

# THE MINORITY VOICE

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## Mother of Kidnapped, Tortured, and Lynched Man Dies at Age of 81

Emmett Till's Mother Dies

By Chinta Strausberg, The Chicago Defender

Mamie Till Mobley, mother of Emmett Louis Till, beaten, shot and thrown into a river in Mississippi almost 50 years ago, died this week, a heartbroken and bitter woman.

Before her Jan. 6 death, Mobley, 81, blamed Mississippi and the federal government for failing to prosecute her only child's White assailants after he was murdered in 1955.

"When I surveyed our circumstances with others who have gone through more or less of the same, such as the Japanese who were incarcerated during World War II, the reparations, the extra help given to their people to help them get on their feet again, I look at us who have given our very lives to make this country what it is, and there is nothing for us. I can't understand that," Mobley said in a recent interview.

"I keep thinking about all of the help we're giving to all of the Afghanistan women and children, but nothing for Black women and children. It makes me very angry because as a senior citizen, I'm on a fixed income, which is not comparable for what I need."

Mobley died in Chicago of a heart ailment. She had kidney failure. A dialysis patient for many years, she recently complained that she was not well.

The Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr. said that Mobley was "a huge figure in American history," primarily due to her decision to have an open coffin

for all to view her son's disfigured corpse.

During the past two years, Mobley joined Dorothy Tillman III, a Chicago alderman, in fighting for reparations for African Americans. She testified at Tillman's hearings, held last May in Jackson, Miss., to plan a strategy and expand the movement for reparations.

A Chicago special education teacher, Mobley grabbed the nation's attention in 1955 when her 14-year-old son was murdered during a visit with relatives in Money, Miss. Roy Bryant, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, would later admit to abducting Till from his uncle's home. Till's naked, beaten and decomposing body was found in the Tallahatchie River; he had been shot in the head.

The murder gained international attention when Mobley ordered that his casket be left open to reveal the gruesome, mangled corpse of her son. She said that no one would believe what the White men did to her son unless they saw what she had seen.

The two men were tried one month later by an all-White jury and, despite their admission to abducting Till, were acquitted, in part because the body was too mangled to be positively identified.

"The Lord has used me to open up the civil rights movement and now he's using me to push for reparations," Mobley told the Chicago Defender in a recent interview.

In the interview, she often wondered what her life would have been like if her son had not been killed.

"All the help that I get, I am forced to pay for it because the income bracket I'm in is just a few dollars above the minimum and that makes me ineligible for any help. All of the help I get, I have to pay for it out of my limited income."

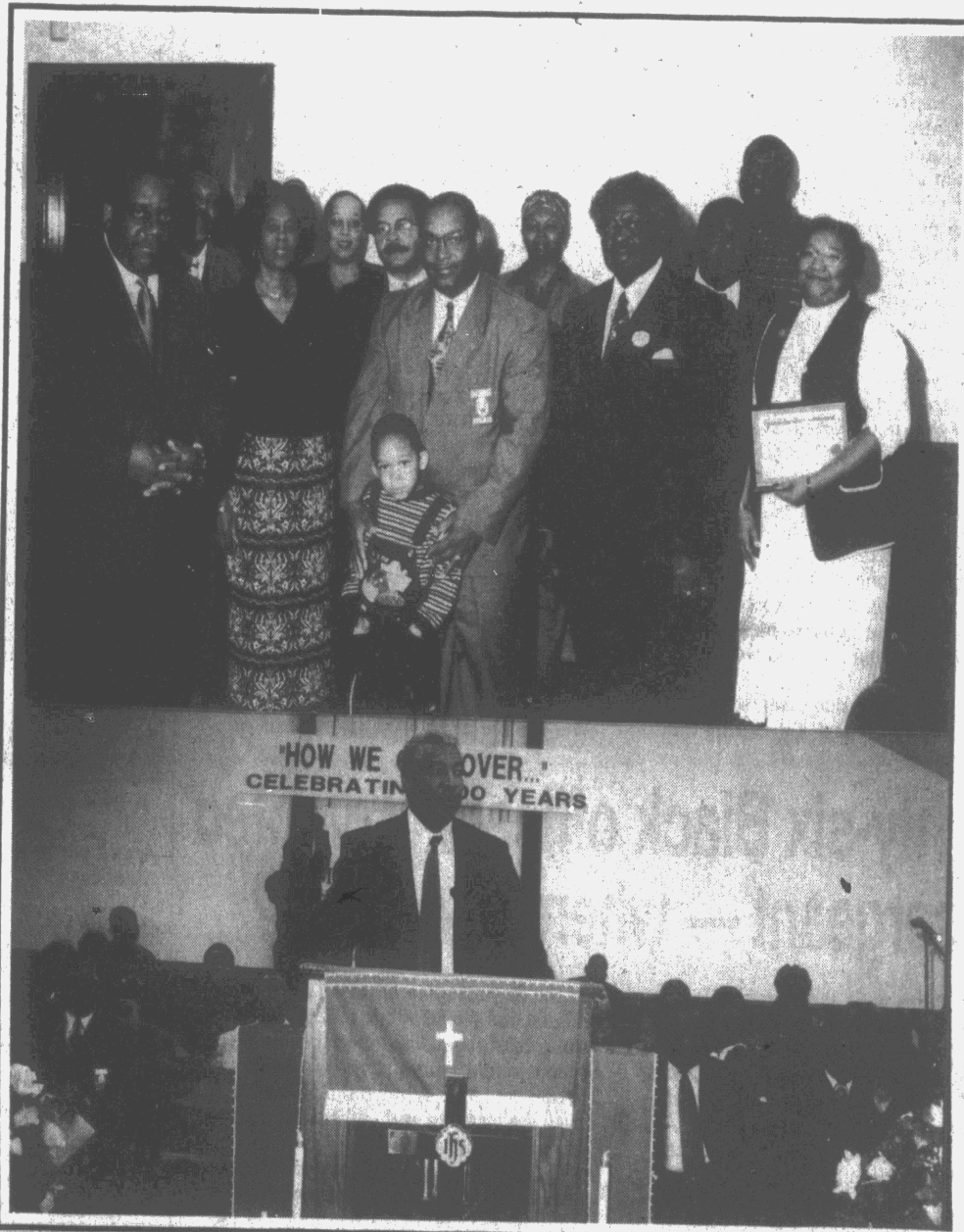
"What if I had Emmett? He would have had children; I would have had great-grandchildren by now. I would have had someone to depend on without thinking what it would cost. My life would be altogether different."

"I feel that when my son was taken away from me, so was half of my life because every day I am bombarded with calls from people who're doing a story about Emmett or will I speak about Emmett. It's almost 24/7, almost."

"There was no way I can settle down and throw it off because it would not go away. I had to live with it."

"Mississippi did it and it seems she was being helped by the federal government because they said not federal law had been broken; therefore, they had no jurisdiction in the case. They said it was up to state supremacy and I was just left out there. They even tried to accuse me of plotting to bring this situation about and that I was having my son killed for the \$1,500 that I had for insurance on him."

"I was shocked, angry, indignant then, and I still am," Mobley said. "I'll never give up my seeking justice for my son's death. I will have to work on that until the day I die." Lawanda Johnson contributed to this report.



The Pitt County Chapter of the SCLC will be hosted 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 began with the Theme Address on, Sunday at 6 pm (pictured above) with Attorney Earl Brown (bottom picture) delivering the address and concluded with a Peace March/Rally on Monday at 10 am, the Youth Talent Showcase at 1 pm, and the MLK Feast at 4 pm. Awards were given to participants and Outstanding Basketball Players throughout the County. (Top picture) photo by Michael Adams

## Birthday Celebration



Mrs. Renee Arrington, Director of the Lil Willie Center celebrated her birthday recently. Standing beside her at the Dubois Center to the left is her Daughter and her niece who often volunteer with the aid of our neighborhood children. Tutors are available for our latchkey kids. They also receive help with their homework and learn computer skills. Congratulations to Mrs. Arrington from the Staff and Management of The M'Voice Newspaper. (pictorial of the event inside)

photo by Jim Rouse

## THE HISTORICAL LEGACY LEFT TO US BY THE REV DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED THE DREAM LIVES ON

## Hangman's Noose Brings Lawsuit In Durham N.C.

Black DOT Mechanics Sue Over Rope Noose

The Herald-Sun/Durham, North Carolina

Official says it was handmade tool, not hangman's noose, that was displayed.

By Estes Thompson-Associated Press

Raleigh-Seven black mechanics say white Department of Transportation shop supervisors left a hangman's noose displayed over a workbench for 35 days, including Black History Month.

The seven filed a civil rights lawsuit Thursday, and accused DOT officials of trying to cover up the controversy.

The lawsuit said the noose was displayed from Feb. 1, the start of Black History Month, until the first week of March, when the employees filed racial harassment charges with the Civil Rights Division of the state Office of Administrative Hearings.

The noose appeared about three months after DOT managers proposed moving a white supervisor out of the shop and putting a black supervisor in charge.

A high-ranking DOT official said the mechanics were mistaken about the meaning of the

noose, but it was removed as soon as officials learned they were concerned.

Len Sanderson, state highway administrator, was adamant that the rope loop wasn't a hangman's noose.

"The device that I think is in controversy is a handmade tool. This tool was devised in order to pull hydraulic lines through trucks," he said. "That is not a story. That is a fact."

But one of the plaintiffs, a 38-year DOT employee, said he didn't believe it.

James Issac, 57, was the black supervisor who was named in November 2001 to take over the shop that repairs heavy equipment and trucks. He took charge in March.

"I've been a mechanic since 1969, and I've never used a rope to pull anything with," Issac, of Holly Springs, said. He pointed out that the rope was clean, indicating it hadn't been used for any work.

Mechanic James Mitchell, 39, of Durham, said at one point his supervisor—since removed from the shop—"was calling his friends over to look at the noose. To me, it was just like putting on a show."

The attorney representing the men said the noose was a symbol of the Ku Klux Klan and was especially offensive to the black men because of the

Klan's history of lynching blacks

Lawyer Alan McSurely said four other black employees not involved in the lawsuit also saw the rope and were offended.

That's management's position, that 11 black men with 160 years of experience were lying," he said.

Edward T. Smith, director of the Civil Rights Division, said in a letter that his agency believed the mechanics.

"I believe several hate crime statutes were violated," Smith wrote Wednesday to Wake County District Attorney Colon Willoughby.

McSurely said he was seeking unspecified monetary damages and a court order requiring DOT to institute programs to provide equal employment opportunities for blacks.

He said it took courage for the mechanics to come forward. Several said they were advised by the Civil Rights Division to photograph the rope and then see how long it stayed up before management dealt with it.

"I want to pave a way where my son doesn't have to deal with this," said Lydell Landrum, 34, of Durham.

Landrum said the rope was displayed by a white mechanic who, during a safety meeting, praised the tactics of the Klan. The white supervisor running

the meeting didn't do anything to stop it," Landrum said.

Another mechanic said the atmosphere at the shops was unpleasant for black employees. Waymond Chavis, 45, of Raleigh, said another supervisor still has on his desk a newspaper photo of a black employee who was jailed. The photo has bars drawn on it and it wasn't removed despite his complaints.

Sanderson said the department didn't tolerate racial discrimination.

He said personnel whom he wouldn't identify at the Beryl Road shops had received training on harassment.

"We've already provided the training to employees and supervisors, but we retrained individuals in that unit to make sure they understood this," Sanderson said.



## 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

Martin never dreamed of the  
"content" of some characters

The phrase that Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. orated when he delivered his famous "I have a dream" speech will be quoted and re-quoted forever — "by the content of their character and not by the color of their skin". It is a dream shared by many Americans and most certainly the majority of African Americans. Martin's dream is slowly but surely becoming a reality. Black men and women have reached socioeconomic levels and positions that are unparalleled in American history. While there is still much progress to be made there is undeniable evidence that much progress has been and is being made. Martin would not be satisfied, but he would be pleased.

Regrettably, however, and 35 years after Martin's death, the character of too many of us is being judged by men and women wearing black robes rather than white hooded ones. Also regrettably, the skin color of too many of those being judged by those black robe-wearing men and women is black.

Often we exaggerate when we talk of the positives of times past. But during the

1960s, Black men and women were more likely to encounter violence while participating in a peacefully conducted protest march than by a drive-by shooter or a car jacker. Little Black children were more likely to be killed by white, sick, cowardly and racist church bombers than by Black, sick and cowardly drive-by shooters. There were more young southern Black men sitting-in at lunch counters peacefully demanding and eventually obtaining equal rights than there were participating in violent street gangs.

The content of the character of too many of us whose skin color is the same as Martin fought so hard for is something Martin could not have dreamed of. He could not have dreamed that in a country where opportunity is now so great that there are so many of those whose character ignore that great opportunity. America, though not perfect, has become a better place because men like Martin dared to dream. In too many of our communities today, however, dreams have been replaced. They have been replaced by chaos and fear. The dreams have been converted into nightmares, and about this Martin would not be pleased.

Eighty-six Black officers promoted  
to sergeant — where's the bias?

This week the Memphis Police Department held a ceremony was held at the Cook Convention Center announcing the promotion of 264 newly promoted sergeants. The Afro-American Police Association is "crying foul" as a result of the failure of what they feel is a representative number of African-American police officers to pass the examination that qualifies an officer for promotion to the rank of sergeant.

According to published reports, 518 patrolmen took the examination with 274 of those being African American, 241 were White and three patrolmen were classified as "others". Of that total number, 246 of the test takers successfully passed the examination with 86 of that number being African Americans. Here's the percentage breakdown: Of the total number of patrolmen passing the examination, 48 percent passed it. White patrolmen who took the examination passed it at a rate of 72 percent while African Americans who sat for the examination, passed it at a rate of 31 percent.

That the comparisons are disproportionate goes without question. What is questionable, however, is the validity of the claim of Afro-American Police Association president Tyrone Currie that the examination is biased because it places too much weight on the written portion of the examination.

The problem we have with the bias claim is simple. White 188 Black officers didn't pass the examination neither did 66 Whites. If the test was structured to "screen out" Black officers it didn't work in the instance

of the 86 (including Officer Currie) who passed and the 66 White officers who were unsuccessful got "caught in the mix". What seems to make more sense by way of explanation is that 66 White patrolmen didn't meet the standard and 188 Blacks didn't meet that same standard.

We do not presume to be able to tell law enforcement officials how promotional examinations should be structured. By the same token we recognize the fact that police officers themselves are far more knowledgeable than we are about what it takes to adequately perform the job. It may be that some modification in the percentage weight given the practical section of the examination versus the written section as the association suggests. On the other hand it might be appropriate for the Afro-American Police Association to develop programs that will better prepare their members to score well on written examinations for promotion.

We are not qualified to assess whether either of these options are valid or practical. We do recognize, however, that a test having an adverse impact on minorities as officer Currie asserts does not in and of itself constitute bias. "On-air" auditions for individuals aspiring to be radio announcers would have an adverse impact on persons with speech impediments but that would not constitute bias. The term "bias" is a strong and accusative term that implies "discriminatory intent". Given the facts that are referenced here, the reference doesn't appear to be appropriate.

Old church buildings  
and sentimentality

Religious edifice tends to inspire depth in worshippers' faith and theology and in the good works of its congregations, its parishes and its believers.

Whether Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist — a visible holy structure creates memory, a place where worshippers find expression of their faith and solace in their spiritual home.

The building itself, the outward, tangible site of artifacts and ceremony, symbolizes tradition, deepening the meaning inherent to icons and symbols, to pageantry and to devotion, to rites and to prayer.

The cathedrals of Notre Dame and Chartres in France come to mind, as do the Blue Mosque at Istanbul, where since 1616 muezzins have called the faithful to prayer from its six minarets, and so, too, do the temples of Cambodia and the Mormon Temple in Salt Lake City.

All conjure reverence, deepening the spiritual substance of their holy men and women and enriching the experience of their faithful.

To say a building is equivalent in meaning to theological doctrine is absurd, of course, but often a building is a material presence that, like a poem, renders and re-

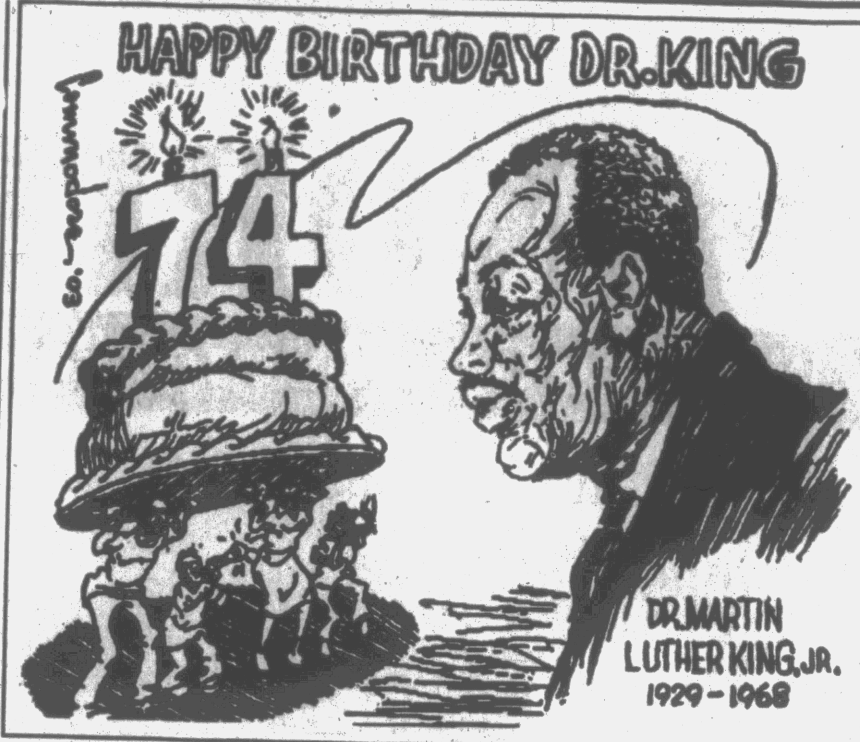
fashions faith and experience into new, deeper meanings.

Last week, the Beale St. Baptist Church was shut down as a result of years of building neglect. The problem centers on money. Lawyers will become involved as well might historical preservationists. There is no question of justice involved and no injustice will follow if the 118 year-old church building is turned to rubble.

The faithful of the church will continue to find inspiration and salvation, whether under a new roof or a renovated one. Yet as wars and rumors of war abound, as hundreds of thousands of uninsured go unprotected, this warm feeling emanating from an old church building is a source of joy.

Deacons and trustees, pastors, judges and lawyers will, no doubt take a prayerful, good faith course in deciding the destiny of the church, and our inclination to feel that we glean special sanctity and wisdom from an ancient building is merely sentimental.

Yet with the joys of Christmas season lingering pleasantly in mind, a bit of sentimentality about Beale St. Baptist Church rises like lingering notes from an old organ.



## COMMENTS

The Republican Party needs  
to just "Put up or shut up"

Arthur L. Webb

clear it is also insulting to thinking African Americans.

If Republicans' claim of desiring ethnic diversity among its ranks were sincere that sincerity would be reflected in their normal conduct of business. Therein lies the problem — their normal conduct of business is in stark contrast with their claim.

Republican efforts to recruit Blacks has been essentially limited to making high-profile political appointments. The presence of a few high-profile Blacks such as Colin Powell, Condeleeza Rice, J.C. Watts and Clarence Thomas are inadequate motivators, however. The presence of a handful of high profile Blacks to convince us of Republican sincerity doesn't fly. The fact that the Republican party could name an obviously bigoted Trent Lott as Senate Majority Leader in the first place, rates all the Black appointments the President could make. All the speeches, programs and pleas in the world will not change that image until people like Trent Lott are excluded from positions of leadership — not because he blunders publicly but because of his social orientation.

The bottom line is Blacks are not going to participate in a political party that aids and abets (if only by its silence) an image of racism and bigotry.

Saying they aren't bigoted is not believable. The right wing of today's Republican Party would have been Democrats in the old, overtly oppressive and segregationist South. Segregationist Democrats of the pre-civil rights era became the right wing of the Republican party.

Republicans say they want to be more inclusive. They claim they want more minorities to become involved in the Republican Party. Yet, few Blacks attempt to make the party transition. Why is this? While the claim of the GOP leadership is loud and

ty during and after the Civil Rights Movement. These former "Dixiecrats" constitute that part of the Republican Party that pushes legislation that would reverse civil rights gains and supports the approval of the appointment of federal judges that would aid and abet in that effort. Black people know and understand this very well and aren't about to cross over until the party disavows both publicly and by vote their support of these efforts. Don't Republicans realize this?

I think they do realize this but they obviously aren't convinced such a bold stance would be politically safe. Seats in congress could be lost if the "N-word lover" label were to be attached to White Republicans.

It's not a matter of being centrist or even conservative that Blacks resist. The United States has many more conservative and centrist Blacks than might be easily recognized. This should be fertile ground from which the Republican Party could recruit. The problem is that Whites still don't get it. They still don't seem to understand that socioeconomic thought among Black people is as diverse as it is among any other ethnic group in America. They still think all they have to do is parade a few "poster-child" Blacks in front of us. This might come as a surprise to most Whites because some of our so-called Black leaders continue to convince them otherwise.

The position of Black America is "Why take the chance?" As has all too often been the case, Blacks are being asked to take the biggest risk toward facilitating change. Well that won't happen in mentionable numbers. We've seen that movie before. The Republican Party is going to have to prove its sincerity. It's image is tainted at best. Only the Republican Party itself can change that image and there is only one way to do that. Say to the world and to each other "We will not tolerate racism, bigotry and racial insensitivity neither publicly, privately or in negotiations." Other-wise they just need to shut up.

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

Honeywell executive says,  
"Listen to the facts of the story"

by Kevin Madden

In accordance with the philosophy of the Tri-State Defender of bringing our readers information that is both accurate and impartial, we have agreed to publish the following statements issued by an executive with the Honeywell Corporation. The publication of these statements should not in any way be construed as either supportive or in any way against the position of the Honeywell Corporation.

Longview Middle and Whitney Elementary schools require significant upgrades and renovation of their air conditioning, heating, ventilation and fire protection systems. Currently, both schools are suffering from worn out systems that have created unhealthy learning environments for teachers and students. In addition, these schools must be brought up to existing building code requirements.

With so many issues to be addressed to create a safer and more comfortable learning environment for students and teachers, it is critical to begin work within the next thirty days to ensure these schools have adequate air conditioning when the students return to school in August.

Honeywell's price of \$14.8 million for these complex renovations is fair and reasonable. The price includes architectural and engineering fees, which are generally separate expenses, but account for 8 percent of the total price. Forty six percent of the cost of the renovation is in bringing these schools up to required building code standards. The cost is also impacted by the fact that the bulk of the work must be performed at night or on weekends so the school day is not interrupted. This re-

quires overtime pay for workers and added costs for storage and security.

There are many benefits to the Honeywell program. Honeywell's price is a guaranteed maximum price for the work to be performed. That means there can be no change orders or cost overruns. Honeywell assumes the risk for meeting the price. Unlike several other public projects in this community, this project cannot go over budget.

Coupled with a guaranteed price is the fact that Honeywell is also guaranteeing the performance of the equipment for 10 years, assuming it is appropriately serviced and maintained. This prevents the possibility that the equipment would need to be replaced in the near future at taxpayer expense. To ensure that the school system is receiving a good price, Honeywell is using its buying leverage to purchase equipment and materials at a reduced cost.

For the last six years, Honeywell has had the privilege of working for Memphis City Schools to improve the classroom environment for students, teachers and staff in more than 130 schools. In relation to Longview and Whitney, Honeywell has done its homework. Our team invested more than 5000 hours in designing and engineering the project and visiting the site to fully understand the complexity of the work.

Honeywell is eager to answer questions and clear up any misconceptions the public may have about the process or our price. However, we are equally eager to begin work on this project. The safety and comfort of students, teachers and staff hang in the balance.

(Madden is vice president of North American Technical Services for the Honeywell Corporation.)

## LETTERS

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

Breaker,  
breaker

Dear Editor;

I find it ironic and even humorous when I see everyone using cell phones, driving pick-up trucks and SUVs and wearing sports clothes with shoes to match. I wonder if we realize how controlled and programmed we are, especially since we all claim to be so different and unique. Madison Avenue, the banks and telephone people must be really pleased with all the money they're making.

This trend encompasses everyone: Men, women — old and young. It crosses classes and even political and racial lines. You have all these people, particularly white-collar workers, who work and live in the city, driving to and from work on paved roads driving pick-ups or off road vehicles just to be trendy and for status.

There's no occupational reason for it. Please tell me what do you haul in a \$60,000 Cadillac truck?

Who would have guessed the pick-up truck, associated so long with rural America and the blue-collared laborers would become a status symbol and the luxury vehicle of choice for the desk jockeying, button and paper-pushing white collar workers of America?

Do any of you out there still have your CB radio? Can you hear me? Breaker, breaker — come back good buddy.

Ellis Hutchinson

Political correctness  
shouldn't determine justice

Dear Editor;

Political pressure appears to be the motive behind Calvin Williams' being forced to resign his lucrative job as Shelby County Commission Administrator. If he needed firing this week, he needed to have been fired weeks ago. His comments that he got caught up in politics appear to be right on target. His statement that he shouldn't have had to endure the weeks of torment that he did is also accurate.

If the Commission had fired this crook when they should have he wouldn't have had to experience the torment he referred to. Shame on you County Commission for putting this "victim" through such misery. Then we have to wonder what would have been the outcome if the public hadn't appeared to be outraged at the initial wrist slap Williams received. We have to question the integrity of officials whose sense of playing by the rules is determined by what the public thinks about a situation as opposed to the facts of the matter.

Bernice Morgan

Will we  
ever learn?

Dear Editor;

I don't know why Black people are complaining that Calvin Williams and Archie Reems had to leave their jobs for doing the same things that Jimmy Moore and Bob Patterson did. Are you blind? They are Black men! In case they don't understand what that has to do with anything, let me explain it to you. Reems and Williams are Black and Moore and Patterson are White. Black people can't get away with what White people can. Didn't your momma tell you that? Plus Williams did the most stupid thing a Black man can do — insulted a White woman where everybody could hear him. Will Black men ever learn?

Glenda Harrison

Death penalty  
sometimes appropriate

Dear Editor;

Last week's sentencing of David Ivy to receive the death penalty was totally appropriate. I am usually one of those people who say the death penalty should be abolished because of the danger of an innocent persons life being taken. But then along comes someone like Ivy who has proven that if he is released from prison he will kill again. His carrying out of disdain for the lives of others forfeits his right to live as far as I'm concerned

Ezekiel Hammond

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- The National Newspaper Publisher's Association's study revealed that people would consistently pay more for and go out of their way to find a local newspaper aimed specifically at their ethnic group.
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# Reflections, Expressions, and Reviews



Suetette Jones

## Amos 'n' Andy

Anyone over a certain age will tell you that Amos 'n' Andy were two of the most popular and, ultimately, influential black comedians in history. The only thing is, they weren't black. They got their start in Durham, N.C. as did another comedian who gained national fame, Dewey "Pigmeat" Markham, who was born in Durham. Charles Correll and Freeman Gosden, the two white men who parlayed the duo of Amos 'n' Andy into a gold mine of radio humor, from Peoria, Illinois, and Richmond, Virginia, respectively. They met and began their profit-

able association in 1919 while working in Durham for the same company: Correll was directing a revue for the local Elks Lodge, and the company that employed him sent Gosden down to be tutored by him.

It's absolutely impossible for anyone not of that period to imagine how popular the 10-to-15-minute "Amos 'n' Andy" broadcasts were in those days before television. Their syntax--- "I-'se regusted," "Excuse me for", protrudin", or "Allow me to reproduce my-self" --- became catchphrases across the country, and movie theaters had to promise to interrupt movies while the show was on the radio. President Calvin Coolidge reportedly told his staff not to disturb him whenever "Amos 'n' Andy" was on the air. A character in a Langston Hughes short story remarked of the pair; "Those white guys smear a little black on their faces for 15 minutes a day and make millions, while here I am born with the--stuff all over me and can't make a dime. Smearing the stuff on their faces, they knew, wouldn't have worked when the time came to move the show onto

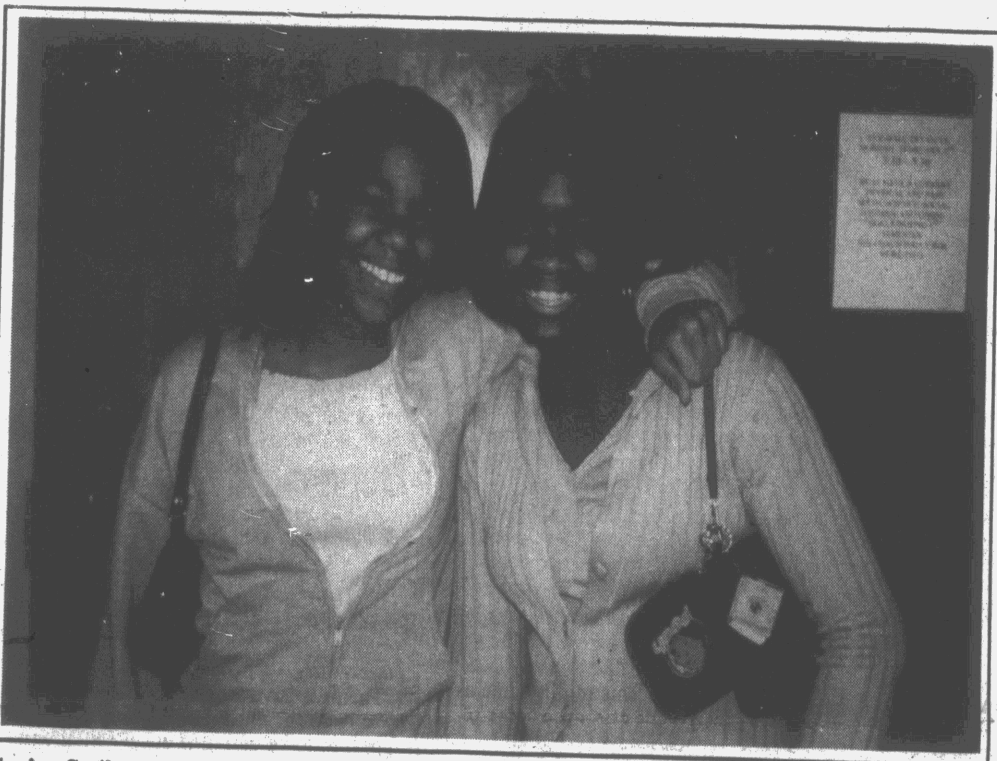
that new invention, television, so a four-year nationwide search for black actors to play the roles was begun.

The NAACP fought from the opening episode to the last to get the program removed, first from radio and then from television. Time was, anytime a black performer got on television and low-rated the race he'd have to answer for his transgressions. No matter what you thought of "Amos 'n' Andy", those characters opened doors for the Wayanses, Foxxes, and Chris Rocks of today, comedians who, unlike them, don't have to play the buffoon, but sadly, often still do.

Excerpted from Barry Saunders article:  
"A Guilty Pleasure Redeemed"

Note: Another famous comedienne, Jackie "Moms" Mabley was born in Brevard, N.C.

AMOS 'N' ANDY CAN BE HEARD EVERY MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY ON WOOW JOY 1340AM. 6:30 - 7:00 AM



Senior Smiles . . . . . These two lovely young ladies provided guidance for the C.M. Eppes Alumni when they visited C.M. Eppes High School during the GIHS-Eppes Alumni Heritage Society's Celebration. Courtney Thomas (left), and Maria Little who are both seniors at C.M. Eppes were very helpful to us all. We wish you much success in the future. photo by Michael Adams

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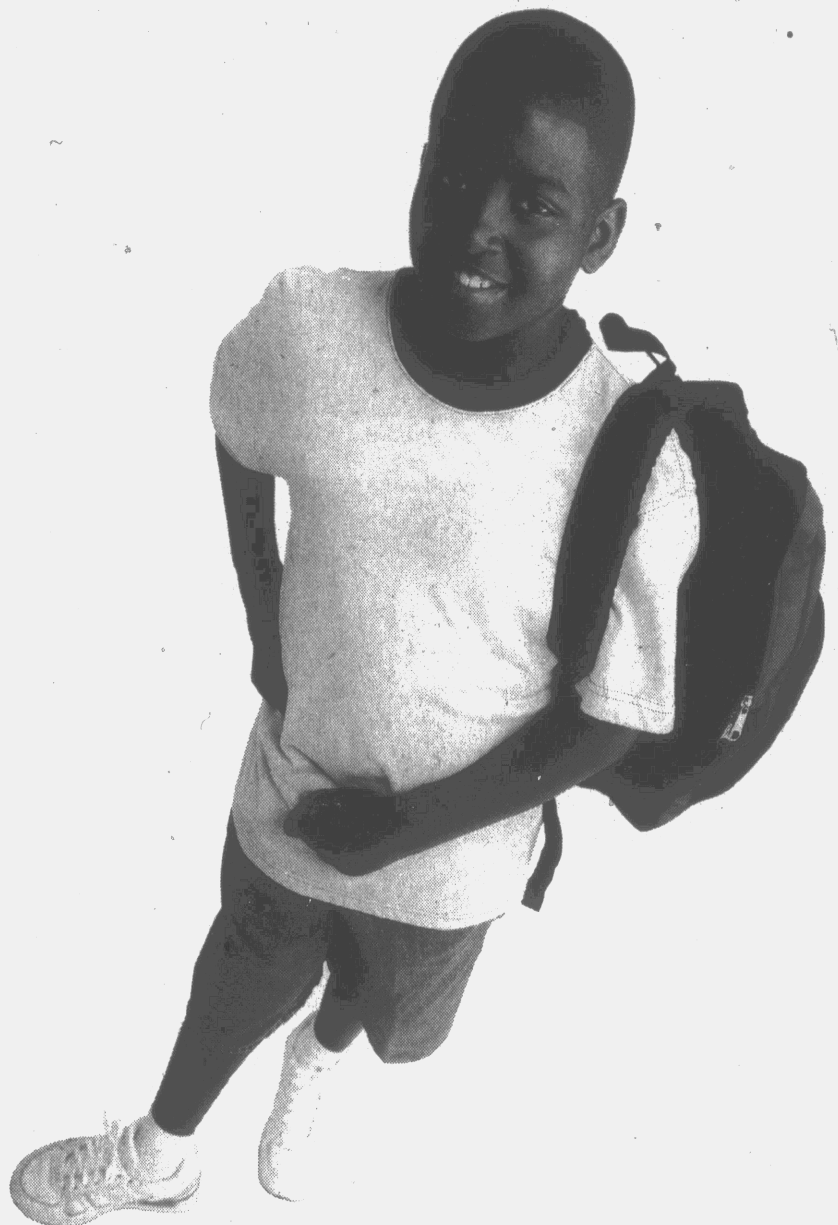
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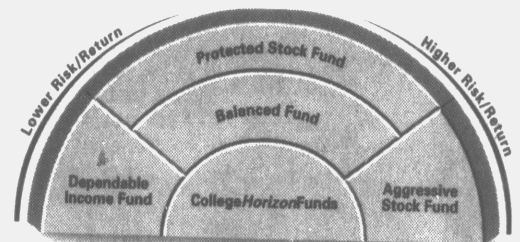
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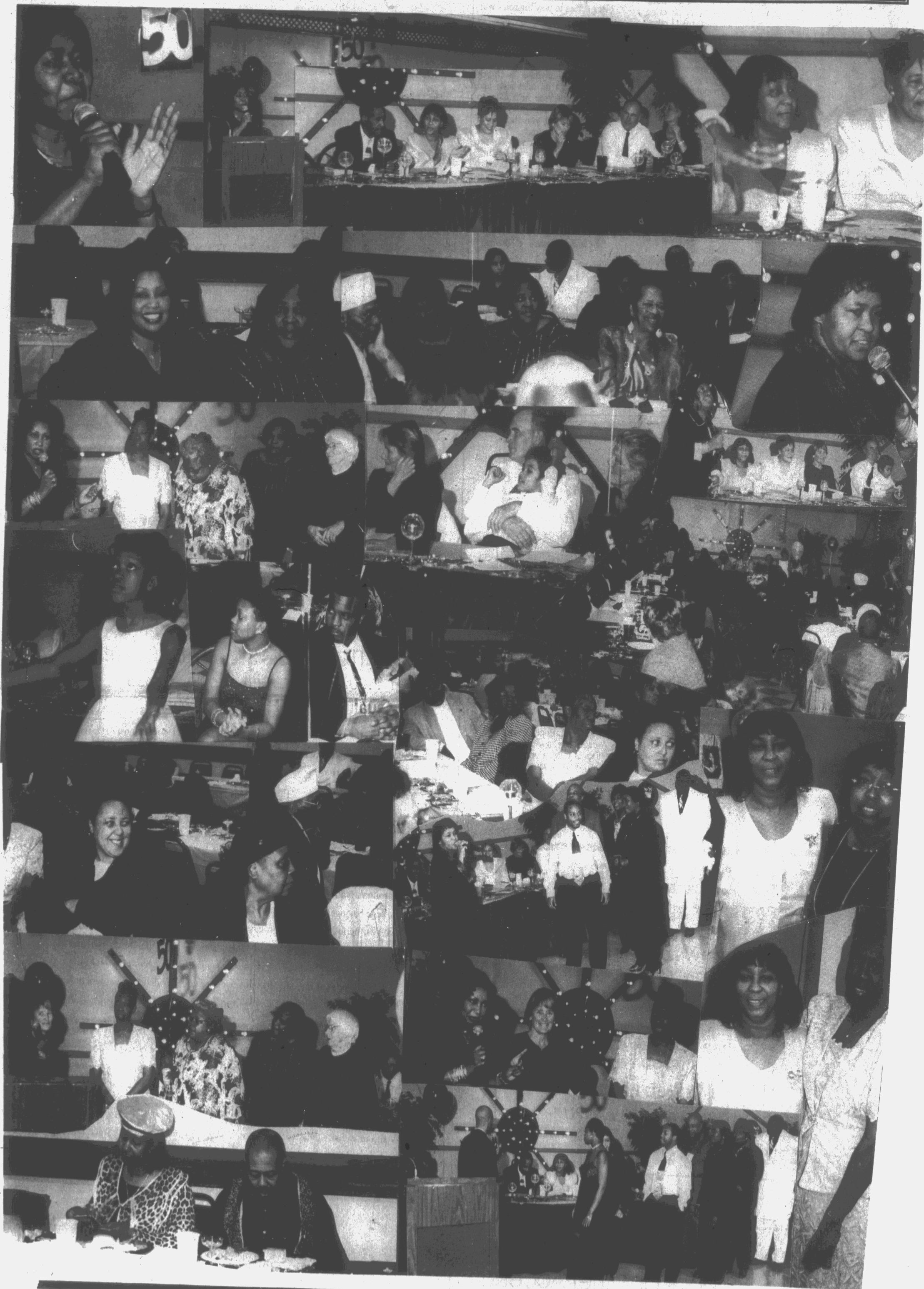
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#### Commit Yourself To Love

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#### Commit Yourself To Trust

Christians are not exempt from pain and grief. Their loved ones die in car accidents just as others do. They get cancer. When a natural disaster like an earthquake strikes, it hits believers as well as unbelievers. God does not make us His cosmic pets when we believe in Him. If he did, we could become complacent and proud. It would lead people to become Christians for the earthly benefits it brings. When we trust God we will find that we are strongest spiritually when we are the weakest physically.

Let us commit ourselves to trust God. If we do, we will find His grace adequate to give us victory over the worst that life can throw our way. There are no easy answers. But we can commit ourselves to Christ and to a love-filled, obedient, and trusting way of life. And when we do, we can experience the truth of 1 John 5:4, "This is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith."

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4. Bump, Bump, Bump -  
B2K & P. Diddy.
5. 03 Bonnie & Clyde -  
Jay-Z Featuring  
Beyonce Knowles
6. Beautiful - Christina  
Aguile
7. Jenny From The Block  
Jennifer Lopez Featuring  
Jadakiss & Styles
8. Don't Mess With My  
Man - Nivea Featuring  
Brian & Brandon Casey.
9. Landslide - Dixie  
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10. The Game Of Love -  
Santana Featuring  
Michelle Branch

#### R&B/Hip-Hop Singles

1. Love Of My Life (An  
Ode To Hip Hop) - Erykah  
Badu Featuring Common.
2. Bump, Bump, Bump -  
B2K & P. Diddy.
3. Work It - Missy  
'Misdemeanor' Elliott.
4. Air Force Ones - Nelly  
Featuring Kyjuan, Ali &  
Murphy Lee.
5. Miss You - Aaliyah.
6. I Should Be... - Dru  
Hill.
7. Fabulous - Jaheim  
Featuring Jha Rayne.
8. Ignition - R. Kelly
9. dontchange - Musiq.

#### 10. Thugz Mansion - 2Pac.

#### R&B/Hip-Hop Albums

- 1 Care 4 U - Aaliyah. 2.  
God's Son - Nos.
3. Better Dayz - 2Pac.
- 4 Under Construction -  
Missy 'Misdemeanor'  
Elliott.
5. Soundtrack - 8 Mile.
6. The Last Temptation -  
Jo Rule
7. I Wanna Go There -  
Tyrese.
8. Just Whitney... -  
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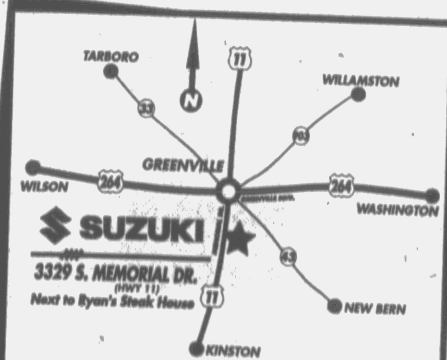
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## PERSPECTIVE

### Tired of the Rhetoric

By: Nettie Dixon

Last night I watched in awe as a panel representing four aspects of American society discussed the reasons why a financial cap for people who have been injured by negligent healthcare should or should not be instituted in all states. Then, in total disbelief, the President of the United States announced his position of agreement on instituting a \$250,000 monetary cap on judicial retribution of carefully calculated or incidental neglect from the Healthcare industry. I am appalled.

Unbelievable, that people who will never receive inadequate healthcare are making it easier for those who are most prone to suffer medical neglect to receive it more often. When is a problem in America going to be fixed for the people and decreased or band-aided for "certain people" by "the man."

The complaints in the discussion were interesting. Medical malpractice premiums are too high, lawyers make too much money from malpractice lawsuits, insurance companies are loosing money, and the judicial system is bombarded from trivial lawsuits. The suggestions for solutions were mind-boggling. Make the injured pay for our problems caused by our mistakes even if we have to make laws that violate their constitutional rights.

Essentially, no matter what we do, we will not have to worry about how much it will cost us. All we have to do is limit and/or prevent

access to due process. This solution perpetuates "number crunching," which is the basis for denying responsibility and side-step accountability. Since care is not priority for capitalist insurance companies their ability to increase profits will increase as usual at the expense of their policyholders. If our government supports their ability to side-step accountability, why should they function in the best interest of both the patient and themselves?

The issue of a \$250,000 cap is unbelievable but a second issue arose out of the discussion that should make every American stand up and fight. One suggestion was a Review Panel to evaluate malpractice claims and decide which ones could and more importantly could not be heard in a court of law. This violates the constitutional rights of people to seek judicial help. To set up a panel, probably staffed with high-powered members of both the Insurance and Healthcare Industries, for the purpose of determining if they can be sued is, among other things, idiotic. Having a President who supports a \$250,000 cap and openly asking Congress to make a change in the Constitution that will violate peoples' rights means you already have too much power and influence. Stop trying to make or keep a dollar, and, for once, do something for someone other than yourselves.

Like law and other capitalist adventures, healthcare and insurance are industries. If you are not willing to deal with risks along with profits than close up and go away.

Insurance is just that,

insurance. Healthcare is healthcare. Stop the rhetoric and place more energy into fixing the problem and not avoiding the issues. In the meantime, here are your answers. Malpractice insurance, like car insurance should be regulated to place the highest premiums on those healthcare providers who are neglectful. The insurance industry should not be able to make medical decisions for patients. If they insist on ultimately dictating patient care, they should be held accountable for their decisions.

The Medical Board should not protect and maintain licensure for incompetent Physicians and healthcare providers. They should also unite and use all means available to obtain a fairer premium from insurance companies. The healthcare industry should put more effort in patient care and not the bottom line and error cover up.

The people's rights to healthcare and judicial retribution if necessary should not be limited or violated. Therefore, suggestions for a Cap and Review Panel should be thrown in the trash where it came from and where it belongs. Lawyers should head the people's fight to insure current laws remain and more aggressive laws are written which would assure people unlimited access to their Constitutional rights and maximum benefit from their losses. Then, and only then, will the insurance and healthcare industries function in a proper manner. As long as you limit responsibility, you limit accountability and you limit the American people.

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## Radio One To Start New Network

### NEW BLACK TV NETWORK

Black, White media giants to form new Black TV network

Radio one Inc., owner of radio stations serving African-Americans, and COMcast Corp., the nation's largest cable television company, said this week that they will begin a new cable television network focusing on Blacks, later this year.

African-Americans are traditionally underserved in the television marketplace, Alfred C. Liggins III, Radio One's chief executive and president, said in a conference call announcing the venture. This is the nation's most attractive consumer demographic. The network to carry entertainment, news, opinion and sports programming - would begin by midyear, focusing on Black viewers ages

25 to 54 years old. It will broadcast 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the companies said. The new digital network, which has not yet been named, would be distributed through most of Comcast's Cable systems, and the companies said they would seek to make it available through other cable and satellite providers.

## Trade Oil Co. Proudly Salutes Black History Month

Malcolm X  
(1925 - 1964)



One of the most compelling human rights activists of modern America, Malcolm X was an ideological heir to Marcus Garvey and others who regarded black self-hatred as the most insidious product of racial oppression and the most fundamental obstacle to black self-realization. In the now-classic Autobiography of Malcolm X (with Alex Haley, 1964), he recounted his own journey from troubled youth to exponent of black power as an adherent of the Nation of Islam. Born Malcolm Little, he replaced his surname with the designation "X" (for the unknown African tribe of his origin) in the early 1950s and articulated a political vision more concerned with challenging white domination than racial segregation per se, using rhetoric that was distinctly harsher and more separatist than that of the mainstream civil rights movement. With an ever-searching intellect, Malcolm X also had the courage to revise his ideas as his thought evolved, holding up his transformations as useful examples for others. Though assassinated in 1965, Malcolm X remains a powerful symbol of unbowed black dignity and possibility.



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# Faces and Places



## TO YOUR HEALTH

### NUTRITION TIDBITS

Did you know ...

Although there are more low-fat, fat-free and reduced calorie foods on the market now than ever before, Americans are more overweight than ever before.

Over 75% of older adults in North Carolina are at risk for some form of malnutrition.

What do these two conditions have in common?

Both conditions are related to serving sizes. Overweight people generally eat too much. Malnourished people are not eating enough of the right kinds of foods.

**The Solution:**  
Take control of your life.  
Learn about portion sizes.

### NUTRITION TIDBITS

As we age our bodies need fewer calories. If we eat the same amount of food at age 70 that we ate at age 30, we will gain weight. Since we need fewer calories, we need to eat less. It is important to know how to measure a serving properly to keep our portions under control. Here are a few tips from the Portion Power module of the Partners in Wellness program. Use your hand to measure portion sizes as follows:

Fist or cupped hand = 1 cup  
Thumb = 1 ounce of cheese  
Palm = 3 oz. of meat  
Thumb tip = 1 teaspoon  
One tennis ball = 1 serving of fruit

### NUTRITION TIDBITS

Some medications have side effects that can influence your nutrition and health. These may include:-

Loss of appetite and weight loss

Increased appetite and weight gain

Nausea and vomiting

Diarrhea or constipation

Dry mouth or dehydration

Indigestion or heartburn.

So what should you do?

Ask about any side effects that any new medication may have.  
Be sure that your doctor is aware of all medications that you are taking so that he can be aware of any reactions that may affect your nutrition.

Report any side effects that you have to your doctor immediately.



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# From The Desk Of Mrs Beatrice Maye



Mrs Beatrice Maye

## NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL

I lost a neighbor last week! Rene Laughinghouse died. All of my life Rene and his family lived across the street from my family and me. In Rene's death, I reflected upon the pillar and stability this relationship has remained for the past sixty years--and longer. In high school Rene was a gifted running back for legendary Coach Daniels at C. M. Epps High. Rene earned a football scholarship in the late 1960's to attend Elizabeth City State University. I remember in the early 1970's my Alma Mater, North Carolina A. & T. State

University, played Elizabeth City State in this barren north-eastern North Carolina city on a cold and wintry Saturday afternoon. Rene was on the football team. I played in A. & T.'s marching band. While wanting A. & T. to win the football game, I secretly and sincerely desired for Rene to shine in this contest. He was ECSU starting halfback, and he also returned punts. Rene displayed his talents well although I do not recall his statistics. I honestly do not remember the game's outcome, but I learned at this time that friendships and loyalties abound even in the midst of other encounters.

During my formative years in Epps Park, the guys--Rene, William and Dennis Wells, "Happy Jack" and Joe Jones, Jimmy Harris, and so many of us--skinned our knees and tore our pants on the asphalt. We played football in the street, and once the city paved Davenport Street around 1965 we played on a surface harder than artificial turf. Rene could throw a pass from Mr. Phillips' house beyond Mr. and Mrs. Hunter's house in the air! What was so amazing about this talent was the fact that his passes had to sail across the electric lines that hung above us!

What an arm Rene had!

It was on this street that "Little Joe" Godette learned the skills and techniques that made him a football scholarship recipient to attend East Carolina University. "Little Joe" Godette wanted to play football in the street with us older fellows, and we permitted "Little Joe" to center the ball for both teams only to reduce his chance of getting hurt. Like Joe's parents and family, all of us guys felt a measure of pride and joy when Joe merited his football scholarship to play for Pat Dye at ECU and when he achieved all of his recognition as an outstanding offensive lineman during his collegiate career. Rene graduated from ECSU with his undergraduate degree. He taught middle school Industrial Arts in the Greenville City Schools and later coached football in this system. He loved his avocation--fishing. Nearly every day after work he and his buddy who preceded him in death, Stringfield, would pull a boat to some river, creek, pond, or stream. Truly, these guys loved the sport--and I believe, they deeply loved one another. While all of my childhood buddies and I left Greenville in pursuit of life's dreams, Rene remained. Ronald Williams, J. J.

Lang, Earl Gardner, A. T. Mills, Kenan and Ricky Powell, Joe Godette, Al and Joseph Hunter have been excellent Americans who have contributed to a rich quality life within their families and as artists, wrestlers, educators, attorneys, businessmen, professional football stalwarts, and military leaders. When all of us returned home, Rene was the link who bridged our childhood past to our today and tomorrow. Rene died much too early! With kidney disease and other ailments that confined him to dialysis, he asked that the treatment cease. He did not want to endure this pain and suffering anymore. He did not want to burden his family with this torture any longer. He made his peace with God, and closed his eyes in death.

I lost my neighborhood anchor last week! I lost a childhood hero! And I always will cherish the memories of us guys playing football in the street, playing basketball in my backyard or in Mr. and Mrs. Hunter's backyard, or riding go-carts down Lincoln Drive hill between Mr. Hemby's house and Mr. Hudson's house. This go-cart, in most instances, was built primarily by Rene.

Rest in peace, my friend! You

are on streets "paved with gold now!"

## Happy New Year (2003)

### ARE YOU ON THE RIGHT ROAD TO GOOD HEALTH?

Can you spot "12 MAGIC TIPS" FOR ridding YOURSELF of EXCESS BAGGAGE and the "clutter-stress syndrome"? 1. Don't sweat the small stuff. 2. Get a complete physical. 3. Have order in your life. Eliminate clutter! 4. Don't forget to eat your vegetables. 5. Good health doesn't always mean diet - it's all about making a change in your eating habits. 6. Always look your best. 7. Exercise daily. 8. Food for thought: The best things in life aren't things. You are doing great. Now keep at it. 9. Eat healthy. 10. Get some quiet time and, most importantly - Don't listen to all things or to everybody. 11. Relax and indulge yourself in a new hobby! 12. Sometimes just "give yourself a hand". Good health only takes a little added Involvement and Education. Get rid of Excess Baggage and Enjoy It!

The Laughing Place  
Ever noticed how all of Women's

Problem s start with men? MENTAL illness, Menstrual cramps, Mental breakdown, Menopause. And when we have real problems we see a Gynecologist or get a Hysterectomy? So the Men start Women's Problems. How about that?

Do you want to lower your chance of experiencing a STROKE? Stroke risk reduction is another important reason to include bananas, oranges, fish, yogurt and other potassium rich food in Your diet.

### Fast Foods

16 ounces of cake packs 198 calories. Burger King's Old Fashioned Ice cream Shake has 790 calories and 27 grams of saturated fat in a medium chocolate shake. Hardee's Monster Burger - 1060 calories, 79 grams of fat, 1860 grams of sodium. Fast Foods are often sky-high in calories, saturated fat and sodium that can make us fatter, clog our arteries and send our blood pressure through the roof. Burger King Big Fish Sandwich has 710 calories and 39 grams of fat.

### 2003 Theme:

African American History Month - "The Souls of Black Folk: Centennial Reflections"

## Dr. Shaw Says Goodbye To Shaw University



"Shaw University Cape Programs..." Shaw University Rocky Mount Wilson CAPE at Greenville recently celebrated its first Fall Commencement in December 2002. Pictured above at the SGA Christmas Party are some of its proud graduates with Bachelor Degrees. Standing, from left to right...Bobby Thompson, Gladys M. Stevenson, Linda Flemming Smith, and Leon Johnson. Also shown is Pitt County Shaw University Alumni Chapter President, Jeff Savage.

### Dr. Shaw says goodbye to Shaw University

by: Cash Michaels

His manner is cool and confident, with discipline forged by wisdom, and a hand steadied by challenge. Anyone who's dealt with Dr. Talbert O. Shaw knows he is a steel will that effortlessly dissects all challenges, masked by a confidential charm and comfortable eloquence that is both disarming, and effective.

But ask the proud president of Shaw University for the past fifteen years what the proudest moments of his tenure have been, and his eyes to begin to water, and a tear he hopes the interviewer doesn't see, begins to form.

"When I stand there in May, and confer degrees on these students, whom I've known for four or five years, have known their struggles, their social problems, their financial problems, and to see them, through to the point where we can place the imprimatur of the school on them...that's the high point," Shaw declares emphatically, his smooth Caribbean voice breaking slightly.

"That's the high point, and I'm going to miss that."

There's no doubt that when Dr. Shaw officially retires on Dec. 31 (unless the Shaw University Board of Trustees asks him to keep the lights burning a few months more until an appropriate interim is put in place), he will be missed not only by students, faculty, staff, and the Raleigh community, but by thousands of Shaw University alums nationally, and internationally, who credit him with saving their beloved 137-year-old historically black institution from the jaws of extinction.

"Certainly, the status of Shaw University when Talbert got there is legendary, and what he's done has been tremendous," St.

Augustine's College President Dianne Boardley Suber told The Wilmington Journal. "It takes a certain type of person to be able to literally resurrect an institution like he did with Shaw."

It was November 1987 when Dr. Shaw came to Raleigh as the twelfth president of one of the South's oldest historically black universities. Scandal had rocked the school then. Money was missing, the previous president,

Stanley Smith was gone, bills went unpaid and the institution was broke.

Miles away at Morgan State University, an accomplished educator, ordained minister and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences he had heard of Shaw's problems, but was frankly happy where he was. Being a college president was something Talbert Shaw never say himself being.

Dr. Shaw was a fully tenured professor of philosophy who earned his A.B. degree from Andrews College in Michigan, and his M.A. and PhD degrees from the University of Chicago. He was a well-published academician who originally yearned for a life of service to God, not leading a college, let alone a small struggling one.

That, however, would change. It was after church one day when a member of the Shaw Search Committee approached the Jamaican native, and asked him to submit his resume for consideration as Shaw's next president, that Dr. Shaw then ponder the possibilities. He had already taught at Howard University in Washington, DC. Bowie State College on Maryland, as well as Princeton University in New Jersey.

This was a Christian school, he recalls saying, one in serious need. Recognizing that "there was a purpose here," a purpose he felt God was leading him to, Dr. Shaw took the challenge, a challenge he had no earthly idea the real scope of until he sat in president's chair.

"Shaw was in real dire need when I got here," he recalls, "dangling on the precipice of extinction." But supporters of the school credit Dr. Shaw with bringing to the challenge a "vision and courage." He would need all he could had, and then

some. The university was in deep debt, owing \$5 million alone to the federal government. Creditors were literally coming out of the woodwork to be paid. Fundraising was nonexistent. There was no structure to staffing, faculty or curriculum. Enrollment was falling, and moral was so low, even some Shaw alums were pushing to close the place down.

Dr. Shaw meticulously worked to gain the respect and faith not

only of the naysayers, but the corporate community, convincing them over time that the school was a great investment waiting to happen.

Dr. Shaw especially targeted then-News & Observer publisher Frank Daniels, challenging his editorial writers to stop pushing for the closing of Shaw University, and instead start reporting the progress he was making. The paper changed its tune, and also wrote a check for \$100,000 to help the cause. That was the signal the rest of corporate America needed to get on board, and the rest is history.

Fifteen years later, enrollment has jumped from 1400, to just under 2700. Millions in debt have been replaced with a \$27 million endowment. A strong academic team was put in place, the Talbert O. Shaw Living-Learning Center was built, the football team is back on the field after 37 years, and plans for a major expansion of the campus, complete with athletics center and performing arts theater, are on the drawing board.

A graduate programs has been added, and the divinity school is back in the fold. There are satellite programs in New Hanover County and Durham. With the basketball team winning its first CIAA championship ever last year, the school has gained increased visibility, and certainly more respect academically.

It has already been announced that the next Shaw president must raise student enrollment to 10,000 and the school's endowment to \$50 million.

In 1993, Shaw University became the first institution in the nation to incorporate courses in ethics and values in the general curriculum. Helping students develop high personal standards and a commitment to citizenship is a goal Dr. Shaw says he has always felt was

essential for well-rounded human beings of service. "The final role of education really is the development of character," he says, "and you cannot talk about character if you don't have values."

The mission of HBCU's (historically black colleges & universities) is to "take students where they are," says Dr. Shaw, and mold them into what they ought to be.

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## Brian Goings

My name is Brian Goings, I'm a senior at North Pitt High School this year, and I am going to major in theater and law once I graduate. I have been accepted and plan to attend Appalachian State University, unless God says otherwise. I love school and I love to learn new things. My favorite subject is English. I love English because, first of all, I like to read, so English gives me that opportunity second, it is the only required class that lets you write expressively, which I love to do as well. I thank all my English teachers who have taught me something. They all I have instilled some things into my life that I will never forget. To name a few: Ms. Veronica Burch of Stokes Elementary, Mrs. Sylvia Barnhill, Mrs. Rebecca Flowers, Mr. Ricardo Morgan, and my last year's English teacher, Mrs. Jackie Lee, all from North Pitt High School. I live with my mother, who has been sick most of my life, but I thank God that she is still with me. For

those who do not know my mother, she is Evangelist Marie Goings and she is still my motivator and mentor when needed. The thing is, she has taken care of me and allowed me to get into programs that have required lots of expenses. She keeps encouraging me, even when she is going through, and she does all of this as a single mother. So, yes, a single mom can take care of her children by herself. She has even taken in a couple of foster children and has defeated the devil every time he has tried to take her life. I am proud of my mother. She is a survivor.

I love God and I love the way He deals with me. Some people may not see it, but who is man to judge me? God has blessed me and He keeps making a way for me. He keeps opening and shutting doors for me. He is bringing me forth into a new era of my life and is using me to help other people along the way. Sometimes I ask God why I go through the things I do, and, before long, I'll get an answer through His word, or through my mother, who is a beautiful woman of God. There's one testimony that my mother and I can share together. Eighteen years ago, I could have lost my mother. Before my birth, my mother was told by doctors

that she could not have any children. My mother did not give up; she was reading the word and the Lord had her read about Hannah. Once she read the story of Hannah and how she asked God for a son, my mother told God that if He gave her a little boy, she would raise him in the church and give the child back to Him. If He could do it for Hannah, He could do it for her. A few months later, she found out that she was pregnant with me. The devil had the doctors tell my mother that because of her age, I might be born deformed and that she should abort me. My mother refused to abort me and here I am. Also, while giving birth to me, she started losing a lot of blood, but she told God that she had never held me and not to take her right then, because she wanted to hold me and watch me grow up. She kept her promise to God and raised me up in the church. I wanted to give that testimony because if my mother had been in the world she could have aborted me so that she would live and would not have known the works that I have done and have yet to do. She could have lost her life while giving birth to me. I thank God for continuing to bless me spiritually and for the works He has done in my life.

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#### 'Arrest of vampire slayers'

Malawian President Bakili Muluzi has ordered police to arrest attackers who stoned a ruling-party official last week, after accusing him of harboring vampires.

"I authorize the police to arrest everybody involved... even if it means 150 people," Muluzi told a rally in the capital Blantyre in his first comment on the incident this week.

"You can't go about beating my governor and get away with it," he said.

Vampire stories have swept through Malawi on the back of rumors that the government and several unidentified international organizations have been taking blood from the poor in return for food.

More than three million of Malawi's 11 million people are currently in need of food aid because of crop failures.

Muluzi has denied the rumors, accusing the opposition of contriving them to tarnish his government's image.

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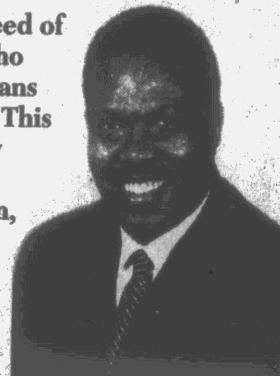
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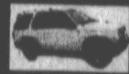
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# Rapper 50 Cent, Bodyguards Arrested on Possibly Dubious Weapons Charges

By JENNIFER BIHM  
Sentinel Staff Writer

Up-and-coming rapper 50 Cent, whose real name is Curtis Jackson was arrested outside of a Manhattan nightclub where he was scheduled to perform Tuesday Dec. 31 after police officers found two firearms in his vehicle. Both guns (a .25 caliber handgun and a .45 caliber pistol) were loaded according to officers. There were four men with the rapper at the time (a hired driver, one bodyguard and two members of Jackson's rap group G-Unit), who were also taken into custody.

Police spotted Jackson's vehicle parked in a no standing zone in front of the Copacabana nightclub shortly before 2 a.m. They decided to search the car because it had tinted windows, they said. Each of the men (excluding the hired driver) was charged with criminal possession of a weapon in the sec-

ond degree and unlawful wearing of a body vest. One bodyguard, Dream J. Robinson exited the vehicle before the search and was not arrested.

Witnesses to the arrest said the search was groundless. "I think they're trying to get him," said John Mangan, a promoter for the scheduled performance. "(They're trying) to connect him to things that he has nothing to do with." After the murder of Jackson's mentor Jason Mizell a.k.a. Jam Master Jay of Run DMC, investigators of that crime learned of a threat against Jackson.

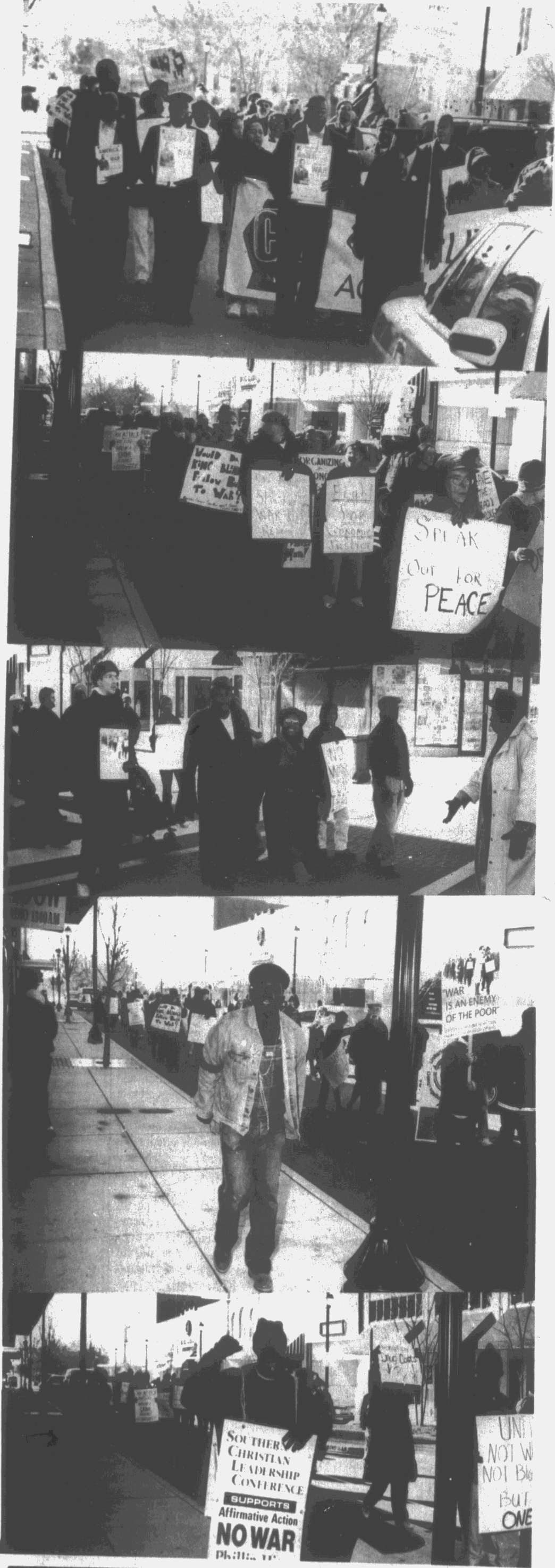
Mizell's murder has not yet been solved. There has been speculation that Jackson may have felt the need to protect himself since then. However, officers later denigrated any suggestion that threats did occur.

Jackson appeared in court Jan. 3 for a preliminary hearing, he had been released from police custody on Tuesday Dec 31 after posting

\$10,000 bond. The rapper was reportedly silent during court proceedings. His lawyer, Robert Kalina, spoke of his innocence outside the courtroom stating, "My client is as innocent as anyone I've seen or heard." Jackson is cooperating with prosecutors to help them "learn the truth of what happened," he said.

The truth according to the police report, is the .25, which was the first weapon sighted was on the floor and the second, the .45 was underneath the passenger seat. Kalina proposed that the weapons belonged to two of Jackson's bodyguards though. Reportedly, both men are licensed to carry guns.

Jackson is featured on the "8 Mile" soundtrack and is currently signed to Em's Shady Records. His hits include the single "Wanksta" which is currently number 10 on Billboard's rap charts. Jackson is due back in court on March 25.



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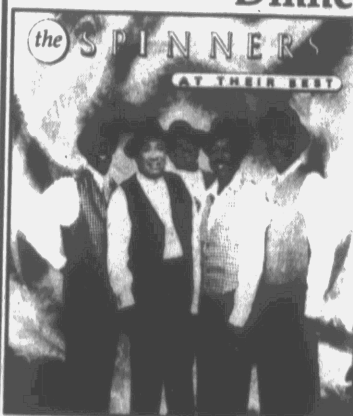
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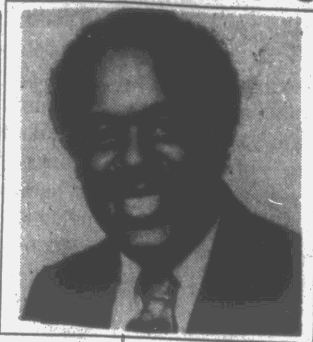
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# SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS



Apostle George Hawkins

## Who Shall Separate Us From The Love Of Christ?

Greetings:

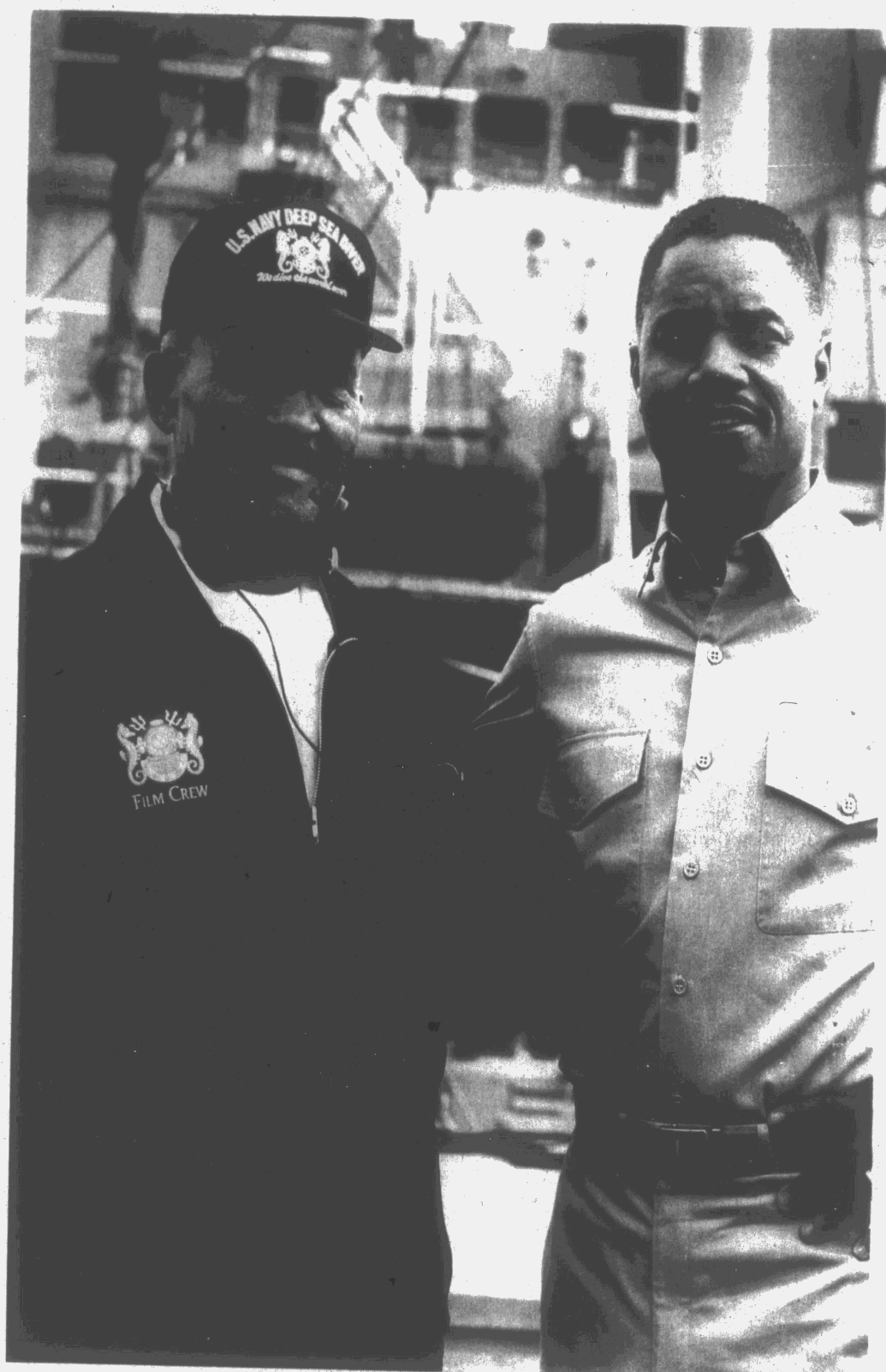
As we take a good look at the world around us today, I'm prompt to ask two questions that you, as a Christian, have heard before. Romans 8:35 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" These are perhaps the most important questions you will ever be asked as a Christian because it has to do with the possibility or the impossibility of you ever being lost under any circumstances. The destiny of one's soul may be determined by the way these questions are answered, for the way they are answered may determine the way some will live. Let's break the questions down so that we will be able to understand them. The first phrase "the love of Christ" carries two meanings. (1) Christ's love for man, John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have

everlasting life." You see the truth of the matter is Christ died for us all but Christ's love for man is not proof of man's salvation. (2) This phrase evidently means man's love for Christ, for no one would think that the rigorous things mentioned in the second question would keep Christ from loving us; some might think that the hardship we endure for Christ might cause our love for Him to cease.

The second question asks us about tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword, all of which are external powers that could cause a person to lose hope and destroy their love for Christ. Romans 8:35-39 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, not height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." It is to be observed that the evils mentioned in this passage are things that strike at man from without. Nothing is said as to how an inward, corrupting influence might affect man's love. No persecutions or other outward powers can force one to cease loving God. ONLY the conditions of man's own heart can

cause him to quit loving the Lord. If he quits, he does it because of sin, an inward influence, and not because of any outward force or power. Whenever one is robbed of love for God, it is always an inside job. Jesus stated in Matthew 24:12 "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." WHAT CAUSED IT? Iniquity! And that is an inside job.

So again, I would like to ask you this question on a personal level: "Who shall separate you from the love of Christ? I know that this country is getting ready to go through like it never has before, but that doesn't give you as a Christian an excuse to stop loving Jesus Christ, the hope of glory. You just stand. Remember this is how to STAND -- Ephesians 6:13-18 -- "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints . . ." Until the next time, stay in prayer for the peace of Jerusalem, and that the officials in high places will make the correct decisions concerning this country.



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Cuba Gooding, Jr. (right) poses with Carl Brashear, whose inspirational life story is the basis of MEN of HONOR.



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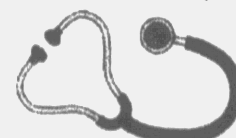
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# Local Gang Interventionists Tout Self Improvement

By **CHARLENE MUHAMMAD**  
Special to the Sentinel

**VENICE**—When Venice natives Stan Muhammad, Robert Bibbs, and Clinton Noble, founded Venice 2000—a non-profit gang intervention and prevention organization, three years ago to ease street tensions between warring blacks, Latinos, and police in their seaside community—the glue that bound them to the people, the streets, and each other proved to be the formula for self improvement.

The course of study titled, "Self Improvement: The Basis for Community Development," is a series of 20 study guides which focus on the daily challenges, struggles, and characteristics facing all individuals worldwide.

Personally penned and distributed by Min. Farrakhan over a deliberate period of time, they offer spiritual guidance, strategies, examples, and scriptures from both the Holy Quran and Bible, and even instructions on how to overcome, and ultimately master difficulties and emotions.

Through a sincere and earnest undertaking, they promote harmony through personal analysis, evaluation, and improvement, and effect positive change in self first, then the community.

"We started living out the study guides, and then went on a 'self-improvement tour,' attacking all of our community's issues. Their necessity and appeal is evident, because if you don't begin to improve the quality of yourself, then you won't be able to do anything for or with anyone else," stated Muhammad, Venice 2000's executive director.

Muhammad said his brother, Saife Allah, sparked the idea for an intervention program toward ending gang wars in Venice, while serving an 8-year prison stay. Agreeing with the plan, he and the other co-founders began small, weekly, neighborhood meetings, at first studying the Flag of Islam, Bible, and Holy Quran.

The organization is not member-based, but supported by approximately 500 Venice residents

who praise the group's activities, such as protests and town-hall meetings. Although difficult, they have survived for over three years now without any funding, Muhammad said.

The cluster's name derived from the territorial positions taken by people who are unaware of themselves, plus the year of its establishment, making Venice an identifiable name for the people, he said.

He added that after personally realizing the benefits of self-improvement for themselves and their loved ones, he found the Self Improvement Study Guides a natural solution to problems plaguing the people of Venice, especially the youth who were engaged in activities certain to lead to dismal futures.

According to Muhammad, the budding peace movement group that makes a lot of noise from its home site, The Vera Davis Youth Center, has received numerous calls from Southern California communities eager for serenity, and for a model plan of implementation.

"Venice 2000 brings an opportunity to interact with the young people that we are designed to serve ... the people who have encountered life's difficulties with education and incarceration," stated Cliff McClain, director of The Vera Davis Youth Center.

He said the young men have "been there, done that," and are now on a positive note. The self-improvement platform is key, he said, because personal responsibility is more than just a conservative slogan, but a reality.

"We as black people have been robbed, but we as black people have to take the responsibility to do what it is that we need done," he added. He applauded the street activists for standing up, exhibiting leadership, and making positive things happen for their community.

Loaded with their study manuals, a desire to improve life's quality, and a lot of heart, the peace-makers and an initial study circle of ten young men, all former gang

which redirects and uplifts young gang members and the general community, especially now as black men throughout L.A. County gain support in their mass mobilization toward the March 29 100,000 Man March for peace to end street violence and the daily loss of young lives.

Venice 2000, a March co-convenor along with Nation Of Islam Western Region Minister Tony Muhammad and other gang intervention organizations, has increased its outreach efforts to extend beyond the streets, and behind the walls.

They are gearing up for the 100,000 Man March Rally set for their city Feb. 15 at the Oakwood Recreational Center, and have garnered the support and participation of the Association of Community Based Gang Intervention Workers, a network of intervention programs that share resources, information, and strategies in peace efforts.

As a result of their small victories for which he praises God, Muhammad said, Venice 2000 decided to instigate the study guides into prison inmate rehabilitation programs, partnering first with the Helper of Muhammad Resettlement Program.

It is an appeal to the U.S. government to free all state and federal Islamic prisoners who are registered petitioners with the Helper of Muhammad Resettlement Program, and who have agreed to be expatriated and exiled from the U.S., and resettled in Africa.

Currently boasting over 400 petitioners, according to Muhammad, program founders say the idea is not far fetched, rather, it is not impossible. "For the brothers and sisters with life in prison, death sentences, and long prison terms, this could be a much cherished option," states the network's introduction manual.

*Their necessity and appeal is evident, because if you don't begin to improve the quality of yourself, then you won't be able to do anything for or with anyone else.*

—Stan Muhammad

members themselves, tackled youth probation, re-gentrification, affordable housing for seniors, and prison inmate issues, for starters.

It recently stifled an unjust gang injunction which found police unjustly photographing and tagging innocent black and brown youth as gang members, and entering them into police gang databases. Its community mass mobilization efforts and an all men's meeting on solving the matter enabled them to remove some names off the databases, Muhammad stated.

"This is where I believe the study guides' community development aspect hits home for many people, because in addition to fighting the gang injunction, we were able to retain Section 8 (low income housing) for needy families, and form a tenant action committee," he added.

The group, he continued, has also contracted with the L.A. County Probation office, targeting 14-18 year-old "at-risk" youth on probation in Venice High School. They teach and train the students in life-management skills and self-improvement.

Despite positive results from their efforts, the group said it faces daily challenges from an element that is working against the unification of the community and cease violence treaties sparked by gang truces years earlier.

The people of Venice continue to embrace the self-help program

For Muhammad, community development extends far beyond Venice, and the Resettlement Program is another wing of Venice 2000. The Self-Improvement course provides a way for brothers and sisters who want to become involved in their communities, but do not know how to do so, whether it lies behind the walls or not.

Venice 2000's long term goal regarding inmates is to link them together toward ultimate freedom. The immediate goal is get them on the road to self-improvement via the study guides, because they are not just for Muslims, they are for everyone, he said.

Currently, the street activists are negotiating with about eight prison institutions, including Pelican Bay State Prison, New and Old Folsom Prisons, Soledad Prison, and Salinas Valley State Prison, to supply study guide materials, books, and other tools to first foster the inmate's commitment to self-improvement, with a future aim of developing model citizens for resettlement on

the homeland, Muhammad continued.

Venice 2000's Study Guides adaptation warrants numerous benefits to particularly the wives and mothers of the men who undertake the study, however, the program does not boast a male-only foundation. It is simply a vehicle to promote the masterful study guides, and women are encouraged to contribute, Muhammad informed.

"Their work is very important, particularly because these children that we deal with in Venice are children that we know, and it's important that we go out there and turn some lives around ... their being black men makes it more positive, and they bring a lot of positive things within and without the community," stated community activist, Sheila Smith.

(For more information on Venice 2000's outreach programs and The Self Improvement Study Guides, write to [ansar777@hotmail.com](mailto:ansar777@hotmail.com), or P.O. Box 2541, Venice, CA 90291, or call (310) 239-9849, (310) 925-2071.)

## Alleged Associate of Suge Knight Arrested

(CNS)—An associate of Death Row Records founder Marion "Suge" Knight has been charged with attempted murder for his alleged role in a weekend shootout with Long Beach police after a botched robbery.

Theodore Kelly, 29, arrested last year for allegedly plotting with two other Knight associates to kill a gang rival, was one of four men taken into custody after trading gunfire with police late Saturday in front of Albert's Pawn Shop at 1023 Long Beach Blvd., said Officer Greg Schirmer. No one was hurt in the shootout.

Kelly and three other armed men walked into the pawnshop about 5 p.m. and robbed the business, Schirmer said.

Before the four men could leave, they were met by officers who had been summoned by a silent alarm. As they tried to get

away, the suspects shot at police, Schirmer said.

Police sealed off the area and quickly arrested two of the suspects. The two others were later arrested nearby.

Kelly, Richard Ellis, 22; Thomas Milam, 29; and Ralph Cole, 21; have been charged with robbery and attempted murder.

Kelly was one of three Knight associates arrested in November for allegedly conspiring to kill a gang rival. Former Sheriff's Deputy Kordell Depree Knox, 37, and reputed gang members Kelly and Michael Payne, 25, were accused of plotting to kill a rival in revenge for the shooting death in April of another Knight associate.

The three were freed days later pending further investigation, officials said. Authorities said Knight is not a suspect in their investigation.

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