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# THE MINORITY VOICE

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Congressman G.K.  
Butterfield visits Greenville  
for press conference at new  
local Headquarters for Obama  
pg6

## Obama Fever



## GIRL POWER



THE MINORITY VOICE  
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## A bridge between Blacks and Whites: Obama provides America with 'a teaching moment' about racism

By Alan King  
Afro Staff Writer

After making a masterful speech Tuesday in an effort to steer his presidential campaign away from the damage created by the non-stop airing of inflammatory videos of his former pastor, Barack Obama is looking to see if the same compassion he demonstrated toward his detractors will be extended to him now that he has made an appeal for healing this country's racial divide.

"It was a teaching moment for American history," Jesse Jackson said in a statement. "The speech was bone chilling, redemptive and

exciting; it was a rare expression of comprehensive statesmanship delivered under immense pressure."

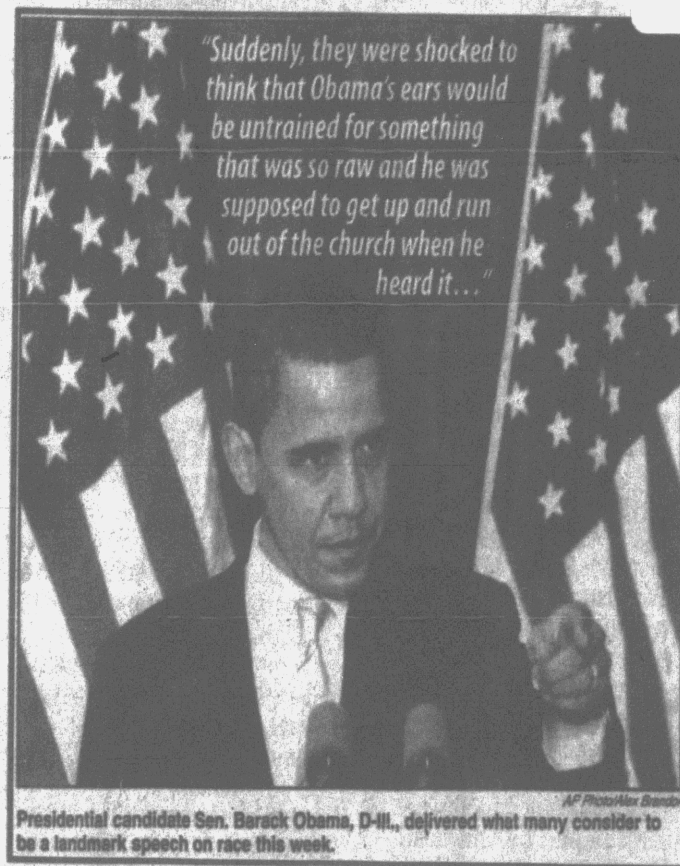
The immense pressure was created by the repeated airing of snippets from Rev. Jeremiah Wright's sermons, especially on Fox network TV, that were bound to pull Obama into a major political imbroglio.

WRIGHT: Hillary never had to worry about being pulled over in her car as a Black man driving in the wrong! I am sick of Negroes who just do not get it! Hillary was not a Black boy raised in a single parent home! Barack was. Barack knows what it means to be a Black man living in a

country and a culture that is controlled by rich White people! Hillary can never know that! Hillary ain't never been called a nigger! Hillary has never had her people defined as nonpersons! Hillary ain't had to work twice as hard just to get accepted by the rich White folk who run everything, or to get a passing grade when you know you are smarter than their C-student sitting in the White House. Hillary ain't never had her own people say she wasn't White enough!

In another sermon:

WRIGHT: The government gives them the drugs, builds  
... cont. teaching about racism  
pg6



Presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., delivered what many consider to be a landmark speech on race this week.

## "Let me reintroduce myself....I am David Paterson—governor of New York State."

"Let me reintroduce myself....I am David Paterson—governor of New York State."

by HERB BOYD  
Special to the AmNews

"Let me reintroduce myself," David Alexander Paterson told a massive gathering of friends, relatives, and public officials during his swearing-in ceremony before a joint session of the State Assembly and Senate Monday morning. "I am David Paterson, and I am the governor of New York State."

These emphatic words came toward the end of a speech that was vintage Paterson as he became the state's 55th governor—a mixture of humor, self-deprecation, bonhomie, and policy statements on how he plans

to tackle a welter of issues he inherited from Eliot Spitzer whose administration came to a stunning end a little more than a year after it began.

After a sustained ovation and taking the oath of office from Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye, Paterson, with his parents, his wife, Michelle, and his children nearby, thanked them as well as a number of colleagues, associates, and dignitaries, including Senators Charles Schumer and Hillary Clinton. "The last time I was in this chamber," Paterson said, providing the first hilarious salvo, "I was gaveling the State of the State, and Speaker (Sheldon) Silver had brought me into practice so that I didn't destroy anything."

"That was in our first year, but in our second year I told the Speaker don't bother I know how to do this," the

governor continued. "But apparently I was about to bring the gavel down on a glass. The Speaker, at the last second, grabbed the gavel from me and then told me in his own inimitable way as only Shelly can: 'I will not allow you to turn the State of the State into a Jewish wedding.'"

Before his speech, the spectators at the ceremony were schmoozing and glad-handing each other as though they were at a wedding: There were former Mayors Ed Koch and David Dinkins waving hellos to each other; Rev. Al Sharpton shaking hands with former Governor George Pataki; a rabbi rubbing shoulders with the Rev. Calvin Butts; and Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno weaving gleefully amid a coterie of elected Democrats. The harmony and healing that suffused Paterson's acceptance

cont... New York pg4



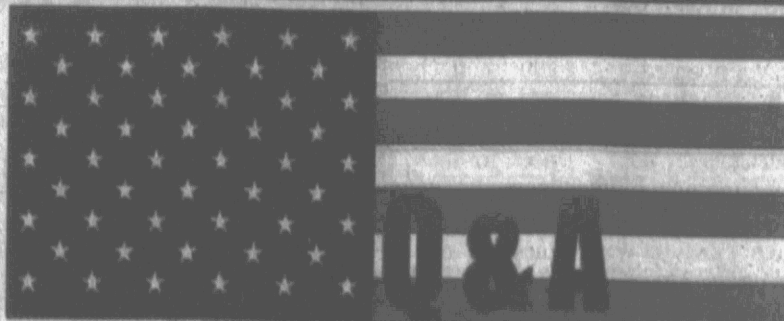
David Paterson, sworn in as New York's governor on Monday, Mar. 24, 2008 becoming the state's first black chief executive and vowing to move past the prostitution scandal that has rocked the state of NY.

## WHO ARE YOU VOTING FOR ???



I'm voting for Barack Obama. I think he is the best qualified to make the changes that's needed

Thomas Wilkes



MINORITY VOICE READER SURVEY



I think we take a chance with whoever is in office but I'm voting for Barack Obama

Delores Perry



# OPINIONS

## Why Black History Should Be Taught In The Public Schools

by Dr. Ruth B. Love  
NNPA Guest Commentary

In 1926 the brilliant scholar, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, declared and announced that there should be a Black History Week, one week in which he encouraged the populace to focus on and learn about the blood, accomplishments and contributions that "colored" people gave this country.

He wanted people to learn of their rich culture, their ingenuity, their labor and their talents, all gifts that African Americans had then imprinted on the land. Many careful recollections, records and research were proof of the ingenuity, intelligence and intellect of many African slaves, and many more of their descendants.

Dr. Woodson knew that these significant contributions were unknown to most and were not part of the public school curriculum, and that it should be taught. African American scholars, researchers and the more well-educated citizens were aware of and proud of their history and heritage, but Woodson wanted the story widely known and disseminated. In 1926 African Americans were "colored" and short shrift was given in the public schools about the rich contributions which were already part of American life. If students weren't taught about them and to acknowledge them, who would? Over time, since 1926, Black History Week has morphed into Black History Month, further proof that African Americans continue to achieve high marks in many fields of study, invention and discovery. Dr. Woodson had really been on to something!

Black History Month is a time to pause to pay homage to the vast contributions of African-Americans in this country. In stopping to celebrate the struggles and achievements of a Black people, we are reminded of the imperative of incorporating this history into the public school curriculum. Instructional programs, absent African-American history and culture, are robbing children of valuable information necessary to become educated citizens.

Even in this age of diversity and multiculturalism, students of all colors can complete 12 or 13 years of education without a mention of the depth and breadth of the contributions of Americans of African descent. Students may hear about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr. George Washington Carver and Dr. Booker T. Washington.

They may hear a sentence or two about slavery, without much discussion of its devastating impact on the lives of those who were enslaved. They learn little about this cruel and inhumane institution in which Africans, owned by White masters, were beaten and forced to work without pay, and where they, and their children, were bought and sold like livestock on the whims of their masters. I doubt if students know that slavery was an economic system where slaves were the property, or that the wealth and riches of this

country were made possible by using the physical labors of the slaves who were kept in captivity.

Black history has been characterized as "sacred narrative" because of its vital evolution and significance. It is my position that Black history is on our midst. It is in plain view of Americans, young and old, black and white, rich and poor, who go about their daily lives seeing it and not being able to identify it.

As they put their letters in a mailbox, did they know that P. B. Downing, a Black man, invented and patented the street letterbox in 1891? When they drive up to a stop signal, do they know that Garrett Morgan, a Black man, invented the first three-way stop signal in 1923? When they buy a pair of shoes, do they know that Jan Matzeliger, a Black man, first developed shoe lasts for the right and left foot?

As they see people golfing, do they know that George Grant, a Black man, invented the golf tee in 1989? Do they know that, at a time when some African Americans were not allowed to read and write in parts of this country, that J. L. Love, a Black man, invented the pencil sharpener in 1897, and W. B. Purvis, a Black man, invented the fountain pen in 1890? The inventions and accomplishments of African Americans are replete in the fields of music, science, technology, art, education, fashion and furniture design, and numerous other areas.

During the early years of railway transportation, Elijah McCoy, a Black man, designed the drip cup - a lubricating cup that fed oil to the railway machinery while the machinery was still running. This invention led McCoy to develop 60 inventions that had a major impact on railway safety. His inventions were so reliable that people began referring to them as "The Real McCoy."

During this period Lewis Latimer, a Black man, worked in Alexander Graham Bell's laboratory where he experimented and contributed to the inventions that made Bell famous and that would bring perfection to the field of electricity. Latimer perfected the filament for the electric light bulb that made the bulb possible for the light to glow. His discovery was used in the electrification of London and Latimer has been called the "Man Who Lit Philadelphia."

The General Electric Company has honored Latimer's stellar achievements in the field of electricity by naming an award for him. Latimer also made drawings for Bell's telephone. He was often called to testify in court for Bell when other people claimed to have invented elements of the telephone.

African-Americans are not strangers to technology. Mark Dean is best known for creating systems that allow modems and printers to be connected to personal computers.

James West, an engineer, was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame for his invention of the foil electric microphone and has 40 U.S. and 200 foreign patents.

Dr. Patricia Bath, an ophthalmologist, used her

knowledge of laser eye surgery and developed the Laserphaco Probe that changed the way in which cataracts are removed. Blacks have made many contributions to the field of medicine, the most well-known being Dr. Charles Drew, who invented a process for extracting the life-saving properties of blood, which he called blood plasma, thus making it possible to take plasma to our wounded soldiers on the battlefields during World War II. Dr. Drew also organized the Red Cross blood banks, another example of his medical knowledge and creativity. Dr. Louis Tompkins and his daughter, Dr. Jane Wright, discovered the process of chemotherapy, now commonly used by most physicians as a standard treatment in fighting cancer. More recently, Dr. Ben Carson, a neurosurgeon, was the first physician to successfully conjoined twins. All students should know about the African Americans whose inventions these are, and how these inventions are known worldwide. These people have earned their place in history and their lives should prove to be an exhilarating addition to the public school curriculum.

African-American women have made and continue to make incredible contributions to the nation and the world. Just skimming through a few of them, there's Toni Morrison, the first Black person to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature; Carol Mosely-Braun, the first Black woman elected to the U.S. Senate; Dr. Mae Jemison, the first Black female astronaut; Althea Gibson, the first Black woman to play tennis and win at Wimbledon; Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to the U.S. Congress; and Ann Fudge, first Black woman to become president of Maxwell House Coffee Co.

The contributions of African American women alone would constitute a large volume of achievement and women should be included in the public school curriculum. Students must learn that the rich contributions that African Americans have made to this country are not limited by gender - that the gender of these gifted people placed no limits on their brilliance, creativity and struggle. This is a marvelous lesson for all students. I believe public school students dream, so let's give them something to dream about.

It is impossible to list here the achievements of African Americans in the art, classical, jazz and popular music, dance, grand opera, poetry, literature, aviation, playwriting, theater direction, astrophysics, fashion and furniture design, business, education, chemistry, and on and on. Why wouldn't the public schools appreciate the need for these examples and incorporate them into the curriculum? They are real and they are inspiring.

In presenting my case for the insertion of Black History Month into public school curriculum, I can cite only a few examples of the contributions of Black Americans to illustrate my point of view. Their contributions are too numerous and impossible to list here, obviously, but there are books that make an effort

to collect all of these unusual Black achievers into specific volumes, and the list gets added to every year.

Returning to the days of enslavement, these African descendants worked solely in the homes and fields of their masters, but there was no limit to their inventiveness even during these cruel years. Enslaved persons invented and devised objects and devices to help them in their arduous work. Some of these inventions include: the ironing board, curtain rod, hair brush, kitchen table, lemon squeezer, ice cream mold, lawn sprinkler, lawn mower, folding bed, window lock, water sprinkler, among others. How many more objects were invented and used and are now not attributed to these creative inventors?

Anyone who visits South Carolina, which is more than 300 years old, could learn that its Bureau of Tourism brags about the beautiful ironwork that adorns the balconies and great homes and public buildings, the iron fences, the cobble-stoned plazas, streets and drives, the hand carved decorations in the stately homes, and so forth. The Bureau says that this work was done by those enslaved and it has records and yes, some names! I want students to learn through the curriculum that there is concrete evidence of the work done as the result of the backbreaking labor of the

enslaved, plus museum-quality artifacts created from the genius and souls of the enslaved. These are just some of the reasons why Dr. Carter Woodson created the concept of Black History Week - so all people could learn it and honor it.

### WHY STUDY BLACK HISTORY?

African history dates back to 400 B.C., given the fact that Africa is the ancestral birthplace of African Americans. Education is incomplete without teaching and learning the history and culture of both the continent of Africa and African-Americans in the Diaspora. The critical question is not "Why study Black history?" but rather, the question should be "Why not study Black history?"

There are several important reasons for including African American history in the public school curriculum and they are:

1. American history is incomplete without African American history' we cannot separate the two. Even before Columbus discovered this country, Black people were here.
2. African-Americans and their ancestors have deep roots in Africa, so studying about ancient Africa's contributions to civilization, as well as the struggle and achievements of African Americans that provide vital and historical

information, with much research to support this subject.

3. Learning African American history will be source of pride, esteem and inspiration to people of color, and will develop accurate insights, appreciation and perceptions for non-black people, also. Many non-black people leave high school and study or major in Black history at the college and graduate level.

4. The contributions of African-Americans throughout the history of the United States are legendary; they have helped to positively define what this country has become. African American history cannot be torn from the rich tapestry of the United States. The achievements and influence of African Americans and their culture are known, copied and respected around the world. As a world citizen and as an educator, I am convinced

Black History should be celebrated by all students all year and Black history should become an important and integral part of a public school curriculum.

Dr. Ruth B. Love is former superintendent of schools in Oakland, Calif. and Chicago, Ill. Currently, she is professor of Education Leadership and President of RBL Enterprises.

## America Needs Jeremiah Wrights

by Rev. Barbara Reynolds  
NNPA Columnist

Without the prophetic, bold voices and organizing ability of leaders like Pastor Jeremiah Wright of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago there would be no U.S. Senator Barack Obama with a decent chance at becoming the first Black president of the United States.

And it is a sad testimony that to protect his credentials as a unifier above the fray the Senator is fueling the media characterization that Rev. Dr. Wright is some retiring old uncle in the church basement instead of respecting Wright for the towering astute father of progressive social and global causes that he is.

For 20 years, Rev. Wright has been a "friend, mentor and pastor." This is how Sen. Obama described him in a letter dated February 5, 2007.

In that letter, the senator wrote "I constantly remember Rev. Wright as the shepherd who guided me to my commitment to Christ one Sunday morning at Trinity. I often consider, as I work in the Senate how he lives his life—a life of service to Trinity, Chicago and the nation; his activism on behalf of causes that few would champion and his dogged commitment to the first principles of love for God and fellow man. And in my personal walk, I seek daily to imitate his faith."

Pastor Jeremiah Wright is no weird, anti-American hater and separatist cult leader. He loved his country enough to serve in the U.S. Marines. His denomination, the United Church of Christ, is a 90 percent white denomination. As a pastor, Wright married the Obamas, baptized their children, and a Wright sermon provided the title of Obama's best-selling book "The Audacity of Hope."

The Jeremiah I know is a sought-after preacher in seminaries across the country. I have traveled with him, introduced him at the National Press Club and use his tapes as teaching tools in my prophetic ministry classes at the Howard University School of Divinity,

where he often preaches to adoring audiences.

I am inspired by Wright's leadership as the founding father of the Samuel D. Proctor conference, which is directed by Dr. Iva Carruthers, a Trinity member. The Conference is the progressive wing of the Black Church and represents some 50 million people through an ecumenical cross section of clergy and inter-faith leaders across the nation.

When Black and poor people were devastated by the double tragedies of Katrina and governmental indifference, the Conference impaneled a commission of citizen activists to investigate. They authored a report, "The Breach," which documented the governmental abuses, and solutions. The Conference is still working with Katrina victims, while so many others have deserted them. Both Senators Hillary Clinton and Obama worked with this effort.

Pastor Wright is being brutally trashed for his controversial sermons. The mainstream media are the guilty culprit in all of this partly because of ignorance of the historic role of the Black Church, which was born out of the crucible of slavery, lynching and Jim Crow. If those injustices had not been raised with passion, Blacks would still be on the plantation, a point that Trinity's new pastor Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, nicely raised in an interview on CNN.

Secondly, Pastor Wright seems so radical because so many churches aren't saying anything. Instead of preaching and organizing against the unjust war in Iraq that has claimed more than 4,000 U.S. lives and 30,000 Iranian lives, the cradle to grave prison industrial pipeline, inadequate education, and other social ills, so many mega-church leaders are hoping about prosperity and allowing politicians drive through photo ops in their churches without holding their feet to the fire.

Wright stands out because so many others are sitting down. There are not many churches where the social gospel of Dr. King is preached. The media have watered down the volumes of King's sermon contributions

to "I have a Dream," although King spoke out strongly against such issues as the Vietnam War just as Wright is campaigning against the horrors of the ill-fated war in Iraq today.

In his letter from a Birmingham jail, King excoriated the comfortable positions of white moderates. "Like a boil that can never be cured as long as it is covered up but must be opened with all its pus-flowing ugliness, injustice must likewise be exposed, with all of the tension its exposing creates before it can be cured." Wright exposes injustice in much the same way.

Wright is much more than a Sunday morning wonder. He had launched more than 70 active ministries that provide housing complexes for senior citizens, day care for children, ministries for people living with HIV and help for families of the incarcerated.

Whether you disagree or agree with Wright's controversial statements it is a terrible disservice to ignore his contributions as a theologian, pastor, and educator. It is ludicrous that a pastor who has preached more than 207,000 minutes for the past 36 years at Trinity on Sunday, not to mention his weekday worship services, revivals and global preaching, should be judged by a couple of 15 or 30 second sound bites.

Furthermore, Pastor Rod Parsley of Columbus, Ohio, who is a spiritual adviser to Republican front-runner John McCain, has made ugly comments about destroying "the false religion of Islam" at a time when American-born Muslims are fighting for the United States in Iraq. Somehow this hate speech doesn't provoke outrage.

While Sen. Obama may have to distance himself from his pastor to play the game of politics, it is unwise for any of us to burn the bridges that brought us across.



# COMMUNITY NEWS



Mrs Beatrice Maye

## To The Editor:

Too many fathers have stepped away instead of stepping up to connect spiritually, emotionally, and socially with their children. Now, it's time for these absent fathers to realize how important it is to live, nurture, and mentor their children and help them grow into well-rounded, principled men and women.

More than 95% of the males and females inmates are fatherless. Nearly 50% of Black children are born into single parent households headed by women. There are so many who father children but have no sense of responsibility. Despite the best efforts by Black mothers, a good father is critical to a strong structure and there are some things that require a man's input if a child is to fully develop socially and emotionally.

More and more black men are traveling down the wrong road because they have not been shown the right path by a positive male role model.

What if every man was simply a father to his own children? How quickly would our communities heal and revise every negative statistic that plagues our communities?

Beatrice Maye

## Friendliness

Sometimes the Christian life boils down to the uncommon expression of common virtues. For example, you would expect that people indwelt by the Spirit of love would be friendly. What a difference practicing that virtue would make in society!

Tim Sanders, in his book *Likeability Factor*, says that a person who provides others with "a sense of joy, happiness, relaxation, or rejuvenation" is more likely to be hired or promoted. He maintains that some companies have actually abolished unfriendliness. They call

their system I.O.N.U.: "I observe no unfriendliness."

That principle should be practiced by the citizen's of Christ's kingdom. When people are asked what they look for in a church, their number-one response is friendliness. Unfortunately, the reality is that many churchgoers are as distant as a star and as cold as space.

The Lord told ancient Israel that He "loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing" (Deuteronomy 10:18). He commanded them to emulate His behavior (v. 19).

Friendliness is not just a wise business practice, it should be a characteristic of all who follow Christ. When you attend your church today, act in such way that a newcomer could say, "I observe no unfriendliness." *Hadden Robinson*

## DO WHAT YOU CAN

Do what you can, when you can, where you are, with whatever you have available to you.

Though you may not have enough time or resources right now to finish, you have some time available to get started.

Every book that was written, no matter how lengthy, was written one word at a time.

Every race that was ever won was completed one step at a time. Great accomplishments come from stringing one effort on top of another.

With enough small efforts, anything can be achieved. Though you may not have the time or the resources to make a big impact, use what you do have to make a small focus, and the big results will surely come.

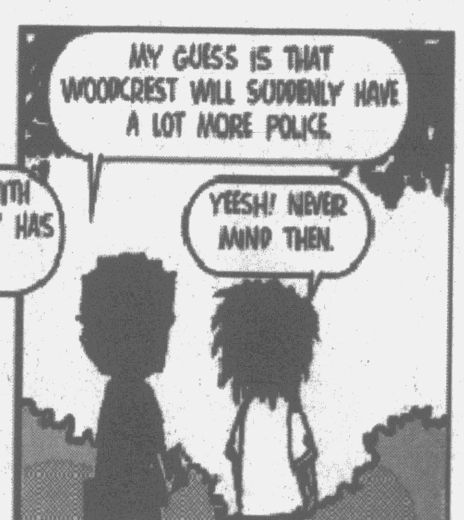
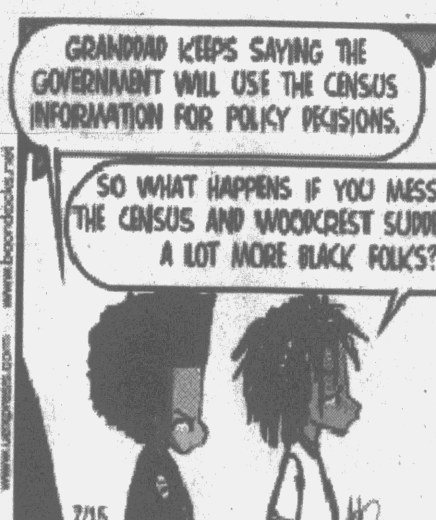
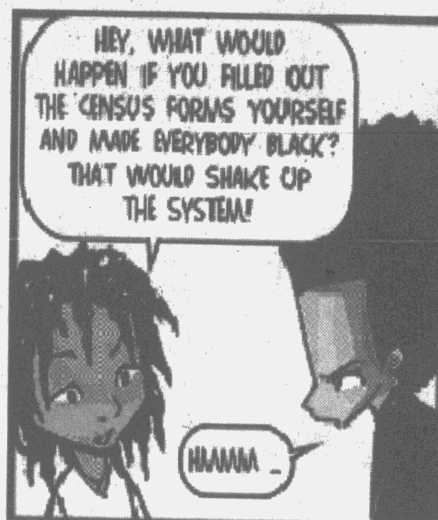
Don't waste the time you have by complaining that there's not enough of it. Use it to do what you can. As quickly as time is used it is replaced, but if you don't use what you have right now, you'll never get the opportunity again.

Do what you can, every opportunity you get. You'll soon find yourself getting exactly where you wish to go.



WOOW Joy 1340AM  
Greenville, NC

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# Reflections



Suejette A. Jones

## Wings over Jordan Restoration

I can remember in the days before television arrived, the radio was the only means of communication with the world, other than the newspaper, magazines and other media. In a way it was more advantageous because it lent itself to using one's imagination. Every Sunday morning before church, families huddled around the radio to listen to the all-negro choir, "Wings over Jordan."

I read an account some time ago where Dr. Sam Barber, retired and living in Greenville is spear heading a project based on the history and preservation of the "wings over Jordan" choir (WOJC) a distinguished advisory groups will assist Dr. Sam Barber.

Having previously met Dr. Barber through a mutual friend, I felt comfortable inviting him into my home to get more detailed information about the WOJC Foundation project. When he arrived and we greeted each other, I asked to know more about himself which he graciously offered.

## Education History:

Born in Trenton, NC.

BS degree in Music Ed, Howard University, Washington, DC. MS degree in Music Education, Roosevelt University, Chicago, Ill. Doctorate in Musical Arts, College

Conservatory, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Work History: Music Teacher, public school, Greene County, NC. Music Teacher, public school, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Assistant Teacher, Ohio State University, Associate Teacher, NC A & T University Music Teacher, Pitt County Schools Armed Forces; US Army Reserve 23 years After giving me his background and other credentials Dr. Barber continued to inform me of the proposed and history of WOJC. WOJC was a group of ordinary yet uncommon citizens whose contributions to choral music, to the improvement of race relations, and to broadcast history are unparalleled.

Inaugurated in 1937 as the Negro Hour by the Reverend Glenn T. Settle, pastor of the Gethsemane Baptist Church, Cleveland, Ohio, the choir began as a local weekly radio program broadcast WGAR. With this radio program, Reverend Settle began to realize his long held dream that blacks and whites could learn to co-exist, thereby lessening ever resolving the tensions inherent in racial conflict. Reverend Settle knew from his childhood experience in the fields of North Carolina that the singing of Negro spirituals had a position and dramatic impact on both

white and black people alike. In addition he believed the message of Christianity enhanced by genuine performances of Negro spirituals, could reach out and touch both races. Thus, in 1937, when an editorial seeking positive and decisive leadership within the Negro community appeared in Cleveland's Negro newspaper, *Cleveland Post*, Reverend Settle seized the opportunity to put his vision to the test.

Cleveland was then a racially polarized city with strong ethnic divisions. All groups except the Negro community, had the benefit of a public service program on WGAR. WGAR known as the local "Friendly" station, addressed special concerns and interests of specific ethnic groups. Reverend Settle promoted the establishment of a radio which would speak to the Negro community, and would attempt to make the Negro experience know the non-negro population. The Negro Hour premiered in July 1937, and was an instant success. After only six months, officials of WGAR, a CBS affiliate station, recognized the potential of *The Negro Hour* as a program which could attract national attention.

On January 9, 1938, the name was changed to *Wings Over Jordan Choir*. This began a decade-long series of weekly, sometimes daily, broadcasts as an exclusive CBS and WGAR attraction to millions of admiring radio

fans around the world. Reverend Settle's accomplishments are a milestone in the history of America radio. WOJC was the first independent by produced national and international radio programs created by African Americans.

Today, WOJC seems to have passed almost completely from public awareness and from appropriate historical recognition. WOJC deserves recognition commensurate with its impact on our cultural institutions. It is from this stance that Dr. Sam Barber and his advisory groups is seeking a funding in order to carry out a proposed to produce a video documentary which will address the rich history of this path-breaking and award-winning choir. The documentary emphasized four major themes:

The importance of WOJC in preserving and promoting an authentic manner of singing Negro spirituals. The choir's role in the civil rights movement. The choir's significance as a milestone in the history of CBS radio network and American radio broadcast industry. The unique contributions to the Allied War effort during World War II (of special significance is that together with the 92 Infantry Division, the WOJC was part of the formal restoration ceremonies in 1945 which returned Christopher Columbus's ashes to their proper place in Genoa, Italy.

This documentary will also examine the rich density of the social and cultural effect the choir had on the American at large and the African American in particular. Archived photographers, film footage, historical recordings and documents, and interviews with surviving members of the choir will be the heart of this effort to honor WOJC and its founder, Reverend Glenn T. Settle.

Source: Dr. Sam Barber

**Words of Wisdom**  
"This discontented man finds no easy chair."  
Benjamin Franklin

"Courage is being scared to death and saddling up anyway."  
John Wayne

"The right to be heard does not automatically include the right to be taken seriously."  
Hubert Humphrey

"The mind is always the dupe of the heart." Francois de la Rochefoucauld

"The wise person does not allow his knowledge and abilities to be sounded to the bottom, if he desires to be honored by all. He allows you to know him but not to comprehend him." Baltasar Gracian y Morales

"Life is the art of drawing sufficient conclusion from insufficient premises."  
Samuel Butler

"The really frightening thing about middle age is the knowledge that you'll grow out of it." Doris Day

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## Sow A Seed

Joy R. Brown

*This article is humbly submitted to Sow A Seed by Shayla Biggs of Greenville, North Carolina.*

### What's the Value of Your Life?

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-this is your spiritual act of worship. For by the grace given me I say to

every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure God has given you." Romans 12: 1, 3

Take a look at your life. Do you value your life based on how much money you make, how many friends you have, or how beautiful you are? Or do you place high emphasis on things such as cars, houses, or education? If so, then you don't have high values for your life. These are all materialistic values that don't mean much in the end and will only carry you so far. They will lead you on an endless journey to "keep up with the Jones'." Every time they seem to move up the corporate ladder and move up in life, you are right behind them trying to get to your next stop. Are these always bad values to have? No. These are important values, but they should not be your top priorities

and most important values. Focusing solely on these values can lead to low self-esteem because they are never good enough or you never have enough. But what does God say the value of your life should be? God is not primarily concerned with our looks but He is concerned with our spirit. We need to let God shape our spirit. We have to trust Him enough to let Him make us what he wants us to be. Are you set on always getting something for nothing? God commands us to give. This is an important value because we can bring souls into the kingdom this way. He takes pride in us being generous. Are you committed to the cause or are you just going with the flow of things? God values faithfulness. All of these values are values that make us better people and will carry us a long way. They are not materialistic but spiritual values that shape us as Christians and humans. It's okay to have the money, the looks, the education, and cars. But, what is most important is what you do with those things. Are you selfish with those things, or do you share with those less fortunate? What's the value of your life?

## ... New York

speech was infectious, and on several occasions his remarks about unity were met with loud applause.

"Let us grab the unusual opportunities that circumstance has handed us today and put personal politics, party advantage, and power struggles aside, in favor of service, in the interests of the people," Paterson said flawlessly, having memorized his speech as he always does.



This allusion to Spitzer was about as close as it came to mentioning the former governor, though there were hints that he would retain some of the reform measures promised by the previous administration. "I never expected to have the honor of serving of New York State," Paterson said, "but our constitution demands it. This transition today is an historic message to the world that we live among the same values that we profess and that we are government of laws, and not individuals."

Getting to the more substantive issues, Paterson said that if we are going to build a viable future for New York, "we are going to have to help single mothers who have two jobs." He said, "We are going to have to give children better schools, and families who don't have health care some redress."

Those who may have been expecting a stem winder of an address, covering a litany of critical problems facing the state will have to await another occasion. This was his pleasant preface, a way of easing into a position that is fraught with a multitude of obstacles, including congestion pricing, a budget with a deficit of more than \$5 billion that must be completed by April 1.

Many Harlemites are already pondering what kind of administration Paterson will oversee, and if he'll repair some of the damage left by his predecessor in which several charitable organizations in the community were victims of his overzealousness. One listener in Albany wanted to know if Paterson the governor will keep the promises made by Paterson the State Senator, a position he held for more than twenty years.

"He promised a moratorium on eminent domain," she said. "I wonder if he'll keep that promise and how that'll impact such projects as Willets Point, Columbia University, and Bruce Ratner's plans for the Atlantic Yards in Brooklyn."

"What a special moment for all New Yorkers," said Lucille McEwen, president and CEO of Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement, who attended the ceremony, "and I think he's going to make a fine governor."

Even more immediate for Paterson is the recent admission that he had more than one extra-marital affair. During a period of time more than seven years ago, when their marriage was in trouble, he told one of the local dailies that both he and his wife had been involved in affairs. He said they had discussed these affairs and felt it was best to talk about them and then put them aside.

If Paterson can overcome the disability of being a Black man and legally blind to become the chief executive in the state, the old love affairs, the possibility of conflict of interest with his lawyer father who represents several unions, and dealing with the longstanding political gridlock in Albany will be a comparative walk in the park.

"I have confronted the prejudice of race, and challenged the issues of my own disability," the governor said during his speech, "I have served in government for over two decades. I stand willing and able to lead this state to a brighter future and a better tomorrow."

It will take all the fortitude and genius Paterson had shown in the past to accomplish just a portion of the enormous tasks that loom ahead.



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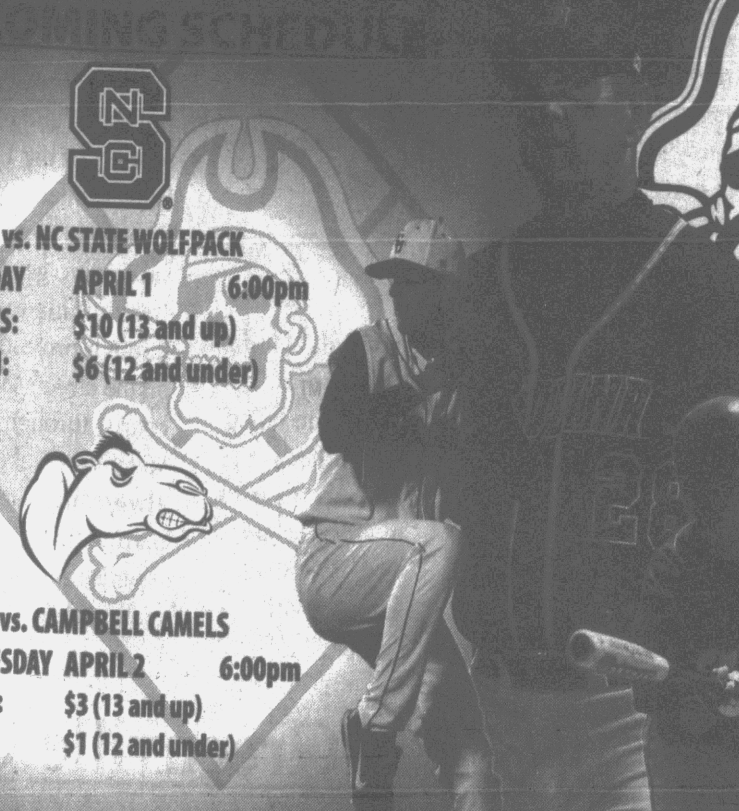


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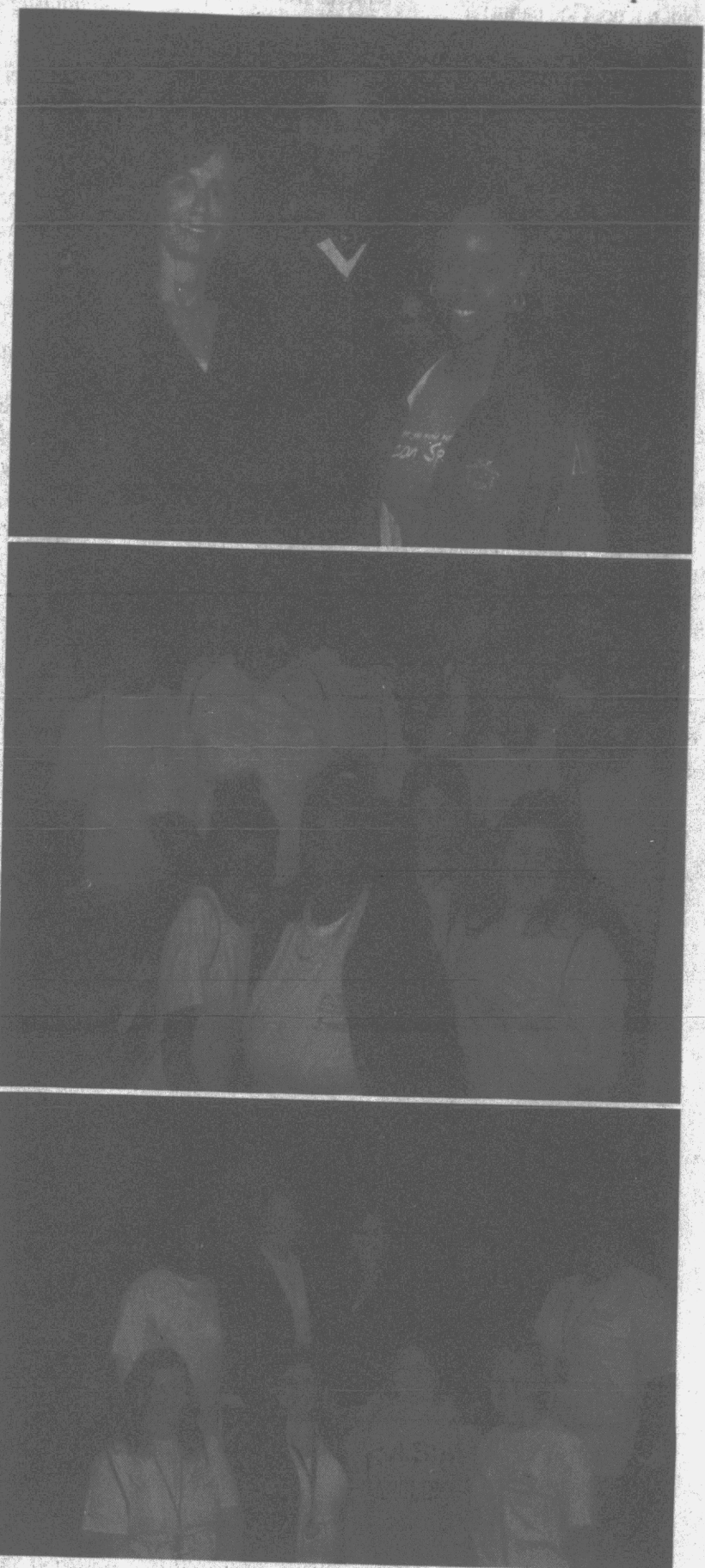
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## Girl Power Comes To ECU

Communities In Schools of Pitt County sponsor Career/Education day on ECU campus.

Under the direction of Kathy A. Taft, Girl Power an after-school program in the middle schools of Pitt County visited the campus of ECU. Each school has 12-16 girls who participate in the program and each group has a facilitator who teaches the girls about being alcohol and drug free, delaying sexual activity, nutrition, and body image just to name a few of the topics covered. Kathy A. Taft planned Career/Education day for all the groups on the ECU campus. The girls learned about the University and how it feels to be a student, they toured various points of interest on campus. These points of interest included College Hill, the Dowdy Student Store, Joyner Library; they also had lunch and were involved in other activities. Terrick Cox, Coordinator Student Outreach Services; Kathy Taft Exec. Dir. Communities in Schools of Pitt County, along with Student Speaker, Shania Nixon (top photo) led the group in opening activities.



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# ... 'a teaching moment' about racism

bigger prisons, passes a three-strike law and then wants us to sing 'God Bless America.' No, no, no, God damn America, that's in the Bible for killing innocent people. God damn America for treating our citizens as less than human. God damn America for as long as she acts like she is God and she is supreme.

A new CBS News poll released this week showed that while Wright's comments had hurt Obama among some segments of the public, most people retained their audacity of hope, with more than half saying the controversy had not tarnished their image of Obama. The poll was conducted Sunday and Monday, before Obama gave his speech in Philadelphia.

**"Suddenly, they were shocked to think that Obama's ears would be untrained for something that was so raw and he was supposed to get up and run out of the church when he heard it..."**

Of the Democrats polled, 76 percent said Jeremiah Wright's comments did not alter their view of the candidate. Another 15 percent said they now hold a less favorable view and 2 percent said it increased their favorable rating of him.

The largest shift was among Republicans. Of those, 47 percent say they've become less favorable toward Obama. Still, more than half of the Republicans - 53 percent - were unmoved by the controversy. Sixty-one percent of independent voters say they are unaffected while 36 percent said it made their view of Obama less favorable. Like Democrats, 2 percent of independents said the controversy gave them a more favorable view of Obama.

Another poll, one by conducted by Gallup, showed Obama and Clinton in a statistical tie with Republican John McCain. Upcoming polls are expected to measure the impact of Obama's speech on race.

Obama answered his critics in a speech in Philadelphia, which was Wright's hometown before he moved to Chicago.

"I have already condemned, in unequivocal terms, the statements of Rev. Wright that have caused such controversy," Obama stated. "For some, nagging questions remain. Did I know him to be an occasionally fierce critic of American domestic and foreign policy? Of course. Did I ever hear him make remarks that could be considered controversial while I sat in church? Yes. Did I strongly disagree with many of his political views?

Absolutely - just as I'm sure many of you have heard remarks from your pastors, priests, or rabbis with which you strongly disagreed."

Even so, Obama refused to disown Wright.

"I can no more disown him than I can disown the Black community," Obama explained. "I can no more disown him than I can my White grandmother - a woman who helped raise me, a woman who sacrificed again and again for me, a woman who loves me as much as she loves anything in this world, but a woman who once confessed her fear of Black men who passed by her on the street, and who on more than one occasion has uttered racial or ethnic stereotypes that made me cringe. These people are a part of me. And they are a part of America, this country that I love."

Because of his biracial background, Obama is in the unique position of having Whites take his account of racism in America seriously.

Obama said, "In the White community, the path to a more perfect union means acknowledging that what ails the African-American community does not just exist in the minds of Black people; that the legacy of discrimination - and current incidents of discrimination, while less overt than in the past - are real and must be addressed. Not just with words, but with deeds - by investing in our schools and our communities; by enforcing our civil rights laws and ensuring fairness in our criminal justice system; by providing this generation with ladders of opportunity that were unavailable for previous generations. It requires all Americans to realize that your dreams do not have to come at the expense of my dreams; that investing in the health, welfare, and education of Black and Brown and White children will ultimately help all of America prosper."

Ron Walters, a political science professor at the University of Maryland, was impressed by Obama's ability to straddle between two worlds, one Black and one White.

"He used this a teachable moment. And I think in essence, that's what made the speech so good," Walters said. "He's also trying to explain to them where the Black church came from, why it has a different perspective, what is the culture of the Black church and why Rev. Wright feels the way he does about racism."

Walters said a lot was at stake.

"His danger was that he would lose support with the Black race if he threw his the minister of his church under the bus. He didn't do that; he affirmed him. I think, given the speech, he's also going to be able to reach out to Whites and they will be able to say he talked about race in a way that's consistence with what he said about other issues."

The New York Times said as much in an editorial.

"Mr. Obama's eloquent speech should end the debate over his ties to Mr. Wright since there is nothing to suggest that he would carry religion into government," the Times said on Wednesday. "But he did not stop there. He put Mr. Wright, his beliefs and the reaction to them in the larger context of race relations with an honesty seldom heard in public life."

Charles Steel Jr., president and CEO of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC),

Questions whether that will be enough. Steele said too many Americans live in the 51<sup>st</sup> state - the state of denial.

"I've always said that we, as a country, need to be healed from slavery," Steele said. "Every time we talk about the pain of African-Americans and people of color that we've experienced from this country, it's always difficult for folks to comprehend. Unless you experience the pain, you don't understand the pain."

And it pains some Whites that Obama continues to defend the Black church experience.

"People don't look at the brother, for some reason, as a Black man," explains Barbara Reynolds, a religion professor at Howard University who knows Wright well. "Suddenly, people woke up and said, 'Oh, this is a Black man.' And suddenly they were shocked to think that Obama's ears would be untrained for something that was so raw and he was supposed to get up and run out of the church when he heard it. Black people hear this kind of talk all the time."

The race-specific language that offends Whites, galvanizes Blacks, says Steele.

"The difficult part is getting

people to understand that African-Americans are still hurting from just being African-Americans," he explained. "Ultimately, in terms of our surviving, we are the only race or group of people who have experienced such inhumane treatment and we're hurting."

And many Whites just don't understand.

Reynolds observed, "I think it shocked White people because they've been lulled into thinking that the problems are somehow over, that we're all going to join hands and sing, 'We Shall Overcome' and skip off through the tulips."

Obama said that has never been the case.

"... Words on a parchment would not be enough to deliver slaves from bondage, or provide men and women of every color and creed their full rights and obligations as citizens of the United States," he recounted. "What would be needed were Americans in successive generations who were willing to do their part - through protests and struggle, on the streets and in the courts, through a civil war and civil disobedience and always at great risk - to narrow that gap between the promise of our ideals and the reality of their time."

## Barack Obama's Greenville Office

**U.S. Rep. G.K. Butterfield came to speak during a news conference Tuesday at Barack Obama's new Greenville office.**

U.S. Rep. G.K. Butterfield said Tuesday that Clinton's comments about an experience in Bosnia in 1996 are the latest in a growing list of instances in which the New York senator has exaggerated her role in foreign and

domestic policy. Congressman Butterfield represents the 1st Congressional District, which includes Pitt County. He is also one of the state's 17 superdelegates. Butterfield commented, "After eight years of an administration we

haven't been able to trust, we need a leader who will be straight with the American people. That is why I'm supporting Barack Obama for president of the United States of America."

Congressman G. K. Butterfield is a life-long resident of eastern North Carolina. After fifteen years as a judge, Congressman Butterfield retired from the Judiciary in April of 2004 when he was selected by the Democratic Party as the nominee in the July Special Election for the United States House of Representatives. Since winning that special election, Congressman Butterfield has been twice re-elected to serve full two-year terms in the House of Representatives.



Greenville is the site of Barack Obama's newest campaign offices. photo M. Adams

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"I like to believe that people in the long run are going to do more to promote peace than our governments. Indeed, I think that people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of the way and let them have it."

Dwight Eisenhower



**Minority Voice Scoop . . . . .** shown above is Mr D.D. Garrett, long time advocate for the people, former NAACP President and enterpreneurial giant in our community. Mr Garrett stops to talk with Dr Dennard from ECU who is soon to write an autobiography of Mr. Garrett. A well deserved honor for one who has worked for the rights of the people.

photo Mr Jim Rouse



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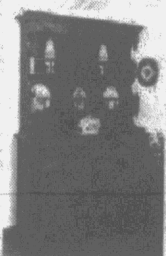
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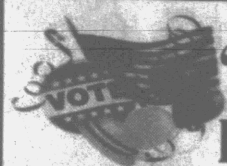
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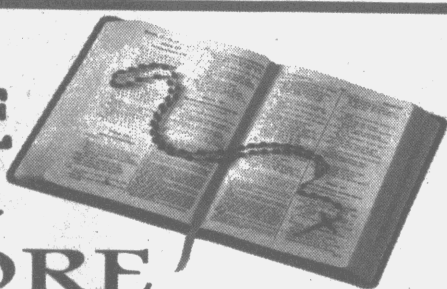


**"The future of this republic is in the hands of the American voter"**



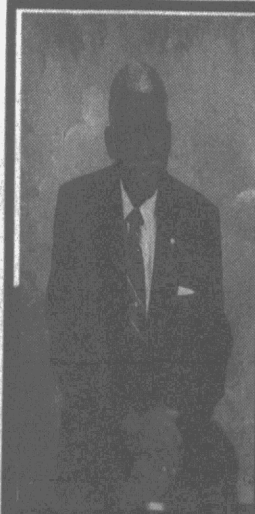
Stop The Violence . . . . on hand at the Stop The Violence Youth Summit was (left to right) Ms Smith of Tarboro and Ms Brenda Rouse of Greenville. Ms Smith brought some of her African memorabilia. Ms Rouse, a strong advocate for Barack Obama helped with voter registration while also making Obama T-shirts available for the participants.

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March 20, 2008

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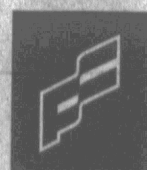
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I have been thinking a lot about the pressures and spiritual attacks that so many women are in or have pressed to get themselves out of. I myself have been fighting a personal spiritual attack which has caused me to press in to the Lord like never before. I think when you've done all you know and you have stood and continue to stand the enemy will speak loud in your mind to make you feel your missing the mark in what you believe the Lord is saying to you. I know there are many of you who can identify with this feeling, but then after days and nights of struggle we have to come to grips with whatever it is that is trying to take us off of our spiritual assignment. When there is power and a great anointing on your life you will be tried in ways you can't imagine. We know the Lord has told us in his word that he will never leave us nor forsake us but it sometimes feels so alone. We know that he is the very thread that is holding the fabric of our lives together but sometimes the thread is hard to see. Our rational mind reminds us that he is near because the very fabric of our life is still held together with the hope and faith that pushes us from day to day. So we wait and wait for a move of God, we pray and pray as we wait for a move of God. Knowing that he is a supernatural God and his time is not our time, our patience is tried and our desire to win begins to build back up because we realize we must stay "Bond To The Spirit" this is mandatory for our survival ladies, no matter what it is your struggling with today stay connected and focused on your future. Your assignment is important to the Kingdom. No matter if you're a homemaker, a school teacher, or a woman in ministry, wherever you go to take your place in each day to make ends meet or to serve, know that you are important. There are gifts that have been given to us by God.

flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Realize the more weapons of our warfare that we possess the better we know how to utilize them, the more successful we will be in battle. Jesus says; 1 Corinthians 12:1 now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant, Jesus knowing that he would face crucifixion he promised that he would pray to the father to give them another comforter. John 14: 16-17

The Holy Spirit commanded the church not to be ignorant concerning spiritual gifts.

Three Categories of Gifts: proper categories, spiritually divided themselves into three primary categories

Gifts of revelation: the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge and the discerning of spirits.

Gifts of power: faith, the gifts of healing, the working of miracles.

Gifts of inspiration: prophecy, diver's kinds of tongues and the interpretation of tongues.

A Definition of Categories; What God does in classification of gifts

Gifts of revelation, God reveals something from heaven to man - something man cannot know any other way.

Matthew 16:17 - Flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, But my father which is in heaven

In the gifts of power, God does something for man. He imparts his own divine energy and abilities.

In the gifts of inspiration, God brings blessing to others by edification, exhortation and comfort 1 Corinthians 14:3.

Although we have three natural gifts, the total nine gifts are given to the church by the Holy Spirit for a supernatural work which we will possibly discuss in the future.

### Bound In the Spirit

Acts 21; 1-14

Paul spiritual commitment to go to Jerusalem and then on to Rome had come from the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 19; 21 records through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, after I have been there I must also see Rome. That guidance had been confirmed repeatedly so that the Apostle could reaffirm it to the Ephesians elders before leaving them. "And now, see I go bond in the chains and tribulations await me" Acts 20: 22-23. Note that the Spirit guided him to go, and then alerted him to the trails which were ahead. The clarification of the difficulties did not contradict the initial guidance, but clarified the nature of it.

It is crucial to catch the relationship of "Bond in the Spirit", and "the Holy Spirit testifies. Paul's own spirit was under the control of the Holy Spirit. A short time earlier he written the Christians at Rome from Corinth explaining this and expressing autobiographically what he knew was ahead of him. "The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. And if children then heirs- heirs of God and heirs with Christ. Verse- 4- The Christians told Paul "through the Spirit (v.4) not to go to Jerusalem. The words "through the Spirit imply that they had a word of knowledge from the Spirit that the apostle was not to go to Jerusalem. Conflicting guidance? No if he was the same Spirit. The Spirit revealed the danger ahead for Paul. These were people he was in relationship with. He had spent three years with them there was a bond between them. But Paul had received orders from the Holy Spirit to go and also had been given a clear picture of what going would mean. "Bond in the Spirit" He pressed on.

Success ease and peace without conflict have become the false signs of the Spirit's blessing. Sometimes we can't imagine that trails and difficulties could ever be the Lord's will for people we love. The will of the Lord must be done in our life.

What troubled Paul was the combined restraint imposed by Phillip, his prophetic daughters, his companions, and even Luke. Together they all pleaded with him not to go to Jerusalem. Agabus did not forbid Paul from going to Jerusalem. He simply made it clear what would happen when he went. The Spirit had not given different guidance as a matter of fact they were on it in the Spirit. It is what the friends added to the guidance that made Paul go through mixed emotions. Had Paul listened to his emotions and his friends he would have missed his God assignment. Stay on course and stay "Bond to the Spirit" Trust God and wait for your breakthrough. Understand who you are and what is available to you so you can have clarity of where you are in your walk with the father. We are not defeated!!! We win by the blood of the lamb. Your past does not have to define your future.

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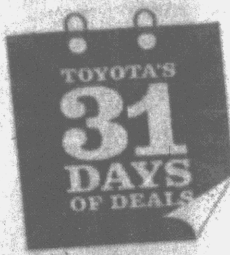
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