

# We Salute Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The Minority Voice

WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET WHAT YOU READ IS WHAT YOU KNOW AND SAY

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## Millions March For Reparations

MILLIONS  
REPARATIONS MARCH  
BY Dr. Conrad W. Worrill

The issue of reparations for African people throughout the world has become a widely discussed topic that is manifesting itself into a variety of action plans and strategies.

One of those action plans is the Millions for Reparations Mass Demonstration March and Protest Rally demanding reparations from the U.S. Government in its Capital City, Washington, D.C., on Aug. 17, 2002.

In my travels around the country, the issue of reparations appears to have penetrated the spirit and interest of African people in America in all walks of life. For those of us who have been organizing and advocating reparations since the 1960s for African people in America, specifically, and for African people throughout the world, the question becomes what does this current phase of the Reparations Movement mean for the just cause of the redemption and salvation of African people?

When we talk about reparations we are talking about the damages, compensation, and redress of those wrongs, so that the countries and people that suffered will enjoy full freedom to continue their own development on more equal terms.

When we discuss reparations for African people in the United States we are talking about slave labor humanity culture legacies names, language that were taken outside of the law and natural process by forceful demand of White captive slave owners.

In this regard, the current phase of the Reparations Movement for African people in America is connected to the leadership of Sister Callie House, who founded the National Ex-Slave Mutual Relief Bounty and Pension Association in the 1870s. According to the research of Mary Berry, Sister House organized a Black mass movement demanding reparations during the period of the 1870s to 1915. Berry reveals that, working

through meetings, literature and traveling agents, the organization successfully developed membership across the South as well as in Oklahoma, Kansas, Indiana, Ohio and New York.

Further, Berrys research reveals The Associations 25-cent annual membership fee and the 10-cent monthly dues, along with \$2.50 charged local affiliates for a Charter, augmented by an occasional extraordinary levy of five cents to defray special expenses, provided the funds for this mass-based movements work. The objective was to organize a demand throughout the Black nation which would force the United States to provide the needed and well deserved pensions they sought for the aging persons formerly held in slavery, their surviving spouses, caregivers, and heirs.

In the recently published book, Eight Women Leaders of the Reparations Movement, USA, by Linda Allen Eustace and Imari Obadele, it states: The movements successful organizing, coupled with the ubiquitous White supremacist values of Whites generally and especially United States officials, which disposed them in those days, as today, to attempt to defeat any significant self help efforts among Black people resulted in a ten year postal investigation.

Eustace and Obadele point out, after finding no evidence of federal violations, U.S. officials indicted Ms. house and a number of other members at Nashville for

fraud, for using the mail to distribute one of the Associations carefully drawn leaflets. She was found guilty and sentenced to a year and a day in the federal prison at Jefferson City.

Although this phase of the Reparations Movement was not successful, the spirit and organizing work carried on through the Gurvey movement and again resurfaced through the leadership of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, and Malcolm X in the 1960s, making the reparations demand through Muhammad Speaks. The Republic of New Africa made a reparations demand in 1968, demanding payment of \$400 billion

in slavery damages.

The National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (NCOBRA) was organized in 1987 following in the tradition of Sister Callie House. Since 1988, NCOBRA had developed a number of strategies designed to gain reparations for African people in America and also help advance international efforts to win reparations.

Since 1989, Congressman John Conyers (D-Mich.) has introduced legislation calling for the U.S. government to hold a probing study of reparations. This legislation is currently receiving wide support, primarily due to work of NCOBRA.

Since the late 1980s, the December 12th Movement, the Uhuru Movement, IHRAAM, The Lost and Found Nation of Islam, the Republic of New Africa and the National Black United Front have been some examples of organizations that continue to organize around the demand for reparations.

The Tulsa Race Riot Commission, under the leadership of Representative Donna Ross, and attorney Deadria Farmer-Paellmanns research on insurance companies that held slave policies in the 1850s, added to the reparations discussion over the last two years.

Finally, Chicago Alderman Dorothy Tillman's City Council Resolution, that received wide publicity, aided in the current interest African people in America now have on reparations.

along with the publication of Randail Robinsons book, The Debt.

What this current mass phase of the Reparations Movement means that African people have not lost our memory of the historical atrocities inflicted on us, and that we will never forget what has happened to us and continues today. The demand for reparations must be intensified though serious organization.

(Dr. Worrill is the national chairman of the National Black United Front in Calumet Park, Ill. Contact him at 708-389-9929 or via E-mail at nbutchi@allways.net.)



Future Congressman Stops By Local Radio Station

The campaign season has kicked off. State Senator Frank Balance who is running for Congresswoman Eva Clayton's seat. He is shown standing outside of WOOW radio station. Pictured from left to right NC A&T student from Robersonville, Mayor of Snow Hill Don Davis, a law student from Warrenton, NC, Senator Frank Balance, owner of WCPs Radio J.K. Johnson, WCPs radio personality Bouncing Baby Boy. If you're not registered to vote, do so, for this year will be a hot election.

photo By Jim Rouse



PROUD GRANDMOTHER

From the Minority Voice Archives, 3 generation of beautiful black women. Mother Joyce Norfleet is shown with her daughter, granddaughter and friend during a military graduation. Hat's off to grandmother, mother and daughter from the Minority Voice Newspaper.his

Photo by Jim Rouse

## The "M" Voice Archives



From The Minority Voice Archives

Name the beautiful mothers pictured and win 2 Cd's compliments of WOOW and the Minority Voice Newspaper. All are well known in this area.

## Happy Birthday Dr. King !

## Pastors James And Deloris Corbett Wedding Anniversary



Pictured are Pastor James Corbett and his beautiful wife Delores Corbett. They posed for the "Voice" camera at his recent birthday celebration at the Hilton Hotel in Greenville. The inspiring couple's wedding anniversary will be celebrated next month.

Photo by Jim Rouse



# Editorials

## Let's Focus on Our Daughters....

By: K. R.

There is an article in this issue of The Minority Voice that touches on a special subject, that I felt would be

appropriate to follow upon *Our Daughters*.

In the article, the writer focuses on how some of the rap music of today, degrades females.

And majority of them do. I, being a single parent of four daughters, try to watch

BET and MTV, to see just what are my girls watching. And yes, as a parent and a woman it does insult me when I see beautiful black women dancing all over the place with very little on. It also troubles me when I read and hear that certain rap

moguls do very little for their community. Yeah, you may hear of the scholarship funds, but what about the single mothers in the community who are having trouble raising their kids. When alot of kids look at videos and want the "bling-bling" and some kids, feel the only way to get the "bling-bling" is to hustle, I become troubled. Having a criminal history is not pretty. Having been to prison for a few months, few years, is not pretty either. Now, I know that sometimes an individual can not help where they come from or their surroundings, but they do have mind control. Has any of these rappers ever thought about encouraging kids to stay in school and get all the education they can. The best weapon in today's society is an education. The same goes for our daughters.....having a baby at the tender age of 14 or 15 is not pretty either.

On a part-time basis, I work at this club and I say if moms, grandmothers, aunts, even older sisters could see what our daughters are wearing, you would be shocked. I remember nights when the temperature was below 35 degrees and the girls would be completely naked. Not to mention, if their breasts were larger than a 42D, or even a 42DD, had no bra on.

With everything hanging down to their knees. What happened to leaving a little to the imagination. This is the year 2002, and why can't we encourage our daughters to wait until they get married to

have sex, or at least if they are going to have sex, be willing to take the responsibility of having it. To alot of our babies, they think there is no responsibility when it comes to having sex. I don't care how much that boy tells you, you look good, or how good he lies and says that he LOVES you. If you see the statistics with the Pitt County health department, and the state of North Carolina, you will find that teenage pregnancy is on the rise. More and more young women under the age of 21, are having more than two kids before they are even legal age to drink alcohol. A lot of them don't get the chance to experience life and the fun of being young and not to mention the experience of college. A lot of them don't realize when you start having kids, all the fun stops. I had my first daughter after I graduated high school. I was able to enjoy my freshman and sophomore year of college and believe me, it was Fun !!! Luckily, I had a grandmother who at the time, told me to enjoy life, because it is too precious. And she did. With the love and support from my grandmother, I was able to experience alot that the average 23 year old, would not even do.

Like most girls, I was listened to a 'nigga' who told me that he loved me. I meant more to him that the world. I believed it. And do you want to know what that love got me. It got me in trouble with the feds. Oh yes, the US

Federal Government. The Federal Government are the worst people to get caught up with. They get deep into your life !! So you see, love got me a criminal record.

I want to encourage all my sistas in the community. If we have the power to raise kids on our own for hundreds of years, then it is time we take better care of our girls, as well as our sons.

A lot of times, single moms, we have to be mother and father. Why can't some of this rap music, that brothers listen to, encourage these absent fathers to take more responsibility for their seeds that they plant. Encourage our sistas to stay in school and stay abstinent and love themselves more. Love thyself first, and then you can love another.

If you have any ideas on how to improve the communication with our daughters, then I encourage your thoughts and suggestions. Starting in March 2002, the Minority Voice will start having more and more articles, seminars, and classes for young women in the communities. For further information, please contact Ms. Rouse at woow @skan-tech.net or fax at 252.757.1793.

Your comments and suggestions will greatly appreciated. Remember 2002 is the year of the Woman !!!!

# WOOW

## Ali is a Black Champ we didn't turn our backs on.....

By: Earl Byrd

Dear Reader,

Happy New Year. I've got a couple of resolutions, but since "Ali", (my personal friend and hero) is the bomb new movie, it made me remember another champion of my youth. The first authentic African-American hero to the country was a savage tiger and killing machine, according to New York newspaper headlines. He was Joe Louis, the "Brown Bomber", an avenging angel who announced the decline of Nazi prestige in the world beginning with a 124-second knockout barrage that began with a left hook. While the world-----especially Americans ---- cheered his short, explosive punches broke the Nazi German champion Max Schmeling's nose, cracked two ribs, nearly tore out his eye, and left his broken lower jaw swinging on its hinges.

Hilter had a conniption. They pulled the plug in Germany, and four years later, in 1942, World War II was in full swing. Patriotic Joe turned his back on his multi-million dollar career, joined the army, amde sergeant, and put on exhibitions for a penny a fight to raise money for the war effort. When he came out the IRS said he owe the government a million dollars in back taxes.

I remember my elementary school teacher trying to ex-

plain to us that if he earned a million dollars every year and paid taxes on his bill, after 20 years he would still owe the government a million dollars.

When we fought, the streets were empty. Every Black in America was in front of a radio. And when the fight ended, we still poured outside ---- I felt the pride as a little kid --- to celebrate and bask in joy and personal satisfaction. But here's what broke my heart. When the champ came out of the hospital in his old age, broke, alone, a sad and tragic American icon, guess who was there with a wheel chair? Here's one clue: there wasn't a nigger in sight.

"Ol' Blue Eyes" himself, Frank Sinatra, pushed him to a limo. He looked down at the champ who had been like a firmament in the sky above America during the 30's, 40s, and 50s, and told him not to worry about a thing. For what he'd done for America, Frank assured him, all he have to do

for the rest of his life was stand in the casino, gamble, shake hands with fans, and play golf.

Hell with old age insurance, the government, and an entire race that had turned its back on its first true Black hero who had crossed racial lines. Here was a White man taking Joe under his wing and ensuring that he would enjoy the rest of his life in style and in the limelight so no one would forget who was "The Champ" and America's true hero. That's why when they kidnapped Frank's son and demanded \$90,000 I cheered when Frank came on national TV in shirt sleeves and tie at half mast and said, "I'll tell you what I'm gonna give you. I'ma give you 'til morning to have my son back here safe and sound."

Don't you know they had that boy back safe and sound by daybreak. They didn't know they were messing with the Godson. Ol' Blue Eyes, doing it his way. Then chumps disappeared under the sands of the desert for their trouble. Oh yeah, I can dig the hell out of a White cat, especially when they're molded out of my own heart.

So you can imagine how I felt about Muhammad Ali.

"Them little Viet Cong ain't never done nothing to me," he screamed. "You want me to fight my enemy? Give me a helmet, some boots, a tank and send me to Mississippi. I ain't going in the army. Take my championship. Take my money. I got principle." Here's a guy so bad he has his own theme song written by George Benson, "The

Greatest". Ever listened to the words? "Learning to love yourself is the greatest love of all."

I remember my editor, Dave Bergan, putting me straight one day when he came by my desk and saw my autographed photo of Ali and the words, "My hero," in magic maker.

"He's my hero, too," Dave said.

"How's that ?" I snapped. "Who you think he was talking to when he made those college tours during his years of banishment? White students. It was White people who loved him and a White court that set him free." I was getting mad. We called him "The People's Champion" and he was usurping my friend and hero. I kept my mouth shut and let him continue with his bravado.

"We loved him," he said. And then he dropped the bomb. "We loved him because

he wasn't like a Black him, he was like a White man. He had principle and was willing to lose everything for what he believed."

He put his cigar in his mouth, laughed like a jolly Santa Claus and said, "That's s White trait." If I ever catch Dave Bergan in a dark alley, I won't know whether to choke him to death or kiss him. Because he not only made me feel bad, he woke me up, and I like to think that school ain't never closed.

There are three pictures on my dresser today. One of Charley Parker and Miles Davis, the second of Ali, and the third, my ultimate hero, Malcolm X, same guy that guided Muhammad Ali into the Nation of Islam.

I'm going to the new movie, "Ali," tomorrow night to catch the premiere, if I can catch a ride. If not, I'll go next week when it opens. But the movie can't be as exciting as the man himself. Muhammad Ali called the rounds he'd knock a chump out in, 'used witch doctors to curse and chant "Ali, kill him," during his fight when he faked out George Foreman and then knocked him out in the seventh round.

I saw the fight on closed circuit with Petey Greene and the renowned Washington attorney, Ron Goldfarb, author of Jails, The Ghetto of the Criminal Justice System. That was back in the Watergate days when all the defendants were named Mitchell, John Dean, John Erlichman, John Haldeman.

It breaks my heart to see Muhammad Ali suffering from

Parkinson's disease. I'm just glad his mind is lucid and his thinking clear enough to know the world loves him and see him in a position, unlike Joe, where he can take care of himself with dignity.

Dave Bergan would probably say, what's to be surprised at ? That's they way an intelligent White man thinks and plans his life. That may be true, but this time Blacks didn't turn their back on their champion.

Well, that's my New Year's resolution, to take a page out of the White man's book and be self-sufficient in my old age. Live by principles for which I'm prepared to die, like Ali and Malcolm, write some books, pay off my taxes (that's another story) and prepare myself to be worthy of the woman of my dreams if she ever gets hip to herself and chooses me.

Until next year, I wish you all the best.

## I love the art of hip-hop, but.....

By: Yvette M. Curtis

I have heard enough. I cannot tell you how disturbing it is for me to listen to certain lyrics in the songs of hip-hop. I love the art of hip-hop, but I believe that someone needs to take a stand and recognize that our children deserve better. The berating and degrading lyrics hurt me to my heart. When are we, adults, going to take a stand and say, "enough is enough ?" When will we stop turning to the oldies--but--goodies stations (because we can't stand listening to that music) and start taking notice of what we're allowing our children to hear?

I don't understand. No matter what the target market may be, it is common sense to know that children and teenagers --- the most influenced populations, by the way --- listen to the radio. Yes, it's easy to say that parents should take responsibility. But, what about radio stations practicing what they preach? To play songs with lyrics, such as "member how you used to sniff my boxers?" (a male rapper talking to a female) does a disservice to our youth. Why would you play a song like that? What's the point of being for the community if you do not set a precedent for it? Okay, I understand it's all about the request line blowing up, but don't the stations have the option of playing certain songs? They allow degrading songs to be played that are detrimental to the self-esteem of young women. They miss a beat, and every once in a while, let a curse word slip through during a "mix-master" session. I've heard kids say, "They might as well as play the whole word. We already know what they're saying." What happened to cutting the entire word? Forget about the fact that the kids will buy the CDs. Parents need to take control of that issue because, yes, times change but values should not.

The music we hear in our area leaves a little more to the imagination that hip-hop played in other areas. Unfortunately, the further south you travel, the more degrading the on-air music becomes, hence, remaining true to the slogan, "The Dirty South". Compared to the places such as Atlanta, Tampa, and the Carolinas, the music played here can be compared to the likes of Disney's classic, "It's A Small World." Someone should take responsibility ---- in fact, all of us should. I hate to cliché the often cliché'd term, but it really does "take a village." When are we going to stop blaming one another and start looking at ourselves? I am just as guilty as the next. I can shake it just as fast as any other, but it doesn't make me feel good when I'm singing it in the car with my 16-year old niece sitting right next to me. We all need to take a look in the mirror. Life is imitating art. We are giving our children power over their influences.

Sex sells. Yes, but to whom? It sells to whomever will buy. So, who is buying? Parents? Are parents purchasing these exploitative songs for their children? One might argue that it's a free world, which allows for free speech. This is why I'm speaking freely. This is not a plot against rap music as was the intention of parents plotting against rock-and-roll long ago. Don't get me wrong. Biggie, Tupac, and Jay-Z are among the best rappers of all time. However, that doesn't make their messages more positive. It just makes them good storytellers. Hip-hop is about telling the story of their lives and where they come from. Does that mean women have to be disrespected? No. Years ago, I was talking to a guy who told me, "guys don't 'dog' girls.

Girls 'dog' themselves". I couldn't agree more. I would like to add to it that guys don't exploit girls. Girls exploit themselves. I believe in role models and those who help change the world in a positive fashion. In hip-hop, the opposite effect --- the roles models play in music videos are scantily dressed, sexual objects dancing for men who just happen to be in full apparel. There is no dispute over this if you want to do it in the privacy of your own home. However, the moment you decided to portray women as sex objects in the public eye is the moment you expose yourself to the issue of being a role model. Now, this is a broad topic that covers many spectrums of the industry. So, who is to blame? I would say that any adult who has never written a letter, made a phone call or sent an e-mail to decisive industry leaders share the responsibility of condoning the messages given to our children. If we disagree with the messages, then why are we letting young people hear them? Instead, we want to be like by the younger generation while quietly wondering where it all went wrong.

I know that this is bigger than radio. This is big business, which makes it an even more serious issue. In case, you didn't know, music influences our children. We are losing them to the flamboyancy of money, cars, and women. What messages are these songs giving them? Teenagers love songs such as "Brown Skin," by Indie Arie, and "Woman's Work," by Alicia Keys. We need to start paying attention to what our youth really want. Maybe we should listen to the response given to Destiny's Child, Jill Scott, Musiq, India Arie, Maxwell, Alicia Keys, and Erykah Badu. And if the stations are geared to the 18 - to 34- year old crowd, then as a part of this audience, this is the music I'd like to hear.

## Uneasy Victory for Abu-Jamal

The reaction to the courageous ruling by U.S. District Judge William Yohn vacating the death sentence for Mumia Abu-Jamal and ordering the state to conduct a new sentencing hearing or sentence him to life imprisonment was swift and predictable. The decision was savagely denounced by the widow of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner, who Jamal was convicted of slaying, the Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police, and Philadelphia's District Attorney. From the moment Jamal was convicted of Faulkner's murder in 1982 they waged a relentless battle to see that he is executed. Within hours of Yohn's ruling, Philadelphia's DA angrily declared that she would appeal his ruling.

But many of Jamal's supporter also savagely denounced Yohn's decision. They called it a meaningless sop or, worse, a flat out victory for the police and prosecution since Yohn refused to overturn his first degree murder of Faulkner, and dumped on death row, his credentials as a former Black Panther Party leader, writer and radio commentator virtually assured that many blacks and radicals would transform him into a radical icon, and attract what at times has resembled a cult-like following. When Leonard Weinglass of the Chicago Seven trial fame became Jamal's lead counsel in the 1990s, then Pennsylvania

diplomats.

The case had all the requisite villains. There was the unflammatory, vengeful judge, the majority white jury that convicted him, public hysteria over the murder of a police officer and a pulsating campaign by local politicians; also much of the press and the Fraternal Order of Police to get rid of a man they regard as an unreconstructed black radical and unrepentant cop killer.

The Jamal case, however, was never a neat example of good versus evil. Though he and his supporters vehemently insist that the trial was riddled with perjured testimony, suppressed and tainted evidence, and blatant jury bias, there was a small mountain of evidence and eyewitness testimony that pointed the finger at Jamal as the likely triggerman. This ambivalence over his guilt was more than enough to cause some, who squirm at the death penalty, to hedge their bets and not scream "Free Mumia," but instead demand oly a "new" or "fair" trail for him.

But others saw in the Jamal case a glimmer of hope in loosening public rapture over the death penalty. In the two decades that Jamal has languished on Pennsylvania's death row, anti-death penalty proponents watched in anger and frustration as a fearful public scared stiff of crime and violence, was egged on by a sensationalist press, which played up a string of grotesque, high-profile murders. Pandering of public officials gave noisy approval for more and faster executions. They've got their wish. The number of death row

than sixty percent of those sitting on death row are African-Americans, yet they make up less than ten percent of the state's population. The trial judge in the Jamal case, Albert Szabo had a much-deserved reputation for being a hard-ass judge who laddled out a colossal number of death sentences. The majority of those he sentenced to death were African-American.

While Jamal has been a durable symbol of the rampant radical disparities in the death penalty, there is also the danger that focusing solely on the death row plight of an individual taking the spotlight off the dozens of other death row inmates taking the spotlight off the dozens of other death row inmates who have been victimized by incompetent attorneys. Prosecutors that play fast and loose with the rules to win convictions; or compliant judges, such as Szabo, who tried mightily to tip the jury against Jamal. And then there are the growing numbers of death row inmates who have been proven innocent and released. If Jamal ultimately succeeds in winning a new trial, or uncovers conclusive evidence of his actual innocence, will this deflate the drive to scrap the death penalty?

To his credit, Jamal has recognized the potential danger in obsessively fixating on his case and turning him into a cult figure. In his writings, tapes, and his book, he has repeatedly urged his supporters to fight just as hard to free

other prisoners unfairly convicted of crimes.

Now that Jamal has won at least a tepid victory, the question is "Will they heed his words?"

Governor Tom Ridge signed his death warrant in 1995, and Jamal published his best-selling book, Live From Death Row, he became the instant darling of liberals, Hollywood celebrities, and international

inmates in American stands at nearly 4000. According to the Sentencing Project, African-Americans make up nearly half of those awaiting execution. In Pennsylvania more



# Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
1929-1968**

Born in Atlanta, Georgia, he graduated from Morehouse College (B.A., 1948), Crozer Theological Seminary (B.D., 1951), and Boston University (Ph.D., 1955). The son of the pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, King was ordained in 1947 and became (1954) minister of a Baptist church in Montgomery, Ala.

He led the boycott (1955-56) by Montgomery blacks against the segregated city bus lines, and he attained national prominence by advocating a policy of passive resistance to segregation. In 1956, he gained a major victory and prestige as a civil rights leader when the Montgomery buses began to operate on a desegregated basis.

After the Montgomery success, King organized the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which gave him a base to pursue further civil rights activities, first in the South and later nationwide. His philosophy of nonviolent resistance led to his arrest on numerous occasions in the 1950s and 60s. He organized the massive March on Washington (August 28, 1963), which brought more than 200,000 people together. In 1964 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

King's leadership in the civil rights movement was chal-

lenged in the mid-1960s as others grew more militant. However, King's interests widened from civil rights to criticism of the Vietnam War and to a deeper concern for poverty. His plans for a Poor People's March to Washington were interrupted (1968) for a trip to Memphis, Tenn., in support of striking sanitation workers. On April 4, 1968, he was shot and killed by an assassin's bullet on the balcony of the motel where he was staying. James Earl Ray was later convicted of his murder. His birthday is an American national holiday, celebrated on the third Monday in January.

## Sharpton Eyes the Prize

By George F. Will

The Democratic Party's nightmare is abstemiously breakfasting on oatmeal and skim milk. Al Sharpton, 47, is in fighting trim. He has lost the weight of a 10-year-old boy -- 80-plus pounds -- and is spoiling for a fight. The Brooklyn-born and New York-based preacher-agitator thinks he has dethroned Jesse Jackson as the reigning heavyweight among African American leaders. He will take his rhetorical flair -- a street preacher at age 4, at 10 he toured with Mahalia Jackson and preached to 10,000 at the 1964 World's Fair -- into the 2004 Democratic presidential primaries. He will "raise a progressive agenda" and "energize minority voters" and "develop enough leverage to leverage the party."

"We" -- his plural pronoun intermittently signals identification with Jackson -- "went from 1988, being number two to Dukakis, to '96 in Chicago begging to get a prime-time speech -- which he didn't get. We can't tolerate that."

When reminded that every four years someone says Democrats can win by turning left, he serenely replies, "Well, I'm the someone this time." He says, "I'm better-known than Daschle and Gephardt" in inner cities and "I'm better-known now than Jackson was in 1982." ("You have to look at Jesse two years before his

first run.") He says black radio is "much stronger" than when Jackson was running, there is Black Entertainment Television, and students and activists on the Internet. Furthermore, the Democrats'

## Theories about MLK's Assassination

Since Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination three decades ago, his murder has become endless fodder for conspiracy theorists. Complete with shadowy film noir atmospherics and sensational charges leveled at the highest circles of power, the King conspiracy theories rival the most crazed accounts of Kennedy's assassination.

These theories gained renewed momentum when King's son Dexter met with his father's convicted assassin in prison in 1997. With the blessings of King's widow and the other King children, Dexter King shook James Earl Ray's hand and professed belief in his innocence. A second boost to the legitimacy of the King conspiracy theories came the following year when Attorney General Janet Reno reopened a limited investigation into the assassination in August 1998. And finally, in Dec. 1999, a Memphis jury awarded the King family \$100 in a wrongful death suit. The jury professed that the murder was indeed a conspiracy involving bar owner Lloyd Jowers and several "unknown" co-conspirators. Few journalists, scholars, or law enforcement officials familiar with the case have given credence to the new court findings.

In the accepted version of the assassination -- one which no credible historian, federal or state investigation, or court of

law has disputed -- James Earl Ray, a career criminal and racist, murdered Martin Luther King on April 4, 1968. An escaped convict, Ray rented a room in Memphis across from the Lorraine Motel where King was staying while mediating a sanitation workers' strike. Using a rifle with a sniper scope, he shot King from his bathroom window as King stood on the balcony of the motel. The single bullet severed King's spinal cord and killed him. Witnesses reported seeing Ray fleeing his rooming house moments later. Ray's fingerprints were found on a pair of binoculars and the rifle, which records show he had purchased six days before the shooting. Following a two-

moving many primaries to early in 2004 will help him. It will reward name recognition and "in the base I'm trying to bring out, I'm well-known."

Now, picture the other candidates in 2004, mostly senators with their pretty red ties and not a hair out of place, decorously debating Sharpton, who talks like this: "In the language of the hood, Clinton pimp-slapped Jesse on Sister Souljah." Sharpton is talking about Clinton's 1992 criticism of a black rap singer to distance himself from, among others, Jackson.

Sharpton says Jackson, 60, has been his mentor, friend and "surrogate father" but now is an exhausted volcano, viewed by young blacks as "an establishment figure."

Besides, he says, since Jackson acknowledged fathering a child with an aide, he has lost the unlimited access he had to black churches. Sharpton compares Jackson to Muhammad Ali: Great once, can't fight anymore. He says Jackson learned from Martin Luther King Jr. during a few years of association, but he, Sharpton, has benefited from observing 30 years of Jackson's mistakes. Parricide isn't pretty.

Sharpton is free of reverence and reticence. Referring to the ex-president's office: "It is appropriate that Bill Clinton is in Harlem so he can welcome" those tossed off welfare by the legislation he signed in 1996. Sharpton says all 38 members of the Congressional Black Caucus are, or can be, threatened by insurgents. The 38 "must side with me or I'll

support the insurgents." The "progressive agenda" is mostly the left's leftovers -- no death penalty, less incarceration, more generous welfare -- with one addition. On Sept. 10 Jackson, Sharpton and others

month-long manhunt, Ray was arrested at Heathrow Airport after he had robbed a London bank. As he told his first attorney, Percy Foreman, "I thought I could get to [South] Africa and serve two or three years in one of them mercenary armies and those folks over there wouldn't send me back."

To escape facing the possibility of execution, Ray pleaded guilty in March 1969. A trial was waived and he was given a 99-year prison sentence.

To escape facing the possibility of execution, Ray pleaded guilty in March 1969. As a result, a trial was waived and Ray was given a 99-year prison sentence. Even though he had told the judge he understood that a guilty plea could not be appealed, he recanted his confession three days later. Despite many appeals, none of Ray's numerous lawyers ever produced evidence to convince a court of law to reopen the case. A federal investigation in 1977-1978 by the House Select Committee on Assassinations concluded that although "there is a likelihood" that Ray did not act alone in planning the assassination, he alone pulled the trigger. Until he died in prison on April 23, 1998, Ray maintained his innocence, spinning a series of outlandish, often contradictory conspiracy theories, beginning with the reason he initially confessed to the murder. Ray claimed it was coerced by his lawyer, who was angling for a lucra-

tive movie deal. What follows are some of the more popular conspiracy theories.

### Theory #1

Was James Earl Ray, a career criminal and known racist, nothing more than a patsy for someone even shadier?

### Theory #2

It was the government, the Memphis police, the FBI, and Army intelligence -- not to mention the Mafia and the Green Berets.

### Theory #3

Donald Wilson, a retired FBI employee, found pieces of paper in Ray's car after the 1968 shooting that had the name "Raul" written on them.

were close to forcing Democrats to face the issue of reparations for slavery. Blown away, the issue is coming back. Sharpton will see to that.

His critics will see to the revival of interest in what has been called "Sharpton's Chappaquiddick," his riotous support of Tawana Brawley, the black 15-year-old who in 1987 fabricated a story of rape and abuse by some white men. She was thoroughly discredited. Sharpton stops well short of remorse: "I did what I believed."

Today he says he shares some of the cultural conservatism -- "I never knew I was underprivileged until I went to a sociology class at Brooklyn College" -- of churchgoing African Americans. He denounces "decadence and low expectations in our community," saying "this hip-hop thing has a lot to do with it -- glorifying decadence."

A long-distance runner -- hyperkinetic, he travels incessantly, "mostly to B and C cities" like Flint and Tallahassee "because I'm known in A cities" -- he has put away the jogging suits he wore to hide his previous bulk. In his chalk-striped gray flannel he is more conservatively dressed than many in the Four Seasons hotel dining room. "I am conservative on everything but race," he declares with a straight face, a declaration somewhat vitiated by the fact that, for him, everything is race.

Sly, clever, witty, incapable of embarrassment and uninterested in the ceremonial politeness of national politics,

Sharpton is going to have fun in 2004. Democrats, can't we all just get along? Give him at least a prime-time convention speech. On reparations.

ness of national politics, Sharpton is going to have fun in 2004. Democrats, can't we all just get along? Give him at least a prime-time convention speech. On reparations.

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# "Suge" Knight and the Black Mafia

## Suge Knight won't face charges in probe

By Chuck Philips

A federal racketeering probe into allegations that Marion "Suge" Knight and his Los Angeles label, Death Row Records, committed acts of murder, drug trafficking, money laundering and gunrunning has resulted in a pair of misdemeanor tax charges.

Under a proposed plea bargain arrangement filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles, Death Row would plead guilty to failing to submit an income tax return; the label would pay a \$100,000 fine and reimburse the government an unspecified amount of unpaid taxes.

Knight and his attorney said Tuesday's action signals the end of an investigation launched in 1995 by the Los Angeles Police Department, FBI (news - web sites) and three other federal law enforcement agencies. No charges have been filed against Knight, the original kingpin of gangsta rap music.

"The truth is the truth," Knight said in an interview. "I appreciate the fact that, after looking into these lies and finding nothing, they had the integrity to say, 'OK, this guy broke no law,' and called it off."

Federal authorities have declined to discuss or even confirm the investigation since it began six years ago.

On Tuesday, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office refused to comment on whether Knight or Death Row were ever the target of a criminal probe.

On Monday, the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles issued a one-page letter to Knight's lawyer stating that no charges would be pressed against Knight for tax violations or money laundering, according to sources familiar with the document. The letter did not exonerate Knight on the allegations of murder, racketeering and other violent offenses.

### Knight's Father Enters Guilty Plea

The apparent shuttering of the racketeering probe ends an ugly chapter in the music business. The LAPD (news - web sites) suspected Knight of masterminding the 1997 slaying of rapper Notorious B.I.G. with the help of corrupt LAPD officers, according to reports by numerous media outlets, including the Los Angeles Times. Those reports were based primarily on information provided by law enforcement sources and Death Row informants who also cooperated with authorities who oversaw the federal probe.

Court filings show that the government investigation turned up evidence that Death Row failed to pay taxes on \$825,716 in income generated between Dec. 1, 1995, and Nov. 30, 1996. Knight blamed a former accountant, whose firm paid an \$8-million, out-of-court settlement to Death Row after a lengthy legal battle.

The Justice Department launched its racketeering probe to determine whether Knight's thriving rap label was a criminal enterprise with street gang affiliations and Mafia ties.

Three years ago, police raided Knight's office and San Fernando Valley home and confiscated a Chevrolet Impala that authorities believed was used in the Wallace killing. Police returned the vehicle and other personal and business items without pressing charges.

The government began keeping tabs on Knight in the early 1990s, shortly after he and Compton rap producer Dr. Dre launched the first black-owned-and-operated gangsta rap label. Defying music industry convention, Knight strategically marketed music with violent lyrics and hired unemployed ex-convicts as well as members of the Crips and Mob Piru Bloods gangs to help build his gangsta rap empire.

The burly, 6-foot-3-inch entrepreneur sports a diamond studded ring that spells out the word "MOB." He named his short-lived Las Vegas nightclub "662"—the numbers corresponding on a telephone keypad to the word "mob."

Although authorities began targeting a handful of Death Row employees for their alleged participation in assaults and other criminal activities, no arrests have been made.

As part of the probe, prosecutors tried to establish whether Knight's label was underwritten with drug money from convicted Compton crack dealers Michael "Harry-O" Harris and Patrick Johnson. No money laundering charges were filed.

Knight had eight criminal cases on his rap sheet before he wound up in prison. He was incarcerated in October 1996 when a judge determined that he had violated his probation on a previous assault conviction by kicking a man during a scuffle at a Las Vegas hotel. The scuffle took place hours before Shakur was killed in September 1996 during a drive-by shooting. Knight was driving the car in which Shakur was shot.

After Notorious B.I.G. was gunned down in March 1997, agents from the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco

and Firearms, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the LAPD began investigating Knight's possible role in the slayings and other violent acts. Law enforcement authorities investigated whether Knight staged Shakur's slaying and hired a hit man to kill Notorious B.I.G., whose real name was Christopher Wallace.

Three years ago, police raided Knight's office and San Fernando Valley home and confiscated a Chevrolet Impala that authorities believed was used in the Wallace killing. Police returned the vehicle and other personal and business items without pressing charges.

Knight Calls Media Reports 'Racist'

The killings of Shakur and Wallace remain unsolved. Recently, Rolling Stone and cable music TV network VH1 produced reports that suggested Knight was linked to the slayings. Those reports were based on information provided by former LAPD Det. Russell Poole, who worked on the murder investigations of Shakur and Notorious B.I.G. and recently filed a lawsuit against the Police Department.

Poole has criticized the LAPD, saying it did not vigorously investigate Wallace's death because the slaying may have involved corrupt police officers linked to Knight.

"I believe that Suge Knight was involved in the murders of Biggie and Tupac," Poole said. "In my opinion, neither Knight nor Chief Parks have been held accountable for what they've done."

Knight insisted that he had nothing to do with the shootings and that Poole's theories are false.

"Underneath it all, what you're going to find here is this is just about some former cop wanting to grab a bunch of money and a few moments of fame," Knight said.

Knight, who was released from prison in September after serving five years, said he believes the media reports were racially motivated.

"Do you think they could get away with publishing this kind of crap about a white Hollywood executive? No way. It's racist," Knight said.

Representatives for Rolling Stone and VH1 said they stand by their reports.

## 2 convicted in Hampton student's murder

By Holly Roberson

Terry Moore and his friends were going out on the town. But first the Hampton University honor student had a rendezvous in the park to sell marijuana. Moore left his friends in the car and disappeared into the darkness late one night last July.

Several minutes later, his friends heard two gunshots. They tried Terry's cell phone and began frantically following their friend's footsteps. They didn't go far before they heard the ringing cell phone and saw it's glow on the dark ground.

Terry M. Moore Jr. lay motionless next to the phone with a fatal gunshot wound to the head.

Newport News Circuit Court Judge Robert Curran found two men guilty Tuesday in connection with Moore's death July 14, 2001. Both Yates Michaels, 20, and Stephen Holland, 17, were found guilty of first degree murder, robbery and various firearms charges connected to

the shooting at Nicewood Park in Menchville.

Both face up to life in prison when they are sentenced in March.

It all started earlier that day as Holland and Michaels sat around watching horror movies with a group of friends. Michaels said he needed to get some money so he could "get out of town."

It was unclear from testimony Tuesday exactly what Michaels -- also known as Sticky -- meant by that.

Michaels and Holland talked about different people they could rob, said one of their friends who testified Tuesday. The two finally settled on Moore, also known as Fudge.

There was an agreement to meet Moore at the park just before midnight.

Holland hid behind a tree and Michaels met Moore near the playground, armed with a gun.

From the stand Tuesday, Michaels said he told Moore to give him everything he had. But Moore grabbed the gun, Michaels said, and it "went off."

"I had no intention of hurting anybody," said Michaels in a barely audible voice. "I just wanted to scare him. I didn't

think he'd grab the gun."

Moore dropped to his knees after the first shot. Michaels then shot him again, and took off with the marijuana, according to testimony. Holland had already run off.

Michaels returned to the friends' house where the plan had been hatched. He changed his shirt, one witness testified, because "he said he smelled like the guy."

A friend notified police and Holland was arrested the next morning.

Michaels fled to Montana where he used to live with his mother. He was arrested after a Daily Press reporter received a call from a person in Montana who heard that Michaels had admitted killing Moore. Detectives flew to Montana and brought Michaels back.

Moore's family sat emotionless Tuesday as the verdicts were read. They didn't want to talk to a reporter.

Terry Moore would have been a sophomore at Hampton University this year.

Holly Roberson can be reached at 247-4736 or by e-mail at hrober-son@dailynews.com

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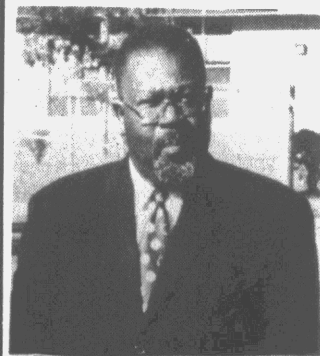
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## Life of Georgia to pay African-Americans \$45 million

By Scot J. Paltrow  
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Jan. 9 Life Insurance Co. of Georgia tentatively has agreed to reimburse African-American customers more than \$45 million to settle allegations that it routinely charged blacks higher rates than whites for identical policies, people involved in the negotiations said.

**THE SETTLEMENT**, expected to be announced by the end of this month, would resolve a lawsuit in federal court in Louisiana against the company by black policyholders, as well as an investigation by a multistate group of insurance regulators.

The amount would make the settlement the second-largest to date in the series of lawsuits and investigations stemming from inquiries into race-based pricing by life insurers. In 2000, American General Corp. agreed to pay \$215 million to settle allegations it had charged higher premiums to African-Americans on smaller policies.

### Advertisement

Life of Georgia, which is based in Atlanta and was founded in 1891, was acquired in 1979 by the Netherlands-based company that is now ING Groep NV. Dianne Bernez, a spokeswoman for ING's U.S. operations, confirmed that we are very close to wrapping up negotiations, and were very confident we were going to reach a settlement shortly.

Bernez declined to discuss details. But others with knowledge of the talks said the agreement would involve reimbursing African-American customers an amount in the range of \$45 million to \$60 million and also would include a much smaller amount in fines paid to the states. They said a number of lesser details in the settlement were still being worked out.

Georgia Insurance Commissioner John Oxendine, who is participating in the negotiations, said about three million Life of Georgia policyholders could be eligible for compensation under the settlement.

Life of Georgia was one of the companies cited in a Wall Street Journal Page One article in April 2000 that reported that several large life insurers in the past had routinely sold policies with higher rates for blacks than for whites for the same amounts of coverage, and that they were continuing to collect higher premiums from black customers on policies still in force.

That article quoted a former senior Life of Georgia actuary, who said that discrimination remained when he left the company in 1981 and that on certain kinds of policies the company had two rate tables, one for blacks and one for whites. The article reported that Life of Georgia denied it had ever used race-based rates.

Asked if the company still denies the allegations, Bernez said Tuesday that ING would not discuss Life of Georgia's past actions until the settlement is announced.

The Life of Georgia developments come as state insurance departments around the country have recently announced progress in several other of the pending investigations of more than 100 life insurers suspected of having used race-based pricing. In December, the South Carolina insurance department said it had moved to impose fines and suspend the operating license of Liberty Life Insurance Co., which the state said had continued to collect premiums from blacks that were about a third higher than those charged for whites with similar policies. The Greenville, S.C., company said it is appealing the move.

A smaller South Carolina company, Charleston-based Atlantic Coast Life Insurance Co., last month agreed to pay \$1.1 million to settle a state investigation and a private lawsuit alleging it had charged discriminatory rates.

In November, New York's state insurance department released the first of what it says will be a series of investigation reports. The report, on Phoenix Life Insurance Co., said the unit of Phoenix Cos., Hartford, Conn., had violated antidiscrimination regulations decades ago, but it recommended no penalty because investigators said they could not find evidence that recent policyholders were affected.

The state says a major investigation of MetLife Inc., the nation's second-largest life insurer, is continuing. MetLife also has been sued in federal court in Manhattan by black policyholders. New York-based MetLife, which is contesting the lawsuit, has said that it is cooperating with the New York investigation.

## We Must Bring Race into The Social Security Debate

by John A. Powell

In the midst of this highly politicized presidential campaign, the central concerns of racial minorities have been largely marginalized.

There is no better example of this than the current focus on Social Security. It is perceived as either a race-neutral issue that has an impact only on the voting elderly, or an issue that does not bring up the ugly and uncomfortable subject of racial discrimination.

But Social Security is not just about the elderly. It is also about the young and, more poignantly, about racial inequity in America.

Although Old-Age Insurance redistributes more wealth and costs more than any other government-benefits program, it has traditionally received sacred-cow status because it is universal in nature. Old-Age Insurance and Medicare are the only "welfare" programs that benefit all recipients, regardless of income. Virtually all workers now pay into, and are eligible for, Old-Age Insurance.

Even though Social Security is available to everyone, the system continues to perpetuate racial, class and gender disparities, but in a somewhat disguised form.

Social Security taxes are regressive -- that is, low-income payers are charged the same rate that wealthy people pay. A payroll tax of 12.7 percent is taken, regardless of whether a person makes the minimum wage and works for only one week of the year or makes \$76,200 annually. No Social Security taxes at all are

paid on income above that level.

Once they retire, poorer folk get smaller monthly payouts than their affluent counterparts. The amount received is based on the total amount paid in by the recipient (and his or her spouse) over a work lifetime. The less you pay in, the less you receive. People of color have lower incomes than whites. They thus put fewer total dollars into the system and receive lower benefits when they retire.

Also, people of color receive these benefits for a significantly shorter amount of time than whites because they retire older and die younger. For example, the life expectancy for African-American males is only 65 years -- the age at which Social Security benefits typically become available -- compared to 73 for white men. Many people of color die before ever receiving Social Security benefits, even though they've paid taxes into the system throughout their lives.

Notwithstanding these systemic inequities, Social Security represents the most important source of retirement income for most people of color. Because people of color have far fewer assets than whites and are much less likely to be covered by private pension programs, they tend to be more dependent on Social Security at retirement.

This trend means that a larger number of longer-living retirees will be supported by a shrinking number of younger workers. Unless substantial changes are made in the way Social Security is structured, the system is projected to go broke by 2037.

The aging baby boomers are disproportionately white, while younger and newer workers are increasingly people of color. This means that minority youth of today will be depended upon heavily as the workers of tomorrow. Unfortunately, due to inequities in education they receive from grade school through high school, they are inadequately prepared to enter the work force. Yet during this century, this same poorly educated, underpaid population may be asked to accept an even higher rate of taxation to benefit elderly white baby boomers.

The solution to these potential intergenerational and racial tensions is not to cut benefits to the elderly. Instead, corporations and wealthy individuals must assume their fair share of taxes.

We must insist that existing budget surpluses be used to shore up Social Security and to finance infrastructure and educational improvements, especially in the inner cities.

## UPN's President Leaves Network

Viacom Inc. said Friday that UPN President Dean Valentine will leave the company, one month after the media company shifted operating control of the television network away from Paramount Pictures and put it under CBS.

CBS President and Chief Executive Leslie Moonves will oversee the operations of UPN until a new organizational structure for the network is announced, Viacom said Friday. Mr. Valentine's departure is effective immediately.

There had been rampant speculation that Mr. Valentine would leave the network following the shake-up. Earlier this year, Mr. Valentine sued his bosses for breach of contract, claiming he was owed as much as \$22 million in bonuses.

Although UPN showed some ratings gains last fall, it has struggled through much of its existence, and its losses have topped \$1 billion since its 1995 founding. UPN and Paramount executives sometimes disagreed over the network's direction, and other tensions existed.

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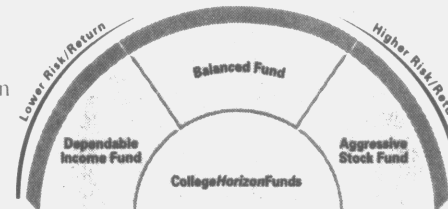
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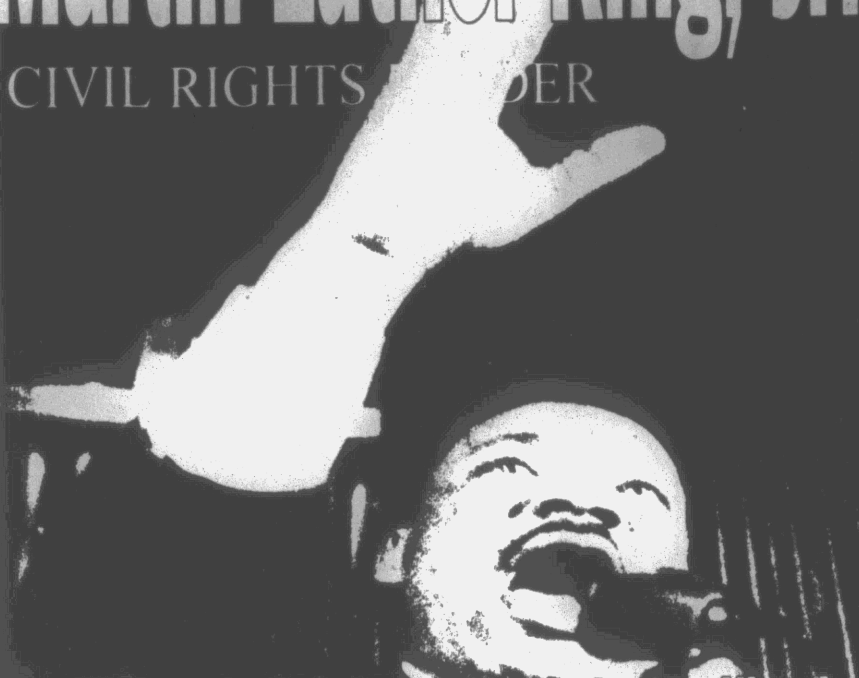
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by Jessie J. Lewis, Sr.  
Speakin' Out News

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## A Tribute To Dr. King

To the Editor:

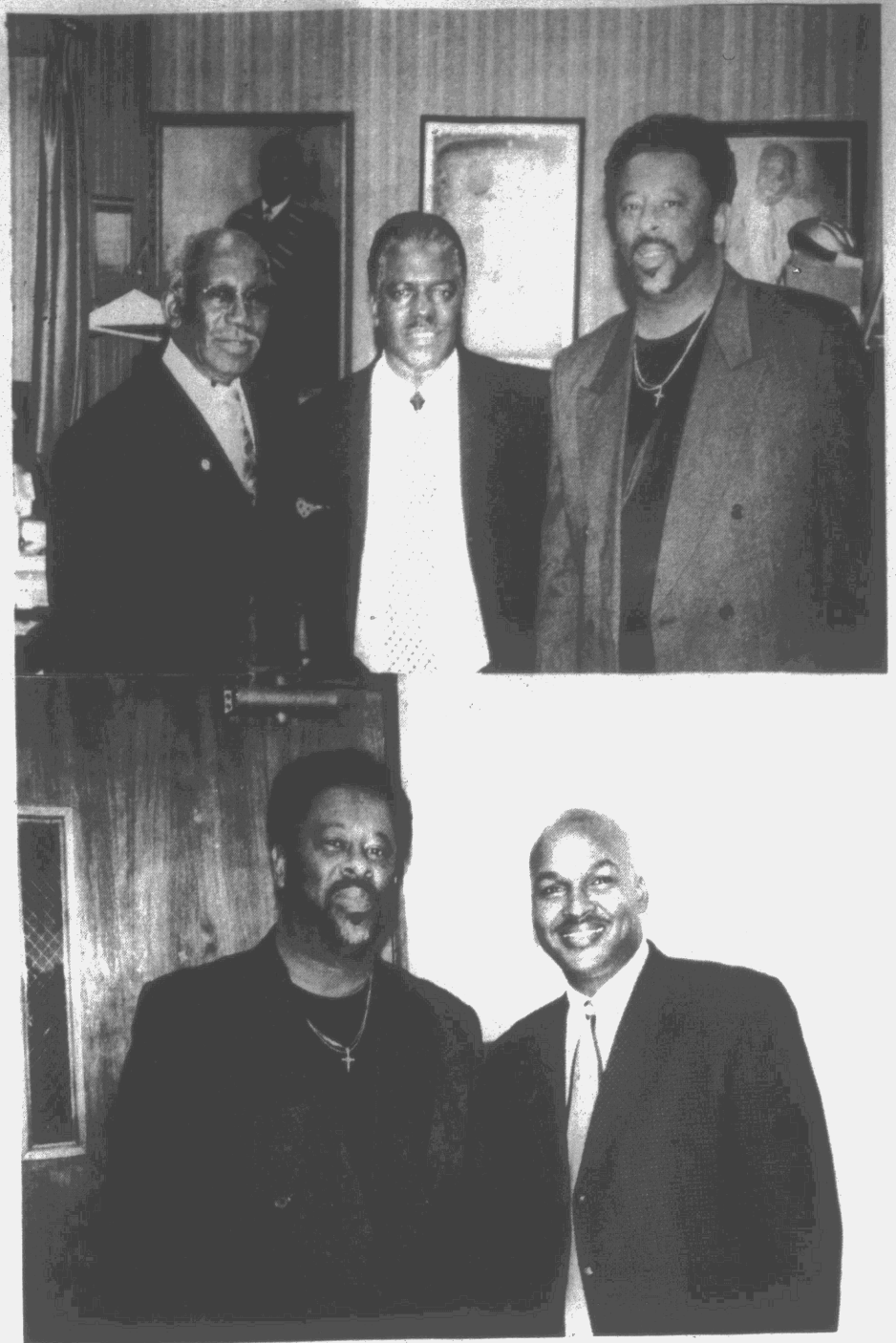
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the first Black American honored by a national holiday, the leader who changed the lives of Black and White Americans, and 34 years after his death, he is the most revered Black in the United States and possibly the most widely honored Black person in history. Hundreds of streets and parks bear his name and there are statues in nearly every state of the Union, including one at Morehouse College in Atlanta and in the Washington Cathedral in DC. But the biggest memorial remains in King Center in Atlanta, the city where the greatest number of memorials are located.

Dr. King was a spiritually evolved and enlightened man. His integrity, wisdom, discipline, and unwavering faith made him one of the most inspiring and admirable human beings the world has ever known. He was a teacher and preacher of LOVE.

Our nation needs the vision of Dr. King today more than ever. Our nation needs people firmly committed to work tirelessly, with God's help, to take down the fences, which separate us from one another. Dr. King believed that all people can learn and live together in peace, and he showed us powerful ways of achieving those goals.

Let's commit ourselves to his dreams !!

Beatrice Maye



### Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Gospel music was at its best at Ebenezer Church, as Rev. Thomas Walker continue to bring quality and big name gospel to Rocky Mt. NC. Pictured above is WOOW's Reggie Price, Rev. Thomas Walker, Rev. Tiff Mc Carter. Pictured below Foxy 104 FM's Ron Porter.

Photo By Jim Rouse

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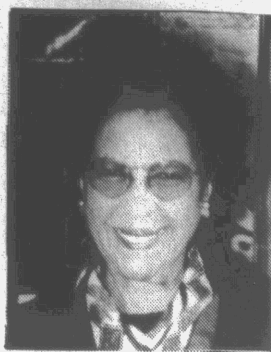
## Soul Sisters From The Desk Of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



**Soul Sisters Lookin Good !**

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Photo by Jim Rouse



### Golden Rules for Living

By: Miriam Hamilton Keare

1. If you open it, close it.
2. If you turn it on, turn it off.
3. If you unlock it, lock it up.
4. If you break it, admit it.
5. If you can't fix it, call in someone who can.
6. If you borrow it, return it.
7. If you value it, take care of it.
8. If you make a mess, clean it up.
9. If you move it, put it back.
10. If it belongs to someone else, get permission to use it.
11. If you don't know how to operate it, leave it alone.
12. If it's none of your business, don't ask questions.

### FAMOUS BLACK QUOTATIONS FOR

### TEENS....

1. I was born in the slums, but the slum was not in me. Jesse Jackson

2. I needed a lot of time to change my expectations of myself. I had to learn to believe that I could do anything. I really wanted to do. Wally "Famous Amos",

3. Love affords wonder. And it is only love that gives me the liberty, the courage to go inside and see who I really am. Maya Angelou, poet/author

4. My responsibilities are to do best work I can do and to be the best human being I can be. Toni Morrison

5. I don't want to be the best black golfer; I want to be the best golfer. Tiger Woods/golfer

6. I really do believe that we can all become better than we are. James Baldwin

7. Work on your reputation until it is established; when it is established, it will work for you. Tunisian proverb

8. With the gift you have been given comes the responsibility to use and develop them. Les Brown/speaker

9. Be the best and they won't care who you are or what color you are. Be the best, and you will do well.

Marc Hannah/executive

10. I've hit 755 home runs, and I did it without putting a needle in my arm or a whiskey bottle in my mouth. Hank Aaron, athlete

11. Everybody loves a fool, but nobody wants him as a son. Malinke proverb

12. I never allowed myself to get lost, even when I was a little girl. I held on to the positive side. I never gave in to alcohol, never gave in to drugs, not even to smoking. I gave in to myself. I went inside of me to help me. It can happen. You can do it. Tina Turner/singer

13. While everyone else is sleeping, it's working. Will Smith/actor

14. All work is honorable. Always do your best because someone is watching. Colin Powell

15. The love and support I get from my family goes a long way, and helps me get through the hardest times...For me, family is everything. Monica/singer

16. My parents taught me alot about life and a lot about the potholes in life. It's more aware of where I am as a person because of the knowledge. Michael Jordan

17. My mom was a single parent who raised five kids on the 'tough West Side of Chicago. She told us that we

could do anything we wanted; we just had to work at it. Robert Townsend

18. Yes, the reason I am what I am today is because I had a mother and father who cared enough to keep me in line, but who also always followed me to my dreams. Sinbad/comedian

19. My mother instilled in me that I could do anything I wanted to do. So I've never been afraid to try. When I see what I want, I don't see barriers. Morgan Freeman/actor

20. My grandmother paid my way through film school. She always had complete faith in me. Spike Lee filmmaker

21. The older you get, the smarter you realize your parents are. Johnnie Cochran lawyer

22. You owe it to others as well as to yourself to be very careful about letting others makeup your mind for you. Malcolm X

23. Some people will tear you down just to see you fall. They'll do it even if your loss is their own. Walter Mosley author

24. A close friend can become a close enemy. Ethiopian proverb

25. Influence is a powerful thing. Be careful whom you allow to influence you. Bishop I. D. Jakes

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WHY WE CAN'T WAIT  
by Martin Luther King Jr.  
pg. 142



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He is the nephew of publisher Jim Rouse and the son Brenda Fatima Rouse.

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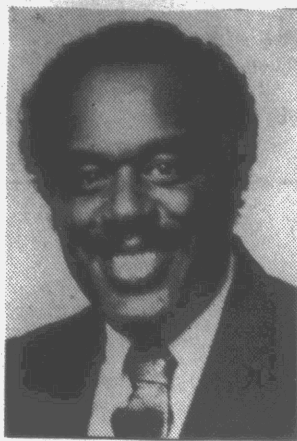
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# Spiritual Reflections

## Lifeline : Edification Of The New Generation



Dr. George Hawkins

### No Time for God

Greetings in the immaculate name of Jesus Christ:

One day while meditating on the Lord and contemplating the condition of the church world, He began to speak some things to me. He said there was a time when my people really sought after me and the things that pleased me. Now it is the opposite, they have become self-pleasures and seek things that please themselves. They have time for everything but me. They have time for work, play, parties, TV shows, games, parades and everything under the sun except me. This was a shock statement but it is so true. There is coming a time when You are going to need the Lord to come to your rescue immediately, but WILL HE HAVE TIME FOR YOU?

Jeremiah 2:32 says, "My people have forgotten me days without number". Psalm 9:17 also let us know that the

wicked shall be turned into hell, and all nations that forget God. Forget and forgotten are intense words when used in context with God and His people. It means alienation between the Lord and His

people. Religions that openly and deliberately revolt against God shows, at any rate, some respect for His power. A person can pray what they call a formal prayer and it can be just dead as a doorknob but at least it is acknowledging God's existence; but saints of God, when we forget Him and live and plan and work as though He doesn't exist and treat Him as if He doesn't matter, that is a sure sign of separatism. It is a dangerous thing to be separated from the Lord. We are living in perilous times and therefore need to hear from the Lord. We need His protection and we most definitely need Him in our lives.

In II Tim 3:1-4 the Apostle Paul warned of what would happen in these last days. If you would read these scriptures, you will see that they are so prevalent as they fit the present day both in church and out. Are people lovers of God? Not hardly! They are "Lovers of their own SELVES, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents...Traitors...LOVERS OF PLEASURES MORE THAN LOVERS OF GOD". Has it come to pass? Do we have time for everything under the sun but God? Apostle Paul even foresaw the decline in religion, for he says, "Having a FORM of godliness, but denying the POWER thereof (v.5).

What was the power in the days when church WAS a power and souls were brought to conviction and then converted? It was the Holy Spirit, the WHOLE Bible (not mutilated), and the real gospel calling men to turn from sin to God, to be saved through a once crucified but now living Christ. It is sad to say but we are living in a time when all that is old fashion. It seems to

be out of style. The Holy Spirit is ignored; the Bible (what's left of it) is fixed up to suit ourselves; conversion is no longer necessary; dead churches have GONE MODERN; TRAITORS are in the pulpits repeating the Apostles' Creed and then turn around and deny the whole thing. Jesus is either left out or brought down to the level of a mere man. "We don't seem to care for the gospel anymore. Give us recreation, movies, plays, 'social uplift,' and compromise with SIN (even if our children DO go to ruin); and by all means don't mention the blood because it offends our polite (itching) ears". Modernism and many man-made religions are on the rise, along with atheism casting its deadly blight can only be leading to one thing, the fast approaching of the antichrist. The worst than can happen to a person or nation in this world is to be forsaken by God.

There is a scripture in the Bible that seems very cruel which is this: "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7). God doesn't make it cruel. Man makes it cruel for HIMSELF by taking up some selfish, fleshly appetite that will surely bring him to want. He wants what he cannot get, for there will be no earthly thing in hell to satisfy a depraved appetite. In hell people will not only be "weeping and wailing" over lost opportunities to be saved, gone forever, but souls will see what they missed.

"Seek ye FIRST the kingdom of God and HIS righteousness; and ALL these things SHALL be added unto you". (Matt.

6:33). Try it! Find time for God, and He will have time for you.

"Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you". (Jas. 4:8).



Faith May

### RESOLVING CONFLICT AT SCHOOL

With all of the evil taking place in the world now, could matters be worse? If so, why aren't they? This is not a trick question. Neither is it a rhetorical question. It is a legitimate query that deserves a serious response: God. In a world gone partially mad, God is controlling Satan and his cohorts for the sake of believers, the children of God.

The relationship that God has between Himself and His children is the basis for gaining strength to resolve or reduce conflicts in the school setting. Christian young people need to understand that just as God controls Satan in the world on behalf of godly people, He will and can control Satan in and around school on behalf of his saved young people. If you are his child, things may get tough. However, they are not as tough as they could be if God were not on your side. Let us look at the kinds of

conflict that often arise at school or in school settings such as the school bus or the walk to and from school.

Some of the problems of conflicts listed by several middle school and high school students that most often occur among students include:

Arguing  
Disrespect  
Gossip  
Sexual  
Harassment  
Threats

### Intimidation Discrimination

If we are going to help young people learn how to resolve, reduce, or manage conflict effectively at school, we must guide them to God's Word. In it we find that there are spiritual causes of violence and discipline problems at school—first of all, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God (Psalm 14:1).

This is a serious indictment of and judgment upon individuals who deny the existence of God. They are regarded as senseless, dimwitted, and unwise. Why is this description important? God seems to be saying when you meet someone who denies the existence of the creator God, that person does not have sound thought processes. The conclusion might be not to listen to them; they are fools. Do not hang around them. They are fools! Do not be surprised by anything they do, because those people are fools!

Thus the conflict you see occurring at school should be expected. Why? The answer is contained in Romans 1:21. It states:

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, their foolish heart was darkened.

We should expect conflict in schools today because God has been ignored. Then how can a godly young person avoid getting into conflicts with other people who may be ungodly? How can young people who are concerned

about obedience to God and the welfare of their schoolmates function in an environment that is hostile toward spiritual things? How can they manage any conflict that involves individuals who are not under the control of the Holy Spirit?

What do you do when someone wants to fight you? When someone curses you? Threatens you? Talks about you? Calls you ugly names or steals from you?

I believe there are three emotions that sometimes cause young people and adults not to walk away or try harder to reduce a conflict: pride, anger, and fear. How can young people 1 school situations avoid reacting to these emotions? First, one must ask, "Is my will in line with God, or is my will in line with Satan?" An individual who desires to fight you or curse at you for no visible reason is probably acting like his or her father, the Devil. The Bible states time and again that if your father is the Devil, you are going to act and react in the same violent profane way that the children of Satan behave.

The wisdom of the Bible is wonderful to listen to, but how can God's Word help you in a situation where the only alternatives are to fight or take flight? Matthew 6:13 offers hope and encouragement. Some other helpful Scriptures are I Corinthians 10:13, James 1:2-3, and James 4:7.

Finally, as we contemplate how to reduce conflict in school settings, Christians young people must accept a high calling. That calling is to focus on being a friend of God (see John 15:14). Do not be surprised if you are attempting with all your heart to do right, yet others do not like you (see John 15:18-19; 16:33). There may be confusion and conflict all around us, but God wants His children to be at peace. Our Father has promised that He will cause even our enemies to be at peace with us (see Prov. 16:7; John 14:27).

*Note To Readers:* Ms May has a college degree in human services and has worked six years on the Adolescent Psychiatric unit at PCMH as a Mental Health Technician. It is her firm belief that it does no good to treat the mind and body and not minister to the spirit. She prays that through the grace of God her articles printed will help someone.

## Greene St. Bridge



Greene Street Bridge

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Photo by Jim Rouse

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### The Mountaintop

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Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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## Civil Rights Activist Accuses MGM Mirage of Racial Discrimination

**LAS VEGAS (AP)**—The Rev. Al Sharpton says he will call for a national boycott against MGM Mirage Inc. if the casino operator refuses to meet with him to discuss claims of discrimination at the company's Detroit casino.

Citing an employment discrimination lawsuit filed by 14 past and present employees of the MGM Grand Detroit, the civil rights activist said his National Action Network civil rights group would lead a boycott against all the company's casinos and hotels if MGM Mirage Chairman Terry Lanni declines to meet with him by the end of the year.

"It is our desire that they come to the table before we have to ask people to stay away from their tables," Sharpton said Wednesday during a stop in Las Vegas. Sharpton was on his way to Los Angeles to open another chapter of his National Action Network.

Sharpton said he will be back in Las Vegas early next year to lead a boycott if MGM Mirage, the largest hotel-casino operator on the Las Vegas Strip, officials don't agree to a meeting.

If a boycott doesn't bring Lanni to the bargaining table, Sharpton said he was prepared to occupy the company's casino tables.

"As you know, I'm not afraid of civil disobedience," he said.

Gene Collins, former president of the Las Vegas chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and chairman of the National Action Network, filed a written complaint with the Nevada Gaming Control Board after Sharpton spoke.

The complaint asks control board Chairman Dennis Neilander to investigate the attitude and conduct of MGM Mirage in light of the Michigan lawsuit.

"The allegations in this suit cut to the core of

what I have been alleging all along," Collins wrote. "MGM has been practicing racist policies toward African-Americans in hiring, promoting and contracting."

Lanni was out of the country and unavailable for comment.

MGM Mirage Vice President of Corporate Diversity and Community Affairs Punam Mathur said company executives have no intention of meeting with the New York activist.

"He's trying to create a problem rather than solve a problem," Mathur said.

Several Las Vegas black leaders who support MGM Mirage's efforts to diversify its contracting, purchasing and hiring attended Sharpton's news conference.

Urban Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Louis Overstreet said he disagreed with Sharpton, Collins and the National Action Network.

"We've tried to work with MGM Mirage and we're pleased with the progress they've made on their diversity initiative,"

Overstreet said.

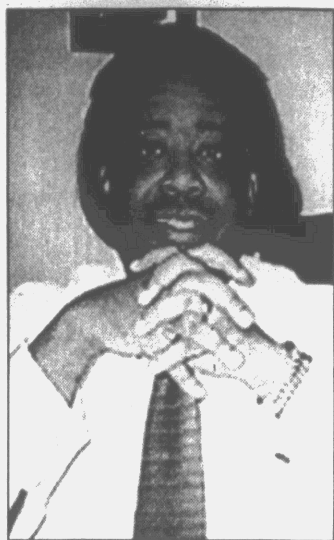
Control board member Bobby Siller, who is black, said he was personally pleased with the progress MGM Mirage has made in providing opportunities to minority employees, contractors and vendors.

"They've shown by their actions a willingness to work with us on this issue," he said.

The Michigan lawsuit filed in October charges that MGM Grand Detroit is a hostile working environment for blacks.

MGM Mirage issued a statement about the lawsuit noting that the company considers the charges serious and is making a serious commitment to investigating them.

"Grandstanding, making unreasonable demands and staging press conferences will not get the job done," the statement concluded.



REV. AL SHARPTON

## REFLECTIONS, EXPRESSIONS and REVIEWS



Ms. Sujette Jones

Understanding Jefferson  
E.M. Halliday

Even during his lifetime, Thomas Jefferson's friends and foes struggled to understand him. Alexander Hamilton thought him to be a liar without principles. George Washington eventually concluded that Jefferson was a hypocrite. James Madison and James Monroe loved and admired him. John Adams, a close acquaintance, finally gave up of ever understanding him. Jefferson, he said, was a "shadow man akin to the great rivers, whose bottoms we cannot see and make no noise."

Historians have not given up in

their quest to understand his character and especially his private behavior—given the fact that he is more valuable to this country than any other Founder. The studies of Jefferson reflect the contrariness of his views on racism and social and political equality. The author criticizes those who refused to accept that Jefferson engaged in a lengthy sexual relationship with Sally Hemings, his slave. However the publication in 1998 of the celebrated DNA tests revealed a high probability that he indeed fathered several children by Hemings.

Understanding Jefferson is not a biography but a character study that focuses almost entirely on the intimate affairs of Jefferson's life and an acknowledgment of his carnal desires. Halliday theorizes that the adolescent Jefferson was on fire with sexual feelings and quite possibly visited prostitutes, masturbated and had wet dreams. He probably engaged in premarital sex when courting his future wife, wished to have intercourse with Maria Cosby, with whom he may have had an adulterous affair, and was drawn both to literature and art that was filled with sexual and erotic bent. The author's point is not that Jefferson was disturbed but that he was perfectly normal. His questionable behav-

ior was to be expected of a lusty young man thrilled by attractive women. His affair with Hemings began when Jefferson was vulnerable and in a "lusty mood". His wife had died when he took Hemings with him on his trip to Paris. Besides, she may have seduced him. Not much about Jefferson's inner life can be proven but the author acknowledges that the conclusion he has drawn are for the most part based on the "probability" of what Jefferson would have done.

The biographers of Jefferson guessed at his private conduct and concluded that it was unimaginable that he could have behaved in certain ways. But based upon today's more relaxed standards, Halliday appears anxious that Jefferson should yet qualify as a "great American icon", especially when judged by today's standards, but the proper task of the historian is to measure the subject against the standards of the time in which he or she lived. By that measure, Jefferson remains deserving of his place on Mount Rushmore.

Reviewed by John Ferling

## The Cities (A round-up of news shorts from cities across the country)

**BALTIMORE**—Prosecutors and police officials say changes in wiretap laws are needed to make eavesdropping on drug dealers easier. They argue criminals are sparingly using cell phones, using multiple cell phones, and other strategies to thwart investigations. Law enforcement officials are backing legislative changes that would allow quickly switching wiretaps from phone to phone, to follow the moves of suspects. The American Civil Liberties Union and others are likely to oppose changes to existing laws, saying judges provide a balance between law enforcement and protection of individual rights.

**SEATTLE**—Community colleges say increased layoffs in the state have outstripped funding for their worker retraining programs. The popular programs offered tuition assistance for two year degrees, certification in specialty areas or classes pursued by workers who lost jobs. While state unemployment rose to 6.6 percent in October, the state budget also suffered a \$1.3 billion shortfall. The lack of funds means colleges can't get more state money and some workers will not be able to attend classes in upcoming semesters. Over the last eight years, more than 50,000 laid-off workers were able to receive tuition assistance under the Worker Retraining Program. Program funding in the past couple of years has totaled \$28 million.

**TALLAHASSEE**—A state population boom borne out by the 2000 Census means Florida will gain two congressional seats and likely endure a major redistricting fight along the way. The first major plan, which was released Jan. 3, sparked a battle between two Republican lawmakers in the state legislature. The plan offered by the state Senate lacked a U.S. congressional seat that would ostensibly go to House Speaker Tom Feeney. Republican State Sen. Jack Latvala drafted the plan as chairman of the Senate committee redrawing the boundaries. The Latvala plan carves out new Republican seats in South Florida and north of Tampa Bay. There is no seat in the suburbs northeast of Orlando, which is a Feeney stronghold. House Speaker Feeney has been raising money for a congressional campaign. Observers say redistricting, which is to be taken up in the state legislature Jan. 22, will likely include lawsuits to finalize the process. Redistricting occurs every 10 years based on population changes.

**WASHINGTON**—American Airlines could have easily resolved questions about the identity of an Arab-American Secret Service agent barred from a Christmas Day flight, according to the agent's lawyers. In a recent press conference, the man's attorney said a single telephone call to a White House number the agent offered to airlines employees would have confirmed his identity. The lawyers said American Airlines was guilty of racial discrimination, but the agent has not decided whether to file a lawsuit. The man wants procedures and training put in place to prevent future incidents, his lawyers said. American Airlines rejected the charge of racial discrimination, saying airlines personnel had reason to be suspicious of the man, who they contend filled out paperwork improperly. A pilot would not allow the agent, who works on the President Bush's security detail, to take the flight.

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# The Scars Of Slavery

**Freedom could not erase memories of grim milestones in a slave's existence. St. Augustine once a hub of slave trade**

By **ALLINIECE T. ANDINO**

*Times-Union staff writer*

Slaves carried the word across plantations and state lines that the sound of gunfire meant freedom. It was 1865, the Civil War was over and Union soldiers canvassed the South to deliver news of the Emancipation Proclamation. Margrett Nickerson remembered the gunfire, she told an interviewer working with a Federal Writers' Project to collect memories of former slaves in 1936. Nickerson heard the shots as she toted cotton to the scales one day. Nickerson's master told her she was free. But freedom would not erase what she had endured for nearly 20 years on a Leon County plantation. The lives of slaves were marked by the grim milestones of being sold, working as human chattel and being bred against their will. Bonded servants prayed in secret, whispered of freedom and at times married someone from another plantation so they would not have to see a loved one raped or beaten. "Slaves could never escape the fact that they were slaves and that their movements as well as their other activities were almost always under the most careful surveillance," wrote John Hope Franklin and Alfred A. Moss Jr. in the

## Living conditions

Slaves usually lived in one-room log cabins with leaky roofs and dirt floors, Rivers wrote in *Slavery in Florida*. The sparse furnishings were a bed, a simple table and a chair or two. They either slept on a blanket or quilt, or fashioned a mattress of Spanish moss and chicken or goose feathers. Slaves in Florida -- particularly when Florida was under Spanish rule, from 1565 to 1763 and from 1784 to 1821 -- were generally treated better than their brethren in other areas of the South.

Slave children were cared for by older children or by slave women too old to be sent out to the fields. Children often ran around barefoot and naked, or they wore long shirts or frocks. They received shoes when it was time to start working the fields and usually received another pair each winter.

A state statute prohibited anyone from teaching blacks to read or write. But during Sunday school, many blacks ignored this law and learned secretly. On Sunday mornings, white preachers told slaves to mind their masters and they would be saved, explained former slave Margrett Nickerson.

"Dey never tole us nothin' 'bout Jesus," she said in her own vernacular.

But slaves held clandestine meetings and had praying grounds where a few met at a time.

At night, slaves told tales of Africa, passed on fables and folklore. They played fiddles and drums.

"As long as work schedules did not suffer, many owners permitted their slaves to sing, dance and play music as late (or as early) as they desired," Rivers wrote.

The quality of a slave's life usually depended on his master. And, outside of being born on a plantation, a slave's master was often determined by an auction. Families were torn apart at auctions. Siblings, mothers and children often never saw each other again.

The voice of Marsha Dean Phelts breaks when she tells how the 10 children of her great-great-grandmother were sold.

"They carried them all to the auction house and lined them up across the platform," said Phelts, a resident of Jacksonville and American Beach.

Phelts' great-grandmother, Rosalee Butts, passed down the story of how her mother cried continuously while at the auction. When someone grabbed the baby she was nursing from her arms to be sold,

Butts' mother screamed.

"She wept all through it, and then when the baby went, it was just too hard to bury the weeping," Phelts said. "She gave a blood-curdling cry."

Butts never saw her mother again. She saw a sister in passing, but all they could do was wave.

## Physical punishment

Whippings in the field were commonplace on some plantations and virtually nonexistent on others, depending on the master, the overseer and their philosophies of motivation.

Irene Coates, a former slave interviewed by a federal writer in 1936, said she saw men, women and children tied by their thumbs to tree limbs and whipped.

Nickerson said she was struck with sticks and straps when toting water through the fields for workers. At night, her father would doctor her wounds. She blamed the beatings for her ailing legs and her need for a wheelchair later in life.

Not all slaves dealt quietly with such treatment.

Phelts described beatings of her great-grandmother on a South Carolina plantation as events. The two brothers of her great-grandmother would fight for her to keep her from getting hurt, Phelts said.

"It was trauma when she was beaten. When they would whip her, the brothers would cause such a riot and such a ruckus," she said.

In punishment, the brothers were sold and shipped away to Alabama, she said.

House workers, it appears, lived a more congenial life than field workers. Harriett Gresham was a slave who worked in the "big house" on a South Carolina plantation. A federal writer interviewed her in Jacksonville in 1936.

She had a carefree life, playing with the children of her mistress. At about age 12, she was given small tasks to do, such as knitting a pair of stockings or dusting the furniture. So fond were her memories that Gresham continued to correspond with one of her master's children into her 90s.

## The runaway

Slaves ran away for several reasons. Some fled poor treatment. Some hastened to join family members sold to other owners. And some just ran to be free.

One runaway slave was the Rev. Squires Jackson. At age 19, Jackson heard of the impending Civil War and wanted to fight. He ran from a

Jacksonville plantation to Lake City, Jackson told a federal writer.

He hid in trees and groves to evade a posse in pursuit. He covered up his face and body with Spanish moss before falling asleep at night.

After four days of travel, guided by the North Star and instinct, Jackson reached Lake City.

He reported to a Union general who told him to act as an orderly until further instruction. Jackson saw wounded black soldiers stretched on the filthy ground of a horse stable. He was so repulsed, he decided not to join the army.

Jackson ran to Tallahassee and worked with the railroad until the end of the war. After the war, Jackson returned to Jacksonville, became a bricklayer and was later ordained as a minister.

Jackson said slavery was tough at times, but added, "No storm lasts forever."

"Even the best masters in slavery couldn't be as good as the worst person in freedom. Oh, God, it is good to be free, and I am thankful."

Staff writer Alliniece T. Andino can be reached at (904) 359-4546 or via e-mail at [aandino@jacksonville.com](mailto:aandino@jacksonville.com).

# We salute his dream...



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1994 edition of *From Slavery to Freedom*.  
**On the plantation**  
On Sundays and after workdays, slaves' lives became their own. Under the moonlight, they sang, danced and told stories. On Sundays, children played marbles, men fished in nearby streams or lakes and women went to market and traded goods for their meager households.

Plantations carpeted the fringes of Jacksonville in the 1800s. A Jacksonville lawyer, A.G. "Gus" Hartridge, told a Writers' Project interviewer in 1939 that when he was a boy, Springfield was known as the Jones Plantation. The Sammis Plantation, Hudnall Plantation and the Philips' plantation, called Red Bank, were in Arlington. Avondale was part of a plantation, and then there were the Hendricks, Hogarth and Bigelow plantations, said Hartridge, who was 70 at the time he was interviewed.

About 2.8 million slaves worked on farms and plantations in 1850 across the nation, and most of those, 1.8 million worked cotton fields, stated *From Slavery to Freedom*.

Cotton pickers waded through rows of stalks 7 feet high, sometimes cutting their fingers on the bolls that clutched the soft blossoms like claws. If ordered, slaves toiled past the dinner hour and under the glow of a full moon.

Slaves were field workers,

house workers and skilled carpenters, blacksmiths and masons. Slaves built houses and crafted furniture. They wove cotton into cloth, spun thread into ropes, tanned cowhides for shoes and made soap of ashes, water and grease.

On a large plantation, a bugle sounded at the start of the day, probably around 5 a.m. Slaves would prepare their meals and eat them in the fields, Rivers said. They would break for lunch; sometimes just 15 minutes was allowed. Small children would bring them water. And mothers of infants would be allowed time to nurse. After the short break, work continued for a few hours or into dark, depending on the season. Harvest time meant longer hours.



# We Salute Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The Minority Voice

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## Millions March For Reparations

MILLIONS  
REPARATIONS MARCH  
BY Dr. Conrad W. Worrill

The issue of reparations for African people throughout the world has become a widely discussed topic that is manifesting itself into a variety of action plans and strategies.

One of those action plans is the Millions for Reparations Mass Demonstration March and Protest Rally demanding reparations from the U.S. Government in its Capital City, Washington, D.C., on Aug. 17, 2002.

In my travels around the country, the issue of reparations appears to have penetrated the spirit and interest of African people in America in all walks of life. For those of us who have been organizing and advocating reparations since the 1960s for African people in America, specifically, and for African people throughout the world, the question becomes what does this current phase of the Reparations Movement mean for the just cause of the redemption and salvation of African people?

When we talk about reparations we are talking about the damages, compensation, and redress of those wrongs, so that the countries and people that suffered will enjoy full freedom to continue their own development on more equal terms.

When we discuss reparations for African people in the United States we are talking about slave labor humanity culture legacies names, language that were taken outside of the law and natural process by forceful demand of White captive slave owners.

In this regard, the current phase of the Reparations Movement for African people in America is connected to the leadership of Sister Callie House, who founded the National Ex-Slave Mutual Relief Bounty and Pension Association in the 1870s. According to the research of Mary Berry, Sister House organized a Black mass movement demanding reparations during the period of the 1870s to 1915. Berry reveals that, working

through meetings, literature and traveling agents, the organization successfully developed membership across the South as well as in Oklahoma, Kansas, Indiana, Ohio and New York.

Further, Berrys research reveals The Associations 25-cent annual membership fee and the 10-cent monthly dues, along with \$2.50 charged local affiliates for a Charter, augmented by an occasional extraordinary levy of five cents to defray special expenses, provided the funds for this mass-based movements work. The objective was to organize a demand throughout the Black nation which would force the United States to provide the needed and well deserved pensions they sought for the aging persons formerly held in slavery, their surviving spouses, caregivers, and heirs.

In the recently published book, Eight Women Leaders of the Reparations Movement, USA, by Linda Allen Eustace and Imari Obadele, it states: The movements successful organizing, coupled with the ubiquitous White supremacist values of Whites generally and especially United States officials, which disposed them in those days, as today, to attempt to defeat any significant self help efforts among Black people resulted in a ten year postal investigation.

Eustace and Obadele point out, after finding no evidence of federal violations, U.S. officials indicted Ms. house and a number of other members at Nashville for

fraud, for using the mail to distribute one of the Associations carefully drawn leaflets. She was found guilty and sentenced to a year and a day in the federal prison at Jefferson City.

Although this phase of the Reparations Movement was not successful, the spirit and organizing work carried on through the Gurvey movement and again resurfaced through the leadership of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, and Malcolm X in the 1960s, making the reparations demand through Muhammad Speaks. The Republic of New Africa made a reparations demand in 1968, demanding payment of \$400 billion

in slavery damages.

The National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (NCOBRA) was organized in 1987 following in the tradition of Sister Callie House. Since 1988, NCOBRA had developed a number of strategies designed to gain reparations for African people in America and also help advance international efforts to win reparations.

Since 1989, Congressman John Conyers (D-Mich.) has introduced legislation calling for the U.S. government to hold a probing study of reparations. This legislation is currently receiving wide support, primarily due to work of NCOBRA.

Since the late 1980s, the December 12th Movement, the Uhuru Movement, IHRAAM, The Lost and Found Nation of Islam, the Republic of New Africa and the National Black United Front have been some examples of organizations that continue to organize around the demand for reparations.

The Tulsa Race Riot Commission, under the leadership of Representative Donna Ross, and attorney Deadria Farmer-Paellmanns research on insurance companies that held slave policies in the 1850s, added to the reparations discussion over the last two years.

Finally, Chicago Alderman Dorothy Tillman's City Council Resolution, that received wide publicity, aided in the current interest African people in America now have on reparations.

along with the publication of Randail Robinsons book, The Debt.

What this current mass phase of the Reparations Movement means that African people have not lost our memory of the historical atrocities inflicted on us, and that we will never forget what has happened to us and continues today. The demand for reparations must be intensified though serious organization.

(Dr. Worrill is the national chairman of the National Black United Front in Calumet Park, Ill. Contact him at 708-389-9929 or via E-mail at nbutchi@allways.net.)



Future Congressman Stops By Local Radio Station

The campaign season has kicked off. State Senator Frank Balance who is running for Congresswoman Eva Clayton's seat. He is shown standing outside of WOOW radio station. Pictured from left to right NC A&T student from Robersonville, Mayor of Snow Hill Don Davis, a law student from Warrenton, NC, Senator Frank Balance, owner of WCPs Radio J.K. Johnson, WCPs radio personality Bouncing Baby Boy. If you're not registered to vote, do so, for this year will be a hot election.

photo By Jim Rouse



PROUD GRANDMOTHER

From the Minority Voice Archives, 3 generation of beautiful black women. Mother Joyce Norfleet is shown with her daughter, granddaughter and friend during a military graduation. Hat's off to grandmother, mother and daughter from the Minority Voice Newspaper.his

Photo by Jim Rouse

## The "M" Voice Archives



From The Minority Voice Archives

Name the beautiful mothers pictured and win 2 Cd's compliments of WOOW and the Minority Voice Newspaper. All are well known in this area.

## Happy Birthday Dr. King !

## Pastors James And Deloris Corbett Wedding Anniversary



Pictured are Pastor James Corbett and his beautiful wife Delores Corbett. They posed for the "Voice" camera at his recent birthday celebration at the Hilton Hotel in Greenville. The inspiring couple's wedding anniversary will be celebrated next month.

Photo by Jim Rouse



# Editorials

## Let's Focus on Our Daughters....

By: K. R.

There is an article in this issue of The Minority Voice that touches on a special subject, that I felt would be

appropriate to follow upon *Our Daughters*.

In the article, the writer focuses on how some of the rap music of today, degrades females.

And majority of them do. I, being a single parent of four daughters, try to watch

BET and MTV, to see just what are my girls watching. And yes, as a parent and a woman it does insult me when I see beautiful black women dancing all over the place with very little on. It also troubles me when I read and hear that certain rap

moguls do very little for their community. Yeah, you may hear of the scholarship funds, but what about the single mothers in the community who are having trouble raising their kids. When alot of kids look at videos and want the "bling-bling" and some kids, feel the only way to get the "bling-bling" is to hustle, I become troubled. Having a criminal history is not pretty. Having been to prison for a few months, few years, is not pretty either. Now, I know that sometimes an individual can not help where they come from or their surroundings, but they do have mind control. Has any of these rappers ever thought about encouraging kids to stay in school and get all the education they can. The best weapon in today's society is an education. The same goes for our daughters.....having a baby at the tender age of 14 or 15 is not pretty either.

On a part-time basis, I work at this club and I say if moms, grandmothers, aunts, even older sisters could see what our daughters are wearing, you would be shocked. I remember nights when the temperature was below 35 degrees and the girls would be completely naked. Not to mention, if their breasts were larger than a 42D, or even a 42DD, had no bra on.

With everything hanging down to their knees. What happened to leaving a little to the imagination. This is the year 2002, and why can't we encourage our daughters to wait until they get married to

have sex, or at least if they are going to have sex, be willing to take the responsibility of having it. To alot of our babies, they think there is no responsibility when it comes to having sex. I don't care how much that boy tells you, you look good, or how good he lies and says that he LOVES you. If you see the statistics with the Pitt County health department, and the state of North Carolina, you will find that teenage pregnancy is on the rise. More and more young women under the age of 21, are having more than two kids before they are even legal age to drink alcohol. A lot of them don't get the chance to experience life and the fun of being young and not to mention the experience of college. A lot of them don't realize when you start having kids, all the fun stops. I had my first daughter after I graduated high school. I was able to enjoy my freshman and sophomore year of college and believe me, it was Fun !!! Luckily, I had a grandmother who at the time, told me to enjoy life, because it is too precious. And she did. With the love and support from my grandmother, I was able to experience alot that the average 23 year old, would not even do.

Like most girls, I was listened to a 'nigga' who told me that he loved me. I meant more to him that the world. I believed it. And do you want to know what that love got me. It got me in trouble with the feds. Oh yes, the US

Federal Government. The Federal Government are the worst people to get caught up with. They get deep into your life !! So you see, love got me a criminal record.

I want to encourage all my sistas in the community. If we have the power to raise kids on our own for hundreds of years, then it is time we take better care of our girls, as well as our sons. A lot of times, single moms, we have to be mother and father. Why can't some of this rap music, that brothers listen to, encourage these absent fathers to take more responsibility for their seeds that they plant. Encourage our sistas to stay in school and stay abstinent and love themselves more. Love thyself first, and then you can love another.

If you have any ideas on how to improve the communication with our daughters, then I encourage your thoughts and suggestions. Starting in March 2002, the Minority Voice will start having more and more articles, seminars, and classes for young women in the communities. For further information, please contact Ms. Rouse at woow @skan-tech.net or fax at 252.757.1793.

Your comments and suggestions will greatly appreciated. Remember 2002 is the year of the Woman !!!!

# WOOW

## Ali is a Black Champ we didn't turn our backs on.....

By: Earl Byrd

Dear Reader,

Happy New Year. I've got a couple of resolutions, but since "Ali", (my personal friend and hero) is the bomb new movie, it made me remember another champion of my youth. The first authentic African-American hero to the country was a savage tiger and killing machine, according to New York newspaper headlines. He was Joe Louis, the "Brown Bomber", an avenging angel who announced the decline of Nazi prestige in the world beginning with a 124-second knockout barrage that began with a left hook. While the world-----especially Americans ---- cheered his short, explosive punches broke the Nazi German champion Max Schmeling's nose, cracked two ribs, nearly tore out his eye, and left his broken lower jaw swinging on its hinges.

Hilter had a conniption. They pulled the plug in Germany, and four years later, in 1942, World War II was in full swing. Patriotic Joe turned his back on his multi-million dollar career, joined the army, amde sergeant, and put on exhibitions for a penny a fight to raise money for the war effort. When he came out the IRS said he owe the government a million dollars in back taxes.

I remember my elementary school teacher trying to ex-

plain to us that if he earned a million dollars every year and paid taxes on his bill, after 20 years he would still owe the government a million dollars.

When we fought, the streets were empty. Every Black in America was in front of a radio. And when the fight ended, we still poured outside ---- I felt the pride as a little kid --- to celebrate and bask in joy and personal satisfaction. But here's what broke my heart. When the champ came out of the hospital in his old age, broke, alone, a sad and tragic American icon, guess who was there with a wheel chair? Here's one clue: there wasn't a nigger in sight.

"Ol' Blue Eyes" himself, Frank Sinatra, pushed him to a limo. He looked down at the champ who had been like a firmament in the sky above America during the 30's, 40s, and 50s, and told him not to worry about a thing. For what he'd done for America, Frank assured him, all he have to do

for the rest of his life was stand in the casino, gamble, shake hands with fans, and play golf.

Hell with old age insurance, the government, and an entire race that had turned its back on its first true Black hero who had crossed racial lines. Here was a White man taking Joe under his wing and ensuring that he would enjoy the rest of his life in style and in the limelight so no one would forget who was "The Champ" and America's true hero. That's why when they kidnapped Frank's son and demanded \$90,000 I cheered when Frank came on national TV in shirt sleeves and tie at half mast and said, "I'll tell you what I'm gonna give you. I'ma give you 'til morning to have my son back here safe and sound."

Don't you know they had that boy back safe and sound by daybreak. They didn't know they were messing with the Godson. Ol' Blue Eyes, doing it his way. Then chumps disappeared under the sands of the desert for their trouble. Oh yeah, I can dig the hell out of a White cat, especially when they're molded out of my own heart.

So you can imagine how I felt about Muhammad Ali.

"Them little Viet Cong ain't never done nothing to me," he screamed. "You want me to fight my enemy? Give me a helmet, some boots, a tank and send me to Mississippi. I ain't going in the army. Take my championship. Take my money. I got principle." Here's a guy so bad he has his own theme song written by George Benson, "The

Greatest". Ever listened to the words? "Learning to love yourself is the greatest love of all."

I remember my editor, Dave Bergan, putting me straight one day when he came by my desk and saw my autographed photo of Ali and the words, "My hero," in magic maker.

"He's my hero, too," Dave said.

"How's that ?" I snapped. "Who you think he was talking to when he made those college tours during his years of banishment? White students. It was White people who loved him and a White court that set him free." I was getting mad. We called him "The People's Champion" and he was usurping my friend and hero. I kept my mouth shut and let him continue with his bravado.

"We loved him," he said. And then he dropped the bomb. "We loved him because

he wasn't like a Black him, he was like a White man. He had principle and was willing to lose everything for what he believed."

He put his cigar in his mouth, laughed like a jolly Santa Claus and said, "That's s White trait." If I ever catch Dave Bergan in a dark alley, I won't know whether to choke him to death or kiss him. Because he not only made me feel bad, he woke me up, and I like to think that school ain't never closed.

There are three pictures on my dresser today. One of Charley Parker and Miles Davis, the second of Ali, and the third, my ultimate hero, Malcolm X, same guy that guided Muhammad Ali into the Nation of Islam.

I'm going to the new movie, "Ali," tomorrow night to catch the premiere, if I can catch a ride. If not, I'll go next week when it opens. But the movie can't be as exciting as the man himself. Muhammad Ali called the rounds he'd knock a chump out in, 'used witch doctors to curse and chant "Ali, kill him," during his fight when he faked out George Foreman and then knocked him out in the seventh round.

I saw the fight on closed circuit with Petey Greene and the renowned Washington attorney, Ron Goldfarb, author of Jails, The Ghetto of the Criminal Justice System. That was back in the Watergate days when all the defendants were named Mitchell, John Dean, John Erlichman, John Haldeman.

It breaks my heart to see Muhammad Ali suffering from

Parkinson's disease. I'm just glad his mind is lucid and his thinking clear enough to know the world loves him and see him in a position, unlike Joe, where he can take care of himself with dignity.

Dave Bergan would probably say, what's to be surprised at ? That's they way an intelligent White man thinks and plans his life. That may be true, but this time Blacks didn't turn their back on their champion. Well, that's my New Year's resolution, to take a page out of the White man's book and be self-sufficient in my old age. Live by principles for which I'm prepared to die, like Ali and Malcolm, write some books, pay off my taxes (that's another story) and prepare myself to be worthy of the woman of my dreams if she ever gets hip to herself and chooses me.

Until next year, I wish you all the best.

## I love the art of hip-hop, but.....

By: Yvette M. Curtis

I have heard enough. I cannot tell you how disturbing it is for me to listen to certain lyrics in the songs of hip-hop. I love the art of hip-hop, but I believe that someone needs to take a stand and recognize that our children deserve better. The berating and degrading lyrics hurt me to my heart. When are we, adults, going to take a stand and say, "enough is enough ?" When will we stop turning to the oldies--but--goodies stations (because we can't stand listening to that music) and start taking notice of what we're allowing our children to hear?

I don't understand. No matter what the target market may be, it is common sense to know that children and teenagers --- the most influenced populations, by the way --- listen to the radio. Yes, it's easy to say that parents should take responsibility. But, what about radio stations practicing what they preach? To play songs with lyrics, such as "member how you used to sniff my boxers?" (a male rapper talking to a female) does a disservice to our youth. Why would you play a song like that? What's the point of being for the community if you do not set a precedent for it? Okay, I understand it's all about the request line blowing up, but don't the stations have the option of playing certain songs? They allow degrading songs to be played that are detrimental to the self-esteem of young women. They miss a beat, and every once in a while, let a curse word slip through during a "mix-master" session. I've heard kids say, "They might as well as play the whole word. We already know what they're saying." What happened to cutting the entire word? Forget about the fact that the kids will buy the CDs. Parents need to take control of that issue because, yes, times change but values should not.

The music we hear in our area leaves a little more to the imagination that hip-hop played in other areas. Unfortunately, the further south you travel, the more degrading the on-air music becomes, hence, remaining true to the slogan, "The Dirty South". Compared to the places such as Atlanta, Tampa, and the Carolinas, the music played here can be compared to the likes of Disney's classic, "It's A Small World." Someone should take responsibility ---- in fact, all of us should. I hate to cliché the often cliché'd term, but it really does "take a village." When are we going to stop blaming one another and start looking at ourselves? I am just as guilty as the next. I can shake it just as fast as any other, but it doesn't make me feel good when I'm singing it in the car with my 16-year old niece sitting right next to me. We all need to take a look in the mirror. Life is imitating art. We are giving our children power over their influences.

Sex sells. Yes, but to whom? It sells to whomever will buy. So, who is buying? Parents? Are parents purchasing these exploitative songs for their children? One might argue that it's a free world, which allows for free speech. This is why I'm speaking freely. This is not a plot against rap music as was the intention of parents plotting against rock-and-roll long ago. Don't get me wrong. Biggie, Tupac, and Jay-Z are among the best rappers of all time. However, that doesn't make their messages more positive. It just makes them good storytellers. Hip-hop is about telling the story of their lives and where they come from. Does that mean women have to be disrespected? No. Years ago, I was talking to a guy who told me, "guys don't 'dog' girls.

Girls 'dog' themselves". I couldn't agree more. I would like to add to it that guys don't exploit girls. Girls exploit themselves. I believe in role models and those who help change the world in a positive fashion. In hip-hop, the opposite effect --- the roles models play in music videos are scantily dressed, sexual objects dancing for men who just happen to be in full apparel. There is no dispute over this if you want to do it in the privacy of your own home. However, the moment you decided to portray women as sex objects in the public eye is the moment you expose yourself to the issue of being a role model. Now, this is a broad topic that covers many spectrums of the industry. So, who is to blame? I would say that any adult who has never written a letter, made a phone call or sent an e-mail to decisive industry leaders share the responsibility of condoning the messages given to our children. If we disagree with the messages, then why are we letting young people hear them? Instead, we want to be like by the younger generation while quietly wondering where it all went wrong.

I know that this is bigger than radio. This is big business, which makes it an even more serious issue. In case, you didn't know, music influences our children. We are losing them to the flamboyancy of money, cars, and women. What messages are these songs giving them? Teenagers love songs such as "Brown Skin," by Indie Arie, and "Woman's Work," by Alicia Keys. We need to start paying attention to what our youth really want. Maybe we should listen to the response given to Destiny's Child, Jill Scott, Musiq, India Arie, Maxwell, Alicia Keys, and Erykah Badu. And if the stations are geared to the 18 - to 34- year old crowd, then as a part of this audience, this is the music I'd like to hear.

## Uneasy Victory for Abu-Jamal

The reaction to the courageous ruling by U.S. District Judge William Yohn vacating the death sentence for Mumia Abu-Jamal and ordering the state to conduct a new sentencing hearing or sentence him to life imprisonment was swift and predictable. The decision was savagely denounced by the widow of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner, who Jamal was convicted of slaying, the Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police, and Philadelphia's District Attorney. From the moment Jamal was convicted of Faulkner's murder in 1982 they waged a relentless battle to see that he is executed. Within hours of Yohn's ruling, Philadelphia's DA angrily declared that she would appeal his ruling.

But many of Jamal's supporter also savagely denounced Yohn's decision. They called it a meaningless sop or, worse, a flat out victory for the police and prosecution since Yohn refused to overturn his first degree murder of Faulkner, and dumped on death row, his credentials as a former Black Panther Party leader, writer and radio commentator virtually assured that many blacks and radicals would transform him into a radical icon, and attract what at times has resembled a cult-like following. When Leonard Weinglass of the Chicago Seven trial fame became Jamal's lead counsel in the 1990s, then Pennsylvania

diplomats.

The case had all the requisite villains. There was the unflammatory, vengeful judge, the majority white jury that convicted him, public hysteria over the murder of a police officer and a pulsating campaign by local politicians; also much of the press and the Fraternal Order of Police to get rid of a man they regard as an unreconstructed black radical and unrepentant cop killer.

The Jamal case, however, was never a neat example of good versus evil. Though he and his supporters vehemently insist that the trial was riddled with perjured testimony, suppressed and tainted evidence, and blatant jury bias, there was a small mountain of evidence and eyewitness testimony that pointed the finger at Jamal as the likely triggerman. This ambivalence over his guilt was more than enough to cause some, who squirm at the death penalty, to hedge their bets and not scream "Free Mumia," but instead demand oly a "new" or "fair" trail for him.

But others saw in the Jamal case a glimmer of hope in loosening public rapture over the death penalty. In the two decades that Jamal has languished on Pennsylvania's death row, anti-death penalty proponents watched in anger and frustration as a fearful public scared stiff of crime and violence, was egged on by a sensationalist press, which played up a string of grotesque, high-profile murders. Pandering of public officials gave noisy approval for more and faster executions. They've got their wish. The number of death row

than sixty percent of those sitting on death row are African-Americans, yet they make up less than ten percent of the state's population. The trial judge in the Jamal case, Albert Szabo had a much-deserved reputation for being a hard-ass judge who laddled out a colossal number of death sentences. The majority of those he sentenced to death were African-American.

While Jamal has been a durable symbol of the rampant radical disparities in the death penalty, there is also the danger that focusing solely on the death row plight of an individual taking the spotlight off the dozens of other death row inmates taking the spotlight off the dozens of other death row inmates who have been victimized by incompetent attorneys. Prosecutors that play fast and loose with the rules to win convictions; or compliant judges, such as Szabo, who tried mightily to tip the jury against Jamal. And then there are the growing numbers of death row inmates who have been proven innocent and released. If Jamal ultimately succeeds in winning a new trial, or uncovers conclusive evidence of his actual innocence, will this deflate the drive to scrap the death penalty?

To his credit, Jamal has recognized the potential danger in obsessively fixating on his case and turning him into a cult figure. In his writings, tapes, and his book, he has repeatedly urged his supporters to fight just as hard to free

other prisoners unfairly convicted of crimes.

Now that Jamal has won at least a tepid victory, the question is "Will they heed his words?"

Governor Tom Ridge signed his death warrant in 1995, and Jamal published his best-selling book, Live From Death Row, he became the instant darling of liberals, Hollywood celebrities, and international

inmates in American stands at nearly 4000. According to the Sentencing Project, African-Americans make up nearly half of those awaiting execution. In Pennsylvania more



# Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
1929-1968**

Born in Atlanta, Georgia, he graduated from Morehouse College (B.A., 1948), Crozer Theological Seminary (B.D., 1951), and Boston University (Ph.D., 1955). The son of the pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, King was ordained in 1947 and became (1954) minister of a Baptist church in Montgomery, Ala.

He led the boycott (1955-56) by Montgomery blacks against the segregated city bus lines, and he attained national prominence by advocating a policy of passive resistance to segregation. In 1956, he gained a major victory and prestige as a civil rights leader when the Montgomery buses began to operate on a desegregated basis.

After the Montgomery success, King organized the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which gave him a base to pursue further civil rights activities, first in the South and later nationwide. His philosophy of nonviolent resistance led to his arrest on numerous occasions in the 1950s and 60s. He organized the massive March on Washington (August 28, 1963), which brought more than 200,000 people together. In 1964 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

King's leadership in the civil rights movement was chal-

lenged in the mid-1960s as others grew more militant. However, King's interests widened from civil rights to criticism of the Vietnam War and to a deeper concern for poverty. His plans for a Poor People's March to Washington were interrupted (1968) for a trip to Memphis, Tenn., in support of striking sanitation workers. On April 4, 1968, he was shot and killed by an assassin's bullet on the balcony of the motel where he was staying. James Earl Ray was later convicted of his murder. His birthday is an American national holiday, celebrated on the third Monday in January.

## Sharpton Eyes the Prize

By George F. Will

The Democratic Party's nightmare is abstemiously breakfasting on oatmeal and skim milk. Al Sharpton, 47, is in fighting trim. He has lost the weight of a 10-year-old boy -- 80-plus pounds -- and is spoiling for a fight. The Brooklyn-born and New York-based preacher-agitator thinks he has dethroned Jesse Jackson as the reigning heavyweight among African American leaders. He will take his rhetorical flair -- a street preacher at age 4, at 10 he toured with Mahalia Jackson and preached to 10,000 at the 1964 World's Fair -- into the 2004 Democratic presidential primaries. He will "raise a progressive agenda" and "energize minority voters" and "develop enough leverage to leverage the party."

"We" -- his plural pronoun intermittently signals identification with Jackson -- "went from 1988, being number two to Dukakis, to '96 in Chicago begging to get a prime-time speech -- which he didn't get. We can't tolerate that."

When reminded that every four years someone says Democrats can win by turning left, he serenely replies, "Well, I'm the someone this time." He says, "I'm better-known than Daschle and Gephardt" in inner cities and "I'm better-known now than Jackson was in 1982." ("You have to look at Jesse two years before his

first run.") He says black radio is "much stronger" than when Jackson was running, there is Black Entertainment Television, and students and activists on the Internet. Furthermore, the Democrats'

## Theories about MLK's Assassination

Since Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination three decades ago, his murder has become endless fodder for conspiracy theorists. Complete with shadowy film noir atmospherics and sensational charges leveled at the highest circles of power, the King conspiracy theories rival the most crazed accounts of Kennedy's assassination.

These theories gained renewed momentum when King's son Dexter met with his father's convicted assassin in prison in 1997. With the blessings of King's widow and the other King children, Dexter King shook James Earl Ray's hand and professed belief in his innocence. A second boost to the legitimacy of the King conspiracy theories came the following year when Attorney General Janet Reno reopened a limited investigation into the assassination in August 1998. And finally, in Dec. 1999, a Memphis jury awarded the King family \$100 in a wrongful death suit. The jury professed that the murder was indeed a conspiracy involving bar owner Lloyd Jowers and several "unknown" co-conspirators. Few journalists, scholars, or law enforcement officials familiar with the case have given credence to the new court findings.

In the accepted version of the assassination -- one which no credible historian, federal or state investigation, or court of

law has disputed -- James Earl Ray, a career criminal and racist, murdered Martin Luther King on April 4, 1968. An escaped convict, Ray rented a room in Memphis across from the Lorraine Motel where King was staying while mediating a sanitation workers' strike. Using a rifle with a sniper scope, he shot King from his bathroom window as King stood on the balcony of the motel. The single bullet severed King's spinal cord and killed him. Witnesses reported seeing Ray fleeing his rooming house moments later. Ray's fingerprints were found on a pair of binoculars and the rifle, which records show he had purchased six days before the shooting. Following a two-

moving many primaries to early in 2004 will help him. It will reward name recognition and "in the base I'm trying to bring out, I'm well-known."

Now, picture the other candidates in 2004, mostly senators with their pretty red ties and not a hair out of place, decorously debating Sharpton, who talks like this: "In the language of the hood, Clinton pimp-slapped Jesse on Sister Souljah." Sharpton is talking about Clinton's 1992 criticism of a black rap singer to distance himself from, among others, Jackson.

Sharpton says Jackson, 60, has been his mentor, friend and "surrogate father" but now is an exhausted volcano, viewed by young blacks as "an establishment figure."

Besides, he says, since Jackson acknowledged fathering a child with an aide, he has lost the unlimited access he had to black churches. Sharpton compares Jackson to Muhammad Ali: Great once, can't fight anymore. He says Jackson learned from Martin Luther King Jr. during a few years of association, but he, Sharpton, has benefited from observing 30 years of Jackson's mistakes. Parricide isn't pretty.

Sharpton is free of reverence and reticence. Referring to the ex-president's office: "It is appropriate that Bill Clinton is in Harlem so he can welcome" those tossed off welfare by the legislation he signed in 1996. Sharpton says all 38 members of the Congressional Black Caucus are, or can be, threatened by insurgents. The 38 "must side with me or I'll

support the insurgents." The "progressive agenda" is mostly the left's leftovers -- no death penalty, less incarceration, more generous welfare -- with one addition. On Sept. 10 Jackson, Sharpton and others

month-long manhunt, Ray was arrested at Heathrow Airport after he had robbed a London bank. As he told his first attorney, Percy Foreman, "I thought I could get to [South] Africa and serve two or three years in one of them mercenary armies and those folks over there wouldn't send me back."

To escape facing the possibility of execution, Ray pleaded guilty in March 1969. A trial was waived and he was given a 99-year prison sentence.

To escape facing the possibility of execution, Ray pleaded guilty in March 1969. As a result, a trial was waived and Ray was given a 99-year prison sentence. Even though he had told the judge he understood that a guilty plea could not be appealed, he recanted his confession three days later. Despite many appeals, none of Ray's numerous lawyers ever produced evidence to convince a court of law to reopen the case. A federal investigation in 1977-1978 by the House Select Committee on Assassinations concluded that although "there is a likelihood" that Ray did not act alone in planning the assassination, he alone pulled the trigger. Until he died in prison on April 23, 1998, Ray maintained his innocence, spinning a series of outlandish, often contradictory conspiracy theories, beginning with the reason he initially confessed to the murder. Ray claimed it was coerced by his lawyer, who was angling for a lucra-

tive movie deal. What follows are some of the more popular conspiracy theories.

### Theory #1

Was James Earl Ray, a career criminal and known racist, nothing more than a patsy for someone even shadier?

### Theory #2

It was the government, the Memphis police, the FBI, and Army intelligence -- not to mention the Mafia and the Green Berets.

### Theory #3

Donald Wilson, a retired FBI employee, found pieces of paper in Ray's car after the 1968 shooting that had the name "Raul" written on them.

were close to forcing Democrats to face the issue of reparations for slavery. Blown away, the issue is coming back. Sharpton will see to that.

His critics will see to the revival of interest in what has been called "Sharpton's Chappaquiddick," his riotous support of Tawana Brawley, the black 15-year-old who in 1987 fabricated a story of rape and abuse by some white men. She was thoroughly discredited. Sharpton stops well short of remorse. "I did what I believed."

Today he says he shares some of the cultural conservatism -- "I never knew I was underprivileged until I went to a sociology class at Brooklyn College" -- of churchgoing African Americans. He denounces "decadence and low expectations in our community," saying "this hip-hop thing has a lot to do with it -- glorifying decadence."

A long-distance runner -- hyperkinetic, he travels incessantly, "mostly to B and C cities" like Flint and Tallahassee "because I'm known in A cities" -- he has put away the jogging suits he wore to hide his previous bulk. In his chalk-striped gray flannel he is more conservatively dressed than many in the Four Seasons hotel dining room. "I am conservative on everything but race," he declares with a straight face, a declaration somewhat vitiated by the fact that, for him, everything is race.

Sly, clever, witty, incapable of embarrassment and uninterested in the ceremonial polite-

ness of national politics, Sharpton is going to have fun in 2004. Democrats, can't we all just get along? Give him at least a prime-time convention speech. On reparations.

ness of national politics, Sharpton is going to have fun in 2004. Democrats, can't we all just get along? Give him at least a prime-time convention speech. On reparations.

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# "Suge" Knight and the Black Mafia

## Suge Knight won't face charges in probe

By Chuck Philips

A federal racketeering probe into allegations that Marion "Suge" Knight and his Los Angeles label, Death Row Records, committed acts of murder, drug trafficking, money laundering and gunrunning has resulted in a pair of misdemeanor tax charges.

Under a proposed plea bargain arrangement filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles, Death Row would plead guilty to failing to submit an income tax return; the label would pay a \$100,000 fine and reimburse the government an unspecified amount of unpaid taxes.

Knight and his attorney said Tuesday's action signals the end of an investigation launched in 1995 by the Los Angeles Police Department, FBI (news - web sites) and three other federal law enforcement agencies. No charges have been filed against Knight, the original kingpin of gangsta rap music.

"The truth is the truth," Knight said in an interview. "I appreciate the fact that, after looking into these lies and finding nothing, they had the integrity to say, 'OK, this guy broke no law,' and called it off."

Federal authorities have declined to discuss or even confirm the investigation since it began six years ago.

On Tuesday, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office refused to comment on whether Knight or Death Row were ever the target of a criminal probe.

On Monday, the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles issued a one-page letter to Knight's lawyer stating that no charges would be pressed against Knight for tax violations or money laundering, according to sources familiar with the document. The letter did not exonerate Knight on the allegations of murder, racketeering and other violent offenses.

### Knight's Father Enters Guilty Plea

The apparent shuttering of the racketeering probe ends an ugly chapter in the music business. The LAPD (news - web sites) suspected Knight of masterminding the 1997 slaying of rapper Notorious B.I.G. with the help of corrupt LAPD officers, according to reports by numerous media outlets, including the Los Angeles Times. Those reports were based primarily on information provided by law enforcement sources and Death Row informants who also cooperated with authorities who oversaw the federal probe.

Court filings show that the government investigation turned up evidence that Death Row failed to pay taxes on \$825,716 in income generated between Dec. 1, 1995, and Nov. 30, 1996. Knight blamed a former accountant, whose firm paid an \$8-million, out-of-court settlement to Death Row after a lengthy legal battle.

The Justice Department launched its racketeering probe to determine whether Knight's thriving rap label was a criminal enterprise with street gang affiliations and Mafia ties.

Three years ago, police raided Knight's office and San Fernando Valley home and confiscated a Chevrolet Impala that authorities believed was used in the Wallace killing. Police returned the vehicle and other personal and business items without pressing charges.

The government began keeping tabs on Knight in the early 1990s, shortly after he and Compton rap producer Dr. Dre launched the first black-owned-and-operated gangsta rap label. Defying music industry convention, Knight strategically marketed music with violent lyrics and hired unemployed ex-convicts as well as members of the Crips and Mob Piru Bloods gangs to help build his gangsta rap empire.

The burly, 6-foot-3-inch entrepreneur sports a diamond studded ring that spells out the word "MOB." He named his short-lived Las Vegas nightclub "662"—the numbers corresponding on a telephone keypad to the word "mob."

Although authorities began targeting a handful of Death Row employees for their alleged participation in assaults and other criminal activities, no arrests have been made.

As part of the probe, prosecutors tried to establish whether Knight's label was underwritten with drug money from convicted Compton crack dealers Michael "Harry-O" Harris and Patrick Johnson. No money laundering charges were filed.

Knight had eight criminal cases on his rap sheet before he wound up in prison. He was incarcerated in October 1996 when a judge determined that he had violated his probation on a previous assault conviction by kicking a man during a scuffle at a Las Vegas hotel. The scuffle took place hours before Shakur was killed in September 1996 during a drive-by shooting. Knight was driving the car in which Shakur was shot.

After Notorious B.I.G. was gunned down in March 1997, agents from the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco

and Firearms, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the LAPD began investigating Knight's possible role in the slayings and other violent acts. Law enforcement authorities investigated whether Knight staged Shakur's slaying and hired a hit man to kill Notorious B.I.G., whose real name was Christopher Wallace.

Three years ago, police raided Knight's office and San Fernando Valley home and confiscated a Chevrolet Impala that authorities believed was used in the Wallace killing. Police returned the vehicle and other personal and business items without pressing charges.

Knight Calls Media Reports 'Racist'

The killings of Shakur and Wallace remain unsolved. Recently, Rolling Stone and cable music TV network VH1 produced reports that suggested Knight was linked to the slayings. Those reports were based on information provided by former LAPD Det. Russell Poole, who worked on the murder investigations of Shakur and Notorious B.I.G. and recently filed a lawsuit against the Police Department.

Poole has criticized the LAPD, saying it did not vigorously investigate Wallace's death because the slaying may have involved corrupt police officers linked to Knight.

"I believe that Suge Knight was involved in the murders of Biggie and Tupac," Poole said. "In my opinion, neither Knight nor Chief Parks have been held accountable for what they've done."

Knight insisted that he had nothing to do with the shootings and that Poole's theories are false.

"Underneath it all, what you're going to find here is this is just about some former cop wanting to grab a bunch of money and a few moments of fame," Knight said.

Knight, who was released from prison in September after serving five years, said he believes the media reports were racially motivated.

"Do you think they could get away with publishing this kind of crap about a white Hollywood executive? No way. It's racist," Knight said.

Representatives for Rolling Stone and VH1 said they stand by their reports.

## 2 convicted in Hampton student's murder

By Holly Roberson

Terry Moore and his friends were going out on the town. But first the Hampton University honor student had a rendezvous in the park to sell marijuana. Moore left his friends in the car and disappeared into the darkness late one night last July.

Several minutes later, his friends heard two gunshots. They tried Terry's cell phone and began frantically following their friend's footsteps. They didn't go far before they heard the ringing cell phone and saw it's glow on the dark ground.

Terry M. Moore Jr. lay motionless next to the phone with a fatal gunshot wound to the head.

Newport News Circuit Court Judge Robert Curran found two men guilty Tuesday in connection with Moore's death July 14, 2001. Both Yates Michaels, 20, and Stephen Holland, 17, were found guilty of first degree murder, robbery and various firearms charges connected to

the shooting at Nicewood Park in Menchville.

Both face up to life in prison when they are sentenced in March.

It all started earlier that day as Holland and Michaels sat around watching horror movies with a group of friends. Michaels said he needed to get some money so he could "get out of town."

It was unclear from testimony Tuesday exactly what Michaels -- also known as Sticky -- meant by that.

Michaels and Holland talked about different people they could rob, said one of their friends who testified Tuesday. The two finally settled on Moore, also known as Fudge.

There was an agreement to meet Moore at the park just before midnight.

Holland hid behind a tree and Michaels met Moore near the playground, armed with a gun.

From the stand Tuesday, Michaels said he told Moore to give him everything he had. But Moore grabbed the gun, Michaels said, and it "went off."

"I had no intention of hurting anybody," said Michaels in a barely audible voice. "I just wanted to scare him. I didn't

think he'd grab the gun."

Moore dropped to his knees after the first shot. Michaels then shot him again, and took off with the marijuana, according to testimony. Holland had already run off.

Michaels returned to the friends' house where the plan had been hatched. He changed his shirt, one witness testified, because "he said he smelled like the guy."

A friend notified police and Holland was arrested the next morning.

Michaels fled to Montana where he used to live with his mother. He was arrested after a Daily Press reporter received a call from a person in Montana who heard that Michaels had admitted killing Moore. Detectives flew to Montana and brought Michaels back.

Moore's family sat emotionless Tuesday as the verdicts were read. They didn't want to talk to a reporter.

Terry Moore would have been a sophomore at Hampton University this year.

Holly Roberson can be reached at 247-4736 or by e-mail at hrober-son@dailypress.co

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## Life of Georgia to pay African-Americans \$45 million

By Scot J. Paltrow  
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Jan. 9 Life Insurance Co. of Georgia tentatively has agreed to reimburse African-American customers more than \$45 million to settle allegations that it routinely charged blacks higher rates than whites for identical policies, people involved in the negotiations said.

**THE SETTLEMENT**, expected to be announced by the end of this month, would resolve a lawsuit in federal court in Louisiana against the company by black policyholders, as well as an investigation by a multistate group of insurance regulators.

The amount would make the settlement the second-largest to date in the series of lawsuits and investigations stemming from inquiries into race-based pricing by life insurers. In 2000, American General Corp. agreed to pay \$215 million to settle allegations it had charged higher premiums to African-Americans on smaller policies.

### Advertisement

Life of Georgia, which is based in Atlanta and was founded in 1891, was acquired in 1979 by the Netherlands-based company that is now ING Groep NV. Dianne Bernez, a spokeswoman for ING's U.S. operations, confirmed that we are very close to wrapping up negotiations, and were very confident we were going to reach a settlement shortly.

Bernez declined to discuss details. But others with knowledge of the talks said the agreement would involve reimbursing African-American customers an amount in the range of \$45 million to \$60 million and also would include a much smaller amount in fines paid to the states. They said a number of lesser details in the settlement were still being worked out.

Georgia Insurance Commissioner John Oxendine, who is participating in the negotiations, said about three million Life of Georgia policyholders could be eligible for compensation under the settlement.

Life of Georgia was one of the companies cited in a Wall Street Journal Page One article in April 2000 that reported that several large life insurers in the past had routinely sold policies with higher rates for blacks than for whites for the same amounts of coverage, and that they were continuing to collect higher premiums from black customers on policies still in force.

That article quoted a former senior Life of Georgia actuary, who said that discrimination remained when he left the company in 1981 and that on certain kinds of policies the company had two rate tables, one for blacks and one for whites. The article reported that Life of Georgia denied it had ever used race-based rates.

Asked if the company still denies the allegations, Bernez said Tuesday that ING would not discuss Life of Georgia's past actions until the settlement is announced.

The Life of Georgia developments come as state insurance departments around the country have recently announced progress in several other of the pending investigations of more than 100 life insurers suspected of having used race-based pricing. In December, the South Carolina insurance department said it had moved to impose fines and suspend the operating license of Liberty Life Insurance Co., which the state said had continued to collect premiums from blacks that were about a third higher than those charged for whites with similar policies. The Greenville, S.C., company said it is appealing the move.

A smaller South Carolina company, Charleston-based Atlantic Coast Life Insurance Co., last month agreed to pay \$11 million to settle a state investigation and a private lawsuit alleging it had charged discriminatory rates.

In November, New York's state insurance department released the first of what it says will be a series of investigation reports. The report, on Phoenix Life Insurance Co., said the unit of Phoenix Cos., Hartford, Conn., had violated antidiscrimination regulations decades ago, but it recommended no penalty because investigators said they could not find evidence that recent policyholders were affected.

The state says a major investigation of MetLife Inc., the nation's second-largest life insurer, is continuing. MetLife also has been sued in federal court in Manhattan by black policyholders. New York-based MetLife, which is contesting the lawsuit, has said that it is cooperating with the New York investigation.

## We Must Bring Race into The Social Security Debate

by John A. Powell

In the midst of this highly politicized presidential campaign, the central concerns of racial minorities have been largely marginalized.

There is no better example of this than the current focus on Social Security. It is perceived as either a race-neutral issue that has an impact only on the voting elderly, or an issue that does not bring up the ugly and uncomfortable subject of racial discrimination.

But Social Security is not just about the elderly. It is also about the young and, more poignantly, about racial inequity in America.

Although Old-Age Insurance redistributes more wealth and costs more than any other government-benefits program, it has traditionally received sacred-cow status because it is universal in nature. Old-Age Insurance and Medicare are the only "welfare" programs that benefit all recipients, regardless of income. Virtually all workers now pay into, and are eligible for, Old-Age Insurance.

Even though Social Security is available to everyone, the system continues to perpetuate racial, class and gender disparities, but in a somewhat disguised form.

Social Security taxes are regressive -- that is, low-income payers are charged the same rate that wealthy people pay. A payroll tax of 12.7 percent is taken, regardless of whether a person makes the minimum wage and works for only one week of the year or makes \$76,200 annually. No Social Security taxes at all are

paid on income above that level.

Once they retire, poorer folk get smaller monthly payouts than their affluent counterparts. The amount received is based on the total amount paid in by the recipient (and his or her spouse) over a work lifetime. The less you pay in, the less you receive. People of color have lower incomes than whites. They thus put fewer total dollars into the system and receive lower benefits when they retire.

Also, people of color receive these benefits for a significantly shorter amount of time than whites because they retire older and die younger. For example, the life expectancy for African-American males is only 65 years -- the age at which Social Security benefits typically become available -- compared to 73 for white men. Many people of color die before ever receiving Social Security benefits, even though they've paid taxes into the system throughout their lives.

Notwithstanding these systemic inequities, Social Security represents the most important source of retirement income for most people of color. Because people of color have far fewer assets than whites and are much less likely to be covered by private pension programs, they tend to be more dependent on Social Security at retirement.

This trend means that a larger number of longer-living retirees will be supported by a shrinking number of younger workers. Unless substantial changes are made in the way Social Security is structured, the system is projected to go broke by 2037.

The aging baby boomers are disproportionately white, while younger and newer workers are increasingly people of color. This means that minority youth of today will be depended upon heavily as the workers of tomorrow. Unfortunately, due to inequities in education they receive from grade school through high school, they are inadequately prepared to enter the work force. Yet during this century, this same poorly educated, underpaid population may be asked to accept an even higher rate of taxation to benefit elderly white baby boomers.

The solution to these potential intergenerational and racial tensions is not to cut benefits to the elderly. Instead, corporations and wealthy individuals must assume their fair share of taxes.

We must insist that existing budget surpluses be used to shore up Social Security and to finance infrastructure and educational improvements, especially in the inner cities.

## UPN's President Leaves Network

Viacom Inc. said Friday that UPN President Dean Valentine will leave the company, one month after the media company shifted operating control of the television network away from Paramount Pictures and put it under CBS.

CBS President and Chief Executive Leslie Moonves will oversee the operations of UPN until a new organizational structure for the network is announced, Viacom said Friday. Mr. Valentine's departure is effective immediately.

There had been rampant speculation that Mr. Valentine would leave the network following the shake-up. Earlier this year, Mr. Valentine sued his bosses for breach of contract, claiming he was owed as much as \$22 million in bonuses.

Although UPN showed some ratings gains last fall, it has struggled through much of its existence, and its losses have topped \$1 billion since its 1995 founding. UPN and Paramount executives sometimes disagreed over the network's direction, and other tensions existed.

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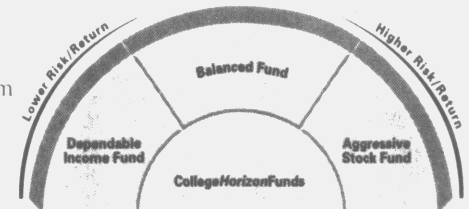
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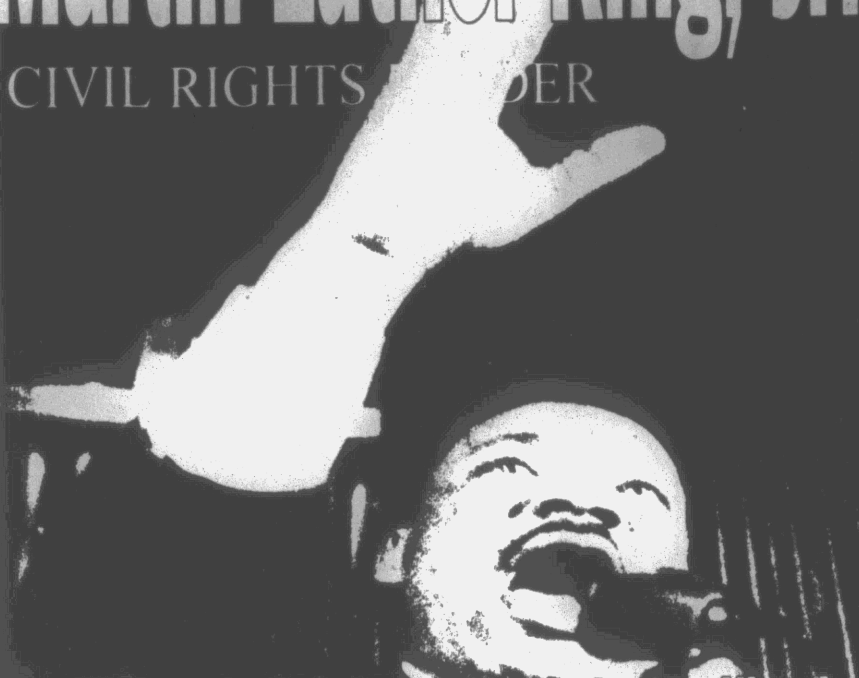
**Donald Watkins, The Richest Black Man in America, The Richest Man in Alabama**  
by Jessie J. Lewis, Sr.  
Speakin' Out News

Donald Watkins will be the richest man in America who owns a baseball franchise, if he is able to purchase one that is presently on the block for sale. He is interested in purchasing The Devil Rays, the Minnesota Twins or the Florida Marlins. He has performed step one in the process to purchase, which is filing documentation to the National Baseball League.



# Martin Luther King, Jr.

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**Black People Know Your History !**

## A Tribute To Dr. King

To the Editor:

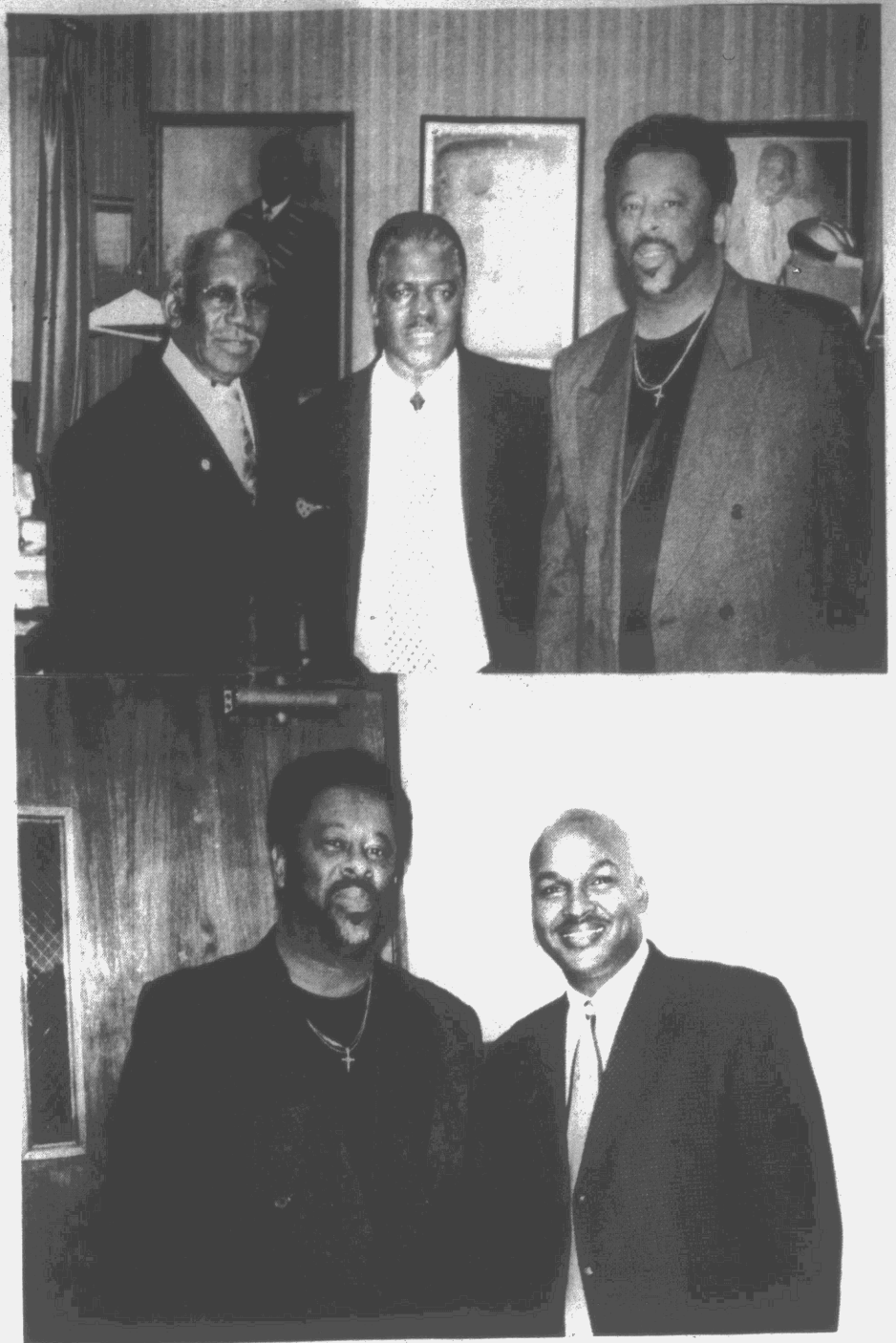
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the first Black American honored by a national holiday, the leader who changed the lives of Black and White Americans, and 34 years after his death, he is the most revered Black in the United States and possibly the most widely honored Black person in history. Hundreds of streets and parks bear his name and there are statues in nearly every state of the Union, including one at Morehouse College in Atlanta and in the Washington Cathedral in DC. But the biggest memorial remains in King Center in Atlanta, the city where the greatest number of memorials are located.

Dr. King was a spiritually evolved and enlightened man. His integrity, wisdom, discipline, and unwavering faith made him one of the most inspiring and admirable human beings the world has ever known. He was a teacher and preacher of LOVE.

Our nation needs the vision of Dr. King today more than ever. Our nation needs people firmly committed to work tirelessly, with God's help, to take down the fences, which separate us from one another. Dr. King believed that all people can learn and live together in peace, and he showed us powerful ways of achieving those goals.

Let's commit ourselves to his dreams !!

Beatrice Maye



### Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Gospel music was at its best at Ebenezer Church, as Rev. Thomas Walker continue to bring quality and big name gospel to Rocky Mt. NC. Pictured above is WOOW's Reggie Price, Rev. Thomas Walker, Rev. Tiff Mc Carter. Pictured below Foxy 104 FM's Ron Porter.

Photo By Jim Rouse

## Read You Might Enjoy It



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**tax free** Account earnings are free from federal and North Carolina income taxes when the money is used to pay for qualified higher education expenses.

**Flexible** Use the money to pay expenses at any college anywhere in the country.

More information about North Carolina's National College Savings Program is offered through College Foundation of North Carolina. Call us toll-free or visit our website today to get details and enrollment forms.

A moment of your time now could make all the difference in your child's future.

800-600-3453

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"The Lord's Temple"



By Steven J. Brown

Date & Time:

Date & Time:

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2002  
7:00 PM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2002  
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# In The City

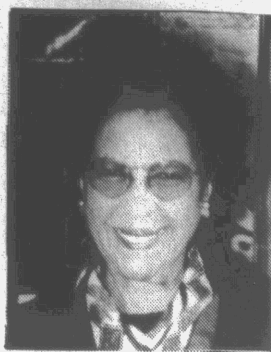
## Soul Sisters From The Desk Of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



**Soul Sisters Lookin Good !**

Shown above are two lovely sisters at Carolina East Mall, who took time to pose for our "M" Voice camera. One was able to show off her beautiful baby.

Photo by Jim Rouse



### Golden Rules for Living

By: Miriam Hamilton Keare

1. If you open it, close it.
2. If you turn it on, turn it off.
3. If you unlock it, lock it up.
4. If you break it, admit it.
5. If you can't fix it, call in someone who can.
6. If you borrow it, return it.
7. If you value it, take care of it.
8. If you make a mess, clean it up.
9. If you move it, put it back.
10. If it belongs to someone else, get permission to use it.
11. If you don't know how to operate it, leave it alone.
12. If it's none of your business, don't ask questions.

### FAMOUS BLACK QUOTATIONS FOR

### TEENS....

1. I was born in the slums, but the slum was not in me. Jesse Jackson

2. I needed a lot of time to change my expectations of myself. I had to learn to believe that I could do anything. I really wanted to do. Wally "Famous Amos",

3. Love affords wonder. And it is only love that gives me the liberty, the courage to go inside and see who I really am. Maya Angelou, poet/author

4. My responsibilities are to do best work I can do and to be the best human being I can be. Toni Morrison

5. I don't want to be the best black golfer; I want to be the best golfer. Tiger Woods/golfer

6. I really do believe that we can all become better than we are. James Baldwin

7. Work on your reputation until it is established; when it is established, it will work for you. Tunisian proverb

8. With the gift you have been given comes the responsibility to use and develop them. Les Brown/speaker

9. Be the best and they won't care who you are or what color you are. Be the best, and you will do well.

Marc Hannah/executive

10. I've hit 755 home runs, and I did it without putting a needle in my arm or a whiskey bottle in my mouth. Hank Aaron, athlete

11. Everybody loves a fool, but nobody wants him as a son. Malinke proverb

12. I never allowed myself to get lost, even when I was a little girl. I held on to the positive side. I never gave in to alcohol, never gave in to drugs, not even to smoking. I gave in to myself. I went inside of me to help me. It can happen. You can do it. Tina Turner/singer

13. While everyone else is sleeping, it's working. Will Smith/actor

14. All work is honorable. Always do your best because someone is watching. Colin Powell

15. The love and support I get from my family goes a long way, and helps me get through the hardest times...For me, family is everything. Monica/singer

16. My parents taught me alot about life and a lot about the potholes in life. It's more aware of where I am as a person because of the knowledge. Michael Jordan

17. My mom was a single parent who raised five kids on the 'tough West Side of Chicago. She told us that we

could do anything we wanted; we just had to work at it. Robert Townsend

18. Yes, the reason I am what I am today is because I had a mother and father who cared enough to keep me in line, but who also always followed me to my dreams. Sinbad/comedian

19. My mother instilled in me that I could do anything I wanted to do. So I've never been afraid to try. When I see what I want, I don't see barriers. Morgan Freeman/actor

20. My grandmother paid my way through film school. She always had complete faith in me. Spike Lee filmmaker

21. The older you get, the smarter you realize your parents are. Johnnie Cochran lawyer

22. You owe it to others as well as to yourself to be very careful about letting others makeup your mind for you. Malcolm X

23. Some people will tear you down just to see you fall. They'll do it even if your loss is their own. Walter Mosley author

24. A close friend can become a close enemy. Ethiopian proverb

25. Influence is a powerful thing. Be careful whom you allow to influence you. Bishop I. D. Jakes

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www.ghanc.net

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- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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Salary range \$103,168 - \$153,088 plus car allowance and a comprehensive and competitive benefits package. Salary commensurate with education and experience. A completed application and/or resume with cover letter, salary history and five work-related references for initial screening should be received in the Human Resources Office by March 1, 2002.

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<http://www.guc.com>

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WHY WE CAN'T WAIT  
by Martin Luther King Jr.  
pg. 142



#### GPA Membership Form

Please check one of the membership classifications listed:

- ☐ Broadcaster On-Air Radio, TV ☐ Record Labels / Independents  
☐ Print Media National Regional Internet ☐ Media Owners Brokers  
☐ Retailers ☐ Other

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Station Call Letters/Frequency \_\_\_\_\_ Church Affiliation(optional): \_\_\_\_\_



Alvamore "Poppy" Irizzary and Family

He is the nephew of publisher Jim Rouse and the son Brenda Fatima Rouse.

Staff Photo

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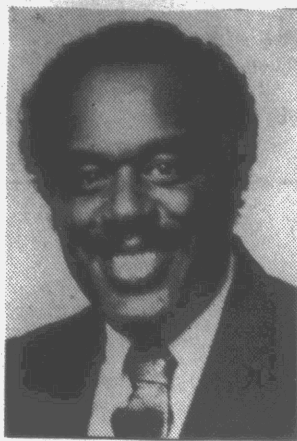
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# Spiritual Reflections

## Lifeline : Edification Of The New Generation



Dr. George Hawkins

### No Time for God

Greetings in the immaculate name of Jesus Christ:

One day while meditating on the Lord and contemplating the condition of the church world, He began to speak some things to me. He said there was a time when my people really sought after me and the things that pleased me. Now it is the opposite, they have become self-pleasures and seek things that please themselves. They have time for everything but me. They have time for work, play, parties, TV shows, games, parades and everything under the sun except me. This was a shock statement but it is so true. There is coming a time when You are going to need the Lord to come to your rescue immediately, but WILL HE HAVE TIME FOR YOU?

Jeremiah 2:32 says, "My people have forgotten me days without number". Psalm 9:17 also let us know that the

wicked shall be turned into hell, and all nations that forget God. Forget and forgotten are intense words when used in context with God and His people. It means alienation between the Lord and His

people. Religions that openly and deliberately revolt against God shows, at any rate, some respect for His power. A person can pray what they call a formal prayer and it can be just dead as a doorknob but at least it is acknowledging God's existence; but saints of God, when we forget Him and live and plan and work as though He doesn't exist and treat Him as if He doesn't matter, that is a sure sign of separatism. It is a dangerous thing to be separated from the Lord. We are living in perilous times and therefore need to hear from the Lord. We need His protection and we most definitely need Him in our lives.

In II Tim 3:1-4 the Apostle Paul warned of what would happen in these last days. If you would read these scriptures, you will see that they are so prevalent as they fit the present day both in church and out. Are people lovers of God? Not hardly! They are "Lovers of their own SELVES, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents...Traitors...LOVERS OF PLEASURES MORE THAN LOVERS OF GOD". Has it come to pass? Do we have time for everything under the sun but God? Apostle Paul even foresaw the decline in religion, for he says, "Having a FORM of godliness, but denying the POWER thereof (v.5).

What was the power in the days when church WAS a power and souls were brought to conviction and then converted? It was the Holy Spirit, the WHOLE Bible (not mutilated), and the real gospel calling men to turn from sin to God, to be saved through a once crucified but now living Christ. It is sad to say but we are living in a time when all that is old fashion. It seems to

be out of style. The Holy Spirit is ignored; the Bible (what's left of it) is fixed up to suit ourselves; conversion is no longer necessary; dead churches have GONE MODERN; TRAITORS are in the pulpits repeating the Apostles' Creed and then turn around and deny the whole thing. Jesus is either left out or brought down to the level of a mere man. "We don't seem to care for the gospel anymore. Give us recreation, movies, plays, 'social uplift,' and compromise with SIN (even if our children DO go to ruin); and by all means don't mention the blood because it offends our polite (itching) ears". Modernism and many man-made religions are on the rise, along with atheism casting its deadly blight can only be leading to one thing, the fast approaching of the antichrist. The worst than can happen to a person or nation in this world is to be forsaken by God.

There is a scripture in the Bible that seems very cruel which is this: "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7). God doesn't make it cruel. Man makes it cruel for HIMSELF by taking up some selfish, fleshly appetite that will surely bring him to want. He wants what he cannot get, for there will be no earthly thing in hell to satisfy a depraved appetite. In hell people will not only be "weeping and wailing" over lost opportunities to be saved, gone forever, but souls will see what they missed.

"Seek ye FIRST the kingdom of God and HIS righteousness; and ALL these things SHALL be added unto you". (Matt.

6:33). Try it! Find time for God, and He will have time for you.

"Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you". (Jas. 4:8).



Faith May

### RESOLVING CONFLICT AT SCHOOL

With all of the evil taking place in the world now, could matters be worse? If so, why aren't they? This is not a trick question. Neither is it a rhetorical question. It is a legitimate query that deserves a serious response: God. In a world gone partially mad, God is controlling Satan and his cohorts for the sake of believers, the children of God.

The relationship that God has between Himself and His children is the basis for gaining strength to resolve or reduce conflicts in the school setting. Christian young people need to understand that just as God controls Satan in the world on behalf of godly people, He will and can control Satan in and around school on behalf of his saved young people. If you are his child, things may get tough. However, they are not as tough as they could be if God were not on your side. Let us look at the kinds of

conflict that often arise at school or in school settings such as the school bus or the walk to and from school.

Some of the problems of conflicts listed by several middle school and high school students that most often occur among students include:

Arguing  
Disrespect  
Gossip  
Sexual  
Harassment  
Threats

### Intimidation Discrimination

If we are going to help young people learn how to resolve, reduce, or manage conflict effectively at school, we must guide them to God's Word. In it we find that there are spiritual causes of violence and discipline problems at school—first of all, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God (Psalm 14:1).

This is a serious indictment of and judgment upon individuals who deny the existence of God. They are regarded as senseless, dimwitted, and unwise. Why is this description important? God seems to be saying when you meet someone who denies the existence of the creator God, that person does not have sound thought processes. The conclusion might be not to listen to them; they are fools. Do not hang around them. They are fools! Do not be surprised by anything they do, because those people are fools!

Thus the conflict you see occurring at school should be expected. Why? The answer is contained in Romans 1:21. It states:

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, their foolish heart was darkened.

We should expect conflict in schools today because God has been ignored. Then how can a godly young person avoid getting into conflicts with other people who may be ungodly? How can young people who are concerned

about obedience to God and the welfare of their schoolmates function in an environment that is hostile toward spiritual things? How can they manage any conflict that involves individuals who are not under the control of the Holy Spirit?

What do you do when someone wants to fight you? When someone curses you? Threatens you? Talks about you? Calls you ugly names or steals from you?

I believe there are three emotions that sometimes cause young people and adults not to walk away or try harder to reduce a conflict: pride, anger, and fear. How can young people 1 school situations avoid reacting to these emotions? First, one must ask, "Is my will in line with God, or is my will in line with Satan?" An individual who desires to fight you or curse at you for no visible reason is probably acting like his or her father, the Devil. The Bible states time and again that if your father is the Devil, you are going to act and react in the same violent profane way that the children of Satan behave.

The wisdom of the Bible is wonderful to listen to, but how can God's Word help you in a situation where the only alternatives are to fight or take flight? Matthew 6:13 offers hope and encouragement. Some other helpful Scriptures are I Corinthians 10:13, James 1:2-3, and James 4:7.

Finally, as we contemplate how to reduce conflict in school settings, Christians young people must accept a high calling. That calling is to focus on being a friend of God (see John 15:14). Do not be surprised if you are attempting with all your heart to do right, yet others do not like you (see John 15:18-19; 16:33). There may be confusion and conflict all around us, but God wants His children to be at peace. Our Father has promised that He will cause even our enemies to be at peace with us (see Prov. 16:7; John 14:27).

*Note To Readers:* Ms May has a college degree in human services and has worked six years on the Adolescent Psychiatric unit at PCMH as a Mental Health Technician. It is her firm belief that it does no good to treat the mind and body and not minister to the spirit. She prays that through the grace of God her articles printed will help someone.

## Greene St. Bridge



Greene Street Bridge

An old historic landmark, the Greene Street Bridge is in the process of being torn down. Take a last look. It won't be seen again. Greenville is changing. Are you keeping up with the changing times?

Photo by Jim Rouse

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## Civil Rights Activist Accuses MGM Mirage of Racial Discrimination

**LAS VEGAS (AP)**—The Rev. Al Sharpton says he will call for a national boycott against MGM Mirage Inc. if the casino operator refuses to meet with him to discuss claims of discrimination at the company's Detroit casino.

Citing an employment discrimination lawsuit filed by 14 past and present employees of the MGM Grand Detroit, the civil rights activist said his National Action Network civil rights group would lead a boycott against all the company's casinos and hotels if MGM Mirage Chairman Terry Lanni declines to meet with him by the end of the year.

"It is our desire that they come to the table before we have to ask people to stay away from their tables," Sharpton said Wednesday during a stop in Las Vegas. Sharpton was on his way to Los Angeles to open another chapter of his National Action Network.

Sharpton said he will be back in Las Vegas early next year to lead a boycott if MGM Mirage, the largest hotel-casino operator on the Las Vegas Strip, officials don't agree to a meeting.

If a boycott doesn't bring Lanni to the bargaining table, Sharpton said he was prepared to occupy the company's casino tables.

"As you know, I'm not afraid of civil disobedience," he said.

Gene Collins, former president of the Las Vegas chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and chairman of the National Action Network, filed a written complaint with the Nevada Gaming Control Board after Sharpton spoke.

The complaint asks control board Chairman Dennis Neilander to investigate the attitude and conduct of MGM Mirage in light of the Michigan lawsuit.

"The allegations in this suit cut to the core of

what I have been alleging all along," Collins wrote. "MGM has been practicing racist policies toward African-Americans in hiring, promoting and contracting."

Lanni was out of the country and unavailable for comment.

MGM Mirage Vice President of Corporate Diversity and Community Affairs Punam Mathur said company executives have no intention of meeting with the New York activist.

"He's trying to create a problem rather than solve a problem," Mathur said.

Several Las Vegas black leaders who support MGM Mirage's efforts to diversify its contracting, purchasing and hiring attended Sharpton's news conference.

Urban Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Louis Overstreet said he disagreed with Sharpton, Collins and the National Action Network.

"We've tried to work with MGM Mirage and we're pleased with the progress they've made on their diversity initiative,"

Overstreet said.

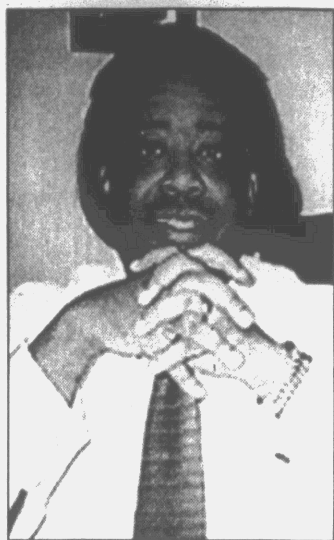
Control board member Bobby Siller, who is black, said he was personally pleased with the progress MGM Mirage has made in providing opportunities to minority employees, contractors and vendors.

"They've shown by their actions a willingness to work with us on this issue," he said.

The Michigan lawsuit filed in October charges that MGM Grand Detroit is a hostile working environment for blacks.

MGM Mirage issued a statement about the lawsuit noting that the company considers the charges serious and is making a serious commitment to investigating them.

"Grandstanding, making unreasonable demands and staging press conferences will not get the job done," the statement concluded.



REV. AL SHARPTON

## REFLECTIONS, EXPRESSIONS and REVIEWS



Ms. Sujette Jones

Understanding Jefferson  
E.M. Halliday

Even during his lifetime, Thomas Jefferson's friends and foes struggled to understand him. Alexander Hamilton thought him to be a liar without principles. George Washington eventually concluded that Jefferson was a hypocrite. James Madison and James Monroe loved and admired him. John Adams, a close acquaintance, finally gave up of ever understanding him. Jefferson, he said, was a "shadow man akin to the great rivers, whose bottoms we cannot see and make no noise."

Historians have not given up in

their quest to understand his character and especially his private behavior—given the fact that he is more valuable to this country than any other Founder. The studies of Jefferson reflect the contrariness of his views on racism and social and political equality. The author criticizes those who refused to accept that Jefferson engaged in a lengthy sexual relationship with Sally Hemings, his slave. However the publication in 1998 of the celebrated DNA tests revealed a high probability that he indeed fathered several children by Hemings.

Understanding Jefferson is not a biography but a character study that focuses almost entirely on the intimate affairs of Jefferson's life and an acknowledgment of his carnal desires. Halliday theorizes that the adolescent Jefferson was on fire with sexual feelings and quite possibly visited prostitutes, masturbated and had wet dreams. He probably engaged in premarital sex when courting his future wife, wished to have intercourse with Maria Cosby, with whom he may have had an adulterous affair, and was drawn both to literature and art that was filled with sexual and erotic bent. The author's point is not that Jefferson was disturbed but that he was perfectly normal. His questionable behav-

ior was to be expected of a lusty young man thrilled by attractive women. His affair with Hemings began when Jefferson was vulnerable and in a "lusty mood". His wife had died when he took Hemings with him on his trip to Paris. Besides, she may have seduced him. Not much about Jefferson's inner life can be proven but the author acknowledges that the conclusion he has drawn are for the most part based on the "probability" of what Jefferson would have done.

The biographers of Jefferson guessed at his private conduct and concluded that it was unimaginable that he could have behaved in certain ways. But based upon today's more relaxed standards, Halliday appears anxious that Jefferson should yet qualify as a "great American icon", especially when judged by today's standards, but the proper task of the historian is to measure the subject against the standards of the time in which he or she lived. By that measure, Jefferson remains deserving of his place on Mount Rushmore.

Reviewed by John Ferling

## The Cities (A round-up of news shorts from cities across the country)

**BALTIMORE**—Prosecutors and police officials say changes in wiretap laws are needed to make eavesdropping on drug dealers easier. They argue criminals are sparingly using cell phones, using multiple cell phones, and other strategies to thwart investigations. Law enforcement officials are backing legislative changes that would allow quickly switching wiretaps from phone to phone, to follow the moves of suspects. The American Civil Liberties Union and others are likely to oppose changes to existing laws, saying judges provide a balance between law enforcement and protection of individual rights.

**SEATTLE**—Community colleges say increased layoffs in the state have outstripped funding for their worker retraining programs. The popular programs offered tuition assistance for two year degrees, certification in specialty areas or classes pursued by workers who lost jobs. While state unemployment rose to 6.6 percent in October, the state budget also suffered a \$1.3 billion shortfall. The lack of funds means colleges can't get more state money and some workers will not be able to attend classes in upcoming semesters. Over the last eight years, more than 50,000 laid-off workers were able to receive tuition assistance under the Worker Retraining Program. Program funding in the past couple of years has totaled \$28 million.

**TALLAHASSEE**—A state population boom borne out by the 2000 Census means Florida will gain two congressional seats and likely endure a major redistricting fight along the way. The first major plan, which was released Jan. 3, sparked a battle between two Republican lawmakers in the state legislature. The plan offered by the state Senate lacked a U.S. congressional seat that would ostensibly go to House Speaker Tom Feeney. Republican State Sen. Jack Latvala drafted the plan as chairman of the Senate committee redrawing the boundaries. The Latvala plan carves out new Republican seats in South Florida and north of Tampa Bay. There is no seat in the suburbs northeast of Orlando, which is a Feeney stronghold. House Speaker Feeney has been raising money for a congressional campaign. Observers say redistricting, which is to be taken up in the state legislature Jan. 22, will likely include lawsuits to finalize the process. Redistricting occurs every 10 years based on population changes.

**WASHINGTON**—American Airlines could have easily resolved questions about the identity of an Arab-American Secret Service agent barred from a Christmas Day flight, according to the agent's lawyers. In a recent press conference, the man's attorney said a single telephone call to a White House number the agent offered to airlines employees would have confirmed his identity. The lawyers said American Airlines was guilty of racial discrimination, but the agent has not decided whether to file a lawsuit. The man wants procedures and training put in place to prevent future incidents, his lawyers said. American Airlines rejected the charge of racial discrimination, saying airlines personnel had reason to be suspicious of the man, who they contend filled out paperwork improperly. A pilot would not allow the agent, who works on the President Bush's security detail, to take the flight.

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# The Scars Of Slavery

**Freedom could not erase memories of grim milestones in a slave's existence. St. Augustine once a hub of slave trade**

By **ALLINIECE T. ANDINO**

*Times-Union staff writer*

Slaves carried the word across plantations and state lines that the sound of gunfire meant freedom. It was 1865, the Civil War was over and Union soldiers canvassed the South to deliver news of the Emancipation Proclamation. Margrett Nickerson remembered the gunfire, she told an interviewer working with a Federal Writers' Project to collect memories of former slaves in 1936. Nickerson heard the shots as she toted cotton to the scales one day. Nickerson's master told her she was free. But freedom would not erase what she had endured for nearly 20 years on a Leon County plantation. The lives of slaves were marked by the grim milestones of being sold, working as human chattel and being bred against their will. Bonded servants prayed in secret, whispered of freedom and at times married someone from another plantation so they would not have to see a loved one raped or beaten. "Slaves could never escape the fact that they were slaves and that their movements as well as their other activities were almost always under the most careful surveillance," wrote John Hope Franklin and Alfred A. Moss Jr. in the

## Living conditions

Slaves usually lived in one-room log cabins with leaky roofs and dirt floors, Rivers wrote in *Slavery in Florida*. The sparse furnishings were a bed, a simple table and a chair or two. They either slept on a blanket or quilt, or fashioned a mattress of Spanish moss and chicken or goose feathers. Slaves in Florida -- particularly when Florida was under Spanish rule, from 1565 to 1763 and from 1784 to 1821 -- were generally treated better than their brethren in other areas of the South.

Slave children were cared for by older children or by slave women too old to be sent out to the fields. Children often ran around barefoot and naked, or they wore long shirts or frocks. They received shoes when it was time to start working the fields and usually received another pair each winter.

A state statute prohibited anyone from teaching blacks to read or write. But during Sunday school, many blacks ignored this law and learned secretly. On Sunday mornings, white preachers told slaves to mind their masters and they would be saved, explained former slave Margrett Nickerson.

"Dey never tole us nothin' 'bout Jesus," she said in her own vernacular.

But slaves held clandestine meetings and had praying grounds where a few met at a time.

At night, slaves told tales of Africa, passed on fables and folklore. They played fiddles and drums.

"As long as work schedules did not suffer, many owners permitted their slaves to sing, dance and play music as late (or as early) as they desired," Rivers wrote.

The quality of a slave's life usually depended on his master. And, outside of being born on a plantation, a slave's master was often determined by an auction. Families were torn apart at auctions. Siblings, mothers and children often never saw each other again.

The voice of Marsha Dean Phelts breaks when she tells how the 10 children of her great-great-grandmother were sold.

"They carried them all to the auction house and lined them up across the platform," said Phelts, a resident of Jacksonville and American Beach.

Phelts' great-grandmother, Rosalee Butts, passed down the story of how her mother cried continuously while at the auction. When someone grabbed the baby she was nursing from her arms to be sold,

Butts' mother screamed.

"She wept all through it, and then when the baby went, it was just too hard to bury the weeping," Phelts said. "She gave a blood-curdling cry."

Butts never saw her mother again. She saw a sister in passing, but all they could do was wave.

## Physical punishment

Whippings in the field were commonplace on some plantations and virtually nonexistent on others, depending on the master, the overseer and their philosophies of motivation.

Irene Coates, a former slave interviewed by a federal writer in 1936, said she saw men, women and children tied by their thumbs to tree limbs and whipped.

Nickerson said she was struck with sticks and straps when toting water through the fields for workers. At night, her father would doctor her wounds. She blamed the beatings for her ailing legs and her need for a wheelchair later in life.

Not all slaves dealt quietly with such treatment.

Phelts described beatings of her great-grandmother on a South Carolina plantation as events. The two brothers of her great-grandmother would fight for her to keep her from getting hurt, Phelts said.

"It was trauma when she was beaten. When they would whip her, the brothers would cause such a riot and such a ruckus," she said.

In punishment, the brothers were sold and shipped away to Alabama, she said.

House workers, it appears, lived a more congenial life than field workers. Harriett Gresham was a slave who worked in the "big house" on a South Carolina plantation. A federal writer interviewed her in Jacksonville in 1936.

She had a carefree life, playing with the children of her mistress. At about age 12, she was given small tasks to do, such as knitting a pair of stockings or dusting the furniture. So fond were her memories that Gresham continued to correspond with one of her master's children into her 90s.

## The runaway

Slaves ran away for several reasons. Some fled poor treatment. Some hastened to join family members sold to other owners. And some just ran to be free.

One runaway slave was the Rev. Squires Jackson. At age 19, Jackson heard of the impending Civil War and wanted to fight. He ran from a

Jacksonville plantation to Lake City, Jackson told a federal writer.

He hid in trees and groves to evade a posse in pursuit. He covered up his face and body with Spanish moss before falling asleep at night.

After four days of travel, guided by the North Star and instinct, Jackson reached Lake City.

He reported to a Union general who told him to act as an orderly until further instruction. Jackson saw wounded black soldiers stretched on the filthy ground of a horse stable. He was so repulsed, he decided not to join the army.

Jackson ran to Tallahassee and worked with the railroad until the end of the war. After the war, Jackson returned to Jacksonville, became a bricklayer and was later ordained as a minister.

Jackson said slavery was tough at times, but added, "No storm lasts forever."

"Even the best masters in slavery couldn't be as good as the worst person in freedom. Oh, God, it is good to be free, and I am thankful."

Staff writer Alliniece T. Andino can be reached at (904) 359-4546 or via e-mail at [aandino@jacksonville.com](mailto:aandino@jacksonville.com).

# We salute his dream...



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Plantations carpeted the fringes of Jacksonville in the 1800s. A Jacksonville lawyer, A.G. "Gus" Hartridge, told a Writers' Project interviewer in 1939 that when he was a boy, Springfield was known as the Jones Plantation. The Sammis Plantation, Hudnall Plantation and the Philips' plantation, called Red Bank, were in Arlington. Avondale was part of a plantation, and then there were the Hendricks, Hogarth and Bigelow plantations, said Hartridge, who was 70 at the time he was interviewed.

About 2.8 million slaves worked on farms and plantations in 1850 across the nation, and most of those, 1.8 million worked cotton fields, stated *From Slavery to Freedom*.

Cotton pickers waded through rows of stalks 7 feet high, sometimes cutting their fingers on the bolls that clutched the soft blossoms like claws. If ordered, slaves toiled past the dinner hour and under the glow of a full moon.

Slaves were field workers,

house workers and skilled carpenters, blacksmiths and masons. Slaves built houses and crafted furniture. They wove cotton into cloth, spun thread into ropes, tanned cowhides for shoes and made soap of ashes, water and grease.

On a large plantation, a bugle sounded at the start of the day, probably around 5 a.m. Slaves would prepare their meals and eat them in the fields, Rivers said. They would break for lunch; sometimes just 15 minutes was allowed. Small children would bring them water. And mothers of infants would be allowed time to nurse. After the short break, work continued for a few hours or into dark, depending on the season. Harvest time meant longer hours.