

**Honoring The Rev Dr.  
Martin Luther King Jr**

**Jan. 17 - Jan. 20**

**Peace March/Rally  
Jan. 20 - 10am**

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Martin Luther King Jr**

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# THE MINORITY VOICE

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## 2000 Census Proved Inaccurate

**2000 Census Missed Some  
1 Million Black, Latino  
Children**

Washington (AP).....  
Black and Hispanic children, particularly those in urban areas, make up a disproportionately high percentage of the 1.1 million kids missed by the 2000 census, according to newly released government estimates.

Those children account for about half the undercount, but made up only about one-third of all US children. Los Angeles County and Cook County, Ill., which includes Chicago, were among the places with the highest minority undercounts of children and adults. Sparsely populated rural counties across the West and Midwest also had some of the highest rates of people missed.

The data, released by the Census Bureau under court order, showed that about 3.3 million people were missed nationwide, or about 1.2% of the entire population.

California, the most populous state, had the largest "undercount", 509,012, while Alaska had the highest percentage of people missed, 2.4%, or 15,136 residents. Rep. William Lacy Clay, who supported the data release, said Americans "deserve to have the most accurate census data available."

"It was unfortunate that we had to fight so hard to get this information, but now that we have, I hope we can use it to its

fullest advantage," said Clay, D-Mo. The newly released data was based on bureau research done through March 2001. Preston Jay Waite, an associate census director, said more study done since then shows the national net undercount may have been reduced to less than one-tenth of 1%. Waite said they have not completed their additional research, though it may be released in the future.

"The fact that the census was so accurate and the adjusted data had serious flaws" make the adjusted data useless, Waite said. "We envision no official use of this file."

The government takes a census every 10 years. The bureau sends census takers and questionnaires to every U.S. household, though not every one responds.

The bureau tabulates the results and sends them to federal social service agencies, which use them to determine how to allocate billions of federal dollars to each state for Medicaid, foster care and other social service programs.

The census also reallocates U.S. House seats based on population changes. After the 2000 count, the Census Bureau used mathematical formulas to estimate how people were missed, a population termed the "undercount". A 1999 US Supreme Court ruling bars the use of those adjusted numbers for reapportioning congressional seats. Typically, census-takers follow-

ing up with people who did not return a form encounter more difficulty getting into locked city apartment buildings, where more minorities tend to live. People who live in apartments tend also to be younger, have young children and move more often. Rural households get missed because it may be difficult to find the home. Some undocumented immigrants may choose not to fill out their form, even though the census does not ask about legal status.

People who are counted twice include college students and people with two homes. Democrats, big-city politicians and civil rights groups have charged that many communities are being shortchanged government funding because of large numbers of their residents were missed in the original count.

Larry Jones, assistant executive director of the US Conference of Mayors, had not seen all the data but said he was not surprised that urban areas had the biggest undercounts. "We will see if this is a valid, good assessment of the undercount and take into account what the bureau said about its flaws," Jones said.

Opponents of adjusted data, mainly Republicans, have said the complicated statistical methods used to determine the undercount would add more error into a census that the bureau deemed to have one of the lowest national undercount rates ever.

Critics also have said that while adjustment counts may not allo-

cate people to the proper neighborhoods because the formula is less accurate on the local level.

"Any estimates of population or funding will be useless and as fatally flawed as the numbers are themselves," said Rep. Dave Weldon, R-Fla., chairman of the House Government Reform Committee's census panel. Nearly 29% of the children missed were black, a disproportionately high figure since blacks make up only 15% of all kids. Hispanics were about 20% of the child undercount, slightly higher than the 17% of the overall child population that they constitute.

Nationally, about 45% of those children missed were white, less than their 60% share the total population of children. There was also a slight overcount of Asian children. State and local lawmakers may--if their laws allow--use the adjusted data to redraw municipal political districts or to reallocate billions in government dollars controlled by states for things such as school construction and social services. The Census Bureau in March 2001 estimated there was a net undercount of about 1.2% of the total population. It also said then that undercounts were more prevalent among blacks, Hispanics, Native American and Pacific Islanders, than among whites and Asians.



ECU graduate Yolanda Thigpen is all smiles on the day. This beautiful black woman received her degree and now its on to her masters degree. Yolanda, who is from Princeville, North Carolina, where the black folks own their land and homes, where it was created for black folks to live in their own communities. Rise Up Black Sisters  
Staff Photo: J. Rouse



"C.M. Eppes Alumni Gathering....."

Shown above are members of the C. M. Eppes Alumni; which was the all black high school here in Greenville, NC. If you can name the above members, you could win a CD compliments of WOOW Joy 1340 & YOU MIGHT !! Win a trip to the Bahamas.....(ha ha ha).  
Staff Photo: J. Rouse

The Pitt County Chapter of the SCLC will be hosting its annual celebration honoring the life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday, January 19, 2003 and Monday January 20, 2003 at Philippi Church of Christ, 1610 Farmville Blvd., Greenville, NC. The celebration will begin with the Theme Address on Sunday at 6 pm and conclude on Monday with a Peace March/Rally at 10 am, the Youth Talent Showcases at 1 pm, and the MLK Feast at 4 pm. Youths do not need to pre-register for the Talent Showcase, just come prepared to perform. All events are free and open to the public. For more information contact the Pitt County Chapter of the SCLC at 905 Cherry Street, Greenville or call them at 252.757.1599.

### ECU Plans Events to Recognize Work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

A civil rights activist who led sit-ins at a lunch counter in a Greensboro department store in 1960 will be among the speakers participating in programs at ECU on Jan. 15 & 20 to recognize the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Franklin E. McCain of Charlotte was among the original four black students from North Carolina A & T College who were refused service at a Woolworth's department store lunch counter on Feb. 1, 1960. The store's lunch counter provided food service only to white customers and not to blacks.

McCain, a retired textile chemist, will discuss his experiences with civil rights on Wednesday, Jan. 15, at 7 pm, in Mendenhall Student Center's Hendrix Theatre. The program is free and the public is invited.

Dr. Lawrence M. Clark will give the second Martin Luther King presentation on Jan. 20 at 7 pm, in the Great Room in Mendenhall Student Center. Clark is a former associate provost and mathematics professor at North Carolina State University. He helped to establish NCSU's West Africa Initiative that promotes collaborative research and study between NC State and three universities in Ghana.

Dr. David Dennard, an ECU history professor and the chairman of the ECU MLK Committee, said the speakers will offer their perspectives on milestones in civil rights during the 1950's and '60's and on developments that have taken place since.

A candlelight vigil in remembrance of King will be held before the Jan. 20 presentation. The vigil will start at 6pm at the top of College Hill Drive on the ECU campus. Participants will march from College Hill to the student center for the MLK Day address by Clark.

The sit-in at the Greensboro department store lunch counter is considered one of the most important events in civil rights history because it spawned a national movement that ultimately brought down segregation in the South. McCain, along with Joseph McNeil, David Richmond and Ezell Blair, Jr., were students at NC A & T and lived in the same residence hall when they defied the whites-only policy at Woolworth's. Other downtown restaurants in Greensboro had similar policies.

McCain emerged as the organizer of the demonstration. He was quoted in the Greensboro News and Record on the first day of the sit-in as saying, "We like to spend our money here, but we want to spend it at the lunch counter as well as the counter next to it."

After six months of protests, the store integrated its lunch counter on July 25. The original faded Formica lunch counter and four '50s-era stools went on display in the Smithsonian in 1995. ECU holds programs annually in observance of the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.

An MLK Observance Committee, the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center, the Office of Intercultural Student Affairs, the Student Union Cultural Awareness Committee and the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity sponsor the programs.

I came to see for the first time that the Christian doctrine of love, operating through the Gandhian method of nonviolence, is one of the most potent weapons available to an oppressed people in their struggle for freedom.

Martin Luther King Jr.



"Bountiful Christian Gift Shop..Tarboro."

Shown above is Sister Rogers, who owns the Bountiful Christian Gift Shop in Tarboro, North Carolina. Sister Rogers gave the M'Voice Newspaper a tour of her lovely shop, where you can get all your gift and church supplies. Bountiful Christian Gift Shop is located on Main Street in the downtown area of Tarboro. Sister Rogers and staff invites all her friends from the community to stop by and visit. They have everything from bibles, Gospel CDs, cassettes, and videos.  
Staff Photo: J. Rouse

### NO RIDERS TODAY

There comes a time when people get tired of being trampled by the iron feet of oppression.

Martin Luther King Jr.



## OPINION

THE MINORITY VOICE  
NEWSPAPER

Jim Rouse Publisher

**"What You See Is What You Get  
What You Read Is What You  
Know And Save"**

William Clark General Mgr.

Michael Adams Editor

## EDITORIALS

Here's hoping the new arena won't  
be another Pyramid or worse

City and County officials are all in a dither about whether the University of Memphis will exit its agreement to use the Pyramid to play its home basketball games. Members of both the City Council and the Shelby County Commission have expressed a commitment to "fight to the death" to force the Tigers to continue playing there should they attempt to move to the new FedEx Forum. One can hardly blame the university for at least giving more than just passing consideration to abandoning a "never completed" building with several thousand "bad" seats.

This same City Council and County Commission oversaw the construction of this multi-million dollar "tax-payer ripoff" under the direction of Sidney "Schiester" Slinker.

But that was nothing really new. We only have to look at the ill-fated Mud Island, "Six Flags Over Orange Mound" (Liberty Land) and another "rip-off" known as the Liberty Bowl Expansion (Remember those "too expensive" sky boxes that later cost appreciably more?). These are but a few examples of the ineptness of our local officials' competency in terms of major construction oversight. We also could throw into the mix the new convention and performing arts center that seemingly began construction during the Great Depression and had cost overruns that exceed the national debt.

The new FedEx Forum is now the focus of these political bunglers. They say too much decision making control and oversight resides with the Grizzlies organization. We, logic tells us they probably know more about basketball arena construction than do our elected officials. Michael Heasley and the other Grizzlies owners have more millions invested in our basketball team than the costs of all the aforementioned construction projects combined. It stands to reason then that they have the most to lose in the event something goes wrong and thus should have the most say-so.

We know there are those who will inject the logic that it's the money of the Memphis taxpayers that is paying for the arena. While that is true, an arena that will be attractive for both local and national basketball fans to attend will pay long-term residual benefits that will far exceed the expenditure we are making for the construction.

Black history from an evolutionary  
perspective is much needed

Next month we will conduct the annual month-long observance known as African-American History Month. We will talk about Black inventors and the great kings of Africa. We will boast that Alexander Dumas (who penned *The Three Musketeers* and *The Count of Monte Cristo*) was a man of color. We will talk about the 285,000 Black men who fought bravely in the Union Army during the Civil War and the legion of others who have fought in subsequent wars in order to preserve America's freedoms. And we will recite a litany of "African-American Firsts."

These are all things we should reflect upon and celebrate during African-American History Month. Ever since Carter G. Woodson initiated what began as Negro History Week many, many years ago, our awareness of the contributions of African Americans to this great nation's growth and development has grown.

What has lagged, however, is the development of a thorough understanding of the socio-economic evolution of African-American men, women and children in America. Definitive descriptions relative to the specific residual effects of slavery, Jim Crowism, segregation and discrimination have yet to be established. Questions as to why have some African Americans attained rela-

tive prosperity in American while many more seem to be in relatively worse economic straits than were some of their ancestors are not adequately addressed. What effects are an emerging and clearly visible but intellectually ignored "class" structure within the African-American "community" having on the concept of "Black unity"?

Finally, the question — not to African Americans but about African Americans — continues (albeit sublimely). That question of what to do with us remains. This question has persisted since the passage of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ended slavery for millions of people of color.

African Americans will need to direct focus to that question because the philosophy remains among some in high places that African Americans exist in this country for utilitarian purposes rather than as equal aspirants to and recipients of the American dream of "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Knowledge of African-American accomplishments is something about which all segments of America's population should be made aware. An understanding of our evolution and an honest assessment of where we are and why and how we got where we are, however, is crucial to the planning for our individual and collective futures.

CRAFT SHOULD WORK  
FOR GOOD OF ALL PEOPLE

As we approach the month of January, the birth month of a great man, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who gave his life attempting to unite all people, we need to seek ways that we all can become united, not continuously divided.

Yet as we look at Fifth Street, part is still called East Fifth Street and part is now called Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive (still a division). Even more disturbing was watching a live meeting of Greenville City Council on Dec. 12 and seeing the insensitivity and flagrant display of apathy and rudeness on the council toward Mrs. Rose Glover and Mrs. Mildred Council, thus toward the black community, especially coming from Mr. Ray Craft.

The appropriate action to take was to ask with an attitude of genuine concern, "What can be done to save Weed & Seed?" as opposed to disrespectfully attempting to adjourn while Councilwoman Glover was still speaking, for Weed & Seed has truly been a

benefit to all of Greenville, not just the black community.

It is the opinion of many, including this writer, that Mr. Craft is indebted to offer an apology to Mrs. Glover, Mrs. Council and to the black community for his display of apathy and arrogance that night.

With the city having a breakfast each January with the SCLC, the Chamber of Commerce and the NAACP in an effort to bring harmony, Mr. Craft's actions will only continue a division among people. Mr. Craft, you should realize that no council, but rather each of you is merely traveling.

You should adopt a philosophy which says, "If I can help somebody as I travel along this way, then my living will not be in vain." So what about helping all people, sir?

Edward Jones, Jr.  
Greenville resident

Life is a short walk from the cradle to the grave and it behooves us to be kind to one another along the way.

—Alice Childress

## THE MINORITY VOICE NEWSPAPER

Here, we believe that the future of Blacks will depend upon their awareness of the world around them. The 'M' Voice newspaper is designed to inform, educate, and entertain. Additionally, each issue features local photographs, stories, and advertisements that mirror this region. We endeavor to market those products that are of concern to the minority community. Since 1981, The Minority Voice newspaper has been the best print medium to deliver your message into the homes

## WASH HOMELAND SECURITY WAS A CONCERN ABOUT FOLKS LIKE US



## COMMENTS

I would rather see a sermon  
than hear one any day

Arthur L. Webb

I often revisit the words of that poem I first recited at a Sunday School program many years ago when I was but a small child. I now internalize them more and more each time I discover that the words of some of our leaders are inconsistent with their actions.

My most recent reminder of those words came when I read of some comments reportedly made by the deceased Senate Majority Leader, Trent Lott, concerning his alleged affiliation with the Council of Conservative Citizens: The organization grew out of the racist White Citizens' Council that fought desegregation of schools, neighborhoods and anything else that suggested the mixing of races during the 1950s and 1960s. According to the report, Lott wrote that he could never support a group that denigrates people because of their race or religion. He added, "I grew up in a home where you didn't treat people that way, and you didn't stand with anyone foolish or cruel enough to do so." — that was the sermon we heard.

Now let's take a look at the sermon we can see. When violence erupted over James Meredith's desegregation of the University of Mississippi in 1962, some calmer White voices in Mississippi urged moderation. One such voice was Ira Harkey Jr., editor of

"I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day. I'd rather one should walk with me than merely show the way.... For I may misunderstand you and the wise advise you give, but there's no misunderstanding how you act or how you live."

the now-defunct *Pasagoula Chronicle*. Harkey published editorials opposing mob violence and Gov. Ross Barnett's defiant opposition to court-ordered desegregation.

Harkey's call for moderation resulted in the windows of his newspaper being shot out. He later received a letter from a White woman who said that if he didn't publish her letter it would prove "you are truly an integrationist and I hope you not only get a hole through your office door but through your stupid head." The letter was signed, Iona W. Lott — Trent Lott's mother.

Harkey reportedly told a *New York Times* reporter, "I called her, asked if she'd sent it to me, and she said she certainly had sent it to me and she meant every word."

That situation should provide clear evidence that we should take what political leaders tell us with a grain of salt. Trent Lott's sermon about the way he grew up said one thing but the evidential sermon says something strikingly different.

The focus of our caution regarding "oral sermons" should not be limited to White, southern conservative republicans. It should extend also to "so-called" liberal democrats, Black activists and "leaders" and even to men and women of the cloth. We can ill afford to follow blindly the "feel good" mutterings that have served to enhance the lives of these officials and leaders but often mislead and even abused those who have placed our socio-economic well-being in their trust.

We must develop the resolve to closely examine the records of these individuals who cater to us for our votes and support. While we might enjoy and be titillated by their "oral sermons," we need to closely examine their "living sermons."

(Webb is a noted journalist and an internationally recognized scholar and lecturer on the subject of African American history)

Daddy was a strong, good,  
religious Black man!

by Louis 'Hop' Kendrick

The other day, I was doing that which I do on a regular basis — listening to talk shows. In fact, it was the day the U.S. Supreme Court stated it would hear the affirmative action case at the University of Michigan.

One of the talk show hosts was on national radio and television. He is getting overpaid on this issue because he doesn't have the slightest idea what he's talking about. He started off reciting his life experience in the civil rights movement so that the listening audience would not believe he was bigoted. He then said it is ridiculous that the University of Michigan would give students preference because they are Black.

It is my personal belief that this man unfortunately represent the views of a substantial segment of the White community. The truth of the matter is Blacks do not desire to be given anything they don't deserve, but should not be denied an opportunity because they are Black. This talk show host does his listening audience a great disservice. He portrays affirmative action in an undeserving and untruthful light by giving the impression that Blacks are seeking something they have not earned.

The history of this nation is replete with examples of Black men and women who proved they would not accept or expect something for nothing. One was my father, Milton Kendrick Sr. My father to us was the greatest man who ever lived, but I recognize that he was just one of the untold numbers of those who served as positive role models.

Daddy left Alabama and moved to the Pittsburgh area. In the 1930s during the Great Depression years, he made a decision that would impact his family. He said to my mother that God had given

him his health and strength and he would be able to provide for his family as a businessman. Daddy borrowed \$100 and bought a truck. That was the beginning of a trucking business that lasted until 1987; over 50 years.

I can recall my father saying, "All things being equal, you can accomplish anything in life." He constantly stressed the importance of education by saying, "You can't take brain power away."

There were four children. My father died in 1953 only lived to see his oldest two grandchildren. But he would be tremendously proud because 10 of his grandchildren graduated from college and all six of the great grandchildren graduated from college. Dad is smiling and repeating, "You can't take brain power away." He would also be proud because not only have they done well financially, but all remembered the importance of giving something back.

Too many Americans remain in denial that have been the beneficiaries of affirmative action ever since the founding of this nation. They have also developed amnesia about the denials of opportunity for Blacks. They have forgotten that we were denied a first class education, admission to grad school, decent jobs, loans, voting rights, mortgages and insurance. We held menial jobs in the military and at the corporate level there was glue on the floor and glass on the ceiling.

So when White America and a handful of colored Americans expound that Blacks seek something only because they are Black, it's obvious that they choose not to recognize the millions of Blacks who demonstrated initiative, independence and self respect — men like my daddy, a strong, good, religious Black man.

(Kendrick is a frequent contributor to the Commentary columns.)

## LETTERS

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Lott's mistake  
may benefit us

Dear Editor;

Sen. Lott's mistake is proving to be a bonus for Black Americans. The history of the non-violence on our part, the struggle for civil rights is being reviewed and supported widely in debate and in print.

Having the President and a host of other White Americans, North and South give their support to hard-won civil rights laws is heartening. Sen. Lott must pay a high price for his mistake yet he did us a favor for America's past.

The Republicans are embarrassed by Sen. Lott's remarks because he let the cat out of the bag. We have known all along that the Party of Lincoln was a haven for the anti-civil rights racists. They lead the fight against the affirmative action laws.

Their claim that the laws represent reverse discrimination is but an attempt to cover their racist agenda. It has always been democratic presidents that pushed for the passage of civil rights.

President Bush has not done anything for Blacks during the first half of his term.

The Lott crisis just may help to make it easier to get the nation's support for Reparations.

Hollis Chester

Lewis and Halbert  
need to go home

Dear Editor;

Any public officials who conduct public business in a manner as do Memphis School Board members Sarah Lewis and her flunky, Wanda Halbert, are an embarrassment to all civil-minded citizens of Memphis. Superintendent Johnnie B. Watson is to be admired for having limited his response to Lewis' tirades to a formal letter of complaint.

I hope people don't stereotype all Black women as having no more "cooth," self-respect and respect for others than these two "hoochie mamma queens."

Bessie Hobson

Lott's comments more "racially  
insensitive" than reported

Dear Editor;

For Sen. Trent Lott to have said that Mississippi came out to support Strom Thurmond in 1948 is in itself a more racist statement than many might realize. In 1948 Mississippi might have been a state with a majority Black population but with one major problem. For the most part, Blacks did not have the simple right to vote.

If anyone would read Ann Moody's book about the Freedom Rider's work to get Blacks out to vote, and the opposition they encountered from both Black and White in the early 1960s you know it had to have been worse back in 1948.

Thurmond was supported by WHITE MISSISSIPPIANS who did not allow the Black person to vote as a whole. Lott should not have been proud of any Mississippi election that took place during that time because it was a sham — considerably worse than Florida of 2000.

Hopefully, this will awaken Blacks in Mississippi. We need to get on the phone when his next election is here and tell our friends and relatives in that state to get out and vote Mr. Lott out of office.

Some of us have land down there that was willed to us. Let us go down there and register to vote on that land and help vote him out. Save copies of this letter and others like it and send to our friends and relatives to remind them to get out and vote. There are enough Blacks and liberal White Democrats in that state that could make this Lott's last term.

Keith Kysel

"Class"  
clash

Dear Editor;

Recently, I read a commentary that explained why low-class Blacks fail. Well, could somebody please explain exactly what a "low-class Black" is. I'm not quite sure.

I grew up in Memphis Housing Authority's Hurt Village, so I know that I was poor. I know of wealthy Blacks. I know of Blacks that are working very hard to make ends meet.

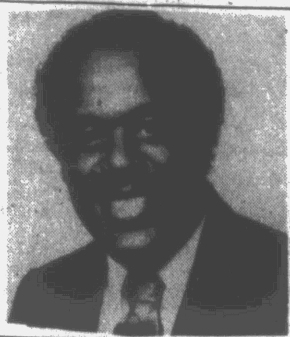
Could anybody out there please explain this term, "low-class Blacks" to me?

Harold Higgins

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- What's even more attractive to our readers is that each biweekly edition of the Minority Voice contains news and commentary of nationally respected journalists.
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- Annual events & celebrations sponsored by THE JIM ROUSE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP and THE MINORITY VOICE NEWSPAPER.
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- Make us a part of your organization today! You're going to love what advertising with us will do for you!



# Spiritual Reflections



Apostle George Hawkins

## JUST STAND

### Greetings:

We are approaching a time in life where we are looking for a sign. Consider the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 24:3-8, "And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.

In the year of 2003 we are searching for a sign of the times and yet we have them right in front of us. We hear of wars, we have been in

wars, we see hungry and homeless people everyday and yet we continue to search for a sign. Many people are losing hope because in times like these we lose HOPE and when our hope is gone we lose faith. But God told us to STAND, after you've done all you can, you just stand.

It is no secret that Jesus is soon to come although we don't know the day of the hour of HIS return we know the time based on the scriptures and all I have to say is, when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

We must not fear because the Bible says men's hearts shall fail them because of fear. Rely on the oracles of God and He will reveal to those that are His the thing to come and if you are not His it's time for you to become His. Repent and be converted that your sins may be blotted out. Accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that Jesus is Lord and He was crucified, died and was buried, but He rose up on the third day and now He sits at the right hand of the Father making intercession for us (Rom 10:9-10). Because in this coming year I don't see you making it without a relationship with Jesus Christ, who is the hope of glory. Let us study and understand the prophecy of Daniel, which is commonly dark and difficult to understand, Christ inserts this message, "Whoso readeth, let him understand;

whoso readeth the prophecy of Daniel, let him understand that it is to have its accomplishment now shortly in the desolations of Jerusalem. Those that read the scriptures, should labor to understand the scriptures, else their reading is to little purpose; we cannot use that which we do not understand. John 5:39 states that we should "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." and Acts 8:30 states ".....Understand thou what thou readest?"

The angel that delivered this prophecy to Daniel, stirred him up to know and understand, Dan. 9:25. And we must not give up hope of understanding even dark prophecies; the great New Testament prophecy is called a revelation, not a secret. Now things revealed belong to us, and therefore must be humbly and diligently searched into. Or, let us understand, not only the scriptures which speak of those things, but by the scriptures let us understand the times, 1 Chr. 12:32.

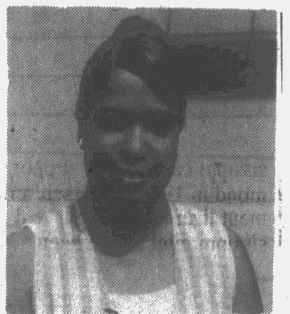
I challenge all of my Christian brothers and sisters to read and understand the prophecy of Daniel and the book of Revelation. This will help you to know the times in which we are quickly approaching. I urge you to witness to this dying world like never before and compel them to come to Christ before it is too late.

### CORRECTIONS:

DEC. 14 - We Apologize for the names on the front page top right picture should have read - Rev Johnson and wife Cassandra instead of Rev Williams. Inside page 13 - Shgould be Ms Bell in Bell's Cafe

We sincerely apologize!!!

## EDIFICATION OF THE NEW GENERATION



Faith May

## ANGELS, DEPRESSION, AND GIDEON

During the holiday season, many people suffer with depression. Because of this, perhaps this two-part excerpt from "Angels All Around" written by Minister Marilyn Hickey will uplift your spirits and renew your strength.

Are angels just for "special people"? Do you think that angels minister to other people but that they somehow pass you by? Angels aren't reserved for the mighty in faith or for those who are "holy" and "righteous." Angels are for anyone in need! One such person was Gideon is found in Judges 6-8. Israel was in serious trouble with a large tribe of nomads called the Midianites. The Israelites had deserted God's laws and commandments. Because of their sin, the Israelites were paying heavily. The Midianites had oppressed them for seven years furiously riding through the Hebrew villages, burning the Israelites' crops, and crushing their hopes of peace.

The oppression of the

Midianites became so fierce and cruel that the Hebrews were forced to live in caves in the high rocky hills. Some dug underground hiding places for their food and families. Because of the cowardice of the Hebrews, others such as the Amalekites joined in the foraging. In the harvest times, the Midianites, Amalekites, and related tribes would come in such vast numbers that not only to steal but they also wanted to destroy the land. The Hebrews were without sheep, goats, and oxen for they had long since been stolen by the Midianites.

Imagine the depression that set in among the Israelites! The situation looked absolutely hopeless. Finally the Hebrews came to the place where they could no longer cope, and they did what you and I should do when we find ourselves in the depths of despair: they cried out to the

Repent! Depression is a sin; yes, a sin. When were depressed, what were really saying is that God is no longer in control of our lives or the events that impact our lives. Depression is the road to "unbelief." Its saying in our hearts, "There is no God."

Notice antidote for depression that the prophet administered; he said in so many words, "Remember God's reality in your past." For the Israelites, the Lord's reality was seen in the way they were delivered from Egypt, delivered from the Egyptians, brought into the Promised Land, and their triumph over all their enemies in the new land. If looking at the future makes you depressed, then look at God's goodness in the past, and you'll find your faith restored.

Repentance brings in the presence of the Lord. After Israel repented, the Lord sent an angel to change their hopeless situation: (Judges 6:11).

Normally we think that God sends His angels to those who are "spiritual." Isn't that right? Haven't you thought, "I'll never get any help from an angel; that's for other people." Wrong! Angels are for everyone in the household of faith, and that means you if you're a Christian.

Gideon was the least likely candidate for an angelic visit-if we were to judge on the basis of "spirituality." Every time Gideon opened his mouth, out popped such words of inferiority that it was obvious to see why Gideon had an angel assigned to him-this guy needed help!

The name Gideon means "warrior." When we first

read about Gideon, he was not living up to his name. He was hiding from the Midianites and secretly threshing barley. It must have been very shocking for Gideon to look up to see an angel sitting under an oak tree. Angels always appear so calm, and isn't that just what we need when were depressed and worried? Angels look at those they minister to through the eyes of God's Word. In other words, angels see us with a faith look. Gideon was anything but a "mighty man of valor."

When we're depressed, our reasoning goes out the window! God had not delivered the Israelites into the hands of the Midianites; the Israelites, by their own disobedience to God's Word, had delivered themselves into the hands of the Midianites. When we disobey the Lord, we leave a hole in the hedge of our

## THE PITT COUNTY NAACP HONORS THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE REV DR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR



GASTON MONK

If you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice;



CALVIN HENDERSON

say that I was a drum major for peace, I was a drum major for righteousness .....

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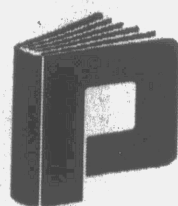
The Nonviolent approach does not immediately change the heart of the oppressor. It first does something to the hearts and souls of those committed to it.....

MLK, Jr



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## JOIN US FOR A DISCUSSION

### Friends of Pitt County Schools:

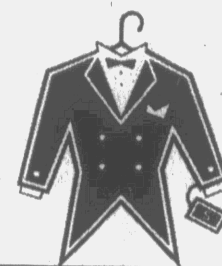
For the past two years Pitt County Schools has held a series of Study Circles on topics dealing with high school programs, elementary and middle schools, and discipline and behavior. The success of these study circles was due largely from the involvement and participation of parents, organizations, businesses, and other key stakeholders in our community. Because of that involvement by citizens of Pitt County, the Board of Education has launched a set of goals that will enable the school system to give all students of Pitt County the opportunity to receive a well-rounded and solid education.

The success of these study circles has lead Pitt County Schools to begin another series of study circles addressing the topic of "Appropriate Dress Standards for Students and Faculty." We believe for students to be successful it is vitally important that we create an atmosphere of high expectations and academic excellence. We feel appropriate dress and a positive climate are suitable directions to reach this goal.

Each study circle will last approximately two hours and have up to twenty people in attendance. To register just fill out the form below and return by mail or by fax. You can also call 252-830-4258 or 252-830-4219 to reserve a place in the study circles.

Your time and input is highly valuable to the future of our schools. I look forward to getting out and meeting you as we embark on another endeavor to better our schools.

Many thanks,  
Michael D. Priddy, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Pitt County Schools



### Clip and return

Return by December 20, 2002 to: Pitt County Schools  
Office of Public Information  
1717 West 5th Street  
Greenville, North Carolina 27834  
Fax: 252-830-4239  
Email: bgaskins@pitt.k12.nc.us

Yes, I would like to participate in a Study Circle dealing with "Appropriate Dress Standards." Each study circle will run from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Participants will be assigned locations based on responses.

### Please circle at least two available dates:

January 14, 2003  
January 23, 2003

January 16, 2003  
January 28, 2003

January 21, 2003  
January 30, 2003

### Please circle at least one class of respondent:

PARENT

STUDENT

EMPLOYEE

PATRON

Complete the following information so that we can contact you to confirm your participation:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

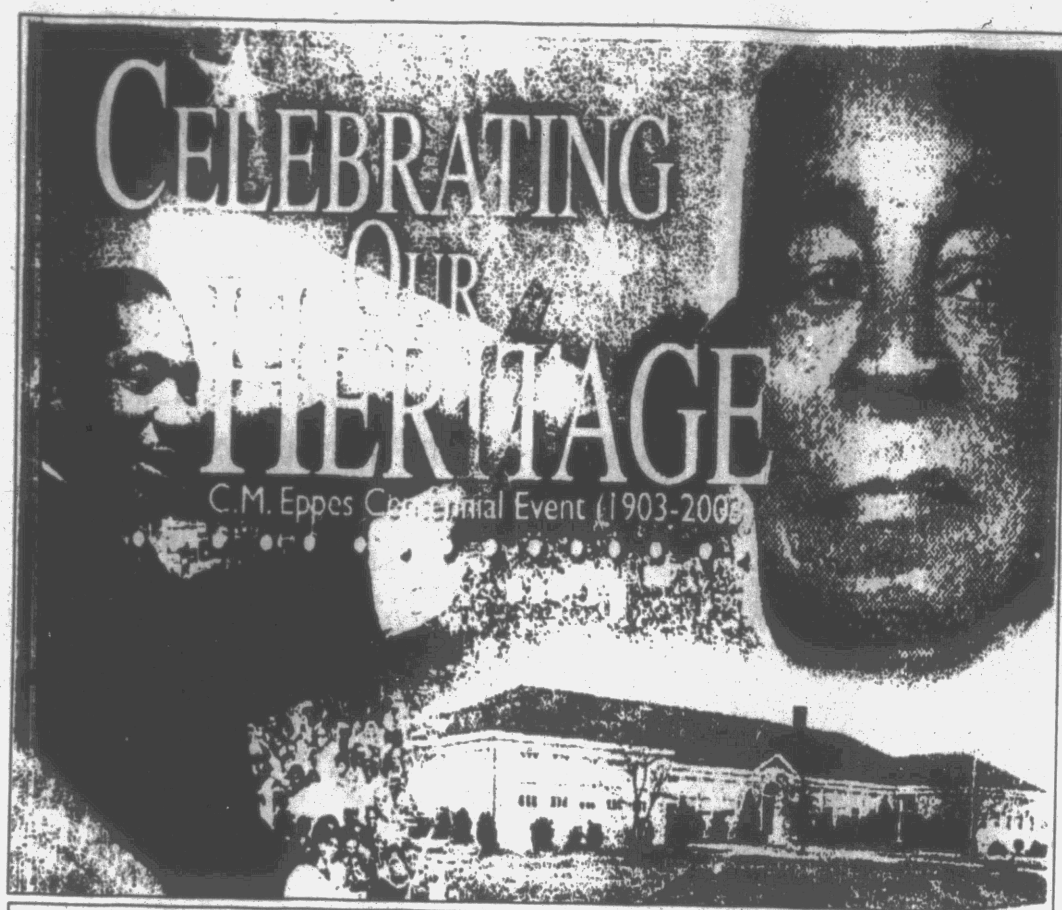
City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_





**The Event Features**  
**Friday, January 17th - Monday January 20th, 2003**

- Friday, January 17th**  
 \* "Lunch with Leaders" at C. M. Eppes MS, Elm Street (11am-1:30pm)  
 Tour C. M. Eppes (Cultural Center) Nash & Fourth St (2pm)  
 \* Unveiling of the Greenville-Pitt County African American Website (2pm)
- Saturday, January 18th**  
 Ole, School-Today's School Symposium, C. M. Eppes MS (10am-2pm)  
 \* Exhibits and Recognition at C. M. Eppes MS (10am-2pm)  
 \* Vendors on site at C. M. Eppes MS, Elm Street (10am-2pm)
- Sunday, January 19th**  
 \* Walking/Riding Tour of West Greenville (2:30pm-5pm)  
 Assemble at Nash & Fourth Streets
- Monday January 20th**  
 \* Martin Luther King, Jr. "Community Unity" Breakfast, (8am-10am)  
 J. H. Rose HS, Arlington Blvd, Greenville, NC  
 \* The Announcement of C. M. Eppes/Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest

Sponsored by  
 GHS-C.M. Eppes High School Alumni Heritage Society, Inc,  
 The African American Heritage Committee (Greenville & Pitt County Convention & Visitors Bureau)  
 Contact:  
 Dede Carney at 252-321-9902  
 Dr. Bernadette Watts at 919-544-5947 (Convention & Visitors Bureau) 252-329-4200  
 or 800-337-3564

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**Mr Calvin Henderson**  
**Incoming President of The NAACP**

January 2, 2003 -

**NAACP PRESIDENT MESSAGE**

My goals as president of Pitt County Branch NAACP for the next two years is to see that the flames of freedom burn even brighter by ever remaining focus on the goals that are before us. Yes, the struggle does continue and sometimes it seem that we have just began to fight. We ended 2002 with some successes and have enter 2003 facing greater challenges. We must strive to make our organization more effective by making sure our voices are heard by sharpening our focus on social injustices.

We must emerge in 2003 with a heighten concentration on fighting the disease of racism instead of merely addressing symptoms. Despite significant advances bigotry and racism continue to limit life chances for African Americans, especially many of our youth. Thereby casting a shadow over their future.

We must increase our oversight of public and private sector services, employment, and spending, guaranteeing people of color their fair share. In health care, education, the justice system, business and labor, we intend to continue as guardian of right and enemies of wrong.

We will increase our efforts at coalition building. Just as we demand fair representation from public officials, we must insist on it in our own ranks. We can no longer draw our membership and leadership only from a single church, or fraternity or lodge, neglecting and rejecting those who skills, talents and energies could make a strong NAACP even stronger. NAACP is not about one or two people. It is about people working together to fight for social justice. In the NAACP we believe that colored people come in all colors; there is no barriers to membership and participation in our organization. All who share our values are welcome and are needed.

I will challenge you as members and supporter of NAACP to let us work even harder than before to see that all eligible citizens are register and most important that they are educated to the point that they will race to vote as if their very life depended on it. I will proudly for the next two years remain focus on the NAACP ninety year old goals of Voter Registration, Anti-Discrimination, Economic Empowerment and Youth Development.

In coming months we will be mounting aggressive efforts to encourage all of Pitt County to become partners with the nation oldest, largest, strongest and most effective Civil Right organization. Our prolonged agitation for peaceful change has been felt in every corner of American life. Finally, where there is no struggle, there will be no progress. "The Struggle Continues".



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 2. Outstanding debts  
 3. Type of mortgage  
 4. Your credit history  
 5. Cash available for down payment  
 6. Current interest rates

**NEW  
 RELEASE**

**MEN OF  
 HONOR**

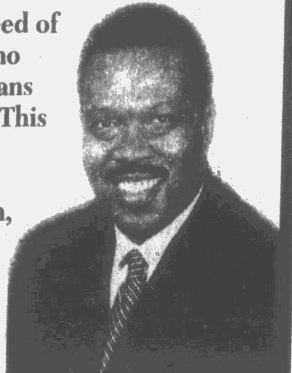


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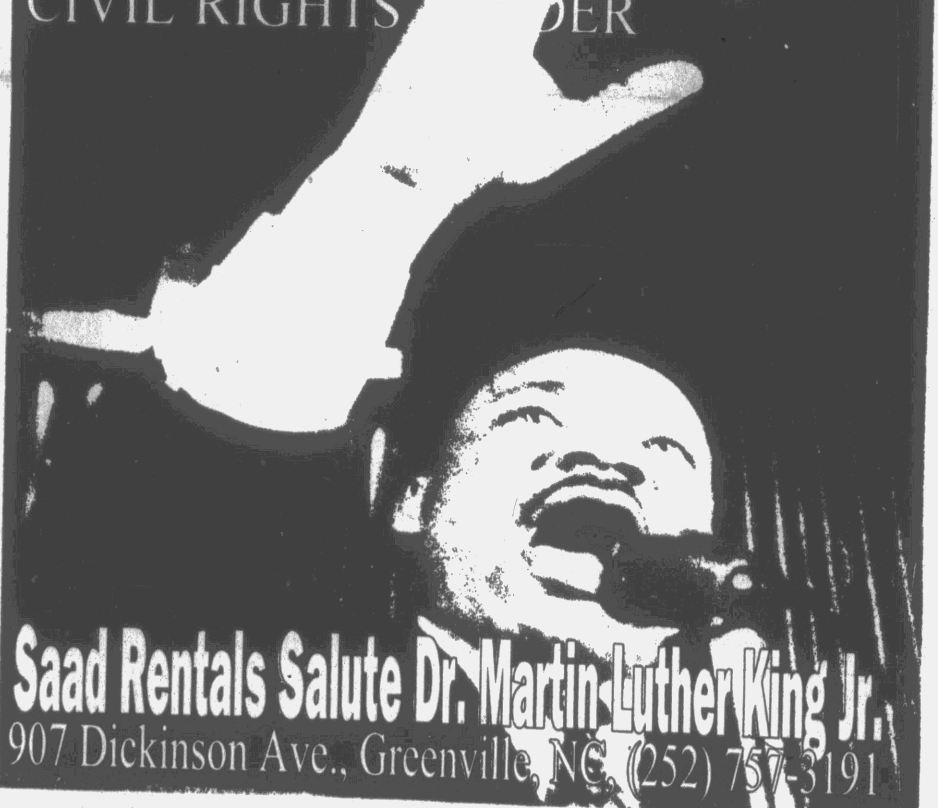


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**Celebrate  
 Black History Month  
 February 2003**

**The Souls  
 of  
 Black Folk**

**January 15**  
 Wednesday

**Kick-off**  
 Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday featuring singer Ernest Silver. Remember! Celebrate! Act!

**11:00 am**  
 The Pitt Stop  
 Vernon White Building

**February 3**  
 Monday

**Survivor Strategies in the 21st Century**  
 Featuring speaker Dr. Garrie Moore, Associate Provost/  
 Vice Chancellor for Student Life, East Carolina University

**12:00 pm**  
 Room 143  
 Leslie Building

**February 7**  
 Friday

**Red Cross Blood Drive and  
 Free Blood Pressure Screening**

**8:30 am - 2:30 pm**  
 Coburn Center  
 Warren Building

**February 19**  
 Wednesday

**Reader's Theater**  
 Featuring pieces from James Weldon Johnson's  
 God's Trombones

**10:00 am - 12:00 pm**  
 Room 143  
 Leslie Building

**February 21**  
 Friday

**Friday Film Series**  
 Boycott - A film about the Montgomery bus boycott  
 of 1955 led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**11:00 am - 1:00 pm**  
 Room 143  
 Leslie Building

**February 25**  
 Tuesday

**Poetry Slam 2003**  
 A competition of performance poetry with emphasis  
 on writing and performance.

**11:00 am - 1:00 pm**  
 Room 143  
 Leslie Building

**Month Long Features:**

**Health Sciences Bulletin Board Showcase - Fulford Building**  
**Learning Resource Center Book Display - Everett Building**

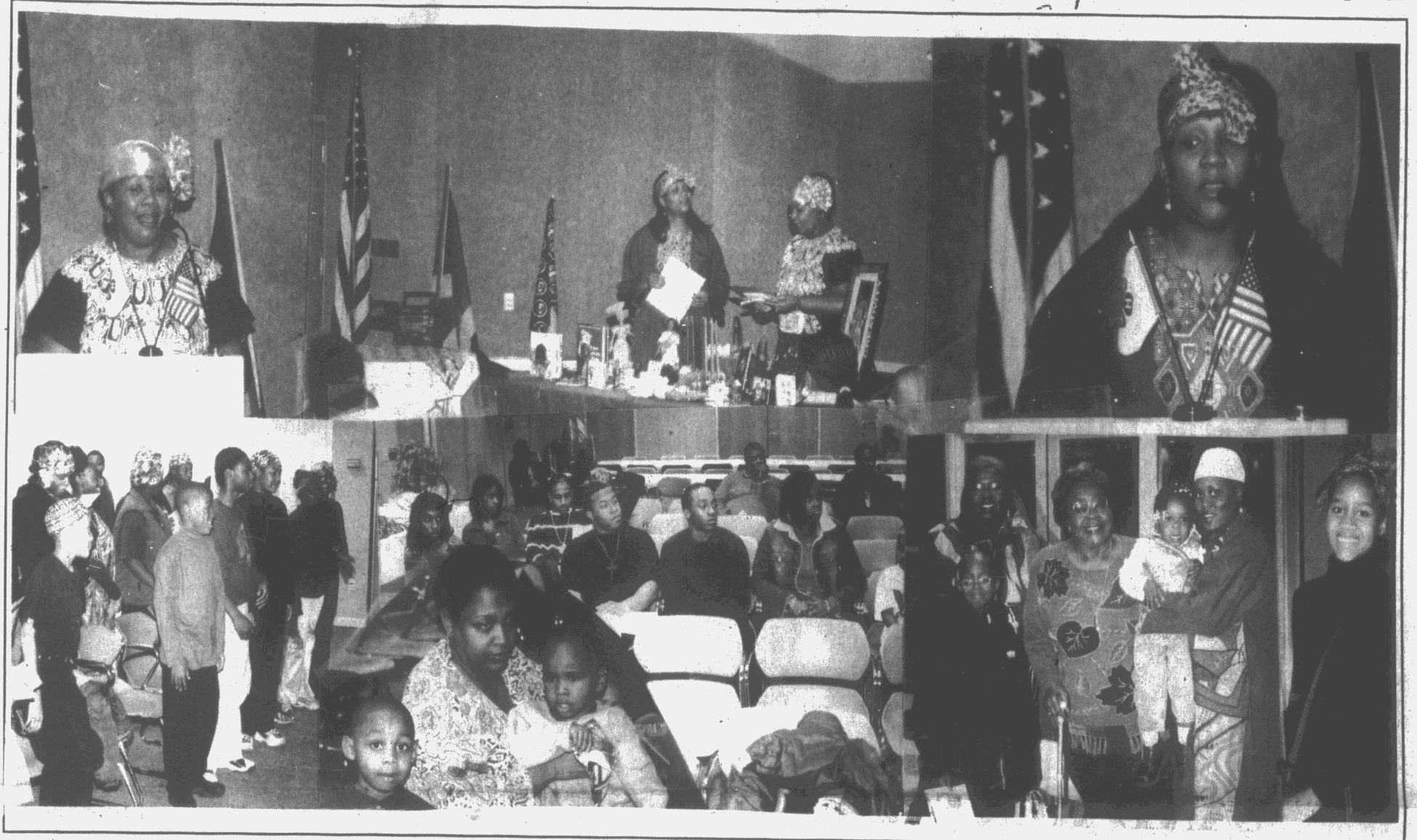




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**KWANZAA**



"Kwanza Celebration....."

Shown above are the Pitt County Black Social Workers, with some children from the community during their annual Kwanzaa celebration. Kwanzaa is important for our children to learn the values and the real and true meaning of Kwanzaa.

Staff Photo: J. Rouse



"Mothers Appreciation....."

Shown above is a mother (Mrs Sylvia Barnhill), who decided to give her daughter a "sending off" celebration as her daughter (Sabrina), and others leave for war. Lets remember to keep all of our service men and women who are away at war, in our prayers as they defend our country.

Staff Photo: J. Rouse



# Reflections, Expressions, and Reviews



## HAITIAN REFUGEES ("No Room at This Inn")

Into the water they jumped as the world watched. Abandoning their badly overloaded boat, 225 desperate Haitians splashed 20 yards toward shore and swarmed onto the teeming causeway near Key Biscayne, Florida. Men tried to hop into pickup trucks for a ride to the shining buildings of Miami, just a mile away. Women blew kisses to gaping joggers. Dripping-wet children, some wearing their Sunday best, clutched teddy bears or other precious toys. Braving death, they had all crossed the sea to escape Haiti, the poorest nation in

the Western Hemisphere.

And instead of being welcomed, they were locked up. The pathetic display of humanity in Florida exposed this country's shameful double standard on immigration. The Bush administration, worried that Haiti's imploding economy will flood us with thousands of illegal refugees, ordered last year that all such gate-crashers be jailed and sent back. Had they been Cuban, they would have automatically gotten political asylum. Haitians, unfortunately, don't live in a communist dictatorship, but a United States-engineered "democracy" where 80 percent of the population lives on less than a dollar a day. Apparently, "this kind of persecution doesn't count".

Some feel that President Bush should not be blamed for Haiti's problem but feel the blame should be put on the Congressional Black Caucus and others who urged former President Bill Clinton to restore President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power in 1994. Aristide's tenure has been a political and economic disaster, rife with human-rights abuses,

corruption, and shrinking life expectancies.

In response, Bush has wisely blocked \$500 million in loans and grants. Yet Aristide's defenders, notably the Black Caucus, continue to praise this tin-pot dictator while criticizing Bush and his brother Jeb, Florida's governor, for their supposed inhumanity toward Haiti. The timing of the refugee crisis, just before Election Day, is pretty suspicious. Back in June, Aristide predicted precisely this sort of mass exodus. "Gov. Bush wouldn't want that in an election year," he warned. Clearly Aristide is using the boat people to embarrass the Bush brothers.

This sad spectacle is swept up in an emotional torrent, but regardless of what caused it, we must face a brutal truth: The U.S. simply can't accept everyone who yearns to breathe free. The more we try, the more likely we are to explode in unemployment, poverty, and all the other evils these huddled masses are seeking to escape. To remain a country to which people want to immigrate, we have to balance charity with wisdom.

## SCLC Celebrates the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

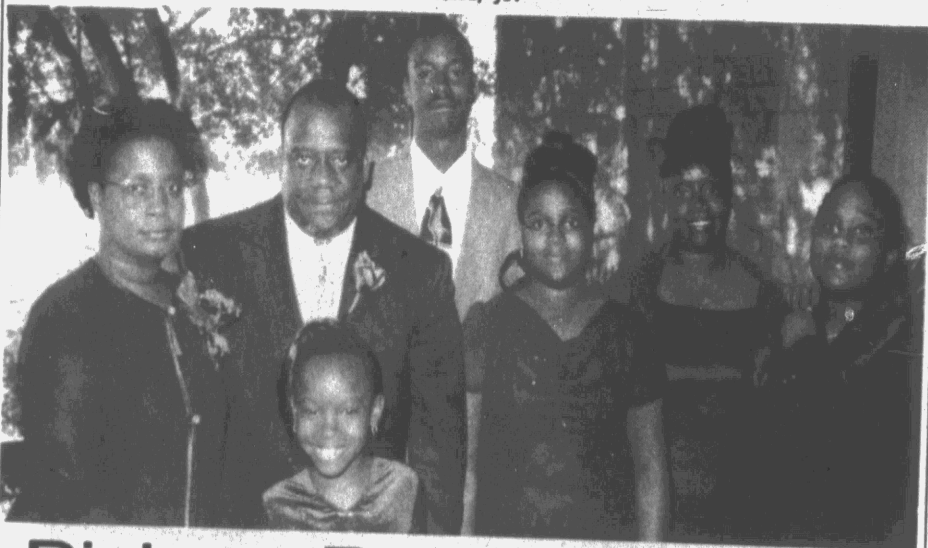


Chapter President Phillip Higgs believes that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said it best with these words to live by.....

*"I'm concerned about a better world; I'm concerned about brotherhood; I'm concerned about truth. One that is concerned about that can't advocate violence. Through violence you may murder a murderer but you can't establish truth. Darkness cannot put out darkness; only light can do that....An eye for an eye will eventually leave us all blind."*

## PHILIPPI CHURCH OF CHRIST HONORS REV MLK JR.

Let us not despair. Let us not lose faith in man and certainly not in God. We must believe that a prejudiced mind can be changed, and that man, by the grace of God, can be lifted from the valley of hate to the high mountain of love.  
MLK, Jr.



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## From The Family Of Sergeant Sabrina Baker

### PRAYERFUL SEND-OFF - 514<sup>TH</sup> M. P. UNIT

In Honor of Sergeant First Class Sabrina D. Baker December 30, 2002

Registration..... 5:00pm

Meet & Greet..... 5:30pm

Entrance of Head Table Honoree..... 5:40pm

Pinning of Corsage.....  
Shenella Darden  
Sister-in-law of Honoree

Welcome.....  
Bro. John Baker  
Husband of Honoree

Scripture.....  
Sis. Kayla Baker  
Daughter of Honoree  
Sis. Courtney Baker  
Niece of Honoree

Prayer.....  
Rev. Clarence Gray  
Triumph M. B. Church

Solo.....  
Deacon Roy Thomas  
Godfather of Honoree

\*\*\*\*\*DINNER (Musical Interlude)\*\*\*\*\*

Remarks.....  
Elder James Corbett  
Pastor of Community Christian Church  
Bro. Phillip Higgs Sr.  
President of Pitt County SCLC  
Bro. Joseph Boston  
President of Beaufort County SCLC  
James Morning  
Supervisor of Shipping & Receiving Dept.  
Capt. Michael Best & SFC Dennis Thigpen  
514<sup>TH</sup> Military Police Unit - Greenville NC  
Uncle Winston D.C. McKeever  
Retired Master Gunnery Sgt. - US Marine Corps

Presentation of Flowers & Poem..... Cousins of Honoree

Thank You.....  
Sis. Sylvia Barnhill  
Mother of Honoree  
SFC Sabrina D. Baker  
Honoree

Prayer for Protection & Closing..... Elder James Corbett



# BEHIND JAY - Z

## Rapper Has His Hands In Many Businesses Plans To Leave The One That Made Him A Star

New York....."Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for coming out," says Jay Z in a Vegas lounge lizard voice.

"Now don't forget ---- there's a \$10,000 cover charge, so if you could just take care of that on the way out."

Jay-Z always thinking big. One of the towering names in hip hop, with seven platinum-plus albums to his name, he stands at the center of an empire that includes Roc-a-Fella Records and the Rocawear clothing line ---- a hot young men's sportswear brand with sales projected at more than \$300 million in 2002. He and his team branched out into film, producing 2000's hip hop documentary "Backstage" and the recently opened action flick "Paid in Full." They even made a deal to distribute Armadale vodka, a British brand whose promotional material says that its strategy is "to be the highest priced vodka on the market."

So here at rehearsal for Saturday Night Live, Jay is launching his new album, The Blueprint 2: The Gift and the Curse, with an appearance that's almost star-studded enough to make a five-digit admission price sound reasonable. He's performing the record's first single, 03 Bonnie & Clyde, with Destiny's Child leader (and his much-rumored squeeze) Beyonce' Knowles, and Lenny Kravitz and band are playing behind them.

This blend of hip hop, R&B and rock exemplifies the crazy-quilt approach Jay took on the album, a two-disc extravaganza full of big-name collaborations and surprising styles. In addition to Knowles and Kravitz, guests include Big Boi from Outkast, the illustrious rapper Rakim and rising dancehall reggae star Sean Paul. Producers Dr. Dre, Timbaland, and the Neptunes ---- the three leading studio wizards in hip-hop ---- are also on board.

"We're at a point in hip-hop where everyone is sounding like each other," Jay says, relaxing backstage during the endless, tedious hours of downtime during Saturday Night Live's all-day run-through. "If someone doesn't experiment with the music, it's not going anywhere."

So as one of the people at the forefront, I feel like I need to put out all different types of music, to show that you could make a rock song, a reggae song.

You could make a song with live drums. You can make any type of music you want, and you don't have to feel like you're selling out."

The 25 songs on The Blueprint 2 could certainly benefit from some editing. Part of the power of Jay's best albums ---- his 1996 debut, Reasonable Doubt, and last year's The Blueprint ---- was in their concision and consistency.

But here, the sprawl is part of the point. "Some people might have to skip over some tracks," says Jay.

"I'm saying that, and I'm the one that made 'em!" In a year when it truly felt as though hip-hop was spinning its wheels, this sort of all inclusive ambition is a statement in itself. And Jay-Z, who turns 32 next month, is nothing if not ambitious. In the past few weeks, as well as releasing his own album, he has turned up on the soundtrack to Eminem's movie 8 Mile and on new albums by Missy Elliott and Snoop Dogg. ("Blueprint 2" knocked the Eminem soundtrack out of the No. 1 spot on the charts last week, selling 545,000 copies its first week out.)

Since the release of The Blueprint, "he's recorded a triumphant MTV Unplugged backed by Philadelphia hip-hop band The Roots, and released the massively anticipated, and ill-fated, Best of Both Worlds project with R. Kelly. Best, which seemed like a sure commercial juggernaut, came out a few weeks after Kelly's arrest last June on child pornography charges and has sold less than a million copies. (Over the summer, he told Teen People, "If (Kelly) is doing something morally wrong, he should get help, and I pray for him. I still think the album is a piece of art I wanted to do with a creative person I respect.")

Soft spoken and quick laugh, Jay-Z (sometimes called Jigga or Jay-Hova or various other ever-evolving nicknames) sits forward on a couch in the Saturday Night Live lounge

area and talks excitedly about new songs. He travels with no entourage, just one security guard. A walking example of cross-promotion, he sips at an Armadale and cranberry juice, and wears a dark Rocawear jersey. For the show's broadcast, he'll change into a Run-DMC T-shirt in tribute to the group's slain DJ Jam Master Jay.

Depending on whom you ask, Jay-Z represents the best or worst of hip-hop. His effortless, conversational delivery ("He flows like a faucet," according to The Vibe History of Hip Hop), innovative slang and irresistible hooks on singles such as Hard Knock Life and Izzo (H.O.V.A.) rank him with the genre's greatest talents. "Remarkably, rap's best MC may be its most popular," wrote Spin magazine earlier this year. But his relentless materialism and obsessive product-placement lifestyle ---- complete with multimillion-dollar fantasy videos, carousing in the Hamptons and rhymes crammed with prestigious brand names and glamorous, high-maintenance women ---- is something many in the hip-hop community have grown tired of. Jay-Z's 1999 single Big Pimpin' even created a name for this sensibility.

At the same time, his lyrics often point to the roots of his fascination with all that glitters. Filled with references to his own past and intricate narratives of drug deals and street crime, they tell a classic rags-to-riches story.

Born Shawn Carter, Jay was raised in Brooklyn's Marcy Projects by his mother, a city worker (he recently met with his father, who left the family when Jay was 11). He dropped out of high school to tour as rapper's Big Jaz's sidekick, but when that didn't work out he returned to Brooklyn and a life of dealing crack, he says. After someone shot at him from close range in 1995, he decided to get back into the rap game.

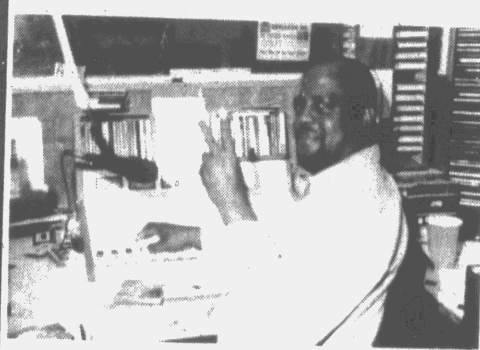
Unhappy with the record deals being offered to him, Jay formed Roc-a-Fella Records for the release of Reasonable Doubt. He and his partners eventually signed a distribution

deal with rap powerhouse Def Jam Records and begun a run of hits few rappers have ever matched.

Several well-publicized offstage actions, however, add a

disturbing underside to his story. Most notable was his 1999 stabbing of record executive Lance "Un" Rivera at a party. Jay pleaded guilty to misdemeanor assault and re-

ceived three years probation. ("It was a fight that escalated and got crazy," he told XXL Magazine recently. "It made me that much more cautious ---- even more levelheaded.")



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## African American Firsts Celebration a Success!

### African American Firsts Celebration a Success!

The signature event for Black History Month 2002 at East Carolina University was a celebration to recognize and honor all African Americans who have been first in a position of employment, scholarship, or achievement since the initial presence of African Americans on the campus. Alumni were in attendance whose presence on the campus spanned the years 1956-2002. Over ninety African American alumni were recognized as firsts in some area on campus while 17 alumni were recognized as firsts in achievement in the communities in which they live. Each tendance received a certificate and a snapshot was taken later publication. Family members, friends, community dents, faculty and staff joined in a dinner celebration to the honorees.



feature for this event was a speech by Herman Boone, whose experiences at T. C. Williams High School in the movie, Remember the Titans. Those attending the honoring the firsts joined members from the local a larger auditorium, Hendrix Theatre, to hear the coach sage urging everyone to accept individual responsibility fort to impact the diversity around us so that all humans dignity and respect due them. Coach Boone was a football helmet from the East Carolina University with each player's name engraved on it and an ECU ball jersey.

that featured individual photos and texts of the African firsts was on display during this event, and it will display in the Gallery lounge at the Student Center the month of February.

has received such outstanding reviews that this has been declared an annual event by popular demand. This was the first such event in the history of East Carolina It was indeed a reunion, a celebration, a tribute.

were the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center and the East University Diversity Cross-Cultural Communication Co-sponsors include Aramark, Brody School of College of Arts and Sciences, East Carolina University Office, East Carolina University Black Alumni

Association, School of Allied Health Sciences, School of Art, School of Education, and the Student Union Cultural Awareness Committee. Ushers included the East Carolina University ambassadors, members of student organizations, and the East Carolina University ROTC cadets.

## In My Spirit



Greetings!

First let me begin by saying, what follows are the things that bring questions to my mind about everyday life. You may have asked yourself questions and just didn't know where to find an answer. Hence the title 'In My Spirit'. You may not agree with what I say (We do have freedom of speech in America) and if by chance you think I am talking about you, don't flatter yourself. Moving On!

### East Carolina's Minority Students

For those of you who have read the accounts given about the protest of the students at ECU and only have that reference to form an opinion about their situation you have a diluted version of what's going on. We often read and look at the media's representation of any view as law unquestionably. We have to sometimes come out of our comfort zones and see for ourselves. If you have any remembrance of the events that took place let me refresh your memory.

Minority students voice concerns  
S W A T formed to illustrate concerns  
Stephanie Suber, News Editor December 04, 2002

*This story was printed from The East Carolinian*

Concerned minority students have come together on the ECU campus to raise concerns to the administration about the treatment of minorities at ECU. A coalition of people from minority organizations and individuals have united under the name of Students Working Against Trials and Tribulations (SWAT), although they are not creating an official campus organization.

According to Teresia Paul, the official spokesperson of SWAT, minority students are forming this organization to ask the administration to address certain concerns they have. Some of the issues include a new cultural center and an official statement on diversity from the university. Teresia Paul said there is already talk of a new cultural center but none of that talk has reached paper yet. Students are also concerned about the shortage of African American faculty on campus and the failing enrollment of African American students.

"We have the largest minority population in N.C. schools but the smallest cultural center," said Paul. "We make up 15 percent of the student body and our current cultural center doesn't meet our demands." Students first came together recently at a sit-in held at the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center, and some controversy developed when the ECU Police Department was called in to end the meeting.

According to senior Dennis Mitchell, the meeting went longer than expected and students were informed that the center closed at 8 p.m. but not that they specifically had to leave. Someone at the center then called the police. One officer responded to the call, waited approximately thirty minutes and then called in other officers to end the sit-in.

"The thing that really bothered me about it was that the first cop was there for almost forty minutes but he would not go in the room," said Mitchell. "It was like he was scared of us or something." Mitchell said that the officer would not go in the room despite his assurances that the group of approximately 60 students was assembled peaceably and would leave if asked.

According to ECUPD Assistant Chief Robert Stroud, the entire situation ended on a good note. After the officers arrived and told the students they were trespassing officers found out that the students had never officially been told to leave. After that misunderstanding was cleared up, students left the sit-in.

"There were no problems at all," said Stroud. "I think the cultural center staff had some disagreement with the students, but they [the officers] say everything went well. I don't think we even realized it was a 'sit-in' as such at the time. They [SWAT] had a march not long after that and everything went well with that."

Last week, SWAT members also participated in a march after the African American Greek organizations on campus held their probate. Students marched with candles from the top of College Hill Dr. to the Chancellors house. Students stopped at the bushes on campus across the street from Chancellor William Muse's house. Mrs. Muse came from the house and was presented with a list of concerns and a poster. After the presentation students ended the march. According to Mitchell, students involved with SWAT are only trying to get the university to acknowledge their concerns with concrete plans for improvement.

"Give us assurance that you're doing something to address the issues," Mitchell said. Paul said that the group wants to see the university put plans for a new cultural center in the works and they want to see written acknowledgement of the minority issues the university is facing and plans to fix those issues.

"We know things don't change overnight and we're not putting a specific time limit on things, but we do want these demands met," Paul said.

*This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.*  
Stephanie Suber, News Editor December 04, 2002

Now that you are abreast, let's look at the first statement. Concerned students have come together..... Reading this you would think that this protest has just started. Well, these concerns were given to the administration about a year ago. Next point is that given of the ECU police were called in and according to ECUPD Assistant Chief Robert Stroud, everything went well. ( Inside observation ) Garrie Moore, a black man, and ECU's Vice Chancellor for student life met with the students after the incident. He ( Mr Moore ) said that his doors were always open. If this were so why after a year of the students trying to voice their concerns, he didn't know anything about it. After the students informed him about the aggressiveness of the police officers to remove them from the Ledonia Center, Moore stated the incident was being investigated. As of yet, to my knowledge, nothing has been done. (In My Spirit ) The many black people in position who forget where they came from. *Nuff Said*



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Cuba Gooding, Jr. (right) poses with  
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For more information, contact the ECU Central Ticket Office at 252-328-4788 or 1-800-328-2787 or IY 252-328-4736.

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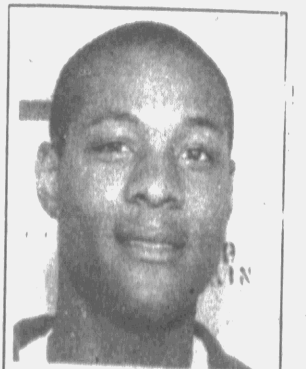
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**SON OF WILSON WOMAN SUPPORTS OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM**  
by Jeruea A. Harris

ABOARD USS TORTUGA - On Sept. 4, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark announced, "The Navy was ready on Sept. 11, and it is ready now." Today, the Navy is more than ready, it is actively engaged, with thousands of Sailors forward-deployed in support of a global war on terrorism. Navy Seaman Phillip Swinson, son of Susan Smith of Wilson, NC is deployed on board USS Tortuga (LSD-46). Tortuga, a dock landing ship, departed its homeport at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek in Virginia Beach, Va., on Aug. 26 for a six-month deployment with the USS Nassau (LHD-4) Amphibious Ready Group. While the Navy regularly conducts amphibious deployments, serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom gives Swinson a stronger appreciation for the importance of his job. "My job consists of training Sailors who are new or who need assistance within the new deck department. As the leading seaman in my division, I have been delegated that responsibility," said Swinson. "I also help preserve the ship's equipment and assist with major operations such as sea and anchor details, dropping the anchor, small boat exercises, driving the ship and standing day and night security watches." Swinson joined the Navy in August of 2000, shortly after graduating from Hunt High School. He describes the rewards and challenges of serving on board Tortuga. "My assignment is very unique. The superiors I work for expect a considerable amount from us," said the 20-year-old. As seaman in the deck department, we have one of the most challenging jobs in the Navy." USS Tortuga is equipped with two 25mm MK 38 machine guns, two 20mm Phalanx Close-in Weapons System (CIWS) mounts, and six .50 caliber machine guns. Dock landing ships like Tortuga support Landing Craft Air Cushion operations and provide transportation for Marines and their equipment. Their mission is to participate in and provide support for amphibious assault operations.

Adm. Clark has expressed the utmost faith in his sea services. Referring to Sailors like Swinson and his shipmates on board USS Tortuga he said, "The President of the United States said that we're going to keep [the terrorists] on the run. [The Commandant] and I sent a letter to the Secretary of Defense that said, 'Your answer to that is the United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps.'"

(Jeruea A. Harris is a journalist assigned to the Public Affairs Center in Norfolk, Va.)  
Photo credit - Benjamin Hammond



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# From The Desk Of Mrs Beatrice Maye



Ms Beatrice Maye

## To the editor-

What can we do? These young Black men in trouble. They are our sons, our brothers, our loves, and our future. Large numbers of Black professional women are alone, unmarried and failing to procreate because of the shrinking pool of economically stable or marriageable men. Dr. Julia Hare, co-editor of THE ENDANGERED BLACK FAMILY says, "National statistics confirm that one On every four Black men between 20 - 29 is either in prison, on probation or on parole". Worse, out of anger and frustration, young Black men are destroying themselves in record numbers, dying needless, violent deaths at each other's hands. A Black man has one in 21 chance of being murdered before he is 25, and homicide is the leading cause of death for Black men 15 - 24. Not cancer. Not heart disease. Murder.

What should Black America be doing to ensure the survival of our young men? We must make them our No. 1 priority. The functioning of Black families and American society cannot be

responsibility - cooking, cleaning and homework just as they do their daughters. Black family involvement and supporting each other are essential. Let's all resolve to do something today. This is the zero hour.

## Secrets of Life Every Teens Needs to Know

By Terry Paulson

1. Don't be a slob! Put things where they belong.
2. Don't put things off. When you finish it early, you don't have to cram.
3. Don't take yourself so seriously. A sense of humor is one of the best assets you can have.
4. Say "No" to drugs, cigarettes, and alcohol. Never be a slave to chemicals.
5. Don't drink and drive or get into a car with someone who has.
6. Live the Golden Rule - treat others, as you want to be treated.
7. Do the best you can. Anything worth doing is worth doing right.
8. Be nice to your enemies. You have to get along with people, even those you don't like.
9. Don't talk back to your parents. Be able to speak up and express your opinions, but show respect to parents, teachers and elders.
10. Take care of your body. Eat a healthy diet, get your exercise and sleep, and work at staying healthy.
11. Speak the truth so that others can trust your words.
12. Take time to practice. Anything worth learning takes practice.
13. Don't give up without trying. You miss every opportunity you never take.
14. Save sex for marriage. It's a
15. If you choose to have sex, don't have sex without taking precautions.
16. Learn to save your money, or you won't have money when you need it.
17. Pick your friends wisely. You are known by the friends you hang around with.
18. Let me know where you are, so I won't worry. If you change your plans, let me know.
19. Be careful when you drive. A car is a lethal weapon when not used safely.
20. Do your chores responsibly, on time, and without being asked.
21. Don't have anything to do with hitchhiking. Don't take or give rides to strangers.
22. Take time to know your God. Attend services at your church or temple on a regular basis.
23. Know when to stop pushing when your parents say "No". Ask for what you want, but don't become a nuisance.
24. Limit your time with television.
25. Study hard.. Doing well in school and going to college are the best ways to get ahead.
26. Borrow and lend responsibly. Don't borrow without asking and return things promptly.
27. Be confident in who you are. Take pride in what you accomplish. Don't put yourself down for mistakes.
28. When you are old enough to vote, vote proudly. Be a responsible citizen.
29. Have a positive attitude about life. Don't be a complainer or moody.
30. Take care of your pet or don't have one.
31. Use the phone responsibly and keep your calls a reasonable length.
32. Learn appropriate table manners and social graces.
33. Don't cheat, Play by the rules or don't play at all.
34. If you want to be successful, look the part. Good grooming and appropriate dress are important.
35. Don't take things that don't belong to you. Stealing is not acceptable. Earn the money to buy the thing you want.
36. When you need your parents' help, plan for it early. Parents are not last minute servants.
37. Be polite. Being courteous means being concerned about the feelings and sensitivities of others.
38. Be on time for stated curfews and call early when there is any problem with meeting your commitments.
39. Don't put down other people. If you must gossip, keep it positive gossip.
40. Don't handle your frustrations or anger with cursing, swearing, taking God's name in vain.
41. Listen to or read instructions before you try to do anything.
42. Keep your room clean and orderly.
43. Take care of your possessions. When you lose your own things, don't expect another to be bought for you.
44. Don't litter or abuse Mother Nature. Do your part for the environment.
45. Optional Lectures (Fill Only If You Are a Teen With A Brother Or Sister):
46. I'd like you two to get along. Stop fighting and work things out by talking.
47. Set a good example for

your brother and sister. When you are older, you're expected to be a model.

## OVEREATING

No country in the world eats as much as we do or struggle so with life-threatening disease. Overeating has become a dangerous epidemic. Americans are deeply conditioned to overeat. From birth onward, we are presented with servings of food far in excess of our actual needs - at home, in restaurants, at the sandwich counter and the supermarkets. Compounding the problem is scientific evidence that it's perfectly natural for animals confronted with abundant food to eat themselves silly. The only way to lose body fat is to eat fewer calories than you expend.

Cut calories to live longer.

Cutting calories could be life-saving defense against breast cancer.

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Cutting calories cut your need for expensive medications. Breakfast is essential for good thinking.

Drink one or two large glasses

of water when you wake up in the morning to help empty the colon.

## Responsibility VS Blame

Blame assigns guilt. Responsibility assigns accountability. Blame perpetuates a victim's stance. Responsibility stems from the notion that you are the principal source of everything that happens in your life.

The first key to turning your failure to success is accepting responsibility for it, no matter how unfair or unreasonable it may seem.

## Recognition

The Sheppard Memorial Library presented Mrs. Beatrice Maye the John G. Clark, Jr. Memorial Award at the Board of Trustees meeting, Wednesday, November 20, 2002 at 5:30 p.m. for reading. The winner of this award is presented a copy of Bartlett's Familiar Quotations and a plaque in recognition of this achievement.

Mrs. Mildred Elliott, librarian at Carver Library nominated Mrs. Maye, stated Mr. Willie Nelm, director of Sheppard Library.

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Mary Richardson, author, "Born to Win" ..... During Kwanzaa celebration at the Pitt County Agricultural Center, Mary Richardson, (center) and others stop for a brief moment for our camera. (Far right) is Ann Speight, a member of the Black Social Workers.

photo by Jim Rouse

## Born to Win

Mary A. Richardson began writing her autobiography at the age of eighty. Her journey takes the reader through the cotton and tobacco fields where her parents were sharecroppers in the bygone days of the horse and buggy, oil lamps, iceboxes, washtubs, and wood stoves. Through Mary's amazingly vivid memories, we experience the gathering of neighbors for hog killings, the fellowship of women doing their quilting, and the rituals of death and burial in the early 1900's. Just as many of us have experienced the "highs and lows" of life, so, too, has Mary Richardson. She shares with us the joys of her life, as well as the sorrows - sorrows many of us will never know. Living through the Great Depression, losing her eyesight, experiencing blackout attacks, and being hospitalized could have made her a bitter woman. They didn't. Despite personal tragedies, she learned to rise above the obstacles of life. Her ultimate call to the ministry and her journey of faith and spiritual courage contain lessons for us all. For when Mary A. Richardson realized that in the midst of darkness God was on her side, she knew she was truly

Born to Win.

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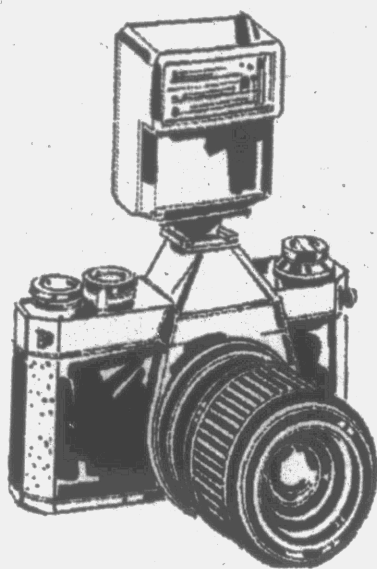
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by  
MARY A. RICHARDSON

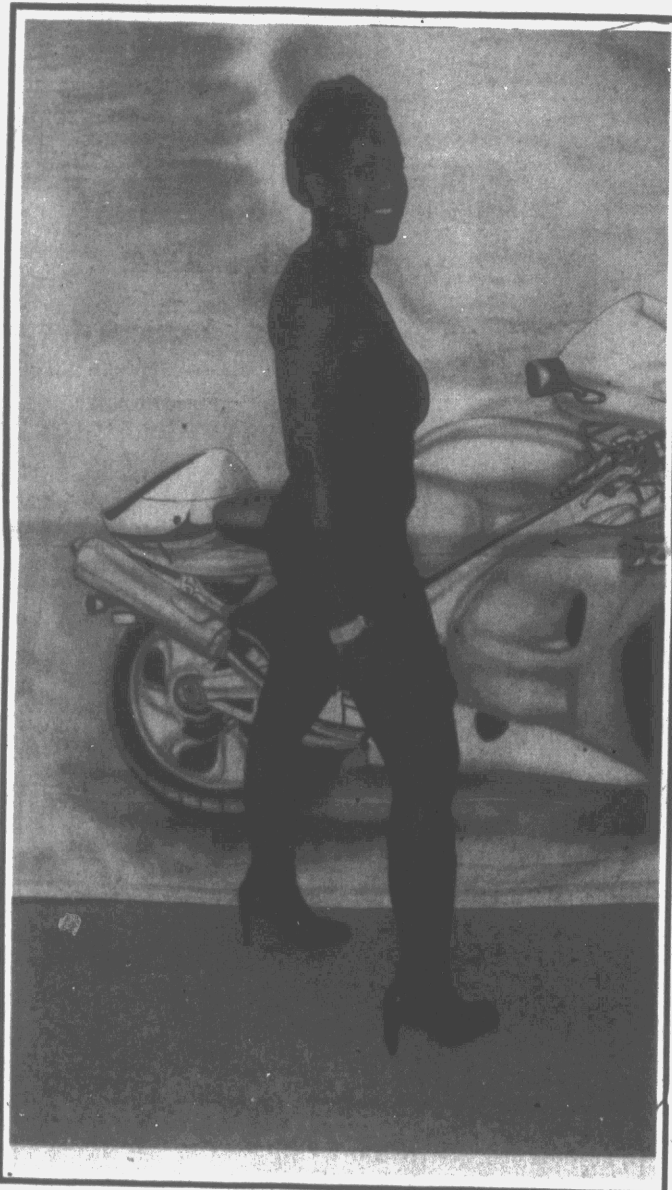
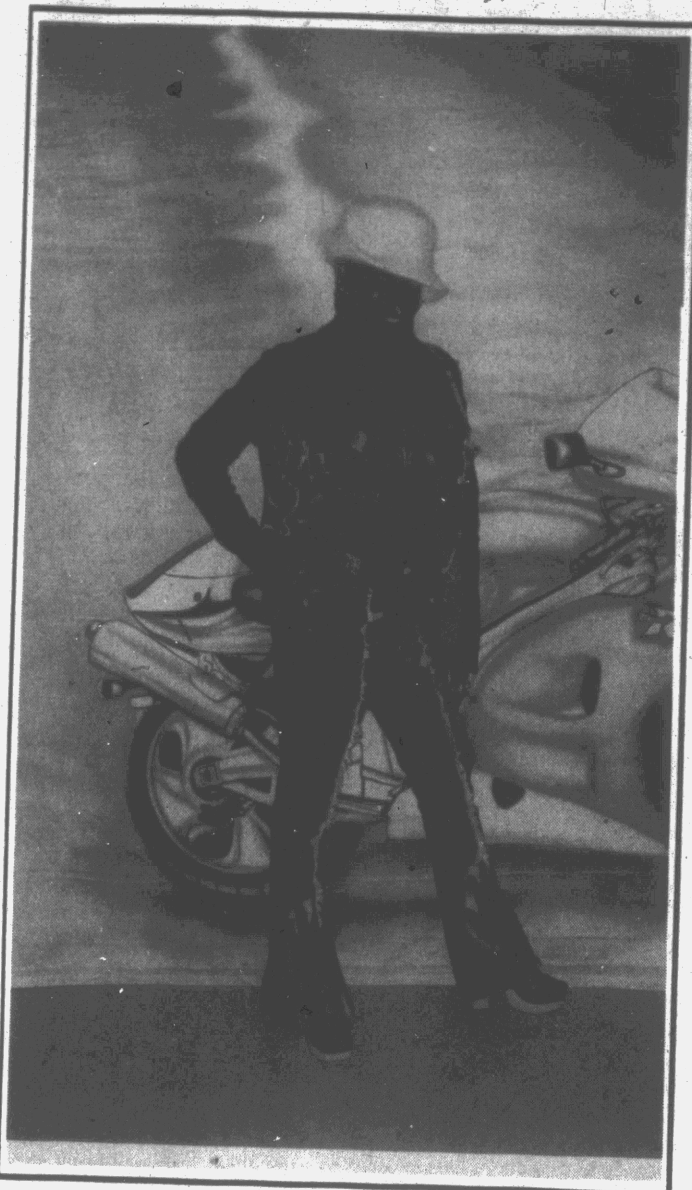




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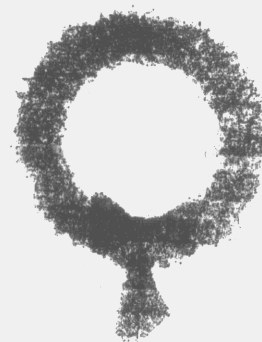
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