Barry, Postmarking and Canceling Machine
12. William Purvis, Hand Stamp
13. Phillip Downing, letter Drop
14. Joseph Smith, Lawn Sprinkler
15. John Burr, Lawn Mower
16. Frederick Jones, Air Conditioner
17. Alice Walker, Heating Furnace
18. Lewis Latimer, Electric Lamp
19. Michael Harvey, Lantern
20. Granville T. Woods, Automatic Cut-Off Switch
21. Thomas W. Steward, Map
22. Lloyd P. Ray, Dust Pan
23. Jan E. Matzeling, Shoe Lasting Machine
24. Walter Sammons, Comb
25. Sarah Boone, Ironing Board
26. George T. Samon, Clothes Dryer
27. John Standard, Refrigerator
28. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "that by the time we leave for work we have been dependent on half of the world. Modern

America is created by dependencies on the inventions from the minds of Black folks".

Black History includes more than just slavery, Frederick Douglass, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and W.E.B. Dubois.

Please Share The Knowledge

Mrs. O'Coma Wilson

Sycamore Hill Baptist Church lost one of its strongest pillars with the death of Mrs. O'Coma Wilson Tuesday, January 30, 2001. She supported the church with her resources: Talent, time and money. No doubt she was one

of the most consistent and committed members since uniting with the church in the 1940s from her home/church community in Roberson County, (N.C).

She was a member of the follow-

# Share The Knowledge!

Lighting the path.

At a time when it was nearly unthinkable for a black man to get a good education, Lewis Howard Latimer went a step further to become one of the country's great inventors. Latimer was right there working alongside Thomas Edison on the cutting edge of developments in the area of lighting. CP&L recognizes the achievements of inventors like Lewis Howard Latimer and pledges to commit its resources to develop tomorrow's African American leaders.

# Celebrating The Accomplishments Of Black Americans Past, Present and Future!

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### A Legend Dies.....

Gospel great Willie Neal Johnson leader of the Gospel Keynotes died recently. Pictured above shown posing for the "M" Voice camera Publisher Jim Rouse, Tommy Ellison of the 5 Singing Stars and Norman Pugh of the Golden Jubilees. He was well known in the gospel world throughout America. May he rest in peace.  
photo by Faith May



### Win A Free C/D !

If you can name the people in this "M" Voice Archive photograph. Please send your entries to WOOW Joy 1340 AM  
405 Evans St. Greenville, NC 27835

file photo

### QUEEN LATIFAH

To perform at V-Day benefit



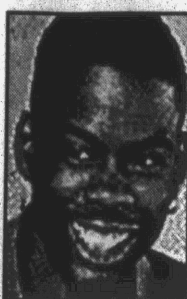
Rapper/talk-show host Queen Latifah and singer Joan Osborne will perform at the Take Back the Garden, V-Day benefit. The benefit hopes to aid the end of violence

against women.

Joining the two, reading selections from playwright Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* will be Oprah Winfrey, Calista Flockhart, Jane Fonda, Brooke Shields and many others.

### CHRIS ROCK

To star in new film *Sheep*



Comedian Chris Rock will star in *Sheep*, as a street hustler who has a CIA agent for a twin brother.

When his brother is killed, Rock must take his place on a CIA assignment, and gets a little coaching from a veteran agent, played by Anthony Hopkins.

Next up for Rock is a romantic comedy where he plays an infer-tile husband.

Joy 1340 AM

## Corrections !



Bertha Woolard, Program Director for the (P.E.T.E.R) Partners Effectiveness Training, Evaluation & Referral Mentor Program at Moyewood Cultural Center, 1710 West 3rd Street, Greenville, NC was presented a check in the amount of \$1,100.00 as a contribution to the program by a major Corporation, as a jester to give back to the community in which it serve.

Randy Draper, manager of Monumental Agency Group, Inc.in support of Rufus Huggins, Agent of the Greenville District Office, 3107 South Evans Street, Suite E, Greenville, NC presented the check.

Mr. Huggins is a Mentor for the P.E.T.E.R Program and has thusfore provided a total of 1,040 hours to the program.

The "M" Voice Proudly Salutes Black History

Open Monday  
Friday: 9-5



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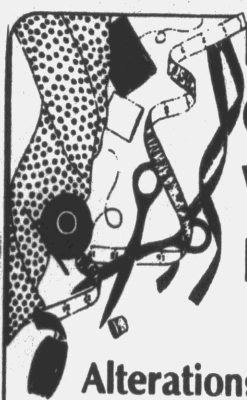
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Chapter.....Presents

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A Panel Discussion Featuring :

Tom Irons M.D. Assoc. V.C. Health/Science

Brody School of Medicine

Rev. Tom Jackson, Wake Forest  
Baptist Church

Deborah Ross, ACLU of NC

Timsley Yarbrough P.H.D.

7:30 pm Thursday, March 1 2001

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No Charge \* All Invited\* Q & A period

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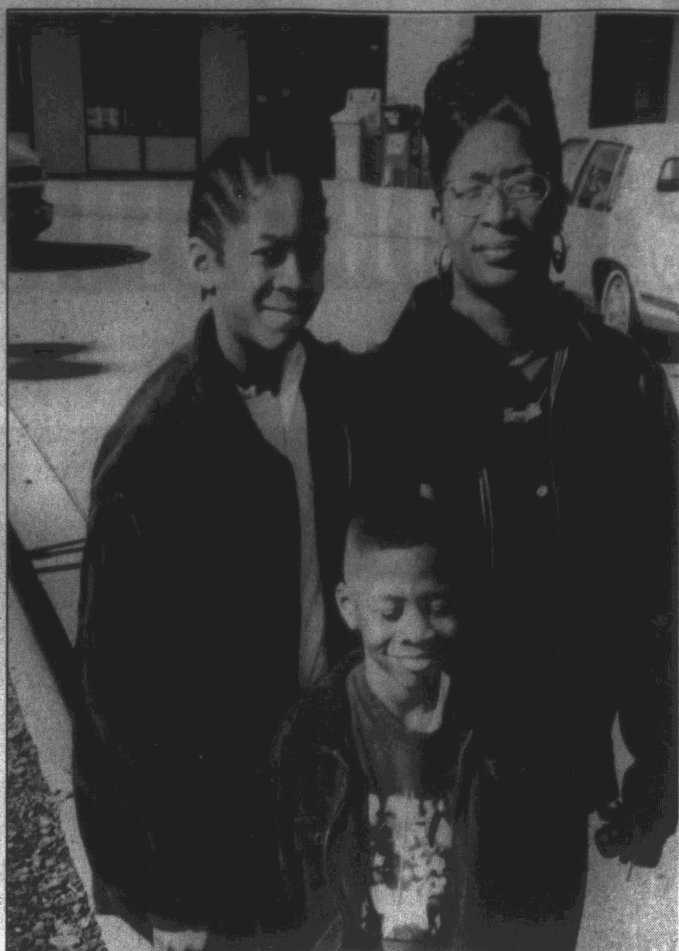


# Heel Sew Quik

Proudly Salutes  
Black History Month

Carolina East Mall  
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We Clean Timberland  
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## Mother's Day Out !

Shown at the Carolina East Center leaving Moe's Barber Shop, is a beautiful mother and her two sons. Her youngest son just got a haircut from Moe's Barber Shop.

Photo by Jim Rouse



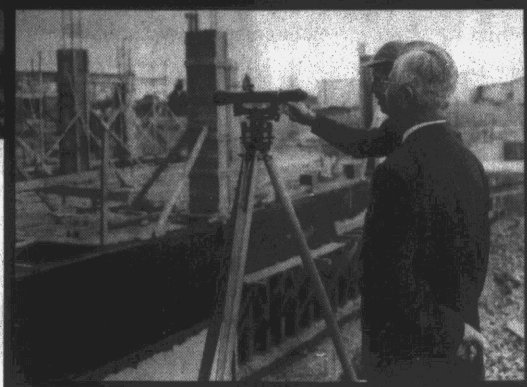
## Black & Beautiful

You can win a free C/D if you can name this beautiful Black Lady who was once featured in the "M" Voice newspaper years ago, as well as competing as a Mrs. NC Beauty Contestant. Please send your entries to WOOW 405 Evans St. Greenville, NC

File Photo



# WTOW Radio



## Building on a Tradition of Excellence

For 50 years, the people of this community have been comforted by the knowledge that their health needs can be met by a hospital right here in Pitt County. And throughout that remarkable half century, Pitt County Memorial Hospital has grown and improved until today it stands on the leading edge of healthcare, serving as a tertiary care center for more than 1 million people in the eastern part of the state. During 2001, PCMH will observe the 50th anniversary of its history as a local institution dedicated to the health needs of people in this area.

The history of the hospital actually begins in the early years of the Twentieth Century when four doctors invested their personal assets to start a community hospital in a rented room over a store in

downtown Greenville. On February 8, 1951, Pitt County Memorial Hospital opened its doors as a county owned, 120-bed hospital staffed by 38 doctors, 50 nurses and 70 employees who served as support staff. In a dozen short years, a \$1.6 million addition increased the number of beds to 205. In 1977, the hospital moved to a new building at its present location. The new 370-bed facility was designated as the teaching arm for the East Carolina University School of Medicine.

The affiliation between the hospital and the medical school set the stage for rapid expansion and improvement of services. Centers of excellence, state-of-the-art services and outstanding resources attracted medical experts from across the nation and beyond. Today, the institution that began in a creaky room above a general store is the flagship and forerunner of a flourishing regional health system.

As we celebrate 50 years of excellence, we also celebrate the hard work, support and dedication of those who made it happen. We offer our heartfelt appreciation to those who have made excellence a tradition at Pitt County Memorial Hospital for the past 50 years, and to those who will continue to do so for the next half century.



**PITT COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**  
*University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina<sup>SM</sup>*



# Imam W. Deen Mohammed Visits ECU



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The "M" Voice Salutes  
Black History Month

Mr. Sylvester Bo Tyson, Jr.

&

Missionary Audreinee Rechealle Harvey

Request the Honor of Your Presence  
At Their Wedding!

Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2001 \* 2:00 pm

Location:

Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church  
1001 Hooker Rd.; Greenville, NC 27835  
(252) 756-4869

Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr., Officiating

Floating Wedding Reception

Matthew T. Lewis Fellowship Hall  
Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church

"Come Out and Enjoy the Lord With Us!"



## NAACP calls for compensation in Shinhoster death

Kweisi Mfume, president & CEO, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), called on the Ford Motor Company to fairly compensate the family of Earl Shinhoster, former Acting NAACP Executive Director and CEO, who died from injuries suffered in an accident involving a Ford Explorer equipped with Firestone tires.

"Earl's death left a leadership void in the NAACP as well as in his family," said Mfume. "He was one of the NAACP leaders who made this organization work during its 92 years." At the time of the accident, Shinhoster was director of Voter Empowerment, a national registration and education program. During his 30-year NAACP career, Shinhoster held a number of senior administrative positions in the NAACP, including National Field Secretary. He served as Acting Executive Director and CEO from February 1995 to February 1996.

Shinhoster was fatally injured on June 11, 2000, when the Ford Explorer he was riding in was involved in an accident in Alabama. He was traveling to Montgomery to escort the First Lady of the Republic of Liberia when the accident occurred. He was scheduled to also attend a voter registration drive later that day in Tuskegee.

During his long career with the NAACP, Shinhoster weathered tear-gas bombs and threats, but he remained a tireless worker for civil rights. In addition to his work in the NAACP, Shinhoster was formerly interim director, Southern Regional Council Voting Rights Project and the coordinator for voter education in the Georgia Secretary of State's Office, Elections Division. He was also formerly Field Director for the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Ghana, West Africa, where he trained local citizens to serve as election monitors.

## HUD office selects outreach coordinator

Yvonne Leander has been selected as Senior Community Builder for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's office in Memphis. In this career position, Leander is responsible for coordinating outreach activities and delivery of all HUD programs within her jurisdiction of 21 counties in West Tennessee. She serves as the principal management official and point of contact for state and local government officials and is responsible for ensuring effective service for all HUD clients. She reports to the Secretary's Representative for the Southeast/Caribbean in Atlanta.

Leander has a long and distinguished career at HUD. Most recently, she served as a Community Builder in HUD's Nashville Office, where she was responsible for customer service to citizens, outreach to communities, and public affairs in 37 counties of Middle Tennessee. In that position she coordinated a national award-winning project which successfully relocated 186 very low-income families from Lane Garden Apartments in Nashville with the help of business and community partners.

Before coming to Tennessee, Leander held several management positions in the Georgia State Office of HUD located in Atlanta. As Chief of the Management Branch in HUD's Atlanta Property Disposition Center, she oversaw the management and foreclosure of multi-family properties in the eastern half of the United States. Before that, she had extensive throughout the State of Georgia. She began her HUD career in Atlanta as an economist.

Leander, born in Acworth, Ga., received her B.B.A. in Economics, Summa Cum Laude, from the University of Georgia.

## Religious leaders support Ashcroft

A coalition of religious leaders from across the United States held a press conference Tuesday in Washington, D.C. in support of Sen. John Ashcroft (R-Missouri) and his nomination to be Attorney General. Attending were leaders from various religious and minority communities, including a former student of Ashcroft's. They took a stand against the "religious profiling" of John Ashcroft. Article VI, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution which says, "no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States."

## Black Conservatives Wonder: "Who Speaks for Blacks?"

On the eve of the Presidential Inauguration, and more than two months after the disputed election, hardly a day goes by when some prominent Black leader does not loudly protest the "disenfranchisement" of Black voters in Florida. That's pretty serious, all right, and indeed is more important than the election outcome, but at least one group of Blacks is challenging the conventional orthodoxy of never-ending victimization of the Black masses.

Calling itself the "Independent Black Majority" the group has formed as an alternative voice hoping to re-focus the Black public policy agenda beyond the arena of race relations and white racism.

"Would the same protest be going on had Al Gore won the election? Probably not," Bishop Harold Ray, founder of the national Center for Faith-Based Initiatives in Florida told this writer. "Would the same problems be in existence however? Probably so," he said of the voting irregularities that caused thousands of Black votes to not be counted in the decisive Florida balloting and the Black reaction to it.

That reaction included a walkout on Jan. 6 by the Congressional Black Caucus of the joint session of Congress, which certified the Electoral College vote that officially made

Texas Republican Governor George W. Bush, the President-elect. Mr. Bush becomes the 43rd President at the Inauguration at the U.S. Capitol, Jan. 20.

"I say that Black America needs a choice," Robert Woodson, President of the National Center for Neighborhood

Enterprise told reporters. Blacks "need to be educated about alternatives," he said. His new group convened a "Summit on Black Independence and Self-Sufficiency" in Washington on January 15, the same day civil rights leaders held demonstrations and marches to protest Election Day irregularities in Florida.

Mr. Woodson's summit convened dozens of grassroots community organizers from 35 different groups around the country. It was organized by a coalition of conservatives who raised the question: "Who speaks for Blacks?"

"These are the priorities of Black America as expressed in the Joint Center's (for Political and Economic Stud-



### ASKIA AT-LARGE

By ASKIA MUHAMMAD

ies) poll," Mr. Woodson says, gesturing toward a chart which lists education, health care, crime, employment and three other topics ahead of race relations as the nation's top priorities among Blacks, according to the Black think tank's year 2000 poll of 850 Blacks nationwide. "Two percent said racism, yet traditional Black leaders are out here meeting and acting as if this is the most important thing."

The agenda discussed at their Martin Luther King Holiday summit was more in line with developing solutions to the "real problems" facing Black communities, reflecting the priorities outlined in the Joint Center poll, they insist. Some of the topics discussed at the meeting included: "A Legacy of Self-Help and Pursuit of Excellence;" "The Enemy Within," meaning the need for a "new emancipation" from victimization, self-debasement, and self-destruction; and "The Power of Black Institutions" such as churches and private civic organizations.

Instead of having to compete with traditional Black leaders for public attention concerning the hot-button "issue du jour" on occasions such as the King Holiday Mr. Woodson argues, Blacks should be coming together to compete with one another about "how to produce positive outcomes" that will help relieve the problems faced by poor Blacks. Outcomes such as "turning killing fields into football fields;" improving health-care delivery; and making safe, clean, affordable housing available to more inner-city residents.

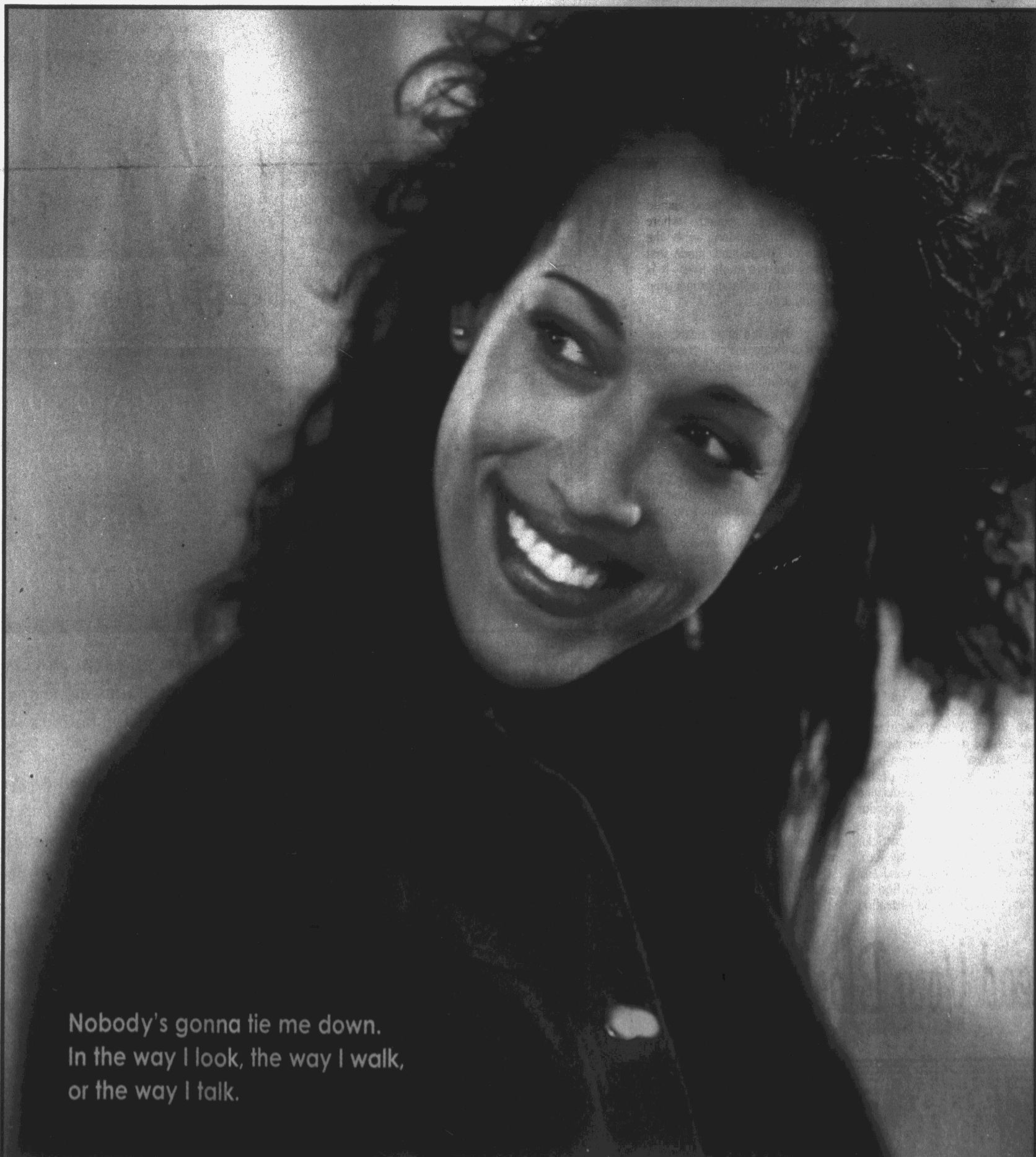
As far as partisan politics is concerned, Mr. Woodson suggests that Blacks would be better off by having both parties compete to win Black support, rather than having upwards of 90 percent of that vote always going to the Democratic candidates. "We're saying the Republican and the Democratic parties have ill-served our communities. My main issue is: to the degree that we have become a presumed constituency of one party, our best interests are actually being served by neither party."

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**Paying Contributions To A Great Man**  
Pictured above is Mr. and Mrs. Mebanes, Mrs. Beula Mebanes is the daughter of G.R. Whitfield the founder of Pitt County Training School, now known as G.R. Whitfield High School. G.R. Whitfield was truly a pioneer for the education of Black folks during segregation. Hats off to a great man who accomplish great things in the face of adversity,

photo by Jim Rouse

**A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE RAYMOND WHITFIELD IN "THE MARCH TO THE BEAT OF CHANGE"**

There is an old adage or proverb which says: "The mills of the God's grind slowly, but exceedingly fine." I have coined a more simple one which I admit was taken from the one stated above. My proverb which says, "The wheel of destiny turns slowly, but surely." The wheel of destiny is change and it is controlled only by God. Change is inevitable and it must come and as sure as the sun must rise tomorrow morning, each spoke in that wheel of destiny must be brought into time. Nothing can hold it back. All the king's horses and all the king's men cannot hold back the beat of change.

I remember vividly one day during 1934 or 1935. Mr. Setzer was Principal of this school at that time and I lamented over the fact that our children, many of them walking 12 and 15 miles per day to and from school in the slush and grime while white children were riding past them in their limousine-style buses, in comfort, to school. Mr. Setzer took me on his car and went to the home of the Chairman of the Board of Education and asked for a bus. I have been trying to recall his name. He said to us, "The time is not ripe."

Due to the fact that my remarks on this program must be short to permit others to have their say, I have decided to pay a tribute

to the founder of this idea, George Raymond Whitfield, who was hewn out of time by the wheel of destiny to make the "time ripe" for the freedom of his fellow-blacks in this part of the moral vineyard. My tribute to him is a paraphrase of a famous address known to all American citizens: It was a little more than a half a century ago, a sort of mid-point between the end of one of the most vicious slave systems the world has ever known and our struggle, when our founding father, George Raymond Whitfield, brought to Pitt County, a big idea, conceived in his genius mind and dedicated to the proposition of freedom through a good education

for black boys and girls and the youth of this section and throughout the state and nation.

The long firm arms of G.R. Whitfield with their nimble fingers, reached into every middlesex, village and farm and uprooted young blacks nestled in their conservative environs and brought them to this fountain-head of knowledge known at the time as Pitt County Training School.

Now we are engaged in an experience and a struggle in which we are to take a hard look at his ideas as we march to the beat of change, testing whether his dream, so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure.

We are met on these sacred grounds...These grounds where G.R. Whitfield, along with the people of Grimesland, made that persons like me might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a large sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow these sacred grounds. Thousands of students, teachers, principals, school committees, and parents, living and dead, who struggled here together have consecrated it far above our power to add or detract. It is for us here, the living, marching to the beat of change, to be dedicated to the unfinished task that GR.. Whitfield so nobly advanced. It is for us to be here dedicated to the great tasks remaining before us

that from his struggle we take increased devotion to the cause for which he gave his last full measure of devotion; that we, here in our march to freedom and justice, highly resolve that the struggle of G.R. Whitfield to keep the school alive, was not in vain; that we keep and continue the struggle for quality education and for freedom that this entire nation, the United States of America, under God shall have a new birth of freedom; and that this government of all people, black and white, by the people, black and white, for the people, black and white, shall not perish from the earth.

**COMMUNITIES OF SHALOM TRAINING**

By Faith May

Jo Baker, Shalom Trainer of the United Methodist Conference was on hand at Conetoe Chapel Church, Conetoe, NC to give an overview of the upcoming training course. She spoke with Pastor Richard Joyner and members of his congregation concerning "Communities of Shalom Training".

Communities of Shalom Training began in the aftermath of the acquittal of Los Angeles Police Officers for the beating of Rodney King, people took to the streets to vent their frustration. The destruction from that event, coupled with years of poverty and neglect, called for a response. The United Methodist Church at its 1992 General Conference committed that we in solidarity and consultation with indigenous persons and local churches in a selected neighborhood would commit ourselves to the creation in Los Angeles of a Shalom Zone...with the hope that the Shalom Zone concept become a prototype for proactive ministry in other places.

The United Methodist Church responded to the 1992 uprising in Los Angeles by establishing a strategy in church and community transformation called Communities of Shalom. Critical to the strategy is identifying and targeting resources for a Shalom Zone. A training course was developed to equip persons to lead the development of their neighborhoods. In five sessions over a six month period, clergy,

laity, community leaders, and community residents learn specific skills in planning and leadership. They also gain knowledge for developing and utilizing resources and developing partnerships for Shalom development. Follow-up courses, technical assistance, and the development of networks further enhance the exchange of ideas and the replication of future communities of Shalom.

The Training Program is designed to organize and mobilize people and resources to carry out the strategies which they have selected and on which they are willing to act. Those who live and work in the community and church are valued as the experts who provide the information, design the plan, and carry out the actions.

The concept enables the necessary help, hope and healing which congregations and neighborhoods need to address the internal and external pressures of poverty, racism, lack of vision, limited resources, and demise of the spirit.

The training sessions are designed to be conducted on five Saturdays over a five to six month period of time. Training is done on location and involves three to five communities of Shalom from an annual conference or area.

The goal of Communities of Shalom is the empowerment of individual lives and the transformation of churches and communities. The training program develops leaders who can enable communities and congregations to take responsibility for the decisions which shape their destiny.

Conetoe Chapel Church members are excited about the upcoming training to start the first week of March 2001. Pastor Richard Joyner is hoping that Conetoe Chapel will be an example to other churches who would like to participate in Shalom Training to

better the communities in which they live.

For further information contact Rev. Richard Joyner, Conetoe Chapel Baptist Church, Conetoe, N.C. Phone (252) 641-5020.



**State Auditor Ralph Campbell Jr. Begins**

**Third Term On Council Of State**

State Auditor Ralph Campbell Jr. has started his third term on the Council of State, the only African-American ever elected to the group of constitutional officials. Campbell took the oath for his term on Saturday, January 6th as part of the inaugural ceremonies for new Governor Mike Easley. The Oath was administered by Court of Appeals Judge Patricia Timmons-Goodson. The office of State Auditor is an independent agency that oversees the operation of state agencies, universities, community colleges and county clerks of court to make sure they are following sound financial practices.



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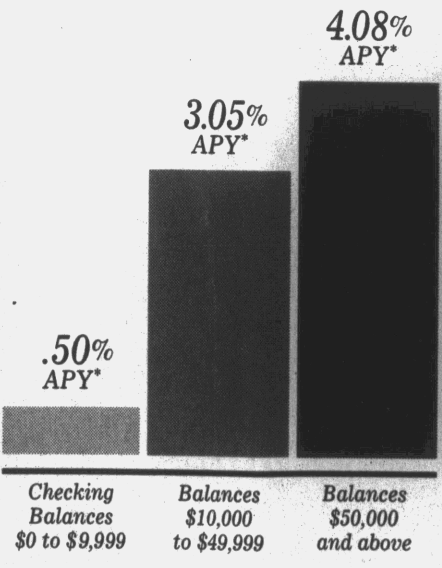
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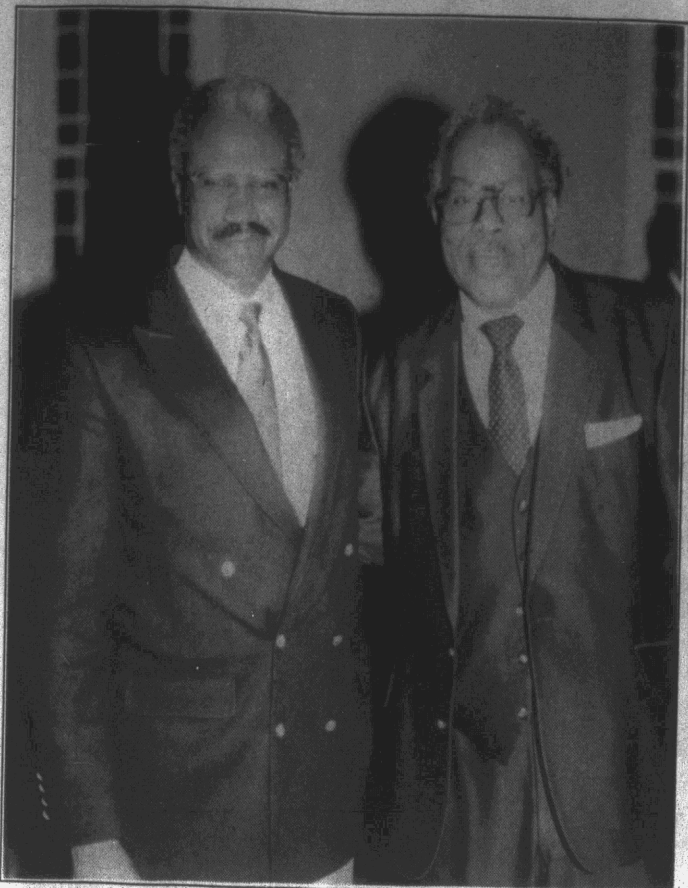
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#### "M" Voice Archives

The late Rev. Elmer Jackson Jr. is shown posing for our "M" voice camera being congratulated by an old friend who is now deceased as is Rev. Jackson. May God rest his soul.

file photo

#### Stokes Woman Tells National Magazine Guideposts how She Went From Mental Illness and Homelessness to Medical School

New York, NY(February 2001)-- A national magazine has featured the story of Leslie Smith of Stokes, N.C. who tells Guideposts magazine how she conquered mental illness and homelessness and went on to medical school.

In the February issue of Guideposts, a national magazine with a 2.6 million circulation, Ms Smith describes her struggle to the road of success. Ms Smith went away to college in West Virginia to quench her thirst for learning, but was soon faced with a feeling of inadequacy that led to a deep depression. As a result,

her grades suffered so badly that she had to drop out of school. Later diagnosed with depression and borderline personality disorder, Ms. Smith was institutionalized several times and eventually was living on the streets. She ultimately tried to take her own life.

With the help of a woman she met at a local outreach center, Ms. Smith turned her life around. She began helping others with their problems, became an active member of a nearby church and even went back to school with the help of a doctor she met. Smith is now doing clinical rotations as part of her medical school training at East Carolina University. { Smith's story appears on Pgs. 18-23 of the February issue of Guideposts; interview available with Smith}

#### FICK NAMED DIRECTOR-AFRICA REGION FOR LBA INTERNATIONAL, LLC

January 17, 2001 (Greenville, NC) - Johan Fick has been named as Director - African Region for LBA International, Inc. Mr. Fick will be responsible for developing product sales and business opportunities for the LBA Group companies on the African continent. Emphasis will be on the information technology and telecommunications sectors where LBA currently holds a significant market position in the United States and Latin America. LBA is in the process of establishing offices in Pretoria, South Africa. A native of Harare, Zimbabwe,

Mr. Fick is also managing Director of Omega Computers there. His experience includes business development and consulting in the southern African region.

LBA International president Lawrence Behr said "Africa represents information technology and telecommunications markets largely untapped by US companies. Hence, it holds great opportunities for LBA to introduce products and services."

LBA international is a unit of the LBA Group, inc., telecommunications consultants; LBA Technology, Inc., a manufacturer of wireless equipment; and LBA InfoSystems, LLC, a provider of IT services. The LBA companies have over 35 years of experience in the information technology and telecommunications sectors.

## My Special Valentine

Valentine's Day is a day for lovers or so I am told .....  
So although we can't be together now, I'll try to tell you why I wish you were mine.  
We're one, joined together by forces we've yet to understand.  
Even though we're apart.....  
I feel your presence deep in my heart.  
I have peace down deep within .....  
that I would have never known, had you not been my friend.  
Time or circumstances can never erase what we've been to each other.  
Thank you, for always being a part of me.  
Your warmth, your tenderness, your thoughtfulness and compassion are always with me.  
That is why you are my very special valentine.



By Chekieta Williams

### The New Faces Of Young Black America

By Steve Johnson  
"M" Voice Editor

With the cultural diversity quickly changing in North Carolina, new faces are emerging everyday to champion the cause for equality, education, and most importantly economic empowerment.

Anthony Young is one of those faces. As a former Deputy Field Director for Senator John Edwards, as well as former Field Director for newly elected Governor Mike Easley, Anthony dedicates a great deal of his time assuring that young Black America's voice is heard loud and clear.

Recently, the "M" Voice had a chance to speak with Anthony and get some of his opinions on

Black economic empowerment, Church & State, and most importantly the future for young Black America.

"M" Voice : What are the concerns you see for young Black America?

Anthony : That we fail to learn how maximize our economic strength.

"M" Voice : How can we harness our economic strength?

Anthony : By patronizing our own businesses, by doing business with people who are doing business with us.

"M" Voice : What are some of your thoughts on Arab or Koreans liquor stores in our community?

Anthony : Personally, I do not believe we need any additional

stores in our community, but most importantly we do not have to patronize the existing ones. I don't believe th're wrong for setting up shop, but I do believe we need to cautious of where we place every dollar.

"M" Voice : What are your thoughts that Latin America are stealing jobs that could go to Black youth ?

Anthony : I believe we can compete for those same jobs, If problems exist in Black America we must 1st look inward then and only then will be prepared to look toward other sources for the cause of the problem.

"M" Voice : Do you believe enough Blacks are involved in the allocation of government resources ?

Anthony : No, although we have

come a long way we still have a long way to go. I believe the real danger that our society faces are not the extreme left or right wing individuals, but the overwhelming majority that sits in the middle and do nothing.

"M" Voice : What is the most important concern for Black America entering 2001?

Anthony : Getting involved in the process whether it be political, economic or community motivated. I believe the expectation must change for Black America. we must expect more and want more of ourselves and of others.

Anthony still continues his involvement with political, and economic organizations, with the hope of continuing to create economic growth within the Black community. We wish him much success in his efforts.

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# Reflections, Expressions, and Reviews



**GOD, DR. BUZZARD, AND THE BOLITO MAN**  
By  
Cornelia Walker Bailey

A Sapelo Island native, Bailey tells the intriguing history of her remarkable and threatened homeland off the coast of Georgia. Sapelo is an island once populated by descendants of slaves and freed men and is now home to just 74 African Americans who are struggling to keep their Geechee heritage alive in a world that moves too fast and doesn't value their culture. Cornelia Walker Bailey, a descendant of Bilali, one of the first African slaves to inhabit the island in the early 1800s, is the sage and keeper of cultural secrets. She is determined to save the all-black community in which she lives and to preserve the rich culture that is slowly eroding.

Sapelo Island is south of Savannah, Georgia and north of Jacksonville, Florida on the Eastern Seaboard of the United States. She goes on to confirm Bilali as the most famous and powerful of all Africans who lived on this island during slavery days. She writes: "If you had been standing on the white sands of this island at daybreak in 1803,

you might have seen a tall, dark-skinned man with narrow features, his head covered with a cap resembling a Turkish fez, unfold his prayer mat, kneel and pray toward the East while the sun rose. This was Balali--the first of my ancestors I can name."

Today the children rise in the dark of winter or the light of spring so they can board a large white ferry run by the state of Georgia that takes them to them to the mainland where they go to school. They are the descendants of Bilali--who are still there some 200 years later.

After the slaves arrived here, they were expected to conform to the ways of the European slaveholders and they did just enough of that to get by because they did not want to lose all of their African selves. They hung onto their customs and beliefs as much as they could and in doing so they passed their traditions down so successfully that many of the Geechee ways can be traced directly back to Africa. But the 1950s saw a diminishing of the old ways when the outside world began crashing in. The old Geechee customs involved watching animals for good-and bad-luck signs, believing in the healing properties of the earth and all forms of the supernatural and the belief in God, Dr. Buzzard and the Bolito Man. Dr. Buzzard was the root doctor whom people other places called the voodoo man, and a lot played Bolito, the numbers racket. Bailey's ancestors didn't have a written language. They

passed down everything through stories--which were humorous but also made one think. Bailey concludes her book by reminding readers that it is her hope of creating a new beginning on this island and that one can survive if one believes in himself and his culture.

Note: The late John F. Kennedy Jr. and Carolyn Bessette (both

died in a plane crash) exchanged their wedding vows on Sapelo Island.

*Due to printing reproduction errors, portions of February 2-February 9 Edition of the "M" Voice's Reflections, Expressions and Reviews some letters and words were omitted. Here is the section in its entirety*

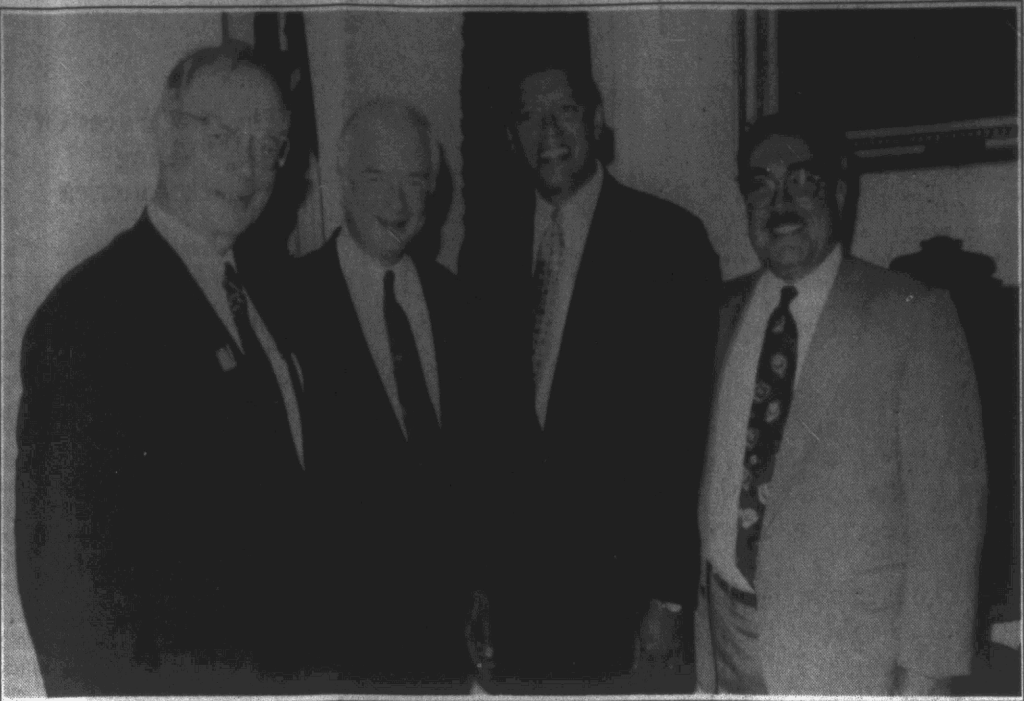
The PIC disbanded in October 1950 but Du Bois was informed in February 1951 that the group was required to register as "an agent of a foreign principal" under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. He was bounded by the internal security of the U.S. government at the height of the Cold War. He was indicted for falling to comply, was tried and acquitted in November 1951.

Although acquitted, Du Bois became more isolated during the 1950s and was denied a passport until the Supreme Court ruled in 1958 that the State Department's passport policies were in this regard unconstitutional. In a final act of defiance he joined the Communist Party of the United States at the age of 93 and exiled himself to Africa.

Despite his attacks on its economic and social system, Du Bois wrote that the United States was "my country and the land of my fathers-- a land of magnificent possibilities--the home of noble souls and generous people." Hopefully those "generous peo-

ple" may come closer to a long-deferred understanding of one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's great intellectuals-----William Edward Burghardt Du Bois.

Note: I contacted a local entrepreneur, Mr. William Myles Nobles, (also a relative) and he affirmed, indeed, that the Du Bois Center was named to honor W.E.B. Du Bois.



**New Supreme Court Justice !**  
Newly appointed Governor, Mike Easley appointed G.K. Butterfield to fill an open seat on the NC Supreme Court, reflecting the diversity of NC growing population. He is the former partner of NC house of Representatives, Toby Fitch, as well as NC Appellate Court Justice Jim Wynn. Shown from (L to R) retired Justice Burley Mitchell former Governor Jim Hunt, Appellate Court Justice Jim Wynn and G.K. Butterfield.  
photo by Jim Rouse

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