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WEEK OF AUGUST 15-23, 1996

African American leaders of the Reform Party urge blacks to "Break allegiance to Democratic

A group of 24 Black leaders of the Reform Party issued a statement today, "emphatically" urging the African American community and its leadership to leave the Democratic Party, and join them in working to "shape the ultra-democratic and independent Reform Party as a vehicle that can and will accommodate Black interests." Initiated by Ross Perot in the Fall of 1995, the Reform Party will hold a two part nominating convention in Long Beach, California on August 11 and in Valley Forge,

Pennsylvania on August 18, and will be on the ballot in all 50 states in November.

Charging that the Black community has been used as a political football by both major parties, the Reform Party leaders called on Black America to "reset the terms of our participation in politics and government" by building the Reform Party: "In our view, the birth of the Reform Party—which we ourselves have helped to shape—is the most significant opportunity for African Americans to share in the re-

casting of U.S. politics.

The statement took aim at those Black leaders who "are currently engaged in a public campaign to restore faith in the Democratic party by misleading Black voters." Instead of protests and conferences to formulate a Black agenda "designed to blow off steam but put the Democrats in office," the Reform leaders urge a Black exodus from the Democratic Party: "...a serious strategy to cost (President Clinton) the election will do more than any amount of public or private consciousness raising.



THESE BROTHERS REALLY GET THE MOST OUT OF GOOD CLEAN FUN. . . They can be found at the "Car Wash" on West Fifth Street and Albermarle Avenue where fellowship is the order of the day everyday!!
Staff photo by Jim Rouse

A message from African American leaders of the Reform Party

We, the undersigned, are African Americans who believe fervently that the time has come to go beyond the two-party gridlock that has polarized and paralyzed our country. We are proudly helping to build the independent Reform Party. Our involvement is based on the proposition that we need a new kind of party that can relate to those who are still denied an opportunity to achieve the American dream. In short, we have begun to shape the ultra-democratic and independent Reform Party as a vehicle that can and will accommodate Black interests. This means uprooting the current two-party arrangement mired in long established traditions of exclusion based on race, gender, social position and other identities. It also means restructuring the political process to be fully democratic and directly inclusive of all Americans in policy making and gov-

erning.

Petition carriers and party builders worked in California, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Virginia, Illinois and Massachusetts and signed up close to 50,000 African Americans in six short months. African Americans have moved into key leadership positions in numerous Reform state organizations. While we come from a variety of ideological backgrounds — Democrats, Republicans, nationalists, and long-time independents — we share a common belief that the two party system and the Democratic Party, where the vast majority of Black America is registered and for whom it currently votes, have failed us. We also share a particular concern about how some Black leaders are currently en-

gaged in a public campaign to restore faith in the Democratic Party by misleading Black voters.

Some are formulating a Black Agenda designed to "force" the concerns of African Americans into the presidential campaign and to challenge the Democratic Party and President Bill Clinton. However, we do not believe that the mere formulation of an agenda or protests outside party conventions force anybody in positions of political power to do anything positive for Black people. President Clinton and his party rearrange political priorities as a function of one factor only — losing an election. For those who choose to orient toward changing President Clinton's or the Democratic Party's mind, a serious strategy to cost him the election will do more than any amount of public

(Continued on page 3)

Hopefuls find payment for being slave descendants doesn't exist

Johna Stephenson of Chicago thought it sounded too good to be true—a \$5,000 payment because she is the descendant of American slaves. But not wanting to miss anything, she called the Internal Revenue Service to check it out.

So have thousands of other black Americans across the country.

There is no tax rebate to compensate people for their ancestors' enslavement, but that hasn't stopped more than 20,000 people from filing for it. Most claims were filed in 1994, but inquiries are picking up again.

"The big story is there is no story. People who claim it, it's a wasted effort. They're not able to get it," IRS spokesman Stephen Mongelluzzo said. "If people were entitled to it, we would live to give it."

Thousands around the country recently have asked for what they believe is a rebate form and between 500 and 600 people have filed for the modern equivalent of "40 acres and a mule"—\$43,209, said IRS spokesman Steven Pyrek. He said about 10 came from Chicago and the same number from Detroit, Cleveland, Dallas and elsewhere.

People whose claims are denied and file subsequent claims could be subject to a \$500 penalty for filing frivolous returns.

Stephenson of Matteson, Ill., said a friend told her last week that she could receive \$5,000 to \$8,000. She said she didn't believe the rumor but called Cong. Jesse Jackson Jr.'s office to check it out "just in case it was true."

Jackson's office told her no

windfall was forthcoming, but she called the IRS anyway. She asked for Form 2439 and told the IRS worker she believed it would help her receive a rebate. It actually is a form for shareholders.

"He told me he'd send me the form, but that if I did file a claim...then I would be denied," she said.

But back in 1994, at least four people mistakenly were issued slavery reparations, Pyrek said. He said he did not know how much they received or what was done to recover the money.

The Illinois attorney general's office said it had received no complaints from people offering to get reparations if clients pay them a fee.

It wouldn't be unprecedented. Ben Badio of Dallas faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for filing slavery reparations claims for clients earlier this year in Texas, said Assistant U.S. Attorney David Finn. He said

Badio pleaded guilty in June and is to be sentenced September 25.

Pyrek said the IRS received about 20,000 slavery reparation claims in 1994—the year after Essence magazine ran a commentary that argued racial discrimination functions as a hidden tax. The commentary urged readers to fill out their Form 1040s as if they had paid \$43,209 in "black taxes" and thereby collect a delinquent tax rebate.

The 40-acres-and-a-mule concept comes from a bill Congress passed in 1866, requiring that Confederate property be confiscated to provide former slaves with 40 acres and a mule. President Andrew Johnson vetoed it.

Cong. John Conyers, D-Mich., now is sponsoring legislation to study the impact of slavery on blacks. He is recommending "appropriate action" but not direct compensation to slaves' descendants.

Gov. Hunt kicks off fall tv ad campaign on positive note

Gov. Jim Hunt's campaign today began airing its first TV ad of the fall campaign, highlighting the success of the Governor's Work First welfare reform effort.

The ad, which is running on TV stations across the state, follows through on the Governor's commitment to run a positive, issue-oriented campaign about

new ideas that work for North Carolinians.

As one of the nation's toughest welfare reform efforts, Work First was recently featured on ABC's Nightline. The show used Work First as an example of how North Carolina is ahead of the national curve on welfare reform, demanding work and personal responsibility to help welfare recipients get back on their feet. Here's what Work First requires:

- Welfare recipients must sign personal responsibility contracts, promising to take care of their families and get off welfare. If they don't honor the contract, they lose benefits;
- Work First participants must get a job—paid or unpaid—or job training within 12 weeks;
- AFDC benefits are limited to two years;
- Teen parents must go to school and live at home;
- Additional cash benefits are not given to those who have children after 10 months in the program.

So far, more than 17,000 Work First families are now getting paychecks instead of AFDC welfare checks; welfare rolls have dropped 13%; the number of Work First participants working or in job training has doubled; and taxpayers have saved \$36 million.



OUR CHILDREN LOOK TO MOM TO MEET THEIR NEEDS. . . . This mother is doing just that...buying groceries to prepare nutritious meals for them. These smiles indicate that they believe she has a few "goodies" in the bag for them as well.
Staff photo by Jim Rouse

Mandela's quest for racial unity leads to Olympic gold

By **HOWIE EVANS**
AmNews Sports Editor

Because of one man — Nelson Mandela — the "Olympic Moment" belonged to an unknown marathoner from South Africa. If not for Mandela, there wouldn't have been a Josia Thugwane.

When Thugwane came thundering into Olympic Stadium with the South Korean Lee Bong Ju and Kenya's Eric Wainaina hot on his heels, I thought not of Thugwane, but of Mandela, who spent 27 years of his life in a South African prison.

All for the cause of freedom. It was Mandela who led the struggle for national unity in

the apartheid country. And it was Mandela who continues to lead a nation that for 24 years was stripped of its international Olympic identity.

And because of this gallant freedom fighter, South African Penny Heyns, a white swimmer, won a pair of gold medals. As Thugwane ran the 26.2 mile marathon course, becoming the first-ever Black South African to win an Olympic gold medal, his victory is an expression and symbol of the many Black South Africans who sacrificed their lives to gain freedom.

So Thugwane was not running alone. The spirit of every man, woman and child who had

shed their blood in a nation that steadfastly refused to change ran every step of the way with him.

They were with him when the gun went off. And they continued to encourage him onward as his pursuers ran in his footsteps. They were with him in his darkest moments. Just six months ago, a group of thugs came close to killing him in a carjack incident in, of all places, his hometown of Bethal, South Africa.

And they were with him when he gutted out the final mile in the closest marathon race in Olympic history. And by the time he reached the victory stand,

one could feel the spirit of Mandela as they played the anthem "God Bless Africa."

This was the "Olympic moment." Not a you-know-whogymnast. Not Carl Lewis. Not Michael Johnson. Not David Reid. And certainly not a group of U.S. basketball players.

Thugwane is in the forefront of a nation of runners, set to challenge the dominance of the Kenyans in distance running. In this marathon, only one Kenyan finished in the top 35, third place finisher Eric Wainaina.

Thugwane will finally get to meet his president, and get a small pot of gold, some \$11,000.

In a country obsessed with running, the South African will become a lightning rod for unity in his country.

It will not all be perfect. We know that from the continuing struggles of African-Americans in this nation. But it's a start — a beginning.

And as Black South Africa continues its struggle for equality, the Olympic story of Thugwane will be told over and over again. From the teeming streets of Johannesburg to the township of Soweto.

But always, the story will end with Thugwane being greeted by the man who made it possible — Mandela.

There's no limit to government corruption

By: Dr. Lenora Fulani
 This month the New York City Council held public hearings on the issue of term limits. More accurately, our elected representatives were trying to figure out how they can get away with undoing the 1993 mandate from a majority of New York voters to impose term limits on the City Council and all municipal offices.

Here's the background. A grassroots referendum placed on the New York City ballot three years ago gave voters the choice of limiting members of the City Council, the mayor and other city officials to two consecutive four-year terms. Those City Council mem-

bers in office at the time, and those newly elected the year the referendum was conducted, would have to leave office no later than the year 2001. Consequently, the vast majority — if not the entirety of the City Council — would be brand new going into the year 2002.

Democrats and Republicans alike joined forces in a series of legal maneuvers to keep the referendum off the ballot, but they failed. The proposition made it onto the ballot and passed resoundingly — 60% to 40% — despite the fact that every single elected official (except one) campaigned against it and every newspaper from the corporate dailies to the Black week-

lies published editorials denouncing term limits. I campaigned actively for passage.

In the Black and Latino community the vote was decisively in favor of limiting municipal terms of office. According to research by U. S. Term Limits, exit polls indicated that 60% of African Americans voted in favor of term limits, continuing the overall national trend in which 72.7% of Blacks have voted for state and local limits around the country.

The vote by Black New Yorkers was a severe political rebuke to the Black members of the City Council, who obviously cherished their own jobs more than the community's right to hold elected officials accountable. But far from learning a lesson from that strong message, the Council began to plot a way to overturn the voters' decision and secure their control over the city well into the 21st century.

They bided their time until term limits failed to pass in Congress. (What a surprise — Democrats and Republicans refusing to vote themselves out of a job!) Then, with that political momentum on their side, they struck. The Council Speaker Peter Vallone, who is white, and Brooklyn Councilwoman Mary Pinkett, who is Black, spearheaded a campaign to con-

vince the electorate that they hadn't known what they were voting for in 1993 and that when term limits forced the election — in 2001 — of an entirely new City Council, chaos would reign and the city would be ungovernable. They insisted that the Council should either overturn term limits altogether or arrange for a "phase-in" program that would extend well beyond 2002.

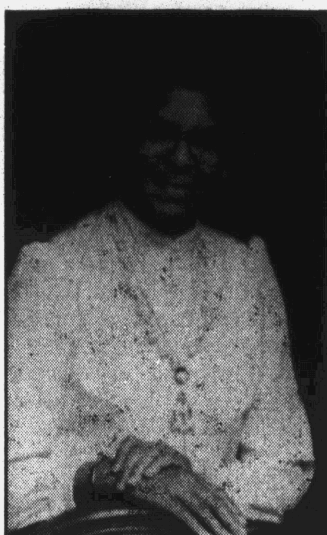
Councilwoman Pinkett chaired

a public hearing on this proposal. As you might imagine, the parade of Democrats and Republicans endorsing their concerns was interminable. I came to the hearing to speak against it. Any effort to subvert the voters' decision, I warned, was a criminal violation of democracy. And any attempt by Black elected officials to ignore the clear preference of the Black community would not be forgotten.

Naturally, Councilwoman Pinkett and others tried to prevent me from speaking. I waited over four hours to testify. But I would have waited until hell froze over to make the point.

Many people in our community heard about the hearings and called to express their support. My thanks to all of you. We continue our efforts to make our elected officials accountable to us. Call me at 1-800-288-3201 to get involved.

from the desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



BEATRICE MAYE

The characteristics of a good leader are:

1. communicates, allows input, and is willing to listen.
2. is interested, appreciative, complimentary, supportive, humanistic, and considerate.
3. displays honesty, integrity, and trustworthiness.
4. is objective, open-minded, tolerant, rational, reasonable, and fair.
5. delegates, trusts, subordinates, and allows room to achieve.
6. motivates, challenges, inspires, and is team-oriented.

7. is knowledgeable, experienced, competent, intelligent, and has good judgment.

8. is available, approachable, provides good feedback, and trains coaches.

9. is constructive, enthusiastic, positive, friendly, and humorous.

10. is decisive, courageous, takes risks, and is willing to commit.

11. is goal-oriented, makes plans, clarifies expectations, and follows through.

12. accepts responsibilities, blame, admits errors, is respected and respectful.

13. is a doer, participates, and sets examples.

14. is open, candid, sincere, and credible.

15. is tactful, humble, sensitive, and understanding.

16. sets high standards, is dedicated, hard-working, and reliable.

17. is consistent, and even-tempered.

18. is organized and structured.

We are not left on our own to accomplish the task, but we have God's promise. Psalm 91:9-15, Job 5:23 and Psalm 32:8.

Techniques of Effective Leaders:

1. keeps focus on issues, rather than personalities.
2. endeavors to be fair.
3. uses moderation - Exodus 18:9-24.
4. organizes and establishes order - Isaiah 28:9-10.
5. doesn't take all the credit for himself. Allows others and the Lord to evaluate him.
6. uses the BIBLE as a source book - Proverbs 3:6.
7. helps followers learn to "obey and order".

8. is humble enough to ask for help when he doesn't know what to do.

The leaders work together to win souls for Christ, to nurture one another, to accomplish objectives of the church, and to avoid conflict in the church.

Coping with Difficult People

By: Dr. R. Robert Cueni, Pastor, Country Club Christian Church, Kansas City, MO.

The task of coping with difficult people is a universal experience. Difficult people are not rare. We know they are everywhere.

First, admit they exist. Acknowledge their presence. They hate change and live in constant fear of what tomorrow might bring. We tend to be irritated by them, but really they are so fearful, pity is a more appropriate emotion.

Secondly, there is the Nattering Negative Nit-Picker who specializes in pointing out the shortcomings, frailties and negatives which are always present. They never help the plan, improve the idea or make a positive suggestion.

Another category of a difficult person is one I call the Irreconcilables. They are the folks who never forgive, always carry a grudge, continually seek ways to get revenge.

Or consider what I call the Insatiable Self-centereders. These are people who live absolutely for themselves. They dominate discussions with their favorite topic, themselves.

To cope with difficult people, admit they exist. Identify them. remember that difficult people can be handled with a sense of humor. Be ready to smile at their antics. Laughter is God's lubricant for squeaky human relationships. A smile and a little laughter is mandatory equipment for dealing with troublesome people. Be careful. Getting along with difficult people can be dangerous. Deal with these persons with integrity and in a spirit of love. Below the surface you discover a very frightened insecure person with very little self-esteem. Reach out to difficult persons in love. Be careful and be loving, and by the power of the living Christ who dwells in you, a miracle might happen. You might actually be the instrument God chooses to chance them.

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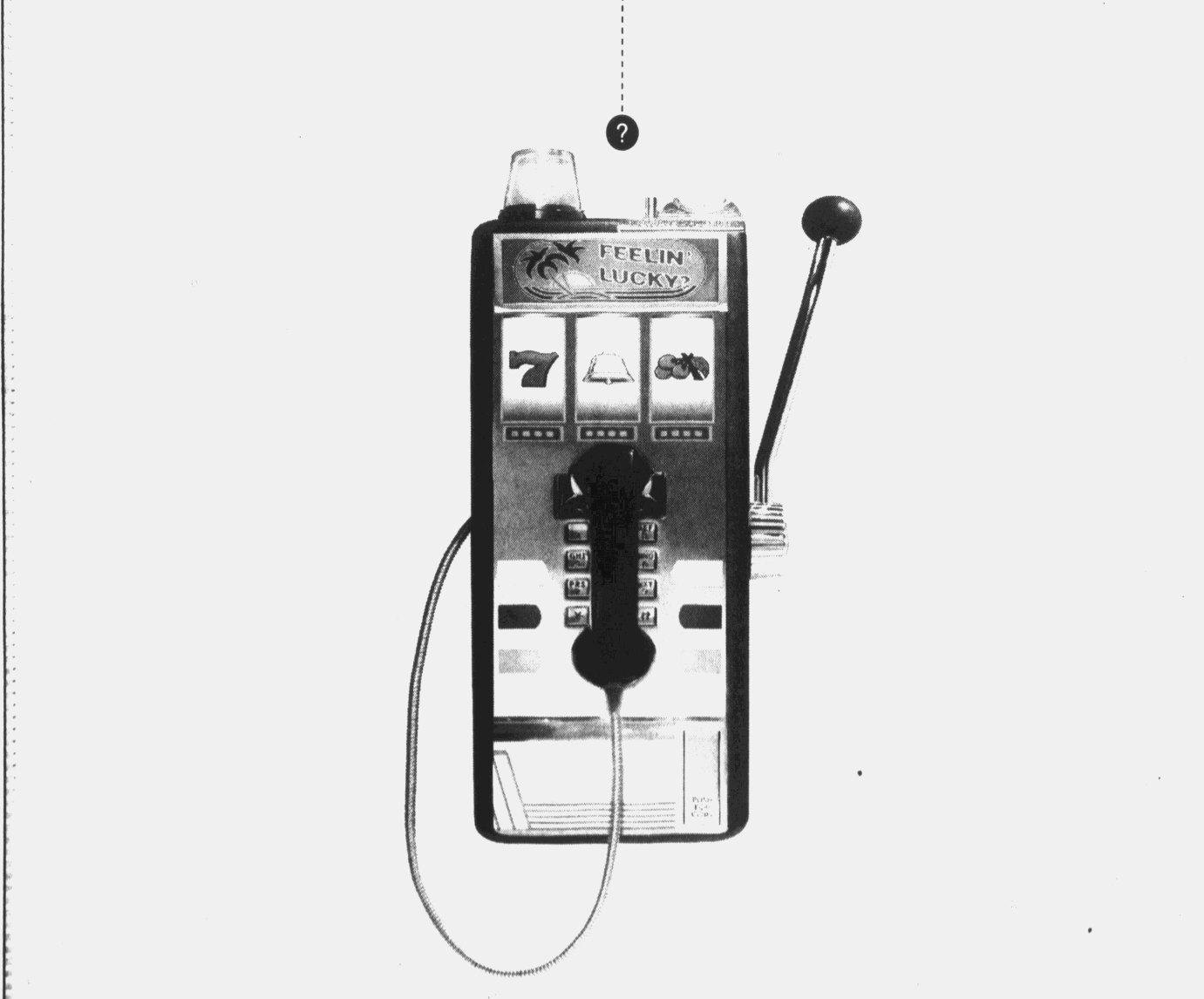
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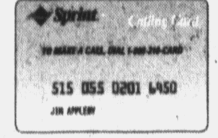
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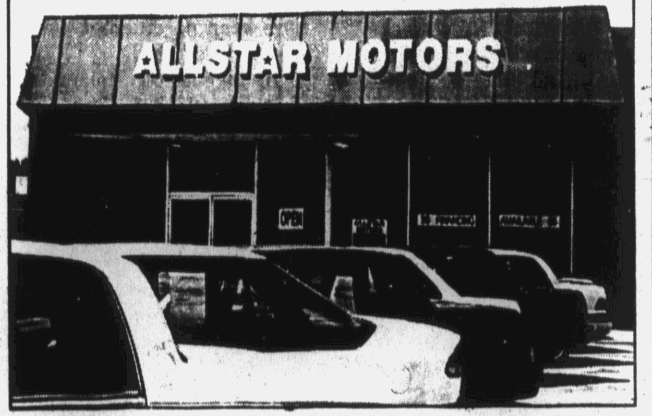
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Patrick Mills

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100% American and 100% Black - No "Uncle Tom"

On Tony Brown's Journal

"I can say what I want—say what I mean. I don't have to cower to anyone, Colin Powell stressed as he begins a free-wheeling interview with Tony

Brown on PBS, July 19-25. Powell says on Tony Brown's Journal that he wishes people would believe him when he says that he is not interested in a political career. His military career has conditioned him to say what he means—"lives depend" on it. The Republican Party and Bob Dole offer the country the best political choices. But should Dole

fail in his bid for the Presidency, Powell says he will not carry "the burden of guilt" because he turned down any consideration as Dole's running mate. He also refused to run for the GOP's presidential nomination. He simply lacks the "passion" for politics, he explained. His "instincts" are decidedly Republican, he says, and critics of an overwhelmingly White party fail to recognize that it "is broader and more inclusive"

philosophically than the stereotype created by the "active elements in the party" suggest. In fact, he says Blacks should make pragmatic voting choices, rather than selecting candidates on a racial basis. In response to Jesse Jackson's suggestion in a New Yorker article that Powell has defiled himself by his association with the ruling culture and Jackson's Uncle Tom characterization of the first Black with a serious

chance of becoming President of the United States as a traitor to his race, Powell said, "I just let that wash over me." "I rose to the top in the military being a good American and not forgetting my Black heritage," said the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He finds "no conflict" in being both 100% American and 100% Black, Powell added. The General also explained why he did not pursue the

complete destruction of Saddam Hussein and his military forces in Iraq and defends Ronald Reagan against the charge that he is a racist. However, he believes "the Republican Party at the time could have been more sensitive" toward Blacks. Tony Brown's Journal can be seen on your local public television stations (PBS) and is the nation's longest running and top-ranked Black-affairs series.

From Page 1

Reform Party

or private consciousness raising. Any strategy that rests on a "protest now, but vote Democratic in November" is doomed to failure. The Democratic Party will not conduct a dialogue on the Black Agenda. They are afraid that the Republicans will paint them as captive to "special interests." The Democrats want our votes while increasingly relegating Black America to the back burner, to deflect the Republicans' charge. Black Agenda conferences and demonstrations designed to blow off steam but put the Democrats in office do nothing to alter that dynamic.

Today, Black America, especially our families and our children, are a political football tossed about for the advantage of Bill Clinton and Bob Dole. As long as we remain a party to that game (even while vocally protesting it) there will be no progress for Black America, either politically or economically.

Our support for and involvement in the building of the Reform Party is designed to help Black America break out of that trap and re-set the terms of our participation in politics and government. In our opinion, there is no question but that Black voters must move beyond our present allegiance to the Democratic Party. We emphatically urge all Black leaders, some of whom are now talking about independent options and a third party, to join us in the one that is presently being built.

The charge has been leveled by some that the Reform Party is just another "white institution" and is invalid as a political vehicle for Black voters. At a minimum, the same would have to be said of both the Democratic and Republican parties. Anyone espousing the above criticism of the Reform Party would have to take steps immediately to create an all-Black party in order to have any credibility. As it turns out, those who level the above charge are most often Democrats, run for office as Democrats, tell Black people to vote for Democrats and do not commit the energy or resources to creating a

serious all-Black party. Further, there is no evidence to indicate that Black America either wants to or feels it can separate itself from the American political or economic mainstream. After all, America is a "white institution." The far more difficult question is how Black voters can assert our interests in the American mainstream. In our view, the birth of the Reform Party — which we ourselves have helped to shape — is the most significant opportunity for African Americans to share in the recasting of U.S. politics. If America does not improve — politically, economically, morally — Black America will not improve.

We, the undersigned, urge all Black Americans to join with us in the expansion of the Reform Party, our hope for a brighter future for all Americans.

- Drake Beadle - State Secretary, Reform Party of Illinois
- Yvonne Braime - Reform Party activist, New Jersey
- David Cherry - Vice Chair, Reform Party of Illinois
- Bob Davidson - Coordinator, Connecticut Citizens to Establish a Reform Party
- Henry Davis - Board Member, Reform Party of Alabama
- Richie Everette - Reform Party activist, North Carolina
- Jessie Fields - Reform Party activist, New York
- Carol Fisher - Reform Party activist, Illinois
- Lenora Fulani - Reform Party activist, New York
- Andrew Garnet - Reform Party activist, Georgia
- Roger Grimm - Reform Party activist, Wisconsin
- Wayne Grimm - Reform Party activist, South Carolina
- Bill Howard - Reform Party activist, District of Columbia
- Jacqueline McBride - Reform Party activist, Connecticut
- Tony Mitchell - Reform Party activist, Alabama
- Adolph Montgomery - Reform Party activist, New York
- Mamie Moore - State Central Committee Member, Virginia Reform Party (VIP)
- James Rayford - Interim Chair, Wake County Reform Party, North Carolina
- Annie Roberson - Reform Party activist, Alabama
- Nate Roberson - County Commissioner, Greene County, Alabama; State Elector for the Reform Party of Alabama
- Ann Scott - 3rd District Chairwoman, Virginia Reform Party (VIP)
- Sam Scott - Vice Chair, UWSA-VA; Elector, Virginia Reform Party (VIP); Parliamentarian, Virginia Reform Party (VIP)
- Danny Tisdale - Reform Party activist, New York
- Dick Toliver - Coordinator, Community Outreach, Reform Party

For further information, contact 1-800-288-3201.

Blacks are buying more books, but...

According to a report issued by the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission, Blacks are buying an increasing number of books by Black authors, but there are few Blacks in publishing to reap the benefits.

The report also revealed that Black readers are buying almost 160 million books a year by Black authors, while only 3.4 percent of the managers, editors and professional in the book world are Black.

Among the hot books this season are: Terry McMillan's newest book "How Stella Got Her Groove Back," freak jock Dennis Rodman's book, "Bad As I Wanna Be" and Christopher Darden's book "In Contempt." All are riding high on the New York Times Best Seller List.

Mystery novelist Walter Mosley's book "Devil In a Blue Dress" was picked up by Hollywood and starred Denzel Washington as the intrepid Easy Rawlins, private detective.

Mosley has since written several more books with Easy Rawlins as the main character. The books to date are "A Red Death," "Black Betty," "White Butterfly" and the newest, just out "Little Yellow Dog — an Easy Rawlins Mystery." "Black Betty" also made the New York Times Best Seller List.

Mosley, who is with F. W. Norton of New York, maintains he is considering taking a future project with Black Classic Press in Baltimore, MD.

"The publishing business is in a cultural way the most powerful institution in America," said Mosley. "And because that's dominated by people who aren't necessarily sensitive to the needs and the language of many readers, some Americans get left out. Certain needs aren't met. Certain books aren't published." He also observed that money was being made off Blacks but they weren't being hired. "That's wrong," maintained Mosley.

Terry McMillan also expressed an interest in doing a project with a reputable Black publishing house.

The key word is reputable

The sentiments are praiseworthy, but a word of caution. The key word is reputable. Having a book go bust because of a dishonest or poorly managed publishing house is the worst thing that can happen to a writer.

You spend years on a project, only to not get paid, or have the book not properly pushed. This affects your estate, salability, your very future. With a good book out you can get a better job, teaching position, offer from a



WALTER MOSLEY

better publisher. Without that, you could languish.

A good publisher white or Black is essential and should not be left up to sentiment. Both Klytus Smith, historical photographer, and myself wrote "Harlem Cultural Political Movement 1960-1970" with the Black publishing house of Gumbs and Thomas. We spent almost three years on the project. We received no royalties, incomplete flat fees for editing, no payment for essays, no financial report in over a year. Meanwhile the book sold out, the stores couldn't keep it in stock, it went so fast. But Gumbs and Thomas paid no one,

not even the printer (as of press time).

Had we gone with any reputable publisher, or Scholastic even, we'd have been better off. We could have published ourselves and been better off. At least the printer would have been paid and we'd have been able to go back for a reprint.

Major Black companies

If major Black magazine publishing companies, who already have a track record on running a business, paying their bills, etc., started up in the publishing of books, it might be profitable for the publishers; a percentage of those 160 million books a year bought by Blacks. And consider the foreign market. Japan buys more Black books than any other foreign country. It would also be profitable for the writer.

Plus Black magazines and some newspapers also have distribution contacts already set up. The fine points of book parties, personal appearances, etc., would require a separate department, meaning more employment beyond the 3.4 percent of Blacks currently hired by the book industry. And consider the event of a movie deal! White publishers would hardly feel the pinch as Blacks are more conservative in choices.

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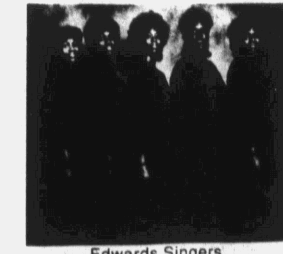
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Farewell, Welfare

Both houses of Congress have passed, and President Bill Clinton has given signals (conflicting signals), that he will sign a bill to reform welfare "as we now know it." Sadly, the motivation appears to be for all the wrong reasons.

Although the President promised to reform welfare during the 1992 campaign, he put that issue on the back burner after his election, concentrating instead on his failed health care reform initiative. Now, re-election appears to be at the root of his willingness to do away with welfare.

Leaders of the Republican-dominated House of Representatives and Senate say out of one side of their mouths, that they want to change welfare so it will better help the needy. At best, they really want to cut the out-of-control budget which annually bequeaths more money for "defense" spending than the generals and admirals at the Pentagon ask for. At worst, they want to punish the poor. One Senate Republican even refused to vote for the measure to slashing benefits and turning over program management to the un-reliable states, because it was not stringent enough. No matter.

The reform will probably win a surprising level of support even in the Black community. Although there are far more white recipients of welfare than African Americans on the dole, Blacks are in disproportionately higher numbers among the poor in this country and are widely perceived as the main constituency for maintaining the trappings of the "welfare state." Never mind that like affirmative action (whose major success stories belong to white women and not Blacks), the principal beneficiaries of welfare are white service-providers, counselors and bureaucrats who administer the unwieldy sys-

tem. Blacks, however, are still thought of as welfare's main clients.

Consider this: The day after the pivotal Senate vote on welfare reform, I was walking out of a supermarket when a disheveled-looking, inebriated Black woman asked another Black man and then me for some money. Having just used the store's high tech electronic payment system, I did not have a dime in my pocket, and told her so. The other man simply brushed her off. After the woman walked away, the other man said to me: "It's a shame, isn't it?" I didn't answer. "It's just a shame," he continued, not waiting for an answer the sec-



BY
ASKIA MUHAMMAD

ond time. "All those jobs out there, but they just don't want to work."

That is the perception driving, I believe, the Republican enthusiasm for reforming/abolishing welfare. That motivation, although wrapped in high-sounding political jargon when it is articulated on Capitol Hill, is not unlike the resentment of the panhandler at the grocery store, by the Black man who talked to me: punish the dirty beggars! The provision in the

new legislation that requires welfare recipients to be almost automatically purged from the rolls after two years, is a slap in the face to a number of fundamental principles. It presumes that there are indeed jobs going begging which the poor and uneducated — the rejected and despised in our midst — can perform.

But what our society needs today is a tonic or an elixir, something which will make our most underprivileged men and women, anxious to become contributors to the general well being of the nation, and to turn their children into anxious learners, thirsting like dry sponges, for knowledge. This welfare reform, just like cold shoulders turned toward beggars at grocery stores, will not do the trick.

"The reform will probably win a surprising level of support even in the Black community. Although there are far more white recipients of welfare than African Americans on the dole..."

Morehouse honors Moses

Morehouse College commemorated the achievements of Olympian and alumnus Edwin C. Moses, class of '78, with the unveiling of a bronze marker on the B.T. Harvey Stadium Plaza, Thursday, July 18.

The stadium, located at the corner of Westview Drive and Ashby Street, houses of Edwin C. Moses Track, which was dedicated in 1985. Guests for the events will include LeRoy Walker, president of the United States Olympic Committee and Georgia Olympians.

An Ohio native, Moses earned a spot on the 1976 Olympic team while still a student at Morehouse. He went on to win gold medals in Montreal (1976) and Los Angeles (1984) and a bronze medal in Seoul (1988). He also set four world records and established a 10-year streak of 122 consecutive wins—one of the greatest feats in the history of sports.

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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 — *Orobancha 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.

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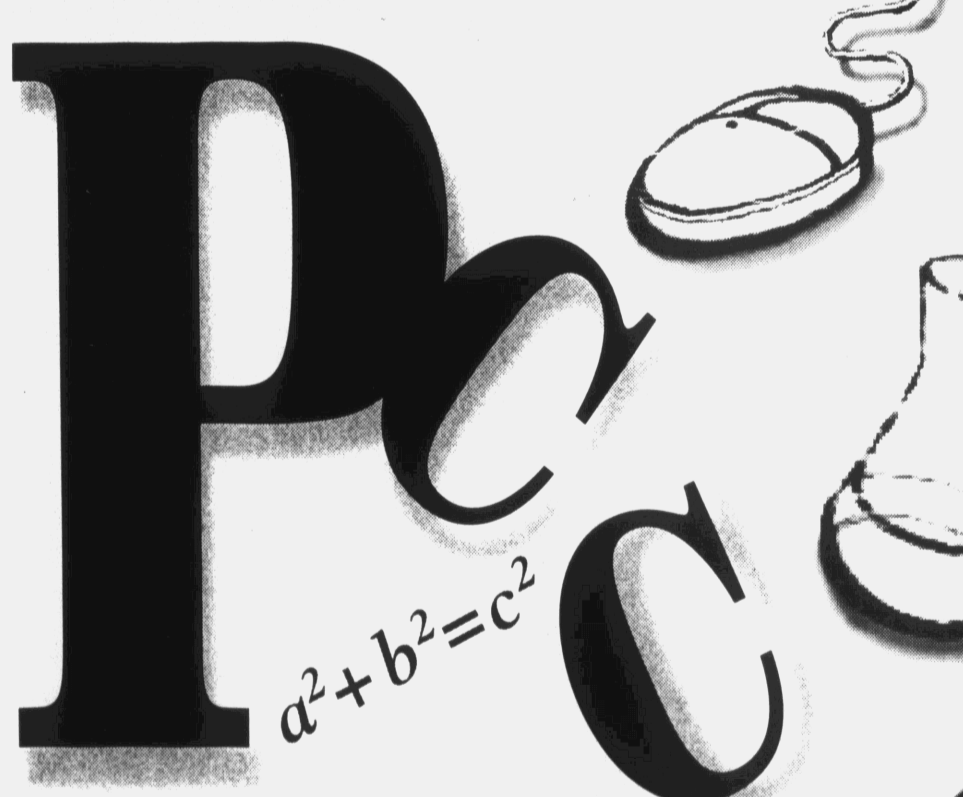
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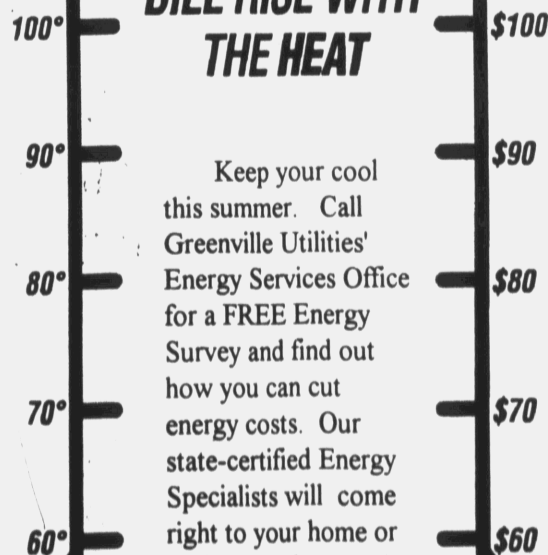
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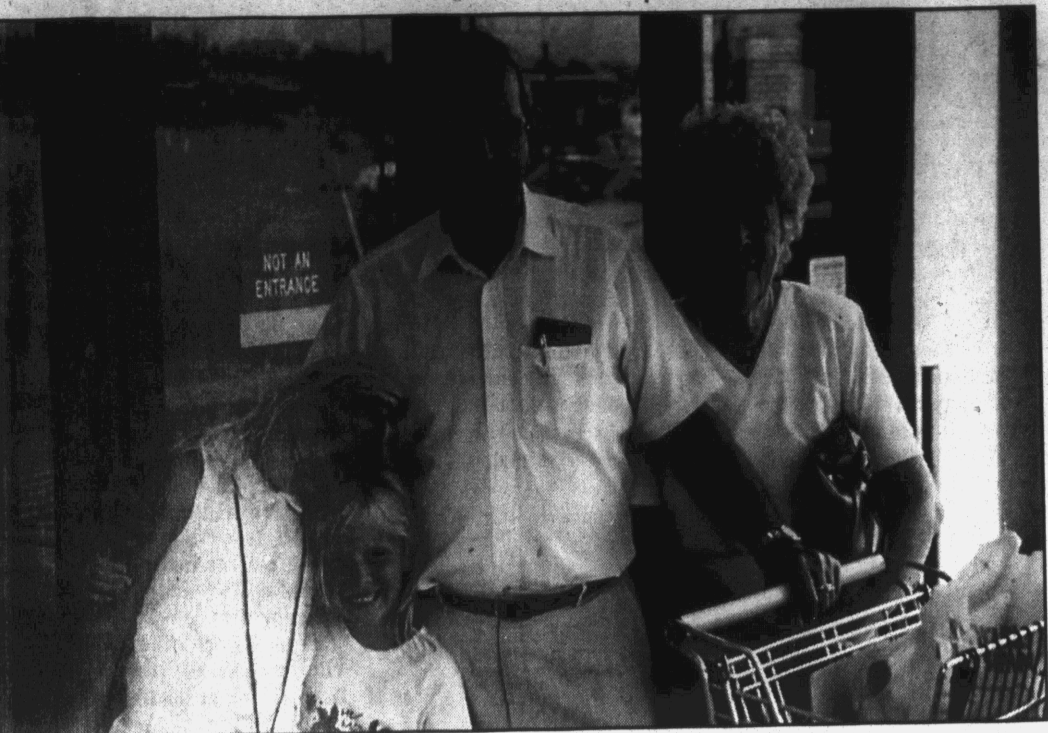


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CITY OF GREENVILLE COUNCILMAN . . . Bob Ramey, and his family, enjoyed a shopping spree recently. We interrupted their "Bargain Hunt" just long enough to capture the moment for our readers.
Photo by Jim Rouse

14 burned churches receive \$1.4 million in new grants

A modest emergency grant from the Burned Churches Fund will enable Central Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Kossuth, MS, to meet an immediate need — enough folding chairs for everyone to sit during serviced in the congregation's temporary space.

The 80-member congregation whose house of worship was destroyed by arson on June 17 also will get up to \$125,000 for reconstruction from the Fund, established by the National Council of Churches and supported by a broad ecumenical and interfaith community. But in the meantime it has only eight lawn chairs, and only the elderly are able to sit for worship in its temporary structure, donated by AmeriCare.

The emergency grant of \$1,445 for 75 folding chairs was approved last night by the Burned Churches Fund's blue-ribbon Grants Committee, which voted a total of \$499,445 for five burned African-American churches. The committee is co-chaired by the NCC's president, United Methodist Bishop Melvin Talbert of Sacramento, CA, and the general secretary, the Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, and includes as members two well-recognized civil

rights leaders, Ambassador Andrew Young and Vernon Jordan.

The new grants bring the total allocated so far to enable 14 burned churches to begin or complete restoration to \$1,415,445. The first grants (\$916,000 for nine churches) were announced July 23. A third round of grants is expected in early September.

All amounts are specified as "up to" the designated amount by the Grants Committee. Donated materials and labor could reduce the amount of cash needed, and actual cash needs could be less than currently estimated. Any church needing more than the designated amount will be encouraged to submit a further proposal.

The Burned Churches Fund is part of a broader NCC-led effort to investigate and stop hate-motivated attacks on places of worship and help with rebuilding, bring the perpetrators to justice and address the wider issues of racism that underly the attacks.

In addition to Central Grove Missionary Baptist Church, another Kossuth, MS, congregation — Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, destroyed by

arson the same night — will receive up to \$60,000 to support reconstruction.

Other grants were voted for:
• Salem Baptist Church, Fruitland, TN — \$180,000 to support reconstruction. The church's entire structure was destroyed in the Dec. 30, 1995 arson, and contents were lost. Rebuilding is underway at the original site.

• New Liberty Baptist Church, Tyler, AL — \$125,000 to support reconstruction. The church's entire structure was destroyed by arson on February 28, 1996, and contents were lost. The church plans to rebuild on site.

• Matthews-Murkland Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC — \$8,000 to restore church records and undertake the initial plans for building construction. The church lost its historic (1903) secondary sanctuary, church records, educational materials and furniture to arson on June 6, 1996. Not long before, the church had voted to use the old sanctuary as a program center.

Gifts may be sent to the Burned Churches Fund — NCC, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115. For credit card gifts, phone 1-800-762-0968.

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For Kudirat Abiola and Nigerian democracy

By: Dr. Lenora Fulani
Kudirat Abiola died on June 4 from a gunshot wound to the head. She was 44 years old — a woman, a wife, a mother, in the prime of her life. She was dedicated to winning the release from prison of her husband — Chief Moshood Abiola, who on June 12, 1993 became the duly elected president of Nigeria — and to having the mandate of Nigerian people carried out so that Chief Abiola should serve his country as the president of Nigeria.
Kudirat Abiola was outspoken

in her opposition to the regime of General Sani Abacha, part of the military junta which illegally annulled the results of the June 12 election and, one year later, put Chief Abiola in prison. Because of her efforts she was arrested and charged with sedition, banned from being allowed to visit her husband in prison, and faced possible imprisonment herself.
Less than 10 days before her murder, the Nigerian magazine Tell published an interview with Kudirat Abiola, in which she

spoke in detail about her husband's situation, the government's manipulation of attempts to negotiate bail terms for his release, the intrigue within the Abiola family over the issue of legal representation, and the threats that she herself faced. At one point in the interview the reporter asked how she responded to the suggestion that she should soft-pedal her views because she was embarrassing the Abacha government. She answered: "For me to now shy away from what I believe in ... is

impossible. I cannot." The reporter commented that it was said of Kudirat Abiola that she was matching force with force. "How do they want me to react?" she responded. "I am only being truthful. I want them to do the right thing so that the country can be in the right place. Without doing the right thing ... there will be no peace."
When I read this interview I was struck by her tremendous courage and her integrity. And one phrase echoed in my mind over and over again. "I am only

being truthful," she said. Ten days later she was dead.
Truth-telling is a dangerous business in this world. It is a dangerous business in Nigeria. It is a dangerous business in many African countries where dictators of one or another stripe hide behind their Black faces and African proverbs while they control, divide and oppress the African masses.
Truth-telling is a dangerous business here in the United States, too, where African Americans undergo many kinds of

manipulation — often at the hands of other Blacks.
Very often it is women of color who are willing to tell the truth about these kinds of manipulations, about the sordid politicking and business dealing that goes on at the expense of our people.
Why? For one thing, we have a great love and caring for our people, our children, and our community. At the same time, because we are women, we have little motivation to protect the political establishment; after all, we ourselves have been so systematically excluded from it, whatever its color.
Thus we are the truth tellers. Kudirat Abiola was no exception. It is a great tragedy and a great loss for the people of Nigeria that her truth-telling resulted in her death.
In the days that have followed her assassination there have been many rumors and much speculation concerning who was responsible. Various forces have rushed to put their own "spin," or interpretation on the murder. All sorts of theories have been advanced: one is that she was gunned down by rogue elements in the military in defiance of General Abacha; another is that she was shot by competing elements of the democracy movement who saw her as a threat; yet another is that she died at the hands of members of her family seeking control over the defense attorneys representing Chief Abiola.
These theories all have a common thread — namely, that they exonerate the Abacha regime of any responsibility for her death.
I do not know who pulled the trigger that put the bullet in Kudirat's head. But I do know this: the Abacha regime was conceived in violence; it has ruled by violence; it has repressed the opposition through violence; it has elevated violence to an acceptable — indeed, preferred — method of political decision making. And, in my opinion, there is no way that such a regime cannot be held responsible for the violent death of Kudirat Abiola on June 4.

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Duke nonprofit management courses to begin in September

Courses in Duke University's Certificate in Nonprofit Management Program will begin in early September at Tri-County Industries (TCI) in Rocky Mount.

The certificate program offers professional, practical training for people working in or with the nonprofit sector, churches or government agencies. Courses provide instruction about all aspects of nonprofit management, from founding a nonprofit to fund-raising to board-staff relations.

To enter the certificate programs, it is mandatory that a person first attend a free information session. There are no enrollment fees or academic prerequisites to enter the program. The courses are open to anyone, and the average course costs about \$50.

Through a grant with the WK Kellogg Foundation, a statewide expansion of the Duke-based certificate program began in 1994. The program now has partnerships with nine institutions across North Carolina and enrolls more than 3,000 students. The TCI/Duke partnership covers the Rocky Mount, Greenville and Wilson areas.

For more information and a fall course catalog, call Chet Mottershead, executive director of TCI and site coordinator for the TCI/Duke partnership, at 919-977-3800.

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RALEIGH — Farmers across the state should be aware of telephone sales pitches by companies touting herbicide products with exaggerated promises, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture warned Thursday.

Companies participating in the scheme claim their product not only offers better protection against certain pests and weeds, but does so at a much cheaper rate. These claims often prove to be unfounded and may cost much more while offering less protection than commonly used products.

"This is serious business," said state Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham. "We are going to do everything we can to halt these shady practices."

Consumers need to request a copy of the pesticide label and read it carefully, Graham said, before agreeing to anything. "If the companies are legitimate, they won't mind the extra work and will cooperate with you," he said.

In some cases, the product received differs substantially from the item described over the phone, leaving the consumer to pay for unwanted and ineffective material. Companies frequently require c.o.d. paid by certified check or money order. These types of transactions are difficult to stop once in place.

Anyone having questions about suspicious sales calls should contact the Pesticide Section of the Food and Drug Protection Division, N.C. Department of Agriculture, at (919) 733-3556.

COMMENTARIES

Let Them Eat Biscuits...

For the third time in 18 months, Congress has passed welfare reform legislation. This desire to dramatically change the system is driven by President Clinton's promise to "change the welfare system as we know it" and Republicans contempt for the less fortunate of our society.

The first two times this bill was passed, President Clinton used his veto powers because, in his opinion, the measure would do great harm to over a million of the nation's children. However, on the third time around, essentially the same bill may get the President's signature. Even the most casual observer of politics might wonder why a piece of legislation could be so unacceptable a few months ago and now, except for some revisions, is close to becoming law. The answer to that question is directly linked to the upcoming elections and the desire of Clinton to take another issue away from his Republican rivals.

Let's look at some of the provisions of the "welfare reform package" passed in the Senate and House. Each state would receive a lump sum of money to run its own work and welfare programs. Eligibility standards for supplemental security income benefits would become much more stringent, which means

that over 300,000 disabled children from low income households could lose cash benefits. The head of the household that is receiving welfare would be required to work within two years or the family would lose benefits and states that reduce births to unmarried women would be rewarded with additional cash grants.



FROM CAPITOL HILL
BY GEORGE WILSON

According to figures from the Department of Health and Human Services, these changes will push millions of children over the edge of poverty. Some lawmakers aren't happy with the welfare reform package, among them Donald Payne (D-N.J.), who also chairs the Congressional Black Caucus. He sees the

welfare measure as a potential source of pain. "I think that the bill does a lot of damage, in particular to children. I can't see a bill being signed that blames a child for the indiscretions of the parents," he said.

Sen. Carol Mosely Braun (D-Ill.), the only African American to serve in the Senate, is in favor of able-bodied persons engaging in work if jobs and training are available. "In the final analysis, you have got to be able to ask the question of what happens to the children? Are we providing a floor beneath which no child can fall in these United States, in terms of poverty?" Mosely Braun is one of only 24 senators who voted against the bill because of its punitive effect on children. "This bill gets rid of the floor on poverty that we had in this country, even though we are embarrassingly 23 in the industrialized world, in terms of child poverty. We are now about to make that even worse," the Black senator said.

Payne and Mosely Braun are part of a small group who are urging the President to veto the bill. However, don't count on it. The President appears to be running a campaign which takes him in whatever direction the winds of opinion polls are blowing or in the direction that the Republicans are pushing. As an increasing number of individuals and families face real uncertainties, the Congress and maybe the President, are saying, "Let them eat biscuits, if you can afford the flour."

Fuentes recently reported for duty

Marine Staff Sgt. Victor R. Fuentes, whose wife, Stephanie, is the daughter of Inell Bowden of 2816 Best St., Greenville, recently reported for duty with 1st Marine

Aviation Logistics Squadron 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Okinawa, Japan.

Fuentes' new assignment is an example of how Navy and Marine

Corps men and women are assigned to ships, squadrons and shore commands around the world. Whether serving in the Persian Gulf near Iraq or in the

Adriatic Sea near Bosnia, people like Fuentes are making a difference as they work to improve their knowledge and skill as part of the most highly technical naval force

in history. The 1978 graduate of Boys High School of Brooklyn, N.Y., joined the Marine Corps in July 1978.

Officer Carr is halfway through deployment

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gene R. Carr, whose wife, Carlene, is the daughter of Dorothy Payton of 703 Bradley St., Greenville, is currently halfway through a six-month overseas deployment to the Persian Gulf aboard the guided missile de-

stroyer USS John S. McCain.

Carr is one of 323 Sailors aboard the ship who have traveled more than 16,000 miles since departing Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Carr has been operating in the Persian Gulf helping conduct maritime interceptions of merchant ships suspected of violating the international embargo against Iraq.

On one routine boarding, Carr's ship discovered an Indian flagged vessel transporting more than 200 tons of dates from Iraq. Exporting dates from Iraq is prohibited under the agreement.

Carr's ship is one of the newest ships in the Navy, and with its sophisticated radar and combat system, it is coordinating air defense assets while in the Persian Gulf.

During the deployment, crew members aboard Carr's ship have been attending college courses at sea, while others have participated in exchange programs with foreign ships in the area.

Spending most of the deployment at sea, Carr and fellow Sailors also have visited Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. Carr was at sea, in the Persian Gulf, during New Year's, where the crew continued to work through the holiday, but did have a chance to enjoy a special meal.

Carr's involvement in the deployment is an example of how U.S. men and women are serving in the Navy and Marine Corps around the world in support of U.S. interests. Whether projecting power ashore, delivering humanitarian assistance, cargo or troops from the sea, these highly trained naval forces provide a unique forward presence and crisis-response option, which can be withdrawn quickly when no longer needed.

The 1978 graduate of Rose High School joined the Navy in March 1979.

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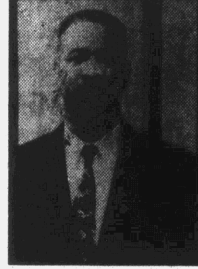
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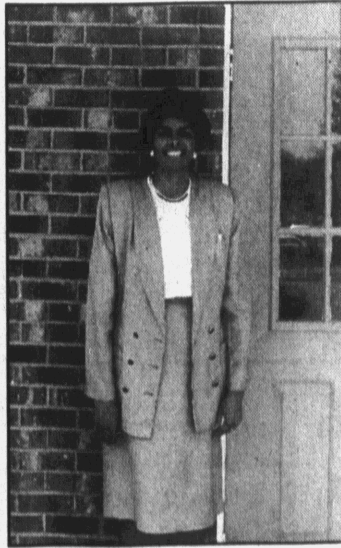
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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER



MEMBERS OF THE "JOY" 1340 AM AND 1320 AM STAFF ... were joined by several area pastors recently at a luncheon/seminar with representatives of McDonald's and Centura Bank. They paused for our camera afterwards. Looks like everyone had a "simply yummy" time.

Staff photo by Jim Rouse

What is Viral Hepatitis?

Hepatitis simply means inflammation of the liver. The liver is one of the largest organs in the body and sits in the right upper portion of the abdomen. There are many reasons for inflammation of the liver including some commonly used medications (such as overdose of Tylenol), toxins (such as alcohol) and infections. Of the infections, viral hepatitis is the most common and the one that may have long term sequelae. I will briefly touch upon viral hepatitis in this article. Viruses that infect the liver were named alphabetically, roughly in the order of their discovery and have gone from hepatitis A and hepatitis G. Hepatitis A, B and C infections are the most common worldwide.

Hepatitis A is spread via oral-fecal contact and approximately 20-50% of American population is exposed and, therefore, immune to future infections by this virus. Ingestion of raw oysters and clams from polluted waters is known to have caused epidemics. Steaming the clams and oysters may not kill this virus. The symptoms are usu-

ally flu-like. This is an acute infection, and has no long-term sequelae. If you plan to travel abroad, especially in the developing world, you should be tested for prior exposure and if not exposed then a protective vaccine has recently become available in this country.

If you have history of jaundice

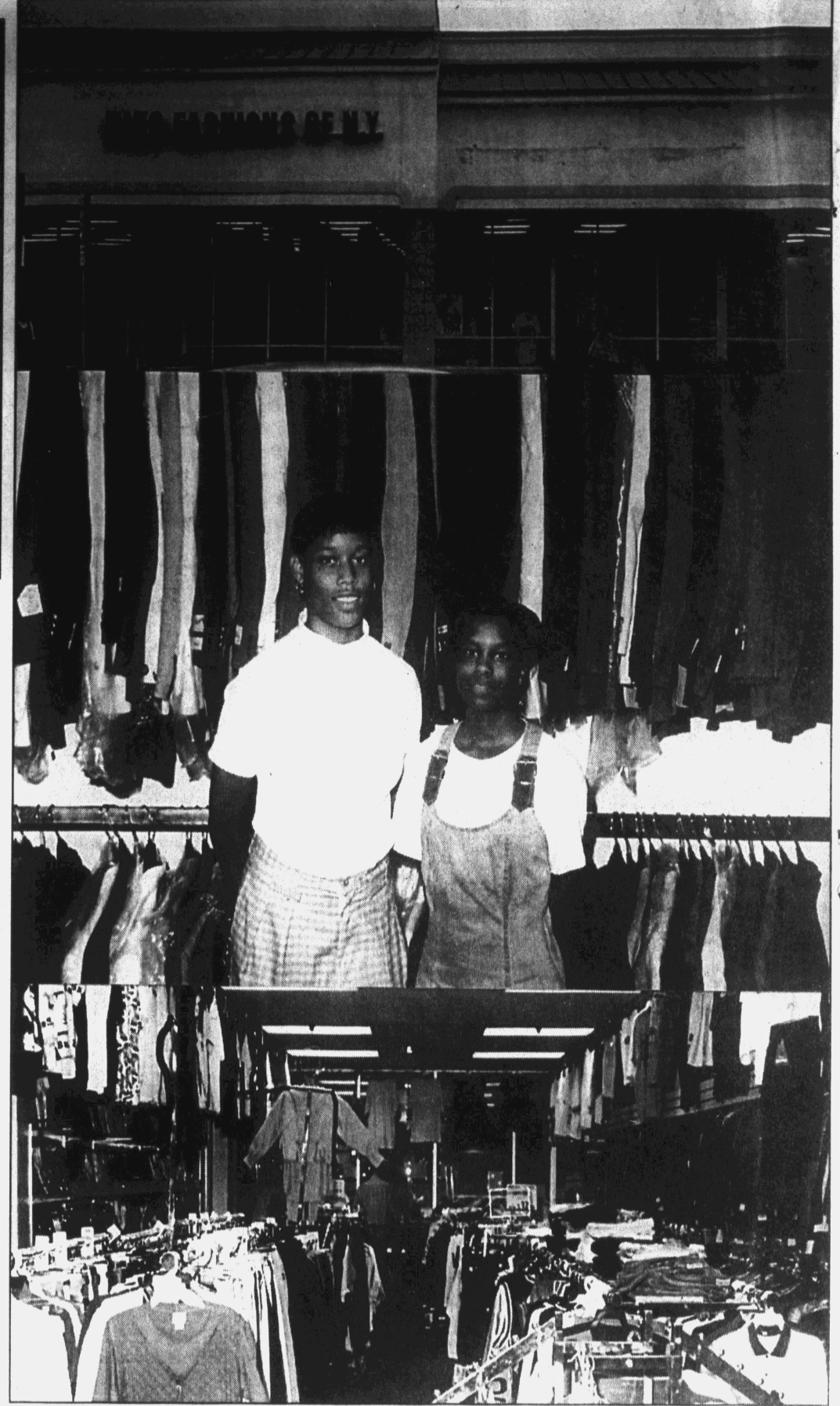
HMOs add to nation's crisis in health, medical care

By Ayisha Harvey

The protection of the poor and elderly in health care is apparently a big topic nowadays, especially considering the March 27 issuing of a set of rules established by the Clinton administration to regulate certain practices of health maintenance organizations. HMOs were not pleased with the rules which would have restricted

common practices such as awarding financial incentives to physicians serving Medicare and Medicaid patients under managed health care plans.

Considering the managed care industry's objections, the rules were slated to take effect the first day of the next year. The administration said that the original date for enactment was "unrealistic" due to unresolved issues. Consumer advocates and interest groups were upset by the postponement of the regulations, their argument being that the best interests of poor and elderly patients should immediately be dealt with. This opinion was geared toward some practices of HMOs which, they argue, somehow place patient and doctor on two different planes. Managing a Medicaid or Medicare patient's care is usually done so with a flat payment by an HMO. If the patient requires additional care, which includes referrals to specialists, the physicians have to pay for it or provide the services themselves. Financial losses and the need for health care are two topics that come into conflict in situations such as these.



EXPANSION IN WILLIAMSTON ... Hiks Fashions Clothing Store that has served the African American Communities for the last 12 years, has expanded its Williamston store, located next to Wal Mart in the Wal Mart shopping center. Crop by for back to school specials.

Photo by Jim Rouse

The rules would make sure in these cases the doctor would be protected by limiting the amount of money he or she could lose. Physicians for a National Health Program, an advocate group for the proposed rules, and groups like them want to make sure that physicians don't have to make a decision between money issues and sufficient health care for their patients.

Other practices, such as cash bonuses, are also under revisions by the rules. The bonuses are usually given to doctors who control spending. By limiting losses this

should set off the amount of money lost in previous practice. Using bonuses is important in today's competitive industry, HMOs argue.

One has to ask oneself in this situation which is more important: saving competitive in an industry or making sure adequate care is given to poor and elderly patients?



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Read The 'M' Voice Newspaper



EDITOR'S NOTE: (CORRECTION) ... We erroneously identified this lovely lady as Mrs. Rosa Harris in our last edition of the 'M' Voice. While both Sister Rosa Harris and Sister Ella Harris are near and dear to all of us, Sister Ella Harris was on hand for this particular event. "100 Stylists on Parade" at the Sycamore Hill Baptist Church. Our apologies to Sister Ella Harris.



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Pitt Partners for Health now surveying residents

Pitt Partners for Health, the group which will evaluate the health needs in Pitt County, has begun surveying county residents door-to-door.

The surveys, which will help researchers learn what health care issues are important to local residents, should be complete by the end of October.

Reporters who would like to accompany surveyors should contact the Office of Medical Center News and Information at 816-2481.

Pitt Partners for Health has ranked the health care needs in Pitt County. They are: No. 1, improving the health care delivery system; No. 2, curbing abuse of alcohol, drugs and tobacco; No. 3, improving nutrition; No. 4, improving mental health treatment, No. 5, improving maternal, infant and child health.

Surveyors will be employees of Pitt County Memorial Hospital and will use a survey developed by a team from the East Carolina University School of Medi-

cine. Pitt Partners for Health is the Greenville branch of the regional REACH Project, a health improvement effort funded by a

\$125,000 grant from the Duke Endowment. Representatives of PCMH, the ECU School of Medicine, Pitt County Social Services, the

health department, local churches and businesses have participated in guiding the program.

Quality seeds key to farm productivity, meeting world food demand

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — Top quality seeds are key to farm productivity and meeting world food demand, North Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham said here Monday.

"Good seeds have helped American farmers be the most productive and high-tech in the world," he told attendees of the N.C. Seedsmen's Association annual meeting. Our growers have quality seeds to raise crops and to provide feed for their livestock and poultry," Graham said. "Variety is also stressed because farmers need a wide genetic seed base to cover needs such as in-

sect resistance and disease. A good seed base has helped North Carolina become the country's third most agriculturally diverse state."

Tapping international markets is crucial to farming's continued success, the commissioner said. "Foreign markets are the future, and the future is now. Competition is fierce on these world markets, and farmers need an edge."

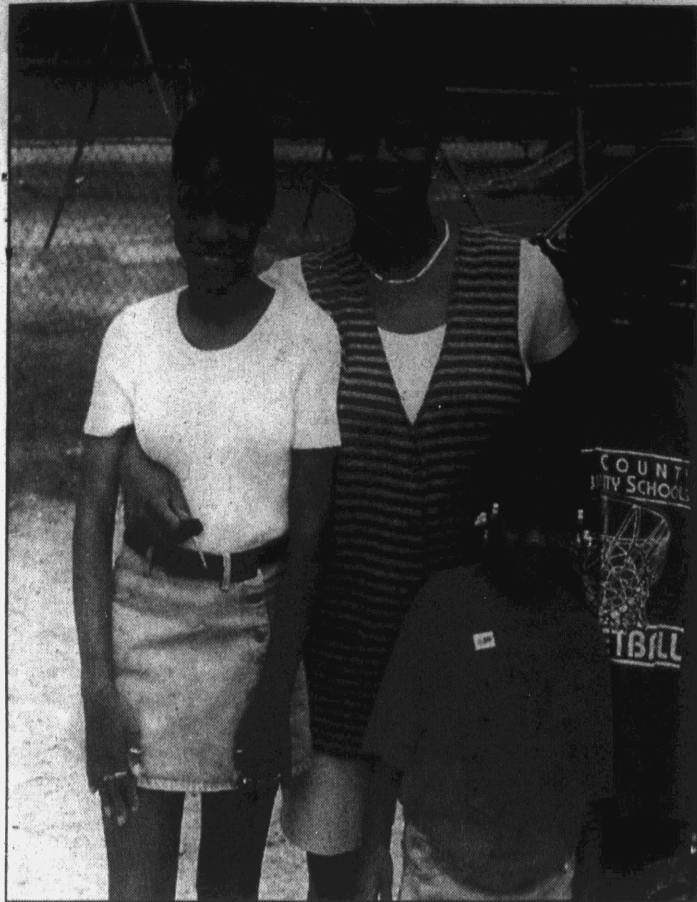
"Research and technology are leading the way. Our farmers need the most up-to-date knowledge, equipment and resources."

Biotechnology holds much promise, Graham added. "Crops

are being made resistant to pests, weeds and certain chemicals. The 21st century will see many changes and advances on this front."

The N.C. Department of Agriculture tests seeds for germination and purity. Last year, NCDA's Plant Industry Division received more than 17,500 seed samples. Samples were submitted for soybeans, peanuts, tobacco, vegetables, small grains, and lawn and turf.

Seed testing is a free service provided to resident farmers, seed producers, and retail and wholesale dealers.



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Staff photo by Jim Rouse

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty Politics

By: Dr. Lenora Fulani

Last week President Bill Clinton agreed to sign into law a new welfare bill. The bill is devastating. It shreds the safety net guaranteed by the federal government for 30 years. It passes along unexpected and astronomical costs to states like New York where the state constitution requires an ongoing commitment of government resources to help the poor. It insists that welfare recipients must find jobs within two years, in an economy where good-paying jobs are difficult to find and low-wage jobs are impossible to support a family on.

The new program is heartless, insidious and shameful. It reveals what is fundamentally corrupt about our government.

Do all Americans agree that the welfare system had to be overhauled? Absolutely. Do all Americans agree that the country's anti-poverty programs are too expensive on the one side and ineffective on the other? Taxpayers and welfare recipients agree — the answer is yes! Studies have shown that upwards of seventy-five cents on every dollar spent on welfare has gone to administration and bureaucracy and not to the needy. Does the bill passed by Congress and signed by the President engage any of these issues? No. Was there a thoroughgoing and serious study of how to address the welfare system's profound problems including attending to the concerns of the poor? Not at all.

Instead, there was a calculated and politicized review of how to restructure the system such that members of Congress — the majority of whom are Republicans — could return to their home districts and report that they ended the federal guarantee of cash assistance for the poor; that they limited lifetime welfare benefits to five years; that a woman must

cooperate in identifying the father of her children or lose 25% of her benefits; that future legal immigrants who have not become citizens will be ineligible; that applicants with a record of drug offenses can be denied assistance. In other words, the bill provides Republicans and conservative Democrats with a series of soundbites that can be paraded in front of voters deeply concerned about the deficit and the bloated size of the federal government in order to win reelection.

Much has been made of the disagreements and fights within the White House about whether or not President Clinton should sign the bill into law. Vice President Al Gore was reportedly pressuring Clinton to sign the bill while Chief of Staff Leon Panetta urged a veto. Gore represents the Democratic Leadership Council approach which favors cutbacks for fiscal gain and distancing from the poor for political gain. Panetta has closer ties to the old New Deal coalition wing of the party which is trying desperately to accommodate the needs of its constituencies with the new austerity of the DLC. Obviously, the DLC wing of the party prevailed.

Where does that leave the party's "liberal" wing? Where does it leave African Americans, Latinos, labor, and the poor? In an inescapable bind. President Clinton, a shrewd and manipulative policymaker/politician now turns to his liberal, Black, labor, and poor constituents and says: *You put me in this position. You better get out there and vote in big numbers for me and the Democratic Party Congressional candidates. It's up to you to give the Democratic Party control of Congress. I saved Medicaid and food stamps. But only by the skin of my teeth. If you had taken care of business in 1994, we wouldn't be in this position and I wouldn't have to sign this bill.*


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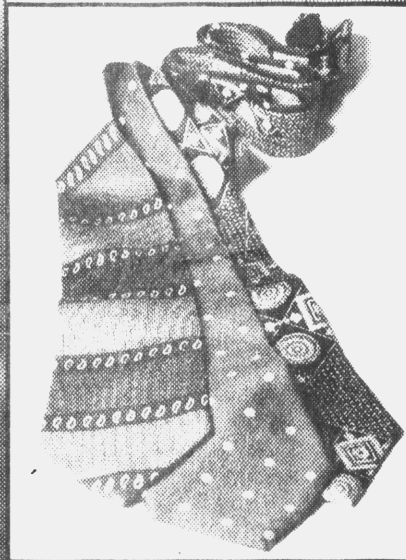
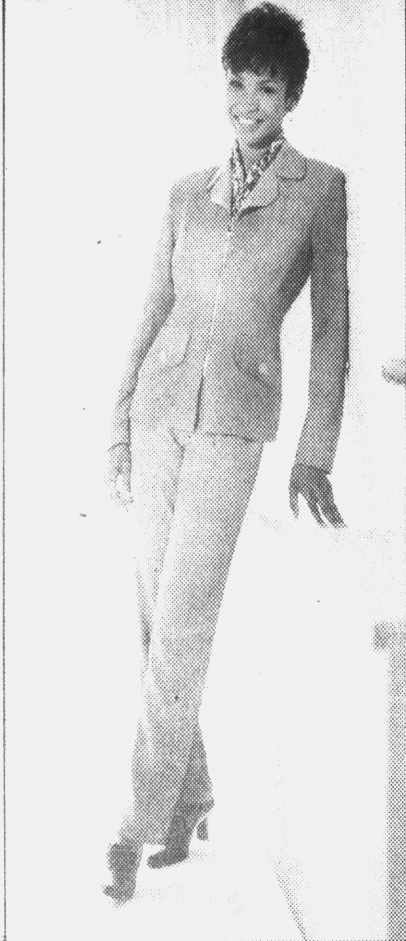
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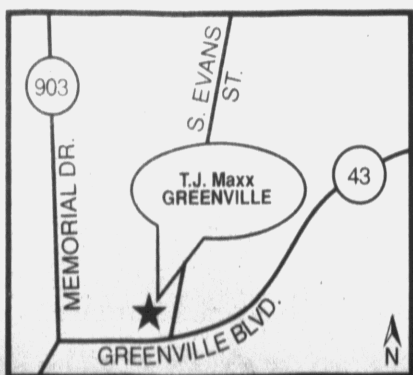
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