

**"Don't Forget to Vote in the Upcoming Primaries Tuesday, July 20th.... If You Don't Vote Don't Complain!!!"**

# The Minority Voice

Serving Eastern North Carolina's Minority Communities Since 1988

**Complimentary Issue Please Take One (Retail Value: 50 Cents)**

**Vol. 17 - Issue 8 June 2004**

## This Year's Election: High Turn Out or No Show



**THE DEAL IS SEALED:** Shelly Willingham (left) and Jim Rouse make it official as they conclude their discussions on the newly created 3rd District. The 3rd District was created to politically accommodate shifts in population in the state to and give constituents more equal representation in the State Senate. Both Rouse and Willingham sought the seat, but rather to run against each other and dilute the vote, a toss of a coin determine which man would run.

**GREENVILLE** - Throughout the nation black voters have yet show a high level of interest in the upcoming political contests, nationwide as well as locally..

Here in Greenville, in moving early to generate momentum in this years election, businessman Jim

Rouse says he plans to support Shelly Willingham of Rocky Mount for 3rd District State Senate seat.

Rouse says winning the State Senate seat in this race is crucial to meet the needs of black citizens and recently announced his decision to withdraw from the 3rd District State

Senate race, and flanked by his friend and also candidate for the same 3rd NC District Senate seat, formally step aside June 3rd.

According to Rouse, he and Willingham share many of the same ideas, friends and contacts, stating that, "the historical value (of winning

the seat) for our people in this eastern region and new district is more important than me or Shelly." Willingham is left to now contend with incumbent Democrat Senator Clark Jenkins and challenger Charles

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## Bush administration out to kill Section 8

**WASHINGTON, DC** - Civil rights organization and congressional leaders have issued alerts on the Bush administration's plans to cut back on Section 8, the program that provides rent subsidies for struggling workers, the elderly and the disabled and allows them to live in decent housing.

An NAACP action alert says that:

\* The Section 8 housing voucher program is one of the most successful housing assistance programs in the history of the federal government; currently, two million American families live in safe, decent, stable homes because of Section 8.

\* The Bush administration's proposed changes to the Section 8 housing vouchers will result in fewer working American families being able to live in safe, decent, affordable housing.

\* As a result of continuing problems in the American economy,

requests for Section 8 housing vouchers are increasing, yet HUD's new policy will result in fewer vouchers issued.

\* As many as 250,000 Section 8 housing voucher recipients may lose their much-needed housing assistance because of these proposed changes.

The National Council of Negro Women has also issued a call to action regarding the Section 8 housing voucher program, which says about the same thing.

Meanwhile the Associated Press reports that a group that includes elected officials and anti-poverty advocates says it will fight any changes in federal housing policy that could lead to \$200 million less for a program that helps poor people pay their rent.

It reported, "Members of the newly formed Coalition to Save America's Affordable Housing accused the U.S. Department of

Housing and Urban Development of wrongly interpreting a congressional appropriations bill to limit reimbursements to state agencies for the Section 8 voucher program. The group threatened to sue if the money is withheld."

The National Homeless Organization has also issued an alert, stating that the president's fiscal year 2005 budget would cut \$1 billion from the Section 8 program. It says that the proposal contains no money for new vouchers despite research by the Department of Housing and Urban Development showing that the number of people with severe housing problems has gone up.

In fact, according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, this proposal is \$1.6 billion short of what is needed just to maintain the program at current levels.

NHO charges the Bush

administration proposal would convert the housing voucher program into a block grant to state and local housing agencies, eliminating basic protections for low-income families.

Two bills - HR 4263 and S 2467 - have been introduced in the Congress to prevent the Bush administration from changing the way the Section 8 program is administered. The House bill has 100 co-signers; the Senate bill has about 20.

Organizations and citizens who care about the working poor must pay attention to these alerts and join in the fight. We cannot afford to let hundreds of thousands of low-income, elderly and disabled families lose much or all of their federal housing assistance just because the Bush administration values fighting an unnecessary war in Iraq higher than helping the poor at home.

## African American Leaders Convene Historic Summit

**STUART, FLA.**— African American leaders convened a historic political summit in Florida to discuss a comprehensive national strategy of inclusion to persuade, motivate and turn out record numbers of voters in November. The meeting was convened and hosted by Attorney Willie Gary, along with Clark County Nevada Commissioner Yvonne Gates, former Denver Mayor Wellington Webb, former Mayor of Little Rock Lottie Shackelford and Democratic strategist Minyon Moore.

Over 100 leading strategists, donors, and organizers attended the two day retreat to "turn on the power" and to discuss an African American platform particularly as it relates to urban issues and the failure of President George Bush to address pressing issues such as jobs, housing, and economic development. The sessions focused on the role African Americans will play in battleground and other key states that will determine the outcome of

the 2004 presidential, congressional and statewide elections. The participants also developed plans for 2004 election strategy. "The African American community will be unified this electoral season to play an influential role in helping Democrats up and down the ticket," said Gary. "Our plan is simple: enlarge the Black electorate, target infrequent voters, and motivate massive numbers of our citizens to participate in the electoral process and to ensure the resources are there to successfully implement our strategy."

Added Oscar Joyner, President of Reach Media: "We know how to win. In the last presidential election, Black voters in key states, including Florida, represented more than our share of the state electorate. With leaders such as economist Dr. Julianne Malveaux, pollsters Cornell Belcher and Dr. Silas

Lee, we are prepared to increase our turnout ten-fold by aggressively targeting a new generation of voters to show up on Election Day."

African Americans represent as much as thirty percent of the voting age population in key battleground states such as Michigan, Florida, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Ohio and Louisiana. Stated Wellington Webb, "This is the beginning of a broad based national coalition with ties to local African American leaders to help facilitate a three month national voter education and registration drive to help elect candidates to the U.S. Senate." The group will focus added attention of Black mobilization in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas, Illinois and Colorado.

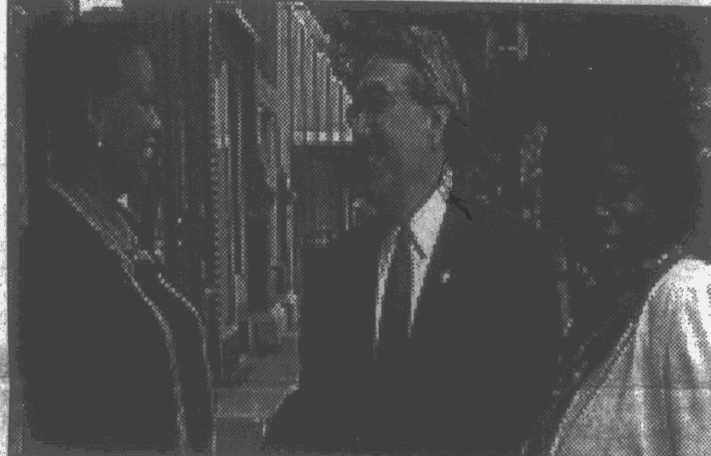
"The South will be in play. African Americans will play a strategic role in helping Democrats win back the U.S. Senate and Congress this fall,"

said Shackelford.

State Senator Diane Wilkerson of Massachusetts, Congressman Kendrick Meek (D-Florida) and Marcus Jadotte, Deputy Campaign Manager for John Kerry also attended and participated in the summit.

The participants, which also included civil rights leader and historian Dr. Mary Frances Berry; Democratic National Convention Chair, Alice Huffman; President of 100 Black Men, Tommy Dortch; NNPA Chairperson Sonny Messiah Jiles; President of the Pan-Hellenic Council Helen Owens and Political Consultant Donna Brazile also drafted plans to highlight issues that impact the African American community during the Summer convention season. A key part of the strategy will involve mobilizing young people and implementing voter protection and promotion programs to avoid the mistakes of the last presidential campaign.

## Glover officially endorses Butterfield



Greenville Councilwoman Rose Glover is shown showing her support for G.K. Butterfield's bid for Congress during a recent visit to the city. Also shown above with Glover and Butterfield is Taffye Clayton. Photo: Gaius "Guy" Sims, Sr.

**GREENVILLE, NC** - Candidate for Congress in the 1st Congressional district, Justice G.K. Butterfield recently opened his campaign headquarters on Martin Luther King Drive here in Greenville. While he was here he visited with city officials, senior citizens, the staff of the Life/Strive Center and a local soup kitchen.

Butterfield also got around to having breakfast with a number of community leaders, supporters and local citizens. Justice Butterfield has served the state of North Carolina for 15 years as a Superior and Supreme Court Justice. He has already received endorsements in his bid from numerous leaders and citizens throughout the state.

## Fort Worth Passes Reparations Resolutions

**FORT WORTH (NNPA)** Community leaders gained momentum in the reparations movement as Fort Worth City Council passed a resolution that calls for the House of Representatives

to establish a national commission to study the issue of reparations for slavery. The resolution, HR 40 or House Bill 40, is sponsored by Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) The city of

Fort Worth now joins legislation that has been endorsed by official in several cities, including Dallas, Detroit, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Cleveland and Chicago. Houston

remains one of the only major cities in Texas that has not passed such a resolution.

"This completely places a large burden on Mayor Bill White and city

council of Houston, now that Fort Worth has passed their resolution. But we won't quit until we see victory here as well," said Kofi Taharka, National Black United Front (NBUF) Houston chairman and a member of the Houston umbrella reparations group the Local Action Committee (LAC).

The resolution passed 6-3 with dissenting members voicing concerns that it made no sense. "I will not support this because I don't think we can solve anything by going back to the past. I mean, what about the women who suffered for hundreds of years, including receiving low pay for the same work a man does? Do we go back and address that?" said Council Member Becky Haskin. City Council members Ralph McCloud and Frank Moss sponsored the resolution.

"With this win, we will use it to continue momentum and gather thousands of signatures for the NDABA campaign," said Bryan

Muhammad, executive director and president of Tarrant County POWER (People Organized Working for Equal Rights Representation and Reparations), the group who lead the reparations resolution issue.

Michael Bell, spokesperson for the Tarrant County Local Organizing Committee, speaking to the press after the resolution passage said, Fort Worth can claim its position among dozens of cities across this nation who are saying that it's time now for us to repair the damage done to African people in this country. The brutal slavery conditions reaped upon fellow human beings was wrong and that debt must be paid."

"This is not an old movement. Callie House did the first organized movement for reparation compensation for African-Americans as she worked to get slave pensions for the newly freed Blacks during the mid-1800s. We appreciate the council assisting in bringing us closer to closure on this extremely important issue," said Thomas Muhammad, founder of Africans & African Americans for Enslavement

## Amalgamated Publishers (API) Makes Strategic Move to Spotlight Readers of Black Newspapers

**NEW YORK CITY** - In an aggressive follow-up to its historic API Black Newspaper Readership

Study suddenly brought to light a

## Black Publishers Meet In An Executive Session In Raleigh



Black publishers met recently to jointly discuss market strategies to initiate more statewide and regional exposures for their readership, business advertisers and political advertisers. Pictured above from left to right, J.J. Jones, The Fayetteville Press, Mary Alice Jervay Thatch, The Wilmington Journal, a representative from The Winston-Salem Chronicle, Paul Jervay Jr. Pres. NC Black Publishers Assoc - The Carolinian, Val Atkinson, Columnist/Talk Show Host, Foxy 107-104, Jim Rouse, The Minority Voice - Greenville. Photo: Gaius "Guy" Sims

Study released on March 31, 2004, Amalgamated Publishers, Inc. today announced the launch of the PowerSpender monitor, an ongoing, in-depth study of regular readers of

powerful, affluent consumer group that, for years has been overlooked and/or totally ignored," said Dorothy Leavell, Chairman of API. "Now that this group is being

accorded interest commensurate with its importance, it's essential that it be tracked on an ongoing basis." CNW Marketing Research, Inc., the firm that designed and executed the original study will also design and execute the ongoing study. Art Spinella, the President of CNW, said it would consist of two sections - the economic section and the category/product-specific section. The economic section will profile the PowerSpender (regular readers of Black newspapers) against all African American consumers, all Hispanic consumers, all Hispanic consumers who regularly read Hispanic newspapers and all consumers in general. Confidence levels, attitudes and opinions and general economic /demographic data will be measured and compared. The second section will track specific product categories, specific products and specific brands measuring purchase data and quantifying total economic values that each consumer group represents. A selected number of key advertisers and marketers seriously interested in reaching the PowerSpenders, will be invited to participate in the on-going study.

The surprising new findings that are surfacing in this historic study show that these readers have the highest confidence level in the American economy of any consumer or ethnic group in the country. "This is one of the most surprising facts to come out of the API Black Newspaper Readership Study," said Art Spinella, President of CNW Marketing Research, Inc.,

the research company that designed and conducted the study. "We have measuring consumer confidence for over 10 years but this is the first time readers of Black newspapers have ever been identified separately from the African American population as a whole." To validate the results, CNW analyzed historical data and found that readers of Black newspapers consistently had a more optimistic view of the economy than any other group.

"We expect The PowerSpender Monitor to rapidly become a key economic indicator and, consequently API will release top level results to the media on a quarterly basis," said Mr. Spinella.

In addition, Leavell commented that "this means that our readers are less likely to postpone major purchases such as automobiles, homes, etc. They are optimistic about the economy and have confidence in where the country is headed despite the bleak predictions of many authorities. Our readers have always been strong believers in America's future which is one reason they do not hesitate to purchase what they want when they see it."

Amalgamated Publishers, Inc. is the nation's oldest media placement firm representing leading Black newspapers from coast to coast. Its 43-years of experience dealing exclusively with Black newspapers, its proprietary databases and its exclusive "added value" programs have made it the preeminent authority on reaching and motivating the African American consumer.

## South African Blacks to get back Land Stolen during Apartheid

**Special to the NNPA from IPS/GIN**

Thousands of Black South Africans will soon be able to buy back land taken from them during the apartheid era. Landless Blacks are allowed to claim White-owned farmland. If White farmers refuse to sell, a new law lets the government step in and forcibly buy the land at market price.

So far, about 20 percent of the land has been claimed. In some regions, such as Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal, the figure is close to 50 percent.

So far 45,000 of the total 70,000 claims have been settled. The government aims to settle the rest by 2005.

The enforced selling law is only expected to be used in about 5 to 10 percent of claims, chief land claims commissioner Tozi Gwanya told Reuters.

During the apartheid regime, Blacks were denied the right to own land. Apartheid ended in 1994, and the new government promised to give back 30 percent of the farmland to landless Blacks within five years. But 10 years on, just 2 percent has been handed over. More than 90 percent is still owned by South Africa's White minority.

Several African countries are involved in the controversial practice of redistributing land to Blacks. In Namibia, landless Blacks frustrated with government land reform programs have threatened to take White-owned land by force.

And in Zimbabwe, President Robert Mugabe faced international criticism for allowing Blacks to occupy and take White-owned farms. A number of White farmers were killed in the process.



# M(y)-VOICE OP/EDs

Because whatever happens to America happens to Black America first...

## Reagan, Race and Remembrance Reflections on the American Divide

By Tim Rice

If one needs any more evidence that whites and people of color live in two totally different places, politically and psychically, one need only look at the visual evidence provided by the death of Ronald Reagan.

More to the point, all one needs to know about this man and his Presidency can be gleaned by looking even haphazardly at the racial and ethnic makeup of the crowds flocking to his ranch, or his library to pay tribute. So too will it be apparent from the assemblage lining the streets of DC for his funeral procession, or gathering in the Capitol Rotunda to pay respects to their departed hero.

They are, and will be - in case you missed it or are waiting for the safest prediction in the history of prognostication - white. Far whiter, one should point out, than the nation over which Reagan presided, and even more so than the nation into whose soil he was deposited into.

While persons of color make up approximately 30 percent of the population of the United States, the

Reagan faithful look like another country altogether. As they gathered in Simi Valley - home of the 40th President's library, as well as the jury that thought nothing of the police beating of Rodney King - one wonders if they noticed the incongruity between themselves and the rest of the state in which they live: a state called California, where people like them are slightly less than half the population now.

Doubtful. Most of them, after all, are quite used to never seeing black and brown folks, since the vast majority of whites live in communities with virtually no people of color around them.

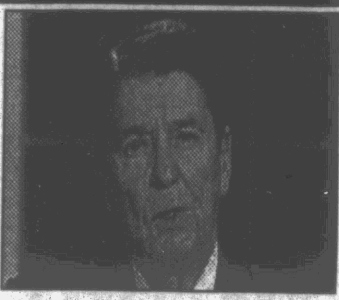
That the mourners wouldn't notice the overwhelming monochromy of their throng is no surprise. But it has been more than a little interesting that no intrepid reporter - or at least someone pretending to be such a creature - has thought to ask the obvious question about the racial makeup of those losing sleep over the death of Ronald Reagan, versus those who

frankly aren't.

After all, there are really only two possible interpretations of the

culpa for his racist past before his death - but the latter is as certain as rain in Seattle.

### Remembering Reagan...?



### or Renouncing Reagan...?!

Iran-Contra - "We did not, repeat, did not trade weapons or anything else for hostages, nor will we," Reagan said to the American public in a live broadcast from the Oval Office on November 13, 1986. The president also denied knowing anything about money from arms sales to Iran being used to fund the Contra guerrillas in Nicaragua. Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North and others in Reagan's administration operated the secret arms pipeline, which was disclosed in 1986.

sanguine reaction by people of color to Reagan's death: namely, either black and brown folks are poster children for insensitivity, or perhaps they know something that white folks don't, or would rather ignore.

The former of these is not likely - after all, millions of black folks actually forgave George Wallace for God's sake when he did a partial mea

What white folks ignore, but what most black folks can never forget, is how Reagan opposed the Civil Rights Act at the time of its passage, calling it an unwarranted intrusion on the rights of businesses, and never repudiated his former stand.

Or that as Governor of California, Reagan dismissed the struggle for fair and open housing, by saying that blacks were just "making trouble" and had no intention of moving into mostly white neighborhoods.

Perhaps they have a hard time forgetting that of all the places Reagan could have begun his campaign for the Presidency in 1980, he had to choose Philadelphia, Mississippi: a town famous only for the 1964 murder of three civil rights workers. And perhaps they recall that the focus of his speech that day was "state's rights," a longstanding white code for rolling back civil rights gains and longing for the days of segregation.

Maybe they have burned in their memories the way Reagan attacked welfare programs with stories of "strapping young bucks" buying T-Bone steaks, while hardworking taxpayers could only afford hamburger, or how Reagan fabricated a story about a "welfare queen" from Chicago with 80 names, 30 addresses, and 12 Social Security cards, receiving over \$150,000 in tax-free income. That Reagan picked Chicago as the site of this entirely fictional woman, and not some mostly white rural area where there were plenty of welfare recipients too, was hardly lost on African Americans.

Perhaps black folks and other people of color remember the words of former Reagan Education Secretary Terrell Bell, who noted in his memoir how racial slurs were common among the "Great

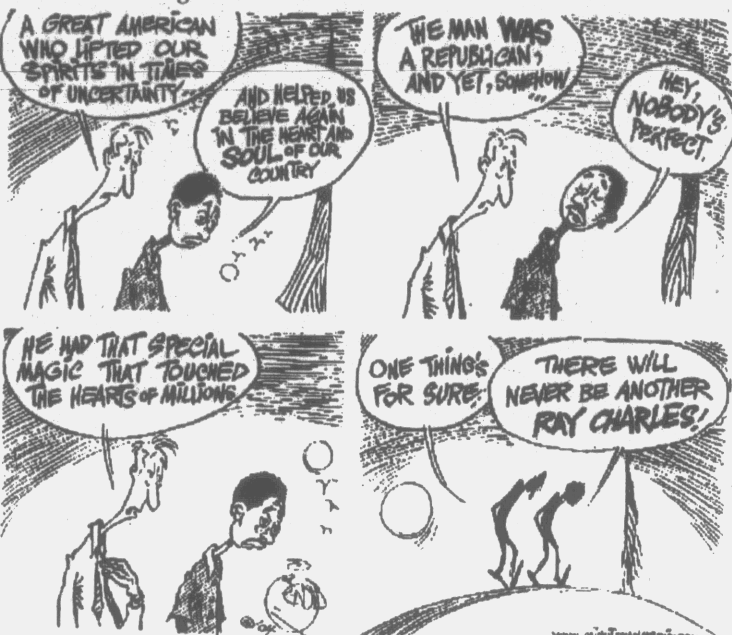
Communicator's" White House staffers, including common references to Martin Luther Coon, and "sand niggers."

Perhaps they recall that Reagan supported tax exemptions for schools that discriminated openly against blacks.

Perhaps they recall how his Administration cut funds for community health centers by 18 percent, denying three-quarters-of-a-million people access to services; how they cut federal housing assistance by two-thirds, resulting in the loss of about 200,000 affordable units for renters in urban areas.

Or how Reagan opposed sanctions against the racist South

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## One of Black America's Most Forgotten Holidays Juneteenth.... Free At Last?

by Ryan Paul Haygood

Ralph Ellison immortalized "Juneteenth," the annual celebration of the anniversary of June 19, 1865, when the enslaved Africans in Texas were actually emancipated, in his posthumous novel of the same name.

Ellison's title refers to the date when Union General Gordon Granger rode horseback into Galveston, Texas and announced to nearly 250,000 slaves that President Abraham Lincoln, with a stroke of a pen on the Emancipation Proclamation, had declared them free on January 1, 1863 - more than two years earlier.

Upon hearing the news, the reaction of the newly freed slaves wasn't surprising: they dropped their plows and celebrated their freedom.

In reality, however, the Emancipation Proclamation did not free any slaves, its terms were carefully limited to those areas under the control of the Confederacy and thus beyond the reach of federal law.

Indeed, it wasn't until 2 1/2 years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, when a regiment of the Union military, led by Granger, arrived in Texas with the news of slavery's end, and the power to enforce the proclamation, that Lincoln's proclamation finally made slaves free. This delay, Ellison said, is a "symbolic acknowledgement that liberation is a never-ending task of self, group and nation."

Today, Juneteenth is a vivid historical example that obtaining rights at law does not necessarily confer rights that have actual force. It is for this reason that Juneteenth celebrants are often conflicted.

On one hand, Juneteenth marks the Republicans' critical recognition that unless action was taken to safeguard the freedmen's status, Democrats would force Blacks back into slavery, thereby sustaining the economic dispute that led to Civil War. In recognition of the entrenched white resistance to Black emancipation, the post-Civil War Congress enacted the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments, which ended slavery, made former slaves citizens, and protected them from future white supremacy by granting them the right to vote free of racial discrimination. On the other hand, Juneteenth marks the time when the newly enfranchised Black population in the South met massive resistance from whites. Among other things, this resistance took the form of a century of poll taxes, grandfather clauses, literacy requirements, and disfranchisement policies.

The struggle continued with the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and now many, but not all, barriers used to prevent Blacks from

the effective use of their votes are unconstitutional or illegal. One vestige of slavery, however, endures: felon disfranchisement laws.

Felon disfranchisement laws are state statutes that prohibit people with felony convictions from voting. In an attempt to prevent newly-freed Blacks from voting after the Civil War, many state legislators tailored their felon disfranchisement laws to require the loss of voting rights only for those offenses committed mostly by Blacks.

For example, the 1890 Mississippi constitutional convention required disfranchisement for such crimes as theft, burglary and receiving money under false pretenses, but not for robbery or murder. These intentionally discriminatory laws were guided by the belief that Blacks engaged in crime were more likely to commit furtive offenses than the more robust crimes committed by whites. Through the convoluted "reasoning" of this provision, one would be disfranchised for stealing a chicken, but not for killing the chicken's owner. Many other states, from New York to Alabama, have also intentionally and effectively utilized felon disfranchisement laws to prevent Blacks and other racial minorities from voting.

Not surprisingly, felon disfranchisement statutes, as intended, have served to disproportionately weaken the voting power of Black and Latino communities. This disparate effect results largely from the disproportionate enforcement of the "war on drugs" in Black and Latino communities, which has expanded exponentially the class of persons subject to disfranchisement.

Today, with nearly 2.1 million Americans incarcerated, the effects of our nation's reliance on mass incarceration as a primary means of control in the era of the "war on drugs" is more profound than ever. As a result, 4.65 million Americans nationwide - an overwhelming number of whom are Black and Latino - are disfranchised. Nowhere are the effects of felon disfranchisement more prominent than in the Black community, where 1.4 million Black males, or 13 percent of the adult Black population, are disfranchised.

The felon disfranchisement phenomenon is most destructive in Black and Latino neighborhoods because these communities are often disproportionately plagued with numerous socioeconomic ills - including concentrated poverty and substandard housing, healthcare and education. As a result, people in these communities have even less of an opportunity to effect positive

change through the political process.

Not only this, but felon disfranchisement laws also serve to discourage eligible and future voters from exercising the learned behavior of voting. In doing so, these laws create a culture of political nonparticipation that erodes civic engagement and marginalizes the votes and voices of community members who remain engaged, but who are deprived of the collective power of the votes of disfranchised relatives and neighbors.

Although common in the United States, felon disfranchisement statutes are not a necessary feature of our participatory democracy. Indeed, Maine and Vermont have no such statutes and permit all people with felony convictions - including those both currently incarcerated and formerly incarcerated - to vote. Some states restore voting rights to formerly incarcerated persons once they have served their entire prison sentence. But similar to the slaves in Texas, many formerly incarcerated persons are not informed that their voting rights have been restored, and although technically free to vote, remain voteless. In other states, the difficulty of navigating one's way through the impenetrable restoration process turns many eligible, formerly incarcerated voters away.

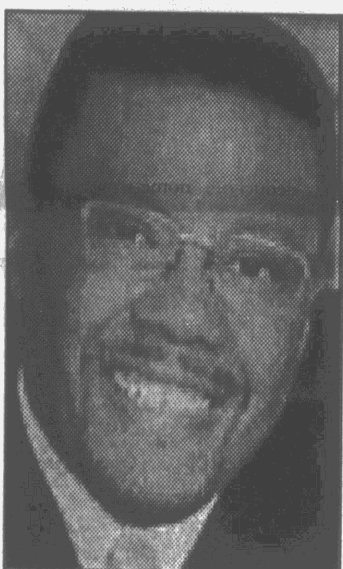
Unfortunately, more than a century after General Granger announced to the slaves in Texas that they were free, and nearly 40 years after the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, increasing numbers of Blacks and Latinos nationwide are losing their voting rights daily.

Today, there are new frontiers for the expansion of civil rights, and old battles that remain unfinished. Reform of felon disfranchisement laws is long overdue.

Ellison remarked that "there've been a heap of Juneteenth gone by and there'll be a heap more before we're free." 140 Juneteenth anniversaries certainly constitutes a "heap." In the spirit of Juneteenth's legacy, and in the interest of experiencing the illusive freedom that Ellison referenced, it is time for the United States to break down the walls that literally lock citizens out of the political process so that next Juneteenth we can move one step closer to truly celebrating freedom.

Ryan Paul Haygood is an Assistant Counsel at NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF), where he litigates *Hayden v. Pataki*, a class-action lawsuit seeking to restore the vote to persons incarcerated and on parole in New York State for a felony conviction, along with *The Community Service Society (CSS) and Center for Law and Social Justice*. LDF is also part of *Right to Vote*, a national campaign to remove voting barriers for people with felony convictions.

## Reasons why more Black males are in prison than college boys, Black or White



Judge Greg Mathis

The Justice Department recently released its yearly prison population report. As expected, the prison population grew by 2.9 percent in 2003, even as the crime rate decreased. Additionally, more Black males remain in prison than in college, the only group in the world with this distinction.

The reasons that there are more African American males in prison than college are many, not the least of which is failed education systems.

### High Turn Out or No Show

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Johnson.

Rouse felt that it was the in the interests of the black community to have representation in a district that has become heavily black since redistricting.

Willingham said he was "extremely happy" with Rouse's decision to support him. He added that, "Mr. Rouse and I are very good friends and he feels like he didn't want to be in a position to take votes away from me." He added that Rouse was more in getting someone to represent

We frequently hear of the Black male prison statistics, but rarely do we hear about the Black male educational crisis. Indeed, two-thirds of those in prison came without a high school diploma, demonstrating a strong connection between a failed education and prison incarceration. Combine a failed education with other societal factors such as the unavailability of unskilled employment, the prevalence of drugs, as well as racism and injustice, and it becomes very clear how the lack of quality education may lead to a downward spiral toward prison.

Why is it, however, that African American males are far more affected than females? Once again the answer can be found in our educational process. Several months ago, a study by the Southern Regional Education Board reinforced what educators have known for a long time - boys, Black or White than girls and are less academically motivated. The study collected data from 1,000 high schools throughout the country and found stark differences in attitudes about education between the genders. For example, 84% of the girls thought it was important to continue beyond high school, while only 67% of boys believed such. In testing, 31% of boys scored "below basic" in

Reading compared to only 20% of the girls.

Researchers and scholars attribute the differences to the way teachers perceive and educate boys and girls, a pattern that begins in elementary school, where nearly 80% of the teachers are female. It is believed that teachers perceive males as inattentive, more active and prone to behavior problems, and therefore, receive different treatment than girls. Consequently, many boys lose interest in academic excellence and, instead, grow up acting the way they were treated by their teachers, that is, problematic and educationally uninspired. For Black males, the situation is compounded by racism, lack of job opportunity and a criminal subculture that appears to provide an easier way to success.

The solution to this problem is external and internal. America's public school systems must find innovative ways to interest boys in educational achievement during their early years. On the other hand, we as a community must work to overcome the many obstacles that are unique to African American males.

(Judge Mathis is Chairman of the Rainbow PUSH-Excel Board and a National Board Member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.)

small business, strengthening public education and improving health care.

Willingham has previously served on the Edgecombe County Board of Commissioners and in the state House.

Currently, Willingham is an outreach specialist with the nonprofit Down East Partnership for Children.

Jenkins said he would represent all constituents in his district, citing as evidence of his support for Greenville's southwest bypass and a proposed cardio-vascular disease center at Pitt County Memorial Hospital.

Pitt County Elections Director Steve Hines said that Rouse's name would appear on the ballot even though he has officially withdrawn.

..from www.juneteenth.com

## THE SLAVE CONSULTANT'S NARRATIVE (1712)

The following narrative which was found among a number of narratives was taken the website www.juneteenth.com - Ed.

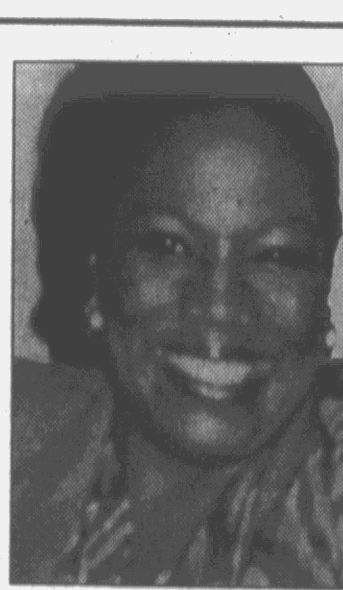
Gentlemen, I greet you here on the bank of the James River in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and twelve. First, I shall thank you, the gentlemen of the Colony of Virginia, for bringing me here. I am here to help you solve some of your problems with slaves. Your invitation reached me on my modest plantation in the West Indies where I have experimented with some of the newest and still the oldest methods for control of slaves. Ancient Rome would envy us if my program is implemented. As our boat sailed south on the James River, named for our illustrious King, whose version of the Bible we cherish, I saw enough to know that your problem is not unique. While Rome

used cords of wood as crosses for standing human bodies along its old highways in great numbers you are here using the tree and the rope on occasion.

I caught a whiff of a dead slave hanging from a tree a couple of miles back. You are not only losing valuable stock by hangings, you are having uprisings, slaves are running away, your crops are sometimes left in the fields too long for maximum profit, you suffer occasional fires, your animals are killed. Gentlemen, you know what your problems are; I do not need to elaborate. I am not here to enumerate your problems, I am here to introduce you to a method of solving them.

In my bag here, I have a fool proof method for controlling your Black slaves. I guarantee everyone of you that if installed correctly it

will control the slaves for at least 300 years. My method is simple. Any member of your family or your overseer can use it. I have outlined a number of differences among the slaves; and I take these differences and make them bigger. I use fear, distrust, and envy for control purposes. These methods have worked on my modest plantation in the West Indies and it will work throughout the South. Take this simple little list of differences, and think about them. On top of my list is "Age", the second is "Color" or shade, there is intelligence, size, sex, size of plantations, status on plantation, attitude of owners, whether the slaves live in the valley, on a hill, East, West, North, South, have fine hair or coarse hair, or is tall or perpetually distrustful. Thank you, gentlemen.



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## Remembering Reagan...

Continues from Page 2

African regime, and even denied that apartheid, under which system blacks could not vote, was racist, noting that its policies were "more tribal than racial."

And it isn't surprising that few if any Salvadorans or Guatemalans, who came to the U.S. in the 1980s, fleeing from violence in their countries, were to be seen placing flowers outside Reagan's library either.

After all, the former were forced to seek refuge here precisely because Reagan was so intent on funneling money and arms to the murderous death-squad governments who were responsible for killing so many of their countrymen and women; and the latter no doubt recall how Reagan brushed off the genocidal policies of Guatemalan dictator Rios Montt — whose scorched earth tactics, especially against the nation's indigenous resulted in at least 70,000 deaths — by saying he was getting a "bum rap" on human rights, and was instead a man of "great personal commitment," who was dedicated to "social justice."

That whites would view much of this as irrelevant, even whining or sour grapes on the part of communities of color, is only proof positive that for many if not most such folks, the opinions of, and even

the humanity of black and brown persons with whom they share a nation is of secondary importance to the fact that Reagan — as many have been gushing these past few days — "made them feel good again."

But how can healthy people feel good about a leader who does and says the kinds of things mentioned above? Obviously the answer is by denying that racism matters, or that its victims count for anything. Even more cynically, it is no doubt true that for many of them, it was precisely Reagan's policy of hostility to people of color that made them feel good in the first place. By 1980, most whites were already tiring of civil rights and were looking for someone who would take their minds off such troubling concepts as racism, and instead implore them to "greatness," however defined, and "pride," however defined, and flag waving.

Whites have long been more enamored of style than substance, of fiction than fact, of fantasy than reality. It's why we have clung so tenaciously to the utterly preposterous version of our national history peddled by textbooks for so long; and it's why we get so angry when anyone tries to offer a correction.

It's why we choose to believe the lie about the U.S. being a shining city on a hill, rather than a potentially

great but thoroughly flawed place built on the ruins and graves of Native peoples, built by the labor of enslaved Africans, enlarged by theft and murder and an absolute disregard for non-European lives.

As Randall Robinson points out in his recent book, *Quitting America*, when such subjects are broached, the operative response from much of the white tribe is little more than, "Oh, that."

Yes white man, that. That exactly. That thing we were raised to gloss over, to speak of in hushed tones, as if by our diminished volume or failure to audibilize it, it will go away; that perhaps they will forget about it, and instead join with us in praise of our country, since that is most definitely how so many of us envision it.

White people, especially those who are upper-middle class and above, have no reason on Earth to be aware of the truth, let alone to dwell on it. The truth is, after all, so messy, so littered with the bodies of dead Nicaraguans, and dead Haitians murdered by Duvalier while Reagan stood by him; so soiled by his support for Saddam Hussein. Better to ignore all that, and to go mushy before the pictures of Reagan in his

cowboy hat, to remember a President who, for all of his murderous policies abroad and contempt for millions at home, at least he never made as Clinton admitted recently, "a terrible moral error" in the Oval Office.

This is the twisted psychosis of growing up privileged, as a member of the dominant group: a group that must view their nation as fair and just, as a place struck off by the literal hand of God, as a place where "average" guys like Ronald Reagan can become "great leaders." As a place where an "aw shucks" smile, and a profound lack of knowledge about the details of public policy — or even the names of foreign leaders — is not only not cause for embarrassment, but yet another good reason to vote for someone; where refusing to read up on important policy details prior to a key international meeting so one can watch *The Sound of Music* on TV, is seen as endearing rather than cause for a recall.

This is why we get people like George W. Bush, for those who haven't figured it out yet. Oh sure, vote fraud and a pliant Supreme Court help, but were it not for the love affair white Americans have

with mediocrity posing as leadership, things never could have gotten this far.

It's why a bona fide moron like Tom DeLay can brag about not having a passport (because, after all, why would anyone want to travel abroad and leave "Amur'ca," even for a day) and not be seen as the epitome of a blithering idiot, and why he could probably be elected again and again in thousands of white dominated congressional districts in this country, and not merely in Texas.

Having to grapple with the real world is stressful, and people with relative power and privilege never know how to deal with stress very well. As such, they long for and applaud easy answers for the stress that occasionally manages to intrude upon their lives: so they blame people of color for high taxes, failing schools, crime, drugs, and jobs they didn't get; they blame terrorism on "evil," and the notion that they hate our freedoms: a belief one can only have if one really thinks one lives in a free country in the first place.

In other words, delusion is both the fuel that propels people like Ronald Reagan forward in political life, and then makes a rational

assessment of his legacy impossible upon his death.

I think this is why so many white people remember him fondly, and are truly crestfallen at the thought of his physical obsolescence: simply put, much of white America needs Ronald Reagan; a father figure to tell them everything is going to be O.K.; a kindly old Wizard of Oz, to assure them that image and reality are one, even when the more cerebral parts of our beings tend towards an opposite conclusion.

With Reagan gone, maintaining the illusion becomes more difficult.

But knowing white folks — I am after all one of them, and have been surrounded by them all of my life — I have little doubt that where there's a will to remain in la-la land, we will surely find a way.

Reagan has been released from the lie, finally, and may his soul find peace among the millions of dearly departed victims of his policies around the world.

Meanwhile, the rest of us must pull back the curtain on all phony heroes, Reagan among them, lest we create many millions more.

Tim Wise is an antiracist essayist, activist and father. He can be reached at [timwise@](mailto:timwise@)

## How Wealth Perpetuates Inequality

# The Hidden Cost of Being African American

The following article was submitted to us by Ms. Sujette Jones and is a commentary written by Richard Hunt, a noted researcher on equality on Thomas Shapiro's book, *THE HIDDEN COST OF BEING AFRICAN AMERICAN* (How Wealth Perpetuates Inequality). -Ed.

African Americans often seem cut off from the economic mainstream. They face higher risks of poverty, joblessness and incarceration than their fellow citizens do. Community organizing, civil rights legislation, landmark court decisions and rising education have advanced the cause of racial equality. Overt bigotry has been banished from public places, and polls show that whites harbor fewer prejudices than they used to. But these improvements have not been enough. How can disadvantages persist, so long after most laws, minds, and practices have changed? The answer is the disparities of wealth. Whites are wealthier than African Americans, and whites' wealth advantage is much bigger than their advantages in either income

or education. Whites start out ahead because they inherit more from their parents, and America's racially segregated housing markets boost whites' home equities, while depressing those of African American families. Shapiro concludes that African Americans will not gain significant ground in the wealth divide until inheritance and housing policies change. Wealth is the sum of the important assets a person or family owns—home equity, pension funds, savings accounts and investments. Wealth is better than income because it is durable. People use income to meet daily expenses, whereas wealth accumulates. People who have wealth tap it only to deal with emergencies or to take advantage of opportunities that usually build more wealth.

Wealth passes down from generation to generation. The main reason African Americans are currently worse off than whites is that today's African Americans inherited less

wealth from their parents than today's whites did. It is not hard to see why: The generation of African Americans now passed away accumulated less wealth because discrimination in their day kept most of them poor and denied them opportunities other Americans enjoyed. The disparity in wealth not only persists, it mushrooms. Without a cushion of inherited wealth, emergencies hit harder, and people who have no nest egg have to let opportunities pass by. Because of the wealth deficit, African Americans find themselves more vulnerable to shocks and less able to capitalize on breaks than whites with the same income. So the next generation will inherit less, too. The wealth gap will not close anytime soon.

Wealth begins at home. A home-equity loan can see a family through a spell of unemployment or leverage an investment. Millions of middle-class Americans use tax-deductible home-equity loans to

pay for their children's educations. Others buy rental property. White parents use wealth to send their children to private schools or to give their adult children down payments for homes. They do not see how such practices hand today's inequalities on to the next generation.

Because neighborhoods, are racially segregated, African Americans' homes do not grow in value as fast as whites' do; hence, housing segregation costs African Americans tens of thousands of dollars in home equity. Homebuyers look for amenities commonly found in predominantly white neighborhoods. They pay extra for parks, convenient shopping and attractive views—all of which are lacking in these segregated housings.

Parents pay huge premiums for what they perceive to be good schools. Few parents can judge schools objectively. Instead, they use easy-to-observe markers, including the race of the students.

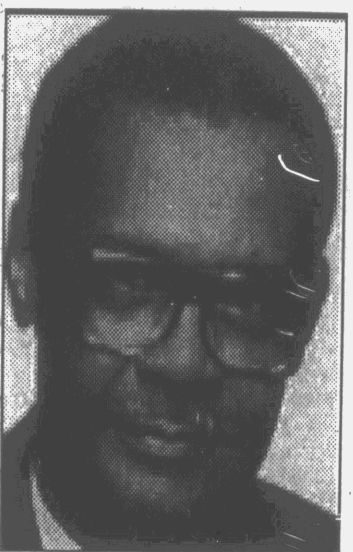
These preferences raise the costs that first-time homebuyers face when they attempt to buy houses in these mostly white neighborhoods. Marriage and family structure also fit into the cycles of accumulation, inheritance and investment. Married couples accumulate more wealth than single parents do—which suggests the

African American family issues, with its disintegration and the rising rate of out-of-wedlock births, must play a role in the wealth gap. The long-term damage of unequal wealth continues to press the case for resolving America's most stubborn and profound source of racial division.



"Embracing Their Own Commodification"

# Why don't more Black people support Black businesses?



Arthur L. Webb

Why don't more Black people support Black businesses?

In informal discussions all across America the subject of Black people supporting Black businesses arises. Almost invariably the complaint is injected into the discussion that Black support of Black-owned businesses is not what it should be.

Hypothetical examples are often given suggesting that "White people support White-owned businesses and do not support Black businesses, therefore if Black businesses are to prosper the support must of necessity come from Black people in greater

numbers.

The complaint referenced here is, I think, valid. Generally speaking, Black-owned businesses are not patronized to the extent that its operators can realize substantial profits. But placing the blame for that situation exclusively on Black consumers, however, is a flawed concept. The Black business owner as well as the Black consumer share a responsibility in the advancement of economic development within the Black Community.

The primary responsibility of making any business work lies with the business owner. The consumer must be sold upon the idea that the money he or she spends for goods and services will be well spent. This is not to suggest that Black business owners must "make a better mousetrap" but that they must be competitive.

For generations Black business owners had to compete only with other Black business owners. That was during the days of blatant discrimination and at a time when Black businesses were in large measure ethnically oriented. Today, with the exception of ethnically oriented businesses, the competition pool has grown larger.

The area of Black-owned businesses is one that has been particularly slow in reaching the level many of us think it should. Many Black business men and

women are, for various reasons, not meeting the challenges of the broader competitive arena that desegregation has fostered. Put simply, the transition to competing for money in a larger society is not being made in too many instances. There is an adjustment many of us who were adults prior to the end of legal segregation in America have been either unable or unwilling to make. Success in business requires proper training, planning, market analysis and, importantly, adequate capitalization.

Today, Black businesses have less of a captive clientele than they did, say, 50 years ago. Fifty years ago and earlier, Black business men and women could get away with putting a smaller amount of the revenue derived from their businesses back into their operations and as a result were able to maintain a higher standard of living than might have been possible were the competition broader. That is no longer the case. Most of us now expect the same (or better) quality of product and service from Black-owned businesses as we do from anyone else, and Black business operators had better understand that if they expect to prosper. The result of that expectation is that Black business owners must invest a larger percent-age of their revenues back into their businesses than did those of the previous generation.

One successful Black business man once told me that one of his guiding philosophies of business was to "grow slowly through profits." Obviously, if one has limited resources, the level of service and/or product offering will also be limited. What then might be helpful would be for Black business owners or the likelihood that there are no overnight successes in business. In fact, in many instances, depending on one's definition of success, it must often be a

generational attainment. Most highly successful businesses in this country are ones that have spanned family generations. In other words, if Black businesses are to reach the level of competitiveness many of us desire, one approach might include us seeing more "John Doe & Sons" signage above the doors of Black businesses. If this is how it has philosophically worked for businesses in general, then why should not that same philosophy work for Black business people?

At whatever level, however, competition drives business and how well one meets the competitive challenges will determine the level of success — simply being Black and having a good idea is not enough!

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

## 21 Things African Americans Need To Do

by Dr. Jajuan Taylor

1. Register to vote or shut up.
2. Take all that money out of those stocking caps, in cans, mattresses and floorboards and invest money in something.
3. Learn another language. "Ebonics" does not count.
4. Stop using the "N" word especially since Merriam-Webster has announced it isn't changing the definition.
5. Buy something each week from a Black vendor.
6. Stop blaming White folk 98 percent of your problems while giving them 100 percent of your money.
7. Subscribe to *Ebony*, *Jet*, *Black Enterprise* or *Essence*. Then subscribe to one of the three weeklies, *Time*, *Newsweek* and *U.S. News and World Report*. After we read about what's going on to our world, how about knowing what's going on in theirs?
8. Stop walking past each other and not speaking.
9. Be on time.
10. Get an annual checkup. Herbs do not cure

everything.

11. In all your ways, acknowledge God and/He shall direct your path. Prioritize this as number one.
12. Stop being jealous of one another. Learn to look past the material things and see the person for who they are.
13. Get involved in at least one charitable or voluntary community service.
14. Say a prayer for someone else besides yourself.
15. Hug your child, spouse or parent today.
16. Love one another.
17. Learn to let go and let God.
18. Stop talking about it, and be about it.
19. Let God order your steps instead of the world.
20. "P-U-S-H." Pray until something happens.
21. In all that you do get understanding. (Turn off the TV and open a book.)

Dr. Jajuan Taylor is communication arts professor and department chair, Schoolcraft College/Livonia, and associate professor, teacher education, Wayne State University.

## Over 60 percent of the people in Cuba are black...

# Cuba: In Black and White - U.S. Election will have Great Impact on Cuba

by: DeWayne Wickham

When U.S. voters go to the polls in November to pick a president, Florida — and its heavy concentration of Cuban Americans — may again play a central role in determining who wins. Nowhere will this contest be more closely watched than in Cuba, whose fate may be determined by the election's outcome. More than 90 percent of Cubans in South Florida are white; over 60 percent of the people in Cuba are black. In this series, *BlackAmericaWeb.com* examines the role that race plays in Cuba — and in the tug-of-war between the government of Fidel Castro and Cuban exile leaders in Florida.

HAVANA, Cuba — On Easter Sunday afternoon, hundreds of Cubans strolled the Malecon, the winding, walled

roadway that protects this city's northern edge from the surging waters of Caribbean Sea.

The tip of Florida is just 90 miles away, but if anyone in this crowd was thinking of stealing away to start a new life in the United States, as many others have done since Fidel Castro came to power in 1959, it was not apparent.

Some people came to the Malecon to fish in the choppy waters on the other side of the thick stone wall. Many others were young couples in the throes of the mating ritual springtime ushers in all over the world. As in the U.S., Sunday is a day of leisure in this embattled country — a place that is locked into the past.

Cuba is a bastion of communism which can't break free from the Cold

War that ended for the rest of the world when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1989. It is wedded to this bygone era by the economic embargo the United States imposed on this island nation 44 years ago. Geopolitics was the reason the embargo was started; domestic politics is reason why continues.

The future of Cuba, a nation of 11 million people, is inextricably linked to the U.S. by presidential politics and the role that the small, but concentrated, pocket of Cuban Americans plays in Florida elections.

In the 2000 election, Cubans in South Florida voted overwhelmingly for George W. Bush. His 537-vote victory margin in that state propelled Bush into the White House and indebted him to Cuban American

leaders, who clamored for a tightening of the economic and political screws on Cuba.

Since moving into the Oval Office, Bush has done just that — and the fear here in Cuba and elsewhere is that he will do much more to bring about a "regime change" in this country if he wins re-election in November. But as much as politics is the main plot of this tug-of-war, race is an important, and largely unacknowledged, subplot.

While 89 percent of Cubans living in the U.S. are white, according to the Census Bureau, roughly two-thirds of the people on this island are of African descent. Put another way, most of those who left Cuba for the U.S. after Castro came to power are white; most of those who stayed are black.

The Cuba that many Cuban leaders in south Florida fled after Castro came to power was a country in which blacks were second-class citizens. From 1902 when the country gained its independence until Castro seized control in 1959, Cuban blacks were locked into a system of racial segregation that looked very much like the Jim Crow practices blacks in the U.S. suffered under for nearly a century.

Castro promised to eliminate all vestiges of that racist system and to make blacks full partners in his revolution. That hasn't happened, but Cuba has made a lot of progress in that direction.

Just how much of Castro's failure to fully make good on his promise is due to the U.S. embargo and the political

influence of Cuban Americans, and to what extent the Cuban government has tolerated white privilege, is unclear.

What's undeniable is that the outcome of the U.S. presidential election in November will have a great impact on Cuba.

A lot of people in this country understand that. From a fisherman along the Malecon to a doorman at a tourist hotel in the old section of Havana, people quickly turned the conversation to talk about what chance Sen. John Kerry has of defeating Bush when they were approached by a reporter.

It's a good bet that the Cold War won't end for Cuba — and its majority black population — as long as George W. Bush is in the White House.



## Getting religion...?

# When Stars have Spiritual Awakenings

By Steve Holsey  
Michigan Chronicle

(Detroit) Some people believe that religion and spirituality are essentially the same thing. But according to another school of thought, they are quite different. The first is largely "of man," built on and kept operational by traditions. The second has nothing to do with buildings, assemblies, ceremonies or anything man has to offer.

In any event, celebrities often go one route or the other, and either way, it has an effect on the work they do and/or the image they present to the public. Sometimes the changes are subtle, as in other times they are anything but.

Should a performer keep their religious beliefs to themselves or should they let them flow through their art? That could be debated from now until there is peace in the Middle East.

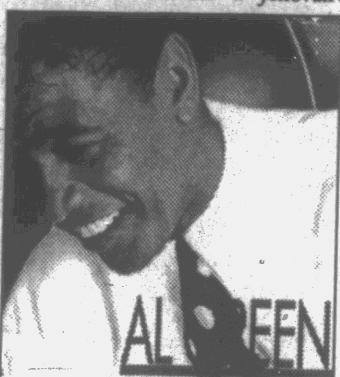
AL GREEN began adding religious elements to his music in 1972, when one of his albums, "Call Me" featured a song entitled, "Jesus Is Waiting." As time went on, his beliefs became increasingly evident in his performances. He frequently encouraged audiences to applaud not just for Al Green, but also for "Him" (pointing upward).

In the late 70's, Green recorded "Belle," a song about a man torn between a woman and God. Belle It's You That I Want But It's Him That I Need. By the mid-80's, Green had decided to only sing only gospel, despite the demand for "Love And Happiness," "Let's Stay Together," etc.

However, in the 2000's, Green began sending mixed messages that confused and sometimes frustrated his fans. He had already put some of his R&B hits back into his act, and this year the release of all secular

album titled, "I Can't Stop."

Prince raised plenty of eyebrows when he announced not long ago that he had become a Jehovah's



Witness No doubt he was heavily influenced by his close friend, Larry Graham, a longtime member of that sect. With his old group Graham Central Station, Graham once recorded an album titled, "Release Yourself." Its cover suggested that people should break away from traditional churches.

One of the most amazing performers and writers of all time, Prince made it clear that he would no longer perform his salacious hits (and there were plenty of them), such as "Head," "Sexuality," "Let's Pretend We're Married," "Dirty Mind" and "Darling Nikki." He would, however, continue to sing the others, including "When Doves Cry," "Kiss," "Sign O' the Times" and "Adore."

Meanwhile, Prince's discovery, Vanity, is now a minister, using her real name, Denise Mathews. As leader of Vanity 6, she was singing songs like "Nasty Girl," in which she said she "needed six inches or more" and would even "do it on a limousine floor."

But that was then. Mathews said she is hoping to help convert Prince,

which is not likely to happen since Christians and Jehovah's Witnesses do not see eye to eye on most religious matters.

LITTLE RICHARD created a sensation in the mid-1950s and played a bigger role than probably with regard to laying the foundation for rock 'n' roll. He is not exaggerating much when he identifies himself as "the architect of rock 'n' roll." He also flash, glitter and general outrageousness into the marketplace.

At the peak of his career, Richard quit rock 'n' roll to devote himself to God, but that didn't last long. Before you could say, "Good Golly, Miss Molly," he had returned to rock 'n' roll. In the mid-80's, he quit again for the same reason then once again made a decision to return to singing. "Keep a Knockin'," "Long Tall Sally" and Lucille, and doing just about everything else that made him Little Richard in the first place.

DONNA SUMMER, as far as we know, is not evangelizing, but the queen of disco — she literally epitomizes the disco era — has had a Christian experience. This, she says, makes it impossible for her to sing her first hit, "Love to Love You Baby," with all of its orgasmic moans and sighs. If anything, she will only do an abbreviated rendition of the song. (That is, just a few lines of it, minus the excesses.)

Meanwhile, Lauryn Hill, who made a huge impact with the mega-seller, "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill," has been using the stage and the recording studio to get across her own unique messages of God — and liberation. It doesn't seem to be going over way well, based on the fact that her test album was a sales disappointment and more than a few people want Hill to get off what they perceive to be a soapbox.

Hill says she is no longer interested in show business glamour and the industry's inherent politics, or in being a record industry product. She once described her music as



being "where hip-hop meets Scripture."

And then of course there is M.C. Hammer. He's out there preaching. (He still dances though.) Some say that Hammer was receptive to the calling because he had blown a fortune and had to declare bankruptcy. He had drastically overspent during the glory period of "U Can't Touch This," "2 Legit 2 Quit," etc.

It has also been reported that DMX, who did guest raps on such songs as Money, Cash, Hoes, "Nothin' Move But Money," "Power & Greed," is leaving the music business to become a minister.

Meanwhile, another rapper, Mase, has already exited the music business to preach and teach. He even wrote a book. Mase was first heard on Puff Daddy's No. 1 hit from 1997, "Can't Nobody Hold Me Down."

Going way back in show business history, the legendary Ethel Waters became one of the first Black superstars, both as an actress ("Cabin in the Sky" and "Pinky")



and a singer. She was as feisty as she was talented. Interestingly, in her later years she became a gospel singer, traveling as part of the Billy Graham Crusade, never failing to sing "His Eye Is On a Sparrow."

A few more artists who made religious changes:

Pro-football star Roosevelt Grier (Los Angeles Rams, New York Giants) became a minister. He also sings and, surprisingly, is a master of needpoint and he doesn't mind being teased about the latter.

Candi Staton sings nothing but gospel today, but she initially gained fame recording southern-tinged, gritty R&B songs such as "Young Man's Dream" (Than a Young Man's Pool), "Mr. and Mrs. Untrue," "As Long as He Takes Care of Home" and "I'm Just a Prisoner (of Your Good Lovin')."

And then there's Shirley Murdock. Best known for the 1986 hit "As We Lay" (a song about cheating), today she, too, is a gospel

singer.

Lola Falana, a sexy and beautiful dancer, actress and singer was brought to the public attention by Sammy Davis, Jr. in the 60's, but she gave up show business. She says that her Catholic faith dictated that she do that.

Cindy Birdsong, a member of the Supremes from 1967 to 1972 and again from 1974 to 1976 is now very spiritually oriented. She is happy to share the Word, although she has no problem in singing Supreme hits



when the time is right.

Like the song says, "Everything must change."

Steve Holsey is the Entertainment for the Michigan Chronicle.

## Summerville's 2nd Annual Pioneer Gospel Music Award touted highly successful



On the left is pictured Bishop F.C. Barnes, world renowned gospel recording artist along with Reggie Price of WOOW Radio. On the right are the Sensational Nightingales along with Mildred Summerville (center) holding a plaque honoring the Sensational Nightingales and Albertina Walker following the concert that was recently held at Fikes High School in Wilson, N.C.

WILSON - Recently Calvin Suggs & The Carolina Spirituals, Bishop F.C. Barnes & Company, Rev. Ricky

Daughtridge and the Vision Choir, Boys In Christ Mime Team, Mt. Calvary Word Of Faith Praise Team

and Emcee Rev. William L. Neill hit the stage for a big show in Wilson to raise funds for the Rev. James &

Leather Summerville Academy and the Bishop F.C. Barnes Scholarship Funds.

The alternative school is a division of Teaching Academics for Life Learning Outreach Ministry for Life Laamlns I Outreach Ministry which is a non-profit, community-based organization serving Wilson and surrounding counties. The academy strives to accomplish to things: to increase human relations within the community by providing program and events that promote diversity and multi-cultural awareness and to provide vital solutions and alternatives for at-risk youths who are in need of a safe haven while suspended from school. The academy members also strive to address problematic issues such as high illiteracy rates, high school drop out rates by assisting students to obtain their GED, address delinquent behavior and suspension rates, drug abuse, HIV/AIDS/STDs prevention and awareness, crime and poverty.

This spectacular event took place at Fike High School in Wilson and turned out to be a very successful event.

### (It's The) Law Of The Land

Norman Whitfield

These are lyrics from the LAW OF THE LAND LP recorded by TEMPTATIONS (Circa 1972) - Ed.

Some people will always have it made... Some people will live in poverty for the rest of their days... Time marches on - Yesterday is dead and gone... Life is uncertain, let me hear you say 'yeah. Death is final, yes it is... There'll be days of sunshine and laughter - but don't forget you gonna have to shed some tears - oho. It's the law of the land - my brother - oh. Whether you like it or you'll understand - ah hey hey! It's the law of the land - hey hey hey. Laws made by almighty men: Live by the good book if you're able. You must play your cards on top of the table. When you gamble you either win or lose... In life ev'rybody's got to pay some dues - well. It's the law of the land - well well - well. Whether you like it or you'll understand - you can't change it. It's the law of the land - ah-ow. Laws made by almighty men - oh hey. Hey, it's the law, the law of the land... Whether you like it or you'll understand... It's the law, the law of the land - laws made by almighty men. Aah, Peace of mind can't be found. Until you find yourself - think about it. You might not like being who you are, but you better start to like you. But you sure can't be nobody else... In other words: I can't be you - ain't no way, yeah - you can't be me. Well well, that's how it is, my sisters an' brothers. And that's the way the good Lord meant it to be - hey-ho. It's the law of the land - well. Whether you like it or you'll understand - say say. It's the law of the land - hey yeah oh... Laws made by almighty men... Look at here... The course of a man's day is governed by clock... For your own protection your doors you must lock. What goes around comes around. And what goes up, yeah, must come down - aha. It's the law of the land - well well well well. Whether you like it or you'll understand It's the law of the land - well well well. Laws made by almighty men - aha. It's the law of the land - ev'rybody else say. Whether you like it or you'll understand ...

## "THROW YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR"

By Tim Butler  
Tri-State Defender

MEMPHIS - Hip-hop has become such a pervasive beast in society today that it's often good to look back and find out where the thing started. Of course, it's not what it used to be - it's been degraded and materialized now and sends out the wrong message to a youth culture that is in need of some good in their lives - but where did it all start? What are Hip-Hop/Rap's beginnings? With this in mind and June being *Black Music Month*, there's no better time than today to at least shine a brighter beam of light on the subject.



Hip-hop can trace its beginnings back to the early 1970s with Jamaican-born DJ Kool Herc, who moved to New York City in the late 60s, bringing with him something called "toasting." Toasting involved reciting improvised rhymes over instrumental portions of records, thus creating a totally new sound. It was Kool Herc that would yell out such

now day's common (perhaps too common) expressions like "Throw your hands in the air/And wave 'em like you just don't care!" This was known as rapping.

Of course, at that time "rapping wasn't a known thing itself."

In those days, rapping was known as "MC-ing." A little bit later, here focused on the turntables and let his friends do their thing behind the mic. They were known as Kool Herc and the Herculoids.

Who was the first person to "scratch"? That was Grand Wizard Theodore, who discovered scratching by accident. While his mother was complaining about the loud music he was playing, he held back the record and it began to move back and forth in the earphones. Some experimenting with this newfound concept allowed him to create something people could understand and bounce to.

One of the first rap recordings was the now classic *Rappers Delight*. The disc went on to become an international hit and the best selling 12-inch ever, selling over 2 million copies! This is where the phrase hip-hop was coined.

By the early 1980's Grand Master Flash had offered a demo to a group called the *Furious Five*, which was composed of Melle Mel, Cowboy Rahiem, Mr. Nese and Kid Creole. Although they didn't like the song, *The Message* they where recorded it and it went on to sell a million copies.

Planet Rock, with its infectious beat-background courtesy of Afrika Bambaata, became as influential a record as any in this new movement in 1983. It was Bambaata who was influenced by a German band called Kraftwerk. Inspired by Kraftwerk's



song *Trans-Europe Express*, Bambaata created his groundbreaking *Planet Rock*, which itself influenced many, many of rap's classic records. Hail to the African king, Bambaata, who laid it down for others to follow!

Roxanne Shante had one of 1984's biggest records with her *Roxanne's Revenge*, her answer to U.T.F.O.'s *Roxanne, Roxanne*. The record was a massive hit, selling over 250,000 "copies in New York alone. This was about the time that Run DMC came on the scene, with their new style of rap and wearing gold chains, leather jackets and unlaced athletic shoes. Their song, *My Adidas* was so popular that the shoe manufacturer paid the band a six-figure sum (way back then) and sponsored their tour. Naturally, this was first bands to be sponsored by corporate America - a trend that today has

run to disastrous proportions! You think today's videos are raunchy and sexist? Well, back in 1986, Luther Campbell and 2 Live Crew laid the foundation and created headlines across the country...people all over America were criticizing their sexist lyrics. Perhaps, this contributes to the group's fame. Their album *Nasty As They Want To Be* was an amazing hit and became the first album in the United States to be deemed obscene by the legal system. As a result, free speech and

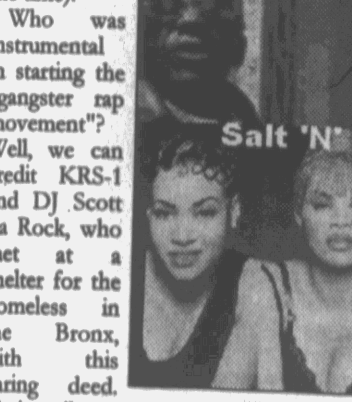
### The Origins of Rap Music!!

copyright became issue fought over in and out of court.

LL Cool J has been at it for a long

time, since 1987. The Beastie Boys discovered him in 1984, when LL was just a mere lad of fifteen. LL had the good sense to add an element of sex to his lyrics. The resulting, *I Need Love* was the first ever rap ballad (something truly new at the time).

Who was instrumental in starting the "gangster rap movement"? Well, we can credit KRS-1 and DJ Scott La Rock, who met at a shelter for the homeless in the Bronx, with their daring deed. Their album, *Criminal Minds*, was all about the gun culture. Strangely, or perhaps not, La Rock was gunned down in a street altercation that didn't even involve him. (Isn't that always the case?) KRS-1 went solo and began to



are not more groups like Public Enemy today! Let's not forget about N.W.A. (aka, Dr. Dre, DJ Yella, MC Ren, Eazy E, and Ice Cube). N.W.A. made their reputation on violence, guns and the sort. It was

promote a campaign to end violence.

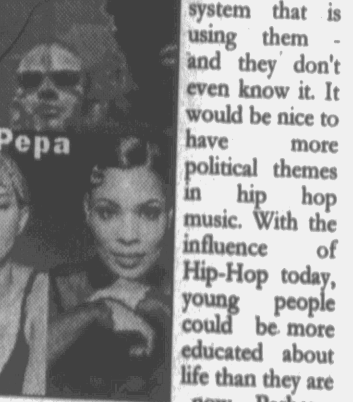
Enter the late 1980s and Eric B. and Rakim. It was this duo that is responsible for the controversy of rappers heavily sampling other artists' work and not being paid for the privilege. As a result, today if you sample someone else's work, you have to pay the originator for the use of his/her sample. And no doubt, founding artists everywhere are grateful.

It was Public Enemy who changed the nature of rap from being a purely party thing to putting in

some socially political messages. However, with themes of Black rage and alienation, there was much controversy to follow. PE's anthem, *Don't Believe the Hype*, was the battle cry for a generation.

(Too bad, today's rappers believe the hype and buy into a system that is using them - and they don't even know it. It would be nice to have more political themes in hip hop music. With the influence of Hip-Hop today, young people could be more educated about life than they are now. Perhaps, this is why there

are not more groups like Public Enemy today! Let's not forget about N.W.A. (aka, Dr. Dre, DJ Yella, MC Ren, Eazy E, and Ice Cube). N.W.A. made their reputation on violence, guns and the sort. It was



Latifah didn't start out in Hollywood, either. She was a rapper of importance. It was Latifah that opened the doors for other female rappers and gave us a picture of the strong Black female -

controversial then, but perhaps not so much today. Their hits like *F---k the Police* caused much controversy. N.W.A. reasoned, though, they were merely chronicling what was going on in the street. This has been the excuse even today.

Which takes Salt-N-Pepa and us up to the late 1980s. With their amazingly popular "Push It" song, this trio catapulted to success. However, they cut their teeth industry and didn't make a dime doing it. The inequities in contracts became a key issue at this time.

Salt-N-Pepa's debut album, *Hot, Cool and Vicious* stayed in the top of the charts for over a year. The Grammy organization even created a new category. Best Rap Act, to honor such work. Salt-N-Pepa didn't attend the ceremony when they found out the award wouldn't be a televised portion of the annual ceremony. It was in 1991 that these ladies released, *Lets Talk About Sex* and turned the cables on men, looking at them as sexual objects. Adding a little bit of girl power did the trick.

Actor Will Smith wasn't always an actor. He started out rapping in the late 80s. With DJ Jazzy Jeff, was simple, vanilla plain and youthful. It was also wildly popular. Enough said!

Another factor today, Queen



Latifah didn't start out in Hollywood, either. She was a rapper of importance. It was Latifah that opened the doors for other female rappers and gave us a picture of the strong Black female -

CONTINUES ON PAGE 5



You all here today are a part of history. We are conscious, we are not unconscious."  
- Angela Woodson, 36, Co-Chair, National Hip Hop Political Convention  
"We've gotta stop idolizing hip hop music as

something that's gonna save the neighborhood. It's a tool."  
- M-1 Mutulu, 32, Dead Prez  
"The Civil Rights Movement was lost somewhere, blocked, not followed through.

That's why we have to have this dialogue in the first place."  
- Ras Baraka, 34, Deputy Mayor, Newark, NJ  
Whatever gaps divide the

generations of Black America - in music, speech, and general "style" of life - they are secondary to the political divide that occurred nearly two generations ago when a segment

of the Black "movement" decided to abandon mass action. Large portions of an intensely self-conscious Black "leadership class" disconnected themselves from mass organizing, believing their own upward mobility to be synonymous with "progress" for "The Race" as a whole. We are reaping the whirlwind of the late-Sixties era political mission divide - which gives the appearance of a generational split only because those who abandoned the "movement" nearly 40 years ago (and their successors) have been allowed to dominate Black politics to the present day.

to enter and compete in white society as it existed. The "unfinished business" of the struggle was to further advance that class's interests, so that it might speak more effectively on behalf of - and provide role models to inspire - the rest of Black America. "Help us become rich and influential; it's good for the whole community," said the post-1968 Black leadership class, demanding support from the ghetto while simultaneously claiming personal credit for every achievement.

Conned from the inside

Much of the leadership class urged Blacks to rely on elections as the only post-Civil Rights form of mass activity. African Americans were instructed to fight for candidates on a seasonal basis, but not for themselves, or in any other forum. In effect, they were told to stand down until called upon at election time. Thus, the "movement" was disbanded, except for those activities that directly benefited the "leaders." Mass Black politics, which according to Julian Bond spawned 10,000 demonstrations in the year 1963, was henceforth to be confined to the polls. The decisive political domain would be limited to elected officials, the broker-politics of established churches, lobbying (a form of brokering), and the expansion and legal defense of past civil rights victories. This kind of politics works fine for the well-connected, who have plenty of private social, economic and political levers to pull every day of the year, but "trickle-down" Black politics led to disaster for the masses of Black people, now captives of a class that had only its own interests in mind.

Black youth were especially marginalized by the leadership class's insistence on narrow electoral and brokered politics. Mass movements cannot exist without the energy, creativity and risk-taking of youth - but the post-Civil Rights leadership class did not want a mass movement, nor was it interested in risking its newfound mobility. Put simply, with the exception of young people who might be groomed to the upwardly mobile, professional ranks, the leadership class had nothing that it wanted Black youth to do - other than stay out of jail and avoid embarrassing "The Race." That admonition was mooted

## Automotive Answers

### Hybrid SUV Sets City Fuel Economy Record 2005 Ford Escape Hybrid Takes On Manhattan Traffic Jams On A Single Tank Of Gas

(NAPS)—The world's cleanest, most fuel-efficient sport utility vehicle recently passed a difficult test with flying colors.

Ford Motor Company brought its new 2005 Escape Hybrid to New York City for the ultimate fuel economy test—to see how far it could be driven on a single tank of gas. The objective: 500 miles, equal to the total of every street and avenue in Manhattan.

The Escape Hybrid combines near-zero emissions and the fuel economy of the full hybrid electric system with the go-anywhere capability, toughness and cargo capacity of the Ford Escape, America's best-selling compact SUV.

That's good news for drivers concerned about environmental responsibility and also serves as a good business model on ways to deliver good products and a better world.

"The 2005 Escape Hybrid is the embodiment of Ford's philosophy—a fuel-efficient, cleaner-emissions version of the capable Escape SUV—and a crucial foray into the rapidly growing hybrid vehicles market," said Bill Ford, Ford chairman and CEO. "This vehicle represents an important, viable part of our strategy for sustainability in vehicles and manufacturing."



The Ford Escape Hybrid is the first go-anywhere hybrid electric vehicle.

So just how far did the Escape Hybrid go in Manhattan traffic? After 37 straight hours, the Escape Hybrid totaled 576 miles using 15 gallons of gas. That's better than 38 mpg.

With this exceptional fuel economy comes no compromise in performance feel. The car's 2.3 liter, four-cylinder engine and electric traction motor can team up to produce acceleration performance similar to that of the V-6 Escape model.

Hand-in-hand with improved fuel economy comes dramatically reduced emissions. For more information, visit [www.fordvehicles.com/hybrid](http://www.fordvehicles.com/hybrid).

## THROW YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 4

which countered the male-dominated portrayal of Black women up to that time. Long lives the queen!  
The early 90s brought more

controversy and harsh lyrics that were aimed at the establishment. Ice Cube went solo with his album, *Amerikkka's Most Wanted*. It went gold in ten days. Ice-T brought gangsta rap more to the forefront with his lyrics about prostitution, drugs

and violence. Much credit is due him for bringing in the debate of offensive lyrics. Parental Advisory stickers were put on records, thanks to Ice-T.

Some say he's dead. Some say he's still alive. Either way, the controversial Tupac Shakur came on the scene in the early 1990s. It was his second album, *Strictly 4 My N.I.G.G.A.Z.*, which established a worldwide name for Pac. The violent and poetic Shakur went out in a blaze of glory (?) when he was gunned down in a drive-by shooting.

In 1992, hardcore Irish rappers, *House of Pain* from Los Angeles had an enormous hit, *Jump Around*, a top-10 tune.

Much is remembered from this point in rap's history forward. But as a refresher, course: *Snoop Doggy Dogg* (as he was first known) got his start in 1993, as a protégé of Dr. Dre. Remember when he was arrested following his live appearance at the 1993 MTV Music Video Awards? He

was later acquitted of attempted murder charges in a drive-by shooting incident. Remember NAS and Puffy's controversial video where they depicted themselves up on crosses (a la Jesus)? Well, NAS got his start in 1994 with the gold-selling *"Illmatic."* His, *If I Ruled The World* was even more popular. Warren G. (Dr. Dre's half-brother) sold over four million units of his album, *Regulate - G Funk Era*. Motivated by Black-on-Black violence, Warren G help negotiated to negotiate a truce between rival gangs in Los Angeles. In 1997 Interscope Records, parent company of Death Row Records severed its ties with Death Row. And so did Dr. Dre and other artists signed to the label. Suge Knight, producer and co-founder, was jailed for nine years. Tupac's mother, Afeni Shakur, sued the company, accusing it of cheating her son out of millions of dollars.

(Note: The above was written using *Rapworld's* history of rap as source material.)

has also served as a producer, most notably on the Red Hot Chili Peppers "Freaky Styley" album.

There is no better place for the Funk to return than the Apollo, the-national landmark which is celebrating it's 70th birthday this year. One of the first integrated theaters in New York, the

Apollo and its world famous amateur night have given performers from Lauryn Hill to James Brown and Ella Fitzgerald their first breaks. In the midst of a multi million dollar renovation, the Apollo will soon return to its past glory, assuming it survives the Mothership's landing that is.

Not only a musician, Clinton

## George Clinton at the Apollo



will "tear the venerable Harlem hall.

The master of funk George Clinton will be bringing his unique style, along with the Mothership, to the Apollo on Friday, June 25 and Saturday, June 26 in two concerts which

Part of the JVC Jazz Festival, which will also feature world music icons Femi Kuti and Angelique Kidjo, George Clinton will team up once again with Parliament/Funkadelic to bring the P-Funk back to Harlem. Over the past thirty years Clinton and Parliament have created 40 R&B hot 100 singles and four number one hits including "Aqua Boogie" and "One Nation Under a Groove."

In 1997 Clinton and

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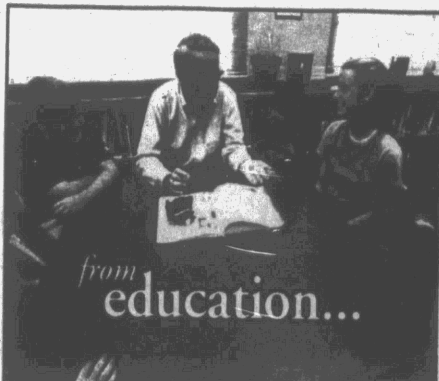


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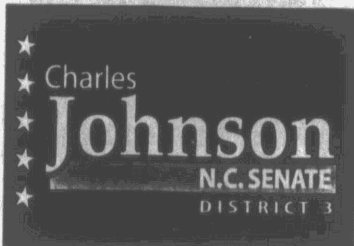
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You deserve representation in the State Senate by someone who understands our people and our way of life. On July 20th I ask for your vote to send me back to the North Carolina General Assembly as your Senator from District 3.



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## More On Your Voting Rights

CONTIUES FROM PAGE 6

do anything to have your citizenship rights, including your voting rights, restored. Those rights are automatically restored. If you have completed all parts of your sentence

for a felony conviction or have been pardoned, you are eligible to vote in North Carolina. In order to vote, follow the steps listed below.

### STEP 1 REGISTER TO VOTE

• Former convicted felons must fill out a voter registration form even if

you were registered to vote before your conviction. You can register at any point after completing all parts of your sentence.

• You can register to vote by mail. Get a mail-in voter registration form by writing or calling your County Board of Elections office, visiting a public library, or downloading it on-line at [www.sboe.state.nc.us](http://www.sboe.state.nc.us).

• On the form, it asks "where you now live." Use your home address (not a post office box). A postcard confirming your registration will be sent there.

• Mail in the completed form, with copies of any documents it requests, so the County Board of Elections receives it at least 25 days before the election.

• The County Board of Elections will send you a postcard, telling you which precinct you will vote in and where you can go to vote.

### STEP 2 VOTE

• You can vote at the polling place listed on the card or by Absentee Ballot.

• For directions on how to vote by Absentee Ballot, see Step 2 on the previous page. For information about voter registration, absentee ballots, or how to locate your County Board of Elections, contact:

#### State Board of Elections

P.O. Box 27255  
Raleigh, NC 27611-7255  
(919) 733-7173

website: [www.sboe.state.nc.us](http://www.sboe.state.nc.us)

## VIEWPOINTS Brown decision

CONTIUES FROM PAGE 6

failed and not the decision itself. One debilitating issue of Brown that concerns me is the increased social vulnerability of black youth and recent immigrants. They have not been taught basic American History.

They are insensitive to the American dilemma on race. As America moves towards Brown's centennial around mid-century, they could easily fall prey to social and political demagogues.

And finally, there is no collective excitement about Brown. But, the emotions, debate, and

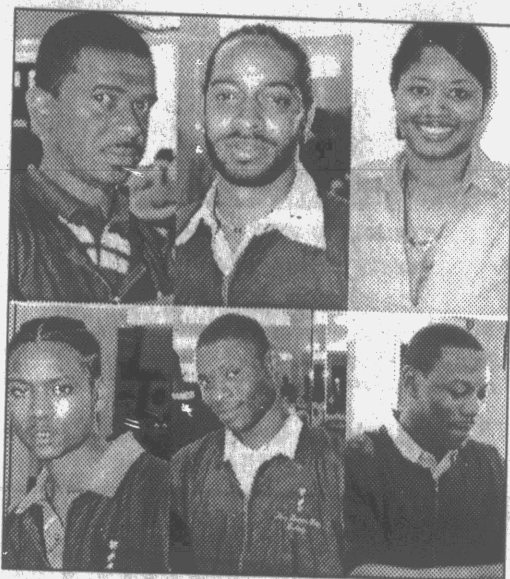
See those who find your road agreeable, your personality and mind stimulating, your philosophy acceptable, and your experience helpful. Let those who do not, seek their own kind.

Dr. H. Lewis Suggs is a scholar in residence at N.C. Central University Durham. Dr. Suggs graduated from Robinson High School in Winterville (Greenville Metro), North Carolina. This article appeared in the Durham Herald June 4th, 2004.

controversy of Brown is good because it has shaped the sociological construct of opinion which is important to decision making and interpersonal relationships. In Topeka, I concluded that Brown is a barometer of the rights and privileges enjoyed by all Americans. Freedom is not timid. The fight for freedom begins everyday in the mirror.

Dr. H. Lewis Suggs is a scholar in residence at N.C. Central University Durham. Dr. Suggs graduated from Robinson High School in Winterville (Greenville Metro), North Carolina. This article appeared in the Durham Herald June 4th, 2004.

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## IRAQ - Counting the Cost of the War in Iraq

By: Christina Royster-Hemby,  
[BlackAmericaWeb.com](http://BlackAmericaWeb.com)

As of yesterday, the war in Iraq cost Americans \$119.4 billion. That's a lot of money for anyone's pockets, much less all of America. But how are those dollars affecting the black pocketbook?

As of the 2000 U.S. Census, there were 11,845,257 blacks under age 18 living in America. "The average cost per child per year for childcare — including the 70 percent in after school care and the 30 percent full day care — is \$6,042," Paul Smith, a researcher for the Children's Defense Fund, told [BlackAmericaWeb.com](http://BlackAmericaWeb.com).

For one-year-olds, that cost increases to \$13,000. For \$119 billion, the U.S. could send

19,695,465 children older than one to day care, and 9,153,846 children less than one to day care.

In addition, according to Smith, the average health care insurance per child per year costs \$1,420. By comparison, the price of the war in Iraq could have paid health insurance costs for 83,802,816 children. And at an average cost of \$654 per child per year, the war could have paid for 181,957,186 children to be immunized.

Smith also said that at a unit cost of \$6,934, \$119 billion could send 17,161,811 children ages 3 and 4 to Head Start. Of the children serviced by this organization, 31.5 percent are black. That's 6,006,633 black children — every black 3- and 4-year-old over the next five years — attending Head Start.

According to the U.S. Dept of

Education, there were a little more than 3 million elementary and secondary school teachers in the U.S. in 1999-2000. With an average new teacher salary of \$30,719, \$119.4 billion could supply the U.S. with 3,886,845 additional teachers — or double the salaries of the existing teacher population.

"And \$119 billion is what has been spent to date," Smith said. "But the war goes on, and Congress has already appropriated this year's dollars. The total up through September 30th of this year is 149 billion."

In addition, the war spent to date in Iraq could provide inroads to students of color into Corporate America, according to Reginald Duhe, Managing Director of INROADS, Inc. in Northern California, an organization that serves black, Native American and Hispanic students.

Duhe estimates the total cost to provide students with internships and provide them with training and development.

"It's probably safe to say [the cost] is \$5,000 per student," Duhe said. "We have about 200 students here, but a safe guess is that our national organization sees about 5,000 students [per year]."

"There's a lot of students that we would love to service, but because funds are tight, we don't have the resources to get to those students this year," Duhe said.

And for the \$119 billion spent on the war in Iraq, INROADS could have made "inroads" for 23,800,000 students.

Aside from bolstering the financial investment in black America's children, the war in Iraq could also easily fund a host of small businesses in South Africa. According to Malcolm Graham, Executive Director of African Enterprise, it takes less than \$2,000 dollars to fund a shoe repair, laundry, fence-building, beauty or mining business in South Africa.

And if \$2,000 is the high side, that's 59,500,000 new black businesses.

Here are a few other things the money spent on the war in Iraq could buy:

— It could pay tuition and fees for 2,653,333 people — nearly every black child in high school in America — to attend Howard University for four years, based on the current cost of \$10,935 per year times four.

— Or purchase 1,672,522,839 shares of Nike stock at \$71.15 per share. — Or put 3,131,743 people in the driver's seat of a 2002 model Cadillac Escalade from Carmax that's one for every 12 black Americans.

— Or buy 17,024,320,457 boxes of Just for Men Natural Black Hair tonic at 6.99 per box.

— Or purchase a \$2,749 owner's suite on Royal Caribbean's Explorer of the Seas for a seven-night western Caribbean cruise from Miami, Fla., for 43,433,975 people, or every black person in America and then some.

— Or purchase 58,048,780,487 gallons of gas, at a national average of \$2.05 a gallon, according to the report by the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

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Love is friendship set on fire.  
—Jeremy Taylor  
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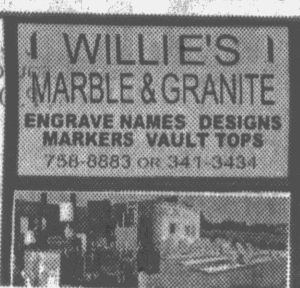
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# Free Poetry Contest Open to Greenville residents

OWINGS MILLS, MD - The International Library of Poetry has announced that \$58,000.00 in prizes will be awarded this year in the International Open Poetry Contest. Poets from the Greenville area, particularly

beginners, are welcome to try to win their share of over 250 prizes. The deadline for the conte is September 30, 2004. The contest is open to everyone and entry is FREE.

"Any poet, whether

previously published or not, can be a winner," stated Christina Baylon, Conte Director. "When people learn about out free poetry contest, they suddenly realize that their own poetic we of art can win

cash prizes, as well as gain national recognition," continued Baylon.

To enter, send ONE original poem, any subject and any style to: The International Library of Poetry Suite 19920, 1

Poetry Plaza, Owings Mills, MD 21117. The poem should be 20 lines or less, and the poet's name and address should appear on the top of the page. Entries must be postmarked or sent via the Internet by September 30, 2004. You may also enter online at [www.poetry.com](http://www.poetry.com)

The International Library of Poetry, founded in 1982, is the largest poetry organization in the world.

## It's almost time for Hampton Jazz Fest

The 37th Annual Hampton Jazz Festival is set for June 25-27 in Hampton, Vir. Among the artists who will perform are Kem, Gladys Knight, The

Gap Band, Alex Bugnon, Patti La-Belle, Dave Koz and Friends featuring Rick Braun, Jonathan Butter, The Dells, Stephanie Mills, Gerald Levert, and Floetry.

Tickets are available through all Ticket-Master locations.

Festival patrons can receive additional information by calling 757-896-1346 or go online at [www.hamptonjazzfestival.com](http://www.hamptonjazzfestival.com).

Persons interested in overnight accommodations information can contact the Hampton Visitor Center at 800-800-2202. Tour operators and group travelers requiring itin-erary and planning assistance can contact Bruce Newton at 800-487-8778.

# Ten telltale signs is your Teen using Marijuana?

Recognizing teen drug use can be difficult. Teenage years are often plagued with mood swings and attitude changes. But sometimes, these changes are signs of other issues going on in their lives, such as marijuana use. Marijuana is the most widely used illicit drug among America's youth. As a parent, it's important for you to know the warning signs.

What should a parent look for? Some signs appear in the form of depression, withdrawal, and carelessness with grooming or hostility. Consider every area of your teen's life to decide if changes are out of the ordinary, such as:

1. Changes in friends.
2. Declining grades, negative changes in

schoolwork or missing school.

3. Increased secrecy about possessions or activities.
4. Use of incense, room deodorant or perfume to hide, since room deodorant or perfume to hide smoke or chemical odors.
5. Subtle changes in conversation with friends, e.g., more secretive, using "coded" language.
6. Change in clothing choices: new fascination with clothes that highlight drug use.
7. Increase in borrowing money.
8. Evidence of drug paraphernalia, such as pipes, rolling papers, etc.
9. New use of mouthwash or breath

mint to cover up smell of smoke.

10. Bottles of eye drops, which may be used to mask bloodshot eyes or dilated pupils.

These changes often signal that something harmful is going on, and often that involves drugs. You may want to take your child to the doctor and ask him or her about screening your child for drugs

Recent juvenile surveys showed that:

Black teens are more likely than their White peers to say that all or most of their friends use marijuana regularly or not occasionally.

Marijuana is the primary drug of

choice for 66 percent of all African-American youths admitted for drug treatment.

Nearly 50 percent of all youth substance abuse treatment admissions nationwide are for marijuana; African Americans make up 23 percent.

Need free materials and more information on how to keep your teen drug-free? Call the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information at 1-800-788-2800 or visit [www.TheAntiDrug.com](http://www.TheAntiDrug.com) Help educates teens on the danger of drugs! Encourage them to visit [www.FreeVibe.com](http://www.FreeVibe.com).

# Winterville Senior Citizen Club Crowns King & Queen



WINTERVILLE - The 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration for the Winterville Senior Citizens Club also as a Fund-raiser to buy a van. The Winterville Senior Citizens Club celebrated its 12 anniversary on May 15th at City Hotel and Bistro in Greenville. More than 70 seniors and their guest attended. The event was a fund-raiser for the purpose of purchasing a van, which will be use for trips and -outing activities. A fashion show and parade of hats was presented

by Stitches in Winterville with Winterville Senior Citizen Club member as models. The highlight of the evening was King and Queen contest. Selected King was 80 year old Jessie Roberts, who is retired from Greenville City Schools and the Housing. He has eight children, 12 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Mr. Jessie Robert received a boutonniere, free one night stay at Hampton Inn trophy, gift certificates from Trade. Oil. Golden

Cornal, Parker and Food Lion. Queen was 68 year Hazel Whitefield who is retired from PCMH as a emergency room nurse. She has five children, 11 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren. Whitefield received a dozen of roses, free one night stay at City Hotel and Bistro, trophy, gift certificates from Trade Oil, Golden Cornal, Parker and Food Lion. The first runner-up was Clara Clark 76 retired from PCMH in Food Service Department. She has 6 children, 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. She received a bouquet of flowers, gift certificates from Ryan and Trade Oil. The second runner-up was Irene McKnight a housewife with 2 children 7 grandchildren 4 great-grandchildren. She received a gift certificates from A Woman's Glory by Cheryl and Trade Oil. The contestants live in Greenville and Winterville. The club organized in May 1992 with approximately 16 members, now has more than 65. The club receives donations from local businesses club members etc. The Winterville Senior Citizens Club invites all senior in surrounding areas to get involved. Meeting are held the third Tuesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. - 2:00p.m.

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Mon	06/21/2004	6:00P The Max	DST
Mon	06/21/2004	8:00P GHA	Sertoma*
Tue	06/22/2004	6:00P North Care	Philippi
Tue	06/22/2004	8:00P Cornerstone	10th Masonic*
Wed	06/23/2004	6:00P The Max	Sertoma
Wed	06/23/2004	8:00P DST	Philippi*
Thu	06/24/2004	6:00P GHA	10th Masonic
Thu	06/24/2004	8:00P North Care	Cornerstone*
Mon	06/28/2004	6:00P DST	Cornerstone
Mon	06/28/2004	8:00P Sertoma	10th Masonic*
Tue	06/29/2004	6:00P The Max	Philippi
Tue	06/29/2004	8:00P GHA	North Care *
Wed	06/30/2004	6:00P Cornerstone	Philippi
Wed	06/30/2004	8:00P 10th Masonic	The Max*
Thu	07/01/2004	6:00P North Care	Sertoma
Thu	07/01/2004	8:00P GHA	DST*
Tue	07/06/2004	6:00P GHA	Philippi
Tue	07/06/2004	8:00P DST	Sertoma*
Wed	07/07/2004	6:00P DST	10th Masonic
Wed	07/07/2004	8:00P GHA	Comer Stone*
Thu	07/08/2004	6:00P North Care	The Max .
Thu	07/08/2004	8:00P Sertoma	Philippi*

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# OPINION - Kerry needs to articulate vision for black America

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., has a perception problem — one that he should fix quickly. It surfaced recently in off-the-record conversations between reporters and some key black Democrats who question whether the

party's presumptive presidential nominee is doing enough to energize black voters. Kerry's closest campaign advisers, these Democrats say, are lily white — a charge that Kerry's supporters dispute. For weeks now,

the Kerry campaign has tried — and failed — to put this matter to rest. In March, the Massachusetts senator met with the Congressional Black Caucus and assured its members that they would have input in, and access to, his campaign, the group's

chairman, Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., told me. **New appointments** Last month, Kerry — who has one black person among his four deputy campaign managers — announced the appointment of

several other blacks to senior positions in his presidential campaign organization. But the nagging questions, and the negative media reports about his problems with blacks, the Democratic Party's most faithful constituents, persist.

"I think people are looking at this campaign as a product, but it is a project — a work in progress," Cummings said. "One of the worst things we can do is to continue sniping at him (Kerry) when he is trying to do some good."

He's right. Left to fester, this gnawing problem will undermine Kerry's election bid in what appears to be a too-close-to-call contest. But fester it does, despite the hand wringing efforts of Kerry's backers to put this matter to rest.

"I know that our campaign has been diverse from the very start," said Marcus Jadotte, the black deputy campaign manager. "Twenty percent of our staff is black and Hispanic. ... We want people to judge us on the facts, not what some people are saying."

It's time for Kerry to speak up. It's time for him to seek a high-profile, public forum to quiet the bad talk about his campaign's lack of diversity. He should go on BET or TV One — the nation's two leading black cable television networks — to talk about his vision for America.

Kerry should make the rounds of black talk radio, seek a meeting with black newspaper publishers and meet with a broad cross section of black leaders and activists to personally address the concerns that have been raised about his campaign. He can't leave this heavy lifting to the members of his team, who have, thus far, failed to put out this fire. This isn't the work of surrogates.

## Time to get serious

Nine out of 10 voted for Democrat Al Gore in 2000. If Kerry is serious about giving blacks a place at the table where his most important campaign decisions are made, he should say so in a way that leaves no room for dispute.

Twenty years ago, Democrat Walter Mondale was slow to answer a similar rash of complaints about his White House campaign.

Back then, some black leaders complained that Mondale's campaign had no strategy for addressing the interests of blacks, a failing that caused Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young to grouse to a gathering of black journalists that Mondale's organization was being run by a group of "smart-ass white boys who think they know it all."

That swipe got a lot of media attention and belatedly threw Mondale's campaign into damage-control mode. Kerry shouldn't let it come to that.

While only 5% of blacks identified themselves as Republicans in 1984, nearly twice that number voted for Ronald Reagan in his landslide victory over Mondale.

"We've been assured that a plan is being worked out as to how the Kerry campaign will reach out to the African-American community to rally the Democratic Party's base," Cummings said.

Before that plan is unveiled, Kerry has a lot of work to do to answer his critics among black Democrats. The sooner he does this, the less likely it is that his campaign will be derailed from within.

DeWayne Wickham writes weekly for USA TODAY

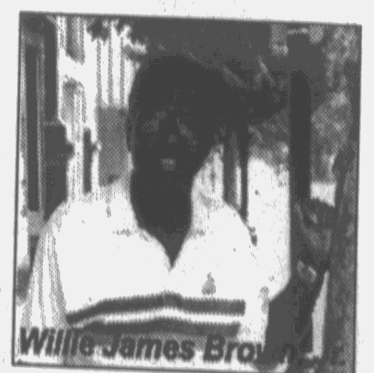
## POET'S CORNER

### I'M FREE

I may not own an island  
But  
I have no problem with that  
I know who made it  
I may not have money like you  
But  
What I have is mine  
Some people don't have any  
I may not live in such a big house  
But  
Where I'm at, I'm home  
Some people are homeless  
I may not have two cars, a truck  
A SUV, and a boat  
But  
What I have is paid for  
Is that a problem?  
I may not have designer clothes  
But  
What I wear isn't torn  
I'll boldly hold my head up and go on  
I may not have a huge bank account  
But  
I can read, write, know arithmetic  
And do use common sense  
I may not have lots of friends  
But  
That's ok, One has me  
And He's very good to me  
I may not have lots of things  
But  
I refuse to complain  
Lots of things don't have me  
Simply because

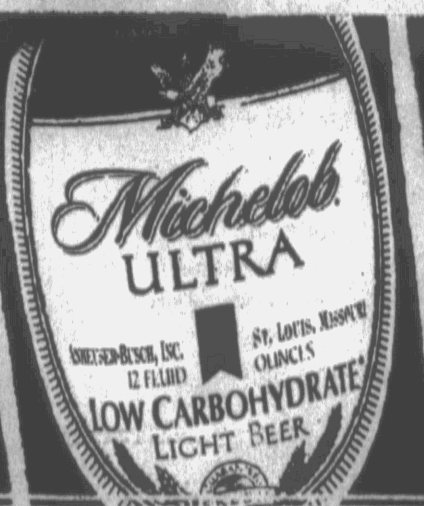
### I'M FREE

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Willie James Brown

## A Budweiser Pictorial Saluting... The Pitt County NAACP Heritage Banquet Recognizing The 50th Anniversary of Brown Vs. Board of Education



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# Community Voices

## From the Desk of Ms. Beatrice Maye



To the editor -

On June 20, we will observe the 95th annual Father's Day celebration, so happy Father's Day to all you fathers out there!

The importance of a father in a child's life is monumental. He is to

nurture his children by giving them instruction, protection, sustenance, companionship, assistance, love, discipline and example. "All children need a home where love provides security, where what is taught is not confused by what they hear and see".

The ideal father loves and understands his children. What, then, are his characteristics? He's a worker, who rules by love and not fear, who constantly doesn't scold the children for scolding is a hurt to the soul which is worse than a hurt to the body, and often leaves lasting scars. He praises instead of finding fault. He is an example for the children. He teaches them to use the name of God reverently. He cuts out bad habits because he knows they will spoil the lives of the younger ones

who will imitate him. He takes the family to Sunday school and church and he's not ashamed to pray, and thanks are always said at meals. He's teaching his boys by example, how to be the right kind of husband and father when they grow up. He's fair and just with the children, not playing favorite. He finds time to associate with his children. The good father plans with the family to go places and keeps his promises. The greatest gift a father can give to his children is himself and to love their mother. Beatrice Maye

A Model for Christian Fathers

Today the lack of right child rearing is contributing to the erosion of the family unit, and the decline of the family is a major cause of the societal collapse we see taking place

around us. Juvenile crime, drug abuse, psychological problems and even suicide are on the rise.

Are you as a parent allowing God to work through you? Human fathers need to develop the qualities God the Father exercises in caring for His family. Let's look at a few.

A vital quality Christian fathers need is right leadership. Notice God's command: "Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4)

For fathers to be truly respected, they must display compassion, courage, godly understanding and firmness. Yes, your decisions as head of the family will stand, but you will use wisdom in making them, and you will carefully consider the input your wife and children offer. Your children desperately need mature, loving leadership from you.

God the Father is a good provider. He supplies all His Family's needs. During the wedding ceremony in God's church, the man vows, before God, to provide for his wife. This responsibility extends to any

children they produce. "God shows His scorn for any able-bodied man who refuses to work when He says, 'If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat'." (Thessalonians 3:10)

A father, not only provides physical needs, but he must give himself personally as well. This means spending time with your family, especially at meals. When was the last time you took your family on a special outing? Do you plan ahead to spend meaningful time with your wife and children, fellowshiping with them, teaching them and enjoying each other? A father must provide emotional and spiritual support for his family.

Your children look to you for guidance. God the father teaches His children the right way to live, and He commands you likewise to train up your children in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6). Train your children to respect their elders. Teach them to take care of their belongings and the possessions of others. Expose them to the finer things of life. Learn to exercise discipline properly. Remember, too, that the example you set as head of

the home, teaches your children more than any number of lectures does. Do they hear you belittle your wife - their mother?

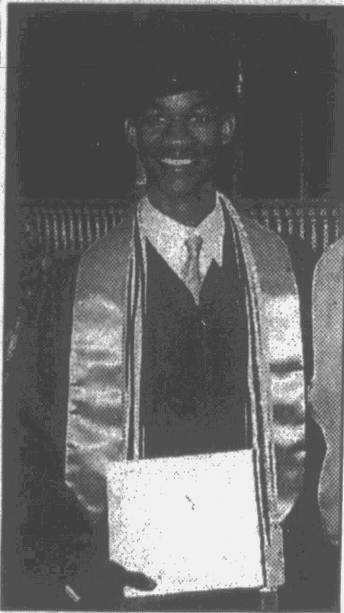
God the Father is consistent. The quality of consistency must be present as well as the makeup of a Christian father.

God is not the author of confusion, but of peace (1 Corinthians 14:33). In a consistently peaceful and reliable environment, your children can develop a right confidence in themselves and God's way of life.

Raising children properly in this world is a real challenge. God lays much of the responsibility in fathers. But you as a father can meet this challenge. God himself is your model. If you stay close to Him and practice what He teaches you in His Word, you can produce some fine young people who may be leaders in the world tomorrow.

Paul encourages, "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong: Let all your things be done with charity, love)" (1 Corinthians 16:14). You can be a truly Christian father and God will be well pleased with your efforts.

## The Makings Of A Morehouse Man



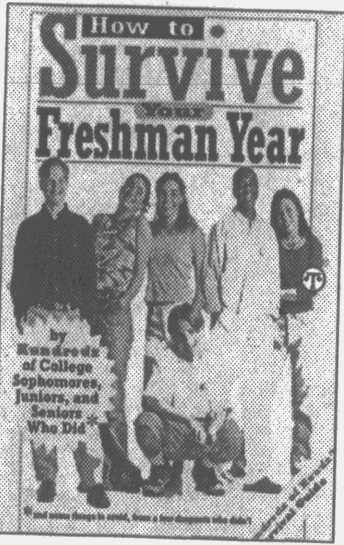
Logan Rishard Council

Logan Council heads for

Morehouse College in the Fall 2004 majoring in Political Science with the intent of going to Law School and becoming a lawyer. A 2004 Honors graduate of J.H. Rose High School, Logan graduated in the upper 8% of the class and wore seven honor cords at graduation for National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Social Studies Honor Society, Science Honor Society, Junior Marshals, Student Government, and Tri-M Music Honor Society. He earned \$362,994 in scholarship offers- four full scholarships (tuition, room and board) including Hampton University's Presidential scholarship, Morehouse College's Academic Scholarship, Howard University's Capstone Scholarship, and North Carolina A&T State University's National Alumni Scholarship; and a tuition only scholarship from Xavier

University-New Orleans. He also received the prestigious North Carolina Teaching Fellows Scholarship to attend A&T, the Mr. Esquire scholarship from the University Sertoma Club, the Nu Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Achievement Scholarship, and the Boulé Foundation National Achievement Scholarship from Sigma Psi Phi Fraternity. Logan served as Student Government President and was actively involved in numerous other activities, clubs, and organizations in school and in the community including Varsity Basketball, Symphonic Band, Boy Scouts, 4-H, NAACP, and SCLC. His proud parents are Walter and Mildred Council and he has one older brother, Baker, a 2001 graduate of Shaw University.

## Hundreds of College Students Share Their Secrets



(NAPSA)-Maybe one of the best ways to survive your freshman year is to talk to hundreds of college sophomores, juniors, and seniors who did survive (and even a few who didn't). That's what is offered up in the new book, "How to Survive

Your Freshman Year" (Hundreds of Heads Books, \$12.95). What's so special about your freshman year? It's one of the biggest transitions in a person's life. The anticipation can bring on stomachaches, teeth-grinding, and parental feuds. Happily, this book understands and asks former freshmen all kinds of interesting and fun questions about dating, roommates, money, free-time, and yes, even laundry. Ultimately, it helps new college students-all 1.7 million-get a jump-start on one of life's

most exhilarating experiences. The book's strength is its authenticity. The suggestions and comments are candid, heartfelt, and easy to read-real advice from real people offering 800 personal stories and advice tidbits. Now in bookstores, this must-read for all college freshmen also makes a great gift. Visit [www.hundredsofheads.com](http://www.hundredsofheads.com). Some sample advice: "Tackling your workload in college is like shoveling snow. Do a little bit every day and you'll get by."

## Don't Forget To Vote In The Primaries July 20th



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# Spiritual Awakenings



Pastor George Hawkins

Greetings:

I was talking in bible study about the fact that homosexuality is turning up in our churches, we are setting idly by, and not standing up for what is right in the sight of God. I realize that homosexuality will be in this world because of Romans 1:26-27 "For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due." Have we forgotten that God has a standard, and that is a standard of holiness and righteousness. If we don't live by the standard that God has set for us we will not inherit the kingdom of God according to Scripture, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God." Why have we fallen away from what is righteous, we have made wrong look right and right look wrong. This is another problem that is filtering into the churches especially the black churches, its called men on the "down low", I was watching Oprah and the featured story was about men who were on the "down low" this is when married "heterosexual" men have strictly sexual relationships with men in secret. The guest on the show said that many times he can pick up men at church. Is this lifestyle prevalent? You may ask and the answer would be YES! this is way more common than one might think. One of those people interviewed said that they have three male friends who were prominent in church, leaders, and leading double lives. Having been delivered of this sin, they discuss it somewhat openly to bring hope to those caught in this trap of Satan. The "men on the down low" phenomena, in

my view, will just prompt us to be more frank in our discussions of sexuality in the church. It's not about pointing fingers or pointing blame, it's about being open in our churches about sexuality. So, please, let's wake up! Okay? We are allowing the Devil to come into our homes, schools and churches and he plots to steal, kill and destroy us. How? I'm glad you asked, he uses a method of divide and conquer. In most of our churches we are so busy fussing about some trivial little mess while the devil is busy tearing down our kingdom and it should be the other way around. When are we going to live according to what the Scripture teaches and not by what we feel. John 8:31-32 "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him. If ye continue in my

word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." As Christian we need to know truth so that we can lift up a standard in our homes, schools and most of all in our churches. Until the next time, continue in the Word of the Lord and be

blessed. Remember the bible declares in Isaiah 59:19, "So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him." Apostle George A. Hawkins

TANISHA (T-TEE) JOHNSON

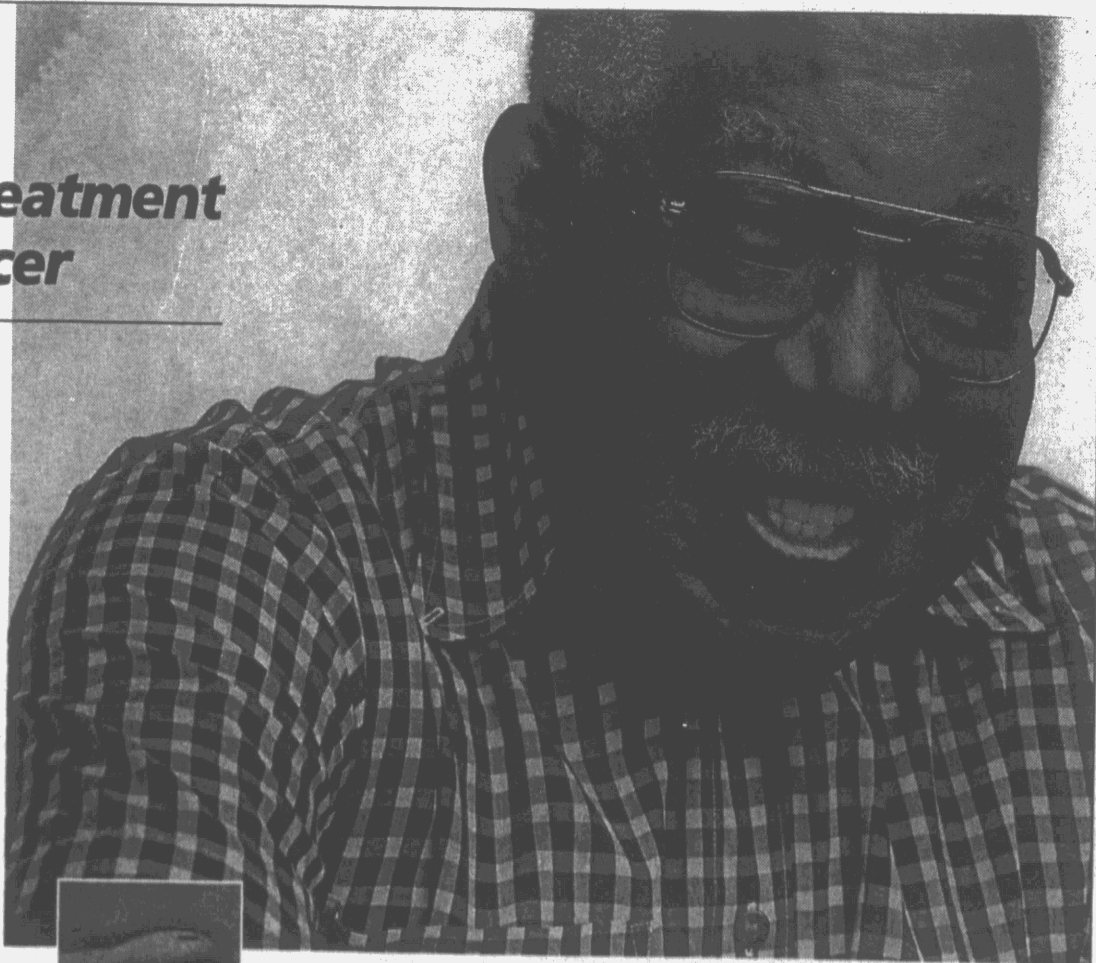
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Suejette Jones

Many things make life complicated for us. Here is a list:  
Big house. Big mortgages.

High-maintenance automobiles. Property taxes. Revolving charge accounts. Easy credits. Multiple credit cards. Credit card debts.

Not having time to spend with our spouses. Children who are difficult because we don't have enough time to spend with them. Ex-spouse. Family obligations. Ailing parents. Stepparents. Family expectations.

Having to hold down two jobs to meet the big mortgage payments, and the multiple car payments. Long commutes. Heavy traffic. Traffic jams. Traffic accidents. Grudging co-workers. Demanding clients. Staff meetings. Breakdown in communications. Work we don't particularly enjoy. Work we actively dislike. Working too many long hours, even if it's work we love. Unemployment.

Not having time to spend with friends. Not having time to spend

alone. Pressing civic obligations. Committee meetings. Social committee. Noisy neighbors. Incompetent physicians. Lawsuits. Delivery people who show up a day late. Repair people who never show up. Contractors we wish had

never shown up. Publishers. Clearing House mailing. Telephone solicitors. Junk mail. Having too much stuff. Alcohol. Drugs. Cigarettes. Taxes. Unsafe sex. Dieting. Exercise equipment we don't use. Over-the-counter

medications that don't work. Cheap gadgets that don't work. Prescriptions medications that may solve one problem while creating another illness. Choosing an HMO.

weather. Plastic grocery store. Baggies that don't open. Tax returns.

Sorry, but this is the real world that we live in.

Note: (Not necessarily in this order.)  
From: Living the Simple Life"

### MANAGING CONFLICT FROM A SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE



By Faith May

A conflict exists when two or more persons are working against each other because they are different. The difference may be based upon a different way of thinking, of different feelings or emotions. The difference may also exist because of varying goals, values, or desires.

A resolution is an arrangement that settles a conflict between people.

## Edification of a New Generation

Reduction of a conflict suggests that the point of disagreements has been diluted. At least there perhaps has occurred an understanding between the two parties that the reasons for their conflict may not be as important as they first thought. It may also be that a third party who is objective and concerned about the welfare of both people has helped create an informal agreement. In this agreement, both parties may have given an opportunity to see that the disagreement does not have to destroy their relationship. Conflict reduction can often occur simply by giving both parties an opportunity to express themselves in a controlled situation and by assuring that accurate information is shared.

It is important to remember that all conflicts cannot be resolved. Resolution is not always possible. As long as you, the world, the flesh, and the devil have power and pull at our behavior, total resolution of all conflict is not possible.

There are several principles of

handling conflict that we as parents and Christians can demonstrate:

Expect conflict to occur. As long as there are two or more persons it surely will. If we learn to expect it, we will learn more quickly how to reduce or manage it.

Admit when there is a conflict. Pretending that everything is fine when it's not will not relieve a conflict nor help you to manage it.

Each person must be willing to resolve a conflict or contribute to its effective management; however, resolution will require the participation of all parties involved.

If a conflict is going to be resolved or reduced, honest communication is critical.

In our homes, conflict can be resolved, reduced or managed through biblical principles that God has established. We cannot have the minds and hearts of our children full of conflict while they are home and expect them to act differently at school, at church, or in the neighborhood.

A key attitude that must be demonstrated in reducing, and resolving conflict in our homes is altruism. We must be concerned for the welfare of others, not just ourselves.

"Everything is permissible"----but not everything is beneficial or constructive."

"Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others." (I Cor. 10:23-24, NIV).

Source: Reclaiming Our Youth  
Author: Clarence Alston

Note To Readers: Ms May has a college degree in human services and has worked six years on the Adolescent Psychiatric Unit as a Mental Health Technician. It is her firm belief that it does no good to treat the mind and body and not minister to the spirit. She continues to uplift spirits whenever she can. She especially prays for our young people and hopes that her articles printed will help someone. She welcomes comments from her readers. You may write to her in care of the newspaper. □

### VIOLATION:

DO NOT BE A PART OF AN ILLEGAL ACT.  
EXERCISE YOUR FREEDOM OF CHOICE!

#### STARK ACT

The STARK ACT makes it illegal for hospitals to encourage patients' health care that comes from agencies that hospitals own or profit from.

#### ANTI-STEERING

Effective November 1997, it is illegal for any hospital staff member to recommend any provider for home health. It is the responsibility of the hospitals staff to inform you of all providers in your area that can meet your home health needs.

SUPPORT YOUR FREEDOM OF CHOICE

WERE YOU GIVEN THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE OR HAVE YOUR RIGHTS BEEN VIOLATED?

Learn more

[www.ncpatientcare.com](http://www.ncpatientcare.com)

This message was provided by  
The Southern Christian Leadership Conference

## NEED MORE MONEY?

People are making amazing part-time incomes and extraordinary full-time incomes

"12th Best Small Company in America"



"... It sounds like health-care before it turned into a trillion dollar industry."

The company that all of these publications are writing about is now looking for marketing reps in Greenville and other areas. For a personal interview...

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shelly Willingham for NC Senate



Our Issues...  
Our Community...  
Vote Shelly Willingham  
NC State Senate District #3  
July 20, 2004

Our Time Has Come.

## 'Let's Make Pitt County Great In '04'

### ELECT

**CLIFTON B. HICKMAN  
A BETTER CHOICE FOR  
COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT A**



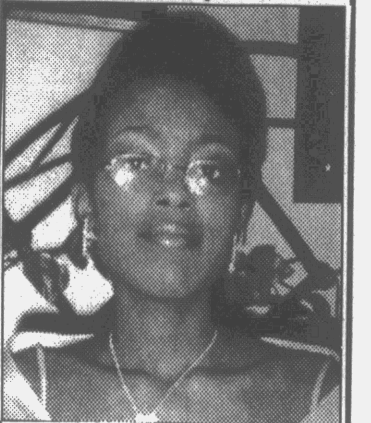
The Hickmans

- ✓ Equal Educational Opportunities
- ✓ Economic Development & Jobs
- ✓ Better Health & Housing
- ✓ Efficient County Government

Thank You for Your During The Primaries Vote on July 20, 2004  
Together We Can Make A Difference

## In Memory Of...

Tiffany Edwards departs this life.



Recently, Miss Tiffany Michelle Edwards who was born on July 27, 1986 and succumbing to an illness, departed this life on May 3, 2004, at 6:40 am at PCMH.

Tiffany was the daughter of Mrs. Dianne and Larry Edwards. She was a junior at Farmville Central High School and was an active participant in the Early Childcare programs. She visited various daycares and touched the lives of all whom she came in contact with. She was also a member of Unity Mass Choir. Her favorite songs were: *Amazing Grace*, *I Told The Storm*, *Lily In The Valley*, *What God Has For Me*, and *I'll Be Alright*.

Among those loved ones she leaves behind to cherish her memory, her mother, Dianne Edwards, her father, Larry Edwards Sr., one sister, Deanna Edwards, one brother, Larry Edwards, Jr., a special nephew, Naquan Johnson, all of the home. She is also survived by her Grandmothers, Minnie Edwards of Greenville, NC, and Alice Dranghn of Pinetops, NC; Grandfathers, Columbus Edwards of Farmville, NC and Joe Edwards also of the home; eleven aunts and a host of cousins, friends, and other relatives who will dearly miss her.

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YOU ARE

CORDIALLY

INVITED TO THE

ANNIVERSARY OF

MOUNT CALVARY'S

SENIOR USHER

MINISTRY SUNDAY,

JULY 18, 2004 TIME:

4:00 P M PLEASE

COME AND HELP US

LIFT UP THE NAME

OR THE LORD IN

SONGS WITH OUR

SPECIAL GUEST BIG

JAMES BARRETT

AND THE GOLDEN

JUBILEES

Mount Calvary FWB

Church

411 Watauga Avenue

Greenville, North Carolina

Sis. Johnnie Dawson,

Chairperson

Bishop Henry Brown, Sr.,

Pastor





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Interest  
Until Jan  
2005

# ZERO PERCENT EVENT

BRAND  
SOURCE®  
Your Neighborhood  
Expert

## GE® 17.6 CU FT TOP FREEZER REFRIGERATOR

- 2 Full Width Glass Shelves
- Clear Crispers/Snack Pan
- Gallon Door Storage
- Never Clean Condenser

GTS18GBR

**\$399<sup>00</sup>**

## HOTPOINT® 24.8 CU FT SIDE-BY-SIDE REFRIGERATOR

HSS25GFP

- Adjustable Glass Shelves
- Hotpoint® Filtration System Provides Cleaner Better Tasting Ice & Water Through The Light Touch! Dispenser
- Sealed Crisper
- Adjustable Gallon Door Bins
- Freezer Storage Bin

**HOTPOINT \$799<sup>00</sup>**

## RANGE

JBP66WHWW

- Self-Clean Oven
- Super-Large Oven Capacity
- TrueTemp™ System
- Ceramic Glass Cooktop
- Ribbon Heating Elements
- QuickSet™ IV Oven Controls
- ClearView™ Window

**\$499<sup>00</sup>**

## MICROWAVE

JVM1430WDWW

- 1.4 cu. ft. capacity
- Turntable
- Convenience cooking controls
- 1-lb. Quick Defrost
- Auto / Time Defrost
- Full-View Cooktop Lighting

**\$199<sup>00</sup>**

## Frigidaire

- 2 Full Width Glass Shelves
- Clear Crispers/Snack Pan
- Gallon Door Storage
- Never Clean Condenser

(FROST FREE)

FFU20FC4CW **\$479<sup>00</sup>**

FFU14FC4CW **\$399<sup>00</sup>**

FFU11FC2CW **\$349<sup>00</sup>**

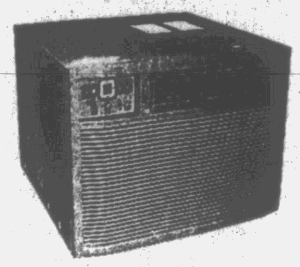
## CHEST FREEZER

FFC15CW **\$299<sup>00</sup>**

FFC07 **\$199<sup>00</sup>**

FFC0S **\$149<sup>00</sup>**

## Frigidaire A/C



FAC184N **\$379<sup>00</sup>**

FAAD55N **\$149<sup>00</sup>**

5,200 BTUS

FAS256N **\$499<sup>00</sup>**

25,000 BTUS

FAC126 **\$299<sup>00</sup>**

12,000 BTUS

## Whirlpool Pair **\$549<sup>00</sup>**

### Estate by WASHER

- Extra Large Capacity
- White Porcelain Basket
- Double Action Agitator
- 7 Cycles With Gentle 2 Speed Combinations
- 4 Temperatures
- 4 Water Levels
- Self-Cleaning Lint Filter

TAWX700JQ

**\$299<sup>00</sup>**

### DRYER

- Extra Large Capacity
- 4 Cycle/Auto Sense Dry System
- 3 Temperatures (in timer)
- Large, Reversible Swing Door
- Spill Guard Top
- Top Mount Lint Filter

**\$269<sup>00</sup>**

TEDX640JQ

## Whirlpool DISHWASHER

DU850SWKQ

- Energy Star® Qualified Dishwasher
- 4 Automatic Cycles
- 6 Clean Touch™ Control Pads
- Pots & Pans Cycle
- High Temperature Wash Option
- 3 Hour Delay Wash Option
- Air/Heat Dry Option
- Rinse-Aid Dispenser with Signal Eye™ Indicator

**\$269<sup>00</sup>**

## KitchenAid DISHWASHER

KUDIO1LBL

For the way it's made.

- Energy Star® Qualified
- Traditional 4 inch Console Design
- Whisper Quiet® Sound Package
- Commercial Grade Stainless Steel Interior
- 3 Cycles, 2 Options
- Tall Tub - Our Largest Ever!
- Extra-Large Silverware Basket
- Hydro Sweep™ 5 Level Wash System

**\$549<sup>00</sup>** All Dishwashers on Sale

## MAYTAG Energy Star Neptune Top Load High Efficiency Washer



**\$999<sup>00</sup>**

FAV6800AWW

- Priority OneSM Service - Offers an unprecedented level of after sale support including priority service scheduling.
- Backed By The Maytag® Dependable Performance™ Warranty.
- Front Serviceability - Makes it easy and less expensive to repair.
- Exclusive Quad Coat™ Cabinet Protection - Four levels of protection help prevent rust and cabinet damage.
- Dependable Motion Transmission - Simple design is sealed for long life.

**\$1199<sup>00</sup>**

MDE6800AYW

- Premium Porcelain-Enamel Top - Resists chips and scratches.
- Maytag® 5-Year Dependable Quality Warranty On LED Touch-Pad Controls.
- Priority OneSM Service - Offers an unprecedented level of after-sale support including priority service scheduling.
- Four-Point Suspension System - Heavy-duty front and rear suspension handles heavy loads and protects against wear on the motor.

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

**\$200**

Rebate

MCE8000AYW

**Laundry Center**

- Backed By The Maytag® Dependable Performance™ Warranty.
- Priority OneSM Service - Toll-free assistance and priority service scheduling.
- Lower - DuraCushion™ Dryer Drum - Chip and scratch-resistant and withstands a lifetime of tumbling.
- Lower - Four-Point Cushioned Drum Suspension - Heavy-duty front and rear suspension handles the heaviest loads.

## Come Visit Our 6 New Custom Kitchens.

Fisher & Paykel  
Innovative Living

dacor  
The life of the kitchen™

Viking

WOLF

SUB-ZERO

Thermador

Yes we have bedding  
As Low As  
**\$299<sup>95</sup>**  
Queen Set

Best Prices in Town

Does your body need re-energizing?

Simmons

FREE DELIVERY, SET UP & REMOVAL!

Come see our new showroom

The Simmons BackCare gradient support mattress meets your body's unique support needs - from head to toe, helping to maintain the spine's natural alignment.

## MITSUBISHI TV

42" WT42313 **\$1,499<sup>00</sup>**

48" WS48313 **\$1,699<sup>00</sup>**

- 65 inch Widescreen (16:9)
- AMVP™ Advanced Multimedia Video Processor
- PerfectColor™ Precision 6-way color correction.
- MicroFine™ CRTs
- StretchPlus Displays 4:3 pictures
- MonitorLink™/DVI Input Secure HDCP digital connection
- DefiEdge™ VSM Enhances image clarity.
- ColorTuned™ Diamond Shield™
- Three 480i/480p/1080i Component Inputs
- Auto Film Mode (3:2 Pull-down Compensation)

55" WS55313 **\$2,499<sup>00</sup>**

**\$1,799<sup>00</sup>**

## DLP TV SAMSUNG

- DLP™ (Digital Light Processing) TV
- Crystal Clear 1280 x 720P Resolution
- HDTV Performance with add-on HDTV tuner
- All format conversion to 720p
- Film Mode 3:2 Pull Down Enhancement
- 3D Y/C Digital Comb Filter
- 2-tuner PIP with side by side split screen
- 8000 Hr. 100-watt user replaceable lamp
- HD fine pitch screen
- No Screen aging or burn-in effects

46"

HLN467

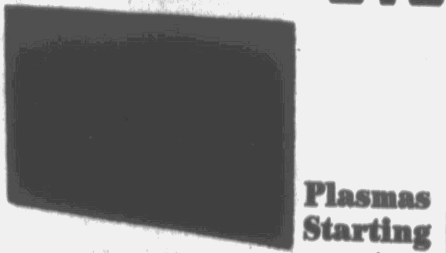
**\$2,999<sup>00</sup>**

56"

HLN567

**\$3,599<sup>00</sup>**

## PD42VW74 Plasma JVC



Plasmas Starting at

**\$2,999<sup>00</sup>**

- High Resolution VGA(853 x 480) Plasma
- D.I.S.T. 480p (Digital Image Scaling Technology)
- Flicker Free High Resolution Picture
- Digital 4 Point Color Management
- 16:9 Aspect Ratio

**\$4,499<sup>00</sup>**

## YHT-500 YAMAHA

### NATURAL SOUND ONE-BOX HOME THEATER AUDIO SYSTEM



**\$599<sup>00</sup>**

- 5.1 Channel Surround sound
- Infrared remote
- Expanded bass response
- Receiver with 4 video and 2 audio inputs

## SONY FLAT SCREEN

- 3-D Digital Comb Filter
- Velocity Modulation Scanning
- Auto 16:9 Enhanced Mode
- Component Video (Y,P,B,PR) Input
- Dynamic Focus And Picture Processor
- Side Speaker Design
- Remote Control
- Energy Star Compliant
- Silver Finish

KV36FS100

**\$999<sup>00</sup>**

KV24FS100 24"

**\$349<sup>00</sup>**

KV27FS100 27"

**\$399<sup>00</sup>**

KV13FS110 13"

**\$179<sup>00</sup>**

KV20ES100 20"

**\$279<sup>00</sup>**

KV32FS100 32"

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

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