

# THE 'M' VOICE

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S MINORITY VOICE - SINCE 1981

WEEK ENDING JULY 19, 1996

## Winterville board has its first female member

By Lloyd Whittington  
The Daily Reflector

A divided board appointed Winterville's first alderwoman Monday night in a controversial decision with racial overtones.

Alderman Willie Lester Jones, an incumbent of eight and a half years, died June 28 after recently being re-elected to a third term.

Mayor Ian Kilpatrick split a 2-2 vote in favor of minority appointee Velma Harper, citing race as a primary reason. In the 99 years since it was incorporated, Winterville has never had a woman to serve on the Town Board.

"I sincerely believe with all my heart that Mr. Jones was fairly and duly elected. He was an African American. We are morally and ethically, and I'm not sure but legally, bound to replace him with an African American person. This would be the first woman we have had and I think that is long overdue."

Aldermen Wayne Holloman and Tim Avery, both white, voted against the appointment while aldermen William Elbert and William Worthington, both black, voted in favor.

Holloman and Avery each said afterward their opposition was that Ms. Harper had not run among the 10 candidate field for the of-

ice.

"Race never crossed my mind. None whatsoever," Holloman said. "In the mayor's point of view, he made the appointment with race being the issue. I felt it should have been someone who thought enough to run for office."

Before the vote, Holloman suggested that the appointee be pulled from the list of candidates in the Nov. 9, 1995 municipal election, presumably the next highest vote getter.

That would have been retired Greenville Police Public Affairs Officer Doug Jackson, a white candidate who was 15 votes shy of bring Elbert and Worthington for the fourth position on the board.

Ms. Harper, 47, of 359 N. Railroad Street, is a secretary and bookkeeper at W.H. Robinson Elementary School. A widowed mother of three adult children, Ms. Harper felt she could represent all views well, but particularly those of women and minorities.

"I want to represent all people, but especially women," she said. "I understand what the (aldermen's) feelings were, but I feel I can go and be a cohesive part of the group."

She should not be disregarded because she did not run, Ms. Harper said.

"Because I didn't run doesn't make me an unconcerned citizen," she said. "I have attended the meetings and I have kept up with what's going on."

In fact, Jones asked her about a year ago to run for his seat while he was having health problems. She said she felt her views would align very closely with his.

As an African American, she said she could better represent the concerns of that constituency.

"Because he was an African American and I am, I know that point of view. But that is not the whole issue. I want to be an alderwoman for all people."

Holloman said afterward he had no qualms about Ms. Harper serving. It was part of the Democratic process, he said.

Calvin Henderson, chairperson of Winterville Concerned Citizens, had submitted Ms. Harper's name for appointment.

"I am pleased, not because of the black or white (issue), but because we were able to put a female in."

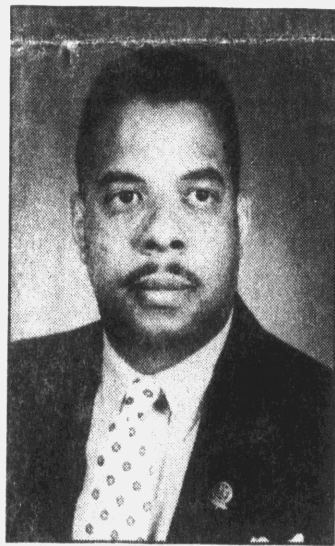
Asked if a white person could also represent minorities, Henderson replied, "It's been done for a long time. They have represented us for a number of years.... I feel it is time.... to let it be known

(Continued on page 4)



WINTERVILLE CITIZENS CAN BE PROUD OF THEIR NEWEST MEMBER... of Board of Aldermen... Mrs. Velma Harper. Ms. Harper also enjoys the distinction of being the first female to serve on this elite group. We know she will make a positive impact in this capacity. Ms. Harper (right) is shown here in her favorite role—loving mom—to her daughter, Aleta (left).  
Staff photo Jim Rouse

## New principal takes office at JCHS



JOHN MAYE

John Maye, former assistant

principal at Ridgeland Elementary School, moved into the principal's office at Jasper County High School Monday, taking over for Huey Peterson, who recently resigned.

On his first day, Maye said he hadn't formulated plans for the school but was gathering as much information as he could to make the best decisions possible.

"I don't have all the answers, I'm not coming here as a savior. I'm a facilitator," he said. "I'm open to receive information and feedback from the community as well as from parents."

Although this is only his second year in the district, the Greenville native has sat in the principal's chair before. As well as serving as assistant principal at the elementary and junior high levels, he was principal at A.L. Brown High School in North Carolina.

Of three finalists for the job,

Maye was the only local candidate up against two applicants from North Carolina and Virginia, according to Superintendent George Hood.

"I'm blessed with the opportunity to serve Jasper County in this job," Maye said.

RES principal Robert Bohnstengel said Maye is a strong candidate for the job and that he wasn't surprised to see him moving up to a principal's job. Jasper County is lucky to have kept him in the district, he said.

For now, Maye is taking stock of what he has to work with in his new stomping grounds.

"There is a mountain of huge issues that need to be addressed in the next six weeks," before the students return in August, Maye said. "We need to look at where we are and where we need to go and see how we can get there," he said.

## Health care foundation sets office hours for August 5-9 visit to Greenville

What are the major health care needs for the financially needy in northeastern North Carolina? How can nonprofit organizations obtain financial support for programs that serve those individuals?

Those are two questions that the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust wants to discuss with health-care nonprofits August 5-9 in Greenville. Appointments can be made by calling Susie Gordon at

910-723-1456 in Winston-Salem between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The Trust has reserved office space in Wachovia Bank's Main Office at 400 Washington Street in Greenville to meet individually with representatives of area nonprofits.

"We encourage all health-care nonprofits in the region to call to schedule an appointment," said E. Ray Cope, executive director of the

Trust. "The meetings will give us an opportunity to learn more about the needs identified by nonprofit groups and to share our approach to making grants in the health care field."

Cope said the Trust's Eastern region encompasses counties from Onslow, Duplin and Carteret in the South to Wayne, Wilson and Nash in the West and to Gates,  
(Continued on page 4)



MRS. MARGIE WILLIAMS (TOP LEFT) FLASHES A BRIGHT SMILE... at her daughter Marsha (right) who was a happy donor of a much-needed kidney. One might say Marsha has found a terrific way to say thanks for the life that gave her life. Below Mrs. Williams is flanked by her husband (right) and a friend (left). We all wish Mrs. Williams a very successful recuperation.  
Staff photo by Jim Rouse

## Senate approves tax credits for new jobs

Companies with new jobs for North Carolina may soon find their welcome a little warmer. The state Senate approved a bill today that extends tax credits to companies creating new jobs throughout North Carolina. The bill will help attract new businesses to the state said its sponsor, Sen. John Kerr.

The economic development measure, which will be sent to the state House for approval, would make businesses locating or expanding throughout the state eligible for tax credits. Previously, North Carolina offered job tax credits only in the state's 50 poorest counties.

"We need to reward companies that create jobs," said President Pro Tempore Marc Basnight. "All of our counties should be able to offer these incentives. This bill gives North Carolina the same tools to attract jobs that other states already have."

(Continued on page 5)



THE BLACK CHRISTIANS SERVICE AWARDS... were held at the P.S. Jones School in Washington recently. Shown attending the awards program are: Pastor & Mrs. Samuel Jones (left) along with the honorarium of Washington -- Mayor Rumley (2nd from right) and Bishop James L. Woolard.  
Photo by Jim Rouse

# from the desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye

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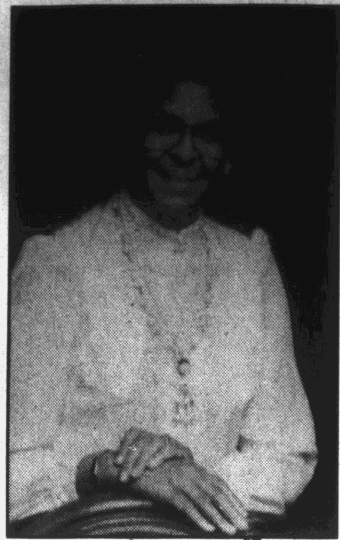
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## The 'M' Voice



BEATRICE MAYE

### ACCOLADES..

Dr. Henry Lewis Suggs, PH.D., professor of History, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina, from Winterville, North Carolina, a graduate of the now deleted W. H. Robinson High School, was the speaker at the unveiling of the historic highway marker to Plummer Bernard Young, Sr., founder/editor of the Norfolk, Virginia JOURNAL AND GUIDE (newspaper), Saturday, June 29, 1996 in Littleton, North Carolina. Dr. Suggs' doctorate thesis was on the life of Plummer Bernard Young, Sr., from the University of Virginia in Williamsburg.

Additionally, Clemson University approved his request for a sabbatical for the next academic year (August 1996 - June 1997). The sabbatical was based upon the recently completed volume on THE BLACK PRESS IN THE MIDDLE WEST, 1865-1985, publisher Greenwood Publishers Group, Inc., date May 30, 1996, price \$69.50, 416 pages.

The Du Bois Institute of Harvard University selected Dr. Suggs as a

Du Bois Fellow for the next academic year. He will be a scholar-in-residence at the Du Bois Institute, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Dr. Suggs is one of four children of Mrs. Mary Suggs of Winterville. His brother Paul is a faculty member at Pitt Community College.

### CONDOLENCES...

Condolences are sent to the families of Reverend Hoyt Hammond, Travis Duncan, Willie Lester Jones, Brenda Teel and among others whom we may not know about.

### CONGRATULATIONS..

Mrs. Velma Harper, secretary and bookkeeper at the W. H. Robinson Elementary School, was appointed Winterville's first alderwoman, Monday, July 8, 1996. She takes the place of the deceased member, Willie Lester Jones. This is also history for African-Americans and a salute to the town of Winterville.

Because of the demise of Brenda Teel, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Mrs. Doris Lee, was installed as vice president, Ms. Pat Alexander, as president.

### VACATIONERS RETURN HOME...

Mattie Barnes, Chicago, Illinois Sallye Streeter, Los Angeles, California Mitchell Williams, Newark, New Jersey Joe Godette, Jr., and Trey (son), Winston-Salem, North Carolina Carolyn Ferebee, Parts of Virginia William and Gloria Pearsall, Minneapolis, Minnesota Helen Barnes, New Orleans and Washington, D.C.

### WHERE HAVE ALL THE FATHERS GONE?

Father absence is becoming more commonplace in America, with separations, divorce rates and premarital pregnancies at epidemic levels. The traditional two-parent family is becoming an endangered species. Yet decades of research support the position that the absence of fathers has a devastating effect on children. Consider the following: Half of all fatherless families in America live below the poverty line. Adolescents of fatherless families are more likely to be sexually active and are more likely to commit delinquent acts. Young adults who grow up in fatherless families are more likely to drop out of school, divorce and engage in drug and alcohol abuse. The best predictor of violent crime and burglary in a community is the proportion of households without fathers. That's the bad news. The good news is that when the trend is reversed, positive results accrue for the children and their fathers. For example: Children with effective fathers score higher on intelligence tests and are more comfortable in new situations. They adapt to change more easily. A father's involvement produces a more self-controlled son who recognizes the need for restraint. Four major studies of factors leading to the successful development of children have shown that youngsters who have an active, participative father demonstrate better thinking ability, increased empathy for others and a greater ability to rely on their own judgment.

### The ECST to close season with an evening of mystery and suspense

Women who rate high in the ability to plan their own futures tend to have fathers who encourage them, show trust in their abilities and join them in endeavors. The positive involvement of fathers, perhaps more than any other factor, is the key to stemming the

tide of poverty, crime and violence sweeping the world. Our families need fathers who are faithful, responsible, loving and accountable. But where do we begin? How about in the home? Fathers and mothers staying together. Fathers and mothers loving each other. Fathers being there, and being good fathers to their children.

Study after study confirms that growing up in a two-parent family, with the father taking an active role in his children's lives, is a distinct advantage for America's children. Yet those who place value on fatherhood in today's cultural climate often face sharp criticism.

The promotion of traditional families anchored by strong fathers flies in the face of much of the value-neutral, politically correct public discourse.

The idea that fatherhood and two-parent families are still important to society is not readily embraced.

But to those who believe the role of the father is vitally important to the welfare of the family and society, no more fundamental or critical challenge faces families today.

### The ECST to close season with an evening of mystery and suspense

SLEUTH, one of the best plays of mystery and suspense in the modern theatre, will close the East Carolina Summer Theatre's 1996 season beginning July 16. It ranks in the echelon with, and perhaps above, DRACULA, DIAL M FOR MURDER, THE BAD SEED, ANGEL STREET and ARSENIC AND OLD LACE. Playwright Anthony Shaffer and SLEUTH won not only the "Tony" award for the Best Play of the 1970-71 Broadway season, but also an "Edgar" from the Mystery Writers of America for the play as best mystery story of the year. SLEUTH will run July 16 through 20 nightly at 8:00 PM with two additional matinee performances on Wednesday, July 17, and Saturday, July 20, at 2:00 PM.

A smash hit both in London and New York, it ran for three years in the West End and for 1,222 performances on Broadway. It subsequently was made into a successful film starring Laurence Olivier and Michael Caine. By virtue of its cleverness, the force of its wit and its ingenuity of plot, SLEUTH has transcended the suspense genre to become a virtual "classic" and a repertory, touring and stock theatre favorite.

The plot of SLEUTH begins with Andrew Wyke, a famous writer of mysteries, inviting to his home a young neighbor, Milo Tindle. Milo, it turns out, is having an affair with Andrew's wife. But the writer insists he doesn't mind that at all. In fact, he has a splendid idea by which they both shall profit. Past that, SLEUTH is so filled with twists and turns and ingenious skulduggery, so replete with skillful suspense and inventive tricks, that we will not reveal them here, in order for our audience to enjoy them all the more in production. Instead, we will share with you what has been said and written about SLEUTH by critics and theatre writers:

"...clever as a wagonload of monkeys solving a crossword puzzle and as intricate as the Hampton Court maze. It is one of the most purely entertaining plays in many a season—an entrancing tale of detective story mayhem with a touch of urbane intellect added for savor... good, clean, neat, bloody fun." (New York Times, Clive Barnes)

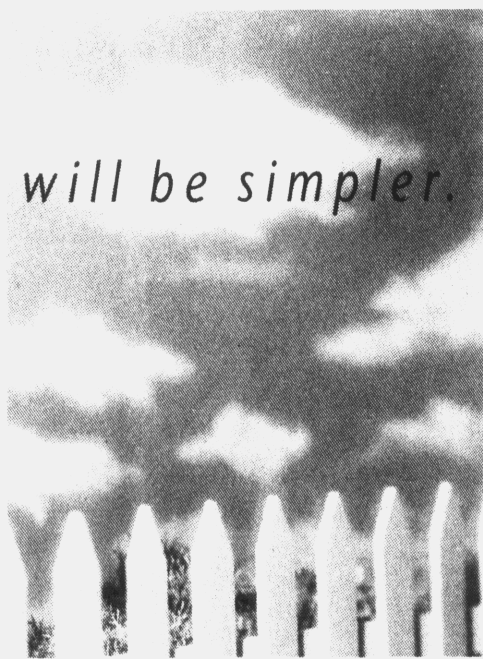
"An outstanding example of the thriller considered as fine art... both exhilarating and endlessly surprising. . . a play to see, to be astonished by and to brood over." (London Sunday Times, Harold Hobson)

"This is one of the best melodramas I have ever seen. Maybe it is the best... literate, witty, scary and filled with sudden twists and tricks." (New York Daily News, John Chapman)

"The most ingenious detective play in years." (London Evening News, Felix Barker)

Individual tickets are now on sale from \$17.50 to \$25.00 for the General Public, \$15.00 to \$22.50 for ECU Faculty/Staff and Senior Citizens, and from \$7.50 to \$11.25 for ECU Students and Children 12 and under. Tickets may be purchased in person, Monday through Friday: by phone with a VISA or MasterCard by calling 328-6829 or 328-1726; or by mail, East Carolina Summer Theatre, ECU, Greenville, NC 27858. The box office is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM and until 8:15 PM on performance dates.

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## Community News

# Robinson savors victory on charter school bill

Vernon Robinson, a former Winston-Salem State College Professor and the first African-American candidate nominated for State Superintendent of Public Instruction, celebrated this weekend when the North Carolina General Assembly passed a Charter School Bill shortly before it adjourned early Saturday morning. Robinson, 40 and President of the North Carolina Education Reform Foundation, led the three year effort to pass Charter School legislation.

Charter schools are public schools that are largely free of the red tape and bureaucracy that plague traditional public schools. In exchange for relief from red tape, the teachers and other staff at charter schools must deliver on the level of student performance promised in the chartering document. Failure to do so would result in revocation of the charter and closing the school. "Public schools that fail, go on and continue to maim children," commented Robinson. "Charter schools that fail go out of business." Finally, charter schools have no attendance zone. The charter personnel must convince parents that the program at that school has something to offer children.

Charter schools are funded based on the number of students enrolled as if the school was a school district. The 100 charters authorized by the statute may be issued by either a local school board or one of the 16 constituent institutions of

the University of North Carolina with final approval from the State Board of Education.

Robinson spoke to the congregation at Bethel AME Church in Sunday on the topic "Preparing to the battle to a steady trumpet. "This is a great day in the battle to save young black boys. In 1994, 74% of black male 5th graders

failed the end of course test. These numbers are devastating. The charter school bill is the first crack in the education establishment and creates the ability for community based organizations to create primary and secondary schools.

African-American reform educators have responded with excitement at the prospects of set-

ting up charter schools to educate black children. "I'm excited and my organization plans to submit a charter application before the November 1 deadline," said Dr. Joann Woodard, Director and Founder of the Youth Enrichment Program in Wilson. "Vernon Robinson was key in getting this charter school bill passed and raising awareness

of the need for alternatives among parents and through those efforts, the five IBCU are among those

institutions given the power to issue charters," Dr. Marsheena McCoy Williams.

## N. C. lawyers donate record \$201,000 to legal services

Raleigh, NC - Legal Services of North Carolina (LSNC) announced that its fifth annual Access to Justice Campaign exceeded the \$200,000 goal for the first time. Over 1800 individuals, law firms and corporations gave \$201,773, a 23 percent increase over last year. In the statewide attorney-to-attorney drive, private bar volunteers raise money from colleagues to help Legal Services provide civil legal assistance to low-income citizens.

Campaign co-chairs James M. Talley, Jr., of Charlotte, and James K. Dorsett, III, of Raleigh, attribute the record amount to the private bar's commitment to Legal Services. Talley, immediate past president of the N. C. Bar Association, said, "The private bar is painfully aware of the serious funding crisis Legal Services faces. Attorneys

from Manteo to Murphy were determined to demonstrate the level of the bar's commitment to equal justice." In the last year LSNC has suffered a one-third cut in federal funding and a 20 percent cut in state funding.

Co-chair Dorsett, a member of the State Bar Council, added, "We expect the bar's outstanding response to the campaign will be noted by area foundations and the legislature, as these groups reassess their roles in ensuring ongoing attention to the legal needs of the state's low-income community."

Six Legal Services program areas raised record amounts: Sylva,

Asheville, Charlotte, Durham, Boone and Ahsokie. Of special note were the Asheville and Sylva areas, where previous records were tripled. The highest per capita giving honor goes to N. Central Legal Assistance Program in the Durham area, where giving averaged \$123 per attorney. Pisgah Legal Services in the Asheville area enjoyed the greatest participation rate of attorneys, at 34 percent.

LSNC is the only non-profit statewide organization providing free civil legal advice and representation to low-income North Carolinians. Organized as a coalition of 12 field programs and two statewide special client population programs, LSNC works with the three independent Legal Services programs to serve all 100 counties.



ENGAGED . . . Mrs. Algeria E. Gaskins of Greenville is pleased to announce the engagement of her daughter, Lynda Kaye to Edwardo Ernesto King, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward King of Farmville.

## Applications now being accepted

The Greenville Housing Authority is now accepting applications for Fall 1996-97 Pop Warner Football League. Youths between the ages of 9-12 are eligible.

Interested parties may come by the Greenville Housing Authority Cultural and Recreational Center at 1710 West 3rd Street, Greenville, NC 27834 for an application or for more information you may call Coach Carnell at 830-4065. Deadline for all applications is August 1, 1996.

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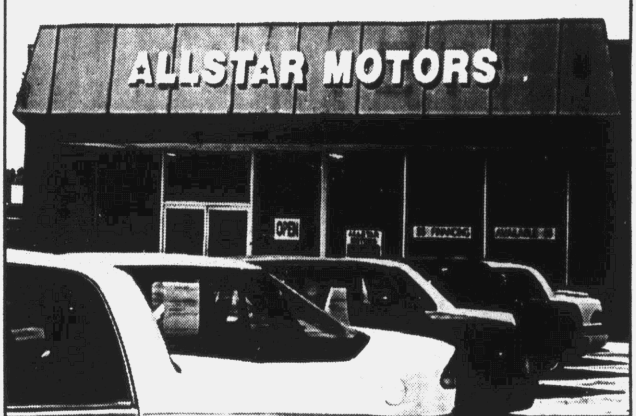
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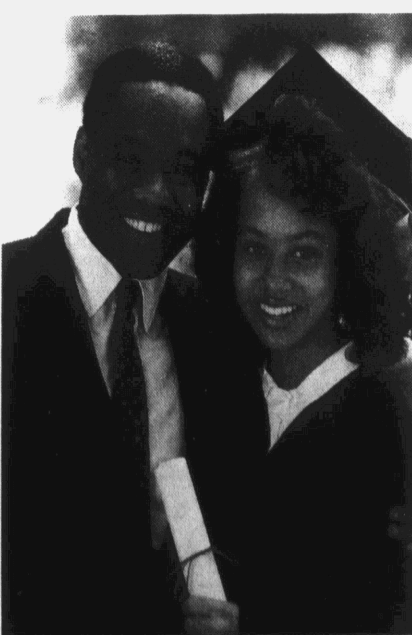


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From Page 1

### Health Care Foundation

Camden and Currituck in the North.

He added that the primary current objective of the Trust is to increase the availability of health services to underserved groups. The Trust's definition of underserved groups encompasses the frail elderly; persons with physical or mental disabilities; the uninsured or underinsured; Medicaid-eligible individuals; victims of family violence; substance abusers; persons with HIV/AIDS; ma-

ternal, infant and child health populations; and persons with or at risk of chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, lung disease and stroke.

The Trust emphasizes rural areas and encourages health promotion and illness prevention, including early detection and intervention. Cope said the Trust is especially interested in collaborative efforts that bring various care providers together. In the last few years it has extended support to a

number of public-private partnerships that address health care needs.

The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, based in Winston-Salem, was established in 1947 under the will of Mrs. Kate B. Reynolds. The Trust provides support for programs that improve the health of the people of Forsyth County, with emphasis on providing the basic necessities for those in need. Wachovia Bank is trustee.

## Cancer center to host Look Good...Feel Better

Women with cancer can look good and feel better.

To make sure more women know how to overcome the ef-

fects of chemotherapy and radiation treatments on their appearance, the Leo Jenkins Cancer Center and the local American

Cancer Society chapter will sponsor a Look Good...Feel Better program Monday, July 15.

Trained cosmetologists and community volunteers will show how to use makeup, wigs and other accessories to help women look and feel like themselves again. The program provides complimentary cosmetics and skin care products as well as wigs for participants who need them.

The program lasts from 9-11 a.m. For more information, contact Beverly Cratch at (919) 816-2900 or toll-free at 1-800-223-9328.

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CITY OF GREENVILLE COUNCIL MEMBERS... Left to right, Rufus Huggins, Mildred Council, and Chuck Autry, were on hand to welcome returning GIHS/C.M. Eppes Alumni back to Greenville. (Below) Members of the alumni wait to line up for the annual parade. My, what happy smiles!

Photo by Jim Rouse

From Page 1

### Winterville Board

that we have people who qualify to represent us as well."

Ms. Harper will serve until the next election in November of 1997. At that time, she can choose to run for the remainder of Jones' term, which ends in 1999.

Ms. Harper, who will oversee water and sewer services, said her immediate focus would be on being oriented to the office.

"Right now, I want to come in and see how things are done and learn. I need a period of learning and growth."

Kilpatrick felt Ms. Harper had something special to offer the Board.

"This woman is well qualified and will bring a quietness and calmness that we need," Kilpatrick said. "She has no special axe to grind."

He predicted that had the board

altered the racial composition of the board with the appointment, "the Justice Department would be down here in just a few weeks."

The Board adopted a resolution unanimously honoring Jones for his years of service and his friendly, cooperative spirit.

Kilpatrick was confident that "everyone who voted for him knew

he was a short man with dark skin and an infectious smile."

Kilpatrick said his vote would have been no different were the situation reversed.

"Had it been Mr. Holloman who died, I would have fought every black person in town to replace him with a Caucasian," Kilpatrick said.



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# Woman's energy and contribution to community will be missed

A salute to the life of Brenda H. Teel...wife, mother, social worker, educator...legend in our time.

Last week Greenville lost a very important person. Most of you didn't know her. Those of you who

don't have school age children probably never heard of her but her work and her life touched yours.

She moved through our community like fog in the night, quietly moving and touching thousands of lives. She changed young lives that otherwise would have been destroyed. Her mission was not a

simple one. Her mission was to guide those youngsters whose lives had taken a rough detour in the road. She helped pregnant teens and teenage mothers get back on the main paved road of

education and productivity, thereby helping them and all of us. She was a wife and mother of three extremely fine children of whom she was very proud. Her professional and personal shoes can never be filled. Professionally another will eventually step in,

but the chasm she left is great. We as a community suffered a tremendous loss last week when vivacious, energetic, intelligent Brenda Teel died. I shall miss her, personally and professionally.  
Kay M. Getsinger  
Greenville



ENJOYING A SOCIAL MOMENT . . . Ms. Teel (seated right) is shown enjoying a social moment with her husband, Bobby (standing) and Dr. and Mrs. Tim Monroe (seated left and center).  
Staff photo by Jim Rouse

## NCCU alumnus is editor of book on Midwestern Black Press

Dr. Henry Lewis Suggs, a 1963 graduate of North Carolina Central University, is the editor of *The Black Press in the Middle West, 1865-1985*, published recently by Greenwood Press of Westport, CT. Dr. Suggs, professor of history at Clemson University, is the author of four chapters of the book: the introduction, a chapter on the black press in Minnesota, a chapter dealing with South Dakota, and a summary chapter, "Conclusion: An Interpretive History of the Black Press in the Middle West, 1865-1985."

Other authors with chapters in the book are Juliet E.K. Walker, writing about the Chicago Defender and the black press in Illinois; Darrell E. Bigham, examining the black press in Indiana; Allen W. Jones, who discusses Iowa publications; Dorothy V. Smith, whose chapter deals with Kansas; Julius Eric Thompson, writing on the Michigan press; D.G. Paz, writing about Nebraska; Felecia G. Jones Ross, who looks at Ohio; Nudie Eugene Williams, whose subject is Oklahoma; and Genevieve G. McBride, looking at Wisconsin.

Dr. Suggs will complete his book, *Chester Franklin and the Kansas*

*City Call*, 1919-1954, during the 1996-1997 academic year, which he will spend as a fellow of the DuBois Institute at Harvard University.

He is the author of *P.B. Young Newspaperman: Race, Politics and Journalism*, which recently resulted in the erection of an historic highway marker commemorating the founder of the Norfolk (Virginia) *Journal and Guide*. Suggs also edited *Black Press in the South, 1865-1979*.

From Page 1

### Tax Credits

Basnight said the incentives needed to be offered in all counties to help North Carolina compete with neighboring states, particularly Virginia, which has an aggressive economic development program. The bill has the support of economic development agencies, businesses and the chambers of commerce across the state.

"I hope the House will embrace all the incentives offered in the Senate package," said Bill Lee, chairman of the N.C. Economic Development Board and an advocate for the job tax credits.

Based on recommendations developed over two years of study by the North Carolina Economic Development Board, the bill provides critical incentives for attracting jobs and industries to North Carolina. The incentives include tiered jobs tax credits to attract businesses to the more economically distressed counties, and the creation of a new worker training credit for businesses that invest in employee training.



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# A Celebration Of Life

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Sunset - July 4, 1996

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Monday, July 8, 1996

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# Four African-Americans receive MacArthur Fellowships Twenty-one new fellows nationwide

CHICAGO — Four African-Americans are among the twenty new MacArthur Fellows announced today by the John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation.

They are Louis Massiah, a documentary filmmaker and founder and director of the Scribe Video Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Vonllie C. McLoyd, a developmental psychologist who studies the interactive influences of race, ethnicity, and economic hardship, Thylia Moss, a poet who conjures an evocative sense of place and community in her work, and Anna Deavere Smith, a performer and playwright who has created a new form of theater.

The new MacArthur Fellows will receive stipends ranging from \$150,000 to \$375,000 over five years, depending on the age of the recipient. Along with their five-year stipend, the Fellows are offered health insurance. Massiah will receive \$265,000, McLoyd will receive \$280,000, Moss will receive \$265,000, Smith will receive \$280,000. The MacArthur Fellowships are "no strings attached" awards, and recipients are free to use the awards as they wish. The MacArthur Foundation imposes no reporting requirements or restrictions of any kind on MacArthur Fellows.

"The creative person is at the heart of a society's capacity to improve the human condition," said Adele Simmons, MacArthur Foundation president. "By supporting these Fellows, highly talented individuals working in a wide range of fields, the Foundation means to honor creative persons everywhere."

Catharine R. Stimpson, director of the MacArthur Fellows Program, said, "These -reatly gifted people are as diverse as the United States itself. However, their talents have a common thread. They renew our hope in human possibility."

Until Stimpson notified them, these four people had no idea they were about to become MacArthur Fellows. Individuals cannot apply for MacArthur Fellowships. Instead, names are proposed to the Foundation by a group of 125 or more designated nominators in a variety of professions and areas of the country. They serve anonymously for one year. Their nominations are reviewed by a twelve-member selection committee, which meets eight times a year. Final approval for MacArthur Fellowships comes from the Foundation's Board of Directors. There is no annual quota of Fellows and no predetermined time for naming them.

Including today's group, a total of 479 Fellows, including 54 African-Americans, have been named since the program began in 1981. They have ranged in age from 18 to 82. As of today's date the number of active Fellows — individuals currently receiving fellowship support — is 157. In the fifteen years since the program began, the Foundation has invested over \$150 million in the Fellows Program.

Louis Massiah is a documentary filmmaker who insightfully addresses important but often neglected subjects. He is also a community cultural worker who provides media access to underrepresented segments of society through his Scribe Video Center, a media arts center which he founded and directs. Scribe both trains emerging video-makers and helps members of community organizations address issues of social concern through a creative use of video. Scribe has been a key site for community training in film production in the United States. Massiah is the director of many documentaries including: *Trash* (1985), *The Bombing of Osage Avenue* (1986), *Cecil B. Moore* (1987) and *W.E.B. Du Bois — A Biography in Four Voices* (1995). He was the producer of two films for the *Eyes on the Prize II* series (1990). He received his B.A. (1977) from Cornell University, and his M.S. (1982) from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. (Born June 10, 1954, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, resides, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania).

Vonllie C. McLoyd is a developmental psychologist who studies the interactive influences of race, ethnicity, family, and economic hardship on human development. She examines social variables in detail to understand how they contribute to the way an individual grows and changes. McLoyd has been a pioneer in attempting to describe the psychological processes through which economic deprivation influences African-American families and children. Her work provides the basic information needed for the development of effective prevention and intervention programs for these African-American communities. She is a professor of psychology in the Department of Psychology and a research scientist at the Center for Human Growth and Development at the University of Michigan and is currently a visiting professor at Duke University. She was associate editor of *Child Development* from 1993 to 1996. McLoyd received her B.A. (1971) from Talladega College and her M.A. (1973) and Ph.D. (1975) from the University of Michigan. (Born August 3, 1950, Birmingham, Alabama; resides, Durham, North Carolina).

Thylia Moss is a poet who conjures an evocative sense of place and community in her work, articulating the subtle rhythms of daily life and moments of heightened reality. Moss's poetry combines the African-American concept of "witnessing" with a variety of Western poetic traditions. She draws on her experiences and ethnic history, combining a gift for narrative and observation that captures the flavor of community interactions and the impact of public life on private life. Her work shows a special talent for language, imagery, and syntactical music. Moss is a professor of English at University of Michigan. Her books of poetry include *Hosiery Seams On Bol-legged Woman* (1983), *Pyramid of Bone* (1989), *At Redbones* (1990), *Rainbow Remnants in Rock Bottom Ghetto Sky* (1991) and *Small Congregations: New and Selected Poems* (1993). She has written two children's books: *I Want to Be* (1993) and *Somewhere*

she interviews a series of people connected to a common event or theme. She then weaves brief monologues together, recreating these people in their own words. Her work has advanced performance theory and introduced a new way for the theater to reflect, and reflect upon, society. Smith's work strives to create civic discourse about American identity and frequently deals with contemporary social problems. One of Smith's skills lies in creating works (Continued on page 9)

Anna Deavere Smith is a performer and playwright who has created a new form of theater — a blend of theatrical art, social commentary, journalism and intimate reverie. Her pieces are compelling and sophisticated views of racial and class conflict. For these pieces,

she interviews a series of people connected to a common event or theme. She then weaves brief monologues together, recreating these people in their own words. Her work has advanced performance theory and introduced a new way for the theater to reflect, and reflect upon, society. Smith's work strives to create civic discourse about American identity and frequently deals with contemporary social problems. One of Smith's skills lies in creating works (Continued on page 9)

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# Places & Faces

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# Poems sought in Free Competition

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tion, open to everyone in the Greenville area. Over \$3,000 in prizes will be awarded on September 30, 1996. The deadline for entering is August 1.

Says Contest Director Mark Mearns: "We hope to encourage beginning poets, especially those who have written only one poem or who have never entered a competition before. We trust our com-

petition will produce exciting results." Poems may be written on any subject, using any style, and must be 21 lines or less. A winner's list will be sent to all entrants.

To enter send one poem to: Reno Fine Arts Institute, 316 California Ave., Suite 626, Reno, Nevada 89509-1669.

## Obituary

### WILLIE LESTER JONES

Mr. Willie Lester Jones, son of the late Barry and Caroline Jones, was born December 25, 1921 in Pitt County. He departed this life on Friday, June 28, 1996 at 3:00 a.m. at Pitt County Memorial Hospital.

Dec. Jones was a graduate of Pitt County Schools, and spent most of his life in the Winterville Community. He was a veteran of World War II and a retired railroad worker. Realizing a need for Christ in his life he united with the Good Hope Free Will Baptist. Dec. Jones was not a slack member, he was not content just to have his name on the roll. He was an ordained deacon, a Sunday School teacher, president of the Senior Choir, member of the Gospel Choir and the Male Choir as long as he was able. You could say he was an "all-around" handy man, as long as his health allowed him. No challenge was too great. In the community, he was a member of the Winterville Masonic Lodge #232; board member of Continen-

tal Metropolitan Sewer; board member of Mid East Commission; member of Winterville Senior Citizens and member of Concerned Citizens of Winterville. He was past Senior Deacon of the Winterville Lodge and a very dedicated brother. In the political arena Dec. Jones served as alderman and Mayor Pro. Temp of the Town of Winterville.

He was married to Mavis Waller on March 15, 1943. To this union 8 children were born.

He leaves to cherish fond memories: his wife, Mavis W. Jones of the home; his foster mother, Mrs. Annie Jones of Plymouth; four daughters, Faye Howard and Sandra Jones of Winterville, Mavis Ann Jones of Greenville and Verna Mae Jones of New York City; three sons, James Jones of Charlotte, Jeffrey Jones of Winterville, and Willie Lester Jones, Jr. of Steilacoom, Washington, 11 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, a number of nieces, nephews other relatives and friends.

From Page 7

## MacArthur Foundation

that help those whose viewpoints are diametrically opposed to see the viewpoint of the other side. She is a professor at Stanford University. Smith began her series of one-woman shows, *On The Road: A Search for American Character* in 1983 — this series includes *Fires in the Mirror: Crown Heights Brooklyn 1991* (1992) and *Twilight Los Angeles. 1992* (1993). Smith received her B.A. (1971) from Beaver

College and her M.F.A. (1977) from the American Conservatory Theater. (Born September 18, 1950, Baltimore, Maryland; resides, San Francisco, California) The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, with assets of about \$3 billion, is one of the largest private philanthropic foundations in the United States. Through its work, the foundation seeks lasting solutions to critical problems throughout the world by investing in creative people and ideas. It makes grants in eight major areas, including health, education, the environment, population, peace and international cooperation, individual creativity, mass communications, and, in Chicago and Palm Beach County, Florida, community development and cultural affairs.

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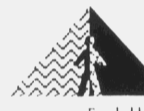
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Featuring: *Sandra Shackleford & Partners for Christ* Special Guest: Mike Harley and The Garden State Community Choir of Newark, NJ; The Singing Sons of Washington D.C.

Also appearing will be: Rev. Jesse Jones and Witness for Christ (Farmville, NC) Fresh Anointing (Greenville, NC) Demarcus Haddock & Shekinah Glory Choir (Greenville, NC) Mayor Nancy Jenkins Bishop Randy Royal (Pastor of Phillipi Church of Christ) Rev. James Tripp (Pastor of Holly Hill & St. Peter FWB churches) W.C. Best Voices of Faith (New Bern, NC) Soloist Debra Dixon-Trayhan (New York City) Soloist Lamont Coward (Richmond, VA) Soloist Bonita Burney-Simmons

Southern Gospel Groups: Moving Up (Ayden, NC) and The Simpkins Family (Greenville, NC) Little Alice & Penny (Rocky Mt., NC), Rock Gospel Group: Joe Sasser & Band (Greenville, NC) Quartet Soloist: William Rigsby (Rocky Mt. NC) Guest MC's Rev. Tiff McCarter & The Jamm'ng for Jesus Choir (Rocky Mt., NC) Guest MC's include: Leon (KISS 102), Reggie Price (JOY 1340), Yvonne Jackson (WEED, Rocky Mt., NC)

AND MANY MANY OTHERS !!!

For vendor and other information contact: Darius Shackleford 753-8099 or Jon Harley 321-5879

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