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I believe in gradualism, but 90-odd years is gradual enough.
Thurgood Marshall, 1956

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA MINORITY VOICE - SINCE 1981

APRIL 16 - APRIL 23, 1997

Job overtime pay could be at risk

New proposed bill could affect many's lifestyles

by Tony Jones

The United States Congress is currently working on legislation every worker in America needs to be consistently informed about, business and labor interests say. Not yet law, it is known as the "Comp Time Bill," the actual title of the legislation is "The Working Families Flexibility Act of 1997." It is headed now for the Senate floor for final consideration, hav-

ing passed scrutiny by the U. S. House of Representatives. Amending the 1938 Labor Standards Act, the Comp Time Bill is the "most important legislation affecting the employer-employee relationship" of the modern era. The country's largest labor union, the AFL-CIO and leading Democrats say if made into law, as is expected, the bill will rape worker's paychecks. Its Republican sponsors say the bill repre-

sents wise adjustment to the realities of the modern business world. All sides agree that it will affect every paycheck in America. The pending legislation will allow companies to make an agreement with employees to trade paid time for time off. As with cash overtime pay, compensatory time would accrue at a rate of one-and-one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay for each hour worked over 40 hours within a seven day

period. Comp time supporters say the bill falls directly in line with the concern of working mothers. Their information states, "A 1994 U.S. Department of labor report found that the number one concern for sixty-six percent of working women with children under the age of 18 is the difficulty of balancing work and family responsibilities". The bill's opponents feel that it will give too much leverage to

employers, allowing them to pressure employee to take time off instead of paying them for working overtime. Passed March 19, the Bill passed on a partisan vote of 222-210. Opposing the bill were 191 Democrats, 18 Republicans and Independent; Bernie Sanders of Vermont. The United Auto Workers has

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ACT'S PROVISIONS

Listed below are just a few of the provisions listed in the proposed Working Families Flexibility Act

- The Working Families Flexibility Act gives employers the option of offering their employees the choice of paid time off in lieu of cash wages for overtime.
- The Act requires a written agreement between the employer and employees, entered into knowingly and voluntarily by the employee.
- To be eligible, an employee must have worked at least 1,000 hours in a period of continuous employment with the employer in a 12-month period preceding the date the employee agrees to receive comp time off.
- As with cash overtime pay, comp time would accrue at the rate of one-and-one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay for each hour worked over 40 within a seven-day period.
- Under the Act, employees could accrue up to 160 hours of compensatory time each year. Employers would be required to pay cash wages for any unused, accrued time at the end of the year.
- Employees who want to receive cash wages for their overtime will continue to be allowed to do so.

SOURCE: House Bill 222-210



Dr. Ruth Peterson, Pastor, and co-Pastor, Helen Williams were honored recently as the Anointed Ones Church celebrated their "Annual Founders' Day" observance. Shown above: (L-R), Co-Pastor Williams, Rev. Lilly of Chocowinity, Dr. Peterson, and Pastor Barbara Dellano of the Gateway Christian Center. God bless you sisters...Continue to spread God's word. See "Faces & Places" Page for more.

(Staff Photo: Jim Rouse)

A spectacular season

Extraordinary lives often reveal ordinary truths. Jackie Robinson was born in 1919 and died in 1972. He crammed into his too few fifty-three years a legacy of accomplishment, acclaim, controversy, and influence matched by few Americans. Even before his historic baseball breakthrough, he was an athlete of legendary proportions. He won fame and adulation as the first African-American to play in the major leagues in the twentieth century, launching an athletic revolution that transformed American sports. He garnered baseball's highest honors; Rookie of the Year, Most Valuable Player, and election to the Hall of Fame the first year he was eligible. Even more significant, Robinson became a symbol of racial integration and a prominent leader in the civil rights struggle of the 1950s and 1960s. His half-century among us illuminates not only the contours of an exceptional life but also the broader African-American experience of these years.

Jackie Robinson, the grandson of a slave and the son of sharecroppers, was born in Georgia in the heart of the segregated South. When Jackie was an infant, his father, Jerry Robinson, abandoned the family. His mother, Mallie, seeking a better life for Jackie and his four older siblings, joined the post World War I Great Migration of African-Americans out of the South. Most blacks traveled to the Eastern metropolises or to Midwestern manufacturing centers like Chicago and Detroit. On the advice of a brother, Mallie Robinson headed West to California.

African-Americans were relatively rare in California in the 1920s. Although Mexican-born blacks had figured prominently in the settlement of the region, by the early twentieth century blacks accounted for only around one percent of the state's population. They confronted a pattern of discrimination common to the American West: few hotels, restaurants, or recreational facilities accepted blacks, and restrictive covenants and other less formal practices barred them from living in most neighborhoods. Job discrimination impeded economic advancement.

African-Americans met hostility at almost every turn from strangers, neighbors, and police. Thus Jackie Robinson grew up in an environment similar to that of other children of the Great Migration. Raised in a family without a father and sustained by their mother's income from domestic work, the Robinson children lived in poverty but were held together by their mother's indomitable spirit and strong Methodist morality. As a teenager in Pasadena, Jackie ran with local street gangs and had inevitable confrontations with the easily provoked local police, resulting in at least one arrest. However, if Southern California offered a harsh existence, it also held opportunities unavailable in

Continued on page 5

Hospital's Privatization will limit health care for Elderly, Young, and poor

by Cliff Hickman

I am not a medical provider or employee of PCMH, but as a citizen, taxpayer, and part owner of PCMH, I am opposed to PCMH changing from its present status to a private non-profit institution because of the following reasons:

1. I strongly believe that the quality and cost of health care will be adversely impacted and access

to adequate health care for the elderly, young, and poor will be very limited. These concerns of mine are supported in a recent study conducted by Drs. Steffie Woolhandler and David Himmelstein. The results of this study will be published in the next issue of the New England Journal of Medicine. The results of this study also indicate that when hospitals change from public to pri-

vate, upper hospital management are the ones who benefit most with more than 25% of revenues being budgeted in this area. 2. I am also quite concerned with unfair labor practices at PCMH. While I was a member of the City of Greenville's Human Relations Council, we received a number of complaints from PCMH's employees in this area. Another reason of concern is the

re-organizing and downsizing that has been going on at PCMH in preparation for the move to privatization. I am personally aware of a recent situation where an emergency meeting was held with a certain department at PCMH. At this meeting, a section within this department was advised that as of 10-1-97, they no

Continued on page 2

National Infant Immunization Week Is April 20-26

People with questions about vaccinations can call the National Immunization Information Hotline, a new toll-free service providing information about vaccine preventable diseases and immunizations to protect against them. The hotline is operated by the American Social Health Association under contract with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Immunization Program. Hotline counselors, who began serving callers on March 17, are preparing for increased calls during National Infant Immunization Week, April 20-26. The hotline is expected to answer 52,000 calls each year on its English service (800/232-2522) and 5,200 calls annually on its Spanish service (800/232-0233). Callers can receive information about 12 vaccine-preventable diseases: chicken pox (varicella), diphtheria, haemophilus influenza type B (Hib), hepatitis B, influenza, measles, mumps, pneumococcal disease, polio, rubella, tetanus and whooping cough (pertussis). The hotline gives information on who should be immunized, when to be immunized and sites where

vaccines are available. It also offers free publications. Hotline hours are 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday. Mary Stuart, hotline director, said the service's most vital role is encouraging parents to have their children vaccinated on time. According to the CDC, one-fourth of children in the U.S. have not been fully immunized against childhood diseases. One of parents' most common misconceptions is that vaccinations are necessary only when a child is old enough for school," Stuart said. "In fact, children need 80 percent of their vaccinations before they are two years old. Most child care providers and schools will not accept children who have not completed the necessary vaccinations. "Some parents assume that childhood vaccines are no longer important because diseases such as measles are not as common as they once were," Stuart continued. "However, immunizations are responsible for the decline of these diseases. When parents stop having their children immunized, new outbreaks occur." For example, she said, a major

cause of the measles epidemic of 1989-91 was failure to vaccinate children against measles at 12 to 15 months of age. The epidemic infected more than 55,000 Americans, accounting for about 11,000 hospitalizations and 120 deaths. The immunization hotline also answers questions about recommended vaccinations for adolescents and adults. The new hotline joins the National AIDS Hotline (800/342-2437) and National STD Hotline (800/227-8922) as toll-free services operated by ASHA under contract with CDC. These hotlines answer more than 1.2 million calls each year.

Wachovia Mortgage Co. Introduces On-The-Spot Mortgage Loan Commitments

Home buyers can now receive firm, on-the-spot mortgage loan commitments through a new loan approval process announced today by Wachovia Mortgage Co. The process, called Wachovia Decision Now, enables Wachovia Mortgage loan consultants to underwrite loans using the online Desktop Underwriter technology from Fannie Mae. Customers can receive loan commitments within five minutes. "Wachovia Mortgage's Decision Now loan approval process provides customers convenience, control and financial comfort in knowing they've received an immediate, no-hassle decision on their Mortgage loan application. With Decision Now, home buyers will receive more than pre-qualification for a loan. They can receive a firm loan commitment in as little as five minutes," said Thomas W. Trotter, President of Wachovia Mortgage Co. Wachovia Mortgage is a leader in providing its mortgage loan consultants Fannie Mae's Desktop Underwriter technology and the ability to render on-the-spot loan commitment. With the Decision Now loan approval process

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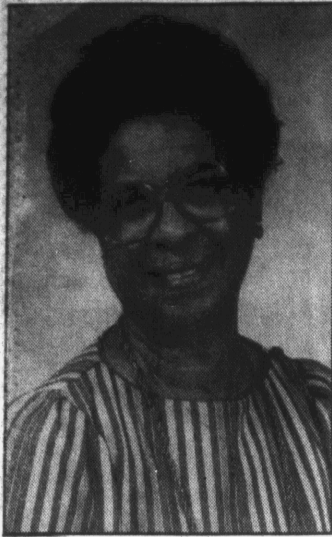
"THAT'S MY DAUGHTER"... words from a proud Mom... Sister Annie B. Watts praises the accomplishments of her daughter, Ashley—a student at Bethel Elementary School who was the winner of a recent Spelling Bee. With the continued support of mom and pop's (Mr. Charles Watts) love and encouragement... we predict a successful future for our young sister—Ashley.

(STAFF PHOTO: Jim Rouse)

from the desk of

Mrs. Beatrice Maye

GO TO THE HEAD OF THE CLASS



Mrs. Beatrice Maye

equitable society/world by working together and giving everyone a chance.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's lines from "The Psalm of Life", challenges all Americans, thusly:

"Lives of great men all remind us,
We can make our lives sublime,
And departing leave behind us,
Footprints on the sands of time".

Why have Bald Heads become so Popular?

Bald is in!
It seems Black men in every field - movies, sports, television and music - are taking a bald step forward and sporting the bald head.

Michael Jordan, Chicago Bulls superstar is a trendsetter with his clean cut, shaved head. Bald heads have become popular in e '90s.

To name a few: Cuba Gooding, Jr., movie star; R. Kelly, superstar singer ("I believe I can fly"); Louis Gossett, Jr., Oscar-winning actor; TV Star Malik Yoba says women find bald heads sexy.

Jim Brown, former football star and actor says the bald look is popular because it's "clean and natural."

New TV star, James Black, George Foreman, former heavyweight champion, Charles Barkley, basketball great, Donell Jones, new singer, notes that bald is in because it's a sexy look.

James Black notes, "It's a cool look that has stood the test of time." Question: Why do you have a bald head?

From: JET Magazine, April 14, 1997

Some Truths:

1. "Are you an embarrassment to your parents or an accepted part of the human comedy?" Henry Louis Oates, Jr.

2. You must have long-ranged goals to keep from being frustrated by short-ranged failures.

3. It does not matter the hours you put in, but home much you put in the hours.

4. Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore.

5. Efficiency is doing things right. Effectiveness is doing the right thing.

6. When you can't have what you want, it's time to start wanting what you have.

"U.S. News and World Report," for February 21, 1997, printed for its readers the following listing of ten African-American works that every educated person should read as determined by a dozen Black literature scholars for this magazine.

"Narrative of the life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself," 1845.

"Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl," Harriet Jacobs, 1861.

"The Souls of Black Folks," W.E.B. Dubois, 1903.

"Cane" Jean Toomer, 1923.

"Their eyes were watching God," Zora Neale Hurston, 1937.

"Native Son," Richard Wright, 1940.

"Invisible Man," Ralph Ellison, 1952.

"Selected Poems," Langston Hughes, 1959.

"The Fire Next Tim," James Baldwin, 1963.

"Beloved," Toni Morrison, 1987.

Quotes worth remembering

1. Talk low, talk slow, and don't say too much.

2. Comedy is simply a funny way of being serious.

3. You can't expect to make a place in the sun for yourself if you keep taking refuge under the family tree. Claude McDonald.

4. Be cautious, Opportunity does the knocking for temptation too.

5. Gossip needn't be false to be evil - there's a lot of truth that

shouldn't be passed around.

6. Question authority, but raise your hand first.

7. We cannot make people over. Our business is to make ourselves better and other happy, and that is enough to keep us busy.

8. Don't keep saying, "I don't know where the time goes." It goes the same place it's always gone and no one has ever known where that is. Andy Rooney.

9. Keep the volume down on everything. It's like salt. You can get used to less of it.

10. You're almost always better off keeping your mouth shut, but don't let that stop you from popping off.

11. In a conversation, keep in mind that you're more interested in what you have to say than anyone else.

12. There's seldom any good reason for blowing the horn of your car.

13. Be careful, but not too careful.

14. At age 20, we worry about what others think of us. At 40, we don't care what they think of us. At 60, we discover they haven't been thinking about us at all.

15. The richest man in the world is not the one who still has the first dollar he ever earned. It's the man who still has his first friend.

16. The bitterest tears shed over graves are for words left unsaid and deeds left undone. Harriet Beecher Stowe.

17. Don't follow others, let other follow you.

18. Spite is never lonely; envy always tags along.

19. The day is a shoe to be walked in. Steve Onlon.

20. If you take something that doesn't belong to you, you are stealing.

21. If you cannot win, make the one in front of you break the record.

22. There's a kind of victory in good work, no matter how humble. Rep. Jack Kemp.

I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

Jesus

From Page One - PCMH

longer had a job with PCMH. This announcement was a total shock to the affected staff. And this incident was an continues to be very traumatizing to these staff. The affected staff also asked about other available employment with PCMH and asked for information on PCMH's reduction in force policy. They were told by their superiors that they needed to get with the personnel department with these concerns. I wonder why there was not a representative from personnel at this meeting to address staff questions/concerns.

I have been in management for more than 15 years, and this is no way to notify valued staff especially when the decision will have such a long term impact on their livelihood. I also understand that these positions are being phased out so that two upper management positions can be created. I also understand that these decisions were made without the knowledge or approval of PCMH's CEO. This is very scary, and it seems like PCMH's top management and hospital board is very trusting of its lower level managers or very remiss in their duties. It has been reported that PCMH has spent more than \$300,000.00 of our money in advertisement trying to convince the public that privatization is the best way to go and it's a shame that some of this money could have been used to establish job opportunities for some of these staff.

3. I am also quite concerned about African-American representation within the top management group at PCMH. African-Americans represent over 30% of Pitt County's population but we only represent some 7% of top administrative positions at PCMH. If these inequities exist under the public status, I foresee it worsening un-

der privatization.

4. The privatization of PCMH has been discussed for months in privacy without a lot of public knowledge or input. If privatization is truly a win-win situation for Pitt County, I cannot understand why a quick decision is needed without adequate public disclosure so that the majority of the citizens can gain a full understanding of the pros as well as the cons of such an important decision as this one. The necessary time must be allotted for full disclosure to the owners of PCMH (Citizens) and allow for a more diverse input from the owners. We have mostly heard from the potential beneficiaries of privatization.

5. Lastly, it appears that PCMH has been operating like a private corporation for some time without proper oversight from its Board and our elected officials. PCMH was paid for by the health care users and the citizens of Pitt County. We, the owners, are the ones that should decide its future and not any particular governing board who has so much trust and confidence in PCMH's management that allows for abuse of power and allocation of resources.

This proposal should be placed on the ballot for approval/disapproval by its owners just like the school funding issues were decided. I encourage all citizens regardless of their status to contact our commissioners and just say no to privatization of PCMH. You can contact them at the following numbers:

Mark Owens, 749-4081; Edward Bright, 524-5253; Farney Moore, 758-1047; Thomas Johnson, Jr. 752-1796; Kenneth Dews, Jr., 355-2276; Eugene James, 752-6336; Charles Gaskins, 758-3314; Jeff Savage, 758-5770; Edith Warren, 753-4198.

From Page One - WAGES

notified its members of the bill in scathing terms. "Although Republican leaders have publicly portrayed the measure as "pro family," the New York Times (March 20) noted that "another political bonus of the bill, at least for revenge-minded Republicans, was the sharp opposition of the AFL-CIO."

dent Clinton also opposes the legislation. At press time, whether he plans to veto the bill if passed into law had not yet been released.

Shelby County's federal representatives split on the bill. Democrat Harold Ford, Jr. voted against it. Republican Ed Bryant supported it. Ford wrote an amend-

Continued on page 3

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A Tribute to Our Staff A Triumph for Our Hospital



Congratulations to the employees, medical staff and others at Pitt County Memorial Hospital whose extraordinary efforts have helped us achieve special recognition in a recent survey by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

PCMH has been judged as one of the very best hospitals in the country. The hospital received a rating of 98 percent on its survey in March and earned a designation of "Accreditation with Commendation." Of the 5,200 hospitals across the nation surveyed by JCAHO, only 10 percent receive this distinction. This exceptionally high ranking underscores the dedication of all members of our staff and demonstrates their commitment to providing quality health care to residents of Pitt County and beyond.

We can say proudly that one of the best hospitals in the country is right here in eastern North Carolina. We sincerely appreciate the outstanding efforts of the employees, medical staff and all the others who made it possible for our hospital to achieve this distinction.

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MINORITY REPORT

Fuhrman Puts On Halo But It Won't Fit Him

by James Alsbrook, Phd

If black people don't like Mark Fuhrman, they certainly do not understand him. Fuhrman himself emphasized this idea repeatedly on his book-selling tour and wrote it clearly in his book.

He says he did not use the N word in real life. But he did use it, he says, only in a tape recorded, imagined dialogue to help a female friend create an exciting police drama for a proposed movie script.

While discussing her in his recent book, "Murder in Brentwood," Fuhrman calls her name and says

he had sex with her while they dated for a short time. Now she is married, with husband and two children.

But if you like Johnny Cochran, according to Fuhrman, you are misled because "Johnny Cochran was going to get his client off no matter what it took, no matter who he hurt or even ruined," Fuhrman writes, Cochran "was behind the entire use of race defense and responsible for turning the trial from an examination of O. J. Simpson's guilt or innocence into a campaign of slander against me."

Fuhrman names several of his black "friends" who he says would

testify that he helped them and would say he is "clean" and without a prejudiced bone in his body.

Fuhrman says of others in the Simpson trial:

- Nicole and Ron Goldman—One woman who knew Ron well asked Ron how things were going. Ron said he was seeing a 35-year old woman with a white Ferrari and two kids. Ron, 25, said sex was great with the older woman. Fuhrman added, "I always believed Ron and Nicole were lovers." When he reached the death scene, Fuhrman said, he entered the house, saw "the atmosphere of Nicole's home, the candles and the soft music seemed more than a coincidence."

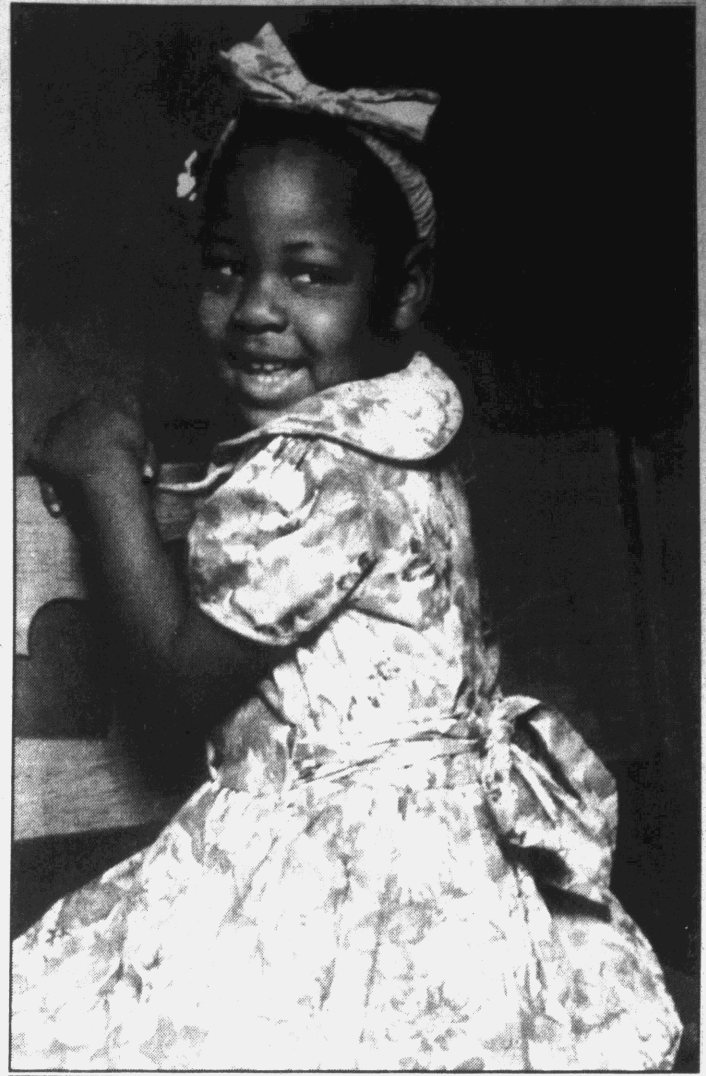
- Marcia Clark, lead prosecutor—Fuhrman writes that "Her case failed not because of anything I had said or did, but because of her own mistakes and those of her lead detectives" (Lang and Vannatter). Marcia Clark had called Fuhrman a racist and a liar.

- O. J. Simpson—After Clark

called Fuhrman a racist and a liar, Fuhrman said "I'm guilty and so is O.J. The only difference is that Simpson had a trial and I was convicted (of being a racist and a liar) without a trial." Fuhrman said Simpson is "absolutely guilty."

- Police Chief Willie Williams—Fuhrman said that Darryl Gates, the displaced white former chief of Los Angeles police, "spoke out more forcefully and more frequently than our missing-in-action chief, Willie Williams."

- Christopher Darden, prosecutor—Fuhrman quotes Darden as saying, "I was torn. My responsibility as a prosecutor clearly told me to take the case. But I had other responsibilities as a black man, and they were difficult to sort out. Fuhrman says "The prosecution lost the Simpson case for two reasons. The prosecution team did not argue all of the evidence it had. The other reason is that it did not have an effective strategy for countering the defense's race card."



"ISN'T SHE LOVELY?".....This young lady is Miss Derabia Matthews, a 6-year old first grader at the Sadie Saulter School who loves to read to her mom and loves to sing in the Young Peoples' Choir at the Philippi Church of Christ. Keeping busy keeps her out of mischief. That's our girl... Derabial.

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From Page Two - WAGES

ment to the act, which its proponents objected.

Co-written with two colleagues, Ford's amendment would have made it unlawful to penalize an employee if an employee refused to accept comp time.

Ford says, "The purpose of this amendment was to enhance employee choice and prevent discriminatory treatment, of employees who seek overtime rather than comp time. Although the majority of employers are well intentioned, I am concerned this bill leaves open the possibility of abuse by less well meaning employers." Ford

is concerned that the Comp Time Bill will not promote "a worker friendly environment or to give ill-intentioned businesses an opportunity to offset or cut their costs. The possibility exists that an employer may not offer overtime to those employees choosing paid overtime. Employers will have the ability to dramatically lower their labor cost if overtime is only given to those who previously agreed to comp time."

Bryant disagrees. "With so many two-person incomes in families today, it is important that families have the chance to be together."

He says the opposing line that employer's will be given the right to coerce savings is "simply distraction. The bill contains penalties for such behavior." GOP spokesperson for the matter, Republican National Committee Co-Chairman Patricia S. Harrison presents the party's view. "Republicans want to give working families more control over their lives. The Working Families Flexibility Act gives them the freedom to choose for themselves whether, in the circumstances for each of their families, more money or more time off makes sense for their family."

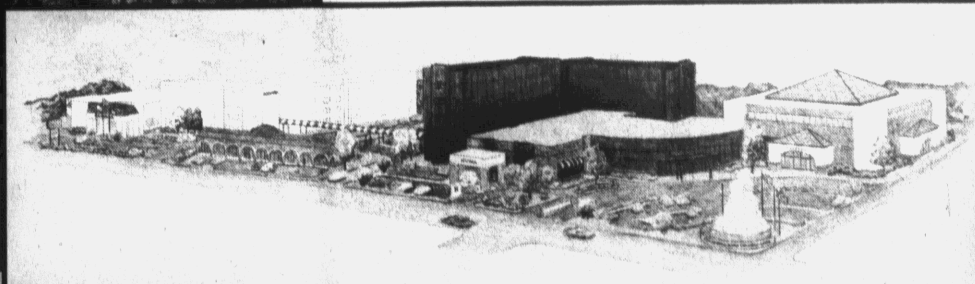


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From Page One - Jackie Robinson

THE "M" VOICE - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16 - APRIL 23, 1997 - 5

most other places. The absence of tenements and the predominance of single-family houses allowed Mallie Robinson to buy a home for her family. The lack of restrictions on black participation in athletics opened to her sons an avenue of success. First Jackie's brother Mack starred in track and field at Pasadena Junior College and the 1936 Olympic games, where he won a silver medal; then Jackie himself won renown in four sports at Pasadena Junior College and at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Robinson's years at UCLA introduced him to high-level interracial competition. He was not the first African-American athlete at UCLA; he was preceded by the All-American Kenny Washington—another extraordinary athlete, who starred in football, baseball, and basketball—and the future movie actor Woody Strode. Robinson's childhood friend Ray Bartlett was a fourth black starter on the 1939 UCLA football team. While most black athletes of the era played for Negro colleges, in the Negro Leagues, or on down teams like the Harlem Globetrotters, Robinson achieved his initial stardom on integrated playing fields.

In his senior year at UCLA Robinson met his future wife, Rachel Isum. She was three years younger than Robinson and came from a more secure black middle class background. She was a third-generation Californian, a rare status among African-Americans, and she had earned an academic scholarship to UCLA and maintained a straight-A average. Her calm, warm, thoughtful manner complemented Robinson's fiery impetuosity. They formed an enduring bond of mutual love and support that girded them for the challenging years ahead.

Robinson and Isum found their courtship interrupted by World War II. Robinson's Army career typified the African-American military experience. Drafted in April 1942 and assigned to Fort Riley, Kansas, he ran an endless gauntlet of racial discrimination. He was barred from Officer Candidate School, blocked from playing on the camp baseball team, and restricted to segregated facilities. But he used both his aggressiveness and celebrity to demand better treatment. He rose to the rank of lieutenant and waged a campaign to improve conditions for black soldiers at Fort Riley. After his transfer to Fort Hood, in Texas, he refused to move to the back of a military bus and defied the officers who tried to discipline him, precipitating a court-martial that might have led to dishonorable discharge. A military tribunal ac-

quitted him of all charges, but the episode left its mark and intensified his commitment to racial justice.

Upon his release from the Army, Robinson faced a predicament familiar to African-Americans. Although at the peak of his athletic talent and good enough to star in any major American team sport, he, like his brother Mack and Kenny Washington before him, had few professional options. Neither organized baseball nor the National Football League nor most major basketball teams accepted black players. Robinson's best alternative was to cast his lot with baseball's Negro Leagues, and in the spring of 1945 he signed with the Kansas City Monarchs.

There can be little doubt that at their best the Negro Leagues played first-class baseball, featuring some of the game's greatest stars. In 1945 the Monarch's roster included two standout pitchers, Satchel Paige and Hilton Smith. On opposing teams were the future baseball Hall-of-Famers Buck Leonard, Josh Gibson, Roy Campanella, and Martin Dihigo. For Robinson, however, the Negro Leagues proved a distasteful experience. Accustomed to the highly structured training of major college sports and hostile to any compromise with segregation, Robinson considered the Negro Leagues a step down rather than a leg up. The long, hot bus rides through the South, the degrading treatment at gas stations and other white-owned facilities, and the players' informal approach to most nonleague contests frustrated him. An intensely private individual who neither smoked nor drank nor enjoyed what Paige called the "social ramble," Robinson never really fit in among the Monarchs. Although he performed well with Kansas City and gained invaluable training and exposure to top flight baseball competition, Robinson, unlike most of his teammates and rivals, always disparaged his stint in the Negro Leagues.

Unbeknownst to Robinson, his performances with the Monarchs had attracted intense scrutiny. The Brooklyn Dodgers' president, Branch Rickey, had secretly decided to bring blacks into the major leagues. With the pretext of forming a new black squad, the Brown Dodgers, he had assigned his top scouts to evaluate

Negro League talent. From the start Robinson had been high on Rickey's list of prospects. In April 1945 the Pittsburgh Courier sportswriter Wendell Smith arranged a tryout with the Boston Red Sox for Robinson and two other Negro League stars. The Red Sox, who agreed to the audition in the

face of local political pressure, never considered signing Robinson. Shortly thereafter Rickey quizzed Smith about potential players for the Brown Dodgers. Smith, who might have suspected Rickey's true intentions, recommended Robinson.

Branch Rickey offered various reasons for his historic decision to desegregate baseball. Sometimes he spoke of his need to make peace with the memory of a black college player he had coached in 1904 who had wept when barred from staying with his teammates at a Midwestern hotel. At other times he expressed moral and religious concerns. Just as frequently he denied any noble intentions and invoked his desire to field the best possible team. "The Negroes will make us winners for years to come," he accurately predicted. He also surely recognized that by attracting fans from New York City's growing African-American population and by fielding winning teams he would boost Dodger attendance. In the end it was probably a combination of these factors—and a desire to make a mark in history beyond the boundaries of baseball—that motivated Rickey.

What is often forgotten in light of the success of the Rickey-Robinson alliance is the extraordinary risk Rickey assumed in signing Robinson. Although Rickey correctly guessed that integration would bring profits, most major-league owners believed that luring more blacks to the ballpark would, in the words of the New York Yankees head Larry MacPhail, result in lessening the value of several major league franchises.

Furthermore, although a seasoned athlete, Robinson had had minimal baseball experience. Other than his one season serious competitive baseball since leaving UCLA five years earlier. Few considered him the best player in the Negro Leagues. Even more ominous, Rickey, who had traveled to California and done research on Robinson's background, was well aware of the athlete's tempestuous nature and capacity for controversy. "Jackie had a genius for getting into extra curricular scrapes," remembered one Los Angeles sportswriter. Robinson's problems in the Army, also known to Rickey, reinforced this image. Rickey discounted many of these reports, noting that most of Robinson's difficulties arose from asserting his rights or responding to discrimination. If Robinson had been white, Rickey said, his aggressiveness both on and off the field would have been "praised to the skies." This behavior in an African-American, however, was

"offensive to some white people." Rickey believed that Robinson's racial pride and combativeness, if consciously curbed, would not offend whites but rather rally them to his cause.

Other elements of Robinson's history and personality appealed to Rickey. Robinson boasted a college education and had been an Army officer. He was in telligent, articulate, and comfortable in the limelight. Unlike most Negro League players, he had had extensive experience in high-level interracial competition. In addition, he had the athletic skills Rickey admired in a ballplayer: speed (the only crucial skill that Rickey believed could not be taught), daring, and a fierce competitive drive. Before signing him, however, Rickey elicited a promise from Robinson. Regardless of the savage insults he might face from opposing players and people in the stands, when off the field he was not to respond. He was to curb his naturally combative instincts and turn the other cheek. Robinson, who understood and welcomed the challenge confronting him, readily agreed.

In February 1946 Robinson married Rachel Isum in a Los Angeles church. Shortly thereafter they departed for spring training in Florida. The South that the young couple entered in 1946 was a land of rigid segregation, lynchings, and racial oppression; the dismantling of Jim Crow seemed a distant dream. Two years later President Harry S. Truman would order the desegregation of the armed forces. Eight years would pass before the U.S. Supreme Court issued its landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. Seventeen-year-old Martin Luther King, Jr., was attending classes at Morehouse College. Robinson thus became what one writer has called "a one man civil rights movement."

From the moment of their arrival in Florida the Robinsons encountered Jim Crow. In Sanford threats of violence forced the couple out of town. In Jacksonville and De Land public officials refused to let Robinson play. On one occasion a local sheriff marched onto the field and demanded his ouster in midgame. Yet Robinson, assigned to the Montreal Royals, of the International League—the Dodgers' top farm club—participated freely in games at the Dodgers' base in Daytona Beach, and both black and white fans greeted his appearances enthusiastically. Local business leaders in many Florida communities, aware of the profits and publicity generated by baseball training camps, courted the integrated Dodgers for future seasons. Although Rickey did not bring Robinson and the Dodgers back to Florida in 1947, the team had established an important precedent. Within three years cities throughout Florida and the rest of the South would clamor to host the Jackie Robinson Dodgers.

Throughout the 1946 season Robinson, in the words of the New York *Amsterdam News* columnist Joe Bostic, "ascended the heights of excellence to prove the rightness of the experiment. And prove it in the only correct crucible for such an experiment—the crucible of white-hot competition." During the Royals' opening game, in Jersey City, New Jersey, Robinson unveiled his ability to convert challenges into transcendent moments. The Montreal second baseman garnered four hits, including a three-run home run; scored four times; stole two bases; and twice scored from third by inducing the opposing pitcher to balk. This extraordinary debut proved a prologue to an equally remarkable season. Despite a rash of brushback pitches, spiking attempts, vile harassment by opposing players, and threats of race riots in the league's southernmost city, Baltimore, Robinson led the International League in batting

(.349) and runs scored (113). He finished second in stolen bases and had the highest fielding percentage of any second baseman. Anchored by his inspirational play, Montreal won the league pennant by nineteen-and-a-half games. The team returned to the South to defeat the Louisville Colonels in the Little World Series, securing the championship of the minor leagues.

Although Robinson's spectacular season at Montreal dispelled doubts about his right to play in the major leagues, Branch Rickey kept him on the Royals' roster throughout spring training in 1947. Rickey embarked on several stratagems that he hoped would ease Robinson's way onto the Dodgers. He avoided the pitfalls of Florida segregation by dispatching the Dodgers and the Royals to Cuba and Panama, and he transformed Robinson into a first baseman, the Brooklyn club's greatest need. Rickey believed that a demonstration of Robinson's undeniable skills would generate a ground swell of support for his promotion among the Dodgers' players.

Robinson responded with a .429 spring batting tear, but rather than demand his ascension, several Dodgers, led by the Southerners Dixie Walker, Kirby Higbe, and Bobby Bragan, circulated a petition to keep him off the team. Other key players, however, notably the Kentucky-born shortstop Pee Wee Reese, refused to sign the protest, and Rickey and the manager Leo Durocher quickly quashed the rebellion. On April 10, five days before the start of the season and with no groundswell yet in evidence, Rickey simply elevated Robinson to the parent club as the Dodgers' first baseman.

Around the National League, Robinson's arrival produced undercurrents of dismay. The Philadelphia Phillies, under the leadership of the manager Ben Chapman, subjected him to a stream of racist abuse. Opposing pitchers regularly targeted him with brushback and bean ball pitches, hitting him seven times—a league record—in the first half of the season. Hotels in Philadelphia and St. Louis barred him; one in Cincinnati compelled him to take his meals in his room, fearing his presence would offend other guests.

Against this backdrop of pressure and challenge, Robinson carved out not just an extraordinary rookie season but a monument to courage and equal opportunity. After an early slump, he removed any remaining justifications for the exclusion of blacks from baseball. He batted above .300 for most of the season, led the league in stolen bases, and trailed just one other player in runs scored. He paced the Dodgers in home runs and led them to the pennant. *Sporting News*, which had consistently opposed the inclusion of blacks in organized baseball, named him Rookie of the Year.

Yet Robinson's rookie-year statistics and honors, impressive as they are, fail to capture his achievement. By introducing the more aggressive and flamboyant base-running and batting styles of the Negro Leagues, he transformed major league baseball. In the process he changed the nation's outlook as well.

Robinson began the 1947 season as a curiosity; he emerged as a national phenomenon. Wherever the Dodgers played, fans turned out in record numbers to witness the spectacle of integration. While he doubtless benefited from the more liberal racial attitudes that had

emerged during the Depression and World War II, Robinson helped forge a new consciousness that would accelerate the civil rights movement of the 1950s. African-Americans saw him as their standard-bearer, leading the onslaught against segregation. Whites discovered in him an individual who won their admiration not only as an athlete but as a man, compelling them to reassess their views both of African-Americans and of American race relations.

Although few people realized it at the time, Robinson had launched a revolution in American athletics. Only two other major-league teams signed African-American players in 1947, and the pace of integration seemed agonizingly slow. Yet within a decade blacks from the United States and Caribbean countries had appeared on all but one team and emerged as the stars of the game. This pattern proved even more pronounced in other team sports. By the late 1960s African-Americans predominated in the National Football League and National Basketball Association. The black influx into college football and basketball forced Southern Universities to abandon policies barring competition against integrated squads and ultimately to recruit African-Americans themselves. Sports became the primary symbol of social mobility in the black community, eventually prompting concern about an overemphasis on athletics among young African-Americans.

In the wake of his triumphant rookie season, Robinson transcended baseball and sports to become an American icon. Numerous articles showing Jackie and Rachel Robinson living in integrated neighborhoods and their children attending predominantly white schools portrayed the family as the vanguard of the new racial enlightenment. As the nation's foremost representative of interracial improvement, Robinson found himself embroiled in 1949 in a Cold War confrontation with the singer and actor Paul Robeson, whose pessimistic assessment of American race relations had led him to a flirtation with Soviet communism.

Robinson's dynamic playing for the Dodgers reinforced his charismatic appeal. In 1949 he led the National League in batting, won the Most Valuable Player Award, and began a string of six consecutive All-Star Game appearances. With the addition of the catcher Roy Campanella, the pitcher Don Newcombe, and other former Negro League stars, the Dodgers continued to showcase the benefits of integration. Equally important was the fact that Robinson, the African-American firebrand, was clearly the leader and dominant personality on the National League's most accomplished and celebrated squad.

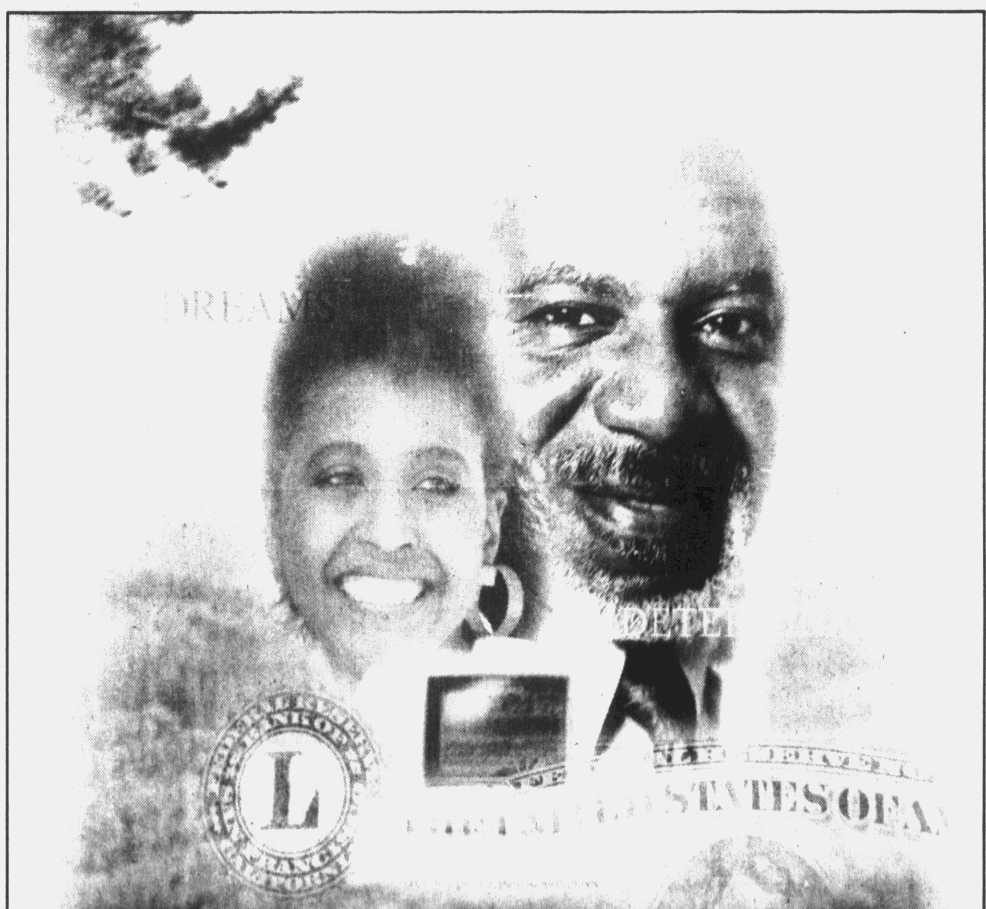
Yet amid these growing achievements, Robinson's "genius for getting into extracurricular scrapes" reasserted itself. In 1945 he had promised Branch Rickey that he would ignore insults and assaults. By 1949 both men agreed that this chapter had ended; Robinson no longer needed to restrain his instinctive responses to opposing players or anyone else.

Thereafter Robinson seemed forever surrounded by controversy. He complained that some umpires had it in for him and warred with the Giants' manager, Leo Durocher. He objected to the Yankees' failure to sign black players, protested the continuing discrimination faced by black athletes during spring training, and demanded that blacks be considered as candidates for managers. His unrepentant outspokenness and civil rights militancy attracted criticism and acclaim both inside and outside baseball.

In January 1957, after ten tempestuous seasons, Robinson retired. It is fitting testimony to his baseball prowess that his career record alone, without any consideration of his pioneering social role, merited his first-ballot election to the Hall of Fame five years later. His lifetime batting aver-

Continued on page 6

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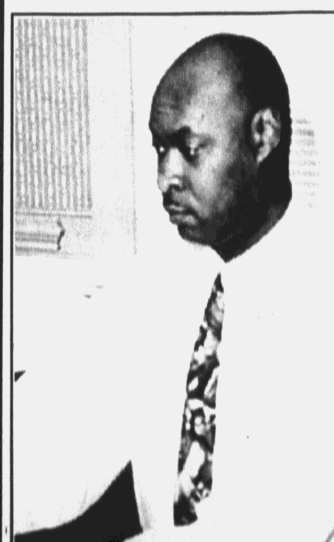
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Dr. West Shields

The Education Department of Progressive Universal Life Church of Sacramento, California... In the fall semester 1996, bestowed upon Dr. West Shields, Jr., three Doctorate Degrees, for the Dissertation: "The History of the Black Churches in the United States:

Dr. West Shields, local minister, has earned seven degrees in the past 25 years. These have included: 1 Bachelor, 1 Masters, 2 Honorary Doctorates, and 3 Academic Doctorates.

One of the first Blacks to have been in business, 42 years, with the exception of his mentor—Brother D. D. Garrett, who has 50+ years.

One of the first black ministers to teach Bible History at a Community College, Extension Services.

The first Black resident Shelter Pastor of the Greenville Community shelter.

Former Executive Board Member of Real Crisis Center in Greenville. Former member and Board of Director of O.I.C. in Greenville.

First black insurance agent to walk three months for a major insurance company.

Former Director of Christian Education of Hyde County Association.

One of the first blacks to become an assistant manager of a major finance company.

At the present, Dr. Shields is a preacher of the gospel, public accountant, Notary Public, Reading and Writing tutor, handwriting analyst. Dr. Shields is family and community-oriented.

From Page Five - Jackie Robinson

age was .311, and his .410 on-base percentage puts him among the top twenty-five players of all time. In addition, the Dodgers won pennants during six of Robinson's ten years with the club and finished second three times. Moreover, he accomplished all that he did after discrimination had robbed him of at least five years of prime productivity, for he was already twenty-eight years old when he joined the Dodgers.

Unlike most athletes, Robinson did not retreat from the public eye after his retirement. He accepted a job as vice president of Chock Full O' Nuts, a chain of New York City fast food restaurants that employed many African-Americans. He chaired the NAACP Freedom Fund Drive and became one of the organization's primary spokespersons and fundraisers. He immersed himself in the civil rights movement as an ardent supporter of Martin Luther King, Jr., raised funds for the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and marched in many of the major demonstrations of the 1960s.

Yet he also became engulfed in the shifting racial and generational tides of that decade. Always defiantly independent, he forged his own distinctive path in politics and protest. In 1960 he endorsed Richard Nixon for President over John F. Kennedy, the favorite of most civil rights activists. Although the majority of African-Americans supported the Democrats, Robinson allied himself with New York's governor, Nelson Rockefeller, and became the nation's most prominent black Republican. As white and black radicals increasingly attacked the American economic and political system, Robinson reaffirmed his faith in "black capitalism" as the vehicle for African-American progress, establishing the Freedom National Bank and investing in other black owned enterprises.

In 1960 young SNCC activists successfully approached Robinson for assistance, seeing him as a kindred spirit. By the late 1960s, however, he had publicly feuded with Malcolm X and other Black Power advocates and split with King over the latter's opposition to the Vietnam War. Indeed Robinson, who came to be regarded by many militants as a pillar of the mainstream establishment, was even called an Uncle Tom. Ironically, these attacks coincided with his resignation from the NAACP because, he said, it was dominated by a "clique of the Old Guard" and had failed to incorporate "younger, more progressive voices."

Accustomed to contention, Robinson confidently navigated these controversies. Personal tragedy, however, took a far greater

toll. Twenty-one-year-old Jackie Robinson Jr., wounded in action in Vietnam, had returned addicted to heroin and turned to a life of crime. On June 4, 1968, police arrested him for possession of drugs and a firearm. Where Jackie Sr. had been a herald of the "new Negro" of the civil rights movement, his son became a harbinger of the devastation that awaited many African-American males in the 1980s and 1990s.

After a stay at Daytop Village, a drug rehabilitation center, Jackie Jr. emerged cured of his addiction and devoted to helping others afflicted by drugs. Fate allowed him little time to savor his triumph. In the early morning hours of June 17, 1971, the sports car he was driving veered out of control and crashed on the Merritt Parkway, near the Robinson home in Connecticut. Jackie Robinson, Jr., was dead at twenty-four.

His son's ordeal and death transformed Robinson. The tragedy had been played out, as had so much for the family, in public view. "I guess I had more of an effect on other people's kids than I had on my own," he remarked, after Jackie Jr.'s arrest, as unsparing in self-criticism as in his attacks on others.

Around this time Robinson's physical condition declined precipitously. Plagued for several years with diabetes, he found his eyesight fading. He suffered a heart attack, and poor circulation made walking difficult. He was told that one of his legs would have to be amputated. After King's assassination, in 1968, and the election of Richard Nixon, with whom he had long since parted company, the troubles of Jackie Jr. led Robinson—like many other African-Americans—to re-evaluate his faith in America's ability to overcome its history of racism.

This reassessment culminated

in the publication, in 1972, of Robinson's remarkable final testament, his bluntly titled autobiography, *I Never Had It Made*. Characteristically frank and outspoken, he expressed pride in his accomplishments but acknowledged his errors: his castigation of Robeson, his endorsement of Nixon, his split with King over Vietnam, and other episodes. He wrote honestly and movingly about Jackie Jr. Having for a quarter of a century symbolized the possibility of integration in America, he now sounded a profoundly pessimistic note. "There was a time I believed deeply in America. I have become bitterly disillusioned, he wrote. "Personally, I have been very fortunate [but] I cannot say I have it made while our country... speeds along a course toward more and more racism."

Yet the image of Robinson in his final years as broken and dispirited belies the reality of his indomitable personality. The publication of Roger Kahn's book about the Brooklyn Dodgers, *The Boys of Summer*, in 1971, awakened a new generation to the power and the glory of the Robinson saga. Those who saw and spoke to Robinson in 1972 describe him as ebullient despite his personal grief and physical difficulties. In a final telephone conversation Kahn found him "as enthusiastic as a twenty-year-old" while discussing his latest business venture. When, during the 1972 World Series, Major League Baseball celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of Robinson's debut, he joked with his former teammates about his impending amputation, needing Pee Wee Reese by saying that he would return to best him on the golf course. Then, before a national television audience, Robinson offered America one final, enduring memory. After accepting the accolades of the dignitaries, he chal-

lenged organized baseball to fulfill his legacy by hiring black managers.

Nine days later, on October 24, 1972, Robinson died of a heart attack. He was only fifty-three years old. To deliver the eulogy Rachel Robinson, who had shared her husband's triumphs and heartbreaks, chose not someone from Robinson's baseball past nor one of his long-standing allies from earlier civil rights struggles but the thirty-one-year-old Rev. Jesse Jackson, an African-American leader who embodied the hopes of the future rather than the disappointments of the past.

Jackson, like Rachel Robinson, understood Robinson's final testament. Robinson, preached Jackson, had "created ripples of possibility," "turned stumbling block into stepping stone," and bequeathed the "gift of new expectations."

In his autobiography Robinson vented his disappointment with the state of race relations in the 1970s, but he also reaffirmed the message that has made him an enduring figure: that individuals of courage and commitment can confront bigotry and create change. He tempered his disillusionment with an uplifting epiphany: "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives." By that measure, a quarter-century after his death and half a century after his historic feat, the import of Jackie Robinson's life continues to resound.

Jules Tygiel is a professor of history at San Francisco State University. He is the author of Baseball's Great Experiment: Jackie Robinson and His Legacy (to be reissued this year by Oxford University Press) and The Jackie Robinson Reader (Dutton/Signet, 1997), for which this article is the introduction.

Arts Council presents..

Pitt County Arts Council's Arts in the Schools Program presents the Rampant Theatrical Company Performance Troupe in *Wiley and The Hairy Man*. J.H. Rose Honors Theatre students produce, perform and direct *Wiley and the Hairy Man* for all Pitt County fourth graders.

Wiley and the Hairy Man will be shown 9:45 A.M. at J.H. Rose Performing Arts Center April 23rd through the 25th for all Pitt County fourth graders.

Pitt County Arts Council Arts in the Schools program regularly funds cross curriculum productions to insure all students have a chance to enjoy, learn and produce the arts.

Greenville Flying Pirates

The Greenville Flying Pirates will be presenting their Fifth Annual Spring Fling R/C Fly-In on Saturday, May 17th., from 9:00 a.m. to Sunset.. This will be Remote Controlled Model Aircraft flying at it's finest. Admission is Free to the Public. There are Restroom Facilities, plenty of parking spaces and concessions available throughout the Fly-In.

The location is Frankie Coburn Memorial Field, Frankie Coburn Road, S.R. 1539. Take 264 bypass to the Fairgrounds, turn on Whichards Road, S.R. 1523 and follow the signs.

For more information call Frank Coburn, (919) 758-9797.

Enrollment Announcement Head Start Program

Martin County Community Action, Inc. Project Head Start is now accepting applications for the 1997 Fall Enrollment for children and including children with disabilities. Eligibility is determined by HHS Income Guidelines, family needs, disabilities, and/or special conditions of the child.

Children who will be enrolled will be exposed to a broad educational curriculum that will prepare them for preschool social and educational experiences. Health, nutrition and mental health are also important factors in the development of these children. These areas are also facilitated in the daily routines of the children. Parent Involvement and other program services as mandated are required and are fully utilized by the program. Ten percent (10%) of Head Start Enrollment is identified as: "health impairment, emotional/behavior disorders, speech/language impairments, mental retardation, hearing impairment/deafness, orthopedic impairment, visual impairment/blind, learning disabilities, autism, traumatic brain injury, and other impairments for children who require special education and related services."

Head Start is a comprehensive developmental program for children ages 3-5 years old. This program is based on the premise that children share certain needs and that children from low-income families, in particular, can benefit from a program designed to meet those needs. Head Start operates nine (9) months of the year, - September through May. The centers are open Monday through Friday and the hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Head Start has been operating in the Martin County area since 1965, currently there are 192 children. Nine (9) classrooms are comprised 4-5 year old and one (1) classroom consists of three year old must become three by October 16th; Beaufort County has been operating since 1977 and presently serving 99 children. Five (5) classrooms of 4-5 year olds are accommodated in this county.

Pitt County originated in 1985 and serving 222 children in twelve (12) classrooms accommodating 4-5 year olds.

Funding for Martin County Community Action, Inc. Project Head Start is received from the Administration for Children, Youth and Families Unit, Department of Health and Human Services. In order for children to qualify, they must meet the family income guidelines. Below are the guidelines.

1996 FAMILY INCOME GUIDELINES FOR HEAD START PROGRAMS

1996 FAMILY INCOME GUIDELINES FOR ALL STATES (EXCEPT ALASKA AND HAWAII), THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND PUERTO RICO.

Size of Family Unit	Income
1	\$7,470
2	\$10,030
3	\$12,590
4	\$15,150
5	\$17,710
6	\$20,270
7	\$22,830
8	\$25,390

For Family Units with more than 8 members, add \$2,560 for each additional member. Please contact the Family Service Worker at the Head Start center in your area:

Martin Co: North Everetts 792-5353

Pitt Co: St. Gabriel (752-9755)
Ayden (746-4298)
Farmville (753-8036)

Beaufort Co: 264 Washington (946-5632)
Aurora (322-5543)
Belhaven (943-3006)

For more information or to enroll a child, please call Ms. Teresa Greene, Social Services Coordinator or Ms. Gloristeen Matthewson, Disability Services Coordinator at (919) 792-7141 or come by the Martin County Community Action Head Start Administrative Office at 106 South Watts Street in Williamston, North Carolina.



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Special Olympics

STRANGE THINGS

Obsessions

Larry Bottone, a coach, teacher, and private tutor of kids for almost 20 years in Norwalk, Connecticut, pleaded guilty to a charge of child pornography based on a videotape of himself with a teenage boy. According to police, other videos showed Bottone whipping nude boys, sticking objects under their fingernails, and rubbing their bodies with hot olive oil. Bottone said that he was conducting serious research on how much punishment one child could endure when requested to do so by an authority figure.

Hey man, not me!

In Wausau, Wisconsin, Kurt Iron, 28, was arrested and charged with vehicular homicide. Reportedly, Iron was drinking heavily and crashed into another truck, killing a 37-year-old woman. According to the Marathon County Sheriff's report, Iron was surprised that he was arrested, saying, "Dudes, it's just a girl, man, nothing but a girl."

Not my fault

Credit union manager Cathleen Byers, charged with 83 counts of embezzling a total of \$630,000, told a Eugene, Oregon, jury that her hands may have taken the money but that her "heart, mind and spirit" were innocent because another personality within her did it. According to the prosecutor, only a handful of multiple-personality cases has ever been diagnosed in Europe, as opposed to "tens of thousands" in the United States.

Not very dignified

Police in Dahlgonega, Georgia, said ROTC cadet Nick Berrena, 20, was stabbed to death by fellow cadet Jeffrey Hoffman, 23, he was trying to prove that a knife could not penetrate the flak vest Berrena was wearing.

Sore head

In Burney, California, Jeremy Dean and his parents, filed a lawsuit against Shasta County for at least \$700,000 for Dean's total disability that resulted from a car crash. Dean and some friends had been out drinking. He was in the back seat of a car and had stuck his head out the window to vomit just as the driver veered off the road, ramming Dean's head into the tree. The lawsuit claims that it was the county's fault that the tree was so close to the road.

Loves his name

In Fremont, California, Jason Christopher Zepeda, 19, in a holding tank following his arrest for graffiti vandalism, was booked on new charges when sheriff's deputies noticed that he was writing his name all over the cell.

Bad eating habit

A mother in London, England said treatment at a children's hospital had finally cured her seven-year-old son of her three-year habit of eating nothing but jam sandwiches (strawberry or raspberry on white bread). His fear of other foods was such that he would tremble, sweat, and become nauseated at the mere sight.

Underwear fetish

Carlton Bradley, 56, was indicted in Pittsburgh and New York for stealing underwear from a woman. Stealing one item at a time over a three-year period, he amassed 42 bras, 41 pairs of underpants, and 14 negligees.

Bad TV shows

The *New York Times* reported on a recent spate of what it called really bad Japanese television shows, among them one in which bikini-clad young women attempted to crush aluminum cans by squeezing them between their breasts, and another in which a young child was brought on-stage and told that his mother had just been shot to death - the producers wanted to see how many seconds would elapse before he started crying. Said a leading TV critic: "The more nonsensical the programs are, the more interesting I find them."

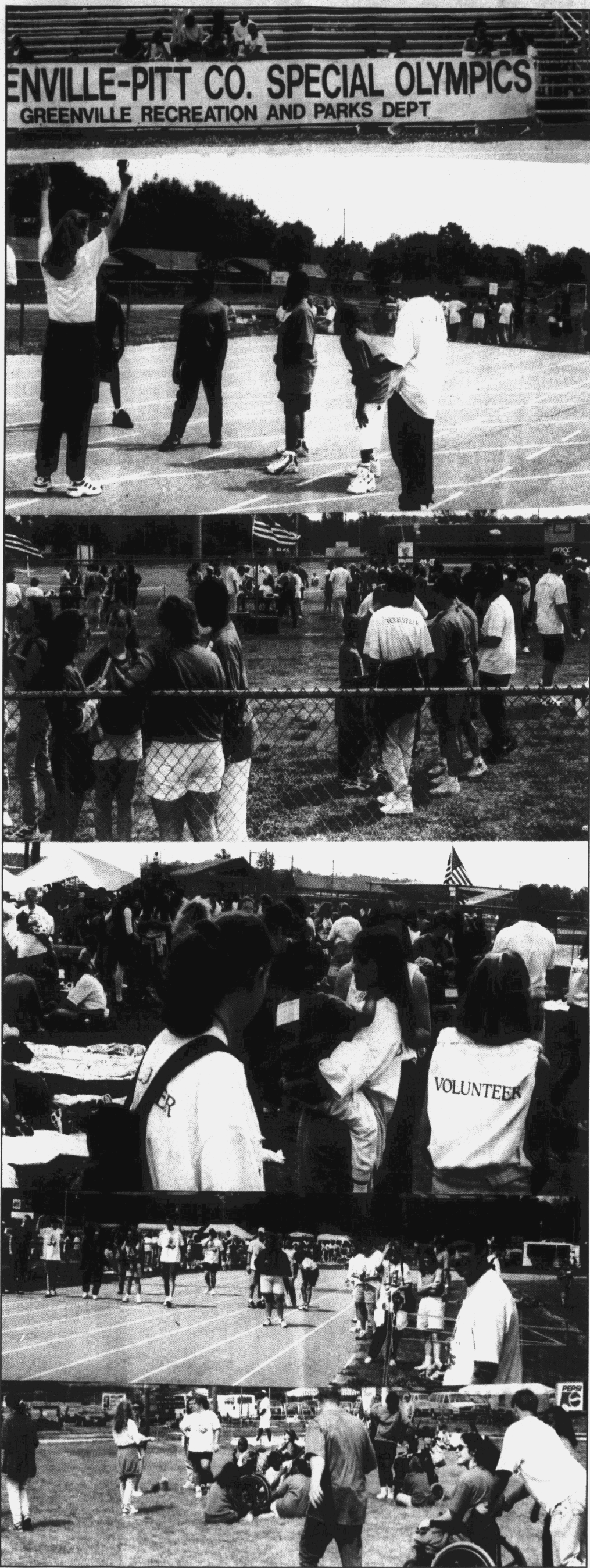
Tough luck

In New York, a 14-year-old would-be thief thought he was escaping a raving 60-year-old woman whose purse he had just snatched, when he ran attempted to beat traffic across a busy intersection. He didn't make it. He was struck by a speeding cab, and was thrown nearly 60 feet. Police said the youth suffered several broken bones and bruises, but survived. Now he's going to stand trial for theft and possibly face a two-year jail term.

Non-driver

In Hollywood, Florida, a 78-year-old woman drove her car accidentally off a raising bridge. Fortunately she was rescued. Police said the woman who stands five-feet even and drives a 1978 Cadillac, was sitting too low in her car seat to see the flashing lights warning drivers that the bridge is lifting. She apparently drove through the warning signal and reached the bridge as the opposite side had lifted just enough for her car to crash down into the Intracoastal Waterway. "Hell, I doubt if the poor woman could even see over her steering wheel," one officer reported. "It's common trait among the elderly here. They drive cars bigger than they are and get into accidents."

Compiled by Real Times Communications, Inc., 401 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 745, Chicago, Illinois 60611.



The 1997 Greenville-Pitt County Special Olympics Spring Games were held on April 17 at the Minges-Farley Athletic Complex.

Congratulations to all who participated: the medal

winners, the volunteers, coaches, and sponsors. After all... with Special Olympics... we're ALL part of the WINNING TEAM!!!

(Staff Photos: Hayward Johnson, Jr.)

'Magic' is-Still Not AIDS Free, Doctors Warn

Magic Johnson says his faith in God and the prayers of friends and family have helped his body push back the AIDS virus to undetectable levels.

"If it wasn't for the Lord's blessing, I wouldn't be as healthy as I am now," Johnson told KCBS-TV's Jim Hill in an interview broadcast Friday.

Earlier in the day, his doctors credited powerful drugs with reducing the virus in the former Los Angeles Lakers star's body—but they added that he is not cured.

"Earvin is doing very well," Dr. David Ho and Dr. Michael Mellman, physi-

cians for Johnson, said in a joint statement.

"However, we must emphasize that 'undetectable' doesn't equal 'absent.' It would be premature and incorrect to say Earvin is 'virus free.' We are very pleased he has adhered to his daily drug regimen, and that is reflected in his good health."

"His viral activity is infinitesimal," Johnson agent Lon Rosen said. But he acknowledged that did not mean the virus was gone.

Johnson's comments were in response to his wife's comments to an *Ebony* magazine article that she believes low viral activity in Johnson's bloodstream means he has been healed by God.

"This is the First time we've

ever said anything about the viral activity within my own system," he said.

"... So when she came out and said, because there's no viral activity within my body, she feels, and we both believe, that we've been healed, by our faith in God and by his blessing," Johnson said during a break in a practice with his touring basketball team.

Johnson, who played for the Lakers from 1979 to 1992, disclosed in November 1991 that he was HIV positive. He coached the team for the final 16 games of the 1993-94 season and came out of retirement to play the second half of last season before retiring for good. He now owns a small portion of the Lakers.

At 37, Johnson maintains a strenuous exercise program and plays basketball with the Magic Johnson All-Stars, a touring team that competes in exhibition games, mostly in Europe.

Johnson was not taking calls about his condition, Rosen said.

Just as Johnson's announcement that he was HIV-positive catapulted the issue of AIDS into mainstream social discussions, activists hope that his progress encourages people to get tested and take advantage of improved treat-

Continued on page 8

AFRICA DIGEST

ZAIRE

Mobutu fires new PM

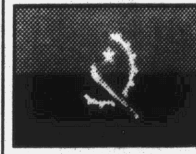


In an attempt to reassert his control over his crumbling country, President Mobutu Sese Seko fires his new prime minister after soldiers seized him during a protest march. Mobutu immediately named an army general to replace him.

Defense Ministry spokesman Leon Kalima said the charges were ordered because of "the gravity of the situation." Soldiers fired tear gas to break up a march by thousands of Prime Minister Iuene Tshisekedi's supporters and there were reports that rebels had entered and possibly captured Zaire's second-largest city. Meanwhile, the White House increased pressure on Mobutu to leave office. "Mobutuism is about to become a creature of history," White House spokesman Mike McClurry said this week.

ANGOLA

Rebel leader gets powers



Jonas Savimbi, the former rebel leader who agreed to share power with the Angolan government, was given special powers this week by Parliament. He will also be provided with bodyguards, all paid for by the state.

Lawmakers hope the moves, which also include an undisclosed salary for Savimbi, will pave the way for a functioning coalition government that formally ends two decades of civil war. The joint government of officials from the current administration and Savimbi's UNITA would not join the government unless Parliament approved a special role for him as opposition leader. Parliament agreed - 120 votes in favor, none against and six abstentions - to give Savimbi the status "leader of the largest opposition party."

SOMALIA

Opposition to meet

President Hussein Mohamed Aidid's opposition factions have agreed to get together in June to plan a coalition government for Somalia.

Ending a five-day congress this week, chairman Adan Abdullahi Gabyow said there would be another meeting in the capital city of Mogadishu this weekend to put finishing touches on a national conference scheduled for June 10 in Basasso, a north-eastern port town on the Horn of Africa. Participants in the congress, some of whom came from Canada and the United States, drew up a proposal for a national parliament of 151 seats. They didn't decide, however, whether constituencies would be drawn up along regional or clan lines.

RWANDA

Aid groups rap genocide trials

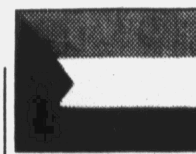


An international aid organization this week criticized Rwanda's genocide trials, saying the judges and prosecutors are ill-trained and defense lawyers overburdened.

"The fact that trials are being held at all represents a significant step towards restoring justice in Rwanda, but the serious flaws put at risk the lives of those charged and the attempts at rebuilding the Rwandan justice system," Amnesty International said. In addition, they add, the judges ignore defendants' claims that confessions were tortured out of them and suspects have little or no opportunity to prepare their defense - overall, a situation that makes fair trials impossible. Rwanda has about 100,000 people in crowded prisons awaiting trial in the 1994 government-sponsored slaughter of a half-million Tutsis. Since the trial started Dec. 27, courts have sentenced at least 13 people to death.

SUDAN

Rebel leader says war is over



Sudan's leading rebel leader, John Garang, stood outside in the failing light and pointed at a map of southern Sudan hanging beside him. He smiled broadly.

"I can, for all practical purposes, declare the war in the south is over," Garang said this week. But Garang has been in this position before and let success slip through his grasp. In an earlier attempt to win autonomy from the Islamic government in Khartoum, he nearly succeeded in taking Juba, the regional capital in 1992. But he lost ground because of poor planning and divisions in the rebel leadership. The southerners are largely African, Christians or animists. They resent their Arab rulers and the increasing Islamization of Sudan since it won independence from joint British and Egyptian rule in 1956. This time, the rebels have tanks - some of them captured from the Sudanese army - and surface-to-air missiles. As Garang spoke, soldiers of his Sudan People's Liberation Army - most of them teenagers - milled about, wearing new looking uniforms and carrying AK-47 rifles. Garang won't say how he pays for these things. The government accuses Sudan's neighbors - Eritrea, Kenya and Uganda - of supporting the rebels. But they and Garang deny it. Since the rebellion first began in 1983, an estimated 1.3 million people have died in fighting.

Bachelor auction April 22 to benefit Children's Hospital

GREENVILLE—Though springtime romance can be unpredictable, one thing is certain: The Children's Miracle Network will benefit from a bachelor auction to be held April 22 at Champagne's at the Greenville Hilton.

CMN funds benefit the Children's Hospital of Eastern North Carolina, a division of Pitt County Memorial Hospital.

A date with some of the community's most eligible single men will be available for cash, check or credit card. Local busi-

nesses are supplying the couples with "dream date" packages.

Hors d'oeuvres and drink specials start at 8 p.m., with the bidding at 7 p.m. No minimum bid. The event is sponsored by the WNCT-FM 107.9. Door prizes will be awarded.



"SISTER"-TO-"SISTER"...Jackie Davis, her mother, Julia Davis, and a friend of the family...Dorothy Davis, share a brief moment to reflect on the blessings of this wonderful spring weather. (Staff photo: Jim Rouse)

URBAN PERSPECTIVE

New Health Jobs Pay Mostly Low Salaries

by Larry Aubry

The perception many Americans have of the nation's health care system has been heavily influenced over the last forty years by popular television programs depicting overworked, compassionate physicians applying heroic measures to save the lives of their patients. However, the truer picture of how health care is administered would include far more nurses' assistants and home care aides changing the bedpans of home-bound cancer patients.

Changes in how and where health care is provided has had a significant impact on the type of jobs being created by the health care industry. The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies held a forum late last year which focused on job creation within health-care industries. It emphasized the health care industry as a major generator of new jobs.

The growth in health care jobs is especially meaningful for African Americans,

since the proportion of black workers in health care is much higher than in the overall workforce. However, and this is critical, we must recognize that many of the new positions generated by the health care industry will be at the lower end of the wage scale.

The healthcare industry employs roughly one of every eleven workers in the country, more people than the construction industry, the auto industry, the steel industry or the transportation sector. With the disappearance of manufacturing from most urban communities, health care has become a major source of entry-level employment for workers without college degrees. For example, the health sciences field accounts for 9.9 percent of total employment in St. Louis, 9.1 percent in Detroit, and 7.1 percent in Los Angeles. In Brooklyn, New York, the two largest employers are Kings County Hospital, with a workforce of 6,800 and Brookdale Hospital, with 4,500.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the total number of health jobs will continue to increase. This means new employment opportunities in a broad range of occupations, from high-skilled, high wage professionals, to low-skilled, low-wage jobs. Most of these jobs will occur among the lower-wage categories. Currently, the Service Employees Union reports that the average health-care worker earns about \$22,000 a year, and many are under stressful and hazardous conditions.

Apart from the division of labor, another change has been in the types of institutions that provide care. Twenty years ago, two-thirds of all health care jobs were in hospitals. Today, just under half are located in hospitals, and by the year 2005 hospital jobs are expected to drop to little over one-third. Care today is provided at an array of sites, including nursing homes, community-based clinics, group homes, and home-care agencies.

From Page One - Wachovia Mortgage Loan

Wachovia Mortgage loan consultants will guarantee applicants one of two decisions: a loan commitment or a request for additional information to process the application.

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"Wachovia's Decision Now loan approval process, which uses Fannie Mae's Desktop Underwriter, enables mortgage loan consultants to take information and use their laptop capability anywhere, anytime to approve the application while with the customer. This means home buyers can get loan commitments faster and more efficiently than ever before." Applicants are advised to call a Wachovia Mortgage

loan consultant prior to submitting a loan application to determine required documentation.

Fannie Mae is a congressionally chartered, share-holder-owned company and the nation's largest source of home mortgages. It has committed to provide \$1 trillion in targeted lending for 10 million homes by the end of the decade. The targeted lending will serve both low- and moderate-income families, minorities, new immigrants, residents of central cities and other underserved areas, and people who have special housing needs. More information about Fannie Mae can be found on the Internet at www.fanniemae.com.

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Wachovia Mortgage Co., a wholly owned subsidiary of Wachovia Corp., provides residential mortgage services through 93 locations in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Virginia, and

Wachovia On-Call (1-800 WACHOVIA Wachovia.. Corp. is an interstate bank holding company with dual headquarters in Atlanta and Winston-Salem, N.C. As of Dec. 31, 1996, Wachovia was the 20th largest bank holding company in the United States with assets totaling \$46.9 billion. More information about Wachovia can be found on the internet of www.wachovia.com.

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From Page Six - Magic Johnson

Thousands of HIV patients also have seen their infections recede to undetectable levels after taking drugs called protease inhibitors, approved last year by the Food and Drug Administration.

"I speak on behalf of David Ho when I say one of the drugs in the combination (used by Johnson) is a protease inhibitor. I cannot say anything beyond that," Ho's brother and spokesman, Sidney Ho, confirmed Friday.

"My concern is that people are going to think that Magic Johnson is the only person this is happening to... that he's cured... that there's a cure for AIDS, therefore, I don't have to worry about being infected," Lee Klosinski, director of education at AIDS Project Los Angeles, said.

A patient with undetectable virus levels can still infect others and even if the virus is undetected in blood or semen, it can be present in other areas such as the intestines.

"I hope people get the message about how important treatment is," Klosinski said. Protease inhibitors reduce illnesses in infected patients. The drugs are taken with at least two other AIDS drugs on a strict schedule. The regimen sometimes requires meticulous timing—some drugs must be taken an hour before eating or two hours after. Side effects include nausea, vomiting, headaches, backaches and gastrointestinal problems.

As many as 40 percent of patients who take the potent "cocktail" of drugs eventually develop a resistance, either because the virus becomes resistant after years on other AIDS drugs, or because patients don't or are unable to take the drugs as ordered. The drugs are expensive, costing between \$12,000 and \$15,000 a year.

Nearly 90 percent of the people who take the powerful drugs within a few months of being diagnosed HIV-positive have undetectable levels similar to Johnson, said Dr. Jeffrey Laurence, a lead AIDS researcher at Cornell Medical Center and scientific consultant to the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

"People are living longer, but we're measuring it in months," Laurence said.

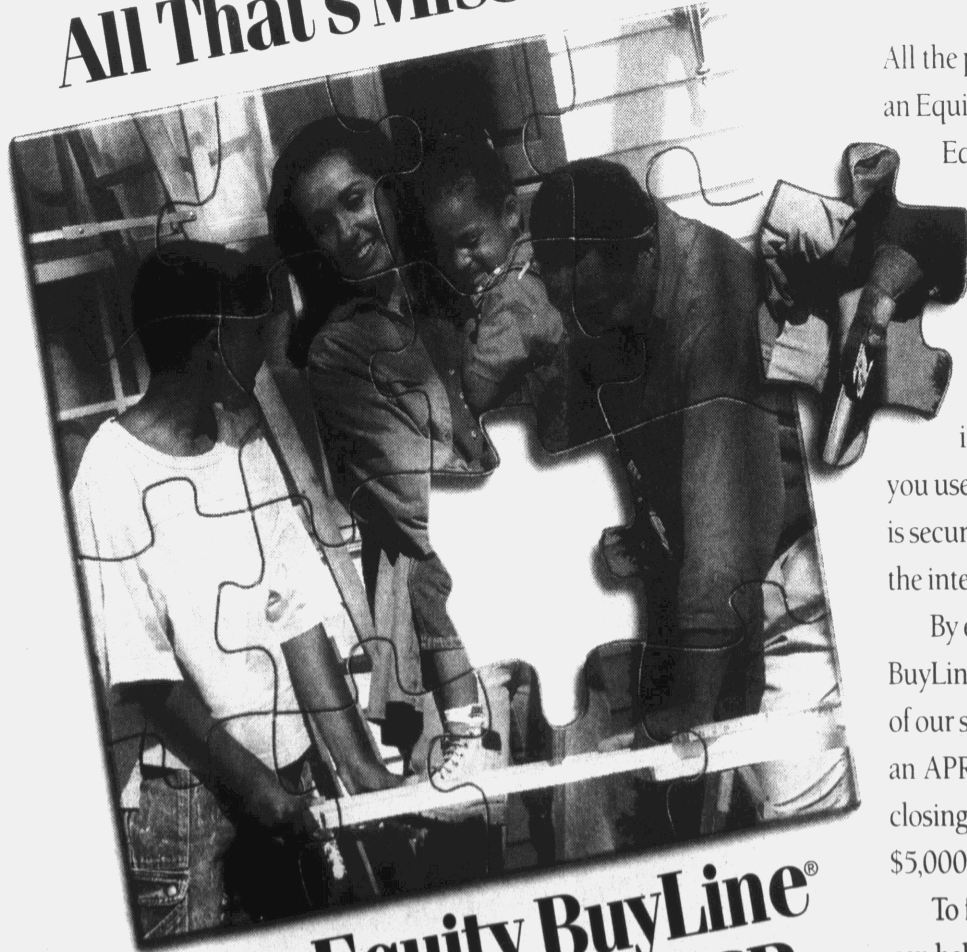
The basketball star's wife insists it was God who intervened.

"The Lord has definitely healed Earvin," Cookie Johnson told

Ebony magazine in an interview published this month. Doctors "think it's the medicine. We claim it in the name of Jesus," Cookie Johnson said.

"I honestly feel that the Lord is going to heal him and that we are going to live together forever and have more children and be happy."

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Volunteer of Year by Department of Corrections

Raleigh-Joseph Arnold Bryant, one of the founding fathers of the Caledonia volunteer movement, has been named volunteer of the Year by the Department of Corrections.

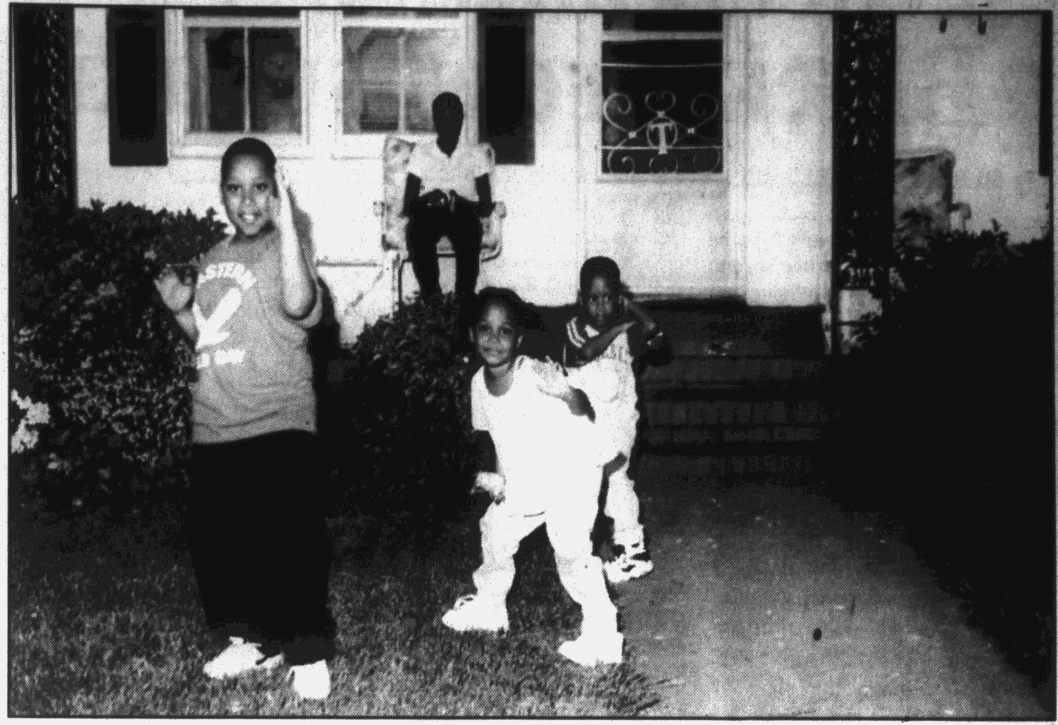
"I commend Mr. Bryant for his unselfish support and tremendous dedication which spans three decades," said Correction Secretary Mack Jarvis at a Wednesday luncheon honoring prison volunteers.

Bryant, who teaches Sunday School and leads Bible study at Caledonia Correctional Institution in Tillery, also volunteers at Odom Correctional Institution in Jackson. When an inmate raises a personal concern, Bryant listens and quickly finds the link between the inmate's concern and the scripture under discussion. He then shows the whole group their stake in that concern and skillfully

brings the conversation back to the scripture lesson.

Bryant, from Roanoke Rapids, is a mentor for several rookie volunteers. His presence takes the edge off their initial concerns about being in a prison. "Bryant's guidance and assistance with new volunteers is like sowing seeds that will bear fruit for many years to come," said Henry Gregory, a chaplain at Caledonia. Bryant was one of eighteen volunteers nominated for Volunteer of the Year in the Division of Prisons. Others recognized during the luncheon included: Harvey Dunningham Barron, Foothills Correctional Institution; Virginia Wright Buchanan, Black Mountain Correctional Center for Women; Karen Campbell, NC Correctional Institution for Women;

Daniel H. Cottrell, Haywood Correctional Center; Belmy M. Church, Forsyth Correctional Center; Ernest Dansby, Craggy Correctional Center; Dexter Patrick Gibson, Sr., Southern Correctional Institution; Douglas W. Goforth, Iredell Correctional Center; Kenneth H. Griffith, Jr., Cabarrus Correctional Center; Simeon Khan Heninger, Orange Correctional Center; Maryella Ward Leigh, Currituck Correctional Center; Thomas E. Olliff Jr., Alamance Correctional Center; Joyce A. Schaub, Goldsboro Correctional Center; Pannie Smith, Harnett Correctional Institution; Robert Edwin Smith, Morrison Youth Institution; Mack Junior Sowell, Johnston Correctional Center; Fran Sholar Wheeler, Columbus Correctional Institution.



Today's children are tomorrow's leaders...Pictured above are four of tomorrow's leaders. From left to right, Joey, Cammie, Halissha, and Haywood, III. (Staff Photo: Haywood Johnson, Jr.)

Brain Attack Warning Signs Need Emergency Care

If you miss the warning signs of a brain attack, you may be putting your senses, speech and memory in danger in a matter of minutes.

Brain attacks, commonly known as strokes, affect different people in different ways. When a brain attack occurs, severe injuries in mental and bodily functions—even death—can result. Knowing the warning signs of stroke and seeking immediate medical treatment if you notice any signals are critical in avoiding the No. 3 killer in the United States, according to the American Heart Association.

American Heart Association volunteers work year-round, particularly during Stroke Awareness Month in May, to reduce the inci-

dence of brain attack. The theme for this special month is "Stroke Is a Brain Attack. Know the Warning Signs."

AHA volunteers nationwide are pooling their efforts to conduct awareness campaigns about brain attack—the leading cause of serious disability in the United States. Stroke Awareness Month is designed to alert the public about stroke's warning signs, how it might be prevented and resources available through the American Heart Association.

Stroke killed 154,350 people in 1994 and accounted for about one of every 15 U.S. deaths. It's the third largest cause of death ranking behind diseases of the heart

and cancer, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

A brain attack occurs when the blood supply to the brain is cut off. Both brain attack and heart attack are diseases of the circulatory system caused by rupturing or blocking of arteries. During a brain attack, the brain is starved for oxygen and brain cells begin to die within minutes. That is why immediate medical attention is crucial.

"Much of the general public is unfamiliar with the warning signs of a stroke," said Dr. James R. Harper, Jr. MD, president of the American Heart Association North Carolina Affiliate, "Stroke must be treated with the same sense of urgency as a heart attack. In order to receive immediate treatment, people must be able to recognize the warning signs of stroke."

The warning signs associated with stroke are:

- Sudden weakness or numbness of the face, arm or leg on one side of the body.
- Sudden dimness or loss of vi-

sion, particularly in one eye.

- Loss of speech, or trouble talking or understanding speech.
- Sudden, severe headaches with no apparent cause.
- Unexplained dizziness, unsteadiness or sudden falls, especially along with any of the previous symptoms.

If you experience one or more of the warning signs of brain attack, get medical help immediately. Early intervention can minimize brain injury, and preventive care may reduce the risk of stroke, according to the American Heart Association.

"About 10 percent of brain attacks are preceded by 'temporary strokes,'" said Dr. Harper, "These can occur days, weeks or even months before a major stroke."

Temporary strokes, also known as transient ischemic attacks or TIAs, result when a blood clot temporarily clogs an artery and part of the brain doesn't get the supply of blood it needs.

"The symptoms are like those of a full-fledged brain attack. They occur rapidly and last a relatively

short time, usually from a few minutes to several hours," Dr. Harper said.

High blood pressure is one of the risk factors of stroke. The higher your blood pressure, the greater your risk of stroke. Some groups are more prone to developing high blood pressure than others. In this country, African-Americans, Mexican-Americans, Cuban-Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Asian-Americans often have higher blood pressure than other groups. Compared to whites, young African-Americans have a two-to-three-fold greater risk of cerebral infarction, and African American men and women are 2.5 times more likely to die of stroke.

Millions of people are challenged by the devastating aftermath of

stroke. Until recently, no formal, national network linking members of the stroke community existed to aid in their emotional and physical recovery. The American Heart Association's Stroke Connection is a grass roots network of alliances, coalitions, outreach programs and more than 1,000 stroke support groups dedicated to improving the quality of life for survivors and caregivers. If you or someone you know has had a stroke, you can reach the Stroke Connection at 1-800-553-6321.

For more information on brain attack prevention and Stroke Awareness Month activities call your nearest American Heart Association at (919) 968-4453 or 1-800-AHA-USA-1 or online at <http://www.amhn.org>

New Century Sax Quartet performs free concert in Tarboro

The Edgecombe County Arts Council is pleased to announce a free afternoon of great music on the beautiful and historic Tarboro Town Common. The New Century Saxophone Quartet, based in Winston-Salem, NC is the only ensemble of its kind to be in First Prize at the Concert Artists Guild New York Competition. They play everything from Mozart to Gershwin, "Tackling brave new territory...with a unique blend of conviction, refined talent and...ambition" (L., Times). The group's engagements have been many and impressive, including a Command Performance at the White House, the Ambassador Auditorium in Los Angeles, the Gardner Museum in Boston, and international performances in Holland and the Republic of Panama.

The Quartet is currently undertaking a project in their hometown, playing for North Carolinians in seven communities along U.S. Highway 64 "from the mountains to the coast," made possible through the Project Support Grant

Program of the North Carolina Arts Council, a state agency. On Sunday, April 27, the group will be giving one of these performances on the Town Common in Tarboro. "The recital, which is free of charge and open to the public, will begin at 3:00 pm. Everyone is encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chair and a picnic basket to this unique event, which is sponsored in part by Tarboro Savings Bank, SSB.

The program will include a Pavane by Morton Gould, selections from *West Side Story*, *Saxophone Quartet No. 2* by Lenny Pickett, works by Arthur Frackenpohl and Russell Peck, and *Porgy and Bess Suite* by George Gershwin. The following day (Monday the 28th) the group will share their time and talents with Edgecombe County music students at North Edgecombe High School, and at Philips Middle School. For more information about this or other upcoming events, please call the Arts Council at 641-ARTS.

Ted Parker

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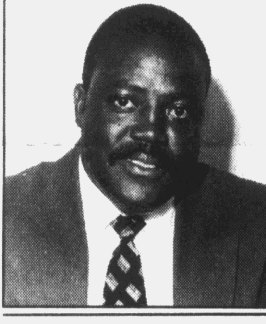
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This project was supported by Grant No. 94-LB-93-1382 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.
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Black Press, speaking up for the people

By **SUCORA W. ANDERSON**
Staff Writer

Freedom from "slavery." To be counted as first class not second class citizens. To be counted as citizen's period. Equal representation in government and foreign policy. Fair and equal distribution of wealth. Acknowledgment of contributions and achievements. Fair and equal opportunities to pursue the American dream - not a hand out but a hand. A chance to speak for ourselves instead of allowing others to speak for us. A chance to be heard...

Are these the goals of Black Americans in 1827 or 1997. Sometimes, given the slant of mainstream media and mainstream American, it can be difficult to tell. Leveling the playing field and championing the cause however, is the collective voice of the Black Press of America. This year commemorates the 170 anniversary of the Black Press of America with

the observance of Black Press Week, which took place March 19 - 22nd.

The Freedom's Journal, the pioneer of this distinguished tradition of protest and empowerment was launched on March 30, 1827, by John Russwurm and Rev. Samuel Cornish. Its aim was to put the plight of Black Americans before the public. Circulated on the streets of New York City, the paper called for freedom and equal rights for Black Americans and demanded an end to slavery and injustice. It emphasized education, self-improvement and industry. The first front page editorial read, "We wish to plead our own cause. Too long have others spoken for us."

The editors of the paper, John Russwurm and Samuel Cornish were both young educated black men born to free parents. Russwurm, who served as editor from 1827-1829 was born in Jamaica, West Indies and was the

first black person to graduate from Bowdoin college in Maine. Samuel Cornish born in Delaware in 1795, established the first black Presbyterian church in New York City before starting the Freedom's Journal with Russwurm.

Following the success of the Freedom's Journal, hundreds of other black newspaper began to spring up all over the country. Including, the Christian Recorder, in Philadelphia, PA, in 1852 (which is still in print today). These newspapers, addressing some of the same issues that we face today as a people, became not only a viable source of protest but also commerce. Known as the first means of black enterprise in America, these papers created an economic base that wielded power all the way to the White House.

During the 1940's over a century after the first black newspaper was started, black newspaper publishers recognizing the power in unity,

came together as a conglomerate, forming the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA). A meeting of eleven publishers of the most prominent black newspapers of the day, headed by Robert Abbott Sengstacke (publisher of the Chicago Defender, the most widely circulated black weekly), came to order. The group committed to the traditions began by publishers a century before, called for an end to segregation in the military. The

group (NNPA) took their cause to President Franklin D. Roosevelt and eight years after that initial meeting, President Harry Truman formed a committee on which Robert Sengstacke served, that drew up guidelines that eventually led to an end of written segregation in the military.

Today, the black press continues to carry on the traditions started by black publishers over a century ago; reporting from a cultural perspective and providing a voice

that presents both sides of the issues. This year the annual meeting between the NNPA and President Bill Clinton met on behalf of the National Coalition for Fairness to Nigeria to address the issue of foreign policy and economic sanctions imposed upon Nigeria.

Recent statistics from the NNPA report that afro centric newspapers are read by 10 million people of color annually. However, the challenges facing these papers are surviving the onset of attacks by white owned publications that are "skillfully" competing and eating up market shares that rightfully belong to the black press. In some cases for instance, magazines like "Heart and Soul", Vibe and Legacy, (publications that are white owned) are marketing to the black consumer under the illusion of being a black publication. 'So reader be ware.'

Unlike mainstream media, the

black press focuses on the hopes, dreams and achievements of Black Americans, speaking for the people without fear or favor.... The survival of the black press is in the hands of Black Americans. Our growth as a people and our economic survival depends on how well we support our own endeavors. Our challenge is to be responsible for what we read and report and to know the source of our news. To challenge the things we disagree and demand that the news medium we choose is fair and "down the middle." Any thing less would be a great social injustice.

The Black Press believes that Americans can best lead the world away from racial and national antagonisms when it accords to every man, regardless of race, color or creed, his human and legal rights. Hating no man, fearing no man, the Black Press strives to help every man in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.... Creed of the Black Press.

Editorial from the first edition of *Freedom's Journal* 1827

Freedom's Journal, published by Samuel Cornish and John B. Russwurm, was the first African-American owned and edited newspaper to be published in the United States. This editorial, printed here in its entirety, illustrates the *Journal's* aim at bringing an end to slavery and discrimination.

To Our Patrons

In presenting our first number to our Patrons, we feel all the difference of persons entering upon a new and untried line of business. But a moment's reflection upon the noble objects, which we have in view by the publication of this *Journal*; the expediency of its appearance at this time, when so many schemes are in action concerning our people -- encourages us to come boldly before an enlightened public. For we believe, that a paper devoted to the dissemination of useful knowledge among our brethren, and to their moral and religious improvement, must meet with the cordial approbation of every friend to humanity.

The peculiarities of this *Journal*, renders it important that we should advertise to the world our motives by which we are actuated, and the objects which we contemplate.

We wish to plead our own cause. Too long have others spoken for us. Too long has the public been deceived by misrepresentations, in things which concern us dearly, though in the estimation of some mere trifles; for though there are many in society who exercise towards us benevolent feelings; still (with sorrow we confess it) there are others who make it their business to enlarge upon the least trifle, which tends to the discredit of any person of colour; and pronounced anathemas and denounce our whole body for the misconduct of this guilty one. We are aware that there are many instances of vice among us, but we avow that it is because no one has taught its subjects to be virtuous; many instances of poverty, because no sufficient efforts accommodated to minds contracted by slavery, and deprived of early education have been made, to teach them how to husband have been made, to teach them how to husband their hard earnings, and to secure to themselves comfort.

Education being an object of the highest importance to the welfare of society, we shall endeavor to present just and adequate views of it, and to urge upon our brethren the necessity and expediency of training their children, while young, to habits of industry, and thus forming them for becoming useful members of society. It is surely time that we should awake from this lethargy of years, and make a concentrated effort for the education of our youth. We form a spoke in the human wheel, and it is necessary that we should understand our pendency on the different parts, and theirs on us, in order to perform our part with propriety.

Though not desiring of dictating, we shall feel it our incumbent duty to dwell occasionally upon the general principles and ruled of economy. The world has grown too enlightened, to estimate any man's character by his personal appearance. Though all men acknowledge the excellency of Franklin's maxims, yet comparatively few practice upon them. We may deplore when it is too late, the neglect of these self-evident truths, but it avails little to mourn. Ours will be the task of admonishing our brethren on these points.

The civil rights of a people being of the greatest value, it shall ever be our duty to vindicate our brethren, when oppressed; and to lay the case before the public. We shall also urge upon our brethren, (who are qualified by the laws of the different states) the expediency of using their elective franchise; and of making an independent use of the same. We wish them not to become the tools of party.

And as much time is frequently

lost, and wrong principles instilled, by the perusal of works of trivial importance, we shall consider it a part of our duty to recommend to our young readers, such authors as will not only enlarge their stock of useful knowledge, but such as will also serve to stimulate them to higher attainments in science.

We trust also, that through the columns of the *Freedom's Journal*, many practical pieces, having for their bases, the improvement of our brethren, will be presented to them, from the pens of many of our respected friends, who have kindly promised their assistance.

It is our earnest wish to make our *Journal* a medium of intercourse between our brethren in the different states of this great confederacy; that through its columns an expression of our sentiments, on many interesting subjects which concerns us, may be offered to the public; that plans which apparently are beneficial may be candidly discussed and properly weighed; if worth, receive our cordial approbation; if not, our

marked disapprobation.

Useful knowledge of every kind, and everything that relates to Africa, shall find a ready admission into our columns; and as that vast continent becomes daily more known, we trust that many things will come to light, proving that the natives of it are neither so ignorant nor stupid as they have generally been supposed to be.

And while these important subjects shall occupy the columns of the *Freedom's Journal*, we would not be unmindful of our brethren who are still in the iron fetters of bondage. They are our kindred by all the ties of nature; and though but little can be effected to us, still let our sympathies be poured forth and our prayers in their behalf, ascend to Him who is able to succor them.

From the press and the pulpit we have suffered much by being incorrectly represented. Men whom we equally love and admire have not hesitated, to represent us disadvantageously, without becoming personally acquainted

with the true state of things, nor discerning between virtue and vice among us. The virtuous part of our people feel themselves sorely aggrieved under the existing state of things -- they are not appreciated.

Our vices and our degradation are ever arrayed against us, but our virtues are passed by unnoticed. And what is still more lamentable, our friends, to whom we concede all the principles of humanity and religion, from these very causes seem to have fallen into the current of popular feeling and are imperceptibly floating on the stream-actually living in the practice of prejudice, while they abjure it in theory, and feel it not in their hearts. Is it not very desirable that such should know more of our actual condition; and of our efforts and feelings, that in forming or advocating plans for our amelioration, they may do it more understandingly? In the spirit of candor and humility we intend by a simple representation of facts to lay our case before the public, with a view to arrest the progress of

prejudice, and to shield ourselves against the consequent evils. We wish to conciliate all and to irritate none, yet we must be firm and unwavering in our principles, and persevering in our efforts.

If ignorance, poverty and degradation have hitherto been our unhappy lot; has the Eternal decree gone forth, that our race alone are to remain in this state, while knowledge and civilization are shedding their enlivening rays over the rest of the human family? The recent travels of Denham and Clapperton in the interior of Africa, and the interesting narrative which they have published; the establishment of the republic of Haiti after years of sanguinary warfare; its subsequent progress in all the arts of civilization; and the advancement of liberal ideas in South America, where despotism has given place to free governments, and where many of our brethren now fill important civil and military stations, prove the contrary.

The interesting fact that there are 5,000 free persons of color, one half of whom might peruse, and the whole be benefitted by the publication of the *Journal*; that no publication, as yet, has been devoted exclusively to their improvement -- that many selections from approved standard authors, which are within the reach of few, may occasionally be made -- and more important still, that this large body of our citizens have no public channel -- all serve to prove the real necessity, at present, for the appearance of the *Freedom's Journal*.

It shall ever be our desire so to conduct the editorial department of our paper as to give offence to none of our patrons; as nothing is farther from us than to make it the advocate of any partial views, either in politics or religion. What few days we can number, have been devoted to the improvement of our brethren; and it is our earnest wish that the remainder may be spent in the same delightful service.

In conclusion, whatever concerns us as a people, will ever find a ready admission into the *Freedom's Journal*, interwoven with all the principal news of the day.

And while every thing in our power shall be performed to support the character of our *Journal*, we would respectfully invite our numerous friends to assist by their communications, and our coloured brethren to strengthen our hands by their subscriptions, as our labour is one of common cause, and worthy of their consideration and support. And we most earnestly solicit the latter, that if at any time we should seem to be zealous, or too pointed in the inculcation of any important lesson, they will remember, that they are equally interested in the cause in which we are engaged, and attributed our zeal to the peculiarities of our situation; and our earnest engagedness in their well-being.

FREEDOM'S JOURNAL.
"RIGHTHOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION."
CORNISH & RUSSWURM, Editors & Proprietors. NEW-YORK, FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1827. VOL. I. NO. 1.



During the long and bitter period of slavery, many free Negroes turned to their own churches and publications to provide them with a sense of community and a measure of hope. Black-owned newspapers and magazines like the one above were filled with news about slave conditions and the fight for abolition. Many of the active leaders in the struggle against slavery came from the ranks of Negro clergymen. Free blacks, who were often required to sit in segregated pews in white churches, had long since organized their own congregations -- like the African Methodist Episcopal Church of Cincinnati, at left. Such churches, said a Negro leader, offered each member the "opportunity to be himself, to think his own thoughts... and thus, in the exercise of the faculties of his own soul, trust and achieve."

We wish to plead our cause. Too long, have others spoken for us.—Samuel Cornish and John Russwurm, Founders, Freedom Journal

NCCU approved to offer 'Distance Learning' Nursing Curriculum

The University of North Carolina Board of Governors has approved a pilot off-campus program to offer Registered Nurses in Wake County an opportunity to work toward the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree through the department of nursing at North Carolina Central University.

Classes are expected to begin in August, 1998, at Wake Technical Community College and the neighboring Wake Area Health Education Center facility. The proposal approved by the Board of Governors Friday (April 11) anticipates the use of "distance learning" technology, primarily computer net-

working and video conferencing, to reduce travel time for the Wake County nurses and NCCU faculty members.

Appropriations of approximately \$23,000 for fiscal year 1996-97 and \$92,000 in 1997-98 are expected to be provided by the UNC system to support curriculum development

and associated costs.

The new program will serve working nurses. Because of the video conferencing and computer technology to be used in the project, course scheduling is expected to be flexible.

Registered nurses without bachelor's degrees are still the larg-

est single group of nurses in practice in North Carolina. The planners of the new program told the Board of Governors that 533 nurses in Wake County requested courses leading to the baccalaureate in a 1997 AHEC survey. The county has no baccalaureate nursing programs. The NCCU department and

the nursing school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are the only two baccalaureate programs within a 50-mile radius of Wake County.

NCCU offers a similar extension program, without the distance learning component, through Vance-Granville Community College.

NCCU Faculty members receive Fulbright funds

Dr. Lana Henderson, Associate Dean of the North Carolina Central University College of Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Fran Jackson, Associate Professor of Education at NCCU, have been awarded a \$47,000 grant from the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program of the U.S. Department of Education. They will use the grant to conduct a four-week study program in three Caribbean countries for 12 North Carolina arts teachers.

The grant will take the two NCCU professors and the 12 teachers to the Leeward and Windward Islands of the West Indies, and the Dominican Republic from June 29 through July 28. They will visit Guadeloupe in the Leeward Islands, and Martinique in the Windward Islands.

The program will focus on African-Spanish and African-French traditions in the cultural arts of the Caribbean. The Universite des Antilles and de la Guyane will provide lecturers and assistance with field studies at Guadeloupe and Martinique, and the Universidad Nacional Pedro Henriquez Urena will provide similar assistance in the Dominican Republic.

The schedule will include guided study tours of museums, as well as productions in dance, theatre, and music.

Eligible to participate are full-time teachers of the cultural arts in North Carolina, as well as

college and university students who will engage in practice teaching in 1997-98 in art, music, theatre, or dance.

The Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program grant of \$47,000 will cover a part of the costs of the four week seminar. Each participant will be asked to pay \$800 as a registration fee. Costs covered by the fee and the grant include scheduled conferences and cultural activities as well as the costs of international travel, room, and board. Participants will be expected to attend, at their own expense, a two-day orientation and a one-day post-seminar session at NCCU.

Applications should be made to Dr. Lana Henderson, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, PO Box 19467, N.C. Central University, Durham NC 27707, and should include a letter expressing interest in the program, a copy of the candidate's resume, a statement of the applicant's beliefs about multicultural education in his or her field of study and work, a description of the benefits the applicant expects to derive from the experience, and a one-page proposal for the development of a

curriculum module at the applicant's institution. (Joint Proposals are encouraged) These materials should be received at NCCU by April 30, and may be sent by facsimile transmission to 919 560-5361.

Dr. Jones named to Presidential Summit delegation

Dr. Beverly Washington Jones, professor of history at North Carolina Central University, has been invited by retired General Colin L. Powell to be a delegate to the Presidents' Summit for America's Future, to be held in Philadelphia, April 27-29.

President William J. Clinton and his immediate predecessor, President George H.W. Bush, are the honorary co-chairs of the event, of which Powell is general chairman. Powell served as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under both.

Dr. Jones is one of ten delegates to the convention from the Research Triangle area. She is a

member of the Durham Public School Board and directs two programs at NCCU, the Institute for the Study of Minority Issues and the Community Service Program.

Other delegates to the April 27-29 meeting from this area are Joe Capowski, a member of the Chapel Hill Town Council who represents Chapel Hill Mayor Rosemary Waldorf; Tom Dugard, president of the Triangle United Way; Tom Fetzer, Mayor of Raleigh; Scott Gardner, District Manager of Duke Power Co. in Chapel Hill; Carl Kenney, minister of Orange Grove Missionary Baptist Church and chair of Durham Congregations in

Action; Mayor Sylvia Kerckhoff of Durham; Wake County Commissioner Vernon Malone, representing Cary Mayor Koka Booth; Eric Pristell, Director of the Youth Credit Union Development Project in Raleigh; Waltey Rasulala, Public Affairs Director for Capitol Broadcasting Co. of Raleigh; Julia Scatliff, director of Southern Community Partners in Durham; Bill Shore, Director of Community Affairs, Glaxo-Wellcome, Inc., Research Triangle Park; and Lucille Webb, Chairman of the Management Team of Strengthening the Black Family, Inc., of Raleigh.

Powell's letter of invitation described the Presidents' Summit as an effort to create a national partnership to improve the lives of children and youth.

Gov. Jim Hunt invited the North Carolina delegates to the summit to an April 8 meeting in Raleigh as a preliminary to the Philadelphia meeting. The Raleigh meeting was chaired by Robin Britt and Les Boney of the Governor's staff.

The three other North Carolina areas from which delegates to the Philadelphia meeting were invited are Asheville, Charlotte, and Pitt County.

The deaths of Tupac Shakur and Biggie Smalls, and the fear of retaliation on other "gangsta rappers" that have caused many of the "big names" to go into hiding, have caused many of us to stop and reflect on the dilemmas facing the rap industry. This is not a discussion to be rushed into because it requires some serious contemplation, not a bunch of "drive-by" discussion—lip service that you flip off after the song has played. It's more serious than that.

I've received over 100 calls to write about this issue. In one of the most insincere (and hypocritical) acts in recent history, I had to bite my lip to keep from laughing my a** off as one of the biggest exploiters of gangsta rap, Los Angeles' KKBT, decided it was going to have one morning of dialogue, talking about "rap music is out of control." The entity that drove this madness into the airwaves still wants to maintain it's about "personal responsibility" of the

rappers, and not the music. Rap rappers' hands are as dirty as the triggermen that killed Tupac and Biggie.

It's like giving a child poison, they take it and die, then saying the child should have known better. There has been an abdication of personal (and public) responsibility in FCC-regulated public radio when it comes to these rap radio stations. It seems like there's almost some "exemption" given to those who play more filth. This is no laughing matter, but sometimes you have to laugh to keep from crying when you see the level of insensitivity some of these stations demonstrate in the aftermath of these tragedies. Everybody that appeared on "the Beat's" little peace talk, promised to bring the peace. But "the Beat," which is a major outlet for this music, a literal 24 hour forum for filth, never promised to stop playing the music, which is the drumbeat for the violence gangsta rap propagates.

After the show, (not fifteen minutes later) it was back to paying the bills and raking in the cash, playing the next generation of "rap madness." Fast-tracking the next "Tupac" or the next "Notorious B.I.G." down the same path of destruction. As a vehement critic of "the Beat," this could be a chance to slam them, but this is bigger than my "beef" with "the Beat" because every major city now has "a BEAT" station, that propagates filth for profit.

If rappers and their music are

out of control, they're only the passengers in a gangster mobile gone awry. Greedy, urban-targeted "gangsta rap radio is definitely the driver.

The most serious conflict facing youth and young adults in America (not black America, but America) today is discerning the difference between self-destructive music that promotes self-destructive behaviors and reality-based themes that manifest themselves in a self-destructive culture. They may seem like the same, both are highly negative and have questionable benefit to the society at large, and the differences are minor in scope.

However, the differences are major in impact and the finality that results from the lack of restraint these activities bring about. And for the past few years, we've allowed the "commoditizers of this filth," record companies distributors going after big profits) and radio stations (going after ratings and ad revenues) to deny responsibility by saying, "it's not the music."

"These artists have first amendment rights to express themselves." That's partially true. They do have a right to express themselves, but their music promotes mayhem and destruction that is not socially appropriate for public consumption.

Gangsta rap is more than music, it's a culture now, a part of the way this society has chosen to accept how our youth view themselves.

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Ike and Tina's Son Arrested for Fraud

The ex-convict son of Tina and Ike Turner is accused of using a stolen credit card to buy orange juice and condoms from a drug store and faces a criminal trial.

Ricky Turner, 41, was scheduled for a preliminary hearing this week in Los Angeles Superior Court and is expected to be charged with burglary and credit card fraud, prosecutors said.

He was arrested March 20 outside a Thrifty's drug store in Los Angeles after using a credit card that did not belong to him, said Deputy District Attorney David A. Auzh.

Turner was on parole for a 1995 car theft conviction he had already served 18 months in jail for when he was arrested. He has remained at Men's Central Jail with bail set at \$80,000 since his recent arrest.

Turner's lawyer said his cocaine addiction is the basis for his unlawful ways, which includes a 1988 conviction for receiving stolen property, two burglary convictions in 1990 and the 1995 car theft.

Prosecutors will bring him to trial instead of granting him admission to a drug diversion program because of his past record.

His musical parents, Ike and Tina, have both written books about their tumultuous relationship with each other. Tina Turner's book, "I, Tina," was made into the movie "What's Love Got to Do With It?" and portrayed a marriage of drugs and sexual abuse.

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African-Americans Used As Guinea Pigs

By Keith W. Cooper
 Recently, four survivors of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study asked the honorable President Clinton for an official apology because black men in Tuskegee, Alabama were used by the Federal government as guinea pigs in a syphilis experiment decades ago. The men, who had syphilis, were denied treatment for many years as the Federal government was studying the disease and its implications. Penicillin, a drug discovered by Alexander Fleming, could have been used to treat the disease at

the time the men needlessly suffered from the dreaded illness.
 Dr. Marcellus Barksdale, a distinguished professor in the African-American Studies Department at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, offered some candid, insightful comments on the infamous syphilis study: "It was one of the tragedies of African-American history. The men were allowed to live with syphilis all that time. The men who were part of the experiment were all African-American." The professor continued, "This really highlights racism that was involved. It also speaks to how some of us would just buy into a system that fraudulently and falsely presents itself as something legitimate." When I asked about the related litigation of the 1970s, the professor suggested, "I assume that people thought that the experiment would be detrimental to those involved. The settlement reached could not compensate for the suffering."
 The educator mentioned the movie, "Rosewood," as another example of how African-Americans have been used, abused, accused,

and confused for centuries. Moreover, the professor gave the following closing remarks: "The Tuskegee experiment shows our victimization and more than that, it speaks to a deep-rooted racism visible in the American fabric." Nevertheless, though Clinton's apology will not right the wrongs of the despicable syphilis experiment, it will be a major step in the right direction. I wish former presidents had offered an apology. African-Americans, through vigilance, should insure that similar experiments do not become future realities.

for you.
 Joel M. Neutel, M.D., is chief of the Hypertension Center, Veterans Administration Hospital, Long Beach, Calif., and director of research, Orange County Heart Institute.

ASK THE DOCTOR

To Salt or Not to Salt, That Is the Question

(NU) - Question: Dear Dr. Neutel, I have high blood pressure and am confused about all the different opinions I read on salt use. What advice should I follow?

Answer: This is an interesting question because it addresses the salt controversy, a topic of discussion in the medical community. Doctors have increasingly voiced their concern for Americans' salt intake. Sodium, one of the main ingredients in salt, is an important mineral that helps maintain a proper fluid balance in the body. Americans on average consume about three teaspoons of table salt each day, about twice the amount recommended by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). But the question remains, how much salt is too much?

Answering this question has resulted in studies attempting to determine the effect of sodium on people who have, or are at risk for, heart disease and hypertension (high blood pressure). Most studies have shown that a diet high in salt correlates with a rise in blood pressure and may counteract the effects of blood pressure lowering medicines. About 50 million Americans, 25 percent of the U.S. adult population, have high blood pressure.

In an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association, some scientists questioned the long-held belief that sodium-restricted diets are an essential part of high blood pressure management. Their report indicated that

salt-restricted diets helped older hypertensive patients, while it was difficult to determine the effect on other patient populations.

On the other hand, NIH continues to recommend that all patients with high blood pressure cut back on salt. The NIH says that despite the studies that question the need for salt-restricted diets in people with high blood pressure, most scientific evidence still points to the fact that at least moderate reduction in sodium would improve the public health. The NIH and the American Heart Association recommend no more than 2.3 grams of sodium, or about 1 1/2 teaspoons of salt, per day.

The bottom line is that the balance of evidence suggests that in people with a family history of hypertension or a blood pressure above 140/90 mm Hg, reducing salt intake is most likely to be beneficial. In a survey of physicians, 99.5 percent said that sodium reduction is important to the dietary management of high blood

pressure. As the saying goes, "all things in moderation."

People have been trying for years to find an alternative to salt that actually tastes like salt. A new product called Cardia™ Salt Alternative fits the bill. In fact, 99 percent who tested Cardia agree that it tastes just like salt. Because it has 54 percent less sodium, plus the essential minerals potassium and magnesium, Cardia helped lower blood pressure when used instead of salt in a clinical study. Both reduced sodium and adequate intake of these two minerals are recommended by the NIH as part of a heart-healthy diet. Cardia can be found in your local drug store.

My advice to people with high blood pressure is drop the heavy hand on the salt shaker, limit the use of processed foods with high sodium levels, try a salt alternative, and eat foods high in potassium and magnesium. If you have high blood pressure, always consult your doctor to see what's right

Enrollment Announcement - Head Start Program

Martin County Community Action, Inc. Project Head Start is now accepting applications for the 1997 Fall Enrollment for children and including children with disabilities. Eligibility is determined by HHS Income Guidelines, family needs, disabilities, and/or special conditions of the child. Children who will be enrolled will be exposed to a broad educational curriculum that will prepare them for preschool social and educational experiences. Health, nutrition and mental health are also important factors in the development of these children. These areas are also facilitated in the daily routines of the children. Parent involvement and other program services as mandated are required and are fully utilized by the program. Ten percent (10%) of Head Start Enrollment is identified as: health impairment, emotional/behavior disorders, speech/language impairments, mental retardation, hearing impairment/deafness, orthopedic impairment, visual impairment/blind, learning disabilities, autism, traumatic brain injury, and other impairments for children who require special education and related services.

Head Start is a comprehensive developmental program for children ages 3-5 years old. This program is based on the premise that children share certain needs and that children from low-income families, in particular, can benefit from a program designed to meet those needs. Head Start operates nine (9) months of the year, - September through May. The centers are open Monday through Friday and the hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Head Start has been operating in the Martin County area since 1965, currently there are 192 children. Nine (9) classrooms are comprised 4-5 year old and one (1) classroom consists of three year old must become three by October 16th; Beaufort County has been operating since 1977 and presently serving 99 children. Five (5) classrooms of 4-5 year olds are accommodated in this county.

Pitt County originated in 1985 and serving 222 children in twelve (12) classrooms accommodating 4-5 year olds.

Funding for Martin County Community Action, Inc. Project Head Start is received from the Administration for Children, Youth and Families Unit, Department of Health and Human Services. In order for children to qualify, they must meet the family income guidelines. Below are the guidelines.

1996 FAMILY INCOME GUIDELINES FOR HEAD START PROGRAMS

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4	\$15,150
5	\$17,710
6	\$20,270
7	\$22,830
8	\$25,390

For Family Units with more than 8 members, add \$2,560 for each additional member. Please contact the Family Service Worker at the Head Start center in your area:

Martin Co: North Everetts 792-5353

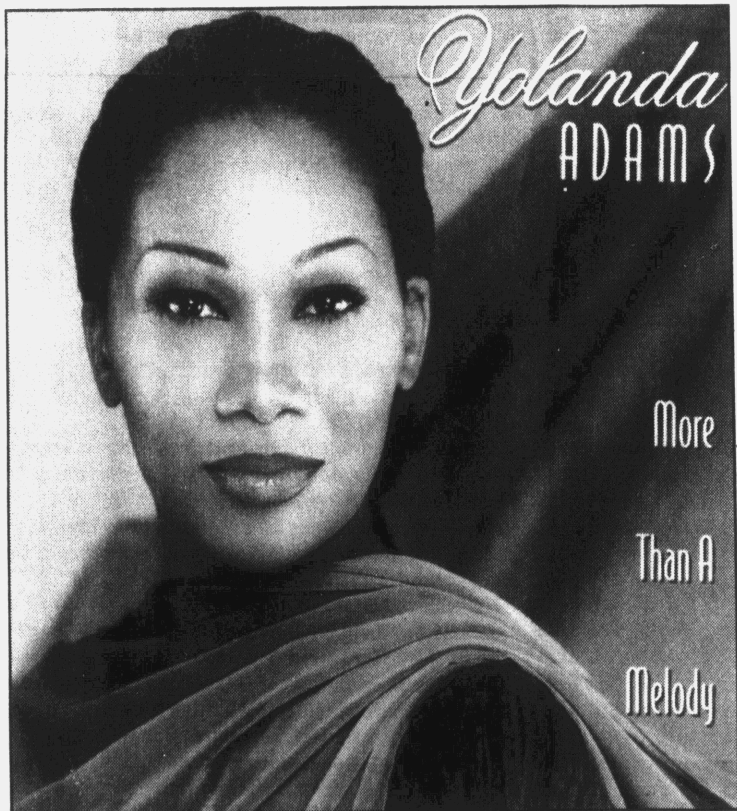
Pitt Co: St. Gabriel (752-9755)
 Ayden (746-4298)
 Farmville (753-8036)

Beaufort Co: 264 Washington (946-5632)
 Aurora (322-5543)
 Beihaven (943-3006)

For more information or to enroll a child, please call Ms. Teresa Greene, Social Services Coordinator or Ms. Gloristeen Matthewson, Disability Services Coordinator at (919) 792-7141 or come by the Martin County Community Action Head Start Administrative Office at 106 South Watts Street in Williamston, North Carolina.

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PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM
 Engrave your own personal identification number on your property, making it easy to identify if stolen. You can borrow an engraver from the police department.
 Take photographs of your jewelry and other valuables.
 Make a list of your personal property with model descriptions and serial numbers.
 Chances of recovering stolen property greatly increase if you provide your list to the police.
 Call for more security tips.
EQUALEYES
 Informed public and police against crime
830-EYES
 Greenville Police Department



More Than A Melody

THE ANOINTED ONES CHURCH PRESENTS

Ms. Yolanda Adams

MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 26, 1997

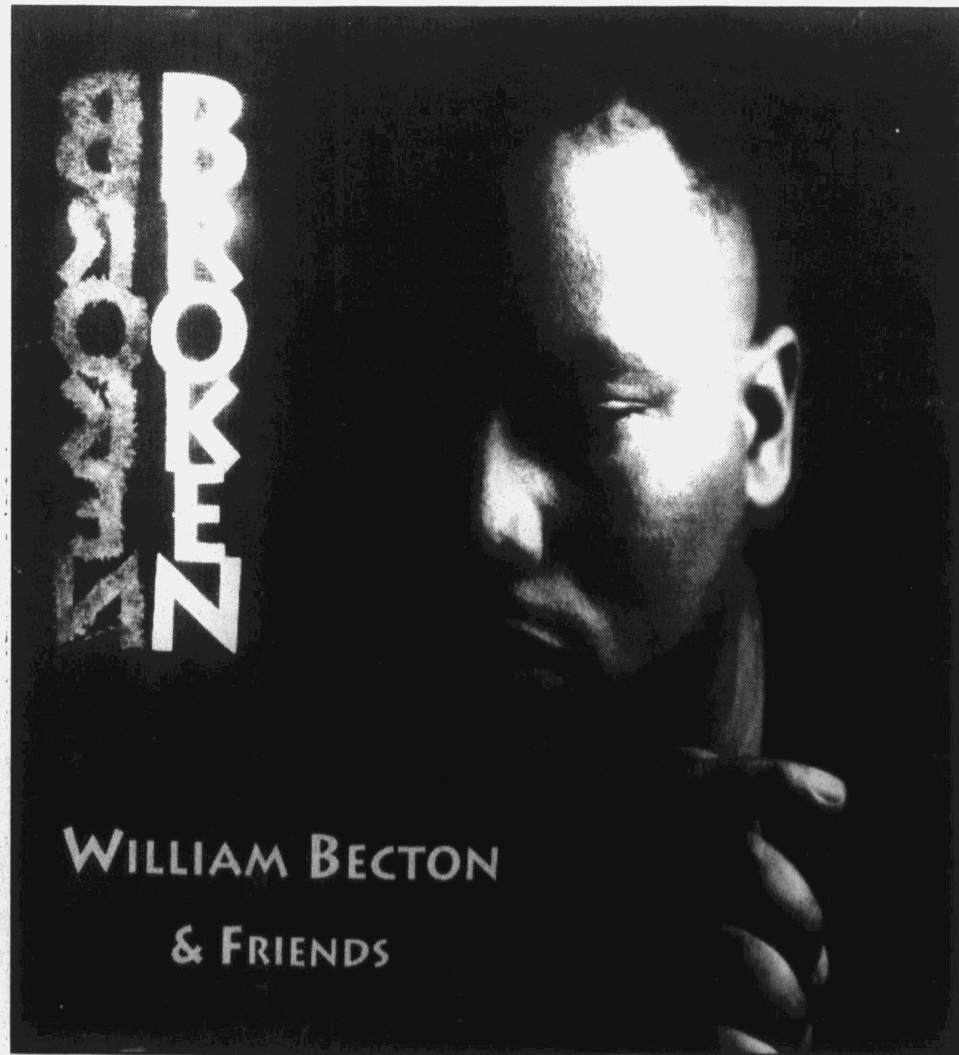
The Anointed Ones Church
 600 S. Edge Road

Ayden, NC 28513

One Night and One Night Only!
 Doors will open at 6:00 p.m.
 Concert will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Ruth Peterson invites the public.

Community Christian Church Presents William Becton



WILLIAM BECTON & FRIENDS

William Becton, Jr. & Friends

Friday, April 25, 1997

7:30 p.m.

Hosted by:

Community Christian Church

1104 N. Memorial Drive

Greenville, NC 27834