

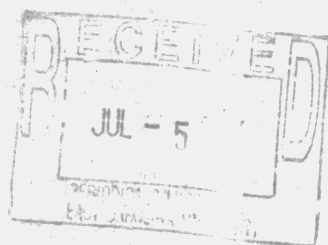
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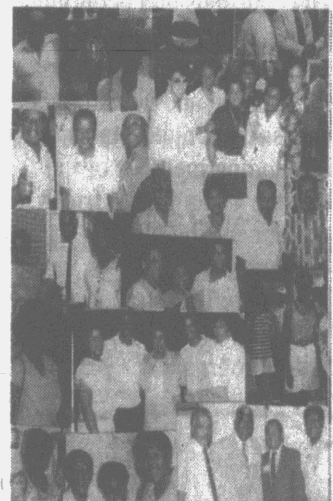
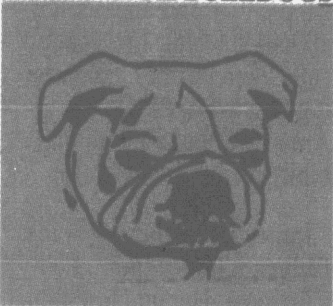
THE MINORITY VOICE

Greenville-Pitt County
Chamber of Commerce

They Died for Us to Live

Greenville-Pitt County
Chamber of Commerce

EPPE'S HIGH BULLDOGS



By: Jennifer Bihm
Los Angeles Sentinel

Memorial Day will come and go May 08, with outdoor picnics, sales and family get togethers hinting at the summer to go. The day will be more significant to those who have lost loved to go to war. Perhaps it is most important though, that the African American community across the United States remembers in love, all black soliders who have fought for freedom is that for them were the hardest to come by.

continue pg8...



PFC. LARRY I. GUYTON



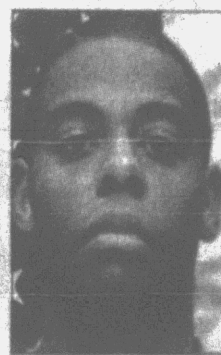
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LT. EMILY PEREZ

28th ANNIVERSARY



GIHS-EPPE'S ALUMNI



Facing a Financial Crisis, Bond Asks Public to 'Show Some Love'

Facing a financial crisis, Bond asks public to 'show some love' to NAACP

By Hazel Trice Edney
NNPA Washington
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA)- NAACP Chairman Julian Bond said the 98-year-old organization, which confirmed that it is cutting 40 percent of the staff at its Baltimore headquarters, is appealing for public help.

"We've asked our regular supporters to redouble their contributions and are asking anyone who has benefited from the work of the NAACP

to 'show some love' by putting a check in the mail and becoming a member," Bond told the NNPA News Service.

But, that's not all. He says the organization has also "called upon our board members and SCF Trustees to give or get \$15,000 each by the year's end. That will put more than \$1 million in our treasury," he said. "We have asked our units-local branches and state conferences-to hold fund raisers and set up membership drives."

NAACP leaders have not said exactly how many people will be laid off.

The Baltimore staff, however, will be reduced from 119 members to 70 members through both layoffs and attrition, Dennis Hayes, the NAACP's interim president and CEO, told the Baltimore Sun. Hayes also said that the organization has used \$10 million in reserve funds over the past three years to cover shortfalls. Because of the crisis in finances, the national headquarters also is temporarily closing at least seven regional offices.

The financial situation is yet another controversy for the nation's leading civil rights organization, only four months after former President

and CEO Bruce Gordon suddenly resigned after only 19 months in office. He cited differences with the NAACP's 64-member board. Gordon could not be reached for comment by NNPA deadline.

We are right-sizing our organization to meet present circumstances," Hayes told the Sun. "We had the unexpected departure of our CEO at a time when we were already without a chief development officer. So, understandably, we have to regenerate our revenue machine, our fundraising machine, to get us to where we should have been.



Julian Bond

"For more information on NAACP fundraising, the public can call toll free, 1-877-NAACP98 (1-877-622-2798). Or write NAACP National Headquarters 4805 Mt. Hope Drive Baltimore, MD 21215.

READ THE M'VOICE



Milton Williams Photographic Works On Display At Emerge Gallery, Greenville NC



Milton Williams Bio:

Milton Williams, a District of Columbia native, is an artist without a brush -- a photographer. Her is a founding member of The Exposure Group. He is a 29 year member of the White House News Photographers Association. Milton, who began his career as a professional photographer in 1972, has performed numerous photography assignments for unions, corporations, community organizations, newspapers, magazines, and private clients. He has been published locally, nationally and internationally. As a staff photographer for the Washington Afro-American newspaper from 1976-81, Milton's assignments

included the District Building, Capitol Hill, the White House and numerous community events and demonstration.

He was one of 5 still photographers of the White House pool which photographed President Jimmy Carter and Pope John Paul II in the Oval office during the Pontiff's first visit to Washington, DC. In 1979. A self-taught photographer, Milton enjoys the challenge of getting the picture. Milton's photographs represent a visual record of historic moments. Milton is the author of MOMENTS IN TIME, Photographs and text by Milton Williams, 1973 - 1993, published in 1996 by Winston-Derek Publishers Group Inc. of Nashville, TN. His exhibits include:

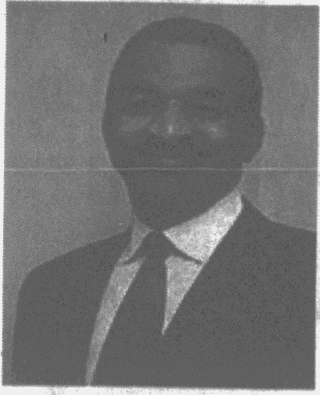
Let Your Motto Be Resistance, 100 African American Portraits, Smithsonian National Museum of American History and Culture, International Center of Photography, NY, NY, May 09 - Sept. 09, 2007; THE EXPOSURE GROUP JURIED MEMBER'S SHOW, The Art Institute of Washington, Arlington, Va. May 01 - June 15, 2007; Bowie State University, Amos White IV Gallery of Art, Bowie, Md., March 05 - 30, 2007 (solo); Saturday Night/Sunday, Morning a traveling Exhibition curated by Deborah Willis, 2006-07. BANDING TOGETHER, Anacostia Community Museum June 2006 - May 12, 2007; Prince George's Community College The Tenth Annual African American Artist's Exhibition 2003. The Exposure Group

"Portraits of African American Life" Exhibit, The Gallery of African Wildlife & Contemporary Art, Capitol Heights, Md., 1999; "Moments in Time" in the US Cannon House Office Building Rotunda sponsored by the Honorable Albert R. Wynn (Democrat), 4th Congressional District, Prince George's County Md., and Montgomery County, Md., 1999, (solo); the Beijing, China-Washington, DC., sister exchange photography exhibition in China, 1986; "Moments in Time", 1980; the White House News Photographers Association annual photography exhibit, 1979; "Visions into Reality," 1978 - 1979; "Friendship Born by the October," an exhibition that toured the principal cities of the Soviet Union, 1976-1977 and "Washington in Washington," 1974. Milton and his wife Sheila reside in Bowie, Md.

OPINION

Running Away from Blackness – Or At Least Trying To

by James Clingman
NNPA Columnist



Blackonomics

As they say in New York, "Fa-get about it!" It's sad to see some of our brothers and sisters making every attempt to deny who and what they are. We hear it in their statements, we see it in their actions, and we feel it in our relationships with one another. Plain and simply, some Black folks are trying to run away from their Blackness. They do it in all sorts of ways, but it's mainly to appease white people in hope they will see a "different kind of Black person." That's how O.J. Simpson used to be characterized, before they showed him the doorway back to his Blackness – even though he still has not taken

the hint. Now it's being said about Barack Obama: "...he is not black in the usual way," said one White commentator.

We have some serious psychological problems, obvious vestiges of our conditioning and maintenance over several generations, but trying to run away from who we are is the height of madness for Black people; besides, it's rife with futility. It is also shameful considering the legacy left to us by our forebears. Are they lying cold in their graves now, having sacrificed themselves for our true freedom, for a cause from which we are now trying to distance ourselves?

Obama's statement, "...There is no Black America" is indicative of a fear that we will be alienated from White people if we do not give deference to them by suggesting that we are really not Black, but rather we are "neutral." It seems to me they would want us to be who we are rather than pretend and play silly games. When it's all said and done, they will make their decisions about us based on their respective social paradigms and parameters anyway. So why are we scared? Why try to run away from your Blackness?

Obama tells Blacks not to vote for him because he is Black, which I am sure is highly appreciated by his corporate donors and the Washington status quo. It is also a very condescending statement to make and suggests Black people aren't sophisticated enough to decide based on qualifications. On second thought, that may indeed be the case. We gave in to Clarence Thomas because he was Black, didn't we. But have you ever heard White candidates tell White folks not to vote for them simply because they are white? We always have to make other people feel comfortable, don't we? Obama knows full well that millions of Blacks will vote for him simply because he is Black, but to tell us not to do so brings credence to the contention that he really isn't "...Black in the usual way."

If being Black doesn't mean anything, if there is no Black America, why do Black folks get excited about Bob Johnson, Tiger Woods, Serena and Venus, Oprah, Shani Davis (Olympic Speed Skater), Dominique Dawes, and Debbie Thomas? Why are we constantly discussing the possibility that Obama could

be "the first" Black President (John Hanson notwithstanding) if Blackness means nothing in this country, or if it does not even exist? Why do we have an annual "State of Black America" report and forum?

Yes, Barack, there is a Black America, and other Americas too, just as there are 50 separate states rather than one country with no internal borders. Our problem is that we are merely emotional about it, which is why we still place so much value on "the first Black."

Some Black people are just too busy embracing diversity rather than embracing their Blackness first. Who, other than Black folks, do you hear promoting "diversity" and allowing themselves to be called "minorities?" When is the last time you heard an Italian person denounce the "Little Italy" communities across this country? When have you seen Chinese people decry China Towns? When have you heard Hispanics say, "Down with La Raza, we are one America?" Trying to run away from who we are is embarrassing,

unconscionable, and cowardly. It also speaks volumes about our self-hate.

Newsflash! You cannot run away from being Black! You can't get promoted from being Black; you can't move away from being Black; and you can't get enough money to change your Blackness (Sorry, Michael). Wherever you go, there your Blackness will be also. Whatever you do, your Blackness will do it with you. So you may as well settle in and get down to business for your people, just as others are doing in this country – just as we used to do in this country, prior to "integration."

America comprises a tapestry of nations; it's not just one nation as the politicians would have you believe. That's utopian rhetoric, Pabulum for Black people, because we are the only ones who buy the hype. White folks are circling their wagons right now at the specter of being outnumbered by so-called "minorities." Hispanics are carving out their piece of the economic pie by unapologetically working in support of one another.

So-called American Indians, after having raked in billions from their hotels, casinos, and golf courses, are now branching

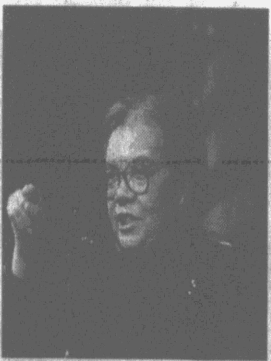
out to other business ventures, off the reservation. Koreans, Vietnamese, and Chinese are making moves to control more industries in America. Pakistanis and Indians are buying all the businesses they can find. What are Black people doing, collectively, to improve and solidify our position in this nation of nations? We are trying to run away from our Blackness which, if we succeed, will only cause us to disappear.

Why is nationalistic action bad only when it is promoted by Black people? The groups I mentioned, as well as Jewish people here and abroad, are all nationalistic; Joel Kotkin calls them "Tribes." So what's it going to be, Black America? Nationalism or nihilism?

James E. Clingman is the former editor of the Cincinnati Herald Newspaper. His editorials and economic columns have been featured in hundreds of newspapers, magazines, and newsletters across the United States. He is a founding member of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce, serving as its first Executive Director, and he hosts the Chamber's weekly radio program.

An appropriate celebration of National Child's Day

Marian Wright Edelman
President of The Childrens
Defense Fund



In President Bush's May 31 National Child's Day proclamation, he pledged to provide our children "with the care, protection and education they deserve." He also called upon "citizens to celebrate National Child's Day with the appropriate ceremonies and activities." Over the last six-and-a-half years, I have heard the president make similar fine expressions of his commitment to children. However, where I grew up, my parents and community co-parents drew distinctions between "saying" and "doing." The president has talked a lot about children,

but his record offers little to celebrate as he leaves millions of children behind in his policies and budget choices. Our children have lost ground during Mr. Bush's time in office. The United States lags behind most industrialized democracies in infant mortality and providing health insurance to all children. Nine million children in America are without health insurance. As Congress considers reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Mr. Bush has indicated that he does not intend to support increased funding levels that would extend health care coverage to the millions of children currently uninsured. In fact, his budget would result in one to two million currently insured children losing CHIP coverage. At the Children's Defense Fund, we urge the President to go beyond support for CHIP and embrace the provisions of the All Healthy Children Act (Senate Bill No. 1564, House Bill No. 1688) that would

guarantee health care for all children and pregnant women. The president should take action to protect children where he has fallen short in other areas. The Bush administration must marshal the vast resources of the government to stem the flow of tens of thousands of impoverished children through America's cradle to prison pipeline, leading to the voluminous incarceration of poor black and Latino children and teens. The prison pipeline is made up of an array of social and economic factors, including lack of access to health and mental health care, poor schools and broken child welfare and juvenile justice systems. These factors can be diminished by more effective and increased national investments in children. In addition to ensuring that all children receive health care, the president needs to back up his No Child Left Behind legislation with resources to increase the pool of teachers and reduce class sizes. He needs to make Head Start and

Early Head Start available to all eligible children so they have a chance to get ready for school. And he can order the Justice Department to eliminate racial inequities in the administration of juvenile justice. President Bush's response to the Hurricane Katrina disaster in 2005 was appalling. Thousands of children continue to experience unimaginable levels of loss, trauma and dislocation. As recently as March, about 100,000 children along the Gulf Coast still did not live where they did before the hurricane struck. Too many remain packed into overcrowded "temporary" FEMA trailers that can be blown away in the next big storm. These are not safe and healthy long-term places for children to live. Thousands of children have fallen desperately behind educationally while qualified teachers, textbooks and supplies are in drastically short supply. The president promised bold action in the immediate

aftermath of the storm and, in his own words, committed "to help the citizens of the Gulf Coast to overcome this disaster, put their lives back together and rebuild their communities." These words are a faint echo to Katrina's children, who are still waiting for their country to come to their rescue. When he took office, Mr. Bush declared himself a "compassionate conservative." The American people are still waiting for a clear demonstration of what compassion means in that context. It seems that Mr. Bush has not yet grasped that as the president of our nation and head of the government, just and competent governance is required. We see a president who appears before backdrops of uniformed soldiers and Marines, law enforcement officers and prescreened audiences of loyalists to eliminate the risk that his policies might be questioned. These carefully orchestrated set pieces are emblematic of a president who is insulated from some of our nation's most pressing social concerns, like the millions of children who

must go without health and mental health care, proper nutrition, quality education and adequate housing. He doesn't seem to be aware of the poor children who grow up on an uneven playing field with scant opportunity to develop and thrive. Surely in a \$2.9 trillion federal budget, the president can find the means to make children safe from the terrors of poverty, sickness, hunger and homelessness and secure America's future. Every dollar invested in children is returned many times over in the development of productive, contributing adults who raise families and build stronger communities. If the president would practice what he preaches and provide some national leadership in that direction, we might have more to celebrate next National Child's Day.

Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund and its Action Council.

Unsavory mortgage loan practices steal 'the dream

By Tri-State Defender
Newsroom / Published 06/21/2007

In 1997, a young African-American preacher asked for the local office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for approval to help 160 families purchase duplex homes in a struggling south Sacramento, Calif. neighborhood by giving them downpayment assistance grants in order to obtain a mortgage insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). Unknown to him, or the families that bought these homes, the program that he conceived, the Nehemiah Program, helped launch the homeownership revolution of the late 1990s that saw African-American and

minority homeownership rise to unprecedented levels in the United States.

According to a 2004 study by the Milken Institute and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the average low income family making \$35,000 that purchased a home between 1997 and 2003 experienced a net wealth gain of \$18,000 because of being a homeowner. These families could not have purchased a home without the downpayment assistance that the Nehemiah Program provided.

The name — Nehemiah — is important. The namesake that was chosen for the program was intentional. Born out of

Antioch Progressive Baptist Church, the Nehemiah Program, was named for the prophet well known throughout the Christian faith as the historic rebuilders of cities. Like the Nehemiah of the Old Testament, this new Nehemiah was conceived to rebuild the American community one family and one neighborhood at a time.

The non-profit that housed this paradigm-changing program, Nehemiah Corporation of America (NCA) grew into one of the largest African-American-led community development corporations in the United States with almost \$200 million in revenue at its peak in 2004. The Nehemiah

Program and its imitators that followed grew to over 40 percent of the Federal Housing Administration's annual mortgage production.

As of June 2007, National Homeownership Month, the Nehemiah Program will have helped more than 229,000 families purchase their first homes across every state in the country and has given out almost \$900 million in grants without receiving a single dime from either government or foundations. Nehemiah created a model where its downpayment assistance comes from revolving funds constantly replenished by contributions from the realtors, lenders,

and private home sellers across the country. Today, however, Nehemiah's future is under assault. Like other Black institutions such as the NAACP, the federal government is attempting, by regulation, to end the downpayment assistance model Nehemiah created by issuing a proposed regulation that would bar non-profits or governments from offering downpayment assistance where a seller makes a contribution to a fund that offers grants to working class homebuyers.

While some imitators of Nehemiah have engaged in practices that deserve increased regulation and oversight — which Nehemiah supports and advocates — the federal

government is pushing an agenda which instead "mends it don't end it" seeks to absolutely ban a model that has helped so many.

We can still save the Nehemiah model, which has helped more than 500,000 families nationally to finally stop living like 21st century sharecroppers. The public comment period for this regulation ends July 10, 2007. To find out more, go to www.getdownpayment.com or call your Congressional representative and United States Senator and tell them to contact HUD in opposition to the proposed regulation.

Guest editorial by:
Scott C. Syphax, President and CEO of Nehemiah Corporation of America.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Mrs Beatrice Maye

A Godly Man

Who can find a loving husband, for his value far exceeds any earthly treasure. The heart of his wife safely trusts him in every situation.

He prefers her company to golfing, bowling, or hunting, and remembers her birthday and their wedding anniversary, without a reminder.

He appreciates her beauty and tolerates all it takes to enhance it. Though it leaves him confused, he ponders in silence.

His strength supports her, yet he shows tenderness and compassion. He bestows affection and appreciation. He communicates freely, and does not demand his own way

during a time of disagreement. He calmly accepts her bewildering ways, though he may never fully understand her, he loves her just the same.

So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church; For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. -- Ephesians 5:28-29, 31.

If you have such a husband, thank God for him every day. Meet him at the door with open arms. Greet him with a smile, a kiss and a warm welcome, for indeed his is a wonderful gift from God, and a priceless treasure.

This Poem, "Your Name" by Edgar A. Guest, summarizes this article.

Your name

You got it from your father

It was all he had to give

So it's yours to use and cherish

For as long as you may live.

If you lose the watch he gave you.

It can always be replaced.

But a black mark on your name, son,

Can never be erased.

It was clean the day you took it,

And a worthy to name to bear

When he got it from his father,

There was no dishonor there.

So make sure you guard it wisely,

After all is said and done

You'll be glad the name is spotless

When you give it to your son.

Edgar A. Guest

To the editor:

Whether we realize it or not, we all are building our own homes. We have to live in our own homes. I can't build

your home, and you can't build mine. No, we each have to take responsibility for own decisions. I don't know what you do behind closed doors. You don't know what I do. But as people of integrity, we should have the same character in private as we do in public. We don't put on our Sunday face in church and then go out and compromise all during the week. It's not enough to talk the talk. We've got to walk the walk.

A person of excellence and integrity does what it right even when nobody is watching. People of excellence also do what's right because it is right and not because someone is forcing them to do it. You can cheat people or be dishonest. You can lie, steal, compromise your morals, and even cut corners here and there. Do what is right because you are a person of excellence and integrity.

Finally, commit to excellence. Start doing what you know in your heart is the better thing. Don't settle for mediocrity. Don't just do what you have to do to get by. Be a person who goes the extra mile. Be a person who does a little bit more than he has to do. Let's be done with lazy, mediocre,

sloppy living, and let's move up to higher levels. If you will live with a commitment of excellence and integrity, happiness will be a natural by-product. God will reward you far beyond your grandest dreams.

Beatrice Maye

Congratulations !!! — The Maye Daughters of John and Jeanette Maye and the granddaughters of Deaconess Beatrice Maye and Emma Wilson of Bethel, NC.

Carmen; presently Financial Center Manager, Kinston Plaza Branch, Wachovia Bank, Kinston, NC. Aliesha Johnelle joins Neiman Marcus, Dallas, Texas. Neiman Marcus is an upscale, specialty, retail department store. She will participate as a Buying Office Intern from June 04 – July 27, 2007, an eight week program. Presently, Aliesha is a rising junior at UNC Chapel Hill.

Kristen; a rising senior at Independence High School, Charlotte, NC., joins the 2007 Net Aid Poverty Fighting Summit from July 23 – 28 at Adelphi University in Garden City, NY. Kristen is one of 35 exceptional student leaders from across the US selected to participate in the

summit. She was chosen based on her strong leadership skills and her commitment to global poverty and to learn valuable skills to mobilize her school and her community.



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Suejette A. Jones

A Virtuous Woman

Proverbs 31:10 – 31 lists the following characteristics of a virtuous woman:

1. She is a commendable wife and mother.
2. She lives for her home and family.
3. She is industrious.
4. She is a sharp businesswoman.
5. She has good, refined tastes.
6. She is self-disciplined and orderly.
7. She manifests the grace of hospitality.
8. She is charitable in time of need.
9. She is spiritually minded.

I first met Mrs. Lucille Gorham through a mutual friend when I first came to Greenville to teach music in

the schools; namely Eppes High School and the then Fleming Street School. Upon meeting her, I felt within my spirit that this was someone I would like to know better. After 64 years of observation and association with her, I found her to possess the characteristics of a virtuous woman.

When I viewed the May 10th City Council Meeting, I was impressed with her acceptance of the honor of naming Lucille W. Gorham Intergeneration Center. In her speech, she stated profound humbleness: "I've never had fame and I have never desired fame." He was known not for writing a best seller or obtaining a PhD degree, but known simply because he went about doing good and reaching out to others.

Father Javan Saxon (who is my cousin) had a stint sometime ago as St. Gabriel's Catholic priest. In his conversations with me from time to time, he would often speak of Lucille Gorham as one of St. Gabriel's most dutiful and dedicated parishioners.

After retiring in 1985, I did quite a bit of substitute teaching. I had an occasion to "sub" at Sadie Sauter School (formerly Fleming Street School). The principal upon learning that I had taught

under Miss Sauter, inquired of me if I knew where she might obtain a picture of Miss Sauter. I immediately pointed her to Mrs. Lucille Gorham, as I knew she and Miss Sauter were friends as well as neighbors. As a result, a picture was produced and today all who enter the main building observe a portrait of the school's first principal. Thanks to Lucille W. Gorham.

I was recently reading about the demise of my former schoolmate at Virginia State University and past president of NC Mutual Life Insurance Co. from 1972-1990 as were his father and uncle before him. He was William Jesse Kennedy III of Durham, NC. When the press interviewed his son after his father's death, among other notings, he remarked of his father, "His favorite pastime was helping the poor students to get an education." What a notable and honorable life...reaching out to helping others.

Lucille Gorham will leave a worthwhile legacy. She served as a member of the Greenville City Schools Board of Education. Her picture is displayed at ECU. She was recipient of the Best Irons Award for Humanitarian Efforts. The Intergeneration Center is named in her honor. To have so many accolades as

Lucille Gorham, surely she shall go down in the annals of Greenville as one of its great citizens and a virtuous woman who, like Jesus Christ, went about doing good.

If I can help somebody as I pass along,

If I can cheer somebody with a word or song,

If I can show somebody he is traveling wrong,

Then my living shall not be in vain.

A quote from **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

What I Really Know

As a kid, I spent a lot of time eavesdropping on adults. The world was big and puzzling, and I figured they knew more about it than I did and were trying to keep me from finding out what that was.

As I recall, they talked a lot about deaths. It was a small town, and someone they knew always seemed to be keeling over, and then everyone had to talk about it. As a kid on a mission, I had to listen in.

In most of those stories, the decedent was going about some mundane activity when death came to call. My mom and her sisters might be sitting around the kitchen table when one of them would say, "Did you hear about John

Doe? You know, the guy who used to work at Jones' Dairy? He dropped dead. Only 52. His wife said he was just going to take the garbage out, and then she heard a clunk, and there he was, dead on the kitchen floor with coffee grounds spilled all over."

I must have heard a hundred stories like that one. My dad told them with friends over a few beers, out in the backyard as evening came on. And my grandmother, a true storyteller of the old school, told them, too. "Henry Doe 'member him? Married that Barnsdale woman after her first husband died. He was digging for worms to go fishing, and he had filled about half a coffee can when he just up and croaked."

So, what did I learn as a young snoop? I learned to avoid mundane activities. Now that I'm getting older, I get a little nervous every time I catch myself engaged in some activity that I so clearly associate with mortal peril. I envision a headline that reads:

"Area man dies while raking leaves," or "Retiree struck down while cleaning gutters."

I figure death is not usually big on drama. You might want to go out in a blaze of glory or while blissfully sleeping, but chances are you'll expire somewhere

between those two poles — while scrubbing the toilet or straightening a crooked picture on the wall. That's why when my wife asks me to take out the garbage, I usually tell her I can't. It's just too dangerous.

Respectfully submitted by,

Suejette A. Jones

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Michael Adams Editor

Staff Writers Beatrice Maye Suejette Jones

Home Office 405 Evans Street P.O. Box 8361 Greenville, NC 27835 Phone: (252) 757-0365 Fax: (252) 757-1793

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Book Review.....

By: M'Bulu Rouse

Every once in a while, our offices will receive new books that have just been published by young African American writers from all over the US. Recently, I had the honor of reading the book.... "A Street Girl Named Desire..." by a young artist that has been named one of *Essence's* bestselling author..Treasure E. Blue.

This book was gritty and truthful. I loved the contrast on how this author was able to make you really believe you were living Desire's life.

It is the story of living on the rugged streets of New York, being born to a drug addicted mother that abandons her and throughout the book you see that the life this young girl was born into, is how the saying goes...

"History repeats itself..." and in this story it is true. Now don't get me wrong, there are some good times that Desire goes through as well, which makes the book that good that you don't want to put it down because you want to see how each chapter of her life turns out. But the bottom line to this book, as well any body that is going thru something;

Grandma Hattie Mae from the book, tells Desire many many times,

"When times get hard, just get down on your knees and pray. Jus' pray and turn it over to Jesus..."

This book I encourage everyone to go out and support all African American authors. This book is genuinely good to the heart and makes you laugh and cry and be rejoiceful in the end for all characters.

To find out how to obtain a copy of this book go to.....

"lbarnes@randomhouse.com". And they will send you a copy.

Just tell them the Minority Voice sent you to the site....

Happy Reading...
Sister Rouse

Juneteenth recognized in Greenville, NC



Mayor Don Parrott has proclaimed June 19th as Juneteenth Day in Greenville in honor of the day observed by blacks to celebrate when slaves in the United States legally gained their freedom. Greenville now joins the list of cities in North Carolina already observing this day in memory of the struggle African Americans had and are still having for equality in America. Hats off to the coordinator (Evangelist Brenda Tyson) who, after running into opposition even from people of color still continued to make this event possible. More information can be read at Juneenth.com

photo by Elder Michael Adams



Serving Pitt County Black children, Pitt County Board of Education members Bishop Ralph Love and Rev. Micheal Dixon. Shown above at an appreciation banquet @ the Cornerstone Christian Family Life Center, that was recently held for Bishop Love and Rev. Dixon. Shown with them are their families that came to celebrate as well.

photo J. Rouse

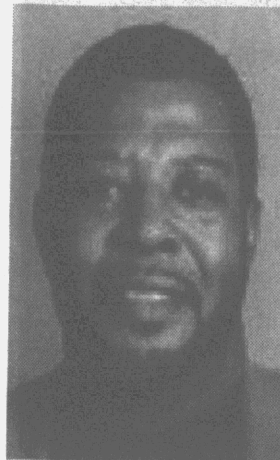
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

He didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it
~Clarence Budington Kelland

Ray Barnes and Son Sgt Jerry share a moment before Jerry leaves to perform his duties in the Air Force

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Ronald Rouse Sr.



Ronald Rouse Sr., local publisher and community activist, died of natural causes June 1, 2007, in Lehigh Valley Hospital near Allentown. Rouse, 58, Temple, was the husband of Eneida (Betancourt) Rouse. He founded and published the first successful minority publication in eastern Pennsylvania called *The "M" Voice*. Rouse was a community activist who strove to make historic changes in Reading such as renaming of a section of Buttonwood Street to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. He produced the annual Martin Luther King luncheon and implemented Operation Crush Crime. He was born in Manhattan, N.Y., a son of Elsie (Cooler) Rouse, Greenville, N.C., and the late James Rouse Jr. He was a member of the Spring Valley Church of God, Muhlenberg Township. Rouse was an Army veteran of the Vietnam War and received the Bronze Star Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm. He

served in Company 8, 95th Military Police Battalion and also served in the 716th Military Police Battalion. He was an avid photographer, private investigator and served on numerous boards and committees in Berks County. Besides his wife and his mother, he is survived by three sons: Kenyatta T. Rouse, the Bronx, N.Y.; Ronald Rouse II, Allentown; and William E. Rouse, at home. Other survivors include three daughters: Turona N. Rouse, the Bronx; Deidrinelle N. Rouse, Indiana, Pa.; and Lydia E. Rouse, Valdosta, Ga.; and a stepdaughter, Kimberly Gordon, Valdosta, Ga. Also surviving are a brother, James Rouse Jr., Greenville, N.C.; and three sisters: Betty (Rouse) Schaum, Queens, N.Y.; JoAnnie (Rouse) Crawford, the Bronx; and Brenda Rouse, Greenville. There are also three grandchildren and two stepgrandchildren. He was predeceased by a brother, Steven Rouse, in 1997. Services will be Thursday June 7th at 7 p.m. in the Spring Valley Church of God, 2727 Old Pricetown Road, with Pastor Robert Hinson presiding. Burial will be Friday at 1:30 p.m. in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Lebanon County. Friends may call Thursday from 5 p.m. until time of services in the church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his honor to the Kidney Foundation, American Heart Association or the American Diabetes Association. T.J. Baker Funeral Home Inc. is in charge of arrangements. Published in the Reading Eagle on 6/5/2007.

Homegoing Service

for
Mrs. Lena Bell
Langley Hines

Monday, June 4, 2007
2:00 P.M.

Selvia Chapel F.W.B. Church
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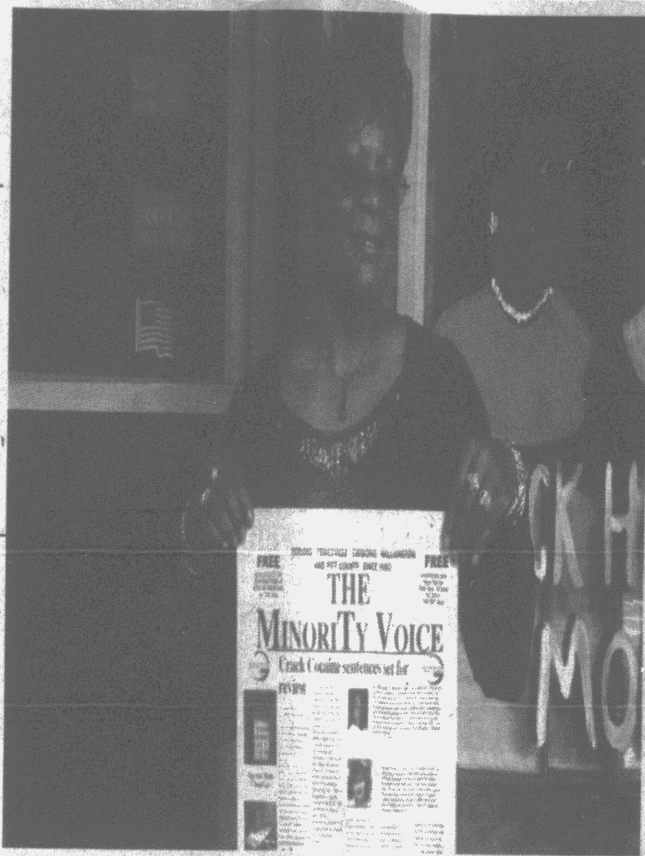
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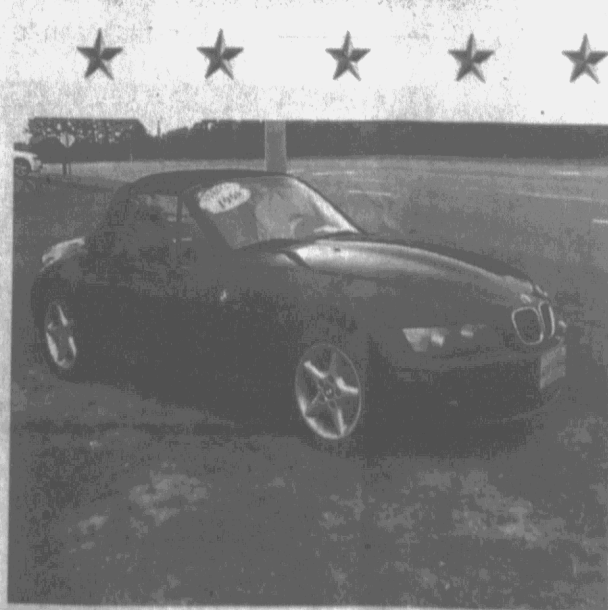
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AMERICA'S HEROES

Saving Jobs For Heroes
(NAPSA)—One of the best ways to honor America's returning war heroes—and uphold the law—may be to give these veterans their jobs back.

Many employers don't know that federal law requires employers to rehire service members and give them jobs comparable to those they had before shipping out to Iraq. This is true for up to five years, even if the employee left voluntarily. In the case of the combat wounded, the employer must rehire even if the service member is physically unable to perform the same functions as before.

"We support our National Guard and Reserves and want them to defend us, but when they come home and find their job gone, that doesn't seem very American to me," said James Randles, national commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, a service organization of combat-wounded veterans.

"American business owners need to honor returning combat wounded, not turn them away."

For more information, visit www.purpleheart.org.



Returning veterans may not know they have five years to claim their old or a comparable job with the same company.

PEOPLE AND FACES IN THE NEWS



"Above All Bail Bonding Annual Scholarship Banquet" recently took place at the Hilton. Shown above from left to right is the State president of the SCLC Mr. Bennie Roundtree, Bro. Walt, president of Above All Bail Bonding Co., and Guest Speaker, a truly gifted associate pastor of Wells Chapel Church of Christ and ECU Professor.



PC Commissioner Melvin McLawhorn celebrates his 59th birthday & 30 years of marriage to Sandra McLawhorn. Posing for the cameras are Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Teel and Commissioner McLawhorn.



Ernest Lee, Director of College Outreach from Pitt Community College poses with recent guest on show which airs Wednesday at 12noon on WOOW 1340

Guest Tavonda Burdett informs our listeners:

operates the Education Center in the facility.

With obesity, diabetes, and heart disease escalating in our nation and local communities, especially among minority and poor populations, improving access to care is one of many factors that can begin to close the gap of health disparity. The James D. Bernstein Community Health Center, named for a man who was a leader in rural health and founded and directed the North Carolina office of Rural Health for many years, provides medical and dental services to individuals who may not have a medical home, and are uninsured or are under insured.

It is owned and operated by Access East and Greene County Health Care Inc. There is an on-site pharmacy that is operated by ECU, which also has physicians in the medical clinic. In addition Pitt Community College

On May 2 Tavondia Burdett, a Pitt Community College employee and Education Coordinator for the Bernstein Center appeared as a guest on Ernest Lee's radio program aired on WOOW 1340am. Mrs. Burdett informed the public of the center's focus of serving adults and children who need primary and dental care. She also discussed Pitt Community College's plans for community programs and classes, GED, continuing education, and curriculum classes that are to be held at the Education Center.

The Bernstein Community Health Center is located at 261 Belvoir Highway (behind Peaden's Grill, and Food Lion). The hours of operation are 8:30am-5:30pm Monday-Friday. Medical appointments can be made at 695-6352, dental appointments at 695-6355. Mrs. Burdett can be reached at 757-3980.

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*The amounts used for the comparison above are based on repayment incentives offered by actual national lenders. When you use the Consolidation Loan Calculator at CFNC.org, you will find specific incentive comparisons.

Caution: Just because a company has "college" or "foundation" in its name does not mean that you are working with us. You will get the NC Advantage only with College Foundation, Inc. (CFI) through the information service College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC).

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cont. from front page

For more than two hundred years, Black American soliders have had a contradictory relationship with the country's military. While enduring acrocites from slaves to constant enhumanization, they have never hesitated to take up arms against American's enemies. Their how of courage and strength however, has rarely superceded the "anti-Negro" culture, long prevalent in American society.

"We must not eat with them, must not shake hands with them, seek to talk to them or to meet with them outside the requirements of military service," General John J. Pershing once said in a secret 1918 meeting concerned African-American troops sent to the French military stationed with the American army.

"We must not commend too highly these troops, especially in front of white Americans..." "I cannot commend too highly the spirit shown among the colored combat troops, who exhibit fine capacity for quick training and eagerness for the most dangerous work..."

(Taken from Stories to Tell: African Americans in the Military and Scott's Official History of the American Negro in the World War.)

From the Revolutionary War to the present war in Iraq, answers to why Blacks, who have consistently been mistreated on US soil, find it plausible to enlist in its armed forces vary. Historical accounts like Crispus Attucks who died standing up to the 1770 British invasion or the Buffalo Soliders who blazed the Westward Expansion trails, tell of men who had something to prove. If they could fight and die for their country, they thought, they could surely enjoy the benefits of equality and democracy.

Said one WWI Black lieutenant to a New York Times reporter on why he was there,

"One of my men came to me several days ago....and asked me why I had joined the Army. He reminded me that I was above the draft age and he wanted me to tell him that I was fighting for. I told him I was fighting for what the flag meant to the Negroes in the United States.

"I told him that now is our opportunity to prove what we can do. If we can't fight and die in this war just as bravely as the white men then we don't deserve equality with white men, and after the war we better go back home and forget about it all." (Taken from Buffalo Soliders at Huachuca: Radical Awareness After the War).

From Vietnam to today's War in Iraq, military requirement has been heavy in poverty stricken neighborhoods. With the promise of money, benefits, and education, many Blacks join, looking for a way out. For the most part, they have ended up on the front lines, dying without ever seeing the benefits. Let us bow our heads in silence this Memorial Day and honor those among our own who have fought and died for whatever reason




Welcome Back CM Eppes Alumni

celebrate
Summer



PAGE 12 - THE "M" VOICE - WEEK ENDING JULY 4, 1992

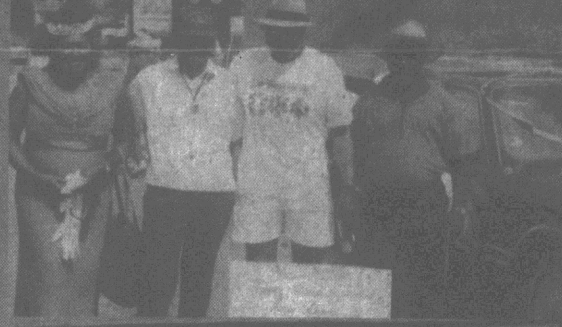
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Exhibit Celebrating "The Greatest Of All Time" Opens In Manhattan

June 12, 2007

Some new photos of Muhammad Ali on display beginning, June 13, 2007, in the West Village show a softer side of the boxer. NYI's Roger Clark filed the following report.

He was the self-proclaimed "greatest of all time," a three-time heavyweight champion, an icon, but photos by Thomas Hoepker show another side of Muhammed Ali.

"He loved people," says photographer Thomas Hoepker. "He loved children, and when we rode around in his limo he suddenly stopped the limo because he saw a bunch of kids in the streets and clowned around with them."

The images taken by Hoepker and fellow photographer Abbas are part of an exhibit called "Magnum Photos: Muhammad Ali," which opens to the public Wednesday at 401 Projects at 401 West Street in the West Village. It's one of dozens of events this month celebrating the Magnum Festival, a 60th anniversary celebration of the photographers co-op.

"In terms of social change, no one was greater than Muhammad Ali," says Mark Lubell, director, Magnum Photos. "And for Magnum celebrating sixty years, this is a great exhibit to show the strength of the imagery, and the power that this imagery still has."

That sentiment is not lost on Ali's longtime manager Gene Kilroy, who is curating the exhibit along with the former fighter's daughter Maryum "May May" Ali.

"They got the all-around of Ali, the people on the street, in the barber shop and in the ring, visiting with little children," says Ali's longtime manager Gene Kilroy. "They did a thorough job."

Including Hoepker's photo of the champ in 1997. Already suffering from Parkinson's disease, he is holding one of the sixties era photos of himself.

"It was a long time ago, but wonderful memories," says Hoepker. "And I really wish him all the best. He is one of my heroes."

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of prints in the exhibit will go towards the Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

The Ali exhibit runs through July 29th.



Budweiser
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Welcome Back CM Eppes Alumni

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THE "M" VOICE—WEEK ENDING JULY 4, 1992—PAGE 3

Crabby Sam's Welcomes The Alumni of C.M. Eppes



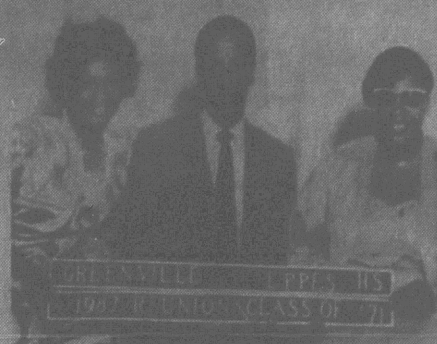
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THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

Mathew 14:6 The Dance Of Death

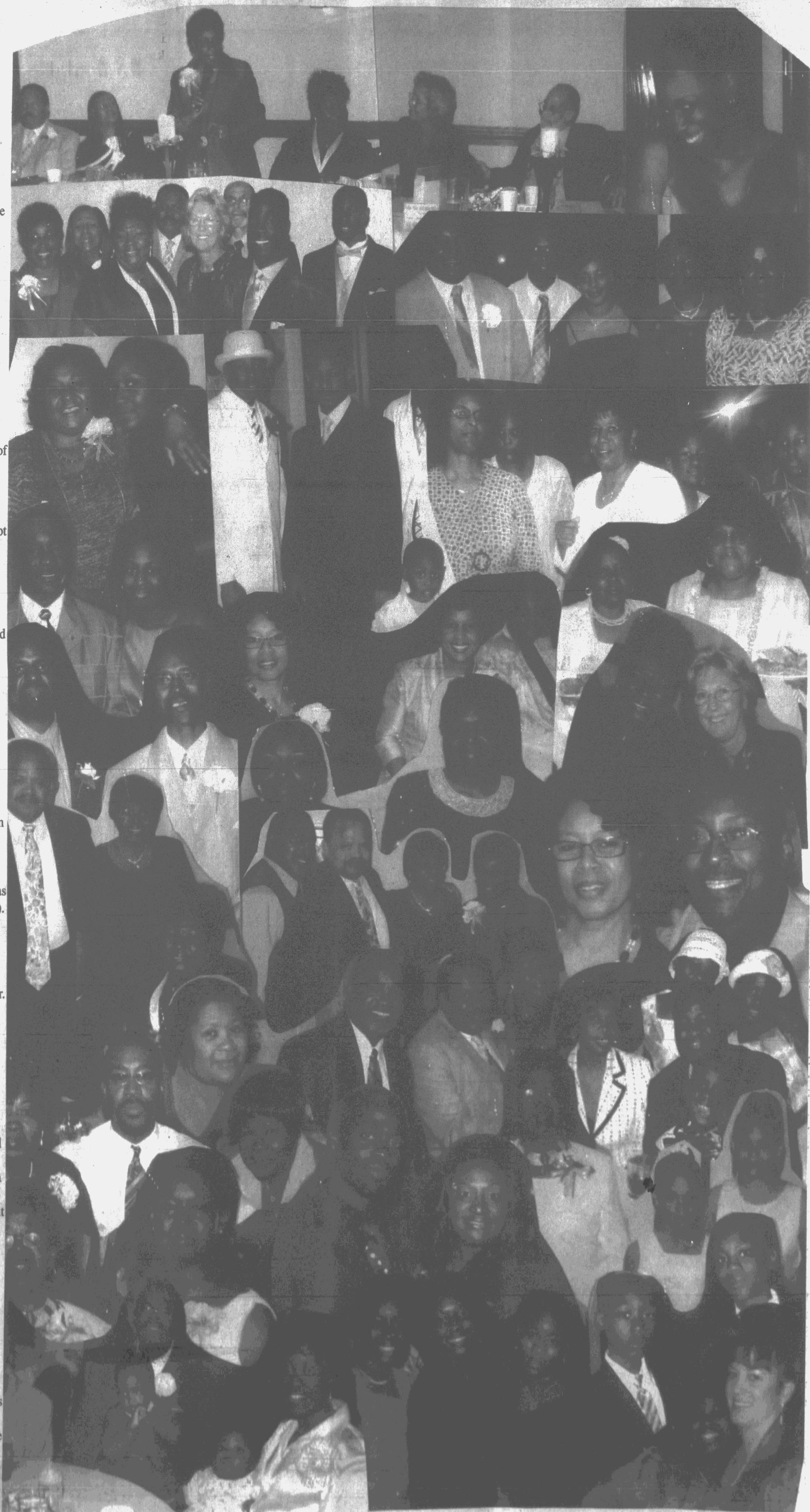
*The Powerful Can Mistake
Moral Reproof for Political
Pronouncements (14:3-4)*

Those ensnared in adultery often become blind to common sense, including the warnings of those close to them. Antipas, son of Herod the Great (2:1) and a Samaritan mother, hence Archelaus's full brother (2:22), had functioned as tetrarch over Galilee and Perea since about 4 B.C. He had entered into a politically prudent marriage with a Nabatean princess, perhaps seeking to secure further loyalty from Nabatean subjects within his territory of Perea (Kraeling 1951:89).

But when Antipas divorced his first wife to take his brother's wife, he violated not only Jesus' teaching on the moral indissolubility of marriage (5:31-32) but also the Mosaic law concerning incest (Lev 18:16; 20:21). John thus publicly reproached a public example of immorality. But what John viewed in moral terms Antipas undoubtedly saw in political terms as well (compare Jos. Ant. 18.118; Kraeling 1951:85, 90-91, 143-45). Antipas's plans to divorce his first wife had provoked trouble with her father, the powerful Nabatean king Aretas (on whom see 2 Cor 11:32-33). This trouble ultimately led to war and public humiliation for Antipas (Jos. Ant. 18.113-14, 124-25). That many Nabateans in Perea presumably remained loyal to Aretas further extended the political implications of Herod's affair. A prophet harping on the tetrarch's misbehavior was therefore politically dangerous.

Christians today who take a stand against abortion, exploitation of the poor or racism may be taking a moral stand, but in our polarized society many will read such a stand as politically partisan even when we do not intend it in such terms. The major difference at this point is that John's society did not recognize freedom of speech; publicly denouncing a ruler's character was essentially suicidal. Israel had a long-standing tradition exempting prophets from severe punishment for their speech—a rule that only the most vicious rulers broke. Unfortunately for John, Antipas proved to be such a ruler.

ANOINTED ONE'S FOUNDER'S DAY BANQUET 2007





Sow A Seed

By Joy R. Brown

To my brothers

(Inspired by my brothers, Melvin (Contessa) Collins, Japhonza (Demetric) Clark, James (Leoria) Latham, Joseph (Glenda) Phelps, Robbie (Vickie) Harris and Leonard (Stephanie) Smith and

Douglas Grace (one who taught me a valuable lesson)

This article is dedicated to the brothers (it doesn't matter about the color of your skin), the ones who have assisted the sisters through our pain, struggle, frustration, and fear. My brothers, you need to know that we appreciate you and admire you for the strength you've shown to us throughout the years.

Now, I know we as women can be challenging at times, however, you must know that beneath the tough "sista girl" act, we do have a heart. At times, your sisters may have difficulty expressing how we truly feel. Yes, at times, we do come across inconsiderate, boisterous or even indifferent. Yes, we've been hurt and we understand that you have as well. However, men (some) can somewhat handle the hurt more so than women. On the behalf of my sisters, I apologize to you.

Sometimes we lash out at you because of what another brother has exhibited towards us. However, it's not your fault. It's our fault. Sisters have allowed genuine men to go unnoticed because of our past misfortunes. We make you pay for everything that Tom, Dick and Harry did to us. We do apologize for placing you in the category with them.

We sincerely appreciate the brothers who take out the time to feel our pains, to assist us in the fights through the struggle, to understand our frustration and to walk with us through our fears. Today we say thank you.

Brothers, thank you for not giving up on your sisters. Yes, we are demanding at times but work with us as we work with you. We welcome you to calm

us down when we are overexcited or anxious about "nothing." Help us out when we have the tendency to create a "mountain out of a mole hole." Teach us how to acknowledge that you have feelings, you have emotions, and yes, you are sensitive. Teach us the powerful lesson that if we cut you, you will bleed, if we pinch you, you will hurt, if we lash out at you, you will lash back.

We are helpers of one another. Assist us in learning about you as you learn about us. Create a line of open communication so that we can talk and not fuss. Yes, sisters have this innate reaction to argue or fuss if things do not go our way. Sometimes we "nag" and become unappreciative of the small things you do. Honestly, we do appreciate it but at times we may have difficulty in letting you know.

We apologize for the negligence we've shown towards your sensitivity and your genuine concern. On the behalf of the sisters who care and are concerned, we say thank you.

This article is dedicated to all the brothers who have been overlooked because you chose to be separate, set apart, and dare to love your sisters even through our transitions. You are not overlooked but you are appreciated for all that you've endured for us. You are indeed our shield, protector, and guide. If we choose to follow you, we will not go wrong. Thank you for understanding us when we didn't understand ourselves and for being there even when we pushed you away. We apologize and say thank you for standing by your sisters. Thank you.

Sowing a seed into your life,

Joy R. Brown



James R. "Jimmy" Streeter

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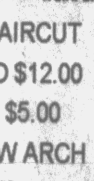
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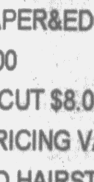
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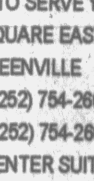
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Terrence



Malinda



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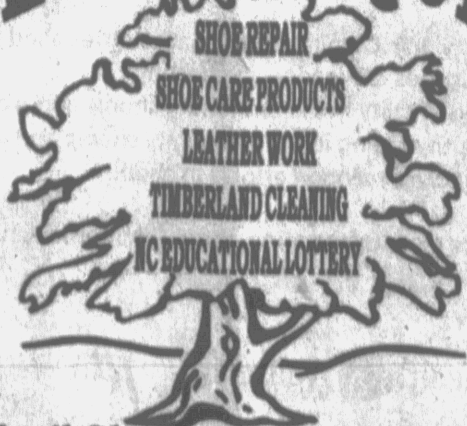
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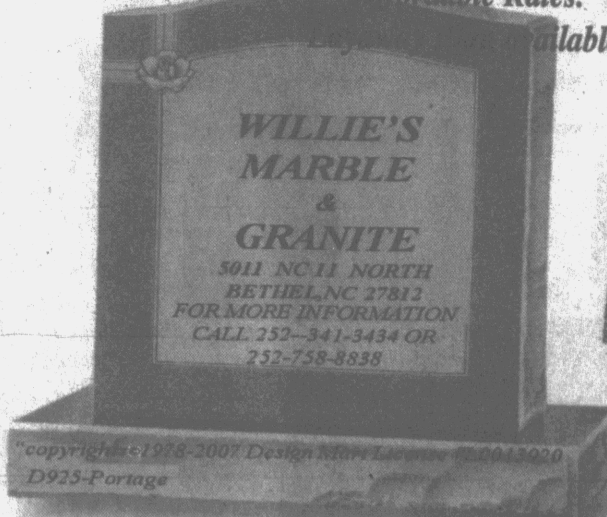
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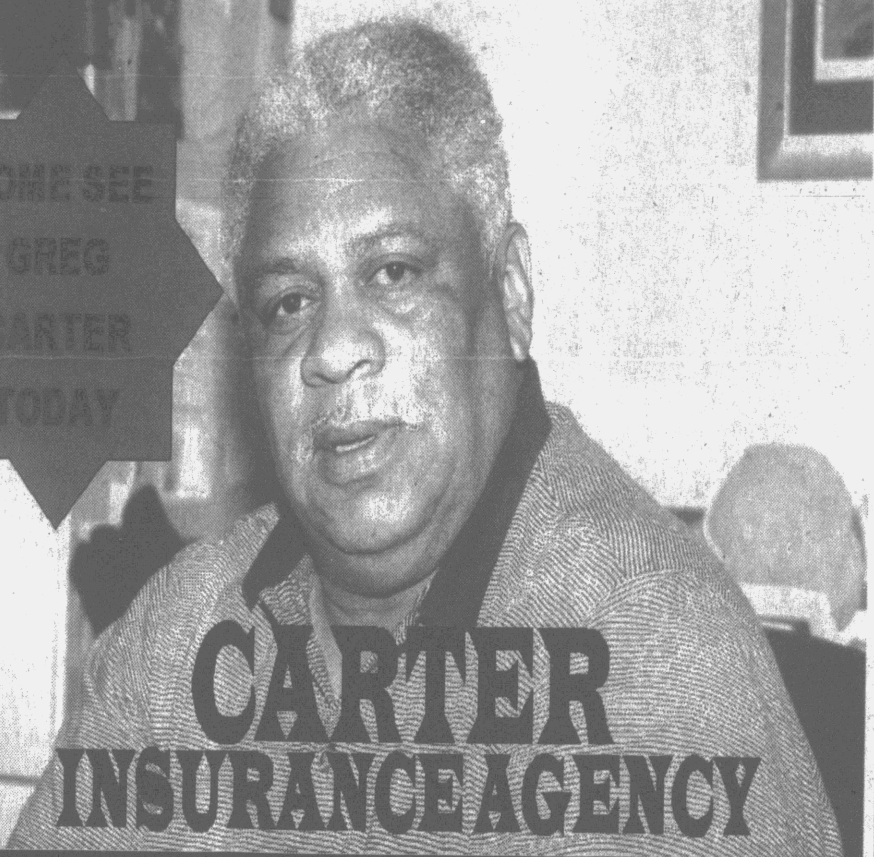
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TOPS "OPEN HOUSE"



Tops (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) open House was held Tuesday June 12, 2007. Tops meets every Tuesday evening from 5:30 to 6:30pm at the Rehab Center, Pitt Memorial Hospital. Area Captain, Robert Morris from Kinston was the guest speaker. Pictured above from left to right, Evelyn Ellers, Co-Leader, Robert Morris, Area Captain and Phyllis Barrett, Leader. For more information about TOPS call Phyllis at 252-931-1040 or 252-531-8591. *photo M. Adams*

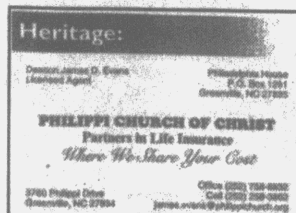
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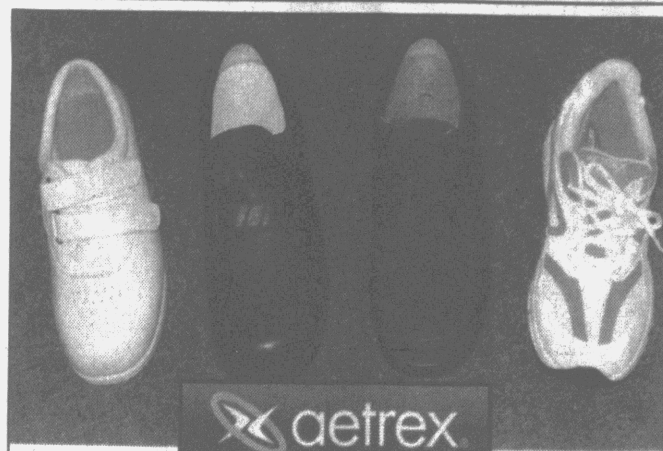


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Domestic Violence is one of the many problems in the Black community. Shown above is City of Greenville City Councilwoman Mildred Council, Sister Brenda Rouse, Director; Cowboy Rich Washington, and others at the opening offices of the Domestic Violence Unified Community Resource Center, located on Watauga Avenue, Greenville.

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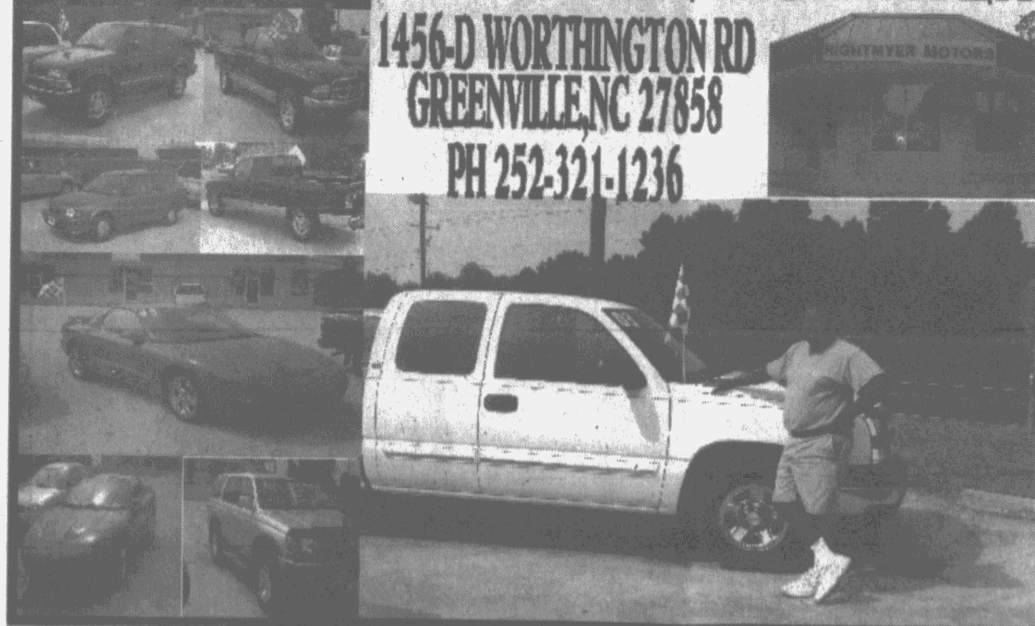
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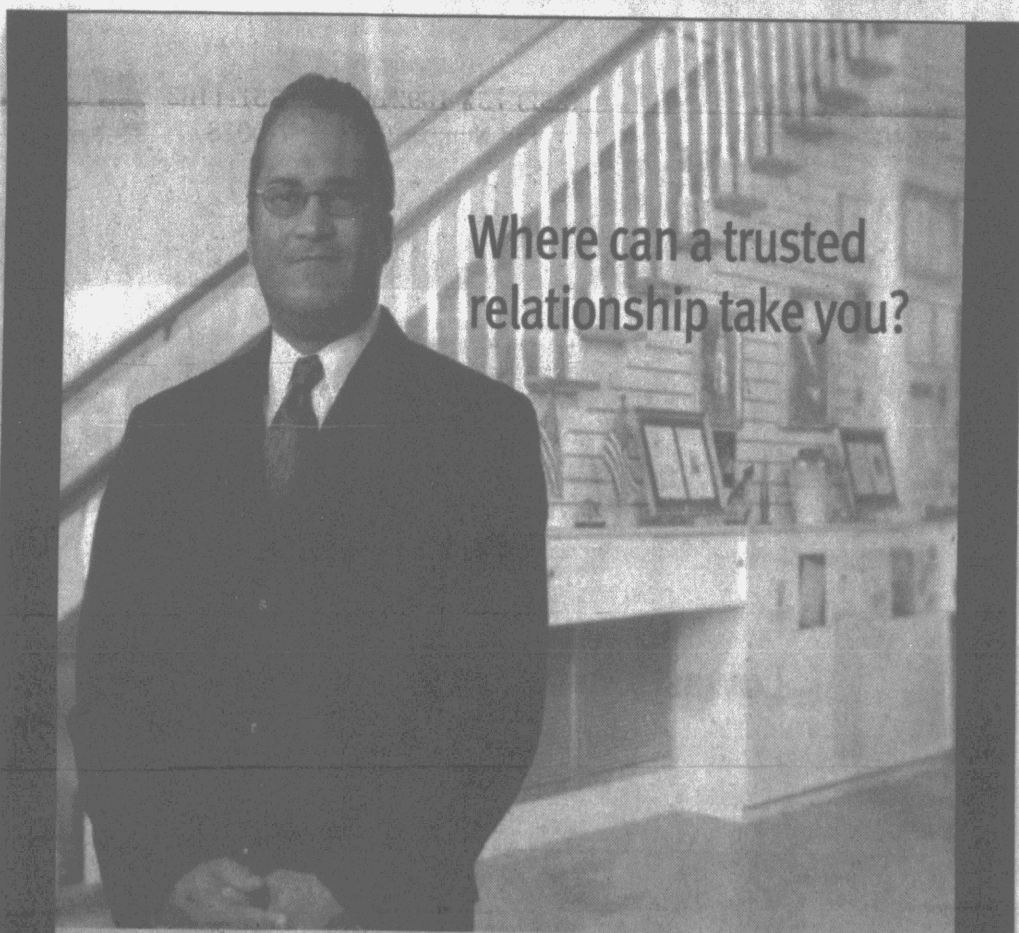
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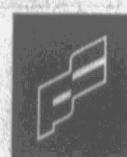
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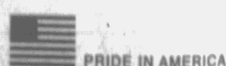
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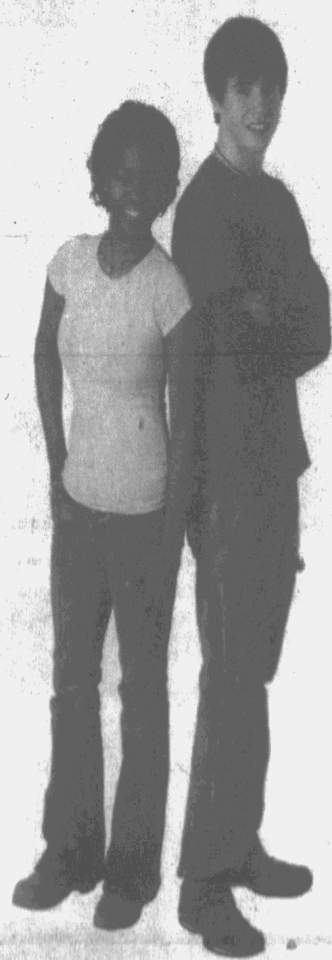
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