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FEB 23 2009

Complimentary Issue

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February Issue

Stimulus Package Impact On Blacks

Special to the NNPA/St. Louis American

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (NNPA)—Responding to an inquiry by the editor of *The St. Louis American* newspaper, Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood last week outlined portions of the \$827 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan that he says will specifically impact the black community.

The White House response came after a telephone press conference with Midwest reporters during which NNPA award-winning editor Alvin A. Reed asked LaHood about the minority participation aspects of the act, which Congress took up this week.

Initially, LaHood hedged, responding, "That's a point I have really not considered. We'll have to get back to (him,) rather than give an answer I don't really know."

Only hours after a story reporting the inquiry and response was posted on stlAmerican.com Feb. 5, LaHood issued the following detailed strategy, titled, "African Americans and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan" (The response has been lightly edited for style and clarity by the NNPA News Service):

•**General:** The majority of the

provisions in this recovery and reinvestment plan will assist African-Americans, who have been dramatically impacted during these tough times, in making it through this period with tax cuts for 95 percent of families, programs including extension of unemployment benefits, COBRA healthcare benefits, and food stamps and temporary assistance for needy families (TANF), while also preparing them for new opportunities with training for new jobs in existing and emerging industries.

•**Tax Cuts:** This plan seeks to put money in the hands of consumers as quickly as possible through tax cuts for 95 percent of families. This is especially important for African-Americans who have experienced a reversal of fortune in the gains in wages and salary reached during the 1990s compared to others in the workforce. This immediate infusion of resources will not only allow them to purchase the items they need for their families, but also help rebuild our economy.

•**Job Creation:** The unemployment rate for African-Americans was 12.1 percent and had risen to 12.6 percent when new job numbers were announced Feb. 6. This plan will create jobs with its investments in rebuilding

roads and bridges and retrofitting government buildings while also working to help prepare job seekers for the 21st Century economy with training for new "green jobs" and other emerging industries. The key is ensuring that African-Americans have access to information about all of these opportunities.

•**Education:** Right now 95 percent of African-American children rely on public schools in America yet a great number of these systems lack the funding they need to deliver the education that our children deserve and the facilities themselves are generally inadequate. This plan makes a historic investment in school modernization sufficient to renovate and modernize 10,000 schools, which also saves or creates jobs.

The plan also invests in our children's future by doubling the Early Head Start program which will provide additional pre-k services to more than 350,000 children and create at least 15,000 new teaching and teaching assistant jobs. Efforts are also being made to increase the Pell Grant maximum award to \$500 making college affordable for 7 million students.

Finally, understanding that we are living during a time when

tough choices have to be made, state and local governments should not have to cut education to make their budgets work. This plan provides resources so that potential education cuts can be bypassed in the immediate future.

•**Healthcare:** African-Americans suffer from higher percentages of chronic diseases such as heart disease, kidney disease and diabetes while also suffering from a lack of access to quality care. Therefore during a time when many who rely on receiving healthcare through their employers are losing jobs, access to quality healthcare is an even greater concern.

This plan offers a new tax credit to help families keep their health insurance through COBRA as well as a new option in Medicaid for low-income people who lack access to COBRA. Adjustments will also be made in funding formulas for state Medicaid programs so that Medicaid and SCHIP are not impacted by state budget shortfalls, protecting 20 million people whose eligibility might be at risk.

•**Public Services:** Local governments are threatened with budget cuts that could impair

(See **STIMULUS**, P. 2)

President Obama Issues Proclamation

A PROCLAMATION

The history of African-Americans is unique and rich, and one that has helped to define what it means to be an American. Arriving on ships on the shores of North America more than 300 years ago, recognized more as possessions than people, African-Americans have come to know the freedoms fought for in establishing the United States and gained through the use of our founding principles of freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the right to assembly, and due process of law.

The ideals of the Founders became more real and more true for every citizen as African-Americans pressed us to realize our full potential as a Nation and to uphold those ideals for all who enter into our borders and embrace the notion that we are all endowed with certain unalienable rights.

Since Carter G. Woodson first sought to illuminate the African-American experience, each February we pause to reflect on the contributions of this community to our national identity. The history is one of struggle for

(See **PROCLAMATION**, P. 2)

I Never Imagined A Black President

I never imagined that I would have a Black President in my lifetime. On August 28, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. In his speech, he prophesied of things to come that would greatly impact my life. Dr. King went through so much for me so that I can have what I have today. Because of Dr. King I stand before you today and say that I am free. Nelson Mandela once said, "For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of other."

When I was given today's theme, "Beyond the Dream of the Dreamer," I realized I never really thought of life before the dream. Honestly, I've taken things for granted. Drinking out of a separate water fountain? That never really occurred to me. I can't fathom going into a restaurant and not being served simply because of the color of my skin. Thank God for student sit-ins at lunch counters across this state and nation. I had not conceived of the thought that I could not go to any school of my choosing. In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Brown*



ALL SMILES AT WSSU CHANCELLOR & FIRST LADY RECEPTION—A Floating Reception was held on Friday, Jan. 16, 2009, at the City Hotel and Bistro in Greenville, N.C. for Dr. and Mrs. Donald Reaves, the Twelfth Chancellor and First Lady of Winston-Salem State University. The event was sponsored by the Pitt County chapter of Winston-Salem State University National Alumni Association. [Contributed Photo]

Are We Expecting Too Much From Obama?

By Hazel Trice Edney

NNPA Editor-in-Chief

"Hello. My Name is Freida. I am a 52 years young black female that had 3 strokes and [I

am] doing fine right now. I am a full time stay at home artist... Those are the words of Freida Thompson of Manalapan, N.J., in a letter to the editor of the NNPA News Service.

v. Board of Education of Topeka, that I must be allowed to go to the same schools as white children. And yet, The Little Rock Nine still had to pay my dues.

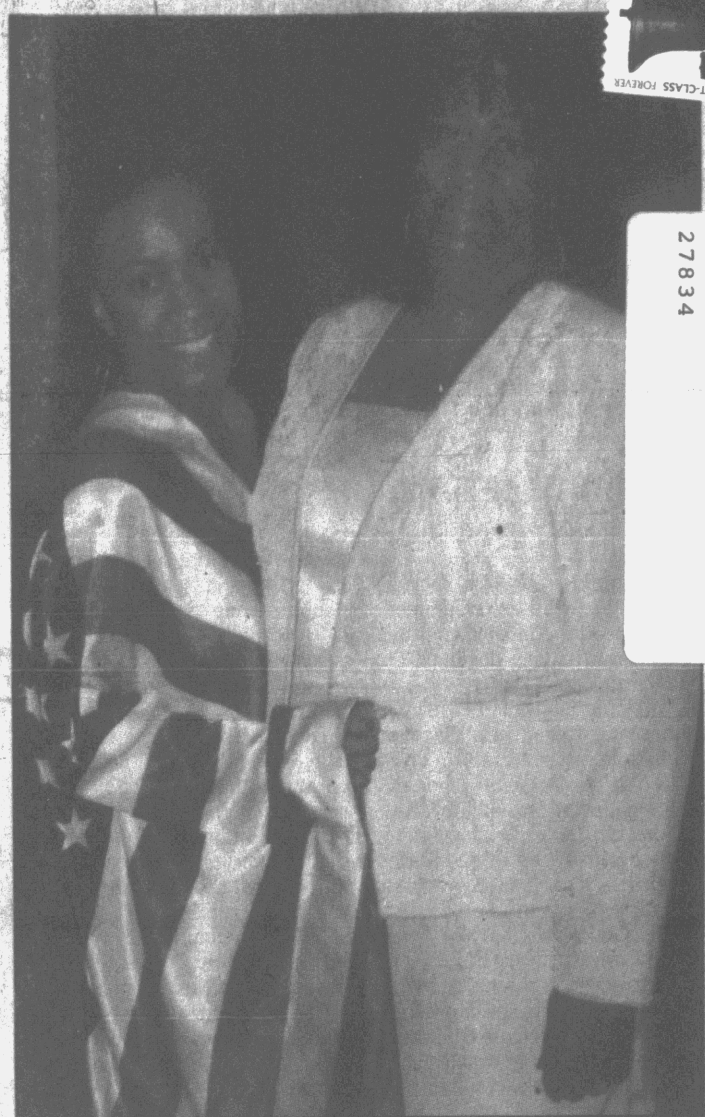
Barack Obama has taken up the torch and is working to carry out King's dream. Obama has made

friends out of enemies. People thought that blacks were going to put him in office; it took Blacks, Whites, Hispanics, and all races to work together to bring him to the White House. Our hopes and

(See **BLACK PRESIDENT**, P. 2)



SHOW PRIDE IN OUR PRESIDENT—Ms. Bonner (left), mentor to young boys and girls in Washington, D.C., is pictured with a Beaufort County High School Student, who is a budding poet. [Bro. Jim Rouse Photo]



INAUGURATION BLACK TIE EVENT—Dallas House, LLC, held an "Inauguration Black Tie Event" to celebrate the inauguration of the first African American President of the United States, President Barack Obama. Shown above are the lovely ladies that put the event together to celebrate. [Bro. Jim Rouse Photo]

Al Gore, Muhammad Ali, Halle Berry Help Celebrate NAACP 100th Anniversary

On Feb. 12, the NAACP marked its 100th anniversary, which coincided with the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth. Across the country, NAACP units in more than 1,200 communities will cut cakes, reaffirm their commitment to the struggle ahead and celebrate the historical journey that has culminated in the election of the first African-American president.

The biggest birthday party, the 40th NAACP Image Awards, was co-hosted by filmmaker Tyler Perry and actress Halle Berry in Los Angeles. Awards will be given to numerous artists in the entertainment and literary industry with special nods to former Vice President Al Gore, environmentalist Wangari Muta Maathai, and Muhammad Ali.

But the celebration of progress was tempered by a sober realization of the civil rights goals still unachieved. The NAACP will release an urgent white paper that issues a civil rights challenge to the new Congress and administration for the first 100 days.

"Our journey remains unfinished," says NAACP President Ben Jealous. "African-Americans suffer disproportionately from the economic recession, we are seeing a rise in hate crimes and police killings, there is still not a level playing field in economic and educational opportunities for every community."

"The audacious dream of America, a land where opportunity exists for all and where every person is given a chance to reach their full potential, still remains elusive." The white paper, which also forecasts key long-term goals, will emphasize the issues that need urgent immediate attention and will be released prior to the Image Awards celebration.

NAACP Image Awards Chairperson Clayola Brown states: "The success of artists like Halle Berry and Tyler Perry remind us of the immense progress that has been made in the last 100 years and gives us continued hope for the progress that our nation will achieve in the future."

"This year's Image Awards is

not just a special event, it is an historic occasion, and I hope all Americans will tune in," adds NAACP Hollywood Bureau Executive Director Vicangelo Bullock, who serves as executive producer of the awards telecast.

NAACP Black History Month events

•**Official unveiling** of the United States Postal Service Civil Rights Pioneers Postage Stamps, commemorating the Centennial (February 21).

•**Televised specials** highlighting the most influential films, music and people from 1909-2009.

•**Release of a commemorative music CD** of 'freedom songs' performed by noted recording artists of today.

•**Release of NAACP: Celebrating a Century, 100 Years in Pictures**, a photo book of images and notes from the NAACP's own files and records.

•**"The Civil Rights Century: The NAACP at 100,"** Johns Hopkins University Center for Africana Studies, 3400 North Charles St., Baltimore, Md., Feb. 6-7.

•**100th Anniversary of the NAACP.** Branches and Units nationwide will host celebrations including Founder's Day Services Cake-Cutting Ceremonies (Contact local branches for details) (Feb. 12).

•**40th Annual NAACP Image Awards** airs live, nationwide on the FOX network at 8 p.m., Shrine Auditorium, Los Angeles, Calif. (Feb. 12).

•**NAACP Annual Meeting** (Open to the General Public), 9 a.m.-1 p.m., New York Hilton (Feb. 21).

Unveiling of USPS Civil Rights Pioneers Postage Stamps will occur at the Annual Meeting. Stamps will be available for purchase along with limited quantities of NAACP Centennial memorabilia.

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its more than half-million members and supporters throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, conducting voter mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.

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STIMULUS

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services, including support from police and fire departments. No community that relies on these services to protect them should have to endure cuts in these areas. This plan invests \$4 billion for state and local law enforcement funding.

In the Feb. 5 call, LaHood said the Recovery Act would save or create millions of jobs each year, with many coming in building and repairing roads, bridges and transit lines. More than 90 percent of the jobs would be in the private sector, he said.

It remains unknown whether there will be any specific inclusion plan through the state and federal levels. However, days before inauguration Obama told the NNPA News Service that many such infrastructure projects are slated specifically for urban areas where a majority of African-Americans live and work.

LaHood said, "The idea is getting money out of the door for projects, this spring, summer and fall."

NNPA Editor-in-Chief Hazel Trice Edney contributed to this article.

PROCLAMATION

Continued from page 1

the recognition of each person's humanity as well as an influence on the broader American culture. African-Americans designed our beautiful Capital City, gave us the melodic rhythms of New Orleans Jazz, issued new discoveries in science and medicine, and forced us to examine ourselves in the pages of classic literature. This legacy has only added luster to the brand of the United States, which has drawn immigrants to our shores for centuries.

This year's theme, "The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas," is a chance to examine the evolution of our country and how African-Americans helped draw us ever closer to becoming a more perfect union.

The narrative of the African-American pursuit of full citizenship with all of the rights and privileges afforded others in this country is also the story of a maturing young Nation. The voices and examples of the African-American people worked collectively to remove the boulders of systemic racism and discrimination that pervaded our laws and our public consciousness for decades. Through the work of Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver, Martin Luther King and Thurgood Marshall, the African-American community has steadily made progress toward the dreams within its grasp and the promise of our more Nation.

Meanwhile, the belief that those dreams might one day be realized by all of our citizens gave African-American men and women the same sense of duty and love of country that led them to shed blood in every war we have ever fought, to invest hard-earned resources in their communities with the hope of self empowerment, and to pass the ideals of this great land down to their children and grandchildren.

As we mark National African-American History Month, we should take note of this special moment in our Nation's history and the actors who worked so diligently to deliver us to this place. One such organization is the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People—the NAACP—which this year will witness 100 years of service to the Nation on February 12.

Because of their work, including the contributions of those luminaries on the front lines and great advocates behind the scenes, we as a Nation were able to take the dramatic steps we have in recent history.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of

the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 2009 as National African-American History Month.

I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs that raise awareness and appreciation of African-American history.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

EXPECTING

Continued from page 1

must all get engaged in helping to fix these problems," Shelton says.

Thomas Todd studied the question from a different direction.

"Nowhere in the campaign did he really promise to handle the black agenda—nowhere," says Todd, a Chicago-based retired U.S. attorney, known for his impassioned speeches. "I think blacks have allowed themselves to get caught up in the euphoria and the celebration and that probably is not realistic... So, my attitude has been that black people—once they get past the historic nature of what has happened, must hold this president as accountable as any other president."

Blacks are indeed expecting a great deal of Obama, as indicated by the *USA Today* survey released a few days before the historic inauguration showing that 79 percent of blacks believe that Martin Luther King's Dream has been realized through the election of Obama, says Dr. Ron Walters, political scientist at the University of Maryland.

"There been all sorts of wild statements, such as that we do not need black civil rights leaders any more, we do not need black organizations such as the NAACP any more, and while whites have been the main perpetrators of these views, some blacks have bought in to them as well," Walters says.

"There has been considerable Transition Committee activity with black organizations that have put forth agenda items before it, expecting that there will be some action on them as he also tackles the major issues confronting the country. So, there are strong expectations, but at the same time, there is also a realism at the heart of it that will give some room to maneuver and some time to address black issues, but the community will also be watchful as well, in the event that it appears to be the subject of neglect."

In his first two weeks in office President Obama has:

- Visited Capitol Hill in an attempt to win bipartisan support for his economic stimulus package.
- Signed his first bill, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, enabling more employees to challenge unlawful pay discrimination based on gender, race, age and disability.
- Reversed a string of anti-union executive orders issued by the Bush Administration.
- Established a Middle Class Working Families Task Force.
- Ordered the closing of the

controversial Guantanamo Bay lockup for alleged terrorists.

Across the board, there is the clear understanding that President Obama has simply inherited "a mess" from the previous administration, as described by Shelton.

But, as Walters says, blacks in leadership positions around the country have presented the Obama administration with proposals that are race-specific and long-standing.

"We have seen a complete degradation of our schools and a lack of investment in the public school system and a real focus on quality education beyond all of the platitudes and praises and causes and catch phrases and 'Leave No Child Behind.' That does not do it," says Albert E. Dotson, Jr., chairman of the board of the 100 Black Men of America, which primarily mentors black youth.

"We've got to see a real investment in our public school system."

Leslie Baskerville, president and CEO of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, says that in an appeal to Obama's then transition team, she made a plea for the restoration of Title 3 funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

"Title 3 funding is the lifeblood of HBCUs... It keeps their doors open," Baskerville said, noting how the Bush Administration recommended "a whopping cut of Title 3 dollars that would be tantamount to a million-dollar loss per institution that's eligible. Ninety-seven HBCUs are participating in the Title 3 Program," she said. "So we have to reverse that."

H. Alexander Robinson, president and CEO of the National Black Justice Coalition, points to HIV/AIDS disparities in the black community.

"The office of National AIDS Policy has to be reinvigorated. There hasn't been a director in that office for almost two years," says Robinson. "During that entire administration, it has been left to languish. With urgency with health care reform on the table, with the economic downturn that's facing all of the AIDS service providers, there needs to be leadership from the White House that in fact addresses HIV and AIDS."

Coming back to what the nation has said is Obama's number one issue, Julie Cunningham, president and CEO of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials, says "Putting America back to work" is crucial, but it must be done such that African-American contractors get a piece of the pie and that "there is accountability and compliance tied to those dollars."

Public policy issues notwithstanding, Freida Thompson, the artist, says her friends are discussing a historic concern that they doubt will be changed by the Obama presidency, but they hope he will at least try. That is racism.

"People are saying it's going to be the whites against the blacks. They're saying it's not going to get any better just because he's in the office. I really want him to say something about that. I really want us all to get along," Thompson says.

Illustrating the depth of the problem, Thompson recalls something that her 7-year-old grandson, Angelo, said: "Grandma, now you're going to need security for Sir Barackster."

BLACK PRESIDENT

Continued from page 1

dreams did not die on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel. They live on in you and I.

Now, with freedom comes responsibility. What will you do with this opportunity? I know that I will work towards being the best Courtney Jennette I can be. I will live up to my potential. I will better myself. I know that dedication and determination yield success and satisfaction.

Like Helen Keller, "I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble." I can help at least one person, then my living will not be in vain. The secret of getting ahead is getting started. I want to challenge other young people to wake up. Life is not a dream. I have awakened. Each day I report for active duty. I cannot act as if the race is won. I must be ready. The baton has been passed. We can't stop now we must go on. Keep looking beyond the dream because there so much more that God has in store for us.

A&T Hosts Series Of Computer Workshops For Senior Citizens

GREENSBORO—The Office of Summer Sessions and Outreach at North Carolina A&T State University is offering a Beginning and Advanced Computer Training Workshop for senior citizens and others through Feb. 13.

Sessions will be held at the 1020 E. Wendover Ave. Building on Tuesday and Friday evenings from 5-6 p.m. The cost is \$225. Registration is on a first come, first served basis and space is limited.

Upon successful completion of this workshop, a certificate of completion will be awarded to each participant. Alex Uzokwe will teach the workshop.

For registration and general information, contact Ms. Shirley Douglas at (336) 334-7607.

Lorillard Gives \$1 Mill To Civil Rights Museum

GREENSBORO—Lorillard Tobacco Company has agreed to donate \$1 million to the International Civil Rights Center and Museum to commemorate the unique role that Greensboro played in advancing the civil rights movement.

The center will be located in the original F.W. Woolworth building on downtown Greensboro's Elm Street and will honor the sit-in of Feb. 1, 1960 that took place there, and other civil rights accomplishments.

The donation is part of an additional \$10 million in funding for the site that was announced during the Center's 49th annual awards gala recently.

According to Lorillard Chairman, CEO and President Martin L. Orlowsky, the opening of the museum will bring recognition to the role the city of Greensboro and its citizens played, and continue to play, in the civil rights movement.

"As a company that has based its operations in Greensboro for more than 50 years, Lorillard has witnessed this community embrace, support and nurture the rights of individuals," he says. "We believe that the Civil Rights Center will have a profoundly positive impact on our city and county."

"We look forward to celebrating the historic importance of Greensboro and its brave young activists in launching the national civil rights movement 50 years ago."

Museum Executive Director Amelia Parker says that the financial generosity of Lorillard and other donors were the final pieces of the puzzle in bringing the project to life.

"We are extremely grateful to Lorillard for this significant contribution that will help us in our efforts to open the Civil Rights Center in time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Greensboro Sit-Ins in 2010," noted Parker.

"It is particularly poignant that we accept this gift as we begin our community's celebration of Black History Month."

Lorillard, Inc. (NYSE: LO), based in Greensboro, is the third largest manufacturer of cigarettes in the United States. Lorillard was founded in 1760, and is the oldest continuously operating tobacco company in the U.S. The company's headquarters has been based in Greensboro since 1997, and it has maintained production, distribution and research and development operations in Greensboro since 1956.

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Isaac A. Mount III

Hatemongers Find New Recruits With Obama Presidency

Special to the NNPA/Southern Poverty Law Center

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (NNPA)—President Obama may have smashed the ultimate political barrier to African-Americans, but his presidency and the deepening economic crisis are creating the perfect storm for white supremacists intent on swelling their ranks.

Racist extremists have been energized by Obama's election, hoping to exploit an Obama backlash among whites who resent having a black man in the White House.

Neo-Nazi David Duke says Obama will be a "visual aid" for angry white Americans and will provoke a backlash among relatively mainstream whites that will "result in a dramatic increase in [the] ranks" of extremists. Many other hate group leaders agree.

That backlash was evident in the aftermath of the election as scores of racially charged incidents—beatings, effigy burnings, racist graffiti, threats and intimidation—were reported across the country.

"There's a real fury out there in certain quarters," said Mark Potok, director of the Southern Poverty Law Center's Intelligence Project.

White supremacist groups boasted of a post-election surge of new members as well as overwhelming traffic to their websites. At least two hate groups—Stormfront and the Council of Conservative Citizens—said their websites crashed because of heavy traffic.

Stormfront also claimed to have gained thousands of new members immediately after Obama was elected on Nov. 4. The League of the South, a neo-secessionist group, said it saw a surge in phone calls from potential members and that its web traffic increased sixfold.

Even before the election, racial rage began to break out across the country. Effigies of Obama appeared hanging from nooses on university campuses. And angry supporters of John McCain and Sarah Palin reportedly shouted "Kill him" and "terrorist" at a campaign rally. Racist graffiti targeting Obama abounded.

Law enforcement agencies say Obama has received more threats than any previous president-elect. Two suspected assassination plots already have been broken up—one involving two racist skinheads in Tennessee—and, just before Obama's Jan. 20 inauguration, a Wisconsin man was arrested for threatening to kill Obama in an Internet posting.

On Jan. 27, a Denver grand jury indicted a Colorado man who sent e-mails to the FBI's Washington office eight days before the inauguration, threatening to kill Obama within the next 48 hours and blow up a mall.

At the same time, the economic meltdown is helping to create the conditions in which racist extremist and militia groups typically thrive, often by scapegoating minorities and by stoking fear and division among those who are harmed by events beyond their control or understanding.

Neo-Nazi Jeff Schoep may have offered the clearest vision of how the economy can be exploited.

"Historically, when times get tough in our nation, that's how movements like ours gain a foothold," the leader of the National Socialist Movement told USA Today. "When the economy suffers, people are looking for answers... We are the answer for white people."

The Obama era comes after years in which white supremacists have successfully exploited the immigration debate—both providing racist propaganda that seeps into the popular culture and benefiting from the vilification of Latino immigrants.

Mainly as a result of the bigotry and xenophobia surrounding the immigration debate, the number of hate groups operating in the United States has risen by nearly 50 percent—from 602 to 888—since 2000.

Now, these groups have begun to turn their attention to Obama—distributing racist propaganda, filling Internet message boards with threats and messages of hate, and, in some cases, taking more direct action against minorities. Here is a sampling of racial incidents reported in the wake of the election:

•Police in Riverside County, Calif., said five attacks on minorities were likely related to the election and were believed to have been carried out by a local white supremacist gang.

•In Shreveport, La., a black man wearing an Obama tee-shirt was brutally beaten by a group of white men screaming "f-k Obama" and "n---r president." The attack left the man with a broken nose, broken eye socket

and broken tear duct, requiring multiple surgeries.

•In Springfield, Mass., a black church was burned hours after the election was called for Obama. Authorities later arrested three white men.

•In Staten Island, N.Y., a black

teen was bloodied and bruised by two white teens who shouted "Obama" while pummeling him with a bat and pipe.

•In Rexburg, Idaho, second- and third-graders on a school bus chanted "assassinate Obama."

•In Torrance, Calif., swastikas

and racial slurs were spray-painted on homes and cars of people who displayed Obama signs or bumper stickers.

•In Milwaukee, a poster of Obama with a bullet going through his head was discovered in a police station.

•In Maine, a sign at a convenience store invited customers to join a betting pool on when Obama would be assassinated. The sign said, "Let's hope we have a winner."

Winter Weather Poses Fire Threat

As temperatures continue to drop and the threat of winter weather rises, so does the threat from the leading cause of home fires nationwide—improper use and maintenance of heating equipment.

Every year, hundreds of people die, thousands are injured and more than 100,000 homes are destroyed or damaged by fires caused by the improper use and maintenance of heating equipment.

"Space heaters and other portable heating devices present serious fire hazards because of their potential for improper use and cause of many home fires," said Raleigh Fire Prevention Education Specialist Ronald Campbell. "Most of these fires can be prevented if users of home heating equipment observe the following simple safety guidelines."

Residents are reminded to:

•Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for use and maintenance;

•Use portable heaters carefully. Portable heaters generate a great amount of heat;

•Maintain a minimum clear-

ance of 36 inches from furniture, draperies or other combustible home furnishings;

•Avoid damp or wet locations for electric heaters and never touch the controls while you are wet;

•Check the electrical cords regularly for cracking or fraying;

•Do not place electrical cords for space heaters or any appliance under rugs or carpets. Place the unit close to the electrical outlet so that the cord is not a threat to trip those walking near the heater;

•Take extreme care when refueling portable kerosene heaters. These kerosene heaters should be refueled in a well-ventilated area, away from any source of heat. Wait until the heater has cooled before refueling and be sure to use the proper fuel. Use only I-K brand kerosene and always take the unit outside to refuel. The refueling area should be clear of any smoking materials or open flames;

•All portable heating units should be turned off before leaving home or going to bed;

•Extreme caution should be

used when children and pets are in the home. Falling against or touching the surface of a portable heater can cause severe burns. Keep children and pets away from heaters at all times;

•Keep portable heaters out of high-traffic areas to minimize the possibility of tripping over the heater and turning it over. Be sure the unit is equipped with the "tip-over" safety feature;

•Any gas-burning heater or woodstove would be properly vented. The ventilation should be checked thoroughly at the beginning of the heating season before the appliance is used. Improperly vented appliances could produce deadly amounts of carbon monoxide;

•Gas logs must be in the fireplace and always use a screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room; and,

•Always use a metal container for ash removal and carry the container outside to be placed on a non-combustible surface. Never use boxes or bags!

For information, call the Fire Prevention office of the City of Raleigh Fire Department at 831-6392.

Mrs. O's Kitchen
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OPINION

My Grandson Is Being Adopted By Whites

To The Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Sheila R. Spruill, and I am the grandmother to a little boy who was given up for adoption. Here is how the story unravels.

In December 2006 my son and a young lady were intimately involved. The relationship between them had ended because of infidelity. In January of 2007 the young lady gets re-involved with an ex-boyfriend and they marry in March of 2007. At this time she is pregnant and the husband believes that the baby is his. Well, a few weeks later she goes for an ultrasound and the doctor tells her how far along she is and the husband finds out this is not his baby. They were not sexually involved at the time the doctor says that she conceived.

She tells my son that he is the father. Well he does not believe her since she is married to this other man and tells her that he wants a blood test to determine if he is the father or not. Well, she is still married and living with this man so my son does not have too much communication with her so that he does not cause more friction between the two of them. He is just waiting for the baby to be born to get a blood test.

Well, in August of 2007 the young lady gives birth to a little boy. No one from her family calls to let my son know the baby has been born. Ten days later he finds out and goes to visit and she tells him she has given the baby up for adoption. My son asked her to please tell him who has the baby and she refuses to give him the name of the family of the agency. Keep in mind that she had 7 days to change her mind and tell the adoption agency about my son being a possible father and him wanting a blood test. She stated in court that she never told the adoption agency about my son because he had asked for a DNA test.

In September 2007 we hired a lawyer to find out my son's rights. We find out that he needed a paternity test, and while we are waiting for a judge to order a paternity test a court in Charlotte notifies my son that he needs to appear on a said date or lose his parental rights. Unfortunately, the lawyer that we hired did not do a very good job. He did not do enough research for the case, and the judge in Charlotte has agreed with the adoption agency to terminate my son's parental rights. How can the court say that his rights should be terminated because he did not take care of the young lady throughout her pregnancy, and he did not provide for the baby even though he did not know if the baby was

his? I do not believe most men are going to provide for a mother to be and her unborn baby when he is not sure who the father is.

The DNA test did prove that my son is the father and we thought that the baby boy would be returned to his father. As it turns out there is a rule in North Carolina that states because he did not provide for this young lady and the baby he does not have to give his permission for his son to be adopted. The court in Charlotte says that we have the right to appeal the decision, but we do not have the money to continue this fight. After speaking with another attorney she said it would cost about \$10,000 to get all the paperwork in the correct order and then there would be no guarantee that my son would get custody of his son.

My family is black and my grandson is about to be adopted by a white family. I would be wrong to say that this does not bother me. We do not want him adopted by anyone, black or white. Isaiah belongs with us, his biological family. I wonder what they will tell him about us. Do they pretend that we do not exist, that we did not want him, his mother did not want him because her husband at the time did not want to raise another man's child, or do they tell him that my son wanted him to be with his biological family, but the North Carolina Statute says he did

not provide support and is not entitled to raise him? My son has a good job now, but how does he go about providing for him when someone else has been given permission to adopt him and we can never see him until he turns 18? My son may be going off to war soon and nothing would hurt me more if he leaves to go to war and never gets to meet his son. All of our service members do not return home the way they left.

I also would like to know how this family feels knowing that we wanted to take care of him. The family is Christian and the man is a pastor. The young lady says she wanted him raised by a Christian family, but she and her mother know that I am a Christian also, and never said a word to me about the plans to give the baby away. He is our blood and we have love for him and there is an empty place in our hearts without his presence. My other kids and family members cannot believe how this turned out. How do you just take someone's child and give him to someone else? There was never any mention of my son being unfit, but he cannot raise his son.

Another thing I would like to know is why does the biological mother get to have contact with the family and get pictures and Mother's Day cards, and she is the one that gave him away, and we get nothing—no pictures, no

emails, no Father's Day cards, no nothing. I really wish that someone could explain all of this to me. What kind of people makes these decisions? Do they have children? Have any been snatched away from them? I am not sure what

this letter means to anyone else, but maybe it can get the word out there and stop just one man from losing his rights to be a parent. I do not know what can be done to challenge this statute other than to make sure you hire the right

lawyer. I would like for the men in North Carolina to know about this. Some other states probably have the same rules. From the inner most part of my heart,
Sheila R. Spruill

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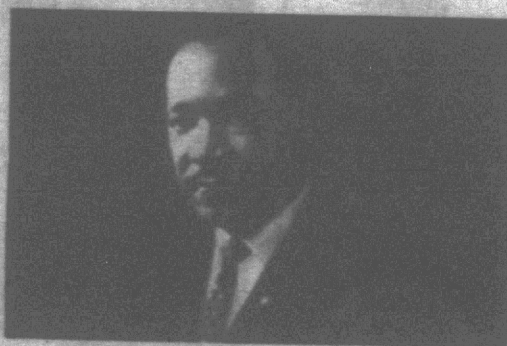
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Black History Month



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during the month of
February 2009.



PCC Celebrates
Black History Month



Black Journey

An American Quest
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and Acceptance

Friday, Jan. 30 - Kick-off - Jabali Afrika

Jabali Afrika is a multi-faceted group featuring original compositions and traditional African rhythms with a wide variety of instruments and vocal harmonies. Add talented dancing, choreography, and stunning traditional African tribal costumes for a multi-cultural experience that will enrich, educate, and entertain us!

Sponsor: Student Government Association & Multicultural Activities Committee (MAC)

Friday, Feb. 6 - Friday Film Fest Series - "Glory"

Starring Matthew Broderick and Denzel Washington.

Sponsors: Arts and Sciences Division, SGA, and MAC

Wednesday, Feb. 11 - Readers' Theater - "Follow the Star"
A Literary Journey towards Inclusion in the American Dream of "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness"

Sponsors: Arts and Sciences Division, SGA, and MAC

Tues.-Thurs., Feb. 17-19 - Banneker's Legacy Poster Display

Crediting Creativity & Contribution towards the Technological Advancement of Society. In honor of Benjamin Banneker, notable mathematician, astronomer, clockmaker, and city planner, this event promises to display contributions of both yesterday and today. The Poster Display will feature African Americans that have made significant contributions in the field of math, science, and technology in pursuit of freedom, citizenship and equality.

Sponsors: Arts and Sciences Division, TRIO Student Support Services and MAC

Thursday, Feb. 19 - Math/Science/Technology History Quiz Bowl

Throughout history, the quest for freedom and equality was met with resistance. Yet, many African American Mathematicians and Scientists were making contributions in their fields of expertise. This quiz bowl will consist of a variety of questions about the history of African American mathematicians and scientists and their contributions to Math/Science and Technology. PCC Community College students will participate and compete for prizes.

Sponsors: Arts and Sciences Division, TRIO Student Support Services and MAC

Friday, Feb. 20 - Blood Drive

Recognizing and Celebrating African-American Donors

Sponsors: Next Level and MAC

Monday, Feb. 23 - Changes to the Dream? A Conversation between

Martin Luther King, Jr. and President Elect Barack Obama
Imagine if Barack Obama and Martin Luther King, Jr. had the opportunity to meet. How would they react to one another? What would they say? This play, which takes place the night after Barack Obama won the general election, depicts a fictional account of their conversation.

Sponsors: Next Level and MAC

12:00 pm - 1:15 pm

Multipurpose Room
Goess Student Center

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Room 143
Leslie Building

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Multipurpose Room
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8:00 am - 9:00 pm daily

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10:00 am - 2:00 pm

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Obama's Remarks At Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. NATIONAL MEMORIAL GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY
Monday, Nov. 13, 2006
Remarks of U.S. Senator Barack Obama

I want to thank first of all the King family, we would not be here without them, I want to thank Mr. Johnson and the foundation for allowing me to share this day with all of you.

I wish to recognize as well my colleagues in the United States Senate who have helped make today possible. Senators Paul Sarbanes and John Warner, who wrote the bill for this memorial. Senators Thad Cochran and Robert Byrd who appropriated the money to help build it.

Thank you all.
I have two daughters, ages five and eight. And when I see the plans for this memorial, I think about what it will be like when I first bring them here upon the memorial's completion.

I imagine us walking down to this tidal basin, between one memorial dedicated to the man who helped give birth to a nation, and another dedicated to the man who preserved it.

I picture us walking beneath the shadows cast by the Mountain of Despair, and gazing up at the Stone of Hope, and reading the quotes on the all together as the water falls like rain.

And at some point, I know that one of my daughters will ask, perhaps my youngest, will ask, "Daddy, why is this monument here? What did this man do?"

What Did Martin Luther King, Jr. Do?

How might I answer them? Unlike the others commemorated in this place, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was not a president of the United States—at no time in his life did he hold public office. He was not a hero of foreign wars. He never had much money, and while he lived he was reviled at least as much as he

was celebrated.

By his own accounts, he was a man frequently racked with doubt, a man not without flaws, a man who, like Moses before him, more than once questioned why he had been chosen for so arduous a task—the task of leading a people to freedom, the task of healing the festering wounds of the nation's original sin.

And yet lead a nation he did. Through words he gave voice to the voiceless. Through deeds he gave courage to the faint of heart. By dint of vision, and determination, and most of all faith in the redeeming power of love, he endured the humiliation of arrest, the loneliness of a prison cell, the constant threats to his life, until he finally inspired a nation to transform itself, and begin to live up to the meaning of its creed.

Like Moses before him, he would never live to see the Promised Land. But from the mountain top, he pointed the way for us—a

land no longer torn asunder with racial hatred and ethnic strife, a land that measured itself by how it treats the least of these, a land in which strength is defined not simply by the capacity to wage war but by the determination to forge peace—a land in which all of God's children might come together in a spirit of brotherhood.

We have not yet arrived at this longed-for place. For all the progress we have made, there are times when the land of our dreams recedes from us—when we are lost, wandering spirits, content with our suspicions and our angers, our long-held grudges and petty disputes, our frantic diversions and tribal allegiances.

And yet, by erecting this monu-

ment, we are reminded that this different, better place beckons us, and that we will find it not across distant hills or within some hidden valley, but rather we will find it somewhere in our hearts.

In the Book of Micah, Chapter 6, verse 8, the prophet says that God has already told us what is good.

"What doth the Lord require of thee," the verse tells us, "but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

The man we honor today did what God required. In the end, that is what I will tell my daughters—I will leave it to their teachers and their history books

to tell them the rest.

As Dr. King asked to be remembered, I will tell them that this man gave his life serving others. I will tell them that this man tried to love somebody. I will tell them that because he did these things, they live today with the freedom God intended, their citizenship unquestioned, their dreams unbounded.

And I will tell them that they too can love. That they too can serve. And that each generation is beckoned anew, to fight for what is right, and strive for what is just, and to find within itself the spirit, the sense of purpose, that can remake a nation and transform a world.

Thank you very much.

The Man Who Would Be King...

A Timeline Of Events Detailing The Beginning And Rise To Fame Of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- January 15, 1929—Born as Michael King Jr. in Atlanta, Ga.
- Fall 1944—Begins studies at Morehouse College in Atlanta at the age of 15.
- June 8, 1948—Graduates from Morehouse College with a B.A. degree in sociology.
- September 1948—Enrolls in Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pa.
- May 6-8, 1951—Graduates from Crozer Theological Seminary with a Bachelor of Divinity degree.
- September 1951—Begins his doctoral studies at Boston University.
- June 18, 1953—Marries Coretta Scott in Marion, Ala.
- May 17, 1954—U.S. Supreme Court rules in Brown vs. Board of Education that segregation in public schools is unconstitutional.
- September 1954—Moves from Boston to Montgomery to begin his service at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, setting up residence in the church's parsonage.
- March 2, 1955—Fifteen-year-old Claudette Colvin refuses to give up her seat to a white man in compliance with the Jim Crow laws, leading King to look into the case as a member of a committee from the Birmingham African-American community.
- June 5, 1955—Rosa Parks refuses to move from her seat on a Montgomery bus to accommodate a white passenger.
- December 5, 1955—First day of both the official Montgomery bus boycott and the trial date of Rosa Parks.
- January 30, 1956—King's house is bombed in response to the boycott (possibly incited by the "get-tough" policy toward boycott participants enacted by Montgomery Mayor William "Tacky" Gayle).
- February 21, 1956—Indicted with 115 boycott participants and charged with violating an obscure 1921 Alabama law prohibiting conspiracies seeking to undermine legal business and commerce.
- April 23, 1956—U.S. Supreme Court rules in Fleming vs. South Carolina Electric and Gas Company that segregation on any public transportation was illegal.
- February 18, 1957—Appears on the cover of Time Magazine for a story chronicling the successful conclusion of the boycott.
- September 9, 1958—Congress passes the first Civil Rights Act since Reconstruction, establishing the Civil Rights Commission and the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice.
- September 17, 1958—Publishes *Stride Toward Freedom*, a memoir of the boycott.
- September 20, 1958—Stabbed by a mentally unstable woman named Izola Curry while at a book signing during a publicity tour.
- November 29, 1959—Resigns from Dexter to join his father as co-pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta.
- February 1, 1960—King delivers his final address as president of the Montgomery Improvement Association before leaving for Atlanta where he will go on to become the most

visible figure in the civil rights movement and the youngest person to ever win the Nobel Peace Prize.

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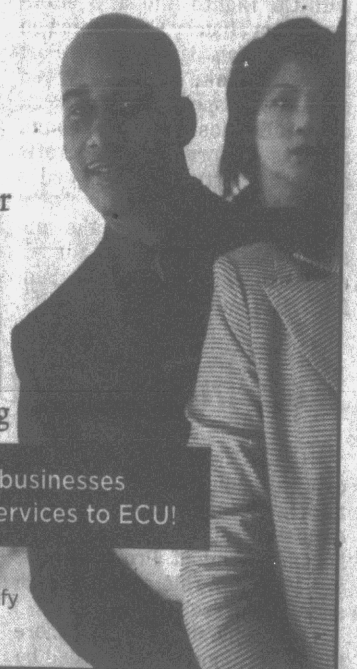
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Great Finds In North Carolina African-American History

African-American history is being celebrated in February but can be studied and observed through agencies of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources every day.

The title *A History of African-Americans in North Carolina* relates that history from pre-Colonial days to 2001.

It presents Mary Jane Connor on the cover, who was described by a Union soldier in 1863 as "thoroughly capable" and "about the most remarkable colored woman I ever saw." It is one of six African-American history books available through the N.C. Historical Publications Section, all discounted 25 percent for Black History Month.

Recollections of My Slavery Days, written by William Henry Singleton, is his account of his escape from slavery in 1862, service in the U.S. Colored Troops, and other accomplishments. Visit <http://nc-historical-publications.stores.yahoo.net/> and click on African-American history for information on all the titles.

The N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh started celebrating Black History Month early with the Eighth Annual African-American History Celebration on Saturday, Jan. 31. Piedmont Poet Laureate Jaki Shelton Green read, the Gospel Jubilators sang, colorfully costumed Jonkonnu dancers performed, while crafts and other activities provided a day of free family fun.

Throughout February the museum offers programs for all age groups free or for a small fee. "Bearing Witness: the Civil

Rights Photographs of Alexander Rivera" is a free exhibit at the museum through March 1. Visit www.ncmuseumofhistory.org and click on Upcoming Programs or "Exhibits."

North Carolina State Historic Sites will offer engaging programs, ranging from an African-American Read-In at the State Capitol on Feb. 7, from 1-5 p.m., where local celebrities read their favorite black authors, to a program at Historic Bath on slave ship archaeology comparing the English slave Henrietta Marie, to the French slave ship turned into Blackbeard's flagship, Queen Anne's Revenge on Feb. 7, at 10 a.m.

The N.C. Transportation Museum in Spencer will examine the work and music of lining bar workers, known as "gandy dancers" who toiled as railroad track maintenance workers from the mid 1800s to the mid 20th century. The "North Carolina Lining Bar Gangs" is a free permanent exhibit opening Feb. 24.

Entertainment is planned with a Freedman's Jazz Concert at Roanoke Island Festival Park, at 8 p.m. on Feb. 20, featuring two legendary blues guitarists.

Hubert Sumlin was guitarist for Howlin' Wolf (aka Chester Burnett). Bob Margolin played for Muddy Waters. Both were recorded on Chicago-based Chess records, all were major influences on subsequent blues and rock and roll artists, as demonstrated in the recent movie "Cadillac Records." There is a fee; visit www.roanokeisland.com for additional information.

Town Creek Indian Mound in

Mount Gilead will screen *Black Indians: An American Story* narrated by James Earl Jones on Feb. 1, at 4 p.m. Historic Bath will show "A Raisin in the Sun" starring Sidney Poitier, on Feb. 19, at 7 p.m.

Tryon Palace in New Bern will present Antonia Parker, who will tell the story of Amelia Green, and her efforts to free herself and her family from slavery on Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. Visit www.nchistoricsites.org and click on the individual site or the calendar on the right for additional information. These programs are free.

Somerset Place in Creswell is one of the state historic sites steeped in African-American history every day. It interprets the lives of the Collins family and the nearly 300 slaves who worked 6,000 acres of the 100,000

acre plantation.

Historic Stagville in Durham was the Bennehan-Cameron plantation of 30,000 acres and nearly 900 slaves, where atypical apartment style slave houses built by enslaved Africans still stand.

Historic Edenton features a display and tours about Harriet Jacobs, who escaped slavery to become an abolitionist after seven years hiding in her grandmother's attic. Another site is the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum in Sedalia, a preeminent prep school for African-Americans in the first half of the 20th century.

The Museum of the Cape Fear in Fayetteville will present the Arsenal Roundtable "Red, White, Blue and Black: A History of Black Americans in the U.S. Military" on Feb. 26, at 7 p.m. Prof. Charles Anderson Jr. will examine African-American mili-

tary involvement from colonial times to the Civil War in a free program.


Other military involvement can be researched in the State Archives. The State Library and State Archives also offer information all year to genealogists and those researching black family histories back to the 1800s. Visit the State Archives is at www.archives.ncdcr.gov; information on genealogy is available

at <http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/patrons.genealogists.html>.

The N.C. Highway Historical Marker program recognizes significant contributions of African-Americans in North Carolina across the state. Visit www.ncmarkers.com and enter African-American history in the search bar. Markers for Black Wall Street, Martin Luther King Jr., Sit-in, and many others are listed.

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The next class of the Greenville Police Department Citizens' Police Academy starts its "training" April 14, 2009. Classes will meet every Tuesday night from 6:30 - 8:30 for ten weeks. All participants will have the opportunity to receive instruction in several interesting areas, including the following:

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If you miss this class, your next opportunity won't be until April 2010



CITY OF GREENVILLE, NC
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Working Moms Get Scholarships

HOBOKEN, N.J.—eLearners.com, a leading website for connecting students with online education, today announced its second round of Project Working Mom full-ride online college scholarship recipients.

The scholarships, totaling more than \$2 million, are provided by American Sentinel University, Ashford University, Capella University, Everest University and Penn Foster College.

Over the course of a 10-week outreach campaign, Project Working Mom received more than 72,000 applications from working moms across the United States seeking financial aid to help make their dreams come true.

Project Working Mom first launched in January 2008 and was followed by the second campaign which ran from June to August 2008. Combined the two phases of Project Working Mom attracted more than 120,000 applications and awarded more than \$4 million in full-ride scholarships to 93 working moms.

For many of the scholarship recipients, this scholarship is life changing. "I don't have a lot of family who have gone to school and certainly not those who have received scholarships. To my family and I, this is better than winning the lottery," said one of the scholarship recipients.

"It was heart wrenching and awe inspiring to read the submissions from the scholarship applicants—and to learn about the obstacles they have overcome and their determination to improve their lives and the lives of their families through education," said Helen MacDermott, spokesperson for Project Working Mom and an online student mom.

"But perhaps what is even more inspiring is actually seeing these women go back to school and pursue their dreams. That's the really cool part of Project Working Mom."

Census data shows that most mothers start college, but do not finish. Research indicates that life's demands and the barriers of time, money and confidence play a role in the low percentage of single moms who are college graduates—only about 15 percent. Seeing the need to help, eLearners.com created Project Working Mom to help women break through these barriers. By going to school online, the recipients are able to set their own schedule and study from home.

"I want to be able to graduate and have a career that I am proud of, and a career that will help me support my family," said another scholarship recipient. "I want to be able to make a difference, and with an education I know that I can do that."

The Project Working Mom scholarship recipients are from 28 states, including Alaska and Hawaii. The scholarships awarded range from the associate's to Ph.D. level. To apply for the scholarship, working moms had to submit a short application and an essay with their life, education and/or career goals, and explain how an online education would allow them to achieve those goals.

Given the overwhelming interest and demand, eLearners.com


and its partner schools are launching the next phase of Project Working Mom, "Project Working Mom... and Dads Too!", in January.

The campaign will include scholarships from Ashford University, Capella University, Everest University, Virginia College Online, and Ashworth College. Unlike previous campaigns, this campaign will also open the scholarship pool to dads.

More details will be announced soon. To learn more about Project Working Mom, log onto www.projectworkingmom.com.

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Pitt and surrounding counties have a new way to learn about upcoming local, state and national events. A premier broadcast news magazine program to debut on February 16th, 2009 on Suddenlink Cable Network Channel 23 in Greenville, NC. The program is taped at the Hilton Hotel in Greenville, NC by the Foremost Vision Studio of Kinston, NC. Date and time of the program will be announced.

NORTH CAROLINA TODAY WITH MERCEDES FORNAY is a thirty minute innovative public affairs program. The program's mission is committed to aid in changing lives through Empowerment, Encouragement, Inspiration and Educational programming.

NORTH CAROLINA TODAY

WITH MERCEDES FORNAY will bring together some of the preeminent visionaries and agents of change in the region. Community leaders, educators, public servants, authors, motivational speakers, medical professionals, business leaders, spiritual leaders, filmmakers, and artists are among the anticipated guests.

Topics of the initial program include interviews at the Inaugural Black Tie Event at the Michaels Center hosted by Ms. Dallas Nixon of the Dallas House on January 21, 2009 in Greenville NC with: The Honorable Mayor Pat Dunn, Mayor of Greenville; Mr. Jim Rouse, Business leader; Calvin Henderson, President, NAACP; Mr. Melvin McLawhorn, Pitt County Commissioner; Ms.

Rose Glover, City Council and Reverend Calvin and First Lady Shaw of Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church, Williamston, NC and many others.

Mercedes Fornay—the program's producer/director and host—is a 14-year broadcast radio and television journalist formerly of Wilmington, Delaware who recently returned to North Carolina and is a Funeral Director, and Rhonda Grant Jordan serves as program scheduler.

Remember—Opportunities never come to those who wait—but only to those who dare to take the challenge and we encourage you to renew your mind to change your world.

For more information please email mercil1016@yahoo.com.

USDA Launches '09 Farm Survey

Farmers will soon have to opportunity to set the record straight about the issues that affect them—and to help ensure that policies and programs are based on accurate, real-world data. This is the goal of the annual Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS), conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Services (NASS).

ARMS is USDA's primary source of information on production practices, resource use and economic well-being of America's farm households.

"Just about every federal policy and program that affects U.S. farmers and farm families is based on information from ARMS," said Herb Vanderberry, director of the NASS North Carolina Field Office. "This information is used not just by USDA and Congress, but also by farm groups, agribusinesses and others

who make the decisions that shape the future of North Carolina's agriculture."

Between February and April of 2009, NASS field offices will contact more than 33,000 farmers nationwide by mail or phone to complete the survey. Producers will be asked to provide data on their operating expenditures, production costs and household characteristics.

"All farm operators rely on quality information and sound government policies in order to run a successful business. That's why participation in ARMS ensures that decisions affecting farmers, their families, their businesses and their communities are based on the facts, straight from the source."

Survey responses will be compiled and NASS will publish the farm economic data in the annual Farm Production Expenditures report, to be released on August 6. As with all NASS

surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses and publishes only state and national-level data, ensuring that no individual producer or operation can be identified. All NASS reports are available online at: www.nass.usda.gov.

Hagan's Executive Pay Amendment Passes Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Senator Kay Hagan's (D-NC) amendment to rein in executive compensation at companies being supported by infusions of taxpayer dollars unanimously passed the U.S. Senate last week, during debate on the floor concerning the Economic Recovery Package.

Senator Hagan joined U.S. Senators Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.), Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), and Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) to cosponsor the "Cap Executive Officer Pay Act of 2009."

Under the amendment, CEOs and other executives at companies receiving assistance through the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) would not be permitted to make more in salary and bonuses than the President of the United States.

"Tonight, the U.S. Senate sent a resounding message to companies who seek Americans' hard-earned tax dollars to shore up their poor choices. While people are struggling to put food on the table and pay for

their prescriptions, you cannot frivolously spend money that is not yours in the first place," said Hagan.

"While there is still much further to go, the passage of this vote indicates a level of accountability that North Carolinians, and others across the country, have not seen in some time. I am proud to have cosponsored this measure, and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in the Senate to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and with accountability to the American public."

The CEO Pay Act would apply for as long as a company receives federal assistance or owes an obligation to the government related to TARP funding. Once the government has been repaid in full, this measure would no longer apply.

In December, the Associated Press calculated that \$1.6 billion went to executive compensation at banks that received the initial infusion of TARP money.



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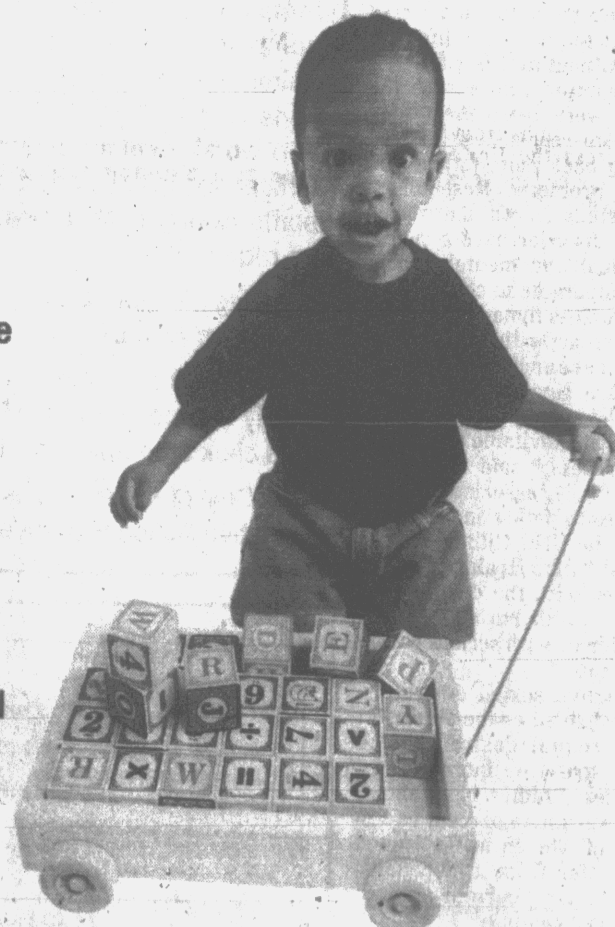
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For more information about North Carolina's National College Savings Program, please review the complete Program Description and Enrollment Agreement available at CFNC.org/NC529 or contact 800-600-3453 to request an enrollment kit that includes both. Before opening an Account, or contributing funds to an existing Account, you should carefully read and consider the Program Description, which includes information on investment objectives, risks, charges, expenses, and other important information. Check with your home state about tax or other benefits associated with investing in its own qualified tuition plan.

North Carolina's National College Savings Program is a program of the State of North Carolina, established and maintained by the State Education Assistance Authority as a qualified tuition program under federal tax law, and administered by College Foundation, Inc. Investment Options feature funds from NCM Capital Management Group, LLC; J. & W. Seligman & Co., Incorporated; Wachovia Bank, N.A. through its affiliate, Evergreen Investment Management Company, LLC; the State Treasurer of North Carolina; and The Vanguard Group, Inc.

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.

**College
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NASA Challenges Students To Build, Fly Model Rockets

HUNTSVILLE, Ala.—Twenty student teams, selected by NASA from colleges and universities around the country, are spending the winter building sophisticated rockets they will launch high over Alabama during NASA's 2008-2009 University Student Launch Initiative in April.

The annual rocketry challenge will be held April 18 at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. Student teams will bring their rockets to the NASA center, where professional engineers will conduct formal design reviews of the vehicles before the students take part in a final, all-day launch.

The initiative, managed by Marshall's Academic Affairs Office, is designed to inspire young people to pursue careers in fields critical to NASA's mission: science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Each student team will design, build and field-test one rocket, earning practical experience in the development and execution of a complex engineering project from design to launch. They must develop a vehicle that can fly to an altitude of 1 mile and sustain

an onboard science experiment that gathers measurable data.

New to the challenge this year are teams from Arizona State University in Tempe; two teams from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Fla.; Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne; Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta; Iowa State University in Ames; Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro; Mississippi State University in Starkville; Mitchell Community College in Statesville and Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Ala.

Returning teams hail from Alabama A&M University in Huntsville; Auburn University in Auburn, Ala.; the College of Menominee Nation in Green Bay, Wis.; Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn.; Harding University in Searcy, Ark.; Missouri University of Science & Technology in Rolla; the University of Alabama in Huntsville; the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks; Utah State University in Logan; and Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn.

"Each year, the University Student Launch Initiative welcomes

an exciting roster of young engineers, whose inventiveness and rigorous attention to detail are an inspiration to all involved," said Tammy Rowan, manager of Marshall's Academic Affairs Office. "We look forward to spring and the thrill of seeing rockets lift into the sky."

"It's our hope that this one-of-a-kind opportunity will have a meaningful, lifelong impact on the participants," Rowan added.

"And we hope their schools and organizations will continue to nurture new generations who will explore, innovate and better our world by helping us travel to others across the solar system."

In addition to developing and testing their rockets, teams develop a project Web site and deliver preliminary and post-launch reports to their NASA counterparts for review. Teams also conduct related projects for schools or youth organizations in their area, helping to spread interest in engineering and rocketry to upcoming generations of students.

The Exploration Systems Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters in Washington sponsors

the University Student Launch Initiative.

For complete listing of participants and more information, visit: <http://education.msfc.nasa.gov/usli>.

CITY OF GREENVILLE, NC REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FOR NAMING RIGHTS

The City of Greenville is soliciting proposals from qualified corporate entities to enter into a Naming Rights agreement for the Greenville, NC Convention Center. A copy of the Request for Proposals, may be obtained from 1) www.greenvillenc.gov, 2) www.greenvilleconventioncenter.com, and 3) www.visit-greenvillenc.com or by request at 252-329-4432. Proposal is due no later than 4 p.m. EST on March 27, 2009. No proposal will be accepted after this date and time. Interested parties should contact Thomas M. Moton, Jr., Assistant City Manager, at 252-329-4432 with questions about this Request for Proposals.

Postmenopausal Loss Of Desire Linked To Women's Health Issues

CHAPEL HILL—Women with low levels of sexual desire, often as a result of menopause, are more likely to be depressed and to suffer physical symptoms such as back pain and memory problems than women who report higher levels of desire, according to a new study by researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Procter & Gamble Pharmaceuticals.

The study, published recently as an online early view article in *Value in Health*, the official journal of the International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research, found that women with hypoactive sexual desire disorder (HSDD) reported poorer health status and worse health-related quality of life than women without the disorder.

For example, those with the disorder were more than twice as likely to report health issues including back pain, fatigue and memory problems. Researchers say the study shows that women with the disorder have a degree of physical and mental impairment comparable to chronic conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, osteoarthritis and asthma.

"Our research shows that HSDD is a significant and clinically relevant problem, and not a normal or inevitable part of the aging process," said Andrea K. Biddle, Ph.D., associate professor of health policy and management at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health.

"Women with the disorder experience health burdens similar to individuals with serious chronic conditions."

Hypoactive sexual desire disorder is defined as the persistent lack of sexual desire causing marked stress or interpersonal difficulties. Studies have shown that between nine percent and 26 percent of women in the United States suffer from it, depending on the woman's current age and menopausal status.

The study was based on telephone interviews with 1,189 postmenopausal women. Using quality of life surveys, researchers asked women about their levels of sexual desire and feelings of physical and emotional well-being or distress.

Results showed that women with the disorder were more likely to be depressed and to express dissatisfaction with their home

lives and their sexual partners. Surgically menopausal women (women who underwent menopause by having their ovaries removed) were slightly more likely to have the disorder than women

who underwent menopause naturally.

The study was funded by contract from Procter & Gamble Pharmaceuticals Inc. of Mason, Ohio.

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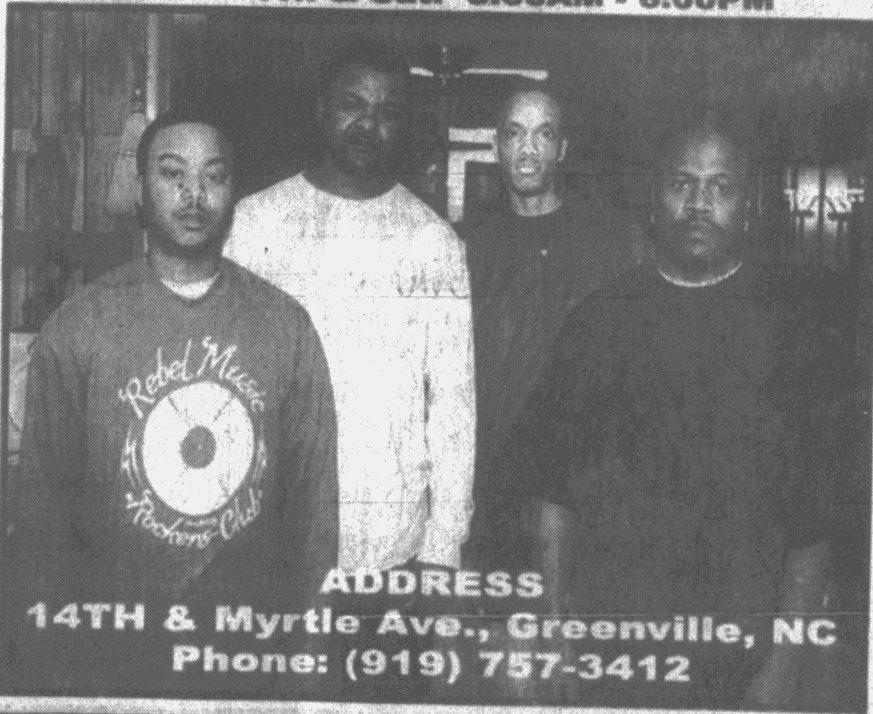
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New Medicare Regs Make It Easier To Get Power Wheelchairs

Medicare's regulations now make it easier for seniors and others with debilitating conditions such as arthritis, stroke, heart and breathing problems, or diabetes, to obtain a power wheelchair at little or no cost.

Miracle on Wheels is trying to increase public awareness about the assistance options that allow senior and the disabled to remain independent in their own homes rather than undergo difficult surgery or other expensive treatment, or resort to moving into a nursing home.

These assistance options are available to anyone with problems getting around their home, or who are in danger of falling due to their medical condition.

But brand choices may become more limited in the near future, since Medicare has cut the amount they will allow for a power wheelchair at little or no cost.



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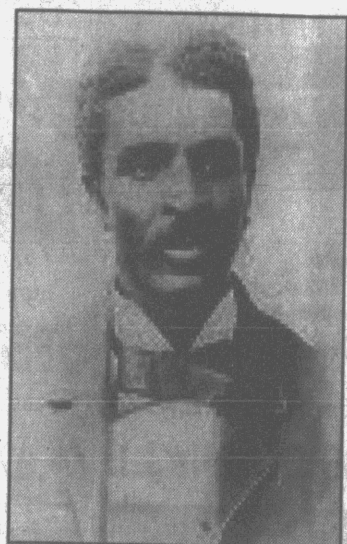
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George Washington Carver 1860-1943

One of the best known agricultural scientists of his generation,

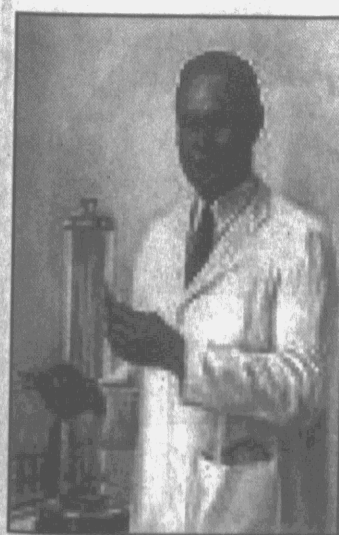


Carver was born into slavery near Diamond Grove, Missouri. Slave raiders kidnapped Carver and his mother when he was a six-week-old infant, but his owner allegedly ransomed back the boy with a \$300 prize race horse. Although Carver had to work and live on his own while still a boy, he managed to finish high school and became the first African American student to enroll at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa. He then put himself through the Iowa Cultural College by working as a janitor, earning a B.S. in 1894 and an M.S. in 1896 in agricultural science. The same year, Carver joined Booker T. Washington at the Tuskegee Institute, directing Tuskegee's agricultural research department continuously until his death in 1943. At Tuskegee, Carver concentrated on persuading Southern farmers to end their virtually exclusive reliance on the cotton farming that had leached the soil of nutrients, producing increasingly poor

crops. Carver encouraged farmers to diversify and plant sweet potatoes and peas. In order to make these crops more profitable, Carver did extensive research, producing more than 300 derivative products from the peanut and 118 from the sweet potato. In 1923 Carver won the Spingarn Award, the highest annual prize given by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In 1938 he took \$30,000—virtually his entire life savings—and founded the George Washington Carver Foundation to continue his work after his death. When he died in 1943 the rest of his estate went to the foundation. He was buried beside his great friend and mentor, Booker T. Washington, on the Tuskegee campus.

Charles Drew 1904-1950

The man who discovered the modern processes for preserving blood for transfusions, Charles Drew grew up in a solid but poor family in a Washington, D.C. ghetto. His intelligence and athletic skill won him a scholarship to Amherst College, where he was captain of the track team, starting halfback on



the football team, and an honors student. For two years following graduation, Drew taught and coached at Morgan College in Baltimore, earning money to attend the medical school at McGill University in Montreal. There he became increasingly interested in the general field of medical research and in the specific problems of blood transfusion. After graduation from McGill in 1932, Drew did his three-year residency at Montreal General Hospital before joining the faculty of Howard University, where he was eventually appointed head of surgery.

During the last decade of his life, Drew continued his pioneering research into the separation and preservation of blood. When the U.S. entered World War II, he was appointed head of the National Blood Bank program. Furious at the official government policy that mandated whites' and African Americans' blood would be given only to members of their respective races, he resigned from his post and returned to Howard. In 1944 he became chief of surgery at Freedmen's Hospital in Washington, D.C., where his presence encouraged young African Americans to enter the field of medicine. Drew died in a car crash in 1950.

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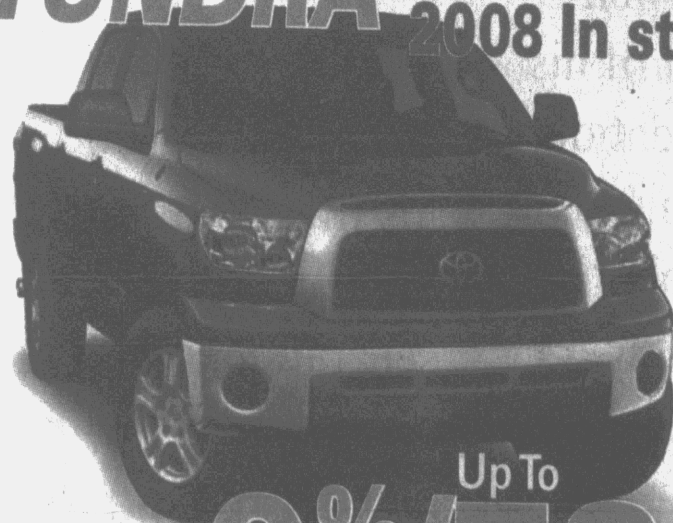
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