

**"I have freed thousands and thousands of Slaves.... I could have freed thousands and thousands more if they had known they were slaves..."**  
*The Memoirs of Harriet Tubman*

# The Minority Voice

Serving Eastern North Carolina's Minority Communities Since 1975

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## Bleak Outlook Troubles Farrakhan

**"We had more when we had less..."**

By Susie Clemons  
 MVoice Newspaper

**DURHAM, NC** - Recently Durham, North Carolina became the 11th city on a 15 city tour for Nation of Islam Leader, Minister Louis Farrakhan's Millions More Movement, scheduled to take place in Washington, D.C. October 14th through 16th, Washington D.C.

The daylong event began with a leadership summit and press conference held at First Union Baptist Church, culminating that evening in

a rally on the campus of North Carolina Central University. Following the leadership summit, which included a distinguished panel guests, Bill Bell, Durham's Mayor presented Farrakhan with a key to the city.

Farrakhan, celebrated as controversial and fearless once again strongly advanced the call for the unity of Black leadership and Black organizations as the theme for the Millions More Movement. "The pooling of Black financial and intellectual resources will solve 95% of our problems," said Farrakhan. Within moments of his appear-

ance that morning, Farrakhan drew thunderous applause and affirmations which Farrakhan had to silence in order to continue with his message. When noting that prior to Brown vs. Board Black folks had more, "we had more when we had less- there was no one else to rely on but another Black man or a Black woman!"

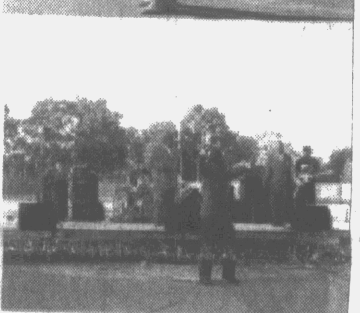
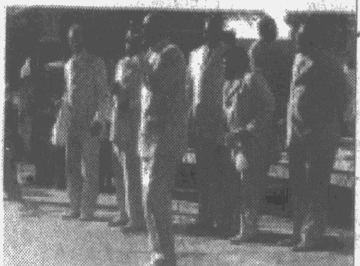
Up close and personal, some of the questions directed by others and myself to Mr. Farrakhan during the press conference. The direct quotes were as follows:

Q: Susie Clemons: Minister

Farrakhan, in July Reverend Eugene Rivers III of the Seymour Institute for Advanced Religious Studies along with the Pentecostal Ministers gathered in Washington DC to sound the alarm that the Black Church is responsible for the demise of the Black family, can you speak to that?

A: Farrakhan: No, I would not put [the entire] blame on the Black church, without the Black church we would not be who we are or where we are and what we are. All of us share in the failure of the Black family, but most importantly it is social engineering- and the Black church does not have the power to engineer what is happening.

## 24th Family Reunion Gospel Concert surges with excitement on Labor Day



From the top to bottom (right) Deacon Swinson- Owner, WSSG - Goldsboro, Tommy Ellison, and Family Reunion Organizer-Promoter, Jim Rouse, President/CEO of Jim Rouse Communications (WOOW/WTOW-MVoice Newspaper) Two media entrepreneurs and a gospel great pose in the lobby of Guy Smith Stadium. The following pictures below Little Willie and Spirituales, Richard Whitehead and the Gospel Express and the Vine Sisters. Bottom row from left to right are the Edward Sisters, the New Swan Silvertones and Big James Barrett and the Golden Jubilees. Photos: Jim Rouse & Guy Sims, Sr.

by Gaius Sims, M-Voice Newspaper

**GREENVILLE, NC** - Unlike the preceding year at Guy Smith Stadium, during the 23rd annual Labor Day Family Reunion, this year the weather was



Pictured on the left is singer Cynthia "La Soul" Jones. On the right and from left to right is Reggie Richardson, his wife Portia and Rev. William Clark.

However this year's event was even more spectacular and those who arrived late guaranteed themselves a problem in finding parking or adequate seating. In some cases there was standing room only. Some of those who had prepared earlier prepared themselves to attend the concert, which started at noon and lasted until 7:30PM, brought coolers filled with sandwiches and

drinks complimenting that family reunion type atmosphere.

This year's event was once again enjoyed the sponsorship of the First Citizens Bank, along with its parent companies WOOW and WTOW Radio and the M-Voice Newspaper.

Kicking off the festivities was singer/songwriter-producer Cynthia "La Soul" Jones out of Raleigh debuting songs from her new CD "Soulology." Her performance was surprising as well as pleasing and her neo-soul jazz approach to gospel music was tender to the ears and soothing to the spirit. The "new" New Swan Silvertones out of Philadelphia composed with some of the elements of the old Swan Silvertones was among the groups who brought the audience to their feet. The audience was continuously titillated by all of the gospel groups who made their appearance that day. Among those who performed were Tommy Ellison and the Five Singing Stars, Roger Whitehead and the Gospel Express, Little Robert and the Pearly Gates, Little Willie and the Spirituales, The Edward Sisters, Shirley McNeil and the Gospel Singers of Faith, the Vine Sisters, The Junior Consolators and hometown favorites, James Barrett and the Golden Jubilees and the Johnsonaires. Rev. William Clark of WOOW radio, along with Brother Reggie Richardson and his wife, Portia also of WOOW Radio were among those who emceed the show.

The timing and appearance of all the acts was almost immaculate. There were no "jeers or boos" or other shows of dissatisfaction from audience that one can encounter from time to time. In addition, the audiences, further heightening the spirit of fellowship were also very generous, and collected among them an additional \$415 dollars to give to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. If the success of the 24th Labor Day Reunion was so evident, then next year, the 25th Labor Day Family Reunion, the Silver Anniversary event promises to be outstanding.

## Jamie Foxx Named Spokesman for NAACP Relief Fund

Academy Award winner lends his support to help raise money to aid storm victims

Academy Award winning actor Jamie Foxx has agreed to be an official spokesman for the NAACP Disaster Relief Fund to aid Hurricane Katrina victims.

NAACP President & CEO Bruce S. Gordon said: "We're gratified that a person of Jamie's stature is willing to lend his name and support for this effort. Jamie Foxx is not just an actor, but a fine human being. I look forward to working with Jamie to advance the cause of helping Katrina's victims."

The Disaster Relief Fund was launched to coordinate the collection and distribution of immediate relief (food, clothing, and shelter) and assistance to displaced citizens in Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida and Ala-

bama. The NAACP has been actively engaged in providing relief to those hit the hardest and suffering the greatest loss. Thousands of NAACP members and volunteers have been mobilized across the nation to provide food, shelter, clothing, medical supplies, counseling, transportation and transitional services to displaced persons.

From the NAACP Disaster Relief command centers in Baltimore, Jackson and Biloxi Mississippi, Baton Rouge, Houston and Fort Walton Beach, Fla., NAACP staff and volunteers are coordinating information and resources for thousands of callers. NAACP volunteers are working to place over 17,000 displaced victims in homes. Currently, the NAACP in collaboration with MoveOn.org Civic Action has identified over 304,000 beds made available by volunteers across the nation.

Gordon has urged Congress to establish a Hurricane Katrina Compensation Fund similar to one that was created for victims of the September 11 terrorist attack. He said, "This will help hurricane victims get back on their feet. You got people who lost their jobs, homes and had all of their assets depleted. In some cases, families lost their bread winner. If the victims of 911 deserved compensation, and they did, then certainly these victims deserve no less to help restart their lives."

"I look forward to working with the NAACP in bringing immediate and ongoing aid to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Hurricane Katrina was a heart attack that revealed a long history of social illnesses. You can't be human and watch all these different things go down and not do anything."

Continues on Page 9



Farrakhan addressing media during recent visit to Durham

Our women have been taken out of the home through the desire to get education and to get into the work force. So you are a mother working two jobs- so when you take the woman out of the home and rearing children becomes secondary to the professional life who's rearing the children while mother is away. Then we warehouse our children in institutions that don't care for them or love them and instead of bonding them to our breast...our children are being wedded to plastic. [A sick mothers breast is better than anything you can produce in the factory, i.e. Similac formula.]

Rather than crying for momma they cry for the bottle the human ele-

ment is missing. Also when I was coming up momma could tap that bottom and nobody would call 911. The teachers and the community would also be on your case if you deviated from parental or church or societal morals and principles. Now in some case a girl can have an abortion without her mother's consent. The police have a gun, tazer, mace [and] stick(s) with lead, pepper spray.

If you can't discipline your child, or the church, or your community or school this leaves only the police with the ability to calm a savage out of control youth. So when we go before the judge claiming police brutality they call it justified. When they kill us in the

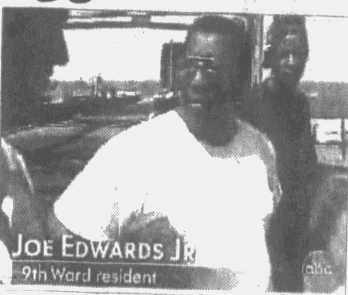
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## New Orleans Flood Survivor Claims Levee Was Blown-up... "I heard something go BOOM!"

By Gaius Sims, Sr.,  
 M-Voice Newspaper

As Katrina's Category 4 storm winds began to subside, and residents, thinking the worst of the storm had passed, Ray Nagin, the Mayor of New Orleans greeted the nation with more disturbing news... news that only hours before Joe Edwards, Jr., his friends, his neighbors and family were already coping with; a section of the levee holding back the swollen waters of Lake Ponchartrain in Edward's neighborhood had been breached and water was rapidly pouring in... rushing in, and New Orleans was flooding. Edwards, an over the road (OTR) truck driver lived in a part of New Orleans's 9th Ward not far from where the breach occurred.

According to Dave Muir, a reporter for ABC Television News in an interview which followed the de-



bacle, and picked off the Internet, Edwards stated he rushed to get himself and as many people he could loaded onto and into the cab of his truck and drove to the top of the bridge (pictured above) where they remained until they were evacuated.

Levee breached in three places  
 According to Edwards, just before the waters came pouring into his neighborhood he was absolutely certain he heard a "loud boom."

Story continues on Page 4

## Overkill: Feared Blackwater Mercenaries Deployed in New Orleans

By Jeremy Seahill and Daniela Crespo

**NEW ORLEANS** — Heavily armed paramilitary mercenaries from the Blackwater private security firm, infamous for their work in Iraq, are openly patrolling the streets of New Orleans. Some of the mercenaries say they have been "deputized" by the Louisiana governor; indeed some are wearing gold Louisiana state law enforcement badges on their chests and Blackwater photo identification cards on their arms. They say they are on contract with the Department of Homeland Security and have been given the authority to use lethal force. Several mercenaries we spoke with said they had served in Iraq on the personal security details of the former head of the US occupation, L. Paul Bremer and the former US ambassador to Iraq, John Negroponte.

"This is a totally new thing to have guys like us working CONUS (Continental United States)," a heavily armed Blackwater mercenary told us as we stood on Bourbon Street in the French Quarter. "We're much better equipped to deal with the situation in Iraq."

Blackwater mercenaries are some of the most feared professional killers in the world and they are accustomed to operating without worry of legal consequences. Their presence on the streets of New Orleans should be a cause for serious concern for the remaining residents of the city and raises alarming questions about why the government would allow men trained to kill with impunity in places like Iraq and Afghanistan to operate here. Some of the men now patrolling the streets of New Orleans returned from Iraq as recently as 2 weeks ago.

What is most disturbing is the claim of several Blackwater mercenaries we spoke with that they are here under contract from the federal and Louisiana state governments.

Continues on Page 8



# The Minority Voice OP/EDs

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

## Hurricane Katrina confirms huge racial divide in U.S.

by George E. Curry

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Hurricane Katrina has exposed a deep racial divide in the United States, with two-thirds of African-Americans feeling that the government would have reacted faster had most of the storm victims been white and 77 percent of whites saying the race of the victims would have made no difference if the residents had been white, according to a new report.

George Curry

The polling was done Sept. 6-7 among 1,000 Americans and released late last week by the Washington-based Pew Research Center For the People & The Press.

"Half of those polled (50 percent) say they felt anger because of what happened in areas hard hit by the hurricane," the report states. "But overall opinion on this measure obscures a substantial racial divide in reactions to the disaster - as many as 70 percent of African-Americans say they have felt angry, compared with 46 percent of whites. Blacks are twice as likely as whites to know people directly affected by the hurricane and are generally much more critical of the government's

response to the crisis."

Blacks and whites also draw different conclusions about the lessons of Hurricane Katrina.

"Seven-in-ten Blacks (71 percent) say the disaster shows that racial inequality remains a major problem in the country; a majority of whites (56 percent) say this was not a particularly important lesson of the disaster."

Four years after the terrorist attacks on the United States, both Blacks and whites agree that the Bush administration should place more emphasis on domestic issues. "For the first time since the 9/11 terror attacks, a majority of Americans (56 percent) say it is more important for the president to focus on domestic policy than the war on terrorism."

That shift comes at a time when Bush's popularity has plummeted. The president's approval rating is 40 percent, down from 50 percent in January. According to the report, 79 percent of African-Americans disapprove of the job Bush is doing.

Most Americans - 67 percent - also agree that Bush could have done more to speed up relief efforts, while only 28 percent think he did all he could to quickly provide assistance and 5 percent remain undecided. Even then, attitudes among the races were significantly different.

"More than eight-in-ten Blacks (85%) say Bush could have done more to get relief efforts going quickly, compared to 63 percent of whites," the study found. Even

though Democrats tend to be more critical of Bush and Republicans were more supportive, "these racial differences remain even when party affiliation is taken into account."

Because Blacks were twice as likely as whites - 43 percent to 22 percent - to have had a close friend or relative directly affected by Hurricane Katrina, 73 percent of African-Americans say they have felt depressed over the loss of lives and property, compared to 55 percent of whites.

"Blacks also hold more sympathetic attitudes toward the people who became stranded by the flooding in New Orleans," the report found. "An overwhelming majority (77%) say most of those who stayed behind did so because they didn't have a way to leave the city, not because they wanted to stay (16%). Most whites agree, but by a slimmer 58% to 32% margin."

"Most Blacks (57%) also think people who took things from homes and businesses in New Orleans were mostly ordinary people trying to survive during an emergency. Just 38% of whites see it that way, while as many (37%) say most who took things were criminals taking advantage of the situation."

The public was equally critical of local and state officials in their handling of the natural disaster.

"While 58 percent think the federal government has done only a fair or poor job in reacting to the devastation along the Gulf Coast, about half (51%) give sub-par ratings to state and local governments in Louisiana and Mississippi," the study



finds.

Many African-Americans complained about a double-standard in the news coverage. Some Blacks were labeled "looters" yet when whites were discovered doing the same thing, they were described as "finding" food in abandoned grocery stores. Critics also objected to calling U.S. citizens "refugees."

Still, the news media earned high marks from the public for its coverage. Two-thirds of the public gives news organizations excellent (28 percent) or good (37 percent) ratings for their coverage of the impact of Katrina, compared to only a third who say the coverage has been fair or poor. The majority of the public

gets its news about national or international issues from cable TV.

From June to September, CNN expanded its audience share more than any other network, serving as the main source of news for the public. Its audience share increased, by 13 percent, followed by Fox at 6 percent. The study also confirms the partisan nature of Fox's audience. When asked whether Bush had done all he could to handle the crisis, 24 percent of CNN's viewers agreed with that statement. About twice as many Fox viewers - 46 percent - endorse that view. Additionally, 42 percent of Fox viewers say that "the people who took things from businesses and homes in New Orleans" were mostly criminals taking advantage of the situation. Only 31 percent of CNN viewers agreed with that idea.

The poll shows that Katrina and rising gasoline prices have overshadowed all other issues in the U.S.

"The public's attentiveness to these two stories has overshadowed interest in other major events - notably the war in Iraq and the nomination of John Roberts as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court," the report states. "Only about a third say they paid very close attention to the situation in Iraq, despite high levels of American, and especially, Iraqi casualties in recent weeks. This marks the lowest level of public attention to news from Iraq since the start of the war."

## Commander of relief effort in New Orleans in charge "John Wayne was an actor, I'm a soldier..."



Lt. Gen. Russel Honore barks at troops as a convoy arrives Friday in downtown New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS - New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin calls Lt. Gen. Russel Honore a "John Wayne dude" who can "get some stuff done."

"He came off the doggone chopper, and he started cussing and people started moving," Nagin said in an interview Thursday night with a local radio station.

The three-star general directed the deployment of

an estimated 1,000 National Guard troops from a New Orleans street corner Friday, making it clear that it was a humanitarian relief operation.

Getting food and water to the people at the city's convention center was a difficult process, Honore said. "If you ever have 20,000 people come to supper, you know what I'm talking about. If it's easy, it would have been done already."

Honore recognizes that storm victims have waited days for relief, and his troops are trying to get them out of the city and into a more comfortable environment.

"Our number one task is to deal with the concentration of people in New Orleans, as well as those that are isolated. And we're going to get after it," he said.

The general acknowledged that frustration, and in some cases lawlessness, is building.

"By-and-large, these are families that are just waiting to get out of here. They are frustrated; I would be, too. I get frustrated at the cash register counter when the paper runs out."

Hundreds of National Guard and active duty troops are carrying weapons in the city. But the way they carried those guns was a concern to the general.

He ordered all he encountered to point their weapons down, said CNN Pentagon Correspondent Barbara Starr, who was with the general. Honore repeatedly went up to military vehicles, National Guardsmen standing sentry and even to New Orleans police officers, telling them to please point their weapons down and reminding them that they were not in Iraq.

Honore commands the 1st Army, based at Fort Gillem in Forest Park, Georgia, outside Atlanta.

The general is a native of Lakeland, Louisiana, which is northwest of Baton Rouge. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in vocational agriculture from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge in 1971. Honore was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant in the infantry upon graduation. He also has a master's degree in human resources from Troy State University.

He has served in a number of infantry command positions and at the Pentagon. Before taking command of the 1st Army, Honore commanded the Standing Joint Force Headquarters-Homeland Security, U.S. Northern Command.

Honore's daughter and other relatives live in New Orleans, but he has not seen them since he arrived in town.

## Blacks in trouble and need Black advice

by Alton H. Maddox, Jr. Esq.

Prisons are built to warehouse the enemies of the state and not to simply imprison the violators of the penal laws. If the latter were the case, the prisons would be filled with whites. Instead, it is filled with a class of persons whose movements in this country have been curtailed for four hundred years in the interest of national security. Arabs, on the other hand, still enjoy freedom from wholesale incarceration.

Freedom of movement and the right to privacy separate a free people from an enslaved people. To maintain control, enslaved Africans were confined to plantations. To leave the plantation, they had to be in possession of passes. This meant that Blacks had to remain unable to write in English. Thus, the "War on Terrorism" is, of necessity, a badge of slavery.

Blacks and whites read the Thirteenth Amendment differently. Blacks read it as literally ending slavery. Whites read it as continuing slavery. Blacks emphasize the main text. Whites look for the legal loopholes. History shows a connection between emancipation and the establishment of penitentiaries.

Because Blacks are not allowed to enjoy their own legal representation, we must wait for white liberals and their Black sidekicks to define legal issues for us. The interests of white liberals are antithetical to the interests of Blacks. Only a Black person who believes that he or she is passing would seek to equate these competing interests.

White liberals define our current plight in constitutional terms. To them, there is a current erosion of the Fourth Amendment. For Blacks, there has always been a breach of the Fourth Amendment. It took until 1961 for the Supreme Court to require the states to honor it in principle. The Supreme Court retreated in 1968 by holding that urban Blacks could not find complete sanctuary in the Fourth Amendment.

Before the Civil War, Blacks were subject to the slave codes. The Black codes supplanted them. The codes still harbor legal customs even though most Blacks have never read them. Of course, ignorance of the law is no excuse. From the Black codes, it is very easy to drag out Blacks into martial law.

Random searches, clearly permitted under military justice, are violations in a free society. These searches retard freedom of movement and deprive persons of the right to privacy. Any consent to search should be free and voluntary and not subject to the denial of a privilege. Intelligence and not surveillance stops terrorism.

Random searches, per se, give rise to racial profiling. Police departments are inherently racists. Racism was the seed that gave rise to vigilantism and state-sponsored, law enforcement agencies. We must wait for civil liberties groups to sue on our behalf. It should have happened yesterday. Don't hold your breath, however. These groups are in cahoots with law enforcement agencies.

Blacks are waiting for white liberals to tell us that we are living under shades of martial law. Unlike the Japanese, it will take some time to intern all of us. A panic would ensue if they told us our true legal status right now. No other race relies on other people for legal advice. We suffer from xenophobia.

You can feel the nooses being tightened around our Adam's apples. After propaganda, the next stage of war-

fare is deception. The recent, failed bombings in London are marketing strategies to promote surveillance cameras and to paint the face of terrorism Black. Those four photographs, appearing on the front page of virtually every newspaper, are suspect.

In the meantime, Black leaders appeared on radio talk shows this past Sunday to fight like cats and dogs over white men's crumbs; namely, the Atlantic Yards project in Brooklyn. None of them remember the Indians saying "the white man speaks with forked tongue." To them, it is just a question of which white men offer the best deal.

It was embarrassing to listen to these radio interviews. Black leadership is bankrupt and incompetent. None of them are aware that the founding fathers are working against them. To make matters worse, I represented most of them pro bono. Now, it is clear that most of them would stab us in the back on minute's notice. We are being primed for concentration camps.

We need legal directions. If it is not the Atlantic Yards, it is the proposed, peaceful assembly in Washington in October. This proposed march refuses to challenge the First Amendment and, therefore, it is a half-stepping proposal. Blacks can ill-afford to half-step in 2005.

The right of peaceful assembly is only a condition precedent to petitioning the government for a redress of grievances. When you assemble peaceably on federal land, the First Amendment is automatically invoked. We may as well go for all the marbles since our ancestors built the White House and Capitol Hill.

To satisfy the First Amendment, Blacks would have to tour Pennsylvania Avenue and Capitol Hill and "nail" our petition to the White House, the Supreme Court and Congress. The citation of authorities for petitioning the government for a redress of grievances include Dred Scott, Frederick Douglass, the Colfax Massacre, A. Phillip Randolph, Adderly v. Florida, Malcolm X and Dr. John Henrik Clarke.

Racial unity can only be ensured provided that we respect and consult our ancestors before we initiate any collective action. "Let the chips fall where they may." It must not be a personal agenda. Our ancestors have nothing to gain from the physical realm other than the liberation of their offspring.

Whites are guided by a hidden hand - the founding fathers. This is why Republicans control the three branches of the federal government. The party that bears the closest resemblance to the ideology of the founding fathers will rule the roost. This warning comes from Howard Dean, head of the Democratic Party.

Like Bush 43, I am also a strict constructionist and believe in original intent. I strictly adhere to the teachings of my divine ancestors and consult with them on every issue, including this article. They despised the founding fathers. I am in favor of petitions including the petition of Dred Scott, which demanded reparations.

If I had turned my back on my ancestors, I would have found many friends in New York and would have been living high off the hog. Black people will support you with their lives and their finances if you betray your divine ancestors. But see Exodus 20:12. Also, list the churches that display a Black Jesus. This is the dilemma for Blacks surviving in a racist society.

See: [www.reinstatetonmaddox.com](http://www.reinstatetonmaddox.com)

## Katrina Adds to Military Strain

WASHINGTON - President Bush's

decision to put thousands of active-duty soldiers and Marines on Hurricane Katrina relief duty adds a new dimension to the enormous strain on the military from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Senior military officers said Saturday they have plenty of troops to handle their wide range of missions at home and abroad, and they discounted suggestions that the urgent deployment of soldiers and Marines to the Gulf Coast would interfere with the rotation of combat troops in and out of Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We can handle the overseas war-fight commitment and still defend our homeland and support the Department of Homeland Security simultaneously," Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, told a Pentagon news conference.

"People say, 'Aren't you stretched too far, aren't you about ready to run out?' There are 200,000 citizen soldier National Guardsmen left with the right kind of skills around this nation" to help with hurricane relief, Blum said.

The active-duty military has about 1.2 million people in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps, of which about 140,000 are in Iraq and nearly 20,000 in Afghanistan. That leaves hundreds of thousands not committed directly to fighting wars, but many of them perform a range of staff functions in the Pentagon and other government agencies and at military headquarters across the nation and around

the world.

Lt. Gen. Joseph Inge, deputy commander of Northern Command, told reporters at the Pentagon on Saturday that the Katrina mission would have no negative effect on executing the missions in Iraq or Afghanistan.

"Absolutely not," Inge said.

The ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, Rep. Ike Skelton of Missouri, said that while he has been personally assured by Pentagon officials that the Gulf Coast rescue and recovery effort can be accomplished without disrupting plans for Iraq rotations, he remains worried about the future.

"This effort will clearly increase the overall burden on our military," Skelton said Friday. "The Defense Department's civilian leaders must look at the impact of this and future crises and the ongoing war on the military's future readiness and overall state."

Inge said the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, which already has several infantry battalions in Afghanistan and Iraq or preparing to go there, began dispatching about 2,500 soldiers, including infantry, and support troops, to Louisiana on Saturday. They included most of the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

A spokeswoman for the 82nd Airborne, Maj. Amy Hannah, said later that at least 5,000 would be sent from her division. Another spokeswoman there, SPC. John French, said 5,000 would be sent over the next few days.

The 1st Cavalry Division, from

Fort Hood, Texas, is sending about 2,700 soldiers to the Gulf Coast, and the Marines are sending about 2,000 from bases in California and North Carolina. The 4th Infantry Division, which is getting ready to begin a new deployment to Iraq, already has sent some helicopters to Louisiana.

The Air Force is flying missions to the Gulf daily, and the Navy has numerous ships off the Gulf Coast.

Blum said the National Guard was going to send 10,000 more troops than previously planned, bringing the total number of Guardsmen involved in the relief effort to 40,000 within the next several days. He said there would be 33,000 in Louisiana and Mississippi by the end of Saturday.

In addition to deployments in Kosovo and Afghanistan, the National Guard is heavily committed to the conflict in Iraq. The Army National Guard has 39,800 soldiers in Iraq and the Air National Guard has about 900. That represents about 30 percent of all U.S. forces in Iraq. Thousands also are operating in Kuwait.

Blum said the only Guard unit he knows of that has been pulled off the list to rotate into Iraq is a small unit whose members live in Gulfport, Miss., which was heavily battered by Hurricane Katrina.

"Many of them, we can't find them," Blum said.

A Guard infantry unit that was training at Camp Shelby, Miss., when Katrina struck has been kept off disaster relief duty so that it can deploy to Iraq as scheduled, Blum said.



# Indisputable 'SHOCK and AWE'

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

by Susie Clemons

The horrifying aftermath of hurricane Katrina, and soon Rita, is indisputably the real "SHOCK AND AWE," not the U.S. Military bombing campaigns ordered upon innocent Iraqi citizens, so it has been said.

Recall it was ole' Donnie Rumsfeld who gave the press that 'Shock and Awe' bit which they proudly plastered across major news sources for days: America the super-power was making successful gains upon the pending but certain capture of Saddam Hussein. The party was full speed ahead on Capitol Hill until Katrina dropped in for some Bourbon.

What many now realize is that the Iraqi bombing campaign was cowardice in the face of the

real 'SHOCK and AWE' that flows from the gates of Heavens Super-Power.

Clearly, it's no joke to be told HELL, if not death, is on the way; and that you must run from your life, from your home not knowing when or if you'll ever return...or if you'll ever see your loved ones again- including the family dog and cat. And even more frightening is to witness elected leadership fumbling at the simplest emergency rescue response methods.

No doubt American politics, namely the game of winning the vote, will never be the same after the New Orleans foul-ups. American voters, hopefully now better able to think for themselves, realize that a slick money rich campaign neither guarantees common sense nor a sense of responsibility to the people; rather, it almost ensures shameful incompetence.

By design Mr. Bush justified spending billions of dollars on a bombing campaign predicated on what has since been revealed as a lie, by media persons that look like him. All the while America is brimming with national emergen-

cies everyday: the government needs an overhaul- namely Mr. Bush, school systems need massive administrative correction, and jobs are needed while America imports computer talent from afar and ships manufacturing jobs offshore.

At that, bridges, sea walls and levees throughout Americas' coastal communities are need of improvement if not replacement. This considering that much needed money to improve New Orleans levee system was diverted to fight a war for which no positive spin- as I've read- is as yet available.

Then in a fatal move Bush hired crony Mr. Michael D. Brown, former FEMA headman, whose credentials have since been exposed as questionable. Too think, Mr. Brown was well paid at the taxpayer's expense and the taxpayers were forced to pay for an albatross.

When the President of the free world establishes a pattern of arriving late to the scene of national emergencies (first 9-11, and since Katrina) it shows a lack of professional responsibility and respect

to the American citizens. Citizens who work menial back breaking jobs for which they get no respect - yet they arrive to work on time and pinch of their earnings contributes to the salary of Mr. Tardy

cal infested waters awaiting life sustaining rations while shriveling up like a raisin and dying in the sun from thirst?

However unnerving such scenario, perhaps now its clear that no matter the effort White House T-V production team, including former ABC camera man Bob DeSeri, to suspend fears of

Ah, but the duty is upon Mr. Bush to re-think pending speeches offering wordy promises and apologies backed with Disneyland imagery nearby, and to henceforth condemn shifting much needed infrastructure dollars to unjustifiable democratic bombing campaigns overseas, and cronyism. Only then can Mr. Bush vacate his job re-



himself, George G'Dubya Bush.

And as for those African descendants, that group of ecclesiastical folks up in Ohio, who swung the vote during the last Presidential election: how important an issue would homosexuality have been while wading in fe-

America's obvious leadership crisis, during that glossy Alice in Wonderland matching shirt to Church color scheme/speech at New Orleans Jackson Square, some should today commit their future vote to responsible, timely, and empathetic leadership.

spectably rather than leaving America and the World in a state of indisputable 'Shock and Awe' by his all to frequent disturbing leadership skills.

Susie Clemons is a freelance writer, comments at opinionsandtalk@yahoo.com

## Katrina evokes questions in the African Continent

by Todd Pittman

DAKAR, Senegal - Images of poor, Black Americans homeless and in despair in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina are resonating in Africa, evoking pointed questions about racism and surprise that disasters can wreak havoc and leave refugees even in the prosperous United States.

"So much for the land of liberty," read one unsigned commentary Sunday in Nigeria's This Day newspaper, adding that some televised images of Katrina's victims in Louisiana "could actually be mistaken for Rwanda."

On Thursday in hurricane-hit New Orleans, U.S. soldiers cradling M-16s flanked out across the swamped, disease-infested city as officials readied thousands of body bags. Indeed, the scene was reminiscent of any African tragedy of recent times.

"Who would have thought that over a million American citizens would become 'refugees' in their own country and flay their government for its failure to come to their aid" quickly enough, read an editorial Tuesday in South Africa's The Star newspaper. "Or that in the most advanced society in the world ... the badly injured would be left for dead because of a lack of assis-

tance?" Some Africans say the U.S. government's allegedly bungled response to Katrina revealed a society more divided by race and money than most Africans had previously thought. "Most of the hapless survivors who filled New Orleans' Superdome were Black, with the more affluent white residents able to flee in their SUVs before Katrina brought her misery," the Star said.

"At a deeper level, it means that even in the fabled America, the poor get left holding the short end of the stick," This Day said. "These are some of the contradictions that should spur review and soul searching; that amid such stupendous wealth and affluence, a puzzling circle is still drawn to exclude the poor."

Not all pointed to racism. Martin Tarlaway, who described himself as a concerned Liberian, speculated the disaster-struck region may have been a victim of neglect because it was a Democratic stronghold. Alhaji Kromah, a candidate in Liberia's upcoming presidential elections and a former warlord, said America has simply been overwhelmed by an enormous disaster.

"This should be a wake-up call for the international community to collaborate with the United States to ensure that public facilities such as

the ones in the affected area are improved," Kromah said.

Prince Gonway, a Liberian teacher, was uninterested in assigning blame.

"We share in the grief of the victims," he said. "But at times these things happen for people to know what hardship really means, what it means to be a refugee in your own country."

Liberia, founded by former American slaves, is just emerging from a long and disastrous civil war.

Charles Onyango-Obbo, a managing editor of Kenya's Nation newspaper group, wrote for Thursday's editions: "Thanks to Katrina, I now know that some places of America have never seen schools and electricity just like in rural Africa."

Onyango-Obbo saw racial bias in the handling of two similar photos he said appeared in the American press - each of a man carrying soft drinks and bread.

"The caption to the photo of the white man said he had 'found' food to save his family. The one of the Black man said he had 'looted' the items," he said. "Never mind that both men probably got the items from the same store."

Todd Pittman writes for the Associated Press

## Unholy disclosures

By Suejette Jones

Some church members resent the church's announcements and publications of their medical information without their consent, writes Suejette Jones in his article "Unhealthy Revelations".



Suejette Jones

One parishioner was astonished when his church posted this message on their church website: 'We have good news for you! John Doe (alias) is returning to church after a long medical leave of absence. Since the summer of last year, John (alias) has been treated for bi-polar illness, a condition which at times has resulted in serious depression for him. Various therapies and medications have been tried, and finally, after much experimental-

tion, his health has improved considerably. For that we are all very happy.'

The church's disclosures on the mental health of one of its members, no matter how well-intentioned, crossed a line that should be a warning to any religious group that shares members' medical information in newsletters and during worship services. Legally, publishing details of John's condition without his permission was an invasion of privacy because it included information in a way that would be highly offensive to the ordinary person. Some conditions carry more of a stigma than others and mental illness is one of them.

Saying that a person is recovering from a heart attack or being treated for cancer is much less offensive. It would have been okay to say I had been in the hospital and was very ill and had recovered to the point I could return to work as minister of music, John lamented.

Most people in the 1600-member church knew of his depression, but no one other than the pastoral staff was aware of the diagnosis, which was now on the Internet for anyone in the

world to see.

Once that information is put out there you can't get it back. It took a while to get that information off the web site and John settled out of court because it was too stressful to continue to be involved into an increasingly antagonistic relationship with the church. The court ruled in his favor. But it's the privacy issue that has caught the attention of denominational legal offices.

Some clergy disagree with any public announcement of a private nature without consent of the person involved, whether the news involves personal concerns or even joys, such as a birthday, new job or child's graduation from college. In some large services, the chapel's worship leader offers prayers for the people who have asked or approved prayers for them.

Ethically, the only information the congregation needs to know is that a member of that community is in ill health and in need of prayer. We don't need to know whether it's cancer or drug addiction. Respectfully submitted Mrs. Jones is a retired North Carolina educator.

## Now comes the real looting, of federal treasury by connected contractors

By Betty Baye

Despite convincing performances, there were no red carpets or best actress Emmys for the three Louisville women who claimed to be survivors of Hurricane Katrina in order to secure disaster relief across the river in Southern Indiana.

Rather than glamour shots, LaToya Taylor, Norma Jean Calloway-Tillman and Denise Huguley ended up posing for mug shots after they were charged with felony fraud. They allegedly used Red Cross debit cards meant to help storm survivors to shop at Victoria's Secret and Best Buy and to dine at such places as Hooters and Ernesto's Mexican Grill.

Meanwhile, on this side of the river, Derick Clayton was also charged with fraudulently obtaining a Red Cross debit card worth \$360. He apparently had legitimate New Orleans connections, but had lived in Louisville for some time. Yet he went on television and told a harrowing tale of escaping from New Orleans. His boss in Louisville turned him in.

No doubt, others are likely to claim storm survivors' assistance that they don't deserve, and it's a shame.

But I predict these sorts of petty crimes will pale when compared to what's going to happen now that President Bush and Congress have opened the spigot

from which billions of federal dollars will flow for the rebuilding of the storm-ravaged Gulf Coast.

It's reminiscent of the days after 9/11, when nearly \$5 billion was pledged to assist small businesses heavily impacted by the terrorist attacks.

But, as an Associated Press investigation of two of those federal small business loan programs showed, fewer than 11 percent of 19,000 recovery loans actually went to small businesses in New York and Washington.

To the contrary, many owners of businesses in the affected areas complained that they were unable to secure any federal assistance.

Yet those that did get help included recreational businesses in Alaska, an air taxi service at the North Pole, a dog boutique in Utah, a perfume shop in the Virgin Islands, a country radio station in South Dakota and a winery in Oregon.

Not only that, but several of the loan recipients said their banks had never informed them that their loans were coming from a 9/11 relief program.

Then there's Iraq. Significant chunks of the \$10 billion the United States has poured into reconstruction efforts have apparently been lost to lax oversight, mismanagement or outright theft by corrupt contractors.

Now, we have the Katrina crisis. After being scorched for failing to respond promptly, Bush is repeatedly visiting the region and, despite the soaring federal deficit, promising to send along everything up to and including the kitchen sink.

In Mississippi Tuesday, the President told its leaders to

"think bold" and that the federal government will help pay the bills for whatever they come up with.

In New Orleans last week, the President proposed a "Gulf of Opportunity Zone." Its features would include incentives to those who create jobs, tax relief, federal loans and loan guarantees for small businesses, and accounts of up to \$5,000 for individuals displaced by Katrina to help pay for job training, job searches and child care until they secure employment.

Some estimates are that the federal government will sink \$100 billion into the restoration effort.

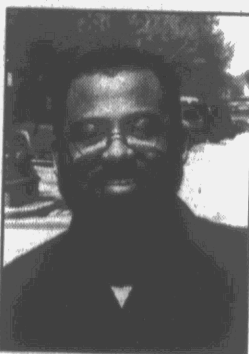
Hopefully, so much money will bring good things to a region that was economically depressed before Katrina and that is home to hundreds of thousands of Americans who've been left behind in most social and economic indicators.

Unfortunately, however, given the billions that appear to have been wasted or stolen after 9/11 and in Iraq, the potential for more billions to be wasted and stolen in the proposed reconstruction of the Gulf Coast is too great a threat to ignore.

What all Americans have a right to expect, or demand, from the Bush administration, is that it will move quickly to prosecute any contractor, banker or lobbyist, no matter how well connected politically, who acts as if taxpayer money is Monopoly money that they're free to play with, mismanage and, in the worst cases, steal.

If, instead, there's again lax oversight, Bush will be absolutely right that he, as President, is responsible for the problem and for the solution.

## Cooper's Commentary



Keith Cooper

Many Gulf Coast residents are still suffering from the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, who marched through New Orleans and parts of Alabama and Mississippi with a fury unmatched by Hurricane Betsy in 1965. She showed no mercy in her rampage, killing and injuring hundreds of people.

Preliminary damage estimates, according to Joseph Treaster and Kate Zernike of The New York Times, ranged from \$9 billion to \$16 billion. Eighty percent of New Orleans was covered by water.

Katrina's turbulent winds stripped fifteen-foot sections from the Superdome's roof, where over 25,000 evacuees took shelter.

## Warnings Not Heeded

New Orleans' mayor was right to criticize President Bush for "dragging his feet." Because the city is almost 70 percent black, I am not surprised by Bush's delay in getting involved.

I hope former Presidents Bush and Clinton work as aggressively as they did to help bring quick relief for countless tsunami victims in Sri Lanka and Indonesia. They must look beyond race and treat all victims as part of the human race. Indeed, we must be our brother's keeper.

Numerous evacuees were packed in the Houston Astrodome. The unsanitary conditions were reminiscent of the slave ships in America. Millions of slaves were packed like sardines amid an unbearable stench. In fact, some evacuees slept in their own feces and urine. It is a shame that, in 2005, history is repeating itself in a way that elicits poignant criticisms from leaders like Kanye West, Rev. Jesse Jackson, and Rev. Al Sharpton.

Though experts warned of impending doom in New Orleans because the levees were not expected to withstand Hurricane 5 winds and pressures, Bush and local officials failed to protect the precious

women and children. It is clear that someone or individuals should be charged with murder and neglect.

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## A reply to Barbara Bush: It may not be much to you, but it's home

by Betty Bayé

Monday before last, former First Lady Barbara Bush visited the Houston Astrodome, to which thousands of largely poor and largely African-American New Orleansians had, finally, been evacuated.

It might have been a warmly received gesture of consolation, if she had simply let her presence speak for itself and kept her mouth shut.

But she didn't do that. There she was, surrounded by people who the whole world knew were literally fresh out of hell.

There she was, standing among people who had gone for days without food, water, toilets and the medical attention many desperately needed.

There she was, among many worried and abused souls, who still didn't know whether loved ones had died or survived, who had been preyed upon by thugs and who had been misled repeatedly by the very people who were supposed to look out for them.

Amid all that suffering and misery, one would have hoped for the President's mother to offer a kind word.

Instead, smiling as sweetly as you please, she said, "What I'm hearing, which is sort of scary, is they all want to stay in Texas. Everyone is so overwhelmed by the hospitality."

Huh? But that wasn't all. "And so many

of the people in the arena here, you know, were underprivileged anyway, so this — this is working very well for them," she said.

I didn't trust myself that I had actually heard what I thought that I had heard, so I double-checked newspaper accounts and the Internet.

And yes, Barbara Bush did say those things.

That's when it hit me why her son, the President, all too often comes off as insensitive by saying really inappropriate things at really inappropriate times, such as cracking jokes that are anything but amusing in time of crisis.

Who are these Bushes, anyway? Rich folks, for sure, and ones, it seems

to me, who for far too long have lived in a "Let 'em eat cake" kind of world.

As you have probably gathered by now, what Barbara Bush said really burned me up, and that the woman seemed oblivious to the offense her comments caused screams how badly out of touch she is with how the other half (or four-fifths) of America lives.

Like many, I have fond memories of times spent in New Orleans. I was married there in 1978, in a little art gallery in the French Quarter, and my former husband and I made many good friends in the city.

I've tried to imagine how they might have responded to Mrs. Bush if they had my soapbox, and I thought that they'd probably say something a little like this:

It might not seem like much to very little mention of St. Bernard. That's because it was really bad there and there was no help. They were not helping anyone get out. It was just people helping people. Helicopters actually flew over and just took pictures didn't try to help anyone."

He has six rolls of film and got a boat and actually rescued people. He also mentioned he had to break into a two story house and stay there. He reported there were bodies of people and animals everywhere. He also mentioned that right before the mass flood there was a loud sound like an explosion. Some people indigenous to that area think they may have blew up the levee and trying to keep it quiet, according to one blogger, "That's why they are not mentioning anything about us."

And finally from a weblog called the WashPost came this posting: Mullen has a schoolteacher's kindly demeanor, so it was jarring to hear him say he suspected that the levee breaks had somehow been engineered to keep the wealthy French Quarter and Garden District dry at the expense of poor black neighborhoods like the Lower Ninth Ward.

At ground zero these suspicions are widely heard from many other black survivors. The question is; are these reports true.

you if you're just passing by in a limousine, but this is where I and the people I love live.

It may not appear to you to have any value, because, after all, it's just a ticky-tacky shotgun house with peeling paint and a sagging porch. But it's my home.

It may be a public housing project where, I'd be the first to say, there's far too much crime, the grass is all stomped down and the buildings are uncomfortably cheek-to-jowl with railroad tracks. But it's where I live.

It's my home.

Generations of my people were born in and made their way through

this rough place. I know everybody, and everybody knows me. I can find my way around with my eyes closed, because it's where I live.

I can stand in that small patch of dirt that we called our front yard, stick my nose heavenward, sniff and imagine again the smells of Big Mama's fried chicken and how sometimes she'd let me lick the left-over batter from her famous-in-the-neighborhood chocolate cakes.

Oh, I know it's not that much to look at, especially now that it's all waterlogged, but that's my church over

SEE BUSH LOWER RIGHT PG. 4

## New Orleans Flood Survivor Claims Levee Was Blown-up...

Continues from Page 1

As Muir's interview continued, Edwards told Muir that his house broke in half and his mother's house, which was made of brick "just disintegrated." Edwards said that houses there floated down the street "like somebody's guiding 'em." At ground zero, according to a reporter for the Wall Street Journal, it took only ten minutes for flood waters to almost cover the one-story structures that dotted that area.

When Muir once again asked Edwards was it solely the force of the water that broke the levee, or motioning then to a large barge now resting in a place where his home use to be; was it the force of the barge that broke through the levee. Edwards emphatically said it was neither. Viewing Muir's report, Edwards along with the group of people he rescued collectively expressed long held resentment of being disenfranchised by city government as well, and actually felt that "the city," which Mayor Nagin scoffed during Muir's questioning, "blew up the levee to save richer neighborhoods like the French Quarter."

However, as the city began to flood, the French Quarter, which was said to sit on higher ground, actually sustained more wind damage than water damage. But as Muir's interview continued, he once again asked Edwards if he was "convinced" that the city "broke the levee on purpose." Edwards emphatically replied I know this happen and gesturing with his arms upwardly he said, "they blew it" with the other people in the background nodding their heads in affirmation.

Edwards was absolutely certain he heard an explosion just before the waters rushed in and his story wasn't the only one. Other stories emerged about other people reporting they heard multiple explosions. The Ninth Ward district located east of the city sat between the levee wall holding back the waters of Lake Ponchartrain and the French Quarter. Counter-clockwise winds spinning westward would have battered that section. The Levee wall, which snaked along the edge of Lake Ponchartrain sustained a total of six breaks which lead to a massive flooding 9th Ward.

BUSH FROM TOP LEFT PG. 4 there. That's where I first accepted my faith and was baptized.

It's true. I'm not rich, and I'm sure not powerful. In fact, mostly, I'm invisible to people who are high and mighty. But I'm still somebody. I've still got a brain, and I've still got feelings.

While I thank everybody for their generosity, that old cliché is just as true for me and my poor black folks as it is for people like Barbara Bush and her rich white ones: There's no place like home.

Betty Bayé's columns appear Thursdays on the editorial page. You can read them online at [www.courier-journal.com](http://www.courier-journal.com).

Web bloggers were also reporting stories about hearing explosions and one Army Diver claims to have

Another blogger who claimed he was an attorney had this to say. "If you've noticed, there has been no or



Water flows back into the Industrial Canal in New Orleans through a floodwall breach caused by Hurricane Katrina. The inundated neighborhood in foreground is known as the Lower 9th Ward.

found burn marks and explosive residue on one of the levees he was inspecting.

One blogger reported that a juvenile detention officer who went by the name of Mr. Anderson (no first name given) was quoted as saying, "then we heard a loud boom. We thought it was a generator at first but then we later learned that it was the levee. That someone was trying to put a hole in it to relieve some of the water pressure or divert some water of something and that hole led to a much bigger one. Someone was trying to do the right thing, I think, and it created a much bigger problem. It's going to all come out, what happened. I don't think you can blame this on racism."

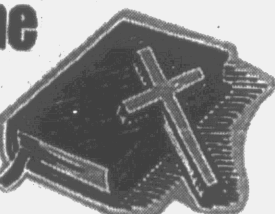
"I heard an explosion just before the flood"



Terrence Payton  
Sales Consultant

In the court of fowls,  
the cockroach never win  
his case ... (Rwanda)

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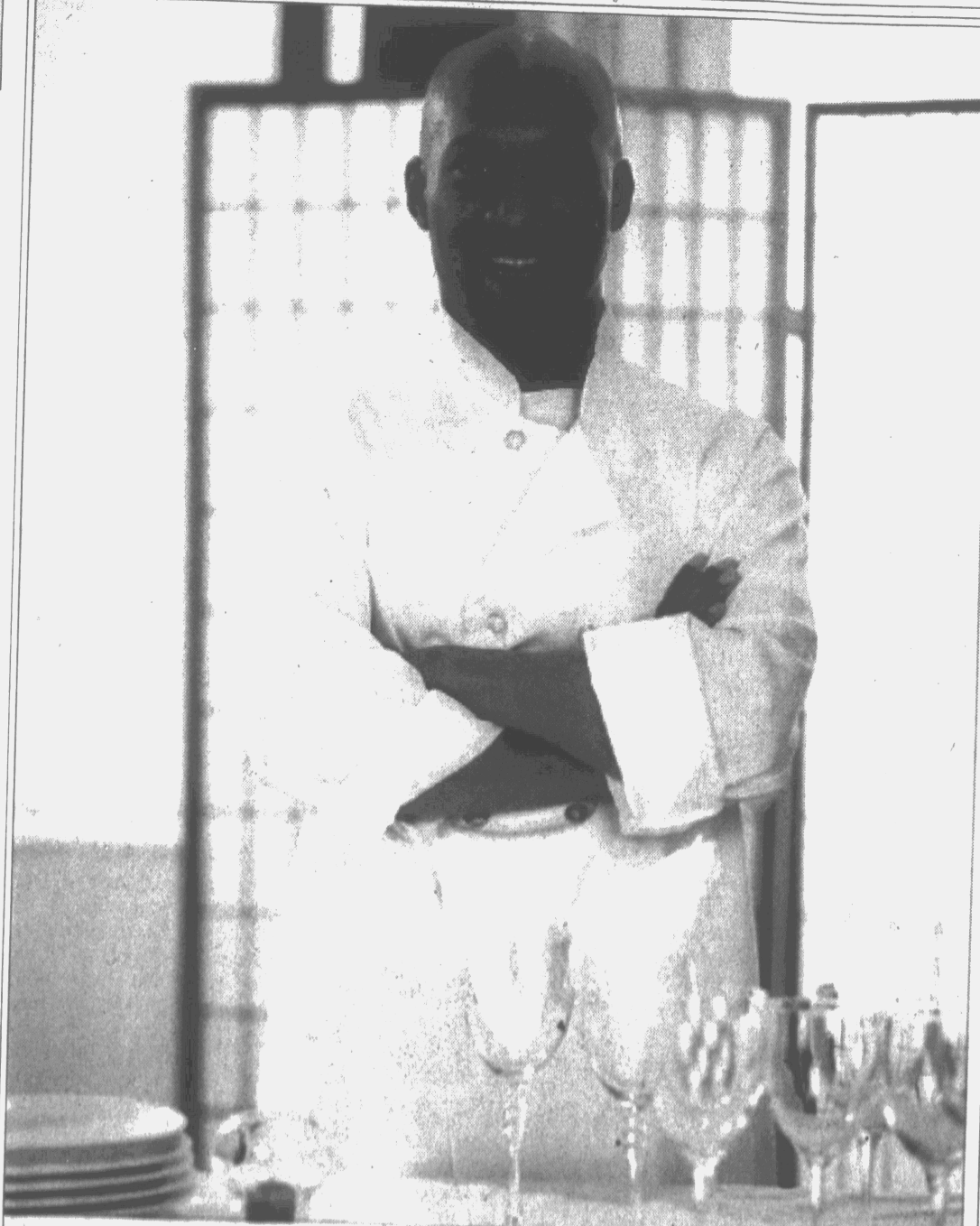
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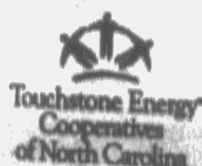
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# JACKIE ROBINSON LEAGUE AWARDS CEREMONY - 2005





# Overkill: Blackwater in New Orleans

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

Blackwater is one of the leading private "security" firms servicing the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. It has several US government contracts and has provided security for many senior US diplomats, foreign dignitaries and corporations. The company rose to international prominence after 4 of its men were killed in Fallujah and two of their charred bodies were hung from a bridge in March 2004. Those killings sparked the massive US retaliation against the civilian population of Fallujah that resulted in scores of deaths and tens of thousands of refugees.

As the threat of forced evictions now looms in New Orleans and the city confiscates even legally registered weapons from civilians, the private mercenaries of Blackwater patrol the streets openly wielding M-16s and other assault weapons. This despite Police Commissioner Eddie Compass' claim that "Only law enforcement are allowed to have weapons."

Officially, Blackwater says its forces are in New Orleans to "join the Hurricane Relief Effort." A statement on the company's website, dated September 1, advertises airlift services, security services and crowd control. The company, according to news reports, has since begun taking private contracts to guard hotels, businesses and other properties. But what has not been publicly acknowledged is the claim, made to us by 2 Blackwater mercenaries,

that they are actually engaged in general law enforcement activities including "securing neighborhoods" and "confronting criminals."

That raises a key question: under what authority are Blackwater's men operating? A spokesperson for the Homeland Security Department, Russ Knoke, told the Washington Post he knows of no federal plans to hire Blackwater or other private security. "We believe we've got the right mix of personnel in law enforcement for the federal government to meet the demands of public safety," he said.

But in an hour-long conversation with several Blackwater mercenaries, we heard a different story. The men we spoke with said they are indeed on contract with

the Department of Homeland Security and the Louisiana governor's office and that some of them are sleeping in camps organized by Homeland Security in New Orleans and Baton Rouge. One of them wore a gold Louisiana state law enforcement badge and said he had been "deputized" by the governor. They told us they not only had authority to make arrests but also to use lethal force. We encountered the Blackwater forces as we walked through the streets of the largely deserted French Quarter. We were talking with 2 New York Police officers when an unmarked car without license plates sped up next to us and stopped. Inside were 3 men, dressed in khaki uniforms, flak

jackets and wielding automatic weapons. "Y'all know where the Blackwater guys are?" they asked. One of the police officers responded, "There are a bunch of them around here," and pointed down the road.

"Blackwater?" we asked. "The guys who are in Iraq?" "Yeah," said the officer. "They're all over the place."

A short while later, as we continued down Bourbon Street, we ran into the men from the car. They wore Blackwater ID badges on their arms.

"When they told me New Orleans, I said, 'What country is that in?'" said one of the Blackwater men. He was wear-

ing his company ID around his neck in a carrying case with the phrase "Operation Iraqi Freedom" printed on it. After bragging about how he drives around Iraq in a "State Department issued level 5, explosion proof BMW," he said he was "just trying to get back to Kirkuk (in the north of Iraq) where the real action is." Later we overheard him on his cell phone complaining that Blackwater was only paying \$350 a day plus per diem. That is much less than the men make serving in more dangerous conditions in Iraq. Two men we spoke with said they plan on returning to Iraq in October. But, as one mercenary said, they've

been told they could be in New Orleans for up to 6 months. "This is a trend," he told us. "You're going to see a lot more guys like us in these situations."

If Blackwater's reputation and record in Iraq are any indication of the kind of "services" the company offers, the people of New Orleans have much to fear.

Jeremy Scabill, a correspondent for the national radio and TV program Democracy Now!, and Daniela Crespo are in New Orleans.

Visit [www.democracynow.org](http://www.democracynow.org) for in-depth, independent, investigative reporting on Hurricane Katrina. Email: [jeremy@democracynow.org](mailto:jeremy@democracynow.org)



Father and Son, opps from left to right, son and father, Air Force Sgt. Jerry Barnes poses here with Dad, Ray Barnes during a recent visit to Greenville.

"A wise man who knows his proverbs, reconciles his difficulties..."

Taken from the Yoruba Religion

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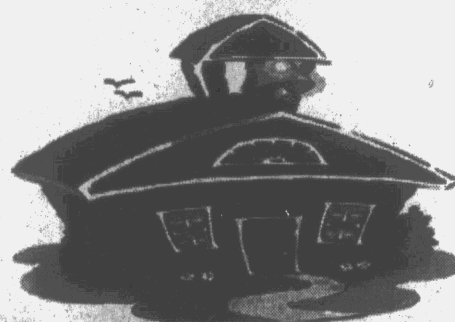
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## Pitt County Schools will hold ... Public Hearings

on the proposed student assignment plans for the 2006-2007 school year.



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Tuesday, October 11, 2005  
Progressive FWB Church  
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Sign-up for Public Expression will be from 5:30pm until 7:00pm at the church.



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- Work to build Winterville into a safe community of neighbors who come together, stay together, and work together.
- Support strong education for all ages. In particular I shall continue to work with our teachers, parents, and civic leaders to combat many of the issues that continue to plague our community.
- Continue to support well rounded recreation programs for our youth that will keep them out of the streets and away from drugs and other crimes.
- Beautification and clean-up of our inner community.
- Address desirable changes. I shall solicit and embrace changes by consensus; change by the people, change of the people, and change for the people.
- Strong law enforcement and crime prevention.

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2. Read a major national newspaper daily, and read the Black press, then you'll know more than your peers, and probably more than your professors.
3. Show up! To vote, to mentor, to tutor, to city council, PTA and school board meetings.
4. Move from commitment to action, says Delta Sigma Theta President Gwendolyn Boyd. She says to know something and not to do it is a sin.
5. Don't drink, but girls, if you do, don't set your drink down at a party - get a fresh drink.
6. Look for character in men; it lasts longer than money or looks.
7. President Johnnetta B. Cole,

President of Bennett College, has said she learned from her family and friends in Jacksonville, Florida that a woman would be known by the company she keeps.

8. Dr. Benjamin S. Mays, the educator, President of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia imparted weekly wisdom back in 1940's and 1950's to that generation of men that excellence was the best defense and offense. They simply had no hope of success in life without it. Form: Sister Speak" - EBONY Magazine, September 2004, page. 32 Please read it.

Involvement with children is essential

"Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing," Abraham Lincoln once said.

Raising children of character demands truth and attention. We need to create an environment in which our children can develop habits of honesty, generosity and a sense of justice.

Consider these steps to help your children build sturdy character:

- Model good character in the home. It is critically important that those who are attempting to influence children in positive ways, "walk the talk."

- Be clear about your values. Talk with children about where you stand on important issues.

- Show respect for your spouse, your children and other family members. Simply stated, respect begets respect.

- Model and teach your children good manners. Insist that all family members use good manners in the home.

- Have family meals together without television as often as possible. Mealtime is an excellent time for parents to talk with and listen to the children and strengthen family ties.

- Don't provide your children access to alcohol and drugs. Model appropriate behavior regarding alcohol and drugs.

- Learn to say no and mean it

- Refuse to cover for your children or make excuses for their behavior.

- Keep your children busy in positive activities such as sports, hobbies, music or other forms of the arts, church or youth groups.

- Set clear expectations for your children and hold them accountable for their actions.

- Know where your children are, what they are doing and with whom. Insist on meeting your children's friends and their parents.

- Character counts.

MRS. BEATRICE MAYE

## Tuskegee.... From Page 6

remembered for all the right reasons," and that task was very well accomplished. As they're indicating that next year in Phoenix, AZ for their 36th Annual Convention they're requesting "The Golden Platter" & "Bubblin' Brown Sugar" for the featured entertainment slot.

Still, as time would have it, for the past some 65+ years it was a time to pay homage and reflect back on the contributions and the 'almost forgotten' un-documented piece of American WWII History. To Bullock, it was all about these aging WWII heroes and the youngsters of today that have been charged with the responsibilities to carry on this proud legacy. "I recall reflecting back in my teenage years of the type of roll models these types of men and women demonstrated for my generation and me. I had two direct sources of such teachings—Uncles that were WWII heroes—Uncle Lafayette Brown, Tuskegee Airman, who actually drove for General Ben. O. Davis, Jr., and an Uncle Ellsworth Bullock who served in the Philippine/Midway Island Theater. They had by a natural 'caring sense'

— the right to reprimand, discipline and even demand that I/we as youngsters attain a certain level of self-expectations and stay the course. Something that is apparently missing in the lives of our youth for the past three generations" Bullock said.

For instance, "at my table I was seated beside a young black Air Force pilot Captain Daryl Corneille—who to me appeared to be no more than 20 years of age.

He told me that it was through the Tuskegee Airmen's Young Eagles Scholarship Flight Program influenced him to choose a career with the Air Force. Bullock further went on to say that he was very proud of the young Captain," and added that he could very well have been a victim of the perils of this so called free society." Bullock further said that our economic dynamics lend to "young folk who are looking for jobs to fall through the cracks," into the realms of a contraband economy proliferated by drug trafficking, gangs and other unproductive activities," Bullock indicated.

As a 'proud new honorary member' of the Tuskegee Airmen Group, Bullock said one of his priorities

would be to tell and share the worthy saga of these men and women to preserve the lives and the future of today's youth with a dream that's attainable and feasible. The politically sensitive Bullock feels that America's fault lies within her failure to see that when anyone is denied the opportunity to reach his or her fullest potentials it cripples the nation and if these 'legendaries of the air' and their ground support crews had been denied the opportunity to participate in the same fight for liberty, who knows how many lives we would have been lost in the 12th and 15th USAF Bomber Squadrons had it not been for the Tuskegee Airman?

Bullock revealed that there's legislation going on to develop a Tuskegee Airmen US Postage Stamp and as an avid stamp riser he was looking forward to this American dream being accomplished. Next year during Black History Month 2006 Bullock said that two of these surviving members of the Wilson V. Eagleson Tuskegee Airman Chapter of Goldsboro, NC would be keynote speakers here in Edgecombe County.

Submitted by Milton Bullock

## Healthy Living Within Reach

Many people fear the inactivity and isolation that they believe are inevitable with aging. But there are realistic ways to preserve health and vitality as you grow older. It is possible to "age successfully."

The best measure of success is whether we continue to function normally. Research over the past 50 years is helping to dispel society's myths about aging. The worst is the false belief that to be old means to be sick or disabled.

As our bodies age, normal changes affect our appearance, such as graying or thinning hair and wrinkles. Other changes affect how well we can function. Research

shows that we have more control over these types of changes than once thought.

Although the risk for disabling conditions such as heart, orthopaedic, and eye diseases usually increases with age, evidence shows that making better lifestyle choices can prevent, delay, or help control many of the diseases. We're never too old to benefit from healthy lifestyle changes.

### Making Smart Choices

We can decrease our chances of developing high cholesterol, high blood pressure, or high blood sugar by making some lifestyle changes. Eating healthy foods, ex-

ercising regularly, not smoking, and limiting alcohol can prevent, or reduce risk factors for disabling diseases. Today's medications and treatments also can help to control these and other health problems. Vaccines can protect against the flu and pneumonia and their complications. Regular health screenings and checkups can detect problems at early stages.

### Physical Exercise

Regular physical exercise has the single biggest impact on our health at any age. It's a myth that aging means physical inactivity. Staying physically active maintains our ability to function at our best. Exercising for 30 minutes a few times a week means more vitality and fewer health problems.

### Mental Exercise

Mentally exercising our brain with activities like reading, hobbies, and classes keeps it healthy. There's even a possible link between high mental activity and reduced risk for Alzheimer's disease. In addition, stress management and ongoing social involvement support our overall health as we age.

Today's Americans are redefining old age. It's not a time in life to be feared.

September is Healthy Aging Month. For more information, visit [www.healthyaging.net](http://www.healthyaging.net).

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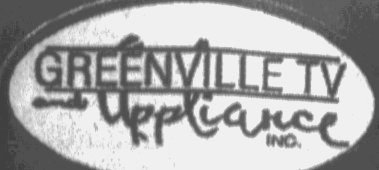
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