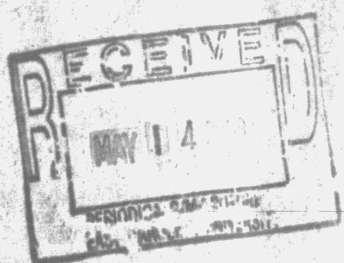


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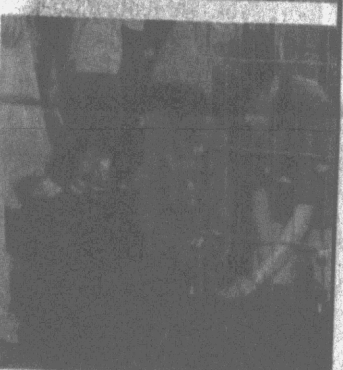
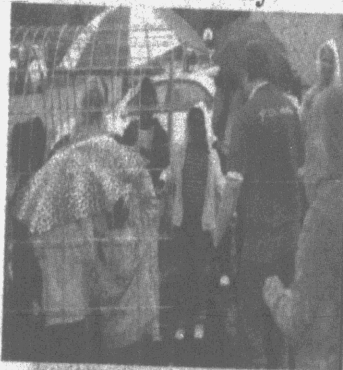
# THE MINORITY VOICE

**LIVE RADIO**

**WOOW Joy**  
1340AM  
Greenville, NC

**WTOW Joy**  
1320AM  
Washington NC

The Children  
Of  
The Lil Willie Center  
Planting  
On Earth Day



THE MINORITY VOICE  
NEWSPAPER PICK UP  
YOUR COPY TODAY



## Haiti's food shortage costs prime minister his job....

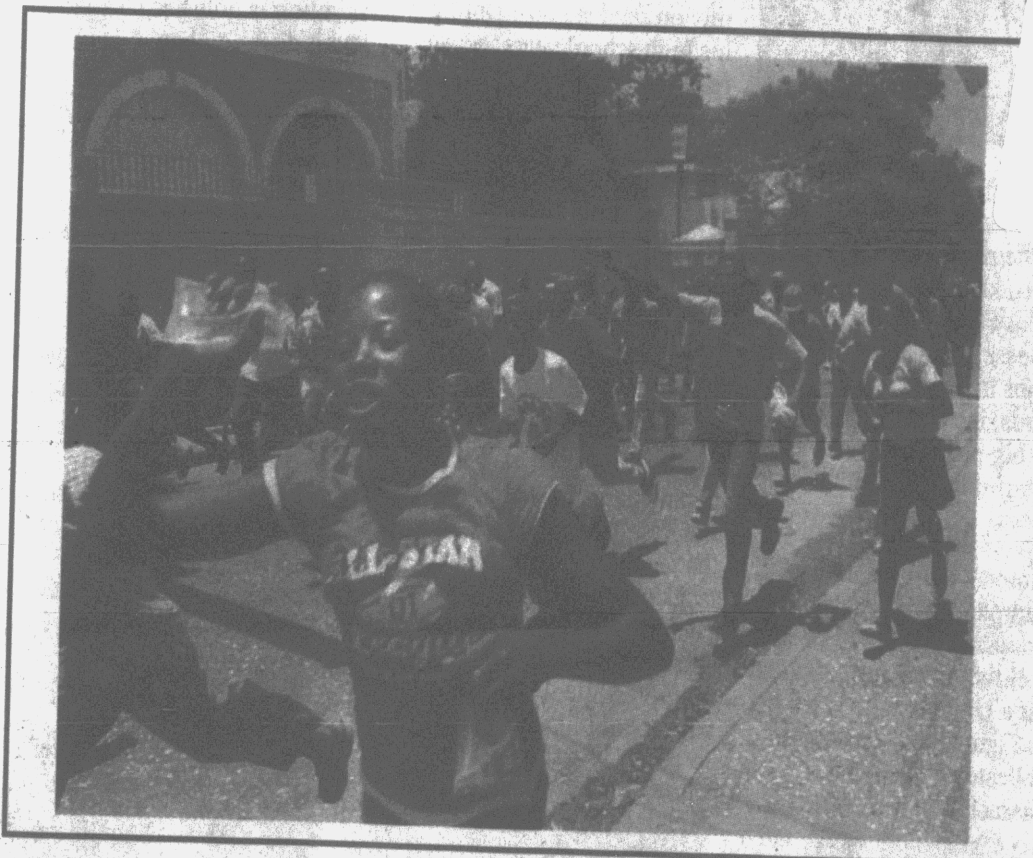
By: Saeed Shabazz

After a week of riots in the streets and towns of Haiti over the shortage of food and basic human needs, 16 members of the parliament ousted Prime Minister Jacques-Edouard Alexis with a vote of "no-confidence". The so-called "food riots" have reportedly left five dead and scores wounded, as the 9,000-member United Nations peacekeeping force attempts to bring calm to the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation. Haitians have recently called for

Alexis and Pres. Renee Garcia Preval to both step down.

According to Haitian activist and attorney Marguerite Laurent of the Connecticut-based Haitian Lawyers Leadership Network, Alexis had asked the public to give the government 60 days to turn things around, and when nothing changed, people took matters into their own hands. On April 2, protests erupted in Les Cayes, Haiti's third-largest city, as ironically, rapper Wyclef Jean urged his fellow countrymen to "turn away from violence"

...Haiti food shortage pg5



## EXCLUSIVE:

### Rev. Wright Episode was 'Opportunity' to Lead, Says Michelle Obama

by Cash Michaels

Special to the NNPA from the Carolinian

GREENSBORO (NNPA) - For political pundits, the explosive controversy spawned by the fiery videotaped comments of Rev. Jeremiah Wright was a near-fatal blow to the historic presidential aspirations of Sen. Barack Obama [D-III].

But to the Democratic hopeful's wife, Michelle, it was an important "opportunity," long ignored by others, to lead the nation towards a critical dialogue on race, and bridging the entrenched gaps that divide the American people.

An opportunity her husband gallantly seized, Ms. Obama adds, to bring about the hope



and change she says America "desperately" needs.

In an exclusive interview with The Carolinian upon her momentous first visit to North Carolina April 8 to campaign for her husband, Michelle Obama, 44, spoke candidly about how she encouraged him to leverage the national outrage over their former Her

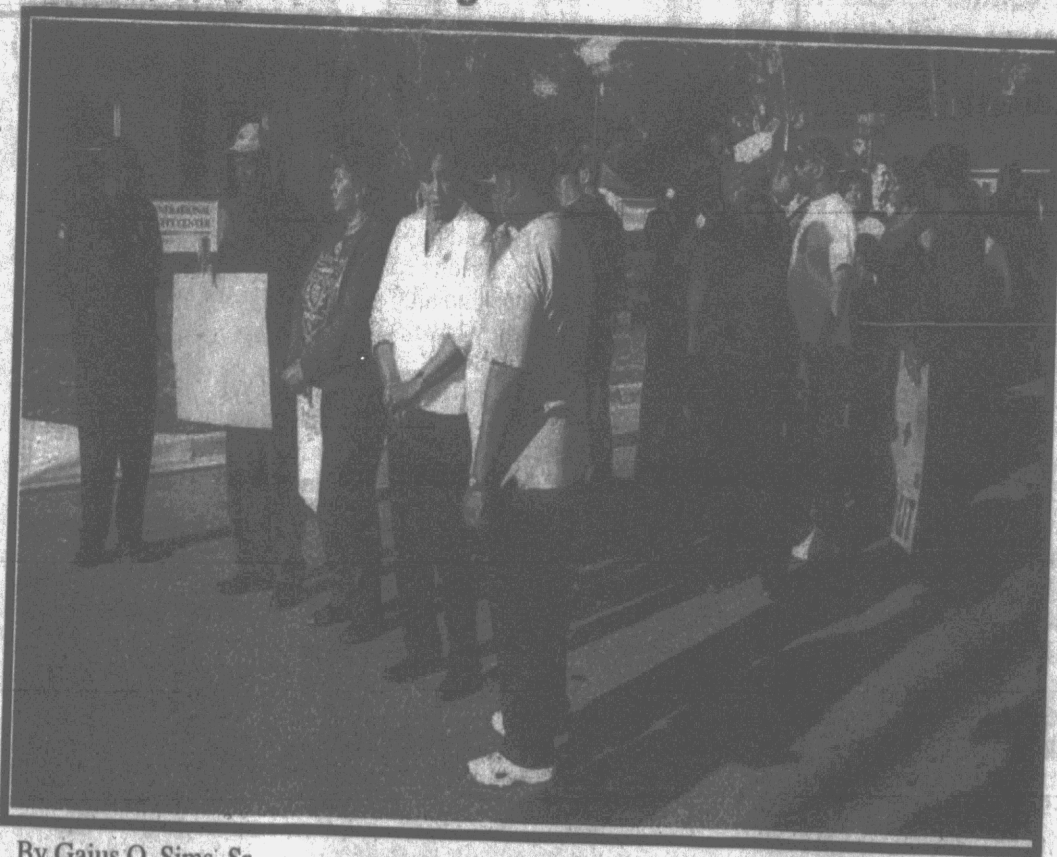
... story cont. pg8



VOTE FOR ... Marium Rouse poses with Barrak Obama on a recent stop in Winston Salem photo M'bulu Rouse

## SMALL RALLY... BIG IDEAS

Group rallies around gunfire



By Gaius O. Sims, Sr.

GREENVILLE, NC - In the wake of recent gunfire in west Greenville - gunfire that was mistakenly reported by the media to have taken place near the offices of the Lucille Gorham Intergenerational Center but actually occurred in the vicinity of Contennea Street more than four blocks away prompted community and city leaders to quickly call for a rally putting into action a strategy of response semi-retired police Captain Cecil Hardy said was more than a year and half in planning.

And unlike other larger marches and rallies which may occur in response to some violent incident or political controversy in West Greenville, this 'small crowd' gathered in response to seek ways to prevent community violence.

Unlike in the past, part of that strategy - should any

fatalities occur during an act of violence, plans have been developed to raise the significance to that lost of life through a series of rallies, weeklong vigils and marches because that life could have been or in some way was an important factor to the community.

### Offsetting the negatives...

This rally, however was also called together too offset the effects of any negative press that may have attached itself to issues of safety when participating in programs provided by these west Greenville community centers (inclusive of the Little Willie Center).

### Citizens Against Violence (CAV)

Hardy took that opportunity to officially introduce CITIZENS AGAINST VIOLENCE (CAV), a community organization formed according to it's president, Arnell Johnson to engage community

participation in preventing crime, but to also show "our appreciation for positive partnerships between the Pitt Community College, City of Greenville, East Carolina University, the Little Willie Center and other organizations [and businesses] we feel are necessary and vital in helping fight violence here and "in Pitt County."

These agencies whole heartedly support activities that would reduce crime by finding ways to promote general welfare "by setting up educational and parenting programs" and "implementing a more effective use of resources already available," Hardy added.

He also said that no one organization could fulfill all needs but as you remove negative influences from the community "they must be replaced with positive influences."

## OPINIONS

# Hillary Clinton is 'Majoring in the Minor'

by George E. Curry  
NNPA Columnist



With only nine remaining contests and no mathematical chance of overtaking the front-runner, Hillary Clinton continues to, as Jesse Jackson puts it, major in the minor. In other words, instead of addressing the big picture, she is engaged in insignificant side shows.

Clinton's most notable example of this is her trying to depict Barack Obama as an elitist. It's almost comical that a United States senator who graduated from the elite Wellesley College in Massachusetts and Yale Law

School would complain that a graduate of Columbia University and Harvard Law School is an elitist. From an educational standpoint, both of them are elitists. However, when you look at their personal upbringing, their lives could not have been more different.

Obama's father left home when he was 2 years old. For a while, Obama was reared by a mother who at times had to rely on food stamps. During his high school years, he was reared in Hawaii by his grandparents.

Born in Chicago, Clinton grew up in the affluent suburb of Park Ridge. Her father, Hugh Rodham, was a successful textile wholesaler. His mother, Dorothy, was a homemaker. Who is the elitist?

In another side show, Clinton tries to exploit Obama's comment made at a private fundraiser in San Francisco that economically-stressed residents in small Pennsylvania towns are bitter and cling to their guns and religion while rejecting people who are not like them.

During the debate, Obama explained his view.

"This is the first economic expansion that we just completed in which ordinary people's incomes actually went down when adjusted for inflation. At the same time, the costs of everything, from health care to gas at the pump, has skyrocketed. And so the point I was making was that when people feel like Washington's not listening to them, when they're promised year after year, decade after decade, that their economic situation is going to change and it doesn't, then, politically, they end up focusing on those things that are constant like religion," he said.

"They end up feeling this is a place where I can find some refuge. This is something I can count on. They end up being much more concerned about votes around things like guns, where traditions have been passed on from generation to generation. And those are incredibly important to them. And, yes, what is also true is that wedge issues, hot-button issues, end up taking prominence in our politics."

Clinton majored in the minor during the debate when she

again tried to exploit Obama's connection with his former pastor, Rev. Jeremiah Wright. She said, "You get to choose your pastor. You don't choose your family, but you get to choose your pastor. And when asked a direct question, I said I would not have stayed in the church."

As Obama pointed out, Clinton's former pastor said Wright has been unfairly caricatured and his words had been taken out of context.

Clinton also tried to scare voters by trying to link Obama to radical terrorists of the 1960s and 1970s. She singled out William Ayers a former member of the Weather Underground. The issue was first raised by George Stephanopoulos, the co-moderator, but continued by Clinton.

CLINTON: I also believe that Senator Obama served on a board with Mr. Ayers for a period of time, the Woods Foundation, which was a paid directorship position. And, if I'm not mistaken, that relationship with Mr. Ayers

on this board continued after 9/11 and after his reported comments, which were deeply hurtful to people in New York and, I would hope, to every American, because they were published on 9/11, and he said that he was just sorry they hadn't done more. And what they did was set bombs. And in some instances, people died. So it is — I think it is, again, an issue that people will be asking about.

FactCheck.org stated, "In fact, nobody died as a result of bombings in which Ayers said he participated as part of the Weather Underground, at the New York City Police Headquarters in 1970, in a men's lavatory in the Capitol building in 1971 and in a women's restroom in the Pentagon in 1972. The deaths to which Clinton referred were of three Weather Underground members who died when their own "bomb factory" exploded in a Greenwich Village townhouse on March 6, 1970. Ayers was not present. Also, two police officers were murdered in connection with the robbery of a Brinks

armored car by Weather Underground members in 1981. That was about a year after Ayers had turned himself in and after all charges against him had been dropped."

FactCheck.org also stated: "Obama also correctly said that President Bill Clinton had pardoned or commuted the sentences of two Weather Underground members, who had, unlike Ayers, been convicted and sentenced to long prison terms. Bill Clinton indeed pardoned one and commuted the sentence of another."

Once again, Hillary Clinton has demonstrated that in politics, as in war, truth is the first casualty.

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of *Emergence* magazine and the NNPA News Service, is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. He can be reached through his Web site, [www.georgecurry.com](http://www.georgecurry.com).

## BLACKONOMICS, "4,000 SLAIN; AND YOU WANT MCCAIN?"

by JAMES CLINGMAN  
The Wilmington Journal

To take a quote from the brother on the Miller High Life commercials, "Y'all must be crazy!" Now that we have lost more soldiers than the number of persons we lost on September 11, 2001, and now that we are "celebrating" five years of war in Iraq, and now that we have tens of thousands of American wounded and hundreds of thousands Iraqis dead, we have a presidential candidate who ants to continue what the current leader calls a "noble, necessary, and just" war. Again, to quote that brother in the commercial, "Are you for real?"

How could anyone, other than the sycophants and the wealthy war barons vote for McCain? The opposite of the High Life is the low life, and this country has been mired in the low life for nearly eight years now; and some people say, "Give us more." It's amazing, simply amazing.

Let's see now: we have \$4.00 gasoline and diesel fuel - and \$5.00 in some places, a recession, whether they want to admit it or not; a housing/mortgage crisis; a healthcare catastrophe; an unfathomable national debt; a huge deficit; a dollar that's worth about a quarter; a rising euro; oil at \$110.00 per barrel; Venezuela now doing what Sadaam Hussein did back in 2000, selling its oil for euros instead of petrodollars; cash payoffs going to our enemies in Iraq to keep them from fighting us; plans to invade Iran; Osama sending another

message to us from the mountains of Pakistan or Afghanistan or wherever they say he is right now; the bailout of Bear Stearns with tax dollars; and we have the Bushites bragging about how many new schools, hospitals, roads and highways, and all the infrastructure they have rebuilt in Iraq, while New Orleans still languishes in despair and disrepair.

Despite all of this, President-in-waiting, John McCain walks around Israel with a Yamika on his head and with Joe Lieberman at his side, coaching him and correcting McCain's errors regarding Iran and other international issues. I thought his strength was in international issues.

He admitted he knows very little about economic issues. What's left? How about healthcare, education, energy, and employment?

The first thing this guy does is traipse off to Israel, instead of New Orleans, to assure folks halfway around the world that we are there for them.

Hey, John, what about us? Man, I can't wait for the Presidential debates to start.

Finally a few Black Republicans came out to support McCain. Michael Steele, Larry Elder, and Ken Blackwell have all made positive statements about old John and why we should elect him as our next President. I refer them to the Miller High Life brother. What is it about political party loyalty that would make intelligent men and women support, at least in rhetoric, some of the characters placed before us today? Is it the prospect of a job in the administration? Is it insider deals?

George Bush says the war is "noble" and they go long with his stupidity.

What's the noble about lying to get into a war? What's noble about 4000 lives lost because of the lies? What's noble about commandeering a country's resources? What's noble about spending a trillion dollars on this war for five years, with no end in sight?

Tricky Dick Cheney, responding to recent polls that show two-thirds of Americans say the Iraq war is not worth it, simply says, "So?" This draft-dodging, deferment grabbing, egomaniacal, jingoistic, contradiction of the man who gives new meaning to the title of "vice" President, should have been kicked out of office years ago.

But, we have folks in "the party" who support him to the end. Dems are obviously afraid to confront his arrogant, flippant, disregard for what 66% of Americans think about his war, as well as what 80% negatively think about him. He thumbs his nose at us, flips us the bird, and takes a cruise in the Gulf of Oman with some Oil Baron. What a joke all of this is.

Yes, folks, and the joke is on us. The sad part about this entire scenario is, despite the many problems we face, most of which were caused by George Bush's administration and his band of thieves and exploiters, John McCain may be our President in January 2009.

Imagine a 74-year-old anachronism, having to be corrected by his handlers, still searching for that "Cuban that came to the prison camps of North Vietnam and tortured and killed my friends. We'll get him and bring him to justice,

too." Will somebody shake this guy and tell him that was 40 years ago, if it happened at all. You know the saying, "The older we get the better we were." McCain is probably illusionary by now.

McCain is trying to be elected on the basis of having been a POW. In my estimation, he needs much more than that. Oops! Maybe not. Bush did eight years, didn't he? We are so dumbed-down as an electorate. As we fight over Obama and Clinton and allow so-called conservative talk show hosts to control our agenda, which is reactive at best, old John may just get in.

So get ready, just in case. Get ready for more war, more needless death, more insulting excuses and rationales, more economic hardships, more corporate welfare, more invasions of sovereign nations, more cuts in services, more high prices for essentials of life, more lies, more arrogance, more being ignored, disrespected, and disregarded, more greed, more thievery, more fear-mongering, more invasion of privacy, more Clarence Thomases and Anton Scalias, more presidential puppet masters, and more of Joe Lieberman.

Back to the Miller High Life brother: This is a "common sense check." Want 4000 more slain? Just elect John McCain.

James E. Clingman, an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati's African American Studies Department, is former editor of the Cincinnati *Herald* newspaper and founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce. He hosts the radio program, "Blackonomics," and has written several books, including *Black-o-Knowledge*. To book Clingman for a speech or purchase his books, go to his Web site, [www.blackonomics.com](http://www.blackonomics.com) or call him at 513/489-4132.

## Our Voice Our Endorsements

One Stop Early Voting is already underway in Eastern NC and The Minority Voice offers its recommendations for those candidates in the May 6 primary that we feel will do the best job, and serve the public interest with distinction. First we endorse Illinois Sen. Barack Obama for president, Judge James Wynn, Jr. for re-election to the NC Court of Appeals, and newly appointed House District 18 Rep. Spaulding Hughes. From now until May 3<sup>rd</sup>, registered voters can cast early one-stop absentee ballots. So whether you choose to cast your ballot now, or wait until Tuesday, May 6, we hope that you will consider *The Minority Voice* friendly recommendations for public office. And vote!

Make no mistake; THIS is one election year where you absolutely MUST be counted!

### Governor of NC - Richard Moore

By now you've heard the controversy surrounding a new NC Republican Party TV ad which will blast state Treasurer Richard Moore and Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue, who are competing in the Democratic gubernatorial primary, for both endorsing Sen. Barack Obama for president. Despite calls from both presumptive Republican presidential nominee Sen. John McCain and the Republican National Committee, the NCGOP says that have every right to challenge Moore and Perdue for their association with Obama, because of his past association with the Rev. Jeremiah Wright. What's fair is fair. Blackfolks in North Carolina have been judging Republicans everywhere because of their proud association with the racist pronouncements of Sen. Jesse Helms. And we still do, which is why this newspaper isn't endorsing a single Republican for governor who doesn't make it clear to our community that they both denounce and renounce Sen. Helms! Don't

hold your breath for that one. But getting back to the sensible side of things, in the Democratic race for governor, we're impressed with the work and commitment of Richard Moore. Yes, we realize that Lt. Gov. Perdue enjoys a lot of black support across the state. Recently she was endorsed by former Charlotte Mayor Harvey Gantt, who ran unsuccessfully against Helms over 12 years ago. She's even been endorsed by Andy Griffith of all people. But Richard Moore has displayed a solid commitment to the issues that are important to North Carolina from the very beginning, and during his tenures in the state Legislature, the NC Dept. of Crime Control and Public Safety, and as state Treasurer, he has tackled raising North Carolina's minimum wage, bringing more good paying jobs to North Carolina, and advocating for more opportunity for blacks in state government. During an NC NAACP debate last January, Moore promised, if elected governor, that he would work to right the century-old wrongs of the 1898 Wilmington race massacre.

While he supports the death penalty, Moore did state that African-Americans are treated differently in the criminal justice system, resulting in some cases in false prosecutions. Moore promised that as governor, he would not tolerate "bad corporate behavior" that restricted workers to low-paying jobs with no benefits. And on education, Moore made it clear that "We are failing our children, and vowed to do more to improve education in the state.

Richard Moore has proven to be a consistent advocate for improving the quality of life for all North Carolinians. That's why we wholeheartedly endorse him to be elected our next North Carolina governor.

# COMMUNITY NEWS



**Mrs Beatrice Maye**

If we are to develop strong African American families and communities we must break the nigger spirit. The following is a list of some nigger traits I have observed

- Spends more money for clothes and cars than the apartment or house.
- Buys more lottery tickets than mutual funds.
- Makes babies, but does not take care of them.
- Calls women "B's".
- Lives in a dirty house.
- Writes on public walls.
- Litters in the neighborhood.
- Urinates in the alley.
- Throws bottles out of cars.
- Engages in destructive behavior.
- Loves watching television.
- Hates reading, especially about African history or big books, prefers picture books.
- Loves to get high.
- Can't party without being high.
- Arrives at programs late.
- Doesn't ask for directions when lost.
- Volunteers to take you somewhere, then runs out of gas.
- Wake up late.
- Ask, "what's happening" because they don't know.
- Doesn't like to work.
- Arrives late for work.
- Doesn't like working for Black people.
- Doesn't save money.
- Doesn't support black businesses.
- More concerned about their hairstyle than their brains.

- Use the term "you know" through the sentence because they don't.
- Gossips.
- Exaggerates.
- Can't complete a sentence without cursing, especially the "MF" word.
- Looks for differences.
- Acts like crabs in a barrel.
- Jealous.
- Kill people who look like them.
- Grab their crouch looking for power.

## 50 WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR LIFE IN 2008

1. Try open-water swimming.
2. Cut back on corn.
3. Don't be afraid to get dirty.
4. Turn work into your workout.
5. Waltz your way to better fitness.
6. Detox your household cleaning products.
7. Bite into dark chocolate.
8. Give a health-care gift card.
9. Dump your prescription pills safely.
10. Get screened for an STD.
11. Find a book worth talking about.
12. Change your reading habits.
13. Yawn!
14. Build memories through scents.
15. Go to Ivy League classes online.
16. Make a 'Not-to-do list.'
17. Swing by your local library (get and use library card).
18. Read an international newspaper.
19. Sign up for an RSS ("really simple syndication") feed reader.
20. Study geography.
21. Put the freeze on identity theft.
22. Analyze your investing strategy.
23. Hedge your portfolio.
24. Use your mobile phone for everything.
25. Switch to geothermal heating.
26. Get a raise.
27. Click on compact fluorescent lights.
28. Set up a Roth 401 (k).
29. Use software to catalog your property.
30. Donate your money better to charity.
31. Take your kids into the voting booth.
32. Remember the life of Martin Luther King, Jr.
33. Listen better.
34. Learn American Sign Language.
35. Stop drinking bottled water.
36. Adopt a dog.
37. Volunteer for your local fire department.
38. Recycle your Christmas tree.
39. Share ideas at changemakers.net.
40. Commit "random acts of kindness."
41. Avoid recalls: Make your own toys.
42. Go see a play or musical.
43. Visit Shea Stadium or Yankee Stadium before they're gone.
44. Avoid air travel delays.
45. Try wines from unexpected places.
46. Brew a better cup of coffee.
47. Be daffy: Celebrate Tex Avery's birthday (the man who invented Daffy Duck and gave Bugs Bunny that famous catch phrase).
48. Get a coupon for a digital TV converter.

- (upgrade that old TV antenna).
- 49. Pick up the next Harry Potter-style epic.
- 50. Knit a sweater, hipster style.

*Taken from U. S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, December 21, 2007/January 7, 2008.*

## TALK BACK

**No more sweets**  
With childhood obesity on the rise, along with other weight-related health issues, such as Type II diabetes and heart disease, educators most definitely need to serve their students healthy foods. (NEA, April 2007)

## Vital Statistics

> 2,825 children and teens killed by guns  
From 2003 to 2007, 2,495 U.S. soldiers killed in combat in Iraq  
58 preschoolers killed by guns  
57 law enforcement officials killed in the line of duty  
45 billion dollars the United States would save if the number of dropouts were cut in half. (NEA, April 2007)

## Debate

**Question: Should students be suspended for inappropriate dress?**  
Inappropriate dress includes: Wearing revealing clothing T-shirts promoting sexual behavior, alcohol, and drug abuse  
Clothing designed to offend different social groups

caucus, Smiley warned on Joyner's show: "Don't fall so madly in love [with Obama] that you surrender your power to hold people accountable...I'm not saying overlook Senator Obama, but you now better be ready to look him over."

That commentary brought a hail of critical phone calls and e-mails down on Smiley, who replied two days later on the Joyner show that he stood by his criticism.

"It's all about accountability," he said at the time. Since then, amid mounting counter-criticism, Smiley has stepped up his critiques, contending that Obama wasn't sufficiently attentive to issues involving African-Americans.

Smiley is the author of the best-selling "Covenant With Black America" and hosts self-named interview shows on PBS and Public Radio International. He formerly hosted a show on Black Entertainment Television in Washington. Late Friday afternoon, Smiley said in a statement that he would stay with Joyner until the end of June. He said in the statement: "Contrary to what has been suggested, I have decided to clear some things off my plate so that I can devote my time and attention to some exciting and empowering projects." He did not mention Obama.

**TAVIS SMILEY LEAVES TOM JOYNER SHOW,**  
*The Wilmington Journal*  
Originally posted 4/30/2008



**FROM THE ST. LOUIS AMERICAN**

(NNPA) Popular author and media personality Tavis Smiley said he will resign in June as a twice-weekly commentator on the syndicated Tom Joyner Morning Show after more than 11 years with the program.

Smiley cited fatigue and a busy schedule to Joyner on last Thursday night, but Joyner indicated otherwise on his program and in his blog the next day.

Joyner wrote: "The real reason is that he can't take the hate he's been getting regarding the Barack issue - hate from the Black people that he loves so much."

Smiley has taken on Obama in a series of commentaries that began as the Democrat from Illinois emerged as the party's front-runner for the presidential nomination in early January. Days after Obama's win in the Iowa

## Words of Wisdom

"You don't want to get in a wrestling match with a pig. You both get dirty, and the pig likes it."  
Bob Dole

"Tact is the knack of making a point without making an enemy."  
Isaac Newton

"Few men have virtue to withstand the highest bidder."  
George Washington

"Not to be able to grow old is just as ridiculous as to be unable to outgrow childhood."  
Carl Jung

"Our greatest responsibility is to be good ancestors."  
Jonas Salk

"This thing we call failure is not the falling down, but the staying down."  
Mary Pickford

"If you can take sincerity, you've got it made."  
Sam Goldwyn

## When your Spouse Drives you Nuts

"You might think that as married couples age and mellow, they become more tolerant of each other's quirks. But a new study finds quite the opposite: As the decades roll on, spouses find each other more and more aggravating. Researchers have studied the relationships of 800 people over 13 years, asking subjects whether various people in their lives "get on my nerves" and "make too many demands on me." Young people most likely to find their families irritating, and to get embroiled in feuds and fights. As people moved into middle age then old age, researchers found, they weeded out their more annoying friends, stopped fighting with their maturing children, and generally learned to steer around direct conflict. Spouses, however, were the exception. As the couples age, they find each other's idiosyncrasies and differences more aggravating. When you're living together. It's a lot harder to avoid each other. But the increased conflict between spouses isn't all bad. As we age and become closer and more comfortable with one another, we're more able to express ourselves to each other. In other words, old marrieds feel free to tell each other, when newlyweds may not: "You're driving me up the wall."

## Bits and Pieces

### Agonizing Over Everything We Eat

"I am sitting at the breakfast table, taking my medicine," said Mary Doe. It's a cup of coffee, a bowl of fruit, and an egg. The coffee, medical science now tells me, will reduce my risk of getting Parkinson's disease, colon cancer, and diabetes. The fruit is blueberries, which I am told are "little health capsules" loaded with antioxidants that will ward off cancer. My egg - the eating of which was once considered a suicidal act, death by cholestrol - has now been deemed a powerhouse of carotenoids that will keep my eyes healthy.

How is it, exactly that eating became science rather than an art? It's a paradox: America is now both the land of ridiculous abundance, and the one that agonizes about what it eats. Healthful foods experts now counsel us to avoid to much meat, too much fish, and any of the food - like substances disgorged by giant food companies. Do not, we are told, eat anything our great-grandmothers wouldn't recognize as food. Fine. Rather than puzzle out what's healthful or not, from now on, I'll subsist mostly on a product made from the Theobroma cacao plant, which is rich in healthy polyphenols and flavanoids. What was it my great granny called this plant? Oh yeah, chocolate.



**Suejette A. Jones**

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

# ...Haiti food shortage

stomachs," Muhammad told the AmNews.

Haiti action. Net reports that signs of the recent discord had been mounting for two months, as hunger and unemployment had forced to poor Haitians to choose between eating or sending their children to school, but, Muhammad says there are no schools to send the children to.

Activists are also saying the international press continues to obscure the reality of hunger and misery in Haiti. It's the UN, they say, that continues to push the idea that the only thing standing between prosperity in Haiti was merely the perception by the poor of hunger and disease.

On January 29, the Associated Press published a story, "Poor Haitians Resort to Eating Dirt."

"With food prices rising, Haiti's poorest can't afford even a daily plate of rice," the AP said. The story said Haitians had taken to eating a "cookie made of dried yellow dirt."

Muhammad admits that people are eating the mud cookies. "People are not being forced to eat the mud cakes, but it is a way to stop the hunger," he said.

Pres. Preval has announced fertilizer subsidies for farmers to boost production and a government plan to promote the production of eggs, chickens, and rice.

And he called for solidarity, asking the affluent, including government workers, to share their wealth with the impoverished.

Laurent tells the AmNews that what is happening today in Haiti is a direct result of what she called the coup d'etat by President George Bush when he sent Marines to remove the democratically elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide back in 2004. Immediately after the coup, Bush said: "This government believes it essential that Haiti have a hopeful future. This is the beginning of new chapter in the country's history."

But, Laurent disagrees vehemently. "After Aristide's removal, Haiti descended into a nightmare of political violence. Community activists were murdered, and former Lavalas parliamentarians were jailed," she said.

"All schools are closed, there are no jobs, 4,000 young men in jails, children have become prostitutes for the UN peacekeepers. They came to give us democracy

and turned Haiti into a brothel," stated Laurent. Currently Aristide and his wife reside in exile in South Africa.

The activist attorney told the AmNews that Haitians feel they are fighting their fight alone. "Where is the African American community?" she asked.

"We Haitians in the Diaspora have been keeping home on our front burner because we have managed to send almost \$2 billion to our relatives, and without that it, would be hell for Haitians," she said.

"The Haitian exile community in the US are dedicated observers of what is happening on the ground in Haiti," states Bill Fletcher, Jr., international labor writer and activist, and past president of TransAfrica Forum.

Fletcher says Haiti has all but disappeared from public view, especially in the African American community, which he believes simply dropped the ball after Aristide's kidnapping.

"It is necessary that African American media outlets realize how vital they are in revealing the truth; whether print, radio, television, or Internet," Fletcher said.

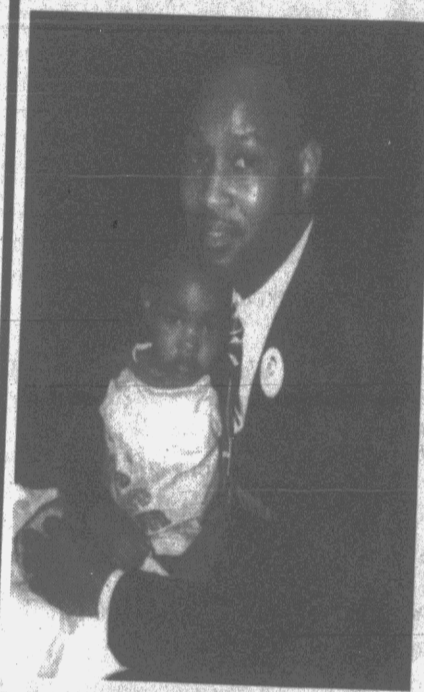
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## Wesley Snipes and Tax Evasion Problems By Rosa Hayes.

Wesley Snipes has been convicted on three counts of tax evasion for the years of 1999-2001. He will serve three years in prison, which is the maximum sentence for these charges. Wesley Snipes is out on bond pending which prison he will be serving his jail time in. Snipe's attorney is trying to persuade the judge into allowing Wesley Snipes to serve his time near his home town in New Jersey so that he can be close to his family, as reported by the Village Voice.

Denying the IRS their money is something that you should try to avoid. Through all of my years with filing taxes I had never had to pay in before, but in 2006, I was ordered to pay just over \$1,000 to the IRS.

The amount that I owed wasn't much, but somehow it slipped my mind and the year went by without me paying a dime to them.

The following year when I went to file my taxes, the tax professional told me that I showed to owe the IRS some money. I laughed because I thought that she was joking. Turns out that the joke was on me, and I was going to be in a lot of trouble if I did not pay them the money that was owed.

I asked that the money be taken out of my tax refund but somehow only a part of the money was taken out.

A couple of months later, I receive a nice little letter in



the mail saying that either I pay it or it will be taken out of my pay each week. I decided to call the IRS to see what my options were.

After talking the IRS representative I learned that if I do not pay them that they would eventually take me to court over this and that it would either be taken out of my pay or I would spend time in jail. I decided that I had better pay them.

The amount that I owed grew to a lot larger number after the interest and their fees were added on. I also found out that the IRS will only allow you so much time to pay the money back. They gave me a whopping two months to pay it back.

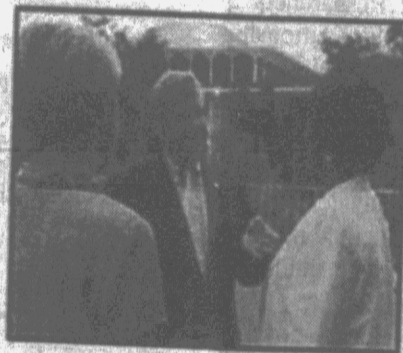
The IRS likes for you to pay the money that you owe them in full even before paying the interest. The good news is that once you get the amount owed paid off, the interest will stop and you will have more time to pay that amount back.

The best thing for you to do is to pay the IRS back as quickly as possible because they do not mess around when it comes to their money.

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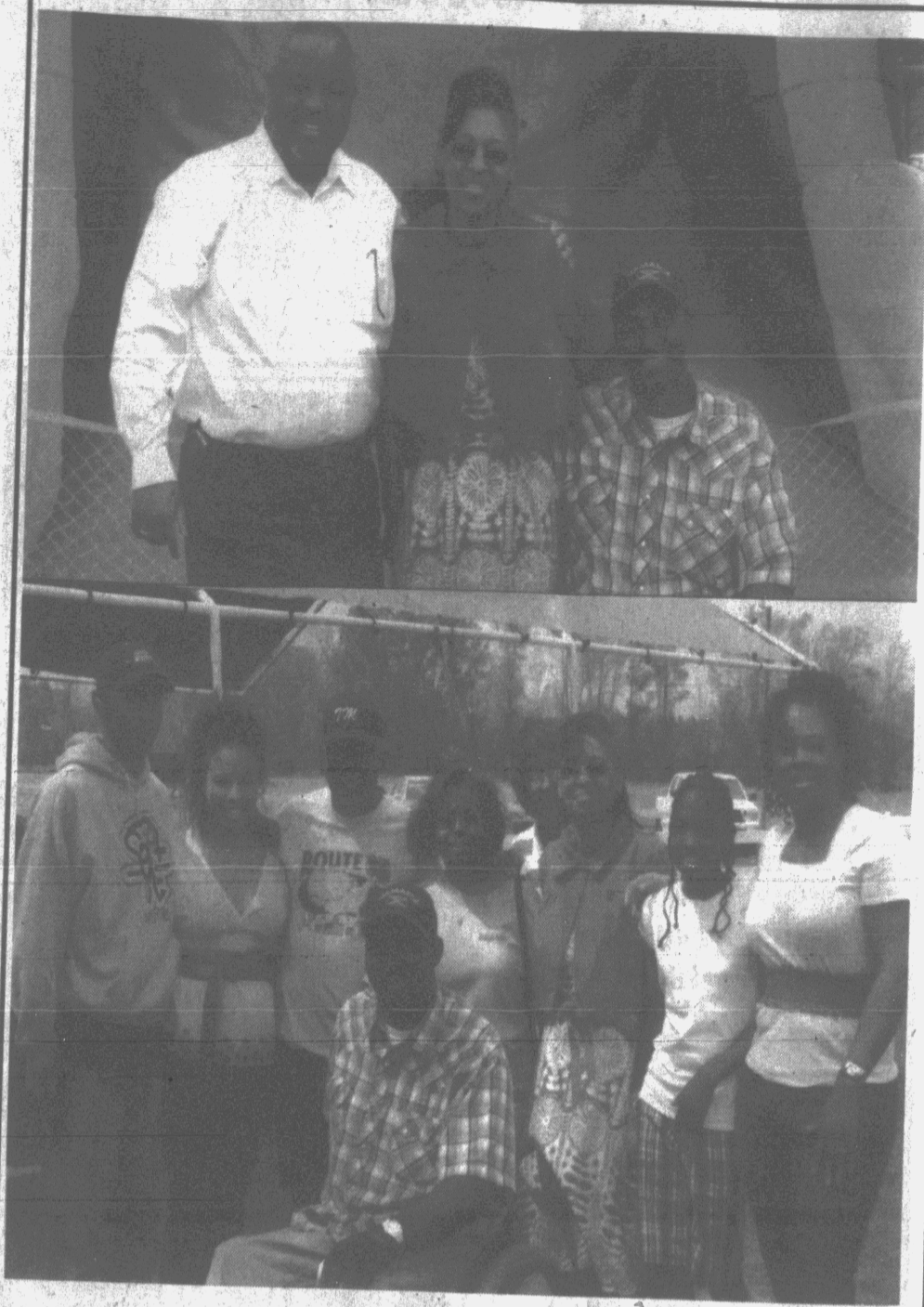


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# Happy Birthday Pam



"Fifty and still looking good...." Shown above is Mr. Dallas Little and members of the Holly Hill Church who recently celebrated his wife, Sister Pam Little's birthday at the church. Happy Birthday Sister Little

photo J. Rouse

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