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SALUTING OUR BELOVED MOTHER'S "MOTHER'S DAY MAY 11, 2003"

Spiritual Reflections



Apostle George Hawkins

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS

Greetings:

The songstress Tina Turner ask a question, "What's Love Got To Do With It?" well I think that love have everything to do with it, if you are a child of God. Lets take a look at what the Bible have to say about LOVE. In Galatians 5:22-23 we will find these words spoken by the Apostle Paul, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." I would like to share with you how God explained this passage of Scripture to me concerning LOVE. You see in the entire Bible we have expressions of God's love. In the gospel recorded by John we find that God Himself is Love and in the gospel recorded by Paul we find in I Corinthians 13:1-2 "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could

remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing." That is a very strong indictment against any brother or sister who don't have love in their heart; you know who you are, that person who talk bad to you, or cheat you up for no reason at all, or that person who is just mean to everyone that they meet, and when such a person is confronted by the pastor they are quick to say "that's just me" no that's not just you, that's just that demon acting up in you, he's been with you so long that he has become familiar to you so you think that he's part of you.

You see when you are born again God plants a seed into you and that seed is Himself, Jesus Christ the hope of glory but that seed cannot grow unless you feed it and nurture it with the word. As you feed that word it will begin to take root and grow then it will spring up and produce fruit. (It's only one fruit with many seeds) The fruit of the spirit is LOVE. Only as we live in love can we fulfill the will of God in our lives. The believer must become love-inspired, love-mastered, and love-driven. Without the fruit of the spirit (LOVE), we are just a religious noise. The fruit of the spirit is love, and it is manifested in joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. JOY is love's strength, PEACE is love's security, LONG-SUFFERING is love's patience, GENTLENESS is love's conduct, GOODNESS is love's character, FAITH is love's confidence, MEEKNESS is love's humility, and TEMPERANCE is love's victory, against such there is no law.

In the times in which we are living I believe that love is the only thing that we will be able to draw strength from. Paul made it very clear when he said though I speak with the tongues of men and angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. What Paul is saying even though I have excellence of speech, but don't have love in my heart for others my words are unfruitful and I'm just making a lot of noise. Paul continue to say, And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing (charity means love). Paul realized that the gifts of God would work and get others saved, but he himself could become a castaway.

What I am saying beloved, you cannot be saved without the spirit of love working in you, because GOD IS LOVE! If you have anything other than love flowing through your spiritual vessels then you need to ask God to give you a new heart and a new spirit and if God has already given you a new heart and it has become contaminated with the lust of your flesh then you need to ask God to create in you a clean heart and renew the right spirit. Now the decision is yours, Ask yourself do I need a new heart and a right spirit or do I need a clean heart and a right spirit. Choose ye this day whom ye shall serve because only the pure in heart shall see God. Take the time to examine your heart. Until next week continue to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.



Tilley and the crew Our roving Minority Voice camera stopped in at Tilley's Barber Shop and caught them hard at work. The brother in the chair will definitely have a clean do. Tilley's Barbershop is located at 1005 A Hamilton St. in Greenville. They have Dudley Products also. If you would like to call ahead the number is (252) 757-0700. Pictured from left to right is Von Derrick Smith, Preston Watson, (owner Melvin Tilley), Russell Shaw Jr. and Omar Turnage
photo by Jim Rouse



Mrs. C's Kitchen

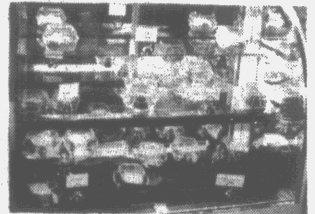


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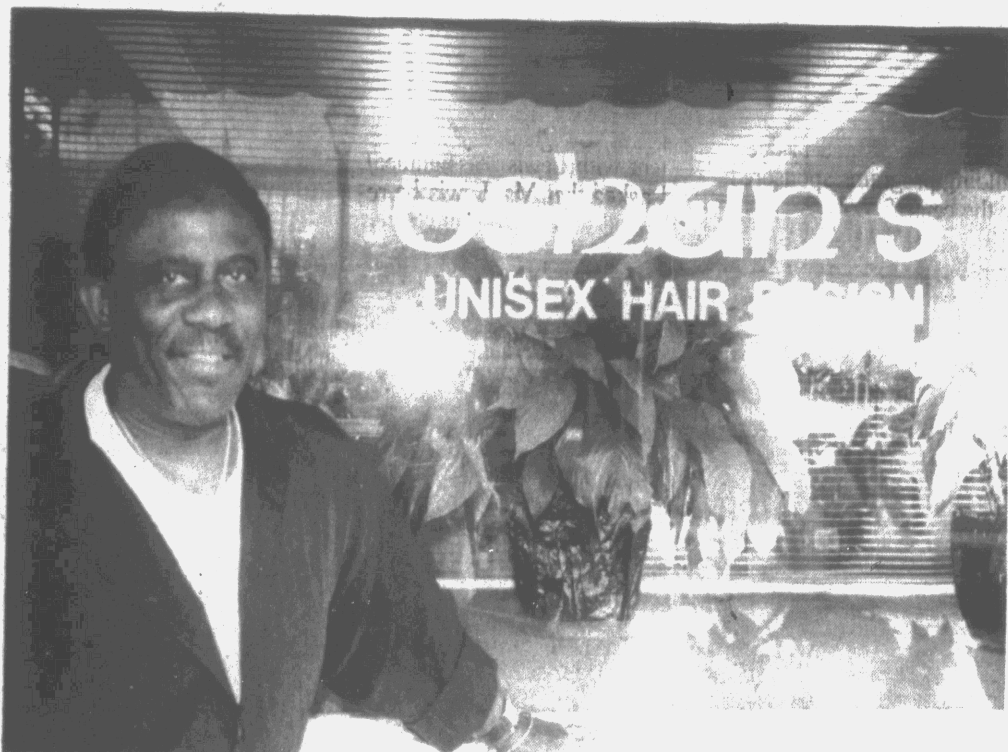
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Black Man Stand Strong While walking out for lunch one day our Minority Voice photographer stopped to deliver some M' Voice Newspapers to one of our favorite stops. Oshun's Unisex Hair Design, where we can always receive a word of wisdom from one of Greenville's successful and long term hair designers. Fred (pictured above) can be found in his shop which is located at 425 Evans St. in Greenville. You may have to call ahead for an appointment though. The phone number is (252) 757 - 3709 and don't forget to pick up your copy of the Minority Voice Newspaper.

photo by Michael Adams



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North Carolina Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention Task Force

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An unacceptable daily tragedy

Social workers, gov't officials decry child abuse deaths

THE FINAL CALL

by Nisa Islam Muhammad
Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—Being a child in America can be a painful thing. It can also be a deadly thing, as increasing numbers of children are being abused and neglected to death.

"The tragic events in Maine, New Jersey, Florida and other states have made national headlines, but the underlying problems certainly are not unique to those states," said Shay Bilchik, president of the Child Welfare League of America, referring to recent incidents of child abuse. "There is a crisis in how our nation is responding to children who are abused, neglected, exposed to violence, drugs and alcohol, homeless, runaways or without families."

Five-year-old Nathaniel Allen in Maine allegedly was shaken to death by his adopted mother; seven-year-old Faheem Williams was found dead in a storage bin in New Jersey, allegedly beaten by his mother's cousin; and three children, ages three and under, were found dead at the hands of their mother's boyfriends in Brevard County, Fla.

Their names are on the 2002 death list, but an estimated 903,000 children across the country were victims of abuse or neglect in 2001, according to national data released April 1 by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Of that number, about 1,300 children died of abuse or neglect.

The statistics also indicate that about 12.4 of every 1,000 children were victims of abuse or neglect, a rate comparable to the previous year's victimization rate of 12.2 per 1,000 children.

"A nation as compassionate as ours should ensure that no child is a victim of abuse or neglect. The number of children that are being abused and neglected in this country is an unacceptable daily tragedy," HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson said.

The numbers of children coming into the child welfare system remain at unacceptably high levels because of substance abuse, poverty, joblessness, housing and other social problems. Approximately 67 percent of parents with children in the child welfare system require substance abuse treatment, but child welfare agencies are able to provide treatment to only 31 percent, and only 1 of 7 children eligible for child care assistance under federal law receives it.

"Virtually across the board, we are failing to make our systems work for kids. While many trends remain level, the state systems are overwhelmed, as the numbers of children coming into the child welfare system increase because of family dysfunction, our country is inadequately respond-

ing," said Mr. Bilchik.

As the demand for assistance has increased, there has not been a commensurate increase in resources for caseworkers and services. According to the Child Welfare League (CWLA), the average starting salary for individuals responsible for America's neediest children is \$29,412 (for those with a Masters degree in social work); and \$26,453 for those with any undergraduate degree—less than that of underpaid nurses and teachers.

To add insult to injury, the average caseload for these individuals generally exceeds recommended levels.

"There is personal danger as a caseworker who has to go to people's homes to investigate abuse," said Dominick Antonicelli, a caseworker for the Division of Youth and Family Services in Essex County, N.J. "There is a systemic problem. The mayor of Newark was outraged at the Faheem Williams case, but he didn't pull the police department on the carpet. In Newark there is criminal behavior in the streets we have to go to. Workers go to the police department and have to wait six hours for an escort. Crime is a reality. If someone was robbing a bank, the police would be there in 60 seconds. If someone is bashing in a child's head, it would be hours before the police would respond."

CWLA has issued a set of recommendations to President George Bush, Congress and State legislators as they make budget decisions in the midst of war and the worst budget crisis facing states in over a decade.

"The first thing we must do is ensure that we respond effectively with trained case-

workers who are paid adequately and given reasonable caseloads. This is primarily the responsibility of states," Mr. Bilchik explained.

CWLA has issued standards for worker caseloads, and advocates for salaries and training that can be achieved if funding decisions are made wisely. The group believes the federal government, in particular, must step forward to help states.

"Budget allocations must determine whether we apply funding to services, staff and salaries now to ensure that all children grow up into healthy, responsible, contributing adults, or face a greater tax burden on states in 10 years as we provide treatment, hospitalization, foster care, policing and jails for these children," said Mr. Bilchik.

"This vital work requires adequate funding and a commitment to sound practices. In this time of fiscal crises, the federal government must step forward to help states act in the best interests of our nation's future viability."

The statistics also indicate that about 12.4 of every 1,000 children were victims of abuse or neglect, a rate comparable to the previous year's victimization rate of 12.2 per 1,000 children.



Smiles On The Mall While delivering newspapers in the Carolina East Mall we couldn't help but stop for a moment to catch the radiant smiles of these two lovely young ladies. Yes, truly black is beautiful
photo by Michael Adams

LETTER TO THE DAILY REFLECTOR

5/04/03 - Keith W. Cooper

Reassignment of Ms. Neil Lewis

University unfair in reassignment of Lewis

University unfair in reassignment of Lewis. Due to the leadership of Nell Lewis, the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center has thrived and blossomed. Her brilliance, depth of commitment and creative genius helped shape and mold the center in ways that highlight the value of cultural diversity.

ECU's provost, William Swart, reassigned Ms. Lewis to the Joyner Library. Why was this shining star demoted from a position where she demonstrated a mastery of the daily operations and bridge-building programs sponsored by the center?

Often times, I've chastised the

university administration for a dearth of black ECU professors. Now, it appears that administrative officials deserve another spanking for being naughty, unfair and insensitive with respect to reorganization, re-engineering and reassignment. I supported ECU housekeepers during their ordeal when they requested higher wages and better working conditions. As was the case then, the university has ways of silencing courageous warriors fighting for basic fairness, respect and justice.

Ms. Lewis will persevere and remain a strong voice guiding the battered ship of change sailing amid turbulent waters of indifference and shortsightedness.

I contacted the chancellors office to register my discontent with Lewis reassignment. I asked that Ms. Lewis be returned to the Cultural Center

expeditiously. Students and faculty members share a moral obligation to contact the administration for answers.

In a recent issue of The Daily Reflector, Lathan Turner, the centers new director, reportedly said, "Certainly, there has been a tremendous amount of positive and forward-thinking work done through the center that deals with diversity and cultural issues." Such efforts were led by Lewis, responsible for Harvard Professor Cornel West's recent visit to campus. West supports reparations for the descendants of slaves.

Turner (black) may lack the initiative to drive the center down rocky roads already traversed by Lewis.

KEITH W. COOPER
Greenville



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and Mike Adams

Commentary: The Current War On Drugs

Wake Up Black America

By Clifford Wallace Thornton Jr., President, Efficacy The Challenger Newspaper, Wilmington, NC

I travel all over the United States, trying to change the mindset of the current "war on drugs." There is often a fitting hook, for instance, last year, while I was in Cleveland, the top local news story was about a Cleveland Police detective accidentally shooting a 6-year old boy while struggling with a drug dealer.

Every day, an average, five American children die (usually poor and black) because of drug related violence. This is called collateral damage of the drug war.

When are we as a nation going to learn that this drug war is futile and that this type of collateral damage is unacceptable? Drug use should always be a public health problem, not a law enforcement one, Canada and European countries are changing their laws accordingly now, leaving the United States behind.

Racism, classism and the war on drugs are inextricably parts of one huge lie. This is not a war on drugs but a war on poor people — in the United States, primarily people of color. The fallout of the drug war is well documented in terrible schools, broken families, and, as usual, dark-skinned people are un-

fairly targeted. Even though there are seven times as many whites who use drugs than blacks, 60 percent of those in state prison on drug charges are black — 11 percent are white.

Today, black politicians, preachers and other leaders are highly critical of racial profiling, but not the war on drugs. Why, when racial profiling is a direct result of the drug war? They do not seem to be concerned that the drug war has exacerbated the spread of AIDS. They don't seem to realize that intravenous drug users are the primary conveyers of AIDS in prisons and our communities through sexual encounters. Are black leaders unaware of the facts?

According to Pastor Beatrice Walkout of Cleveland, "Black preachers have to be educated on this issue. They are basically following what the white establishment tells them to do and it is not to end the drug war." When one looks at the criminal justice system, it's true that almost two thirds of the six and half million who are on probation, parole, halfway houses, jail or prison are minorities. But, more fundamentally, they are overwhelmingly of the same socio-economic class — they are poor people, ten percent, of the African American population is in the criminal justice system. Forty percent of the six and half million are there for possession or sale of drugs.

This drug war has been going on for over thirty years at a total cost of nearly a trillion dol-

lars and we have had almost nine decades of drug prohibition, yet there are more illegal drugs at cheaper prices on our streets than ever before, as drug trafficking adjusts and becomes more sophisticated.

When considering alternatives for the drug war, all conversation has to start with the question, "Do you think that people are going to stop using illegal drugs?" The overwhelming response when I pose that question is, "No."

Much of the damage being done is by the drug war, more so than by the drugs. There is no drug known to man, that becomes safer when the sale and distribution is turned over to criminals. The crux of the problem is not the drug dealers or drug cartels, they are just opportunists. The problem is the self-righteous legislators in Washington and the apathetic non-voting public who create the opportunity for the cartels and dealers. Black preachers, politicians and leaders who support the drug war are directly responsible, for the rise in crime, drugs in our schools, AIDS in our communities and the enormous criminal empires.

Drugs present no problem to anyone who chooses not to use them, but the prohibition of these drugs presents a clear and present danger to everyone. Just ask the thousands of families who have lost innocent children to this, war.



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From The Desk Of Mrs Beatrice Maye



Mrs Beatrice Maye

To the editor,
Happy at home. A man or woman can face about any problem if he has a happy home. "Why do I need a home?" A very sophisticated young lady once said to a real estate agent. "I don't need a home, I was born in a hospital, educated in a college, courted in an automobile, married in a church. I live out of the delicatessen and paper bags. I spend my mornings on the golf course. My afternoons at the bridge club, and y evenings at the movies. When I die, I am going to be buried from the undertaker's. All I need is a garage". And that's the attitude of too many today.

Sometimes the members in the family seldom see each other together. They get up in the morning at different times, work in different places, and go to bed at different times. People who do not eat together, read together, play together, sing to-

gether and pray together soon are simply not together.

Juvenile delinquency and adult delinquency become a major problem when home life disappears or is degraded. But when its homes are right, the nation will prosper.

A real home is a creation of love, loyalty, and hard work. As Edgar Guest says, "It takes a heap o'livin' in a house to make it home". A house becomes a home when it is the center of affection, of real living, of smiles and tears, of sorrow and laughter. When it is the center of our love and our living, then it is home. The home is built on the family, and the family is built on marriage. Anything that loosens the sacredness of the marriage ties destroys the foundation of the home. Are you very happy at home?

BEATRICE MAYE

Churches

There are basically three types of churches: entertainment, containment, and liberation. In entertainment churches, members are very emotional, they sing, holler, and shout, but they do very little work. Containment churches are only open on Sunday from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Liberation churches are driven by a theology, which requires us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and set, and

set the captives free. Liberation church serves a greater percentage of men and young people than entertainment and containment churches, because they have more relevant programs and ministries open every day of the week. We Christians say our children are our future, but most churches allocate very little space, money, and time on the youth worship service. How many churches allow youth to sleep over while providing religious, cultural, and recreational activities? How many adults are willing to volunteer a weekend to empower youth?

From: Restoring the Village, Values and Commitment: Solutions for the Black Family by Jawanza Kunjufu

Ten+ Easy Steps to Increase Your Motivation

by Ginny Hermann

Many people strive to find motivation by looking outside themselves, but the truth is, motivation comes from within.

Others can help boost your mood and stroke your ego, but the power to be truly happy and reach your full potential is inside. Unleashing these powers can be exhilarating; just implement a few of these simple strategies today and you'll find yourself accomplishing more in no time.

1 Break out of your comfort zone by embracing new challenges. Join a committee, start an exercise program or take a class. Learning something new is liberating.

2 Don't stand on the sidelines. Get in there and get busy. Find a task you can handle and devote yourself to it. The more involved you are, the more you'll enjoy the journey.

3 Take your time. Crowding too many things into your day can zap your energy and set you up for failure. Learning to say "No" is your best defense.

4 Write things down. Making a list keeps you organized and helps you develop a winning game plan. Plus, it feels great to check off tasks as you complete them.

5 Reward yourself. Give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done. Buy yourself a small gift, go to a movie or simply stop and reflect on your accomplishments.

6 If you feel overwhelmed, break tasks down into smaller increments. Some prefer to start with the easy chores so they'll see instant results, while others choose to tackle the big things first. Try different approaches until you find the strategy that works best for you.

7 Never give up. Quitters never win, so keep plugging away. Give yourself little pep talks throughout the day to help you stay on task.

8 Don't be afraid to make mistakes. Making errors is one of the best ways to learn. You may not succeed the first time, but how will you know if you don't try?

9 Live in the moment. Try not to dwell on the past or project into the future.

10 Spend the last 15 minutes of the day planning for tomorrow. Look at your calendar, clear off your desk and make a plan to start the next morning on the right foot.

10+ Call Best Care EAP at (402) 354-8000 or (800) 666-8606. A professional counselor is available to help you get started.

Food for Thought

Do you spend more time acknowledging what is working versus addressing what isn't working?

Are you able to "see what isn't there and make it happen" as opposed to just living in a job description?

An overweight America comes with a hefty price tag

By Nanci Hellmich, USA TODAY

Americans' extra weight costs the nation as much as \$93 billion in annual medical bills, and the government pays about half of that amount, a federally funded study shows. This is the highest estimate yet of the medical costs of overweight and obesity. It's comparable to the annual medical bill for smoking, which was estimated at about \$76 billion a few years ago. The new study by three economists, funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, includes direct medical costs but not indirect costs such as time off work. Almost 65% of people in the USA are either overweight or obese. Overweight is defined as roughly 10 to 30 pounds over a healthy weight; obesity is 30 or more pounds over. People who weigh too much are at an increased risk of heart disease, diabetes, many types of cancers and other illnesses.

The researchers used existing data to compare medical costs for overweight and obese people with the costs for people of normal weight. Their findings, in today's online issue of *Health Affairs*:

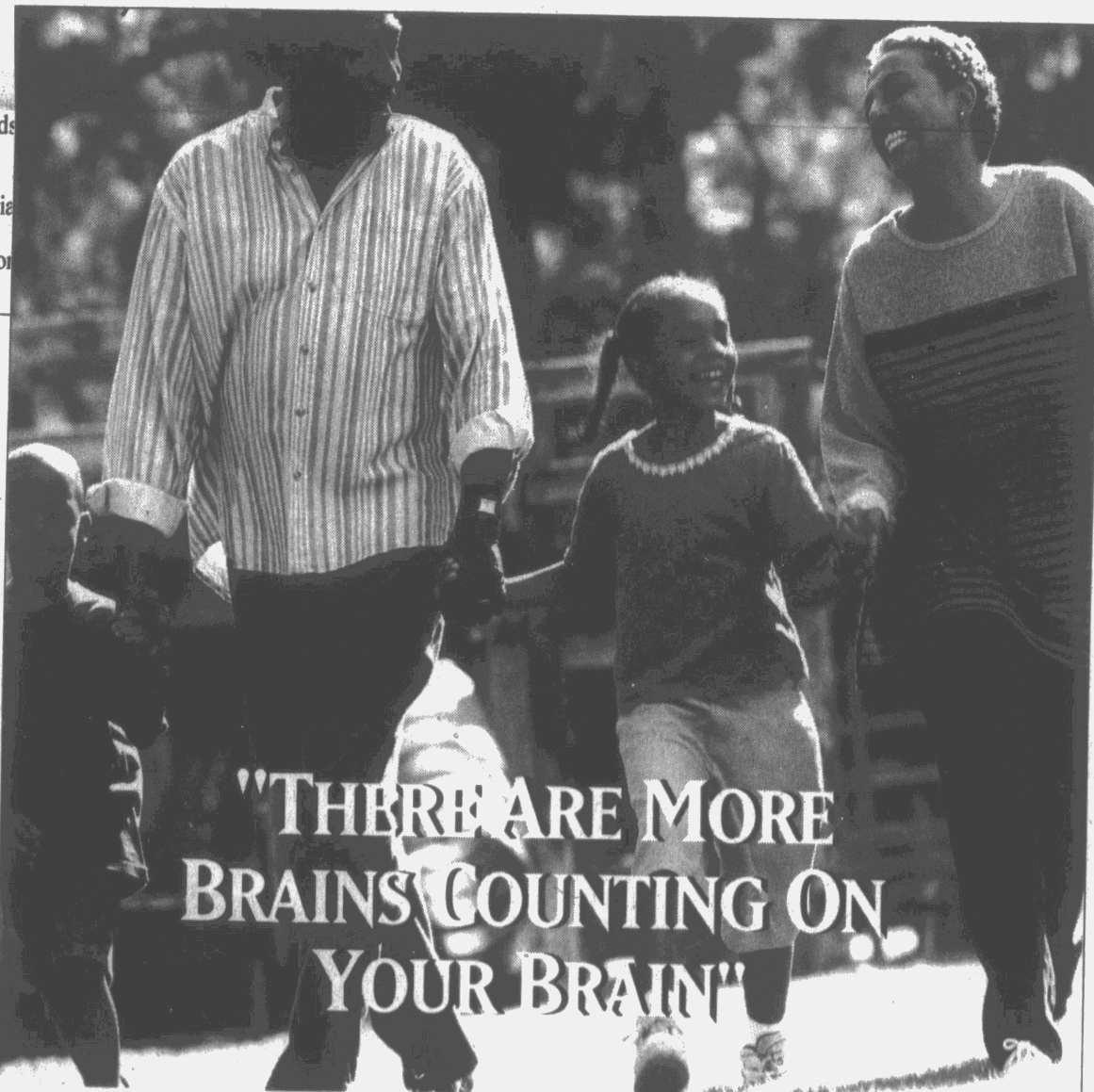
- Overall, annual medical costs for an obese person are about 37.7% more, or \$732 higher, than the costs for someone of normal weight.
- An obese recipient of Medicare (a program for the elderly) costs \$1,486 more a year than one of healthy weight.
- An obese patient on Medicaid (a program for the needy) costs \$864 more than a normal weight Medicaid recipient.

The annual medical spending attributable to overweight and obesity is about 9.1% of national medical costs. Those attributable to smoking range from 6.5% and 14.4%.

"There is an ongoing debate about whether obesity is an individual or societal issue," says the study's lead author, Eric Finkelstein, a health economist for RTI International in Research Triangle Park, N.C.

"The fact that Medicaid and Medicare, and ultimately taxpayers, are financing half the cost lends credence to the notion that obesity is not solely a personal issue."

Others say this study is a wakeup call. "The government is going to get slam-dunked in future obesity costs if it doesn't address the problem now," says Anne Wolf of the University of Virginia Medical School. She has studied the economics of obesity. "As the population ages and the prevalence of obesity continues to rise, Medicare is going to be picking up the health care tab for these people."



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You probably don't realize how important you are to your family and friends. Well, you are. It's your laughter they enjoy, your opinions they listen to, and your experiences from which they learn.

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So let's prevent a stroke by eating right and being active, monitoring and controlling your blood pressure, and calling 911 if you see the signs of stroke. You're too important to lose.

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- sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
- sudden trouble seeing, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- sudden severe headache with no known cause

Stroke is an emergency. Call 9-1-1!

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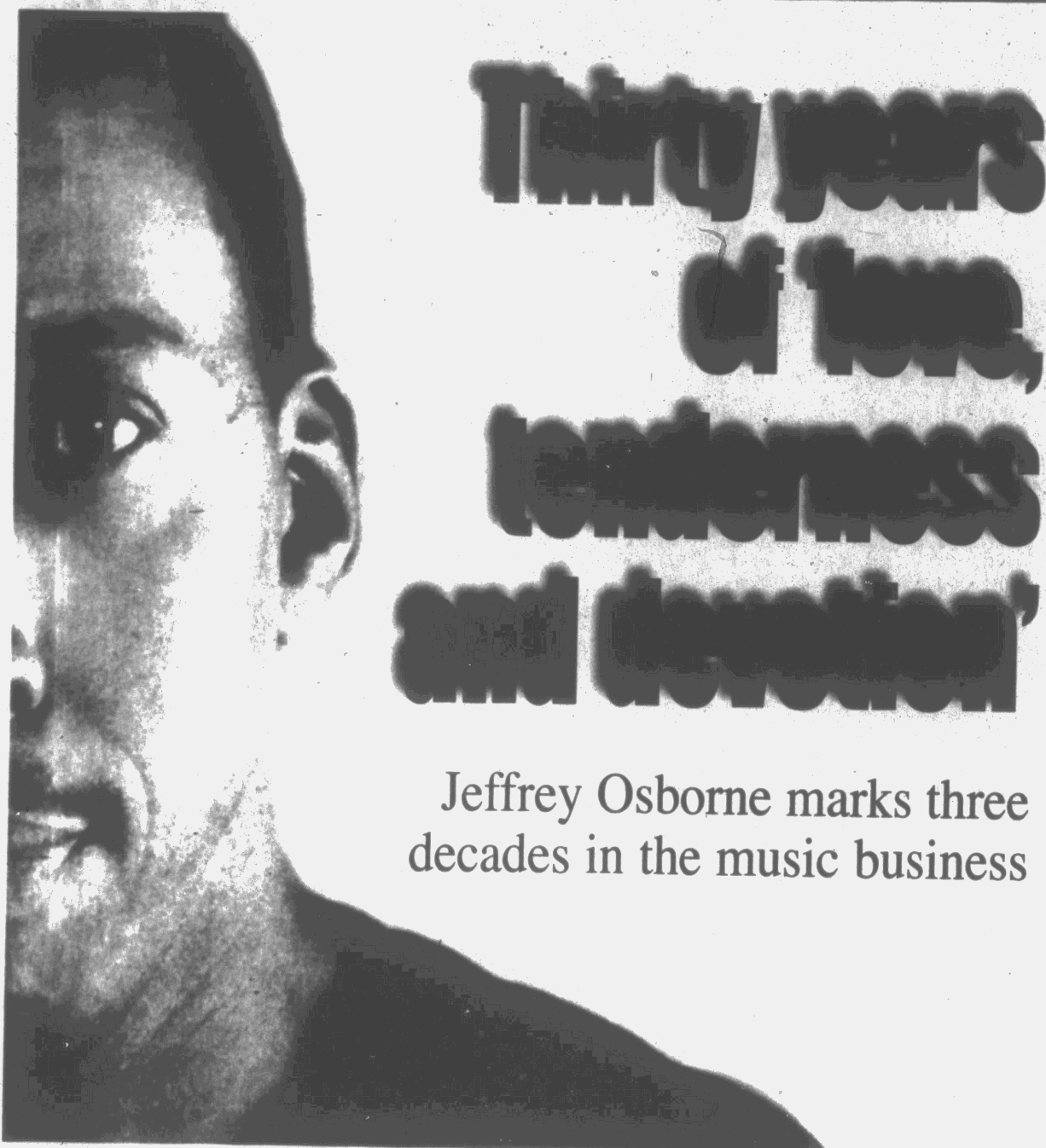
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Thirty years of love, tenderness and devotion

Jeffrey Osborne marks three decades in the music business

by Tim Butler

Special to the Tri-State Defender

Music is Life properly describes the feelings of veteran soul singer Jeffrey Osborne, whose buttery smooth voice has sparked the romance of many a couples. Due out June 10, the disc is the debut release of Osborne's own recording label, Jay Oz Records. And if that wasn't enough, *Music is Life* marks the singer's 30th year since his very first album as the drummer for the R&B group L.T.D. in 1973.

Led by Osborne's distinctive vocal delivery, on the A&M label L.T.D. enjoyed a phenomenal successful streak of hits in the 70s which included *Love Ballad* and *Back in Love Again*. In 1982, he launched his solo career.

Early critical praise for the project indicates that this is, perhaps, his most compelling album to date. The disc is a collection of music that artfully explores a modern urban vitality but without neglecting what's known and loved about R&B music of Osborne's heyday. Three decades later, his is still a premiere voice in popular music.

When looking back on his stint in the music biz, Osborne says, "Some days I ask myself, 'Have I really been doing this for 30 years?' And then I think back to a situation or event in my career and say, 'Wow, I have been doing this a while. I'm blessed.'"

Written and produced by Osborne, *Music is Life* is the considered to be Osborne at his apex. Tracks such as the mid-tempo *Ain't No More*, about a love gone bad, the catchy *When You Love Me* and *I Don't Know*, a song about a day that went so wrong, is the Osborne longtime fans know and still love.

The new project was a labor of love, as Osborne was creatively involved in every aspect of the album, from composing the songs, to the final mix.

Known primarily as a singer, few realize Osborne is a multi-faceted songwriter/musician, too. For instance, he co-wrote the song *All At Once* for Whitney Houston's multi-million selling debut album.

Though he's been singing professionally for 30 years, Osborne says the new album is definitely more youthful than his last recording. And this was something he wanted to achieve - delivering a younger sound without destroying his lyrical integrity. He says he thinks he'll succeed.

Osborne's love affair with music began at childhood in Providence, Rhode Island, where he was born and raised among 12 siblings and a father who played trumpet.

Osborne, too, played trumpet in grade school, before switching to drums in his teens. But he was also a fan of singers - Johnny Mathis, Gloria Lynne, Sarah Vaughn, Joe Williams, the Temptations and the Four Tops, among others - and began to develop his skills as a vocalist.

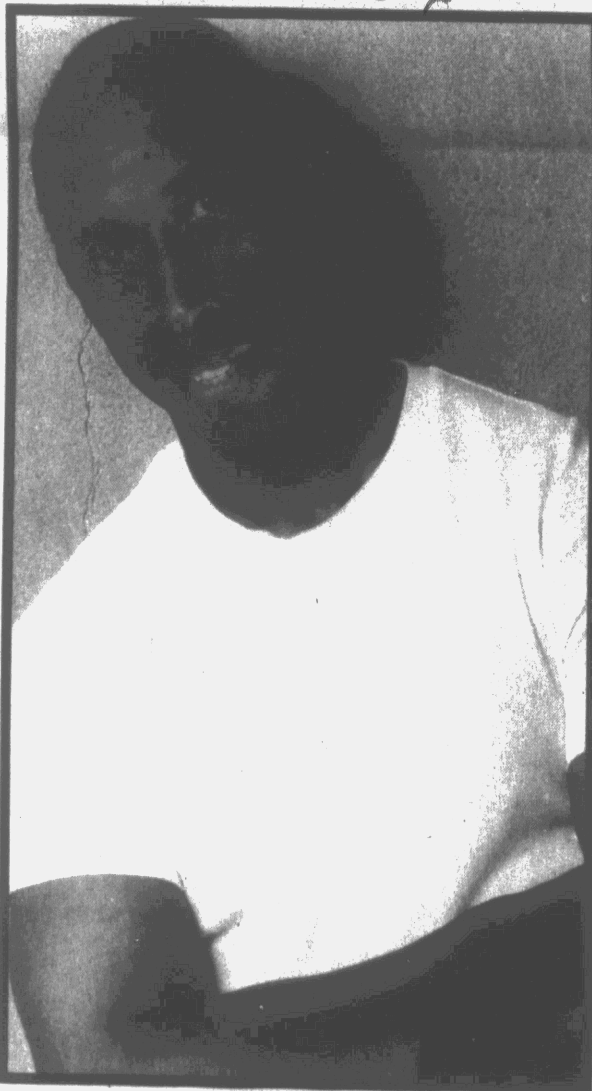
In fact, it was while he was sitting in as drummer for L.T.D. (Love, Tenderness and Devotion) that the band recruited him as their new lead singer.

Outside of the concert stage and the recording studio, Osborne's resume includes some unusual items. As the of-

ficial singer of the *National Anthem* for the NBA's Los Angeles Lakers, he has the peculiar distinction of being the most requested singer of the *Anthem* in the history of professional sports, having earned four Lakers championship rings.

He's sung for the Oakland Raiders for a decade, and the San Francisco 49ers have called on him, as has boxer Mike Tyson. "It's the funniest thing," says Osborne, laughing about it all. "I don't know if there is anything to it, but when I sing at home court, the Lakers usually win."

Osborne considers his latest album to be his most youthful despite a long and fruitful career.



Health Force Honor's Staff Members

In celebration of Nurse's Week, Health Force honored its staff on May 9th at its Professional Center, across from included the presentation of one refreshments, and gifts. Fun was had by all that attended.



May 06-12, Health Force honored its staff on May 9th at the Hospital the hospital. The celebration year and 5 years service pins,



The following staff received one year pins: Donna Hickman, Susan McMillin, Geraldine Randolph, Barbara Sparkman, and Katrina Williams. Mary Pendergrast received a 5 year pin. Health Force and the community are most fortunate to have these ladies providing personalized care, professional service to all they nurse.



Health Force has provided care to patients in their homes for over 13 years in the Greenville community through Medicaid programs such as Personal Care Services, Community Alternative Programs and Community-Based Services for the Developmental Disabilities, Mental Retardation, and Mentally Ill. Health Force also accepts private pay and files some insurance plans. And by midsummer, Health Force will be providing in-home services specific to patients with Dementia/Alzheimer's. All services focus on keeping the patient in the home as long as possible.

If you would like to congratulate the staff or ask questions about Health Force's



Mrs Tanisha Walker SOMETIMES BEAUTY IS MORE THAN SKIN DEEP

Tanisha Walker attends the Barbizon School of Modeling in Raleigh, NC. She will be attending the International Modeling and Talent Association in New York July 20-26th. She has attempted to seek sponsorship from local businesses and companies but has run into dead end roads and disappointments. Tanisha strongly believes that God has given her a purpose in life and she is determined through prayer, faith and trust in God, she will succeed. If you would like to help Tanisha in her quest to success please call her at 252-321-1257 or mail her your tax deductible donation to 717 D Hooker Rd. Greenville, NC 27834

Gospel awards to benefit cancer research June 21



Maria E. Watkins presents *The Gospel Awards (Fighting Cancer with Praise!)* June 21 in Sarasota, Fla. The first awards of its kind, the event will help benefit research in the continued fight against the disease.

In addition to funding research, The Gospel Awards will also honor outstanding achievements and contributions of choirs, musicians, and directors in recordings, television, film, and in the community.

Nomination forms were sent to gospel and Christian record companies, producers, announcers and music industry executives. All artists, singers, musicians, directors and music industry executives may vote, though.

A roster of artists have been invited to perform. Among them are: Chadwick, Minister Warren Davis, The Gospel Awards Mass Choir, Margaret Clark, Kirk Franklin, Dwayne Harvey & Unrestrained Praise, Holy Vessels, Minister Detrick Edwards & High

Fraise, Justin James, Lori El, Davis James & Krunk for Jesus, The Mime Gurtz, Ordained, Dr. Henry Porter and The Love Campaign, Holy Vessels, Trey, Hezekiah Walker, and the Westcoast Black Theater Troupe.

The public is welcome and encouraged to participate in The Gospel Awards. Submit photographs of loved ones or friends who have cancer, or who died from cancer, and by stating the type of cancer. Send photos now! The images will be displayed and honored during the event.

Tickets are on sale now. You may purchase tickets online at www.thegospelawards.com or order by mail. Local residents may purchase tickets at The Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, Family Christian Bookstores or at The Westcoast Center.

Photos, listings, donations and tickets orders may be mailed to The Gospel Awards, c/o Dr. Maria E. Watkins, P.O. Box 49052, Sarasota, Fla., 34230-6052. Make donations payable to CMAT, Inc. (The Center for Music and Arts Traditions, Inc.), a 501(C)(3) organization, official sponsoring organization for the event. The American Cancer Society is the official charitable recipient.



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