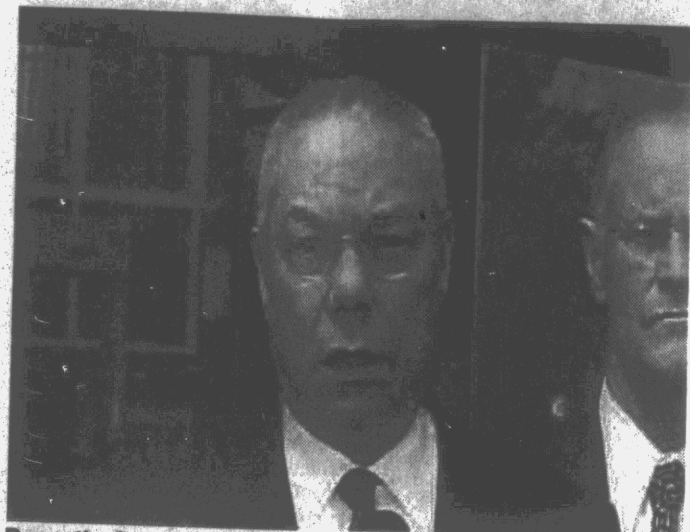


POWELL: SUDAN ABUSES QUALIFY AS GENOCIDE



Recently, Secretary of State Colin Powell said for the first time that genocide is taking place in Sudan and that the government in Khartoum and government-sponsored Arab militias "bear responsibility" for rapes, killings and other abuses that have left 1.2 million black Africans homeless.

by George Gedda
WASHINGTON (AP) - The Bush administration for the first time on Thursday (Sept. 9) called attacks in Sudan's Darfur region by government-backed Arab militia against black Africans "genocide."

The designation by Secretary of State Colin Powell came as a U.S. proposal in the U.N. Security Council to impose sanctions against Sudan encountered opposition. Powell told Congress that Sudan's government is to blame for the killing of tens of thousands and uprooting of 1.2 million people.

In recent interviews with 1,136 refugees in neighboring Chad, the State Department found a "consistent

and widespread pattern of atrocities committed against non-Arab villagers," according to a department report. It added that about a third of the refugees who were interviewed heard racial epithets while under attack.

Powell said that as a member of the 1948 international genocide convention, Sudan is obliged to prevent and punish acts of genocide.

"To us, at this time, it appears that Sudan has failed to do so," he said.

Powell's announcement came as the United States was pressuring the U.N. Security Council to impose sanctions on Sudan's oil industry, among other measures, if the

government does not take steps to improve security in Darfur.

Such sanctions are opposed by China and Pakistan, Security Council members that import Sudanese oil.

The Bush administration has not seriously considered sending troops to Sudan. The African Union, a continent-wide security group, has dispatched 125 monitors to Darfur who are protected by 300 African Union troops.

U.N. envoy Jan Pronk urged Sudan last week to allow more than 3,000 troops into the region to stop violence and to prevent the conflict from escalating.

In Abuja, Nigeria, where Darfur peace talks are under way, Sudanese Deputy Foreign Minister Najeeb El-Khair Abdel Wahab criticized Powell's action.

"We don't think this kind of attitude can help the situation in Darfur. We expect the international community to assist the process that is taking place in Abuja, and not put oil on the fire," he said.

The European Union also was critical. "We have not discussed specifically the use of the word genocide," said spokesman Jean-Charles Ellermann-Kingombe. "For us, we have noted that there is an extremely serious situation that still requires a huge humanitarian aid effort."

State Department officials acknowledged the possibility that the genocide designation could hinder U.S. efforts to encourage more robust Sudanese government efforts to protect Darfur's citizens. And Powell has acknowledged the designation will not lead directly to any material benefit for Darfur's victims.

The 1948 genocide convention defines that act as a calculated effort to destroy a national, ethnic, racial or religious group in whole or in part.

State Department officials could not

say whether any convention member had ever invoked the accord. U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said he believes Powell's designation was a first.

Other crises that often carry the genocide label have occurred in Rwanda in 1994 and Cambodia from 1975-79. Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic is facing genocide charges before an international war crimes tribunal at The Hague.

Congress this summer called the violence in Sudan genocide.

Under the genocide convention, the United Nations can take any action under its charter that it considers "appropriate for the prevention and suppression of acts of genocide," Powell said. He urged the U.N. Security Council to approve a resolution that asks the United Nations to look into "all violations of international humanitarian law and human rights that have occurred in Darfur."

The violence in Darfur began when black African tribes rebelled in February 2003, accusing the national government in Khartoum of neglecting their interests. In response, Powell said, Arab militias coupled with Sudanese military forces "committed large-scale acts of violence, including murders, rape and physical assaults on non-Arab individuals."

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., who has visited Sudan repeatedly, said the crisis "could be one of the greatest humanitarian tragedies of all time."

Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry said Thursday, "The United States should ensure the immediate deployment of an effective international force to disarm militia and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian



UN mull resolution pressing Sudan on Darfur - WFP Photo Nancy Palus

assistance in Darfur."

In a speech to the National Baptist Convention in New Orleans, Kerry said, "The Sudanese government has thus far rejected such force, but the United States should lead the United Nations, truly lead, in order to make plain that we're not going to accept Khartoum continuing to block its deployment." His remarks got a standing ovation.

In a separate statement issued hours after Kerry's remarks, President Bush highlighted American efforts to ease the suffering in Darfur.

"We have provided more than \$211 million in aid and humanitarian relief, and we will provide an additional \$250 million," Bush said.

He also said neither the militias nor the rebels have respected a ceasefire agreement signed last spring.

"It is clear that only outside ac-

tion can stop the killing," Bush said. "My government is seeking a new Security Council resolution to authorize an expanded African Union security force to prevent further bloodshed. We will also seek to ban flights by Sudanese military aircraft in Darfur."

The Darfur crisis has attracted the interest of many conservative Christian groups and civil rights organizations.

For example, Samaritan's Purse, a Christian relief organization, has provided food, medicine and other supplies to thousands of displaced families there, and evangelicals have joined with moderate religious groups to increase public awareness about the suffering.

On the civil rights front, the Rev. Jesse Jackson recently visited and has called for vastly increased U.S. humanitarian relief efforts in Darfur.

National Talk Show Host To Address Plight of Families and Leadership



Bev Smith - Talk Show Host
The Bev Smith Show/AURN Radio
GREENVILLE, NC - Youth Today, Inc., a local nonprofit agency recently in announcing its initiative in focusing on family and community will hold its inaugural event during their Eastern North Carolina Family Empowerment Conference

on Saturday, September 25th at the Greenville Convention Center.

Angel Savage, founder and executive director says this conference will become an annual event. Savage stated that the inaugural conferences' objective will be to bring families from all walks of life and family service providers together under one roof with one objective: "strengthening families."

She further went on to say that the multiplicity of challenges facing many families overwhelming and that she intends to make people aware of available resources that are in place to help them. "But more importantly," said Savage, "the success of this conference will be measured in part by the call-to-action for non-governmental agencies and individuals to avail themselves to the cause of strengthening our families." She added that everyone has heard the African proverb that it takes an entire village to raise one child and that "it was pass time to

literally drive this point home."

This inaugural event will also be co-sponsored by Burney & Burney Construction. The conference, which begins at 9am at the Greenville Convention Center, will host exhibits and performances for the entire family and the community. The first phase of the event will end at 4PM. The topics that will be discussed during that time will cover a speech and discussion on the Fatherhood Movement, making critical decisions, parenting teens; public health, a hair and fashion show with John Casablanca Modeling Center and culminated by a Gospel Rap Concert featuring "Future -- The Takeover with Brandon Dawson."

Beginning at 6:30PM there will be a Pre-Gala Reception at the Hilton Multipurpose Room where she will be joined by Joyce Mitchell, special assistant to Senator and Vice Presidential Nominee, John Edwards, Singer-Song Writer Ernest Silver, Comedian Huber "Poochie" Hammonds, Reggie Price of WOOW Radio and the Gospel Music Mix Party, Artist Richard Wilson and finally Bev Smith, herself. She promises that this will be an exciting day for all

those who attend.

Also, taking part in this event will be state agencies, churches, youth groups, support groups and local colleges.

MORE ON BEV SMITH...

Headlining the event will be nationally known radio and TV talk show host, Ms. Bev Smith of the American Urban Radio Networks.

In professional circles, this former investigative reporter is known as a dedicated, popular, and powerful social commentator. Ms. Smith's "Straight Up" commentaries have already generated a huge audience across the country. And now, first with four hours of the Bev Smith Show which initially aired nationally from 10PM. to 2AM and which has been carried locally on WOOW Radio for close to five years continues to be broadcast in her new time slot from 7PM to 10PM Monday through Friday. Her show goes in depth on numerous topics, tackling top politicians, and examining social issues that affect African-Americans.

Bev Smith is a media voice to

be reckoned with.

On the air for over three decades, she's appeared on NBC's "The Today Show," ABC's "Good Morning America," CNN's "Crier and Company," and "Larry King Live." Well recognized throughout the nation, Bev Smith has received more than 300 awards for her contributions to outstanding broadcasting achievement.

Bev Smith began her television and radio career in 1971 when she was named Pittsburgh's first African American Consumer Affairs Investigative Reporter for WPXI Television, an NBC affiliate. While a reporter, she received numerous awards for consumer investigation, including the 1980 and 1989 Pennsylvania Social Security Outstanding Journalist Award, an award that had never before been presented to any journalist and has not been given to a journalist since then.

Bev wrote a weekly consumer advice column, called "Bev Sez" for The Pittsburgh Courier, the nation's oldest African-American newspaper. She also hosted a television talk show,



Angel Savage - YouthToday, Inc
Founder/Executive Director,

"Vibrations." for KDKA TV. In 1975, she was named News and Public Affairs Director for the Sheridan Broadcasting Company (now known as American Urban Radio Networks). Bev also hosted a lively talk show on Sheridan's flagship station, **MORE BEV SMITH PAGE 3**

OPINION Why the drug war isn't an election issue - but should be

By Alan Heynmann

It has been more than 33 years since President Richard Nixon declared war on illegal drugs and called drug abuse "public enemy number one in the United States." Hundreds of billions of dollars later, with hundreds of thousands of Americans behind bars, we are no closer to Nixon's dream of a drug-free nation than we were in 1971. As with alcohol

Prohibition in the 1930s, drug prohibition has brought us far more problems than it has solved.

You won't hear John Kerry or George W. Bush talking much about it this fall, but the producers of the upcoming "American Candidate" series on Showtime have made drugs a key issue of this televised campaign - and for good reason. As former Gov. Gary

Johnson (R-N.M.) once said, the drug war is "the most important social issue in America today that has an easy, politically possible solution."

Regardless of political background, many agree that government should not be in the business of punishing its citizens for what they choose to put into their own bodies. Unfortunately, drug users have provided an easy target for politicians (of both parties) who

want to appear "tough on crime." Here are just a few examples of the abuses this has caused:

* Last year, nearly 700,000 people were arrested for marijuana possession.

* Armed federal agents continue to antagonize AIDS, cancer and MS patients who use medical marijuana legally under state law. The vast majority of Americans want these patients left alone.

* A college student can lose her student loans and her food stamp benefits if she's convicted of a drug offense. No other crime, including rape or murder bars Americans from borrowing money to go to college or receiving public assistance.

* In the name of "protecting the children," the federal government insists on an abstinence-only drug education program that completely ignores a simple

fact: some kids will use drugs. Encouraging kids not to use drugs is fine, but if they do, failing to make sure they have enough information at their disposal can be deadly.

* Instead of an honest dialogue among students, parents and teachers, the federal government is pushing a drug testing policy that requires children to urinate in front of strangers. Yet it remains easier for kids to buy marijuana than cigarettes.

* The drug war unfairly targets people of color. Of those in prison on drug charges in New York State, 93 percent are African American or Latino. A person convicted of selling five grams of "crack," which is stereotypically associated with low-income minority communities, receives a five-year federal man-

datory minimum sentence. The same sentence applies for selling 500 grams of powder cocaine.

Despite all the wasted lives and dollars, the tide seems to be turning against the drug war. This fall, the Supreme Court will hear a landmark medical marijuana case that could end the federal government's harassment of patients and caregivers once and for all. The author of the student loan ban for drug offenders has acknowledged that his legislation goes too far. And across the country, school districts are deciding against random student drug testing because it's expensive, intrusive and doesn't stop kids from using drugs.

Politicians won't take up this issue - or any issue - unless they hear from their constituents in large numbers. Keep the positive momentum going by taking action against the war on drugs.

today because Randall Robinson and his TransAfrica Organization didn't let up one bit in their pursuit to end apartheid.

The AIDS crisis would truly be beyond control had not countless men and women walked down city streets carrying candles to symbolize the many who died as a result of the devastating disease.

Yet, there are some ill-conceived marches and protests that have done nothing more than embarrass those who led them. But when a constitutionally guaranteed event is held with a sincere purpose and direction, the nation's attention can definitely be swayed to a particular position.

It is our desire that elected officials—Black, white, Hispanic, Republican, Democrat and independents—would not wave off the voices of dissent. Listen to them. Consider their appeals to your consciousness. What you may consider to be a bother today could very well be the catalyst that changes a nation for the better.

Buying The Black Vote

by William Reed

The Atlanta Inquirer Inc.
ATLANTA - With all the emphasis Black people put on "getting out the vote," shouldn't we be more vigilant regarding external forces that affect how and who we vote for? An example of how the more powerful Jewish lobby exerts controls over the larger Black electorate is the Alabama Democratic primary pitting Congressman Earl Hilliard against challenger Arturo Davis. The American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) is backing Mr. Davis' quest to win Alabama's 7th district congressional seat because of its dissatisfaction with Hilliard's foreign policy views.

While most Black members of Congress play down sympathies Blacks have for countries deemed as "off-limits" by the American political establishment, Hilliard has been more in line with his constituents. Hilliard's interest in Cuba, Iran and Libya rankled many within the Jewish political establishment but the straw that broke the camel's back was his decision to vote against a House Resolution that uncritically expressed "solidarity with Israel."

Many Black Americans, in contrast to the self-interests illustrated by their representatives in Congress, are concerned about the imperialism and rac-

ism evident in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Much of what is happening to the Palestinians resembles socio-economic ills urban Blacks face here. In the Palestinian territories almost half the working population are unemployed. The International Labor Organization (ILO) says that unemployment in the territories reached 43 percent during the first three months of this year. Economic output in Palestinian areas fell by 12 percent last year, while the proportion of the population subsisting on less than \$2 a day has raised to 46 percent and could widen to 62 percent in 2002. The ILO says the Palestinian territories are in a "socio-economic meltdown".

In Israel, the gross domestic product fell by 0.5 percent last year, while unemployment edged up two percentage points to 10.5. The Israeli construction industry has been hit hard by the loss of about 55,000 Palestinian workers, while the tourist sector is struggling with a 50 percent drop in visitors. Israel's lucrative hi-tech industries are suffering as a result of last year's economic downturn in the U.S. AIPAC's concern with Hilliard is that people like him could lead to increased Black involvement in supporting Arab positions.

If Rep. Hilliard's (and Atlanta Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney's) sentiments were to evolve into the leg-

islative position of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) it would interfere with the current grip AIPAC has on U.S. foreign policy and bring into plain view a latent disagreement between the Black and Jewish electorates over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Since 1978 AIPAC has had little to worry about from Black politicians in Congress. Out of fear of losing the positive media attention and financial support that can be garnered by the Jewish lobby, CBC members have swallowed AIPAC's positions whole. Only 5 CBC members out of 38 had the courage to oppose the House Resolution branding Yasser Arafat a terrorist, without proof or hearings, and which expressed the U.S. Congress' stance of complete solidarity with Israel. If AIPAC, which helped raise over 50 percent of Hilliard's challenger's funds, has its way in the Alabama and Atlanta contests the 5 CBC members that voted against the resolution will have two less members in their midst. Across the nation, over 50 percent of monies Black congressional garner for political races comes from outside their districts; Hilliard's and McKinney's race illustrates those chickens coming home to roost. What does it say if AIPAC is able to determine who represents Black people on the basis of the political candidates' positions on Israel?

AIDS. Abortion rights. Ending the war in Iraq. Stop the genocide in Sudan. These are some of the topics that were on the minds of thousands of protesters last week who converged on New York City to let their voices be heard at the Republican National Convention.

There were clearly protesters at the Democratic National Convention last month in Boston, but nothing approaching the anger and resentment toward President George W. Bush and his policies were seen in Beantown. While police put the crowd estimates at 100,000 or more, Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. and others said there were between 500,000 and 1 million people lining the streets of New York.

We aren't here to quibble about crowd estimates. What is truly important is that there are some Americans who are more than willing to not be silent critics. These folks chose to get off the couch or take some time away from their college studies, to let the

world know that there are some issues that are critically important.

There have been many others who tried to dismiss such protests. According to these misinformed souls, protesting is a thing of the past and really doesn't lead to an effective result.

We absolutely disagree.

If there is one person who is forced to stand up and have their voice heard, then the time and energy spent protesting has a desired effect. Our nation's history is replete with various causes that only began when an ordinary person or two joined arms with others to raise the consciousness of a people who chose to remain silent.

Were it not for the work of Susan B. Anthony, Harriet Tubman and other pioneering sisters, the women of today would not enjoy the rights they casually take for granted.

Nelson Mandela is out of prison

M(V) - VOICE

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

The goal is to create low black voter turnout Bush's Black Attack Dogs



The sham of GOP Black voter outreach is over and the true Republican mission has begun: suppress the African American vote, by any means possible. To that end, the Bush men have enlisted the mercenary services of Black front groups invented by rightwing foundations in the Nineties to push for school vouchers and other elements of the Republican agenda. These bought-and-paid-for servants of the Hard Right took to the airwaves in August calling themselves People of Color United and spending a rich white Republican man's money to attack Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry as "rich, white and wishy-washy."

Virginia Walden-Ford, the operative who placed the attack ads on Black-oriented radio stations in the "battlefield" states of Pennsylvania, Missouri, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin, is for all practical purposes a paid agent of the Bradley Foundation of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She is a founding board member of the Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO), the pro-school vouchers group conceived, birthed and jump-started with at least \$2 million in 1999 by the far-right Bradley and Walton Family Foundations (Wal-Mart). Since George Bush assumed office, BAEO and a host of its vouchers/privatization siblings - each the incestuous spawn of the Right's foundation funding network - have collected over \$77 million dollars in grants from Secretary Rod Paige's Education Department. In effect, Virginia Walden-Ford's BAEO - which received \$1.3 million in federal funds - has been "graduated" to a Bush administration functionary, while continuing to be subsidized by the Walton family, Bradley, and other far-right moneybags. These Black attack dogs are well fed.

WALLOWING IN THE SAME STY

Walden-Ford's personal fiefdom, DC Parents for School Choice, which shares a phone line with BAEO, receives money directly from the Bradley Foundation - \$125,000 in 1999-2001, according to journalist Barbara Miner. Writing in *Shepherd Express* in Milwaukee - an attack ad target city - Miner reported that Walden-Ford admitted also sharing Washington office space with Alan Keyes, the loony, perennial Black Republican candidate for office currently running against Barack Obama for U.S. Senator from Illinois. Unleashed, Walden-Ford is rabid. Miner writes:

As part of last year's debate over a federal voucher plan for Washington, D.C., her DC Parents group ran an ad comparing Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) to Bull Connor, who set dogs against civil rights protesters. Another ad compared Sen. Mary

Landrieu (D-La.) to arch-segregationist George Wallace.

Walden-Ford's previous boss, Robert L. Woodson, Sr., founder of the Washington-based National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise (NCNE), served as an advisor to Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich in 1996. Woodson's NCNE has received millions of dollars from rightwing foundations over the years, including Bradley. This year, the Bush men gave NCNE a half million dollar Compassion Fund grant to identify and develop faith-based organizations to bring into the administration's orbit. The Bradley Foundation invented the faith-based concept for the Republicans, as a strategy to bribe Black preachers into switching parties. Walden-Ford and her mentor, Woodson, are both deeply embedded in the Bradley-Bush matrix. As we said, this is an incestuous bunch.

The massive foundation - and now federal - funding to a tiny gaggle of Black hustlers, and the tens of millions now being distributed to the Black clergy through faith-based initiatives, is intended to create an alternative, conservative Black leadership, or the illusion of one. It is a project in which the corporate media eagerly collaborate. However, the political triumph of this subsidized, corporate-selected, phony Black leadership cabal is predicated on Republican rule. Therefore, their immediate assignment: suppress the Black vote.

The Walden-Ford ads, which mimicked President Bush's charge at the July National Urban League convention, that the Democrats take African Americans "for granted," are the "reverse of what the Democrats try to do," said Washington Post political writer Thomas B. Edsall in the August 16 radio edition of the Tavis Smiley Show. "The Democrats try to build turnout. These ads try to suppress turnout. It's an effort to keep the Black vote down on the assumption that Blacks vote Democratic."

Stephanie Tubbs Jones, the Black Democratic Congresswoman from Cleveland and co-chair of the Democratic National Committee, declared: "The reason they're running these ads... is that Bush has no record with regard to African Americans he can run on, so what he's going to do is go to the negative side. They are denigrating to African Americans, to think that African Americans would be stirred by an ad such as this to suppress the Black vote. The ads are paid for by white, rich Republicans."

In an interview with Knight Ridder newspapers, Bradley-Bush operative Virginia Walden-Ford tried to frame the ads in positive terms. "I wanted people to think about the ac-

complishments of the administration and how it affects black people's lives," she said. But the ads said nothing about the Bush administration or its policies - because there is nothing appealing to say. They were designed purely to discourage Blacks from voting.

Thus the farce - that Republicans were serious about garnering 15 to 25 percent of the Black vote - came to an ignominious end, in August. Back in January, Republican National Committee Chairman Ed Gillespie swore that increasing the GOP share of the Black vote was "a top, top priority." Yet before the most intense campaign media activity had even begun, the Republicans set their Black attack dogs loose with ads that blamed Kerry's absence from the Senate floor during a vote in May for the failure to extend unemployment insurance benefits - despite the fact that it was Republicans who opposed the extension. "Maybe Kerry thought the more of us who are unemployed and hurting - the more likely we would vote Democratic!" said the ad - as dishonest and cynical an example of campaign poison as has ever been broadcast on Black-oriented radio. The ad wasn't pro-Republican, it was anti-Black voting. The "alternative," conservative Black political leadership so expensively cultivated by the GOP and its affiliated foundations has one purpose: to neutralize African Americans as a political force.

And no wonder. There is simply no match between the broad Black political consensus and Bushite Republican ideology and practice. As Harvard social demographer Dr. Michael C. Dawson has observed, Blacks "could all look like liberal Democrats compared to the rest of them [whites], but among each other, some Blacks look like Mondale Democrats, some of them look like Clinton Democrats, and some of them look like Swedish Social Democrats - more of them look like that." (See *Analysis*, November 21, 2002.) Bush-type Republicans do not exist in statistically significant numbers in Black America, despite Armstrong Williams' high profile in the corporate media and Clarence Thomas' odious presence on the Supreme Court. Bush will certainly get more Black votes than he deserves, based on actual commonality of opinion - somewhere around the 8 percent he got in 2000. But the inferential data are more dismal for the Republicans than in any election since 1964.

BLACK VOTERS FIRED UP

A July CBS/BET poll of Black voters revealed the Grand Canyon that separates African American opinion and that of whites - and the ocean that roils between Bush and the Black electorate. Only 3 percent of Blacks are

11 percent are "satisfied." Just 11 percent believe the Bush presidency is legitimate, having won the 2000 election fairly. (Only 32 percent of whites think Bush is an illegitimate President.) A mere 8 percent of African Americans say the Iraq war was "worth the cost." Significantly, only one in ten Blacks think vouchers are the best solution to school problems.

The worst news for Republicans: 83 percent of Black registered voters told pollsters that they would "definitely" vote in November, up from 71 percent in 2000, when Blacks turned out in record numbers in many areas. GOP leadership is determined to blunt this fierce energy at all costs.

The Wild Card

There is a great anger among African Americans, which can be invoked with the mention of a single word: Florida. However, there is also a wild card out there, a joker that Black America has never before had to confront: the electoral effects of faith-based bribery of Black preachers. (See "Defunding the Right Rev. Dr. Greedygut," January 2, 2003.) Tens of millions of dollars have been doled out by faith-based offices in most federal departments: Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, Justice, Education, Agriculture, the Agency for International Development. In June, the faith-based political grab bag was extended to the Veterans Administration, the Small Business Administration and the Department of Commerce.

Thousands of Black clergy - heavily weighted with Pentecostals who, before the political money became available, largely eschewed temporal, electoral affairs - have applied for these grants and contracts. Are they capable of mobilizing large congregations for Bush, against the better judgement - the Black consensus - among church membership? The great

antipathy to gay marriage. According to the CBS/BET poll: "More than half (53%) of African American voters think there should be no legal recognition of same-sex relationships. Among voters overall, 39% share this view."

This is Bush's only opening for a "legitimate" inroad on Black public policy opinion. As reported in our November, 2002 *Analysis* of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies survey of African American opinion, self-described Black Christian "conservatives" in fact vote overwhelmingly "liberal" - that is, Democratic. Will the huge influx of Bush faith-based money sway the congregations? We shall see.

Crimes against citizenship

We estimate that the GOP and its associated troglodyte affiliates spent about \$7 million on Black media - mostly radio - in the 2002 non-presidential elections. 2004 will be a billion dollar spending spree. We can expect Republican circles to significantly increase their budgets for Black media this time around - and that virtually all of it will go to negative, attack ads, much of it fronted by their Black surrogates, largely drawn from the phony school vouchers movement. They will masquerade as "new" organizations such as Virginia Walden-Ford's People of Color United - but it's the same corrupt crowd of Black mercenaries, working for the Bradley Foundation, Wal-Mart and Bush.

Meanwhile, the more familiar, down-and-dirty forms of Black voter suppression will run rampant - that's why African Americans are so determined to vote, so that we can make up for the theft that is certain to be committed. MoveOn.org has joined Jesse Jackson and other Black leaders to demand that the Republican National Committee "disavow all forms of voter suppression, including voter intimidation, misinformation, purges of voter roles that disenfranchise qualified voters, the threat to discount provisional ballots, and other actions that undermine the rights of qualified Americans to vote." According to a paper issued by the NAACP and People for the American Way, The Long Shadow of Jim Crow:

This summer, Michigan state Rep. John Pappageorge (R-Troy) was quoted in the *Detroit Free Press* as saying, "If we do not suppress the Detroit vote, we're going to have a tough time in this election."

EXPECT NO QUARTER

It is foolish and ahistorical to speak of the possibility of tactical alliances between Blacks and the GOP. One cannot forge an alliance with the man who has you in his cross-hairs. After the 1964 presidential election, in which Republican Barry Goldwater appealed directly to the white Democrats of the South, the GOP began to consciously morph itself into the White Man's Party in Dixie. Like the Dixie Democrats, the Republicans fashioned campaigns that essentially ran against Black people. It became the Dixiecrat party, and has structured every national campaign strategy around its race-based stronghold in the southern states. Minus that secure base, the GOP would cease to be a national party - just as the Democrats would cease to be a viable national party without overwhelming Black support. This is the gridlock that history has bequeathed us, which cannot be changed between now and November 2, or any time in the foreseeable future in the absence of the most intense and consciously transformative work by Black activists and progressive allies within and outside the Democratic Party.

In that sense, nothing has changed since 1865. Except back then, the pro-slavery party (Democrats) didn't have a pack of Black folks in suits suppressing the freedmen's determination to vote for Radical Republicans.

COMMENTARY The Continuing Mis-education of the Negro

by Dr. Edward Rhymes

"There can be no great disappointment, where there is no great love." - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

I am disappointed, I am a bit dismayed and I am somewhat disturbed. Why, you may ask? I'll tell you. The remarks made by certain entertainers and personalities; as well as the apparent culpability of the "leaders" in the African-American community, has revealed a painful truth. That truth is not the supposed reluctance of the Black community to deal with its "problems," nor is it the alleged need for African Americans to "play the victim." It is the relative ease in which we as a people appear to believe the worst about ourselves. While a great deal of time and dialogue has been spent, lately, on our presumed sociopathic behaviors, we have ignored something even more sociopathic - our disturbing tendency to demonize ourselves.

It appears that if we hear something negative about ourselves we are quick to take ownership. "Black people are drugs addicts and drug dealers," and our response? "Yep, that's us." "Most Black folks are lazy and on welfare," and our response? "Yep, that's us." It seems that we don't challenge, we won't question and we do ourselves a great disservice. Imagine a patient who goes to see a doctor and the doctor tells that patient that he or she has cancer. The patient asks the doctor, "How do you know I have cancer?" The doctor answers: "I don't know; you just look like you have cancer." Now, how many of you think that's an acceptable answer? How many of you would just accept something that serious without supporting tests, data, a second or even a third opinion, at face value? Yet many of us will swallow the equally damaging and erroneous claims of "important" people when they attack our intelligence, our values and our children. And because we so readily accept these assertions, the mis-education continues.

Welfare and affirmative action have been touted as programs that have benefited blacks more than any other group of people. However, this is not supported by the facts. Let's take the myth that black women are the largest recipients of welfare and AFDC. The fact is that children, not women, are the largest group of people receiving public assistance. According to 1997 statistics (pre-welfare reform stats), less than 5 million of the 14 million public assistance recipients were adults, and 90 percent of those adults are women. The majority of the welfare recipients were white. The stereotype of the black "welfare queen" has been played

over and over again in the American media, causing unwarranted criticism of African-American women and the African-American community as a whole. Nonetheless, we as a people have swallowed this fallacy hook, line and biased-sinker.

Nowadays I can rarely turn on my television or radio without hearing some African-American analyst defending affirmative action (almost apologetically) as if we, as blacks, have been the greatest beneficiaries of it. This just isn't the case. Although ethnic minorities have greatly benefited from affirmative action policies, white women, statistically, have benefited more than any other group from affirmative action. Contrary to the popular notion that it rewards the "unqualified," affirmative action acknowledges the historical and present institutional and social barriers (discrimination, racism, sexism, etc.) that have hindered qualified applicants from receiving fair and equal opportunities. Education (and access to a quality education) being the primary factor in determining the qualifications of applicants for jobs, makes white women number one on the affirmative action benefit list. How? Affirmative action became a legal and social reality at the same time the feminist movement began to hit its stride. Many women (predominantly white women) who had been housewives and stay-at-home mothers (many of them were also college-educated) began to redefine themselves and enter the workforce to pursue careers. Also the rising number of divorces compelled many white women to seek employment and continuing education. The same affirmative action programs that sought to rectify racial bias, strove to remedy gender bias as well. Yet, we continue to allow ourselves to be the whipping boys, because we have bought into the lies, the stereotypes and the half-truths. The cruel irony is that these programs that have been cited as the diabolical champions of "lazy" and "unqualified" blacks, have benefited whites more than any group of people.

We are portrayed as oversexed or lascivious and yet the porn and adult entertainment industry is dominated by whites. Luke Skywalker, R. Kelly and Snooki are mere drops in the bucket compared to Hugh Hefner, Larry Flint and the Hustler, Penthouse and Playboy empires. Nevertheless, it is African Americans that get accused of being rampant, sexual beasts, unable to control our urges, unable to keep our legs crossed, unable to keep it in our

pants. And do we take a stand against such flawed and misleading characterizations? No, on the contrary, we are more than willing to accept full title to them.

I have also received remarks stating that I am acting as if we are an "untouchable race," that we need to be more "critical" of ourselves. These same people also confess a disgust at our young people's deplorable lack of knowledge of their "own history." I must admit that I find such allegations, almost pitiful.

There has been no group of people in the history of this country that has been more negatively touched on than the sons and daughters of Africa. We have been the victims of the most vile and dehumanizing stereotypes and labels that this world has had to offer. As far as the need for us to be more critical of ourselves; once again, blacks have analyzed, dissected and scrutinized themselves and their circumstances more than any group of people in the United States of America. Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Booker T. Washington, Alice Walker, Zora Neale Hurston, Toni Morrison, Malcolm X, James Baldwin, Langston Hughes, J.A. Kunjufu, Cornell West and the list goes on and on (not to mention websites such as the Black Commentator, Africana.com, The Hutchinson Report etc.). These insightful brothers and sisters have held a candle up to our psyches with their powerful and perceptive words. What more do we have to say?

It also seems that we love to decry the notion that our young people can tell us what the words are to the latest rap album, but can't tell us who James Baldwin is. My beautiful brothers and sisters, allow me to let you in on something: I have taught more white students than I have black students and I know a great many white students who cannot recite the preamble to the Constitution or the Declaration of Independence and can't tell you who William Lloyd Garrison is, but can tell you the lyrics to the latest Ludacris song. How come they don't come under the same condemnation as our African-American students? Once again, a shortcoming that is prevalent in society becomes a specific black identifier. It is those who continue to say that we as African Americans are not critical enough of ourselves, or that we as blacks believe that we are somehow untouchable, that are truly ignorant of our history.

We are crossing the dangerous threshold where myth is becoming reality and reality is becoming myth (this is increasing with each passing day). We

have cloaked ourselves in the stereotypes of the most contemptible aspects of this society and have treated them as if they are unique to our culture and identity. Makes no difference to us if the majority of drug dealers and users are white, makes no difference if the "typical" criminal is a white, non-Hispanic male or that black males are less prone to abuse their partners than whites. We have no problem believing that it is who are the greatest perpetrators. And those of us who reveal these truths are considered to be "enablers," "in denial," "playing the victim" and/or "making excuses." As I have viewed the writings of other contemporary thinkers - my radical and progressive brothers and sisters (this includes thinkers such as Tim Wise and Noam Chomsky) - not one of them has hinted that racism, poverty or any other societal factor, is an excuse for any people to disregard personal responsibility. Nonetheless, that is the charge that is usually leveled against us frequently and furiously.

If we are so ready to condemn, then why are we not equally ready to commend? Where was the "well done" for our young black sisters when the press release from the National Center for Health Statistics (dated December 17, 2003) stated that teenage pregnancy had gone down by 30 percent in the past decade and that the sharpest drop of any group was African-American teenage girls - 40% in the last decade and 50% since 1991? Where was the collective "bravo" for our young people when the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics and the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census acknowledged that the African-American dropout rate (as of 2001) was at 10.9% - the lowest it's ever been? Also, it was almost identical to the national average (meaning all students) of 10.7%. Most of us appear to be unaware of this information - so it appears that our youth aren't the only ones who need to study more. Yes, I'd love to see the dropout rate down to 0%; but that shouldn't preclude us from celebrating what we have achieved. I think it would be wonderful if none of our young women became pregnant in their teenage years, but I am proud of what they have done. The high-profile prophets of black negativity, who are so geared up to impugn our youth, could not be found to herald their triumphs just as enthusiastically.

When teasing and peer pressure are looked at as being greater factors to

black student achievement than who is teaching our children and what is being taught, I consider that type of thinking just as pathological as gang activity or fatherlessness. Further evidence of this need to falsely indict ourselves, are the comments Spike Lee made on the Tavis Smiley Show (Thursday, July 22) when he insinuated that blacks don't embrace and support dramas as much we should - citing the lack of turnout for movies such as *Antwone Fisher*. Interestingly, Denzel Washington (producer & director of *Antwone Fisher*) was on the program the following day. Tavis put the question of whether or not blacks supported dramas as they should and Denzel's answer was: "Well dramas, first of all, don't do as well, period. Black or white, they don't do as well."

After watching the interview I decided to research to ascertain which claim was true. I found that of the top 100 highest grossing movies of all-time, there were only 6 dramas (and a few of those were not what I would call "true" dramas - *Titanic*, *Gladiator*, to name a couple). I also looked at the top grossing dramas that were released during the summertime (summertime being important because that's when dramas usually do the worst - studios like to roll out the action flicks) since 1982. Out of the 59 dramas that were listed, 9 were either produced or directed by African Americans (Do The Right Thing, Boyz n the Hood, Mo' Better Blues - if you haven't noticed, two of these movies are Spike's); had a predominantly black cast (What's Love Got to Do With It) or one or more of the leading roles were portrayed by African Americans (Corrina Corrina, *Courage Under Fire*, 187). I know to some this may seem trivial, but I don't happen to think so. Spike's indictment serves as yet another example of how quickly we condemn ourselves. Of how something that is endemic to society or humanity as a whole, is portrayed as unique to the Black community. A side note: When *Antwone Fisher* was released on DVD and video, it sold one million copies in 3 days.

I have had the opportunity to speak to several white reporters and journalists, and I flatly refuse to answer any of their "what do you think is the problem with the black community" questions. It is not because I am in denial, nor is it because I have a problem with "telling it like it is." It is for the same reason a general doesn't answer to a private, or a publisher to a journalist or a principal to a teacher - superiors do not answer to subordinates. By this I am not saying that whites are subordinate, but in an

equal society (and Brother Senator Obama said there is no white America or black America) why should I have to answer questions about the supposed deviant behavior of the black community, when whites do not have to do the same? The minute I answer one question, I am saying: "I am inferior." For me, it is absolutely that simple. Do we, in the black community, have real concerns? No doubt about it. Can we do better? Yes, most definitely. Misconceptions, mis-education and misleading stereotypes do not offer any real answers. The Christian scriptures tell us that "you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." As we, as a community, declare war on irresponsibility, ignorance, crime, poverty and the vast number of concerns that we face; we must be circumspect. I would think that we, who live in present-day America, would know exactly what it means to declare a war based on flawed and unproven information.

Dr. Edward Rhymes, of New Bedford, Massachusetts, is a consultant in the areas racism, equity & diversity, education and adolescent development. He is also a Visiting Asst. Professor at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth. Be sure to check out the Rhymes Reasons page on his website, <http://mysite.verizon.net/vez48bqr/rhymesworld>

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by Hazel Trice Edney
WASHINGTON (NNPA) — The Bush Administration's top Blacks — Secretary of State Colin Powell and National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice — will cast long shadows over the

health care, you have to balance that. What are they doing for the millions of African-Americans who are suffering?" asks former Massachusetts Sen. Ed Brooke, the first Black elected to the U. S. Senate in the 20th Century.

Massachusetts politics. He says his decision not to attend the convention is not a protest. Yet, his disappointment is evident.

"The Republican Party has not done what it should have done to attract African-Americans," he says. "The party of Lincoln is not the party of Lincoln today. Unfortunately, African-Americans still view the Republican Party as opposed to the issues that are most important to African-Americans."

Brooke, who served in the Senate from 1967 to 1979, comes from an era when progressive Republicans maintained a strong influence over the direction of the party, not just in obtaining Black appointments.

Until Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" from 1933-1938, most Blacks were registered Republicans. As late as the early 1960s, it was not unusual for Republican candidates to get 30 percent of the Black vote, particularly moderate Republicans such as New York City Mayor John V. Lindsay and Connecticut Sen. Lowell Weicker.

A major turning point for the party and its relationship with African-Americans came when Republicans chose Sen. Barry Goldwater, an archconservative from Arizona, as its presidential candidate in 1964.

Goldwater ran on a states' right platform, an overt attempt to court Southern segregationists. Only 6 percent of Blacks voted for Goldwater.

By contrast, 94 percent of African-Americans supported incumbent Democratic President Lyndon B.

Johnson, who was elected in a landslide.

Since that time, Republicans have never received more than 15 percent of the Black vote. In 2000, George W. Bush received only 8 percent of the African-American vote, the weakest support a GOP nominee has received since Goldwater. The more the GOP has shifted to the right, the less support it receives from African-Americans.

"How sad it is that there no longer is that social justice wing of the Republican Party," says Ralph Neas, president of People for the American Way and former chief counsel to Brooke. "That wing of the party no longer exists."

It's getting steadily worse, he says. "Even into the early 90s you could still get a third of the Republicans in the U. S. Senate and in the U. S. House of Representatives to support social justice issues, including civil rights," says Neas.

"But in 1994 [the year Republicans took over control of both the House and Senate and launched their 'Contract with America' campaign], that Republican Party that I used to be a part of ended, and the right wing of the party now controls it. I'm talking about the leadership of the House, the leadership of the United States Senate, the leadership of the White House. We now have the most Right-wing administration in modern times. This administration is doing everything possible to undermine - if not destroy - the Edward W. Brooks of the world, those Republican moderates and liberals who were such an important part of our history and civil rights history

over the last 40 or 50 years."

Neas says President Bush's choice of judicial nominees is just one issue that leads some to view the Republican National Convention as a revival of "obstructionism."

"Instead of seeking to nominate well-qualified, mainstream candidates who satisfy the important criteria for confirmation to the federal judiciary, the President, time and time again, has nominated individuals with extreme, right-wing legal views who pose a threat to the rights and freedoms that Americans hold dear," Neas states.

Bruce Ransom, professor of political science at Clemson University in South Carolina, says the judicial nominations are part of a larger problem.

"Primarily, there's a notion that views Republican conservatism as akin to racism or anti-Black," he observes.

Colin Powell, the nation's first Black secretary of state, has been applauded by African-Americans for consistently supporting affirmative action.

Although Condoleezza Rice supports affirmative action but agreed with President Bush's decision to oppose two affirmative action programs at the University of Michigan, she is warmly received by Blacks and has been honored by the NAACP, the National Urban League and other Black groups.

While they may get may be personally popular, analysts say it will take far more than the popularity of Bush appointees to sway African-American voters.

It's not just about skin color, says

David Covin, professor of government and ethnic studies at California State University — Sacramento.

"Black people are extremely sensitive to how issues affect them collectively and Black people as a group tend to be more affected than White people as a group," says Covin, president of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists. "The fact that Colin Powell and Condoleezza were selected doesn't matter."

If the Republican Party ever expects to attract Black voters in significant numbers, it must adopt different policies, according to political scientists.

"When you see President Bush arguing against affirmative action with the Supreme Court on Martin Luther King's birthday, symbolically, that sends a message to African-Americans about their outreach to the Black community," says Desiree Pedesdeux, associate professor of political science at Spelman College in Atlanta. "It will take careful planning. It will take years of work."

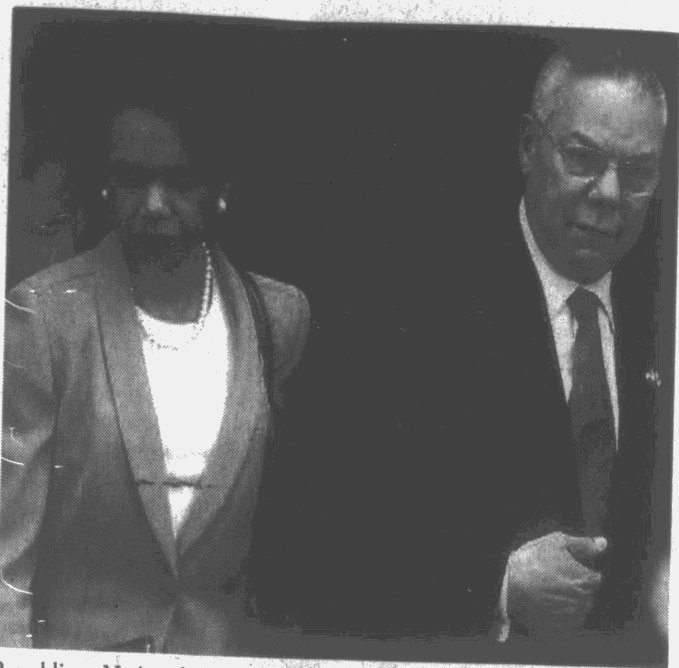
Covin agrees.

"It takes a track record. They had a great track record with Black voters up to the 1932 election. They were not only the party of Lincoln but of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments."

Politics is more than about winning an election, explains Neas.

"It would certainly be good for the country if they would be more inclusive and there are always going to be areas where you do want a variety of views," he says. "This is what this election is all about, which way we're going to go as a country."

Powell and Rice cannot Overshadow Bush's Civil Rights Record



Republican National Convention in New York this week — but not long enough to win Black votes, predicts the last Black Republican to serve in the United States Senate.

"I applaud Rice and Powell's appointments and I think most African-Americans applaud them as well. But when you're talking bread-and-butter issues, when you're talking jobs and

"From the tax programs, the war, and the disproportionate number of African-Americans going to war, when you look at it that way, they can't expect to receive African-American votes just because of a few Black appointments."

Brooke, who remains loyal to the Republican Party, says he will not attend the convention because he is not a delegate and is no longer involved in

Bev Smith: Coming To Greenville

WAMO. Since then, Bev Smith has taken her "fire brand" style of talk shows to KDKA and WTAE Radio in Pittsburgh; WGBS (now WNWS) in Miami; WKIS in Orlando; and

NBC's "Today Show," and CNN's "Crier and Company" and "Talk Back". "Larry King Live," and "Sonja Live." Bev can be seen as a regular guest on the PBS shows "To The

refers to as her "special friends." Over the past 20 years, Bev has received nearly 300 awards, citations and trophies for her contributions in radio and television. Among them,

was named Woman of the Year and received the 1990 Best Journalist Award from the Arab-American League and the 1996 "Best in Journalism Award" from the National As-

Thing Happened on the Way to Success and Israel in Black and White. Combining her knowledge and expertise with her passionate spirit, Bev is a highly sought after public speaker and multi-cultural diversity trainer. "The Bev Smith Show" has its own 800 number allowing listeners to talk "toll free" to Bev and her pro-

this conference and to close out this daylong occasion, Ms. Smith will deliver the keynote speech. She will be address "The Plight of Families and the Role of Leadership". The event will take place on Saturday, September 25th. Her speech will conclude the occasion with a formal black tie dinner where her listeners and friends will personally have the opportunity to meet her.

This conference will also be hosted by KISS 102 FM and is dedicated to Youth Today's motto of "Let Us Synergize, We Are All In This Together." The event promises to provide a day of education, fun, and great entertainment and Ms. Savage hopes that Greenville will warmly welcome Ms. Smith who is visiting Greenville for the second time in five years.

FREE ADMISSION DURING DAY EVENT

Ms. Savage reminds those who plan to attend that all funds and services donated and collected for sponsorship are tax deductible. Also free admission can be gained those youth in attendance if they bring three can of goods or more. Adults can be admitted free if they bring in two or more toiletry items.

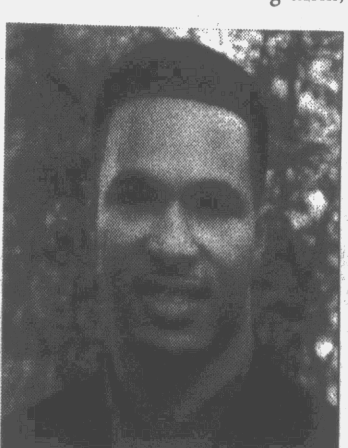
She also wanted to remind those vendors or entertainers who are interested in joining this activity can contact the E.N.C.F.E. Conference Planning Personnel at (252) 752-5637. Tickets can be obtained at any ABC Phones retail stores throughout Eastern North Carolina. Ms. Savage aid that group tickets for this event can be purchases by calling (252) 347-5916



Reggie Price



Brandon Dawson



Richard Wilson



Shawn Hopper



Hubert Hammond

WRC in Washington. She has guest hosted on the Larry King Show and the popular Kathy Hughes Show on WOL Radio in Washington. Bev served as the host of a one-hour talk show, "Our Voices," which was seen nationally on Black Entertainment Television and in 40 countries outside the United States. In addition to her regular radio and television work, Bev has made appearances on ABC's "Good Morning America;"

Contrary" and "This Week in America." Never afraid to tackle issues, she has lived with the homeless, walked the streets investigating prostitutes, raised money for babies with AIDS, talked with inmates on death row, and learned to shoot a gun with the FBI. She has interviewed personalities such as Bill Cosby, Vice President Al Gore, Pearl Bailey, Steve Allen, Sammy Davis, Jr. and a host of guests, many of whom she now

the 1978 Most Outstanding Black Woman in America, the 1981 Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Woman of the Year Award, the 1984 Miami University Outstanding Journalist Award and the 1990 Radio Air Crystal Award for her live radio town meeting, "Children Killing Children Over Drugs." Mayors from Pittsburgh, PA; Jacksonville, NC; Cincinnati and Columbus, OH have declared special Bev Smith Days. Bev

sociation of Negro Business and Professional Women. She is also a Kellogg Foundation recipient. In 1998, Ashley Stuart Company named Bev "Great Woman of Style". She enjoys traveling, spending time with her daughter, Heather, and granddaughter Gabrielle dedicating her time to the Philippine-American Foundation Project for Women in the Working Community, and focusing on writing two books: A Funny

vocative guests on whatever exciting conversation she's has going on. "The Bev Smith Show" is the only national talk show targeted to a Black audience. Formally a Washington, DC resident, she is well known to many movers, shakers, controversies and celebrities who appear on her show. "The Bev Smith Show" is known to captivate it's listening. CLOSING OUT THE INAUGURAL During the evening segment of

RECORD NUMBERS OF BLACKS ATTEND GOP CONVENTION IN NEW YORK

By George E. Curry, NNPA Editor-in-Chief

WASHINGTON - The 167 Blacks attending this week's Republican National Convention in New York represents the largest bloc of African-American delegates to ever attend a GOP convention.

"This dramatic increase in African American delegate participation is a remarkable showing for the Republican convention, and it will be interesting to see whether it filters into the voting booths come November," said Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies President Eddie N. Williams.

"Our polling since the 2000 election has indicated some increasing support for Republicans among

younger African Americans, although as shown in the 2002 midterms, this generally has not translated into more votes for the GOP."

Blacks at this year's convention are 6.7 percent of the 2,509 total delegates, surpassing the previous record of 6 percent set in 1912.

"After 1912, the Republican Party changed its rules, allocating delegates to states, and it has taken 92 years for black representation to exceed the 1912 level," the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies said in its report, "Blacks and the 2004 Republican National Convention."

In 1996, the 52 Black delegates were 2.6 percent of the total delegate count. In 2000, there were 85 African-American delegates (4.1 percent).

In addition to the regulars, there are 123 Black alternate delegates to the 2004 convention, up from 76 in 2000.

States with the largest proportion of Black delegates are Louisiana (15.6 percent), Michigan (13.1 percent), Maryland (10.3 percent) and New York (12.7 percent).

Some states showed substantial increase, including Florida with 13 Black delegates, up from four in 2000; Louisiana from one to seven; Michigan went from three to eight and New York is up from seven delegates in 2000 to 13 this year.

Despite the progress in Black GOP numbers, the Joint Center reports that there is a big gap in the Black leadership and participation rates in the two major political parties.

"Black participation in the major parties national convention is strongly Democratic," the Joint Center report observes. "At this year's Republican convention, Blacks comprise 6.7 percent of the delegates, as compared with 20.1 percent of the delegates at this year's Democratic convention. The Republicans' convention committees had 24 Black members (5.5 percent) and one chair (Jennifer Carroll, Permanent Organization), whereas there were 109 Black members on the Democrats' convention committees, including chairs and vice chairs of all three (Platform, Rules, Credentials)."

The report continues, "The RNC has two Black members out of a total of 165 (1.2 percent), while the DNC

has 97 Black members (22 percent). Most of the Republicans associated with state Republican parties across the country are in positions related to 'outreach' to minorities. Black Democrats are in leadership positions in state parties across the United States, with six state party chairmen, including large states such as Illinois and New York."

The Joint Center report notes that studies it conducted between 1984 and 1990 showed a slight increase in the number of Blacks identifying with the Republican Party.

"In 1984, 5.9 percent of those surveyed identified themselves as Republicans," the Center said. "By 1990 that proportion had increased to 10 percent. However, by 2000, that trend had been somewhat reversed, with only 6.6 percent of African Americans identifying with the GOP."

In a 1992 Joint Center Poll, 12.6 percent of Blacks identified with the Republican Party, if independents leaning Republicans are counted. However, when independents are excluded, the report said, 9.5 percent of Blacks identify with the GOP, approximately the same figure as 1992.

Republicans have made their greatest inroads with younger Blacks. According to surveys conducted by the Joint Center, in 2002, 8.6 percent of African American ages 18-25 identified with the Republican Party. Another 8.6 percent described themselves as independents leaning toward the GOP.

"This apparent trend of young African Americans identifying with the Republican Party is less encouraging for the GOP than it might appear," the report states. "...What is happening is that some younger African Americans begin to identify with the GOP - what pollsters refer to as 'weak identifiers' - and then the GOP leadership adopts some policy position (e.g., opposition to affirmative action) or subsequently commits some gaffe (such as the South Carolina confederate flag or Trent Lott episodes), and the weak identifiers cease identifying with the Republican Party."

It concludes, "Despite the compatibility between the GOP issue positions in several areas, and the views of many young African Americans, the overly conservative and southern white nature of the national Republican Party keeps young Blacks, when they vote, firmly in the Democratic column."

President Bush's "small pluses with African Americans have been balanced by several very large negatives," the Joint Center report states. The smaller pluses include the appointments of Secretary of State Colin Powell, Secretary of Education Rod Paige, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Alphonso Jackson, and Condoleezza Rice as National Security Advisor. He also received support for his faith-based initiative and proposing the "No Child Left Behind" Act.

"The negative side of the Bush ledger is quite meaningful to African Americans," the report said. "First and probably most important, Bush opposed affirmative action in the University of Michigan case before the U.S. Supreme Court. Second, Black unemployment has risen substantially and household income has declined from the heights of the Clinton years."

"Very little of Bush's large tax cuts has gone to African Americans, and budget planning for a second Bush term includes substantial cuts in essential programs, including Section 8 housing vouchers. Bush has appointed to the federal bench several conservatives with questionable civil rights records, including Judge Charles W. Pickering from Mississippi. Finally, African Americans opposed the war in Iraq more than any other group of Americans..."

The Joint Center report concludes, "African American voters have not given support to Republican presidential candidates since 1960. In 2000, George W. Bush received a smaller percentage of the black vote than any Republican candidate since Barry Goldwater in 1964. Bush is unlikely to improve much on that performance this year."

Bush's father foresaw the cost of Iraq War

by George Gedda

WASHINGTON - Not many people foresaw the postwar difficulties the administration has endured in Iraq. Of the few who did, two stand out, both lions of Republican Party.

One was George H.W. Bush. The other was his secretary of State, James A. Baker.

"Incalculable human and political costs" would have been the result, the senior Bush has said, if his administration had pushed all the way to Baghdad and sought to overthrow Saddam Hussein after the U.S. led coalition ousted the Iraqi army from Kuwait during the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

"We would have been forced to occupy Baghdad and, in effect rule Iraq," Bush wrote. "The coalition would collapse... Going in and, in effect Iraq," Bush wrote. "The coalition would instantly collapse. Going in and thus unilaterally exceeding the United Nations mandate would have destroyed the precedent of international response to aggression we hoped to establish."

"Had we gone the invasion route, the United States could conceivably still be an occupying power in the bitterly hostile land. It would have been a dramatically different — and perhaps bar-

ren — outcome."

The senior thoughts are outlined in "A World Transformed," published well before his son became president. After Desert Storm, the nation was deeply split over whether Bush was right to bring the troops home while leaving Saddam's regime intact.

Although the political context of the region at the time was different from what the incumbent President Bush faced in 2003, the father's about-Iraq war situation were eerily prescient.

Baker had a similar view on the perils of a regime change policy in Iraq after Desert Storm. In September 1996 opinion piece, he said, "Iraqi soldiers and civilians could be expected to resist and enemy seizure of their own country with a ferocity not previously demonstrated on the battlefield in Kuwait. Even if Hussein were captured and his regime toppled, US forces would still have been confronted with the specter of a military occupation of indefinite duration to pacify the country and sustain a new government in power. Removing him from power might well have plunged Iraq into civil war, sucking US forces in to preserve order. Had we elected to march on Baghdad, our forces might still be there." Seven years after Baker wrote

those words, in 2003, the political situation in the region had changed dramatically. As the incumbent administration saw it, Saddam had systematically ignored for 12 years UN Security Council demands that he eliminate his weapons of mass destruction. Also, the administration believed, perhaps wrongly, that Saddam had reconstituted weapons programs that had been uncovered and destroyed since 1991. So the Iraq war that former President Bush chose not to fight in 1991 was carried out by his son in 2003, and cast by the current President Bush as part of the global war on terrorism that had begun with the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks 18 months earlier. Saddam was perceived — at least by the current President Bush as a far greater menace in 2003, the political situation in the region had change dramatically. As the administration saw it Saddam had systematically ignored 12 years U.N. Security Council demands that he eliminate his weapons of mass destruction.

Also, the administration believed, perhaps wrongly, that Saddam had reconstituted weapons programs that had been uncovered and destroyed since 1991.

So the Iraq war that the former President Bush chose not to fight in

M(V) - VOICE

This election year will bring us a president or a dictator

By WDLBERT A. TATUM

A more-than-serious presidential candidate mounted a lecture in Nashville, Tennessee, to speak to a national convention of members of the American Legion, the oldest and largest veterans organization in America. The candidate, John Kerry, had traveled far afield from his vacation retreat in Nantucket, where he was reported to have been windsurfing and relaxing from a torrid pace of campaign stops prior to taking a break as is customary, during the opposing party's national convention.

While it is traditional to lay low during the opposing party's convention, Mr. Kerry decided to break that tradition, for he had been roundly blistered by a series of ads that have been placed in most of the swing states by a veterans group that from all accounts has been care-less with the truth, especially about the Vietnam War record of John Kerry, through the use of funds allowed to be legitimately collected by

groups not running for office but who have an intense interest in the outcome as a matter of their regard, or the good and welfare of the country. That section of law - 527 - is part of the McCain-Feingold Act, which was supposed to regulate the use of soft money during an election campaign. While the Act itself made the use of such money for nefarious purposes much less likely, a loophole in the law seems to have allowed a group of veterans, who are said to have been witnesses to actions by presidential candidate John Kerry, to repudiate published versions of his heroism and make a mockery of his having received the Silver Star and three Purple Hearts for heroism.

These ads have been running for several weeks in several states, and because the Kerry people did not react fast enough, a great many people began to believe that the stories about Kerry's heroic acts were a scam. Over the last month, the ads, although untrue, have cost the Kerry campaign the leadership position in polls in many

states, and if not addressed promptly, with the strongest kind of language based upon the best facts available, could cost the Kerry campaign this election. Mr. Kerry, realizing this, broke with tradition and went to Memphis to talk to the veterans, to tell them the true story, as he lived it. Kerry was serious, straightforward and credible. There are many supporters of the Democratic ticket who believe that Mr. Kerry could have shown more anger, more spunk and more resolve about quashing that which is so clearly a lie, that has cost his campaign so dearly.

Our hope is that the American voter is intelligent enough to dismiss these specious charges being laid against Kerry from 35 years ago, and begin to listen to the messages that Mr. Kerry has been trying to deliver since the campaign began. These include fair benefits for veterans; an end to the foolish war in which we are now engaged and from which it will be almost impossible to extricate our troops without a much larger loss of life and several more

billions of dollars; a restoration of funding for the No Child Left Behind Act; and the elimination of more tax cuts for the already wealthy, who received a major tax cut a short while ago because Bush said that the wealthiest of us paid the most money into the tax system and should get much of the money back. (The continuation of that tax cut for the very wealthy will bankrupt this nation and leave us without funds to fight a war that should not have been started, and make it impossible to properly educate our children, provide sufficient funds for Medicare and keep the Social Security system viable.)

Those are a few of the things that John Kerry is addressing, and the same kinds of things that Bush is either paying too little attention to or glossing over, as if they did not present a major problem to the people of this nation.

In sum, Mr. Bush is not a serious candidate, and Mr. John Kerry is. Kerry's programs, benefits and visions are those realities that will help this nation and its people survive. Bush's

foolishness and desire for a short-term fix will make paupers and victims of us all.

There is no question in our minds that the enemy that has no name, no country, no anthem and no flag is our enemy, whether they are located in New York, Afghanistan, Iraq, Turkey, Berlin or Moscow. Terrorists are everywhere. While we must be vigilant, we do not have to be insane. Russia, supposedly our ally now, is having a problem of its own with terrorists, but they are terrorists of their own making in Chechnya. Our terrorists are not essentially homegrown, although many would-be terrorists live here, having come here legally due to the immigration policies of the U.S. that are liberal, as they should be. But it would be our bet that many of those we find here from the Middle East are terrorists waiting in cells that were established long ago, and they are waiting to strike America at any time or place considered vulnerable enough by those who would do us harm. Mr. Bush does not seem to understand

that he cannot take the Patriot Act and intimidate Americans unjustly, without creating sympathy for those who lie in wait to destroy us.

We believe that presidential candidate Kerry is a man of value. We believe that he is strong and intelligent. We do not believe that he would suffer or should suffer the fool that President Bush seems to gladly be. Mr. Kerry, although clearly the superior candidate, must let the people of America know, over the course of the 60 remaining days until the election, just how superior he is, and how he must be the one chosen to save America in its hour of need. Indeed, it's our peril if the Bush team is devious enough to outwit the American people once more, while setting America up for the entrance of a dictator.

Wilbert Tatum is the Publisher Emeritus & Chairman of the Board at the Amsterdam News in New York City. The Amsterdam News is one of the oldest black newspapers in the country and has been in publication for 95 years.

Record number of Blacks attend GOP Convention in New York

By George E. Curry, NNPA Editor-in-Chief

WASHINGTON - The 167 Blacks attending this week's Republican National Convention in New York represents the largest bloc of African-American delegates to ever attend a GOP convention.

"This dramatic increase in African American delegate participation is a remarkable showing for the Republican convention, and it will be interesting to see whether it filters into the voting booths come November," said Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies President Eddie N. Williams.

"Our polling since the 2000 election has indicated some increasing support for Republicans among younger African Americans, although as shown in the 2002 midterms, this generally has not translated into more votes for the GOP."

Blacks at this year's convention are 6.7 percent of the 2,509 total delegates, surpassing the previous record of 6 percent set in 1912.

"After 1912, the Republican Party changed its rules, allocating delegates to states, and it has taken 92 years for black representation to exceed the 1912 level," the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies said in its report, "Blacks and the 2004 Republican National Convention."

In 1996, the 52 Black delegates were 2.6 percent of the total delegate count. In 2000, there were 85 African-American delegates (4.1 percent). In addition to the regulars, there are 123 Black alternate delegates to the 2004 convention, up from 76 in 2000.

States with the largest proportion of Black delegates are Louisiana (15.6 percent), Michigan (13.1 percent), Maryland (10.3 percent) and New York (12.7 percent).

Some states showed substantial increase, including Florida with 13

ONE MILLION BLACK VOTES VANISH

by Greg Palast

One million black votes didn't count in the 2000 presidential election. It's not too hard to get your vote lost — if some politicians want it to be lost!

In the 2000 presidential election, 1.9 million Americans cast ballots that no one counted. "Spoiled votes" is the technical term. The pile of ballots left to rot has a distinctly dark hue: About 1 million of them — half of the rejected ballots — were cast by African Americans although black voters make up only 12 percent of the electorate.

This year, it could get worse.

These ugly racial statistics are hidden away in the mathematical thickets of the appendices to official reports coming out of the investigation of ballot-box monkey business in Florida from the last go-round.

How do you spoil 2 million ballots? Not by leaving them out of the fridge too long. A stray mark, a jammed machine, a punch card punched twice will do it. It's easy to lose your vote, especially when some politicians want your vote lost.

While investigating the 2000 ballot count in Florida for BBC Television, I saw firsthand how the spoilage game was played — with black voters the predetermined losers.

Florida's Gadsden County has the highest percentage of black voters in the state — and the highest spoilage rate. One in 8 votes cast there in 2000 was never counted. Many voters wrote in "Al Gore." Optical reading machines rejected these because "Al" is a "stray mark."

By contrast, in neighboring Tallahassee, the capital, vote spoilage was nearly zip; every vote counted. The difference? In Tallahassee's white-majority county, voters placed their ballots directly into optical scanners. If they added a stray mark, they received another ballot with instructions to correct it.

In other words, in the white county, make a mistake and get another ballot; in the black county, make a mistake, your ballot is tossed.

The U.S. Civil Rights Commis-

CONTINUES ON PAGE 4

Black delegates, up from four in 2000; Louisiana from one to seven, Michigan went from three to eight and New York is up from seven delegates in 2000 to 13 this year.

Despite the progress in Black GOP numbers, the Joint Center reports that there is a big gap in the Black leadership and participation rates in the two major political parties.

"Black participation in the major parties national convention is strongly Democratic," the Joint Center report observes. "At this year's Republican convention, Blacks comprise 6.7 percent of the delegates, as compared with 20.1 percent of the delegates at this year's Democratic convention. The Republicans' convention committees had 24 Black members (5.5 percent) and one chair (Jennifer Carroll, Permanent Organization), whereas there were 109 Black members on the Democrats' convention committees, including chairs and vice chairs of all three (Platform, Rules, Credentials)."

The report continues, "The RNC

has two Black members out of a total of 165 (1.2 percent), while the DNC has 97 Black members (22 percent). Most of the Republicans associated with state Republican parties across the country are in positions related to 'outreach' to minorities. Black Democrats are in leadership positions in state parties across the United States, with six state party chairmen, including large states such as Illinois and New York."

The Joint Center report notes that studies it conducted between 1984 and 1990 showed a slight increase in the number of Blacks identifying with the Republican Party.

"In 1984, 5.9 percent of those surveyed identified themselves as Republicans," the Center said. "By 1990 that proportion had increased to 10 percent. However, by 2000, that trend had been somewhat reversed, with only 6.6 percent of African Americans identifying with the GOP."

In a 1992 Joint Center Poll, 12.6 percent of Blacks identified with the Republican Party, if independents lean-

ing Republicans are counted. However, when independents are excluded, the report said, 9.5 percent of Blacks identify with the GOP, approximately the same figure as 1992.

Republicans have made their greatest inroads with younger Blacks. According to surveys conducted by the Joint Center, in 2002, 8.6 percent of African American ages 18-25 identified with the Republican Party. Another 8.6 percent described themselves as independents leaning toward the GOP.

"This apparent trend of young African Americans identifying with the Republican Party is less encouraging for the GOP than it might appear," the report states. "...What is happening is that some younger African Americans begin to identify with the GOP — what pollsters refer to as 'weak identifiers' — and then the GOP leadership adopts some policy position (e.g., opposition to affirmative action) or subsequently commits some gaffe (such as the South Carolina confederate flag or Trent Lott episodes), and the weak identifiers cease

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Black America's problems caused by Sexism?

by Shannon Gibney
Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder
MINNEAPOLIS (NNPA) By most accounts, African Americans aren't doing too well. Blacks are six times more likely to be murdered than Whites, and the vast majority is Black-on-Black violence. And, more Black children live in poverty than ever before. Blacks marry less often than Hispanics or Whites and two out of three Black marriages end in divorce.

One in 10 Black men in their 20s and early 30s is in prison or jail, and Black women suffer violence from their Black male partners more than twice as often as White women suffer violence from their White male partners.

All this despite the significant gains

of the Civil Rights and Black Power movements — all this despite our attacks on legalized racism, institutionalized racism, educational disparities, unequal health care access and service.

But according to Bennett College President Johnnetta Betsch Cole and Spelman professor Beverly Guy-Sheftall, authors of the provocative new book "Gender Talk: The Struggle for Women's Equality in African American Communities" (Ballantine Books), a primary cause of these lasting ailments is rarely, if ever, acknowledged or dealt with in our communities. That ailment is sexism.

In 230 pages of well-documented arguments, anecdotes, and studies, Betsch Cole and Guy-Sheftall put forth the persuasive and troubling assertion

that the lack of partnership between Black men and women is our Achilles heel. This inequality, they argue, has marred our progress since slavery, and will continue to do so if we do not face the problem honestly and with a firm commitment to change.

"Now is a particularly critical time for 'Gender Talk' because of what we perceive to be an embattled Black, mostly male leadership, a deepening crisis in Black male-female relationships, an embrace of patriarchal family values, and a backlash against feminism and Black feminists," write the authors.

Betsch Cole and Guy-Sheftall assert that these conventional patriarchal leaders and the roles that they affirm stifle the very creativity, compassion and ge-

nus that is at the heart of our community's power.

If Black men are taught that developing their masculinity is the sole route to self-empowerment, the authors state, they will likely be trapped acting out the violent and super-sexualized roles that mainstream White culture has earmarked as "Black male identity." They will never, in fact, discover the other parts of their identity that could actually enable them to reach their potential (such as their intellect and their compassion).

Conversely, if Black women are taught that the only way to nurture their families and communities is to submit to abuse at the hands of our partners or risk being called a "race traitor," we will never be able to break the cycle and achieve empowerment for ourselves or for our children.

Betsch Cole and Guy-Sheftall write, "Privileging racism over sexism has not worked well in the past, and it will not solve the current problems Black America faces... Perhaps Black women's willingness to put men's interests first also set the stage for today's gender wars."

The authors state that this gender revolution must permeate the Black social and political institutions, hip-hop music, and the Black church.

"Perhaps it is not surprising that African American men, who were prohibited from exercising power in other public arenas, would be adamant about maintaining authority in the one institution they did manage to control, Black churches. Their embrace of patriarchy in Black churches was aided by passages in the Bible that support the subordination of women," write Betsch Cole and Guy-Sheftall.

They also indict the Black church for prolonging the AIDS/HIV crisis in Black communities: "When Black ministers gathered at a conference in 1980, there was the unbelievable charge: 'AIDS is not our problem. We're not going to let them [Whites] blame this on us,' which confirmed the charge among many Black gay activists that at the beginning of the epidemic the Black church had turned a deaf ear on one of our most devastating problems."

"Gender Talk" criticizes the Black press for similarly lending a deaf ear to issues of sexism and homophobia.

Although insightful and even visionary at moments, "Gender Talk's" most disappointing section is the chapter on hip-hop music. In this chapter, the usually clear-eyed Betsch Cole and Guy-Sheftall present the all-too-familiar and muddled analysis of the entire

genre of hip-hop music as misogynist. They even go so far as to suggest that censorship may be required in order to combat the music's detrimental effects on the vulnerable adolescent mind.

Unfortunately, the authors fail to see that the fault does not lie in the music, but in the apparatus that promotes certain strains of hip-hop above others. There are plenty of hip-hop artists presenting complicated ideas about gender — try Me'Shell N'Degeocello, Erykah Badu, Lauryn Hill, Common, or even Minnesota's own Edo. However, these artists do not have the marketing machine that 50 Cent or Kelis does, and never will — precisely because their messages are subversive.

This particular Gen Xer wishes that Baby Boomers would quit blaming the messengers (hip-hop) and get onto to dismantling the system.

Overall, however, "Gender Talk" is a tight and compelling read, filled with analyses, questions and new projects regarding Black gender roles that could keep you busy for the rest of 2004 — and beyond. It is a much-needed antidote to the steady stream of conventional messages from the mainstream Black establishment about what plagues our community, and what we need to do about it.

COMMENTARY - West Greenville & The Bond Referendum



By Michael Garrett

Every project that would be supported by the upcoming bond referendum is important and needed. However, none of them will directly affect the quality of life for thousands of west Greenville families as much as the proposed revitalization of 45 blocks in west Greenville. It is for the sake of west Greenville that I urge all voters to reject the bond referendum. If not, the only people who will truly benefit from the \$4.5 million price tag will be a few big contractors. Worst of all, the slum that we are trying to revitalize will re-develop as a more modern slum

(with period lighting) long before anyone else decides to spend that kind of money in west Greenville again.

Let's get real! We have problems in this community that new construction will not fix. And by "we" I mean the community and various departments of the City of Greenville administration. As far as west Greenville is concerned, we have not been willing to enforce the existing city codes on littering, loitering, loud noise after hours and plain old illegal public dumping on vacant lots, just to name a few things. Make no mistake about it; these types of things will make any neighborhood undesirable when left unchecked.

If only for the sake of west Greenville, voters of good conscience should be willing to wait until the City of Greenville demonstrates a willingness to enforce the codes in that area just as in the rest of the city. After that, floating a bond sounds like a great idea to me.

Unless you own a large construction company, voting "No" on the bond referendum may be one of the

most beneficial and courageous things you've ever done. It would be easy to feel good about voting for it and thereby doing our part to make Greenville better. But, we may feel much differently after a few years have passed and we realize that no one took the time and effort to prepare the people who will live in west Greenville for their "new" neighborhood by letting them know how it must be better cared for.

We've seen some fine presentations on the referendum. Over \$30,000 is being spent just promoting it to the voters. The problem is, some of us have seen this show before. Believe it or not, people thought that Kearney Park would be like paradise when compared to the downtown area where many black families lived before the Urban Renewal program in 1958. The two programs are very different but I can't help thinking that the history of Kearney Park has a great deal to teach us about the proposed revitalization.

The only power that citizens will have to prevent a repeat of trying to cover old problems with new bricks is a "No" vote on the upcoming referendum. We can do it right by first enforcing existing codes before passing a bond referendum.

COMMENTARY - Liberals are...

Bush supporters choose to believe his lies and help spread them. They will never change. Many don't know the issues facing us and don't care. They are the prejudiced bigots who are full of hate and were in the Democratic party in the sixties and changed to the Republican party (good riddance) because of the Civil Rights Act. They don't talk about that now but deep down that drives their attitude and vote and this trait is bred into their children.

The Falwell/Robertson type exploited this and interpreted the Bible to suit these bigots' desire and they love to have lies preached to them about liberals. It justifies their hate. Of course Falwell (the pure one) got out of the military draft like Bush, Cheney, and Ashcroft but criticizes Democrats who didn't serve.

I have talked to thousands in the last year and half and I can tell all you Bible thumpers who hide behind it to do your dirty work, liberals will not let you get away with your lies about us any longer

without you being called on it. Democrats have let you get away with it for too long. NO MORE!

Some person had a letter in the Reflector on Aug. 26th, spreading lies about Kerry and he said he guess he didn't understand liberalism. I will help him out and hope he can digest it.

Liberals are open minded, generous, ok religious freedom, equal rights, environmental protection, health care and educated children, veteran benefits, balanced budget, support people born with different sexual orientation, women right to decide what is best for their health, and worker benefits, WE DON'T BELIEVE IN ATTACKING ANOTHER COUNTRY UNLESS IT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH ATTACKING US. In short, liberals help people while Republicans help themselves.

Dewy Funkhouser
Greenville, NC



From Left to right Lorenzo Howard, Dewey Funkhouser and Bobby Boyd as Greenville Resident spreads his message from Florida to Washington

One Million Black Votes Vanish

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 3

sion looked into the smelly pile of spoiled ballots and concluded that, of the 179,855 ballots invalidated by Florida officials, 53 percent were cast by black voters. In Florida, a black citizen was 10 times as likely to have a vote rejected as a white voter.

But let's not get smug about Florida's Jim Crow spoilage rate. Civil

Rights Commissioner Christopher Edley, recently appointed dean of Boalt Hall School of Law at UC Berkeley, took the Florida study nationwide. His team discovered the uncomfortable fact that Florida is typical of the nation.

Philip Klinkner, the statistician working on the Edley investigations, concluded, "It appears that about half

of all ballots spoiled in the U.S.A. — about 1 million votes — were cast by nonwhite voters."

This "no count," as the Civil Rights Commission calls it, is no accident. In Florida, for example, I discovered that technicians had warned Gov. Jeb Bush's office well in advance of November 2000 of the racial bend in the vote-count procedures.

Herein lies the problem. An apartheid vote-counting system is far from politically neutral. Given that more than 90 percent of the black electorate votes Democratic, had all the "spoiled" votes been tallied, Gore would have taken Florida in a walk, not to mention fattening his popular vote total nationwide. It's not surprising that the First Brother's team, informed of impending rejection of black ballots, looked away and whistled.

The ballot-box blackout is not the monopoly of one party. Cook County, Ill., has one of the nation's worst spoilage rates. That's not surprising. Boss Daley's Democratic machine, now his son's, survives by systematic disenfranchisement of Chicago's black vote.

How can we fix it? First, let's shed the convenient excuses for vote spoilage, such as a lack of voter education. One television network stated as fact that Florida's black voters, newly registered and lacking education, had difficulty with their ballots. In other words, blacks are too dumb to vote.

This convenient racist excuse is dead wrong. After that disaster in Gadsden, Fla., public outcry forced the government to change that black county's procedures to match that of white counties. The result: near zero spoilage in the 2002 election. Ballot design, machines and procedure, says statistician Klinkner, control spoilage.

In other words, the vote counters, not the voters, are to blame. Politicians who choose the type of ballot and the method of counting have long fine-tuned the spoilage rate to their liking.

It is about to get worse. The ill-named "Help America Vote Act," signed by President Bush in 2002, is pushing computerization of the ballot box.

California decertified some of Diebold Corp.'s digital ballot boxes in response to fears that hackers could pick our next president. But the known danger of black-box voting is that computers, even with their software secure, are vulnerable to low-tech spoilage games: polls opening late, locked-in votes, votes lost in the ether.

And once again, the history of computer-voting glitches has a decidedly racial bias. Florida's Broward County grandly shifted to touch-screen voting in 2002. In white precincts, all seemed to go well. In black precincts, hundreds of African Americans showed up at polls with machines down and votes that simply disappeared.

Going digital won't fix the problem. Canada and Sweden vote on paper ballots with little spoilage and without suspicious counts.

In America, a simple fix based on paper balloting is resisted because, unfortunately, too many politicians who understand the racial bias in the vote-spoilage game are its beneficiaries, with little incentive to find those missing 1 million black voters' ballots.

Greg Palast is the author of "The Best Democracy Money Can Buy - The New Expanded Election Edition" from which this article is taken. For more information, visit www.GregPalast.com.

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BETWEEN THE LINES: Kobe Bryant's \$100 Million Dollar Lesson

By A. Asadullah Samad
Tri State Defender
MEMPHIS - The decision by Eagleston County (Colorado) prosecutors to drop sexual assault charges against Los Angeles Lakers' star, Kobe Bryant, was truly a blessing in more ways than one. Forget the fact that we no longer have to engage in "Kobe Watches" on Laker game days as Kobe's "diversion from real life reality" became the reality of our real life diversion (watching sports). Forget that the charges were highly suspect to begin with-as was the basis for a pre-trial hearing. Forget that Kobe's interpretation of a consensual indiscretion became more fodder for when consent ends and rape begins- "yes" means "yes" until it no longer serves the purpose of one of the participants, then "yes" means "no" ("no" means "no" was never

even an issue here).
The truest blessing here was the fact that we didn't have to watch another high profile Black man go through another emasculating "O.J." episode. Did we really need another headline dominating, racially dividing, "he said, she said," "he did, she then did" criminal case in the middle of a highly sensitive national election. Doesn't the public, and Black people in particular, have enough grand distractions without the additional sensationalism of a faux pas rape case? Haven't we learned our lesson from that? Maybe not. Like the dismissed Ray Lewis murder charges before it, the Kobe Bryant rape trial was in the process of creating a media "feeding frenzy" that would have been nothing more than an on-going social commentary on the arrogance of professional athletes and the shortcomings of socially uncouth young Black males. Thank god, we were spared all of that. I think many of us learned from the "O.J. experience" that there would be no winners in that scenario. The real question is, 'Did Kobe Bryant learn his lesson?' We hope so.

Kobe Bryant paid dearly for his indiscretion, for which he has now been cleared, and an expensive lesson it was. Certainly not worth the millions of dollars in endorsement opportunities that a young man, at the top of his game, at the top of the game, the NBA, that markets its stars unlike any other professional sports league. Sex makes one do crazy stuff, but to give up millions?
The three biggest aphrodisiacs in American society are fame, drugs and money-each acting as an agent that ex-

cites sexual desire and clouds our judgment which makes us believe that one is desirous to all and all should capitulate to our desires. I'm sure Kobe was drunk with, at least, one of the three on his fateful night, as was the woman he encountered. Plenty of folk are enamored by fame and/or money, even if it is someone else's. People have millions of these encounters annually as they have become part and parcel of our cultural fabric that has even touched the Presidency.
The only problem with these type of encounters is usually one has much more to lose than the other when the encounter becomes public. The one with the money and fame usually is the loser to the one whose only attraction to the rich and famous was that they were, "rich" and/or "famous." How much prestige did a hotel check-in girl,

who allegedly did three guys in three days, lose? Hell, Kobe was a notch on her belt. But me attention stayed on Kobe, who everyone said (and is still saying), should have known better...and he should've. Kobe is a lion that got caught in a mousetrap. It wasn't even a lion trap. It was the smallest of small traps that caged the biggest of big lions. Caught by a commodity that is, true-subjective in value, worth anywhere from \$20 to \$2,000 if you were to pay for it (depending who you do)-and most of us do pay for it, whether you call it a dinner date, jewelry, rent, cars, trips or cash, it is seen, most times, as part of a fair exchange.
Something Kobe could have easily paid-top shelf-if that was just what he needed to do. Of course, you have women who have, what I call the plati-

num pu**y mentality, who think what they're sitting is worth more than gold. And true, (some of) it is good...but not that good. Certainly some men pay more than others, and many pay more than they should. Then there is Kobe, who only paid \$100 million for his. That is the low-end estimate of the lost endorsements and other opportunity costs withdrawn from the NBA's highest profile player over the past 18 months.
Kobe learned, we hope, a very valuable lesson. He paid enough for it. Kobe lost sight of who he was, and lost sight ^ of me value of the commodity he was pursuing, which by all accounts, was worth much less than what he paid-and will I still pay in the civil suit. Caught in a trap he easily should have stepped over.

Depression places a heavy burden on many

by Byron Williams
The alarm goes off and you greet the morning with sleepless eyes, or perhaps sleep is all that you desire to do. Your world is closing in, leaving you somewhere between sad, irritable and tense.
You do not have the energy for the things that you normally do. Your mind is occupied with feelings of worthlessness, hopelessness or guilt. You are tired, but you cannot sleep; hungry, but cannot eat; and for some, suicide crosses the mind as a viable option.
If any of this sounds familiar, you may be part of the fraternity that comprises approximately 5 percent of the American population within a given year, better known as major depressive disorder.
Major depressive disorder, commonly referred to as "depression," can severely disrupt one's life, affecting ap-

petite, sleep, work and relationships. Roughly 16 percent of Americans will experience depression during their lifetime.
Depression is not something you can just "snap out of." It's caused by an imbalance of brain chemicals, along with other factors. A depressive disorder is not a sign of personal weakness or a condition that can be willed or wished away. People with a depressive illness cannot merely "pull themselves together" and get better.
The cost in human suffering cannot be estimated. Friends and family are often frustrated by what is dismissed as "selfish" behavior.
Depression, especially that which goes untreated, can exact a heavy toll on everyone involved. The ignorance associated with depression can cause the most well-meaning individuals to further isolate the one they are trying to

help.
Without treatment, symptoms can last for weeks, months or years. Appropriate treatment, however, can help most people who suffer from depression. Yet nearly two-thirds of depressed people do not get proper treatment.
Women are almost twice as likely to become depressed as men. The higher risk may be due partly to hormonal changes brought on by puberty, menstruation, menopause and pregnancy.
Although their risk for depression is lower, men are more likely to go undiagnosed and less likely to seek help. They may show the typical symptoms of depression, but are more likely to be angry and hostile or to mask their condition with alcohol or drug abuse. Suicide is an especially serious risk for men with depression, who are four

times more likely than women to kill themselves.
The myriad physical and emotional challenges for seniors, such as the loss of a life-long partner or prolonged illness, can also contribute to depression.
Too often the symptoms of depression are not recognized for what they are. Many symptoms are misdiagnosed as physical problems. There is a temptation to exclusively place a sociological or theological critique on something that requires a clinical analysis.
The social stigma associated with depression causes many people to remain "closeted," avoiding the very help they need. At a time when they should be reaching out, they sink further into an abyss of darkness and isolation.
Depression is of particular interest to me because I am part of the 5

percent who must sometimes battle with its haunting effects. There have been times when depression has placed undo stress on important relationships in my life.
Having been diagnosed five years ago, it is an ongoing challenge to recognize the symptoms and take the necessary precautions. Treating the symptoms, however, does not address the underlying causes. Without understanding the root causes, the symptoms of depression can place one on a treadmill of aggravation.
I decided to speak openly about depression because too many individuals in our society are attempting to function with untreated major depressive disorder. The people writing our prescriptions, providing legal advice, rotating our tires or who pledged "I do"

could very well be part of the population that is depressed.
If you find yourself tired, restless, unable to eat, eating too much, canceling activities, unable to sleep through the night or simply irritable, ask yourself: "How long has it been?"
"Am I developing a pattern?"
If so, contact a doctor or a mental health professional immediately. Depression is treatable, but you must take the first step.
Byron Williams writes a weekly political/social commentary at Byronspeaks.com. Byron serves as pastor of the Resurrection Community Church in Oakland, California.

Economists See Pace of Hiring Holding Steady

MILWAUKEE — More American companies expect to add jobs in the fourth quarter than a year ago, even as they remain cautious about hiring, a new survey said.
Manufacturing, retail and service businesses in particular expressed strong optimism about hiring from October through December, according to the quarterly survey of 16,000 U.S. employers prepared for release Tuesday by Manpower Inc.
Overall, 28 percent of all businesses surveyed said they plan to add staff in the fourth quarter, compared with 7 percent that expect to reduce their payrolls, the survey said. Sixty percent of employers said they plan no changes in their staffing levels, and 5 percent said they were not sure.
"We are seeing that companies continue to have an appetite to hire people," said Jeff Joerres, chairman and chief executive officer of Manpower, a global staffing company based in the Milwaukee suburb of Glendale.
The fourth-quarter outlook is a considerable improvement from a year ago, when the net percentage of companies anticipating increased hiring was

half of that in the current survey.
Still, the latest survey found results similar to the previous two quarters this year, when seasonally adjusted.
"There will be hiring. And it will be measured and it will be steady," Joerres said. "It will be good, just not accelerating."
About 29 percent of the businesses surveyed in the durable-goods manufacturing sector said they expect to add jobs in the last three months of the year, and 27 percent making nondurable goods said the same.
Durable goods are products that are expected to have a long life, such as furniture and appliances. Nondurable goods are used in a short period of time, such as cosmetics.
"We've not seen manufacturing have that kind of optimism in several years now," Joerres said.
Economists say that is important,

since the manufacturing sector drives the economy and has jobs that pay well.
Ernie Goss, an economics professor at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., said he expects the large federal deficit to lead to a weaker dollar, which will reduce imports and boost products made in the United States.
"The dollar should weaken some more," he said. "That should help jobs in manufacturing."
Recent government reports show U.S. companies added 144,000 jobs in August, the most since May.
But economists say the economic recovery will take time and depend on several factors: the November presidential election, the war in Iraq, oil prices and interest rates.
They also said spiking health care costs have left employers reluctant to take on new workers.
"There's a whole bunch of uncertainties, and uncertainty is very bad for economic growth," said Dawn McLaren, a research economist at Arizona State University's business school.
Hiring prospects in the four U.S. regions — the Midwest, Northeast, West and South — remain the same as in the previous quarter, the Manpower survey says. Prospects are the strongest in the West and the weakest in the Northeast.

Young love is a flame; very pretty, often very hot and fierce, but still only light and flickering. The love of the older and disciplined heart is as coals, deep burning, unquenchable.
-Henry Ward Beecher

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Surveyed Viewers Say 'Enough Already' to Reality TV Shows

Maybe it's a signal that the American TV audience is growing weary of reality programming. Or, perhaps viewers just don't want to admit that they love folk humiliating themselves and each other and eat bugs. Whatever the reason a majority of respondents to the Circuit City Fall TV Survey said they're tired of reality shows. When asked about reality TV, 58 percent said, "Enough already! Give me a break!"
Like it or not, there's plenty of reality programming in the news fall TV schedule. Networks are offering at least 15 reality shows this fall, compared to six last year. With the new TV season kicking off, the Circuit City surveyed 2100 adults and discovered the following:
*Many viewers (47%) are looking forward to new prime time programming, following the new football season (28%), presidential coverage (15%), and the World Series (10%)
*57 percent have TV sets in the least three rooms in their houses.
*34 percent said they plan to purchase a new set within the next year. Of those, 56 percent plan to buy a flatpanel TV.
*Picture quality (94%), price (81%) and picture size (69%) are the most important attributes shoppers consider before purchasing a new TV.
*59 percent of respondents admit to falling asleep in front of the TV at least once a week. 13 percent said they do it every night.

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Black Consumers Spending Habits Are Ugly!!

by Sharon Woodson-Bryant
Los Angeles Sentinel

LOS ANGELES - If you didn't like what entertainer Bill Cosby had to say about Black people and education then don't read anymore of this column. It is not pretty.

Last month in USA TODAY, an article referred to the tough economic times African Americans are now facing with an unemployment rate of more than 10 percent. But, rather than belittling, our response has been to spend more.

According to Target Market, a company that tracks Black consumer dollars

nationally, Blacks spend a significant amount of their income on depreciable products. In 2002, the year the economy nose-dived we spent \$22.9 billion on clothes, \$3.2 billion on electronics and \$11.6 billion on furniture to put into homes that, in many cases, were rented.

Among our favorite purchases are cars and liquor. Although Blacks make up only 12 percent of the U.S. population, we account for 30 percent of the country's scotch consumption. Detroit, which is 80 percent Black is the world's No 1 market for Cognac. Lincoln was so impressed with the \$46.7 billion that Blacks spend on cars that the automaker commissioned Sean "P Diddy Combs,

the entertainment and fashion mogul, to design a limited-edition Navigator replete with six plasma screens, three DVD players and a Sony PlayStation 2.

To make this even sadder, the only area where Blacks seem to be cutting back on spending are books; total purchases have gone from a high of \$365 million in 2000 to \$303 million in 2002.

According to the published reports, the Ariel Mutual Funds/Charles Schwab 2003 Black investor survey found that when comparing households where Blacks and whites had roughly the same household incomes, whites saved nearly 20 percent more each month for retire-

ment, and 30 percent of African American earning \$100,000 a year had less than \$5,000 in retirement savings.

Is this about instant gratification or bad habits from our family backgrounds? My father taught me to always pay my creditors, even if all I could send was a dollar. But the advice he didn't give me came from a white friend, who told me years later that her father had taught her to always pay yourself first. "Put a regular amount of money into your savings before you do anything else with it," she explained.

Today there is a growing effort to bring financial literacy to the African

American community. Special workshops through the Urban League, for example, teach people that credit cards are like crack cocaine. According to the workshop leader, George Thompson, credit cards are illusions. "They make you think you can do things that you can't. They are bad for you, but you get a temporary high from spending. You know it's wrong but do it anyway."

As a community we must end this addiction to debt. We must stop spending more than we make and start planning for our retirement. But money doesn't come with instructions, so we must learn ways to become more empowered and in control of our financial lives.

Budgets just don't work for me, but I discovered a way to tame compulsive shopping. Several years ago, I kept a small notebook and wrote down every cent I spent each day for six months. It was amazing to see how I frittered away money on junk food and mindless purchases. That uncompli-

cated exercise taught me to be more disciplined. After a few weeks, I remember getting to the point that I would just not buy that candy bar or a pair of earrings because I didn't want the hassle of writing it down. It made me stop and think and often realize that I didn't need to buy it.

When you see the big picture of your spending patterns you must reconcile them with your values. What is really important in your life? This is what you should be teaching your children. They learn about money by observing their parents and how you spend your money tells a story. If you go to the ATM all of the time, your kids will think that is a way of life for an endless amount of money.

Undoubtedly, income disparity, higher rates of unemployment, and credit discrimination are financial hurdles to the economic vitality of Blacks. But so are our consumer tastes. We must find the courage to change our spending habits.

The ABC's of Black politics in 2004

by Alton R. Maddox, Esq.

NEW YORK CITY - Blacks have fared no better in national politics than impoverished Black defendants have fared in the criminal justice system. Despite the fact that Black political support since 1960 was necessary for the election of every Democratic president, our reward, on each of these occasions, has been to receive a minimum rather than a maximum sentence for the next four years through plea bargaining.

Like indigent defendants leaving local courthouses with their legal aid attorneys after they have just received lenient sentences, Black voters typically breathe a sigh of relief when the Democratic presidential candidate prevails in the Electoral College. The reward is work release for four more years.

Meanwhile, white voters, on the other hand, enjoy political patronage and lucrative contracts like the four assassins who left the Albany courthouse with job promotions and commendations. The Democratic Party acts like a reverse Robin Hood. It robs its loyal Black voters to enrich whites. This is standing reparations on its head.

Over the last forty years, our political and economic condition in the United States has worsened geometrically. The Republicans were in the White House for 24 of these years. For the other years, the Democratic Party maintained that non-contributing Blacks should be thankful for reprieves especially since they arose from pro bono representations.

Although our condition has worsened every four years after exercising the franchise, it is also difficult to beat a charge that our wounds are self-inflicted because we failed to vote. If Blacks fail to vote, Black leaders will blame them for creating their own woe-filled conditions.

Blacks must initiate a strategic voting and spending plan in 2004 after participating and deliberating in local, emergency caucuses. This must be done over the next seven weeks. Voting without a mission statement will not help us politically since politics is based on the law of contracts.

The Republican Party has served notice that it has become the all-white people's party. "Four more years" is a Republican battle cry. Bush 43 needs the time to complete his mission of disenfranchising and displacing descendants of enslaved Africans while the Democratic Party acts as a lookout.

Blacks are like manual typewrit-

ers, and all historically-oppressed groups are temporarily forced to play musical chairs. Eventually, Blacks will be outburied. In the interim, the criminal justice system will continue to emulate the growth pattern of a hog in slop. After the presidential election on November 2, Blacks will receive either life imprisonment or capital punishment.

Our political fate in 2004 mirrors the judicial fate of the Scottsboro Boys in Jackson County, Alabama, in April 1931 after having been charged with raping two female hobos on a freight train. If these nine boys had originally received life sentences instead of death warrants for raping white women, they would have never become a cause célèbre.

Any Black male accused of raping a white woman in 1931 Alabama faced only two options: an extrajudicial lynching or the electric chair. Eight of the boys were sentenced to the electric chair, including Eugene Williams, who on March 25, 1931, was a juvenile.

Although the prosecution specifically instructed the all-white jury that Ray Wright should only receive life imprisonment, a mistrial had to be declared when some of the jurors held out for the death penalty. These jurors refused to embrace the law. All of them probably had nooses in their overalls.

After two Supreme Court decisions in 1932 and 1935, and after Ruby Bates admitted that in February 1932 she and Victoria Price had lied about the nine boys, Alabama continued to seek to execute them. Even today, the criminal justice system is absolutely unconcerned about any search for the truth. Instead, the system acts like a vampire.

A deputy sheriff shot Ozzie Powell in the head in January 1936. Alabama reluctantly dropped charges against four of the boys in July 1937. Haywood Patterson escaped from an Alabama prison in July 1948. Andy Wright was the last of the boys to be paroled, in June 1950. All of the boys had been subjected to "prison psychosis."

By 1959, they had all died except for Clarence Norris, with whom I had an opportunity to meet and discuss his ordeal before he died in January 1989. Little did I know then that several young boys from Harlem would be caught up in the recycling of the Scottsboro Boys case in April 1989.

I ended up as one of the casual-

ties by successfully representing Michael Briscoe in the rape case and threatening to also represent Antron McCray before I was ambushed judicially. Assistant District Attorney Linda Fairstein and members of the NYPD conspired to railroad the Central Park Jogger defendants. To achieve this objective, they needed cooperating defense attorneys.

President-select George W. Bush and his chief henchman, Dick Cheney, remind you of the Scottsboro Boys prosecution team, which consisted of Lt. Governor Thomas E. Knight and Melvin Hutson, Morgan County solicitor. After Norris v. Alabama, they struck every Black juror to the satisfaction of Haywood Patterson: "I didn't want no scared Negroes judging me."

Norris v. Alabama ordered Alabama to put Blacks on its jury rolls in 1935. Afterwards, a white farmer refused to convict Patterson. He noted "A n—r's going to stay in his place as long as you let him alone." He suspected that the white women had excited the uncontrollable sexual appetites of the Black boys.

Patterson's prior death sentences had been reversed on appeal. This was his fourth trial. Instead of granting Patterson a new trial, Judge James E. Horton gave him a life sentence, despite Powell v. Alabama. This was a judicial lynching. Once a mistrial is declared, a criminal defendant is entitled to a new trial with the remote possibility of securing an acquittal.

Senators John Kerry and John Edwards remind you of the original defense team of Stephen Roddy, a Chattanooga attorney who Judge Horton forced to represent the boys pro bono. No Alabama attorney could be summarily secured to represent them.

To make the foreign representation legal, an Alabama attorney, Milo Moody, had to be appointed as local counsel to satisfy a requirement of pro hac vice representation. This move was a cover for a judicial lynching. Roddy and Moody actually aided and abetted the prosecution.

The Supreme Court ruled in Powell v. Alabama that executing the Scottsboro Boys without a retrial would amount to "judicial murder." The Supreme Court also found that the boys had been constitutionally shortchanged of their right to the effective assistance of counsel under the Sixth Amendment.

This ruling was a first for the Supreme Court. Previously, it had given

absolute deference to states' rights. This prior stance allowed states to maintain kangaroo courts without worrying about federal judicial review. In 1963, the Supreme Court mandated that counsel for an indigent defendant must be appointed in all felony cases.

Samuel Leibowitz of New York City was retained as their chief counsel. The new attorney was only an upgrade. Leibowitz publicly stated that he was a Democrat, like most white Southerners, and he was not a "red." Moreover, his only intent was to keep "innocent boys from the electric chair."

This explains the disproportionate representation of Blacks in the criminal justice system and the intention of white Democrats. While Blacks may exercise the right of pro se representation in criminal cases, pro se representation is prohibited in a republican form of government. Politically, representation must come through a political party. Blacks control no political party.

Aside from his ineffective political advocacy on behalf of Blacks, it could be argued that Kerry should refuse himself for benefiting from a conflict of interest and, through his relationship with Bush, creating an appearance of impropriety. He and his cousin, Bush 43, are both members of Skull and Bones, a secret society at Yale University with a history of racial exclusivity and a secret mission.

In jury trials, relatives of litigants are disqualified from sitting on those juries and persons with confidential philosophies are unable to be exposed to voir dire. The tentatively scheduled September 30 presidential debate is important. During this debate, Bush and Kerry should be required to reveal the secrets of the secret society. Anti-Masons, of the nineteenth century, must be rolling over in their graves.

Mysticism fuels Black politics. Contrary to popular myths in the Black community, it is money rather than votes that elect political candidates. Mayor Michael Bloomberg and NJ Sen. John Corzine are adherents of checkbook politics. The late Mayor Harold Washington also demanded a war chest before he embarked on a mayoral campaign.

In a capitalist society, everything and everybody is up for sale. The Commerce Clause is the most important constitutional provision in capitalism. A non-marketable item is summarily disposable since it impedes the flow of commerce. See, for example, the future of Blacks in the United States after 2004.

Forty years ago, Fannie Lou Hamer rose up and cried out that there was not a dime's worth of difference between economic and political bondage, which she was serving in the Mississippi Delta, and capital punishment. Today, Black leaders are arguing that, contrary to Hamer, there is a dime's worth of difference between economic and political bondage and capital punishment.

John Brown, a white revolutionary, respectfully disagreed. Through his actions, reflected in the words of Patrick Henry, he said, "give [them] liberty or give me death." If John Brown were living today, every single Black leader would alert the authorities that a terrorist is afoot in the Black community.

Compare Bryant to Brawley at www.reinstatelonmaddox.com

Shorter Life Expectancy For Today's Youth...?

GREENVILLE, NC - "The generation of youth now in schools may be the first to have a shorter life expectancy than their parents" (Be Active North Carolina: JAMA 2003. 187-193). Come address this problem and many other topics regarding "The Health of Education at the annual Education Summit and OASIS Limcheon sponsored by the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce. The goal of this event is to address current problems relating to today's youth and get business people, parents, community citizens and educators motivated to be a part of the solution to children's poor health. Businesspersons, educators, and parents are encouraged to attend.

The Annual Education Summit will be held on Wednesday, September 22, 2004 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Rock Springs Center. Dr. Michael Priddy, Pitt County Schools Superin-

tendent, Dr. Steven Ballard, Chancellor of ECU, and Dr. Dennis Massey, President of PCC, will discuss issues regarding the Health of Academics. Dr. Ronald Perkin Pediatrics Chair of the Brody School of Medicine, and Mr. Robert Greczyn, Jr., Pres/CEO of NC Blue Cross/Blue Shield, will address problems such as the cost of health to businesses. Dr. Marcus Plescia, of N.C. Public Health, will discuss possible solutions to these health problems. Also, a panel of business representatives will present ideas on how businesses can address the need for a healthier lifestyle. A special OASIS luncheon will honor the many businesses and organizations that have dedicated time, talent, and money to local schools.

The cost for the Education Summit is \$25 per person which includes lunch. For more information or to register call 752-4101 or email frances@greenvillenc.org.

Chamber Endorse City of Greenville Bonds

GREENVILLE - The Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce has endorsed the four City of Greenville bond items that will be on the November 2, 2004 ballot to be voted on by city residents.

"We believe these projects are important for Greenville," said Henry Hinton, Chairman of the Chambers Board of Directors.

"As the city grows, we need to provide the streets and drainage to support this growth as well as revitalize areas which need improvement." "We have been fortunate to have experienced growth, and if we want orderly growth to continue, we have to invest in our city," Hinton said.

The City of Greenville has called for bond referenda for street improvements. West Greenville revitalization, center city revitalization, and stormwater drainage improvements totaling \$20.8 million. Each of these items will appear separately on the November 2nd ballot.

The vote in favor of supporting the bonds, taken on August 26 at a regular meeting, was unanimous by the Board of Directors according to Susanne Sattelle, president of the Chamber.

The resolution adopted by the Board of Directors can be found on The Chamber's web site at www.greenvillenc.org.

Learn Leadership from the Experts

GREENVILLE - Learn how to be an effective leader from internationally known leaders such as Donald Trump, Mikhail Gorbachev, Jim Collins, Peier F. Drucker, Russel Simmons, Ken Blanchard, Rosabeth Moss Kanter and Lany Bossidy. These known leaders among others will be LIVE Via Global Satellite, on one stage for one day of revolutionary leadership development. Come listen as business icon, Donald Trump illustrates how the "art of the deal" is truly the art of delivering results, and as Gorbachev recounts the lessons learned and the leadership required to navigate transition and extreme change. Listen as the experts reveal the secrets to being a successful leader.

Living Leadership: Delivering Results the Right Way, is presented by the Greenville-Pitt-Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Eastern-Neurosurgical & Spine Associates, Archway Broadcasting, Beef Bam/St. Andrews Catering and Pitt Community College. The day-long event will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 20, at the East Carolina University Brody School of Medicine Auditorium. Registration will begin at 10:00 a.m., and the Live Teleconference will start at 10:30 a.m.

The cost to attend Living Leadership is \$118 for Chamber members, and \$142 for non-members, this includes lunch and all needed materials. For more information, call 752-4101 or email chamber@greenvillenc.org.

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Choosing the Right Structure for Your Business

When starting your own business, choosing the right structure can make all the difference. A business' structure, or design, can determine a number of legal and financial aspects, including ownership, tax considerations and succession.

Fortunately, a new workbook may help new business owners gain a better understanding of the different business structures available. The workbook, "How to Really Incorporate Your Business," describes several different business structure options, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of each. Those options include: Sole proprietorship-Owner and business are one and the same; Partnership-A business with more than one owner; Incorporation-State-chartered organization owned by shareholders; Limited Liability (LLC)-State-chartered organization with tax advantages of a partnership.

The workbook was created by a volunteer group called SCORE, which works with small-business owners and entrepreneurs and is sponsored by The Company Corporation. The organization's small-business counselors assist entrepreneurs by sharing their experience and expertise to help small-business owners answer the questions every small-business owner faces.

To learn more about business structures, tax advantages and compliance requirements, call a SCORE chapter. To contact SCORE or for a free copy of the workbook, call 1-800-634-0245 or visit www.score.org. — Courtesy of NAPSA

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Community Voices

Reflections, Expressions & Reviews

with Sujette Jones



"Let's Review"

The Saga of Jo-Ann Little

Upon reading the obituary of the civil-rights leader, Golden Frinks and noting that, among other achievements, he was the leader of the "Free Joan Little Movement," my mind reflected to the sensational trial of Joan Little. According to an interview by David Celski with one of her lawyers, Karen Betha-Shields, I quote her words: "Joan Little (aka Jo-Ann Little) lived in little Washington, North Carolina, Beaufort

County. She was a very young, (19-year old) cute, a tiny, tiny little girl. She was from a poor family and she was a survivor. She knew the streets. She was not a pretty person to deal with. I'm not talking about looks: I mean she was cunning and she could be kind of brash."

She was in the Beaufort County jail for breaking and entering and larceny, and her case was on appeal. There was a jailer named Clarence Alligood, who was 62 years old. He had a reputation of asking sexual favors from the female inmates after bringing them treats. He would give them these little treats and then at some point ask them to pay up with some sexual favor. This particular night in August of 1974, Joan was the only female inmate in the women's section. Alligood was the only jailer on duty. He went into the women's section with an ice pick and into the cell where Joan was and told her that it was time for her to "pay up."

Alligood sat down on the cot and made her remove her clothes and raped her. At some point, he relaxed and the ice pick fell out of his hand. She got her hand on the ice pick and during the struggle, she stabbed him multiple times. When he fell she went to the next cell, grabbed her clothes and was able to get out of the jail.

Joan knew that nobody was going to believe her because Alligood had already told her that. He said to her that "nobody is going to believe you and that

there's no use you yelling." And she knew that was true. No one was going to believe her. She's in jail. She's a black woman. He's white. He's a male. He believed that he could do anything he wants to do to a black woman. He's been taught that all his life. Nobody had ever heard of a black woman accusing a white man of doing something and not ending up dead. And so the reason Joan runs is because she's scared. For a while she hid out in the black community. An old black man in the community hid her. They came and searched his place at least twice, but they never found her. A friend of Joan's contacted Jerry Paul (a promising young Greenville lawyer), who later became the leader of her defense team. He and a professor from Chapel Hill went down and got her out of Beaufort County. At that time she was offered an opportunity to leave the country, but because she felt that she wasn't guilty, she didn't go. She wanted to stay and prove her innocence by telling her side of the story, so Joan, although knowing that she faced a death penalty, turned herself in to the SBI.

Dr. Page Hudson, the state medical examiner at that time, upon completing his autopsy on Alligood placed a call to Jerry Paul telling him that he needed to take a look at his findings. Based on the autopsy report, he said that there was more to this than Alligood dying in the line of duty. Hudson reported that his findings were consistent with the story that Joan had told. They had a dead jailer with his pants down which was proof of sexual misconduct, which they neglected to first tell the public at the time of the jailer's death. And you only had one stab

wound that was fatal. The rest were defense wounds, and where they were located showed that he was coming at Joan. They also had other female inmates testify that they he had sexually victimized them in exchange for snacks, magazines and other favors.

Joan was incarcerated at the prison in Raleigh. The case was worked on for about a year. When the jury arguments began, some of the jurors started crying when her lawyers pleaded her case about Joan's helplessness in the face of the power and control of the jailer. The jurors were led step by step through the rape scene. When all was finished, the courtroom was silent. The verdict was NOT GUILTY!

(End of Interview as printed in The News and Observer)

NOTE: As of today the public in general has no knowledge of what happened to Joan Little. She is reported to have re-located in New York or California. One thing for sure—she is no longer in Beaufort County where her story made national news and became one of the most controversial civil-rights cases in U.S. History. Her lawyer, Karen Betha Shields (who was Karen Gallo-way at that time) was brought up in Method, an African-American community, which since has been annexed by Raleigh. She was one of the first black students at Broughton High School, one of the first black women to graduate from Duke University Law School, and one of the state's first black judges. At the time of this interview she was practicing law in downtown Durham, N.C. Respectfully submitted

Sujette Jones

Fire Rescue Appreciation to Honor Local Heroes

The Greenville-Pitt Chamber of Commerce is currently seeking sponsors for the Annual Greenville Fire-Rescue Appreciation Dinner. This year's dinner will be held at the Hilton of Greenville on Tuesday, October 12, 2004 at 6:30 P.M. and will include a presentation of the Greenville Fire-Rescue Person of the Year. "This is a great opportunity to show your appreciation for these outstanding people who help make our city a safer place to live," said Supine Sanelle, chamber president. "Sponsors

can give back to the community and support fire-rescue professionals by sponsoring an individual or an entire table at this event."

Grand sponsors for the event include DSM Pharmaceuticals, Hastings Ford, and Minges & Associates. The cost is \$20.00 per person for each Fire-Rescue Professional, Sponsor an individual or an entire table for \$160.00. To reserve seats or for more information you can call 752-4101 or email chamber@greenvillenc.org.

WORLD'S LARGESTS WAR PROTESTS

The following information was submitted by:

Charles Shiver (Former Greenville Businessman)

The largest anti-war was held February 15, 2003 around the world. The largest was held in Romr: 3 million people, 1.3 million in Barcelona, Spain, 1 million in London, England and other in 600 cities around the world. Something to think about it...

SOURCE: Guinness Book of Record Page 143.

The NAACP & You....

GREENVILLE - On a fairly regular basis, for many years, people in our area have come to me pleading for information about how to get help from the NAACP. Usually they come with distressing details of some type of mistreatment. Many people have an image of the NAACP as an organization that has the resources to help correct injustices of any sort. That is not a false image. The NAACP WAS that organization in times past. Today we have allowed the NAACP to become very weak at the local level. I'm sad to say it, but most people who think of the NAACP when they are in need have never seriously considered joining or even coming to a regular meeting.

Locally, in Pitt and the surrounding counties, there is a solid connection with the state and national offices. The truth is that we need more than that to be effective. Like any organization that seeks to be an advocate, your strength is your membership. Here is more sad news. If you joined the NAACP today and went directly to the next meeting, it will not result in any noticeable change. Why then, you might ask, would I bother? Because that is the first step! You can't move on to the other steps without the effort of taking the first step, which is joining. The next step is to get a copy of the rules and then attend meetings on a regular basis. Our NAACP can be as good or as useless as we want it to be. It did not get to be the largest, oldest and most respected civil rights organization in America just by accident. It has a solid organizational struc-

ture that will serve any community well that is progressive enough to use it. Too many times, people use the NAACP's name while operating in a way that is totally the opposite of rules of the organization. Those are the local chapters that never get much done and never resolve the matters that come to their attention. As a result, they help to give the organization a reputation for not being useful. That's why it's important that the members know the rules so that they can give knowledgeable input about how things are to be done.

Here's the good news! You can really begin to make a difference today. The first of 3 organizational meetings for the Pitt County NAACP will take place at 6:00PM on Sunday, September 26th, 2004 at Cherry Lane Church, Myrtle Avenue in Greenville. Whether you haven't officially joined or not, make plans to be there and encourage everyone that you encounter to do so, as well. It wouldn't hurt to get a copy of the rules before going to the meeting. That way, you can walk in the door totally in-the-know.

Let's face it. Our local NAACP is weak but we can rebuild it to make it strong and credible. People in our community don't have any place to turn now for so many things that need to be addressed. Our Pitt County NAACP can be that resource. We will need YOUR involvement to make that happen and it still won't happen overnight. So, let's get started on Sunday, Sept. 26th at Cherry Lane Church. See you there.

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SCLC is a victim of its own success

by Cynthia Tucker
ATLANTA - The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the venerable civil rights organization founded by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his lieutenants, may be in its death throes. Its recent convention showcased an agency that has sunk so low that one of the leading candidates for its presidency was a convicted felon. The SCLC's is beset by contentiousness, conflicting agendas and competing egos, bickering so divisive that its last president, Martin Luther King III threw up his hands and quit last November. Last month, their most recent gathering ended with a vote to keep its 82-year-old caretaker president, Fred Shuttlesworth. But neither Shuttlesworth nor any younger successor can hope to restore lie organization to its former glory.

The problem is too fundamental, too basic, to overcome: The SCLC, like the other leading civil rights organizations, is victim of its own success. But it is a shadow of its former self. The secretary of state and the national security adviser are black. Barack Obama, a man whose father was a black Kenyan, stands an excellent chance of winning a seat in the U.S. Senate. A black woman, Ruth Simmons, is president of Brown University, which is an Ivy League institution. The men who run Time Warner, Merrill Lynch and American Express are all black Americans. When King, the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Jr. and Joseph Lowery found the SCLC in 1957, they could have hardly imagined such dramatic changes in a short period of time.

But the SCLC lives in the past, fights the last war, denies the future. It

cannot admit that the social landscape has changed, that black Americans no longer face fierce and unrelenting discrimination, that a politically active black middle class worries about national security, health care and job security, just like their white neighbors do.

Many black Americans have quietly cheered the recent comments of comedian Bill Cosby, who has taken to using his stature to publicly chastise blacks whose self-destructive habits keep them out of the economic and social mainstream. But the SCLC's leaders have been unable to admit that many of the barriers holding back black accomplishment are those we have erected ourselves: drug use, educational failure, out-of-wedlock births.

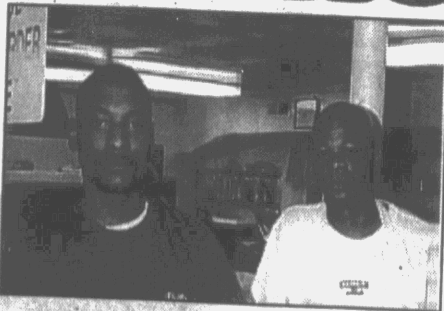
This year, several SCLC board members reached out for vibrant new leadership, backing TV judge Greg Mathis for president. His biography, which includes overcoming a record of juvenile crime, might have had appeal to at-risk youth. But another faction, led by former Black Panther Party Chairwoman Elaine Brown, pushed Ralph David Abernathy III, son of one of the founders.

Abernathy served time in prison for theft of public funds as a state legislator. After a confrontation with Abernathy, Mathis dropped out of contention.

The radical Black Panthers once opposed everything the nonviolent SCLC stood for and wanted to destroy it. Maybe they're finally getting their chance. Not that they needed to. The SCLC was already on life support.

Cynthia Tucker is editorial page editor for The Atlanta Constitution.

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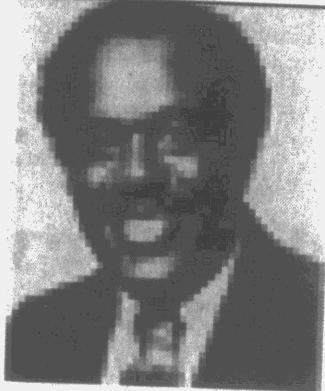
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Spiritual Reflections



Greetings:

It is indeed great, to be able to write you and share these words with you. As I was teaching Bible study the other night, I began to ask myself why have so many Christian fallen by the wayside and it was revealed to me, what part of the problem is?

Consider this passage of Scripture, Romans 12:1-2 "I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

In most of our Bibles we will find the word beseech in bold letters and capitalized, meaning we are to put special emphasis on that word, BESEECH (means implore, plead, demand, beg). Paul here is pleading with us that we as children of God have to present our bodies to God as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto Him for this is our reasonable service.

This is where most Christian make their mistake. They don't seem to take God's word serious, they don't seem to want to do what He said like He said to do it. In order for us to present our bodies to God we must first sanctify it unto the LORD. God has said in His word in 1 Thessalonians 4:4, "That every one of you should

Black farmers sue government

by Jamal E Watson

Amsterdam News Staff

A group of Black farmers is suing the U.S. Department of Agriculture, charging the agency with discriminating against them in federal loan and farm programs.

The lawsuit, which seeks \$20.5 billion and class-action status for up to 25,000 Blacks who farmed or attempted to farm between 1997 and 2004, comes five years after the USDA settled a discrimination lawsuit over charges that the govern-

Blacks and Koreans: Sharing a common bond

by J. ZAMGBA BROWNE

Amsterdam News Staff

A group of African-Americans and Koreans will hold a joint cultural festival in Harlem's Marcus Garvey Park on Sunday, Sept. 19, starting at noon.

Korean businesswoman Betty Parks, the owner of Manna's Restaurant and chief sponsor of the event, said it's designed to build an alliance and ease tensions between the two ethnic communities.

Activities will include performances by Korean folk singers, as well as African drumming.

Linda Sejung Park, a spokeswoman for the event, said that the purpose of the festival, a "celebration of culture between Koreans and African-Americans," is to provide a space for the two ethnic groups to learn more about each other through the exchange of foods and culture.

Park said that this is the first time the annual Black/Korean festival has been held in Harlem, and the cost for the event was largely footed by local Korean merchants.

Manhattan Borough President C.

ment had withheld loans and subsidies to Black farmers for years.

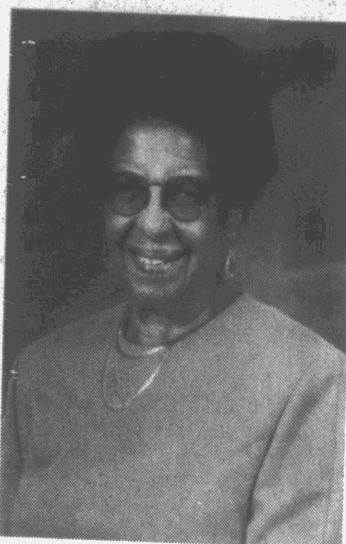
"The last thing in the world the African-American should be denied is the right to farm. That is the reason we were brought here," said Thomas Burrell, president of the Black Farmers and Agriculturists Association. "Farming should be an entitlement to Black folk. Our great-grandfathers and great-grandmothers paid for that opportunity."

A spokesman for the USDA refused to comment on the lawsuit.

Virginia Fields, the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, and a host of Harlem-based business establishments have endorsed the event, Parks said.

Community Voices

From the Desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



The Dynamics of Leadership

"Leadership" is a word on everyone's lips. The young attack it and the old grow wistful for it. Parents have lost it and police seek it. Experts claim it and artists spurn it, while scholars want it. Philosophers reconcile it (as authority) with liberty and theologians demonstrate its compatibility with conscience. Everybody agrees that there is less of it than there used to be. Leadership is the pivotal force behind successful organizations and that to create vital and viable organizations, leadership is necessary to help organizations develop a new vision of what they can be, then mobilize the organization change toward new vision. Some great leaders are Moses, Pericles, Julius Caesar, Jesus Christ, Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Archbishop Desmond Tutu,

Nelson Mandela, and Winston Churchill among many others. Management vs. Leadership: Managers are people who do things right and leaders are people who do the right thing. Let's get rid of management! People do not want to be managed. They want to be led. Ask your horse. You can lead your horse too water, but you cannot manage him to drink. If you want to manage someone, manage yourself. Do that well and you will be ready to stop managing. And start leading. Leadership involves communication. Communication creates meaning for people. It is the only way any group, small or large, can become aligned behind the overarching goals of an organization. Talent, genius, education will not make leaders, but persistence and determination are omnipotent. Leaders might use five skills:

1. The ability to accept people as they are, not as you would like them to be.
2. The capacity to approach relationships and problems in terms of the present rather than the past, though we can learn from the past.
3. The ability to treat people who are close to you with the same courteous attention that you extend to strangers and casual acquaintances. We tend to take for granted those to whom we are closest.
4. The ability to trust others, even if the risk seems great.
5. The ability to do without constant approval and recognition from others. It should not really matter how many people like leaders. The important thing is the quality of work that results from collaborating with them. It is the large part of a leader's job to take risks. To the successful

leader, failure is a beginning, the springboard of hope. To worry puts obstacles in the way of clear thinking.

Effective leadership negates protest, grievance, and career change as well as resignation and apathy. Lao Tzu said, "To lead, we must follow."

Practice Advice for Daughters Perennial advice for teenagers preparing to go to college -

1. Study hard, do your work, don't follow the crowd, think for yourself.
2. Read a major national newspaper daily, and read the Black Press, then you'll know more than your peers, and probably more than your professors.
3. Show up! To vote, to mentor, to tutor, to city council, PTA and school board meetings.
4. Move from commitment to action, says Delta Sigma Theta President Gwendolyn Boyd. She says to know something and not to do it is a sin.
5. Don't drink, but girls, if you do, don't set your drink down at a party - get a fresh drink.
6. Look for character in men; it lasts longer than money or looks.
7. President Johnetta B. Cole, President of Bennett College, has said she learned from her family and friends in Jacksonville, Florida that a woman would be known by the company she keeps.
8. Dr. Benjamin S. Mays, the educator, President of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia imparted weekly wisdom back in 1940's and 1950's to that generation of men that excellence was the best defense and offense. They simply had no hope of success in life without it. Form: "Sister Speak" - EBONY Magazine, September 2004, page 32 Please read it.

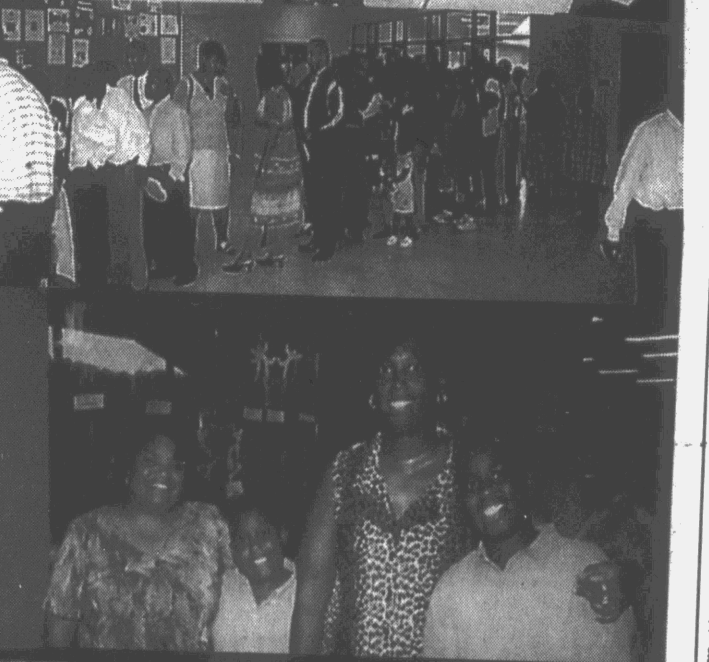
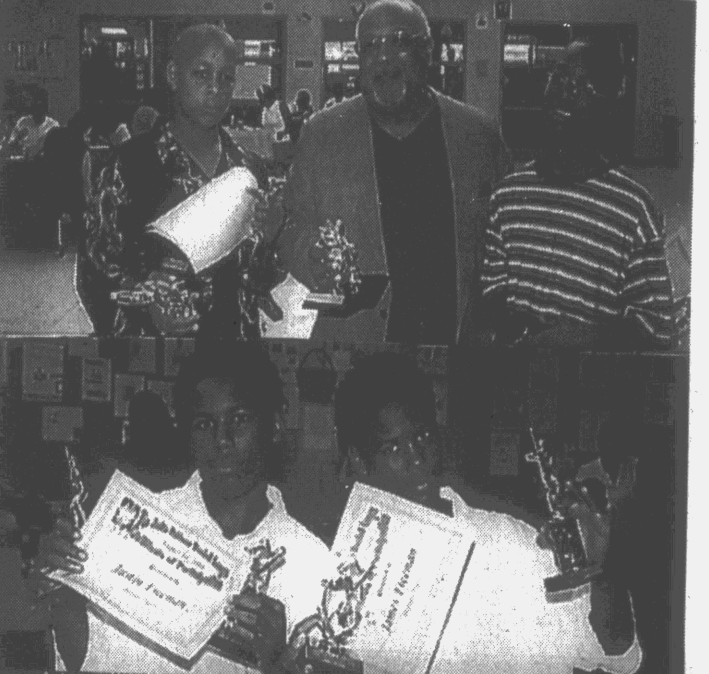
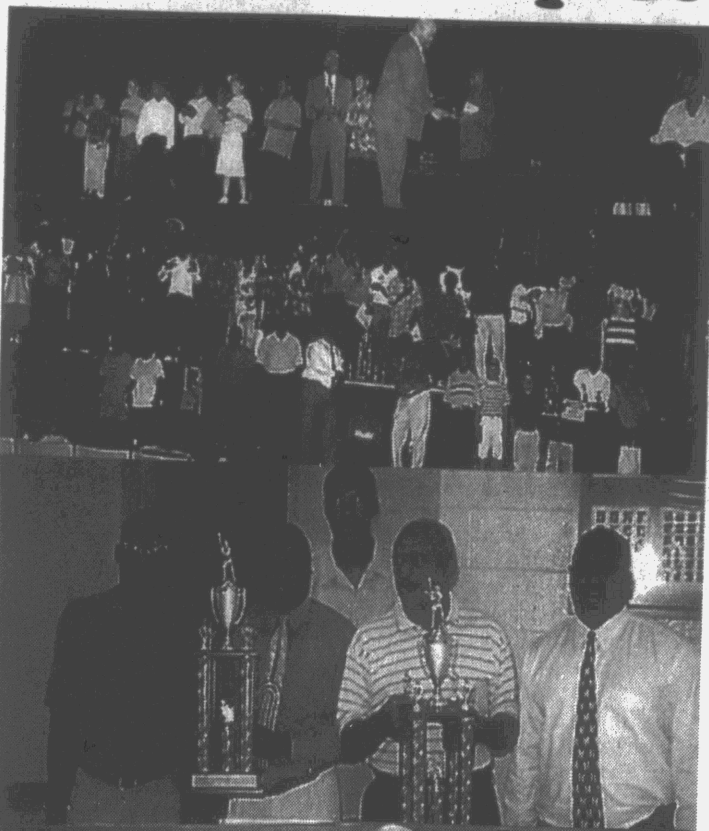
Involvement with children is essential. "Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing," Abraham Lincoln once said, "Raising children of character demands truth and attention. We need to create an environment in which our children can develop habits of honesty, generosity and a sense of justice."

Consider these steps to help your children build sturdy character:

- Model good character in the home. It is critically important that those who are attempting to influence children in positive ways, "walk the talk."
- Be clear about your values. Talk with children about where you stand on important issues.
- Show respect for your spouse, your children and other family members. Simply stated, respect begets respect.
- Model and teach your children good manners. Insist that all family members use good manners in the home.
- Have family meals together without television as often as possible. Mealtime is an excellent time for parents to talk with and listen to the children and strengthen family ties.
- Don't provide your children access to alcohol and drugs. Model appropriate behavior regarding alcohol and drugs.
- Learn to say no and mean it.
- Refuse to cover for your children or make excuses for their behavior.
- Keep your children busy in positive activities such as sports, hobbies, music or other forms of the arts, church or youth groups.
- Set clear expectations for your children and hold them accountable for their actions.
- Know where your children are, what they are doing and with whom. Insist on meeting your children's friends and their parents. • Character counts.

BEATRICE MAYE

Jackie Robinson League Holds Annual Banquet



The Jackie Robinson Baseball League Summer Season concluded with annual banquet award ceremonies that was held at J.H. Rose High School.

This highly successful program gives young black youth in the inner city the opportunity to play organized baseball through out the long hot Summer months. Photos: Jim Rouse

The pursuit of truth and beauty is a sphere of activity in which we are permitted to remain children all our lives.

-Albert Einstein

Expedition aims to find lost slave ship

by Ian James

Associated Press Writer
SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) - Archaeologists are set to begin an expedition this month in hopes of finding a Spanish ship that wrecked along the jagged reefs off the Turks and Caicos Islands in 1841 carrying a cargo of African slaves.

The story of the Trouvadore is unusual because all 193 slaves made it to shore, and all but one survived to see their freedom granted by a British government that had just outlawed slavery. Most settled in the arid, low-lying islands and began new lives working its salt ponds and raising families.

The shipwreck holds particular significance for the British territory of 25,000 people because researchers believe virtually all native islanders have ties by blood or marriage to the survivors.

Their story was nearly forgotten, reflected only in vague tales passed down over generations, until archaeologists in the past decade pieced together details from records in Britain, Cuba, Jamaica, Bahamas and the United States.

The two-week expedition is to begin Aug. 28, with searchers using swimmers dragged on tow boards behind a dive boat to scan 3 square miles of shallow, clear waters seldom visited by divers.

"We are very confident we're going to find it simply because all the paperwork points to one location," said Nigel Sadler, an English archaeologist and director of the Turks and Caicos National Museum.

All accounts say the Spanish brigantine sank off Breezy Point on uninhabited East Caicos island, a treacherous coastline littered with shipwrecks.

The chartered search boat, T&C Explorer, is to leave Grand Turk with a 13-member team including filmmakers from Windward Media of Kemah, Texas, making a documentary for U.S. public television. The expedition is funded with \$80,000 given by resorts, developers, the islands' hotel and tourism association, tourism board and private donors.

A first hint of the ship's existence came in 1993 when Grethe Seim, late founder of the National Museum, and American archaeologist Donald Keith were looking through records of artifacts at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

One century-old letter from an artifact dealer mentioned two wooden African idols from a shipwreck off Turks and Caicos. Research showed the ship's name was listed in documents as Trouvadore - Trovador in Spanish - and that the idols weren't African but from Easter Island, probably mementos brought by Spanish or Portuguese sailors.

"The whole story is not told anywhere in one document. It's little bits and pieces that you put together - letters back and forth," said Keith, who runs the group Ships of Discovery at the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History in Texas.

Keith has studied shipwrecks in spots from Turkey to South Korea, and in the 1980s excavated the 16th century Molasses Reef Wreck off Turks and Caicos, about 575 miles southeast of Miami.

He suspects the Trouvadore broke apart after hitting reefs, probably leaving metal hatches and slaves' chains strewn about and perhaps buried in sand. If the team finds promising spots, they will apply to excavate artifacts for the National Museum.

The ship wrecked on its way from Africa to Cuba seven years after Britain's 1834 order to emancipate slaves.

In a letter sent to colonial authorities in Nassau, Bahamas, on April 3, 1841, a British magistrate wrote that the Africans were found naked, then quarantined in a jail where they were given food and clothing.

The crew had shot and killed one African woman on the beach who tried to escape. The 20 Spanish and Portuguese sailors were sent under guard to Nassau and deported to Cuba.

While 24 freed slaves were taken to Nassau, 168 stayed in Turks and Caicos and were assigned to work on the many salt ponds under one-year contracts, raking salt into piles in exchange for shelter and food, Sadler said. They brought a 7 percent increase to a population of about 2,300.

It's not clear from where in Africa they came. In 1842 freed slaves founded a settlement with the African name Bambarra, and it remains today with several dozen residents.

Towns named Bambara also exist in Mali in West Africa and Chad in central Africa. Sadler and other researchers say survivors probably brought that name with them, along with traditions from music to basket-weaving. On the Net:

www.slaveshiptrouvadore.com

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Rising Use Of 'African-American' Raises Question Of Who Belongs

By Rachell L. Swans

SILVER SPRING, Md. - For a moment, the Ethiopian-born activist seemed to melt into the crowd, blending into the sea of black professors, health experts and community leaders considering how to educate blacks about the dangers of prostate cancer.

But when he suggested focusing some attention on African immigrants, the dividing lines were promptly and pointedly drawn.

The focus of the campaign, activist Abdulaziz Kamus was told, would be strictly on African-Americans.

"I said, 'But I am African and I am an American citizen; am I not African-American?'" asked Kamus, an advocate for African immigrants here.

"They said, 'No, no, no, not you.' 'The census is claiming me as an

African-American," said Kamus, 47, who has lived in this country for 20 years. "If I walk down the streets, white people see me as an African-American. Yet African-Americans are saying, 'You are not one of us.' So I ask myself, in this country, how do I define myself?"

That prickly question is increasingly being raised as the growing number of foreign-born blacks in the United States inspires a quiet debate over who can claim the term "African-American." The term has rapidly replaced "black" in much of the nation's political and cultural discourse.

In the 1990s in the United States, the number of blacks with recent roots in sub-Saharan Africa nearly tripled. And the number of blacks with origins in the Caribbean grew by more

than 60 percent, according to demographers at the State University of New York at Albany.

By 2000, foreign-born blacks constituted nearly 34 percent of blacks in Miami, 30 percent of those in New York City and 28 percent of those in Boston, an analysis of census data done at Queens College shows.

In recent years, black immigrants and their children have become more visible in universities, in the workplace and in politics. They include Secretary of State Colin Powell, son of Jamaican immigrants, and Illinois state Sen. Barack Obama, born to a Kenyan father and an American mother, who is leading the polls in the race for a U.S. Senate seat.

The demographic shifts gained strength in the 1960s after changes in

federal immigration law led to increased migration from Africa and Latin America. The shifts have been accompanied in some places by fears that newcomers might eclipse native-born blacks.

Ethnic Identity Debated
And they have touched off delicate musings about ethnic labels, identity and the often unspoken differences among people of the same skin color.

Earlier this month, the debate spilled into public view when Alan Keyes, black Republican challenger for the Senate seat in Illinois, questioned whether Obama, keynote speaker at the Democratic National Convention, should claim an African-American identity.

"Barack Obama claims an African-American heritage," Keyes said on the ABC program "This Week With George Stephanopoulos." "Barack Obama and I have the same race - that is, physical characteristics. We are not from the same heritage."

"My ancestors toiled in slavery in this country," Keyes said. "My consciousness, who I am as a person, has been shaped by my struggle, deeply emotional and deeply painful, with the reality of that heritage."

Some black Americans argue that black immigrants, such as Kamus, and the children of immigrants, such as Obama and Powell, are most certainly African-American. Obama and Powell often use that term when describing themselves.

Yet some immigrants and their children prefer to be called African or Nigerian-American or Jamaican-American, depending on their countries of origin. Other people prefer the term "black," which seems to be more inclusive.

Disparity In Achievement Seen
Keyes' comments reflect the views of a number of black Americans, including those who challenged Kamus

at the meeting on prostate cancer this year.

Many argued that the term "African-American" should refer to the descendants of slaves brought to the United States centuries ago, not to newcomers who have not inherited the legacy of bondage, segregation and legal discrimination.

Several studies suggest that black immigrants and their children are achieving at higher levels than native-born blacks. A study based on 2000 census data conducted by John R. Logan and Glenn Deane at SUNY-Albany found that African immigrants typically had more education and higher median incomes than did native-born blacks.

Sociologists say foreign-born blacks from majority-black countries are less psychologically stigmatized by race. Many arrive with higher levels of education and professional experience. And sociologists say they often encounter less discrimination.

Obama says such arguments do not reflect the views of black Americans who have joined forces over the years with Africans and people from the Caribbean to fight colonialism and poverty.

He says that black descendants of slaves share more similarities than differences with black migrants and their children.

He says that his grandfather worked as a servant in Kenya and was described as a houseboy by whites even when he was a middle-aged man.

"Some of the patterns of struggle and degradation that blacks in the United States experienced aren't that different from the colonial experience in the Caribbean or the African continent," Obama said in an interview.

"For me the term 'African-American' really does fit," said Obama, 43. "I'm African - I trace half of my heri-

tage to Africa directly - and I'm American."

The term "African-American" has crept steadily into the nation's vocabulary since 1988, when the Rev. Jesse Jackson urged Americans to use it to refer to blacks.

"It puts us in our proper historical context," Jackson said then. In a recent interview, he added that he still favored the term. "Every ethnic group in this country has a reference to some land base, some historical cultural base. African-Americans have hit that level of cultural maturity."

Since 1989, the number of blacks using the term has steadily increased, polls show.

In a survey that year conducted by ABC and The Washington Post, 66 percent said they preferred the term "black," 22 percent preferred "African-American," 10 percent liked both terms and 2 percent had no opinion.

In 2000, the Census Bureau for the first time allowed respondents to check a box with the heading "African-American" next to the term "black." In 2003, a poll by the same news organizations found that 48 percent of blacks preferred the term "African-American," 35 percent favored "black" and 17 percent liked both terms.

Many whites use the term for all blacks.

Phillip J. Brutus, the first Haitian-born state legislator in Florida, favors the term black because it includes foreign-born immigrants and black Americans.

"'African-American' has become the politically correct term to use, but I still say black," said Brutus, who lives in Miami. "I say I'm black and American. That's what's most accurate. I think, by and large, black is more encompassing."

Rachelle L. Stearns writes for the New York Times

Iraq had no WMD: the final verdict

Julian Borger in Washington
The Guardian

WASHINGTON, DC - The comprehensive 15-month search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq has concluded that the only chemical or biological agents that Saddam Hussein's regime was working on before last year's invasion were small quantities of poisons, most likely for use in assassinations.

A draft of the Iraq Survey Group's final report circulating in Washington found no sign of the alleged illegal stockpiles that the US and Britain presented as the justification for going to war, nor did it find any evidence of efforts to reconstitute Iraq's nuclear weapons programme.

It also appears to play down an interim report which suggested there was evidence that Iraq was developing "test amounts" of ricin for use in weapons. Instead, the ISG report says in its conclusion that there was evidence to suggest the Iraqi regime planned to restart its illegal weapons programmes if UN sanctions were lifted.

Charles Duelfer, the head of the ISG, has said he intends to deliver his final report by the end of the month. It is likely to become a heated issue in the election campaign.

President George Bush now ad-

mits that stockpiles have not been found in Iraq but claimed as recently as Thursday that "Saddam Hussein had the capability of making weapons, and he could have passed that capability on to the enemy."

The draft Duelfer report, according to the New York Times, finds no evidence of a capability, but only of an intention to rebuild that capability once the UN embargo had been removed and Iraq was no longer the target of intense international scrutiny.

The finding adds weight to Mr Bush's assertions on the long-term danger posed by the former Iraqi leader, but it also suggests that, contrary to the administration's claims, diplomacy and containment were working prior to the invasion.

The draft report was handed to British, US and Australian experts at a meeting in London earlier this month, according to the New York Times. It largely confirms the findings of Mr Duelfer's predecessor, David Kay, who concluded "we were almost all wrong" in thinking Saddam had stockpiled weapons. The Duelfer report goes into greater detail.

Mr Kay's earlier findings mentioned the existence of a network of laboratories run by the Iraqi intelligence service, and suggested that the regime could be producing "test amounts" of chemical weapons and

researching the use of ricin in weapons.

Subsequent inspections of the clandestine labs, under Mr Duelfer's leadership, found they were capable of producing small quantities of lethal chemical and biological agents, more useful for assassinations of individuals than for inflicting mass casualties.

Mr Duelfer, according to the draft, does not exclude the possibility that some weapons materials could have been smuggled out of Iraq before the war, a possibility raised by the administration and its supporters. However, the report apparently produces no significant evidence to support the claim. Nor does it find any evidence of any action by the Saddam regime to convert dual-use industrial equipment to weapons production.

"I think we know exactly how this is going to play out," said Joseph Cirincione, a proliferation expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"You'll see a very elaborate spin operation. But there's not much new here from what the ISG reported before," he said. "There are still no weapons, no production of weapons and no programmes to begin the production of weapons. What we're left with here is that Saddam Hussein might have had the desire to rebuild the capability to build those weapons."

"Well, lots of people have desire for these weapons. Lots of people have intent. But that's not what we went to war for."

The motives for war, meanwhile, came under fresh scrutiny last night as the Telegraph reported that Tony Blair was warned in Foreign Office papers a year before the invasion of the scale of dealing with a post-Saddam Iraq.

The Liberal Democrat foreign affairs spokesman, Sir Menzies Campbell, said that if authenticated, the papers "demonstrate that the government agreed with the Bush administration on regime change in Iraq more than a year before military action was taken."

Mr Duelfer, who is reported to still be in Baghdad, did not respond to a request for an interview on the question of WMD yesterday.

Earlier this year, he told the Guardian that he expected his report would leave "some unanswered questions".

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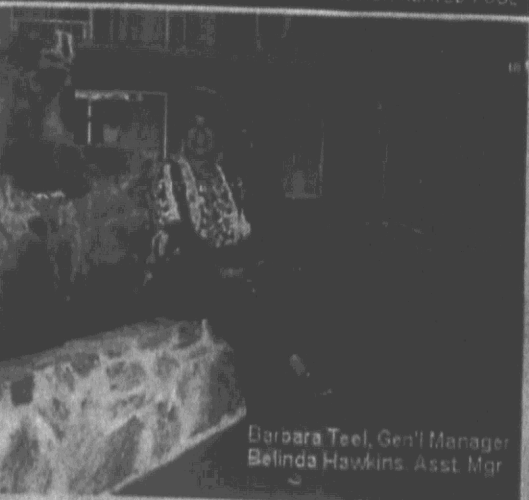
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give himself some entrée," Walters says. "My interpretation was that he was covering all bases with the Democratic Party."

Obama declares that no such relationship with the DLC ever existed.

"The Black Commentator, the Web site, saw my name as one of the 100 up-and-coming that the DLC had listed and assumed that somehow that made me a DLC member. They were mistaken," he says.

Obama explains, "I try not to label myself as any particular kind of legislator. I like to have flexibility to make judgment calls about what I think is best for my voters."

Moving through thick crowds at the Democratic convention and at last week's CBC Weekend, Obama always seemed to stand out, attracting crowds everywhere he went. If elected to the Senate, he says he will not blend in there either, but will speak up on issues that affect African-Americans and others.

"Some issues cut across all racial lines, like jobs, education, and health care," he says. "But they especially benefit African-Americans, who are disproportionately unemployed, disproportionately lack health care coverage, disproportionately go to sub-standard schools. There are also those specific issues surrounding civil rights, voting rights, and health disparities in areas like AIDS, in which I look forward to being an advocate, not only because I'm African-American but also because it's the right thing to do."

Obama says he objects to President Bush packing the federal courts with Far Right extremists.

"I hope John Kerry is the next president," he says. "I have confidence that his judicial appointments will be sympathetic to civil rights and voting rights and civil liberties. If President Bush got another four years, I think we'd have to be fearful."

Obama is being challenged by Alan Keyes, a two time long-shot presidential candidate and former under secretary of state in the Reagan administration. Keyes, a resident of Maryland, announced his Illinois senatorial candidacy last month.

Obama, who holds a he lead in the polls, tactfully avoids discussing his opponent.

If elected, as expected, Obama will be the third African-American to serve in the U. S. Senate since Reconstruction. The others are Edward W. Brooke (1966-1978) and Carol Moseley Braun (1992-1998).

Observers see him as a potential new voice on the Hill. But they see him as serving dual roles.

The son of a White American mother and Kenyan father, some see Obama as helping bridge the racial gap.

"I've always identified as an African-American. People look at me and say, 'There's an African-American brother,'" he explains.

Yet he is not limited by that.

"I think I can speak to many cultures, but I don't think that's unique to me," Obama says. "I think it's just a matter of experience and exposure as opposed to where your bloodline is. That's why I've never been someone who believes there should only be one African-American leader. Everybody's got a voice that they contribute."

The trail is the thing, not the end of the trail. Travel too fast and you miss all you are traveling for.
-Louis L'Amour

GOP compassion "Big pimpin'"

by Ron Walters

In the 2000 elections, Republicans tried to evoke a convention theme that projected them as the "compassionate" party. The problem was that the Republican Party was really nationalists and had an image constructed by Rep. Newt Gingrich, who had recently stepped down as Speaker of the House. Gingrich's GOP was viewed as aggressively narrow, mean-spirited and even hateful.

In order to win, George Bush and his colleagues set out to paint a more moderate image by parachuting in some Blacks ministers and their choirs, along with Hispanics and Asians to give a false picture of the party.

The 2004 convention did it again, this time against the backdrop of George Bush, the president's Hispanic nephew; First Lady Laura Bush representing women's issues; Black Lt. Gov.

Michael Steele of Maryland, and Secretary of Education Rod Paige. Curiously, the Bush people prevented Secretary Colin Powell, a popular moderate Republican, from attending on the grounds that national security should not be politicized. But at the same time, they allowed Condoleezza Rice to attend the convention and hauled out Gen. Tommy Franks, head of the war effort in Iraq, for a political endorsement.

Michael Steele however, was to be a key voice representing diversity as the GOP's version of Barack Obama. Like Obama, Steele gave a speech asserting that opportunity was "at the reach of every American" if they would just work for it and that Blacks have come a long way since the Civil Rights Movement by refusing to accept "the poisonous path of complacency."

I resent the not so subtle sugges-

tion by conservatives that Blacks have not become equal in America because they haven't tried hard enough. Look at the odds of racism, classism, genderism, and the rest.

In fact, Steele did admit that the challenges are real, and that we all must be vigilant in the fight against poverty and the lack of education, since what defines civil rights today is whether you can own that lunch counter to create legacy wealth for your children. Steele also railed against the theme of hope that was highlighted at the Democratic convention. He said that results were what mattered and that Bush had delivered results on his agenda by promoting tax cuts, home ownership, education and the like.

Steele then closed his speech referencing his mother, Mabel Turner, as a great inspiration in his life who modeled character-building by not taking

welfare, practicing thrift and rejecting racial hatred. But he said she also questioned how he could be a Republican; she knew that her values were not political but was how most Black people survived.

This once every four year focus on "compassion" is like pimpin' the concept, big time. Because the real face of the Bush administration is one that just recently cut overtime pay for all but "first responders." It changed public housing regulations relating to the \$14.4 billion housing voucher program to allow more middle income people to become eligible, a move that the New York Times said would leave "those with lower incomes to fight for a smaller share of the pie."

This comes at a time when the Census Bureau reported that the poverty rate increased for the third straight year and those without health insur-

ance grew from 13 percent in the late 1980s to nearly 16 percent today.

What we have here then is a "bait-and-switch" image making strategy that will hide the fact that the Bush administration has conducted some of the most racially negative acts, such as appointing judges insensitive to civil rights while smiling "compassionately." Polls are even showing that in spite of the negative tone of his administration, like Ronald Reagan, George Bush is benefiting from being likable.

While this "compassionate" charade was going on Tuesday night, the real face of the Republican convention was being shown in another place, at a closed, invitation only rally for "Family, Faith and Freedom" by Christian conservatives who really run the party, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Leading conservative Sen. Sam Brownback of

Kansas, struck the theme issuing a call to "win the culture war," a thought uttered from the podium by Patrick Buchanan in 1992 that meant war against gays, affirmative action, hip-hop, abortion and all of the things that the nationalist movement opposed.

This Republican Party holds positions that are antithetical to Black interests, which is why all of the 13 Black Republican candidates for the U.S. House, and the two candidates for the U.S. Senate will lose and why George Bush will be lucky to get 5 percent of the Black vote in this election, down from 8 percent the last time.

Ron Walters is a distinguished leadership scholar, director of the African American Leadership Institute in the Academy of Leadership and professor of government and politics at the University of Maryland-College Park.)

Treasuries slips on lower crude oil

BY Ros Krasny

African American Observer

CHICAGO — As the month of August came to a close, U.S. Treasury prices fell for a third session as oil prices simmered down and dealers became convinced of future Federal Reserve rate hikes after upbeat comments by Fed Governor Ben Bernanke.

The benchmark 10-year Treasury note fell 4/32 for a yield of 4.30 percent, up from 4.29 percent late Monday and its high-est level since Aug. 8. The next upside target is 4.31 percent and then 4.40 percent.

Momentum has shifted mostly as crude oil prices back away from highs near \$50 per barrel hit on Friday. October crude oil futures are back near \$45.50 per barrel.

Meanwhile, Federal Reserve officials, who have been mostly sidelined in recent weeks, have returned with an upbeat mantra on the economy. Late on Monday, Bernanke termed monetary policy "very accommodative" and said rising oil prices will not derail the U.S. economic expansion. Consumer spending, he added, has "picked up fairly considerably."

Bernanke's comments, made in an interview on the television program

Nightly Business Report, echoed those of Dallas Fed President Robert McTeer earlier Monday and left dealers more convinced of "a September rate increase."

Futures prices reflect an 88 percent chance the fed funds rate will be raised by 25 bps in September, up from 76 percent at the end of last week.

Tuesday's economic data on housing and retail sales had no lasting impact on bond prices.

Existing home sales in July fell to an annualized 6.72 million units, shy of Wall Street forecasts of 6.81 million units. Still, sales were the third-highest on record, coming off a five-month string of increases.

Lower mortgage rates in the past few weeks are likely to bump up sales again, even if the peak of the housing sales boom may have passed, traders said.

"There is no reason yet to expect any further significant decline in activity; with mortgage rates back below 6 percent for a standard 30-year fixed there is little chance the housing market will weaken in the near-term," said Ian Shepherdson, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics.

Weekly chain store sales were soft, according to Redbook Research, with

August sales so far down 1.0 percent vs. July.

Some cash-strapped consumers are said to be delaying purchases when possible, and the continued aftermath of Hurricane Charley in Florida also cut into sales.

The 30-year bond fell 5/32 to yield 5.09 percent, up from 5.07 percent on Monday. Five-year notes slipped 4/32 to yield 3.49 percent, up from 3.47 percent, and 2-year notes were down 2/32 at a yield of 2.50 percent, up from 2.47 percent.

Traders hope for guidance from Wednesday's July durable goods reports

and revised second-quarter gross domestic product figures due on Friday.

The week's headline event could be a speech by Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, on Friday.

Chicago Board of Trade Treasury futures encountered technical selling on Monday and met more of the same on Tuesday, although traded volumes have been light.

Next support lies at the 20-day moving averages in Sept. five-year, 10-year and 30 year futures. For 10-year futures the averages cross at 111-29/32.

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The Adventures of Deacon James WIN THIS HONDA !!!

by Deacon James D. Evans

Dear Mr. Helper:

With lap top in hand you too Mr. Helper should know my story. All day that Saturday July 10th my prayer was "Jesus help me. Jesus help me sell these fundraiser tickets." After three hours at the flea market only one ticket - was sold. By eleven thirty I was at home cooling off from a hot day in the sun. It was about 2:30 PM when I noticed that the passenger side "WIN THIS HONDA" sign was missing. Oh! Jesus help me was my prayer. Retracing my route back to the flea market was my next move. South on route #77 to the flea market grounds was my goal. Then the oil light started to wink. My mind said I shouldn't need oil. But just in case, I did a Uturn into the Handy Mart for a quart of oil. My question was "does the oil light wink for one quart low? Well it did. Now, God's wheels of timing were turning, so that I would be on time to meet my angel. I purchased the oil, poured the oil with my left hand, made a mess all over the engine. Towels were needed. I had to search for them to clean off the engine. A small but necessary delay. Then I headed back to the flea market grounds. Once there I prayed, "Jesus help me." but the sign was not to be found. Now on my way back home still praying "Jesus help me" I thought I saw it beside the road "Jesus help me" was still my prayer. What I saw beside the road turned out to be a roofing shingle black like the magnetized side of my sign. Oh! well! "Jesus help me!!" As I walked a good hot distant back to my Hondo, a blue van pulled in front of the red Hondo. I thought the van occupants were offering road assistance. But you, Mr. Helper, said to me "Did you lose a sign?" Astonished I said how did you know? Follow me I'll take you to it was the comment. Returning to the spot of the sign I asked. Sir are you a Christian? You said yes I am. I am "God's Little Helper" those words went right over my head. You picked up my sign to replace it on the door, I suggested we not do that, it fell once it may fall again. You reach into your well used wallet and gave me a \$10.00 bill and said "hold that" READERS, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING? ME TO. We exchanged cards, you said write me some \$2.00 tickets. I am GOD'S LITTLE HELPER and so are you. That is what your card said "God's Little Helper" as you drove away leaving me dumbfounded. Mr. God's little helper you made my day. With this story, I have told it over and over again my ticket sales are now very brisk. P.S: I took the sign back to the sign shop for repair, the owner said after several

checks, he could find nothing wrong with the sign so I say thank you! Jesus thank you! for helping me. Your Humble Servant Deacon James D. Evans Program Manager, Philadelphia House Philippi Church of Christ 1610 Farmville Blvd Greenville, NC 27834

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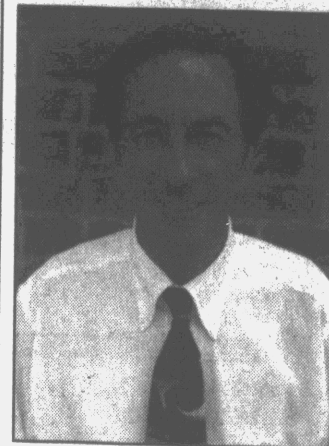
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No Black rock musicians on Miller cans

by Juliet Williams
Associated Press Writer

MILWAUKEE (AP) - A Miller Brewing Co. promotion celebrating the "50th Anniversary of Rock 'n' Roll" has Rolling Stone cover shots of Elvis Presley, Blondie and others on eight commemorative beer cans. What's missing is a black artist.

Robert Thompson, a professor of pop culture at Syracuse University, said the absence is "beyond conspicuous" since black artists often are credited with inventing rock 'n' roll.

"It would be like doing a set of cans of six great Impressionist painters and not including any French people on it," he said. "It leaves out an enormous amount."

The brewer and the magazine issued the cans this summer, depicting Elvis Presley, Blondie, Alice Cooper, Bon Jovi, Def Leppard and Willie Nelson, as well as two guitars.

Gary Armstrong, chief marketing officer for Rolling Stone publisher Wenner Media, said race wasn't a consideration when choosing the artists.

"We didn't even consciously think pro or con, the same way that the only woman on there is Blondie. We just went with the people that we thought were appropriate," he said. "We went through (the covers) and said these people we don't think are appropriate, or wouldn't appeal to Miller drinkers."

Armstrong noted Rolling Stone wasn't around for the birth of rock 'n' roll — it was first published in 1967 — when many formative black artists of the genre emerged. And many artists who appeared on covers balked at being associated with a promotion involving alcohol, he said.

Jimi Hendrix's estate, for instance, is protective of his image, Armstrong said. "Again I think it might have had something to do with the beer."

Miller spokesman Scott Bussen said the company started with a broad wish list.

"I'm sure that our objective was to get as diverse a representation of musical acts as well as diversity," he said, but the company's choices were limited to Rolling Stone covers.

Miller spokeswoman Molly Reilly said other artists were considered, but "these are the artists that gave us approval to use their images on the beer cans."

Six of the initial 10 inductees into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland in 1986 were black, including Chuck Berry, James Brown, Ray Charles and Little Richard. The Hall of Fame, which is throwing a summer concert series sponsored by Miller Lite, declined to comment on the cans.

Todd Mesek, the hall of fame's senior marketing director, said "African heritage is critical" to rock's development.

"Arguably all rock and roll came from, or at least was greatly influenced by, African culture," Mesek said. "Rock and roll came from R&B, jazz, folk. All those genres before rock and roll came together to birth rock and roll."

William McKeen, chairman of the University of Florida journalism department and editor of the book "Rock and Roll is Here to Stay," called the list strange.

"I look at rock 'n' roll in racial terms. Rock and roll is black America meeting white America," McKeen said. "It's about the merger of white people's music, country, with black people's music, rural blues."

"I mean, sure, you can argue that Elvis opened the door, but then Chuck Berry and Little Richard and Bo Diddley came through," McKeen said.

Foes Agree to Debates

The Bush and Kerry campaigns have tentatively agreed to three presidential debates, the Washington Post reported today.

The Bush campaign, which had hoped to limit the number to two, yielded to the Commission on Presidential Debates in its call for three events, to begin at the University of Miami in Coral Gables on Sept. 30.

The second debate will be held Oct. 8 in Missouri with a town-meeting style and the third will be on Oct. 13 in Tempe, Ariz.

The cure for all ills and wrongs, the cares, the sorrows and the crimes of humanity, all lie in the one word love. It is the divine vitality that everywhere produces and restores life.
-Lydia Maria Child

When one door closes another door opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the ones which open for us.
-Alexander Graham Bell

Armstrong said each of the artists represents developments in rock history. For instance, Willie Nelson represents Americana and rock's

roots, while Alice Cooper is "stadium rock and shock."

The artists weren't paid to appear on the cans, although some re-

ceived perks such as free beer or magazine subscriptions, Armstrong said.

He said he hasn't heard anything negative about the promotion, which is running in conjunction with three

Rolling Stone special editions: rock immortals, moments and photos. In its immortals edition, 20 of the 50 rockers are black.

Thompson said everyone has an opinion when it comes to rock, and

the cans may have been designed to generate buzz more than anything else.

"My guess is a lot of people will have a lot to say about this list," he said. "Oftentimes that's the point."



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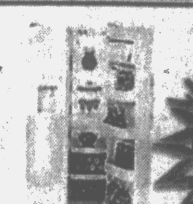


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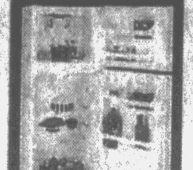
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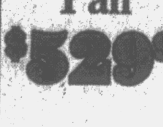


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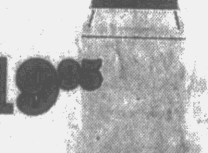
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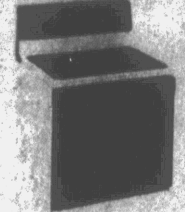
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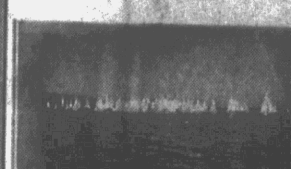
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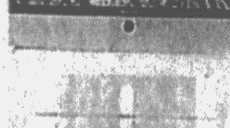
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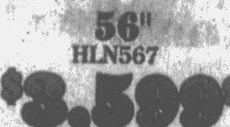
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- 3D Y/C Digital Comb Filter
- 2-tuner PIP with side by side split screen
- 8000 Hr. 100-watt user replaceable lamp
- HD fine pitch screen
- No Screen aging or burn-in effects



56" HLN567
\$3,599

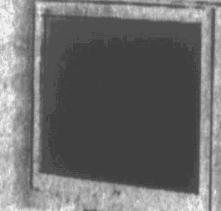


46" HLN467
\$2,999



43"
\$2,799

FLAT SCREEN JVC TV



- Audio Output 1.2 Watts x 2 Speakers
- Component Video Input
- 3 AV Inputs (2 Rear, 1 Front)
- Unified Remote Control
- 27" Diagonal Full Square Dark Tinted Picture Tube
- Tri-Lingual On Screen Display: English, French, Spanish



AV27F475
\$349

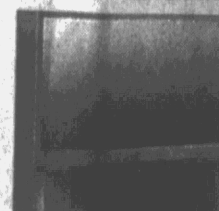


AV32F475
\$549

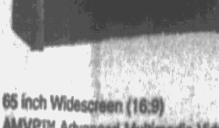


AV36F475
\$899

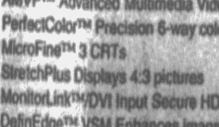
MITSUBISHI WIDESCREEN TV



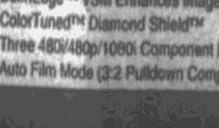
42" WT42315
\$1,499



48" WS48315
\$1,599



55" WS55315
\$1,899

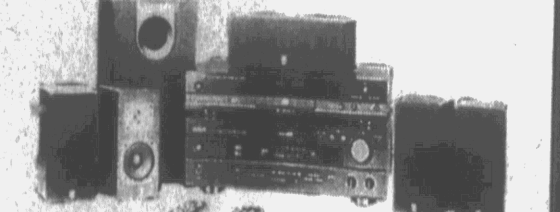


65" WS65315
\$2,299

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

YAMAHA

NATURAL SOUND ONE-BOX HOME THEATER AUDIO SYSTEM



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

Why Choose Your Local BRANDSOURCE Store

- COMMUNITY-BASED
- BUYING POWER
- DEDICATION

- VALUE
- NAME BRANDS
- PEACE OF MIND

