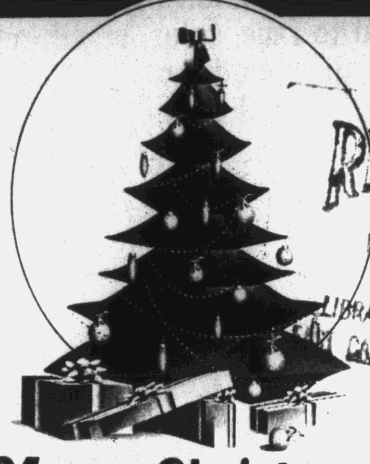


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The only way to entertain some folks is to listen to them.

—Kin Hubbard

ISSUE OF DEC. 23 - DEC. 31, 1997

# M. L. King Jr.'s Niece Backs Some Conservative Ideals And Values

HOUSTON—The niece of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. is accustomed to facing the heat in her pursuit to carry on her family's name and reputation throughout the nation and world.

Alveda Celeste King, who was a teenager when her uncle was assassinated in 1968, shares his pen-

chant for speaking out on the problems facing America—even when those views don't rhyme with convention.

In recent months, Alveda King has chosen to go where few of her family members have elected to venture by backing some decidedly conservative values and ideals. At

least two of those issues—school choice and homosexuality—have placed her in the national spotlight and won her stern criticism from the rest of the family.

The outspoken founder of King for America Inc., a faith-based civil rights organization, shared her views with "Headway," a conserva-

tive Christian publication, in an interview in its December-January edition.

After Martin Luther King Jr.'s wife, Coretta Scott King, publicly voiced her support for legislation that would outlaw workplace discrimination based on sexual preference, Alveda King wrote an open letter to her aunt opposing the view.

"To demand that business owners who still live by God's word promulgate and support the homosexual or adulterous or fornicating lifestyles of their employees is ludicrous," Alveda King said in the letter, also addressed to President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore.

(See NIECE, P. 2)



**SOUTH LEE STREE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION ABOUT TO GROW**—The South Lee Street Neighborhood Association of Ayden N.C. is about to grow with new names, directed by South Lee Street Neighborhood Executive Director Sherman Brown. Shown above at their banquet held last week are: (l.-r.) Sister Barbara Fenner, Executive Director West Greenville CDC; Rev. David Moore, Director of the Washington, N.C. CDC; Mother Barnes and Sherman Brown. Below: The South Lee Street Neighborhood Board of Directors.

## UNCF Sets "An Evening Of Stars..." Telethon For Jan. 10th

FAIRFAX, Va.—The United Negro College Fund (The College Fund/UNCF) has named Louis Gossett Jr., Alfre Woodard and Debbie Allen to serve as co-hosts along with lead co-host Lou Rawls, for their newly formatted annual television broadcast "An Evening of Stars A Celebration of Educational Excellence" scheduled to air on Jan. 10, 1998 (check local listing for exact date, time and station).

To highlight the work UNCF does in providing minority scholarships to its member institutions, they are introducing a new four-hour format to feature extended concert performances by some of the music industry's top artists including Toni Braxton, Teena Marie, CeCe Winans, AZ Yet, Maze featuring Frankie Beverly, The Chi-Lites, Vanessa L. Williams, Luther Vandross, The Dells, Mark Curry, Ziggy Marley and the Melody Makers, Kenny Lattimore, Sinbad, Jerry Butler, The O'Jays, and Kool and the Gang featuring James Taylor

"The United Negro College Fund is singularly focused on helping deserving and talented students obtain a college education. We are excited about the new format as it will strengthen our capacity to convey our message to a broader audience and ultimately generate the need to increase and improve access to higher education for financially disadvantaged young men and women," said William H. Gray, III, President and CEO, United Negro College Fund.

The nationally syndicated television special will focus on the success stories of UNCF students and inspiring messages about our nation's historically black colleges and universities. The new format will include live performances, profiles on students, colleges and alumni illustrating UNCF's mission.

"An Evening of Stars—A Celebration of Educational Excellence" is directed and produced by Louis J. Horvitz and his Los Angeles-based team. Mr. Horvitz has directed the "Academy Awards," "The Emmy Awards," "The People's Choice Awards" and the "Kennedy Center Honors."

An Emmy award winner with more than 20 years of television production experience, Horvitz was engaged by UNCF to create the entirely new format for this year's program.

Since its founding more than 50 years ago, UNCF has raised more

than \$1.3 billion making it possible for more than 300,000 students to graduate from UNCF schools.

UNCF uses national and local initiatives to support its mission of enhancing the quality of education by raising operating funds for member colleges and universities, providing financial assistance to deserving students and supplying technical assistance to member institutions.

## More African-American Youth Die In Car Crashes

More African-American youth are dying in traffic crashes in proportion to other teenagers.

According to research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), African-American teens are 50 percent less likely to buckle up than their white or Hispanic counterparts. This costs lives since seat belts increase an individual's chance of surviving a crash by 45 percent.

"Tragically, these statistics show that more of our young people are dying from injuries that could be avoided."

(See YOUTH DIE, P. 2)

## Kwanzaa Celebrations Set In City

Kwanzaa is "A time to share with family, friends and community," Dec. 26, 1997 through January 1, 1998.

The Eastern North Carolina Regional Association of Black Social Workers (ENCR - ABSW) sponsors the annual African American Celebration.

Hosting this year celebrations are: Walter & Mildred Council and Bob & Mary Hardy (Headlines II), 410 Evans Street Mall, Phone 757-1037 or 758-4516. Kwanzaa Principle, UMOJA (Unity); time: Friday, Dec. 26th at 4:30 p.m.

Greenville Housing Authority Cultural & Recreation Center, Cornell Burney, Phone 830-4065, KUJICHAGULIA (Self-Determination) Day of Community Feast, time: Saturday, Dec. 27 at 2:00 p.m.

Shelly & Rev. Curtis Moore, 1505 Edwards Farm Road, Phone 355-7011, UJIMA (Collective Work & Responsibility, time: Sunday, Dec. 28th, 5:30 p.m.

Jim Rouse & Staff of JOY 1340 AM Radio, 310 Evans Street Mall, Phone 757-0365, UJAMAA (Cooperative Economics), time: Monday, Dec. 29 at 11 a.m.

Commissioner Jeff & Angel Savage, 1551 Belvoir Highway, Phone 758-5770, NIA (Purpose), time: Tuesday, Dec. 30, 6:30 p.m.

West Greenville CDC, Ms. Barbara Fenner, Dir., 706 West Fifth (See KWANZAA, P. 2)



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM HARRIS TEETER SUPERMARKET**—Store Manager Tom Reece, WNCT, TV 9's Carla Allgood and Minnie Johnson of the George Garrett Community Center and WOOW morning show were on hand at Harris Teeter asking customers to donate to those who are in need for the holiday season. (Staff Photo)

## Ms. Deborah Lyons Speaks Out On Behalf Of Rev. Henry Lyons

By Judy Candis

Special to the NNPA

Despite being advised to remain quiet, Deborah Lyons, wife of beleaguered National Baptist Convention head, the Rev. Henry Lyons, said recently she feels she can no longer hold back her emotions against the continual attack on her husband's character.

"Now I must speak. For not only is my family being investigated, but the man I love and respect, who is also my best friend, is being viewed in an unfavorable light. I have known this man for nearly 30 years, and the person they are portraying in the media, is not the man neither I nor my children recognize," Ms. Lyons said.

Ms. Lyons was speaking publicly for the first time since she set fire to a house she believed to be owned by her husband and another woman last summer.

"They have twisted every kindness he has ever tried to show others and this is deplorable. There has never been a human being more generous, thoughtful of others and who has dedicated his life to making life better for others.

"He has never been selective

when it comes to someone in need. Be it man, woman or child, he has unselfishly given. To insinuate that the women he has helped were somehow romantically involved with him is ridiculous, when anyone considers the vast number of families he has tried to assist. He was never a womanizer, only a giving man who had no bounds as to helping someone."

Ms. Lyons said that not only did her husband stand by her during her times of alcoholism, but did everything possible to protect her.

"My actions that night were purely from an alcoholic state and my family had no idea that the media would take this storm of my addiction and use it to begin this horrible nightmare, twisting every word that issued from his lips," she said.

"If the media is surprised that the members of our church are standing steadfastly behind him, it is only because they have all personally witnessed his giving personality. Many are recipients of his generosity. We are all stunned and deeply hurt by this abuse. There is no call for them to continue to

(See, P. 2)



**TO CO-HOST TELETHON**—Los Angeles—(Pictured left to right) Louis Gossett, Jr., Alfre Woodard and Debbie Allen join Lou Rawls as co-hosts of the United Negro College Fund's newly formatted television special, "An Evening of Stars - A Celebration of Educational Excellence," airing in most markets from 7 p.m. - 11 p.m. on January 10, 1998. The nationally syndicated special will feature top celebrity talent, compelling success stories of UNCF students and inspiring messages about our nation's historically black colleges and universities. (Matthew Photographs Services)

**NIECE**

*Continued from page 1*

Many concerns characterized as civil rights issues today, she told Headway, "certainly should not be elevated above the category of behavior because there is a choice."

Alveda King is equally as blunt on the issue of school choice, which she views as the best way to empower parents to ensure their children's education.

"I believe that if Martin Luther and A.D. King were here, they would say, 'Do what's best for children,'" she told lawmakers at a recent press conference in Washington, D.C.

"It [the idea of school choice vouchers] may sound radical, but so were they," she said of her uncle and father, the late A.D. King, who also was killed while fighting for civil rights in the 1960s.

Alveda King's public pronouncements may place her at odds with

**DEFENDS**

*Continued from page 1*

place my husband on the front page, defaming his actions as unlawful.

"His intentions have always been to lift the standards of others. Anyone that knows him will vouch for his tightness on money for himself and his trustworthiness."

Ms. Lyons said if it hadn't been for God, the prayers of their church members and the fact that she is married to such a spiritually strong man, their family might have dissolved under the awesome pressure.

"We have received prank calls, people asking me when am I going to leave my husband. This is not about me or him but about us. As a couple we have forgiven each other. Because he was so used to dealing above board when all of this horror began, he thought nothing of it, knowing people would soon see it was all a mistake.

"But we all know now this has to be a personal vendetta by someone behind or associated with the St. Petersburg Times. They have been the main focal point of attack. Cars and homes were something my husband signed his signature on for numerous people. He thinks nothing of using his established credit to help others. He feels this is why God has placed him in such a position to help. Just in the last year alone he has helped three families purchase homes.

"Since this all began I had to actually forgive myself or I would be walking around now feeling guilty for the pain and hurt that followed. That is one of the tragedies of being an alcoholic. But when I got up off my knees and received both my husband and family's love and forgiveness, we were determined to move forward, stronger than ever.

"It is my prayer that the public look beyond the newspaper articles that have based their opinions solely on accusations, but to look at the man. One conversation with him and it will be quite obvious that he has never had any intentions of defrauding the government or anyone else."

**KWANZAA**

*Continued from page 1*

Street, Phone 752-9277, **KUUMBA** (Creativity), time: Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Local churches in the Religious community are invited to light a candle and pray for a day of faith. **IMANI (Faith)**, Thursday, Jan. 1, 1998.

Please bring a covered dish with you to these celebrations.

**YOUTH DIE**

*Continued from page 1*

easily prevented," said Arthur Anderson, director of the California Office of Traffic Safety.

"Buckling up—and making sure our kids buckle up—is the single most effective action we can take to safeguard the lives of our young people."

With millions of drivers hitting the roads over the holiday season, safety experts are reminding parents and kids how important it is to buckle up.

Today, traffic crashes are the leading cause of death to children. Every year, crashes claim the lives of more than 2,100 children and seriously injure more than 300,000. What's more, young adults age 16-25—the nation's highest-risk drivers—are the least likely age group to buckle up.

"For some people, wearing seat belts seems like old news," said Anderson. "But the fact is nearly 8,500 Americans die each year in automobile crashes simply because they didn't wear a seat belt." Current national seat belt use stands at only 68 percent, and it's lower among African-Americans, at slightly more than 50 percent.

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**newsworthy trends**

**A New 9-1-1 System**

(NAPS)—Good news for Americans, whether they live in a small or large community, is the introduction of a simplified, affordable enhanced 9-1-1 system that eventually will allow communities to pinpoint the location of a cellular caller instantly on a digital map display. The new system, called VISIT ENR (Emergency Number Routing), was developed by Northern Telecom. It is a complete 9-1-1 system that, for the first time, allows communities of all sizes to affordably benefit from the fast and simplified handling of emergency calls.

Simply put, the system simplifies the 9-1-1 operators' job and, in doing so, provides quantum leaps in efficiency, flexibility, speed and accuracy of emergency response. VISIT ENR allows operators to use a touch screen, computer mouse or the keyboard to obtain instant access to information about 9-1-1 callers.

The Greater Harris County Emergency Network in Houston, the third-largest 9-1-1 operation in the country, has been using this system since late February. It was installed by Southwestern Bell Telecom.

VISIT ENR is equally important to the 80 percent of 9-1-1 operations in North America that have fewer than three operator positions. An informative booklet about the new 9-1-1 system is available by calling 1-800-NORTHERN.

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**Christmas Greetings**

To all God's creations, both large and small, go our very best wishes to one and all.

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**FIRST ANNUAL WEED & SEED CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS HOUSE DECORATING POSTER CONTEST**  
(December 1997)

Each category will have First, Second, and Third Place winners.

Contestant Participating Ages are:

- Category 1: 4 to 5 year olds
- Category 2: 6 to 7 year olds
- Category 3: 8 to 9 year olds
- Category 4: 10 to 12 year olds
- Category 5: 13 to 15 year olds
- Category 6: 16 to 18 year olds

Each child is expected to draw his poster without assistance. Each poster must be drawn on regular sized notebook paper. All entries must be received by Tuesday, December 16, 1997.

Winners will be announced and will receive prizes at the Safe Haven Christmas Caroling Celebration located at Nash and 5th Streets on December 18, 1997, at 7:00 p.m. Participants must be present to win. Free refreshments will be served.

For more information call Maurice Revell at 830-2101 or Captain C.J. Hardy at 830-4365. The Safe Haven operating hours are Monday to Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Saturdays, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Send Christmas Posters to: Maurice Revell  
C. M. Eppes Recreation Center  
Weed & Seed Safe Haven  
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## Bawley Says, 'Thank You For Believing Me'

By Charles Baillou

Special to the NNPA

As her former defenders, the Rev. Al Sharpton and attorney Alton Maddox, Jr. face a multimillion-dollar defamation lawsuit, Tawana Brawley, flanked by the now suspended Maddox and her stepfather, Ralph King, recently stood in the pulpit of Bethany Baptist Church in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn.

"Thank you for believing me," she told a group of over 500 gathered there.

Nearly nine years ago, the young woman stayed in the same church for 40 days with her mother, Glenda Brawley. She was offered refuge there by its pastor, the Rev. William A. Jones, to avoid being served a contempt citation.

"It is most fitting that Tawana Brawley's return should occur at this church," Maddox told ebullient

supporters. "Many of us see this as a homecoming."

When Maddox introduced Brawley, who has not set foot in the sanctuary since early 1989, the audience gave her a standing ovation and chanted, "We believe

Tawana!"

"Thank you for believing me. I believe in Alton Maddox," said Brawley, who embraced Maddox tightly for over a minute before she approached the press' microphones. Asserting that her mother.

Glenda is a strong woman who maintains a close-knit family, Brawley said her parents had lost their jobs and homes because she charged that several White men had abducted and raped her for several days in Wappingers Falls.



ATTEND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION—Elder Curtis Wilder, Sr., (r.) pauses during his recent Anniversary Celebrations to share a moment with Mother Carrie Bess (l.), his aunt, his friend, his confidant, and his mentor. (Jim Rouse Photo)

### Chuck Davis & AADE Set 12th KwanzaaFest

Durham—Chuck Davis and The African American Dance Ensemble (AADE) will celebrate their 12th annual KwanzaaFest Cultural Celebration, Jan. 1, 1998 at the Durham Armory (located at 220 Foster St., downtown Durham) This event is free and open to the public

Activities are intended to be both entertaining and educational. The day will begin at noon and will continue until 6 p.m., with performances starting at 2 p.m.

For additional information about the 12th annual KwanzaaFest please contact the AADE office at 560-2729.

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May His spirit abide with you throughout the Holy season and for all time.  
 Merry Christmas!

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December 23rd, Tuesday 8am-10pm

December 24th, Wednesday 8am-6pm



Santa's hours are 11am-3pm and 4pm-8pm Monday thru Saturday and Sunday from 1:30pm to 5:30pm. One large photo only \$6.99.

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# OPINIONS

# COMMENTS

## Editorials

### Credo of the Black Press

The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and natural antagonisms when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color or creed, full human rights. Hating no person, fearing no person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

### No, I Ain't Fergittin'!

The burgeoning debate over affirmative action and other aspects of relations between the races has left some African-Americans shell-shocked.

There is the feeling that we as a people have "missed a meeting" somewhere, or have been absent for a crucial lecture before the big test.

It seems as though the mainstream attitude toward us in the South has gone from, "You [insert epithet here] need to learn your place" and "We don't serve your kind here" straight to, "Why do you all stop dwelling on the past and learn to get along?"

The tenor of the discussion from an astonishing number of white opinion-makers has been that race relations would be just fine if "some" black folks would just forgive and forget, and quit living in the past.

The inference being that racism, like slavery, is a sin for which white society has atoned and which has been largely eradicated from both private and public life, so now, reconciliation may well and truly proceed.

The response of most black folks is bewilderment and confusion. Maybe we were not paying attention when racism ended and the apology was issued, but we don't seem to remember it.

For that matter, the message doesn't seem to have gotten across to quite a number of white folks, either, judging from their reactions to African-Americans on a daily basis.

But critics of black "racism" (as any suggestion that things are less than peachy-keen in America of the Nifty Nineties is labeled) don't dwell on that uncomfortable aspect.

What really annoys them, they say, is that black folks "keep harping on slavery." Slavery was over and done with more than 100 years ago, they say. Time to get over it and get on with life.

That is very wise and prudent advice, and black folks would be happy to take it to heart, if not for the fact

of who it is coming from.

It is hard to overlook, for instance, that many of the same folks who are decrying blacks' silliness in endlessly dwelling on the history of slavery are the very ones who have stickers on their cars with a cartoon Rebel waving a battle flag and the legend, "Hell, no, I ain't fergittin'!"

You know the ones we mean. Folks who grew up not knowing that "damn Yankee" was two words, and who will mutter, "They may of won the war, but we got 'em at Chickamauga."

We have all known them. They relive bitterly the atrocities the Union committed on the virgin South during and after the War of Northern Aggression, and many will tell you that in their history lessons growing up as late as the '60s, Abraham Lincoln was barely mentioned.

The Civil War ended in 1865. The last federal occupation troops were withdrawn from Southern soil by 1878, and soon thereafter, political control was returned to white hands.

So we are talking about a period of "oppression" that lasted, at the most, 13 to 15 years.

Also, for all their outrage, most of the horror stories they have about the Union occupation didn't involve wholesale murder, rape and the usual war atrocities. They were mainly economic.

Land was stolen. Property seized. Outrageous taxes passed. Black folks given their land (for a while).

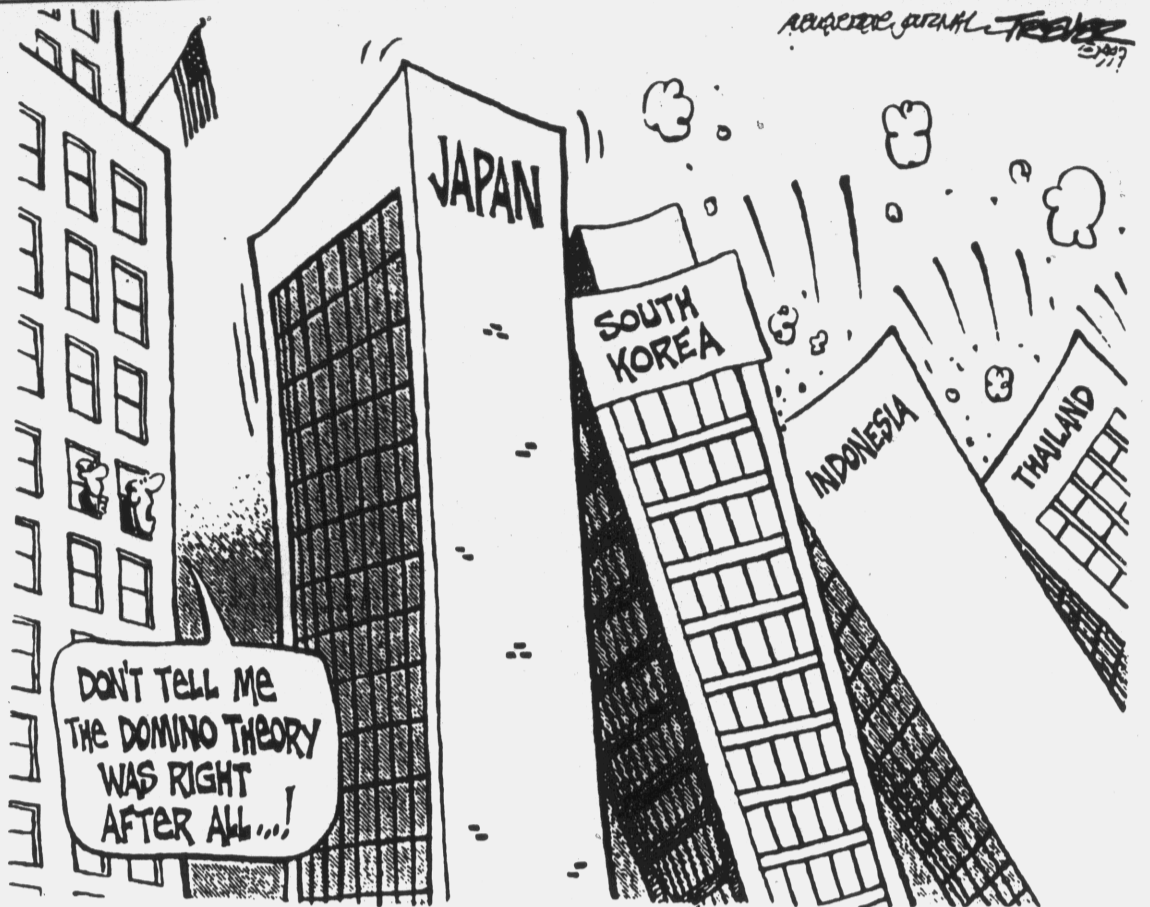
But they have the nerve to tell black folks they are sick and tired of hearing them "whine" about slavery.

Which lasted 450 years. And its aftermath, which only started ending 40 years ago, and which arguably is still with us today.

You guys are too much!

Go ahead. Talk about how "unreasonable" black folks are, and how they "insist on living in the past." Speculate that maybe it's genetic.

But the fact is, we ain't fergittin', either.



## Other Viewpoints

### MARION BARRY: A PROFILE IN COURAGE

By Maurice A. Dawkins

Special To The NNPA

A black Leader with a black political base, Marion Barry, the mayor of Washington, D.C., the nation's capital, is a logical target for the attacks of the white power structure.

His rise through the political system from city councilman to finance committee chairman to mayor was based on a rise through the system of community-based organizations where he served as the head of PRIDE and a leader in the Student Non Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). His progress as a leader of leaders continued as he became president of the National Black Mayors Conference.

Now, he emerges as a key figure in the World Conference of Mayors and attends their conference in Abuja, Nigeria where they welcome him as a modern-day hero, a role model of what a mayor can accomplish in public administration and political power. They are 776 mayors of municipalities in Nigeria elected in March of 1997 as the first step in a three-part transition plan to change from a military to a civilian government.

He appeared as a key figure at the African-African American Summit initiated by Reverend Leon Sullivan who let the international community know his high regard and genuine appreciation for the man Marion Barry.

Why then, with this track record of positive achievement and recognition from black America should he be vilified and demonized by the white media because they are trying to destabilize black Nigeria with an elaborate disinformation program? Why does the Washington Post choose to put a negative spin on the story reporting his visit to Nigeria and his visit to Harare, Zimbabwe?

Is it possibly because the white power structure is determined to destroy and demean authentic black American leadership? Is it because white America fears a genuine alliance between-black Africans and African-Americans in terms of economic empowerment—combining the strategic minerals, oil, diamonds and gold of Africa with the technological and organizational knowhow of Black Americans?

Perhaps what was done to Marcus Garvey, W.E.B. DuBois, Paul Robeson, Adam Clayton Powell, Martin Luther King and Malcolm X must now be done to Marion Barry. How long will it take before they add Jesse Jackson to the list?

It can't be because Nigeria is a military government. Chile is a military government in good standing with the United States. It can't be because of Nigeria's human rights record. Communist China has a record many times worse than capitalist Nigeria. The US de-links human rights from trade and investment when it comes to China. It can't be because Nigeria has helped stabilize Liberia and is working to restore democracy in Sierra Leone. It can't be because Nigeria has sent peacekeeping troops to Pakistan, Lebanon, Somalia, Bosnia and every United Nations Peace Keeping operation in its history. No it must be because of racism!—Global Racism! Neocolonial Racism!

There is no excuse for the "double standard" of the U.S. State Department except the colonial offices of the British and their compatriots in the other ex-colonial powers have a conspiracy to control the wealth of the African continent and to do that they must not permit economically independent Black Nations like Nigeria and Sudan, to make economic connections with African-Americans.

Yes, you get it! A Marion Barry connection might lead to connection with the 400-plus black mayors in America. This might lead to a connection with black community-based organizations, black churches and the black press. No, white America cannot forgive Marion Barry's shortcomings like they forgive Bill Clinton's shortcomings. Marion doesn't have the powerful damage control machinery that is at lovable, unsinkable Bill's disposal. He has the same womanizing and drug use charges made against him He has the same record of being a comeback kid and he had a lot to come back from. The difference is that though he talks like a brother, he's not black like Barry!

His PR people say his accomplishments as president eclipse his ethical and moral shortcomings. But no one says Barry's accomplishments eclipse his ethical or moral shortcomings. It's a double standard—it's racism and Mayor Marion Barry is a profile in courage who faces this challenge without fear—as his black community backs him up—thank God!

Rev. Dawkins is chairman of the National Coalition For Fairness In Africa Policy, a network of black clergy, black press and black community-based organizations.

### BACK TO AFRICA-NOT JUST WINING AND DINING

By William Reaves

Special to the NNPA

A recent article in the Washington Post, "Officials Defend Conference," initially appeared to be a rebuttal of earlier criticisms against the delegation of Black U.S. mayors, other elected officials and media representatives who attended the World Conference of Mayors' (WCM) annual meeting in Nigeria. But it soon became clear that this was another attempt to vilify a group of black people who dared to define themselves and their associations.

The article specifically pointed out that not only did D.C. Mayor Marion Barry attend the conference, which was "largely subsidized by Nigeria's military government," but two other Black mayors and three city council members from suburban D.C. municipalities, including myself, also got a free trip "home."

The apparent intent of much of the article was to focus on how the Nigerian government duped us, the ignorant and naive sons and daughters of the African Diaspora, into a trip to the motherland in an effort to "lend tacit support for the dictatorial regime."

But by hosting the WCM 1997 conference in Abuja, the Nigerian government did afford us the opportunity to rid ourselves of the ignorance and naivete many people from the U.S. have about Africa and more specifically Nigeria. Aside from the welcomed surprise of lavish resort hotels, fine restaurants and superb African entertainment, it was indeed very clear that others have discovered Nigeria. There were many white and other non-white people, from all over the globe, vacationing, exploring and most importantly, conducting business in Nigeria.

However, ignorance and naivete engenders knowledge and understanding. And that is exactly what the majority of the conference's nearly 500 participants from 12 African nations, Asia, the Caribbean and the U.S. achieved. We got to know and understand each other.

Founded in 1984 by then Tuskegee, Ala. Mayor Johnny Ford, the WCM is primarily patronized by non-white mayors worldwide. The WCM has the objective of stimulating constructive relationships between mayors internationally, based on the six Ts: Trust, Trade, Tourism, Twinning of Cities, Technology Transfer and Treasury.

Several very insightful exchanges took place during the scheduled workshops, which covered such topics as: Women in Government, Mayors and the Press and Mayor/Council Relations.

Technology Transfer was one of the most interesting sessions. The committee was composed of representatives from four African countries and the U.S. After a very informative exchange, we penned a resolution calling for the WCM to solicit from each national government represented at the conference, support for a Technology Transfer Communication Network (TTCN). The network will promote information sharing between cities, towns and villages, via electronic media facilitated by the respective mayors.

The WCM Technology Transfer Communication Network is a novel idea that caters to the technological needs of small to medium-sized municipalities because it will provide quick turnaround on technology-related requests for information. These will presumably lead to the identification of, and contact with, foreign entities who can fulfill the needs of the requester. Larger or more industrialized municipalities can gain private/public investment opportunities, while smaller communities may be its economic beneficiaries. All that many villages/towns/cities need is the injection of small amounts of technology and/or capital to help develop their natural resources.

Black people in the U.S. and abroad need to be aware of business opportunities in other parts of the world. Although foreign investment is often risky, it can be very profitable and allow us to penetrate the types of markets that are generally closed domestically.

After the WCM Technology Committee meeting, a mayor from a rural Nigerian village and U.S. officials calculated that for less than the average cost of an automobile in America, an investor could fund his village's 500-acre agricultural development project. Another proposal outlined a joint venture for the development of a concrete and brick plant which would supply the region's construction industry. One creative business plan, proposed to develop a popcorn production plant to exploit the region's maize and palm oil production capability. With the addition of small-scale machinery the local village could deliver packaged popcorn for an incredibly low cost.

So you see, the conference was very productive, some ignorance and naivete were overcome and some bridges were built.

As for the government in Nigeria—the purpose of governments everywhere is to produce and facilitate justice.

### Watch Where You Click

A woman, doing research for a paper on child porn on the Internet, set her search engine to key on those words.

What she got was mainly, as she intended, a number of sites dealing with treatises on the problem and hearings on porn on the Internet.

She also got one site that promised: "Illegal hardcore kiddie porn. Check it out."

Amazed, she clicked on it, to be confronted by a screen that said, "Downloading child pornography is illegal in every state. Your access has been logged and the information will be forwarded to the proper authorities."

Now, of course, she knew from her research that it wasn't an official government site and that she wasn't about to get a call in the middle of the night from FBI agents wanting to confiscate her computer, but it did give her pause.

Another student, researching pornography on the Internet, reports that, a couple of days after accessing several sites, she began receiving e-mail from people she had never heard of, assuring her, "We like that

kind of stuff, too," and wanting to send her dirty pictures.

These two incidents point up a potential problem with the Internet that few people realize. If you access a site, it is not only possible, but fairly easy, for a third party to trace your Internet address back to you, for whatever purposes.

The problem isn't so much that Big Brother is watching you, but that "everybody and his brother" is.

Internet security is a burgeoning issue, and one that has yet to be adequately addressed. It has even been speculated that it might be possible for political nuts or just plain sociopaths to use e-mail addresses to send computer viruses to everybody accessing, say, an abortion-rights site or the NAACP page.

African-Americans need to get used to using the Internet and all its associated technologies if they are to be ready for the 21st century.

But part of learning it is knowing its pitfalls and dangers. Beware.

The Internet and e-mail aren't like the mail. They are more like a party line.

And everybody is listening.



When the Krakatoa volcano erupted in Indonesia in 1883, the sound was heard 3,000 miles away.

# from the desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye

## THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS SYMBOLS

1. Gifts. Gift giving could commemorate the splendid gifts of the Magi to the Infant Jesus. Those gifts were gold, frankincense and myrrh. They are usually given on Christmas Eve.

2. Evergreens, a symbol of immortality, everlasting life.

3. Wreath, a symbol of victory and glory, plus the candle to signify the "Light of the World".

4. Holly, Ivy, Mistletoe, to ensure the blessings of good luck and fertility. The English started the custom of kissing under the mistletoe.

5. The Christmas tree, dedicated to love and good deeds instead to bloodshed; also it symbolizes the birth of Christ as "the Light of the World".

6. Wassail, the Christmas drink served in the wassail bowl after eating. It was a mixture of hot ale, spices, sugar, eggs, and roasted apples floating on the top.

7. Yule Log ensures good fortune for the household during the coming year.

8. The Lord of Misrule. Today, we call him the Master of Ceremonies. He was selected at Halloween to play the part in the festival, and his performance was rewarded with colors and ale.

"Silent Night, Holy Night", a hymn, tells simply and beautifully the story of Christmas and it has become one of the best loved of all Christmas carols.

9. The story of Christmas comes chiefly from the gospels of Saint Luke and Saint Matthew in the New Testament. According to Luke, an angel appeared to shepherds outside the town of Bethlehem and told them of Jesus' birth. Matthew tells how the Wise Men, called Magi, followed a bright star that led them to Jesus.

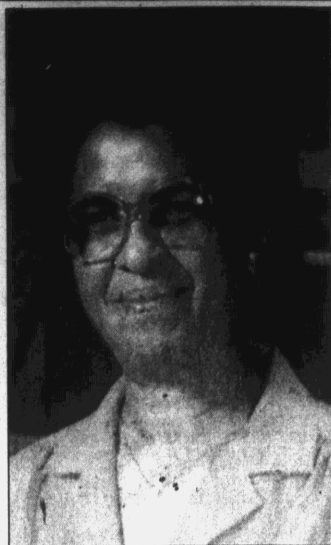
10. The traditional colors of Christmas are green and red. Green represents the continuance of life through winter and the Christian belief in eternal life through Christ. Red symbolizes the blood that Jesus shed at His crucifixion. Christmas decorations that feature these colors include the Christmas tree, the Christmas wreath, holly and mistletoe.

11. The Christmas wreath, like evergreens used as Christmas trees, symbolizes the strength of life overcoming the forces of winter.

12. The pointed holly leaves supposedly resemble the crown of thorns that Jesus wore when He was crucified. The red berries symbolize the drops of blood He shed.

13. The mistletoe is considered the Plant Sacred.

14. Handel's "Messiah" is one of the most popular works in music and it is usually sung at Christmas church service for it is a sacred anthem. Remember, we stand when it is sung.



### MERRY CHRISTMAS!

15. The names of Santa's reindeer are Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donder and Blitzen.

16. The last line of "A Visit from St. Nicholas" is "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night".

17. Chapter 9, Verse 6: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called wonderful, counselor, the Mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

18. Jesus came into the world in order to come into men's hearts, but it is sometimes all too true of men today, that they make no room in their lives or their hearts for the Son of God.

19. The superficial answer would be that it is a time for giving - yes, and getting - gifts. But the real answer we find is God's gift of love to

us: "His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

20. His birth was in keeping with the whole tenor of His life. He worked as a carpenter, lived without earthly wealth or prestige, never accumulated property or displayed any vanity by costly clothing or the wearing of jewelry. At His death He was laid in a borrowed tomb. The kings of Egypt erected great pyramids as monuments to their glory and grandeur, but the Son of man had no place to lay His head while living or His body when dead.

21. He was conceived by the Holy Ghost and Mary, a virgin, brought forth a Son and he was named Emmanuel, which being interpreted, "God with us". His conception was a miraculous one.

22. The baby was placed in a receptacle from which cattle or other animals ate their grain. This served in place of a cradle or crib. Since this is mentioned it is assumed the baby was born in a stable, a shelter for cattle, horses or donkeys.

23. It sounds as though John and Mary are trading gifts, not giving them. Do they really love Hazel and Bill?

24. This depends on the individual person. Every carol can bring a message of hope if our hearts are right.

### HOLIDAY GRACE NOTES

1. Learn the words and the tune of the hymn, "Amazing Grace". It will bring you peace.

2. Heat up a half gallon of apple

cider, add twelve cloves, three cinnamon sticks, one cup of orange juice and a half cup of lemon juice. Allow the mixture to simmer for a half hour or more. The aroma will perfume your house. Makes 12 servings.

3. Have a basket filled with green Granny Smith apples and red delicious apples on your hall tables. Tie a red and green plaid ribbon around the basket. The sight and the scent will put a smile on everyone's face.

4. Use red and green hand towels in the bathroom. If you have a red

or green quilt, put it on your bed.

5. This is a season for spiritual renewal. Select a spiritual book to read each evening before going to sleep. Listen to a recording of the Messiah at home or attend a musical service in your community. Play your favorite Christmas carols at home.

Also, list the positive achievements of the past year.

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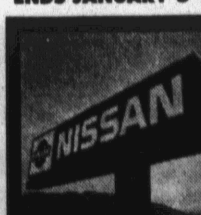
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EXTEND SEASON'S GREETINGS—Bishop Ralph Love, Sr. (r.) and his first lady, Sister Patricia Love (l.) along with the members of Holy Trinity United Holy Church in Greenville, extend Season's Greetings to all. (Jim Rouse Photo)

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SHARE QUALITY TIME—Brother Jessie Langley (l.) and his family spend and evening sharing some "Quality Time" together. Nothing takes the place of family unity. (Jim Rouse Photo)



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Human Relations Council  
Mayor's Anti-Drug Coalition  
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Pitt-Greenville Convention & Visitors  
Authority  
Planning & Zoning Commission  
Police Community Relations Committee  
Public Transportation Commission  
Recreation & Parks Commission  
Sheppard Memorial Library Board

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# Noel

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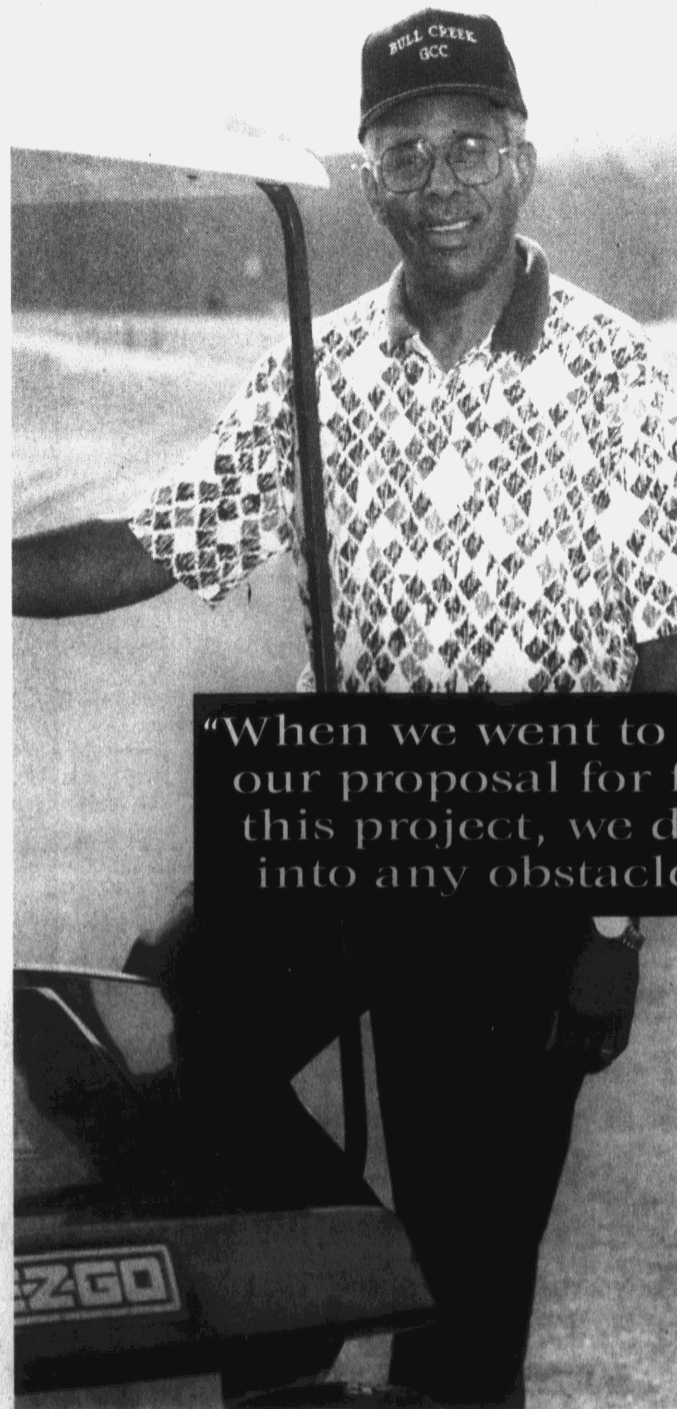
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Sam Solomon, President  
Bull Creek Corporation

Six families in Franklin County had a bold vision: they've turned their tobacco fields into a golf course. Before they went to First Citizens for financing, they had completed a fourth of the project themselves.

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BY FAYE WHITE  
Associate Editor

Editor's Note: If you would like to have your church's special event included in this column, please submit it to Faye White, 'M' Voice Church Calendar, at least two weeks prior to the event.



OUR LADY "MISS MINNIE" JOHNSON OF PROJECT "CHRISTMAS SANTA"—Is shown here outside the George Garrett Cultural Center, where she works. "Miss Minnie" hopes to help spread some Christmas Cheer along with her contagious smile, to lots of boys and girls for the holiday. (Jim Rouse Photo)

**Top Rhythm/Dance**

1. LSG "My Body" (EastWest/EEG) Last Week: No. 2
2. Puff Daddy & The Family "It's About The Benjamins" (Bad Boy/Arista) New Entry
3. Total "What About Us" (Arista) No. 1
4. Martha Wash Feat. RuPaul "It's Raining Men — The Sequel" (Logic) No. 4
5. Destiny's Child "No, No, No" (Columbia) No. 6
6. Uncle Sam "I Don't Ever Want To See You Again" (Stonecreek/Epic) No. 5

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# CHURCH CALENDAR

Minister Joy Brown will render service at the Redeeming Love Center, 210 Church Street in Greenville, at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19.

The Philippi Church of Christ, 1610 Farmville Boulevard in Greenville, will observe its annual Onession Brooks Appreciation Day, during the 11 a.m. morning worship service on Sunday, Dec. 21, honoring the church's musician and others.

At 6:00 p.m., the Annual Christmas Cantata will be held. All choirs of the church will participate. At 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 28, Sister Carol Cox will deliver her initial sermon. A Gospel Music Concert will be held at the Willing Workers Miracle Tabernacle, 321 Woodland Avenue, in rocky Mount, at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21. The main attraction: The Vines Sisters of Farmville, along with the Willing Workers Gospel Choir, The Traveling Angels, Deacon Pitt and Company, The "Joy of Deliverance", and others.

Mills Chapel Free Will Baptist Church will celebrate the Anniversary of Pastor Jimmie L. Swinson, Sr., at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21. Elder Clinton Anderson will be the guest minister. Music will be rendered by the Soul Seekers.

Sycamore Hill Baptist Church, 226 West Eighth Street in Greenville, will hold a "Christmas Carol & Candle Lighting Service" at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21. This service promises to be a wonderful, holy ghost-filled time in the Lord!

At 10:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 31, a New Year's Eve Celebration will be held at the Philippi Church of Christ. Music will be rendered by the Women's Fellowship Choir and the Philippi Male Chorus. Immediately following service, a Fellowship Breakfast will be served.

St. Mary's Missionary Baptist Church, Staton Mill Road in Greenville, will observe its Annual "Togetherness Day" service at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 4. During this service, all choirs will sing together and all ushers will usher together.

"M" VOICE—DEC. 23 - DEC. 31, 1997—7

ship Choir and the Philippi Male Chorus. Immediately following service, a Fellowship Breakfast will be served.

St. Mary's Missionary Baptist Church, Staton Mill Road in Greenville, will observe its Annual "Togetherness Day" service at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 4. During this service, all choirs will sing together and all ushers will usher together.

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# Amistad Story Springs To Forefront

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson  
Special To The NNPA

Steven Spielberg recently told an interviewer that he wouldn't have made the film *Amistad*, if he couldn't tell it as the story of Joseph Cinque, the reputed leader of the shipboard slave revolt. He felt that the story would only make sense if moviegoers had someone they could identify with.

This approach points to a sad, but painful truth about African-American history. While there are scores of heroes and heroic acts in Black history, many African Americans don't know about them. I don't exclude myself. I have written and researched numerous articles and several books on the black experience, yet I was only faintly familiar with the Amistad story.

I remember that during the early 1970s, San Quentin prison activist, Ruchell Magee, and Black ex-convict, Donald DeFreeze, the leader of the ill-fated Symbionese Liberation Army, styled themselves as rebels and adopted the name of Cinque. Beyond that distant recollection the Amistad story seemed

to me to be lost in the shadows of history. 53 Black slaves were transported illegally from West Africa on a Spanish schooner from one Cuban port to another.

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## Shop Downtown Kinston's Friendly Merchants

A group of small shops are beginning to sprout in an emerging part of downtown Kinston. Heritage Framers, located on North Queen Street, is in the process of dividing their business space into several separate nooks for small businesses. Three spaces have already been finished and occupied.

The Pure Herb and Spice Rack offers 72 different spices and herbs, assorted preserves, and fine coffee and tea.

"There is a real need for a spice store in Kinston. People are going back to what's natural," said co-owner, Evelyn Jackson.

The store is jointly owned by Michael and Evelyn Jackson and Van Logue. Logue says business has been slow in its first two weeks of operation.

Reginald and Derrick Cox have been co-owners of Baskets Galore and More for three years but have just recently moved business from its location on Gordon Street to its current Heritage Framers location. The store first started as a basket shop but has since expanded to sell a variety of gifts ranging from music charms to cologne.

"We try to get quality merchandise at reasonable rates," Reginald said.

So far business has gone well for the brothers, who believe they have invested in a part of Kinston that is on the verge of regrowth.

like a neighborhood than a competitive business market. The shops work to help provide business for their neighbors as well as themselves, she said. Currently the downtown neighborhood is creating a coupon system where customers will get coupons for various downtown businesses when they purchase merchandise downtown.

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Across the walkway from Baskets Galore and More is the Viewers Choice Gift Shop. Store owner Valerie Jones said the store, in its third week of operation, is still not fully stocked.

Valerie and her husband/co-owner, Charles, decided a long time ago that they wanted to be self-employed. She said Charles realized he was never going to advance to where he wanted to go while working under someone else so he decided it was time to pursue his dream.

"We know its going to pull through," Valerie said of her slow business. The couple currently lives in Goldsboro, where they hope to eventually add a second location if their first is successful.

Jeff and Sue Hass, owners of Heritage Framers, are also hopeful the businesses they are nurturing will blossom. Sue calls the project "an incubator for small businesses without big rents." It is also an investment in the downtown area for the husband and wife team.

"We have decided that downtown Kinston is where we want to invest our dollars," Sue said. "If you don't start taking care of your own downtown, it's going to become just a road through Kinston." According to Hass the downtown area is more

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on-line banking. A computer and a modem can bridge the distance between you and your child when it comes to money management. Together, you can keep tabs on your joint account, transfer funds, even pay some bills. Often, there's no fee for the service but there's usually a small charge for paying bills.

2. Manage your budget on the

### Dollars & Sense by Bryon Elson

computer. You and your child can manage your money with the help of computer software, like Quicken and Microsoft Money. These programs allow you to account for expenses and income. Some programs are even

connected to on-line banking services. It's an easy way to track expenses, so you can better prepare for recurring college costs like books, travel and activities.

3. Research your calling options. Before your child leaves for school,

do your homework on calling options. There are several options to consider, including phone company, calling cards, credit cards, even your own 800 number. Rates and services depend on where you live (in-state versus out-of-state calls) and when

"M" VOICE—DEC. 23 - DEC. 31, 1997—9  
you use the service. Also, keep in mind that more and more colleges offer phone mail, e-mail or both. So evaluate your needs and read the fine print before signing up for a service.

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HONORED—Brother Clee Wilder (r.) casts a loving smile at his Big Brother, Elder Curtis Wilder, when he was honored recently. He is joined by other well-wishers. To God Be The Glory!!! (Jim Rouse Photo)



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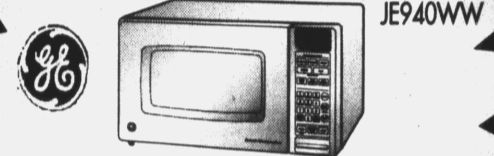
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# Ex-Intelligence Agents Monitored M.L. King Jr. In Memphis

Army intelligence agents monitored the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s public appearances in Memphis in the days before his murder, said retired agents speaking publicly for the first time.

But they say they had no foreknowledge of the 1968 assassination, and that conspiracy theorists have misinterpreted and twisted the purpose of their Memphis mission.

They watched for outbreaks of violence during the city's volatile sanitation workers' strike and the information collected was used to decide whether to send armed troops to Memphis, the agents said.

"We were never given any mission to keep King under surveil-

ance. Never," said retired Col. Edward McBride, who oversaw the 111th's Memphis missing from Fort McPherson in Atlanta.

Newly declassified reports show at least four agents with the Atlanta-based 111th Military Intelligence Group were in Memphis on April 4, 1968, when King was shot by a sniper while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel.

The 111th sent as many as 10 plainclothes agents to Memphis after a March 28, 1968, riot erupted during a march King led to support the striking workers, according to reports obtained by The Commercial Appeal under the Freedom of Information Act.

Some of the 111th's visits to Memphis in March and April 1968

coincided with King's arrivals and departures, the documents show.

The agents "took note" of King's public appearances when he was in Memphis, said Jimmie Locke, who led the mission and was in Memphis when King was shot.

"We weren't particularly concerned except that he might be the catalyst for an event of some kind," Locke said in an interview at his home in San Antonio.

James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to King's murder in 1969, but re-

canted days later and has since sought a new trial. His efforts, and those of his lawyer William Pepper, have given new life to conspiracy theories about the assassination.

Speculation has swirled for years about the possible presence of Army intelligence agents and Special Forces troops—armed guerrilla warfare soldiers known as Green Berets—in Memphis when King was killed.

King's family this year endorsed claims that the Army had stalked

the civil rights leader and played a role in his murder.

But the former agents said they did not watch King's hotel, bug his room or follow him, no did they see any Special Forces troops.

"That's the most ridiculous thing I ever heard," McBride said.

Rather, the agents said, they

simply monitored public gatherings, using civilians and sources in the Memphis Police Dept. and FBI to report when King and other activists attended rallies.

Locke said he set up an emergency operation center in the 111th's Memphis office after the riot.

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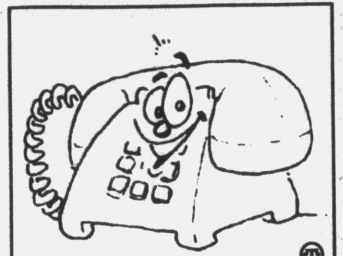
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