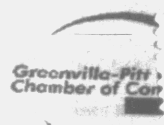




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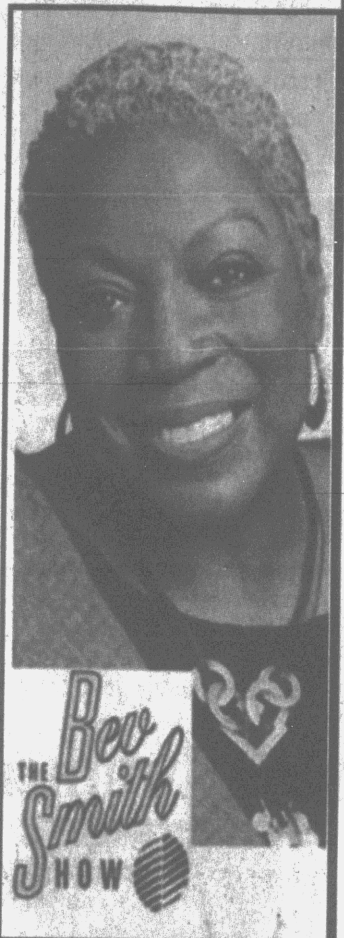
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# THE MINORITY VOICE

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## Florida offers formal slavery apology

BY MARC CAPUTO

The Legislature issued an apology Wednesday for the state's "shameful" history in enslaving black people and passing laws that called for savage lashings and even the nailing of their ears to posts for crimes like burglary.

"The Legislature expresses its profound regret for Florida's role in sanctioning and perpetuating involuntary servitude upon generations of African slaves," said the resolution, sponsored by black lawmakers.

Democratic Sens. Larcenia Bullard of Miami and Arthenia Joyner of Tampa sobbed during the reading of the resolution and the recounting of the slave codes passed by the Territorial Council in 1822 and struck

down in 1868 — three years after the Civil War ended.

"I knew the facts, but to hear it put in those terms, I just fell apart," Joyner said. Said Bullard: "I felt a pain that wouldn't go away."

After the measure passed on a voice vote without opposition in the Senate, where President Ken Pruitt wanted no discussion or recorded vote, the House did the same. House Speaker Marco Rubio thanked both Pruitt and the black caucus for bringing up the resolution.

The measure stops short of calling for reparations for descendants of slaves, though Republican Gov. Charlie Crist said after the vote that he was open to the idea "if we can determine descendancy, certainly."

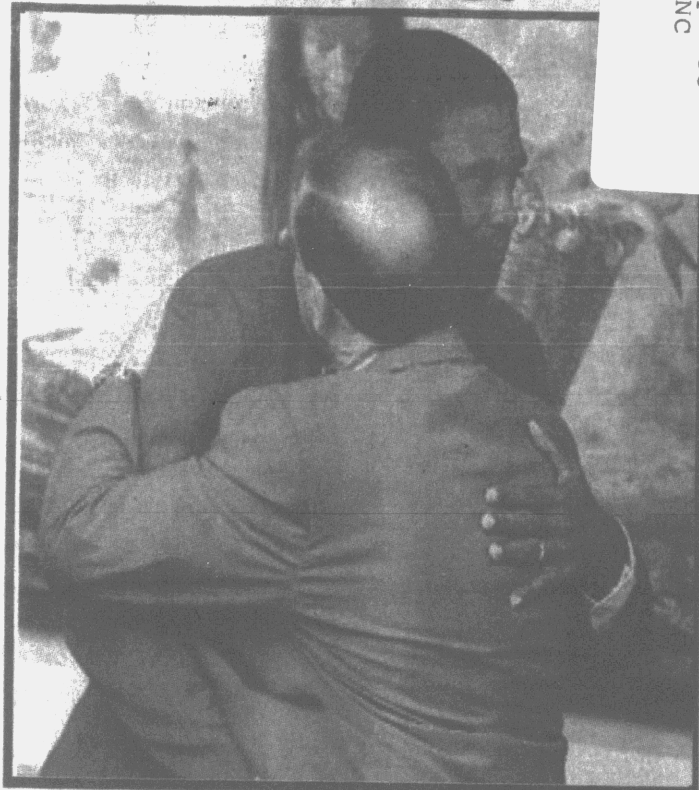
Crist, who attended the floor vote, said, "Florida is sorry for the past transgressions and unfair treatment and in some cases just gross inequity as it exists toward members of the African-American community."

Are there still inequities today, considering that about half the state's prison population of 96,000 is black, while only about 16 percent of the state's total population is black?

"That's hard to determine. You have to analyze these on a case-by-case basis," Crist said. "Whether or not there have been injustices in a case based upon race must be determined by the facts of that case."

Rep. Joseph Gibbons, a

Florida cont. pg5 . . . . .



PHIL COAL/AP  
Sen. Tony Hill of Jacksonville, rear, and Senate President Ken Pruitt embrace Wednesday in Tallahassee.

## NC NAACP mounts massive voter registration drive

BY CASH MICHAELS  
OF THE WILMINGTON  
JOURNAL

The historic May 6 primaries are over, but that doesn't mean that the voter empowerment work of the NCNAACP is finished.

If anything, it is just really just beginning.

The state's oldest and most respected civil rights organization is in the midst of its nonpartisan Voter Registration, Voter Education, and Voter Participation Plan Initiative (VEPREP). The goal, according to NC NAACP President Rev. William Barber, is not only to register at least 25,000 North Carolinians to vote by October, but also educate all North Carolina voters about the important issues facing the state and nation, motivate ex-felons to reclaim their

voting rights, and bolster Get Out To Vote (GOTV) efforts across the state — especially in communities with tradition low voter participation.

The NC NAACP's VEPREP Initiative effort is spearheaded by NC NAACP Political Action Committee Chairman Dr. Jarvis Hall of North Carolina Central University.

"The NAACP has worked or almost 100 years to encourage and support the right to vote and fought against those who try to stifle this right," Rev. Barber said in a statement.

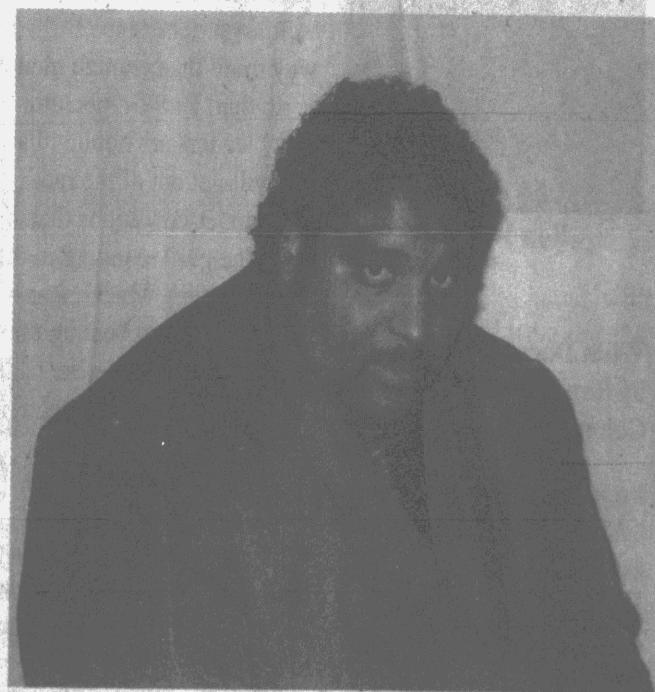
"In this critical election year, we must ensure that people who are voting for the first time ever know their rights, and are educated about the process."

"We are not assuming that North Carolina is immune [to the] Florida-type shenanigans that we saw [in 2000]," Barber continued. "The grass-roots community must be

organized, coordinated and assertive."

Other goals of the NC NAACP's VEPREP Initiative include distribution of the NAACP National Voter Guides/Candidates Questionnaires for the November General Election; distribution of the NC NAACP's HK on J Legislative Report Cards and promotion of the HK on J 14-point People's Agenda; developing public service announcements for television, radio and print publications to reach the community about the importance of voter registration, education and participation; engaging local communities and college campuses statewide in VEPREP Initiative efforts.

There is no doubt that the NC NAACP's election year voter focus is riding a wave in the state. New voter registration has exploded beyond 100,000 in



Rev William Barber

North Carolina since January. In last week's primary which featured perhaps the hottest Democratic presidential primary to come to North Carolina in 20 years with senators Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, of the 5,811,778 registered voters in the state, 2,118,264 (or 36.45 percent) cast ballots.

## Vivian Edmonds Carolina Times publisher dead at 80

By Cash Michaels  
Contributing Writer

DURHAM — She was the first African American inducted into the N.C. Journalism Hall of Fame alongside such journalistic greats like David Brinkley, and Thomas C. Jervay Sr., founder/publisher of The Wilmington Journal.

This pioneering Black woman held literally every position at The Carolina Times, the Durham Black newspaper her father, Louis Austin, founded in 1922, ultimately becoming its publisher in 1971.

And when she finally turned the state's oldest Black newspaper officially over to her son, Kenneth, in 2002,

Vivian Austin Edmonds blazed a historic trail for other African American journalists to follow.

Six years after her retirement, Edmonds died Sunday at N.C. Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill. She was 80 years old. "My mother was dedicated service that this newspaper to the Black Press, and the provided for our community," Kenneth Edmonds, Vivian Edmond's son and successor, told The Carolinian Tuesday.

A Durham native, Edmonds was revered in the Bull City community for always reflecting the pulse of the people, and the tenor of the times in both The Carolina Times' coverage of major events like the 60s civil rights movement,

and its piercing editorials in the battle for equal rights for African Americans.

A graduate of Hillside High School in 1944, and North Carolina Central University four years later, young Vivian Austin worked exhaustively with her father to publish the Times for several years before finally returning to NCCU to earn her masters degree in guidance and counseling.

Continuing to work at the Times part-time, Vivian Austin Edmonds devoted 12 years to serving as a guidance counselor for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City school system.

In 1971, after the death of her father, publisher Louis Austin, Vivian Edmonds took over the

helm as publisher full-time.

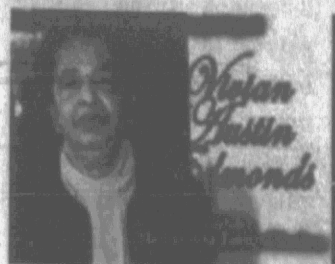
Beyond being inducted into the N.C. Journalism Hall of Fame in 1988 (her father was inducted posthumously in 2006) and having a scholarship fund in her name at the UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Mrs. Edmonds has also been honored with the Living Legacy Award from Shaw University, and the Durham YWCA's Women of Achievement program's Outstanding Woman Award.

Edmonds has also been recognized for her work and community service by the Boy Scouts of America, the Durham Chapter of Squaws, Iota Phi Lambda Sorority Inc. and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Edmonds was also a member of the N.C. Black Publishers Association.

A memorial service/visitation in honor of Vivian Austin Edmonds is scheduled for Friday, May 16, at 6:30 p.m., at St. Joseph's AME Church on Fayetteville Street. Graveside rites will be Saturday at 12 noon at Beechwood Cemetery in Durham.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made, to the St. Joseph's AME Church Scholarship Fund.

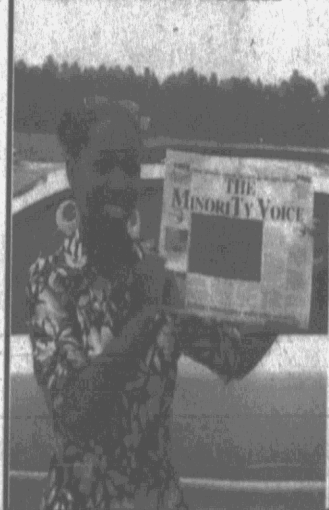


### The trial of Superstar R. Kelly

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## OPINIONS

# Washington's Two Economies-A Growing Income Gap

By Marian Wright Edelman, NNPA  
Columnist



Washington, D.C., the nation's capital, is one of the great cities of the world. Tourists come here from around the globe to enjoy its world-class museums and art galleries and visit its columned edifices of gleaming marble. It's a city that attracts some of the most talented people from America and abroad. Well-educated, highly paid professionals who work for federal agencies, in the halls of Congress and at

media organizations make their homes on the banks of the Potomac.

But many long-time local residents use Washington's other name-the District of Columbia. While the District's streets course through middle-income communities with neat row houses fronting well-kept lawns, its overall poverty rate has reached its highest level in nearly ten years. Sadly, the socioeconomic divide between Washington and the District of Columbia has been widening over the past two decades.

According to the D.C. Fiscal Policy Institute's October 2007 report, "D.C.'s Two Economies: Many Residents Are Falling Behind Despite the City's Revitalization," the wage gap between D.C.'s highest earners (the top 20 percent) and the lowest (the bottom 20 percent) is the widest it has been since 1979. And the number of impoverished District residents

has grown. According to the Institute report, nearly 20 percent, or one in five District residents, have incomes below the poverty level. Since the late 1990s, about 27,000 D.C. residents have fallen into poverty.

Despite the recent economic downturn, Washington's strong economy has been anchored by large employers such as the federal government, the District government, universities, hospitals and corporate offices. The city also has experienced a boom in commercial and residential construction. Long seen as "recession proof," the Washington economy is strong. The economy has produced jobs for skilled and well-educated workers who have seen their incomes soar. While a large segment of the Washington population is economically successful, that prosperity has not been shared by a considerable

segment of the District's Black population and the least educated residents who have remained sunken at the bottom.

According to the Institute report, the median income for White households in Washington grew from \$55,000 in 1980 to \$92,000 in 2006 (in 2006 dollars). The incomes of the least paid workers (when adjusted for inflation) have stayed practically unchanged over the last three decades. The incomes of Black households from 1980 to 2006 have remained essentially flat at \$34,500. In addition, employment for Black adults has declined steadily since the late 1980s, from 62 percent in 1988 to 51 percent in 2006. Only two other U.S. cities, Tampa and Atlanta, have worse income disparities. One's level of education can be critical for economic success. Just 51 percent of D.C. residents with only a

high school diploma had jobs; this is the lowest level in nearly 30 years.

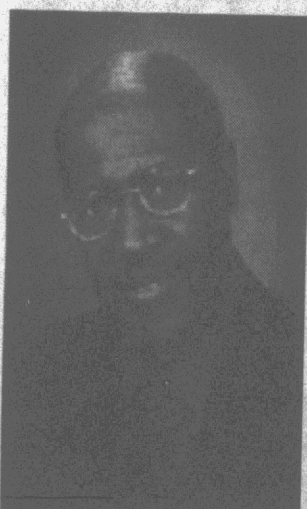
One-third of the District's children are poor, compared with 16 percent of adults ages 18 to 64. In 2004, approximately 22,000 District families with children had incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty line, or less than about \$31,000 for a family of three. Seventy-four percent of these were working families with one or more parents who worked at least part of the year. About 12,000 of these low-income District families with children-more than half-included adults who worked more than half of the year. In many cases, the parents worked full-time and year-round. Overall, some 47,000 District residents, including 27,000 children, lived in families that were poor or near-poor despite working most of the year.

This problem must be

addressed at its roots. The first thing that must be done is to improve the quality of education at all levels-preschool, elementary, secondary and postsecondary-as well as provide job training programs that will equip District residents with the skills that will enable them to participate and succeed in the city's economy. Residents who are stuck in low-wage jobs and striving to stay off public assistance rolls need support. We must provide that support by establishing decent living wages, child care assistance, health care coverage and affordable housing.

*Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund and its Action Council whose Leave No Child Behind(r) mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.*

## What Does Hillary Want?



Ron Walters

What Does Hillary Want?  
by Ron Walters, NNPA  
Columnist

I remember that question. "What does Jesse want?" asked of Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. by the media when he had been defeated badly in the New York Primary in his 1984 campaign for the Democratic nomination for president. We had to sit down one day and decide that the nomination was out of hand, but it wasn't about the traditional meaning of winning, we had an opportunity to further empower our community, as I have previously suggested here.

Although Hillary Clinton cannot win given the current statistics, which have Barack Obama leading by 700,000 popular votes, over 160 pledged delegates and now tied with Super delegates, which gives him the overall delegate lead. She is playing for time to get the best conditions under which to leave the race and a big question however, is, Under what conditions will she leave?

I think the debt issue is off the table. She does not need to negotiate for Obama to pay her campaign debt, since Bill has way more than enough money to do that. But, Democratic party leaders are hoping that she will get out of the race soon under conditions that favor the party winning in the fall campaign, which means that she does not beat up the presumptive nominee so badly that he limps into the election.

Yet, many people think that the "damaged goods" scenario, which causes Obama to lose in the fall, is what she wants because it would allow Hillary to campaign again for president in 2012.

But there is a giant wrinkle in this strategy. That is, if she damages the party candidate in an election that by every measure is poised to take the White House and expand its lead in the House and Senate, it will not endear the new party leaders to her 2012 candidacy.

Also, it will most certainly not endear Barack Obama to support her then and he will be a major party leader as a result of his run in 2008. Then, it will not endear many blacks to support her if she causes their historic hope of gaining the first black president of the United States to become another dream deferred.

I think her sights are still tied to winning in 2008. A hint of this may be the that she is running hard in West Virginia and Kentucky where she will most probably win, to send a message to the hold-out Super

delegates that Barack Obama cannot win white working class votes.

In a recent interview with USA Today Clinton said that she had a much broader base and that, "Senator Obama's support among working, hard working Americans, white Americans, is weakening again, and whites in both (North Carolina and Indiana) are supporting me." This reference to "hard-working white people," was created by conservatives in the 1980s as a euphemism for whites, a term which conveyed that they were not lazy, welfare cheating Blacks. This was another racial jibe used by the candidate, which raised eyebrows because of the attempt to further blacken Obama.

Frustrated at losing, all the Clinton campaign has left is the argument she and her surrogates are making that the Democratic party needs blue-collar whites, the so-called "Reagan Democrats." Furthermore they are touting polls which say that if she doesn't win, Whites, especially White females will stay home. Well, a recent Gallup poll, found that John Kerry's numbers are the same as Obama's with working class voters and he came within 3 percentage points of winning the 2004 election. The study goes on to say that Obama will win the same states as Kerry and that his appeal to Red state voters may be the difference in attracting a few more states.

In fact, in this context where working class voters are the most devastated segment of the electorate, they are unlikely to go as a group to John McCain, but are instead likely to split. Some will indeed go to McCain, some will hold their nose and support Obama and others will stay home. Those who don't support Obama, however, should be made up by the huge numbers of new voters that his campaign is attracting. They cite voter registration results of: 200,000 new Democrats in Pennsylvania, 165,000 in North Carolina, and 150,000 in Indiana.

Barack Obama's dazzling performance shows that in order to win you have to know something about the political culture. At this moment in history, his attraction to the electorate may overcome race and working class anxiety.

*Dr. Ron Walters is the Distinguished Leadership Scholar, Director of the African American Leadership Center and Professor of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland College Park. His latest book is: The Price of Racial Reconciliation (University Michigan Press).*

## Welcome, young brother

by Wilbert A. Tatum  
Publisher Emeritus and  
Chairman of the Board

A young Black man with the name of Benjamin Todd Jealous has been selected by the board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to be its president and chief executive officer. Jealous was selected recently after a long search. As peculiar as it may seem, they could have found Ben in their own backyard, for he has been active with the NAACP since childhood. He is now 35 years of age.

In his teenage years Ben was a community organizer—among other things—with the NAACP, and he very often found himself returning to the organization as a consultant, speaker, member and volunteer. Jealous comes to the NAACP as a scholar, having earned a master of science degree from Oxford University, in Oxford, England, and a bachelor of arts degree from Columbia University in New York City. He, incidentally, is a Rhodes scholar.

He comes directly to the NAACP following his position as president of the Rosenberg Foundation, a private, 70-year-old, independent grant-making institution that supports civil rights advocacy. Prior to that, Ben was director of the United States of Amnesty International USA's Domestic Human Rights Program. Jealous served as the executive director of the National Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation, which is a policy-making body for



BENJAMIN TODD JEALOUS

the 200 Black newspapers in America.

In each of Ben's positions—all at the level of executive director or president—he has brought to the organizations his formidable journalistic skills, community organizing background and familiarity with all of the civil rights organizations in the United States and a fundraising ability which is so important to organizations such as the NAACP.

Ben is married to a civil rights lawyer and has a two-year-old child.

It is impossible to compartmentalize Ben's career. It ranges from program director of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, managing editor of the Jackson Advocate, and community educator of the NAACP legal defense fund.

In short, Ben has been everywhere. He has seen everything and he brings to the NAACP a wealth of knowledge of the Black community, its special needs and its infinite possibilities.

The Amsterdam News embraces Mr. Jealous and says, "Welcome home, Ben."



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Mrs Beatrice Maye POINTS TO PONDER:

There are two days in every week about which we should not worry - two days kept free from fear and apprehension. One of these days is yesterday with its mistakes and cares, its faults and blunders, its aches and pains. Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control. All the money in the world cannot bring back yesterday. We cannot undo a single act we performed; we cannot erase a single word we said. Yesterday is gone. The other day we should not worry about is tomorrow with its possible adversities, its burdens, its large promise and poor performance. Tomorrow is beyond our immediate control. Tomorrow's sun will rise. Until it does we

have no stake in tomorrow, for it is yet unborn.

We should be concerned about the only day left - today. Any man can fight the battles of just one day. It is only when you and I add the burdens of those awful eternities - yesterday and tomorrow that we break down. It is not the experience of today that drives man mad - it is remorse or bitterness for something which happened yesterday and the dread of what tomorrow may bring. Let us, therefore live but one day at a time.

Reprinted from ADRDA - Las Vegas Chapter

## BITS AND PIECES How To Find Happiness

To find happiness you must stop complaining and start praising. Stop looking for friendship and start being friendly. Stop pining for things you have not and be content with what you have. Stop looking for someone to help you and devote yourself to helping others. Stop concentrating on what you've accomplished and think on what others have done for you."

### Wisdom

We must be silent, before we can listen. We must listen before we can learn. We must learn before we can serve. We

must serve before we can lead.

### 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 citizens 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 a way that a newcomer could say, "I observe no unfriendliness." -Haddon Robinson

THINKING IT OVER What are the key elements that help a church to be meaningful? "In a world wheremany people couldn't care less, Christians should be people who couldn't care more."

## THE EDITOR -

Are you one of the millions of individuals who never have time for self? You find yourself tending to so many other people that you never have time to tend to yourself. Leading a hectic life is a juggling act. Forget those deadlines, those meetings, those conferences. Are you at peace with yourself? Do you feel energetic and full of life? Are you in touch with your inner spirit? Are you in good health? The truth is too many of you never take stock of your lives, never stop long enough to truly reflect on your own wellbeing. Too many of us never give our physical or spiritual wellbeing the attention each deserves. What you may not realize is that one nourishes the other. When your spiritual self is cared for and nurtured,

it helps to replenish, rejuvenate and safeguard your physical self. And when it comes to our health we can use all the help we can get. Some may scoff at the connection between spirituality and physical well-being. According to the researchers, churchgoers have a healthier immune system than those who don't attend services regularly, and women appear to benefit even more than men. Spirituality not only improves your immune system, enabling your body to better fight disease, but it also act as a buffer against the ill effects of stress. Material goods may be lost, people may come in and out of your life, but your body and soul will fortify the other. Be concerned about your health. Achieve total health - a healthy mind, body and spirit.

Beatrice Maye



# Reflections

## Imagining A World Without Newspapers

For the newspaper business, the news "stinks", said one reporter for an outstanding newspaper. A new report by the Pew Foundation's Project for Excellence in Journalism has found that the newspaper industry's decline accelerated last year, with circulation dropping 2.5 percent and advertising revenue falling 7%. With revenues sinking, newspapers are cutting their reporting staffs and curtailing coverage. But, the Pew report found, there is a glimmer of hope. Newspapers, long thought of as technological dinosaurs, have been finally embracing the Internet, adding blogs and other features to their websites and connecting with readers in new ways. In fact, many of the top website destinations are traditional news brands such as The New York Times, proving citizens still want what these companies produce - original reporting. There's a problem, though: on the Web, readers get it all for free. "The audience still sees a lot of value in reporting about public life," said Pew researchers. What media companies need to do is figure out how to make money doing it. If they can't, newspaper companies won't be the only losers. The public will suffer, too. In fact as the Web grows, there may be actually be less news. That's because most simply "repackage" the

news found in traditional media, while bloggers spin and analyze it. Finding out what politicians don't want us to know - whether in our hometowns or in Washington or Iraq - is hard work, and it's expensive. When newspapers that now do that work shed most of their reporting staffs, or go out of business entirely, what will everyone else write about?

That's a truly scary thought. Opinion-oriented websites have contributed greatly to the national disclosure, but such sites have small staffs and virtually no reporters. Contrast that to The New York Times, which has about 1,200 newsroom employees, or the Washington Post, and Los Angeles Times with 800 or 900 each. Yes, some may be lazy or biased or sloppy. But most are committed to ferreting out information from the dark places in which governments hide the truth. Out political system relies on the informed consent of its citizens, and that means we need the information that newspapers are in the business of digging up. Without it, it is impossible not to wonder what will become of not just news but democracy itself.

Source: Teaching Points

Vacations: An Endangered Tradition

Jane Doe wishes she could kick back for a week on a sun-drenched beach. But the Manhattan real estate agent

just doesn't take vacations anymore. "And when I do," she complains, I have my computer, my email, and my phone with me at all times." Jane might have qualified as a workaholic a few years ago, but now her obsessive behavior has become the norm. American workers, who already take fewer vacations than their counterparts in other industrialized nations, "have pruned back their leisure days even more." A stunning 60% of Americans don't currently plan to take a vacation during the future - the lowest rate since 1978. "The idea of somebody going away for two weeks," said AAA spokesman "is really becoming a thing of the past." There are several reasons why: With a full tank of gas costing a lot, and air travel now so stressful and time-consuming, many people have soured on taking long trips. And Americans have always worked harder than everyone else, believing that "their identity and self-worth" depend on it. But the main culprit is fear of job loss in an age of globalization and outsourcing. One recent poll found that only 35% of people now feel secure in their positions. Employers exploit this anxiety to keep workers from taking time off, which is why it is time Congress intervened. All companies should be required to provide paid vacations for at least four weeks, and preferably more. It will never happen said one spokesman. Our puritan work ethic and emphasis on productivity in a

capitalist society is just too deeply ingrained. So is our thirst for material goods. Given the options of toiling for a big-screen plasma TV or going fishing, who wouldn't choose the former? Still, there must be a happy medium. It is estimated that Americans save their employers more \$ 21 billion annually in unused vacation time. But these savings are illusory, considering the cost of stress, therapy, accidents, lost productivity, and other problems afflicting overworked, exhausted employees. overtime and sweat make for a healthy economy. "But so does well-earned leisure."

Respectfully submitted....  
Suejette A. Jones

## Words of Wisdom

"Expect nothing. Live frugally on surprise."  
Alice Walker

"Excess on occasion is exhilarating. It prevents moderation from acquiring the deadening effects of a habit."  
W. Somerset Maugham

"Too often we enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought."  
John F. Kennedy

"Judge a man by his question rather than by his answers."  
Voltaire

"Better to do something imperfectly than to do nothing flawlessly."

Robert Schuller

"Americans will put up with anything provided it doesn't block traffic."

Dan Rather

"No man needs a vacation so much as the man who has just had one."

Elbert Hubbard

## EDITOR'S NOTE

THE OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS SECTION OF THE NEWSPAPER IS A PLACE FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE MINORITY VOICE COMMUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS AND OPINIONS ON ISSUES THAT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY AFFECT ANY PART OF IT. WHILE WE TYPICALLY PRINT EVERY LETTER SENT TO US, SOME INFORMATION RECEIVED WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE PAGES OF THE NEWSPAPER. THE STAFF WOULD LIKE TO REMIND THE COMMUNITY THAT THE LETTER TO THE EDITOR SECTION IS NOT A VEHICLE FOR PEOPLE TO AIR PERSONAL GRIFFS AGAINST ANOTHER PERSON. THE MINORITY VOICE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ANY EDITORIAL ON THE BASIS OF ETHICS, WHICH INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, PERSONAL VENDETTAS OR ATTACKS.



Suejette A. Jones

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continue on until I reach my goals. Over twenty years ago, my mother gave me a card that I've treasured to this very day. On the front of the card, the famous poem was written, "Don't Quit." Whenever I want to hit the pause button on life, I remember the poem, and continue to move on.

## Sow A Seed

Joy R. Brown

### To My Mother With Love

The month of May has been exclusively designed to celebrate and honor mothers. As I embarked upon that special day, I carefully captured the fond memories of my mother. I do not choose to only celebrate my mother once a year, but every day that God allows me to rise up early in the morning, I thank Him for the many blessings, and of course, my mother is named among them. I honor my mother for being a true woman of God and for loving me past my many flaws. I appreciate her for the many sacrifices she made for me to have what I need. I appreciate her for giving of her time. I appreciate the many seeds she sowed into my life.

My mother has always been my greatest supporter in all that I endeavor to do. She always encouraged me to never give up but to

All mothers are special, but mine is especially dear to me. She holds a special place where no one can ever touch. Even though every day has not been the easiest for my mother, she has remained faithful to the call of duty as the chosen mother for me.

Through every trial and test, she's endured and for never giving up on me...I salute my mother on today.

I appreciate the love and the many prayers you've sent to God on my behalf. I know they were answered in more ways than one. Each day I choose to celebrate you and who you are in God. I'll always respect and honor you for being the woman you are.

Dedicated to the world's greatest mother...Ms. Virginia L. Brown of Washington, NC

From the daughter who has elevated your prayer life to another level...  
Ms. Joy R. Brown

## Family In Ministry



Newly Appointed Pastor... Elder Russell Early (far right) has been elected Pastor of the Union Chapel Church of Christ Disciples Of Christ in Roper, NC. The Minister of Music is Michael "Early In The Morning" Early of WOOW 1340 AM, who is also his brother. Standing with her husband is First Lady Carmalinda Early.

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The features of a qualified tuition program are complex and involve significant tax issues. The earnings portion of withdrawals not used for qualified higher education expenses are subject to federal income tax and a 10% federal penalty tax, as well as state and local income taxes. The availability of tax benefits may be contingent on meeting other requirements.

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# Florida cont. . . . .

Pembroke Park Democrat, said the incarceration rate "is a vestige of slavery . . . When you don't have opportunities, you turn to other things . . . you get frustrated and don't want to participate in the system."

He said fellow black lawmakers "aren't going to fall into that trap" about reparations because the resolution wasn't "about people wanting to get paid."

Legislators in Alabama, Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia have recently issued formal apologies for slavery, and New Jersey became the first northern state to apologize in January, according to The Associated Press.

The curator of Florida's historic Capitol, former state house clerk John Phelps, read legislators a history of the slave codes in Florida and listed statistics showing the importance and brutality of the slavery in the state.

Phelps said that, according to an 1855 Senate journal, the state had nearly 111,000 residents, 44 percent black. And of Florida's \$49 million in property value at the time, 55 percent was in slaves.

Phelps singled out a letter written by Gov. Richard Keith Call to a Northerner in the hopes of explaining the

Southern mindset over slavery to avert the Civil War.

Of blacks, Call wrote: "Here was an animal, in the form of a man, possessing the greatest physical power and the greatest capacity for labor and endurance. . . . A wild barbarian, to be tamed and civilized by the discipline of slavery."

Call was a personal aide to future President Andrew Jackson when the general launched the Seminole Wars and made Florida a territory, in part to ensure that slaves escaping from Georgia had no safe haven to the south.

Phelps ticked off the various lashings — 39 in some cases and a lethal 100 in others — that slaves would suffer for being accused of robbery, burglary or for simply walking around with a pass from his or her white master. Those convicted of rebellion were executed. Seven slaves together without a white person couldn't travel public roads. Slaves who gave false testimony could have their ears nailed to posts and were whipped publicly.

Jacksonville Sen. Jim King, a Republican and past Senate president, said he didn't know about the specific horrors and supported the resolution. But he acknowledged that some lawmakers might be

uncomfortable with the resolution because it could lead other groups to push for reparations.

"What about the American Indians? They were killed and shoved into a corner of places like Oklahoma," King said. "What about the treatment of Japanese Americans in internment camps during World War II?"

For many, the resolution is "too little, too late. But it's better than not recognizing at all that black slaves built Florida," said Marvin Dunn, retired psychology professor and researcher of black history in Florida.

Dunn said the state "wouldn't dare" approve reparations that would put dollars into black residents' bank accounts. Such a move would be unwieldy and unrealistic, he said.

Adora Obi Nweze, president of the Florida NAACP, said she embraced the resolution as a step that needed to be taken.

"Those who suffered are not here to hear the words," she said. But "the descendants of those who were enslaved deserve to hear the words uttered that it did exist."

Miami Herald staff writer Andrea Robinson contributed to this report.

## BETTA PUT THAT WOMAN FIRST HITS WASHINGTON NC

"WHILE"

### A GOOD MAN IS HARD TO FIND HITS THE MOVIES

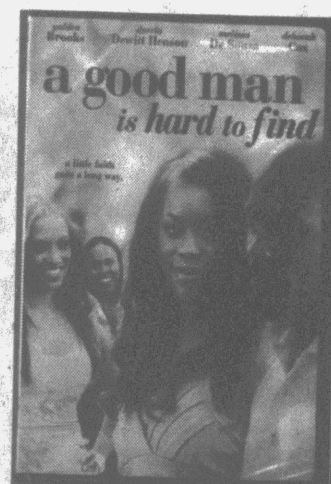
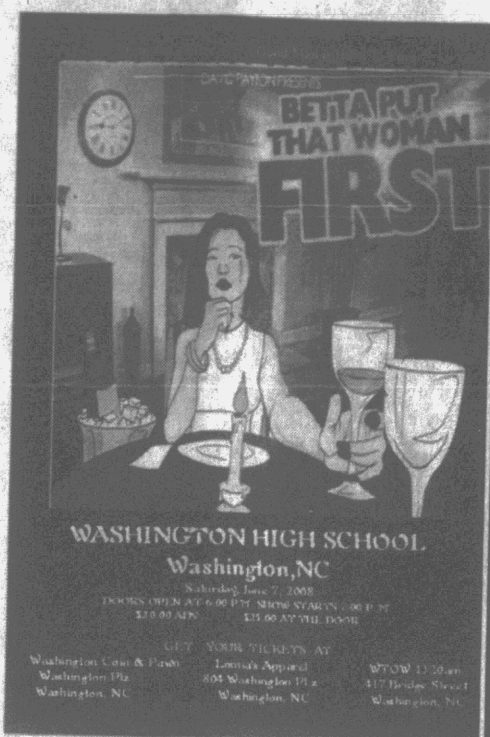
DIRECTOR, WRITER & PRODUCER

DAVID PAYTON

Thousands of people have seen, laughed, cried and been inspired by "A Good Man Is Hard to Find." This gospel play, which is now a movie shows, no matter what you do in life, if you are sorry and want to come to God, he will forgive. It is written, produced

and directed by Rev. David Payton. David Payton is a talented writer, producer, and director. A native of Pitt County, David learned his work ethics on a 250 acre farm owned by his parents, J.D. "Buster" and Hattie Mae Payton, in farming and logging in Simpson, NC. David Payton started his writing career at G.R. Whitfield Elementary School. His love for music and entertainment he embraced when he was one of the very first band members in 1974 at D.H. Conley High School. After graduating from D.H. Conley High School, David attended St. Augustine's College in Raleigh NC on a music scholarship. In Raleigh, he worked with the LaVerne Players Theatre group and starred in the play "Slow Dance on the Killing Ground". He received his start from his first investor Cedric "Cornbread" Maxwell from the Boston Celtics for the play "A Struggle To Be Free". Since then David has wrote, produced, and directed several electrifying spiritual musical stage plays, such as "The Real Meaning of Christmas", "Child Support", "Ain't No Woman Like The One I Got", "When A Woman's Fed Up", "Tired of Being Alone", "Train Up A Child", "Let's Straighten It Out", "Betta Put That Woman First, and "A Good Man Is Hard To Find". All of his plays have toured the country.

Get a copy of David Payton's movie "A Good Man Is Hard To Find: produced by 20th Century Fox and Codeblack Entertainment starring Golden Brooks, Hill Harper, Darrin Henson, Mel Jackson, Mary Mary, Deborah Cox, Darius McCray, and a host of other cast members at your local Blockbuster and Hollywood Videos.



## NORTH CAROLINA DRIVING SCHOOL, INC. 2008 Summer Driver Education Schedules For Pitt County Schools

### Ayden-Grifton

June 16 - June 26, 2008 (8:00 am - 12:00 pm)

(No class on Friday, June 20)

Register with Tracey Williams - May 12 - May 27, 2008

### D. H. Conley

June 23 - June 27, 2008 (8:00 am - 2:00 pm)

Register with Cecil Batts - May 12 - May 27, 2008

July 21 - July 31, 2008 (8:00 am - 12:00 pm)

(No class on Friday, July 25)

Register by calling NCDS at 321-6700 starting May 27, 2008

### Farmville Central

June 16 - June 26, 2008 (8:00 am - 12:00 pm)

(No class on Friday June 20)

Register with Mike Terrell - May 12 - May 27, 2008

### J. H. Ross

June 16 - June 26, 2008 (8:00 am - 12:00 pm)

(No class on Friday June 20)

Register with Clinton Anderson - May 12 - May 27, 2008

July 14 - July 24, 2008 (8:00 am - 12:00 pm)

(No class on Friday July 18)

Register by calling NCDS at 321-6700 starting May 27, 2008

### North Pitt

July 7 - July 17, 2008 (8:00 am - 12:00 pm)

(No class on Friday July 11)

Register by calling NCDS at 321-6700 starting May 27, 2008

### South Central

July 7 - July 17, 2008 (8:00 am - 12:00 pm)

(No class on Friday, July 11)

Register by calling NCDS at 321-6700 starting May 27, 2008

### A. G. Cox Middle School

June 16 - June 24, 2008 (8:00 am - 12:30 pm)

Register by calling NCDS at 321-6700

May 12 - May 27, 2008

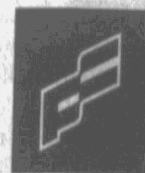
- > Students must be 14 1/2 years of age by the first day of class.
- > Students must bring a copy of their birth certificate on the first day of class.
- > Students are allowed no absences during the summer class.
- > Questions should be directed to North Carolina Driving School at 321-6700.

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3. A young man who disrespects his girlfriend.
4. A stylish mother who never dresses her little girl.
5. A preacher who spends more time with his congregation than his wife.

The moral of the play is "U Betta Put That Woman First" if not "Somebody Else Will".

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## The trial of R & B superstar R. Kelly

by Kathy Chaney

Special to the Tri-State Defender

The trial of R & B superstar R. Kelly continued through the methodical jury selection process Wednesday - the fourth day of the long-awaited court drama that drew supporters and opponents to the courthouse grounds for Day One last week.

Attorneys in Kelly's child pornography case had chosen eight of the 12 jurors needed to decide the singer's fate by the end of the day Tuesday and still were at work at press time Wednesday.

Kelly, 41, is charged with 14 counts of child porn for allegedly videotaping himself having sex with a teen. He has pleaded not guilty and could face up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

On Friday, the trial's first day, Kelly supporters arrived about 8 a.m. ready to let the world know how they felt, but the opposition outnumbered them. Only a few fans showed up on day 2.

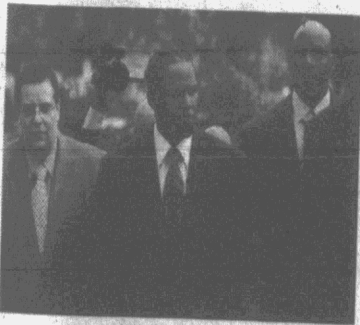
Armed with poster board signs stating that the Chicago-born music superstar is the "World's Greatest Pedophile" and "Danger R. Kelly pe-dophile alert!", Najee Ali repeatedly shouted in front of the Cook County Criminal Court building that Kelly was guilty and going to jail. Another protester shouted the same through a megaphone.

A swarm of about 15 Kelly fan matched Ali's shouts with their own. The vocal onslaught continued until after Kelly arrived for court about 9:45 a.m.

Jerhonda Johnson, an 18-year-old, told Ali and about five other protestors that Kelly was innocent and prosecutors "don't have a case."

Ali said he was compelled to protest because he is a father of two, including a 19-year-old daughter, who was 13 when the infamous videotape that is the hub of the prosecutions case was thrust in the media six years ago. Kelly is charged with allegedly videotaping himself about eight to 10 years ago having sex with an under aged girl. The aged victim, who would now be 23, has said it is not she in the videotape. As a father, if it happened to my daughter, I would not blame her; she's a child. He [Kelly] knows right from wrong. He is a grown man and should not have done it." Ali, 45, said in an exchange with another fan of the superstar. The celebrity's admirer said she saw the video, does not believe that it is Kelly in the video and is confident that he will be found not guilty. She also said that the alleged victim was fully aware of what she was doing. She consented and wanted it. She was doing adult stuff in the video," said Betty Harris, a 24-year old West Side resident. Ali countered. "Young people may not have the conviction or courage to come forward if they've been sexually abused," he said. Another fan weighed in, a bit quieter, and said he also saw the video but it was too hard to tell whether Kelly was one of the people featured. Instead of speculating about his guilt or innocence, he would leave that decision to a higher power. "only God can judge him," said 29-year-old Clarence Medlock.

(Kathy Chaney reported this story for the Chicago Defender/Real Times News Service. For ongoing coverage, visit [www.tri-statedefenderonline.com](http://www.tri-statedefenderonline.com))



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