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# THE 'M' VOICE

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S MINORITY VOICE - SINCE 1981

WEEK OF JULY 28 - AUGUST 9, 1996

## Gov. Hunt accepts debates, campaign urges Rep. Hayes to do the same

RALEIGH — Gov. Jim Hunt has agreed to five debates and joint appearances as part of the fall gubernatorial campaign, and his campaign has challenged Rep. Robin Hayes to follow suit.

These five debates and joint appearances will set the tone for a serious discussion of important issues facing the state, wrote Ed Turlington, Hunt's campaign manager, in a letter to the Hayes campaign. He challenged Hayes to attend the five events — including two face-to-face debates and a citizens' forum. (copy of letter attached)

"North Carolinians want their candidates for governor to engage in vigorous, honest discussion of the issues, and debates should be part of that discussion," Turlington said. "This election should not be about soundbites and 30-second ads, but about ideas and leadership

— and the voters have a distinct choice along those lines. The Hunt campaign is committed to providing substantive information — including agreeing to candidate forums — to help voters decide."

Hunt has accepted the following candidate forums:

A joint appearance before the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners in Winston-Salem on August 23; A face-to-face debate before state employees, sponsored by the State Employees Association of North Carolina (SEANC) in Greensboro on Sept. 5 (This is a traditional debate for gubernatorial candidates; Hunt and Jim Gardner participated in this debate in 1992.); A joint appearance at The N.C. League of Municipalities' annual meeting in Winston-Salem on October 14; A citizen's forum on October 19,

sponsored by Your Voice, Your Vote, a coalition of newspapers and TV and radio stations. Questions would be posed by real voters; A face-to-face debate sponsored by the N.C. Association of Broadcasters in Asheville on October 26.

On the day of the Republican gubernatorial primary, the Hunt campaign challenged Hayes to run a positive, issue-oriented campaign and to put aside the name-calling and mudslinging that characterized the primary. Hunt's campaign has also challenged Hayes to work together to lay out a series of debates this summer and fall.

While Hayes accepted the Governor's challenge to debate, he declined to attend the first face-to-face debate at the N.C. Bar Association's annual meeting on June 22. Hunt accepted the group's invitation anyway.



**HOMETOWN FRIEND . . .** Shown is John and Connie Richardson who live in Lewiston, NC. The Richardson's family is a long time friend of the publisher and broadcaster, Bro. Jim Rouse. Johnny and Jim grew up together in the Bronx River projects, in NY now both claims to be country boys who love the south and Jesus. Maybe its age.

Photo by Jim Rouse

## No place for 'Willie Horton' in this race of 1996

By Deborah Orin

Republican and Democratic leaders have pledged that they won't use race-baiting in the 1996 presidential campaign, black mayors said yesterday.

The National Conference of Black Mayors said both Republican chairman Haley Barbour and Democratic chairman Don Fowler agreed to sign a no race-baiting pledge.

"There can be no 'Willie Hortons' in 1996," said Emanuel Cleaver of Kansas City, head of the group.

He was referring to the brutal murderer who raped a woman and assaulted her husband while on furlough in Massachusetts. The face of Horton, who is black, was featured in campaign ads that devastated Democrat Michael Dukakis in 1988.

The ads weren't produced by winner George Bush's campaign but by independent conservative

groups.

Both parties agreed to sign a resolution denouncing tactics that pander to "illogical fear, mistrust and prejudice." It calls on both parties to attack any candidate who injects the "desperate politics of prejudice" into the fall elections.

The resolution could be seen as attacking the Willie Horton ads as well as a famous ad once used by conservative Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) to attack a rival and developed by Clinton advisor Dick Morris.

Morris, then advising Republicans, helped develop the spot, which suggests that whites lose jobs to less-qualified blacks. It was used against is again challenging Helms this year (though this time Morris isn't advising Helms).

At a news conference, Cleaver—on behalf of the black mayors—said issues that could

invite race-baiting tactics include affirmative action, crime, immigration and welfare, especially if the focus is on minority groups.

Republicans in recent months have downplayed affirmative action as an issue, but crime, immigration and welfare all are likely campaign issues.

## Pastor is called at St. John Church

Elder Russell S. Wilkins of Roper, NC has been called to the position of full-time pastor of the St. John Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ), Washington, NC.

Pastor Wilkins has submitted his resignation with the Washington County Board of Education to accept this position effective August 1, 1996.

He began his teaching career with the Wilson Co. Schools. Subsequently, he taught in the Beaufort Co. Schools and the Washington Co. Schools where he was selected as "Teacher of the Year" in both school systems.

Pastor Wilkins is a graduate of Barton College (formerly Atlantic Christian College), Wilson. He has been recently accepted by the Trinity Theological Seminary, Newburg, IN where he is pursuing his Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry.

Presently, he serves in the following areas: Director of Religious Education, Secretary of the Board of Ministry, and member of the Council Board for the Eastern North Carolina and Virginia Assembly (Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ), Sunday School Coordinator for the General Assembly (Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ of America International) and Councilman for the town of Roper.

Pastor Wilkins is married to Rosa Stokes Wilkins and they have two children, Bradford and Brittany.

St. John Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ) is planning a special service of commission on August 11 at 5:00 p.m.

A special invitation is extended to everyone.

## Farrakhan, Sharpton and Black leadership

By Dr. Lenora Fulani

I really like Louis Farrakhan. I care deeply about him. I've been whipsawed for supporting him. But caring for him means that I have to point out the profound mistakes he is making — political mistakes which have grave ramifications for the African-American people.

I've marched with Rev. Al Sharpton. We have shared many causes and have tried to support and guide the victims of so many racist tragedies. But that history means that I have to be honest about his misleadership in this election season.

I'm close friends with members of the Congressional Black Caucus. I know them to be decent people. But the political miscalculations they are making are enormous.

American political life is undergoing a huge transformation right at this moment. The failure of both major parties to produce any kind of relief from the

mounting social and economic crisis has given rise to a movement for a new party that breaks the traditional mold and brings diverse Americans together on a broad scale to restructure government, the political process and the economy. That party has arisen. It is called the Reform Party. And it is the African-American community's best hope for the future.

Minister Farrakhan, while insightfully calling on the Million Man March to shape Black Americans into an independent third force, has nonetheless capitulated to pressure to make yet another mournful attempt to persuade Bill Clinton and the Democratic Party to heed a Black Agenda. He and other Black leaders are preparing to hold a Black Convention to issue a mandate to the Democrats.

In 1988, Minister Farrakhan and I did just that. We stood together at the Wheat Street Baptist Church in Atlanta, just

as Rev. Jesse Jackson was being pointedly humiliated by the Democratic Party, and urged Black Americans to go independent.

It is now eight years later. Black America is going independent. The Reform Party is replete with African-American activists from coast to coast: Bob Davidson, chairman of the Connecticut Reform Party; Mamie Moore, state committee member of the Virginia Independence Party; David Cherry, Vice Chair of the Illinois Reform Party; Dick Tolliver, a long-time Perot activist in New Mexico; Drake Beadle, Secretary of Illinois Reform; Jackie McBride, Dr. Jessie Fields, Allen Cox, Yvonne Braim, Wayne Griffin, Andrew Garnett, Nate Roberson, Henry Davis, Roger Griffin and Marilyn Guyden and hundreds more, including myself.

But Minister Farrakhan has not gone independent. Instead,

(Continued on page 2)



**MOTHER AND CHILDREN . . .** The downtown Greenville mall is a perfect place for families to get out of the house and enjoy fellowship and good sunshine. The "M" Voice camera caught mother and her three children cooling out downtown on the mall outside of Joy 1320 AM and the "M" Voice newspaper office! Check us out, your picture may be next. Staff photo

## African-American and Jewish students travel, live and work in harmony

By HEATHER INGRAM and AYSHA HARVEY  
Special to the AmNews

If understanding is the key to better race relations in this country, the high school students participating in Operation Understanding are definitely on the right track.

Operation Understanding, a nonprofit educational organization based in D.C., is rebuilding the historic and once-effective relationship between African-Americans and Jews through young people.

On Thursday, July 11, the group, composed of African-American and Jewish high school juniors from the D.C. metro area, arrived in New York City to visit sites that are significant to both groups in the U.S. The six days the students spent in New York will complete the 26-day journey that has taken them to Atlanta, Charleston, Birmingham, Memphis and other southern cities.

The trip proved to be both educational and moving. When the students arrived in Boligee, Ala., they hadn't expected to help rebuild a Black church that had recently been destroyed by fire. But that's exactly what they did. For most

of the students, this was the most emotional stop on their trip. As Daniel Perl, 16, noted, Boligee was where the group got to "put their ideas into practice." For Jason Goins, 16, one of the most memorable moments came in Montgomery, Ala., where the teenagers met with the Montgomery 7, the organizers of the historical Montgomery bus boycott.

Though Operation Understanding has only been on the road for less than a month, the students' participation began last December during a press conference where they were introduced to the community. Prior to that, students submitted a written application accompanied by two recommendations and, in some cases, were interviewed.

Over the past five months, the students have toured the Holocaust Museum in Washington, attended two Passover seders, Palm Sunday services at an A.M.E. church, a class in Judaism, Christianity and Islam from the Black perspective, and met with U.S. Representatives John Lewis and Major Owens and Sen. Joseph Lieberman.

According to Karen Kalish, founder and president of Operation Understanding, "This pro-

gram will change the face of race relations in the D.C. area."

It has also exposed a new generation of African-Americans and Jews to the once productive relationship between the two groups. For much of this century, African-American and Jewish people cooperated toward extraordinary goals and made great progress, forming organizations such as NAACP and the Urban League, and helping forge this country's civil rights laws. However, today's generation has very little first-hand knowledge of that alliance. The relationship between Black Americans and Jewish Americans has largely disintegrated into mistrust, prejudice, and intolerance.

By immersing young African-Americans and Jews in one another's historical, cultural, religious, and racial backgrounds, Operation Understanding is teaching the future leaders of tomorrow to understand rather than judge.

As Julia Rosenbloom put it, "I'll go back home not judging people, not expecting stuff, but understanding."

**From Page 1**

**Farrakhan, Sharpton**

he is orchestrating one more "get down on your knees and beg to the Democrats" ceremony, under the guise of militant rhetoric. In addition, he has pursued his political interface with the neo-fascist charlatan Lyndon LaRouche, who has cozied up to the Nation of Islam and Minister Farrakhan to secure an outlet for his destructive agenda in the Black community.

Rev. Sharpton is planning a series of protests outside the Democratic and Republican conventions, a show of militancy and independence, while at the same time refusing to wrench Black voters out of the Democrats'

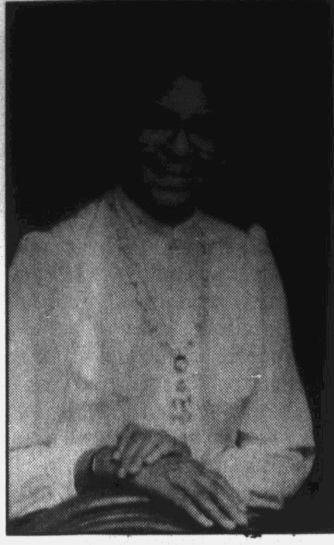
clutches. Rev. Sharpton is an intelligent and shrewd political leader. He and I worked together closely and I know him well. More than anyone, he understands that Clinton and the Democrats concede nothing unless we are willing to hurt them where they live - at the voting booth. But Rev. Sharpton's modus operandi, like that of his political mentor Jesse Jackson, is to use the rhetoric of independence while remaining a Democrat. He runs for office only as a Democrat. And he provides the militant cover that Clinton et al. need to keep African Americans in check.

This misleadership at such a

critical juncture in American history is nothing short of dangerous. U.S. politics are realigning. The current two party arrangement will not last. When a major Democratic Party leader, officeholder and friend of Bill Clinton such as Governor Dick Lamm enters the Reform Party primary, it is clear that political insiders at the highest levels see that realignment coming. Lamm himself has a long record on behalf of civil rights and affirmative action — one which surpasses that of Clinton's. Any notion that Ross Perot has helped to generate a party which is hostile to such an agenda should be dispelled by Lamm's entry, even if the significant and widely acknowledged role of independent Black leaders in building the Reform Party is not enough evidence in and of itself.

1996 could be a major breakthrough for Black political liberation. It would be an unforgivable tragedy if it becomes the case that so many of our Black leaders were the ones who stood in the way.

**from the desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye**



BEATRICE MAYE

**Some Personal Principles to Live By**

These are President James A. Garfield's cherished personal principles:

- 1. Never be idle.

- 2. Make few promises.
- 3. Always speak the truth.
- 4. Live within your income.
- 5. Never speak evil of anyone.
- 6. Keep good company or none.
- 7. Live up to your engagements.
- 8. Never play games of chance.
- 9. Drink no intoxicating drinks.
- 10. Good character is above everything else.

- 11. Keep your own secrets if you have any.

- 12. Never borrow if you can possibly help it.

- 13. Do not marry until you are able to support a wife.

- 14. When you speak to a person, look into his eyes.

- 15. Save when you are young to spend when you are old.

- 16. Never run into debt unless you see a way out again.

- 17. Good company and good conversation are the sinews of virtue.

- 18. Your character cannot be essentially injured except by your own acts.

- 19. If anybody speaks evil of you, let your life be so that no one believes

- 20. When you retire at night, think over what you have done during the day.

- 21. If your hands cannot be employed usefully, attend to the culture of your mind.

some reason, the letter is incorrectly addressed and you didn't put your return address on it, it will be placed in a dead-letter file. You can figure out what that means. Think how important that is when paying your bills.

6. Here's an extra tip. When mailing a package, cover the address with clear cellophane tape. It prevents the ink from smudging if it gets wet.

QUESTION: Did you learn anything?

Mr. Clarence Hunter, Greenville City Postmaster Mr. Daniel Bullock, Jr, Snow Hill Postmaster They will be glad to answer any questions.

**ADVICE FROM ELEANOR...**

"The best preparation for tomorrow is to do today's work superbly well. The best anxiety antibody is an attitude of appreciation for your job and for the challenges and rewards of the day. Make every minute count. Enjoy every minute".

**SMOKING ..Good Advice from the American Cancer Society**

As soon as you snuff out that last cigarette, Your body will begin a series of physiological changes. Within 20 minutes: Blood pressure body temperature and pulse rate will drop to normal. Within eight hours: smoker's breath disappears. Carbon monoxide level in blood drops, and oxygen level rises to normal. Within 24 hours: Nerve endings start to regroup. Ability to taste and smell improves. Within three days: Breathing is easier. Within two to three months: Circulation improves. Lung capacity increases up to 30 percent. Within one to nine months: Sinus congestion and shortness of breath decrease. Cilia that sweep debris from your lungs grows back! Energy increases. Within one year: Excess risk of coronary heart disease is half that of a person who smokes. Within two years: Heart attack risk drops to near normal. Within five years: Lung cancer death rate for average former pack-a-day smoker decreases by almost half. Stroke risk is reduced, Risk of mouth, throat and esophageal cancer is half that of a smoker. Within 10 years: Lung cancer death rate is similar to that of a person who does not smoke. The precancerous cells are replaced. Within 15 years: Risk of coronary heart disease is the same as a person who has never smoked.

Challenging statements. Right?

**PROPER DELIVERY ORDER - Mail**

Here's how the public can help ensure prompt delivery.

- 1. Use plain white envelopes. Colored envelopes can confuse the sorter and cause the envelopes to be kicked out of the machine.
- 2. Print or type the address in capital letter, using blue or black ink.
- 3. When writing the city and state, do not use any comas or periods. Be sure to use correct two-letter abbreviation for the state.
- 4. Make sure you use the right ZIP code. If you aren't sure, call your local post office. They will be happy to assist you.
- 5. Make sure your return address is on the envelope. If, for

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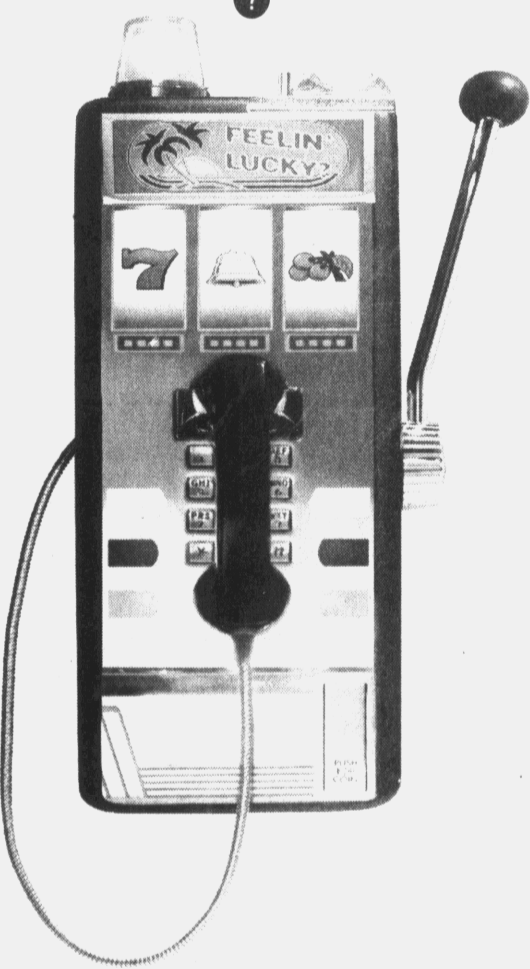
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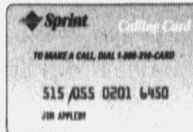
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*Patrick Mills, who has several years experience in pre-owned vehicle sales, announces the opening of ALLSTAR MOTORS. Patrick would like to thank all of his past customers and welcomes all to his new store.*

**Come and see Patrick!**

Patrick Mills

## A prayer answered: A Leigh Family Reunion

Last August two women boarded an Amtrak train headed for Newport News, Virginia. Gertie was making her annual pilgrimage from Philadelphia to Creswell, NC, for the revival at St. John Missionary Baptist Church. Evelyn was coming home to Hampton, Virginia, from Maryland. Plagued by similar arthritic problems, both made their way to the train's handicapped car. Gertie arrived first, settled into one seat, and put her extra bag in the empty seat across the aisle. By the time Evelyn got there, she was very tired. As she moved toward an empty seat, she heard a woman's voice say, "You can sit here, I just have my things in that seat." Though they were complete strangers, for some divinely inexplicable reason Gertie had been drawn to Evelyn.

As soon as Evelyn settled in, they began to chat. She asked Gertie, "Where ya going?" "To my church revival in Creswell, North Carolina," Gertie answered.

Evelyn's eyes got as big as silver dollars. "Creswell! she exclaimed, "My mother's people are from Creswell, and I've been trying to find my people ever since she died." Evelyn explained that her mother was very young. Her mother seldom talked about Creswell except to say her grandfather, James Anderson Leigh, had been born there. Over the years, Evelyn had come down for a couple of funerals, but neither she, her siblings, nor their children knew their North Carolina people. Seven of Evelyn's nine siblings had died without connecting with their North Carolina kin. For years, Evelyn had prayed for help in locating her lost family.

As fate would have it, not only did Gertie know all of Evelyn's folks, her deceased husband was a Leigh. Gertie's sons were Evelyn's blood relatives. Before they parted, Evelyn wrote down the names of her Creswell ancestors for Gertie to pass on. On the very bottom of the page she put, "Please help me find my family."

Her family is exactly what Evelyn will find on August 30, 1996 - the day before the 10th Anniversary Homecoming. Leighs will journey to Somerset from New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Florida, Georgia, and across North Carolina to embrace her as one of the family. They will enjoy an old-fashioned, pig picking/fish-frying family reunion. Of course, Cousin Gertie will be first in line to grab a hug.

Dot Redford, manager  
Somerset Place  
State Historic Site

## "I Can Cope" program

The Leo Jenkins Cancer Center in Greenville is offering "I Can Cope," an education and support program created by the American Cancer Society for people with cancer, their families and friends. For information, call Ellen Walston at 816-4801.

The Leo Jenkins Cancer Center in Greenville is offering "I Can Cope," an educational and support program created by the American Cancer Society for people with cancer, their families and friends. This six-class series begins Thursday, January 18, and covers topics such as cancer diagnosis, treatments, communication skills and community resources. The program is free, but pre-registration is required. For information, call Ellen Walston at 816-4801.

## Support Those Businesses That Support The Community

Emergence magazine, in its recent issue, has done an excellent job of focusing on white hate groups and their promulgation on the Net. The article lists several of the groups along with their web sites, home pages etc. Also listed are many of the places of origin of the hate messages.

Most of the cyber haters, of course, are white males, usually college types, and their uneducated rural counterparts. The premise is simple. They are steeped in the wellspring of international white supremacy and feel they have lost ground via the Civil Rights Movement, the growth of non-white populations, immigration of non-whites into the United States and other so called white countries. They feel the white race must fight not to become extinct, or swallowed up by darker races. They are against race mixing, affirmative action, non-white immigration policies, and integrated living and education.

In addition, they believe there will be a race war, which they intend to win, thus destroying as many of the "mud people" as they can in America and restoring the country to its proper owners. No, not American Indians, white European Americans.

### Cyber Nazis

Most of these groups may con-

## Hate on the Internet

...sist of a few individuals, but their deft use of the Internet, including home pages stating purpose, and linking to other sites of like purpose, create a rather vast network of interlinking, communicating haters all disseminating information and influencing thoughts.

They also reach a few people who are on the edge personally and encourage them to act as lone individuals carrying out acts of violence. No one in government is dealing with this issue, basically because they are white also and these are their people.

When Blacks do something horrible, they can be heard loud and clear, but when whites do things, they have another attitude. Witness the slow poke - it's not a conspiracy - they burned the churches down themselves - attitude of law enforcement.

They asked parishioners of Black churches "was their pastor having sexual relations with any of the parishioners?" They would have foot-dragged and intimidated churches had the president not clarified the government's position.

The Emergence article also takes issue with Black civil rights

groups who are still in the Dark Ages and have no knowledge of how to use this technology, while whites are skipping all over the globe spreading hate.

Rev. Joseph Lowery maintains that the resources at the Southern Christian Leadership conference are "already stretched thin by other anti-discrimination and anti-violence efforts."

Meanwhile some white kid at the University of Georgia, where most of the cyber-hate messages emanate from, is sitting in his room with a computer and a modem, kicking ass.

In fact, Klan Watch, a group that monitors hate groups, tracked hate messages to the University of Georgia, and to several students. They contacted the university only to be told the university has a policy of not interfering with freedom of speech.

Below is a list of hate groups on the Internet. They sometimes change up when the heat gets too hot and move to another cyber address:

\*Aryan Resistance <http://WWW.lo.com/~wip/aryan-page/cnq/index.html>

\*White nationalists Resistance Page <http://www.io.com/~wip/aryan-page/cloc/cloc.map?291.61>

On Usenet, another online service, other groups can be accessed via bulletin postings including: alt.politics.whitepower; alt.revisionism; alt.skinheads; alt.politics.nationalism.white.

Also, other online sites, you'd have to yahoo (search) are Church of Jesus Christ Christian Aryan Nations and Christian Identity On Line. These churches believe God created Blacks separately along with the other animals and they were created as beasts of burden. Whites were created separately and divinely imbued with the right and duty to rule over non-whites.

According to Noah Chandler of the research group Democratic Renewal, based in Atlanta, hate groups are doing a better job on the Net than anti-hate groups. They have up-to-date graphics, they are credit card-ready to take an order for material on line. And they are better networked.

They also network with other like-minded media groups like The National Review magazine, and American Spectator magazine, as well as record companies of the supremacist movement like Resistance Records.

## MEDIA WATCH

BY ABIOLA SINCLAIR

### Blacks On Line

Blacks on line are usually concerned with business, the arts or history. There is no Black hate site that I know of. Here are a few major on-line groups:

\*Africa Online-<http://www.africaonline.com>

\*AfrINET-<http://www.afrinet.net/>

\*The African-American Mosaic-<http://cweb.loc.gov/exhibits/African-American/intro.html>

\*African-American Web sites-<http://www.earthlink.net/~aahony/africa.html>

\*BNN (Black News Network) <http://www.bnn.com/>

\*Netori-<http://www.netnor@aol.com>

\*Melanet-<http://www.melanet.com/>

\*International Agency for Minority Artists Affairs <http://www.qpage.com/host/iamaa.shtml>

## Against identity politics

By Dr. Lenora Fulani

I have been getting many calls and letters around the country asking for a copy of a speech I gave at the Humphrey Institute Policy Forum in Mimosota back in May. I spoke there at the invitation of former Congressman Tim Penny, a friend and political ally, who has been instrumental in promoting public dialogue on the culture of politics in America. Here are some excerpts from the talk. If you would like a copy of the whole presentation, call my office at 1-800-288-3201 and I will send you one.

The question has been raised as to whether the divisions so rampant in the American body politic have effectively crippled an otherwise functional political system or whether the dysfunctionality of the political process contributes to political and social polarization. In my opinion, both are true. And if we are to overcome the discord of American political life, then I think we have to look more closely at what has produced both a divided nation and a political system which thrives off of those divisions.

I have found the work of a psychologist to be of enormous value in these matters. He is Kenneth Gergen, Professor of Psychology at Swarthmore College (and, incidentally, the brother of David Gergen, who gave the luncheon address here earlier today).

Gergen writes of the destructive effect of what he calls identity politics. Identity politics is, simply put, engaging in political action — like electoral campaigns, lobbying, fundraising — on behalf of an identifiable grouping of people — senior citizens, feminists, pro-lifers, African Americans, farmers, small business people, fundamentalist Christians, etc. This mode of activity — the politics of identity — has dominated the past 50 years of American history across the political spectrum — left, center and right.

Identity politics has, in effect, become the public philosophy of America and Americans. It is the driving force on Capitol Hill as various interest groups compete with one another to direct legislative initiatives and overall social policy in their own interests. It's what the lobbyists do. It's what all the money pays for. It's the basis on which campaigns for public office are run. And up until 1992 — when 20 million Americans voted independent in the presidential election — it's been the basis on which people cast their ballots.

My colleague, Dr. Fred Newman, in a recent essay entitled "A Patriot is a Revolutionary" points out the fact that the domination of identity politics over the last 50 years or so has ironically left America and Americans without "an identity." The typically just demands of various groupings to get more for themselves, for their causes and their communities, to compensate for past deprivations or to prevent present and future biases, has left the country as a whole without advocates. In the name of "identity" groupings seeking and getting their fair share of their rights — as many

...taken over by the two political parties who live and breathe off of identity politics. No wonder election campaigns have become so negative. Negative campaigning is not an overlay on the process. It is the process through which politicians and parties gain advantage by manipulating the American people on the basis of their "identities."

There is perhaps no grouping of Americans more identified with identity politics — and more

disempowered by it — than the Black community. Obviously, the history of social, political, economic and moral injustice perpetrated on the African American people has deeply scarred the revolutionary experiment in democracy begun in 1776. While no longer considered three-fifths of a human being, today one third of all Black families live in dire poverty. Within the dominant framework of identity politics, our entire political strategy has

been reduced to "getting" things because we're Black. We vote for candidates — in our case, almost all Democrats — who come into our communities and say — Vote for me — I'll get you a jobs program in your district. And we say: Yeah — Okay. Sounds good. But we never say: Hey, how come — since we've been voting for you for 50 years — our community is so poor and unskilled and uneducated, that we need a jobs program in the first place?

# In the wake of Bertha's destruction, First Citizens is here to help, moneywise or otherwise.



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# Vy Higginsen: The inspirational 'Positive Zone'

By LINDA ARMSTRONG  
Special to the M-News

Most people know her as the real and caring personality behind "The Positive Zone" on KISS-FM. Her motto is "We're going to try to keep you in touch, in tune, informed, entertained, but mostly inspired." And, if anyone knows how to do that, it's Vy Higginsen, the co-writer, producer and director of the "Mama I Want to Sing" productions ("Mama I Want to Sing," "Mama I Want to Sing II" and "Born to Sing Mama III" - the final in the series) along with her husband Ken Wydro. They have inspired countless numbers of people. "Mama I" set the record for the longest running Black musical in theater history - running for eight years.

I got to know the lady behind the voice. As we did a phone interview Higginsen sat in the building she grew up in on 126th Street in Harlem, which she is rehabilitating. She recalled, "I went to school at P.S. 68, right around the corner. As I sit here, it brings back the memories of how safe it was back then. As a teenager we moved to the Bronx and I attended Theodore Roosevelt High School."

Higginsen, who was originally interested in fashion, went to receive a degree in marketing and merchandising from the Fashion Institute of Technology, where she is presently on the board of directors.

Higginsen's life has taken many twists and turns since she graduated from the Institute. She explained, "I wanted to be a fashion buyer for Macy's and bring back fashions from all over the world. But when I graduated

I was one of three African-American grads, so the industry was just beginning to open up. My sister (Doris Troy) told me I had an unusual voice. I put a tape together, where I was giving Black women fashion tips."

### New radio station

"I went to a party and heard people talking about a new radio station, WLIB. Frankie Crocker was the program director. I went to the station, without an appointment, and sat in a reception waiting area waiting for him to get off the air - hoping he would play my fashion tips tape for a 1 or 2 minute spot.

"He listened to my tape and said he wanted me to be a DJ. I turned him down. My sister told me, 'What's wrong with you, if you don't like it you don't have to stay there. I was the first woman DJ on the air in prime-time from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Little by little he began to assemble a staff.

"FM was new to the world; it became extremely popular. I saw WLIB-FM becoming WBLS. That, for me, was the nurturing ground to see it's possible to come from a speck to something important."

At the peak of her radio career Higginsen realized there was a new emerging Black demographic. She said, "I called them Unique New Yorkers. I started a magazine by that name and we published about four years. After four years we were about to take the next step, but we lost two major employees to another Black publication and I couldn't do it alone."

### Met Ken Wydro

"During that period, which was around Sept. 1978, I met



VY HIGGINSEN

Ken on a television show about single people. He was the happy single guy and I was the happy single girl. After the show, he said, 'I want to bring you a copy of my book, "Flying Solo," and I said, 'I want to bring you my magazine.' Some hard times followed for me and a lot of superficial friends I had were gone, but when the going got tough he was still there. I always say I married my best friend."

A marriage that has lasted 15 years is still going strong and has produced a 12-year-old daughter, Knoelle, who will start at the Professional Children's School on Sept. 12.

All who have seen the Mama productions know that they are special shows, which leave you with chills, thrills and inspiration. But why would someone decide to dedicate a large part of their life to doing these types of productions, especially since this type of show was

groundbreaking? Higginsen explained in great detail what led her to create "Mama I" and so on.

"I wanted the music back. I had become disenchanted with radio because the voices were computerized. I wanted to hear people who could really sing. When we auditioned for the show, we discovered those voices still existed."

### Important reason

She also discovered a more important reason. "I realized that my real purpose in life was to communicate to Black people specifically and all people in general ... The first Mama was really very basic, it dealt with having a dream and following it - making choices. This show was about faith, love and music.

"We told the whole thing in music, which was an original concept. We dealt with death and loss and the culture of music. We married the church, the radio and the theater. We wanted to get a message across - that everything doesn't have to be settled with a gun, knife or prostitution - the way the media had projected the Black community. That didn't reflect the spirit of what I came from in my family life. If you grew up in the 40s, 50s, 60s church was mandatory. I needed to reflect on the music and give tribute to who we are and where we came from."

The Mama productions are based on the life of Higginsen's older sister Doris Troy. These productions have opened doors for many talented African-Americans. Tisha Campbell (Gina on "Martin") was one of the first stars, then Desiree

Coleman Jackson took over her role. It has also opened doors to other countries. It has toured in Japan, Germany and was the only Black show to play for six months in the West End of London. Mama III, "Born to Sing," stars recording artists Lisa Fischer, Tanya Blount, Stacey Francis and Kellie Evans as Mama and will open on August 8 at the Union Square Theatre.

But before it officially opens there will be performances from July 25 to 31. Part of the proceeds from the July 25 performance will go to rebuild the burned Black churches down south.

### Can't ignore cause

Higginsen, putting her money where her mouth is, stated, "There's no way you can ignore a cause like this. When I think of the kind of mind it would take to light a match to burn a church, to burn a bible, an altar - that's a sick mind. So many of our young people who have been with the show grew up in a church where they honed their craft. We agreed we couldn't just sit back. We want to make sure that this issue is attended to; that the people are caught; that it never happens again.

"We want to do what we can so we've invited Rev. Al Sharpton and many ministers and their wives, clergy of all races and creeds and good people to come together and do something. We expect it to be a very powerful and emotional night." The performance is also open to the public, so if you are interested you should call the Union Square Theatre at (212) 505-0700 for ticket information.

# Control efforts continue for root parasite

BAKERSVILLE - Monitoring and control efforts are continuing for a root parasite that attacks agricultural and ornamental crops, according to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

In 1993, small broomrape was found in a 3-acre field previously planted in red clover near Bakersville in Mitchell County. The parasite - *Orobanche minor* - attacks clover, tobacco, tomatoes, ornamentals and other crops. Additional plants have since been found on roadside areas in the immediate vicinity.

"Control activities have been successful on the original infestation area," said N. C. Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham. "Efforts will continue to locate and destroy this pest."

Through a cooperative effort, the NCDA and N.C. Department of Transportation are treating recently discovered infestations. Extensive monitoring activities will be conducted during the next six weeks to detect any further distribution of the pest.

Gene Cross, weed specialist for the NCDA's Plant Industry Division, said small broomrape is one of about 150 species of northern temperate and subtropical root parasites capable of causing extensive yield losses in agricultural and ornamental crops.

Unlike most plants, small broomrape totally lacks chlorophyll and depends completely upon its host for water and nutrients," Cross said. "It can cause slight damage or death to the host plant."

He said the parasite was introduced to the latest site through infested red clover. Introductions may also occur through hay, fodder, bedding and droppings of imported livestock, Cross added.

Previous introductions in North Carolina have been in Durham, Wake and Haywood counties. Only the Mitchell County site is thought to be active currently.

# Clean water coming to citizens of Southern Hertford county

Congresswoman Eva Clayton, John Romano, Deputy Administrator for Water and Waste, USDA-Rural Utilities Services and James C. Kearney, USDA-Rural Development State Director will present a grant and loan approval to Hertford County Commissioners

on July 1, 1996 at 12 noon. There Ceremony will be held on the front lawn of the Roanoke-Chowan Community College, Ahoskie, North Carolina.

The \$4.5 million financing will be used to construct two new 350 GPM wells and two 200 gallon el-

evated storage tanks on the southern end of the county. "This water system will provide safe drinking water for 1,687 citizens of Hertford County," said USDA-Rural Development State Director James C. Kearney.

"Safe drinking water is the life

blood of any community, especially a rural community. We are happy to do all we can to see that Hertford County citizens have access to clean water," said Dupont L. Davis, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. "We hope you will come help us celebrate the coming of

available and safe drinking water."

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- Sunday \*\* Meat Loaf, Fried Chicken, Picnic Ham, Bar-B-Que, Smothered Fried Chicken, Fried Fish

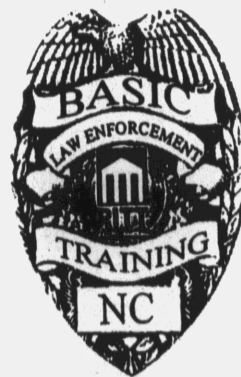
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# Pop Warner football program now in Greenville

The Pop Warner football program is an international program operated for the benefit of its youthful participants. Since 1929, the program's philosophy has been: academics and athletics go hand-in-hand. At every level, Pop Warner football seeks to develop well-rounded young men and women who learn, not only the fundamentals of football or

cheerleading, but also the importance of education..in an atmosphere conducive to developing sound mind, body and character and having a good time along the way.

The general objectives of Pop Warner are to inspire youth, regardless of race, creed, or national origin, to practice the ideals of sportsmanship, scholarship, and

physical fitness, as reflected in the life of the late Glen Scobie "Pop" Warner.

The program stresses learning lessons of value far beyond the playing or cheering days of the boys and girls involved, such as: self-discipline, teamwork, concentration, friendship, leadership and good sportsmanship.

# Aflatoxin testing for storm-damaged corn offered

RALEIGH — Farmers in Pender and Onslow counties with hurricane-damaged corn may want to consider testing their corn for aflatoxin occurrence. To facilitate the process, the N.C. Department of Agriculture has shipped quantities of testing kits to Cooperative Extension offices in both counties.

"With the amount of moisture and ground contact corn in these counties had from the hurricane, we felt it would be in everyone's best interest to make aflatoxin testing as easy as possible," said N.C. Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham. "This free test from the N.C. Department of Agriculture will let farmers and grain buyers know if there are problems from the outset."

Aflatoxin can cause problems in both humans and livestock, and limits have been set for acceptability. The *Aspergillus Flavus* mold produces a toxin that can cause serious illness if ingested in quantity.

Farmers interested in testing their corn should contact their extension office for supplies and directions. A special rush will be placed on aflatoxin tests at the Food and Drug Protection Laboratory in Raleigh, giving the farmers results in two-three days. Test results will be mailed, or can be

accessed by phone if a special rush is needed.

Corn growers outside Pender and Onslow counties with suspect corn should request testing supplies through the Aflatoxin Testing Program, NCDA Food and Drug Protection Division, PO Box

27647, Raleigh, NC 27601. The phone number is (919) 733-7366.

Additional information can be obtained through Sallie Szymczyk (shem-sheck) or Bob Gordon with the NCDA at the above address and phone number.

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# Stylists On Parade

Photos By Daniel Blount



## Army college fund helps offset rising college tuition

As college tuition continues its 6 percent average yearly increase, more and more young people are considering the Army to help offset the cost, the head of recruiting in North Carolina said recently.

Lieutenant Colonel Warren C. Singleton, commander, U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion Raleigh, said through the third quarter (ending June 30) 315 enlistees had opted for the Army College Fund.

"That equates to more than \$8 million in education benefits," Singleton continued. "This is quite impressive when you consider that 279 enlistees qualified for \$6.9 million in all of fiscal year 1994.

"In fact, we may even surpass last year's \$11.7 million total," he added.

Any qualified person can earn up to \$30,000 in college money depending on the length of enlistment, Singleton said.

A two-year enlistment nets \$20,000, three years, \$25,000 and four years, \$30,000.

"For families and students who have a career goal that calls for a college degree, the Army may be the ideal path to that goal," Singleton continued. "The Army gives its alumni a chance to enter the school of their choice with the experience and confidence to tackle the tough courses...and the funding to handle escalating college tuition."

For more information on the College Fund or other Army Benefits, contact your local recruiter.

## Attention: Parents of four-year olds

"Pitt County Schools will offer classes for four year olds at nine different sites during the 96-97 school year. Applications are now available at most elementary schools and at the Third Street Pre-K Center. Parents may call Judy Beckert-Jones at 355-9555 or 752-3227 for more information. Those who turn in applications by August 16 will be screened in late August to determine eligibility for this federally funded program."

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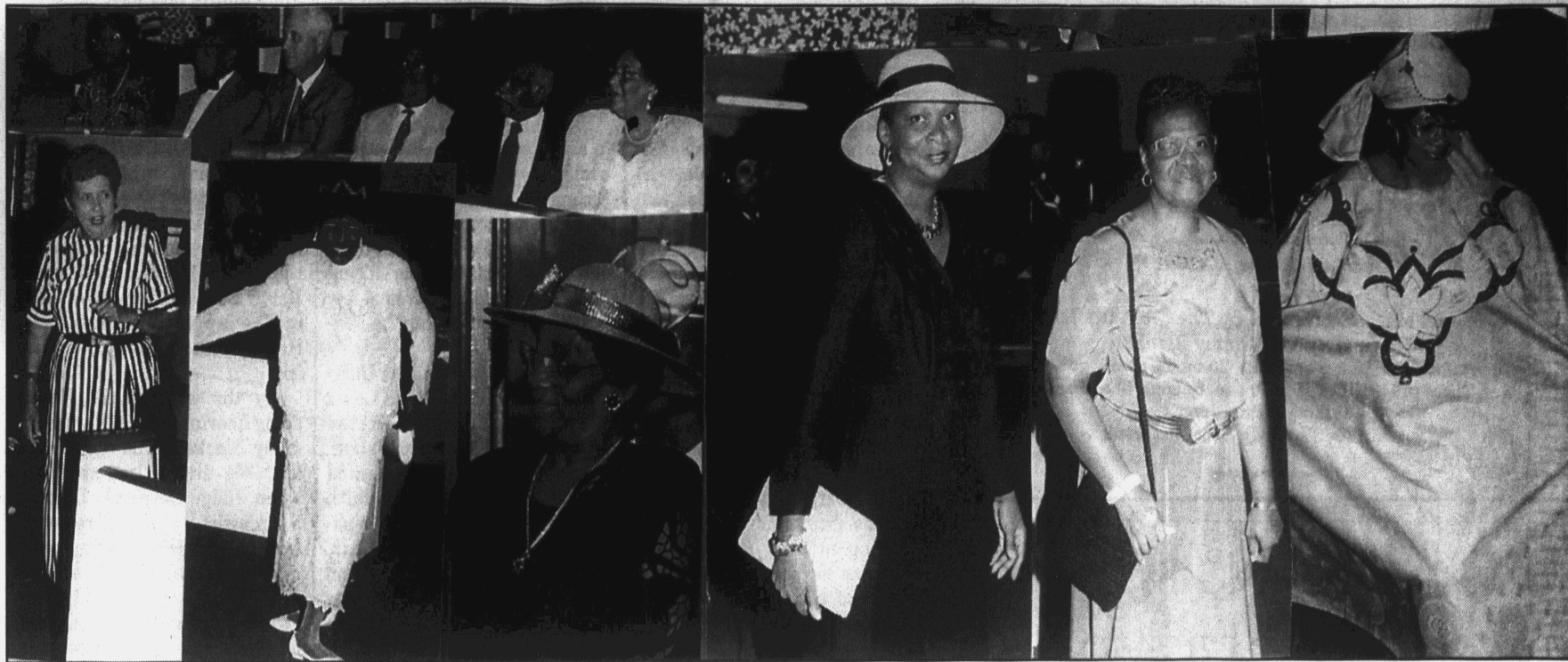
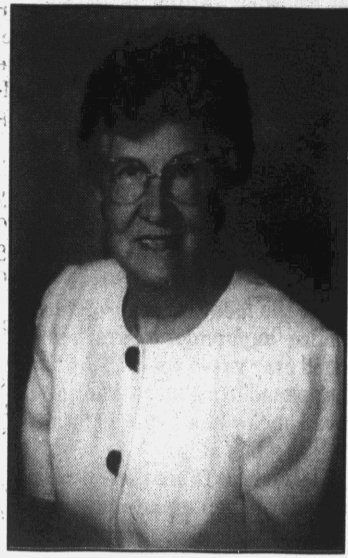
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# Stylists On Parade

Photos By Daniel Blount



**ALICE B. DICKENS**  
Alice B. Dickens retired June 30 from First Citizens Bank in Greenville after 19 years of service. She was a banker assistant in the commercial banking department. During her tenure at First Citizens Dickens also served on Greenville's switchboard and in the former bookkeeping and loan processing areas.  
The Halifax County native is a member of Oakmont Baptist Church. Her plans upon retirement include traveling performing volunteer work, sewing, reading and spending time with her grandchildren.

## Making fleas flee

**By Sam Uzzell  
Pitt County Agricultural  
Extension Agent**  
Heat and humidity are part and parcel of a North Carolina summer. Along with the often sweltering weather are abundant populations of fleas, especially if you have a dog or cat at your house. If your pet goes in and out

of doors frequently, you will be plagued with recurring infestations of fleas, and the temptation to spray your entire yard will probably unnecessary as fleas die quickly at temperatures above 85 degrees in the direct sunlight. Spraying shady areas such as those under decks, porches, in doghouses or pens

may be better places. Control of fleas indoors requires attention to flea behavior and biology. Fleas prefer cats

and dogs above and beyond humans, but they will stoop to attacking a human ankle if nothing better shows up in several

months. They can survive as immature and adult fleas for weeks at a time without a meal.

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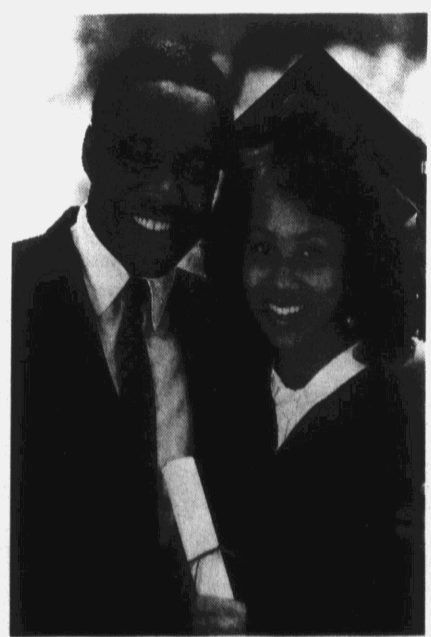
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Group Photos 756-4710

## Jews need to know why some Blacks are defensive

By DENNIS SCHATZMAN

*"If I am not for myself, who will be for me?" - Hillel*

Let me borrow a recent quote from my fellow Pittsburgher, CNBC talk show host and actor Charles Grodin, to explain my premise: "I'm not good at extreme respect." Many Blacks feel Grodin speaks for many Jews as it relates to us, particularly in these days and times. And many Jews, understandably, are pained by that thought without knowing why Blacks are feeling the way they do. Let me try to explain.

Grodin comes to mind for two reasons. As a Pittsburgher, the hard-to-stomach nighttime host is prone to speak his mind, no matter how specific and sophomoric his arguments often tend to be. His shoot-from-the-hip unremitting attacks against O.J. Simpson for nearly a year were insulting, particularly to Blacks. Rarely did he argue from any factual basis on his belief in Simpson's guilt, and almost never did he invite guests on his show who offered differing points of view. Had Sheila Stainback, a Black hostess on the same network, acted that way she would have been whisked off the air, and we all know it - ask Arsenio Hall.

Second, Grodin is Jewish, a fact which was brought to my attention by the respected Rabbi Gary Greenbaum, former chairman of the Los Angeles Police Commission. Greenbaum had received an article I wrote in *The Los Angeles Daily Journal* from a constituent who felt I was being "anti-Semitic" when I criticized Loyola Law School Professor Stan Goldman, Grodin, U.S. News and World Report Publisher Mortimer B. Zuckerman, talk show host Geraldo Rivera, attorney Gloria Allred and oth-

ers. I chastised them for their unapologetic attacks against Black jurors, observers and reporters like me who felt the evidence in Simpson's double murder trial was insufficient to warrant a conviction.

Blacks in America have learned to, as the late Arthur Ashe learned while growing up in segregated Richmond, Va., "look over your shoulder for trouble." The modern-day record seems to confirm how some of the "trouble" facing Blacks seems to come from a few powerful minions within the Jewish community.

The jumping off point for these Jewish leaders is Min. Louis Farrakhan, the much-hated leader of the Nation of Islam, largely for his well-documented vitriol against the Jewish faith in general and some Jewish businessmen in particular. Farrakhan is just as hard on Black businessmen who engage in questionable practices in ghetto neighborhoods. That fact, however, is lost on these Jewish leaders. Hardly a Black leader in sight has escaped being overtly or covertly threatened with some sort of reprisals by Jewish leaders, like the Anit-Defamation League's Abraham Foxman, for failing to "denounce" Farrakhan for his anti-Semitic remarks.

But that's an old story. Today's rallying cry, in virtually all white neighborhoods - not just Jewish ones - is "blame it on O.J."

Why? In Jewish neighborhoods, we feel the reason is simple enough. Simpson was accused of murdering not only his white wife, but her friend Ronald Lyle Goldman, who happens to be Jewish. Worse, Simpson was found not guilty of committing these heinous crimes on October 3, 1995. Jews, like

the ones I described earlier, attacked him savagely and continue to this very day.

Other sons and daughters of Zion walked out on him when he entered restaurants. Still others, who play a large role in determining what gets on the big (movie) and little (television) screens are making sure Simpson doesn't work anymore.

Worse, Superior Court Judge Alan Haber nullified Simpson's right to call forensic pathologist Henry Lee as an expert witness in the upcoming civil trial. Haber, coincidentally, is Jewish.

By the way, what's Haber doing hearing this case anyway, many Blacks are no doubt asking. We distinctly remember when Judge Roosevelt Dorn, a Black jurist, was swiftly removed from the Reginald Denny beating case of Damian Williams, et al., because the district attorney's office felt he could not be objective in a case involving Black defendants. The same argument could be made about Haber running a court according to Hoyle in a case brought by a fellow Jew, couldn't it?

Here's the real rub. In the Jewish community, where the "justice-got-screwed" philosophy reigns supreme these days, virtually no one can prove they exhibited the same level of venom over the injustice meted out by Superior Court Judge Joyce Karlin, the Jewish woman who let a convicted Korean grocer walk out of her courtroom free as a bird when a videotape caught the businesswoman blowing the back of the head off 15-year-old Latasha Harlins. There is no excuse for that. The flimsy excuse offered from some Jewish quarters, including *The Jewish Journal* (April 3, 1993), that

Judge Karlin was "within her rights" to offer such a ruling, is inexcusable to us. The issue is not debatable.

Another galling point with Blacks is there are few voices crying out in the heavily-Jewish Brentwood, Burbank, West L.A., Beverly Hills and West Hollywood areas over how white police officers in those venues routinely stop and harass Black men who happen to be driving, walking or sitting in those areas after the sun goes down. This is despite the fact that some of those police departments are being sued ever as we speak. This has happened to me more than once, even once when I was just waiting at a bus stop.

It hurts us to see these double standards being played out live and in living color. Not so much because they are so obvious, like seeing a murder captured on videotape. It hurts because we Blacks are virtually powerless to do anything about them.

Now that you've heard how many of us feel, do you think I am an anti-Semite for giving you the real deal? Perhaps you do and I can't stop you from thinking otherwise.

My critics might be mildly interested to know that my grandfather, Harry Schatzman, was a Jewish immigrant from Germany. Unfortunately, I never met him. He died just before I was born. One thing I can say is that my father, the late Clyde Schatzman, never said an unkind word about him.

So I'm not mad at Jews when I tell these things. I'm just being accurate. Will I be criticized for this? I'll check in with Rabbi Greenbaum to gauge the barometer. My guess is his phone should be ringing off the hook within a few days.

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# Inmates make bed frames and lockers

The metal bed frames and lockers going into new North Carolina prisons are being made by inmates at the metal fabrication plant at Brown Creek Correctional Institution.

lock. The metal fabrication plant is one of a number of inmate jobs at Brown Creek Correctional Institution. Inmates may be assigned to work on road squads, food service, prison maintenance or unit

clean up. "Brown Creek's metal fabrication plant teaches inmates a trade and important job skills," said Correction Secretary Franklin Freeman. "And it also provides the prison system with products that we need." Brown Creek is a medium security prison for adult males. It houses 730 inmates.

"If it's made out of metal, we do it," said Donald Bullock, the plant's manager. "We've made hollow metal doors and frames. Right now, we're making inmate lockers, dormitory-style double bunks and a two-tiered style of bed for double celling inmates." Each morning at 7:25, forty inmates report to work. Inmates work an assembly line that turns out about ten lockers and ten bunks per day. They also manufacture cabinets, racks, metal doors and customized products. Anson Community College instructors teach classes on welding and computer assisted drafting (CAD) in a part of the prison metal fabrication plant. Inmates who complete these classes can then go to work in the plant. "Very few of these inmates have experience working with sheet metal" said Bullock. "But with the training and the experience they get in the plant, we help them develop a good work ethic and skills to get a job."

A skilled CAD operator in a top-notch fabrication shop may make an annual salary in the high twenties and a skilled computerized press brake operator can make \$14 to \$15 an hour," Bullock said. While developing their skills working in the plant, the inmates are paid seventy cents a day. Brown Creek has the first powder coat operation of any of the state's prison industries. Inmates hang the bed frames or lockers on a conveyor line, where the product is washed and dried. Next, it goes into a booth where the metal receives an electrostatically-charged powder paint blown on at low pressure. From the booth, the conveyor carries the product into an oven where it's cured at 380 degrees for twelve to fourteen minutes. This system is safer environmentally and is very efficient," said Bul-

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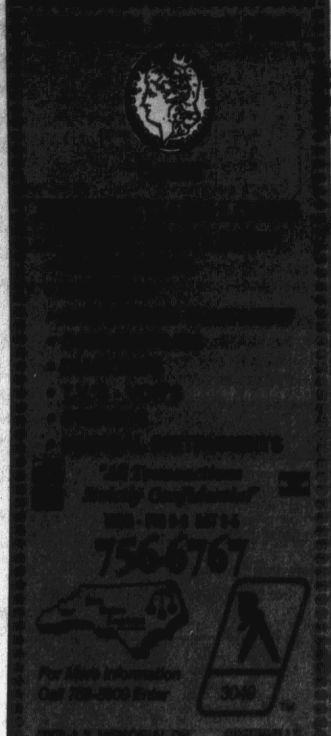
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Sealed bids for housekeeping services for Pitt County Government Buildings will be received by the Pitt County Engineering Department until 9:00 a.m. local time on August 29, 1996, and bids will be opened and read publicly immediately thereafter in the Conference Room of the Development Services Building at 1717 West Fifth Street, Greenville, North Carolina.

Bidders shall have experience and a good track record in providing housekeeping services to large commercial or industrial clients. The successful bidder shall contract to provide all services set out in the Contract Documents. No subletting of the basic cleaning services will be allowed.

The contract time shall be for a period of one year and the County will have the option to negotiate renewal for two additional years on a year by year basis. Considerations in awarding the contract will be price and ability to perform the required services. Ability to provide the services will be judged on past performance of similar work, experience in similar work, and financial standing.

A bid bond in the amount of five percent of the Contract Price is required.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 9:00 a.m. local time on August 12, 1996, in the Conference Room of the Development Services Building at 1717 West Fifth Street, Greenville, North Carolina 27834. Immediately following the conference, a tour of the buildings to be served will be conducted for all potential bidders. Bidders are strongly urged to attend the pre-bid conference. The contract work will begin November 1, 1996.

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Project for Change in Education. He attributes much of his success to his family values that were instilled by his mother, Mrs. Mary Joyner, who lives in Farmville, and to the guidance he received from his teachers while at H.B. Sugg...especially F.H. Mebane, who was the principal at the time of his graduation.

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**100 STYLISTS ON PARADE . . .** Sycomore Hill Church was the scene for 100 Stylists on Parade last Sunday for this glorious event. The "M" Voice own columnist Mrs. Beatrice Maye and the Board of Deaconess sponsored program that featured friends and neighbors on parade. Shown above is our Mrs. Maye and below Sister Rosa Harris who is assistant principal at Rose High and encouraging parents to get children ready 'cause school will open in two weeks. Sponsored by Sycomore Hill Board of Deaconess, Mrs. Maye, president.

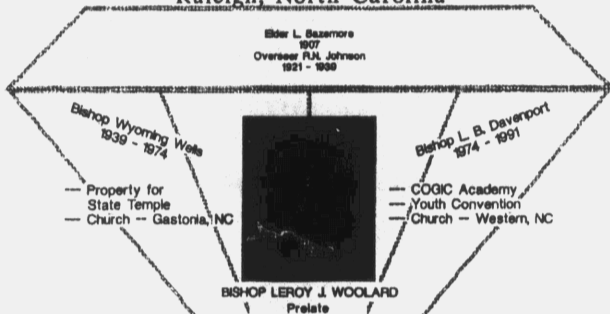
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**ATTENTION:** The Pre-Musical for the Conference will be held Saturday, August 17th, 1996 - 7:30 pm at the Upper Room Church of God in Christ  
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Please identify yourself with the GNCJ Church of God in Christ.

**NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION**  
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In the District Court  
To: Derwin Binwicks Staton  
**TAKE NOTICE** that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is a Divorce.  
You are required to make defense to this pleading not later than September 20th 1996, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.  
This the 2nd day of August, 1996.

Sarella Kilpatrick Staton, Plaintiff  
A-27 Glendale Drive  
Greenville, NC 27834  
919-756-3869

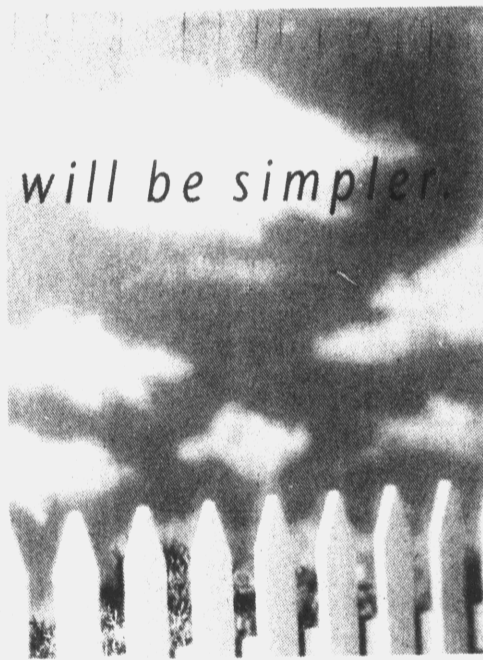
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