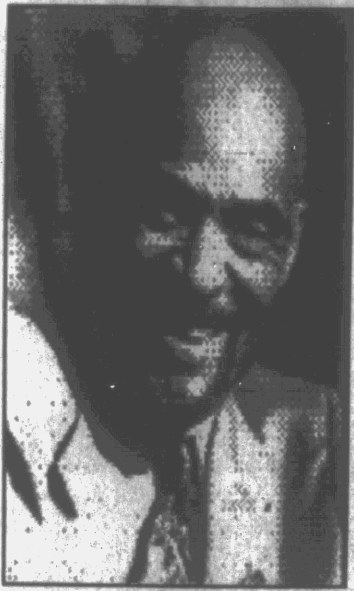


# M(y)-VOICE OP/EDS

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

## Keyes Candidacy No Laughing Matter



Earl Ofari Hutchinson

Pacific News Service - Editor's Note: Don't count out hardcore black conservative Alan Keyes in his run against rising Democratic star Barack Obama. The telegenic Keyes could tie down Democratic resources better spent on electing John Kerry.

The wisecracks and guffaws came fast and furious as the instant Illinois Republicans hinted they would nominate out-of-state Republican pitchman Alan Keyes to run against black Illinois state legislator and rising Democratic star Barack Obama. Keyes is the butt of humor because he's a carpetbagger. This is essentially the tag that he laid on Hillary Clinton when she ran for her New York Senate seat. He is a hard-line conservative who bombed in two presidential and Senate bids.

But Keyes' nomination is no political joke. He's got name recognition, is a polished debater and has a telegenic presence. With the monster national media hit that Obama got from his Democratic National Convention speech, the mostly idolatrous press he's received since then and a near-\$10 million campaign war chest, a challenger without the political savvy and name recognition of Keyes would be a lamb led to the slaughter. Keyes' opposition to abortion, gay rights and affirmative action, and his tout of school prayer are classic wedge issues Republicans are adept at exploiting. He could bag lots of votes from conservative Republicans in central and downstate Illinois. It will also be tough for Democrats to pound him as an out-of-state import. He can shoot back, "But what about Hillary?"

It can be said that Republicans played their own version of the race card by picking Keyes, in what amounts to a not-too-transparent effort to whittle down the massive support Obama will get from blacks and moderate whites. Still, the fact that Keyes is an African-American could allay the squeamishness moderate Republicans feel about his hardcore conservatism. Republicans can also stand that argument on its head and boast that the party is colorblind and that they picked Keyes because he is a seasoned political campaigner. Given the lack of time to get someone to challenge Obama, they'll say, Keyes was the best choice.

Keyes' past political failures are no indication of how he could fare in Illinois. When he ran against Robert Dole in 1996 and George Bush in 2000, he was the longest of long-shot presidential candidates and posed no threat to the frontrunners. His candidacy was unabashedly ideological and aimed at pushing Republicans further to the right on social issues. But the Illinois Senate race is different. A Republican, Peter Fitzgerald, held the seat for one term. The likelihood is that as an incumbent, if Fitzgerald had chosen to run he would have been heavily favored to win re-election. His retirement gave Obama an opening. In effect, it's a one-on-one contest for an open seat.

Obama, like Keyes, is still relatively unknown statewide in Illinois. He has the daunting task of introducing himself to voters.

The Keyes candidacy also poses a dilemma for Democratic presidential contender John Kerry, and potentially a dividend for Bush. Illinois is no lock for the Democrats. It's a highly contested, key battleground state. If Obama had faced weak or nonexistent opposition, he would have cakewalked to victory. This would have enabled the top Democrats to free up more money and exclusively devote their energies into mobilizing support for Kerry. But a hard charge by Keyes at the Senate seat could force Obama and the Democrats to spend money and time trying to win that seat.

Keyes has been roundly ridiculed for his outspoken and



inflexible conservatism. The thinking is that this makes him a political aberration with no chance of winning. That ignores some changing political realities. A July poll by Black Entertainment Television/CBS found that blacks are overwhelmingly hostile to Bush. But it also found that less than one out of three blacks are enthusiastic about Kerry. Other polls show that an increasing number of blacks, particularly younger blacks, call themselves independents, while a not-insignificant percentage of blacks say they favor Bush's

re-election. The rare times that Republicans have made a real effort to attract blacks, put money into a black Republican candidate's campaign and delivered on promises to pump more resources into health care, education, minority business and education programs, they've dented the Democrat's stranglehold on the black vote. That happened most notably in the election in 2002 of Lt. Govs. Michael Steele in Maryland and Jennette Bradley in Ohio. In the July Georgia Senate primary, black Republican Herman

Cain made a respectable second-place showing by emphasizing conservative Republican social themes.

All this does not mean that Keyes will beat Obama. The Democrat has charisma, massive support and plenty of cash. It does mean that Keyes can make the contest interesting and maybe even a real horse race -- and that's no laughing matter for the Democrats.

PNS contributor Earl Ofari Hutchinson (ehutchi34@aol.com) is a political analyst and author of "The Crisis in Black and Black" (Middle Passage Press).

## Bridge: Class and Classism



Hazel Trice Edney

Lately, I have been hearing derisive talk about impoverished Blacks that is hateful, elitist and downright classist. I cannot the comments racist, because ironically, they are coming from other Blacks.

Yes, there are difficulties among the poor blacks in America and there has been a moral and political disconnect but it is elitist and classist to pretend that any of these issues are solely the issues of the poor and Black.

Those who wish to rail against the poor without activism are no different from armchair quarterbacks

who criticize football games on their fat lazy behinds, without ever having stepped onto the gridiron.

Armchair activists view themselves as socially active because they support programs targeted at our best and brightest, even as they ignore the second best and the not as bright.

Any of us can point to the problems. What I would like to hear discussed are the reasons why the working class and underclass have worsened, because at that point we can begin to identify solutions.

For example, Blacks once enjoyed jobs that were easily obtained with very little education. Those jobs were adequate to support a family, even if on the verge of poverty. Changes in the economy have erased many blue-collar jobs, and today's minimum wage jobs are barely enough to raise an individual.

Add that to the growing difficulty in obtaining higher education, and young Black men find themselves on the path to prison more often than on the path to success. Many of the females left are raising children alone.

Simple realities of this nation's legacy of racism are still in place, even as people choose to place blame on the heirs of racism. Blacks are still the last to be hired and the first to be fired. The glass ceiling is still in place for those on the rise and there are sadly too many of us circling the financial drain, including the very poor as well as some of the so-called middle class. Bill Cosby's rage against the poor Black machine outlines symptoms of an illness. Part of the illness is abandonment by the so-called middle class, as well as civic and social organizations and the church.

Entities such as the NAACP and the National Urban League are like Black unicorns to the community. Ask many of today's poor and they have no idea where to find these organizations or what they actually do.

Some of our "benevolent" organizations, including Black fraternities and sororities are more concerned with promulgating their own legacy than providing community service to those in greatest need.

For example, what of those who have "C" or "D" average grades? Where are the programs designed to streamline them into colleges or trade schools? Where are the elitist classists to give them choices when the Armed Forces recruiters or the drug dealers or the gangsters come a-knockin'? Where were the elitists in the 1990's when urban schools began to fall apart and programs designed to give poor people choices evaporated?

I know where they were.

Absent. But they will show up to a rubber-chicken dinner all bathed and greased to honor those in the community who are already equipped with skills to make their way to the top of the heap.

Integration opened the floodgates for the best and the brightest to flee our communities. Black entrepreneurs close or abandoned business and so-called middleclass families evaporated from the hood of dreams of "movin' on up" were pursued vigorously.

Currently, the most impoverished of Blacks huddle in ghettos filled with the unemployed and the underemployed. A strong disconnect between them and the rest of Black society is growing each day, along with a strong distrust. Yet, many so called "progressive" Blacks now rail against impoverished Blacks without attempting to understand their conditions.

It took the Black church well into the 1990's to begin to address

community redevelopment. Sadly, for many churches, this means little more than erecting huge structures the homeless would be bounced out of if security catches them seeking shelter.

In many cities, the poor of color are left without intrinsic government assistance and without assistance from other Blacks, sending them into a whirlpool of devastation from which there is little sanctuary. Crime is now the basic economy.

Before Cosby and other elitists decide that today's poor are defective, let them be mindful that they are made of the same stuff but came through different conditions.

That is all that makes us different. The issue is class and classism. Those who are well off criticize the poor for behavior that is hardly endemic to poverty.

Dr. Cosby should know. It is still

See MyVoice Page 3

## Some Groups Have Been Working to Solve The Problems Cited by Cosby

By Hazel Trice Edney  
NNPA Washington Correspondent  
WASHINGTON (NNPA)- While comedian and philanthropist Bill Cosby was busy criticizing low-income Blacks for not fulfilling their obligations to society and to their race, there were thousands of people already engaged in helping the very people he was upbraiding.

"We run a wide range of after school programs across the country. And many of them are successful. We touch probably about 600,000 to 700,000 kids a year, which is considerable," says Marc Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League. "For example, we have a male responsibility program that we run in Chicago. I said to the director, "How many people do you serve in a year?" He said, "300." I said, "How many could you serve?" He said, "Awe man, I could serve 5,000 if I had the

resources." More than 100 Urban League chapters around the country, most surviving on corporate donations, foundation grants or government contracts, reach as many people as possible with after school tutorial, job training, leadership development and responsible decision-making programs.

The Urban League is among thousand of organizations that seek to address many of the age-old problems cited by Mr. Cosby. Speaking in Washington, D.C. at an observance of the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision, Mr. Cosby complained that "the lower economic people are not holding up their end of this deal."

He said, "These people are not parenting. They are buying things for their kids \$500 sneakers, for what?

And won't spend \$200 for 'Hooked on Phonics'...They're on the corner and they can't speak English..."

Psychologist Julia Hare, co-founder of the San Francisco-based Black Think Tank, says his comments would have been more helpful had he suggested ways to address the problems. She says children too often get the blame for circumstances over which they have no control.

"They're not responsible for the Ebonics," she states. "They're not responsible for the situation that causes them to stand on street corners. If you look at the figures, you have a society that will not employ their mothers, will not employ their fathers. In fact, you have a society that sent most of their fathers to prison."

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (AKA), the oldest of the Black

Greek letter sororities, has operated its Ivy Reading Academy for grades K-3 for nearly two years with \$15 million from the U.S. Department of Education.

Linda White, AKA's national president, eagerly explains why her organization chose to focus on the early years of a child's life.

"Children who have not developed the basic reading skills in the very early years find it extremely difficult to become competent readers in the later grades," she says. "And when they are unable to read effectively, then they don't perform well in the other subjects and other higher-level educational tasks and they don't finish school, they can't function in society."

Delay Davis, a sergeant in the East Orange, N.J. police department and executive director of the department's TRY (Together

Redirecting Youth) program, is using the police department to help rather than lock up troubled youth.

"They come every day and they go straight to the police department. We give them access to the Internet. They do their homework at the police station. My staff comes from behind the desk and the children take over. We teach them office skills. We show them value and love," Sgt. Davis says.

"We call it giving an overdose of support services for that child. In other words, while the parents may be drug addicted, it doesn't mean that child can't make it. They may say, "I go to the gang because it's protection. I go to the gang because they feed me. I go to the gang because it's my family." What we're going to have to do is make sure that child is eating every day, that we remove all of the factors that our children have told us as reasons for

them going to gang activity. We take those arguments off the table."

Such support and encouragement is crucial says Mary Lee Allen, director of Child Welfare and Mental Health Division at the Washington, D.C.-based Children's Defense Fund, a non-profit organization that researches and advocates on behalf of children.

"We try to ensure that there are comprehensive services and supports available to the children and their families because you can't separate a child from the family and community in which they're living and in which they're being raised," she says.

Mr. Morial says everyone has an obligation to help the needy. "Anybody who's halfway enlightened understands the interdependence in society," he explains. "You can't build a wall around yourself and pretend to be successful if there's pain and suffering all around."

take at least half as long to fix this mess as it did to create it. If that is true, let's get started as soon as possible. There is no time to waste.

M. Garrett is a Real Estate Consultant for the D.D. Garrett Agency, Greenville, NC

## Don't Shoot The Messenger...



Micheal Garrett

only mistake that I heard and read in the comments was the fact that he singled out low-income blacks and didn't mention that sorry parents are among all economic, social and racial groups. As a matter of fact, two TV shows, "Rosanne" and "The Osbournes" glorify low life parenting at two very different economic levels; poor whites and rich whites. There has been no public outcry.

Why is it so hard to accept Bill Cosby's message? Maybe it's human nature. Nearly every parent feels insulted if told how to raise his or her children, especially if it's not coming from a close relative. In our culture, we believe that you don't tell other folks how to train their children. The best you should do is to take your good advice and use it with your own kids. Although he not born into a wealthy family, "Coz" is well traveled, educated, street-wise and rich. He had to know that many people would take issue with his comments. Yet, he was man enough to forfeit some of his well deserved popularity by saying things in public that needed to be said in public.

On the positive side, CNN's

on-going poll of how Cosby's comments are judged by their audience reveals the following: 98% agree and 2% disagree with him. Thank God somebody is hearing the message. We may find ourselves shocked at how much noise and confusion that 2% will bring to the table if a national dialog arises on the essence of the comments. More than likely, we've already seen hints of the confusion tactic. Efforts will be made to divert the issue into abstract and complex ravings about different social classes of black people, about blaming the victims, the need for more "programs" or anything else to keep from focusing on our responsibilities as individuals.

Sean "P Diddy" Combs, the young music mogul recently stated that he has just become aware of how important exercising the right to vote is in the black community. During the week of the Democratic Convention, Combs kicked off a serious voter registration effort aimed at youth nationwide. He and the giant hip-hop and entertainment producer, Russell Simmons have recently made commitments to make their industry relevant to the lives of

their fans and to replace some of the negative images with socially positive ones. Now, if these guys and their proteges start talking, singing and rapping about parenting and voter education, something very meaningful could take place. Talk about a revolution

... that would be the start of it.

Yet, when we boil it all down, in a best case scenario, it will take the type of social and cultural development that will need to evolve down through at least one generation before the results are realized. That's the bad news. It may

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# Community Voices

## Reflections, Expressions & Reviews

with Suetette Jones



**Christ Is The Answer**  
Perhaps the most effective propaganda in the world is the satanic lie that the purpose of life is to experience an endless series of emotional highs --- from the sensual thrill of sexual promiscuity to the artificial highs of drugs and alcohol to the excitement of living on the edge and going to extremes. Our entertainment and advertising media shout to us that life is a series of electrifying experience -- and those who are not spending their time bed hopping or sky boarding or hang gliding are letting life pass them by. Certainly many of our younger generation are buying into this satanic lie.

The fact is, life was never intended to be all moonlight and roses, swashbuckling adventures or breathtaking journeys to faraway places. It is bitter irony of our day, perhaps more than in any other age, that we have more diversions, more gadgets, more satellite-TV channel, more websites, more computer and video games, more leisure-time diversions, and more pornography, more phone sex and computer sex, more drugs, more parties, and on and on and on and on and on and on---yet people never, more anxious, nervous, neurotic, depressed, guilt-ridden, fearful, insecure; restless, bored, or suicidal than they are today. When

we have surrounded ourselves with all that our dreams have envisioned we find our lives empty and still without vision we find our lives are still empty and without meaning. The promise of the good life is all a mirage. The Christian answer to this satanic lie of this world is found in John 17:13: "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I

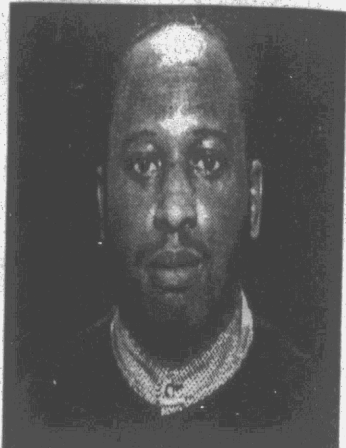
am still in the world, so that they may have full measure of the joy within them." That is where joy lies. That is where we can find fulfillment, meaning, purpose and blessing ... not in pursuing the will o the wisp illicit sex or adrenaline-rush adventures, and not in acquiring more and more material things. True satisfaction

only comes to those who are committed to Jesus Christ, who are in relationship with Him. Here is a way of living filled with an unexplainable joy that simply cannot be compared with anything else. Psalm 16:11 reads: Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy: at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

### POWER ILLUSTRATED

**"PROBLEMS, RESPONSIBILITIES, INTERFERENCES, DISASTERS, INTERVENTIONS, AND THE REMEDY"**  
Notice that I have revised six mini-topics to minister briefly on. My Aimed Hopefully; (depending on the receptiveness or rejectedfulness) of the Listeners, to get them to listen with an opened mind and ponder what have been written in their hearts and decide for themselves, which is God's visible Truth, and which is society's theory.

From that point hopefully, we will conclude everything that's been interjected with God's word, which is the best solution.  
My Topic of Interest "Youth Criminal Conduct"  
Trauma from school; socializing with delinquent friends, disobeying school Officials, running away from home, gang violence, disobeying parents, Selling drugs, undisciplined use of tongue (profanity), curfew violations, School Bombings, bringing guns on campus, all these are "problems".



Elder Chavis

## Annual William Whitman Peele Reunion Held



\$1731.00; new car~\$860.00; tuition to Harvard University~\$420.00; movie ticket-25 cents; gasoline-10 cents per gallon; U.S. postage stamp-3 cents.  
The reminiscences included national and world news, famous births, movies, music, sports, and much more interesting information. Charles Clarke, Jr. read and shared copies of actual documents recorded with the Register of Deeds as the information pertained to his great-grandfather Frank Peele and Frank's descendants. Frank was the oldest son of William Whitman Peele.

Saturday's reunion activities culminated with Bingo and awesome prizes for the winners. On Sunday, the family enjoyed Sunday school and worship at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Lewiston, the church from which most of the Peeles emanated.  
Later in the afternoon, the family gathered for a banquet at Cobbs Corner/Holiday Inn in Williamston, NC. Thomas Savage, Jr. was the emcee for the banquet. Frank Jackson, Sr. gave a heartfelt invocation.

Early in the banquet, a memorial service led by J. Keith Hancock allowed the family to remember the beloved deceased family members. Carmen Warren sang most beautifully "I Believe I Can Fly". Bernice Lee Perry welcomed the family to the banquet and Anthony Glenn Peele offered grace. Once again, the family enjoyed a delicious dinner, this time a bit more "dressy" than Saturday's casual picnic. Still, the casualness of family was evident as recognitions were given to newborns, newlyweds, retirees, oldest/youngest, farthest

travelers, and honorees. William Peele, Jr. read and shared with the family copies of history pertaining to his great-grandfather, William Whitman Peele, and his grandfather, Bethlehem "Tobe" Peele and other Peele descendants as told to William, Jr. by direct descendant Raymond Paul Peele. After Elizabeth Creecy, and Norma Creecy Jones presented the family tree, William Peele, Jr. gave remarks, the family sang the family song, Frank Jackson, Sr. bestowed the benediction and the Peeles headed back to their various homes in North Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, filled to the brim with precious memories of the grand 2004 William Whitman Peele Family Reunion.

Training up a child in the way in which he should go; obeying parents, Obeying school Official, obeying police Officials, studying to achieve an-Education, complying with household chores, all these are children's Responsibilities.  
Securing Laws prohibiting parents from instilling disciplined in their children; Arresting parents for whipping their children, all of these are Interferences.  
Televized Exploitation of Black Youth Offenders; Generalizations of Black Youths Under Achievements, Stigmas which denounces the intelligence of Today's Black Youths, Stigmas which exhibit how reckless our Black Youths conduct are, all these are Social Disasters.  
Juvenile Rehabs has become society's methods of Interventions for Today's Troubled Youths. But what

saith the word of God to society concerning this? John-15:5 "for without me, ye can do nothing". However I will give society A "B+ for Effort".

**THE REMEDY**  
First, Proverbs- 15 : 24 "The way of life is above the wise, that he may depart from Hell beneath". Thus saith the Lord, "Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the Old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your Souls". Jeremiah -6 : 16. SOCIETY AND OUR Government has swayed from the Pathway of God. Until we repent and turn from our wicked ways, there will be no Solutions to cure our children's destructive conduct.  
Elder Chavis served Sunday school teacher at the New Beginning Church of Deliverance under the jurisdiction of Bishop Jack Richardson

**LEWISTON - WOODVILLE** - On May 29, 2004, descendants of William Whitman Peele descended upon the lawn of the family home place of Bethlehem "Tobe" Peele, for the first of a two-day family affair.

Anthony Dark, who presided over Saturday's event, launched the reunion activities by calling the family to attention. Then Colleen McGlone led the family in singing the familiar song, "The More We Get Together" (the happier are we). Afterwards, Minister Cynthia Savage offered prayer. Hosts and hostesses Brittany Cherry, Shaniqua Cherry, Doris Knight, Ophelia Lee, Benji McGlone, Titus McGlone, Brian Peele, Dexter Peele, Latoya Peele, and Charles Ramsey, lit were on hand to welcome family, assist wherever needed, and/or serve as parking valets. However, Norman Cherry, Sr. offered the official welcome to the family.

Reunion president, William Peele, Jr. conducted the family business meeting. On the heels of the business

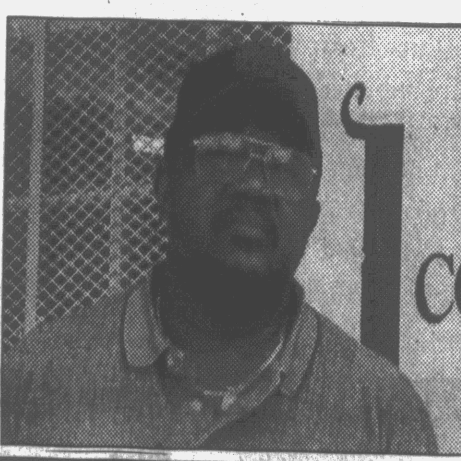
meeting was a sumptuous picnic of delectable Southern foods and home-baked desserts.

After Queen Esther Todd asked a blessing for the food, the Peele families and friends dived into an afternoon of fantastic fun, games, and entertainment for all ages. Thomas Savage, Jr. and family had set up an impressive stage for entertainment, equipped with karaoke provided by William Peele, Jr. At the appointed time, Elizabeth Creecy, Coleen McGlone and William Peele, Jr. bravely stepped forth to sing a karaoke number apiece. Each selection allowed the family to sing along, as well as take a stroll down musical memory lane.


Norman Cherry, Sr., William Peele, Jr., Coleen McGlone, Doris Lee Knight, and Lovieree Lee Warren offered nostalgic reminiscences of days of yore, particularly with regard to the cost of living spanning the 1930's to the 1950's. For example, in 1938 the average income was

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 <b>Mighty Mighty Allstars</b>	 <b>Evang. Mary White</b>	 <b>Tim Davis</b>	 <b>The New Golden Dove</b>
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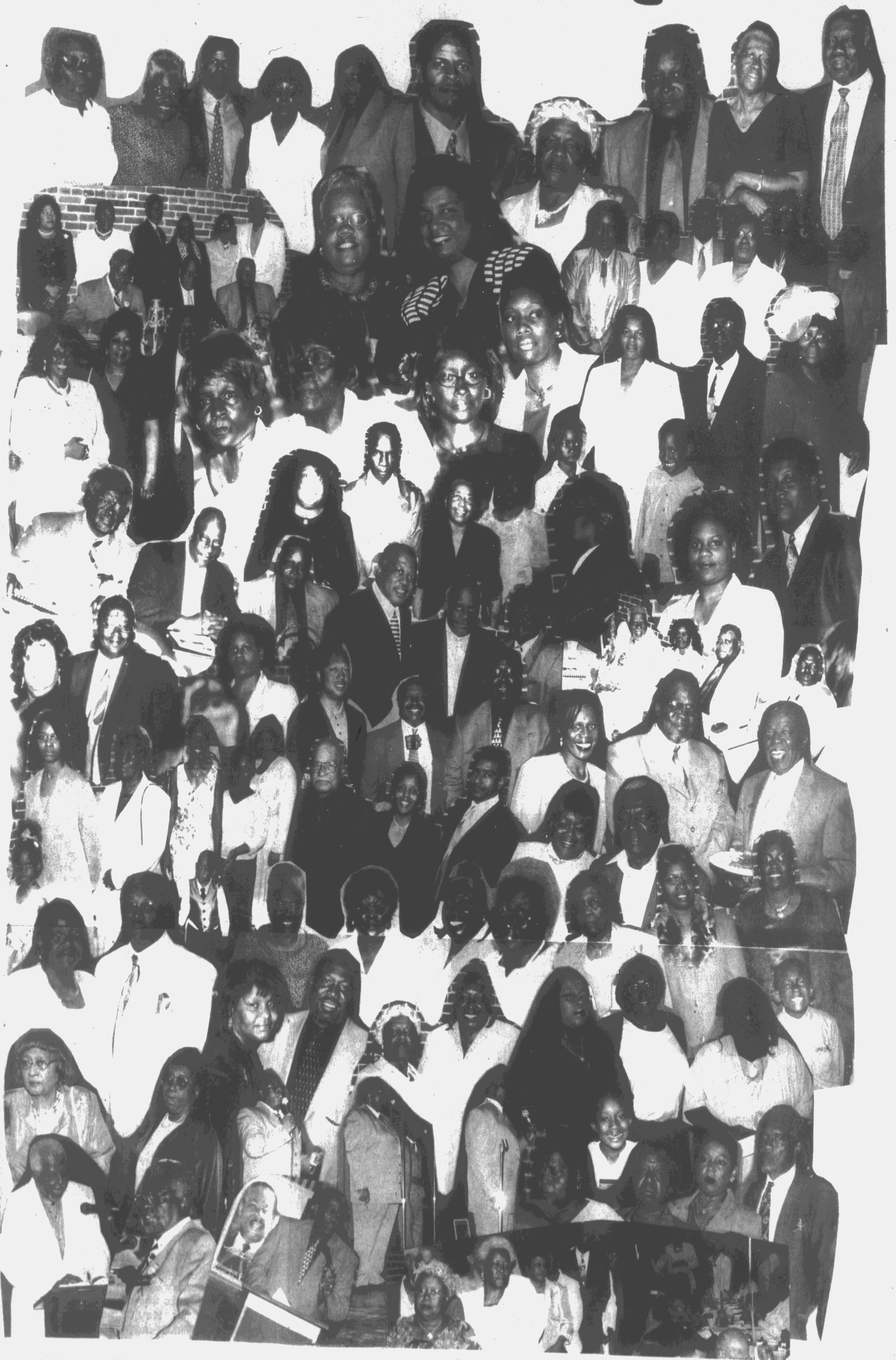
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