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March 2004

# Reparations : America Can Not Pay What Shes Owe

**[Editor's note:** The following excerpts were taken from the Saviours' Day 2004 address delivered by Afinister Farrakhan on February 29 at the UIC Pavilion in Chicago, Illinois

**In The Name of Allah, The  
Beneficent, The Merciful.**

February 26 is a day that has been set aside by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad to honor the birth of a man that came to us from the Holy City of Mecca in Arabia who was born on February 26, 1877—Master Fard Muhammad. He is 127 years of age today. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad taught us that he was and is the Great Mahdi. "Mahdi" or "Mahadia" means one who comes to guide to the path of God and one who is self-guided. It is written in the Qur'an, "He it is who sent His messenger with the guidance and the true religion."

Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) didn't just bring religion. he brought guidance. because if you have religion and not guidance, you may not carry the religion into practice properly. So without guidance and religion, you can have zeal, but zeal coupled with ignorance makes us religiously dangerous, or fanatics. We do not wish to be fanatical over our faith in God. We want to practice His religion with guidance. so that we may become examples of righteousness and moral rectitude in the midst of a world that has gone astray.

This is Black History Month, the last day of the month, a leap year. I want you to leap into the knowledge of our history and how beautiful we are as a people. Have you noticed out of all the cultures, the ethnic and racial groups that live in the United States, no one else has a

history week or month but us?

There's no Irish history week.  
There's no Italian history week.  
There's no Jewish history week.  
There's no Romanian history week.  
How come? It is because every one of those people know who they are. Carter G. Woodson, (the father of Black History Month), recognized that we, as a people, were robbed of the knowledge of our rich history. He knew that a people without the knowledge of their history is like a tree without roots. We are dead. So the Honorable Elijah Muhammad taught us that of all our studies, history is the most attractive and is best qualified to reward the researcher, because history develops the springs and the motives of human action.

When we know what was, that springs us forward to produce what is and make a future, but when we do not know what was or what is, we are unqualified to prepare a future for ourselves and our progeny. So, wise men and women study

history. There are those who are born, as the Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches, with the gift of prophecy. They can see into the future. This is a gift from God. But there are also those who can see the future and predict it closely by a careful study of history.

So, this is Black History Month and Master Fard Muhammad brought us a rich, rich knowledge of ourselves and our history that takes us back far beyond the cotton fields and plantations of the South; but He takes us back to the very origin of our being as direct descendants of the Creator.

My desire today is to reach the world with this serious message on the principle of reparations. What does America and Europe owe to Black people? What does Allah (God) promise? In the word "reparation" is the word "repair." In this sense, repair today will be used not as a noun but as a verb, which means an action taken that will repair damage done. When something is repaired, you bring it from a broken state back to its original state or its condition. The whole human family is in need of repair.

According to the scriptures, Satan has overcome the teachings of God's prophets and has caused most of the human family to deviate from that which Allah (God) has set down as the way of life that He desires for human beings to live. It is written in the scriptures of the Bible and Qur'an that this world is not God's world. This world is Satan's world and we have been under the rule of Satan for 6,000 years. But Satan remains a mystery and God also remains a mystery, but the knowledge of one and the revelation of one is the revelation of the other.

I wondered to myself why did Elijah Muhammad one day call me and say, "Brother, I don't want you

to use the term 'devil' anymore. I want you to use the term 'Satan, 'the enemy,' or 'the slave-masters' children.'" As a young man and not being very wise, I didn't ask him why. I didn't know why and I didn't ask him why. But now I'm beginning to see why—the culprits that have to be called out are a satanic group that has dominated the world of politics, the world of religion, the world of education, the world of justice, the world of economics. The people under Satan's rule may think they belong to God, but if we judge our actions by the standard of behavior laid down by God and His prophets, Satan has been such a clever arch-deceiver that he has made evil fair-seeming to mankind and man. Therefore, we are so confused today.

We don't know what is right or what is wrong. What is good or what is evil. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad said to us that Satan is so wise that he has deceived the

whole world. Are you in the world? Are you sure? Then, we must ask ourselves, are you and I of those who are deceived? If Satan deceived the whole world, what would he deceive the world about? Satan has to deceive the world about God. He has to deceive the world about religion. He has to deceive the world about Jesus, the most important figure of the scriptures.

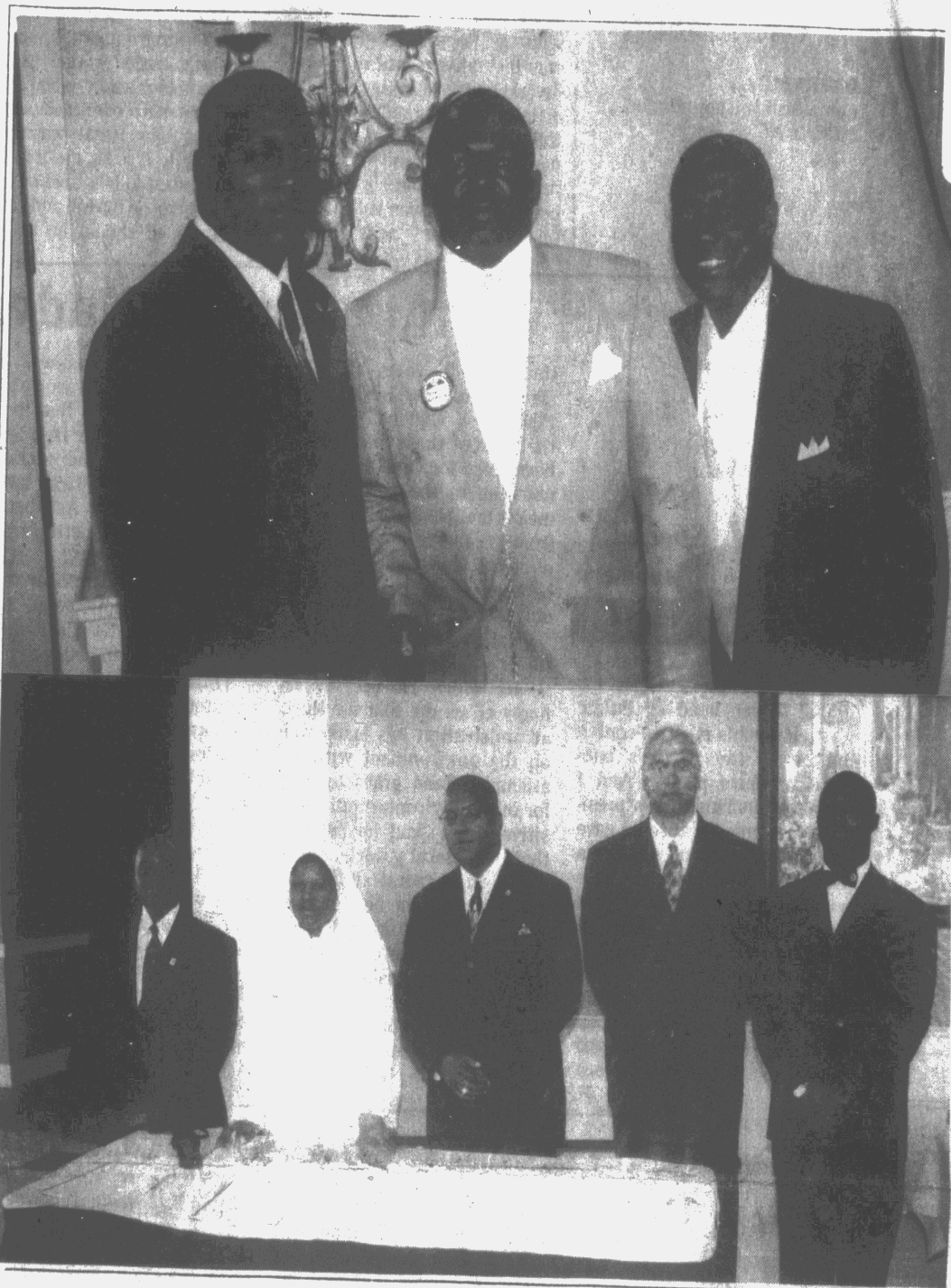
In the Book of Revelation, it says Satan would be so wise that he would curl his tail and bring down a third part of the stars of heaven. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad said this means not taken down ordinary people. He's taking down the scientists and scholars of religion. This is why Paul said we don't wrestle or war with flesh and blood. We are flesh and blood. The fight is not with flesh and blood. The fight is with principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world and spiritual wickedness in high places.

So if you and I can't deal with the devils on our level, we may become devils ourselves. There are many of us that think we are of God, yet we are making mischief. So we must be clear today on who is with God and who has Satan deceived. Dear brothers and sisters, Satan, by deceiving scholars of religion in Islam, Christianity and Judaism, this causes scholars to look at the Book and the Revealed Word of God and misinterpret it, leading millions of people astray who believe that they are on the path of God. In reality, they have been devoured by Satan.

In the Book of Job, the sons of God came to present themselves to God, but the devil came also with them. How could the sons of God hang out with the devil, yet they did not know it? But God knew it. He did not speak to the sons of God. He

ooked directly to Satan. He asked, "Whence cometh thou, Satan?" Satan answered, "I come from walking up and down, to and fro in the earth seeking whom I may devour."

Some theologians say that we are the Children of God. That is a lie. We all have the capacity to become Children of God, but there is a choice that we have to make, because Satan is in the world campaigning for minds and souls by infecting the people's spirit. And God is doing the same. Satan has children and Satan has angels, too. So, these two sets of children may be hanging out today, but maybe after you listen to my words, you might look to your right and to your left, you might look to your bedroom and the boardroom, and say, "My God, I did not know I was sleeping with, I was working with, I was married to a child of the enemy." What does the Bible and America owe and what will Allah (God) promise?



# Saviors Day 2004

Saviors Day 2004, Minister Robert Muhammad and Minister Edward Muhammad is shown congratulating Rev. Daniels the new president of the Pitt Co. SCLC at the Hilton Hotel for Saviors Day 2004 to hear Minister Farrakhan speak on Reparations, shown below with Minister Robert Muhammad is followers of The Final Call Ministries at their live satellite hook up at the Hilton Hotel with over 800 people in attendance.



Princeville, North Carolina, shown at the Historical occasion at Princeville City Hall. Congressman Frank Ballance along with Mayor Pricilla Oats and children from a local school and others who participated in others in a celebration. Shown below is Mayor Oats, Joyce Mitchell from Senator Edwards's office and others who participated in a peaceful march to mark the first black incorporated town in North Carolina. Salute to Princeville. Come down to the Town of Princeville.

## Patti Labelle Lifetime Achievement Award by Modupe Rouse

Broadcast professionals and musical icons gathered for the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters 20th Annual Communications Award Dinner to honor singer and songwriter Patti LaBelle with their Lifetime Achievement Award in Washington, D.C. on Friday, March 12.

LaBelle can add this award to her collection. She has won two grammy's and seven NAACP awards. On May 4 LaBelle will release her new album "A Timeless Journey" on Def Soul Classics. LaBelle is the first artist on the label.

LaBelle -- a household name to lovers of rhythm and blues \* is known for her hits 'Lady Marmalade' and 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow.' Since she began her singing career in 1961 she has given the people what they want: 'sagain.' LaBelle's stage performance is known for its unpredictability. "No one is gonna stop Ms. Patti from doing what she wants to do," said LaBelle. "I didn't know the words to Chaka's song, but that is one of my favorite songs and I wanted to sing it with her." LaBelle said this after running on the stage while Chaka Khan sang the hit single 'Ain't Nobody.'

As fans and industry leaders looked on, LaBelle accepted the Lifetime Achievement Award with a humbled grace. "I am so blessed," said LaBelle. "I came to this event two years ago and thought to myself I want one of those and now I am receiving one; thank you dj's and all of you for playing my music when I didn't have a hit." Other honorees at NABOB communications dinner included photographer Gordon Parks, playwright August Wilson, singer Bobby "Blue" Bland, actor Jeffrey Wright and attorney Elaine Jones. NABOB hosts this annual event to honor African-Americans making a significant impact on the media industry. Over 500 media professionals attended the event. The dinner began with performers including Ashford & Simpson, Stephanie Mills and Chaka Khan. "I would like to thank everyone for the support they have given NABOB over the years," said James Winston, executive director of NABOB. NABOB was established in 1976 and it has been instrumental in ensuring that black broadcasters have a voice. Through conferences on management, sales and programming, NABOB keeps the 240 black-owned radio stations and 20 television stations informed of changing FCC policies.

The undertone of the NABOB dinner was adaptation. "We have to adapt our thinking to the new market place," said Winston in a press release. "The concentration of media ownership is causing a decline in black-owned media companies. I can't wait for next year's dinner," said Jim Rouse. "With the pressures on black broadcasters, we are still here." Rouse is the owner of WOOW-AM and The Minority Voice Newspaper in Greenville, N.C. NABOB organizers prepare for the 28th Annual Spring Broadcast Management Conference in St. Marteen, Netherlands Antilles on May 21-26.



## YOUR VOICE

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has given.

But couldn't the Easley administration find someone in the great state of North Carolina who has some transportation expertise and who isn't a big political donor? The Board of Transportation oversees a \$2 billion budget, so the Board's membership shouldn't be taken lightly.

The Johnson scandal provided Easley with a golden opportunity to demonstrate that DOT is on the way to emerging from its history of scandal and strong scent of corruption. Maybe the next time there's an opening, the governor can name a name that doesn't smack of patronage.

DAVID MILLS

Common Sense Foundation  
Raleigh, NC

## The non-issue presidential campaign of 2004

Jones  
Street

BY VAL ATKINSON

Democrats want to talk about kitchen table issues and Republicans want to talk about character, values, the flag and patriotism.

Since 1968 we've only had two presidents that weren't Republicans — Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton. But no matter who the Republican president was they always had the same diversionary message. The country could be suffering from inflation, joblessness, war, public health issues and a bleak future.... It doesn't matter because real issues will not be discussed for very long.

Diversionary messages will supplant real issues every time, if you let them.

In 1968 the Vietnam War was the center-piece issue, but Richard Nixon claimed that the number 1 issue in America was "law and order". In 1972 when the war was still raging and race riots were the talk at cocktail parties, he ran against "busing" and that dreadful political label — "Liberal Democrat". In 1980 we had gone from inflation to run-away stagflation, but Reagan talked about riding "tall in the saddle", on his way to the shining city on the hill. And in 1984 when we had record deficits, polluted air and water because of relaxed environmental standards and eroded worker gains and workplace safety violations due to Reagan's pro business, anti labor positions, Reagan was still unwilling to discuss the issues. He continued to talk about that shining city on the hill and how proud we all should be to be

Americans. He almost made us forget that we were unemployed.

In 1988 George HW Bush prediction came true. When he ran against Ronald Reagan in the 1988 Republican Primary race he said that Reagan's economic plan was little more than "Voo Doo" economics. And that only blue smoke and mirrors could make it work. Well, that's exactly what HW inherited. But instead of trying to fix the economy he too got in bed with the wealthy that financed his campaign. He ended up in Iraq and forgot about the economy. But he and Vice President Dan Quayle didn't forget about "Family values".

And in 2000 with a huge surplus and the country at peace he managed to get us into an unjustified war and change a huge surplus into a half trillion-dollar deficit. And while all this was happening Dubya Bush ran on "Prayer in Schools", "School Choice", "Abortions, and Guns.

While Republicans were capturing the hearts and subconscious minds of America, Democrats were trying to appeal to America's cognitive reasoning and intellectual prowess. Republicans knew what motivated America better than Democrats did.

Everybody knows that the central issues in the 2004 elections should be Jobs and the illegal war in Iraq. But you won't hear a lot about either. Democrats will want to start talking about issues (jobs, tax breaks for the rich, Social Security and the war in Iraq) but Republicans (with the help of selected media personalities) will control the tenor of the debate and what we'll hear on TV, Radio and in the Press will be: "Same Sex Marriages", anti-Affirmative Action, Gun ownership, School Choice (Vouchers), Abortion and the Mac Daddy of them all... personal smears against John Kerry. But don't

try to bring up questions about AWOL allegations against him or his alleged DUI charges. And please what ever you do, don't bring up questions about his cocaine use... that's just dirty politics.

The big question in my mind is how long will America continue to be patsies for the extreme conservative wing of the Republican Party? During election campaigns they talk about God, Country, Guns and Family Values. And as soon as they get in office they start their reverse Robin Hood act by taking from the poor and giving to the rich. And every time they're asked to justify the in-humane treatment of the poor they start all over again with God, Country, Guns and Family Values.

How long America, before you awaken from your pathetic, gullible slumber? We hope not too long, the country and the world can't afford to wait very much longer.

## Ralph Nader: Not his time

NNPA  
SpecialCommentary  
BY RON WALTERS

I have the utmost respect for Ralph Nader, head of Public Citizen, for his positive contribution to the nation's consumer affairs issues. And I even tolerated his run for president last time because he gave progressives Left of Al Gore a chance to participate. But it is without question that he was one of the factors that cost Gore the election.

For example, Nader won nearly 100,000 votes in Florida when the distance between Gore and Bush was only 500 votes; and he received more

than 22,000 votes in New Hampshire where Bush won by 7,000 votes. Exit polls suggest that most of these voters would have voted for Gore had Nader not been in the race. So, this means that Nader blocked Gore from receiving a precious 29 electoral votes when distance between Gore and Bush was only four.

That said, you get a key to Nader's motivation if you look at his issues. He believes, as many of us do, that the Bush administration has made war on the environment with its attempted land grabs to drill for oil in environmentally sensitive areas. And he believes that the federal government is awash in corporate influence. So much so that big corporations have come in and setup shop so that nearly every public policy has a legislative price tag. The cash goes to members of Congress, lobbyists, staff, etc. It's nasty business.

I agree with Nader, but his

agenda is also business as usual in a year when people are telling exit pollsters that their main issues are an Iraq war that is immoral and sucking financial resources from basic priorities, a Patriot Act that is killing our Constitutional rights to privacy, and a set of public policies, such as tax cuts for the rich and a weak and wrong-headed No Child Left Behind education policy.

Thus, Nader's agenda runs counter to the issues that people care deeply about in this election cycle, a fact which may reveal that his main motivation for running is his own ego. Even so, though Ralph received 3 percent of the vote last election, I don't think he will be nearly the threat this year and may not pull more than 1 percent of the vote.

The reasons are simple. First, progressives seem to want what most primary voters on the Democratic side want — for Bush to exit the White

House almost at any cost. They appear willing to subsume their own agendas and unite around John Kerry as the front-runner at this stage of the game.

Second, in the 2000 election, progressives could move to the left of Gore, but fortunately in 2004, Howard Dean has driven the whole field of Democratic candidates so far to the left that, if Kerry continues on their track, there will not be much room to his left for Nader to pick up votes. That is why leaders of The Nation magazine, a progressive group, have said to Nader that this is not his time.

And Dean also cautioned his supporters that they should not be tempted to support fringe candidates — such as Nader — and thus, cost the Democratic party victory with his influence. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if the Green Party at its coming convention decides to back Kerry to close ranks firm-

ly on the prospect that they, too, could inadvertently continue the rein of George Bush in the White House. To be sure, there is a faction of the Greens who want to draft Ralph Nader to run on their ticket again. With them, he could be assured of being on the ballot in 43 states where he ran in 2000.

Without the Greens and campaigning as an Independent, Nader would have to start from scratch. If he does, the task would be formidable. For example, he would have to pick up 65,000 signatures on petitions in the state of Texas to qualify for the ballot. Altogether he would have to pick up an estimated 2 million such signatures in all of the states where he would run, needing a substantial grass roots effort costing millions of dollars. I just don't think that he has either financial or organizational resources to do this, and so he may not qualify for many ballots. Besides Democrats in the

states will be working hard against him.

So, Nader should not run this time. But telling him that is hard because he is a proud man with an independent streak a mile wide and very deep. The problem is defined by Ross Perot, who cost George Bush's father the election in 1992, and whose personality also would not let him back down. Democrats are worried about Ralph Nader and will fold him into their campaign strategy. Better safe than sorry. But I don't think he will have much punch this time around.

Ron Walters is the Distinguished Leadership Scholar, director of the African American Leadership Institute in the Academy of Leadership and professor of government and politics at the University of Maryland-College Park. His latest book is "White Nationalism, Black Interests" (Wayne State University Press).

## One step forward, two steps back

To Be  
Equal

BY MARK MORIAL

Because news about the gradual recovery of the economy at its broad scale seems recently to have submerged the news about unemployment, you might think we can begin to worry less about joblessness. You'd be wrong.

The hard statistics about the lack of jobs for former workers mean that at its "micro-economic" levels—at the levels of individuals and families—the jobs are not there to be had and jobless workers and their families are still hurting badly.

Among the facts the current unemployment rate of 5.6 percent masks is that there are still 8.3 million people unemployed, and that at the end of

February a total of 760,000 jobless workers had exhausted their regular unemployment benefits. The latter can't get emergency federal unemployment aid because Congress has thus far refused to extend the temporary program, which expired in December.

That means that since then three-quarters of a million jobless Americans—think of a "city" that would be the nation's twelfth largest; more populous than Indianapolis, San Francisco, or Baltimore—have had to make do without government aid.

By June, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Center on Budget Policy and Priorities, nearly 2 million more of the jobless will face the same fate. These numbers are among the most startling setting records for how alarming the unemployment situation is.

But there are several others that offer serious competition. As a recent study from the Economic Policy Institute, another Washington think tank, stated, "the current

slump is setting records for severity in terms of sustained loss of jobs, the increase in the labor market slack, and the decline in [workers'] aggregate wage and salary income."

That is the overall situation. But numerous statistics make it clear that the situation is even worse for African Americans and Latino Americans. The recession's beginning in spring 2001 drove the Latino unemployment back above 7 percent, and the black unemployment rate, which had fallen to a record-low 7 percent in early 2000, back to its "traditional" postwar place in the double digits—it's now 10.7 percent.

A recent study by the National Urban League's Institute for Opportunity and Equality documents some of the harrowing impact the return to double-digit unemployment is having on Black America.

African Americans are more likely than whites to endure long-term unemployment; more college-educated and

highly-skilled

African-American workers are unemployed than their white counterparts; and African-Americans have suffered disproportionate job losses in manufacturing, a job area where their gains since the 1960s were critical to the expansion of the black middle class.

The IOE report concluded that the job reversals blacks have endured since 2001 is the worst turnaround in the labor market they've faced in more than twenty-five years.

A striking local-level confirmation of that assessment was illuminated this past week by a study released by the Community Service Society, a nonprofit New York City social services agency.

Analyzing federal statistics, it determined that because of the national recession and the particular economic difficulties the tragedy of September 11th brought on New York City, nearly half of black males, aged 16 to 64, are out of work. Only 51.8 percent of the city's black males had jobs, compared

with 75.7 percent of its white males. Just 57.1 percent of black women had jobs, compared to 61.4 percent of white women. Overall New York City's black unemployment rate is now 12.9 percent, compared to 9.6 percent for Latinos, and 6.2 percent for whites.

One of the important facts about Black New York's current employment crisis is that in 2000 the black unemployment rate, mirroring the national picture, was at a record low—7.5 percent.

That African Americans in New York as elsewhere have been so badly hurt by the recession and its aftermath underscores the point economist Samuel L. Myers, Jr. makes in his incisive essay in the National Urban League's annual volume, *The State of Black America 2004*, that will be released later this month.

The combination of historical and contemporary anti-black discrimination across all areas of economic activity has meant that African Americans "were less prepared to weather

the bad times of the recession and have had greater difficulty taking advantage of the recovery and its associated benefits."

Myers shows in keen detail that the so-called Long Boom of the 1990s benefited Black America in significant ways—but because their economic foundation was so thin to begin with, "The lesson to be learned from the long period of expansion is that African Americans are still perched precariously between a significant narrowing of income gaps and a persistent inequality in wealth."

Myers' insight about the complex nature of the economic progress African Americans forged in the last decade applies to every facet of their experience in America, as our volume will illuminate in a variety of ways. It calls to mind a saying common among black elders, who lived long enough to experience it too many times over: One step forward, two steps back.

Marc H. Morial is President and CEO of the National Urban League, New York

## The Blackonomics Million Dollar Club



Blackonomics

BY JAMES CLINGMAN

Brainstorms are not unfamiliar to me. Sometimes they are great and sometimes they are not so great. My latest one came when I was busy continuing my campaign asking everyone to send at least \$5 to the Piney Woods School in Mississippi. I wondered how we could sustain the tremendously positive response we've received from you, the readers of this column, and from others who learned about it on the Internet. The new brainstorm hit me, and I was at it once again, trying to do something that would bring us closer together and aid us in our quest for economic freedom. I would establish the Blackonomics Million Dollar

Club (BMDC).

I can hear you lovingly saying, "All right, Jim, what are you trying to get us to do this time?" I say "lovingly" because you have responded that way to my articles on economic empowerment for more than 10 years now. I am truly blessed to have made so many friends throughout this country and in other parts of the world because of the articles I write. So, here's the deal.

I am looking for 200,000 dedicated individuals to commit to being members of the BMDC, which will simply mean that you will send \$5 to a worthwhile project, institution, or cause, when the call goes out. There will be no more than five calls per year; thus, the cost of being in the BMDC will be no more than \$25 per year. Of course, we will increase our membership and the number of causes as we progress, but starting out we simply want to show, by doing of course, what can be accomplished by working together, regardless of class, status, or any other superficial barriers that lie between and among us.

Eventually, we will seek out those of you who have an interest in working with the BMDC to recommend beneficiaries of the \$1 million raised every time the call is issued and the 200,000 respond. As the BMDC grows, and it will grow, we will also expand our reach and our assistance to causes in Africa and in the Caribbean. There is much to do and much we can do if we work together, each one doing just a little, so that many of us can have a lot.

The BMDC will not be my organization, nor will any of the funds ever be sent to me. They will always be sent directly to the beneficiary, just as we are sending our \$5 to Piney Woods School. For instance, as I noted in the first mention of this idea, we could start a similar campaign for the other Black boarding schools (there are three others) in the country. We could assist Black colleges or help various communities such as Princeville, N.C. and Pembroke, Illinois. We could help purchase medical equipment in Africa or help build schools in African villages. The

possibilities are endless, but we must commit first — and then follow through on our commitment.

Members of the BMDC will probably know about causes and projects that could use a million dollars, and your input in that regard will be quite valuable. I have never claimed to know everything, but one thing I do know: If we work together in support of one another, we will win.

Also, if we use the instantaneous call-and-response of the Internet, there will be less need for protracted campaigns and advertising, no banquets necessary, and no begging corporations to give us the money. The BMDC will have formed a solid foundation that can immediately respond to a need; if someone or some other entity wants to jump on board, that's fine, but at least we will be making the first step and putting our own money on the table first.

With all of the past efforts to "show" others our presence on the Internet, to demonstrate how much we spend via "Black Out Days," and to make every

attempt to convince others that we are valuable economic assets to this country, the BMDC will devote its resources to showing Black people our own value, and illustrating to our youth that we are indeed the remnant of those slaves who could not be killed, those who survived so that we could be free, those who put their nickels and dimes together to help one another.

Please don't start analyzing this effort yet. Don't get beset by the paralysis of analysis, with which we are quite familiar. Let's keep this as simple as possible. Don't start worrying about who will get your five dollars and who is going to keep tabs on the money. Don't immediately start trying to figure out how YOU can benefit from this effort. We get by giving, so let's do this based on the very sound principles of Sowing and Reaping: You always reap what you sow; you always reap later than you sow; and you always reap more than you sow.

Here's a quote from a BMDC member: "Just a brief message to express how moved I am by

this effort. A five dollar contribution is such a small amount on an individual basis to push the economic growth of our people. Sign me up!"

Let's sow some seeds through the Blackonomics Million Dollar Club. All it takes is a commitment to send \$5 to a worthwhile project, institution, or cause. You just need to say "Sign me up" to jclingman@blackonomics.com. I will keep you informed of our progress. Or, mail or fax your name, address, and phone number to P.O. Box 6722, Cincinnati, Ohio 45206, or fax number 513/489 4132. Let's do this.

James E. Clingman, an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati's African-American Studies department, is former editor of the Cincinnati Herald Newspaper and founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce. He hosts the radio program, "Blackonomics," and is the author of the book, "Economic Empowerment or Economic Enslavement—We Have a Choice." He can be reached at (513) 489-4132, or by e-mail at jclingman@blackonomics.com



### Erskin Bowles Visits Greenville's African American Community

Erskine Bowles, candidate for the North Carolina Senate seat vacated by former presidential candidate, John Edwards will be visiting Greenville's African American Community, March 17th. He will visit and talk with several African American small business owners in the morning, have lunch at an African American leaders in the afternoon and attend an informal get together of the African American Community called, an "Evening with Erskine Bowles, held at the Dubois Conference Center."

## Death toll rises in Ugandan protests

**LIRA, Uganda (IRIN)**—Five people were killed in the northern town of Lira Feb. 25, as thousands protested against the government's "failure to protect its people from insurgency" and the rebel Lord's Resistance Army's (LRA) massacre of more than 200 internally displaced persons (IDPs) on Feb. 21.

Godfrey Aropet, the Lira District police commander, told IRIN that one man was killed by a mob and four were shot dead. It was, however, unclear how the four had been shot, he said. At least 10 other people were injured, Uganda Red Cross officials added.

"The police tried to handle the situation with as much restraint as possible, but the organizers of the march failed to take charge," Mr. Aropet said.

One of the dead was from the Acholi tribe, to which most of the LRA's commanders belong. Sources said some Acholi homes within Lira had been set ablaze by Lang'i tribes people who were among the protestors.

Numbering over 10,000, the protestors flooded in from the town and surrounding areas, running and chanting slogans against both the government and the LRA. They

carried branches broken off from surrounding acacia trees, and banners calling on President Yoweri Museveni to resign.

They smashed cars, beat up other people and broke the windows of the district commissioner's office, after failing to find him, and vandalized other buildings. Shops that tried to open for business were forcibly closed by protestors.

One Uganda People's Defense Forces soldier, wearing civilian gear but carrying his gun, shook his head as he watched protestors smash his car windshield. "Why are they blaming us?" he shouted. "I have also had three of my own children abducted by the rebels."

President Museveni, who has camped in the region to "oversee operations, so that we can finish these bandits," in a rare shift in the tone of government rhetoric, apologized to the victims of the massacre and expressed regrets at the army's failure to protect them.

The attack was the most devastating massacre of civilians so far during the 18-year conflict in northern Uganda. About 300 LRA rebels, dressed like regular army soldiers and armed with assault rifles and



Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni (c) visits survivors of the February 22 massacre at Lira district hospital. More than 200 people were killed by Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels at one of the internally displaced camps. Museveni accused military commanders of failing to properly coordinate their operations against the rebels.

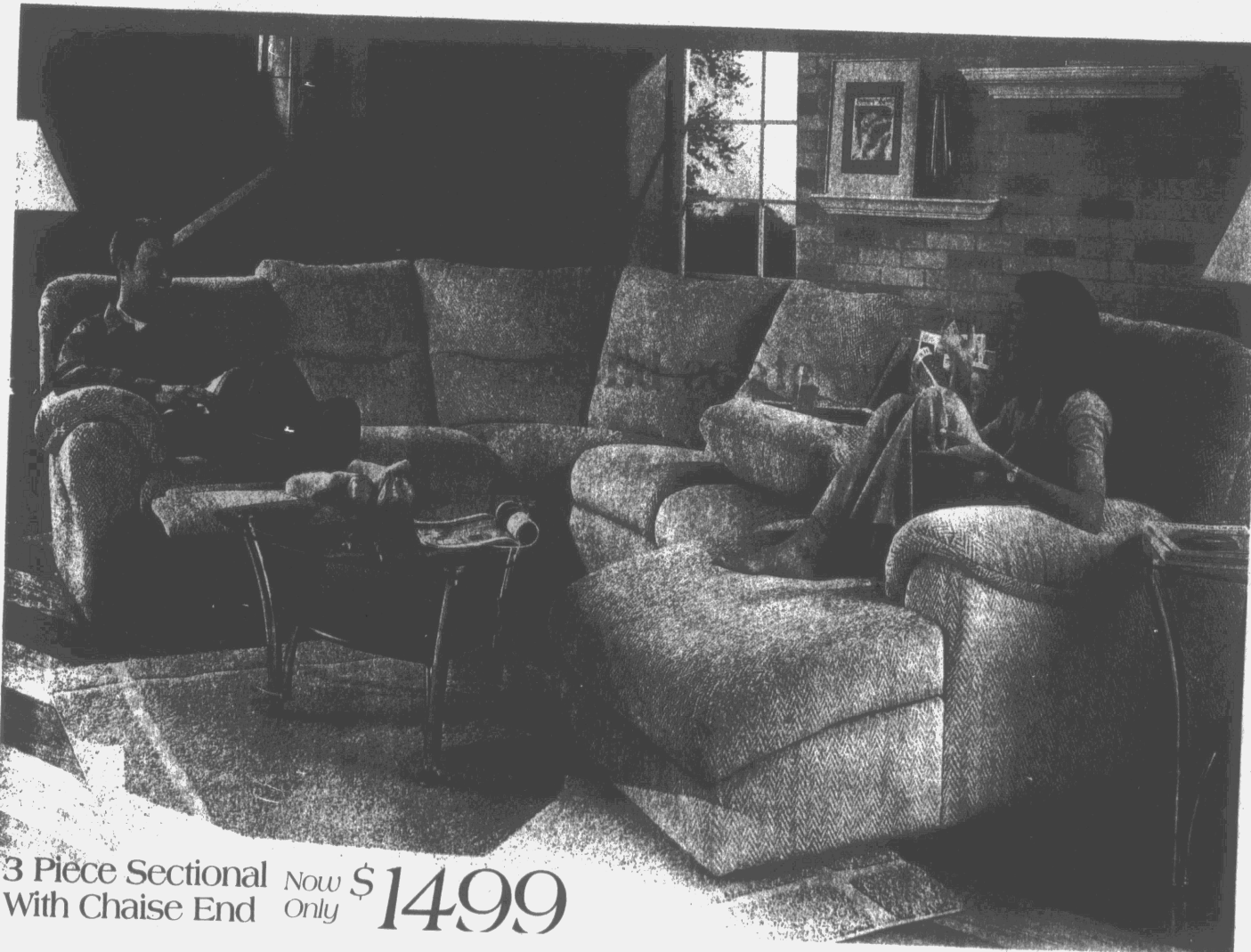
artillery, attacked the Barlonyo camp, and overpowered the local militia posted there to protect it.

The rebels burned many of the IDPs there alive by setting fire to their thatched huts after ordering them into their homes at gunpoint. Other IDPs, who were trying to flee, were shot, bludgeoned or hacked to death by the rebels wielding clubs, machetes

and AK-47s. The rebels killed more than 200 IDPs in the process.

Sources in Lira said the attack could further inflame tensions between the Lang'i and the Acholi. Early in February, a Roman Catholic priest, Father Sebbat Ayele, told IRIN: "My biggest fear is that [the attacks] will stoke tensions between them. It has happened before."

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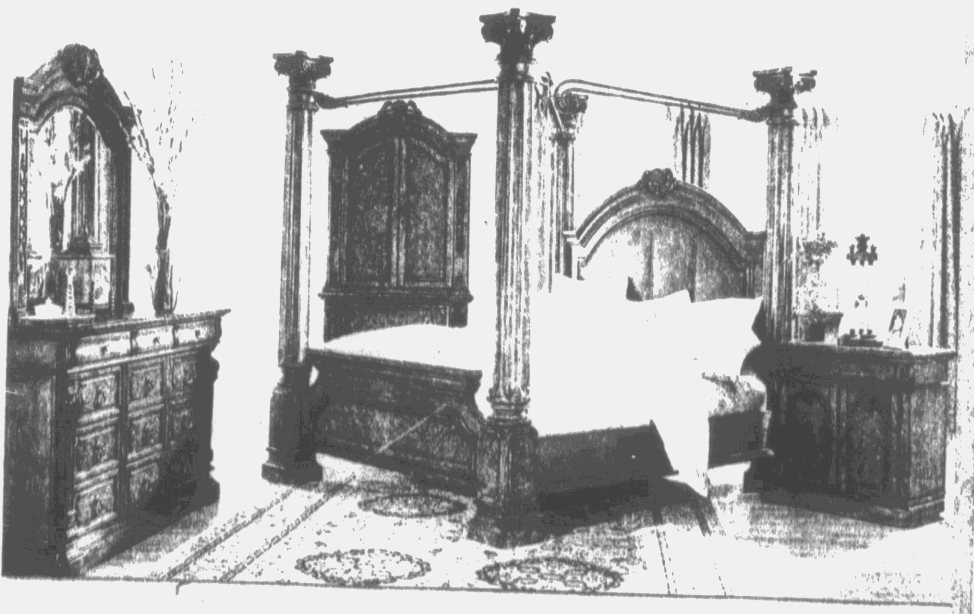
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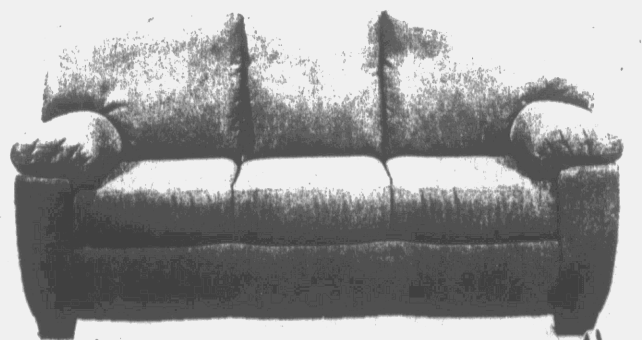
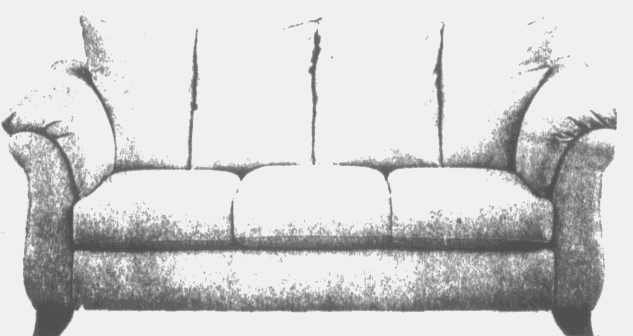
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# Angry members of CBC meet at the UN

by Saeed Shabazz  
Staff Writer

**UNITED NATIONS**—Eight angry members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) traveled to the United Nations on the afternoon of March 1 to meet with Secretary-General Kofi Annan to seek help in dealing with the crisis in Haiti.

"This is a terrorist take-over," claimed Brooklyn Democratic Congressman Major Owens, in his characterization of the departure of deposed Haitian President Jean Bertrand-Aristide.

"What makes this a coup?" asked Congressman Charles Rangel (D-NY). "He was dictated a resignation, which he had to sign."

Mr. Rangel added that Pres. Aristide said he had not negotiated any country where he would be willing to go.

"We've got to understand what really transpired in Haiti, because we know this doctrine of pre-emption and regime change could lead us down a path of Haiti today, where tomorrow?" Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) asked *The Final Call*.

"We have to demand the truth," Congressman Gregory Meeks (D-NY) said, noting that hearings have been planned in Washington, D.C. to find out if Mr. Aristide was forced out of office, as he has claimed.

Congressman Meeks said the deposed leader, in a phone conversation with Congressman Rangel, claimed he was forced onto a plane, and was somewhere in the Central African Republic, unsure of his future. Mr. Aristide claimed that he, his wife and her brother were held in an airplane for 20 hours, and upon landing was constantly surrounded by "military" people. "He said he was kidnapped," Congressman Meeks added.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan called the claim "complete nonsense," according to



Congressional Black Caucus Chairman, Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) (c) and other CBC members outside the Oval Office shortly after their hastily arranged meeting with Pres. George W. Bush concerning Haiti on Feb. 25.

the *Associated Press*. "It was Mr. Aristide's decision to resign," Mr. McClellan told AP.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, speaking on CNN, also said the Haitian leader left the Caribbean nation under his own accord. "The idea that someone was abducted is just totally inconsistent with everything I heard or saw," Mr. Rumsfeld said.

"I've got no reason to disbelieve President Aristide," argues Representative Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) and chairman of the CBC. "It's just frustrating, because I have another Black man, Secretary of State Colin Powell saying it did not happen the way Mr. Aristide said it did."

"I am not in a position to contradict Secretary Powell, but I am telling you this," Congressman Rangel told reporters, adding, "on Saturday night (February 28) when President Aristide was being told that he had to get out of the country, or his life would be in danger as well as other Haitians, I was in constant communication with Secretary Powell. This information that Mr. Aristide asked to leave was never shared with us," Cong. Rangel said.

Congressman Rangel said that he had asked Mr. Aristide in a phone conversation if he had been handcuffed as he was leaving the palace. "He said no, but it felt like he was handcuffed," Mr. Rangel said.

"As far as what has happened to President Aristide, we, members of Congress, will not stand around and watch a democratic nation being taken apart by our own country. That concerns us greatly," Congressman Cummings told reporters. He said that the real purpose for their trip to the UN was to make sure that they established a "working" relationship with regard to Haiti and the secretary-general.

Other members of the CBC attending the UN meeting were Congressman Donald Payne (D-NJ), Congressman Kendrick Meek (D-Fla.) and Michigan Democratic Congressman John Conyers.

Mr. Annan did not attend the press conference, but at an earlier press briefing his spokesman Fred Eckhard said the secretary-general "feels that governments should change only by constitutional means."

Mr. Annan had addressed the press earlier in the morning as he

entered the UN. "This time I hope the international community is not going to put a band-aid on, and that we are not only going to stabilize the current situation, but assist the Haitians over the long haul and really help them pick up the pieces and build a stable country," he

stressed.

The UN Security Council in an emergency session on February 29 passed a resolution approving the immediate dispatching of a multinational force in Haiti and the creation of a UN peacekeeping force to replace it three months down the road.

"All this is being played before our eyes," writes Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, in a story that appeared in the *Financial Times* newspaper. "The ease with which the U.S. thereby brought down another Latin America democracy is stunning. What has been the CIA's role among the anti-Aristide rebels? How much U.S. money went from U.S. institutions and government agencies to help foment this uprising? Why did the White House abandon the Caribbean compromise proposal it endorsed just days before? These questions have not been asked. Then again, we live in an age when entire wars can be launched on phony pretenses with few questions asked," Mr. Sachs wrote.

## Nurses charged in juvenile's death

(bet.com)—When a Florida juvenile cried for help because he was experiencing excruciating pain, two nurses ignored his pleas for medical attention. He later died from a ruptured appendix, a grand jury concluded January 27.

The grand jury, which called the incident "tragic" and "preventable," has charged Gaile Tucker Loperfido and Dianne Marie Demeritte with manslaughter and third-degree murder in the death of Omar Paisley. If the two are convicted of the June 9, 2003 death, they could face 30 years in prison.

The grand jury also presented a 50-page report criticizing the Miami-Dade Juvenile Detention Center for a complete "lack of humanity demonstrated" by corrections staff. The probe also revealed a juvenile system that is poorly administered and despairingly underfunded. *The Miami Herald* reported.

"When a child dies of an easily treatable illness, it's a tragedy. The members of this grand jury agree, and they see it as far more than that. They call it a crime," said State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle.

Omar's mother, Cherry Williams, told the *Herald* that the indictments had brought her little comfort and that, "there is nothing

to feel happy about, because nothing can bring [Omar] back."

The grand jury report details the weekend in which Omar suffered tremendous pain: On Saturday, Ms. Loperfido saw him at 2:15 and again at 9 a.m. Sunday. She created deceptive medical logs and never took the proper medical tools to examine him; on Monday, around 5:30 p.m., Terry Mixon, the lone correctional officer overseeing 20 juveniles that day, frantically called for medical attention.

But for an hour and a half, the report says, there was no response until Ms. Demeritte "finally made her way" to the cell. She also stated "she had a child at home and did not wish to contaminate her child with Omar's virus."

The detainees of the correction facility testified that Ms. Demeritte was "laughing" on the phone with her supervisor as she requested an ambulance. The report says at 9:01 p.m. a nurse finally called for paramedics. Omar would be pronounced dead at 9:43 p.m.

Melvin Black, an attorney for Ms. Demeritte, declined to comment while Ms. Loperfido's attorney, Richard B. Marx, told the *Herald*, "We are going to defend this vigorously, and my client is absolutely not guilty."

## THE STORY OF JACOB CLEAGE

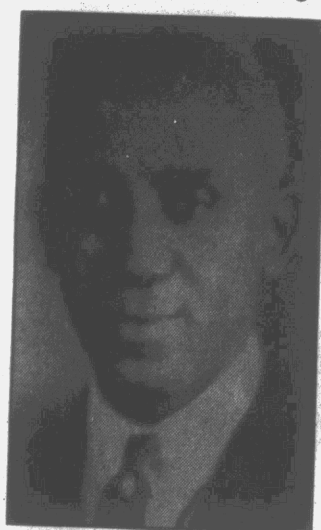
Most African Americans who have reached the pinnacle of their career invariably look back at a figure in history who helped to pave the way for them. Baseball players invoke the names of Jackie Robinson or Satchel Paige. Black judges point to Thurgood Marshall as their pioneer.

With Wayne County Sheriff Warren Cleage Evans, however, the connection is far more personal. That's because it was his great uncle, Jacob Cleage, who was among the first known group of African American officers to be hired by the Sheriff's Department in the 1920s and served as a detective.

To Evans' knowledge, there are no records available showing any Black deputies prior to Jacob Cleage dating back to the establishment of the Sheriff's Department in 1796.

"Because everyone was appointed at that time and there was no police academy, we don't have the kind of historical records and archives that police departments usually have," Evans said.

Given the fact that all Sheriff's Department jobs at that time were appointed makes the achievement that much more significant, says Evans, but not for reasons one might



Jacob Cleage  
expect.

"In my mind, it's clear that someone in the Black community at that time had to use some leverage for Uncle Jake, and perhaps the other three officers, to be hired," Evans said.

When considering who that person was, Evans again looks to his family tree. Jacob was the younger brother of Albert B. Cleage Sr., a prominent physician who co-founded Detroit's Dunbar Hospital around the same time and also served as Detroit Receiving Hospital's first Black physician. The building that housed Dunbar still stands on E. Ferry Street in Detroit's Cultural Center, along with a historical marker. Evans said he believes it must have been his grandfather, Albert Sr., who helped Jacob get his job with the Sheriff's Department.

"Since the only way to become an officer at the time was to be deputized by the sheriff, there had to be someone in the picture who had some political clout. Albert Sr. would have been the one," Evans said.

Evans joined the department in 1969 at the age of 21, after an uncle was murdered, and has been involved in law enforcement or criminal justice ever since. At the time, Evans knew he had some family history in the department and was interested in finding specifics.

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# Hip hop summit hits LA with 'One Mind, One Vote' campaign

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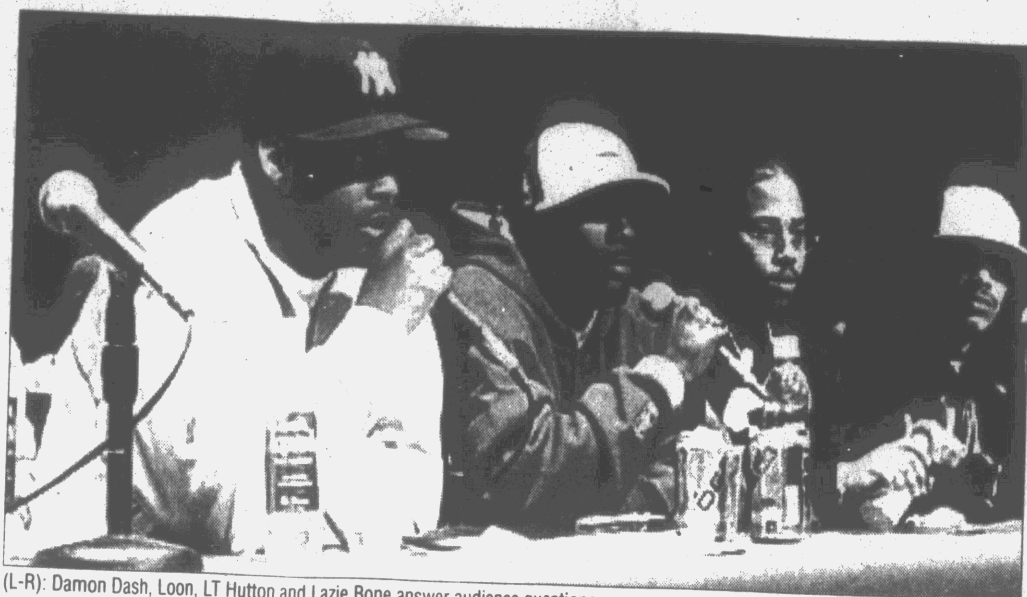
Charlene Muhammad

LOS ANGELES—Scores of hip hop artists, young fans, ministers, scholars, politicians and wrestlers filed into the University of Southern California's Bovard Auditorium February 12 for the Hip Hop Summit Action Network's (HSAN) voter registration initiative, "Hip-Hop Team Vote," which has registered 60,000 new youth voters to date.

Heavy bass beats and hooks, emitted from 100.3-FM/KKBT turntables, shadowed voter empowerment messages. The panelists answered questions on hip hop's role in politics, the music and film industries, and economic conditions in the "hood."

"The hip hop community is so powerful and, while some of us have been very successful entrepreneurs, it's just as important to acknowledge that we are a part of a larger community," stated Roc-A-Fella Enterprises CEO and HSAN co-chair Damon Dash. "We can make a difference by doing our part to empower kids to change the world. Voting is an important step toward that."

A day earlier at a press conference announcing the summit, he urged youth to attend, stating that with one vote and one voice,



(L-R): Damon Dash, Loon, LT Hutton and Lazie Bone answer audience questions.

everyone could make a difference in the name of hip hop. Adults, he continued, could further aid youth by sharing their connections, contacts and information.

Summit moderator and HSAN's President and CEO Minister Benjamin stated that part of hip hop is simply telling the truth, and that the drama it reflects points to drama within the Black community. "Some of ya'll want the lyrics to change in hip hop—change the social condition in the community that the lyrics represent," he said.

HSAN intends to help bring

about that change with its voter initiative summits, he stated, and asked attendants to vote, use their true power wisely to control their own destiny in their community, state and nation.

Hip hop "godfather" and HSAN Chairman Russell Simmons launched the "One Mind, One Vote" campaign early last year in support of his group's Hip Hop Team Vote's mission to register 20 million voters in five years. So far, the collaborative effort has netted

over 60,000 new voters—20,000 of them in Houston, Texas during Super Bowl weekend alone.

The strategy by Mr. Simmons to utilize the hip hop culture to educate and mobilize young people to vote is absolute genius, said Congresswoman Diane Watson who, along with California State Assemblyman Mark Ridley-Thomas, supported the cause.

"You are indeed the future—people who have been in the struggle for decades will hand the

baton to you—we want you to know the issues and be empowered to take hold of your future," Congresswoman Watson stated.

Nation of Islam's Western Regional Minister Tony Muhammad concurred with the need to 'demolish unjust laws, stating that it is crucial to connect hip hop artists to street level peacemakers to ensure that there are better images lifting Black women, men and their struggle.

True hip-hoppers understand the necessity for politics, stated Rev. Dr. Eric Dyson. "Move from thinking about it on wax to getting involved with it in the streets. It is critical to join the hip hop generation to the civil rights generation."

Other artists who showed their support for the summit included Snoop Dogg, Kanye West, Loon, Tania, the Young Gunz, Lazie Bone, Nocturnal, the Outlawz, Crooked I, LT Hutton and Fredro Starr. Other participants included comedian Arnez J, Washington Redskin Byron Chamberlain and Professor Keith Harrison.

(HSAN's next summit is slated for March 10 in Syracuse, N.Y. More information can be found on its website, [HSAN.org](http://HSAN.org).)

## Beating Bush: Is it the only election issue for Blacks?

by Richard Muhammad

(Straightwords e-zine)—Conventional wisdom says the best thing about Democrats seeking Black support for the party presidential nomination is that the aspirants are not George W. Bush.

As the Feb. 3 South Carolina primary brought focus on Black voters, the major question wasn't about affirmative action, reparations, or the country's racial divide. The question repeatedly asked: Which candidate in the race has the best chance to unseat the Republican president?

While many mainstream politicians and media focused on "electability," others warned that Blacks need to force Democrats to back specific agenda items, such as clearing up criminal records to help Black ex-offenders move forward; a specific plan to help Black youths through jobs and education; and the movement on reparations.

"With a few exceptions, all of the leading Democratic candidates are acceptable to Black voters this year, because I think that the number one issue with Black voters this year is replacing George W. Bush," said David Bositis of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, D.C.

"Defeat George Bush—what does that mean? Defeating George Bush and having George Bush's cousin in the White House, that doesn't seem to make a lot of sense to me," said Conrad Worrill of the National Black United Front and a reparations movement leader. Given a recent court decision that said reparations for slavery and post-slavery abuses belongs in Congress, not in courts,

reparations should be the major issue, Dr. Worrill said. "We have been through every issue since we were voting in America; we've never put reparations squarely on the table," he noted, saying that means making Democrats commit to Rep. John Conyers' (D-Mich.) bill to study reparations.

"Bush's cousin in office" refers to the rightward shift of former president Bill Clinton and others within the Democratic Leadership Council wing of the party. Their policies and rhetoric resemble Republicans—calling for being tough on crime, strong defense and ending government dependency, opposition to affirmative action, support for the war on Iraq and Homeland Security expansions.

Although Mr. Clinton may have been pro-

death penalty, lobbed missiles into Sudan and forced welfare reform, there are serious differences between the centrist Clinton and Mr. Bush, argued Mr. Bositis.

"Almost anything having to do with economics was remarkably better under Clinton. Under George Bush, it's back to double-digit unemployment for African Americans. Incomes are not growing, and in some cases are falling. He would like to pack the court with right wing nominees and he very much represents White southerners who left the Democratic Party because of civil rights," he explained.

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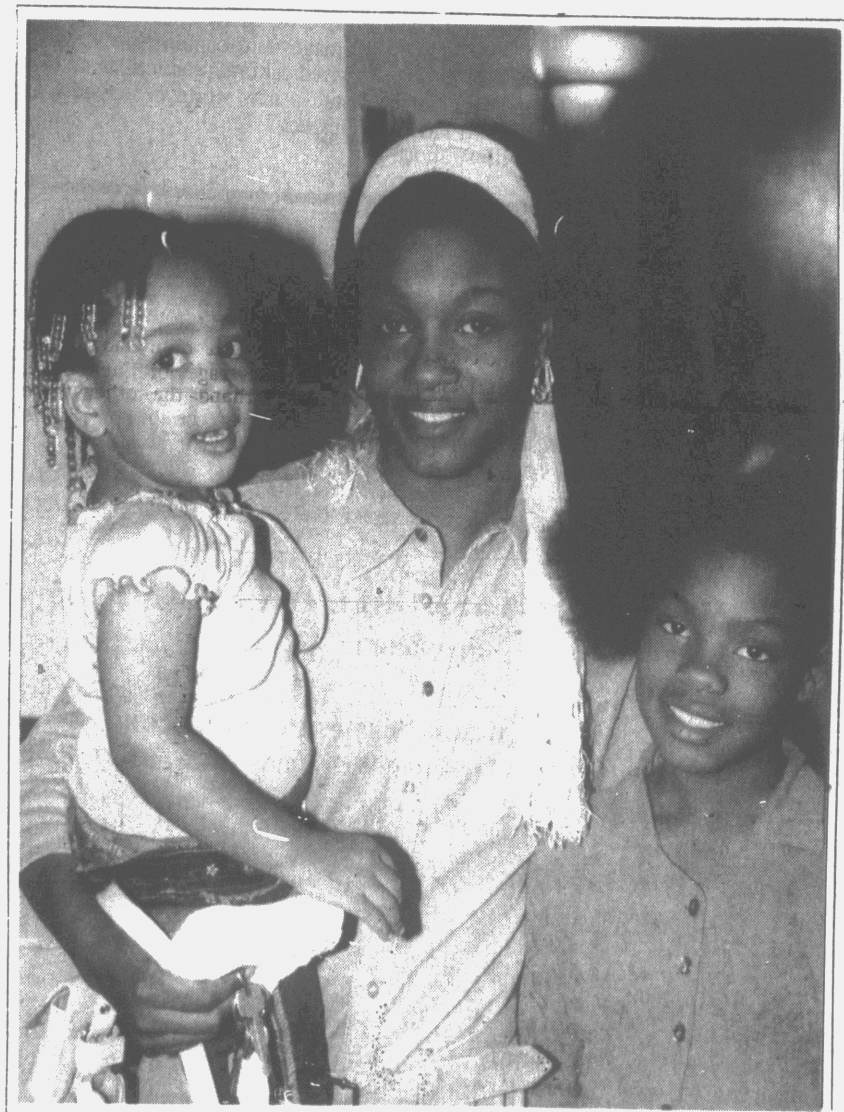
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### A Mother's Love For Her Children

Pictured, A beautiful black sister and her two daughters at the Hilton Hotel for Saviour's Day 2004. She attended the saviour's day event with her children to hear Minister Louis Farrakhan inform Black America on issues concerning reparations and the issues that are currently affecting Black America.

Photo By: Jim Rouse







# From The Desk Of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



Beatrice Maye

## TO THE EDITOR

This week ends the month-long Black History Month celebration in this nation. This year's theme reminded America of the historic "Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education" decision rendered on May 17, 1954. As a result of this momentous ruling, segregation in public schools was deemed unconstitutional and inherently unfair and unequal.

Since 1954 many different avenues and approaches were implemented to derail, circumvent, alter, and destroy the intent of the Warren Court's five-to-four ruling. As it was the Warren Court had to offer a second a second decision in the Board case with its 1955 ruling because courts, legislatures, and community leaders were uncertain on the methods through which desegregation of public schools could be accomplished.

Governors, therefore, extended the concept of interposition and nullification. Legislators introduced "freedom of choice." Court-ordered busing of students from one neighborhood to another became

the principal tool through which desegregation could be achieved. The landmark Swann vs. Mecklenburg Board of Education (1972) heralded this outcome and technique.

As the calendar has turned on another century, the results of the Brown decision continue to thrust many Americans into an attempt to implement new strategies to resolve this nation's haunting legacy. School districts developed magnet schools. Legislators created charter schools as another means to help improve quality education.

With all of the efforts to find another way to implement successfully the intent of the Brown decision of fifty years past, I am reminded of a quotation from Dr. Dudley Flood that I heard him articulate ten years ago that says simply, "What you do for the best, do for the rest!" If this axiom is adopted and practiced in all schools throughout America, then the Brown decision of May 17, 1954 will be lived equitably and daily in this land.

## BLACK HISTORY QUIZ FEBRUARY 14, 2004

1. What is the name of the man reputed as the "Father of the Black History Movement" and the individual responsible for this annual event?

2. There are five schools in Pitt County named for Black or African-Americans. Name them and the cities or towns in which they are located.

3. Recognized arguably as the greatest football running back, this African-American graduated from Syracuse University in 1958 and starred on this school's lacrosse team.

4. This Black person is the first individual of his race to be appointed and confirmed as United States Secretary of State when President George W. Bush did so as his first Secretary appointment upon his election as President in 2000.

5. Considered the "Godfather of Soul," this African-American musician was born in somewhere

between Augusta, Georgia and North Augusta, South Carolina and has produced countless hits including "Papa got a brand new bag" and "Say it loud, I am black and I am proud."

6. Match the predominantly Black college or university in North Carolina with the person who graduated from this institution of higher learning:

Astronaut Ronald McNair  
Shaw University

Mrs. Tyson (Chesley's Mom)  
North Carolina Central

Attorney Julius Chambers  
NC A&T State University

Attorney Willie Gray  
Elizabeth City State University

Dr. George W. Hood  
Winston-Salem State University

Earl "The Pearl" Monroe  
Fayetteville State University

7. Name the author of the book "Soul on Ice."

8. This Seattle, Washington native is the former Director of the Office of Management of Budget for President William Jefferson Clinton who presently serves as CEO of Fannie Mae Corporation. Name this individual.

9. This African-American developed many products from his scientific research from the peanut. He taught for over forty years at Tuskegee Institute. Name this person.

10. Born in New Orleans, Louisiana, this trumpeter wrote and sang the famous song, "Hello Dolly." Name this individual.

11. Name the first African-American Mayor of Chicago, Illinois.

12. This Pitt County citizen has a park named in her honor that resides at the corner of Farmville Blvd. and Tyson St. in Greenville, NC. She is a former librarian at E.B. Aycock School. Name her.

13. This North Carolina A&T State University graduate is a

native of Bricks, North Carolina. He taught Agriculture at South Ayden High School and also became the first Black Mayor Pro-Term of Ayden, North Carolina. Name this individual.

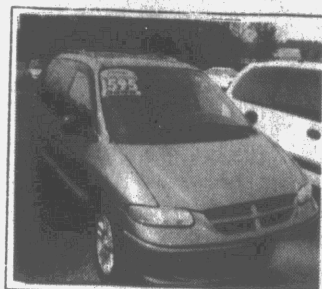
14. There are currently two African-Americans on the Pitt County Board of Education. Identify them and their professions.

15. A friend of the late President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, this African-American later founded Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida. Name her.

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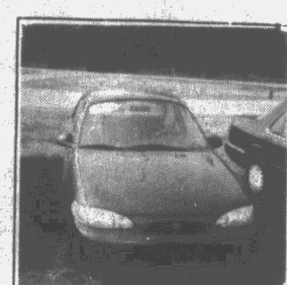
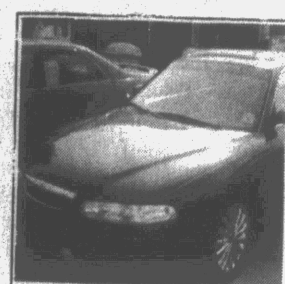
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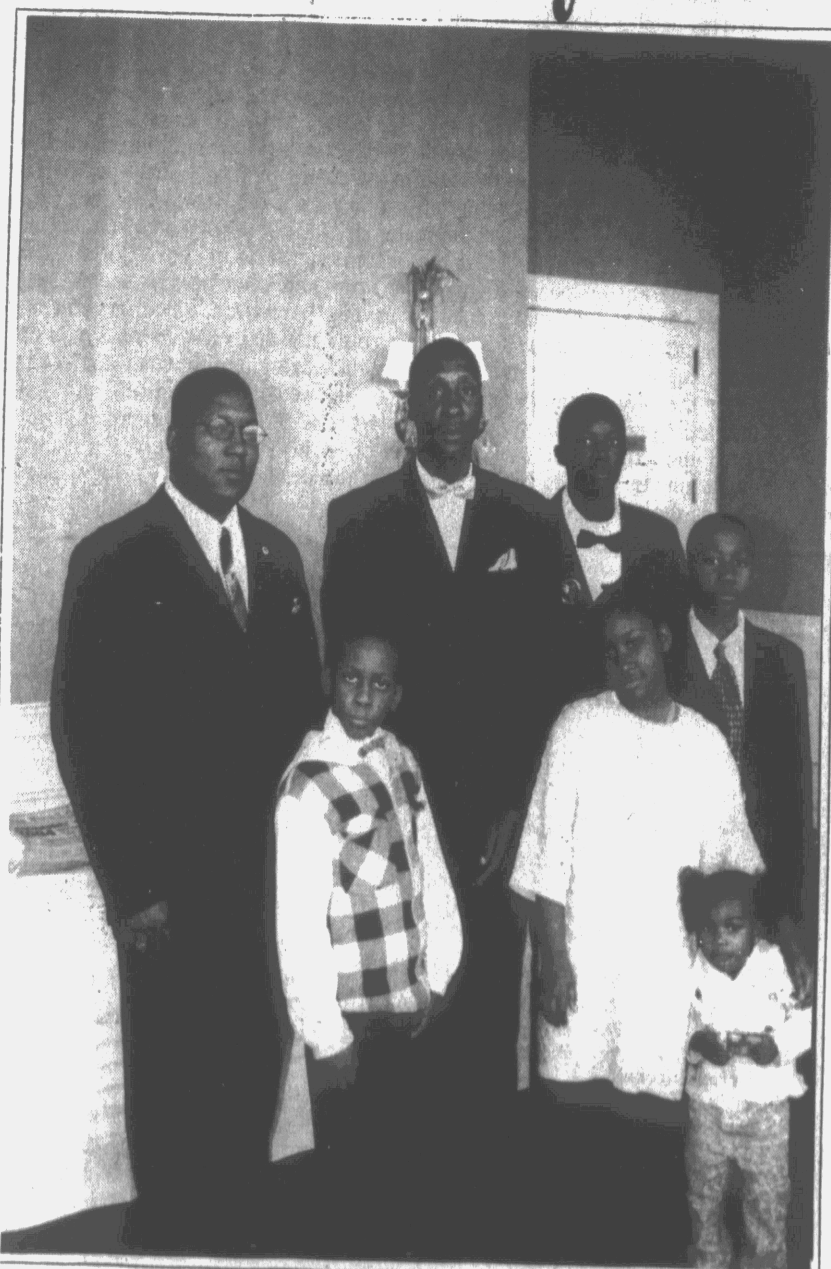
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## Saviour's Day 2004

Minister Robert Muhammad, who is in charge of Eastern Carolina of the Final Call ministries is pictured with his children and brother Capitan at the Hilton Hotel Bar room. The event was packed with over 800 brothers and sisters to hear Minister Louis Farrakhan deliver a message on what America owes Black America.  
Photo by Jim Rouse

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Price includes transportation and lodging.

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3/rm - \$105 per person

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Return: 11:00 pm

Deposit: \$50.00 by 9/15/2004

Full Payment: 10/27/2004

December 18, 2004

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Dale City, VA

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# Spiritual Reflections



Apostle George Hawkins

## Greetings:

Last night I ask a question in Bible study concerning the latest issue that is going on in our churches. The question was how do you feel about this same sex marriage? You will be surprised how many people responded. The general response was I hate the sin but have to love the person because that is a soul that needs to be saved. This is my concern about the church world, WHY have we waited until the situation of homosexuality gotten out of hand, WHY didn't we make a difference when we had a chance. You see I was a proven homosexual but one day an old missionary friend of mine stood up, look at me face to face, and said George you are good

to go to hell but you are not good enough to go to heaven. Oh yea, I got angry but I knew that she was right. She worked with me until I knew without any doubt that I was saved. Then she said George you need something to keep you so come back tomorrow. The next day she had to me to tarry for the Holy Ghost and I was not making any progress so she told me to come back the next day. The next day came and she began to see that homosexual demon rise up in me and she done as the Bible declared and cast that controlling spirit out of me she worked with me until I was all clean, many demons was expelled that day. After my body was clean she said now George you need to be filled with the Holy Ghost, and as God is my witness I heard a sound from heaven like a mighty rushing wind and it knocked me to my knees and I came forth speaking in tongues, the evidence that He had filled me with His precious Spirit and I have been speaking in tongues every since because I know that is my keeping power. I shared all of that to say this; we have to love people just the way they are. Just suppose God had given up on YOU when you were in sin. Your soul would have been lost, but He didn't He love you enough to go the cross for you, He gave His life for you when you was a sinner why not give of yourselves to get a sinner set free.

We in this Christian walk have to know that the enemy have come in like a flood, but don't be alarmed because God will life up a standard that will supercede every trick and every tactic that the enemy will come against us with. Jesus told Peter upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. That Rock is Jesus and hell cannot prevail against Him. We as Christians need to practice what we preach and do the will of God instead of talking about the will of God. We need to look the enemy in the eye and call sin. We quote the Scripture Isaiah 54:17, "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper" but we allowed it to prosper in this situation when we have in the past tried to suppress talking about homosexuals and lesbians until now that spirit have gotten a stronghold in the earth. Again don't be alarmed because it's sad to say but if you have been reading your Bible you would understand that these things must come to pass because the world is setting up the stage for the antichrist. According to Daniel 11:37 "Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all." The antichrist spirit will be that of a homosexual. What we need to do is pray that God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven. We have come into this hour that we as Christians need to pray for our unsaved loved ones and draw them with love and kindness to the degree that they will be asking What must I do to be saved.

Apostle George Hawkins

## Got Word? ...Bible Study Joy 1340 AM The Dividing of Truth

It is vain for you to read the Bible supposing that every word that is written in it is inspired or directed to you personally. We have been preached to for years misquotations, outdated materials, false revelations, and so many other erroneous things that often times go unchallenged because of ignorance. When you as a preacher or teacher fail to study to the approval of God, the results can be catastrophic. In the Living Bible Hosea 4:6 reads, "My people are destroyed because they do not know me, and it is all your fault, you priests, for you yourselves refuse to know me; therefore I refuse to recognize you as my priests. Since you have forgotten my laws, I will 'forget' to bless your children." James warns us to be careful when trying to be teachers in the things of God. The Revised Standard Version of James 3:1 reads, "Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, for you know that we who teach shall be judged with greater strictness." One such teaching that is often repeated in churches I have attended is the misrepresentation of Jesus Christ found in Mark 13:37. Often it is misquoted as saying, "the Lord said what he says to one he says to all." But actually the scripture quotes the Lord saying, "And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch." Taken out of its context, any preacher could use that verse to make you obey any text in the entire Bible. However, the Old Testament was written to Israel and not you for you are not under the law but under grace. Saints, the verse explains itself with "Watch". The Lord was telling all believers to watch for His return. It's a foundational scripture that should be acted upon and is a part of the Gospel of Jesus Christ which says, "He was born of a virgin, dwelt among us, died for us, rose from the dead, ascended on high, and is coming again." This is the true light.

## Go to medical school—for free

Despite the strained relations with the United States, since the year 2000 Cuban President Fidel Castro opened the borders of his island nation and has offered 500 free full medical scholarships to youth in this country who commit to healthcare for the people, not for profit.

"It would be hard for your government to oppose such a program," said Pres. Castro when the program was first introduced. "It would be a trial for them. Morally, how could they refuse?"

Currently, there are 90 U.S. students attending the Latin American School of Medicine (LASM) on the tiny Caribbean country situated 90 miles from Florida. With a global reputation for training thousands of doctors from various developing countries, Cuba has offered these scholarships to 24 nations.

The scholarship program is aimed at students with a sincere dedication to practice medicine in poor and

underserved communities. Graduates are expected to practice medicine where they are most needed in their own countries upon completion of their training.

People of color and people of limited means are encouraged to apply. Prior to beginning the 12-semester program, Spanish and pre-med courses are also provided for all who need them.

The Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO) headquartered in New York organizes the program and helps recruit students. They are planning a conference in Washington, D.C. on March 27 to educate the community about the opportunities of this program.

Velvet Ross, IFCO program coordinator for the LASM, is enthusiastic about the upcoming conference. She told *The Final Call*, "We hope to reach a diverse and large audience of students, medical professionals, educators, clergy and

community leaders to explain the details of this fantastic scholarship opportunity."

In 2000, a delegation of the Congressional Black Caucus visited Cuba to explore relaxing U.S. sanctions that have existed since the Cuban revolution in 1959. During a meeting with Pres. Castro, Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.) spoke on the high rates of infant mortality in his Mississippi Delta congressional district.

President Castro responded with the offer of free medical training.

The details were worked out with the State Department in 2001 to go forward with this "cultural exchange." The course provides two years of basic sciences and four years of clinical and university instruction, all taught in Spanish.

—Nisa Islam Muhammad  
(For more information about the conference, visit their website, [www.ifconews.org](http://www.ifconews.org).)



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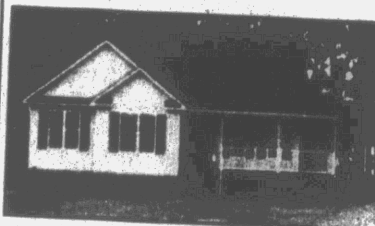
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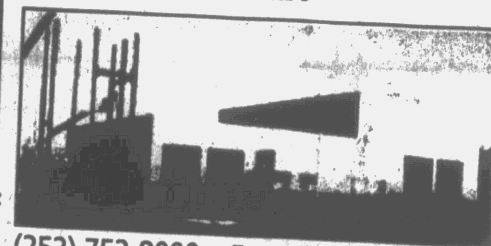
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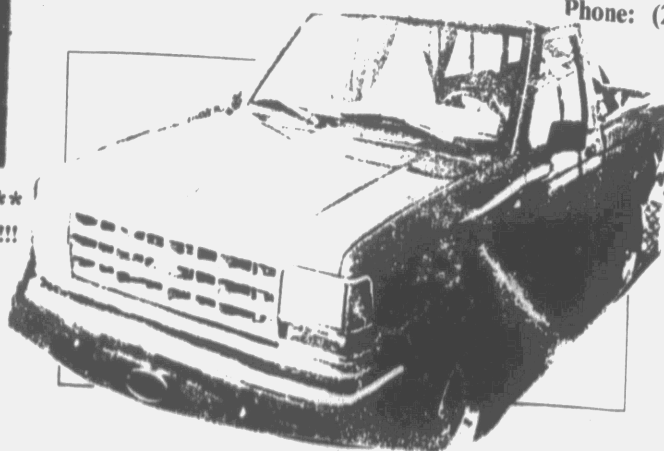
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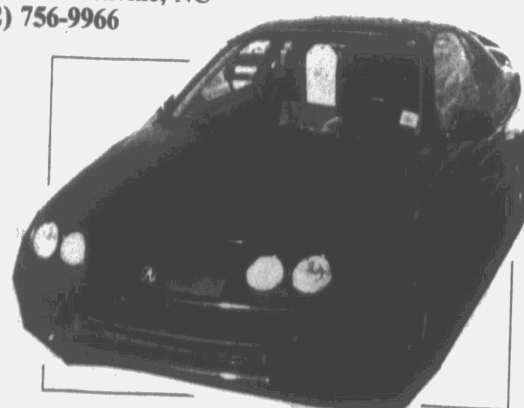
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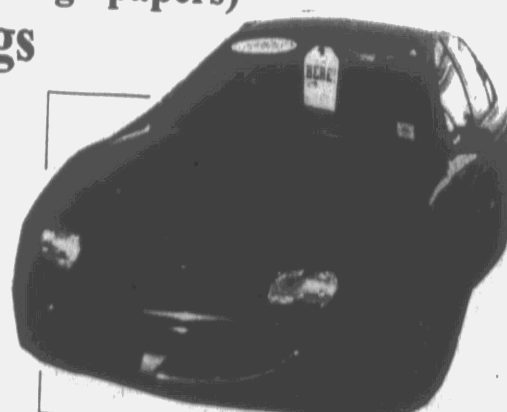
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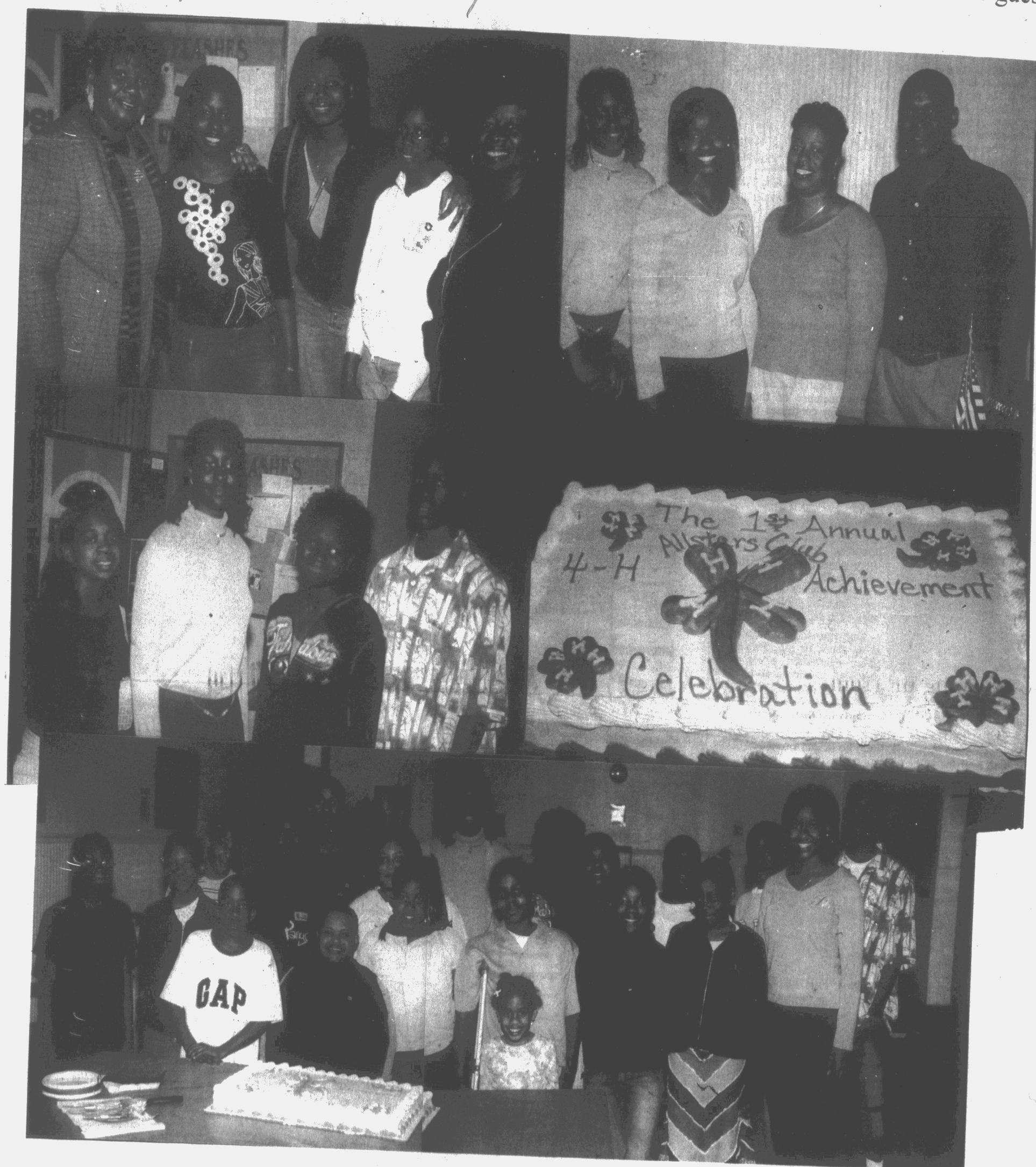
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# Pitt County 4-H All Stars Celebrates Accomplishments for 2003

On March 5th 4-H All Stars club celebrated their 1st Annual Achievement and Awards program. Members of the club were awarded certificates, ribbons and various other items in recognition of their participation in various events throughout 2003. Volunteer leaders were recognized for their work and dedication. Ann Speight was recognized as Club Volunteer Leader of the Year. Raquita Demery, an eight grade student at E.B. Aycock and Junior Editor in Chief of Infinity Ends Magazine was the guest speaker.



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## Reflections

By Steve Holsey

### Something that brings us all down

Seems that every time you turn around these days there is a horror story about a shooting, often fatal, in Detroit. The culprit is usually a young Black man, and the young Black male is becoming the terror of society. This is the kind of thing that holds the African American community back, and plays a huge part in Detroit never becoming a "world class city."

A lot of deep-rooted factors are involved in this tragedy — and we are not putting all young Black males in this category — but one of the factors not cited often enough is the thug imagery that is routinely presented to young people in hardcore rap. The listener's minds are highly impressionable and very often their backgrounds are deplorable. The negativity is in the profanity-laced, violence recordings, in the videos and elsewhere. It's an attitude, one that is counterproductive in every way.

Add that to what can be easily picked up on the streets and you have a situation that, one way or another, hurts everybody. Only something God-based can make any significant difference. Sadly, we might have to hit rock bottom before anything like that happens.

And yet, a lot of people are more upset about Janet Jackson's breast than they are about this insanity plaguing the African American community.



GHOTFACE KILLAH, a perfect example of negative imagery.



**SPEAKING OF Jacksons.** Marlon is clearly the most level-headed member of the clan. Controversy continues to swirl around the strange Michael, La Toya often comes across as a loony. Janet apparently does not always know what good judgment is. Randy has been in trouble with the law, and on it goes.

Moreover, Jermaine, Jackie and Papa Joe (especially Jermaine) always seem to be there when cameras are rolling and there is yet another opportunity to publicly claim that the press and the public are "picking on the Jacksons."

But you seldom hear anything about Marlon. This easy-going gentleman never does anything scandalous and makes a point of staying out of the spotlight, except to occasionally perform with his brothers.

Actually, in 1987, when Marlon had a big solo hit with "Don't Go," he said to the Chronicle, "I am no longer a member of the Jacksons," referring to the performing act.

**EVERY NOW** and then a singer comes along who can't miss. In addition to having the voice and a unique style, they have that unexplainable "magic" that sets them apart from the crowd. Fantasia Barrino is like that. She has been chosen as one of the ten finalists on "American Idol." Hard-to-please judge Simon Cowell told her, "You don't need 'American Idol' to get a recording contract."

Also, I loved her song selection. Instead of singing something predictable, she chose Bonnie Raitt's clever country-pop song, "Something to Talk About."

LeToya Luckett, formerly of Destiny's Child, will have an album out soon, her first as a solo artist. She owns a successful ladies clothing store in her native Houston.

Michelle Williams' second release, "Do You Know?," debuted at No. 2 on the national Gospel Albums chart. She will soon return to the studio to make another Destiny's Child album with Beyoncé Knowles and Kelly Rowland.

**CARL THOMAS**, one of the more popular new singers, says he will never get over a strange encounter he had with a woman he met in the course of his work. He told Sister-2-Sister magazine that after a lovemaking encounter ("sex-having encounter" would be a more accurate way to put it), he went to the bathroom and when he came out, the young lady was gone and had left \$400 on the bed. She also left a note that said, "Thanks a lot. Bye-bye."

Thomas was embarrassed. He felt that he had been used as what he harshly described as a "man-whore." The lady probably just wanted to be intimate with someone famous. Unfortunately, that happens a lot.

Tavis Smiley shows another side of himself on his new night-time talk show, one that I, for one, find appealing. He comes across as nicer, more flexible, more fun. In his radio commentaries he is too harsh for my taste, so I almost never listen.

It was a good that Fox canceled sassy-mouthed Wanda Sykes' show, "Wanda at Large." So irritating!

**TAKING INTO** consideration the many hits singer/musician Michael Henderson had in the 70s and 80s, it is strange that he is not heard more on Detroit radio since he is a former Detroit. Fortunately, WDTR-FM 90.9 has been playing some of his music.

Among Michael Henderson's songs are "Valentine Love" (with Jean Carne), "Be My Girl," "In the Night Time," "We Both Need Each Other" (with Phyllis Hyman), "At the Concert" and two that were more playful, "We Are Here to Geek You Up" and the naughty "Wide Receiver."

Katherine Jackson, matriarch of the Jackson family, says she wishes that her children were "more spiritual." Teena Marie's new album, "La Dona," is scheduled for late spring or early summer.

See Reflections page D-3 ▶

# UNDERSTANDING YOUR COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDING YOURSELF

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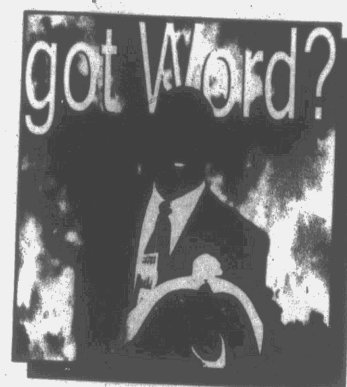
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## PITT COUNTY SCHOOLS

Date: April 24, 2004

Time: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

## JOB FAIR

Representatives from 33 Pitt County Schools will be present to discuss employment opportunities for the 2004-2005 school year.

### Who should attend?

- Teaching candidates in all areas
- Administrative candidates
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### Where?

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### For More Information Contact:

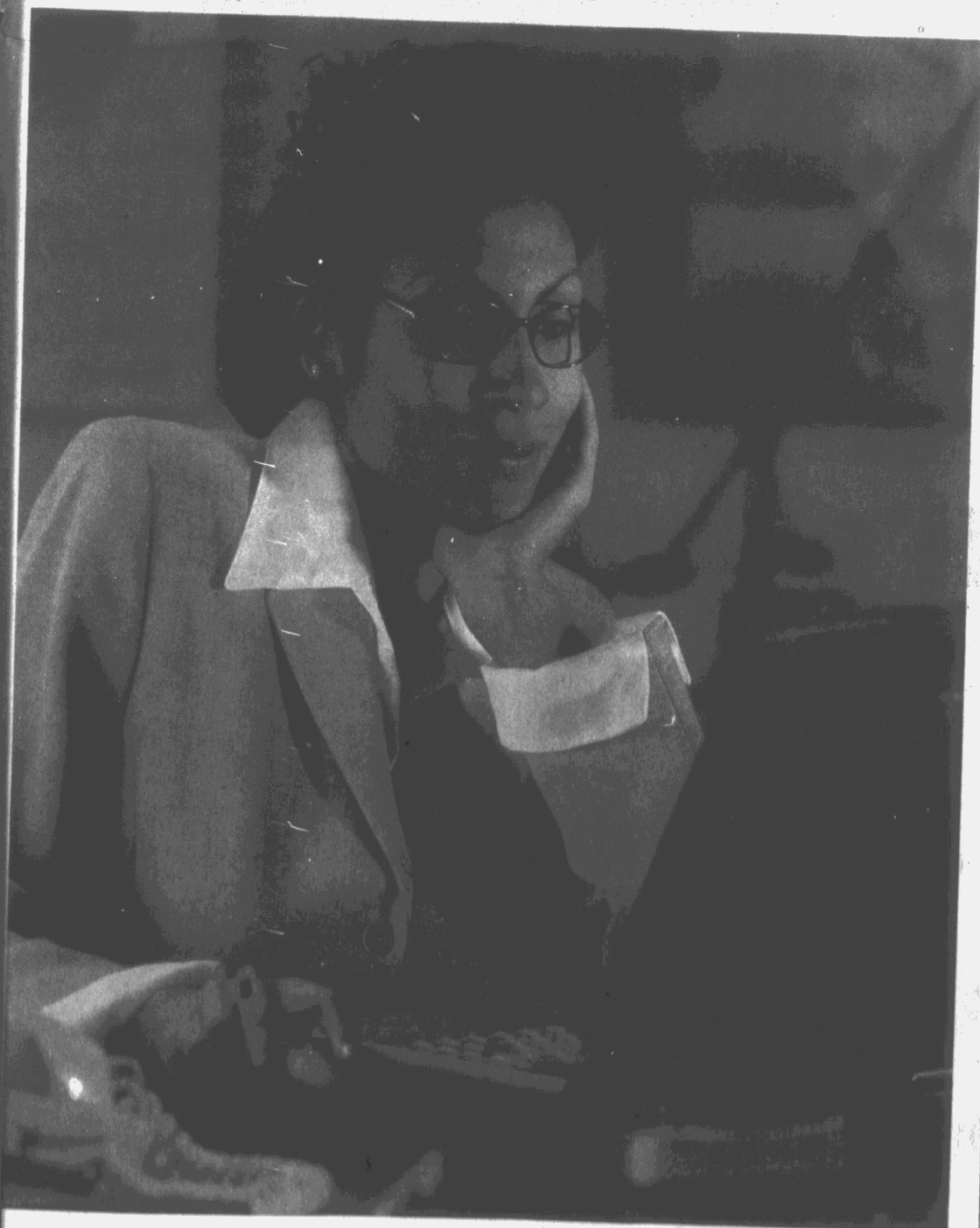
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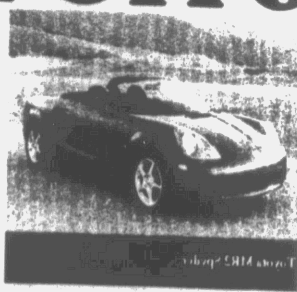
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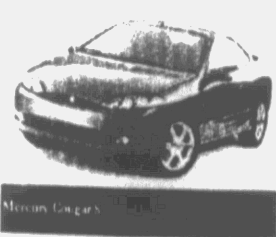
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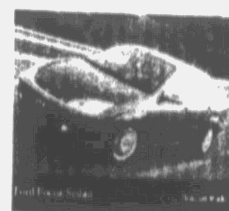
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### Eastern North Carolina Black Social Workers

Sister Shelly Moore has dedicated her life to uplifting the African American Community. She was saluted last week by her peers, for outstanding service in the Community at a gathering held at the Riverside restaurant. The M' Voice congratulates sister Shelly on her commitment as well as her dedication to her community.

Photo By: Jim Rouse



### Christian's Divas

Mrs. Marian Haines poses for Minority Voice camera with other Christian Sisters at a gathering held at the Hilton Hotel. Keep doing God's work!

Photo By: Jim Rouse

## The Best Irons Award Banquet



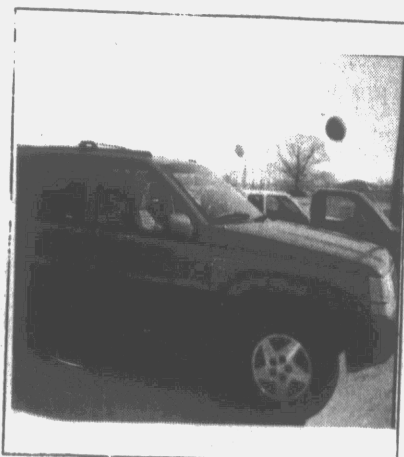
### The Best Irons Community Awards Banquet

The Best Irons Award Banquet is held to honor people doing Outstanding things in our community. Bishop Henry Brown of Mt. Calvary Church is pictured receiving for his outstanding work in the community.

Photo By: Jim Rouse

# Winterville Automotive

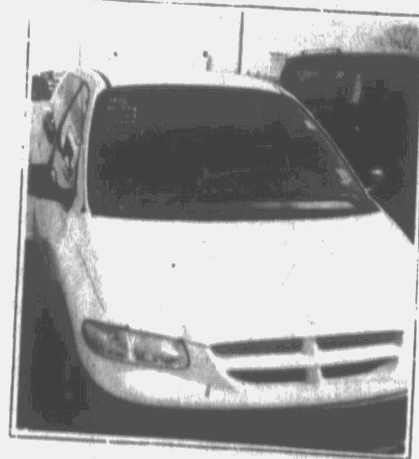
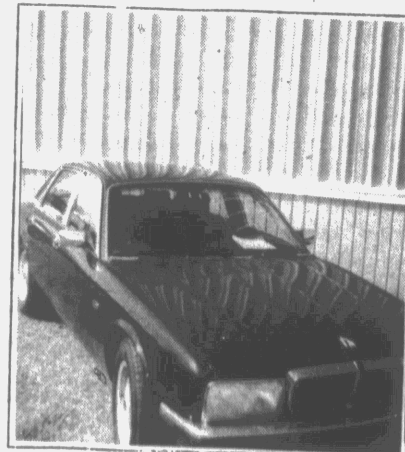
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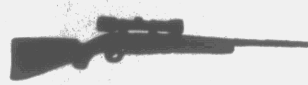
# GET OUT THE VOTE!



Mr. Clifton B. Hickman has announced his candidacy for the Pitt County Board of Commissioners (District A) in the July Election. The Minority Voice Newspaper salutes any brother willing to make a change in his community.

Photo By: Jim Rouse

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE, VOTE



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## NATIONAL -NEWS BRIEFS-

### Teen pregnancy down, abortions on the rise

Statistical data compiled from the year 2000 by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, a research group supporting abortion rights, showed national teenage pregnancy rates declining 28 percent from its 1990 high. Within the same period, the rate for Black teenagers declined by 32 percent, with researchers crediting better contraception and less (or more cautious) sexual activity.

Nationwide, teenage abortion rates also declined since the late 1980s. However, for Blacks, it raised from 39.6 percent in 1995 to 41.5 percent in 2000. Cancellations of the contraceptive implant called Norplant—due to lawsuits, as well as changes in the economy and welfare policy—were cited as some reasons for the increase.

New Jersey had the highest pregnancy rates among Black teenagers (209 per 1,000); New York was 167 per 1,000. For Hispanics, Georgia was the highest with 169 per 1,000; the lowest rate was in Mississippi with 71 per 1,000. States with the highest percentages of teenage abortions were New Jersey at 60 percent, New York at 58 percent, and Connecticut at 49 percent.

### Homemade drug labs hazardous to children

A North Carolina elementary school counselor's concern for the health of two sisters who went to school every day with headaches, colds and coughs prompted law enforcement officials to raid the children's home, where they found out the cause of the illnesses—toxic waste fumes produced by methamphetamines their mother and her boyfriend cooked in the attic next to where the girls slept.

Once labeled as a "West Coast Problem," the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported that, within the past few years, small methamphetamine laboratories also known as "mom and pop labs" have crossed Mississippi and have been springing up in every state on the East Coast. One out of every five labs are discovered due to explosions, and the chemicals are hazardous to anyone living around them. Burns and deaths are also among the injuries to children who reside in these makeshift lab-homes.

Some law enforcement officials are comparing this spread to the crack cocaine epidemic that started within large U.S. cities during the 1980s.

Paving A Way For Our Future, The Minority Voice Newspaper

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Mattresses

## SUPER CENTER

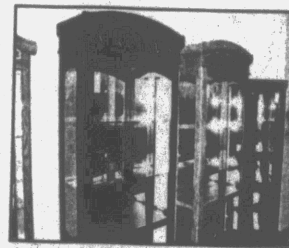
Appliances

Electronics

ALL Hand  
Painted  
Pieces up  
to 50%  
off

Apply For Your Super Center Credit Card ~ No Payment, No Interest For 1 Year!

**ALL CURIO  
up to  
50% OFF**



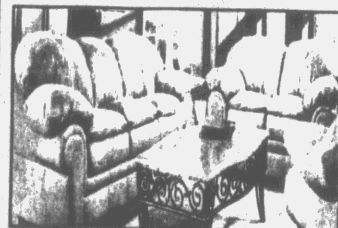
**ALL LIVING  
ROOM  
up to**

**50%  
OFF**

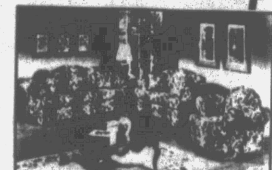
**ALL  
BEDROOM  
up to**

**50%  
OFF**

**ALL LEATHER  
up to  
50% OFF**



**8 pc Living  
Room Group**



**\$499<sup>00</sup>**  
sofa, loveseat, chair,  
3 tables, & 2 lamps

**King Pillow  
Top Set**



**\$399**  
10 yr Warranty

**Full Size  
Mattress  
Set**



**\$88**

**Magnavox  
Screen  
TV  
OR  
Home  
Computer  
System**

Payments  
as low as  
\$49 a  
month

**Cedar  
Chest  
\$149**

Cherry or Oak  
Solid wood

**Twin Size  
Mattress  
Set**

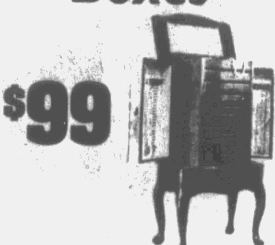


**\$78**

**2 pc.  
Reclining  
Sectional**

**\$699<sup>00</sup>**

**Jewelry  
Boxes**



**\$99**

**Queen Anne  
Sofa**

Love seat & Chair  
Beige & Burgundy

**\$699<sup>00</sup>**

**Queen Pillow  
Top Set**



**\$300**

**Curio  
Cabinet**



Oak,  
Cherry &  
Birch

**\$148**

**Big Man  
Recliners**



**\$88**

**Table  
&  
4 Chairs**

**\$88**

**6ft.  
Ficus  
Trees**



**\$15.99**

**Queen Sleigh &  
Queen Rice Bed  
\$299**



Also other pieces  
on sale

**Queen Size  
Mattress Sets**



**\$128**

**9pc. Queen Anne Dining Room  
Group w/Hutch**



2 Padded  
Arm Chairs  
4 Padded  
Side Chairs

was  
\$2999

**\$980**

**Several  
Colors**



6x9 Area  
Rugs

**\$39<sup>00</sup>**

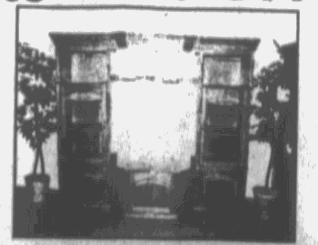
**3pc Table  
Set**

Black & Brass

**\$38**

Smoke Glass  
Tops

**ALL  
ENTERTAINMENT  
CENTERS  
up to  
50% OFF**



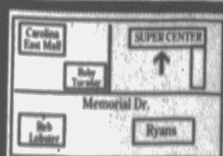
**ALL  
DINETTE/DINING  
ROOM SET  
up to  
50% OFF**



**ALL RECLINER  
up to  
50% OFF**



**ALL BOMBOBAY  
CHEST  
up to  
50% OFF**



Furniture  
Mattresses

## SUPER CENTER

3400 S. Memorial Dr. • Carolina East Centre  
(Formerly Piggly Wiggly)

758-8905

DELIVERY DAY OR NIGHT

Appliances  
Electronics

Mon-Sat 9-7  
Sunday-Closed

