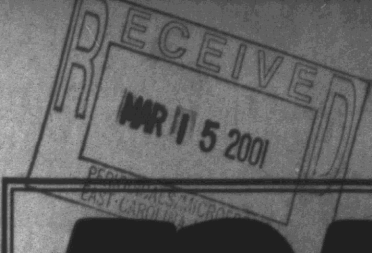
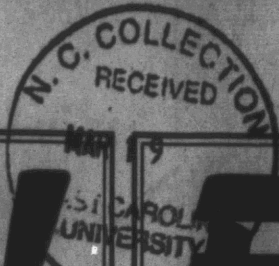


ROY WILKINS



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PRISON KILLING

Could guards have prevented it?

NEW YORK AMSTERDAM
by-HERB BOYD

A surveillance camera is focused on a cell door at Upstate Correctional Facility in Malone, N.Y. Through the window in the cell door, seen from a distance, two figures dart back and forth. It is difficult to determine what's going on until the voices are heard.

"Say uncle, motherf---er, say uncle," a man's voice demands. There is a muffled reply. "Say I win," the voice screams once more.

Again the response is barely audible. Then, for the next 15 minutes, the two struggle with each other, their bodies flying from one end of the cell to the other.

Finally, a guard arrives and watches the altercation through the window. After several minutes, he calls another guard, and the two of them witness the fight with no thought of intervening. By now, one of the inmates has been beaten to a pulp and is almost unconscious. The cell is splattered with blood.

Minutes later, six more guards arrive, along with a supervisor. But they refuse to enter the cell until the victorious inmate slips his hands through the door to be handcuffed. Like the other two guards, they are all white. The fighting inmates are Black. While they await a response to their order, the don white smocks and plastic gloves.

They debate the situation, occasionally laughing about the carnage on the other side of the steel door. When the rumble is completely over, they move as a group into the cell, grab the semi-conscious man and flop him on a gurney. He is a bloody

mess, and within a few hours he will be dead.

With the injured man removed, they throw his mattress, pillow and other bloody articles out the door. They wait a few minutes and then the other inmate is ordered to the door, handcuffed, searched and taken away.

All of this happened on May 12, 2000. Last week, via telephone from the Clinton Correctional Facility, Donnell Brunson, one voice on the videotape, told his version of the incident during a conference call with his lawyer, Earl Rawlins, and the Amsterdam News.

The problem started, Brunson said, when he was placed in a cell with a hostile inmate doing life for murder who repeatedly made sexual advances. "In our cell, the toilet and shower are open and you are not allowed to hang anything," Brunson explained. "So each time I used the toilet or the shower, he would comment on my body, telling me I had nice legs and a shapely butt. I knew of his reputation for stabbing people, so I knew I had to be careful around him."

The man had often bragged about his time in "The Box," a special housing unit comparable to solitary confinement, Brunson continued. "He had been sent there for beating one of his bunk mates," he said. "That is what he told me and during the hearing following his death, documents were presented to show what he said was true."

"He also told me he had been in prison 16 years without a woman, and he wanted me to take care of his sexual needs."

Brunson recalled. "I told him I wasn't with that, that I didn't go that way. As time went on he kept making sexual remarks, and he even touched me a couple of times. I told him to keep his hands off of me."

When Brunson learned that he had a time cut and would be leaving soon, completing his nine-month sentence, his cell-mate became more aggressive.

"He told me he was tired of being a nice guy," Brunson said, "and that when the lights went out, my butt was his. Knowing this, I decided to keep my light on until I knew he was asleep."

"It was about 2:30 in the morning and I had the light on and I was reading a book," Brunson went on to say. "Then he got out of his bed and cut the light off. The cell has two lights, one big one and one night light near my bunk. Each time he cut my light off, I cut it back on. Finally, he stood in the middle of the room and said, 'It's time to get it on.' I told him if we have to fight, he'd have to come to me. He did, and the fight was on."

Brunson said that when a fight breaks out in a cell they don't come in until it's over. "With this in mind, I knew that if he knocked me unconscious he was going to rape me and possibly give me AIDS that would kill me anyway. I knew I was fighting for my life," he said.

"We were fighting and he penned me down in the shower," Brunson related, "and he was choking me and kicking me. I was able to get free for a moment and then he grabbed me by my hair-I wear dreads-and



A Celebration of the Life and Legacy of Dr. Andrew A. Best

On March 30, 31 and April 1, "Friends of Andrew Best", county, regional state and national health care participants will honor Dr. Andrew Best. A local family practice doctor with 46 years of medical practice. Dr. Best has provided the county, state and nation with leadership in many human services areas. As a health/medical care leader, he assisted the former chancellor, Dr. Leo Jenkins with the establishment of the East Carolina University's medical school. He is known throughout the country as one of the founding fathers of the medical school. Additionally, Dr. Best served on the first state "Good

Neighbor Council" that later became the NC Human Relations Council. He is also a former board member of the Board of Governors and East Carolina University.

The planning Committee has scheduled on March 30, Friday afternoon, 6:30 p.m. - 9:00p.m. at the Ramada Plaza Hotel of Greenville, a reception honoring Dr. Best and his many successes. Participants will have the opportunity to say "thanks" and to share their stories and experiences with Dr. Best Music and other entertainment will be provided. On March 31, Saturday morning, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. The Annual A.A. Best Comprehensive Community Health Screening will be conducted. Volunteers from different public health programs and medical students and local physicians will assist. Saturday afternoon at 4:00 p.m., a selected exhibit of Dr. Best's medical and community activities will be on display at the

Ramada plaza Hotel. At 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., a Banquet will be held honoring "The Life and Legacy of Dr. Andrew Best", with former Chief Justice Henry Frye, the Banquet Speaker. Also, selected participants will provide 3 minutes of presentations of Dr. Best's achievements of selected activities. On April 1, at 4:00 p.m., a musical concert/religious program will be held at Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church honoring Dr. Best's religious accomplishments and work.

Invitations will be mailed to persons throughout the country to attend the banquet. However, the reception and musical/religious concert is open to the public.

Contact Persons are :
Dr. Donald E. Ensley, 744-1109 (O), 355-9669 (H), Ms Gracie Vine, 816-7959 (O), 355-6572 (H), Mrs Shonoda Bullock, 328-4400 (W), 321-5879 (H)



AN AFRICAN AMERICAN MAN

Mr Luke Jasper Best

In 1938 there was a man named Luke Jasper Best that was reared near Ballard Crossroad on a farm owned by his father. Luke worked in tobacco, cotton, and corn. He finished grade school and he wanted a business of his own.

So, on weekends he would go to Ballard Crossroad where there were four grocery stores. At that time people had few cars. Luke would wait around the store to see if anyone needed a ride to Greenville or Farmville. If so, he took them where they wanted to go for 35 cents per trip and round trip for 70 cents. For approximately three years this was his extra income he earned and the starting of his own business.

After his route began to increase, he later moved to Greenville and rented a room on Bonners Lane with Mrs. Rosa Darden and worked in the city area. Later in

life, Luke chose to venture into Cab business. He never finished high school, but that never stopped him from wanting his own business. Later he purchased a better cab car. The cab number was no.34. He drove for a period of time and certain areas in the city he was not allowed. He was not allowed in *The Riggs House*, *East Carolina College*, and the *Bus Station*. He especially wasn't allowed to pick up students that came in on the 4:30a. m. bus.

Finally, Mr. Best consulted a lawyer, (Calvin Dish) regarding his privileges. His path was finally cleared.

Luke owned his own cab business in the name of City Cab. Being the first African American cab driver in Greenville, he encountered several problems. He refused to give up! Later he moved to Bell Cafe on Albemarle Avenue, where he became established. Luke's business grew by

leaps and bounds and hired many drivers and high school students as dispatchers. The business excelled and he bought his own place and became known throughout the County. He also had contracts with many businesses, such as the airport, and American Red Cross. Luke's desire was to go forward! He made a great success!

The City Cab is still in business today. They have nine drivers, ten cars and many dispatchers. Residing on the corner of Albemarle and Martin Luther King Drive. Services are 24 hrs a day 7 days a week.

Luke's motto was "A Winner Never Quits and a Quitter Never Wins!" On September 30, 1993, Mr. Best passed away. The business still goes on today by his family and one brother, Moses Best. Even though Luke had many problems, he never gave up. He had a successful journey for 53 years. He will always be in our thoughts, and greatly missed.

"HUMANITARIAN" A TRIBUTE TO "Lillie Reid"



Daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Wille Monroe, the mother of Charetta Walls and the grandmother of Billie Walls, was born in the town of Rowland, North Carolina in 1934. She is the oldest of ten children, three boys and seven girls. She finished high school at Southside High School in Rowland NC and completed college at Fayetteville State University with a BS degree in Elementary Education. She worked in the Greenville city schools as a teacher and librarian for 25 years.

Being a lover and a promoter of children, Lillie always stayed willing, ready and able to support and encourage children. She encouraged them to learn and allowed them the opportunity to excel in whatever task they tried to undertake.

After marrying the late Charles Reid, Lillie took it upon herself to help raise her nephews, brothers and sisters after losing their parents. Under her advice and guidance, each of them finished high school and several of them completed their college educations.

After moving to Greenville in 1958, Lillie joined Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church. She

became very active during the time that the church was located on railroad street and Rev. Tillet was the pastor. She was instrumental in helping to organize and maintain the scouting program along with the late Bro. James W. and Sis. Magdalene Grimes with Mr. Ray Parker as the scout master. Lillie worked hard to help keep the scout ministry in focus. She organized the girl scouts and provided many outdoor as well as indoor learning experiences that taught the students behavior, and survivor skills many times using her own resources. There were times when she along with some of her friends, would go and visit the boy scouts during the weekend of their camping trips to help out if needed. This dedication earned her several awards for her hard work.

Under the pastroship of the late Rev. O'Kelly Lawson, in the year of 1972, Lilly was successful in encouraging a group of concerned members to attend the National Progressive Baptist Convention held in Charlotte, NC for the first time. From this experience, the board of Christian Education, the Young Adult Ministry and the Sunday

School were organized. After the church moved to its present location, Lillie got approval from then Pastor Griffin to let her run a day camp to provide a safe Christian environment for children that became a great success. Lillie also got approval to start a Christian environment for children that became a great success. Lillie also got approval to start a Christian childcare ministry that would provide services to the parents in the church and the community. She named it "The Children's Learning Tree" and then it was "Billie After School Children's Center"

She served her family, friends, church and community well. In addition to all that above, Lillie and her husband started a catering service called Occasional Delights which was also well received by the community, family and friends. She has retired from teaching due to health problems but that has not stopped her from inspiring and motivating young children. She is now working with children at the Health Department. Her focus continues to be moving children towards the future. Hats off to Lillie and to God be the Glory!

But I felt I could not tarry.

I desired a change of dime,
I thought it would be better;
While this was burning on my
mind,
I wrote and mailed a letter.

This letter was to Uncle Brock,
The one who loves me dearly,
He petted me when in frocks,
And sent me presents yearly.

I laid before him every plan,
I asked him for assistance,
He said, "I'll help you all I can,
But you must be persistent."

Long remembered it will be,
How my heart rejoiced;
When this answer came to me;
In tones of Uncle's voice.

I did not eat a meal for days.
Although I was quite healthy;
With mind all raptured and
amazed,
I packed for Philadelphia.

My welcome there was a very
grand,
He knew I had no money;
Placed \$50 in my hand,
I felt relieved but funny.

I left for Lincoln full of glee,
I landed and was greeted,
I found it just the place for me,
I here was kindly treated.

I entered the Sub-Freshman
Class,
I progressed here but slowly;
It was you know a jungled mass,
I too was many the lowly.

Each year I found myself ad-
vanced,
I saw that I was climbing;
I took advantage of my chance,
And ceased from all repining.

I fought and pushed myself
beyond,
All those who lead us gladly;
My love for them is just a fan,
But I'm determined yet to fly,
Onward and up forever.

I'll not retreat, I will advance,
I'll gain my expectation;
When things are dark I'll make a
chance,
I'll master situations.

Correction

Issue / Feb 16th - Feb 23rd

Mr G.R. Whitfield's name was
printed as Mr George Raymond
Whitfield. In correction his name
is recorded as Mr George Roscoe
Whitfield. Please do accept our
most humble apologies.



A.K.A.'s Ball 2001- The Ladies of the A.K.A.'s shown at their Big Gala Affair at the Hilton Hotel for this joyous occasion. Shown is Brother Byron Tyson & his sisters in Princeville- Hat's of to our ladies, A.K.A.'s
staff photo by Jim Rouse

A POEM

by G.R. Whitfield

When a boy my thoughts would
stray
I longed for education,
But scanty means as we may say,
Had blocked the situation.

I went to union to begin,
I entered there delighted;
There I made many friends,
But found my life was blighted.

My progress both in books and
thought,
While there was ordinary;
I kept a longing to be taught.

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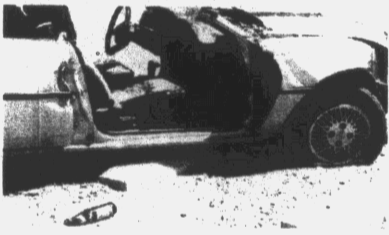
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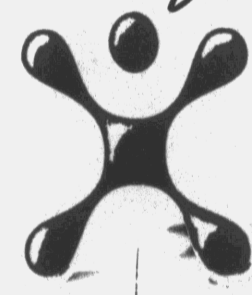
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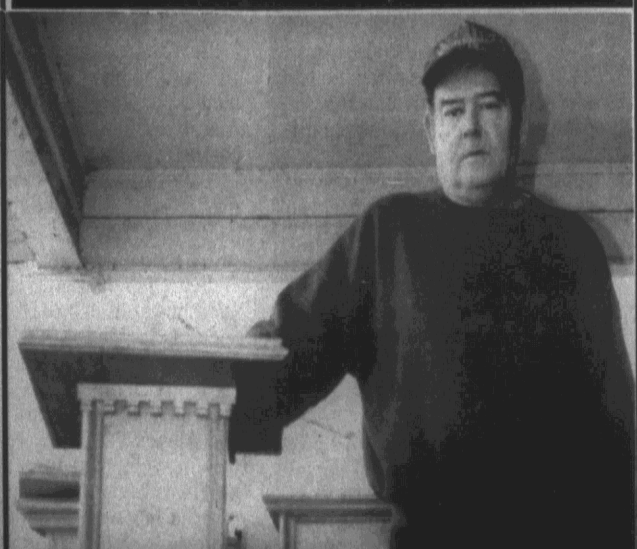
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