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South African Truth Panel Likely To Boost Calls For Reparations

*South African Truth panel
report likely to boost calls
for reparations*

*The Final Call!
Johannesburg (IPS)*

Local and international companies that profited under apartheid are likely to come under increased pressure to pay reparations to its victims following the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) to the South African government.

The TRC documented 22,000 cases of rights abuses under apartheid, although some community-based organizations claim that many more were not identified. Speaking at the ceremony where he was formally handed the report recently, South African President Thabo Mbeki said: "The TRC was established to help us respond to the gross violations of human rights with understanding and not vengeance, reparation and not retaliation.

"I would also like to thank all those who approached the commission, both perpetrators and victims. It is clear that our country as a whole accepted and supports the path we took to address the political crimes of the past.

"We will study the report we have just received with the close attention it deserves and respond to its recommen-

dations as quickly as possible. This includes the matter of final reparations," he added.

The form of reparations to victims of apartheid remains a key issue on all levels of society. South African Catholic Bishops Conference (SACBC) spokesperson Archbishop Buti Tlhagale commented: "The delivery of the report marks the beginning of the equally important challenge of ensuring reparation for the communities and individuals who suffered severe damage as a result of apartheid abuses. "Our society will be reconciled to the extent that the perpetrators and beneficiaries of apartheid crimes open their hearts to ensuring that apartheid's social and economic imbalances are overcome through reparations programs for the reconstruction and development of poor communities.

"While the government must play a strong role in guaranteeing reparations in the spirit of the TRC, this is not the responsibility of the government alone. Private companies, banks and individuals who made huge profits under apartheid must also be held accountable for reparations, both within South Africa and internationally," Archbishop Tlhagale con-

cluded.

In a recently released statement, the Jubilee South Africa: Apartheid Debt and Reparations Campaign, said: "We have been calling on the multinational banks and businesses that aided and abetted the apartheid state in its criminal activities to acknowledge their role in apartheid and to repair the damage that their profiteering made possible."

The corporations have refused to take the call seriously, and victims of rights abuses have filed legal complaints against those corporations. The TRC report says a case could be made for reparations contributions from Swiss banks that helped finance the apartheid government. Swiss banks are among those global companies against whom claims for reparations have been lodged in international courts. The TRC has called for businesses to contribute towards a fund that would facilitate the payment of reparations. The commission said this could take the form of a wealth tax, a once-off levy on corporate earnings, a surcharge on company profit or a donation of a percentage of a company's market capitalization to a trust for victims. A voluntary business trust,



Congressman Ballance . . . Williamston NC New Technology Center open its doors as Congressman Frank Ballance opens his congressional office there. Shown at the ribbon cutting ceremony Martin County Commissioners, Town Aldermans, as the congressman cuts the ribbon. 9pictoral next issue



St Luke Truck Stop posing for our camera is sister Rebecca Plassenia and sis Gloria Hagans. The St Luke Truck Stop is a restaurant, bus stop and the ladies can cook like mama.
photo Jim Rouse



Grand Opening Jones Restaurant in Princeville NC is the place for the best down home cooking. These Deacons from Cherry Hill Missionary Church were caught by our camera. The man himself, Bro Jones (third from left) was also caught by our camera outside of the restaurant in Princeville. Stop By
photo Jim Rouse



Wilson, NC Mitchell's Famous Rib & Bar BQ on highway 301 in Wilson NC has been cooking with that famous sauce of theirs & catering for over 25yrs. These ladies handle the take out service. So if you are in Wilson, NC drop in and see our sisters and try those beef ribs.
photo by Jim Rouse



Brooks Brothers In Arms

**Brooks Brothers in arms
by: AFRO Staff**

Brig. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks is a hometown guy with a face seen around the world. On television, he is the Pentagon's voice in the Iraq war. He also belongs to a history-making Black family from Alexandria, Va., with three generals.

Brook has an older brother, Leo A. Brooks Jr., who also is a brigadier general and serves as commandant of cadets at West Point, their alma mater. Their father, Leo A. Brooks Sr., is a deacon at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, who achieved the rank of brigadier general before retiring. Due to the war, none of the three men were available for interviews. Through a spokesman, Leo Brooks, Sr., said he would not grant media interviews until after the war.

But that's not the case for son Vincent. He is the spokesman for the US Central Command headquarters in Doha, Qatar. Since the war began two weeks ago, Brooks provides live briefings to the media and the world on the

day's military action.

Whether explaining that an Iraqi missile may have been responsible for the death of civilians or reaffirming that America will become victorious, he has become America's information conduit.

Vincent Brooks has a "commanding" presence, said Lt. Herb Josey, a Central Command spokesman. "He is truthfully telling America what their sons and daughter are fighting for in Iraq," said the Navy officer from Bowie, Md.

Josey said the general is responsible for planning much of the tactical operation on the battlefield and "has the knowledge that we want here at the command center during this operation to free the Iraqi people."

The Alexandria native has built an impressive military career. The 44-year old officer is a 1980 West Point graduate and was the academy's first African-American "first captain." He is also the first person from his graduating class to become a brigadier general and is fluent in German. Before serving in Qatar, Brooks did tours in

Germany, Korea, Kuwait and Kosovo. He was promoted to brigadier general last year.

In an interview last year, Brooks said that he and his brother, "are models to a lot of young people, not just African Americans and soldiers. People can see the achievement and how hard work leads to it."

His brother, Brig. Gen. Leo A. Brooks, Jr., graduated from West Point in 1979 and is the academy's 68th commandant.

According to information provided by the Army, Brig. Gen. Leo A. Brooks Jr., began his military career as a rifle and anti-tank platoon leader with the 101st Airborne Division and later as an aide in the 327th Infantry. He spent four years assigned to the 1st Battalion, 75th Infantry Ranger Regiment. He later completed a three-year tour in South Korea as an operations officer in the 82nd Airborne Division.

Most recently, he was assigned to the 1st Armored Division, serving as an assistant division commander.

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

The more things change the more they remain the same

George Washington Carver High School was opened in 1957 to alleviate crowding at Booker T. Washington High School. The latter school had been "bursting at the seams" for decades with graduating classes that sometimes approached 500 students. Both schools drew their students (and still do) from poor to lower middle class households. Conversely, and on the other side of town, Wooddale High School opened 10 years later in 1967 primarily to accommodate students in the growing middle class neighborhoods in parts of the Parkway Village and Fox Meadows neighborhoods. The George Washington Carver and Booker T. Washington students were exclusively Black and in large measure poor, while the Wooddale students were exclusively White and typically from families whose incomes were classified as middle or above.

George Washington Carver School became overcrowded shortly after it opened. Still, almost 10 years elapsed before the Memphis City School Board "found" the resources to begin construction on the new Riverview Junior High School that opened in 1968 to alleviate overcrowding. On the other hand, the school board acted quickly in the instance of the Wooddale High School and construction began almost immediately on the Wooddale Junior High School to alleviate the overcrowding at the high school on the east side of town. Wooddale Junior High School opened for the 1970 school year — just three years after the high school opened.

In 1967, the makeup of the city council was and had been traditionally White for as long as anyone could remember as was the Memphis City School Board. In fact, there had been no persons of color serving

on either board in almost 100 years. Neglect in terms of facilities maintenance, adequacy of classroom space, equipment and materials had been the rule rather than the exception in the Black public schools since their inception in 1867. Surprising to some might be the fact that Black high schools in Memphis did not receive accreditation until 1953.

In 1968 the population of the first grade class in Memphis' public schools became predominantly Black for the first time in history. In less than 25 years, that population dominance had risen to become approximately 80 percent. The Memphis City School Board is now also predominantly Black as is the Memphis City Council. This population shift has not come about as a result of any huge influx of Blacks moving into the city but rather from Whites leaving it.

Little has changed, however, in terms of the neglect that school children who are primarily Black and, as often as not, poor are subjected to in the city's public schools. The results of deferred maintenance that threatened the health of students and school personnel alike that surfaced this school year at East High School and Humes Junior High are but two cases in point. Reports of students not being able to obtain text books until long after the school year started and fund raisers being held to purchase school supplies further illustrate the point.

In the predominantly White Shelby County School System, every effort is being made to insure that school children have everything they need in order to facilitate an adequate education. Why is not that the case in our city schools. Four decades ago, we blamed racism for the neglect that took place in schools attended by Black children. Where do we place the blame today?

'Six Flags Over Orange Mound' and its environs are outdated

The theme park located over on East Parkway called by some as "Six Flags Over Orange Mound" but officially known as Libertyland is one of Memphis' biggest jokes and examples of "half-hearted" wannabeism.

The minor modification and expansion of the old Fairground's Amusement Park several years ago has continuously operated at a financial loss. With the exception of the crowds that come during the Mid-South Fair, attendance is dismal. The reason is simple — there's nothing there that serves as a compelling motivation for people to go. When out of town visitors visit they are "amused" alright but not very much entertained.

Even the larger theme parks around the country are experiencing low attendance figures. Evolutionary changes have altered and minimized the purpose a "fairgrounds" serves. If we combine that realization with the fact that other changes in our city have rendered the majority of the remaining portion of that land complex obsolete (this includes the Mid-South Col-

iseum), logic requires that most if not all of it be razed.

The city owns the property and because virtually every facility on it loses money Memphis receives comparatively little revenue from it. Logic also suggests that the remnants of the farming and agricultural activities of the Mid-South Fair be moved to Shelby Farms where its compatibility with the Agri-Center is a more natural and better fit. Also, a new and better location for Liberty Bowl Stadium would essentially free up the majority of the land for residential development which would be in line with Shelby County Mayor AC Wharton's suggestion that ways to encourage inner-city development be pursued.

Other details would have to be addressed such as what to do about the Coca Cola facility on S. Hollywood St. and the cumbersome problem of the railroad traffic in a residential community. However, we have the expertise and resources to overcome these concerns. After all, we built Mud Island didn't we. But then, that's another tourist joke.

Sheriff, police chief, judges and legislators can save money

Now that Sheriff Mark Luttrell has saved the taxpayers millions of dollars by laying off 326 deputy jailers it might be time to look at other ways to save Shelby County taxpayers some money.

One suggestion is to reduce the number of inmate hours by simply giving citations to persons arrested for misdemeanors or other minor traffic violations. Persons arrested under many traffic statutes are typically carted off to jail and their automobiles often impounded. Many of these presumed violators spend more than a few hours simply being processed and making bond. Some spend two to three days awaiting arraignment because they are unable to make bond.

Here's the suggested scenario — if a citizen is arrested for violating one of the

above mention traffic statutes, write the citation, have the vehicle impounded and take the violator home. The same would apply to persons arrested for driver's license violations and motor vehicle registration violations. This procedure would take up no more of the officers' time than is currently the case. In fact, it will often take less time given the fact most arrests are made closer to the individual's home than to the criminal justice complex.

Should the individual not show up for his or her appointed court date, the judge would then swear out a warrant and he or she can be arrested later. The likelihood of the warrant being necessary is low because the vehicle would remain in impound until the case is disposed of or until the judge gives an order releasing it.

WHY WAS IT OKAY WHEN "SKIN COLOR" WORKED FOR YOU?



COMMENTS

'Black on Black crime' isn't about the absence of racial pride



Arthur L. Webb

For the past several years much ado has been made over statistics that show the overwhelming majority of crimes committed upon Black people are committed by Black people themselves. To that I say, so what? — that's not the problem! The same source

of those statistics will reveal that the overwhelming majority of crimes committed upon White people are committed by White people. The same applies to Hispanics, Asians and virtually every other ethnic group. So it's not about Black people not having respect for one another.

The problem that results in "Black on Black Crime" is that we still live in a segregated America for the most part. Most crimes are relatively spontaneous, particularly murder. That means that crimes are committed by persons whose places of residence, employment and recreation are generally in proximity to the victims. If Black people, then, live in the same communities (and we do for the most part), the crimes against person and property that Blacks commit will most often be committed against other Blacks.

Now, we could debate the merits or problems associated with segregated communities until we're blue in the face but that's another issue. If you'll look back at my earlier statement I said the problem that "results" in Black on Black crime is segregated communities. Segregated communities is not "the" problem — an erosion of values is the problem. Black people steal, rob and kill because of an erosion of values. The same is the reason Whites, Asians and Hispanics commit these crimes.

Rather than "hating on ourselves and concluding that "something must be wrong with us" let's get about the business of addressing the root causes of crime — and please don't blame it all on poverty and/or

racism. The country is full of poor, discriminated-against Black people who've never committed a crime and never will.

Now, all this having been said, the fact that White people kill White people and that Hispanics kill Hispanics or that Asians kill Asians is no justification for anyone robbing, raping, harming or killing anyone. If, in segregated America, we want safe and peaceful communities we have to (from within our communities) insist upon that safety and peace. Greater police presence and sure and consistent application of justice for breachers of the peace are certainly deterrents. Internal preventive initiatives to crime, however, are the measures that will bring about and maintain peace and tranquility within our neighborhoods. Crime, when it occurs, should be a departure from the norm — not the norm itself.

Get to know your neighbors. Share your interests with them and develop an understanding of their's. Begin community projects to improve the quality of life in your neighborhood and be sure to involve the children. Don't spend more time doing things "for" children than "with" them. Then we must set positive examples for our children. Children who grow up in households where conflict is resolved through violence will typically resort to the same tactic to resolve conflict situations they face.

Rather than allowing our young people to develop the attitude that education is not important we should constantly point to examples where success has only been made possible through academic pursuit. We should make sure our young people understand, for example, that of the millions of kids playing high school basketball in America today, only about 500 of them will ever make it to the NBA. For those few who make it, their hard work and commitment pays wonderful rewards but for the rest? — Without a decent education they'll likely wind up being some of the tallest busboys in town.

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

The (il-)logic of Pres. Bush's doctrine of preemptive strikes



Bill Fletcher Jr.

It happened at Washington, D.C.'s Dupont Circle. Driving to work on snow-filled and icy streets, I stopped at a red light on a crowded street. I allowed enough space between my car and the car immediately ahead just to be on the safe side. I suddenly realized that the person in the car behind me was yelling and honking. I rolled down my window to hear him insist that I move my car forward so that he could pass on my right and head north on Connecticut Avenue. I complied and moved my car forward. The driver, a young White man probably in his late 20s/early 30s, pulled up on my right, stopped, and face turning red, yelled: "You stupid, f---n, N-word!" He then drove off.

I sat there for a second, and then when the light turned green I proceeded. But I drove off feeling stunned. I am neither young nor naive. I am well aware of racism, and experience it regularly. What struck me was the anger and virulence in this young man. What did "n-word" have to do with not moving my car forward quickly enough? What made him think that in Washington he could make such a statement given the demographics of this city?

Reflecting on that incident I started thinking, ironically enough, about President Bush's notion of preemptive action against nation-states that allegedly threaten the United States. If I were to use Bush's logic, then I probably should have eliminated this White driver. After all, he

was threatening. Using the rationales that have led to this war with Iraq, I would be within my rights to take action, up to and including killing him, in order to guarantee my future safety. I would not need proof of what he intended to do.

The reality is that no civilized nation would permit me or anyone else to take such actions, particularly on such a basis. Taking preemptive measures against an individual for what they might do in the future if and when they have the opportunity would throw us into a state of barbarism.

Yet this is precisely what the Bush administration has done at the international level. If one steps back and considers everything that has been offered as pretexts for attacking Iraq, it essentially comes down to what an evil leader might do in the future if he has the opportunity and the resources. Using that logic, one could conclude that virtually every country on this planet poses a potential threat. If a neo-fascist group takes control of Germany, they might decide to annex Austria. If an extreme nationalist group takes control of Russia, they might use Russia's arsenal of weapons of mass destruction against some opponent. If a pig had wings it could fly. The list goes on and on.

Rather than offer a clear, objective analysis, the Bush administration has used exaggeration, half-truths and questioning one's patriotism to frighten U.S. citizens into supporting this aggressive adventure.

(Fletcher is president of TransAfrica Forum, a Washington, D.C.-based non-profit educational and organizing center formed to raise awareness in the United States about issues facing the nations and peoples of color.)

LETTERS

LETTERS POLICY: We welcome letters to the editor via mail, fax or Internet. Letters may be edited for length or clarity and should refer to issues vital to the Minority Voice's readership or subject matter published in the Minority Voice. Please include your address and complete name.
Mail letters to: Minority Voice Newspaper
P.O. Box 8361 Greenville, NC 27835
Fax (252) 757-1793 E-Mail: woow.1@juno.com

Following Letter Sent To The East Carolinian On The Concerns Of Ms Neil Lewis' Removal From Ledonia Wright Cultural Center

Dear Editor,
Ledonia Wright Cultural Center has been playing all eminent role on the ECU Campus. The Cultural Center's distinguished performance has been due to leadership by Ms. Nell Lewis.

The Ledonia Wright Cultural Center thrived, undeniably, for the past three years under the leadership of Nell Lewis. She committed herself to make extensive changes in the daily operations, resources, and programming which have led to high visibility and national recognition for the Cultural Center. How does the Administration repay her for her devotion?

We are shocked to learn that Ms. Lewis has been removed from the Cultural Center. She is not only a hard worker by example, but she is also an excellent supervisor.

Why was Ms. Lewis reassigned to the Library?

We have seen Ms. Lewis work beyond human strength for the Cultural Center. The community recognized her hard work not only on the campus but also in the community.

In addition, they gave her the Best Iron's Humanitarian Award on Feb. 15, 2003 to show their appreciation for her hard work on campus and off-hours in the community. After such an outstanding record of self-sacrifice and hard work, ECU Provost moves her to the library as he puts it to reorganize and reengineer the structure of the campus. For nearly two weeks, the administration dragged their feet on announcing this strategic reassignment.

One should question the real motive behind this administrative move. Do such actions by the administration promote diversity? They certainly do not parallel our conception of diversity. From the recent things that have taken place, one can easily assume that this University lacks a true, under-standing for diversity. Perhaps they just throw around the word because it sounds nice - not truly willing to establish the principles it entails,

Natausha Hicks,
Alexis Overacker, Shadanya Taylor, Hetal Doshi, Michael Ashby, Amy Proctis,
Kensya Bannerman

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Member of NABOB-NC Association of Black Publishers.

- 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.
- What's even more attractive to our readers is that each bi-weekly edition of the Minority Voice contains news and commentary of nationally respected journalists.
- There are numerous popular locations throughout the area where consumers regularly pick up their copy at no charge.
- Annual events & celebrations sponsored by THE JIM ROUSE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP and THE MINORITY VOICE NEWSPAPER:
- Call the Minority Voice Advertising and Sales Department

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 of the minority communities that rely on us for news and information from a different perspective.

Founders DayAt ECU

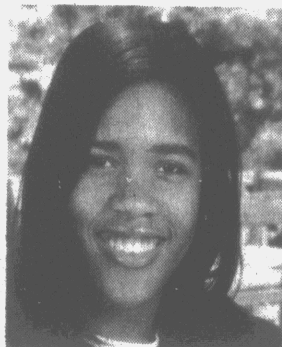


Just Chillin Sister Elois was caught by the Minority voice camera while out for the evening with her daughter. Sister Elois is a faithful listener of WOOW Joy 1340AM
by Bro Adams photo

E. B. Aycock Middle School

Citizenship Award
in 8th Grade Science

Lakeisha Boyd



Because of you our school is a better place to learn.
You have proven by your actions that
one person can make a difference.
We applaud you for what you have accomplished
and look forward to hearing even more great
things about you in the future.

April 2003

William P. Frasier, Principal



Church to hold Spring Fling

St. James United Methodist Church will hold its 11th annual Spring Fling from 5:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 26. Events include breakfast, a yard sale including plants and baked goods, games, music, entertainment, barbecue chicken lunch with tickets required, and a golf tournament and auction. Proceeds will benefit the Transition After Network Ministry and Wahl-Coates Elementary School's Holloway High Five Club. For more information or to purchase lunch tickets, call 752-6154.

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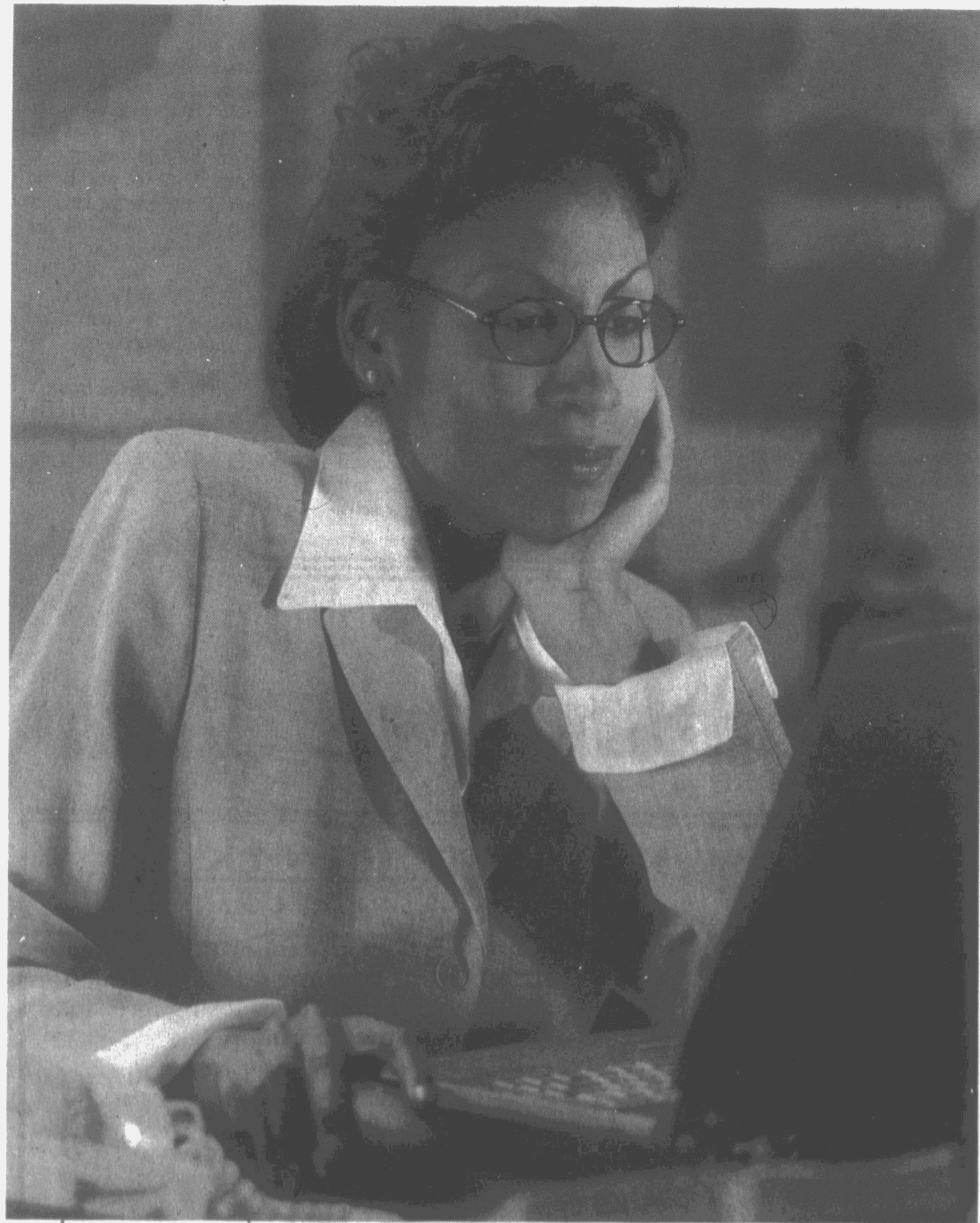


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Reflections, Expressions, and Reviews



Suejette Jones

Come Home, Jesse

Barry Saunders, a columnist for the News and Observer wrote (in his article on April 12) about "Jesse Jackson's last-est cause." I quote some excerpts from it:

"The Reverend Jesse Jackson and several other ministers are scheduled to go to Augusta, Georgia this weekend (April 12) to join Martha Burk of the National Council of Women's Organizations in her crusade to integrate the country club for women of means. Also slated to be on hand are those who want to keep the barriers up -- and possibly re-enact others that previously had been torn down -- urging the president of Augusta National to stand tall against women. Jesse and the other ministers should not be

wasting their time on something so insignificant. There are more important things to concentrate on than whether some rich Dixie chick gets to join the club.

During the early 1970s, when rumors of an affair between the Reverend Jackson and pop singer Roberta Flack abounded, Flack recorded a torrid love ballad called "Jesse". The words were hot and contained the phrase "Jesse, come home." That's what I'm singing now: "Jesse, come home."

There are too many important issues facing black Americans for Jackson to squander his diminishing gifts on getting some rich woman admitted to a hoity-toity country club. Come home, Jesse. Black men are dying violently at an alarming rate -- most often at the hands of other black men -- depriving black women and kids of husbands and fathers. Come home, Jesse, because many of those who aren't being killed are being criminally underserved by the school systems of this country.

Illicit drugs, and the government's war on illicit drugs, are sending too many young dudes to the prison farm, to the graveyard and or -- worse -- turning their brains to cream of wheat. So come on home, Jesse. Sure, you've strayed and

slipped and allowed yourself to become a joke, a caricature of what you could've been. I used to be a fan, but even I am amused and amazed that you, after 40 years in the spotlight, are still attracted to TV cameras like a reporter to a free buffet.

There's time to redeem yourself, Jesse, but you can't do it by marching outside a golf club singing "We shall overcome." That way lies more scorn and ridicule. It is of no consequence whether or not some rich black dude is allowed to join a country club and sip mint juleps on the veranda with rich white guys. It was only in recent years that the Augusta club took in a black member, and that was under duress. I've yet to see any appreciable progress for the race as a result. And to turn on its ear on Grouch Marx's famous quote, "I wouldn't belong to any club that wouldn't have someone like me as a member". (End of quote)

Note: As of this issue of the Minority Voice, Jesse Jackson did not make his supposedly appearance at the Augusta National. According to the Associated Press, Jesse pulled out, but about 20 of his Rainbow/PUSH protestors did show up.

100 Black Men of Eastern North Carolina - Public Service Announcement
The 100 Black Men of Eastern North Carolina will be sponsoring a forum on: **Closing The Achievement Gap, on the campus of Pitt Community College in room 145 of the Leslie Building on Saturday, April 26, 2003. The program will be from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. and will have education professionals, celebrity hosts, informative topics and exhibits by Historically Black Colleges and Universities.**

Edification of A New Generation



Faith May

AM I MY SISTER'S KEEPER?

As a sister in Christ, are we supposed to take care of each other? Are we to encourage each other and support each other? Well as a black Christian woman, I could stand to see more of the above. How about you?

It has been said that a woman's worst enemy is usually another woman. In some instances, this may be true. However, we can no longer af-

ford this reputation. It's time for us to turn it around.

In the opening scripture, the Apostle Paul commends Phoebe to the saints and tells them to receive and assist her because she is a sister, servant, and succourer. Likewise, today, 21st century women of God should do less for each other.

First, we should recognize, celebrate, and be willing to assist each other because we are sisters through the blood of Jesus. Our sisterhood is by His design, not by our desire. Natural sisters share dreams, clothes, secrets, and more. Likewise, in Christ, we should celebrate each other's gifts; support each other's dreams and keep each other's secrets in trust. Moreover, we must provoke each other to be all we can be in Christ and help one another reach our respective goals.

Second, because we are servants of God, we often labor and sacrifice behind the scenes with little reward and recognition. Our common bond in this area should increase our sensi-

tivity to each other's need for help, and cause us to come to one another's rescue. After all, God is keeping a record and will reward us all in due season.

Finally, we should be succourers for each other. A succourer is someone who gets you ready for the race; who has "got your back" in prayer and helps prepare you to be successful.

Why? Because when one sister succeeds, we all succeed. Therefore, we must be willing to coach, correct, comfort, and care for each other! Not only will this kind of love unite the church, shock the world, and confound the enemy; but, most of all, it will please God.

So, my sister, our lofty challenge is to Be Your Sister's Keeper. This is the Word of God to us in this hour. Shall we rise to the occasion?

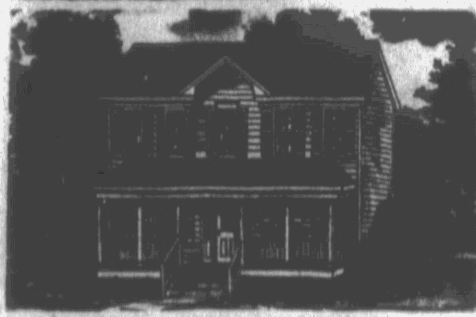
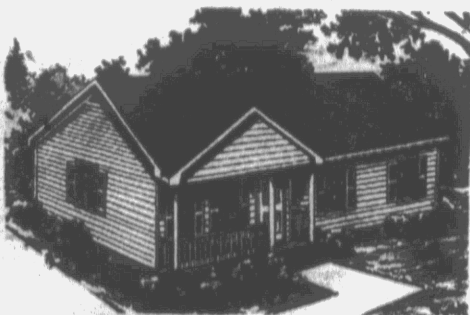
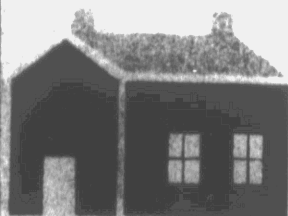
Article excerpted from: "Take Good Care of Phoebe", By Dr. Rita L. Twigg, T.D. Jake Ministries

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Request Made To The U.S. Department of Justice For Further Investigation Into The Murder Of Eugene Boseman

April 10, 2003

The Honorable Frank D. Whitney

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY (E.D.N.C.) 310 New Bern Avenue Suite 800

Raleigh, NC 27601

RE: REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

Dear U.S. Attorney Whitney:

We hereby request that the U.S. Department of Justice conduct an investigation into the death of Eugene Allen Boseman that occurred on March 7, 2003. The basis of our request is as follows:

1. Eugene Allen Boseman, age 41, was an African American resident of the City of Greenville, North Carolina.

2. On information and belief, Mr. Boseman was beat to death by seven White Police Officers from the Greenville Police Department (GPD) on March 7, 2003.

3. The killing of Mr. Boseman by the GPD Officers may involve Federal Questions of Law in that Mr. Boseman was deprived of "Life" without "Due Process of Law."

4. The killing of Mr. Boseman by the GPD Officers may have been, at least in part, based upon race, and or handicap and therefore implicate other Federal Questions.

5. On information and belief, Mr. Boseman was a resident of the Red Carpet Inn located on Memorial Drive, Greenville, North Carolina.

6. On information and belief, Mr. Boseman suffered a recognized medical condition known as "bipolar disorder."

7. On information and belief, Mr. Boseman experienced a manic episode of his illness in the early morning hours of March 7, 2003, exited his dwelling, and went into the parking lot dressed in boxer shorts and tee shirt screaming to God and asking for help.

8. On information and belief, Police were called and were told (prior to the beating) of Mr. Boseman's medical condition and they were requested to help him.

9. On information and belief, seven White Police Officers while attempting to subdue Mr. Boseman, sprayed mace on him, causing him to panic.

10. On information and belief, during the panic of this altercation one of the Police Officers was bitten and paramedics were called.

11. On information and belief, at least several of the Police Officers became enraged and began to beat Mr. Boseman about the head, neck, shoulders, and back with police issue night sticks. (Head strikes may violate GPD Police Policy)

12. On information and belief, and based upon eye witness reports, the GPD Officers continued to beat Mr. Boseman while he was face down and handcuffed and did not present any threat whatsoever.

13. On information and belief, paramedics arrived on the scene and placed a towel over Mr. Boseman's face indicating that he was acknowledged dead at the scene.

14. On information and belief, rather than preserve the crime scene for the medical examiner and state investigators, the body was moved to the Pitt County Memorial Hospital and valuable evidence may have been compromised.

15. On information and belief, Mr. Boseman suffered from multiple head traumas, a fractured skull, and several broken bones.

16. On information and belief, the GPD has had several past questionable incidents where African American citizens have been killed while in the custody of White GPD Officers, and police and city officials allegedly pursued a policy of containment and cover-up.

17. On information and belief, the GPD refused to place the Officers on Administrative leave pending the outcome of an investigation into the incident until numerous community groups met with the Mayor and City Manager and demanded, under scrutiny of the press, that the GPD follow its own Administrative Policy.

18. On information and belief, for a period of over twenty days (March 7, 2003 to April 1, 2003) the GPD failed to comply with their own Administrative Policy that required the Officers be placed upon Administrative leave pending outcome of the investigation.

19. On information and belief, the State Bureau of Investigation is allegedly conducting an investigation of the incident and the local District Attorney is monitoring the investigation while GPD Officials have already declared the Officers acted properly.

20. On information and belief, the investigation is held up pending results of a toxicology screen from Mr. Boseman blood and tissue samples.

21. On information and belief, the Red Carpet Inn houses many former homeless individuals and has been identified as a focal point for illegal drug activity.

22. On information and belief, the GPD Officers may have already had a predisposition toward Mr. Boseman based on race and the location where the incident occurred.

23. This community cannot fathom any set of circumstances under which seven trained professional police officers, would have to kill an unarmed citizen who was reported to them to be suffering from a recognized medical condition.

24. In essence, this appears to be a case of murder committed by seven White GPD Officers under color of their authority as Police Officers.

25. On information and belief, Mr. Boseman's cause of death has already been determined and the results of toxicology screens are only intended to delay a public announcement of the true cause of death and possibly to attempt to impinge Mr. Boseman's character by associating him with illegal drug use.

26. This community believes that the U.S. Attorney Office's preemption and control of this investigation will provide the community with the perception that justice will be served in this matter.

27. This community is presently in fear as to whether State- and Local officials will act impartially and serve the ends of justice given that (a) Greenville City Police Officials have already publicly stated there was no wrong doing on the part of the officers involved, (b) the unofficial rumor that death was caused by head trauma, (c) the State Bureau of Investigation's delaying release of the official cause of death pending a toxicology report, (d) the City of Greenville's failure to place the Officers on administrative leave pending outcome of the investigation, and (e) the national implications of this incident for the City of Greenville and the State of North Carolina.

THEREFORE, in the best interest of the nation, the state, this community, the victim's family, and the local agencies involved we hereby request the Federal Government investigate this case and determine whether Federal Prosecution is warranted. Based upon previous incidents where African Americans have been killed by the GPD we have no confidence that state and local officials will place a sufficient value on the life of this 41 year old African American male to move them to conduct an impartial investigation and make a decision to prosecute if warranted by the facts. Dated:

Michael Dixon
Pitt County Black Elected Officials
Legislative Caucus

Phi Higgs
President, Pitt County Branch
Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Bennie Rountree
President, State Conference
Christian Leadership Conference

Calvin Henderson
President, Pitt County Branch
National Association for the Advancement Of Colored People

Rev. Randy Royal
President, Coalition Against Racism

Rev. Ozie Lee Hall, Jr.
Member, Citizens Crime Committee

Abdulahim Namaz
Chairman, Citizens Crime Committee

R. J. Hemby
Member, Citizens Crime Committee

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From The Desk Of Mrs Beatrice Maye



Mrs Beatrice Maye

How to Stay Young Your Whole Life by Dr. Charles F. Stanley

1. **Keep learning.** Don't settle for what you already know, as soon as you accept things as they are, you cease to stay young. Keep gaining knowledge about valuable things, starting with the Bible. If we cease to learn, we get into "rut living", which leads to aging. Find something you don't know how to do and challenge yourself to do it.

2. **Keep loving.** The Lord doesn't want His children to live with bitterness, anxiety, resentment, or hostility; those things negatively affect the body, our mind, and every aspect of our life. Unhealthy emotions such as these indicate something is missing from our life. Perhaps destructive patterns, like self-centeredness, jealousy, or anger, have taken

root instead of love. But unless we have the capacity to love someone, we cannot be the person God wants us to be. Nor can we achieve or accomplish the things that He has set for our life.

3. **Keep laughing.** Did you know that laughter affects every cell in our bodies? When we laugh, our immune system is stimulated, as is our creativity. In addition, we tend to let down our defenses and become more open and transparent. But laughing; that is, being joyous in heart, is of God. The Great Physician tells us that 'a joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones'. Take yourself less seriously. If you don't have any friends who make you laugh, find some. And remember: children of God should be living illustrations that, when Christ comes into our life, there's reason to rejoice.

4. **Keep laboring.** Psalm 92:14 compares us to strong trees that "will still yields fruit in old age". This means that we should be fruitful and productive, regardless of age. There is nothing wrong with retiring from a lifelong secular career, but to cease working in order to do nothing is a sin. With such a retirement, the brain sends a message to the body: "It's all over". We start aging when we stop being challenged and motivated.

5. **Keep leaving ...** emotional baggage. Too many people live in the past, clinging to old hurts. Plagued by criticism, rejection, and jealousies, they are weighed down by bitterness and haunted by old resentments and hostilities. Such unrelenting memories bend the spirit, the emotions, and body. God, however, never intended for His children to live with such burdens.

6. **Keep on longing ...** for better things. Don't give up your dreams, or you will start aging. Anticipation keeps us young. Keep in mind that God has wonderful plans for each of us.

7. **Keep leaning ...** on God. If I had to select a single verse that's been the anchor of my life, it would probably be Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your path straight". Never stop talking to God or listening to Him. Keep believing that HE can and He will. Will your body age? Yes, it will. But that certainly doesn't mean you also have to become old in the mind, in the spirit, or in your heart. Choose God's best. Start living today with the confidence and assurance that God will work in your life to renew your strength. (Isaiah 40:3 1)

Worth Remembering

1. Two good tips: Always say less than you think, and remember that how you say it often means more than you say.

2. Do more than talk, say something.

3. People who talk much say nothing. 4. Important Words" The six most important words... "I admit I made a mistake" The five most important words... "You did a good job" The four most important words... "What is your opinion?" The three most important words... "If you please" The two most important words... "Thank you" The one most important word... "We"

5. Traits of an ideal teacher: Tact, earnestness, adaptability, humility, endurance, and reliability

5. Consider the words of Paul. "As the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive" (Col. 3:13)

6. People who have friendships live longer, happier, healthier lives. This is one of the reasons women outlive men; women have people to talk with who really listen to each other.

7. Can't is a first cousin to failure.

8. Reading is to the mind like

exercise is to the body. 9. You listen to learn and learn to listen.

10. A good laugh is sunshine in a home.

11. A Prayer: "Lord, we all have our differences, but let us be respectful of one another, allowing us to love in peace and harmony. Amen

12. A good woman inspires a man A brilliant woman interests him A beautiful woman fascinates him A sympathetic woman gets him " (Helen. Rowland) 13. A cultured person has refined taste and behavioral expressions.

14. Let's be concerned about our loudness and our vulgar/curse words

15. Tips: Keep items like bacon, ham, bologna, sausage and smoked cheeses for special, occasions only. They are high in salt and fat too. Check the labels.

16. Teachers work with what the homes send them. If the home is right, the school will be better.

17. Children who are brought up in Sunday school and church are seldom, if ever, found in jail. Beware, parents!

18. You can stand up to hatred

and ignorance with honesty and dignity (Susan B. Anthony)

19. A good wife and health is man's best wealth. (Benjamin Franklin)

20. We don't see things as they are; we see things as we are. (Anais Nin)

21. Sexual familiarity can be deadly to a relationship. In addition to the many moral, spiritual and physical reasons for remaining virgins until marriage, there are numerous psychological interpersonal advantages as well. Though it's an old-fashioned notion, perhaps, it is still true that men do not respect "easy" women and often disrespect men who have only one thing on their minds Both sexes need to remember how to use a very ancient word It's pronounced "NO". (James Dobson, President, Focus on the Family)

22. What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us. (Walt Whitman)

23. Never, never give up. (Winston Churchill)

24. Personal priorities needed in a marriage: acceptance, approval, encouragement, support, bear burdens, affection, security, respect, attention, comfort, and appreciation. From: Center for Marriage and Family Intimacy in Austin, Texas

The Traditions of Easter

As with almost all "Christian" holidays, Easter has been secularized and commercialized. The dichotomous nature of Easter and its symbols, however, is not necessarily a modern fabrication. Since its conception as a holy celebration in the second century, Easter has had its non-religious side. In fact, Easter was originally a pagan festival.

The ancient Saxons celebrated the return of spring with an uproarious festival commemorating their goddess of offspring and of springtime, Eastre. When the second-century Christian missionaries encountered the tribes of the north with their pagan celebrations, they attempted to convert them to Christianity. They did so, however, in a clandestine manner. It would have been suicide for the very early Christian converts to celebrate their holy days with observances that did not coincide with celebrations that already existed. To save lives, the missionaries cleverly decided to spread their religious message slowly throughout the populations by allowing them to continue to celebrate pagan feasts, but to do so in a Christian manner. As it happened, the pagan festival of Eastre occurred at the same time of year as the Christian observance of the Resurrection of Christ. It made sense, therefore, to alter the festival itself, to make it a Christian celebration as converts were slowly won over. The early name, Eastre, was eventually changed to its modern spelling, Easter.

The Date of Easter

Prior to A.D. 325, Easter was variously celebrated on different days of the week, including Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. In that year, the Council of Nicaea was convened by emperor Constantine. It issued the Easter Rule which states that Easter shall be celebrated on the first Sunday that occurs after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox. However, a caveat must be introduced here. The "full moon" in the rule is the ecclesiastical full moon, which is defined as the fourteenth day of a tabular lunation, where day 1 corresponds to the ecclesiastical New Moon. It does not always occur on the same date as the astronomical full moon. The ecclesiastical "vernal equinox" is always on March 21. Therefore, Easter must be celebrated on a Sunday between the dates of March 22 and April 25.

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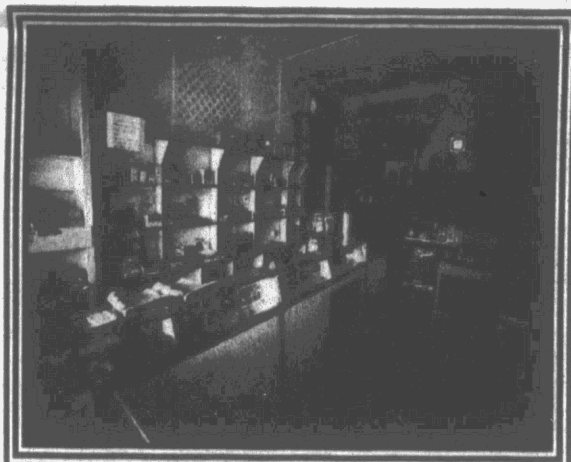
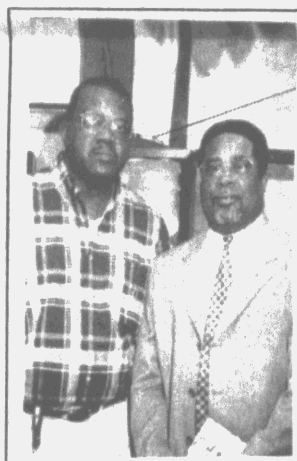
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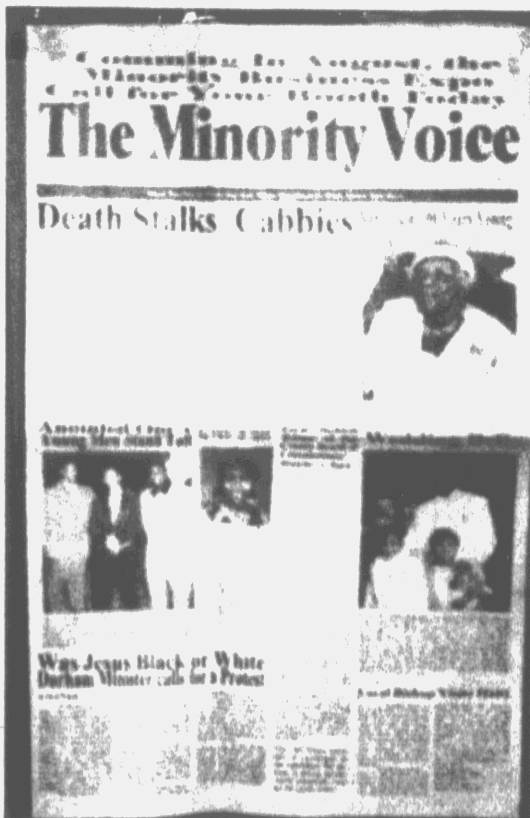
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NCGOP Goes on Record

NCGOP U.S. House delegation votes to keep racially offensive remarks in the congressional record.

How would North Carolina's GOP U.S. House delegation characterize Wyoming U.S. Rep. Barbara Cubin's racially offensive comments?

Appropriate.

Last week, North Carolina's entire GOP delegation in the US House voted to keep the Republican Congresswoman's remarks equating "...African Americans with drug addicts or people undergoing drug treatment..." in the official house record, rather than striking them for being inappropriate. (Washington Post, 4/10/2003)

As Republican representatives Walter Jones (NC-3), Richard Burr (NC-5), Howard Coble (NC-6), Robin Hayes (NC-8), Sue Myrick (NC-9), Cass Ballenger (NC-10), and Charles Taylor (NC-11) all voted against a measure to strike the comments from the congressional record, even some of their GOP colleagues couldn't agree.

"A few Republicans criticized Cubin's statement. 'She should have withdrawn them,' Rep. Jack Quinn (R-NY) said. 'I can really understand how they would have been found offensive.'" (Washington Post, 4/10/2003)

"It is unconsiderable for North Carolina's Republican US House members to condone racist remarks," NCDP Chair Barbara Allen said. "Their votes says it's okay to disparage African Americans. Their votes say it's okay for racially offensive statements to go unchecked. Nearly 2 million African American men, women, and children live in North Carolina. What do North Carolina's Republican US House Representatives have to say to them?"

OBITUARY

MS. DIEBRA JEAN DANIELS MOORE

April 7, 1954

- April 12, 2003

AYDEN, NC - Ms. Debra Jean Daniels Moore, age 49, of 4020 Greenbriar Drive died Saturday, April 12, 2003 at Pitt County Memorial Hospital in Greenville, NC. Funeral services will be conducted on Thursday, April 17, 2003 at 1:00 P.M. at Grifton Chapel Church of Christ Disciples of Christ Church. Burial will follow in the Chapman Family Cemetery, Grifton, NC.

Ms. Moore was born in Lenoir County and was a graduate of North Lenoir High School in Kinston, NC. She attended Lenoir Community College where she earned a certificate in Cosmetology. Ms. Moore also served as president of the Student Government Association at Shaw University where she graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in 2002 and was a member of both the Shaw University National Alumni Association and the Pitt County Shaw University Alumni Chapter. She was employed at Lenoir Community College in Kinston, NC.

A daughter, Ms. Charindra J. Moore of Grimesland, NC, two sons Mr Sean Marcellus Moore

of Grifton, NC and Mr. Daniel Jaman Dove of the home, survives Ms. Moore. Her mother, Ms. Erma Chapman of Grifton, NC and three grandchildren, Jordan Williams, John Moore, Jr. and Ashley Moore, also survive her. Two brothers also survive her, Mr. James S. Wynn of Kinston NC and Mr. Russell C. Wynn of Fayetteville, NC and one sister, Ms. Teresa A. Connor, also of Grifton, NC

Viewing will be held on Wednesday from 6 P.M. until 9 P.M. at Don Brown Funeral Home.

Family will receive friends, cards, flowers and calls of condolences at her mother's home located 1438 Lauressie Lane, Grifton, NC. The telephone number at the home is, 251-524-4364.

Don Brown's Funeral Home is located 97Second Street, Ayden NC and the telephone number is 252-746-3133.

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My Son Was Framed!!!

Mother of soldier arrested in grenade attack fears for son's safety.
By: Askia Muhammad
Final Call

A Muslim soldier from the 101st Airborne Division has been charged with murder in a grenade attack on Army officers' four days after the US invasion of Iraq that killed two US servicemen in Kuwait, officials at Ft. Campbell, Ky. announced on April 4.

Sergeant Asan K. Akbar, 32, was officially charged on March 25 with two counts of premeditated murder and 17 counts of attempted murder along with other charges under military law. He was transferred from Kuwait to a military detention center in Mannheim, Germany immediately after the attack, then to an undisclosed military location in this country on March 28.

If convicted, Sgt. Akbar could face the death penalty, according to military law experts quoted in published reports. His mother however insists that he is innocent. "No, I don't think he would do anything against his country or his fellow servicemen," said Mrs. Quran Bilal, Sgt. Akbar's mother in an exclusive telephone interview with *The Final Call*. "He didn't

do that. He didn't do anything like that.

"My belief? I believe he was framed."

Mrs. Bilal had not spoken with her son and did not know his location at *Final Call* press time. But she was visited by FBI agents, and told not to grant any interviews with the news media. Los Angeles Imam Abdul Karim Hasa, the family's spiritual advisor said in a broadcast interview.

"He told me that nobody in his platoon liked him. He said, 'Mom, nobody in my platoon likes me.' And I said, 'Well, they don't have to like you. Just go ahead and teach them.'"

"He was a sergeant," Mrs. Bilal continued. "He has his own squad, you know. And he was saying that nobody really liked him, and that was basically because he was a Muslim. That's what he told me."

Mrs. Bilal has been reluctant to tell her story publicly because of her concerns about how White, non-Muslims reporters might distort her comments.

"They print stuff up and twist it around and everything, you know," she said. She is also concerned about what appears to her to be lax security at the base, and the fact that her son appears to be the only one who was ever a suspect in the crime.

"I'm just wondering how in

the world did he grow grenades at three tents, and then sit up there and shoot" at those who came out of the tents when the grenades exploded. I'm saying, where was the guards at?"

Officials are still investigating the attack, which killed Army Captain Christopher Scott Seifert, 27, of Easton, Pa., and Air Force Major Gregory Stone, 44, of Boise, Idaho, and injured 14 others. The attack happened in the early morning hours in the command center of the 101st Division's First Brigade at Camp Pennsylvania in Kuwait.

"And they said (there was) only one witness. And who was that witness? And did that witness like him or what? And then they said they had two other guys, two other Arab guys (in custody), but they let them go," she continued.

A disciplined young man who grew up in the Nation of Islam in Los Angeles, he remained in the American Society of Muslims under the leadership of Imam Warithudeen Mohammad. Sgt. Akbar was not unhappy with his life in the Army, and he viewed his role in the armed forces, simply as a "job", according to his mother.

However, Mrs. Bilal does have advice for other parents of young Muslims considering military service, and one profound question about the

American body politic. "I would say if you have any doubt, leave it alone." When asked if her son had any doubts, the mother of the young man accused of the only so-called "fragging" incident — similar to more than 200 such incidents where mostly Black enlisted men threw grenades into the tents of mostly White junior officers during the Vietnam War — had of her own doubts.

"I don't know what he was. The only thing I know is that, why America fly two flags?"

"Why America fly two flags?" she repeated. "If they condone flying two flags then that's the answer to everything."

"What are the two flags ma'am?" "American flag and that flag that got that big ol' 'X' will all them stars...that Confederate flag. That Confederate flag is the same flag I heard that the KKK flies.

That's all I could say. You know, America flies two flags.

"So you put that down as what I said. Just say I said, 'Why America fly two flags?' You know? That's all I want to know. Why they fly two flags and what (does) that flag stand for? Does it stand for the same things that it stands for all those years back? Or does it mean something different?"



Pitt Community College Graduate pictured above - Ms Sherry Eason, substitute teacher in the Pitt County School system. She is also a successful graduate of Pitt Community College. While shopping at City Fashions in downtown Greenville she took time to say hello to the Joy 1340AM staff. photo by Jim Rouse

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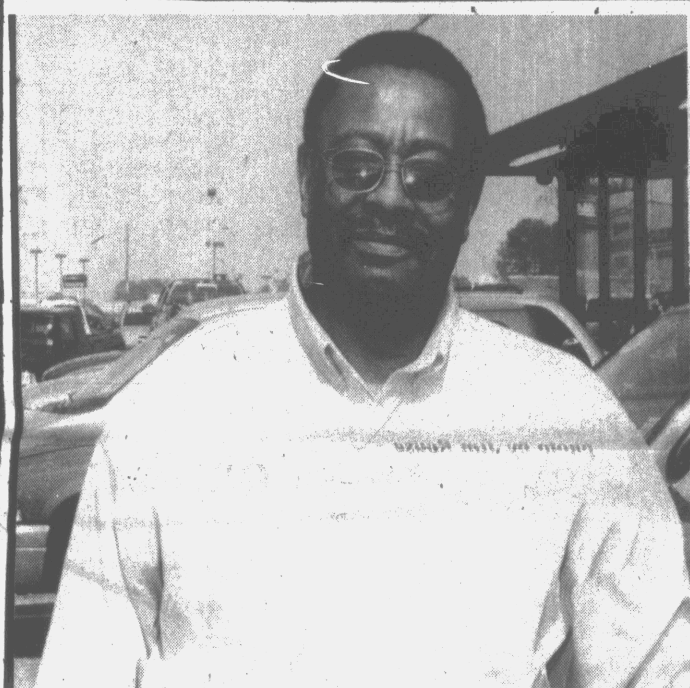


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Hopkins quits Princeville

Interim Town Manager Bobby Hopkins submitted his letter of resignation Thursday after a heated discussion with the mayor. In his letter, Hopkins said he could "no longer work under the hostile and verbal abusive conditions that you have created since becoming mayor."

Everette-Oates took office in December 2002. Hopkins has been interim town manager since April 2001. Hopkins knew that town board members were getting ready to terminate him, and that is why he quit, Mayor Priscilla Everette-Oates said Thursday. The mayor said the town would soon replace Hopkins and meet its budget deadline. Hopkins' untimely resignation comes as the town's budget is due July 01. Everette-Oates and Hopkins have apparently been at odds since the new mayor has been in office. Everette-Oates, a former town commissioner, defeated incumbent Delia Perkins in the November general election. Former commissioner Linda Worsley also lost her seat, while former commissioner Milton Johnson chose not to run. Incumbent commissioner Ann Howell defeated Fannie Lyons to retain her seat. Three rookie politicians — John Clark, Isabelle Baker and Dorothy White — along with Everette-Oates and Howell, comprise town management.

"It is sad that four people have turned this town around in four months," Perkins said. "Right now, the town is like a ship without a captain." The controversy that led to Hopkins' resignation began with a quarrel between Howell and Pamela Barlowe, Princeville's town/finance officer and niece of Everette-Oates. According to Howell, discussion between herself and Barlowe took place at the town hall Thursday.

Howell said she questioned why Barlowe would accept a raise knowing that she did not deserve it. Barlowe was given a \$5,000 raise Tuesday without the recommendation of Hopkins or his knowledge that the board was going to vote on it. Hopkins said Barlowe became extremely upset with Howell's remarks and went to the mayor and told her about the volatile situation. Hopkins said the mayor came back with Barlowe and a Princeville policeman and discussed the matter with him.

In a closed-door meeting with Barlowe and Everette-Oates, Hopkins claims that the mayor shouted and called him "stupid." Hopkins said he walked out and said, "I'm quitting." In Hopkins' resignation letter to the mayor, he stated, "The argument you started this morning by calling me crazy and stupid is a culmination of the many times you have verbally abused me at work and calling me at home." Hopkins' letter also ques-

tioned Everette-Oates' professionalism and attempts to obtain personal gains at the town's expense.

In an interview with The Daily Southerner Thursday, Hopkins said, "She called me stupid in front of my subordinates. No professional would want to work in an environment like that." Everette-Oates said Thursday that she never called Hopkins stupid or crazy. She said the allegations written about her in his resignation were

"penny ante stuff" he is using to make her look bad, and they are not true. She said he knew his job was not secure.

On Tuesday, during a special meeting, the Board of Commissioners went into a closed session to discuss a personnel issue — a session Hopkins was not invited to. Apparently during that session, Hopkins' termination was discussed. Board members Ann Howell and Dorothy White did not attend Tuesday's meeting.

"He knew that we were about to terminate him," Everette-Oates said. "We have found out some of the things that he was doing. I can't discuss them right now until I get more advice. When it comes out, the town is going to be in for a real treat. And for all of that stuff he wrote in that letter, it's crap. Everybody is going to find out the real deal very soon."

Hopkins said he heard rumors that the mayor was investigating him for mismanagement of funds, but he had no immediate plans of resigning. He said he welcomes anyone to look at the past and the present audit of the town. Hopkins said the real losers in this situation are the citizens and the town's partners that they have found since the flood. The mayor admitted that Hopkins has done a "good job" for the town. However, she disliked his style of management.

"He thinks that he is the mayor, the commissioners and the town manager," Everette-Oates said. "Any time I questioned him, he thought that I was harassing him. He has done some great things but the truth has come out in certain areas, and we have to deal with it. The town is going to continue to grow."

Howell has adamantly sided against Everette-Oates since her election. She was disappointed that Hopkins turned his resignation. She said the new management has created turmoil.

"We've only been in five months and look at the damage that we've done," Howell said. "We don't have a town manager. We don't have an assistant town manager. What are we doing to do? Our budget is due soon, and we haven't even started working on it. "Our town went through a flood in 1999, and it was a great disaster. But you know what? We're in another flood now, and it is nothing compared to the one we had. Our citizens in Princeville better wake up."

Ed Bridgers, a former Princeville mayor, was also disappointed that Hopkins is leaving. "It seems like every time we get out of one thing we fall back into another," Bridgers said. "I thought he was doing a good job. Just look around the community and you can see the progress the town has made. Losing Bobby will set us back a few years. This is another sad day for Princeville."

Milton Bullock, a member of The Voice of Concerned Citizens for Princeville, a local advocacy group, chose not to comment on the present state of the town. Bullock, a former member of the renowned singing group The Platters, has hinted at the possibility of running for mayor in the next election.

"My concern now is what direction the town is heading toward," Bullock said. "I'll be watching very closely."

Retaining town managers has apparently been a problem for Princeville. In the past 13 years, the town has hired five town managers. During that time, four were reportedly pressured to leave while another was forced to resign due to health reasons.

Hopkins took the interim position in April 2001 after interim manager Jack Bond became ill. Bond replaced Sandra White. White replaced Charles Tillman, and Tillman replaced Joseph Cates.

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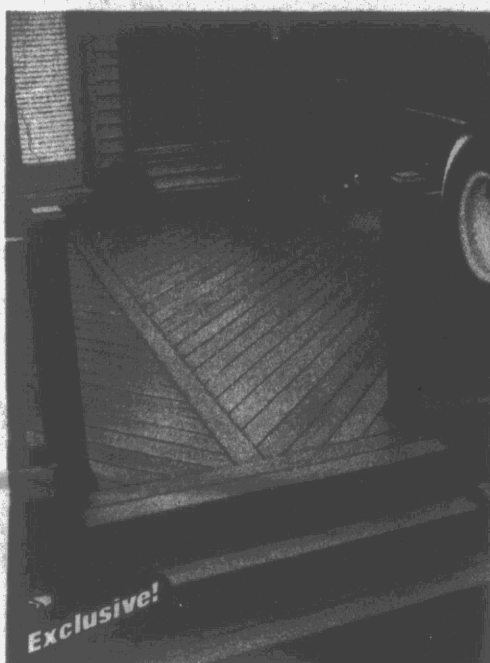
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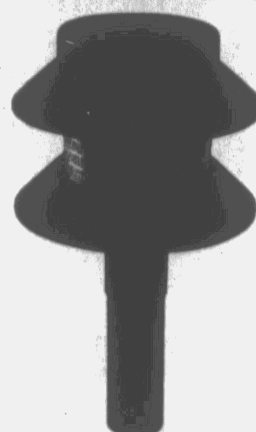
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