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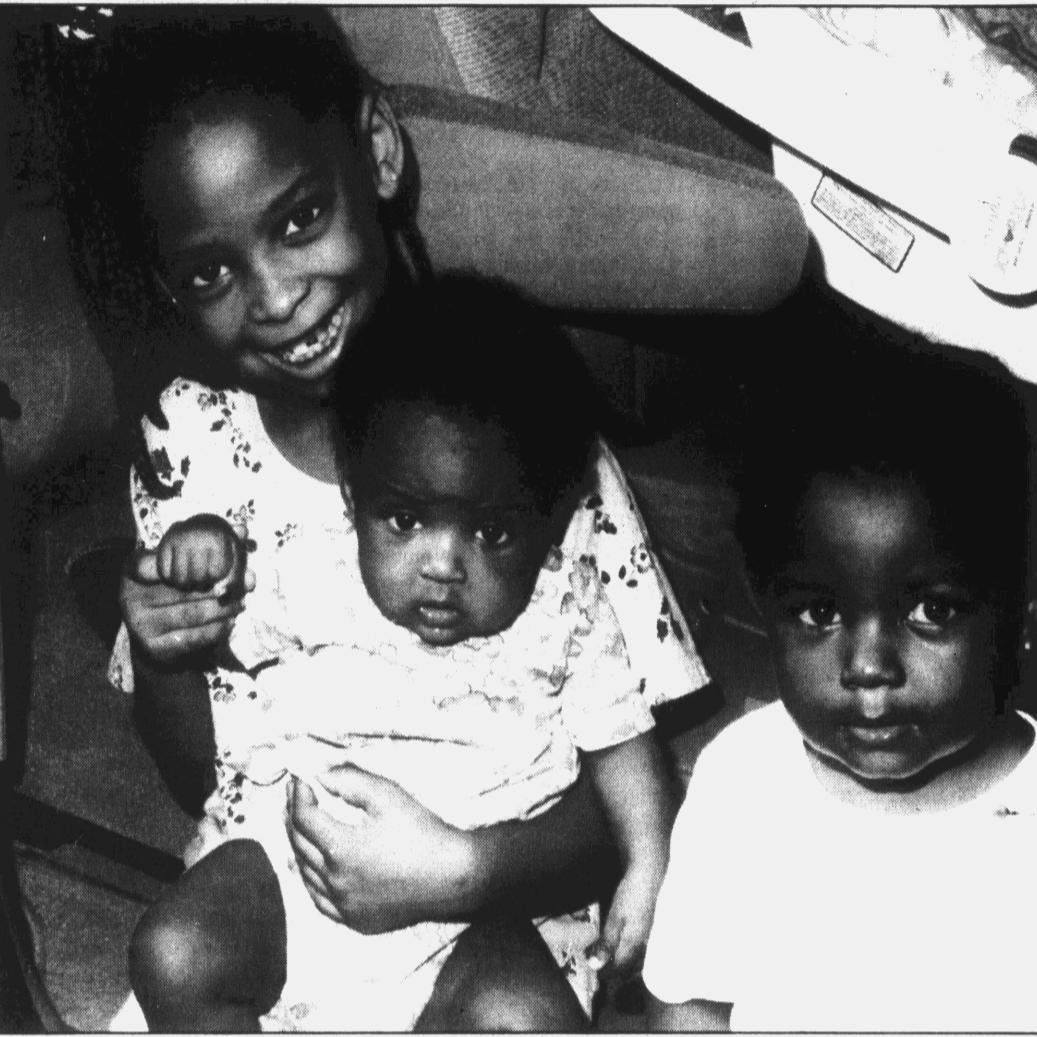
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THE 'M' VOICE

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S MINORITY VOICE - SINCE 1981

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14-27, 1996



CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE... The joy of being young is shown, these beautiful faces are publisher Jim Rouse's granddaughterNkechi (6 year-old), Imani (2 year-old) and Ma'isah (5 months old), hopefully one day they will take over JOY 1340!!!

Voting rights on trial in post-reconstruction S. Carolina

In April 1877, William J. Whipper, an African-American member of the South Carolina General Assembly, left office in the waning days of Reconstruction to assume a local judgeship but was prevented from ever taking his seat on a bench. He was among the last African-Americans to serve in the General Assembly for the next 100 years. Today, more than 100 years later, Seth Whipper, his great-great nephew, is fighting to retain his seat in the General Assembly and to vindicate the rights of the voters who put him there.

That fight has now moved to the courts in a trial that recently concluded before a three-judge federal panel in Columbia, S.C. The case received scant attention in the national press, but it is being closely watched by voting rights advocates and civil rights activists

throughout the country. A decision is expected before election day.

The trial consists of two combined cases - Smith v. Beasley (challenging state Senate districts) was brought by a white former Democratic senator and a group of citizens; and Able v. Wilkins (challenging state House districts) was brought by private citizens.

The outcome of these cases, the first such legislative challenge to go to trial, will determine not only the fate of many majority-Black voting districts in South Carolina, but will indicate how vulnerable such districts are to attack by white voters and office-holders in light of the Supreme Court's recent restrictions beginning with Shaw v. Reno in 1993.

South Carolina has had a long and painful history of denying equal voting rights to its African-

American citizens. Indeed, for the first 80 years of this century, not a single African-American served in the South Carolina Senate, although Blacks have comprised as much as 40 percent of the state's voting age population (a number that has declined to 27 percent in recent years). Other examples of the state's history of racial inequality

(Continued on page 5)



WELS RADIO STATION OWNERS... The joy of gospel music is now in Kinston. Shown above are the new owners, Mr. and Mrs. Bishop L.E. Willis of Norfolk, Va. Bishop and his wife are all smiles as they pose for our camera. Bishop Willis and his wife are the only Black folks who own 28 radio stations in America. Keep up the good work and spreading the gospel!!!

Married Brooklyn pastor has son by married member of his church

An anguished matron sues for child support for one-year-old

By: J. Zamgba Browne
A married, devout Christian woman strongly believes Jesus was born by immaculate conception, but her year-old son, Darrion Marcus Denson, is no Holy Ghost miracle, but the child of a popular married preacher from Brooklyn.

The 64-year-old Pentacostal bishop's shoulder was a comfort for Rena Denson, a member of his huge flock at the Bible Way Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ to lean on. But later, it turned into a very cold should when she dragged him

into court, seeking child support.

Danson, an attractive young matron who is married to a preacher, when briefly separated from him, sought spiritual counseling from the Rt. Rev. Bishop Huie L. Rogers, but it seemed the pastor had other things on his mind.

"I now fully realize," says the 35-year-old tearful Denson, "how he intended on making our relationship more than just a spiritual one." She emphasized in court papers that she didn't initiate the secret rendezvous with the bishop that left her pregnant.

In a highly emotional letter to the Executive Board of Bishops, Denson charged that Rogers took advantage of her while she was in a vulnerable state from the trauma

she was experiencing over the separation from her husband, the Rev. Porter Denson.

"I have always looked to the church in good as well as bad times," Denson told the Board of Bishops. "I turned to the Lord and my pastor when I felt it was necessary to save my marriage, rebuild my family, and above all strengthen and enrich my spiritual life," she added.

Denson said she was reluctant to come forth with the allegation of "sexual misconduct" against Rogers, an incident which she claimed took place at the Radisson Hotel, Kingston Plantation, S.C.

"From May 31 through June 4, 1994," Denson further explained in her lawsuit filed with Nassau

(Continued on page 4)

A pawn in the CIA drug game

Ricky Donnell Ross, 36, was a trailblazer in the crack cocaine trade in Los Angeles and other parts of the U.S.

A celebrated drug dealer, Ricky reaped millions as an unknowing pawn of Central Intelligence Agency and U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency operatives, who supplied him with unlimited amounts of cocaine. His suppliers used the profits to pay for the CIA-spawned Contra war versus Nicaragua's leftist government in the 1980s. Ricky's connections were first revealed in a series of articles published by the San Jose Mercury News and in court testimony.

He granted The Final Call an exclusive interview at the Metropolitan Correctional Center, where he is awaiting sentencing on cocaine trafficking charges.

The Contra connection

In his interview, Ricky described how he was seduced into the lucrative cocaine brokering market in 1981. It would be more than a

decade before Ricky would learn that his key supplier, Oscar Danilo Blandon Reyes, a man whom he called a friend, had a master's degree in marketing and was a DEA informant, with connections to the CIA.

Known simply as "Freeway Rick," Ricky started out as a poor, illiterate, high school dropout from South Central Los Angeles and a talented tennis player.

At 19, Ricky said, an older teacher, who taught at a job center, turned him on to cocaine. Ricky said he looked up to the man and started selling cocaine for him.

The money was good. Ricky went solo. His teacher's Nicaraguan supplier and Oscar Danilo Blandon Reyes, supplied him.

Ricky's operation grew, soon he was one of the biggest cocaine dealers in South Central and Danilo Blandon became his sole supplier. Their business relationship grew personal, said Ricky, adding that he would spend time at Danilo's

home, far from the crowded ghettos of L.A.

Danilo schooled his protege in the art of staying "low key" and taught him how to market mass quantities of cocaine at bargain-basement prices, said Ricky.

"At first we were just getting eight ounces or so worth \$16,000," he explained. "As time went on Danilo started supplying kilos (worth tens of millions of dollars). I don't know how it was possible. I didn't question him. I just took it as a blessing."

By 1984, "Freeway Rick" was a kingpin, with over a dozen crack houses in South Central, churning out \$20,000 to \$40,000 a day in profits. His network of drug dealers peddled a staggering 500,000 crack nuggets daily.

Ricky used cashiers' checks to buy close to \$6 million in property—motels, tire shops, junk yards, apartment buildings, houses.

(Continued on page 5)

Judge absolves Philly officials of MOVE tragedy

by Michael Z. Muhammad

PHILADELPHIA—"When a poor person does something they go to jail. But these criminals are given immunity. I am mad as hell," said an angry Ramona Africa, following United States District Court Judge Louis H. Pollack's Aug. 27 ruling overturning a jury decision in a civil trial held last June.

The ruling exonerated former police and fire Commissioners Gregory Sambor and William Richmond from any liability for their role in the May 13, 1985 fire that killed 11 members of the MOVE family. Found guilty of willful misconduct by the jury in the civil trial, they were each ordered to pay the plaintiffs \$1 a week for the next 11 years. Many felt the pair had gotten off easy with that verdict.

Both Mr. Sambor and Mr. Richmond played key roles in allowing the MOVE home to burn following a confrontation with the police. The fire started after a bomb was dropped on the home by the police.

In his opinion, Judge Pollack seemed to classify the actions of Mr. Sambor and Mr. Richmond as dumb and dumber, but stopped short of finding willful misconduct, in ordering the reversal. Judge Pollack wrote, "... the evidence adduced at trial does not establish by a preponderance of the evidence that any one or more of the actions of either of the defendants constituted willful misconduct."



Ramona Africa

that way during deliberations. I still feel very strongly."

Another juror, Connie Irvin, sided with this point of view in adding, "I'm not pleased. I felt their conduct was intentional." Regarding the judge's decision Ms. Irvin asked, "What was the purpose of me being there if he was going to rule?"

Equally upset with the decision was Louise James Africa, who lost her son, Frank Africa, and her brother, MOVE founder John Africa, in the fire. "They can always find a loophole. But they did in fact conspire to kill my brother, my son and those children and that was a willful act. It was all a big conspiracy. Justice was in on it too. You can't get justice," she said.

Mr. Sambor had no comment on the ruling. Mr. Richmond said, "No one went out there with evil intent. It was a matter of judgment. We had to make judgment calls and we were not always right."

The judge did allow the jury's \$1.5 million verdicts against the City of Philadelphia to stand.

"This shows the public that if you use the courts, go through the system, you still can't get justice," said Ramona Africa, the only adult to survive the blaze and leading plaintiff in the case. She had argued all along that forcing city officials to admit wrongdoing, not monetary compensation, was the reason for her civil suit.

Displaying the fiery spirit she is known for, Ms. Africa told the press: "It ain't over."

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From Page 1

County Family Court, "I had sexual intercourse with Bishop Rogers in Myrtle Beach, S.C." She also charged that Rogers is the father of her son, born March 28, 1995.

Denson said she has suffered a lot because of Rogers. "He was my pastor and someone whom I respected and looked to for spiritual guidance and leadership," she declared. "This entire ordeal has been devastating to me, to the point where my faith has been shattered," Denson continued.

A registered dental hygienist, Denson further noted that she never wanted to tell her story. "But my attempt to protect him, his ministry, his family and my guilt, directly resulted in ruining my marriage," she stressed.

Meanwhile, Rogers hasn't admitted to the court if he ever bed-

Pastor

ded Denson. But sources close to the case and church said that he has been spending tons of money to avoid taking a blood test requested by Denson.

However, Denson reported that throughout her nine month pregnancy, Rogers provided financial support. But she explained that the \$1,000 monthly allowance wasn't sent directly to her in Columbia, S.C.

"He would send it to his colleague, Bishop A.C. Jackson, who passed it on to my husband," according to Denson. "The money was then hand-delivered to me," she said, adding that the flamboyant minister made total payments of \$10,000.

When Denson first approached Rogers about the marital problem she was having with her husband, she said he tried to convince her that as far as he was concerned, she was not married in the eyes of the church because her husband had been married before.

It was not long after this meeting in March 1994, according to Denson, that she left Brooklyn to join the U.S. Army, but was discharged two months later. She said while she was in the military, Rogers used to phone her practically every day.

"He even provided me with a calling card so I could stay in touch with him as well as make other telephone calls," she explained. Denson also said the bishop visited her a number of times.

After her son was born, Denson said the bishop started to lose interest not only in her but the child as well. He refused to give child support and she sued him in a Florida court. The case was turned over to Nassau Family Court because Rogers lives in the area.

"All I am asking is for the bishop to support his child," said Denson. She and her minister husband are on the verge of reconciling their differences, and he too is on Rogers' case to pay up. But Denson said the bishop has accused them of trying to extort money from him.

"My husband and I have victims and are now being further victimized by Bishop Rogers," Denson declared. "I have enough proof to substantiate my story and will present it at the appropriate time," she added.

Rogers vehemently denied the allegation and in a telephone plea for comparison begged the Amsterdam News not to print the story because "it will hurt me very badly." He also said that it would also hurt his family and his congregation.

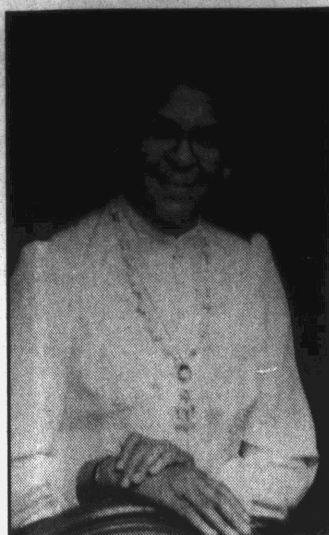
"Please, please, brother don't run that story. Let me talk to the editor, let me talk to the publisher. Maybe I can persuade them not to carry the story," Rogers declared. He later phoned the Revs. Herbert Daughtry and Al Sharpton to help him talk the paper out of carrying the article.

After trying without success, both preachers decided to issue separate statements about Rogers' character. Daughtry said he had known the bishop for many years and has the highest regard for him.

"He has had many years of productive ministry," said Daughtry of Rogers. "He has served the community for over 43 years and in all that time, I never heard any rumor or allegation against him," Daughtry declared.

Daughtry, who is also a Pentacostal minister, said he had only heard and seen the highest example of character and ministry in Rogers. "I will hope that people would withhold judgement until all the facts are in," said Daughtry before he was told some court-related details about the case. Sharpton also jumped to the

From the desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



BEATRICE MAYE

GOOD IDEAS AND/OR TIPS

1. Talk slowly, it could save your life. The simplest way to calm down when your blood pressure is going through the roof: Speak slowly.
2. The Gallop Poll revealed that men and women are equally intelligent.

3. There are 24 hours in a day. How many belong to you?
4. Eye contact is as effective as a solid handshake.
5. Stand tall. Good posture shows others that you respect yourself and that can make them respect you.
6. Buy premium gasoline. Your car will run better.
7. Use a pretty flowerpot to hold your dishwashing supplies. The saucer will keep your sink area puddle free.
8. Use a clean, empty shoebox to store envelopes of dry mixes in your cupboard.
9. Store the makeup you use daily in one small basket.
10. An old-fashioned candy box adds a feminine romantic touch to your dresser top, and it's just right for sorting and storing earrings.
11. Store an extra blanket in a zippered pillow case on the couch.
12. Buying furniture? Choose end tables with drawers.
13. Mount a wall rack to hold brooms, mops, and rakes in place.
14. Instead of stacking extra blankets in the closet, fold them and tuck them into a pillow sham on your bed.
15. Make sure wedding gowns, christening gowns, have been cleaned before you store them. A reputable dry cleaner will clean and box them.
16. Unplug all appliances when they are not in use.
17. Stop loose clothes from slipping off wire hangers by winding a couple of thick rubber bands around the end of the hanger.
18. Slip your old keys into the hems of draperies. The little extra weight makes them hang nicely.
19. Blow the dust off silk flowers with a hand held hair dryer set on low.
20. No ruler when you need one. Look in your wallet. A dollar bill 6/8 inches long, folded in half, it's 3/16 inches.

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THE 'M' VOICE

Tip Sheet for Parents & Teachers

Working Hand in Hand to Educate Children

Parents Should:

- Get your children ready to learn. Let them know that school is interesting and important, and that parents are valued partners.
- Talk with your child's teachers. Establish a personal relationship. They need your help and have as much to learn from you as you do from them! A quick phone call or a meeting at school or at your home can tune both of you in to ways to help your child do well in school.
- Attend events at your child's school. Back-to-school nights and teacher conferences, sports events and school plays — all give you a chance to get to know your child's teacher. Plus, your child will swell with pride when you make school visits.
- Be prepared. Find out about your child's teachers, classes and the school rules. Know what type of homework is assigned, how often and how long it should take to complete.
- Talk often with your child about what is happening at school. Ask specific questions about school work, teachers and activities.
- Create a good learning environment at home.
- Support learning through everyday activities with your child. Read with your child. Check homework. Limit television and video games.
- Observe and listen. Compare your child's progress with others by looking at work displayed in school. Peek in the classroom — see if the children are happy and alert. Read school bulletin boards and talk with your children's friends to get a bigger picture of what is going on at school.
- Ask teachers for advice. They know about child development and they spend a lot of time with your child.
- Provide teachers with information. Changing family circumstances like divorce, illness or the death of a pet can upset a child's learning.
- Ask your employer to support education. Family-friendly policies such as flextime, extended lunch hours, and compressed work weeks give employees a few hours during the school day to get involved in school activities. The

hours away from work can be made up by staying at work late or coming in early.

- Volunteer. Ask community members to volunteer too. The involvement of adults improves schools. Every school activity should be done enthusiastically.
- Get involved in parent-teacher organizations and school reform. Learn how your school board works. Help teachers and administrators set rules. Ask a teacher, principal or another parent for advice on how you can participate.

Parents and Teachers Should:

- Set high expectations and praise children often.
- Establish good learning habits. Help children plan long range projects and develop an interest in hobbies.
- Engage in casual conversations and friendly hellos — in person or on the phone — throughout the year. If a difficult situation arises, it will be easier to discuss if a personal relationship has been established.
- Talk in person, over the phone or send notes when there's good news as well as problems.
- Use fax machines and E-mail, if they are available at both the school and the home or office, to increase the convenience of communication.
- If you cannot meet each other at school, see if you can meet at a mutually convenient location.
- Make a list of your questions and concerns and voice them in a constructive way. Do not take offense to each other's questions and ideas.
- Remember — parents and teachers are the biggest influence on young lives. Be sure to make the most of every learning opportunity by working as partners.

Source: Institute for Educational Leadership and the Mattel Foundation. For more information, write to: Hand in Hand, 1010 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20007.

defence blindly. "I have known Bishop Rogers most of my life, and always found him to be a man of integrity and high standard," according to Sharpton, who also said he and Denson's husband were

school mates. "It is a painful situation for me and I will hope to talk to both sides to see if we can resolve this matter

in the best interest of the young child, and protect the needy ability of the church to go forward," Sharpton declared.

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Why do Commissioners hold closed sessions?

It has come to my attention that the County Commissioners are presently holding Closed Session meetings with out of state attorney firms regarding the possible selling of Pitt County Memorial Hospital to a group of buyers from the Charlotte area.

have also had discussions with an attorney firm from out of state regarding the hospitals 501 (c) (3) corporation status. Why do the County Commissioner continue to go into Closed Sessions to discuss the hospital and its future. Why are the Citizens of Pitt

County not given the opportunity to hear all the details and give their input. The people of Pitt County and East Carolina Med. School have worked too hard and put too much money in the hospital to just bargain it away at any price!

A News Conference was held at Memorial Hospital September 17th at 9:30 a.m. to give further information on this important issue.

NAFO presents Frizzell with certificate



SHEILA FRIZZELL

National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education presents a certificate to Sheila Frizzell, principal of Ahoskie Graded School, Ahoskie, born in Baltimore Md to Monty and Pearl Frizzell. The NAFO's certificate indicates Sheila as one of the 1996 Distinguished Alumni of the Year. She was nominated by Saint Augustine's College where she received a B.A. Degree in Early Childhood Education in 1981. She also attended North Carolina A&T State University where she received her M.S. in Education in 1982 and her M.S. in Supervision in 1986.

Among the awards she has received are: "Who's Who Among College and Universities", and "Honor Graduate, 1981". She is a member of the NAACP,

ASCD, IRA, Alpha Kappa Mu and Phi Delta Kappa.

HIV/AIDS workshop

Home Health and Hospice Care, Inc. is sponsoring an HIV/AIDS workshop on Monday, September 23 at 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Hampton Inn, 1403 Richlands Road, Kinston.

Registration is free. Lunch is provided at a low cost. A certificate of attendance will be presented at the completion of the workshop and a copy will be forwarded to your employer for your personnel file.

The public is invited. For more information, contact Kimber Roche' at 1-800-274-8212 or Sharon Sauls at 1-800-260-4442.



"UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH... and the very gates of Hell shall not prevail against it". Well, community christian church has been standing for the past 14 years and it's still growing, and still on the move for God. Shown here are members of the Corbett family who were on hand to celebrate and participate in the anniversary festivities. L-R...Jacques Corbett (son) and his wife Telisa Corbett; Pastor Shirley Nicholson (sister), Virmeche Corbett (daughter), Allen Cassidy and his wife, Joyce Cassidy (sister and brother-in-law), and Pastors James and Delores Corbett.

Staff photo/Jim Rouse

Depression Screening

If you feel sad or empty, if the pleasure has gone out of your life, or if you have trouble sleeping or eating, you may be suffering from clinical depression. Depression is more than a case of the blues. The symptoms last for months, and nothing can cheer you up. Depression is an illness, and effective treatments are available. If you think that you might be suffering from depression, the Mental Health Association in Pitt County will offer free depression screenings during National Depression Screening Week, October 7 - 11, at the following sites:

- 2:00 pm
Community Building, E. 2nd Street
October 10- Greenville, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Senior Center, 1717 West Fifth Street
- October 11- Grifton, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Civic Center, Creek Shore Drive
The free screening program will

include an educational presentation, an anonymous written depression screening test, and the opportunity to review the results of your screening test with a mental health professional.

For more information about the free depression screening in Pitt County, call 752-7448 or drop in at one of the sites on National Depression Screening Week, October 7-11, 1996.

October 7 - Farmville, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Community Center, 417 S. Main

October 8 - Winterville, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Community Building, 201 N. Railroad Street

October 9 - Ayden, 10:00 am -

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From Page 1

Voting Rights

ity include: South Carolina was the first state to secede from the Union during the Civil War; South Carolina was the first state to challenge the constitutionality of the 1965 Voting Rights Act; South Carolina's congressional delegation opposed every civil rights bill proposed every civil rights bill proposed in Congress between 1957 to 1965; South Carolina refused to implement the 1993 "Motor Voter Act" which encourages voter registration among the poor; after Whipper left the state senate at the end of Reconstruction, not a single African-American was elected to state-wide office until the 1970s; and the South Carolina Senate was the last statewide elective body in the South to include an African-American member.

The voting rights case has had a similar history of drawn out battles. The case first began in 1991, when the state's General Assembly failed to enact state and congressional redistricting plans to address the malapportionment demonstrated by the 1990 national census.

In response to the assembly's

obstruction, Black voters filed a federal lawsuit charging the existing districts violated the Constitution's "one-person, one-vote" principle as well as Section two of the Voting Rights Act, which prohibits dilution of voting power along racial lines. A three-judge panel was convened. At that time, Blacks constituted 27 percent of all registered voters, but only 13 percent of the members of the state House and 11 percent of the members of the state Senate.

In Jan. 1993, while the lawsuit was pending, the General Assembly revised course and passed redistricting plans for the state House and Senate. The plans, however, were vetoed by then-Gov. Carrol Campbell, who argued the legislature had, in fact, reduced the number of majority-Black districts and fragmented minority populations to the benefit of white incumbents.

Several months later, in May 1992, the three-judge federal panel issued its own interim state and congressional redistricting plan in response to the 1991 lawsuit. The plan, the judges ordered, was to

take effect for the Nov. 1992 elections, as well as for all subsequent elections until the legislature enacted plans that met with the U.S. Department of Justice's approval under Section five of the Voting Rights Act.

The judge's plans, however, were appealed, and in June 1993, were vacated by the U.S. Supreme Court. The high court ruled that the lower court had failed to analyze its plans under the vote-dilution standards of Section two, and remanded the case to the three-judge panel. The judges, frustrated that their interim plans had been vacated, gave the General Assembly a second chance to draft a plan which could pass constitutional muster.

But the House leadership continued to resist drafting true redistricting reforms. Then House Speaker Robert Sheheen, a Democrat, kept tight control of the entire process, limiting access to the computer used to plot new district lines and excluding the judiciary subcommittee, which is nominally responsible for redistricting, from negotiations. The state's Black Caucus, which was also excluded from the process, had proposed a plan that would have created additional Black majority districts, but it was rejected without discussion or debate.

The result of all this was a House redistricting plan passed in Jan. 1994 which, once again, had fewer majority black districts instead of more. The leadership's motives were clear: when asked why the House had rejected an additional black majority district in one of the countries, Speaker Sheheen replied, "Because white Democrats are an endangered species."

This time around, although Campbell refused to sign the redistricting legislation, he did not veto it. As a result, the House plan went into effect without his signature, leaving its fate up to the Justice Department instead of the three judge panel.

In May 1994 the Justice Department rejected the plan. Its "objection letter" noted that incumbency protection had driven the process, resulting in a plan that was retrogressive, and that the state had failed to meet its non-discrimination burden under the Voting Rights Act. The Justice Department also identified nine geographic areas across the state where the potential to draw or enhance majority Black districts existed. The House was instructed to go back to the drawing board.

By now, the Black Caucus was frustrated with the white Democratic leadership, and mistrustful of the leadership's sincerity to pursue reform. The Caucus broke ranks to open negotiations with Republican members of the House, who were also feeling locked out of the redistricting process. With the assistance of an historian and demographer, the new coalition developed a compromise plan, which was introduced over Sheheen's objections. The new plan, which contained 31 majority Black House districts, passed two days later on May 14.

Soon after, the plan was ap-

proved by the Justice Department and - for the first time in this century-it looked like Black South Carolinians would be afforded something approaching equal po-

litical opportunity. In fact, the November 1994 elections brought six African-Americans and three whites to the State House in the nine contested districts.

In the spring of 1995, the South Carolina Senate passed a new redistricting plan for the Senate, with preclearance from the Justice Department, that created two additional Black majority districts. The plan became law, and was to take effect for the 1996 elections.

In response, a group of registered white voters and Greg Smith, a former state senator, filed a federal lawsuit in November 1995 challenging three of the new Sen-

ate districts, including the two Black majority districts. In January 1996, another group of citizens filed a federal lawsuit against the state, charging that nine of the new House districts were unconstitutional under the Shaw v. Reno decision.

The redistricting plan is being defended by South Carolina, and by a group of "defendant-intervenors"-African-American voters who, given past history, are concerned that the state would not provide an adequate defense. The intervenors are being represented by the American Civil Liberties Union's Voting Rights Project.

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Sam and Betty rushed to the bank on October 28, 1986 and with good reason. The government had just announced that the guaranteed interest rate on U.S. Savings Bonds would drop from 7.5% to 6% on November 1, 1986. They joined the tens of thousands of Americans who purchased bonds during those last four days of October 1986, making it the most intense purchase period in the history of the savings bond program.

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Staff photo/Jim Rouse



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One day Ricky's partner was showing off a .22 pistol to Danilo. The next day Danilo brought him a brand new Uzi submachine gun "still in a box," and gave Ricky a .22 with a silencer.

Ricky and partner became gun dealers selling the Uzis, AK-47s, and Colt AR-15 assault rifles that became the trademark of bloody Crip versus Bloods gang wars and drive-by shootings in the 1980s.

Danilo once tried to sell his partner a grenade launcher, Ricky said.

Ricky traveled with Danilo to Detroit, Miami, Atlanta and New York. In New York, Ricky said, he met one of Danilo's dealers, who boasted of a 500-kilo-a-month operation worth about \$10 million.

Ricky also knew Danilo was sending guns to the Contras. "After two or three years together, he told me that he got ran out of his country and they were trying to fight and get his country back," Ricky said.

Danilo Blandon, an illegal citizen and founder of one Contra army was once described by a federal prosecutor as one of the biggest Nicaraguan cocaine dealers in America.

Time to 'Chill Out'

In January 1987, with crack markets exploding in major cities, police went after L.A.'s crack problem. They formed the Freeway Rick Task Force dedicated to putting Ricky Ross out of business.

Ricky headed to Cincinnati with his girlfriend, who was battling crack addiction and had family there. They settled into a suburban home.

After couple months, Ricky said, Danilo visited him and offered a cut into 13 kilos of cocaine that he needed distributed. Ricky went to work and soon monopolized Cincinnati's virgin crack market, using the same strategies and Nicaraguan drug connections.

He started selling crack as far away as Cleveland, Dayton, Indianapolis and St. Louis.

Ricky's luck ran out in 1988. One of his cocaine loads ran into a drug-sniffing dog at a New Mexico bus station and drug agents eventually connected it to him. He pleaded guilty to crack trafficking and received a mandatory 10-year prison sentence which he began serving in 1990.

"Freeway Ricky" becomes an informant

Federal prosecutors from Los Angeles approached Ricky days after the arrest and offered a deal. If he would help prosecutors investigating a drug scandal engulfing the Los Angeles County Sheriff's elite narcotics squads, they would help cut down his jail time.

Ricky became a government informant.

"They wanted me to talk about searches the task force made on crack houses, money at the houses, did they beat up (people) or steal money," Ricky said. "They wanted me to contact people on the streets and find out information."

For his testimony, Ricky received five years off his sentence and an agreement that his remaining drug profits would not be seized.

He was still behind bars in 1994, awaiting parole, when San Diego DEA agents targeted him for a "reverse" sting, one in which government agents provide the drugs and the target provides the cash.

Within days of his parole and return to Los Angeles in October 1994, Ricky said, Danilo called him, saying he had 600 kilos of cocaine worth about \$12 million and he wanted Ricky to help sell it.

Ricky said he initially decline but later gave in to the persistent phone calls and obtained a buyer for 100 kilos of the cocaine Danilo claimed he had.

On March 2, 1995, in a parking lot near San Diego, Ricky looked inside a cocaine-laden Chevy Blazer. Suddenly the place was swarming with police.

Ricky jumped into a friend's pickup, sped off and was captured after the truck swerved into a hedgerow. He has been in jail without bond since.

Ricky stood trial in March and the government's star witness against him was his old friend, Danilo. On Danilo's testimony, Ricky and two other men were convicted by an all-white jury of conspiracy charges, conspiring to sell the DEA's cocaine. Ricky now faces life in jail, with no chance of parole.

Ricky's eyes teared as he described Danilo's testimony, "It was like he was killing me. It was nothing I could do but sit there and

take it. There's a tape they played in court where (Danilo) said, 'I hate n—s, but they pay cash,'" Ricky recalled.

"I would have died for him. He's the worst. When I see how (the government) twists the rules for him and they want to give me a life sentence, to me, it's sickening."

Danilo received \$45,000 in government rewards and expenses for Ricky's arrest, records show.

U.S. District Judge Marilyn Huff postponed Ricky's August 23 sentencing until September 13 to allow his attorney, Alan Fenster, to question two inmates at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in San Diego about their knowledge of Danilo Blandon's alleged drug dealing while working for the DEA.

Atty. Fenster told *The Final Call* that he hopes such testimony will convince the judge that Ricky deserves a new trial because of prosecutorial misconduct.

"Our contention is that (Ricky) was minding his own business and was an unsuspecting victim" of the DEA's reverse sting, Atty. Fenster said.

"If the judge finds government misconduct was so outrageous, she has the power to dismiss the charges," the attorney added. "This was a trial by ambush. The defense was denied information on Mr. Blandon that would impeach him. The government really sandbagged us."

Ricky, who taught himself to read and write about five years ago, said he could be looked at two ways: As a villain or as a victim.

Asked if he was ever concerned about how crack cocaine was affecting the Black community, Ricky admits, "Not at first. It never crossed my mind."

He feels "partially responsible" for the legions of crack babies as well as addicts who prostitute themselves to sustain their drug habits.

"I took drugs and I transferred them from (Danilo's) hands to their hands," Ricky concedes. "I feel that I was a 'strawberry' too. I was manipulated. I was just like the

prostitute."

Ultimately, he said, the U.S. government is responsible for the crack epidemic. "They put it in our hands. They financed it. It was

their planes that brought it over here," Ricky said. "Their guy, Oscar Danilo Blandon, he set up the market. They picked me. I didn't go to Nicaragua. This could go

higher than the CIA. They say that drugs corrupt whole governments."



BLACK MAN RISING . . . a one-act choreopoem by James H. Chapmyn, will be performed in Hendrix Theatre, East Carolina University, Greenville on Tuesday, October 1 at 8:00 p.m. The production is one of the events being sponsored by the ECU Student Union in celebration of Cultural Awareness Week. For more information, contact the Central Ticket Office, 919-328-4788, toll free 1-800-ECU-ARTS, or deaf/speech-impaired access 919-328-4736, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

'Black Man Rising' to be acted at ECU

Black Man Rising, a one-act dramatic presentation, will be presented in East Carolina University's Hendrix Theatre Tuesday, October 1, beginning at 8 p.m.

The show's script is a "choreopoem" by James H. Chapmyn, set in the present, the past and the future. Its author describes the work as "a compilation of vignettes that look in-

side many of the triumphs young black men face daily." The stories presented are based on truth and intended to serve as a stimulus for discussion.

A discussion with the actors will follow the performance.

Black Man Rising is sponsored by the ECU Student Union in observance of ECU's Cultural Awareness Week.

Admission to the Black Man

Rising show is \$5 per person for the public, if tickets are bought in advance. ECU faculty and staff may secure tickets free of charge from the Central Ticket Office in advance. All tickets sold at the door will be priced at \$8.

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The North Carolina Black Leadership Caucus to meet

On Saturday, September 28, 1996, The North Carolina Black Leadership Caucus (NCBLC) will host its Twentieth Annual Conference and Family Summit to discuss issues vital to the African American community. Citizens from across the state will meet at Saint Augustine's College, 1350 Oakwood Avenue, Raleigh, North Carolina beginning at 8:00 a.m. for this brainstorming session. The theme for this year's conference is "Twenty Year Legacy to African American Leadership".

Speakers include State Senator Jeanne Lucas and United States Senatorial Candidate Harvey Gantt. Special recognition will be given to NCBLC past presidents Dr. E. Lavonia Allison, Mr. Faiger M. Blackwell, Mr. Robert "Bob"

Davis, Dr. Betty Eddleman, Attorney Peter Greer, former Mayor Clarence E. Lightner, State Representative H.M. "Mickey" Michaux, and Mr. Elijah "Pete" Peterson.

Early registration fees are \$25 for youth, \$50 for adults, and must be received by September 9, 1996. On-site registration fees are \$30 for youth and \$55 for adults. All registrations include workshops and meals. Checks should be made payable to: NC Black Leadership Conference and mailed to NC Black Leadership Caucus, c/o Bernard Allen - Conference Coordinator, Post Office Box 26282, Raleigh, NC 27611.

For more information call 919/231-1970.

Pitt County teacher named to new Commission on School Accountability

Mary Beth Corbin, a teacher at Wahl Coates Elementary School in Pitt County, has been named to the Compliance Commission for Accountability. The new Commission was established by the State Board of Education to advise the Board on testing and other issues related to school accountability and improvement.

The 20-person group includes teachers, principals, central office administrators, school board members, and representatives of parents, business and the university system.

The testing code of ethics, test security and administration, the relationship of testing to other aspects of schooling, and possible auditing procedures are among the issues to be considered by the Commission as it works to ensure the integrity of the accountability program. The Commission also may consider other issues for the State Board.

Dr. Richard Thompson, Deputy State Superintendent, describes the establishment of the new Commission as a critical part of the State Board's efforts to improve public schools through The ABCs

of Public Education. Accountability for results is the centerpiece of the ABCs.

Thompson said the decision was made to create the Compliance Commission to give more opportunity for local educators and others to provide input into accountability decisions of the State Board.

"The Board and our department understand that we do not have all the answers of how to improve public schools. We are committed to providing more and more decision-making at the local level and decision-making at the state level that is based on local needs."

The State Board appointed Dr. David Ricketts, superintendent of McDowell County Schools, as the first chairperson of the new Commission. Thompson said Ricketts' leadership demonstrated in the piloting of the ABCs during the 1995-96 school year made him an "excellent choice" to guide the new Commission.

Staff of the Division of Accountability, under the direction of Lou Fabrizio, will assist the Commission.

The first meeting of the Compliance Commission will be held in October.

Will talk show skewer CIA like they did to O.J.?

By DENNIS SCHATZMAN

Here's a question for Geraldo Rivera, Charles Grodin, Rush Limbaugh, Armstrong Williams, Gloria Allred and a host of other high-profile syndicated talk show hosts. Will they devote as much airtime to the startling expose that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency introduced crack cocaine to the nation's Black communities in order to fund the CIA-backed Nicaraguan Contra army in the early 1980s as they did to the O.J. Simpson trial and its aftermath?

The answer is, I suspect, a resounding "no." Along with that "nada" comes the revelation that the real motive of these talk show barons is not "getting to the real issues" as they so often claim. Instead, it is the pursuit of the almighty ratings, largely garnered from a mostly conservative white listening and viewing audience that is more interested in pummeling an acquitted Black man whom they believe killed two white people. The more sinister reality that the United States government - their government - flooded minority communities with crack cocaine under the guise of "national security" is of no interest to them.

I covered the Simpson trial for the *Los Angeles Sentinel* and over 200 other Black-owned newspapers who belong to the National

Newspaper Publishers' Association. I appeared on many of these talk shows during the trial largely because of the "unique perspective" I brought to the coverage of the trial, and also because I was once a sitting judge in my home-

screen in Spike Lee's "She's Gotta Have It" - "here is the deal."

A recent series of reports published by *The San Jose Mercury News*, says a San Francisco drug ring, comprised of CIA and U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency opera-

I have watched in amazement as "objective journalists" skewered a man acquitted of two murders because there was virtually no evidence linking O.J. to the crime.

town of Pittsburgh, Pa.

I have since watched in amazement as I witnessed talk show hosts, who claimed to be "objective journalists" openly skewering a man who was acquitted of two murders largely because there was virtually no evidence that linked Simpson to the crime.

Two hosts, Rivera and Grodin, openly express their hatred for Simpson and usually invite guests who share their views. They're usually invited back repeatedly. These two, more than any other hosts, prompt me to raise questions about the talk show industry's journalistic integrity.

For those who haven't been keeping up - as Nola Darling said in her only appearance on the big

tives, fronted tons of cocaine to Los Angeles street gangs based largely in Black communities. Millions of dollars in drug profits were then directed to the anti-Communist Nicaraguan Democratic Force, better known as the Contras. Among the point men in this sinister scheme was former Reagan administration intimate, retired Col. Oliver North. Coincidentally, North is now a syndicated talk show host based in northern Virginia. Almost instantly, the cocaine that flooded Los Angeles spread nationwide.

"While the [Contras' war against Nicaragua's communist Sandinista government] is barely a memory today," wrote Gary Webb of the *Mercury News*,

"Black America is still dealing with its poisonous side effects. Urban neighborhoods are grappling with legions of homeless crack addicts. Thousands of young Black men are serving long prison sentences for selling cocaine, a drug that was virtually unobtainable in Black neighborhoods before the CIA's army started bringing it into South Central Los Angeles in the 1980s at bargain basement prices."

The influx of crack cocaine has caused criminal justice systems in virtually every state to increase penalties for drug trafficking. The federal government has established mandatory 10-year-prison sentences for the sale of crack cocaine. Dealers in powdered cocaine - a favorite of white dealers and users - land cushier sentences. Yet this crack dilemma that primarily affects minority communities has been largely ignored by the ever-powerful talk show hosts who have gained new-found popularity since they've launched onto the O.J. Simpson double-murder trial and acquittal.

I'm willing to bet that none of these shows will give more than 60 minutes total to this blockbuster story. Reason: the ramifications of this sinister plot largely affects only the "least among us." Thus, no story.

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Fulani challenges Jackson, Powell to debate on presidential options for black voters

Earlier in the week Dr. Lenora Fulani, Reform Party activist and supporter of Ross Perot's independent presidential candidacy, challenged Reverend Jesse Jackson and General Colin Powell to a public debate. Fulani publicly repeated that challenge on CNN's Talk Back Live several days later.

In letters delivered to spokespeople for the Democratic

and Republican Parties Dr. Fulani states: "I believe it is in the interests of Black America to have the opportunity for the most open and comprehensive dialogue on the available options."

Dr. Fulani's letter further states: "As I travel the country and the airwaves, I find our people are more and more interested in evaluating our political positions and in

weighing multiple strategies. Obviously the media is aware of this. This is why in the last several weeks alone there have been front page articles in the New York Times on Jack Kemp's visit to Harlem, Bill Clinton's visit to the National Baptist Convention and my relationship to Ross Perot."

To date Dr. Fulani has received no response from Jackson or

Powell.

Twice an independent candidate for the Presidency, Fulani is part of the national effort to create the Reform Party. In support of

Fulani's call for a debate she wrote in a recent USA Today column: "Democrats are abandoning the black community while the Republicans grandstand for our votes

without engaging our concerns. In 1996 the place for Black American to look is a new party: the Reform Party."

Prostate Health screening to be held September 28 and October 1st

Did you know that 1 in 10 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year? The result is about 35,000 lives taken...prostate cancer doesn't have to end in death, it can be managed and treated, if detected at an early stage. On Saturday, September 28th, from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m., and Tuesday, October 1st from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m., Washington Urological Associates and Beaufort County Hospital are conducting a prostate health screening. For just \$10.00 participants can get a PSA blood test, a physical examination and a wealth of educational information. Get involved in your health...join us at the prostate health screening...call 975-4309 and make your appointment today.

Centura completes purchase

ROCKY MOUNT, N.C. — Centura Banks Inc. (NYSE:CBC) has completed its previously announced purchase of certain deposits from Essex Savings Bank.

Effective today, all Essex customers in the North Carolina cities of Raleigh, Greensboro and Wilmington are Centura customers. Their accounts have been moved to nearby Centura financial centers.

With assets of \$5.6 billion, Centura offers a full range of banking, investment, insurance and trust services to individuals and businesses throughout North Carolina. Centura provides services through 155 financial centers, more than 200 ATMs, the Centura Highway telephone banking center and Quicken and Microsoft Money, the leading personal finance software packages. Centura also is opening 33 offices in Hannaford supermarkets in the Carolinas and Virginia by the end of next year.

Pitt County Concerned Citizens For Justice Announces Its Annual Banquet 1996 Theme "Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Rev. Alonza L. Mills" Saturday, September 28th 7:00 p.m. E.B. Aycock School Red Banks Road Greenville, N.C. Tickets are available for a contribution of \$10.00 Contact Ann Brown 758-0964 or Rev. Randy Royal

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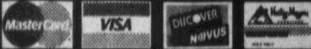
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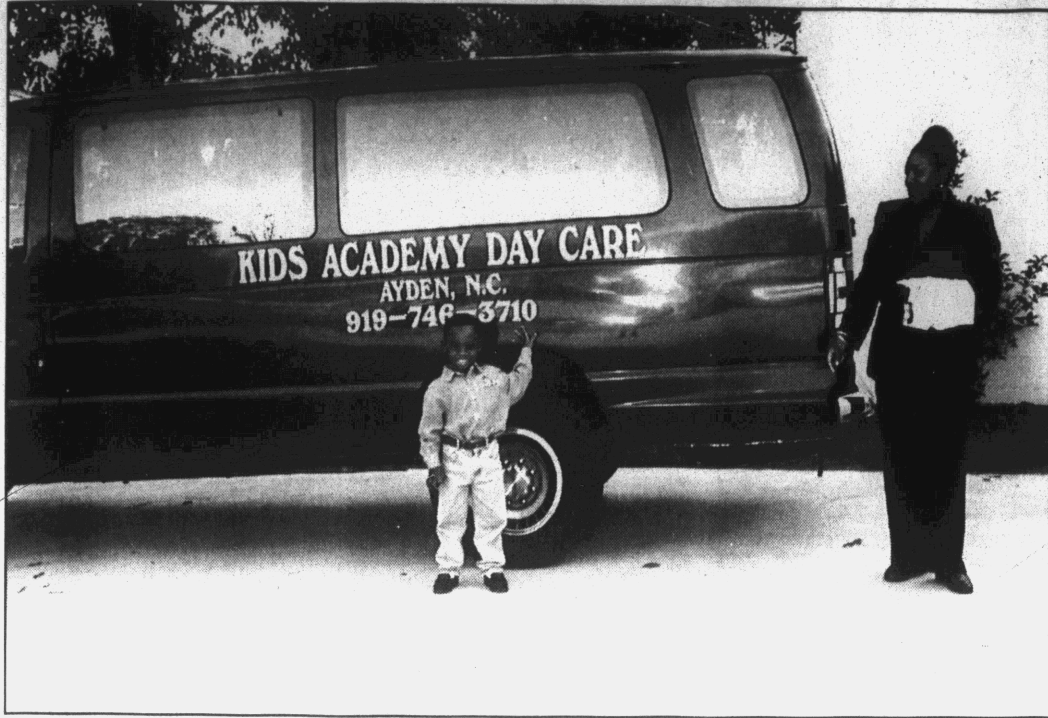


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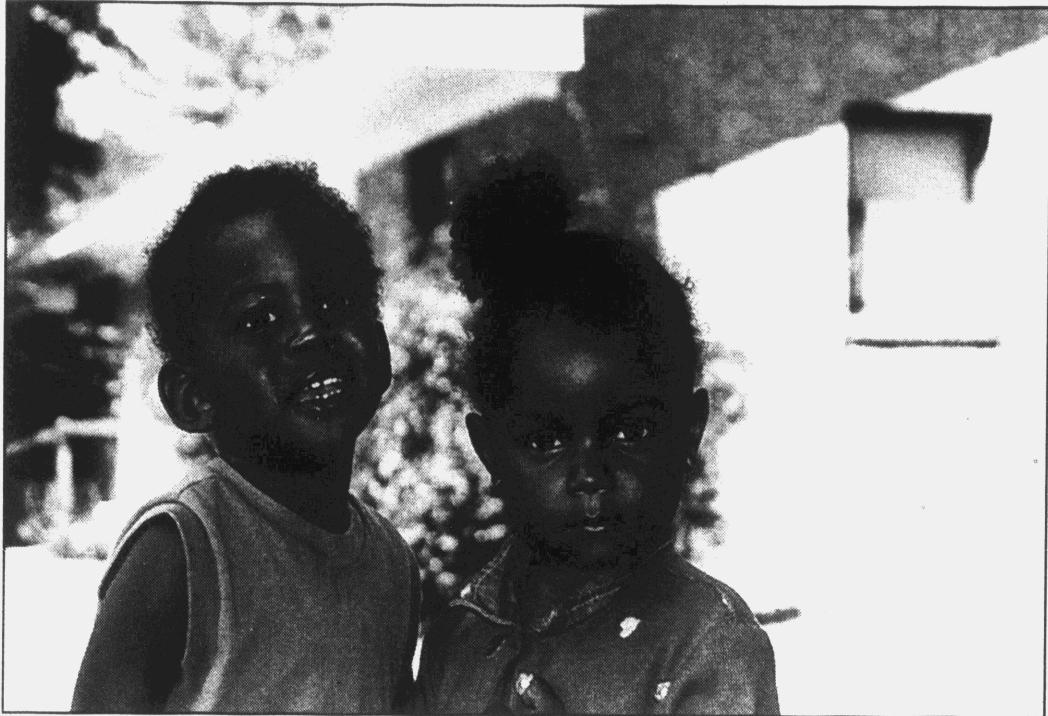


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OUR SALUTE TO A 'REAL WINNER' ... Hoshy Tyson, a student currently enrolled at Kids Academy in Ayden, submitted the winning entry in a coloring contest sponsored by Burger King. For his efforts, our young artist was awarded a "Hunch Back of Notre Dame" tee shirt and poster. Hoshy's proud mother is Precilla S. Tyson of Greenville. We salute our talented young brother and encourage him to continue to strive for academic achievement. *Staff photo*



PICTURED ABOVE ARE ... Brother Jim Rouse's nephew William Rouse and Brother Rouse's granddaughter Modupe Imani' enjoying a family reunion at their grandma's house.

AmeriCorps seeking recruits now for 1996-97 service year

With continued funding for national service approved by the U.S. Senate and agreed to by House and Senate conferees, AmeriCorps has launched a drive to recruit thousands of men and women to apply for a year of national service. AmeriCorps offers citizens age 18 and older opportunities to serve full-time in community service programs and earn help paying for college.

AmeriCorps members serve for one or two years with local nonprofits and national organizations throughout the country. They receive a weekly living allowance and earn an education award of \$4,725 at year's end, which may be used for college tuition or to re-pay student loans. Currently, 25,000 AmeriCorps members are serving in 1,100 communities across the United States.

AmeriCorps is recruiting now for two national programs, AmeriCorps*NCCC and AmeriCorps*VISTA, for candidates to begin serving as early as spring and summer.

AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) is seeking several thousand recruits age 18

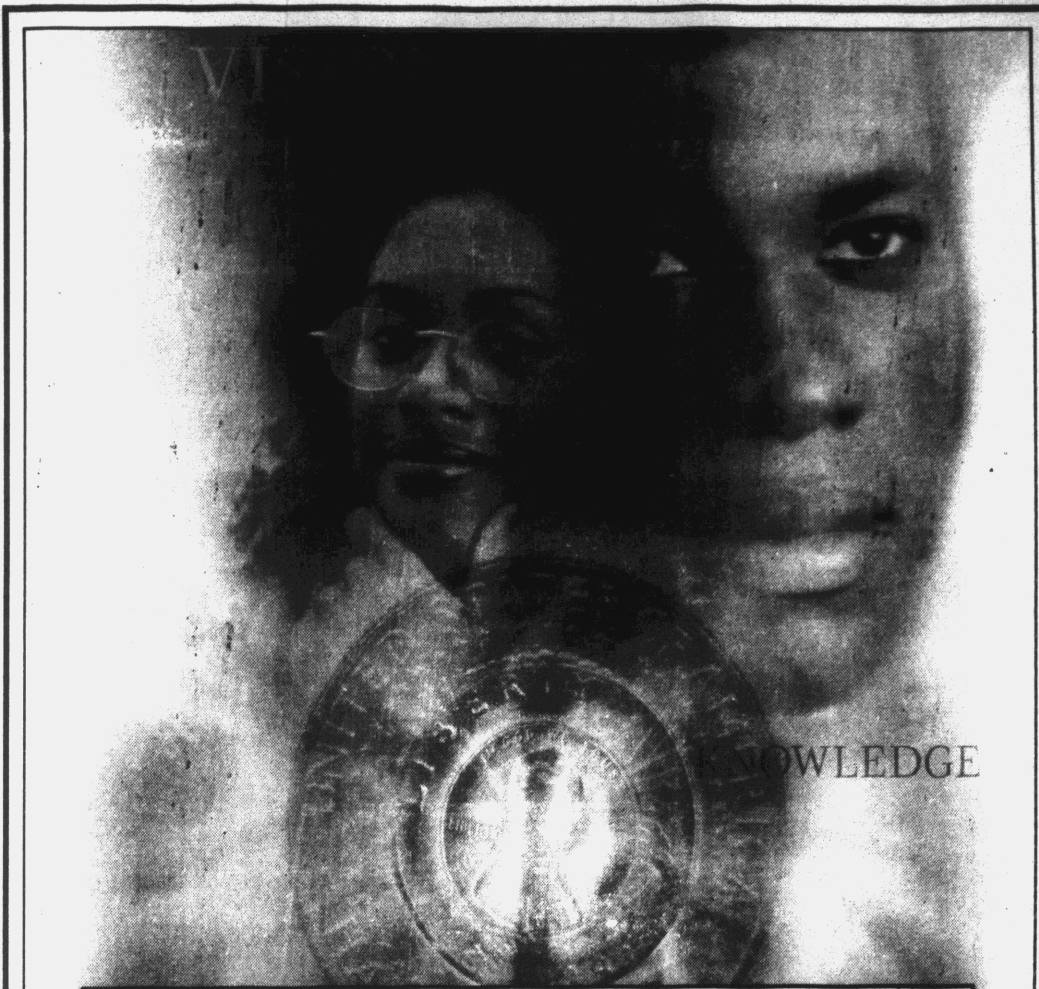
or older—especially college graduates and people with significant skills and experience—many to begin serving immediately. As an AmeriCorps*VISTA, you can serve full-time for at least a year with local organizations in disadvantaged, rural and urban communities throughout the U.S., generating community volunteers and helping people build the capacity

to improve their own lives.

AmeriCorps*NCCC (the National Civilian Community Corps) is seeking 1,000 men and women, age 18 to 24, to begin serving this fall in a ten-month, full-time residential program.

Anyone seeking an opportunity to serve in AmeriCorps may call: 1-800-942-2677 or visit AmeriCorps' worldwide web site at: [HTTP://WWW.CNS.GOV](http://www.cns.gov)

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Monday, October 7 through Thursday, October 10 are OPTION NIGHTS. Wristbands are for sale **inside the gate** for \$10.00 or you may purchase straight ride tickets.

Monday, October 7 - The Daily Reflector Family Night. Clip a special Fair coupon from The Daily Reflector for \$1.00 discount per person at the gate. Children admitted **FREE** with parents.

Tuesday, October 8 only - Bring a Pepsi or Mountain Dew can to the Fair and get \$1.00 discount on gate admission!

Wednesday, October 9 - ALL SENIOR CITIZENS FREE 1-6 P.M.

Thursday, October 10 - ECU and PITT COMMUNITY STUDENTS - admitted for \$2.00 with student ID!

Saturday, October 12 - Wristbands on sale inside gate until 4:00 PM. and honored until 6:00 PM.

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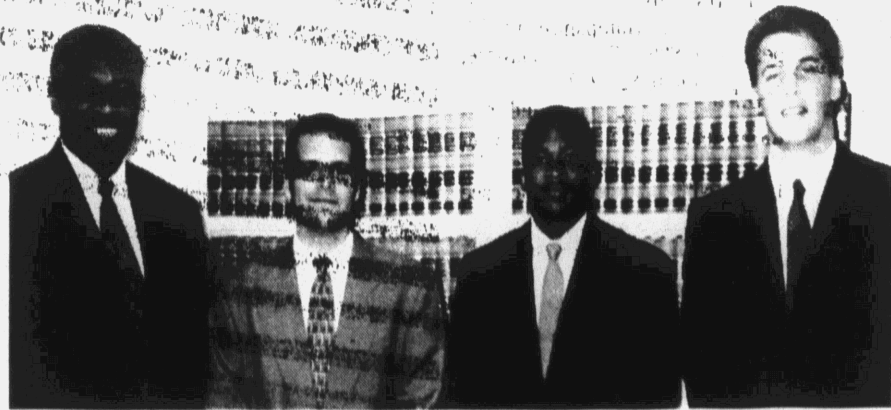
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AS AN ASSOCIATE CONCENTRATING IN
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Attorneys: Earl T. Brown, John H. Ross, Derek K. Brown and Michael J. Rizzi

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Dr. Golden A. Frinks, Civil Rights Activist

Dr. Golden Frinks has worked effectively combining Leadership in Civil Rights, Business and Church Communities.

A native of Wampee, South Carolina. He was educated in the North Carolina Public Schools. He is a graduate of the Scurlock School of Photography, Washington, DC, where he graduated as a Photo-Journalist. He did further graduate studies at the University of Youngstown, Ohio.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. asked him to become North Carolina State Director in 1962, for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference where he performed many valuable services for the movement of the 60's. He was ar-

rested more than 218 times and was jailed 87 times, from 1962 to 1992, and spent more time in prison than any Civil Rights Leader in America, and rank third behind Nelson Mandela in jail time. He was National Field Secretary and Program Director under Dr. Ralph David Abernathy, then president of SCLC 1968-1977.

He organized the SAVE Marie Hill Committee in 1969. A sixteen year old black girl sentenced to death for the murder of a white grocer store owner. This effort caused the United States Supreme Court to overturn the way Southern States administered the Death Sentence, 1972.

In 1973, he organized the Moth-

ers' March to free the Willington ten, and lead three marches to the State Capital in Raleigh, North Carolina, to free Rev. Benjamin Chavis from prison. He organized the SAVE Joann Little Committee that raised the issue of protection of Black Women in prison. Miss Little was charged with killing the jailer who used his authority to rape her, 1974.

Dr. Frinks as Field Secretary for Southern Christian Leadership Conference has to his credit some notable changes in American Social order. He led the efforts to integrate the Nation's Beaches, The Philadelphia, Urban Education Project and the Chatham Garbage strike by the Black Garbage Work-

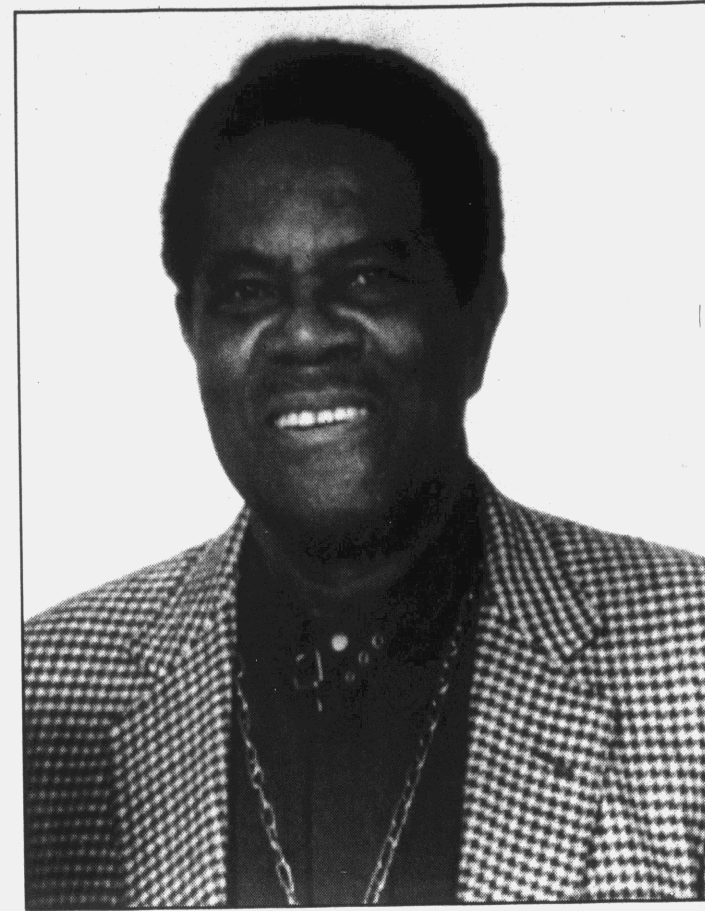
ers for hourly wage raises. He also led the effort to integrate the American Legion and was the first black delegate to its National Convention, where he was elected Chairman of new Politics in Chicago, Ill., 1966. He led a Fast in

prison that integrated Black and White Prisoners.

Dr. Frinks now serves as State Director of the North Carolina Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He is National Crisis Coordinator for National Coordi-

nating Council for African-American Economic Solidarity.

Dr. Frinks is married to the former Miss Ruth Holley of Edenton, North Carolina and they have one daughter, Dr. Golden Frinks Wells.



This is something that I wanted to put in the paper to brighten up the spirits of all of our readers.

You are my God. I worship you. In my heart, I long for you, As I would long for a stream in a scorching desert.

I have seen your power and your glory In the place of worship. Your love means more than life to me, And I praise you, As long as I live, I will pray to you. I will sing joyful praises and be filled with excitement Like a guest at a banquet.

I think about you before I go to sleep. And my thoughts turn to you during the night. You have helped me, And I sing happy songs in the shadow of your wings. I stay close to you, And your powerful arm supports me.

Psalm 63: 1-8

Brought to you by: M'Bulu K. Rouse The 'M' Voice Newspaper writer

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COMMUNITY FOCUS, an organization of area residents who feel the need to recognize the positive activities of minorities acknowledges the civil rights achievements of Mr. Golden Frinks. Friday, Oct. 4, 1996, 7:00 p.m. at the Hilton Inn, Greenville Blvd., Greenville, NC. Tickets are still available. Telephone 758-1785 or 757-3423.

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