

The Minority Voice

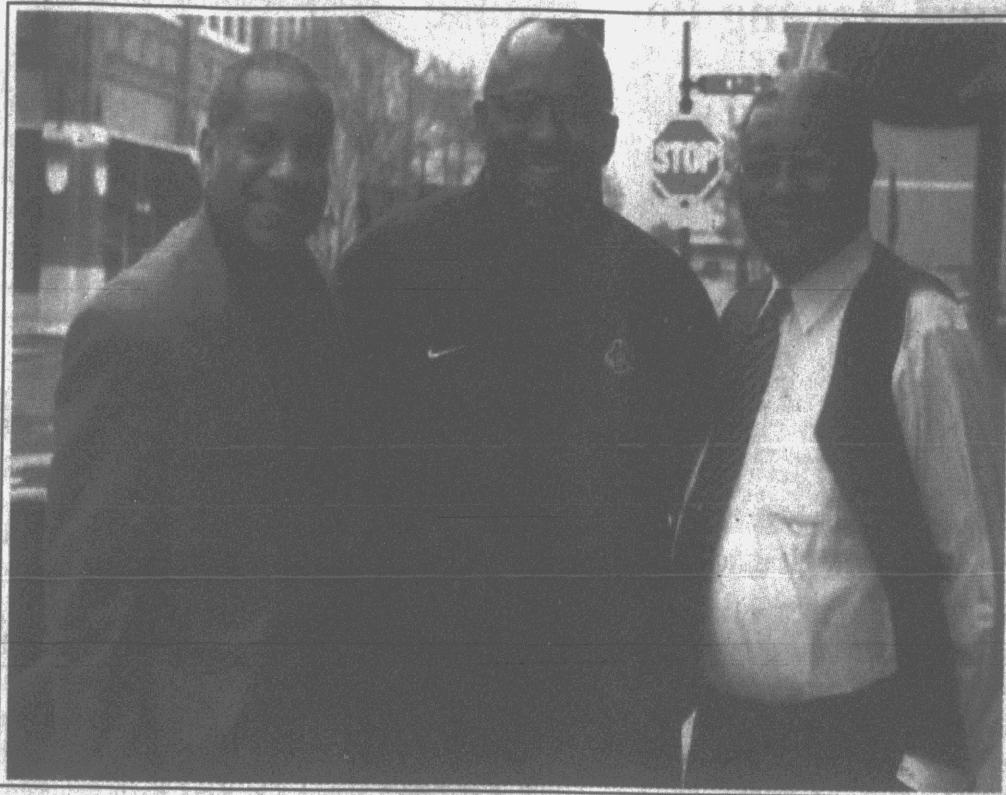
What You See Is What You Get, What You Read Is What You Know And Save

Free !

February 2010 Issue

Free !

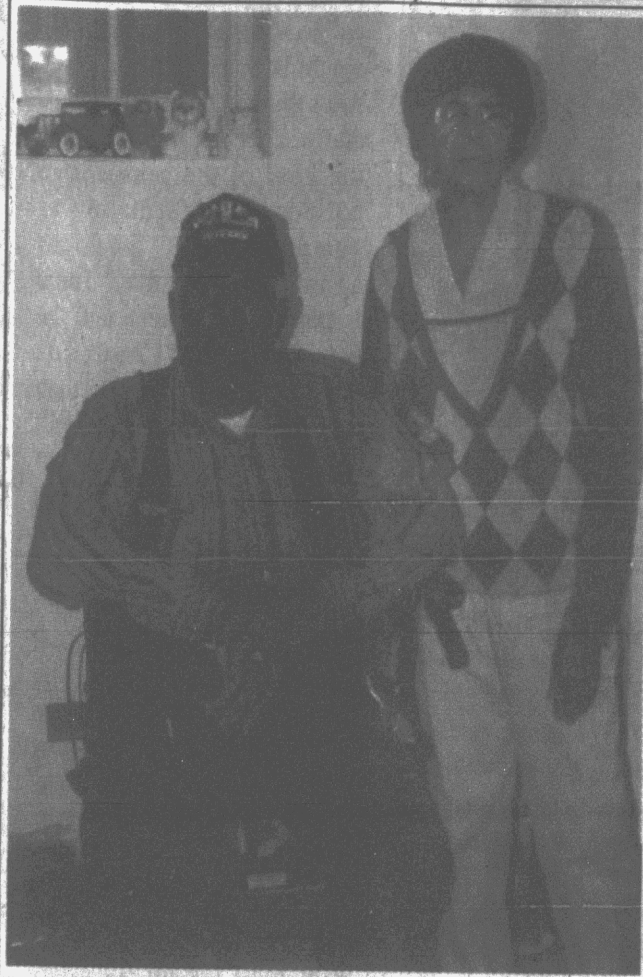
Welcome Coach McNeil



ECU's Coach McNeil stopped by WOOW Joy 1340 am studios to give an on air interview and took time to pose for our M'Voice camera. The Management and staff of the Minority Voice newspaper congratulates coach Mc Neil and wishes him many wins and much success! Pictured left left to right Larry Turner, Coach McNeil and publisher Jim Rouse

Photo by Steve Johnson

Vansboro Sheriff Fight With Couple Inside Home, Over A Loaded Gun !



by Stephen Johnson editor

room for protection and hid from sight. He says the Sheriff stated that he was going to take his gun and grabbed at the barrel of it while Mr. Jenkins was still holding on to it. At this point they began to struggle for the weapon while the Sheriff's partner simply stood in the doorway laughing at the situation. The altercation went on for a few minutes longer until the officer grab held of Mr. Jenkins neck Mr. Jenkins states "He grabbed held of the gun with one hand and the back of my neck with other twisting and turning my body in an attempt to get me to release the gun."

Mr. Jenkins' wife had seen all she could take as she screamed out, "Let go of my sick husband!" She ran toward the two men and began to struggle with them as well to get possession of the gun. A few seconds had past and she manage to get hold of the gun and quickly left the room with it. Tired, exhausted and possibly a little frighten Mr. Jenkins tells the officer that he should not be treating him like this, that he is 79 years old and very ill. According to Mr. Jenkins the officer simply responded that he did not care; The other Sheriff who had been standing in the doorway watching the events unfold finally asked if Mr. Jenkins needed an ambulance and told the 1st officer to wait in the car.

The Minority Voice newspaper was unable to contact anyone from the Vansboro Sheriff Dept. for comment. We asked if the original complaint regarding the break-in had been investigated or if the officers involved had been reprimanded for their actions. According to our sources neither have taken place. The following day the Jenkins family says they spoke with Chief Bundy to ask why the sheriffs had come into his home and attacked him as they did. He informed us that he was told that the Department would take of

Continued page two

On Feb.6, 2010 between the hours of 7:00 - 8:00 P.M. Mr. Jenkins and his wife were resting in their bedroom, when they heard beating at the side door of their home. Convinced that someone was trying to break into their home they called 911 and requested that someone come out. According to Mr. Jenkins after he informed the 911 operator of his location she immediately began asking him if he had a gun. Mr. Jenkins informed the operator that yes he did in fact own a gun. She also asked if he had been outside or knew if the person was White or Black. He responded "No, I have not gone outside." Flustered with what he thought appeared to be pointless questions Mr. Jenkins again requested that someone come out and hung up the phone. A short time later Vansboro Local Sheriff Dept. pulled up and the beating outside suddenly stopped. Mr. Jenkins states "I can't believed what happened next. After answering the door the sheriffs just walked into my home without any introduction or invitation and again asked me if I had any guns!" "yes", He responded "I am a 79 year old Veteran and I have a right to have a gun in my own home and I have permits for them."

He showed them a gun that he normally keeps in the front



Pictured above is members of the Pitt County NAACP along with the Superintendent of Schools at the Lucille Gorham Intergenerational Center. the M'voice salute these fine men and women for always putting our children first.

photo by Jim Rouse

African American scholar, author visits ECU



The Daily Reflector

Trudier Harris, a scholar of African American literature and culture and professor emeritus at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, visited the Lucille Gorham Intergenerational Center recently before delivering the Sallie Southall Cotten Lecture on Wednesday night at ECU. About 30 people met with Harris at the center, including teachers, professors, and community members, to talk with her about her career and experiences. Harris also spoke on "Little Old Ladies and the Last Word: An Exploration of Sassiness and Risque' Behavior in African American Folklore" in ECU's Wright Auditorium as part of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series. She is a recipient

of the UNC System Board of Governors' Award for Excellence in Teaching, the William C. Friday Award for Excellence in Teaching and the John Hurt Fisher Award of the South Atlantic Association of Departments of English, for outstanding contributions in English scholarship. During her 36 years of full time teaching, Harris has served on the faculties of the College of William and Mary and Emory University. She also has lectured throughout the United States, Canada, England, France, Germany, Italy, Jamaica, Northern Ireland, Poland, South Africa and Spain. Harris is the author of many books, including her most recent, "The Scary Mason-Dixon Line: African American Writers and the South."

Former D.C. Mayor Marion Barry is accused of corruption

By Tim Craig and Nikita Stewart Wednesday, February 17, 2010

A team of investigators hired by the D.C. City Council accused council member Marion Barry of public corruption Tuesday for securing a \$15,000 contract for his ex-girlfriend and taking a cut for himself. Although Barry has run into legal trouble in the past — including convictions for drug possession and failure to pay local and federal taxes — Tuesday's allegations marked the first time the former mayor has been accused of pocketing taxpayer money. Barry obtained a contract for Donna Watts-Brighthaupt after lending her money to help pay her bills, according to a report delivered to the council by Washington lawyer continued page2



The M' Voice newspaper congratulates Ms. Ann Huggins on her appointment to the State Social Services Board. Ms. Huggins is pictured with Governor Bev. Perdue (far right). As with all her endeavors we are sure Ms. Huggins will do an excellent job and look forward from seeing great things from her in the future.

photo by Jim Rouse

Civil rights delegation wants reparations for Haiti



An aerial view of Port-au-Prince's downtown area demonstrates the extent of damage inflicted by the powerful earthquake that hit the Haitian capital. Massive rebuilding efforts will be needed and the World Bank is already preparing for that phase of the Haiti relief. (UN Photo/Logan Abassi)

GEORGIA, United States, February 12, 2010 – A US delegation to Haiti led by civil rights veteran Joe Beasley is calling for a US\$30 billion restitution payment by France to help Haiti rebuild after the devastating January 12th earthquake, and the end of what Beasley refers to as an unofficial blockade of Haiti. Beasley, 73, was part of a six-person delegation that travelled to Haiti just over a week after the 7.0-magnitude quake devastated the capital, Port-au-Prince. "It's absolutely worse than anything I've ever seen before or been able to imagine in my mind," Beasley told IPS. "One third of Port-au-Prince was destroyed," added delegation member Bruce McMillian. "There's homelessness and hunger everywhere. The US\$30 billion could really put Haiti on path to being a prosperous, modern nation." McMillian says the money should go to a special fund the government has established to receive foreign aid with the promise of complete transparency. "We believe the NGOs in Haiti are just as much of the problem as they are the solution," he said. "According to certain officials in Haiti, only 20 percent of the aid sent to Haiti works its way down so it's actually reaching the people." "It's our belief the Haitian people should control their own fate and destiny," he added. Beasley and others say they are working to educate the US public about the situation in Haiti, particularly the political context that led to Haiti's extreme poverty. "I think there are so many preconceived notions about Haiti that are negative and that need to be clarified," he noted. "I think this earthquake has provided us an opportunity to not only talk about the disaster, but to tell the truth about Haiti, the historical reality around Haiti and why it happened to be the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere." (Adapted from IPS)

U. S. Census Bureau Says Many Blacks Still Identify Themselves as 'Negro'

by Pharaoh Martin

NNPA National Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - In March, many of the estimated 145 million households who receive the Census Bureau's shortened questionnaire for the nation's decennial headcount may be full of raised eyebrows when they get to question 9, which asks about a person's race. Beside the designation for respondents who self-identify as Black and African-American is the word "Negro", an antiquated term that is considered regressive to many in the African-American community, especially today with the country being led by a Black president. "Being a 24-year-old Black man I think it takes me back to a place that I've never been, and quite honestly, I view it as politically incorrect. I know that some of the older generations may see it as correct but as a young man who has grown in a time period where those words were never used I don't really expect for them to be used now," said Austin Weatherington, a journalist from Cleveland. The Census Bureau has explained in a news release that the reason that the word Negro has been included on Census

questionnaire is because testing prior to Census 2000 indicated that a large number of respondents self-identified with the term. They decided against omitting the term in order to avoid an unintended undercount due to a change in question wording. Secondly, the Census Bureau is following the guidance of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget's 1997 revised standards for the classification of race and ethnicity for federal data after a series of tests were conducted in 1996. To that end, The OMB defined the 'Black or African American' racial category as "a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa," and stipulated that "terms such as 'Haitian' or 'Negro' can be used in addition to 'Black or African American'." The NAACP is not as alarmed as Weatherington. "In the African-American community, there is a tendency to be more of a generational divide but there are a lot of older African-Americans that still utilize that term and prefer it," said Hilary Shelton, NAACP's vice president for advocacy and director of its Washington Bureau. The Census Bureau will again be testing the removal of the term "Negro" from the race

question in the 2020 Census. There are reasons other than generational gaps that some prefer Negro or Black. "For instance, we have people of African decent that have come into the country that are citizens and will be counted as such but don't like the term 'African-American' because they weren't born here," Shelton explained. "They prefer the term 'Black'. But in this particular category, we just need to make sure that we capture all of those groups. So to help prevent the confusion, we've added all three terms. So, we think that it's a good idea." Adds Shelton, "We shouldn't be alarmed ... Keep in mind that the goal of the census is to collect the information as comprehensive and as accurately as possible." There is power in numbers, and the outcome of 2010 Census data will determine how more than \$3 trillion in federal funding will be allocated over the next decade as well as how states will be represented in Congress. And so, the flow of federal funds into Black communities and congressional representation will be determined by how accurate the Black population is counted, however they self-identify. The inclusion of 'Negro' on a U.S. census form is nothing new, even in post-segregation America. The word was listed in at least the previous two headcounts, according to archived versions of the 1990 and 2000 forms on the Bureau's website. So will 'Negro' ever be phased out? "The Census is not created to help transform the thoughts of these communities but to make sure it collects that information," Shelton said. "And so, the Census will stop using it if the American people decide that it's not helpful and that no one relates to it any more. As long as people relate to it and, again, to capture that data as accurately and as comprehensively as possible, then it should be used."

Barry continued....

Robert S. Bennett. To get some of his money back, Barry at one point delivered a city check to Watts-Brighthaupt, drove her to a bank and waited in the car until she came back with the cash. Barry, 73, denied the allegations leveled against him. "I have been in office 55 years, and even my public enemies, my political enemies, my other enemies have never implied that I ever took a penny that wasn't owed to me," Barry said from the council dais in reaction to Bennett's report. The report also says Barry "provided substantial financial benefits to some of his close friends and supporters" and called for the case to be referred to federal prosecutors. "We conclude Mr. Barry breached the highest ethical standards expected of him," Bennett told the council during the public hearing. "We find his conduct not only appeared to be improper, but was improper. We find Mr. Barry breached the public trust and violated the conflict-of-interest laws of the District of Columbia." The report also found that Barry (D-Ward 8) "mounted a concerted effort" to interfere with the investigation by attempting to

dissuade Watts-Brighthaupt from fully cooperating with her subpoena. Barry's colleagues stopped short of calling for his resignation Tuesday, but several indicated that they support Bennett's recommendation to submit the matter to the U.S. attorney's office for investigation. Benjamin Friedman, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney, declined to comment. However, two law enforcement sources familiar with the matter said FBI agents and prosecutors have been examining the allegations since they became public in July. Barry might have violated the law, they said, but prosecutors are not sure they could have proved the allegations in court and will pull information from the report, according to the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not permitted to discuss such matters in public.

The Black Caucus is a Fund-Raising Powerhouse



By ERIC LIPTON and ERIC LICHTBLAU

Soon enough, in 2008, a jazz band was playing at what amounted to a mortgage-burning party for the \$4 million town house. Most political groups in Washington would have been barred by law from accepting that kind of direct aid from corporations. But by taking advantage of political finance laws, the caucus has built a fund-raising juggernaut unlike anything else in town. It has a traditional political fund-raising arm subject to federal rules. But it also has a network of nonprofit groups and charities that allow it to collect unlimited amounts of money from corporations and labor unions. From 2004 to 2008, the Congressional Black Caucus's political and charitable wings took in at least \$55 million in corporate and union contributions, according to an analysis by The New York Times, an impressive amount even by the standards of a Washington awash in cash. Only \$1 million of that went to the caucus's political action committee; the rest poured into the largely unregulated nonprofit network. (Data for 2009 is not available.) The caucus says its nonprofit groups are intended to help disadvantaged African-Americans by providing scholarships and internships to students, researching policy and holding seminars on topics like healthy living. But the bulk of the money has been spent on elaborate conventions that have become a high point of the Washington social season, as well as the headquarters building, golf outings by members of Congress and an annual visit to a Mississippi casino resort. In 2008, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation spent more on the caterer for its signature legislative dinner and conference — nearly \$700,000 for an event one organizer called "Hollywood on the Potomac" — than it gave out in scholarships, federal tax records show. At the galas, lobbyists and executives who give to caucus charities get to mingle with lawmakers. They also get seats on committees the caucus has set up to help members of Congress decide what positions to take on the issues of the day. Indeed, the nonprofit groups and the political wing are so deeply connected it is sometimes hard to tell where one ends and the other begins.

Even as it has used its status as a civil rights organization to become a fund-raising power in Washington, the caucus has had to fend off criticism of ties to companies whose business is seen by some as detrimental to its black constituents. These include cigarette companies, Internet poker operators, beer brewers and the rent-to-own industry, which has become a particular focus of consumer advocates for its practice of charging high monthly fees for appliances, televisions and computers. Caucus leaders said the giving had not influenced them. "We're unbossed and unbought," said Representative Barbara Lee, Democrat of California and chairwoman of the caucus. "Historically, we've been known as the conscience of the Congress, and we're the ones bringing up issues that often go unnoticed or just aren't on the table." But many campaign finance experts question the unusual structure. "The claim that this is a truly philanthropic motive is bogus — it's beyond credulity," said Meredith McGehee, policy director at the Campaign Legal Center in Washington, a nonpartisan group that monitors campaign finance and ethics issues. "Members of Congress should not be allowed to have these links. They provide another pocket, and a very deep pocket, for special-interest money that is intended to benefit and influence officeholders."

Not all caucus members support the donors' goals, and some issues, like a debate last year over whether to ban menthol cigarettes, have produced divisions. But caucus members have attracted increasing scrutiny from ethics investigators. All eight open House investigations involve caucus members, and most center on accusations of improper ties to private businesses. And an examination by The Times shows what can happen when companies offer financial support to caucus members.

Vansboro Couple continued

any medical injuries resulting from the incident and that incident would be taken care of.

According to sources of The Minority Voice newspaper as described this incident does not follow any typical procedures when trying to secure a gun in a person residence. In addition, we were informed that any officer must be invited into a home without a prior warrant being issued. The Jenkins are still very frightened and concerned for their safety. They are even hesitant to call the Sheriff Dept. in case of future break-ins. Unfortunately, the Jenkins family is no stranger to trouble. Living in Vansboro for over 79 years, a town with a long history of racial tension Mr. Jenkins has seen his fair share of racist behavior by local law enforcement. He recalls Like many African-Americans growing up in the segregated South, he has learned to accept many things and walk away from many others. At one time the Jenkins Family lived on one of the largest farms in Vansboro, a place where he still resides. At one point after being told by someone wishing to buy his property he was asked have you ever seen a Black man with this much property. Shortly after refusing to sell the original family home had been destroyed a fire set by suspected Klu Klux Klan members. Years after rebuilding crops were set a blaze shortly after harvest. He has awoken to the sight of several burning crosses in his front yard even as recent as 1982. His home has been shot upon countless times while racial slurs rang out from the car. Unbelievably, in all these cases no charges were ever filed. The Jenkins remained silent they are a living example of Black History a true picture of what perseverance and hard work can accomplish. It is Mr. Jenkins belief that all these attacks that he and his family have endured over the years stems from one thing, to get him to sell his property, a long time request from other local farmers. Mr. Jenkins and his wife however are resilient people and have no intension on selling. It is their wish for their grandchildren to one day inherit the land and they will not be scared off. After a preliminary investigation by local NAACP leaders the State NAACP has filed an official report and a complete investigation of the violation of the Jenkins Civil Rights by local law enforcement is underway. The Minority Voice newspaper offers our complete support to the Jenkins family and hopes others will offer their support as well

Blacks Suffer More

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Intolerance

Lorna Love

Among those over the age of five, approximately 90-95 percent of black individuals throughout the world will have partial or complete lactose intolerance. Milk intolerance occurs when lactase, the enzyme required to metabolize the milk sugar lactose, decreases or becomes absent in the gastrointestinal tract. Children are born with the correctly functioning enzyme. However, when a child reaches around the age of five years old, for reasons unknown, black children partially or completely lose the lactase enzyme. Children below the age of five, who have severe bouts of diarrhea or another severe illness, may also develop temporary or permanent lactose intolerance. Because the level of lactase deficiency varies between individuals, some will be able to drink more milk before symptoms occur than others.

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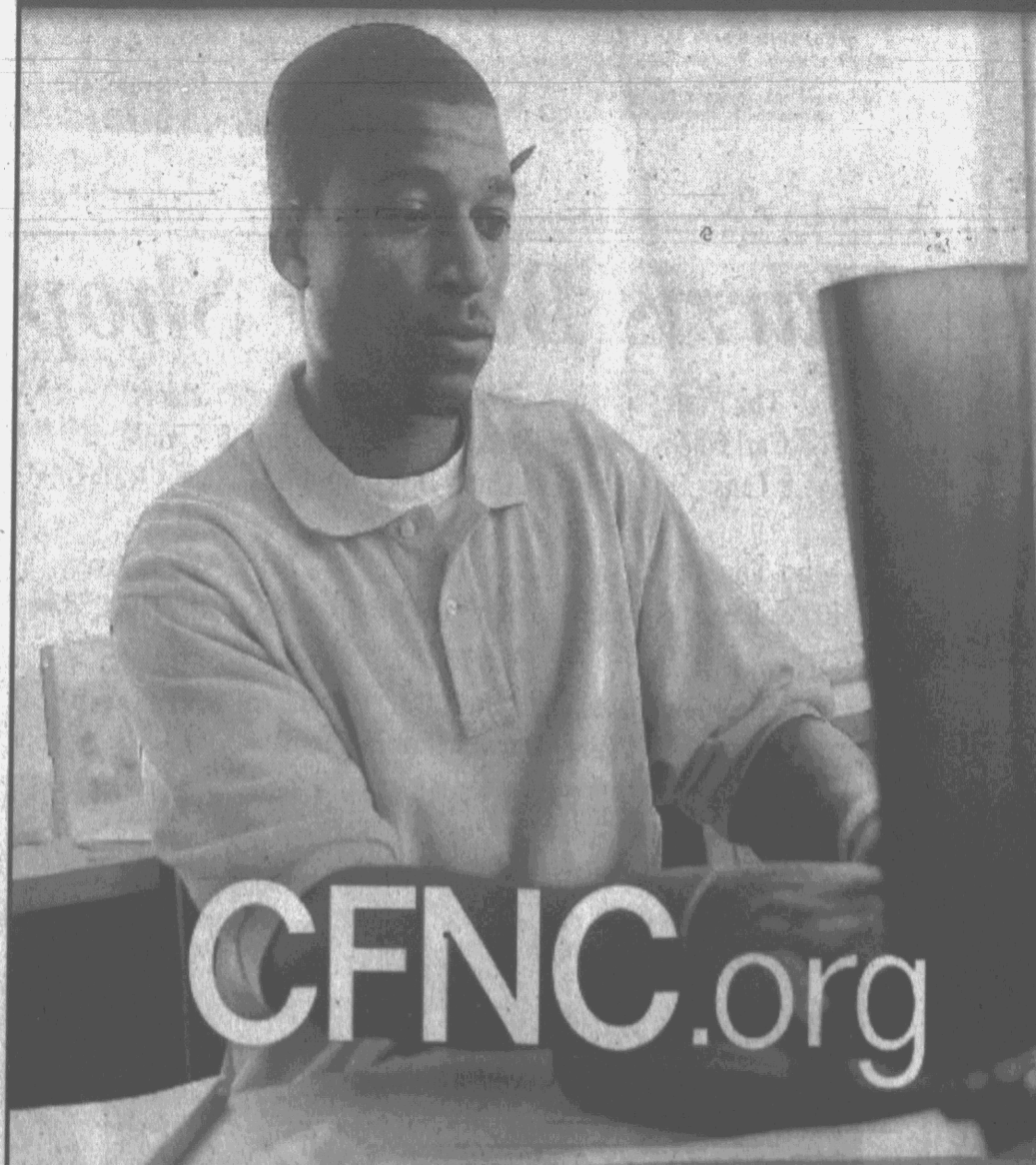
Harriet Tubman (born Araminta Ross; c. 1822 – March 10, 1913) was an African-American abolitionist, humanitarian, and Union spy during the American Civil War. After escaping from slavery, into which she was born, she made thirteen missions to rescue over seventy slaves[1] using the network of antislavery activists and safe houses known as the Underground Railroad. She later helped John Brown recruit men for his raid on Harpers Ferry, and in the post-war era struggled for women's suffrage.

As a child in Dorchester County, Maryland, Tubman was beaten and whipped by her various masters to whom she had been hired out. Early in her life, she suffered a traumatic head wound when she was hit by a heavy metal weight thrown by an irate overseer, intending to hit another

slave. The injury caused disabling seizures, headaches, powerful visionary and dream activity, and spells of hypersomnia which occurred throughout her entire life. A devout Christian, she ascribed her visions and vivid dreams to premonitions from God.

In 1849, Tubman escaped to Philadelphia, then immediately returned to Maryland to rescue her family. Slowly, one group at a time, she brought relatives with her out of the state, and eventually guided dozens of other slaves to freedom. Traveling by night and in extreme secrecy, Tubman (or "Moses", as she was called) "never lost a passenger," as she later put it at women's suffrage meetings.[2] Large rewards were offered for the capture and return of many of the people she helped escape, but no one ever knew it was Harriet Tubman who was helping them. When the far-reaching United States Fugitive Slave Law was passed in 1850, she helped guide fugitives farther north into Canada, and helped newly freed slaves find work.

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From The Desk Of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



The Editor: Work to live, don't live to work. Americans take less vacation time than any other people in the world. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 25% of Americans receive no paid vacation time. Many people feel so pressured by the everyday demands of life that they are exhausted, struggling to keep pace, and dreading the work that piles up when they choose to take a break. To determine if you are working too much, consider your responses to these statements:

1. You talk about work more than any other topic.
2. Your work often replaces time with friends and social outings.
3. Your home is a second office.
4. You consistently work overtime whether there is a pressing deadline or not.
5. You take work, laptops, or palm pilots on trips (such as family reunions, vacations, and weekend getaways).
6. Work provides more joy in your life than anything else.
7. You feel that sleep and personal time cut into your work time.
8. The last time you took a vacation was more than six months ago.

The Challenge: Healthy relationships and self-care are a higher priority to me than overworking.

WITH EVERYDAY EXERCISE

1. Take the stairs instead of the escalator even when you're tired.
2. Rake your own leaves instead of paying the kids next door.
3. Wash your car by hand and follow up with a triceps-toning wax.
4. Park far away and walk to your destination.
5. Try grocery bag curls as you carry them inside.
6. Rent a bike instead of a car on your next vacation.
7. Walk the terminal when your plane is late. Before you know it, being active will become second nature.

The Editor:

Do you want to be happy? Try these tools.

**** Appreciation** is the purest, strongest form of love. It is the outward-bound kind of love that asks for nothing and gives everything.

**** Choice** is the father of

**Ben and the
Emancipation Proclamation**

The Beatitudes

**Thank God for the
Lifeline**

freedom and the voice of the heart. Having no choices or options feels like being in jail. It leads to depression, anxiety, and learned helplessness. Anyone can choose the courses of their lives, but only happy people do it.

**** Personal Power** guides your power over your feelings and power over your fate. Personal power has two components: taking responsibility and taking action.

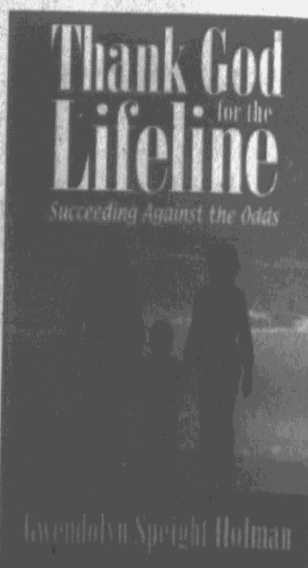
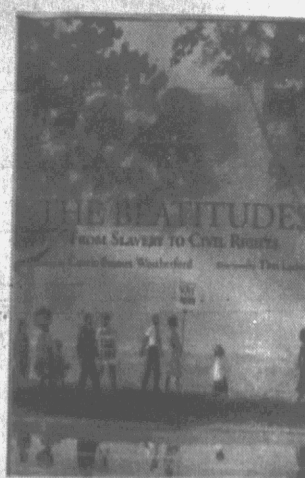
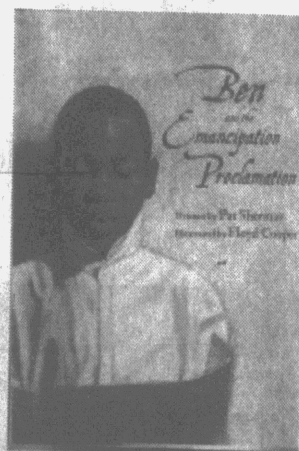
**** Leading with your strengths.** Leading with your strengths feels good and will never be complete until you learn to lead with your strengths everyday.

**** The power of language.** We don't describe the world we see, we see the world we describe. We think in words, and these words have the power to limit us or to set us free.

**** Multi-faced living.** There are three components of life: relationships, health, and purpose. Happiness comes from a full life instead of putting all our energy into just one area.

Happiness has no expiration date. Therefore, practice positivism, gratitude and generosity daily.

Books To Read: The M'Voice Recommends



"The Greatest"

Erica Smith

10th grade

The best boxer in the world, the former Cassius Clay.

Has made more money at the sport. Than anyone ever may.

Boxing in junior high, You would find him working out. Learned from a policeman, And knew what his life was about.

His father was a sign writer, His mother was a maid, Cooked and cleaned others houses, So all the bills got paid.

Plans set out for life, Had already made up his mind. To go to the Olympics, Because he was one-of-a-kind.

Accomplishments are many, There is plenty he has done. Won 1960 Amateur Athletic Union, Which was much more work than fun.

Rome Olympics in 1960, A gold medal was given. In the light heavyweight division, Maybe life is now worth living. 25 February a new title was given,

The world champ of heavyweights. His hard work has paid off, No one can decide his fate.

Nine titles defended from 65'-67',

What a hard workingman has done.

No others have been like him, Not four, not six, but none.

"I am the Greatest" (C.T. Evans) A quote which he has said.

For he is quite good at his game, Maybe others shall be led.

Ironical that good tempers he has, And always something to say. Whether to two or fifty people, Whatever is at bay.

Joined Nation of Islam, And also changed his name. From Cassius Marcellus Clay to Muhammad Ali,

But also stepped up his game. 1967 inducted into military, For religion forbade him to fight. Ali refused to serve. Most people thought this wasn't right.

Sentenced to five years and a ten thousand dollar fine,

Most people called him names. Like "draft dodger" and "traitor," And for this he lost his fame. Titles were taken away,

Charged with Selective Service Act. Wasn't allowed to box,

But won the legal battle as a matter of fact. Able to fight again,

Turns out he was not supposed to go. Regained WBA title six times, Spirits went high after being low.

Defended heavyweight title six times, Now better than ever before.

Won Championship three times,

The first to do so, and most likely there will be no more.

Later life he has gotten ill,

He quotes "I'm older and fatter but we all change."

Developed Parkinson's disease,

And a new perspective with range.

In 1979 he retired, But others in the family still box,

His daughter is much like him,

Just as good as any man; strong like an ox.

1996 Muhammad lit the Summer Olympic Flame,

He can "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee." He is the Greatest,

Muhammad Ali.

The NAACP Proudly Salutes Black History Month

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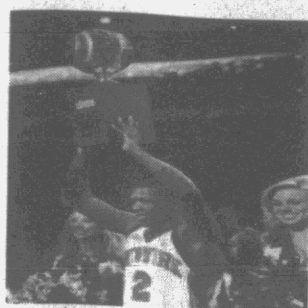
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Greenville, NC 27834

Ph. (252) 757.3412

Irvin Beamon, Quilton Williams, Carl Harris, Anthony Prayer
Tarry Barnes, James Spruil



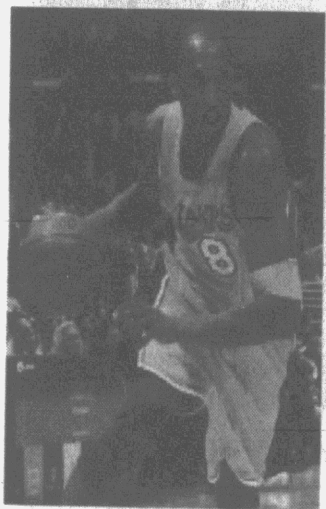
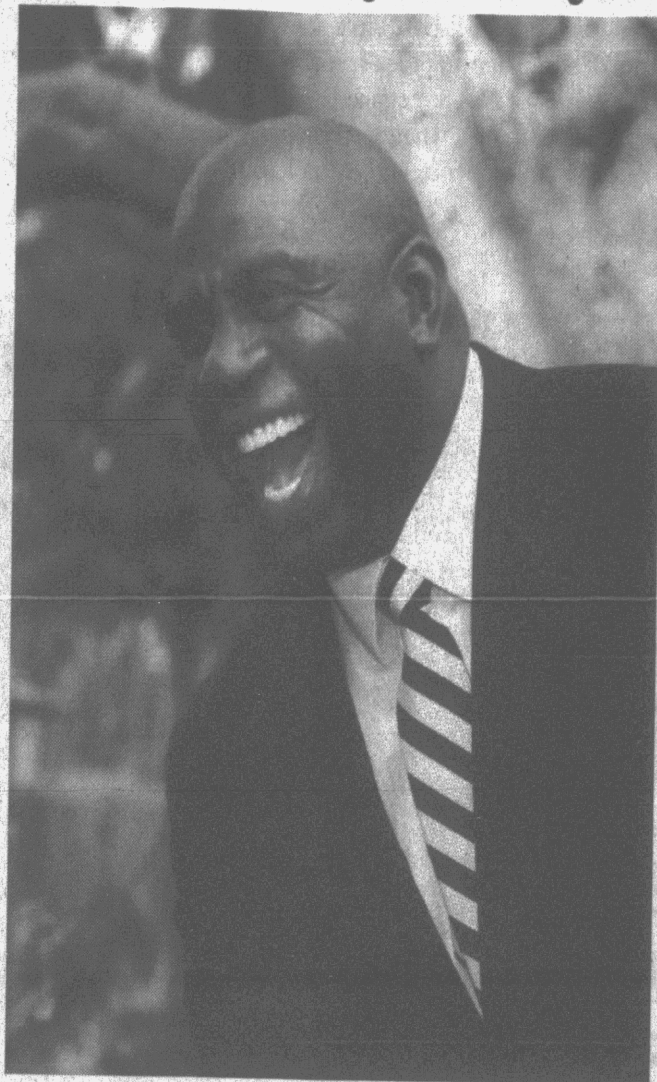


Nate Robinson is the NBA's first three-time slam dunk champion, and that's enough for him. The 5-foot-9 New York Knicks guard says he's done with the marquee event of Saturday night's All-Star festivities.



Magic Johnson To Buy Ebony

According to sources, BOSSIP has learned entrepreneur Magic Ervin Johnson may be looking to buy the Ebony Magazine empire. "There have been discussions," Eric Holoman, president of Los Angeles-based Magic Johnson Enterprises, said yesterday in an interview. "There's no definitive agreement." He declined to comment further. Johnson, 50, would fold the publisher into Magic Johnson Enterprises, said a person with knowledge of the discussions. The company he founded while a player with the Los Angeles Lakers has partnerships with Starbucks Corp., 24 Hour Fitness Worldwide Inc. and T.G.I. Friday's Inc. Ad revenue at Ebony declined 38 percent to \$35.5 million last year on a 39 percent drop in ad pages, according to Publishers Information Bureau. That wouldn't be a bad look for either company. Hopefully it goes through.



NBA star Kobe Bryant has surpassed former Laker Jerry West as the highest scoring player in the history of the Los Angeles Lakers franchise.



Stars Remake "We Are The World" Song For Haiti National and international superstars have gathered to re-record the song "We Are The World", originally written in the 1980's by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie. Singers on the new version include Usher, Toni Braxton, Wyclef, Barbara Streisand, Gladys Knight, and more.

The Minority Voice Newspaper

Founder/Publisher
Jim Rouse

Editor
Stephen Johnson

Contributing Writers
Beatrice Maye

Photos
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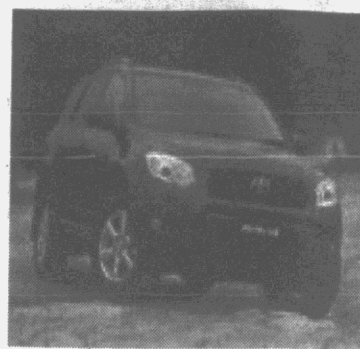
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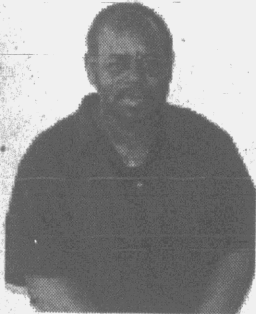
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Gunmen sought in Richmond church shooting


By Karl Fischer

Take off your hood in a House of God. Many thought that Sunday afternoon, when three men in dark sweatshirts strode into a packed New Gethsemane Church of God in Christ in Richmond. They wandered the aisles, apparently looking for someone. When they found them, shots rang out. "People were mostly cooperative. But most of them were facing forward," Detective Sgt. Lee Hendriksen said, one day after the gunmen sent a 14-year-old boy and a 19-year-old man to the hospital with bullet wounds. The attack followed last week's shooting death of a pregnant woman in the street in front of her family's home; a likely extension of hostilities between neighborhoods that flared anew with the shooting death of a man in a San Francisco night club two weeks ago, police said. The victim, 19-year-old Lawon Hall, had ties to a south Richmond group often in the mix with neighborhood street crime, police say. But whether his death relates to other recent shootings in Richmond remains a puzzle for detectives. Sunday's shooting, inside a church at the corner of 21st Street and Roosevelt Avenue during midday service, remains a mystery to police and community alike. "It has always been that, whatever is happening in the street, you don't take it within the walls of a church," said the Rev. Andre Shumake, an anti-violence activist not affiliated with New Gethsemane. "It sends a message: There is no safe place in Richmond."


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Notice to Demolition Contractors

The City of Greenville Community Development, Housing Division is requesting bid proposals for demolition of a warehouse located in the West Greenville 45 Block Redevelopment area:

714 Albemarle Avenue

Instructions and complete specifications for Contractors will be available at the mandatory pre-bid meeting located at 714 Albemarle Avenue, Greenville, North Carolina at 9:30 am Thursday, February 18, 2010. Contractors are required to attend the pre-bid meeting in order to submit a bid.

Bid proposals are due by 9:00 am EST on Friday, February 26, 2010. Submit bids to Housing Division, Community Development Department, 201 W. Fifth Street, third floor, Greenville, North Carolina, ATTN: Linda Mims. Bid proposals will be opened and read promptly at 9:15 am EST on Friday, February 26, 2010, at the Municipal Building, 201 W. Fifth Street, third floor, Greenville, North Carolina. The City of Greenville reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted. Minorities and female owned businesses are encouraging to participate. For further information, you may contact Virgil Smith, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist at (252) 329-4509.

City of Greenville Housing Division Notice of Funding Available for Housing Counseling Services

City of Greenville Community Development Department Housing Division is inviting non-profit agencies to apply for funding to provide Housing Counseling services. This funding may be used only for non-profit agencies that will provide housing counseling services within the City of Greenville city limits. In order to apply, an agency must have two (2) Certified Housing Counselors on staff.

The deadline to submit applications is **Tuesday, March 2010 at 12:00 noon**. All applications must be returned to the Housing Division, 201 West fifth Street, Greenville North Carolina, Attn: Linda Mims, on the third floor of the Municipal Building. The City of Greenville reserves the right to reject any or all applications submitted.

Applications are available at the Municipal Building, third floor, 201 W. fifth Street, Greenville, North Carolina Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For additional information, please contact Sylvia Brown at (252) 329-4509 or by email at sbrown@greenvillenc.gov.

The pulpit at many black churches has become a place to pray to a higher power - and praise higher learning.

The pulpit at many black churches has become a place to pray to a higher power - and praise higher learning.

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of the dream of reaching the promised land - with education!" cried the man addressing the congregation Sunday at Greater St. John Missionary Baptist Church in West Oakland.

The words came not from the pastor, but from the president of California State University East Bay, Mo Qayoumi, whose remarks were also carried live on KDYA the Light, a gospel radio station.

On Sundays throughout February, Qayoumi and other university leaders are fanning out to more than 100 black churches across the state to spread the gospel of higher education in a program they call Super Sunday.

They're aiming their message mainly at the families of middle-school children, preaching the idea that it's never too early to prepare for college.

"Today, only 1 in 5 African American students is eligible for CSU," Qayoumi told the hundreds of congregants who packed the pews of the large and ornate church at 1909 Market St. "Partner with us so we can get the other four eligible, too!"

He was talking about getting more kids into CSU's five-week "algebra institutes," free

summer programs for middle and high school students that focus intensely on math but include visits to companies so students can see engineers and other math professionals at work.

Education summit

Qayoumi also wants students and parents to come to Cal State East Bay on Saturday for a college fair billed as "Education Summit: Closing the Achievement Gap for African American and Latino Youth."

Super Sunday premiered five years ago at 24 black churches in Oakland and Los Angeles, and has grown steadily since then.

While black students represent only about 6 percent of all CSU students (compared with about 8 percent of high school seniors in California), CSU applications from black students have soared between 2005 and 2009, Qayoumi told the worshipers.

Records show a 78 percent increase - from 8,737 to 15,550 - compared with a 26 percent increase in the five years before the program.

Undergraduate enrollment of black students also has increased. Between 2004 and 2008, black enrollment grew by 20 percent, to 22,167 students across 23 campuses. By contrast, it grew just 8 percent in the previous five years.

The recruitment effort comes at a time when cash-strapped CSU is set to reduce enrollment by tens of thousands of students next year, and closed its doors to new students this spring. CSU

Chancellor Charles Reed said the church program is not at odds with the university's plans. "Even with the budget climate the way it is, we need to get across to the young students and their parents what it takes to go to college," Reed said. "You really have to start in middle school to take the sequence of classes to be eligible." Don Juan Hutchinson, 16, could not have agreed more. "If I had started in middle school, it would be easier for me now," said the 10th-grader at the Oakland Military Institute, a public school. Don transferred there after last year's Super Sunday program featured a representative from the school who touted its college prep program.

"If I didn't go, then I'd probably be farther behind and have no chance at college whatsoever," said Don, who wants to become a chef and own a restaurant someday.

'I want to be successful'

Several of the children in the congregation, girls and boys, said they hoped to become basketball or football players - not exactly the scientists and engineers that Qayoumi talked about from the pulpit. But the children all wanted to go to college. "Cause I want to be successful," said Marcus Royal, 14. "You have to have good grades to play for Cal," said Destiny Woods, 11. As they chatted, their mothers and grandmothers scooped up the brochures and flyers at the CSU information table in the church

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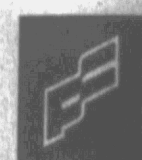
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