

Black History Is Everybody's History

The Minority Voice

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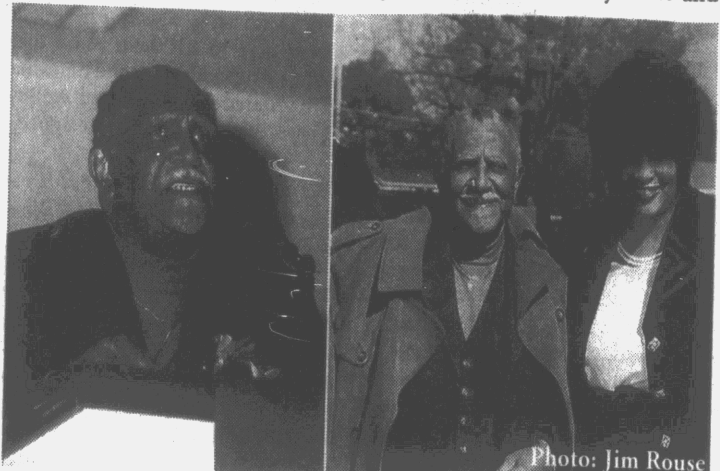
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CAROLINA GROUP ECU GREENVILLE NC

Princeville Celebrates 120th Anniversary

PRINCEVILLE, NC — Residents, friends and supporters of the City of Princeville — the oldest American town chartered by blacks that



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

Leadership Conference — as a birthday gift.

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

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 perseverance. 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."

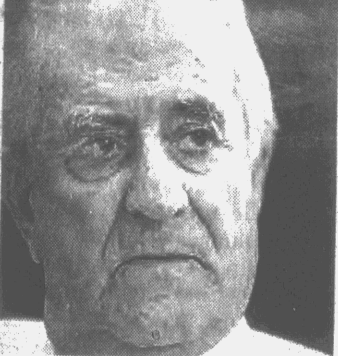
Friday's celebration of the town is a reminder to the community of where the town is going, said Milton Bullock, a Princeville native and former member of The Platters — one of the top vocal groups of the 1950s. Though Mayor Priscilla Everette-Oates could not say where she sees the town in five

years, she knows what the foreseeable future holds, such as a medical and dental center that will create 15 new jobs, an African-American museum and a new recreation park for the community.

"We didn't do this all alone," Bullock said. "We black ones didn't

come this way alone. We had good white ones to help along some bad black ones and bad ones. But this is a historical opportunity to reflect on the milestones that have shaped our community. Please pay attention, because this 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 Richmond Free Press

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 HIV-positive 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 Carolina.

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

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.

Jackson leading fight for equality on Wall Street

By Jennifer Cunningham



Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.

NEW YORK - During the latter part of January when Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, along with a host of prominent 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 racial economic reform.

"When Jackie Robinson came to play baseball in 1947 the issue was playing," said Jackson, who has said that African Americans must

gain access to capital. "Now the issue is development."

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 the civil rights movement, which included ending legal slavery, ending legal segregation, and securing the right to vote, the fourth-teaching 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

we have made to include economic parity and equity in the boardroom, 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 economically disenfranchised, crippling their pathway to success.

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

Halting the economic misuse of the Black community

This economic stagnation, said Jackson, has occurred through unscrupulous mortgage lending, automotive finance mark-ups for minorities, and pension defrauding.

Economic stagnation has occurred through unscrupulous mortgage lending, automotive finance mark-ups for minorities, pension defrauding, high interest, etc.

Pitt County Native Reflects on Lessons Learned

By Susie Clemons
M-Voice News
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

her duties as professor, would develop (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 communities.

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 history.

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 first 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 hands-on 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 collection.

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

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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 who 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.

Minority Voice OP/EDS

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

What have they done with my song?

by Wilbert A. Tatum

Ray Charles is gone. Ossie 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 played and the songs they sang. In 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, heart-breaking, 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 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 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?

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

sist they have come up with something new and different, and quite 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. That ruling came in a case in which

Thinking in terms of Ossie and 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

Is a Piece a Man Better Than The Whole?



Susie Clemons

About a week ago or so WOOW's William Clark and sidekick 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. Clearly, there's more that meets the eye with this one.

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 pig's 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 have come to enjoy their status as

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 know...

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 as)?

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 care of him. Mr. Supportive 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 wants?

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, 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

Is Atlanta Still The Black Mecca?

By Hal Lamar

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 Atlanta."

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 quality of life," he told the Atlanta

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 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 well.

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 mayor.

"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 women.

"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 rates."

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

by Ray Hanania

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." Atrocities become justified with the clever use of labels. The killer is acceptable as long as the victim is someone designated as unacceptable, or today's "terrorist."

"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 mobile 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 public.

In stark contrast, there is no limit to their moral outrage against Islamic terrorists who have committed similar acts of brutality 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 surrenders to the mob and embraces rather than challenges the lies.

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 facts.

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

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 "them,"

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 columns are archived at 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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Minority Voice OP/EDs

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

Africa's Odious and Illegitimate Debt

The Bush administration is pushing creditors to forgive 95 percent (\$195 billion) of Iraq's debt. They argue that it was acquired under a dictatorial regime and the people of Iraq should not have to pay for this illegitimate debt. Without doubt, the Iraqi people deserve 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 situation characterized by grinding poverty, famine, dismal health care facilities, and rising illiteracy and unemployment rates. It is tragic that while Africa is the world's poorest region, the continent carries two-thirds 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

It is widely agreed that the bulk of Africa's crippling debt is illegitimate 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

in the context of Cold War politics. Africa was a hot battle ground for the former USSR and the West, principally the United States. Both East and West furiously fought for the continent's political loyalty and disbursed billions of dollars in loans to 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 borrowed funds were being put. Such irresponsible lending resulted in corrupt African leaders and governments 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 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 workers.

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 foreign multinational corporations.

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 prices.

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 point.

Shared responsibility

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

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

Had no loan evaluation pro-

cesses

Made no demands concerning military spending

Made loans to illegitimate leaders and governments whose 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 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. dollars.



Simmons No Answer to NAACP Woes

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson

The buzz is that hip mogul Russell Simmons should take over the top spot in the NAACP. An NAACP national search team is currently interviewing candidates to succeed outgoing NAACP president Kwesi



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-

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, because it has been missing in action in recent years on many of the crisis issues that tear black communities. A near textbook example of this is the Confederate flag fight. The organization wasted valuable time, energy and 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 organization. It became the politi-

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 business loans, and, of course, rally

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 and the Democratic politicians

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.

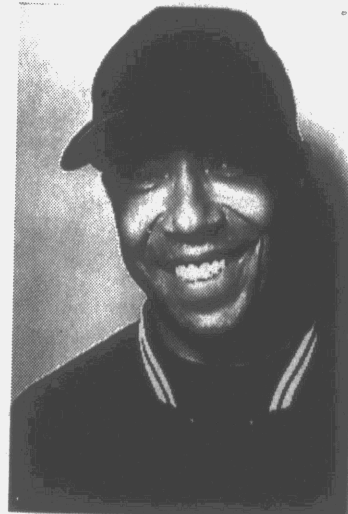
The irony is that polls show that many of the young persons that Simmons' NAACP backers expect him to appeal to have either expressed their disgust with Democrats, are hopelessly alienated from both political parties, or openly say they like the pro-business, self-help, family values pitch of the GOP. 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

"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



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 Bush's agenda. Before, during and after Mfume's meeting, he and NAACP officials remained miles apart from the Bush ad-

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 author and political analyst. He is the author of *The Crisis in Black and Black* (Middle Passage Press)

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.

The loss of support the 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 schools and are plagued by an epidemic of single-parent homes (the leading cause of poverty).

I do not hear enough from the NAACP on these issues. What the NAACP needs to do is empower poor blacks instead of constantly citing a never-ending list of obstacles they claim hold blacks back.

Continuing to perpetuate the victim status of blacks will only 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 critique is not mean-spirited, 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 causes which are radical or just

plain ridiculous. One example is its lawsuit against gun manufacturers. As Project 21 member and civil rights activist Reverend Jesse Lee Peterson said, "The NAACP has filed a class-action 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 make is to actually become non-

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

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 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 facilities."

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 2040.

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-in-chief of the NNPA News Service and BlackPressUSA.com. His most recent book is "The Best of Emergence 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.

The Needy and the Greedy

by George E. Curry



Judging by the worldwide reaction to the tsunami tragedy, one might get the impression that generosity

abounds. Schoolchildren have donated their allowances to victims of the disaster.

Governments and major corporations have pledged millions of dollars. The American Red Cross and other charities have provided food, money and clothing. Churches around the world have taken up special collections. Millions of dollars have been raised over the Internet.

But, don't be misled. According to a report by Oxfam International 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 2015; 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) Halve 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 rules-based trading system, provide more generous aid and deal comprehensively with the debt problem.

"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 domestic 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-Ill.) 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 wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, 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.
Among the programs or entities whose funding would be cut or eliminated are: the Perkins student loan program, vocational training, housing assistance to low-income Americans, the Responsible Reintegration for

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 security.
Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) said that despite being disappointed 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

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BUSH PROPOSALS TARGETS SCORES OF DOMESTIC PROGRAMS

By Martin Crutisinger
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 Cheney 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. Lawmakers from both parties can be expected to vigorously 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 everything he advocates explodes."
Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.,

praised the administration's willingness 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.

Cheney would not confirm estimates of the overall cost. He said the administration could cost \$4.5 trillion in additional government borrowing over 20 years.

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-

grams for local schools in such areas 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 care.

ON THE FLIP SIDE

By Bert Wilkerson
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

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, forcing the Taiwanese to accuse 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 stadiums 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

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 writes for the Associated Press

China Raising Its Profile In Caribbean

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

In early February, Caribbean 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 seriously 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 to attend.

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PRESIDENT BUSH'S \$2.5 TRILLION BUDGET LOOKS TO CUT SPENDING ON FARM SUBSIDIES, HEALTH PROGRAMS

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Pitt County 4H Accepting Applications

GREENVILLE, NC - The Pitt County 4-H Office is accepting applications for boys and girls ages 8 through 12 for 2005 4-H summer camp. These youth will be camping at Penn 4-H Center in Reidsville July 31- August 5, 2005. The Penn 4-H Center is located near Reidsville, NC, thirty miles north of Greensboro and 45 miles northeast of Winston-Salem, NC. The 250 acre site offers campers the opportunity to participate in a variety of classes and activities. These include swimming, canoeing, sailing, horseback riding, 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

by the American Camping Association and staffed with trained and certified camp staff and professionals. The staff to camper ratio is one staff member per eight campers.

The total cost for this week of residential summer camp is \$330 which includes transportation, registration, class instruction, food while at camp, craft and other class supplies, cabin accommodations, small camp store allowance, and insurance. Expenses for a pre-camp physical are not included.

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 available through AuthorHouse.

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

syching 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."

In an often funny and caustic style, Forsyth says what many Americans are thinking as they 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

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 significant."

Forsyth has served in the Navy, worked as a golf professional and spent most of his life in sales and management. He is also a firefighter with the North Charleston Fire Department. Forsyth lives with his wife, who is a one-year cancer survivor, and the couple has two boys, Aaron 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 published 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 County Clerk of Court Carol Allen White, Tarboro Councilman David Smoot, Edgecombe County Councilwoman Wayne Hines and Edgecombe County Board of Education Chairwoman Evelyn Wilson. Back row Edgecombe County Manager Lorenzo Carmon and Edgecombe County Commissioner Leonard Wiggins

By Calvin Adkins

TARBORO, NC - Tarboro and Edgecombe County elected officials applauded as artist Richard Wilson unveiled 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 1928.

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 Philadelphia in 1918.

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 class.

"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 courthouse)."

Betty White Washington, a history teacher at Kinston High School, said she was the 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 outstanding."

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 year.

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 all 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 Carolina 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 the poor."

"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."

Local Broadcaster/Publisher Receives Best Business Award



Pictured l-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, Greenville (NC) Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. The Greenville (NC) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated 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 commitment and outstanding service to the Greenville Community. He provides vigorous support, and he uses passionate gifts of time and resources to improve the lives of others utilizing the media of mass communication.

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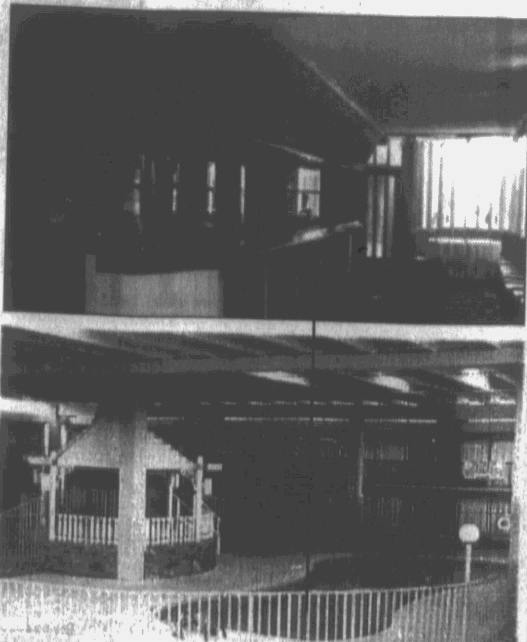
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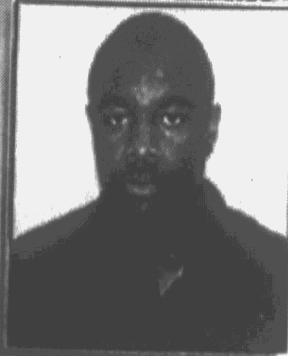


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Community Voices

Reflections, Expressions & Reviews

with Suejette Jones



"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) several years ago, they revealed the long-standing rumor of a daughter



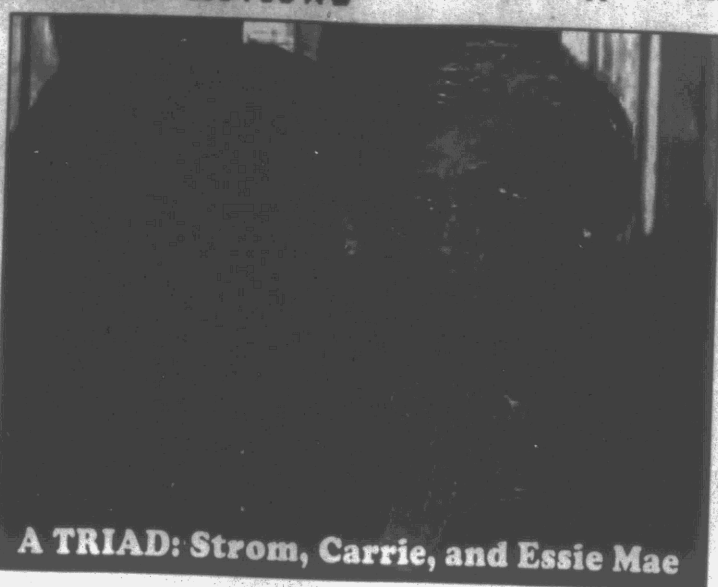
Strom Thurmond had fathered by his 15 black household servant. He was 23. They went through the details—even mentioning the names of the daughter and her mother. Last year, at age 79, the secret daughter came on television and publicly announced: "My name is Essie Mae Washington-Williams. Strom Thurmond was my father." She had held this secret for almost 60 years; or rather she had denied it for 60 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 the president of South Carolina 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 chauffeur-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".

I 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 the first 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

city sophisticate

In the course that followed, it was then that Carrie said to Essie Mae, "I'm your mother, you know." Seemingly, it appeared that



A TRIAD: Strom, Carrie, and Essie Mae

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

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 Clark, who was 7 years younger than she and was Carrie's son by a husband; Strom at 20; her husband Julius Williams with his Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity at South Carolina State; Strom and Jean Crouch's wedding; Essie Mae and her three children; Strom with his second wife, Nancy (who was 25 years younger than him) and their 4 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 picture 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 mother the first time she saw her. 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 regal—and 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-

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 John Wanamaker's in Philadelphia and Strom had promised her that he would always look out for their daughter.

When

Essie Mae married in her junior year in college to an aspiring lawyer, Strom, through his power in the legislature, made it possible for a law school to be established at South Carolina State so that her husband could obtain a law degree there. Strom 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 Carolina History and its journey through the Civil War, Reconstruction, the Jim Crow Era, and World Wars I and II.

Book Review prepared by Suejette Jones

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".

From the Chancellor's Desk

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

Making sure students are safe while in the care of an institution of higher learning is a critical yet daunting responsibility.

At ECU, the number of students on campus during the week varies from about 50 in early morning classes to more than 5,500 at mid-day. Many students live on campus, or in nearby houses and apartments and walk to class. Many others drive into Greenville for the day. But in all cases, the families of these students expect them to be safe and secure while they are here, and it is our responsibility to provide as safe a learning environment as possible.

We remember the tragic murders last year of two students at one of our sister institutions. Through the years, we have had a number of serious offenses against students, both on campus and in the downtown area.

While we in the university community cannot be totally insulated from the increasing violence in society all around us, we can make a difference in the way we provide a safe home away from home for our students.

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

The task force came up with several excellent recommendations, including:

- ◆ More thorough background checks on students applying for admission;
- ◆ Training campus staff to identify and respond to applicants who may be a threat to the safety of the campus if admitted;
- ◆ Maintain a campus safety committee;
- ◆ Assess campus safety threats, inventory 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

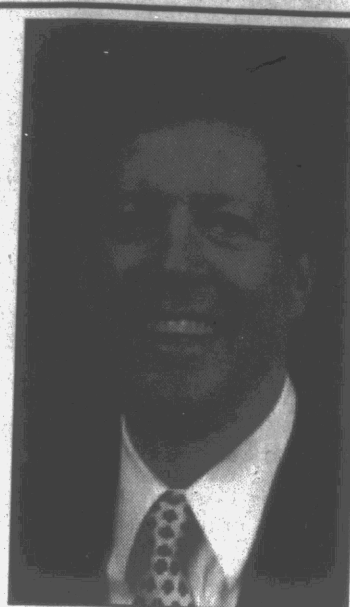
enough to connect the student with campus police in case of an emergency. The device can pinpoint a person within 12 feet of his or her location. This small piece of technology is more effective than a cell phone, because cell phones cannot identify a caller's location as accurately.

Some of our ECU staff members are testing this technology to identify and minimize potential problems with its use, such as false alarms and human errors. If this device proves successful, it could potentially expand to other UNC campuses, as well as across the country.

But along with use of such measures, the entire ECU family should be mindful of the need for attention to personal safety. For ECU to grow and attract the highest caliber students, faculty and administrators, our safety record becomes part of who we are.

We all must work together to build a strong, healthy university community that reflects the best we have to offer. In return, we will build our own legacy as an outstanding institution.

Open dialogue can go a long



Dr. Steve Ballard, Chancellor

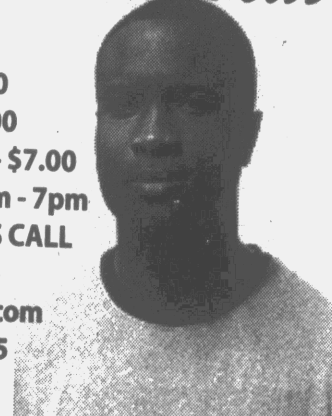
way in helping us identify the sources of some of this unnecessary violence. With constructive discussion and a commitment to serve our community, ECU will become a great place to learn, to work and to live because "Tomorrow starts here."

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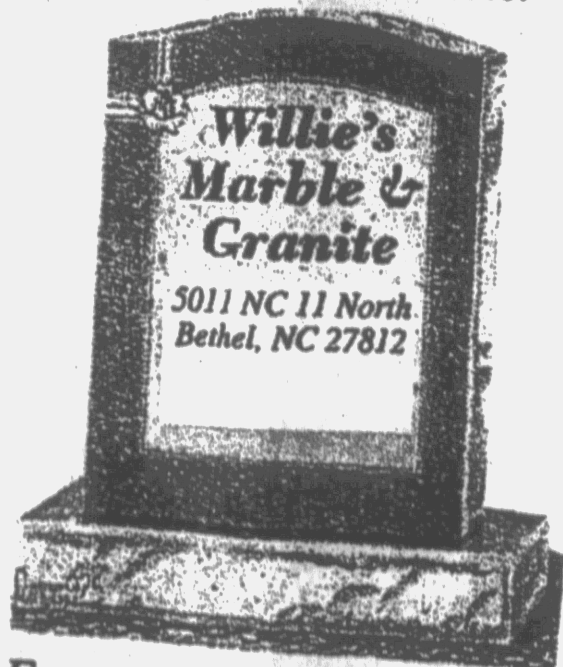
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Community Voices

From the Desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



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-

centration in Management Information Systems. She is currently working as a full-time secretary for East Carolina's Head Football Coach, Skip Holtz. Although an extreme blessing to be employed upon graduation, she is ultimately looking forward to beginning a career with Wachovia on June 13, 2005 where she will serve as a Financial Center Manager. This will consist of one full year of training in Charlotte, North Carolina and will follow with relocation to Wilmington, North Carolina. Carmen is currently 21 years of age, and her passion is to be the best role model as possible to her younger sisters, Johnelle, a freshman 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 been possible without God." Carmen looks forward to her future endeavors and says that in addition to her family, her church, Koinonia Christian Center is the 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 community that she has encountered that have positively impacted her life.

Fathers

Fathers must make their presence known in the home. But what about the African American women who are heading households without 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

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 and the Church

Many African American males 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 African 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. People often criticize men because of activities they engage in outside the church. If a lottery man, gambling man, or dope dealer toss out 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 relevance, and other positive initiatives, African American men will come.

Alarming Statistics

Over the course of a lifetime, 28% of African American men will enter a state or federal prison.

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 prison.

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 release.

From: Teaching Our Mean: Reaching Our Fathers by Mathew Arnold

EDIFICATION OF A GENERATION



The Secret of a Happy Life!

What is the most Christlike attitude on earth? Think before you answer. Many would answer love. That is the most Christlike attitude on earth? Think before you answer. Many would answer love. That is understandable, for He indeed love to the utmost. Others might say patience. Again, not a bad choice. Grace would be a possibility. No man or woman ever modeled or exhibited the grace that He demonstrated right up to the moment He breathed His last.

As important as those traits may be, however, they are not the ones Jesus Himself referred to when He described Himself for the only 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 humble—so 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 yourself."

Rome said, "Be strong, discipline yourself."

Religion says, "Be good, conform yourself."

Epicureanism says, "Be sensuous, satisfy yourself."

Psychology says, "Be confident, assert yourself."

Materialism says, "Be possessive, please yourself."

Pride says, "Be superior, promote yourself."

Christ says, "Be unselfish, humble yourself."

Happily, this last line is the secret of a happy life, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before 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

WITH FAITH MAY

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).

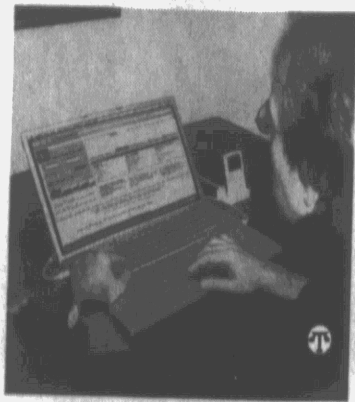
No one else deserves that title. Only one is Lord. All knees will ultimately bow before Him.

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 it 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 opposite counsel: God will honor your 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
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Music Department Welcomes The Branford Marsalis 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-in-residence 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 I are looking forward to working with the students," said Marsalis. "They (the quartet) have called me more in the last two months about when do we start teaching than they have in the last five years."

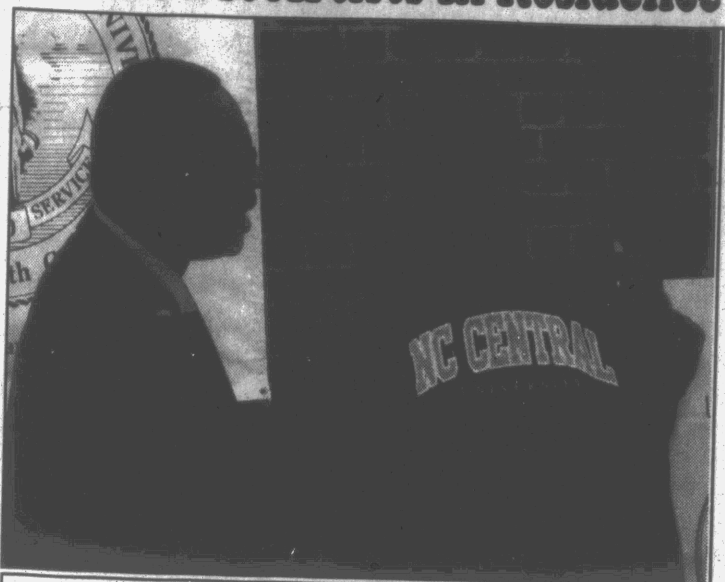
"In addition to the education component, which is very important, we will focus on what it takes to be performer," added Marsalis.

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 artists.

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 drummer Jason Marsalis.

Known for his innovative spirit and broad musical scope, Marsalis is equally at home on the stages of the world's greatest jazz clubs and classical halls.

His recording career as a leader encompasses 14 jazz albums and two classical albums under his own name, plus two Buckshot LeFonque pop re-



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

leases. His final recording for Columbia Records, Contemporary Jazz, garnered the saxophonist's third Grammy Award, and captured what Howard Reich of the Chicago Tribune described as "a new level of emotional intensity and instrumental brilliance."

Marsalis is also dedicated to changing the future of jazz in the classroom. As both visiting scholar and part-time faculty member, he has shared his knowledge at such universities as Michigan State, San Francisco State and Stanford. Beyond these traditional avenues, Marsalis is bringing jazz to a wider audience and providing opportunities for college-aged musicians to interact with established players before live audiences through "Marsalis Jams," an educational initiative of his new label that held its first sessions at Smith College and the University of New Hampshire.

Calderazzo, a pianist with the Branford Marsalis Quartet, has produced five previous albums under his own name. His energy, technique and rapid fire imagination have marked him as one of the most exciting jazz pianists to emerge in the past two decades. Calderazzo has documented his commanding mastery of group interplay on five albums that matched his ideas and passions with those of such imposing artists as Marsalis,

Jerry Bergonzi, Jack DeJohnette, Dave Holland, John Patitucci and Jeff "Tain" Watts.

In the jazz worlds, Watts has played with George Benson, Courtney Pine, McCoy, Stanley Jordan and Kevin Eubanks. Moviegoers heard him on the soundtracks of "When Harry Met Sally," "Do The Right Thing," and Spike Lee's "Mo' Better Blues." However, it was his move to Los Angeles for a stint with Branford Marsalis' Tonight Show Band with Jay Leno that really put Jeff in front of the jazz audience.

Eric Revis, a Grammy award-winning musician, started his professional career playing with Betty 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 Earth, Wind and Fire.

He studied jazz with Ellis Marsalis at the University of New Orleans, where he played with Nicholas Payton and Brian Blade in the local clubs. He has had a diverse career performing jazz, funk, rock, and hip-hop that has taken him from small jazz rooms to Carnegie Hall and around the world. Revis has developed a rich musical palette from which to draw.

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

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

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

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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

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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



Massery yelling at Eckford



Eckford and Massery 40 years later. At the time that this picture was taken Massery was the only person to come forward and publicly apologize - Photo - Will Counts



crowded, the bus driver ordered Parks to give up her seat to a white passenger. Montgomery's buses were segregated, with the seats in the front reserved for "whites only." Blacks had to sit at the back of the bus. But if the bus was crowded and all the "whites only" seats 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.

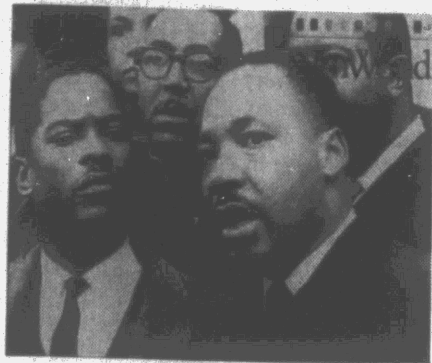
Martin Luther King, Jr. heard about Parks's brave defiance and launched a boycott of Montgomery buses. The 17,000 black residents of Montgomery pulled to-

gether and kept the boycott going for more than a year. Finally, the Supreme Court intervened and declared segregation 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 movement. King advocated civil disobed-

ience, the non-violent resistance against unjust laws: "Non-violence is a powerful and just weapon which cuts without wounding and ennobles the man who wields it." Civil rights activists organized demonstrations, 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 must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline." King's philosophy of "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 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. Ferguson, 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, segregated schools were shamefully unequal: white schools were far more privileged than black schools, which were largely poor and overcrowded. Marshall challenged the doctrine, pointing out that "separate but equal" was just a myth disguising racism. He argued that if all students were indeed equal, then why was it necessary to separate them? The Supreme Court agreed, ruling that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." Marshall went on to become the first African-American Supreme Court Justice in Ameri-

can history.

The Little Rock Nine

The Little Rock Nine, as they later came to be called, were the first black teenagers to attend all-white 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 students.

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 even received death threats. One of the students, fifteen-year-old Elizabeth Eckford, said "I tried to see a friendly face somewhere in the mob. . . I looked into the face of an old woman, and it seemed a kind face, but when I looked at her again, she spat at me." As scared as they were, the students wouldn't give up, and several went on to graduate from Central High. Nine black teenagers challenged a racist system and defeated it.

Memoirs of Convict Lease Camps

The wandering workers were "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-

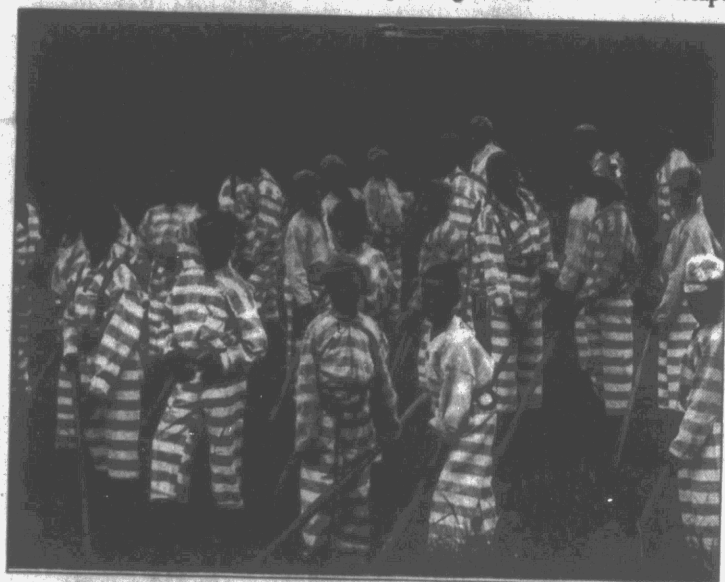
bare ground, without blankets and mattresses and often without clothes. Beatings never ceased. On one plantation farm, a man was given ten lashes for "slow hoeing," five for "sorry planting." Those who tried to escape

circus animal, fed the worst food, 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 than a hundred men a year were lynched, thousands died in convict camps. Convict leasing, one former government official said, was a death sentence. 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 camp 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

See MEMOIRS - Page 10



THE MORE THINGS CHANGE??? The above children pictured in chains as well as adults were sent to work on convicts lease camps 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 growing more and more suspicious. Such a status is already half hostile even before an overt act is committed."

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

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

Whites minimized their fear by 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 convict 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 gas-filled mines, built railroads, and gathered turpentine in hundred-degree heat.

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 knee-deep 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

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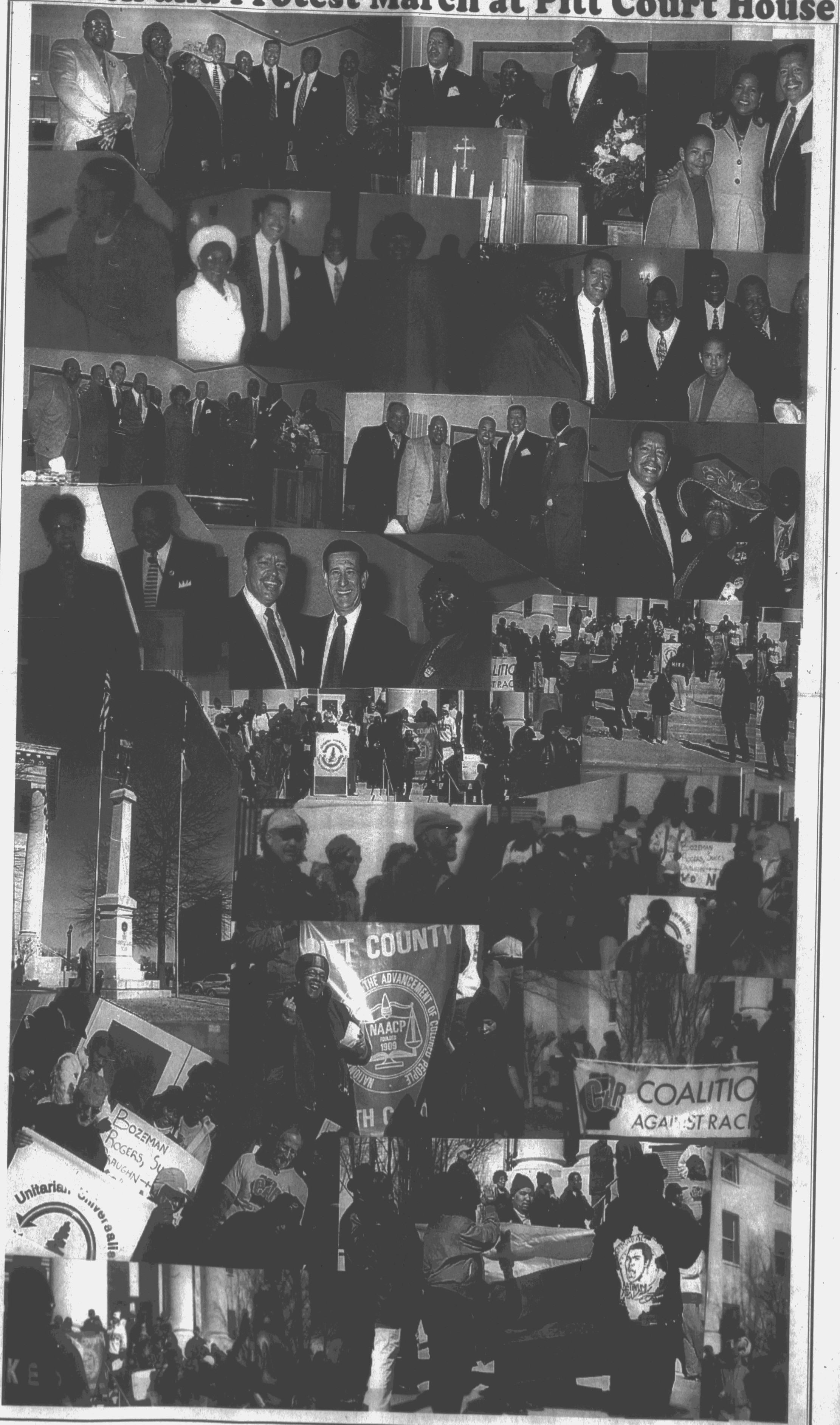
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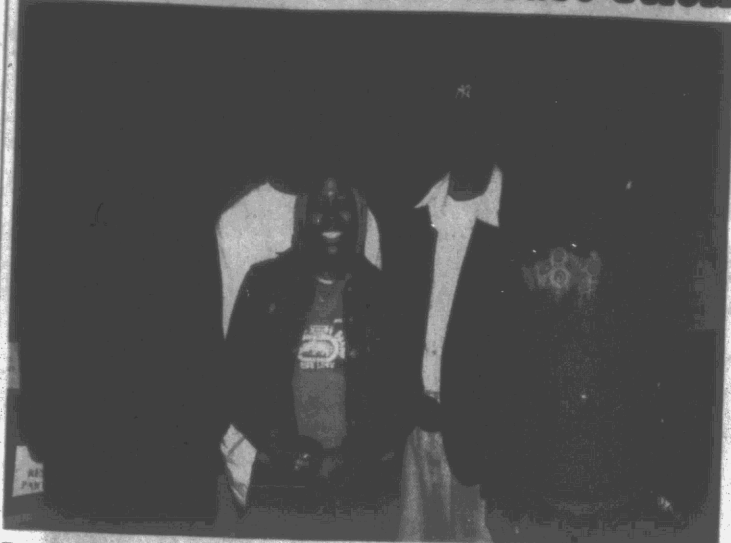
In 1946, among other things the U.S. Supreme Court declared segregated interstate busing unconstitutional as the walls of segregation began to slowly come down.

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The Annual MLK/SCLC Program at St. Peter's Church and Protest March at Pitt Court House



PCC Students Showcase Their Poetic Talents



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 Williams, Ritchie Jones and Chevaugan Jones

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 following:

- 1) I'm not in control GOD is. There's a lesson in everything, in every encounter or experience good or bad.
- 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 objectively.
- 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 two.
- 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 at: RLP@AOL.COM

Black Republicans Coming Home?

By: Ron Walters

Among the big meetings that are being held in Washington to signal the opening of the new Congress is one planned for mid-January by Black conservatives. The meeting will be led by Conservative 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.

I 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 Party, progress that has at least eluded me thus far. This meeting then, amounts to more strategic positioning by Black Conservatives, since Black moderates, like other moderates, seem to have little difference in their agenda from the powerful Conservatives 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 against Iraq and whatever else DeLay serves up.

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 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 policy.

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 actions on subsequent issues vital to the well being of the Black community with the proximity to power they now possess.

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.

You must be 18 years or older to apply.

PITT COUNTY

Continues from Page 1

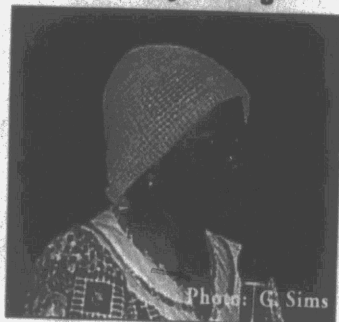


Photo: G. Sims

Ruby as Moms Mabley at the Hilton Hotel - Greenville
a slave sale in Georgia- circa 1857, lettered accomplishments of distinguished Black Americans such as Mahalia Jackson and Paul Roberson, also a 1958 edition of Ebony magazine featuring the nation's first Black millionaire William Leidesdorff- as well as several first edition Sambo children's books, porcelain mammy

MEMOIRS from Pg. 8

blisters, some of the skin peeling off as a result of the severe beatings. They were lying there dying, so poor and emaciated that their bones almost came through their skin. We actually saw live vermin crawling over their faces."

Children were not exempt. Twelve-year-old Cy Williams was sentenced 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.

By the turn of the century, an 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 become slavery's replacement. To supply the demand for convict labor, sheriffs arrested blacks for misdemeanors and vagrancy. For some men in the convict camps, a quick death was better than a slow one. They attempted to escape, knowing they would probably be killed. But they also knew that if they escaped the dogs and the guards, they could count on help from the black community. Many black farmers hid, fed, and clothed escaped convicts, breaking and burying their chains. To help a black man to freedom was a victory over their oppressors.

Source: *The Rise & Fall of Jim Crow*

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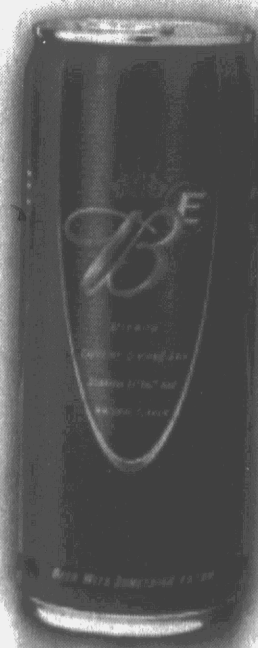
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nority medical students graduating from the Brody School of Medicine. For the past several years, this event has been utilized to endow a scholarship fund to honor Dr. Andrew Best, tireless work as a civil

rights leader, humanitarian and role model in the community. Dr. Best practiced medicine in Greater Greenville for 50 years. Dr. Best played a key role in the establishment of the Brody School of Medicine

during his tenure as a member of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors and the East Carolina University Board of Trustees.

This year the MLK Recognition

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.

