

Crack Cocaine sentences set review shown that since the mandatory minimums were

By: James Wright AFRO Staff Writer

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A A.B. PARKER, Pastor

The New Wells

Chapel pg5

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The chairman of the powerful House Judiciary Committee is expected to review the crack cocaine sentences guidelines as one of his first priorities.

Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.), who is the chairman of the Judiciary Committee for the 110th Congress, had told his colleagues that laws that give mandatory minimum sentences to people who are convicted of drugrelated crimes will be subject to oversight. Studies conducted by the American Civil Liberties Union and The Sentencing Project have

shown that since the mandatory minimums were instituted in the late 1980s. Blacks have been incarcerated far more than Whites when convicted of possession of cocaine in the form of crack. The mandatory minimums dictate to judges what length a sentence should be in the case of the possession or distribution of crack cocaine. Marc Mauer, the executive director of The Sentencing Project, said that the time for review of the sentencing guidelines is right. "Most of the mandatory minimums were put in place in the 1980s and are still very much in place," he said. "Someone can get a five or 10 year prison term for crack but a lot less for powder cocaine."



In 1989, at age 19, Belinda Lumpkin was sentenced to 25 years in prison for conspiracy to distribute cocaine. Her boyfriend, who she had dated since she was 15, ran Detroit's largest crack ring, an organization that supplied half the city's crack houses and at its peak, prosecutors said, took in \$3 million a day. Lumpkin says her boyfriend threatened her family when she tried to leave him. She was pregnant throughout her trial and gave birth in prison. President Clinton commuted her sentence in January 2001. Now she lives in Georgia and is working as a forklift driver, a skill she learned in prison.



Conyers, along with the Congressional Black Caucus and other organizations such as the NAACP and the National Bar Association, Dorothy Gaines, a mother with no criminal record, was convicted of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine in 1994 and sentenced to 20 years in prison. She let her boyfriend, a crack dealer, keep drugs in her Alabama home. He and other ring members, who testified against Gaines her trial, received lesser sentences. President Clinton commuted her sentence in 2000. Gaines now lives in Mobile and has lobbied Congress to change the mandatory minimum laws.

have stated that this is discriminatory towards Blacks and should be corrected. A spokesman for Conyers told the AFRO that there will be hearings on the mandatory minimums, but none have been scheduled see cocaine pg14

Advocate year

By <u>Mike Grizzard</u> The Daily Reflector Sunday, February 11, 2007 The nomination form poses one question: "Why should a divorced African-American somebody's going to get it. I'm not taking it to the grave." Little Willie

many, setting the limit at 35. Today, the center remains at capacity with more wanting to



center growing not only its services but its base of volunteers and financial supporters. Computers, books, video games, movies and playground equipment await kids ages 3-17 who come in weekdays from 2:30-6:30 p.m. during the school year and for summer camps that include off-site activities. donations. "She's certainly done more with whatever money she operates on than any person, organization or governmental agency that I have ever seen in my life," Clark said. "This woman has done as much to deter crime and to build character and to enrich the lives of these kids more

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woman who lives in a donated apartment because of a lack of personal funds be the citizen of the year?" The answer is simple. Renee Arrington has a seemingly endless spirit and passion when it comes to helping her community, especially its children. Arrington, 54, founder of the Little Willie Center, was named citizen of the year for 2006 during the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce's annual gala earlier this month. Since starting the program in 1990 to provide safety, meals, tutoring and mentoring for latchkey kids, Arrington has been "a light for people that need a little extra hope," said Mike Aldridge of Aldridge & Southerland Realtors, one of the center's many supporters "She has completely given her life to it," Aldridge said. "And when you ask her, she'll say, 'I'm called to do this. This is my purpose in life, to be here for these families.' And she does not think about herself at all." Touching as many lives as she can with the gifts God has given her has become her life's mission, Arrington said. She calls it "depositing blessings." "I feel like I'm going to the grave empty," she said. "I'm

grave empty," she said. "I'm going to empty everything out of me to somebody. Whatever I can do, whatever gifts or talents I have,

Mrs Arrington

At the age of 3, Jamal Nobles already was a street-smart kid. Most everyone on West Fifth Street, now Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, knew him as "Little Willie,"

He would pop into The Raven, a restaurant owned by Arrington and her husband, hungry but with no money. Arrington made sure he didn't leave with an empty belly. Soon, more kids stopped by, and Arrington fed them. Convinced that there was an even bigger community of children in need, she closed the restaurant, and the Little Willie Center was born. Each afternoon, a twobedroom, one-bathroom house on West Fifth bustled with as many as 45 kids. The fire marshal deemed that too

get in. With assistance from the city of Greenville, a move to St. Gabriel's Roman Catholic Church and School could be complete in March. That could double the number of children served but also could double the budget. "To me, I'm grateful that the city of Greenville, their hearts are turned to the Little Willie Center," Arrington said. "That's what we prayed. Every person, board,

volunteer, staff for this program for years, we prayed that God would pour this center into the hearts and minds of his people. God's people are going to hear his voice, and they're going to obey him and do what he says do."

That type of faith has kept the

Arrington emphasizes the focus is on tutoring and mentoring to develop the whole person — not a babysitting service. "A child has a mind," she said. "They have a heart, they have a spirit, they have a

body."

Bill Clark of Bill Clark Homes in Greenville is amazed by the impact

Arrington has had on countless families and calls her "the closest thing to a saint that I've ever seen." "She's taken these children off the street, and she's given them an opportunity to learn some real values about life," Clark said. "It's a remarkable, remarkable thing she's doing."

Keeping the center going has meant sacrifice. Arrington cut a full-time schedule teaching adult education at Pitt Community College to 22 hours so she can spend afternoons with the kids. She teaches GED classes four days a week at the Little Willie Center, and PCC has provided a second instructor. The center offers 16 programs, including survival skill classes, a big buddy program, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, 4-H Club, an ensemble, praise ministry dancers and Bible study. The Little Willie Center operates solely with volunteers --- not even Arrington draws a salary - and receives its funding through grants and private

than anything in the world. She's done a remarkable job. and she wants to do more. The only constraint she has is probably financing." Parents do not pay for their children to attend, but they must work, seek employment or attend school and also volunteer at least two hours per week at the center. Arrington says she's learned to "release" some of the daily duties and count on the expertise of volunteers such as Linda Robinson, an East Carolina University professor who has helped secure grants, and volunteer coordinators Melissa Austin and Melanie Milton. More than 1,500 volunteer hours were documented in Decemberand partnerships have been formed with local churches, the chamber of commerce, sororities, fraternities, businesses, organizations, Pitt County Schools, ECU and PCC.

"People that come to the Little Willie Center have to have a passion for this," Arrington said. "They have to love kids. Even if you have to tell them to sit down 25 times, you've got to love doing that."

There are many success stories, like Titus Wooten, who graduated from J.H. Rose High School and PCC, and now volunteers at the center.

And there's her own three

see Advocate pg7

Minority Voice February 2 - 9, 2007 pg2



"A SUPER ENDING FOR THE SUPER BOWL", by GEORGE E. CURRY The Wilmington Journal

Tony Dungy has finally done it. On Sunday, he became the first African-American coach to win a Super Bowl. As everyone on this side of Mars knows by now, Dungy's Indianapolis Colts defeated the Chicago Bears, coached by Lovie Smith, a Dungy protégée.

Considering that no African-American head coach had led a team to the Super Bowl throughout its four decades of existence —most of them without Blacks as head coaches — it was a story worth following. It was notable that both coaches, this time around, were African-Americans.

"A SUPER ENDING FOR THE SUPER BOWL"

OPINION

However, all of the attention on race ignores some fundamental facts that are more important than the race of each coach.

Both Dungy and Smith are exceptionally smart tacticians. They obviously know their business. In addition, each found success by breaking the typical NFL coaching mold and proved that nice guys can finish first.

Unfortunately, only one coach could win on Sunday and I am happy it was Dungy.

Lovie Smith will eventually join the ranks of Super Bowl winners, but on Sunday, it was Dungy's turn and nothing could be more fitting.

On Sunday, as in the previous playoff nail-biter against New England, the Colts started in the hole. After falling behind 21-6 against the Patriots, Dungy persuaded his team that they could win. "It's our time," he said, making believers out of misbelievers. "Tony is one calm customer, no matter what the circumstance he has a way of making you believe," Quarterback Payton Manning said later. "We're stressed out, and he's parading back and forth telling us we're going to win. That rubs off on the younger players, even the older players. It made a difference."

That's not the only way Dungy has made a difference.

We hear a lot about the coaching disciples of Bill Parcells and others.

Yet, Dungy's record and nose for talent has to be one of the best in the NFL.

It was Dungy, as head coach of Tampa Bay, who gave Smith his first opportunity to coach. And here they were – teacher and pupil – facing each other on the sidelines. En route to his Super Bowl victory, Dungy had to defeat Herm Edwards, the Kansas City Chiefs coach who had been an assistant with him at Tampa Bay. Pittsburgh hired yet another Dungy pupil, Mike Tomlin, to become its head coach. Dungy's influence isn't limited to African-Americans. Another assistant, Rod Marinelli is now coach of the Detroit Lions.

What a judge of talent. After his coaching days are over, teams should hold a bidding war to acquire the services of someone with such an eye for spotting talent. In retrospect, it is clear that in hiring those Black assistants, Dungy was looking at far more than their skin color.

In his own quiet way, Dungy demonstrated that as head coach, he wasn't afraid to hire other talented African-Americans. Without that first job from Dungy and others might still be waiting for their first break, just as Dungy did for years.

"Lovie Smith and I are not only African-Americans, but also Christian coaches showing you can do it the Lord's way," Dungy said at the trophy ceremonies. "We're more proud of that."

In all the euphoria over Dungy and Smith, we shouldn't lose our perspective. A report coauthored by the late Johnnie Cochran concluded in 2002 that the NFL had a "dismal record of minority hiring." Approximately 70 percent of the players in the NFL are African-Americans. Yet, since the NFL was formed in 1920, more than 400 coaches have been hired, according to the report.

Of those, only six were Black - five of them hired since 1989; only one Black has been added since the report.

And things are even worse at the college level, the feeder system for the NFL. Almost half of Division 1-A players are Black – 46 percent; five of 119 coaches were Black.

One longtime complaint of Black football coaches is that in some areas, Blacks are no better off now than they were under segregation. In an earlier era, Blacks had their own "classics" and bowl games. Jake Gaither of Florida A&M., Grambling's Eddie Robinson and John Merritt of Tennessee State were common and largerthan-life fixtures on the sidelines; it was not considered unusual when one squared off against the another.

And no one questioned whether an African-American had the smarts to play quarterback or middle linebacker. There were 11 slots on offense and defense and none were allowed to go unfilled.

In one sense, Tony Dungy and Lovie Smith showed White America what African-Americans had known all along: Blacks can perform successfully at any level – if provided the opportunity. George E. Curry is editor-inchief of the NNPA News Service and BlackPressUSA.com. To contact Curry or to book him for a speaking engagement, go to his Web site, www.georgecurry.com.

OUR VOICE, "HOW MANY HAVE BEEN INNOCENT AND EXECUTED?",

OUR VOICE, "HOW MANY HAVE BEEN INNOCENT AND After all, the state had plenty of rope.

So plenty of innocent people

governor for crimes they did not commit.

The Innocence Commission was a first good step toward truth.



EXECUTED?", by EDITORIAL STAFF The Wilmington Journal

If you read our provocative front-page story on whether the state of North Carolina has ever executed an innocent person on death row, then you're probably saying the same thing we said after putting the piece down – "Of course it's happened: they just don't want to admit it."

The reason, beyond just plain old common sense, we're so sure about it, is because of what happened to Black men in this state for the first part of this century immediately after 1898.

They were being lynched unmercifully, just because they were black.

So it doesn't take the limited common sense of a drunken lacrosse player and his buddies to figure out during that same period, blacks were being arrested on false charges, tried and convicted on those false charges, and then executed, or lynched, same thing, to send a stark message that blacks who didn't watch themselves and know their place would get more of the same. were being executed in this state almost 100 years ago. There can be no question.

And almost 100 year later, tragic-yet-triumphant stories like Darryl Hunt's in Winston --Salem prove that all-white juries, racist police and prosecutors, and inadequate defense counsel are still alive and well when it comes to convicting innocent people of capital crimes.

We agree with Duke University Law Professor James Coleman that an effort should be mounted to officially determine not if, but who was executed in this state that was actually innocent of all charges. Indeed, this could be a job for the newly formed NC Actual Innocence Commission. While members continue to consider the applications of current death row inmates, and well that they should, a grant could help fund a separate study of those who have been put to death.

Those that can be determined and certified, their families should be compensated by the state, just as it makes reparations to those innocent persons pardoned by the Let this be the next, so that we learn from our mistakes, and honestly fix our criminal justice system.

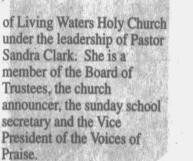
Angela L. Clark, the daughter of Minister William Clark of Ayden, NC., and Pastor Sandra Clark of Greenville, NC preached her inital sermon on February 04, 2007 at the Living Waters

Holy Church. Miss Clark is a native of Pitt County. She is a 1989 graduate of DH Conley High School. She

attended

Pitt Commun-

ity College where she obtained a degree in business and early childhood. She is also a graduate of New Covenant Bible College and Mt. Leo Church of Christ Bible College in McMinnville, TN. Minis. Clark is the youngest of 4 sisters and 3 brothers. She is an active member are no bad children. He/she is just busy." Our youth are our future kingdom builders," states Minis. Clark . When she is not ministering she enjoys spending time with her daughter Ericka Clark, reading which is a essential part of her day and spending time with special friend Mr. E. O. Barnes.



Minis. Clark is a youth motivational speaker. She has a great agape love for the youth of today. Her motto is, "There



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COMMUNITY NEWS



Mrs Beatrice Maye

To the Editor:

February is the month that we remind ourselves why we should know Black History, embrace our culture, and be proud of our culture; for, it is an irrefutable fact that the world would not be what it is today without the vast significant contributions of Black people.

Let me remind and convince everyone- Black and White that no one should use the "N-word" in any form or fashion or for any reason ! Historically, we know that Dr. Carter G. Woodson started Negro History Week in February 1926, and it has expanded to what we now celebrate as Black History Month. Dr. Woodson is nationally known as "The Father of Black History". Some current Blacks in History:

* Velma Speight-Buford, a Snow Hill, NC native, chair of NC A & T State



University Trustees Board. * Judge Greg Mathis, TV personality and activist

* Oprah Winfrey, the most indomitable media empress * Baruch Obama, US Senator and Presidential

Candidate * Dr. Ben Carson, pediatric

neurosurgeon at John Hopkins Hospital,

Baltimore, MD., who led a^{*} team of 60 doctors operating successfully on separately Siamese twins.

* Maya Angelou, a modern day role model whose poetry was heralded worldwide.
* Shaquille O'Neal and the Miami Heat, 2006 NBA Champions

* Tavis Smiley, a motivational speaker * Leonard Pitts, Jr., known for his fresh and passionate insights that speak of ordinary people on divisive issus, who won the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for commentary and stands out as an exemplary role model in

the African community. * The Rev. T. D. Jakes, world-known preacher/ evangelist and author.

Black History can't be contained by one month for it is made everyday.

Beatrice Maye

For: Teens, Especially — No Mistake — Hair

d. Grown men with successful

careers do not wear braided styles. So go clean-cut look. Growing up means looking like you mean business. Short hair, freshly cut hair always looks neat with business attire. Know that growing up means it may be time, so lose the multi-colored stands, long braids, beads, pony tails, Afro puffs, cut-in designs, and long locks that are so popular. Your hair should help you to look your age. If you wear hair accessories such as headbands and pony tails, you may look younger. Curly, nappy, or kinky? Don't try a bone-straight style because it makes no sense. Hair is everything, make no mistakes about that. Out of control hair makes you look out of control. Stay away from those nasty, dirty, scrunches — if you want to look your best. When your hair looks good, then you look good. Makeup.... Wear it well. Less is more. Grown women look immature and incomplete without any makeup.

Placement of Utensils.

Place fork on left edge of

Reflections

rights activist, Trent Lott has said many times in the past —

any restaurant that would serve you.

plate and knife on right of plate during meal pauses When meal is finished, place both utensils together at 10 & 4 diagonal on plate with fork tongs down and knife with cutting edge towards you.

Now what to order. Check out what everyone else orders. Make sure it is not sloppy. Spaghetti and ribs are too sloppy, order something else. Pass salt and pepper to the

whoever invites you should pay the bill.

Name Tags

Wear name tags on the right because the eye follows the handshake to the right shoulder. Reach out and shake hands

firmly. Want to get along? Let people talk about themselves Fitness....Get with the Plan. Fit or just fat? Do you have to squeeze into your jeans? Can other people see your rolls

through your clothes? Can you run laps around the track without stopping? Quit eating up everything and push away from the table. Too many hot fries for breakfast, onion rings, French fries, chocolate shakes, gyros, chicken wings, and sub sandwiches for lunch, full meals for late-

night snacks with no exercise just means you are Fat. Being fat is not healthly. Get it together and get in shape. Exercise, eat right, drink 8 glasses of water, get 8 hours of sleep, go to church, and love somebody. Don't Even Go There. Processed hair; too curly, too straight, too greasy, too blond, too dark, too many highlights. **Tight clothes** Street slang, profanity **Bad Manners** Long Nails with designs Visible body piercing, tattoos, or body hair. Bright colored shoes, sock, stocking, jewelry Super thin eyebrows Too much cologne — less is more **Body** odors **Bad** breath Any hints of alcohol ---don't drive PERIOD Cigars, cigarettes, smoke of any type — don't smoke PERIOD What to wear? Outfits should be sharpnot sexy With jewelry — less is better - Ladies wear one pair of small earrings and necklace. Guys should leave your earrings at home. Check out — read — No Mistakes: The African American Teen Guide to Growing up Strong by Rubin Henry.

The Editor:

Watch your Alphabets:

Three Essentials for Manhood: Character, Maturity, Leadership

Three Words that Work Miracles: Praise, Sincerity, Encouragement, Reader's Digest, July 1991

Four keys to Future Happiness: Family, Education, Values, & New Spirituality

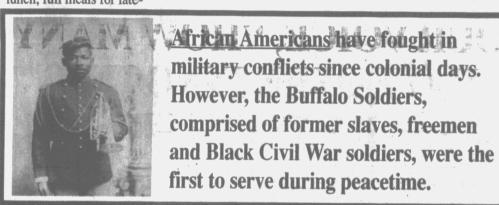
Three P's for Success: Preparation, Perservance, & Patience

<u>Three D's To Be a Winner:</u> Desire, Determination, & Discipline

Three Kinds of People in the World: The Doers — few people who make things happen The Uninterested — they have no idea of what is happening The On-Lookers — the many who watch things happen.

(Join the ranks of the doers.)

Four Characteristics of a Lady: Character, Intelligence, Personality, & Beauty



body.

In the century ahead, the tim

times.

Suejette A. Jones

A Sin, a Stain, a Strut

(This condensed article was written by Barry Saunders, a humorist writer) I quote: "As that noted civil

The Minority Voice Newspaper Published by The Minority Voice Inc.

> Jim Rouse Publisher/Founder

Michael Adams Editor

Staff Writers Beatrice Maye Suejette Jones

Home Office 405Evans Stree P.O.Box 8361 Greenville,NC27835 Phone: (252) 757-0365 Fax (252) 757-1793 Email: mvoicenews@yahoo.com The Minority Voice is owned and operated by Jim ROUSE **Communications also WOOW Radio** Greenville,NC WTOW Radio Washington,NC

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We reserve the right to edit any news or information received according to our editorial needs. We will not edit anything in such a way as to be misleading or that would fundamentally alter the accuracy or intent of the original information.

segregation was a sin, and a stain, it wasn't all bad. Contrary to common misperceptions, black life in the segregated South was not one of unrelenting misery. with us oh shuffling around going, 'Oh, lawdy, we's bein' segregated'. No sirree. We lived, Jack, even as our leaders battled to end segregation. While some current so-called leaders would have us believe that nothing has changed ----so they can keep a job and remain revelant --- the truth is that conditions and opportunities for most blacks in the South have improved beyond anything we could have dreamed. I'm not romanticizing or trivializing what was a dreadful period in our history, so keep those accusatory letters.

Just between us, though, many black institutions thrived during segregation , and many w have new books, but as Jesse Jackson asked (back when he was revelant) "What does it matter if you have old or new books if you open neither?" I'm of the generation of blacks who remembers being forced by law to sit in the balcony at the movies or having to fry up a couple of yardbirds for long trips because you might not find a restaurant that would serve you. We liked sitting in the balcony - but not being forced to — and nothing in

We liked sitting in the balcony - but not being forced to - and nothing in any restaurant has ever tasted as good as my grandmother's fried chicken on a piece of light bread. We had a lot of fun in a small Southern town during the mid-to late 1960s, when legal segregation wheezed its, last labored breath. Sure, our school went from first grade through 12th, received less money per student from the state than all-white schools, and the hand-me-down textbooks were often obsolete by the time we received them. But we made do. When the Christmas parade rolled around, however ; we did more than make do: We made up for all we'd been denied. Each year, the marching band high-stepped through downtown and just tore up the place. I mean. The Morrison Training School Drill Team (all black except for one or two white kids whose parents obviously didn't have the juice to keep them out of the joint) owned the parade with its precision marching drills. But hool band was a strong No. 2. The school was blessed with two great drum majors. When the first one graduated, the band never missed a step. Now, I consider myself to be a dancing fool when I want to be, but both of those dudes had more rhythm in their big toe than I have in my whole

Junior Walker, in his song "Way Back Home", wrote :

There are good and bad things about the South

And some leave a bitter taste in my mouth. Mine too, Junior. But some bring a smile to my face."

Respectfully submitted,

Suejette A. Jones

CLOSING THE GAP

A century ago, Black folk who migrated from southern farms to cities often lived in wretched • conditions. Our men were denied decent jobs and steered into menial labor. Teenage girls were lured to the big city with bogus promises of work, only to be forced into prostitution, destitution and servitude.

The National Urban League was founded in 1910 to lead. the struggle for social and economic opportunity for urban Blacks. In the nineteenth century, we shed the shackles of slavery. In the twentieth century, we shipped Jim Crow segregation in many realms of American life. We won the right to vote, the right to eat and shop wherever we wanted, the right to live and attend school anywhere we could afford.

Conversion of

primary task facing our nation is to transform America's have-nots into haves and close what we call the opportunity gap. As documented in The State of Black America (the League's annual publication), despite the progress we've made, African Americans continue to trail Whites in every indicator that matters from academic achievement to employment to homeownership rates. As a blueprint for transforming have-nots into haves, the National Urban League advocates the following Ten Opportunity Commandments for the

twenty-first century; 1. Offer quality preschool

education to children whose parents cannot afford it.

2. Provide affordable health care for the more than 40 million Americans who are uninsured.

3. Ensure that every public school serving poor children equip them to be self-reliant.

4. Vastly increase support for proven programs to get the estimated 12 million high - school drop outs back on track.

Guarantee access to affordable higher education.

6.. Implement national economic policies that promote high employment and economic growth in communities that have so far missed out on the good 7. Elimidate the "digital divide" by increasing free public access to computers and the Internet.

8. Ensure full participation of African-Americans and other people of color in higher education, employment and public and private business contracting opportunities.

9. Eradicate the homeownership gap along ethnic lines by making affordable financing widely available for credit worthy working families of color.

10. Elimidate iscriminatory business-loan practices holding back entrepreneurs of color.

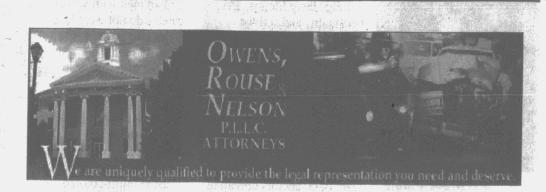
We've come a great distance since slave ships arrived on these shores. After the **Emancipation Proclamation**, it took our people a century and a half to make our way through a forest fraught with darkness and danger. Today, at the dawn of a new century, we finally see the clearing as we begin our final leg of the journey. Our goal is the American Dream - nothing less — and these Ten Opportunity Commandments represent a road map that can take us all there.

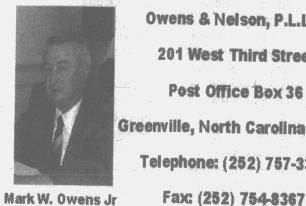
Hugh Price, National Urban League President

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I am America. I am the part you won't recognize. But get used to me. Black, confident, cocky; my name, not yours; my religion, not yours; my goals, my own; get used to me. Muhammad Ali (1942-)







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