Princeville Celebrates 120th Anniversar

friends and supporters of the City of Princeville — the oldest American town chartered by blacks that

Leadership Conference — as a birthday gift.

After singing the national Negro anthem, "Lift Every Voice and



Rev. Joseph Lowery shown here with Princeville's Mayor, Priscilla Everette-Oates

was settled in 1865 and incorporated in 1885, gathered inside St. Luke Church of Christ to celebrate 120 years of history and to hear the Keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery - one of the original founders of the Southern Christian

Sing," and introductions of the town's elected officials, Lowery took the pulpit.

"Congrats on the courage and preservation on rising from a watery grave to a mountain of hope," said Lowery, 83. "You all represent

a people who deserve praise. Just three years ago you all were covered in water. The way you've come up and out has set a beautiful example to America. I respect this town's perserverance. As black people, we learn how to live through hardships and use what we got. This is an example of how to turn adversity into opportunity."

Lowery, a native of Alabama, served as president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference until retiring in 1997. He also led the 1982 march through five states in favor of the Voting Rights Act. Although this was his first visit to Princeville, he said his wife had been to the town - formerly known as Freedom Hill - after the 1999 flood.

"History is important," Lowery said. "If you don't know where you've come from, you don't know where you're going, and if you don't know where you've come from, you won't know when you're being led back. History builds a foundation. No other set of people have come so far since slavery."

Lowery's message didn't just focus on his experiences of injustices

during the civil rights era or the importance of Black History Month. He also spoke on the state of the nation. He said it was time to redirect and understand that the United States needs to seek out the evils in its own country.

"America is serious. Not serious like a headache, but serious like a heart attack," he said. "People think we are crazy; we are out of our cotton-pickin' minds. We're sending smart bums on dumb missions. Our own people are dying searching for weapons of mass destruction, when (those weapons) are here, too. Forty-four million people in this country are without health insurance, and more are trying to live off of minimum wage. Those are weapons of mass destruction right here in our own country."

Friday's celebration of the town is a reminder to the community of where the town is going, said Milton Bullock, a Princeville native and former member of The Platters — one of the top vocal groups of the 1950s. Though Mayor Priscilla Everette-Oates could not say where she sees the town in five

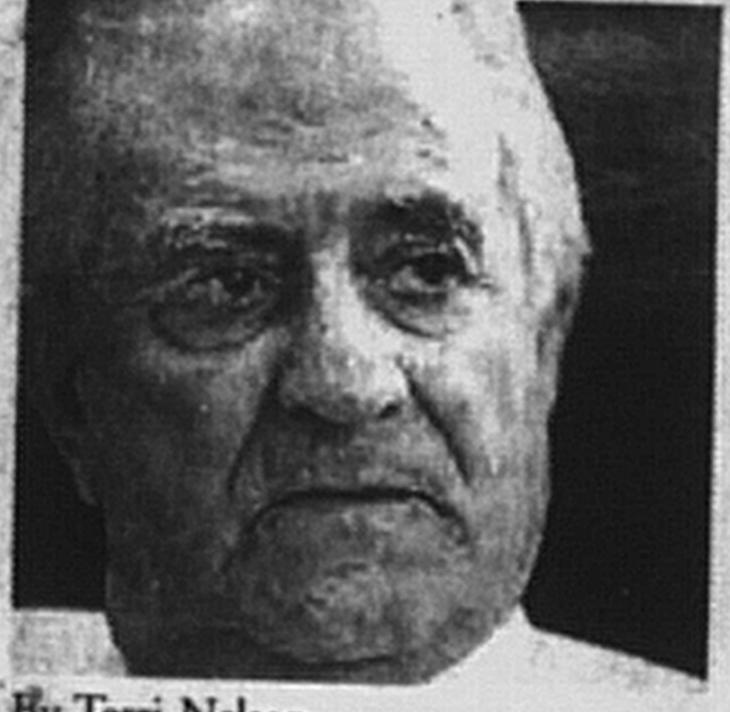
years, she knows what the foreseeable future holds, such as a medical and dental center that will create 15 new jobs, an African-American ones. But this is a historical museum and a new recreation park 'tunity to reflect on the milestones for the community.

"We didn't do this all alone,"

come this way alone. We h good white ones to help alc some bad black ones and ba

that have shaped our community. Please pay attention, because this

Bullock said. "We black ones didn't is history alive." Judge Who Pushed Desegregation Dies at 86



By Terri Nelson RICHMOND, VA - Robert R. Merhige Jr., a federal judge whose rulings forcing schools to desegregate made him so unpopular that for a time he required 24-hour protection, has

died. He was 86.

Merhige died Friday at Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center after undergoing open heart surgery days earlier, his son, Mark R. Merhige, said Saturday.

Named to the federal bench in 1967 by President Lyndon Johnson, Robert R. Merhige Jr. ordered dozens of Virginia's school systems to desegregate.

After a 1972 decision to consolidate public school systems in Richmond and neighboring counties for the sake of integration, his dog was shot to death, and a guest cottage on his property was destroyed by arson.

Last year, Merhige told the Rich-See Desegregation Page 2

Poverty worsening HIV among U.S. black women-study

By Paul Simao, Reuters

ATLANTA - Poverty, unemployment and other socioeconomic factors are helping to fuel a growing HIV problem among black women, a U.S. study released on Thursday suggests.

Black men and women account for a majority of the estimated 40,000 new HIV infections that are diagnosed in the United States each year. The new HIV infection rate

among black women is about 18 times that of white women.

The study published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that black women infected with the AIDS virus are more likely to be unemployed and willing to trade sex for drugs or money than uninfected black women.

The study was based on a small group of black women in North Carolina who were diagnosed with

HIV in 2003 and the first half of 2004 and a larger group of uninfected women who were recruited at HIV testing sites in 2004.

It found that 71 percent of those who were infected did not have a job, compared with 38 percent of those uninfected.

More than a third of the HIVpositive women admitted trading sex for money, drugs or other gifts, said researchers with the Atlanta-based

CDC, North Carolina Department of Health and University of North

Only 15 percent of uninfected women had done so.

There was also a higher tendency for the infected women to be on welfare or some other form of public assistance.

"It suggests that it's a lot more difficult for women who are poor to even think of HIV as a health

priority when there are so many other issues that they are dealing with," said Dr. Lisa Fitzpatrick, director of the CDC's minority HIV/AIDS research initiative and one of the study's authors.

Fitzpatrick noted that black women in North Carolina had an HIV infection rate 14 times higher than white women. "I think this mirrors a lot of the epidemic in the rest of the country. This is not unique to North Carolina."

Only heterosexually active

Philadelphia Mayor John Street spoke about, his Success in using minority contractors to build two new stadiums in the City of Brotherly Love. Street said he used 19 minority contractors to construct the sprawling \$1.2 billion arenas.

'I represent a city with a tremendous amount of minority and poor people," said Street."We need

to level the economic playing field." Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields said that she has established an advisory board that will ensure woman and minorityowned businesses are utilized if the Jets get the official go-ahead to build

black women between the ages of 18 and 40 living in parts of the state with the highest AIDS death rates were included in the study. Those who admitted injecting drugs were excluded.

Researchers also found worrying similarities in sexual behavior among the two groups of women, including high rates of sexually transmitted diseases. The majority of both groups, however, felt that they were unlikely or very unlikely to contract HIV.

Minority and woman owned businesses must participate meaningfully in the redevelopment of Manhattan's West Side," said Fields, who is widely considered to be a canididate in New York City's upcoming mayoral race.

The conference was not free of controversy. A small group of protesters with the organization Black United Fund of New

York held a protest outside the Hilton New York Hotel during Spitzer's talk. They allege that he actively worked to dismantle the Northeastern Urban League and "sensationalized the investigation"



frauding, high interest, etc.

Bonita Parker, national director of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition agreed. "We can sing, we can dance, we can wear the baggy pants, but now we need to step up to more

management roles," said Parker. The time, they argue, is now. With the development of major urban areas across America, Jackson said that contracts and loans should be extended to blacks to develop minority-owned enterprises.

Of the four goals of civil the rights movement, which included ending legal slavery, ending NEWYORK - During the latter part legal segregaof january when Rev. Jesse L. Jack-

tion, and securing the right to vote, the fourthteaching financial literacy and eliminating predatory lending-is the most important.

"As we come together this year, seeking participation in America's economic engine, we must be ever more vigilant in protecting the rights we have gained, even the right to vote," said Jackson. "At the same time, we must extend the gains

in the managers' offices and in the owners' boxes," he added.

The conference, titled "Beyond Diversity, Equity and Parity: A New Covenant," hosted several hundred people, most of whom were minority businesspeople with pledges to work with Jackson's organization to address the wealth disparity between

blacks and their white counterparts. Jackson said that African-Americans and other minorities

have been economi-Economic stagnation has occurred cally disenthrough unscrupuopus mortgage franchised, lending, automotive finance markcrippling ups for minorities, pension detheir pathway to suc-

> wealth gap leads to an opportunity gap," said Jackson. "Excellence and effort cannot compete with inheritance and

> Halting the economic misuse of the Black community

> This economic stagnation, said Jackson, has occurred through unscrupuopus nortgage lending, automotive finance mark-ups for mi

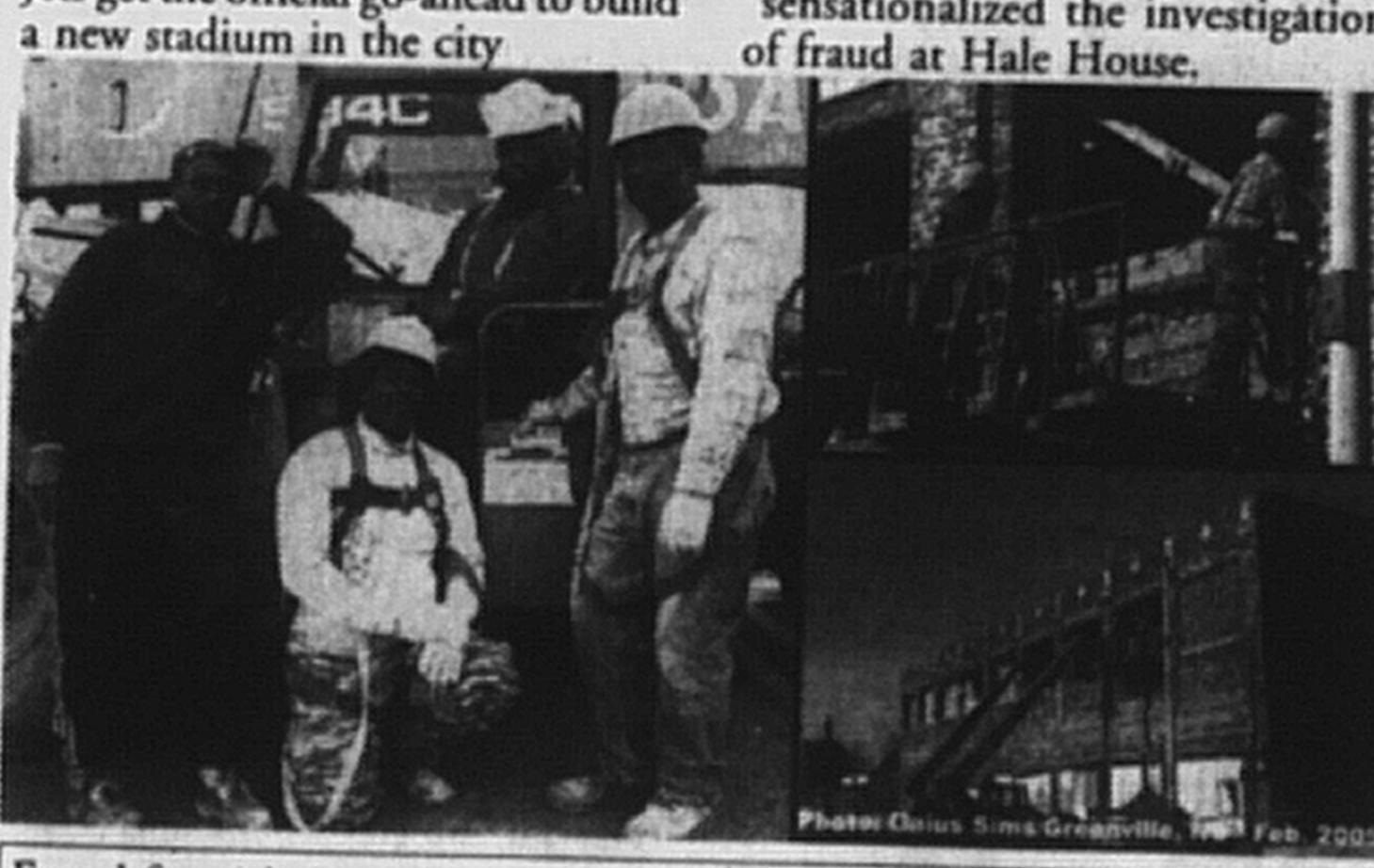
He called for an end to these predatory lending practices, or charging high interest rates arid fees that are not beneficial to the borrower.

Predatory lending companies are five times more likely to be in Black communities than white, and African-Americans are 4.1 times more likely to be victimized by predatory lending.

In a breakfast discussion between Jackson and Elliot Spitzer, the New York attorney general, Spitzer, who is a candidate for governor in 2006, said that the fight for racial economic parity is an uphill battle. Capital flows influence decisions," said Spitzer. "Everyone fights to maintain the status quo. They have an overwhelming constituency," he

But Spitzer, who has experience in mutual fund fraud, pledged to track down predatory lending companies and said that his office would prosecute those involve in such schemes. In addition to halting the economic misuse in the Black community Jackson wants to see more commercial ventures between Black businesses and mainstream companies.

"Allowing minority-owned businesses to compete in the marketplace will increase dividends for



From left to right Reginald Edwards, Dude Langley, Jimmy Langley, Jr. and Jimmy Langley, Sr. briefly pose for the camera. These construction specialists are taking part in a major restoration of the Blount-Harvey building in uptown Greenville

said that African Americans must Pitt County Native Reflects on Lessons Learned

Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.

son, along with a host of promi-

nent politicians, business leaders

and community activists, kicked off

the 8th Annual Rainbow/PUSH

Wall Street Conference in Midtown

Manhattan in an effort to fight for

to play baseball in 1947 the issue

was playing," said Jackson, who has

"When Jackie Robinson came

racial economic reform.

GREENVILLE, NC -In 1981, Bethel native, Dr. Ruby L. Perkins already a 14 year veteran English professor, at the nation's oldest historically Black Colleges, Cheyney State



Dr. Ruby L. Perkins College located 25 miles south of Philadelphia, PA, realized that "literacy required a diet of reading". Elizabeth City State, Howard, Cheyney, and Temple Universities nurtured and gave rise to the coat of many colors which Perkins was destined to wear. Therefore, is it any wonder that Perkins, in addition to

(LIPS) Literacy is Peoples' Survival, and its companion project (RIBS) Reading is Black Survival literacy reading programs. Each is monumental in that they exemplified the expanse of Perkins's desire to provide access to literacy to those in need of its life long benefits, as well as to promote literacy as the foundation of sustainable communities, especially Black communi-

And those acts of giving back to the community also evolved into successful fund-raisers during the early 90's. Imagine these fundraisers as moments frozen in time with Perkins holding center stage, in a fluff in haphazard colors, tattered dress and infectious speech in bringing to life the outrageously funny tales of the late Jackie "Moms" Mabley. Out of this period arose yet another medium through which she could teach her English students lessons in effective

speaking. Add to Perkins growing list of literary achievements, that of Director/ Playwright of the successful West Chester Community Players, whose repertoire included storytelling, song and dance in celebration of Women's

However, it is her collection of Black Memorabilia, rare objets d'arts,



Pictured from left to right is Rosa Ward, Mary Cates - President, Vickie Joyner; Effie Thompson, and Denise Tyson, Minnie Andrews, Mary Raynard, kneeling, Janice Leonard-Peace, Shirley Williams, and Ruby Perkins during an appreciation pre-celebration party for the fist annual Valentines Day Scholarship Gala that was held at the Hilton Hotel the following evening. Photo: Jim Rouse

antiques, awe inspiring headlines of history captured on paper and film as well as modern arts detailing the rise of Blacks in America and the handspun legacy of Africa that Perkins holds dearest to heart. Each piece painstakingly selected during her extensive travels would later debut as the "Mama Day's Parlor" museum col-

The "Mama Day's Parlor", after

Mama Day, the Black matriarch in Gloria Naylor's successful novel so entitled, was first elegantly housed in the A. Foster Student Alumni Center on the campus Cheyney University, during Perkins tenure as professor.

-The catalogue includes a Republican Textbook for Colored Voters, an early NAACP newsletter, slavery items that include a \$1500.00 receipt from

SEE PITT COUNTY - PAGE 10

Answering Butterfield's Call, FBI to Investigate N.C. Securities Fraud Case

ROCKY MOUNT, NC - Responding to Congressman G. K. Butterfield's request, the Federal Bureau of Investigations will investigate the loss of the retirement savings of more than 300 retirees in Nash and Edgecombe counties.

"We join you in your concern for the financial loss to your constituents of their savings," Raleigh-based U.S. Attorney Frank D. Whitney said in his letter to Butterfield. "Those that allegedly commit securities fraud frequently victimize hard-working, unsuspecting citizens who are

vulnerable to schemers making false promises of high rates of return."
Whitney explained that the Raleigh office of the FBI will engage in a preliminary investigation of securities fraud involving Joe Jones, d.b.a. Joe Jones and Associates BAB Productions/Bernard Bailey. Once the FBI has completed its preliminary investigation. Whitney wrote a decision will be made on whether a full federal investigation will be required. Last fall. Butterfield pledged to do what he could to help after meeting with many of the retirees who lost their savings after investing with a Rocky Mount businessman. Earlier this month Butterfield wrote to the FBI seeking an investigation. "Tills has been a devastating experience for so many people," Butterfield said. "Hopefully this is the first step in bringing some justice to a terrible situation." Joe Jones and Associates allegedly recommended clients invest in a Charlotte concert promoter called BAB Productions. Jones, whose state license to sell securities expired in 2002 is under investigation by the state for fraud regarding the losses. The Secretary of State's Office informed Butterfield that BAB Productions

was never a licensed entity under the North Carolina Securities Act. In a letter to the FBI Butterfield said that -the victims are in dire need of assistance from federal authorities to investigate and prosecute the person or persons responsible for the loss of their hard earned savings" and asked the FBI to intervene in this case and pursue justice for those w ho are affected. Butterfield also said that consumers should investigate the legitimacy of any investment with the Secretary of State's Office before committing any money.

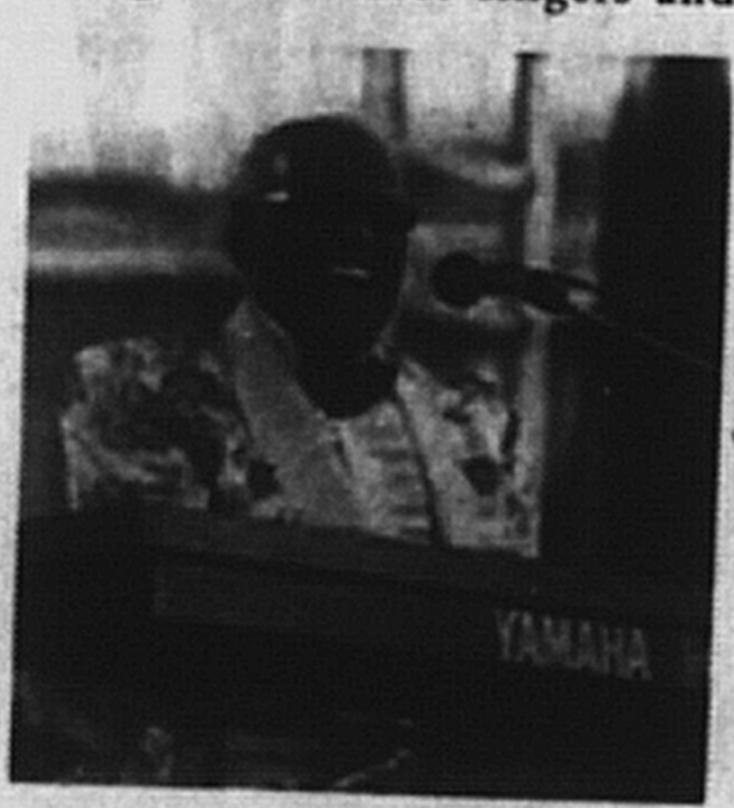
MONGE (I)

Because whatever happens to America happens to Black America first

What have they done with my song?

by Wilbert A. Tatum

Davis is gone. If there were such things as comfort singers and



comfort actors, Ray and Ossie would have been two of those. No matter what they sang, no matter what role they acted in, it was a comfort to see and hear them. We knew that after the show was over, we would be returned to our own special place where we could sing, dance, and cry. In other words, we have had a kind of fix that " made us feel good without intoxicating us with anything more than a fix of comfort.

These men were good for us. They were good for our egos, they were good for us as Black people. They were good for us as role models, and they were good men. They developed and practiced their crafts in such a way as to-

have us believe the characters they Ray Charles is gone. Ossie other words, we believed in them.

Now that they are gone, are there others for us to believe in? That is a difficult question which is going to be very difficult to answer in the short term. How do you replace a Ray Charles? How do you replace Ossie Davis?

The other night we watched the Grammy Awards and could not walk away without being thoroughly disappointed. The singers in the main could not sing, the actors could not act, and whatever one decides to attribute or what accomplishments had been made by most of them, it was out of our time, our space, our realm.

There are those who would say this is a new era. This is new music. And there are understandings here that those of us who are older simply do not understand. Perhaps that is true. But, Lord knows I do understand pretty. I do understand lovely. I do understand comfortable. I do understand thrilling, heartbreaking, and loving. Most of these feelings were not brought out in me by the singers of these strange songs, written to a strange music, that attempted to deliver a message that most people who were listening at the Grammys failed to understand.

Fewer people watched the Grammy Awards this year than any The new record stars have no other. Although we tried to understand why music was being written and played in such a way, it

was unfathomable.

Something is happening in the world of music, song and dance. Perhaps Langston Hughes was right when



he wrote, "They have taken my blues and gone." Maybe that is what I Langston was predicting when he accused whites of stealing Black music. Is it possible that Blacks who have seen their music used, abused and stolen by those who cannot sing or act have secretly decided? Is it a possibility that the new Black song writers have attempted to create music, verses and lyrics that whites do not understand and cannot perform? On the face of it, it's ludicrous. But, do I hear my song anywhere? Do I hear my tune being sung? *

names. Their bands have no name. It is difficult to record their music. Yet, there are those who in-

sensational. It is not a thing that I understand or would pay to see. Perhaps it all has to do with age the passing of time. Certainly the people who seem most fascinated by it are children, but these children come from a generation of children that never really learned to read, never really learned to sing. Might that not have something to do with it? Is it possible that they wouldn't recognize a song if they heard one or a poem if they were choked by it? Or, is it that there are those of us who have not yet caught on to the new rhythms, the new beats, the new anthems, the new music?

Sit in a corner and meditate about what is lost and will never return while conjuring up something new that never will be.

Desegregation From Page 1

mond Times-Dispatch that he was still amazed, disappointed and angry at the public reaction to his rulings.

"I thought people would say, 'We don't like the little S.O.B., but he's following the law," he said. "That didn't happen."

The consolidation order was reversed on appeal and made its way to the Supreme Court. In 1973, the high court deadlocked 4-4 on the case, which ended the consolidation effort.

Merhige also ruled in 1968 that the conflict in Vietnam was a war, whether or not it was a declared war.

sist they have come up with some-thing new and different, and quite Ray, It is hard to believe that they conjured up anything. It was so easy to hear them and to repeat what they were saying. It was so easy to watch them as they made us joyful, as they made us sad, using words that we knew, rhythms that we could duplicate from songs that were for any age or any people or any time.

Personally, I am saddened by this loss of my tune, of my song, of my poem. I am saddened because they will not return. There can be no recovery unless the song is sung the way it used to be. And by people who could sing.

On your way to the next level of matching voice with an old song, and playing on the radio, please don't forget to include those who have sung the songs before and who worship them now. Un-

derstand that they simply want to understand too what the songs mean and why they are dedicated to something that is so difficult to understand.

Ossie and Ray would have understood all of this because this was a time for singing their songs or saying their poems. Ossie was as comfortable reciting the works of Dylan Thomas as he was with Paul Laurence Dunbar. And Ray was as comfortable singing "Go Tell It on the Mountain" as he was with singing "America the Beautiful."

In many ways there are those who must be grateful. Because Ray and Ossie have passed on, we no longer have to ask them about their strange songs and words and tunes that have entered our lives. And we say, "They have taken my blues and gone."

Wilbert A. Tatum is Publisher Emeritus for the Amsterdam News New York City

96 Army reservists tried to avoid serving in Vietnam. Merhige denied their request.

He retired in 1998 and joined the law firm of Hunton & Williams in Richmond.

"He was a giant in the law," said former Gov. Gerald L. Baliles, whose office at Hunton & Williams was next to the judge's.

"Whether it was civil rights, or complicated antitrust cases, or criminal matters before the court, he called them as he saw them. He was not afraid of upholding the law."

Born in New York City, Merhige attended High Point College in North

Carolina and received his law degree from University of Richmond's T.C. Williams School of Law in 1942. He served in the Army Air Forces in World War II.

Besides his son Mark, Judge Merhige's survivors include his wife, Shirley G. Merhige, and his son Robert R. Merhige III.

Mark Merhige, a real estate developer in Richmond, said his father was a teacher to the end.

"He taught me to live with a certain code and a certain grace," he said. "He showed me yesterday that one can leave this world with that same kind of grace."

Is a Piece a Man Better Than The Whole?



Susie Clemons

About a week ago or so WOOW's William Clark and side kick E-Jack really had that morning show going. They really had folks stirred up and talking.

This topic was a ringer because in the majority of instances this question is only ever asked hence aimed at Sista's: "how can you be happy with a piece a man?"

Actually what the question begets: are some Black men okay offering themselves for piecemeal encounters versus wholesome and loving relationships? That's how I choose to view it. Cleary, there's more that meets the eye with this

But let's look at this thing from the male point of doing. Who's the victim of use in these instances, the Brotha' or the Sista?' It's not the Sista for she is the progenitor: one who sets the standard for something. She sets the standard because she out numbers you in many cases by as many as 5 and 6 to 1 of you- more or less- depending upon the city.

Sista's have for a long time

been in control of how they choose to conduct themselves morally; you on the other hand have been or are pimped much of the time. True?

Scandalous to say the least, but how could you let us treat you like that, like the hoof of a pigs feet? I ask, where's your self respect and sense of decency?

Those Sista in defense of their actions during such inquisitions of loving a piece a man will have some Sista's smiling, others advising you to talk to the hand, others more than ready to defend the part-time worker in their piece meal employ with a vivid assault of correcting words.

For the past several decades,. in particular and being ever mindful of the challenging remnants slavery has heaped upon our families, that some if not all Brotha's

piece meals- can even be caught braggin' about it. Imagine.

All this because Brotha's have really been duped by Sista's into thinking that they are running things. Sista's know that you juggle phone numbers and make as many house calls as is possible and so on. Trust me, we

I think perhaps that congratulations are in order for the Sista who came up with this pity-party idea in the first place- of lovin' a piece of man. Much like Heidi Fleiss, she either locked up, already served time or still in the business of educating women on the beauty, form and function of piece meal men.

For example, when's the last time you know of a Sista being locked up cause she whipped her man into acting right- so that there would be no doubt as to who the

boss is. Additionally guy's who trying to control the actions of whom on any given day? Where you at? Hollar-

On an classic note, who better than any Sista knows that because you're stretched so thin on your diet of women that it may take four of you to equal a whole (since bit's, pieces and portions is all some of you value yourselves

There again who but a Sista could treat everyone of her Boo's like he was the only Boo? After all you come in several orders: Mr. Just There, you know who you are...hanging on by a thread, which is how you like it.

Mr. Da' Pimp, his Boo takes Companion, good for trips light bill gas bill, maybe even rent or the mortgage- does great disappearing acts and he's too hot for commitment and racks up a lot of roaming fees.

Mr. Daddy Man, no children of his own but shucks out the dollars for all the other baby daddy's who are MIA or missing in action. And lastly, there's Mr. Love to

Make a Baby, very disposable you are - but is it you or the check she

That a lot of punch, however, let me be the first to say, I love my Black Brotha's, no other man on earth compares to all the wonderful things you represent. But are you really okay allowing us the option of tossing you aside like an empty milk carton? What about all the women, you ask? We'll figure it out, we always have.

So I ask the question again, care of him. Mr. Supportive is a piece of man better than the whole? My Brotha's you decide. To my Sista's go easy. I remain

Yours in the struggle, Susie Clemons opinionsandtalk @yahoo.com

have come to enjoy their status as Is Atlanta Still The Black Mecca?

ATLANTA (NNPA) - Atlanta, often cited by Black Enterprise and other national publications as the

ideal residential and business climate for African Americans and other people of color, is changing ever so slowly. In fact, by the year 2009, the city now called the "Black Mecca"

by many of those same publications will find itself overtaken by a growing minority of middle- to upper-class Whites. That commentary on the city that birthed Rev. Martin Luther

King Jr., the first Black mayor of a major southeastern city and several bastions of Black business success such as H.J. Russell, Citizens Trust Bank and Atlanta Life Insurance, has moved beyond a mere visionary stage. It is quanti-

fied by the 2004 "Status of Black

The report, issued annually the past 11 years by Clark Atlanta University's Southern Center for Studies in Public Policy, is watched over by center director Bob Holmes, a 30-year member of the Georgia General Assembly. He has shepherded the status of Black Atlanta report since its launching in 1993.

Asked to compare the 2004 report with the 10 others he has done, Holmes noted that things haven't changed much economically for the city's poor and lower class population.

Progress has been made by about 30 percent of the population, but as many or more than that experienced a decline in the

Voice in an interview.

One of the key indicators of how Atlanta is slowly changing demographically is in affordable housing. A federal housing initiative called HOPE VI (Housing Opportunities for People Everywhere) is a well-intentioned effort by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to redistribute inner city dwellers out of public housing projects and other so-called "reservation communities" into better neighborhoods with single family houses and more amenities like better grocery stores, shops and medical services. But Holmes says the concept has yet to flourish the way its creators envisioned.

"We have yet to see that happen." What we have seen, he notes quality of life," he told the Atlanta in the report, is the increase in

condominiums and loft housing which he said is being gobbled up by Whites moving from other areas of the country and suburban

Atlanta into the inner city. "Not many Blacks are buying into this," he said. "While we are moving outside the city into the subdivisions and housing developments, Whites are coming into the city and occupying 95 percent of the condos and loft apartments."

He predicted that if the trend continues, the demographics of the city will change significantly and with it the political landscape as

Speaking of politics, Holmes said the census data from 2000 suggests that the White-Black population could reach parity within the next three to five years and allow a strong White candidate to be elected

"That's not to say that a Black

person couldn't be elected," he notes. But that person will have to be one Whites feel will work in their best interests as well as those of the city's poor and working class. The days of the incumbent mayor hand-picking successors is over. That died with Maynard (Jackson) in 2003."

One of the reports' most disturbing finding is the declining rate of marriage in the Black community. According to their findings, nationally the number of Black married couples plummeted from 68 percent in 1970 to 46.1 percent in 2000. In Atlanta, the decline was equally as sharp from 58.5 percent to 33.7 percent. Black married couples with kids comprise only 12.4 percent of total Black households in Atlanta compared to 30.5 percent for Whites. Holmes said their report cites the low supply of marriageable Black men" as one cause for the downward trend.

The report cites the ratio of Black men to Black women as 597 men for every 1,000 "sistahs," nearly 2-1. When Black male employment is thrown in, the figures shrink to 279 eligibles for every 1,000 Black

"The impact is devastating," said Holmes. "It's increased teen childbearing, higher school dropout rates, more children in foster care, increases in welfare rolls, more kids in poverty and greater incarceration

As possible solutions, the report suggests everything from major education efforts to encourage marriage over cohabitation or "shacking" to outlawing no-fault divorce or even sanctioning same sex

marriage (a crime in Georgia). "The Status of Black Atlanta 2004" is available for \$15 and can be obtained by calling the Southern Center at (404) 880-8085.

The Bonfire of the American morality

America is a nation that is in transformation. Once the pillar of America's greatness, the righteous values of justice are slowly being consumed by a national rage based on lies, racism and hate.

Many Americans would rather embrace the lie so they don't have to come to terms with their own ugliness or hate. Ugliness becomes relative. It is acceptable when you can make the person you hate seem even uglier.

Today's Americans are cultivating principles based on "New Speak." Atrocity becomes justified with the clever use of labels. The killer is acceptable as long as the victim is someone designated as unacceptable, or today's "terror-

"Horrors of war are unavoidable," Americans scream as they dance around the flames of hate. As long as victims are "the other people.

Even the meaning of the word "terrorist" is redefined in the "New Speak." It is no longer about

humanity, morality or righteous principles of justice. It is a moblike hate-vision. We see evidence of this in

America every day as we divide the world not in terms of right and wrong, but "us" versus "them."

An American soldier kills a wounded Iraqi in cold-blood, clearly the tip of an iceberg of atrocities unreported by the media. Rather than disgust, many Americans want to punish the people who made this atrocity

In stark contrast, there is no limit to their moral outrage against Islamic terrorists who have committed similar acts of butchery by beheading hostages. There are no limits to the atrocities and injustice that can be wiped clean in the new American equation of "us" versus "them."

We are at the bonfire of American morality. Nothing burns brighter in this hate than justice, righteousness, morality and principles that define human dignity.

Atrocity is judged by the races and politics of the victims and the

victimizer. When the victim is one of "us," Americans are outraged. When the victim is one of "them," the atrocity is justified.

The sickness becomes the norm, especially when the media Death!" surrenders to the mob and embraces rather than challenges the

The American news media are in voluntary bondage and, worse, in widespread denial. The absence of ethics becomes promiscuous. Professional journalism is replaced by entertainment news that is based on viciousness and cruelty. Emotional fantasies replace hard

From there, it is a mere halfstep to a future when the mob will demand even more in Roman-like

At some point, they won't even pretend. The "guilty" will be fed to the lions of our hatred.

Justice will be replaced by public entertainment. The new judges will stand behind the microphones fanning the bonfires of American morality, cheering on the viciousness. Gleefully dancing

around the bonfires of a corrupt morality. Spewing hate-talk and fomenting greater racism as New Speak. Listeners will scream mental chants of "Death! Death!

The evidence is there every day. The icons of the new media allow people to foment hate. On one recent show, Palestinians are described as "filthy animals" encouraged by the talk show host who declares to the coliseum that it is acceptable to dehumanize those whom we hate.

But you can never satiate the hunger of the mob bonfire. Just calling someone a "filthy animal" will not be enough. If you can dehumanize a human being, you can then obliterate that human life. And then sit with your family and bounce a child on your knee and even speak of greatness and a great world free of fear and violence. Once you have destroyed all of

The first casualty becomes the obliteration of the line between right and wrong. Morality is redefined based on the racial and religious origins of the dehumanized victim.

It's in the nature of racism and hatred.

America is a nation fast becoming a coliseum of uniformed minds. The New Speak is spreading. We wave our American flag with an emotion that is weighed both by love and hate until hate becomes equal and even surpasses what is right.

The glow of the bonfire of American morality is a crematorium of hatred where the slaughtered vanish in smoke.

And when the smoke is gone from the skies, we can pretend it never happened.

Unless a new Moses comes down from the mountaintop and destroys the idol of the calf fashioned from the charred remains of a once golden morality.

Ray Hanania is an award-winning nationally syndicated columnist based in Chicago. His colare archeved . www.hanania.com. This column was originally published by Arab American Media Services. Permission to republish has been granted by Ray Hanania.

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

Africa's Odious and Illegitimate Debt The Bush administration is in the context of Cold War politics.

a reprieve from debt. But Africa's predicament is more severe than Iraq's many times over. In Africa today, millions have been killed, and are routinely wounded, raped, and displaced from their homes and means of livelihood by war. This breakdown of Africa's social fabric exacerbates an already desperate rowed funds were being put. Such situation characterized by grinding irresponsible lending resulted in corpoverty, famine, dismal health care rupt African leaders and governfacilities, and rising illiteracy and unemployment rates. It is tragic that while Africa is the world's poorest region, the continent carries twothirds of developing countries' debt burden-an estimated U.S. \$300 billion. Imagine what \$195 billion in debt relief could do for Africa. Illegitimate and Odious Debt

to

It is widely agreed that the bulk of Africa's crippling debt is illegiti-mate and often falls within the legal definition of "odious." Africa was literally snared into debt by creditors in the wake of rising oil prices and falling interest rates in the 1970s. Banks and other lending institutions made loans to developing countries in order to "stop the slide" of interest rates and thus save their businesses. Adding to this, the great bulk of Africa's debt was incurred

pushing creditors to forgive 95 per- Africa was a hot battle ground for cent (\$195 billion) of Iraq's debt.* the former USSR and the West, prin-They argue that it was acquired un- cipally the United States. Both East der a dictatorial regime and the and West furiously fought for the people of Iraq should not have to continent's political loyalty and dispay for this illegitimate debt. With- bursed billions of dollars in loans to out doubt, the Iraqi people deserve any country that supported them, regardless of how brutal their leaders were or how bad their governments. Corrupt leaders and governments took this opportunity to borrow billions.

These lenders had little regard for the borrowing countries' ability to repay or to what use these borments grabbing as much money as possible to line their pockets, invest in useless prestige projects, buy more arms, and fortify their brutal security apparatuses, which they then used to crush dissent and create conditions for violent conflicts that today ravage the continent.

For example, the criminal apartheid regime in South Africa continued to receive significant loans that it foreign multinational corporations. used to oppress and kill South Africa's black majority. So did the notoriously corrupt and brutal Mobutu regime in the former Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo). Forcing the poor peoples of these countries to pay debts used to oppress, kill, and leave them with such bloody legacies is simply unjust. Present day Africans should not be forced to pay for the political chess game of Cold War era regimes.

Structural adjustment programs

In disbursing new loans, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank imposed crippling conditionalities called Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) on debtors. These required countries seeking loans to:

Balance their budgets, which forced them to cut spending and subsidies on basic public services such as health and education, thereby making them less affordable to ordinary people.

Cut down the size of government by laying off thousands of

Privatize state owned industries, which cut tax revenue and often resulted in increased prices for essential goods and services.

Devalue their currencies, thereby increasing the value and burden of the external debt held in foreign currency.

Open the country to foreign investment, thereby subjecting local industries to compete with huge

Promote cash crop or mineral export industries in order to earn foreign currency to pay back the debt, which added no value to local production and made them vulnerable to dropping world market

Both the IMF and the World Bank claim that SAPs will ensure that countries grow out of their debt. After decades of adjustment, there

is not one case that proves this cesses

Shared responsibility

Creditor nations and institutions claim that Africa is responsible for the continent's debt crisis. However, evidence shows that credi-

Made loans without regard to the use to which the loans were to

Had no loan evaluation pro-

Made no demands concerning military spending

Made loans to illegitimate downfall was a foregone conclusion

According to international law, people should not be forced to pay debts that did not benefit them and that were contracted and used to suppress, jail and kill them. Apart from the fact that much of Africa's

debt is both illegitimate and odious, evidence shows that many African countries have paid their debts many times over. For example, according to Jubilee USA, Nigeria borrowed \$5 billion, has leaders and governments whose so far paid more than \$16 billion and still owes \$32 billion on that same debt! This absurd scenario is representative of all indebted African countries. Which is why we ask, who owes whom?

* Note: All figures are in U.S.



Simmons No Answer to NAACP Woes

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson

The buzz is that hip hop mogul Russell Simmons should take over



NAACP. An viewing candidates to succeed out-

Mfume, Some veteran NAACP watchers and critics publicly tout Simmons because they think he can appeal to the younger generation.

At first glance, that seems plausible. The standard knock against the nation's oldest civil rights organization is that it's too old, staid and hopelessly out of touch with young blacks. But it will take much more than Simmons' dynamism and purported youth savvy to revive the flagging fortunes of the NAACP. The problem is not an aging membership, but the NAACP's disconnect from activism, failure to address the problems of the black poor, its em- organization. It became the politi-

brace of showy, symbolic fights, and its repeated bashing by NAACP Chairman Julian Bond of President Bush, and its blatant push of any and all Democrats.

The NAACP can't drum up new members, old or young, betional search cause it has been missing in acteam is cur- tion in recent years on many of ness loans, and, of course, rally and the Democratic politicians

the crisis issues that tear black communities. A near textbook example of this is the Confederate flag fight. g o i n g . The organization wasted valuable time, energy and president resources fighting with South Carolina officials over whether the flag should be removed from

the State House. But the flag removal would not have saved one black farm, improved failing public schools, increased funds for historically black colleges, created more jobs or reduced poverty for South Carolina's blacks. The NAACP's penchant for showpiece battles that attract much press attention, but do nothing to solve the far thornier problems of the black poor did not begin with Mfume.

The collapse of the civil rights movement in the late 1960s marked the turning point for the

cal springboard for the newly emergent black middle class. It fought hard to get more upwardly mobile blacks into corporate management, in elite universities, in front of and behind TV cameras, elect more black Democrats to state and national offices, secure more busi-

"The NAACP can't drum up new members, old or young, because it has been missing in action It will take much more than music mogul Russell Simmons' dynamism and purported youth savvy to revive the flagging fortunes of the NAACP "

against the Confederate flag.

These battles, however, did not have the slightest bearing on the plight of the black poor. They have grown more numerous, more desperate, are trapped in segregated or re-segregated neighborhoods, shuttle their children off to abominably failing public schools, are plagued by crime, drugs and gangs, and are stuffed into bulging jail cells. Meanwhile, the wealth and income gap between the black haves and have-nots has widened even farther.

NAACP leaders have found

themselves trapped in the middle by the twisting political trends and shifting upward fortunes of the black middle-class, and downward of the black poor. A tilt by them toward a hard-edged activist agenda carries the fearful risk of alienating the corporate donors

that the NAACP leaders carefully cultivate. But an activist tilt also would draw even more fire from the growing legion of pro-GOP leaning blacks that think the NAACP has squandered any political juice it had with its relentless name calling attacks on Bush.

The irony is that polls show that many of the young persons that Simmons' NAACP backers expect him to appeal to have either expressed their disgust with Democrats, are hopelessly alienated from both political parties, or openly say they like the probusiness, self-help, family values pitch of the GOP. That has not been lost on the GOP strategists. They are wooing, courting and dumping millions into youth and education programs at black churches through Bush's faith



Hip Hop Mogul Russell Simmons based initiative program to appeal

to young blacks. Mfume recognized the folly of continuing to escalate the stealth war with Bush. Before his departure, he asked for and got a meeting with him. Some critics accused Mfume of cozying up to Bush, but that missed the point. The meeting had nothing to do with pandering, kowtowing, or endorsing any part of and after Mfume's meeting, he is the author of The Crisis in and NAACP officials remained Black and Black (Middle Passage miles apart from the Bush ad- Press)

ministration on school vouchers, Social Security, universal health care, affirmative action, the controversial judicial appointments, the Iraq war and the Bush administration's continuing infringement on civil liberties protections. The meeting was simply a smart and practical move that recognized that like it or not, Bush, not Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, won the election. He will be in the White House for four years, and there are issues such as greater funding for HIV/AIDS programs, public education and health care that both sides might be able to find common ground on.

Simmons, or whomever the NAACP search committee eventually pegs to run the organization, will have the tough task of trying to figure out some way to bridge the gaping class and political divide among African Americans, craft credible programs to tackle black poverty, and find a working accommodation with the Bush administration. A youth movement is not the answer to those problems.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is an Bush's agenda. Before, during author and political analyst. He

group continues to endorse a

make a fresh start. It began as an

admirable organization, and it can

once again return to those laudable

roots. But continuing to conduct

affairs in the manner that they

have for the past four decades will

only lead the NAACP to self-

destruction. Lana Hampton is a

member of the African-American

leadership network Project 21.

Comments may be sent to

Project21@ nationalcenter. org.

At this time, however, the

What The NAACP Should Do Now

By Lana Hampton WASHINGTON, DC - With a changing of the guard occurring at the NAACP, the nation's oldest civil rights organization has an opportunity for growth and change.

It would be in the NAACP's best interest to put itself on a more centrist course than the one it has been on for the past 40 years. After all, the protection of people's civil rights is not a left or right-leaning ideology. It is simply a responsibility.

NAACP is experiencing is undoubtedly due to its lurch to the left and the feelings of many that it no longer represents all blacks, let alone all people.

Few would argue with the original goals of the NAACP. It was, and, in many ways, still is an admirable institution. But it has not changed with the times. It seems to be caught in a time warp dating back to the 1960s. The issues of relevance 40 years ago are not necessarily the same issues that are important now.

Racism was undeniably the biggest obstacle to minorities back then, but now many black communities are overrun with crime, suffering from inadequate of the disaster. schools and are plagued by an epidemic of single-parent homes | corporations have pledged mil-(the leading cause of poverty). .

modem NAACP on these issues. What the NAACP needs to do is ling. Churches around the world empower poor blacks instead of have taken up special collections. constantly citing a never-ending | Millions of dollars have been list of obstacles they claim hold raised over the Internet. blacks back.

ensure that poor blacks continue

to behave like victims - and victims rarely succeed on their own. In order to achieve this, the NAACP must be blatantly honest about the ills occurring within some black communities. The left, however has made pointing out bad choices a taboo subject.

There are some who rely too heavily on the government to sustain them. The NAACP should work on empowering these so they can become self-sufficient. It's the old give a man a fish or teach him

to fish situation.

There are many bright, capable people in our inner cities who just need positive and constructive leadership. This includes criticism along the lines of what Bill-Cosby has said Cosby's critiaue is not meanspirited, as some contend, but merely an attempt to nudge people in the right direction.

It would also be beneficial for the NAACP to avoid supporting

plain ridiculous. One example is lawsuit against gun manufacturers. As Project 21 member and civil rights activist Reverend Jesse Lee Peterson said, "The NAACP has filed a classaction lawsuit against gun manufacturers, in effect blaming them for black on black crime, but statistics show guns don't kill black people, other blacks do."

Perhaps the most crucial change the NAACP needs to

partisan. They claim to be, but they're not. One would think the political party. IRS investigation of the group would be enough of a wake-up call NAACP has an opportunity to to the civil rights organization, but it appears their leadership is in denial about past comments and

Anyone reading NAACP chairman Julian Bond's July 11, 2004 speech, which prompted the IRS investigation, can see the partisan politics emanating from his address. It has often been said that the NAACP has become the left wing of the Democratic Party. More difficulties will arise if the

improve the way in which they give aid, to make it work best for poverty reduction, and to end the ties. burden of debt which means that low-income countries must pay out \$100 million every day to their creditors.

For rich country donors, making this finance available is not simply an act of charity: it is both a moral obligation and a matter of justice..."

Those are noble goals, but like many noble goals, the rhetoric exceeds reality.

... Progress has been unforgivably slow," the report observes. "Only one goal - halving the income poverty - has any chance of being met, but even this is due to progress in just a handful of countries. The first target enrolling all girls in primary and secondary school by 2005 - is certain to be missed. The poorest people will pay the price for this failure. If the world fails to act to meet even these minimal goals, and current trends are allowed to continue: 45 million more children will die between now and 2005, 247 million more people in the sub-Saharan Africa will be living on less than \$1 a day in 2015, 97 million more children will still be out of school in 2015 and 53

million more people in the world will lack proper sanitation facili-

Although the UN established the goal of allocating 0.7 percent of national income for poverty reduction in 1970, only five of the 22 major donors - none from the seven most powerful nations - are meeting the goal.

Donating just 0.14 percent, the United States is the least generous donor in terms of aid as a proportion of its wealth. At the current rate, the U.S. will not reach the 0.7 percent goal until

Before we dislocate our elbow while patting ourselves on the back for the way we've reacted to the tsunami crisis, let's rise to the challenge of reducing world poverty when the international spotlight is not on a graphic disaster.

George E. Curry is editor-inchief of the NNPA News Service and BlackPressUSA.com. His most recent book is "The Best of Emerge Magazine," an anthology published by Ballantine Books. Curry's weekly radio commentary is syndicated by Capitol Radio News Service (301/588-1993). He can be reached through his Web site, georgecurry.com.

causes which are radical or just make is to actually become nononsibility. The loss of support the The Needy and the Greedy

by George E. Curry



ing by the worldwide reaction to the tsun a m tragedy,

abounds. Schoolchildren have donated their allowances to victims

Glovernments and major lions of dollars. The American I do not hear enough from the Red Cross and other charities have provided food, money and cloth-

But don't be misled. Accord-Continuing to perpetuate the | ing to a report by Oxfam Internavictim status of blacks will only | tional in England, the world's richest countries donate an average of

\$80 per person to eradicate poverty, the equivalent of a weekly cup of coffee. Even more disturbing, the wealthier these countries have become, the less they have given in aid.

The disturbing findings are found in a recent report titled, Paying the Price: Why rich countries must invest now in the war on poverty." It observes: "Rich countries today give half as much, as a proportion of their income, as they did in the 1960s. In 1960-65, rich countries spent on average 0.48 percent of their combined national incomes on aid. By 1980-85 they were spending just 0.34 percent. By 2003, the average had dropped as low as 0.24 percent.

Wealthy nations realize that it's in their best interest, as well as that of the affected countries, to help eliminate global poverty. In 2000, the leaders and heads of state of 189 countries signed a Millennium Declaration that established a series of goals to reduce poverty by 2015.

The key targets were to: 1) Halve the proportion of people liv-

ing on less than \$1 a day as well as the proportion suffering from hunger by 2015, 2) Ensure that all children complete primary school by 2025, 3) Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005 and in all levels of education by 2015; 4) Reduce the mortality rate of children under 5 by two-thirds by 2015; 5) Reduce by three-quarters, the ratio of women dying in childbirth by 2015; 6) Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of HIV/AIDS and other major diseases by 2015; 7) Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation and 8) Develop a non-discriminatory and rulesbased trading system, provide more generous aid and deal comprehensively with the debt prob-

"A vital aim of these goals is that the poorest countries will have the finance needed to achieve them," the report notes. "To do this, rich countries have promised to provide a very small fraction of their wealth - just 0.7 percent of their national income - and to

CBC REACTS HARSHLY TO BUSH BUDGET

By James Wright Members of the Congressional Black Caucus, Washington, D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams, in his role

as president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and county executives joined a near deafening chorus of Democrats and a growing number of Republicans in criticizing the proposed 2006 budget proffered by President Bush. The \$2.57 trillion budget calls for increases in military spending and overseas priorities while cutting do-

mestic programs. "On first review of President

Bush's budget proposal, I find it extremely disappointing," said Rep. Mel Watt (D-N.C.), chairman of the CBC.

"The proposed budget neglects suggestions offered by the Congressional Black Caucus for ending disparities that exist between African Americans and White Americans in every aspect of life." The CBC presented those suggestions to President Bush on Jan. 26 at a White House meeting.

Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-III.) was harsh in his criticism. "President Bush's 2006 \$2.57 trillion budget is perpetuating a hoax, pulling a bait and switch,' while reflecting hypocritical religion," Jackson said. "Just last week, in his State of the Union address, the

president spent most of his time talking about reforming Social Security and winning the war in Iraq. Today, he offers a budget that mentions neither. It's a budget that rewards the greedy and cuts the needy." Scoffing at Bush's Judeo-Christian values, Jackson, a minister, quoted Matthew 6:21, saying: "For where your treasure is there will be your heart also." Jackson said that Bush "likes to use Christian language but his budget does not reflect Christian values."

To meet the projected cost of the

president is expected to submit a separate supplemental budget request to Congress for \$80 million. Had the \$80 million been included, it is possible that Congress could have reduced that expenditure as the budget was reshaped. Jackson's comments on Social Security speak to the concern that the president has not yet identified, the funding mechanisms that would cover his proposed changes in Social Security.

whose funding would be cut or eliminated are: the Perkins student loan program, vocational training, housing assistance to low-income Americans,

Young Offenders program, funding for Amtrak, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The budget, a blueprint that must be approved by Congress, does provide more money for new homeowners, those wishing to further their education at community colleges, veterans and matters dealing with homeland

Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) said that despite being disap-Among the programs or entities pointed in some aspects of the Bush budget, she was grateful for a provision that would add \$6 million in additional federal funds in her city's Medicaid reimbursement. She also

BUSH PROPOSALS TARGETS SCORES OF DOMESTIC PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON - The first week of February saw President Bush's \$2.5 trillion budget is shaping up as his most austere, trying to restrain spending across a wide swath of government from popular farm subsidies to poor people's health programs.

Vice President Dick Chency on Sunday defended the plan against Democratic criticism that Bush had to seek steep cuts in scores of federal programs because he is unwilling to roll back first-term tax cuts that opponents contend primarily benefited the wealthy.

The budget's submission to Congress on Monday will set off months of intense debate. Law-

makers pected to vigor-

ously fight to protect their favorite programs.

"This is the tightest budget that has been submitted since we got here," Cheney told "Fox News Sunday.

It is a fair, reasonable, responsible, serious piece of effort. It's not something we have done with a meat ax, nor are we suddenly turning our backs on the most needy people in our society."

The president, who campaigned for re-election on a pledge to cut the deficit in half by 2009, is targeting 150 government programs for either outright elimination or sharp cutbacks.

Bush will propose spending \$2.5 trillion in the budget year that begins Oct. 1. For the current year, he is estimating the budget deficit will reach a record \$427 billion. That compares with last year's \$412 billion deficit and is the third straight year the Bush administration will have set, in dollar terms, a deficit high.

The five-year projections in the budget will show the deficit declining to about \$230 billion in 2009, when a new president takes office.

Those projections do not take into account some big-ticket items: the military costs incurred in Iraq and Afghanistan, the price of making Bush's first term tax cuts permanent, or the transition costs for his No. 1 domestic priority, overhauling Social Security.

Sen. Kent Conrad, the top Democrat on the Senate Budget Committee, said Bush's budget "talks about the next five years of reducing deficits, but what that hides is what happens after that five-year window. The cost of evcrything he advocates explodes." Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.,

ingness to tackle the deficit. "I'm glad the president is coming over with a very austere budget. I hope we in Congress will have the courage to support it," he told ABC's This Week."

Joshua Bolten, Bush's budget director, told The Associated Press that when the budget is released, the administration will provide some estimates of the cost in increased government borrowing for the president's proposal to allow younger workers to set up private savings accounts.

But he said the administration cannot provide total cost figures for the Social Security overhaul because all the elements of the plan have yet to be decided upon.

from PRESIDENT BUSH'S \$2.5 TRILLION would both parBUDGET LOOKS TO CUT SPENDING ON not con-FARM SUBSIDIES, HEALTH PROGRAMS firm estimates the over-

could cost \$4.5 trillion in additional government borrowing over

Bush's budget will restrain the growth in discretionary programs to less than 2.3 percent. But because defense and homeland security are set for increases above that amount, the rest of government programs will see outright cuts or tiny gains far below the rate of inflation.

One of the biggest battles is certain to occur in the area of payments and other assistance to farmers, which the administration wants to trim by \$587 million in 2006 and by \$5.7 billion over the next decade.

Those payments go to farmers growing a wide range of crops from cotton, rice and corn to soybeans and wheat.

The United States and other rich countries have come under criticism for these agriculture subsidies from poor countries. In the current round of global trade talks, these nations are pressing for the subsidies' elimination.

Other programs set for cuts, the AP has learned, include the Army Corps of Engineers, whose dam and other waterway projects are extremely popular in Congress; the Energy Department; and a number of health programs under the Health and Human Services Department.

About one-third of the programs being targeted for elimination are in the Education Department, including federal grant pro-

LEVINUS 19:35

eas as vocational education, supporting drug-free schools and Even Start, a \$225 million literacy program.

The administration also will seek to restrain growth in mandatory spending, primarily by trimming costs in Medicaid, the joint program with states that pays the cost of poor people's health

Spending on the military, the biggest part of discretionary spending, is on target to rise by 4.8 percent in 2006 to \$419.3 billion, according to documents obtained by the AP. This figure does not include the \$80 billion the administration has said it soon will seek to pay for the costs of continued military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Even the increase for the mili-

tary will be below what the Pentagon had hoped to receive with several major weapons programs, including Bush's missile defense system and the B-2 stealth bomber, scheduled for cuts from current

Many budget experts believe Bush's plan will not come close to achieving his goal of cutting the deficit in half beçause Congress will refuse to go along with the

cuts, and Bush and the Republican-controlled Congress do not support tax increases.

"There is really no way out of the bind we are in now without some kind of increase in taxes," said Robert Reischauer, the president of the Urban Institute and a former head of the Congressional Budget Office.

Martin Crutisinger wites for the

On The FLIP Side China Raising Its Profile In Caribbean

NEW YORK CITY/AM NEWS -For the last five years or so, China has been quietly raising its profile in the Caribbean, slowly undermining the influence of Taiwan and winning friends and influencing people while American policymakers looked more towards Eastern Europe and the turbulent Middle East. But it has left little doubt in recent months that it is slowly taking off the veil from its prior strategy of stealth diplomacy, muscling its way through the Caribbean and Latin American via a combination of dollar diplomacy and strategic investments.

Chinese Vice President Zeng Qinghong and several of his ministers made a swing through the region, visiting Jamaica, Trinidad and Venezuela, among others, doling out cash for investment projects and letting the world know China is ready to be recognized as an.emerging superpower.

In Venezuela, the Chinese delegation of ministers, ruling party officials and businessmen sealed a

deal for oil purchases to satisfy its rapidly growing industrial complex. In Trinidad, the region's largest and most prosperous economy, Beijing approved a \$25M soft loan allowing Trinidad businessmen to buy Chinese products and machinery.

As an indication of how China is waving paper around as a diplomatic bargaining chip, a further \$1.1M deal was signed for projects to be approved by the Trinidad government. The interest rate on both concession loans would be 2 percent, officials said.

The Chinese also agreed to buy additional amounts of asphalt from Trinidad as its stops up road and other construction projects in time for the 2008 Summer Olympics. The island has in the last three years sold more than 20.5 million kilos of asphalt to China.

The approval of the loans seemed to confirm speculation among academics and diplomats that China is on a spending spree.

In its forays into the Caribbean, China has had some spectacular successes in its fight over

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breakaway province Taiwan. Beijing has been able to get Dominica, in the last 18 months, and Grenada, in late January, to dump Taiwan in favor of China, China of diplomatically bribing its way through the Caribbean and Central America. Since 1997, St. Lucia and the Bahamas also asked Taiwanese missions to pack it in and go home in exchange for massive project financing from China for everything from cricket stadi-

ums to conference centers. In Guyana, Chinese engineers are building a \$5M international conference center next door to the Caribbean Community Secretariat as Taiwan fades in the region. Barbados, Suriname and all other to attend.

coun-tries with diplomatic links to China have benefited from Chinese investment and project financing worth in excess of \$170M.

In early February, Caribbean forcing the Taiwanese to accuse trade ministers and businessmen were scheduled to fly to Jamaica for the first China-Caribbean forum, a five-day trade fair exhibiting products from all countries. At least one prime minister, Baldwin Spencer of Antigua, was scheduled to attend, an indication of how sériously China is being viewed in the region.

"It is going to be spectacular," said Robert Stephens, local chairman of the planning committee. A total of 400 Caribbean companies and 200 from Jamaica were



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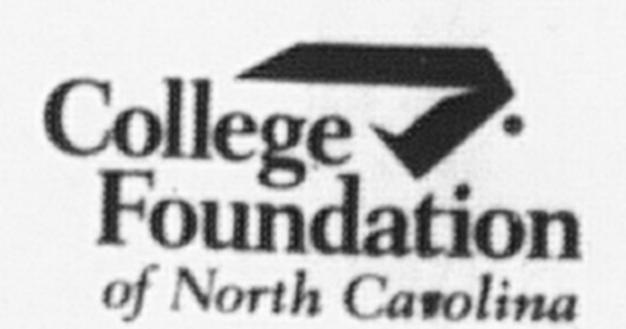
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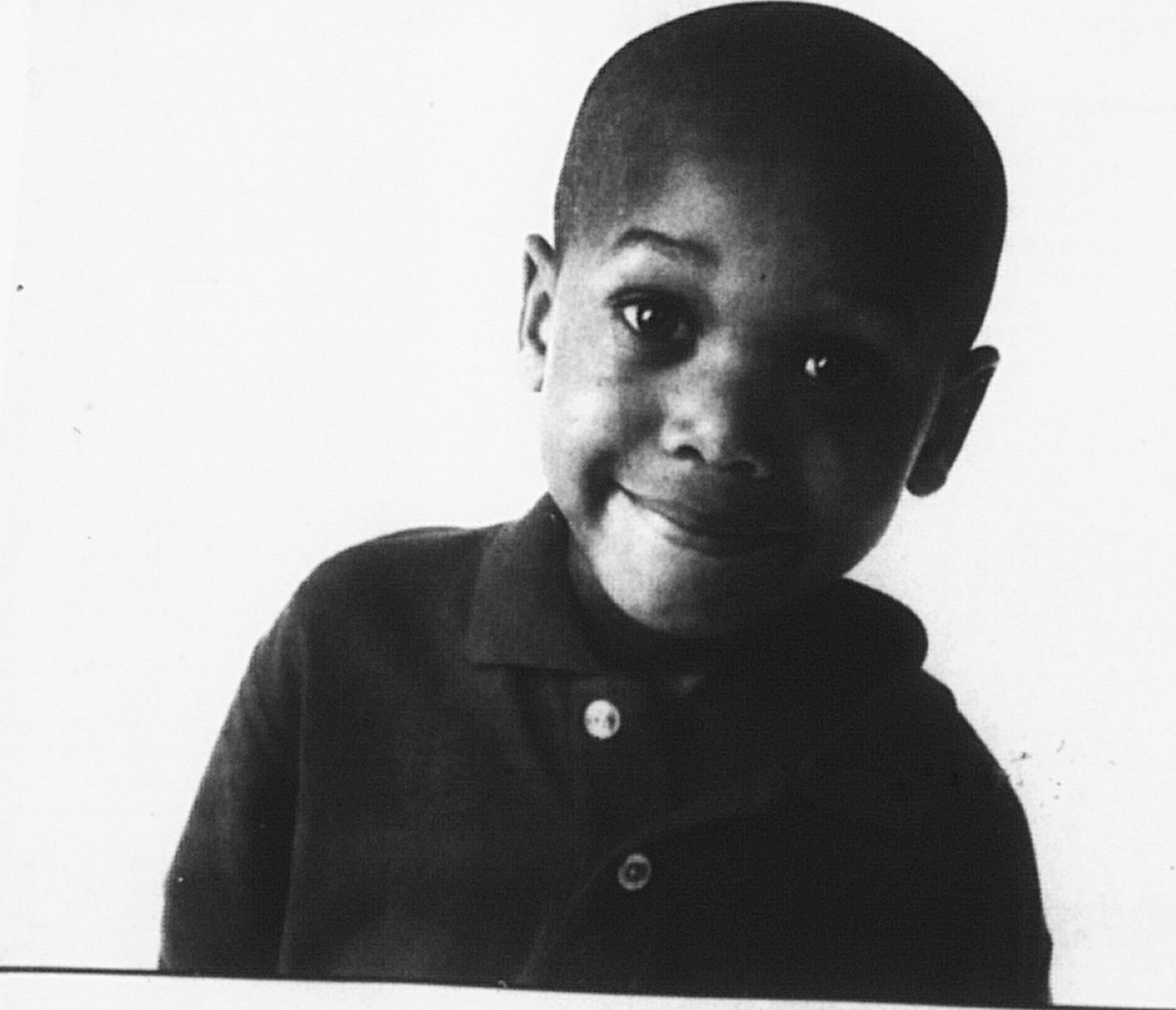
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Pitt County 4H Accepting Applications

GREENVILLE, NC - The Pitt County 4-H Of- by the American Camping Association and fice is accepting applications for boys and girls staffed with trained and certified camp staff and ages 8 through 12 for 2005 4-H summer camp. professionals. The staff to camper ratio is one These youth will be camping at Penn 4-H Center staff member per eight campers. in Reidsville July 31- August 5, 2005. The Penn 4-H Center is located near Reidsville, NC, thirty summer camp is \$330 which includes transpormiles north of Greensboro and 45 miles north- tation, registration, class instruction, food while east of Winston-Salem, NC. The 250 acre site at camp, craft and other class supplies, cabin offers campers the opportunity to participate in accommodations, small camp store allowance, a variety of classes and activities. These include and insurance. Expenses for a pre-camp physiswimming, canoeing, sailing, horseback riding, cal are not included. archery, environmental studies, and crafts. The camp program is designed to teach skills and enhance learning but also develops sportsmanship, self assurance, and promotes group cooperation. All 4-H camps in North Carolina are accredited

The total cost for this week of residential

All male and female camp allotted spaces are being filled on a first-come basis. For more information about this or other 4-H summer camp programs or for a camp application call the Pitt County 4-H Office at 902-1712.

When 15 Minutes of Fame is Too Much

Author Blast Greedy, Selfish Actors, Athletes in New Book NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. -For many celebrities who boast about their \$50,000 bracelets and multimillion-dollar homes, their 15 minutes of fame is quickly ticking away. For Mark Forsyth, the only disappointing aspect to their eventual decline is that the American public has to witness their antics for even one more second. He makes his opinion abundantly clear in his new book, Is Your Fifteen Minutes Up? which is now

rect take on pop culture in general, his book looks at the reality ofpavinp celebrities and athletes millions when there are true heroes who rarely receive gratitude. He rails about "how totally out of control these non-talent lipsynching idiots are."

These morons continue to make millions and remind us how the music industry itself would collapse if they weren't around to grace us with their massive talents," Forsyth writes. "Movie stars who tell us how to vote, overpaid, under-producing cry baby athletes, dimwitted hotel bimbos, politicians, supermodels and reality show (stars) are so out of touch with mainstream America,"

all of the current celebrities to the curb, he declares, "I believe it's time for us to send the pretty people a message," Forsyth writes, There is a difference between being famous and being signifi-

Forsyth has served in the Navy, worked as a golf profeslished authors. For more information, visit www.authorhouse.com.

Blacks welcome 'trailblazer' home



From left Tarboro Town Councilman Roland Clark, Edgecombe County Commissioner Viola Harris, Edgecombe County Sheriff James Knight, Artist Richard Wilson, Edgecombe Clerk of Court Carol Allen White, Tarboro Councilman David Smoot, Edgecombe County Councilman Wayne Hines and Edgecombe County Board of Education Chairwoman Evelyn Wilson. Back row Edgecombe County Manager Lorenzo Carmon and Edgecombe County Commissioner Leonard Wiggins

Local Broadcaster/Publisher

Receives Best Business Award

Pictured I-r: Barbara G. Brown, Chairwoman, Social Action Committee, Greenville

(NC) Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Jim Rouse, Owner

WOOW Radio and the M Voice Newspaper and Mavis G. Williams, President,

The Greenville (NC) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorpo-

rated presented its Best Business of the Quarter Award to Mr. Jim Rouse, Owner of

WOOW Radio and the M Voice Newspaper. Mr. Rouse is cited for his commit-

ment and outstanding service to the Greenville Community. He provides vigor-

ous support, and he uses passionate gifts of time and resources to improve the lives

Greenville (NC) Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

of others utilizing the media of mass communication.

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By Calvin Adkins Daily Southerner

TARBORO, NC - Tarboro and Edgecombe County elected officials applaud as artist Richard Wilson unveils his portrait of George Henry White during a ceremony Saturday at the county courthouse. Photos/ Calvin Adkins

Edgecombe County gave a hearty "welcome back home" Saturday to one of its "trailblazers" who fought against racial injustices as a United States congressman more than a century ago.

The unveiling of a 24 inches x 30 inches pastel painting of George Henry White drawn by Greenville artist Richard Wilson drew a standing ovation.

While a resident of Tarboro, White was elected to two terms (1896 -1901) in the U.S. House of Representatives. He sponsored a bill that would make lynching a federal crime, which did not pass. White was the last black to serve in Congress until

For White's accomplishments, the Edgecombe County Board of Commissioners and Tarboro Town Council declared Jan. 29 as George Henry White Day. That day was significant because White gave a farewell speech to Congress on Jan. 29, 1901, choosing not to seek a third term in office.

He left the state and came back only to visit. White, who was born in Bladen County in 1852, died in Phila-

se Habla Espanol

When

everyone else

fails,

We Bail!

delphia in 1918.

In conjunction with George Henry White Day, Wilson, a SouthWest Edgecombe High School graduate, was commissioned to do the portrait of White. Wilson is a member of the elite Portrait Society of America.

Betty White Washington

"Breathtaking" was one of the many adjectives used to describe the painting. Combining highlights, middle tones and shadows made the black and white picture resemble a photograph. White's neatly cut hair, parted on top of his head, helped to define his smooth face. His clothing articulated a person of high social

"This day is long overdue," said Superior Court Judge Toby Fitch. When a man is a great man then he shouldn't have to wait 104 years before he is given his props. It's an honor to have a man of high integrity to hang in this courthouse.

"I hope they hang this picture promptly, and I'm not talking about hanging it in the back, (of the court-

Betty White Washington, a history teacher at Kinston High School, said she was the great-great-great niece of White. When her family was told about the event they encouraged her to attend.

"My mother told me I had to go," she said. "I'm humbled to be related to a man so brave when bravery was not expected of blacks during that time. This is a great day for our family. The painting is outstand-

The painting and the proclamations naming George Henry White Day was the brainchild of Phoenix Society for African-American Research Inc. The group pushed for White's recognition since the birth of their organization. They also fought to rename Tarboro Post Office to be renamed in his honor, which was passed in Congress last

Rudolph Knight, acting president of the society, was one of the front-runners in the projects. Knight did not attend the event due to an out-of-town death in his family.

Jim Wrenn, vice president of Phoenix Society, said this day would not have been possible without Knight and the late Helen Quigless Jr. Quigless, who was the organization's first president, died last year.

This was a big day for Tarboro and Edgecombe County," Wrenn said. "George Henry White came home today in more ways than one. His return home will open a period of history that has been wiped off the map by white supremacy.

"It is a wonderful painting. We couldn't have asked anything better."

Tarboro Mayor Donald Morris said, "This is a part of history, important to all citizens of Edgecombe County. George Henry White gives us al hope in our lives today."

Edgecombe's black political leaders were special guests at the event. County Commissioner Viola Harris read a proclamation proclaiming Jan. 29 as George Henry White Day. She said White paved the way for blacks in the political arena.

Because of George Henry White as a black lady from Leggett I can stand here and say that I'm a member of the Edgecombe County Board

of Commissioners," she said. Other black political leaders who attended the event included, County Commissioners Leonard Wiggins and Wayne Hines, Sheriff James Knight, Clerk of Court Carol Allen White, Tarboro Council members Roland Clark and David Smoot, County Board of Education Chairwoman Evelyn Wilson, Board of Edgecombe member Florence Armstrong and

County Manager Lorenzo Carmon. Tarboro native Dr. Michael Armstrong, of South Caroolina gave a brief history lesson on White's life. Armstrong who is the son of Florence Armstrong, said White was a trailblazer on a solo expedition.

"We are here today to celebrate the vision, work and spirit of George Henry White, for the black reconstruction South had no room for his contributions to humanity," he said. "His life was dedicated to the campaign against racial discrimination. When in Congress, he was anything but a silent member. He was heard and in the African American community, heralded. Politically he was ingenious and genuine. He always stood for civil liberties of blacks and

"White was one of the most important African-American political leaders during the last decade of the nineteenth century, and has been one of the least remembered. Today he is coming back home, to rise, like the Phoenix.

State Sen. Clark Jenkins, D-Edgecombe, said: "I know this is a special day for my friend Rudolph, and the people of the African-American community. It's also a special day for all citizens of the community.

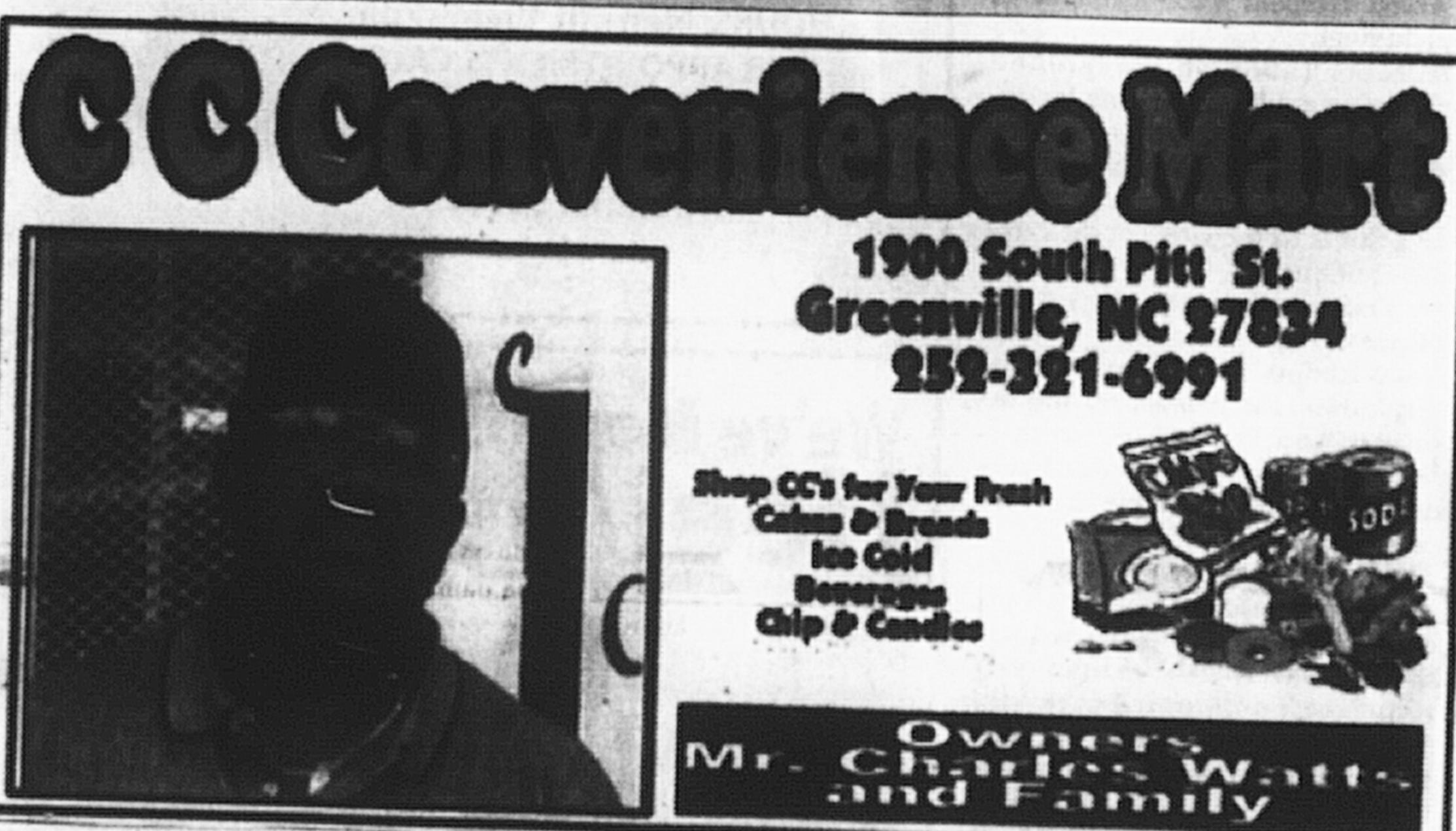
"George Henry White was a trailblazer, and it's very fitting that the U.S. Post Office will be named in his honor.

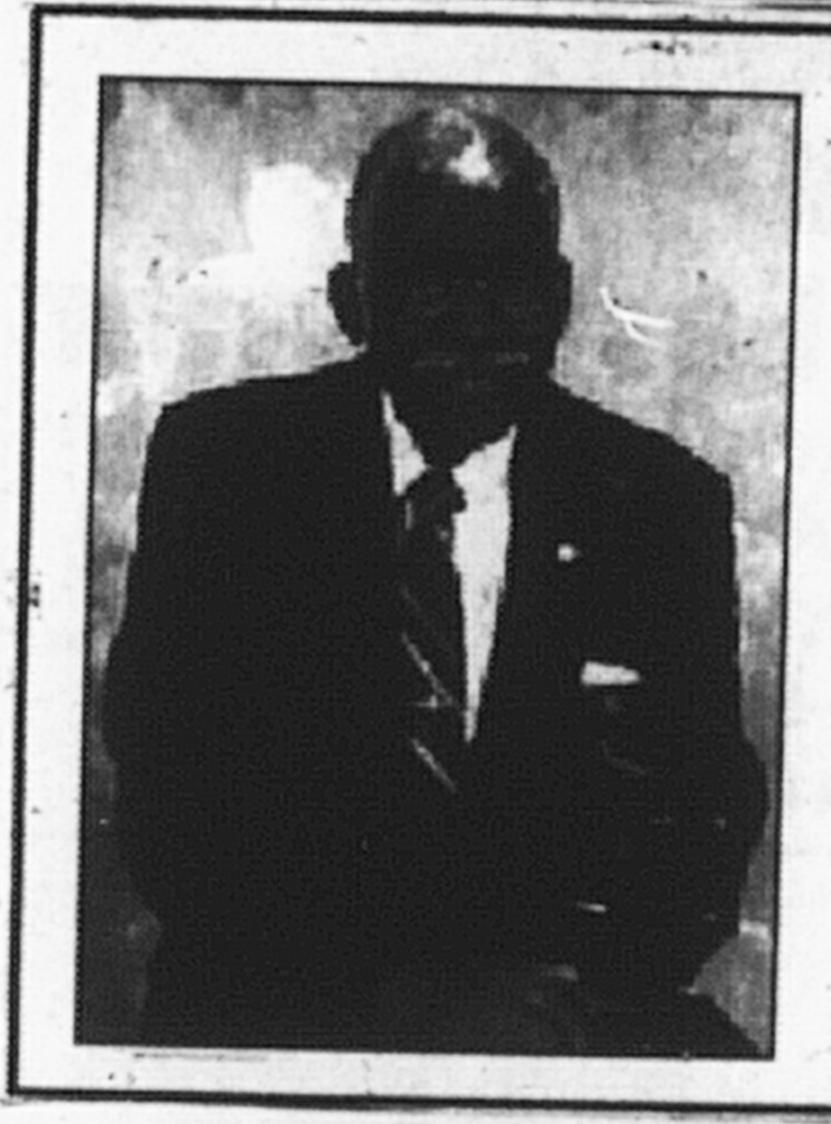
In an often funny and caustic Forsyth lives with his wife, who style, Forsyth says what many is a one-year cancer survivor, and available through AuthorHouse. Americans are thinking as they the couple has two boys, Aaron A satirical, politically incor-

watch celebrities complain about low pay or treat the world like a doormat. Is Your Fifteen Minutes Up spares no love for the pop princesses and millionaire athletes who litter magazines and television screens. It's time to glorify those who deserve praise and kick

sional and spent most of his life in sales and management. He is also a firefighter with the North Charleston Fire Department. and Adam. AuthorHouse is the world leader in publishing and print-on-demand services, Founded in 1997. AuthorHouse has helped more than 20,000 people worldwide become pub-

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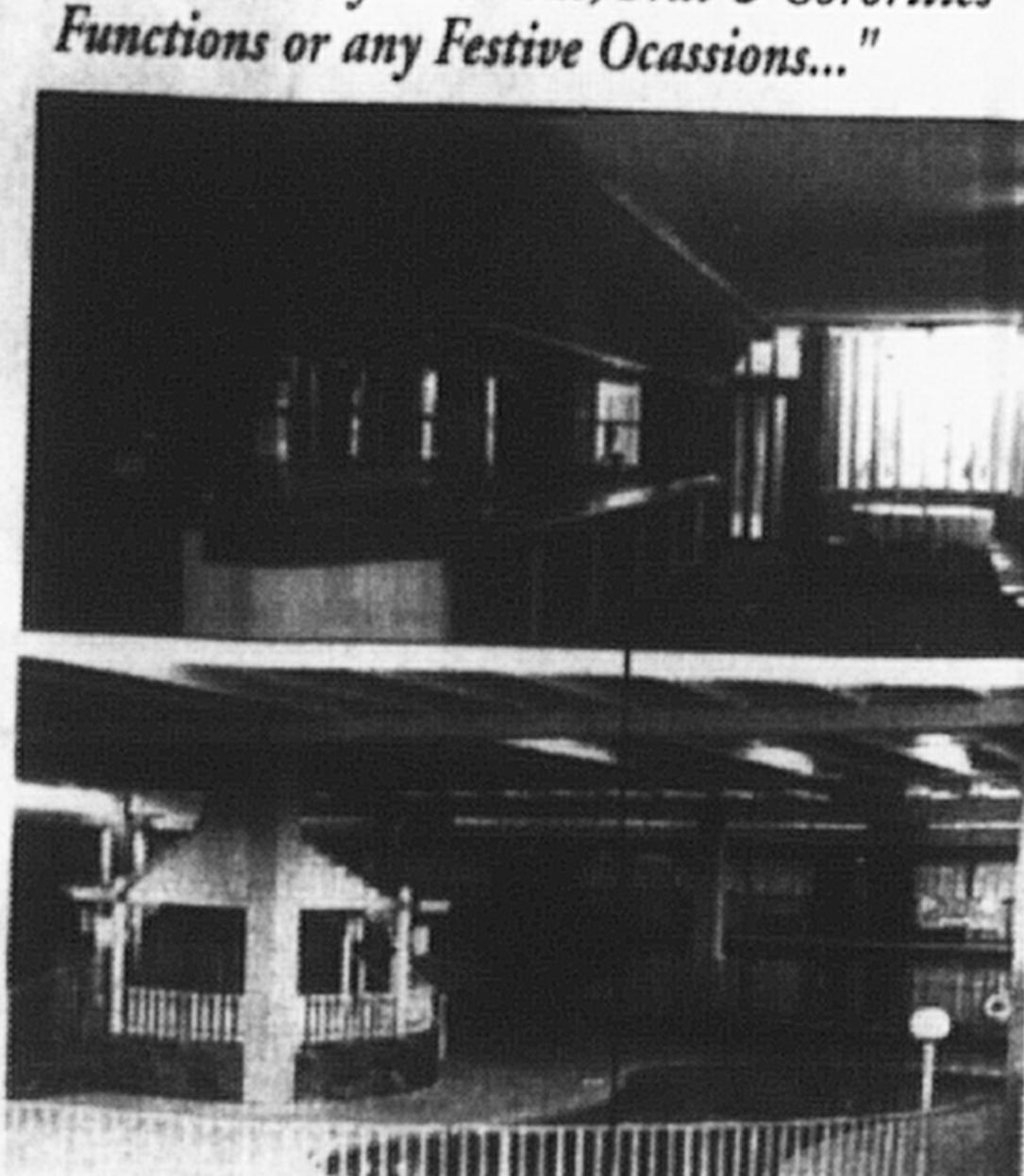
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Community Voices Reflections, Expressions & Reviews

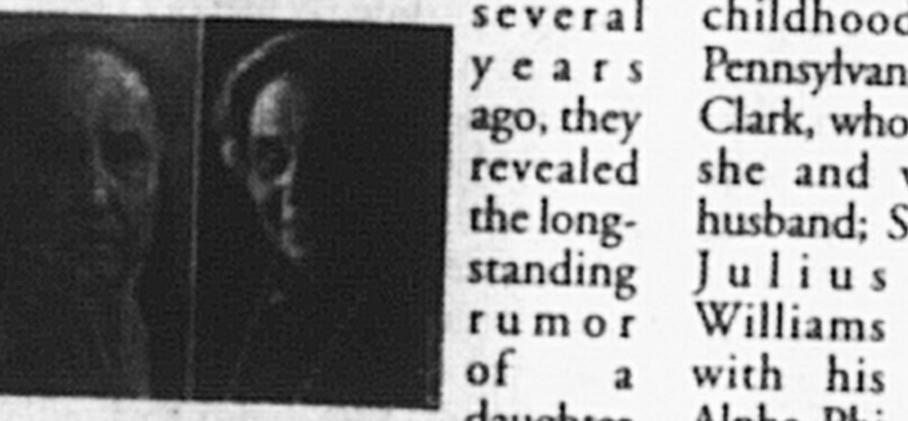
city sophisticate Mae, "I'm your mother, you know."

Seemingly, it appeared that



"Let's Review" A rendering account of forbidden love and mutual respect

When Marilyn Thompson and Jack Bass published their book Ol' Strom (an unauthorized biography)



Strom Thurmond had fathered by Alpha his 15 black household servant. He fraternity was 23. They went through the at South details—even mentioning the names Carolina of the daughter and her mother. Last State; year, at age 79, the secret daughter Strom and came on television and publicly J e a n announced: "My name is Essie Mae Crouch's Washington-Williams. Strom wedding; Thurmond was my father." She had Essie Mae held this secret for almost 60 years; and her or rather she had denied it for 60 three years. Actually it was no secret because black folk in South Carolina had known for years as so had Strom's brothers and sisters. Even Nancy (who was 25 the president of South Carolina years younger than State College at Orangeburg where Essie Mae attended, knew - as Strom made frequent visits to Essie Mae throughout her college days and always generated large amounts of cash money in an envelope when he left. Driving up on campus in his chauffer-driven limousine, he went straight to the president's office where the two of them talked briefly about politics and his support for the state-supported all-black college at that time. Eventually he would ask to see Essie Mae whom he identified as "an old family friend". The president knew better than to inquire. That was hush-hush when it came to a powerful man like Strom Thurmond, so it was necessary to comply with orders and

"look the other way". was so eager to read the innermost secrets of her life's story (which could only be told by Essie Mae herself since both Carrie and Strom were both deceased) I rushed to Barnes and Noble to get my copy of Dear Senator as soon as it reached the bookstands—only to discover they had sold out tin the fiirst day or two. Immediately I placed my name on the reserved list in order to obtain the book when the next shipment arrived. When the call came from Barnes & Nobles to pick up my book, I rushed down to the store to retrieve it lest it would get into some other hands by mistake. I read the book in its entirety before putting it down. It was the most emotional, poignant, and compelling true story I had ever read and I heard that several people at the book signing for her at Quail Ridge Books in Raleigh where she appeared in person for the signing February 3rd,

actually sobbed and cried. There were many memorable events which seem to stand out in this book more than others; for instance, when Carrie (her mother) first introduced Essie Mae to her father in his law office in Edgefield, S.C. (at age 16) Strom remarked, "Oh what a lovely daughter you have. She has my sister Gertrude's cheekbones." Another moment was when Essie told him her mother, Carrie, had died. (At that time Strom and Carrie had lost contact to which he attributed to "her interest in another man" and he at age 46 had recently married Jean Crouch, his first wife (some 20 years younger). When Essie Mae revealed to him that her mother had died (at age 38), her words were that, "his normal ebullience was knocked completely out of him. He sat stunned for a long time and said, "What did you say, Essie Mae? Did I hear you?" To which she repeated, "My mother is dead. She died in October of kidney failure." She said Strom bleated like a wounded animal. He didn't cry, but tears filled his eyes. "For the first time, Essie said, "I had seen the great orator was speechless." His claim was that he knew she had a man in her life before he took up with Jean." Essie Mae consoled herself by thinking that he sought refuge in Jean

Crouch only after it had ceased to be available with her mother, Carrie

A TRIAD: Strom, Carrie, and Essie Mae

NO PICTURES OF ESSIE ... There were several pages of photographs in the book; one of Essie Mae at 17; her cousin Calvin; her childhood home in Coatsville, Pennsylvania; her half-brother Willie revealed she and was Carrie's son by a

Williams

with his

daughter Alpha Phi children; and a picture of Essie Mae and her daughter visiting Strom's sister Gertrude at her home in Edgefield, S.C. I began to wonder why there was no pictare. of Carrie, her mother. But I assumed out of honor and respect for her deceased mother, it was omitted. However, in the book she described

> Her words were: "One lovely, crisp fall day, a very beautiful woman came to visit us (in Coatesville, Pa. where she had lived with the woman she had always thought was her real mother). She was the most amazing woman I had ever seen. She was about five feet eight inches tall and moved and dressed like a fashion model. She wore a plain cotton dress with a string of pearls, but the way she carried herself in them was regaland she looked as elegant as any of the rich swells in the high-society films, as naturally aristocratic as Katherine Hepburn, living proof that a black woman could hold her own against any Hollywood ideals. She was dark-skinned and had thick, lustrous wavy hair and coal-black big eyes that would light up any dark night. She carried herself like a big-

her mother the first time she saw her.

Strom continued to see Carrie down throughout the years. When she had moved to Chester, PA. after leaving left Rock Hill, S.C. where she had been living with her husband, Philadelphia seemed to be the ideal place for Strom to visit her. She seldom worked but always had money. She even had an account at ago, they Clark, who was 7 years younger than John Wanamaker's in Philadelphia and Strom had promised her that the long- husband; Strom at 20; her husband he would always look out for their daughter.

> married in her junior year in college to an lawyer, Strom, through his legislature, made possible for a law school to including: South Carolina State so that her

Essie

husband also funded her son's medical schooling and he became a doctor. Essie Mae had no choice but to

respect the man whom she called a dear Senator, so much so that she kept a secret legacy throughout his lifetime. But now she exclaims, "I'm free at last!"

Note: This book not only tells of a lasting love that transcended race that was divided and bound by the tradition of culture and customs of the Old South but it also focus on South Caroilina History and its journey through the Civil War, Reconstruction, the Jim Crow Era, and World Wars I and II.

Book Review prepared by Suejette CODA: Today, the whole

Thurmond family has publicly accepted Essie Mae into their family. Her name has been added to his list of children inscribed on the senator's monument at the Capitol in Columbia, S.C. She is now a candidate for membership in the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution of which she is entitled "through her father's lineage".

In the course that followed, it was then that Carrie said to Essie Hae. "I'm your mother, you know." From the Chancellor's Desk

A monthly column by East Carolina University Chancellor Dr. Steve Ballard

while in the care of an institution of higher learning is a critical yet daunting responsibility.

At ECU, the number of stu-5,500 at mid-day. Many students rately. live on campus, or in nearby safe a learning environment as pos- country. sible.

the downtown area.

While we in the university are. community cannot be totally inaway from home for our stu- outstanding institution.

Under the guidance of UNC President Molly Corbett Broad, a task force has offered recommendations for improving safety across the 16-campus university system. aspiring Dr. Garrie Moore, ECU's vice chancellor for student life, represented the university on that task force. His power in the subcommittee focused on the safety of the overall campus environment.

The task force came up with several excellent recommendations,

be established at More thorough background checks on students applying for ad-

Training campus staff to identify could obtain and respond to applicants who may a law degree be a threat to the safety of the campus if admitted;

Maintain a campus safety com-Assess campus safety threats, inven-

tory current safety practices and resources; and

Train faculty to be aware of student behavior that might indicate potential danger.

The task force agreed that providing a safe and secure university community requires an ongoing partnership that involves the campus, surrounding communities, public schools and other colleges. ECU is committed to doing its part to ensure that each student can attend class and live on campus without being afraid of violence.

Since early last year, ECU also has put in place a number of safety measures, including video monitoring for all residence halls, increased police patrols and restricted access to residence halls.

One of the many ways we are addressing this safety issue is by testing a new device designed to increase personal safety. About the size of a silver dollar, this new Personal Alert Device is small enough for a student to carry on a key chain or wear as a necklace. Yet, this device is powerful

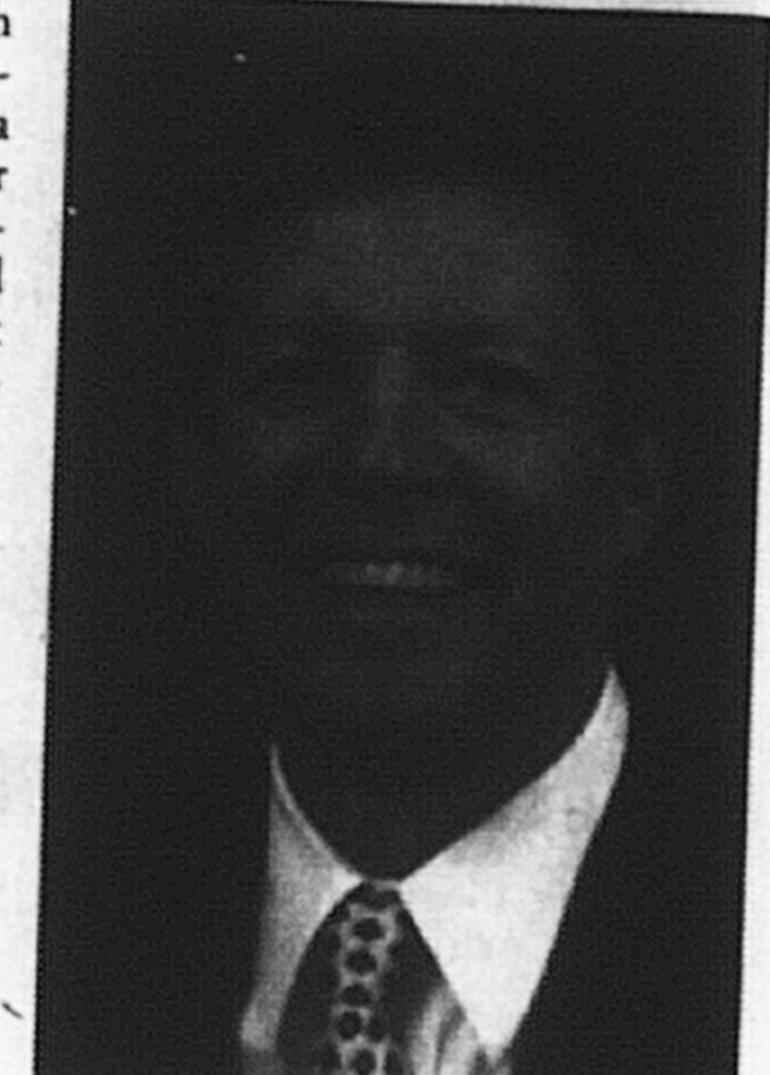
Making sure students are safe enough to connect the student with campus police in case of an emergency. The device can pinpoint a person within 12 feet of his or her location. This small piece of techdents on campus during the week nology is more effective than a cell varies from about 50 in early phone, because cell phones cannot morning classes to more than identify a caller's location as accu-

Some of our ECU staff memhouses and apartments and walk bers are testing this technology to to class. Many others drive into identify and minimize potential Greenville for the day. But in all problems with its use, such as false cases, the families of these stu- alarms and human errors. If this dents expect them to be safe and device proves successful, it could secure while they are here, and it potentially expand to other UNC is our responsibility to provide as campuses, as well as across the

But along with use of such We remember the tragic mur- measures, the entire ECU famders last year of two students at ily should be mindful of the need one of our sister institutions. for attention to personal safety. Through the years, we have had a For ECU to grow and attract the number of serious offenses against highest caliber students, faculty students, both on campus and in and administrators, our safety record becomes part of who we

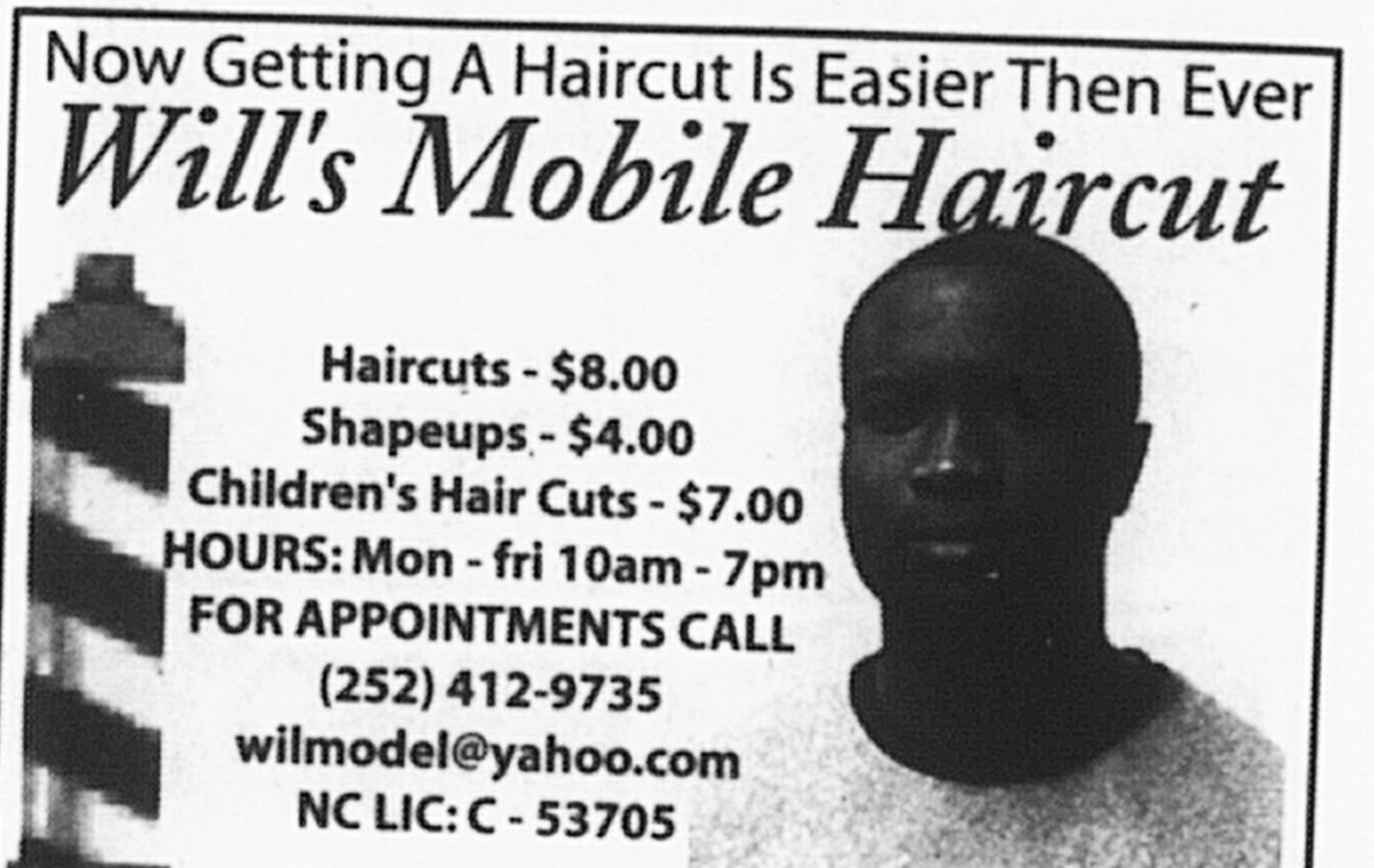
sulated from the increasing vio- build a strong, healthy university ment to serve our community, lence in society all around us, community that reflects the best ECU will become a great place we can make a difference in the we have to offer. In return, we to learn, to work and to live way we provide a safe home will build our own legacy as an because "Tomorrow starts

Open dialogue can go a long



Dr. Steve Ballard, Chancellor

way in helping us identify the sources of some of this unnecessary violence. With construc-We all must work together to tive discussion and a commit-





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"Family Serving Families"

Community Voices From the Deak of Mrs. Beatrice Maye

for East Carolina's Head Football

Coach, Skip Holtz. Although an

extreme blessing to be employed

looking forward to beginning a

career with Wachovia on June 13,

2005 where she will serve as a Fi-

nancial Center Manager. This will

consist of one full year of training

Wilmington, North Carolina.

best role model as possible to her

younger sisters, Johnelle, a fresh-

man at Carolina and Kristen, a

freshman at Independence High

School in Charlotte. She states

that, "For none of my accolades

do I give myself the credit because

it unequivocally would not have

Carmen looks forward to her fu-

ture endeavors and says that in

addition to her family, her church,

part of her college experience that

she will miss the most. She would

like to extend her appreciation to

all of the people in the commu-

nity that she has encountered that

have positively impacted her life.

ence known in the home. But what

about the African American women

who are heading households with-

out a man present in the home?

There are approximately 44% of

African American households that

are headed by females-either

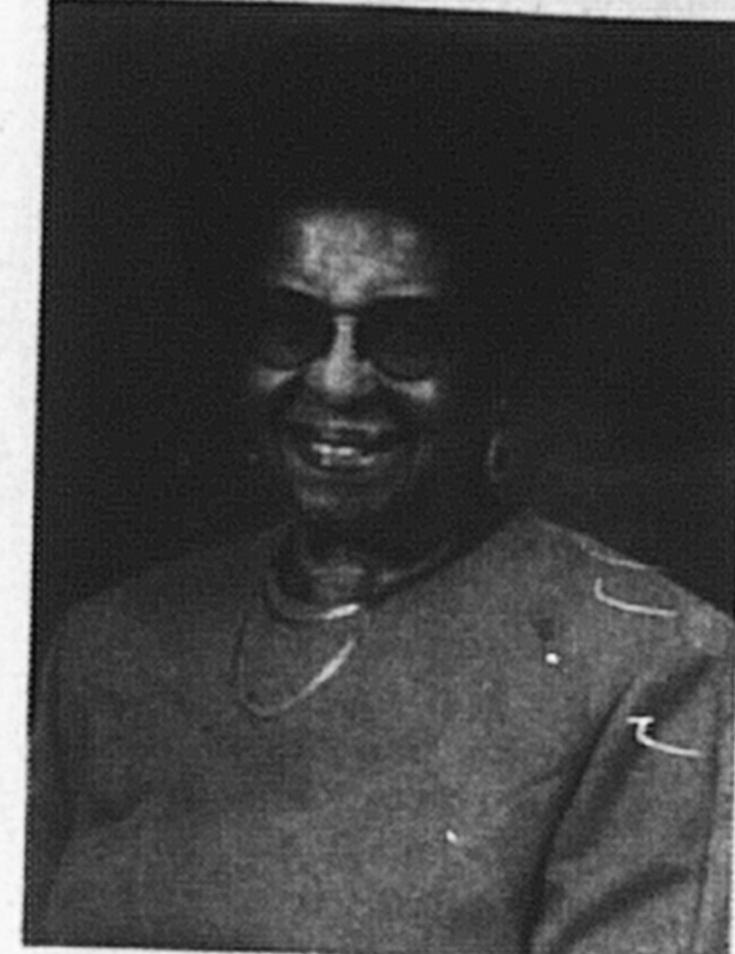
through out-of-wed lock births,

death, or divorce. The 2000 U.S.

Census Data indicates that 62% of

Fathers must make their pres-

been possible without God."



Mrs. Beatrice Maye Carmen Maye of Charlotte, North Carolina, daughter of John W. Maye, 3rd. and Jeanette W. Maye and granddaughter of Mrs. Beatrice Carr Maye and Ms. Emma Wilson, has completed her college studies at East Carolina University in 3 1/2



Carmen Maye years, graduating on December 11, 2004 with Dean's List honors. She obtained a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration specializing in Decision Science with a con-

African American children live in single-parent households, more than 90% of them headed by females. Nearly 40% of those households are at or below the poverty level. The African American Male centration in Management Inforand the Church

mation Systems. She is currently Many African American males working as a full-time secretary won't even consider the salvation message that Jesus is the only way to God, because today's church does not address their needs. The Afriupon graduation, she is ultimately can American male needs money, job opportunities, business resources, and relevant skills training. The church collects money, but does little to create opportunities through which he can make more money. in Charlotte, North Carolina and People often criticize men because will follow with relocation to of activities they engage in outside the church. If a lottery man, gam-Carmen is currently 21 years of bling man, or dope dealer toss out age, and her passion is to be the an economic life line while the church stays on the shore, closed behind stained glass windows, repeating a sanctimonious agenda, it cannot expect to reach and save African American men. When our churches provide self-esteem leadership development, economic rel-

Alarming Statistics Over the course of a lifetime, Koinonia Christian Center is the 28% of African American men will enter a state or federal prison.

evance, and other positive initia-

tives, African American men will

A big part of the problem is recidivism-the frustrating phenomenon of prisoners who are freed to live in society but go back to their old ways, and once again end up in

We believe that many African American men and fathers who are serving time in the nation's correctional institution want to become productive participants in society upon release. However, well over half of them fail to make a successful transition back into society after

From: Teaching Our Mean: Reaching Our Fathers by Mathew Arnold EDIFICATION OF A GENERATION

Music Department Welcomes The Branford Marsdalis Quartet As Newst Artists-In-Residence

DURHAM N.C. - North Carolina Central University Department of Music is proud to announce The Branford Marsalis Quartet will serve as artists-inresidence from January to December, 2005 at the university.

"We are honored to have performers of this caliber on our faculty," said Chancellor James H. Ammons. "With their international acclaim and talent, they will provide immeasurable experience and opportunities for our students." "The arts are alive and well at NCCU."

The newest faculty members are Branford Marsalis, tenor saxophone; Jeff "Tain" Watts, drums; Eric Revis, bass; and Joey Calderazzo, piano. The artists will spend 24 full days teaching private lessons and master classes to NCCU music students during the spring and fall semesters in 2005.

The guys (the quartet) and are looking forward to work- saxophonist's third Grammy Marsalis. 'They (the quartet) Howard Reich of the Chicago have called me more in the last two months about when do we start teaching than they have in instrumental brilliance." the last five years."

"In addition to the education component, which is very important, we will focus on what it takes to be performer," added Marsalis.

The 43-year-old Grammy award-winning Marsalis has continued to exercise and expand his skills as a performer and composer. He has his own label, Marsalis Music, and serves as a producer for both his own projects and those of the jazz world's most promising new art-

The New Orleans native was born into one of the city's most distinguished musical families, which includes patriarch/pianist/ educator Ellis Marsalis and three of his five brothers, trumpeter Wynton, trombonist Delfeayo, and

Known for his innovative energy, technique and rapid fire spirit and broad musical scope, Marsalis is equally at home on the stages of the world's great-

His recording career as a mented his commanding masleader encompasses 14 jazz al- tery of group interplay on five. from which to draw. bums and two classical albums albums that matched his ideas under his own name, plus two and passions with those of such Buckshot LeFonque pop re- imposing artists as Marsalis,

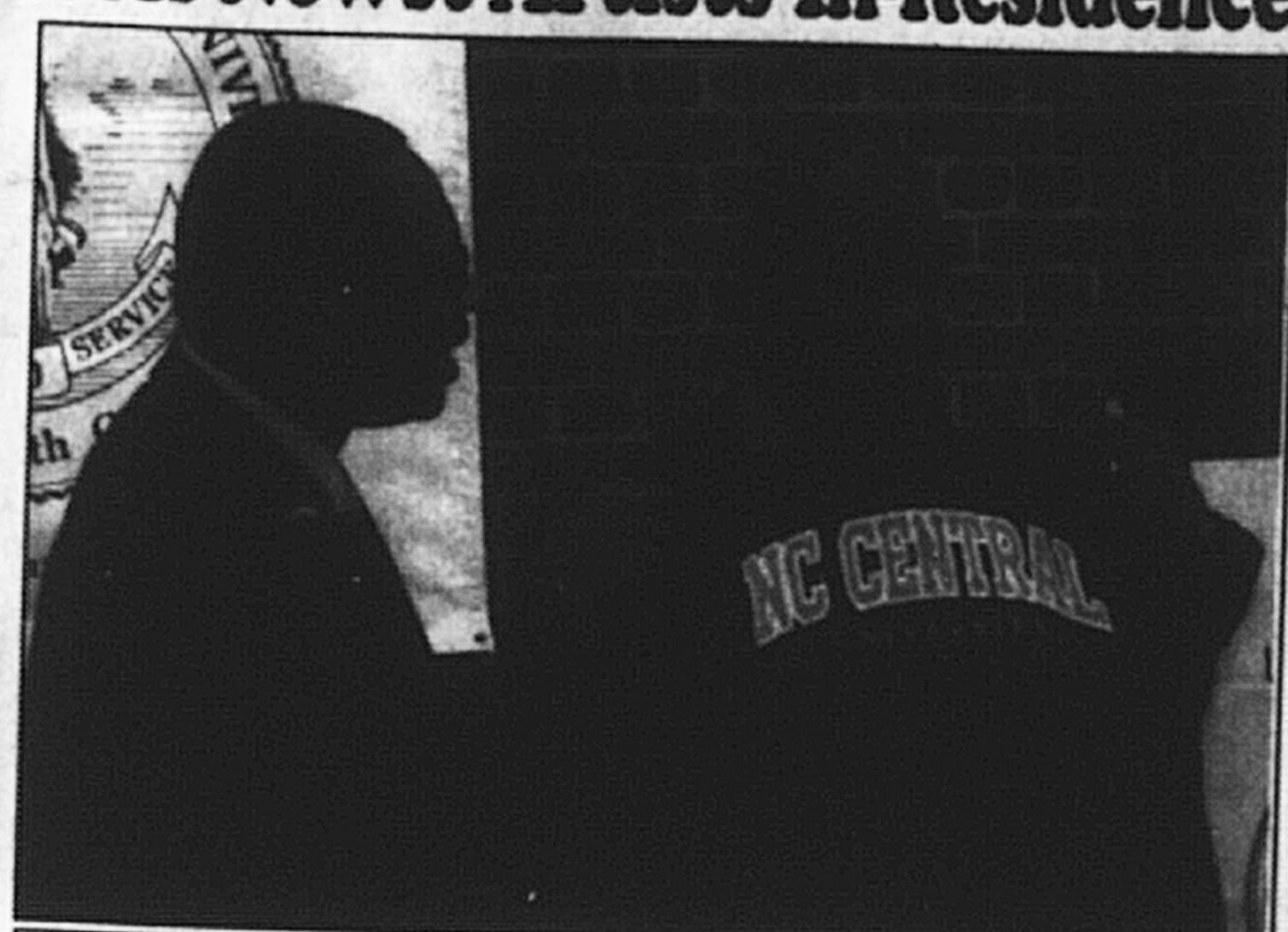
leases. His final recording for Jerry Bergonzi, Jack DeJohnette, Columbia Records, Contempo-Dave Holland, John Patitucci rary Jazz, garnered the and Jeff "Tain" Watts.

ing with the students," said Award, and captured what played with George Benson, In the jazz worlds, Watts has Courtney Pine, McCoy, Stanley Tribune described as "a new Jordan and Kevin Eubanks. level of emotional intensity and Moviegoers heard him on the soundtracks of "When Harry Marsalis is also dedicated to Met Sally," "Do The Right changing the future of jazz in the Thing," and Spike Lee's "Mo" classroom. As both visiting Better Blues." However, it was his move to Los Angeles for a stint with Branford Marsalis 'Toknowledge at such universities night Show Band with Jay Leno that really put Jeff in front of the cisco State and Stanford. Beyond jazz audience.

these traditional avenues, Eric Revis, a Grammy awardwinning musician, started his prowider audience and providing fessional career playing with Betty opportunities for college-aged Carter, and has been a member of Branford Marsalis' quartet for seven years. Revis draws from his life to create his music. He grew up in Fresno, Calif., where he listened to Parliament, Kiss, and sions at Smith College and the Earth, Wind and Fire.

He studied jazz with Ellis Calderazzo, a pianist with Marsalis at the University of the Branford Marsalis Quartet, New Orleans, where he played has produced five previous alwith Nicholas Payton and Brian bums under his own name. His Blade in the local clubs. He has had a diverse career performing jazz, funk, rock, and hip-hop one of the most exciting jazz piathat has taken him from small nists to emerge in the past two jazz rooms to Carnegie Hall and decades. Calderazzo has docuaround the world. Revis has developed a rich musical palette

For more information, call the Department of Music at (919) 530-6319 or (919) 530-7214.



NCCU's Chancellor James H. Ammons presents Branford Marsalis, the newest member of the faculty, with a NCCU sweatshirt.

drummer Jason Marsalis.

est jazz clubs and classical halls.

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scholar and part-time faculty

member, he has shared his

as Michigan State, San Fran-

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musicians to interact with estab-

lished players before live audi-

ences through "Marsalis Jams,"

an educational initiative of his

new label that held its first ses-

University of New Hampshire.

imagination have marked him as

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strated right up to the moment He yourself." breathed His last. As important as those traits may be, however, they are not the

Happy Life!

titude on earth? Think before vou

answer. Many would answer love.

patience. Again, not a bad choice.

Grace would be a possibility. No

man or woman ever modeled or ex-

hibited the grace that He demon-

What is the most Christlike at-

time in Scripture: "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My load is

light" (Matthew 11:28-30). Did you catch the key words? "I am gentle and humble in heart," which might best be summed up in one word-unselfish. According to Jesus' testimony, that, is the

Christlike attitude we can demonstrate. Because He was so humbleso unselfish-the last person He thought of was Himself.

It seems that today's world is filled with self-promotion, defending our own rights, taking care of ourselves first, winning by intimidation, pushing for first place, and a dozen other self-serving agendas. That one attitude does more to squelch our joy than any other. So busy defending and protecting and manipulating, we set ourselves up for a grim, intense existence-and is not totally modern problem. Greece said, "Be wise, know your-

The Secret of a Rome said, "Be strong, discipline yourself."

Religion says, "Be good, conform yourself." Epicureanism says, "Be sensuous,

That is the most Christlike attitude on earth? Think before you answer. satisfy yourself." to the utmost. Others might say Materialism says, "Be possessive,

please yourself." Pride says, "Be superior, promote yourself.

Christ says, "Be unselfish, humble

Happily, this last line is the secret of a happy life, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter ones Jesus Himself referred to when Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2).

Look at that! He saw those of us who benefit from his sacrifice as "the joy set before Him.." He did not come to us grudgingly or nursing a bitter spirit. He came free of all that. While it was certainly not a pleasurable experience, He accepted His coming among us and His dying for

us willingly and unselfishly. "Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every

WITHFAITHMAY

name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11).

No one else deserves that title. Only one is Lord. All knees will ultimately bow before Him.

My emphasis here is on the attitude that releases joy and launches it from our lips, the secret of a happy life on earth-an attitude of unselfishness. My encouragement to you is that you not put if off until it is a little more convenient. Many will tell you that you will be taken advantage of if you begin to live for others or if you don't defend your rights and "get even." I offer the oppo-Many would answer love. That is understandable, for He indeed love sert yourself." Be confident, assite counsel: God will honor your decision to demonstrate an attitude decision to demonstrate an attitude of humility. You will find that feelings of hate will be replaced with a relieving flood of peace and happiness. As Solomon has written, "When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him" Proverbs 16:7).

Actually, it all begins with your knowing Jesus Christ in a personal way-and allowing Him to take the blows of life for you.

When we acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord and begin to release our cares, our disappointments, and our heartaches to Him, we not only keep our equilibrium, we keep our sense of humor. Joys multiply when we have Someone to bear our burdens. By Charles R. Swindoll

Resource: Positive Thinking/2004 You can bank on this: Experts estimate that by the year 2008, more than 68 million households will be banking online.

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(NAPSA)-Better a late fee than never, but no late fee at all is better still. Unfortunately, traveling and busy schedules often lead to unpaid bills and credit woes. A recent study showed that one in five travelers were hit with late fees for unpaid bills while they were away from home; another 20 percent said their consumer credit rating was negatively impacted because of late payment.

The survey conducted by Wells Fargo & Company of 2,200 random U.S. adults also found:

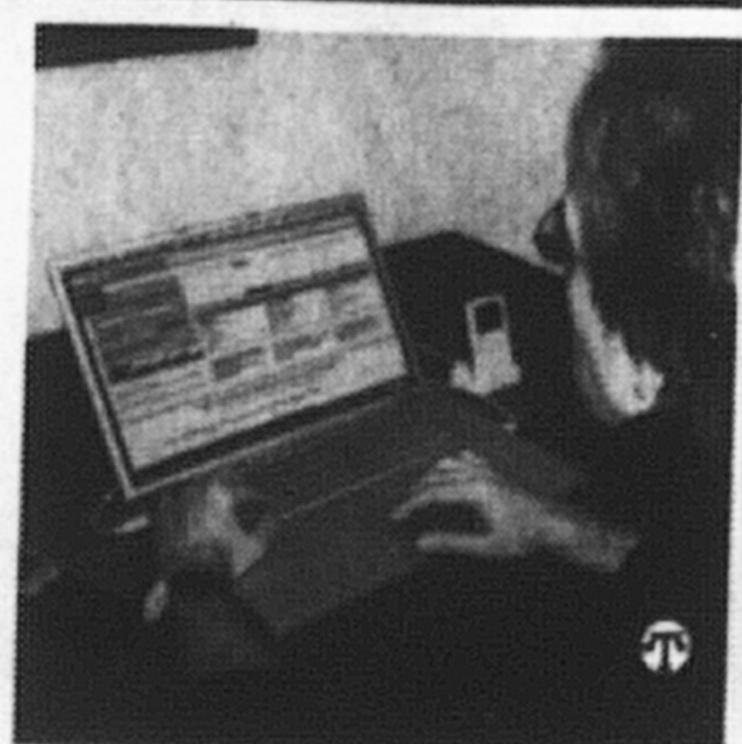
22 percent had a delayed payment because they were too busy A quarter overlooked an important statement amidst all the

junk" mail in the mailbox Nearly a third of all people simply forgot to make a household payment

In addition, 13 percent had their services or standing with a biller negatively impacted because of a late payment.

Managing your finances online is an excellent way to get greater control over your expenditures, especially when you're away from home. "Using online bill pay can turn a three-hour chore into a 15minute task as simple as checking off a 'to-do' list," say experts at Wells

Interestingly, experts also report that the average American household spends two to four hours every month paying bills. Switching to an online bill payment service can decrease the time you spend on bills by 60 percent. In fact, it's now estimated that by the year 2008, more than 68 million households will pay



You can bank on this: Experts estimate that by the year 2008, more than 68 million households will be banking online.

most of their monthly bills online. For more information about banking online, go www.wellsfargo.com.



Family, Education and Civic Responsibility" Radio and TV talk show host Bev Smith is heard daily on American Urban Radio Networks via

her shilly commencery on Stanight Up and her national call above The Boy Smith Show She's dedicated, popular, powerful and goes in-depth, tackling top politicisms, examining health case issues affecting African Americans, all the while loughing, crying, and sharing joy nightly. Smith served as host of BET's Our Voices for over ten years and is seen as a regular game on the PBS shows To the Contrary and This Week in America. Smith has received nearly 300 swords. citations and trophics for her contributions in radio and television and was recently inducted into the Museum of Radio and Television Arts under the "Pioneer" category.



A Ledonia Wright Culescral Center Day worst.

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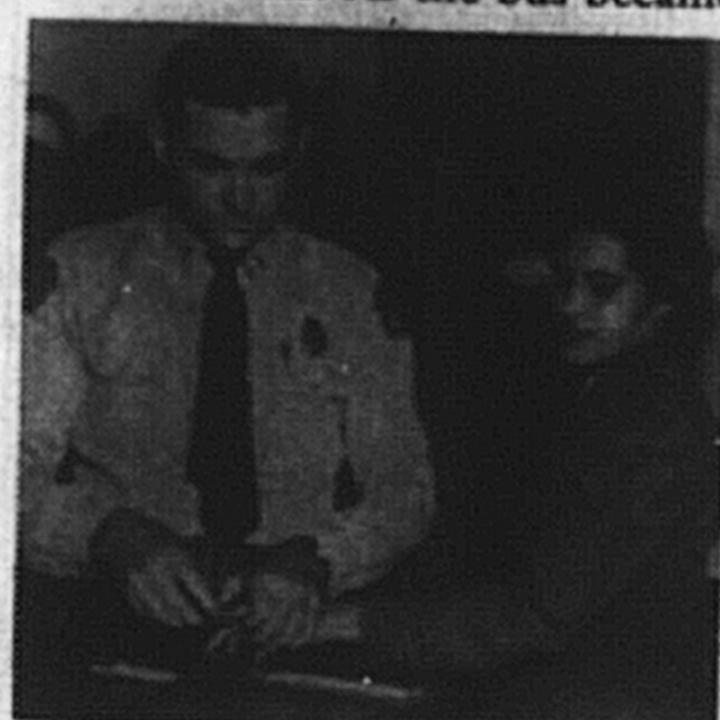


Heroes of the Civil Rights Movement

by Borgna Brunner

The civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s challenged racism in America and made the country a more just and humane society for all. Below are a few of its many heroes.

Rosa Parks On December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks, an African-American seamstress, left work and boarded a bus for home. As the bus became



crowded, the bus driver ordered Parks to give up her seat to a white passenger. Montgomery's buses were segregated, with the seats in Finally, the the front reserved for "whites Supreme only." Blacks had to sit at the back Court interof the bus. But if the bus was vened and crowded and all the "whites only" declared segseats were filled, black people were expected to give up their seats-a black person sitting while a white person stood would never be tolerated in the racist South. Rosa had had enough of such humiliation, and refused to give up her seat. "I felt I had a right to stay where I was," she said. "I wanted this particular driver to know that we were being treated unfairly as individuals and as a people." The bus driver had her arrested.

Martin Luther King, Jr., heard about Parks's brave defiance and launched a boycott of Montgomery buses. The 17,000 black residents of Montgomery pulled to-

Eckford and Massery 40 years later.

At the time that this picture was take Massery was the only person to come forward and publically apologize -Photo - Will Counts

than a year. regation on buses unconstitutional. Rosa Parks and the boycotters defeated the racist system, and she became known as "the mother

of the civil rights movement." Martin Luther King, Jr. It wasn't just that Martin Luther King became the leader of the civil rights movement that made him so extraordinary—it was the way in which he led the move-

gether and kept the boycott going dience, the non-violent resistance

Non-violence is powerful and and ennobles the man who Civil rights activists organized demon-

marches, boycotts, strikes, and voter-registration drives, and refused to obey laws that they knew were wrong and unjust. These peaceful forms of protest were often met with vicious threats, arrests, beatings, and worse. King emphasized how important it was that the civil rights movement did

not sink to the level of the racists and hate mongers they fought against: "Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred," he urged. "We just weapon must forever conduct our struggle gated schools were shamefully un- even received death threats. One which cuts on the high plane of dignity and without discipline." King's philosophy of wounding "tough-mindedness and tenderheartedness" was not only highly effective, but it gave the civil rights movement an inspiring moral authority and grace.

Thurgood Marshall Thurgood Marshall was a courageous civil rights lawyer during a period when racial segregation was the law of the land. At a time when a large portion of American society refused to extend equality to black people, Marshall astutely

realized that one of the best ways can history. to bring about change was through the legal system. Between 1938 and 1961, he presented more than 30 civil rights cases before the Supreme Court. He won 29 of them.

Read about Plessy v Feguson, the Supreme Court's "separate but



equal" doctrine that was overturned by Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka.

His most important case was Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (1954), which ended segregation in public schools. By law, black and white students had to attend separate public schools. As long as schools were "separate but equal"-providing equal education for all races-segregation was considered fair. In reality, segreequal: white schools were far more privileged than black schools, which were largely poor and overcrowded. Marshall challenged the the mob. . . . I looked into the doctrine, pointing out that "sepa- face of an old woman, and it rate but equal" was just a myth seemed a kind face, but when I disguising racism. He argued that looked at her again, she spat at if all students were indeed equal, me." As scared as they were, the then why was it necessary to sepa- students wouldn't give up, and sevrate them? The Supreme Court eral went on to graduate from agreed, ruling that "separate edu- Central High. Nine black teenagcational facilities are inherently ers challenged a racist system and unequal." Marshall went on to be- defeated it. come the first African-American Supreme Court Justice in Ameri-

The Little Rock Nine

The Little Rock Nine, as they later came to be called, were the first black teenagers to attend allwhite Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957. These remarkable young African-American students challenged segregation in the deep South and won.

Although Brown v. Board of Education outlawed segregation in schools, many racist school systems defied the law by intimidating and threatening black students-Central High School was a notorious example. But the Little Rock Nine were determined to attend the school and receive the same education offered to white students, no matter what. Things grew ugly and frightening right away. On the first day of school, the governor of Arkansas ordered the state's National Guard to block the black students from entering the school. Imagine what it must have been like to be a student confronted by armed soldiers! President Eisenhower had to send in federal troops to protect the stu-

But that was only the beginning of their ordeal. Every morning on their way to school angry crowds of whites taunted and insulted the Little Rock Nine-they of the students, fifteen-year-old Elizabeth Eckford, said "I tried to see a friendly face somewhere in



ment. King advocated civil disobe-Memoirs of Convict Lease Camps

masterless men," not attached to the land, or beholden to landlords. Their presence often terrified whites, who feared any strange black man. One white man noted, "In all communi-

The wandering workers were bare ground, without blankets and circus animal, fed the worst food, mattresses and often without clothes. Beatings never ceased. On one plantation farm, a man was given ten lashes for "slow hoeing," five for "sorry planting." Those who tried to escape

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE??? The above children pictured in chains as well as adults were sent to work on convicts lease gangs for misdemeanors or simply because their labor was needed. Some children were sentence as long as twenty years for a relatively minor crime. Photo and Story (Excerpt): The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow by Richard Wormser/St. Martin's Griffin Publishers

ties, there are Negroes of whom none knows the coming, going or real names. The Negroes are restive, the whites apprehensive and both are other." growing more and more suspicious. Such a status is already half hostile even before an overt act is commit-

maximizing their control. Police arrested unemployed men without cause, charging them as vagrants or falsely accusing them of crimes. Judges passed down extremely harsh sentences. Blacks received far more severe sentences than whites for the same crime. In some states, whites received two years for stealing a cow, blacks five. Whites were sentenced to five years for burglary, blacks twelve to forty.

Leasing Black Convict Labor Most blacks were sent to con-

vict lease camps, which were organized on a deadly combination of racism and profit. Owners of mines, plantations, railroads, and other industries would contract with the state to lease the labor of men sentenced to jail. The prisoners would then be sent to work camps where they would work six to seven days a week from "can't see" to "can't see" - before dawn until after dark. They cleared snake and alligator swamps, dug coal in gasfilled mines, built railroads, and gathcred turpentine in hundred-degree

Men were worked fourteen hours a day six to seven days a week in conditions that one convict described as "nine kinds of hell." In some camps, men were chained for days in kneedeep pools of muck, their thirst forcing them to drink the water in which they were compelled to deposit their excrement. The men ate and slept on

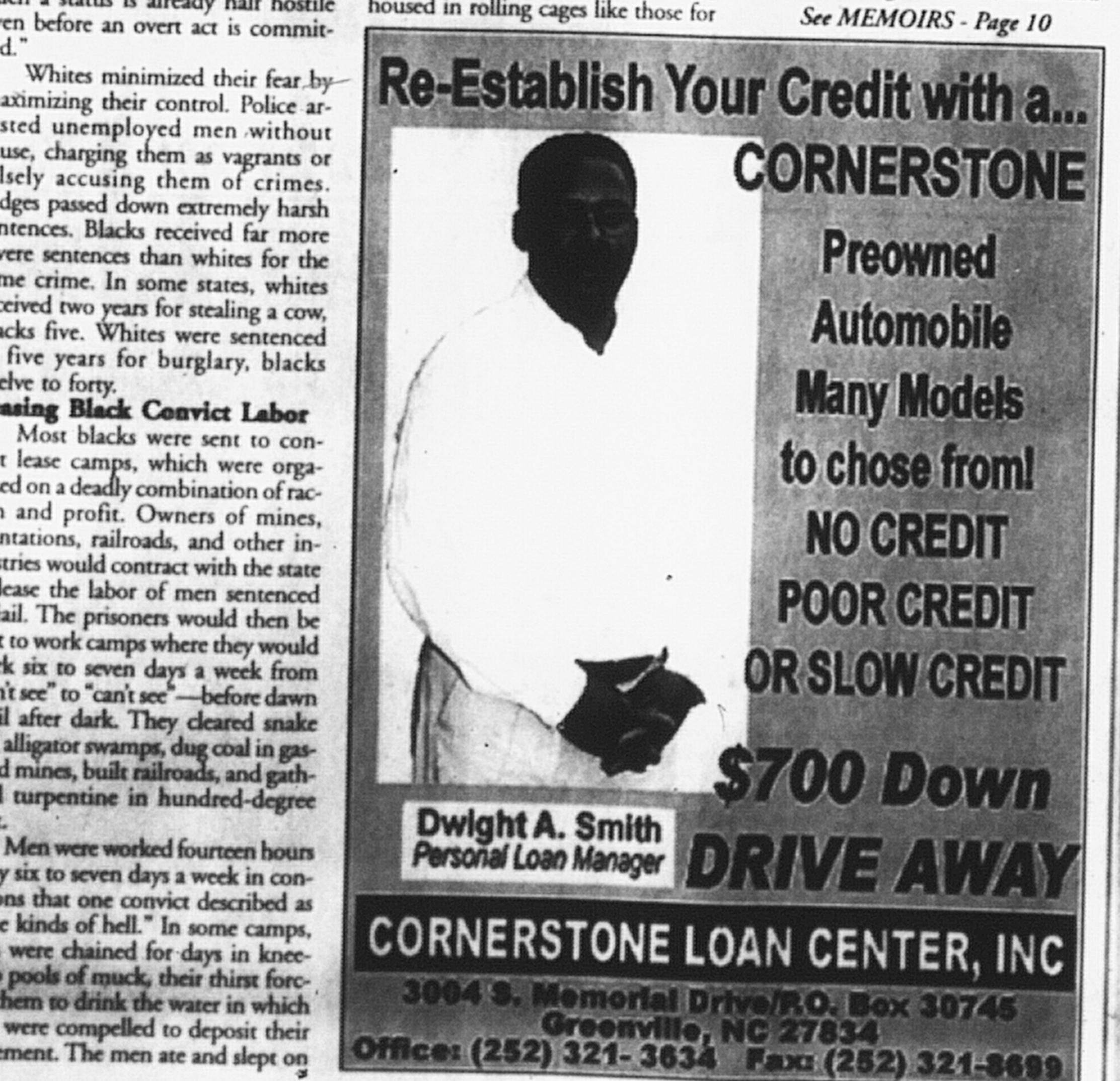
and were captured were whipped until the blood ran. One guard chillingly commented, "Kill a nigger ... get an-

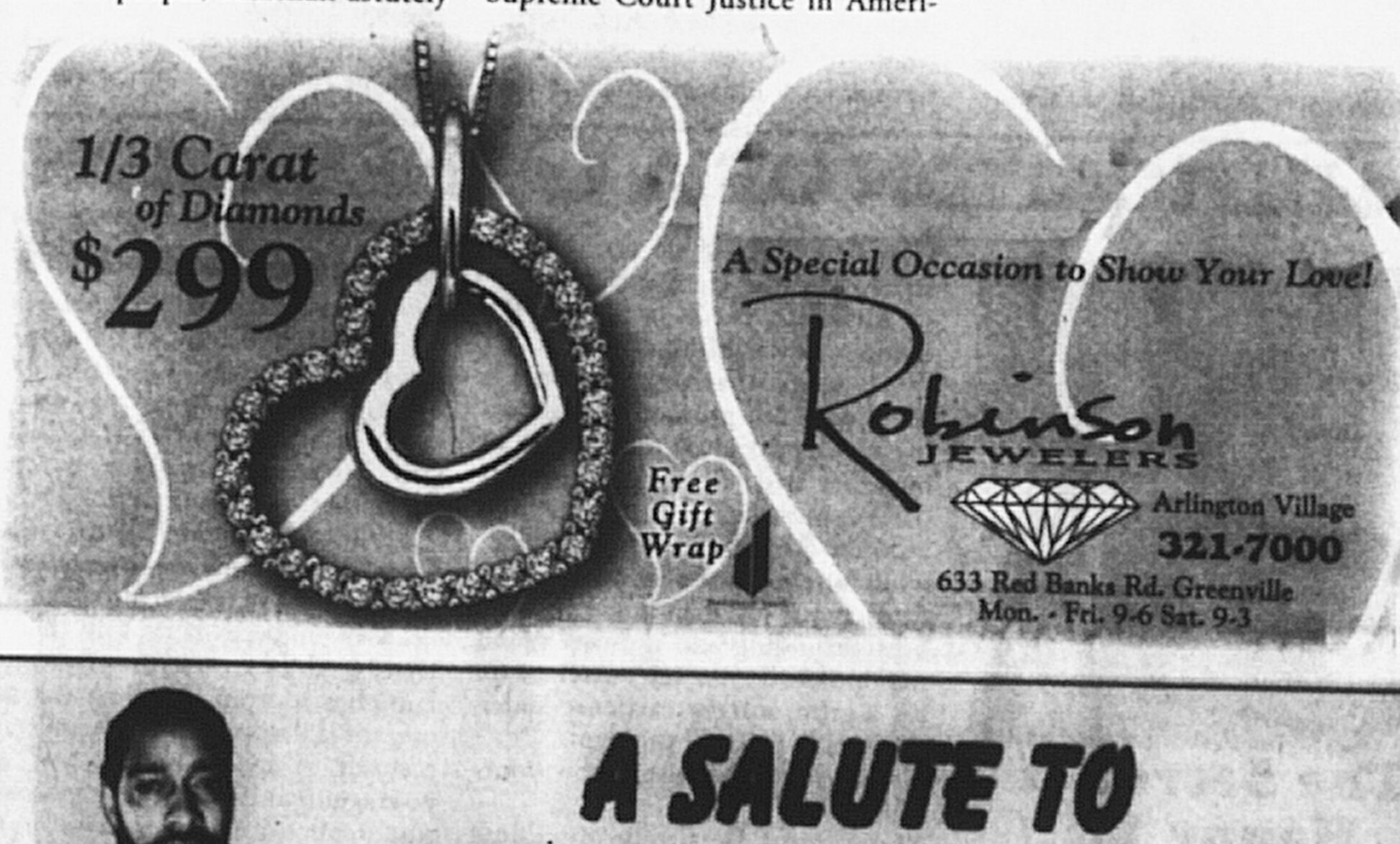
Sometimes [black convicts] housed in rolling cages like those for

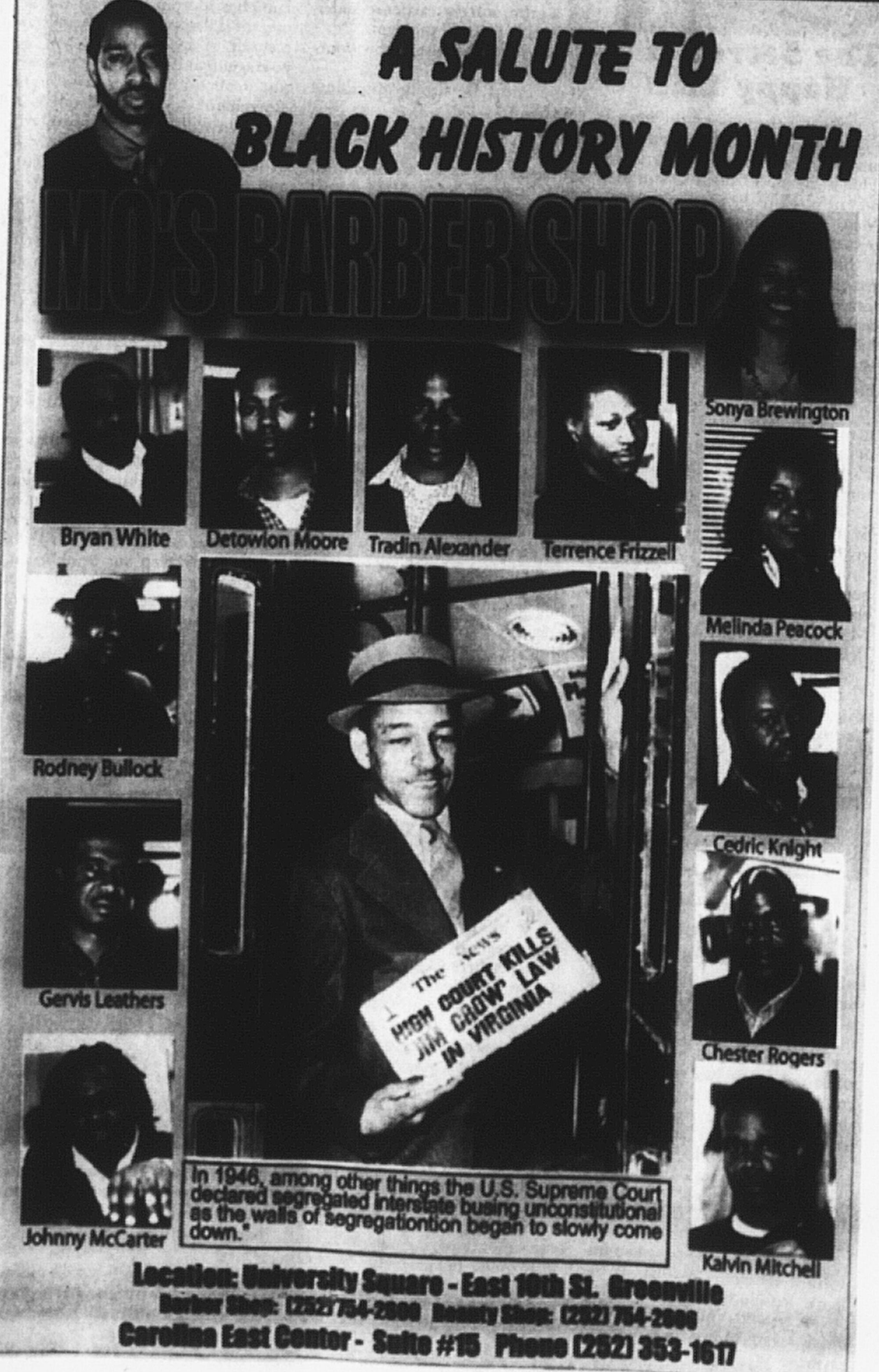
denied medical treatment, men died from malaria, scurvy, frostbite, sunstroke, dysentery, snakebite, shackle poisoning, and murder by violent and sadistic guards. At a time when more thean a hundred men a year were lynched, thousands died in convict camps. Convict leasing, one former government official said, was a death sentencee. George Washington Cable, a Southern writer, investigated several camps and found that though many men had sentences longer than ten years, no one survived a camps and found that though many men had sentences longer than ten years, no one survived a camp more than ten years. Death rates in some camps were as high as 45% percent, seldom below, In the North, the death rate was about 1 percent.

One prisoner described his condition: "We leave the cells at 3 o'clock AM and return at 8 PM, going the distance of three miles through rain and snow. We go to cell wet, go to bed wet and arise wet the following morning and every guard knocking beating yelling and every day Some one of us were carried to our last resting place, the grave. Day after day we looked death in the face and was afraid to speak."

Inspection reports often described the horror of the camps. The Mississippi Board of Health reported, "Most of them have their backs cut in great wales, scars and







The Annual MLK/SCLC Program at St. Peter's Church and Protest March at Pitt Court House February 17 - 28, 2005 The Minority Voice Newspaper





Everyone who participated and watched the Feb. 9th poetry competition came away a winner, but only the five pictured took home the prize money. The top five winners from the competition are pictured from left to right: They are Jason Parson. Nathaniel Lynch, Konja William, Ritchie Jones and Chevaugan Jones

WINTERVILLE—From comical to musical to utterly emotional, Pitt Community College students put their artistic skills on display for a crowded auditorium as part of the "Poetic JustUs: Vol. II" poetry competition on Feb. 9.

Nearly 100 students and employees gathered in PCC's Fulford Building and were treated to an impressive array of poetic performances. In all, 12 students participated in the event with the top five receiving monetary awards provided by the PCC Foundation.

"Poetic JustUs: Vol. II," which was the third such program to be held at PCC, is "a venue of positive expression for students," according to

Continues from Page 1

Ruby as Moms Mabley at the

Hilton Hotel - Greenville

a slave sale in Georgia- circa 1857,

lettered accomplishments of distin-

guished Black Americans such as

Mahalia Jackson and Paul Roberson,

also a 1958 edition of Ebony maga-

*zine featuring the nation's first Black

millionaire William Leidesdorff- as

well as several first edition Sambo

children's books, porcelain mammy

blisters, some of the skin peeling off

as a result of th severe beatings. They

were lying there dying, so poor and

came through their skin. We actually

saw live vermin crawling over their

Twelve-year-old Cy Williams was sen-

tenced to twenty years on a convict

lease gang for taking a horse he was

too small to ride. Eight-year-old Will

Evans received two years for stealing

change off a store counter. And Mary

Gay was sentenced to thirty days for

taking a hat. She was six years old.

estimated twenty thousand to thirty

thousand African Americans, one

quarter of whom were children, were

condemned to hard labor in convict

lease camps. Convict leasing had be-

come slavery's replacement. To sup-

iffs arrested blacks for misdemean-

ply the demand for convict labor, sher-

By the turn of the century, an

Children were not exempt.

faces.

MEMOIRS from Pg. 8

PCC Instructor Don King. King said the competition was meant for PCC students who wanted to showcase their aptitude for writing and performing. He began organizing the event in October and scheduled it as part of the college's Black History Month celebration.

With WNCT-TV9's Phillip Williams and Kontji Anthony emceeing the program, four PCC employces-Regina Garcia, Jeff Robinson, Kimberly Williamson and Greg Baldwin-judged the event. The judges evaluated competitors in four areas: composition, creativity, stage presence, and message clarity. A fifth category, audience connection, served as a potential tiebreaker.

dolls and no doubt other items of historical significance -

Since moving back home a few years ago to Pitt County where she now resides in Winterville, Perkins, when not teaching at Edgecombe Community College, has been exploring the possibility of having the 'Mama Day's Parlor Exhibit" permanently housed at a undisclosed location in Pitt County. Perhaps the new museum will be permanently named "Rediscovering Our Heritage Museum", as it was while on exhibit in Parmele, NC, a few years ago.

A visit to her home is to enjoy southern hospitality at its best. Similarly, Pitt County, just as Cheyney University and the surrounding Pennsylvania area could benefit from a museum of epic cultural learning.

There is no doubt that younger generations are much in need of seeing their reflections, cultural experiences and realities manifested through the eyes of Black history in America and Africa, defined and organized into a educational monument by those who look like them, who love them, and support of their forward progres-

emaciated that their bones almost This degree of learning, sharing and cultivating could only give rise to a swell of ownership of a peoples' collective struggle and the new challenge

Ritchie Jones, a 32-year-old college transfer student with an interest in Communications, won this year's competition after finishing third in both of the previous two events. Jones, who hails from New York, kept the audience in stitches with his poem, "Imperfect," in which he shed a humorous light on the uncomfortable and often difficult aspects of ending a troubled relationship.

"That's just dealing with life," Jones explained. "You see people go through it. I see friends go through it-love, relationships, and trying to get out of relationships. So I figured, "Why not?"

Asked if he had personal experience with the subject of his poem, Jones just smiled broadly and said, I've got a little insight on it."

Finishing behind Jones was Jason Parson with "Prime Necessity," a powerful poem in which he explained how much his mother means to him. Calling her a "cool, cool breeze in 100 degree heat" at one point, Parson received a standing ovation from many in the audience at the conclusion of his performance.

Rounding out the top five were Konja Williams, Nathaniel Lynch and Chevaugan Jones. But, as King stated, everyone who participated in the poetry competition was a winner.

PCC student Carlise Carter, who has published a book on poetry entitled "Word Songs," did not compete in the poetry competition but kicked off the program with her poem, "Breathe In." Carter said it was a poem about truly appreciating time spent with loved ones.

a new day in unison. Perkins; when asked for last words of wisdom, offered the follow-

1) I'm not in control GOD is. There's a lesson in everything, in every encounter or experience good or

2) I'm thankful for the poverty experienced in my life in all of its forms. For in it, its struggles served as the ground from which I would propel myself and from which I could inspire others.

3) I'm thankful for my mom, for she taught me perseverance, endurance, and resilience. She taught me how to embrace the good and how to weigh the assault of the bad objec-

4) I am thankful for learning the difference between losing and loss, alone and lonely. There's an ocean of value, wealth and difference between the

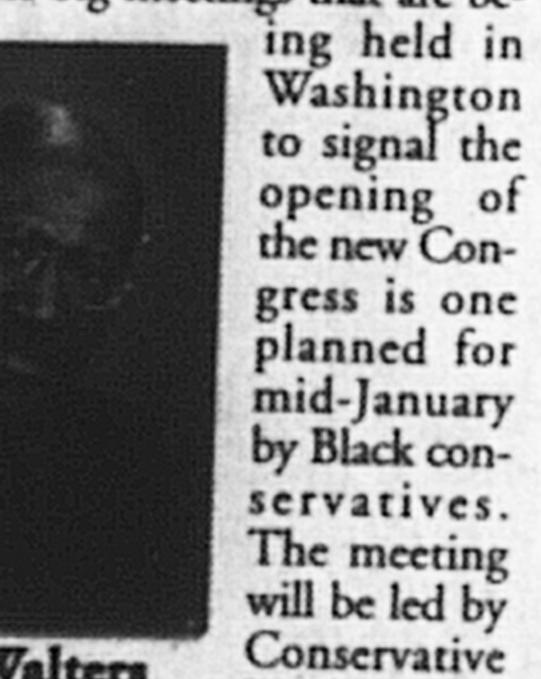
5) I am thankful for learning to handle all forms of rejection- the lack of which leads to unnecessary emotional drain and physical trauma.

On that note, Perkins advises that she is forever open to the spirit. Please feel free to send your comments and or inquires, in support of the "Rediscovering Our Heritage Museum", to Dr. Ruby L. Perkins

1307 W. 14th St

PCC Students Showcase Their Poetic Talents Black Republicans Coming Home?

By: Ron Walters Among the big meetings that are being held in



Ron Walters

Washington, D.C., media personality Armstrong Williams, who was at the dinner for retiring Sen. Strom Thurmond, where Trent Lott made his comments in apparent support of Thurmond's 1948

segregationist presidential campaign. Black Republicans, to their credit, voiced strong opposition to the remarks and to Lott's continued role as party leader in the U.S. Senate. This included Black Conservatives such as Williams, among the first to express his upset with the statements made by Lott. Black moderate Republicans such as Ken Blackwell, Ohio secretary of the state, also expressed the sentiment that Lott should be removed as the leader of the Senate. But does this mean that the Conservative agenda will prevail at this meeting or that one posed by the Black moderates will?

The irony in this is that Williams has been a protégé of Strom Thurmond since his days as a college student, and has sought to participate in his public rehabilitation. Williams accompanied Thurmond to a mentor/protégé event sponsored by the Washington, D.C., Urban League several years ago and generally apologized for Thurmond's conservative position on issues. How does one square the role of an apologist for a racist with being sensitive to comments uttered by racists? After all, when it was discovered several years ago that Trent Lott had ties to the racist organization, the Conservative Citizens Council, we watched to see if this would so embarrass Black Republicans that they would repudiate Lott. Narry a word was uttered in opposition. In fact, I could find no critical statements that Black Republicans had made at all.

suspect that this new meeting comes because they are embarrassed. Ken Blackwell has suggested that the Republican "outreach" strategy to Blacks had been going well, and that the Lott affair has put a damper on it. So, the meeting is an attempt to re-

cover progress on what some Black Republicans consider their initiative to recruit Blacks into the Republican Washington Party, progress that has at least eluded to signal the me thus far. This meeting then, opening of amounts to more strategic positioning by Black Conservatives, since gress is one Black moderates, like other moderplanned for ates, seem to have little difference in by Black con- servatives inside the Republican Party.

Black Republicans cannot be meeting to put forth an agenda any different from that which party leader Tom DeLay has authored, because they have functioned as front men for the Conservative revolution since the emergence of Ronald Reagan and Newt Gingrich. Where is the difference between Black Republicans and White Republican Party leaders on anything? Blacks had a number of disagreements with the Clinton administration. The only crack in the Republican dike was momentary, when Colin Powell voiced caution on an invasion of Iraq in the early 1990s and when he voiced support for affirmative action. Otherwise, Black Republicans have been in lock-step with their handlers on issues such as vouchers, faith-based initiatives, reduction in taxes, belittling civil rights, the war

Just as this moment, created by the racial thuggery of Trent Lott, is an opportunity to fashion a more progressive governing agenda on civil rights issues for the majority of Blacks and even Black Republicans who are not Conservative, it is also an opportunity for Black Republican spokespersons to move beyond the stock-

and-trade vilification of mainstream Black leaders and to accept some real responsibility of their own, given the strategic power position they now occupy. The acquisition of the control of the entire governmental apparatus by the Republican Party also places Black Republicans in an historic position of accountability to the mid-January their agenda from the powerful Con- Black community. How will they exercise this accountability?

This should be a moment for the Ken Blackwells, Colin Powells and other moderates to ascend to the leadership of Black Republicans, but they have been sandwiched between the power of White Conservatives and their Black representatives whose voice was the voice of Blacks in the party. Moderate Black Republicans are in a position to exercise leadership on issues such as health insurance coverage; Title I funding; support for Black colleges, affirmative action and economic development of depressed Black communities; and on moderate approaches to foreign

The public actions of these Black Republicans in the policy arena will provide the opportunity for history to judge not only the outcome of this meeting they are planning, but their against Iraq and whatever else DeLay actions on subsequent issues vital to the well being of the Black community with the proximity to power they

Ron Walters is Distinguished Leadership Scholar, director of the African American Leadership Institute and professor of government and politics at the University of Maryland. His latest book, with Robert Smith, is Africa American Leadership.

Greenville Housing Authority Beginning February 1st, the Greenville Housing Authority will open the Section 8 Waiting List and begin accepting applications for the Housing Choice Voucher Program. Applications will be taken every Tuesday and Thursday in the month of February from 9am until 3pm (ending February 24th) at the

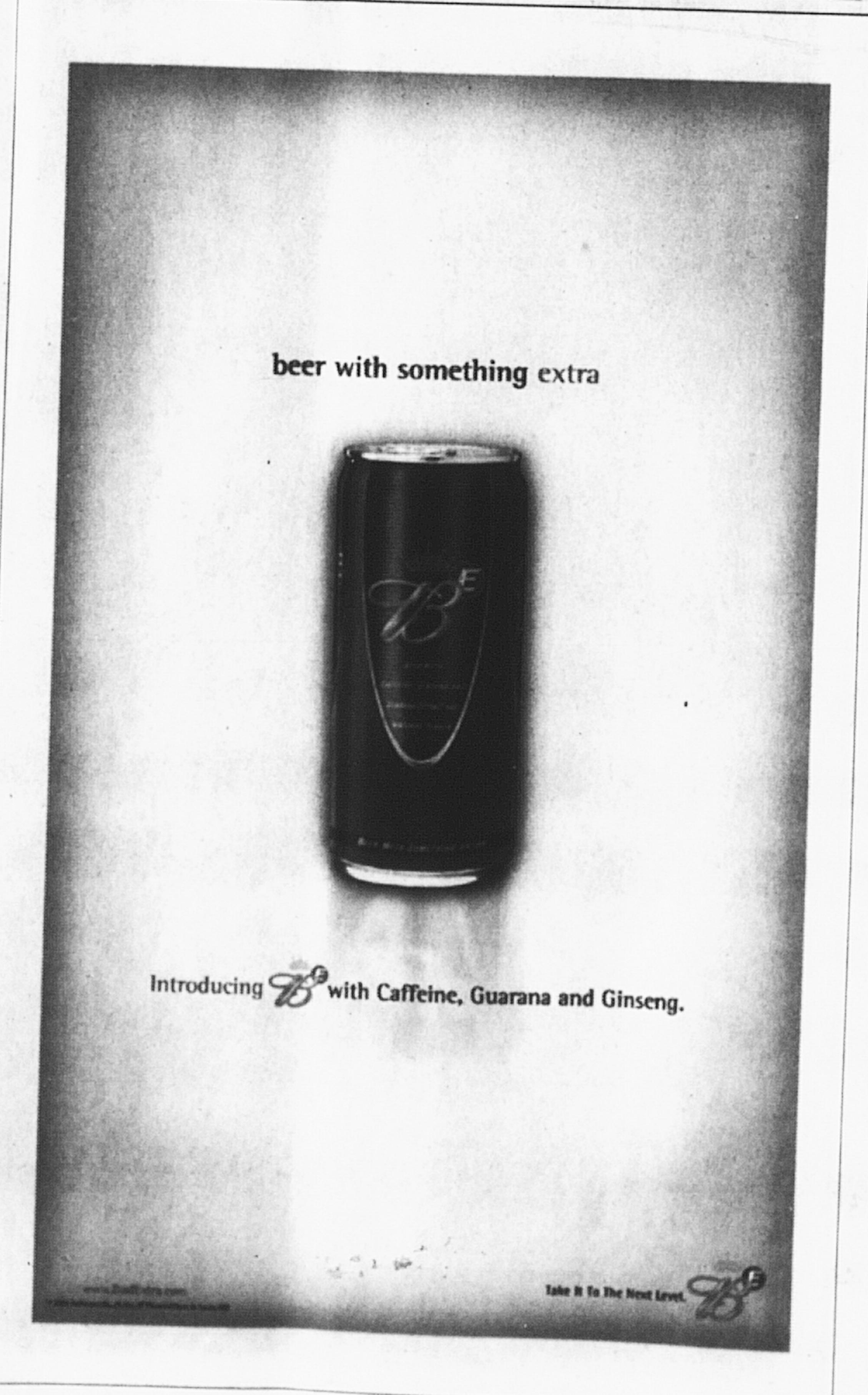
Eppes Recreational Center located at 304 Nash Street.

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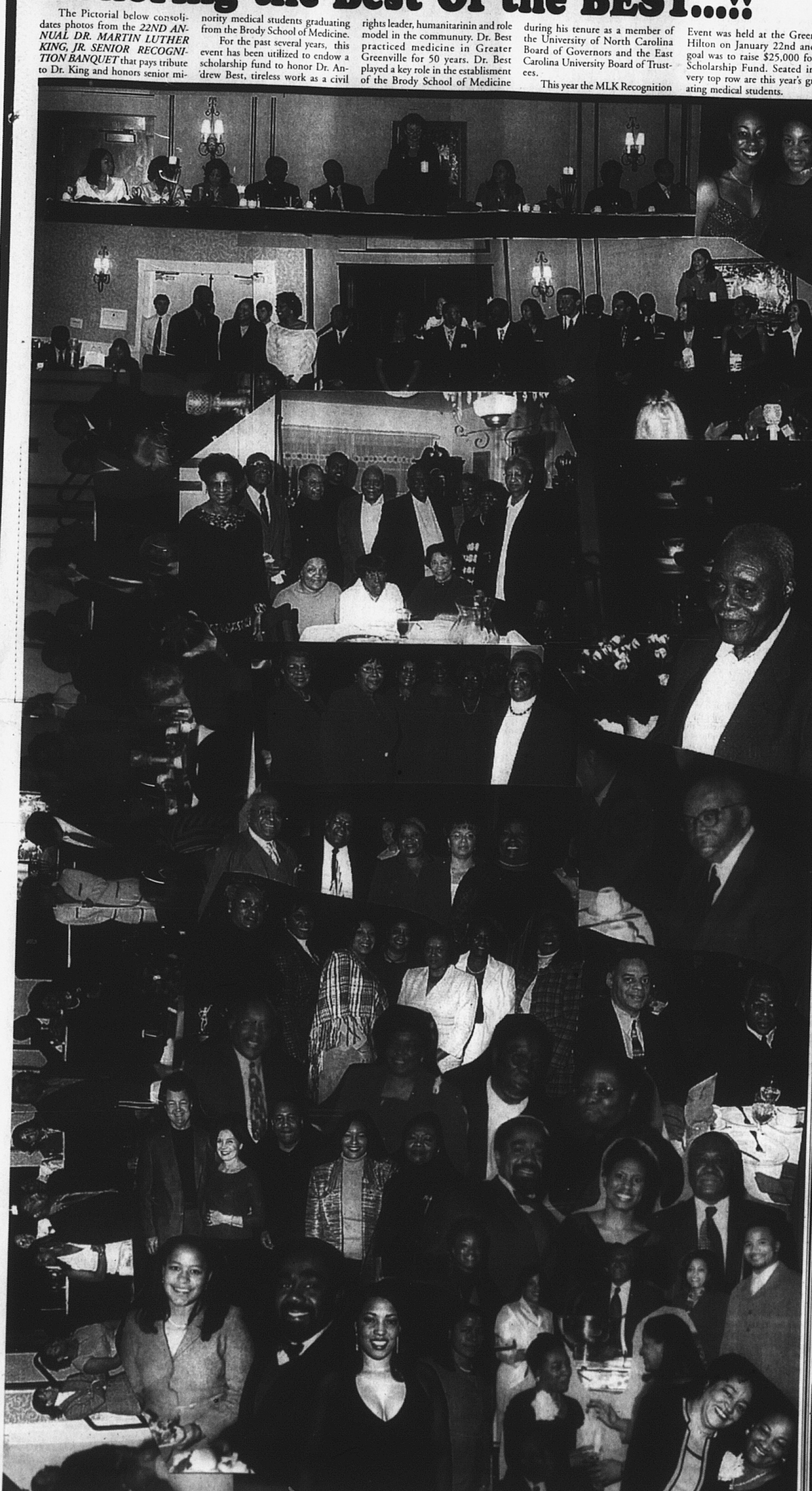
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Honoring the Best Of the BEST...!

Event was held at the Greenville Hilton on January 22nd and the goal was to raise \$25,000 for the Scholarship Fund. Seated in the very top row are this year's graduating medical students.





The New Entrepreneurs: Americans Over 50

SAN FRANCISCO — Entrepreneurship, waning in recent years, is getting a big boost from an unlikely source: older Americans starting companies.

Call them grandma-andgrandpop businesses. New research shows 5.6 million workers age 50 and older are now self-employed, a 23% jump from 1990. The numbers are expected to rise further as baby boomers seek more job security, Americans get older and cheaper technology drives down start-up costs.

The trend challenges conventional wisdom that entrepreneurs are mostly young. They're just as likely to be folks like Franny Martin, who launched a Michigan cookie company in 2002 when she was nearly

Business is hot: She expects \$500,000 in revenue this year, nearly triple last year's. "I'm thrilled!" says Martin, a 30-year corporate veteran.

Older Americans entrepreneurship's bright spot. Overall self-employment fell during most of the past decade, edging up only recently. That weak performance is worrisome because entrepreneurs fuel the economy by buying computers and other goods and by creating most new jobs and innovations.

To be sure, entrepreneurship isn't a slam-dunk for older corporate refugees. They often lack skills, such as tech know-how or marketing smarts. They may underestimate health care and other start-up costs. And they risk gambling retirement savings on a venture that may go belly-up.

People tend to romanticize selfemployment. They think everyone will wind up like Steve Jobs," the Apple Computer co-founder, says Jules Lichtenstein, a senior policy adviser at AARP, the seniors' advocacy group.

Despite the risks, more older workers are coming entrepreneurship's rescue, chasing self-employment because of:

Corporate layoffs. Boomers want the security of being their own

CBC/

Continues from Page 4

bosses when corporations are slashing payrolls, tossing fiftysomethings into a dicey labor market. One-third of AARP members work, and many need to work beyond the traditional retirement age of 65. "It's one of our pillars of retirement income,"

Lichtenstein says. Near Atlanta, Jim Minick, 51, started an elder-care business in 2003 because he feared another layoff. His Home Care Georgia in Smyrna helps people with daily tasks at home, such as getting dressed. It became profitable in 2004. Minick expects more than \$140,000 in revenue this year.

In 25 years of human-resource and sales jobs, Minick was laid off three times. "You don't want to find yourself 55 or 60 with no one wanting to hire you," he says. "That's a concern with any 50-year-old."

 Shifting values. Older workers want more flexible schedules to spend time with aging parents or on hobbies while easing into retirement.

Near Phoenix, Bill Gluth, 54, started a small-business consulting firm in 2001 after leaving a marketing job at a graphics company. He expects to take more annual vacation: as much as two months. He's also looking forward to favorite pastimes such as playing drums. "I have that flexibility," he says.

That's typical of entrepreneurs 50 and older, the new research by thinktank Rand found. About 41% work part time vs. 26% of workers that age employed by others.

Gluth started Develop Your Vision after the sale of his employer dropped him at a crossroads. He could have stayed with the new owners or sought work at another company. But Gluth chose self-employment because he didn't want to "work for new people and start the ball all over again.

 Aging Americans. The number of Americans age 50 and up will soar by 31 million by 2020, to 118 million, the Census Bureau predicts. Much of that represents the aging of the huge baby boom generation.

life expectancy, giving workers a shot ing their built-to-order furniture-makat second careers as entrepreneurs, ing company in 2001. They were 53 says Jim Hoopes, a business history professor at Babson College. Americans born in 1950 are expected to live to age 68 — 20 years longer than those born in 1900. And those are just averages. With good health care, many workers can pursue entrepreneurship well past traditional retirement age.

Martin, now 58, plans to work many more years as she builds Cookies On Call in Saugatuck, Mich., into a bigger enterprise. She sells 47 kinds of chocolate-chunk cookies through her Web site for \$16 to \$17 a dozen. With one employee and plans to add more this year, Martin craves a workplace more like the ones from early in her marketing career at McDonald's and other companies. "7 want to create jobs ... where people can't wait to come to work," she says.

• Innovative technology. Many start-ups by older entrepreneurs are oneperson ventures in home offices with a dizzying array of technology that didn't exist or was too pricey 20 years ago.

Desktop computers and powerful software tethered to the Internet let home-based businesses compete with bigger firms. "Technology is absolutely key in all this," says economist Lynn Karoly, co-author of the Rand study.

Gluth, for example, outfitted his home office with new furniture, a fax machine and a computer armed with publishing software and high-speed Internet access. Total cost: less than

Martin's Web site, which attracts cookie customers from around the world, cost \$3,000 to build. Without the Web, she'd spend more time on the road selling to a much smaller market, pinching growth, she says.

 Business savvy. Many corporate workers, entering their 50s, leverage management skills and retirement benefits to invest in start-ups.

In Memphis, Steve Simons and partner Russell Bane racked up years

CBC would work with other members of Congress to have a budget that reflects the concerns of all Americans.

Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.), the CBC member with the most seniority in Congress, said the Bush budget would make the economy

"After four years of offering tax cuts for his richest friends and turning our surplus into deficits, the president has continued his trend of slashing important government programs,"

Conyers cited examples of charging ailing veterans for prescription medications and making deep cuts or eliminating programs such as the Community Oriented Policing Program and entities that fight violence against women. Conyers, a former civil rights lawyer, noted that the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division will be cut and bemoaned the fact that grants to states for election reform will be eliminated.

Growth is also driven by rising in the furniture industry before open-

and 54, respectively. They could tap industry contacts for deals on sewing machines, fabric and other goods to launch Seat Co. Those deals slashed start-up costs to less than \$50,000. Most of that was spent creating the Web site handling all orders. "That's our showroom,"

Simons says. Seat Co. has eight employees and sells furniture ranging from \$265 glasstop end tables to \$1,500 sofas in burgundy red leather. Simons predicts more than \$1 million in revenue this year as he and Bane show furniture can still be made profitably in the

Beating the odds

Like many entrepreneurs, Seat Co.'s founders are trying to beat business failure rates, an especially risky gambit for older workers who may

struggle to regain corporate jobs if start-ups don't succeed.

Overall, 33% of start-ups fail after four years, says the Small Business Administration, because owners underestimate skills they'll need or expenses they'll encounter.

Martin knew little about accounting, business law or technology when she started her cookie company. She learned to focus on what she knew best — marketing — and hired accountants, lawyers and a Web site developer for the rest.

You can't do everything yourself," she says with a sigh. "To be successful, you have to be willing to say, I don't know.' "

Health insurance costs are another unexpected burden for older entrepreneurs. Minick got health coverage from his last employer for 18 months after leaving.

Then, shopping for his own health policy, he was stunned by the

rates: as much as \$700 a month. Rather than spending that much, Minick bought coverage through his wife's employer.

That wasn't an option for Gluth, single when he started his consulting business. He went without insurance for about three months, a "nerve-racking" experience, after coverage from his former employer expired. Since then, Gluth has married. He and his wife, Michelle, who also is self-employed, pay a combined \$275 monthly for policies with high \$5,000 deductibles. While searching for coverage, Gluth encountered loads of toogood-to-be-true offers for older work-

Despite the pitfalls, like other older entrepreneurs, cookie-maker Martin couldn't imagine any other life.

"I wouldn't want to be younger," she says, lugging heavily laden cookie sheets. "I just wish my back was the back I had when I was 18."

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· COLLEGE ROUND.UP BAY ALLEN UNIVERSITY, COLUMBIA, SC BENEDICT COLLEGE, COLUMBIA, SC CLINTON JUNIOR COLLEGE ROCK HILL, SC ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY ELIZABETH CITY, NC Time: 10:00 nm - 2:00 pm FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY FAYETTEVILLE, NC ATTENTION! SOPHOMORES LAURINBURG INSTITUTE LAURINBURG, NC LIVINGSTONE COLLEGE SALISBURY, NC JUNIORS SENIORS PARENTS SHAW UNIVERSITY RALEIGH, MC ST. AUGUSTINE'S COLLE RALEIGH, MC RANSCRIPTS NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY DURHAM, NO WINSTON SALEN STAT SESSIONS WHITERSTY WINGTON SALEM, NO VOORHEES UNIVERSIT DENMARK, SC PARBER SCOTIA COLLE CONCORD, NC FRESHMENTS L BE SERVED HHETT COLLEGE REENSBORG, NO

said the budget provides funds to build a Coast Guard headquarters on the west campus of St. Elizabeth's Hospital. The rest of the campus is to be used for homeland security purposes. However, she was concerned that

the federally imposed D.C. voucher program had an increase of nearly \$2 million. The program has not served its purpose, she said, noting that only 75 low-income students from the lowest-performing schools had received vouchers. More than 1,300 students were awarded vouchers, and according to Norton and a recently published report, more than 200 students currently enrolled in private schools received vouchers during the program's first year.

Williams was clearly put in an awkward position by the president's budget submission. "First, let me say that as Mayor of Washington, D.C., was very pleased with President Bush's 2006 budget as it applies to appropriations for the District of Columbia," Williams said in statement issued on Feb. 8 at a press conference. "The president's budget reflects the thoughtful teamwork it takes to address the priorities of our residents, and I want to personally thank him for his support of the District." But, Williams added, "As many of you know, I do wear "two hats." The National League of Cities,

of which Williams is president, convened a press conference with the United States Conference of Mayors and the National Association of Counties (NACo) on Feb. 8. The three organizations' written statement explained their urgent need "to denounce the elimination of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which is the signature program used by cities and counties to create jobs, increase economic development opportunities and expand homeownership."

Executive Douglas M. Duncan, speaking for NACo, said, "Federal funding for community development helps provide affordable housing, create jobs, further economic development and enables our citizens to improve their quality of life." He added: "Substantial cuts to this program, as a result of the Administration's budget proposal that will consolidate 18 development programs into two, will severely curb community development in the hundreds of counties across the

have been "dead on arrival" when they reach Capitol Hill because Congress has its own ideas about what America's spending priorities should be. "Mr. Bush's proposal recommends severe cuts in education, food and nutrition programs, and literacy initiatives for

Maryland's Montgomery County

country that receive direct funding." Historically, presidents' budgets

youth and young adults. Watt said the MAKING FAMILY LIFE MORE FUN 3

Making Your Own Magic: New Travel Plan Lets Guests Customize Their Fun in the Sun (NAPSA)-It works with everything from coffee to cars to computers. And now cus-

tomizing is the newest trend to hit theme park vacations at Walt Disney World. Trend-watchers say travelers want to plan out an entire vacation's worth of activities suited to their length of stay, tailored to their interests and with only the

add-ons they need. The legendary destination's new 'Magic Your Way" allows guests to create their own tickets and packages for just such a customized vacation-and the sav-

ings grow the longer they stay. Under the plan, a family of four can have a six-night/seven-day Walt Disney World vacation-including a stay at an onproperty Disney hotel with theme park tickets-for as little as \$1,500.

Guests staying in the "middle of the magic at one of more than 20 uniquely themed Disney resort hotels also receive additional new benefits:

Extra Magic Hours: Each day the gates of one of Disney's theme parks swing open one hour early or stay open three hours later so Disney resort hotel guests can enjoy select attractions.

Disney Dining Plan: Guests who want the convenience of a more-inclusive "cruise-style" vacation can purchase the "Magic Your Way" Package Plus Din-

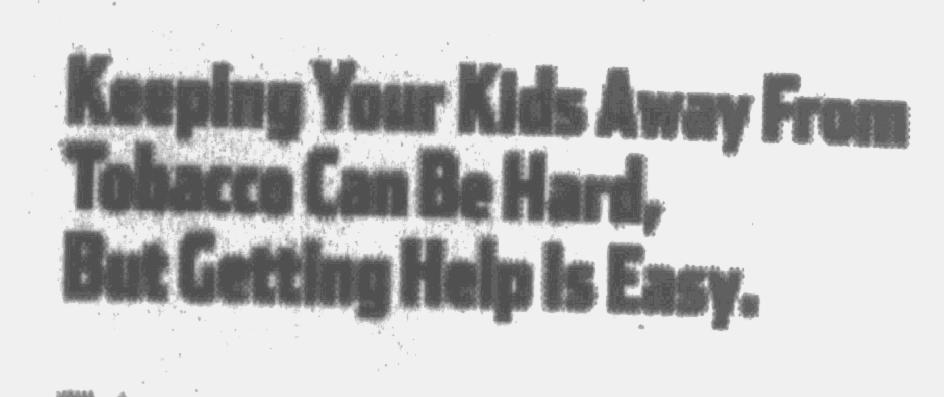
Disney's Magical Express:
Complimentary guest shuttle and luggage delivery service is provided from Orlando International Airport direct to Disney guest rooms-and back to the airport at checkout time. Disney-bound guests tag their bags at their hometown airport and, hassle-free, don't see them again until their



Just the Ticket: Customized family vacations can help travelers have fun and save money.

Upon arrival, resort guests are whisked about on boats, buses and monorails-at no extra charge.

"Whether ordering a computer, a car or a cup of coffee, people want things customized to fit their individual needs," said Walt Disney World President Al Weiss. To learn more, talk with your travel agent, call 407/W-DISNEY disneyworld.com. The Web site features a step-by-step, shopping cart-style process that makes it easier to customize and book



Tobacco can be as addictive as heroin. That's why almost half of all teens who try it get hooked.

What teens need to know is that 7 out of 10 of their peers who smoke say they wish they had never started. They also should know that almost a quarter million people in North Carolina under 18 will die prematurely from tobacco-related illnesses—and they could be one of them.

Withere is a teem you care about, show them you care,

Tell them you understand smoking is hard to quit, but getting help is easy. Old North State Medical Society's member physicians, along with your teen's doctor, can help them kick the tobacco habit and help prevent others from ever starting

Visit www.mydoccares.org.

You'll learn the truth on the dangers of tobacco and find the resources you need to help a teen you care about. It's not too late.

You can help.



Physicians United for Teen Health: Recping Our Kids Tobacco Free OLD NORTH STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY Health (Wellness