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THE 'M' inority
Voice

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This being in love is great—you get a lot of compliments and begin to think you are a great guy.
—Scott Fitzgerald

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S MINORITY VOICE-SINCE 1981

ISSUE WEEK OF JAN. 14 - JAN. 20, 1998

Former D.C. Delegate Walter Fauntroy Says Political Power Decides

By Cash Michaels

Staff Writer

Warning African-Americans not to "go to sleep" as they did during the 1994 congressional elections that ushered in the Republican Revolution, former Washington, D.C. Congressional Delegate, the Rev. Walter Fauntroy, told more than 600 gathered for the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black

People Installation Service Sunday that blacks can return the Democrats to power this year, but they must work together to maximize their voting strength.

If they do, he says, there'll be "good news" in the U.S. House and Senate on Nov. 4, the day after this year's elections.

"We are the margin of victory in 142 congressional districts across

this nation," Fauntroy said at Durham's packed St. Joseph's AME Church. "But we went to sleep, and Newt and his gang won."

"They are taking from the needy and giving to the greedy."

If Democrats can return to power this time, Fauntroy says, black congressmen like Charles Rangel, Louis Stokes, Bill Clay, and John Conyers, will be able to chair several

powerful House committees that can make a difference in the lives of black people.

"[We can] become the most powerful black people in the history of the world."

If anyone doesn't think so, Fauntroy reminds them, "Politics is the process of determining who gets how much of what, when and where, and if you have the majority

of members on a [congressional] committee, you can decide that."

North Carolina is one of five key states to the equation, Fauntroy says, and a check back to the 1986 congressional elections showed that black voters took the Senate back from then President Ronald Reagan, electing among others, former Gov. Terry Sanford.

African-Americans have no

choice but to flex their political muscle, the D.C. pastor and former disciple of Dr. Martin Luther King noted. Despite a good economy, Americans are "anxious" about their personal economic future.

No one's employment, especially with corporate downsizing the norm, is safe anymore, and U.S. jobs are going overseas to cheaper (See FAUNTROY, P. 2)

Wall Street To Close On King Holiday

By Kendall Wilson

The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), will not only cease its longtime policy of doing business as usual during the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, but will also pursue other initiatives that were part of King's crusade for economic parity.

The Wall Street Journal reported that the Big Board will close on Jan. 19, a move that was met with great satisfaction from Rev. Jesse Jackson, other civil rights leaders and some blacks on Wall Street who had been critical of the Exchange's previous posture.

Jackson, who is credited with leading the lobbying effort for the holiday observance, also has Wall Street listening to his campaign to achieve greater diversity in the nation's financial picture.

From the platform of his Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, which opened on Wall Street—near the Big Board—in early 1997, Jackson has persuaded NYSE chairman Richard Grasso and Travelers Group chairman Sanford Weill, to sponsor several days of workshops and a fundraiser on the floor of the Exchange to raise awareness (along with money) for the lobbying effort, known as the Wall Street Project.

The attendance of Federal Reserve Board chairman Alan Greenspan at one of the workshops between Jan. 14 and 16, and Weill's involvement of reportedly has attracted attention on Wall Street.

Jackson's contention has been that the securities industry is still dominated by white males, and in lobbying for greater diversity at the Exchange he is pushing for more upper-level jobs and greater access to capital for black- and other minority-owned businesses.

He is also seeking to raise the level of sophistication of Black consumers, who traditionally have not invested heavily in securities.

Officials of Salomon Smith Barney say their interest in the Wall Street Project is driven by one simple motivation, "...we think it's

(See WALL STREET, P. 2)



FILES TO FILL N.C. SUPREME VACANCY—Judge Jim Wynn, Jr. filed on Monday, Jan. 5, 1998, to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court of N.C. created by the upcoming retirement of Associate Justice John Webb. Pictured with Judge Wynn, supporting his bid for the vacancy are: (l.-r.) Rep. Toby Fitch, Rev. S. Locke, Rep. Dan Blue, Jim Wynn, Rev. Randy Royal, and Rev. T.L. Davis. (Jim Rouse Photo)

Judge Mark Martin To Seek GOP Nod For N.C. Supreme Court Post

Mark Martin, a Judge on the 12-member N.C. Court of Appeals, has announced his candidacy for the N.C. Supreme Court in the 1998 election. He will seek the Republican nomination for one of two vacancies created by the upcoming retirement of Justices Webb and Wichard.

Judge Mark Martin has served on the N.C. Court of Appeals since 1994. Prior to his election as Court of Appeals Judge, Judge Martin served as Resident Superior Court Judge in Pitt County, Judicial District 3A, and Legal Counsel to former Governor Jim Martin.

In announcing his candidacy, Judge Martin stated: "I have been honored to serve the citizens of North Carolina on the Court of Appeals. I look forward to the opportunity of continuing to serve the people of North Carolina on the Supreme Court."

Judge Martin serves as Secretary of the North Carolina Judicial Conference, the combined organization of all North Carolina judges. Judge Martin previously served as Co-Chair of the Legislative Liaison Committee of the North Carolina Judicial Conference, a member of the Legislation and Law Reform Committee of the N.C. Conference of Superior Court Judges, and a member of the N.C. Department of Correction Master Plan Advisory Committee.

Martin received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine award from the Governor of North Carolina in 1992. He was the recipient of the Western Carolina University Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1995. He previously participated in the Greenville Noon Rotary and the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce. Martin served as his law firm's office coordinator for the Triangle Area United Way Combined Campaign in 1990 and 1991.

Mark Martin received his law degree, with honors, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law. During law school he served as Editor in Chief of the North Carolina Journal of International Law & Commercial Regulation.

Martin was one of eight students in his class inducted into the Davis Society and was selected for Who's

Who Among American Law Students. Martin received his undergraduate business degree, Summa Cum Laude, from Western Carolina University, where he was the recipient of the School of Business Outstanding Senior Award and the School of Business Outstanding Junior Award.

During college, Martin served as Comptroller of the Student Government Association and Business Manager of the campus newspaper, The Western Carolinian. He was also inducted into the following academic honorary societies: Phi Kappa Phi, Beta Gamma Sigma, Pi Gamma Mu, Omicron Delta Epsilon, and Alpha Lambda Delta.

Martin is a graduate of the National Judicial College, General Jurisdiction Program, and the North Carolina Institute of Political Leadership. Judge Martin is scheduled to receive his Master of Laws degree (LL.M.) in Judicial Administration at the University of Virginia in May 1998.

The Honorary Co-Chairs of Judge Mark Martin's primary candidacy include former Governors James G. Martin of Charlotte and James E. Holshouser of Pinehurst; former Supreme Court Justices Rhoda B. Billings of Winston-Salem, Robert R. Browning of Greenville, and Francis I. Parker of Charlotte; and former North Carolina Bar Association Presidents Larry McDevitt of Asheville and Dewey W. Wells of Blowing Rock. Former Justice Rhoda Billings has also previously served as North Carolina Bar Association President.

The Campaign Co-Chairs of Judge Martin's primary candidacy include Franklin R. Anderson of Durham, Orville D. Coward, Sr., of Sylva, Randy D. Doub of Greenville, Marshall R. Hurley of Greensboro, Michael W. Mitchell of Raleigh, George Rountree, III, of Wilmington, and James R. Trotter of Raleigh.

The campaign is also supported by a Statewide Steering Committee and local steering committees in many North Carolina counties.

Judge Martin resides in Wake County with his wife, Kym, and daughters Anna and Sarah.

"Unjust Posture"

Black and white conservatives are twisting Dr. King's legacy and words, civil rights veterans say, and they want them to stop.

By Cash Michaels

An Analysis

What do Ward Connerly and U.S. speaker of the House Newt Gingrich have in common? Beyond both being Republicans, staunch conservatives, and anti-affirmative actioners, they say they also share a love and admiration for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and quote him religiously when they advocate for a "colorblind" society.

It took courage for the late Baptist minister and civil rights leader to challenge a racist America in the 1950s and '60s to "live out the true meaning of it's creed, that all men are created equal," the conservatives note. His dream of black and white children joining "in a symphony of brotherhood," is the America they dream of too, they add.

An America where there are no African-Americans, Chinese-Americans, Native-Americans, or other hyphenated divisive terms today's liberal "race matters" civil



"When he seeks opportunity, he is told, in effect, to lift himself by his own bootstraps, advice which does not take into account the fact that he is barefoot."

rights establishment uses to divide the country, they charge. Dr. King dreamed of the day

when there would be just Americans.

In fact, that day has come, Connerly, Gingrich, and other conservatives declare. Overt, institutional and societal racism is a thing of the past, they say. Now is the time to cast away affirmative action, cries of injustice from the past, wasteful racial town meetings and other "special interests" that are holding this country back. To do less, they charge, would be a mockery of what they say Dr. King stood for.

"How can such government-imposed distinctions be reconciled with Martin Luther King's message that whenever the image of God is recognized as universally present in mankind, 'whiteness' and 'blackness' pass away as deter-

(See DR. KING, P. 2)

Postal Service Issue Kwanzaa Stamp To Commemorate Cultural Celebration

Macclesfield—The Macclesfield Post Office and the United States Postal Service celebrated Kwanzaa which is celebrated Dec. 26-Jan. 1.

The Postal Service commemorated the African-American cultural celebration by issuing the Kwanzaa stamp on Oct. 22, 1997, in a ceremony officiated by LeGree S. Daniels, member of the presidentially appointed Postal Service Board of Governors, at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

Joining Daniels in the dedication ceremony were the creator of Kwanzaa, Dr. Maulana Karenga; artist, Synthia Saint James; and Dr. James L. Powell, Executive Director, Natural History Museum of

Los Angeles County. The Kwanzaa stamp is the latest addition to USPS's Holiday Celebration stamp series.

"This beautifully rendered colorful symbol of an African-American family which pays tribute to the African-American community and the historic struggle they have waged to stay strong and connected to their culture," says Postmaster Danny Manning.

The U.S. Postal Service's first Kwanzaa commemorative stamp was designed and illustrated by renowned artist, Synthia Saint James. Saint James is a self-taught African-American artist, whose work spans more than 40 (See STAMP, P. 2)



MASS RALLY HELD IN CITY—A mass rally was held recently at the Holy Trinity Church with numerous African American Pastors, who came together in unity to rally the ministers in Pitt and Greene County

Area Ministers Rally

to support U.S. Congresswoman Eva Clayton, who was the keynote speaker for the occasion. The pastors lent their support not only to Ms. Clayton, but a number of others running for office. (Jim Rouse Photo)

Affinity: Perspectives *Dee Apetsi*
Dear Dee:

I am a single man. After a lot of years of hard work and saving, I am pretty comfortable now and would like to settle down. The problem is that most younger women are too immature and most of the ladies my age (40s) who I could have a relationship with have children and I don't know if I want that responsibility. I was an only child and feel uncomfortable and just don't know how to act around them. What do you suggest?

Searching Long and Hard

Dear Long and Hard:

Just as most males have an innate compulsion to "mate" to ensure their genealogy (see "No Guilt", October 15-21, 1997 issue of *The 'M' Voice* Newspaper), most females have a similar compulsion ... to bear children ... society expects it of us, our friends, our relatives (especially our parents) expect it from us.

As little girls we play with our baby dolls, we feed them, and change their diapers, we rock them to sleep, we nurture them ... we mother them ... and those actions, the "mothering" is about much more than society or toy manufacturers suggesting that little girls should play with baby dolls. It is only natural that we mother because God instilled that compulsion in us. It is part of our very fiber, our being to do so. And, it complements our desire to mate and sustain your gene line.

I've read your letter several times. As important as what you say is what you do not say. You do not say that you dislike children, but that you are merely uncomfortable around them...and being an only child may, indeed, be the reason why. I suggest you re-evaluate your position, especially when you state that you don't know whether or not you want the responsibility. Date women with a child or two and test the waters. There are a lot of very nice women your age with older children with whom you might "connect". I believe that a relationship with a mother may be just what you need; some tend to be more mature, balanced, understanding, and giving than their single, female counterparts. ***SOME NOT ALL!!

Finally, in passing up every woman who has a child, you may not only be passing up the relationship of a lifetime, but also the joy and love a child could bring into your life. Please consider reconsidering.

Dee

Affinity: Perspectives (incorporation and logo pending) is a weekly, independent newspaper column giving advice to dating singles. All rights and entitlements are reserved. Please forward correspondence to Dee Apetsi, "Affinity", c/o Suite 109D Cherry Ct. Drive, Greenville, NC 27858. Any semblance to characters or situations other than those expressly replied to is purely coincidental and strictly prohibited. The 'M' Voice, Inc., its management, and staff do not necessarily agree with views

FAUNTROY

Continued from page 1

labor at a rate of 2 million a year.

Affirmative action and other policies deemed helpful to people of color are going to be under further attack in this climate, he said, adding that going back to the polls to stop the further erosion of gains is essential.

Black churches in the key states will be implored to adopt "Gideon's Army," a plan where black churchgoers will be asked to be responsible for identifying and getting registered five people in their neighborhood.

On primary and election days, those churchgoers should then make sure that their five make it to the polls and vote, Fauntroy said.

That puts blacks in the empire's seat, he says, because if they turn out in strong numbers for the electoral game, "The empire's in charge." Fauntroy asked the new leadership of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People to take the lead in making Gideon's Army work.

Beckoning Durham's African-American community to "Come home, Durham Committee," newly installed chair Dr. Lavonia Allison challenged everyone to work hard to address the issues of education, healthcare, crime and affordable housing, not to mention improved economic development and opportunity.

"Our destiny is largely in our hands," Allison, a realtor, activist and NCCU trustee, proclaimed in St. Joseph's sanctuary.

Black leadership from all over the city, Triangle and state were there to echo her call for black progress, including Al Perry, president of the Raleigh-Wake Citizens Association, who will be installed tonight.

WALL STREET

Continued from page 1

good for business.

"We support diversity in the workplace," the officials said, adding that the workshops will help minorities and women meet executives of major Wall Street firms. A Travelers Group spokesman said the firm was "supportive of the concept of building bridges."

DR. KING

Continued from page 1

"There comes a time when the cup of endurance runs over, and men are no longer willing to be plunged into the abyss of despair."

minants in a relationship?" wrote Rep. Charles Cannady, a conservative Republican from Florida, in this month's issue of the conservative magazine *Policy Review*.

In that same issue, Dr. King's niece, Alveda Celeste King, joins with the conservatives in calling for a society where color means nothing, quoting her late uncle freely to justify the dropping of ethnic designations.

Indeed, Dr. King was admittedly an integrationist, wanting to see the barriers of racial segregation come down, equal treatment for all, and brotherhood reign. When conservatives like Ward Connerly quote him, they say the time has come when race should no longer matter.

Connerly has gone so far as to redefine civil rights as "individual rights, and that government policies should not advocate group rights over [them]."

To carry out his new "civil rights" movement, Connerly created the American Civil Rights Institute, a national nonprofit group that seeks to, according to its press release, "...rededicate America to creating a truly colorblind society... and challenging the 'race matters' mentality embraced by many of today's so-called 'civil rights leaders.'"

In other words, the racial challenges of the past are over, Connerly suggests, and America is prepared to move forward—together.

But a closer look at Dr. King's philosophy about how such brotherhood between blacks and whites should evolve reveals he was also a realist, perhaps more so than conservatives are willing to admit.

In his writings and speeches, King said that true equality would come only once white America finally and honestly confronted the sickness, and historical impact of white supremacy.

So entrenched was it, the civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner wrote, that it would take more than just 30 years to cure.

"For too long the depth of racism in American life has been underestimated," King wrote in *Why We Can't Wait* (Mentor Books).

"The surgery to extract it is necessarily complex and detailed. As a beginning it is important to X-ray our history and reveal the full extent of the disease.

"The strands of prejudice towards Negroes are tightly wound around the American character. The prejudice has been nourished by the doctrine of race inferiority," King continued, adding, "It is this tangled web of prejudice from which many Americans now seek to liberate themselves, without realizing how deeply it has woven into their consciousness."

Thus, there is documented evidence of King supporting affirmative action, racial pride, bloc voting, and other proven avenues of progress for black people that would help make up the ground historically taken from them.

Conservatives say King would have railed against today's affirmative action, but history documents that the civil rights leader demanded of the segregationist Birmingham, Ala. officials and business leaders in 1963 "the upgrading and hiring of Negroes on a nondiscriminatory basis throughout the industrial community, to include hiring of Negroes as clerks and salesmen within 60 days after signing of the agreement."

A racial preference in hiring and promotions for a group that had been historically discriminated against, and since these weren't new positions, that meant they either had to be created, or some whites were let go.

Against the backdrop of black businesses that had to exist because of segregation, King still sought racial redress for past harms, knowing that the white power structure in Birmingham, home of racist Police Chief "Bull" Connor and his dogs, wouldn't like it, but had to comply.

"[The Negro's] struggle to escape his circumstances is hindered by color discrimination," King wrote then. "When he seeks opportunity, he is told, in effect, to lift himself by his own bootstraps, advice which does not take into account the fact that he is barefoot."

King also demanded a committee to promote racial discussions and healing between blacks and whites, and the desegregation of public facilities in 90 days.

Twenty years later, many of the same conservatives who today champion Dr. King as a visionary, vehemently opposed a federal holiday in his honor when debated in Congress.

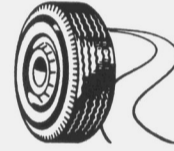
Most prominent among them was North Carolina Sen. Jesse Helms, who, according to the book *Racial Matters: The FBI's Secret File on Black America 1960-1972* (Free Press), defended FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover for illegal electronic surveillance of Dr. King, while still a commentator on WRAL-TV in late sixties.

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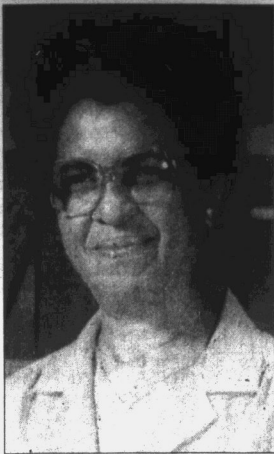
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from the desk of **Mrs. Beatrice Maye**

25 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR NEW YEAR HAPPY

1. Never buy a coffee table you can't put your feet on.
2. Believe in miracles, but don't depend on them.
3. Don't forget that we are ultimately judged by what we give, by what we get.
4. When you hear a kind word spoken about a friend, tell her so.
5. Don't work for recognition, but do work worthy of recognition.
6. Start the standing ovation at the end of school plays.
7. When someone lets you down, don't give up on him.
8. Ask yourself if what you are doing today is getting you closer to where you want to be tomorrow.
9. Remember that nothing important was ever achieved without someone's taking a chance.
10. When a friend is in need, help him without his having to ask.
11. When someone gives you something, never say, "You shouldn't have."
12. Remember that cruel words deeply hurt.
13. Remember that loving words quickly heal.
14. Frame anything your child brings home on his first day of school.
15. Seek respect rather than popularity. Seek quality rather than luxury. Seek refinement rather than fashion.
16. Never be too busy to meet someone new.
17. Remember that when your mom says, "You'll regret it," you probably will.
18. Never let the odds keep you from pursuing what you know in your heart you were meant to do.
19. To help your children turn out well, spend twice as much time with them and half as much money.
20. Remember that life's most treasured moments often come unannounced.
21. When you see someone sitting alone on a bench, make it a point to speak to her.
22. Be willing to accept a temporary inconvenience for a permanent improvement.
23. Protect your enthusiasm from the negativity of others.
24. Remember, it's not your job to get people to like you; it's your job to like people.
25. Rebuild a broken relationship.



Beatrice C. Maye

From: *Life's Little Instruction Book, Volume 111*, by H Jackson Brown, Jr.

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Flipping mattresses makes them last longer. Rotate the head to the front. Then turn the mattress over from side-to-side. Flip again in two months.

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BOOST YOUR BRAIN POWER

Almost everyone needs it, asks for it, gives it, but almost nobody takes it. What is it? Answer: Advice

Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.

Do not use segregation and racism and color as an excuse. Herman Cain

The three stages of being sick: ill, pill, bill.

Children are parents' responsibility and grandparents' joy.

Love is like a pair of socks—you have to have two and they gotta match.

The real objective of a committee is not to reach a decision, but to avoid it.

The longer the letter, the less chance it being read.

You run in debt, but you have to crawl out.

The wheels of progress aren't turned by cranks.

If you don't know who's to blame, you are!

Fools rush in where fools have been before.

There are those who climb the ladder of success wrong by wrong.

There is nothing common about common sense.

Do it tomorrow—you have made enough mistakes today.

Lend only what you can afford to lose.

Love always seeks to help—never to hurt.

A MESSAGE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Don't think being late for class is really hip.

Don't think it's OK to drink just a sip.

Don't think being uninterested is super cool.

Don't think getting over is playing hooky from school.

This material should be brought to the attention of parents also.

Don't think skipping the basics will put you in the lead.

Don't think a diploma is not what you need.

Don't think it's good to pout and be a prankster.

Don't think it's great to be known as a gangster.

There are too many erroneous ideas dancing in the heads of too many students. A new and different set of values must be implanted, or a generation or two will suffer.

Don't think its sharp to always be in a fight.

Don't think its right to keep your parents uptight.

Don't think doing homework is dull and square.

Don't think it's belittling to say, "I care."

Not only should parents and children be interested in redirecting energies and priorities, but it must also be the task of ministers, businessmen and leaders in the community.

Don't think happiness is saying high and stoned.

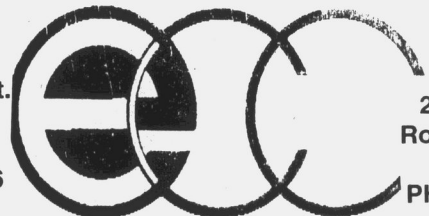
Don't think making babies makes you grown.

Don't think it's stupid to do your

(See MAYE, P. 8)



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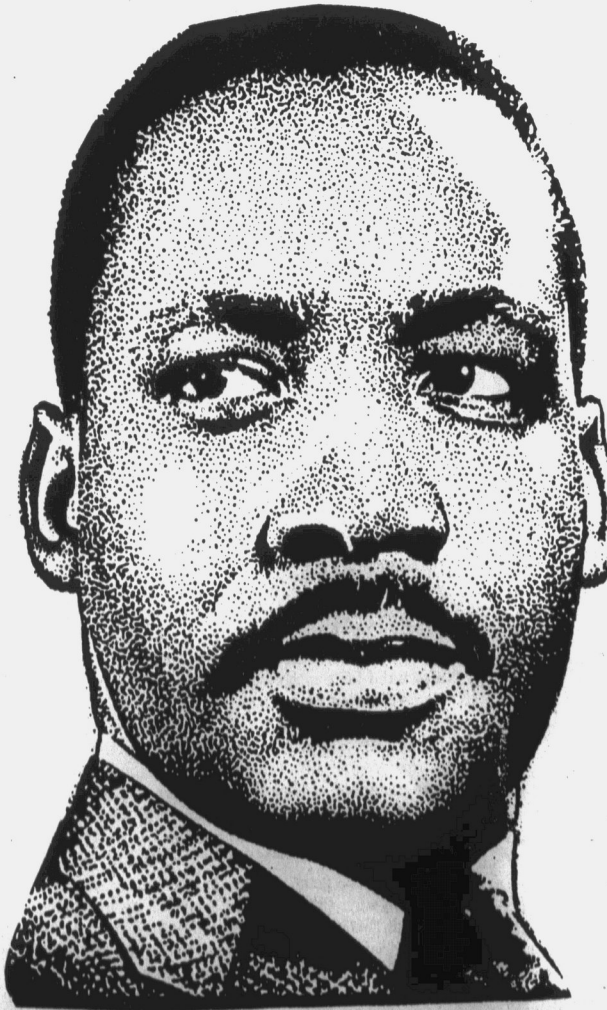
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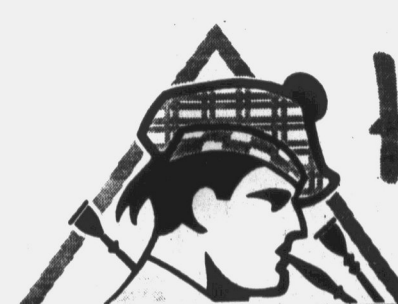


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Remember Dr. King's message. "I have a Dream" Keep the dream alive. Have hope for a better tomorrow. Work hard and peacefully for it today. Don't let the struggle Dr. king went through be forgotten. You too should have a dream.



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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.

A New American Icon

The Martin Luther King Day celebration is starting to catch on in a big way.

This year, at long last, Wall Street is shutting down in honor of the holiday. And Wake schools are joining in the celebration with events and speakers.

The enthusiasm with which mainstream American institutions are embracing King and his message has some in the black community a little wary.

Why, after years of vilifying the messenger and the message, has mainstream America decided that they deserve a place in American tradition?

After all, we remember all too well how opponents labeled his message as "communist-inspired" (1960s—or 1980s if you're Jesse Helms), or "divisive" (1990s).

Now, suddenly, words like "honor" and "heritage" are being used in connection with the man and his "dream."

This year's observances everywhere are making it clear that the official establishment has accepted the King Message into the pantheon of icons that make America what it is—and should be.

His vision has even been invoked—to universal outrage—by conservative opponents of affirmative action and programs to help African-Americans.

The sudden, radical turnabout is enough to give the careful observer whiplash, trying to keep up. One can be forgiven for asking, "What gives?"

It doesn't take much of a cynic, therefore, to speculate that his message of peace, tolerance, equality and—above all—nonviolence is much preferable to the establishment over what it perceives to be the alterna-

tives.

With Louis Farrakhan gaining support both within the African-American and Third World communities, might the movers and shakers not be pushing this "milder" vision of black liberation in hopes that the black community will adopt it?

A cynical way to view the increasing acceptance of Dr. King as a man worthy of being honored in American history, to be sure.

And if it is true, how ironic, for the man's vision was anything but tame and mild.

As far as most of the media record is concerned, Martin Luther King only gave two speeches—1963's "I Have a Dream" (only about 30 seconds of which is ever repeated—the entire speech was much more wide-ranging) and his 1968 "I Have Been to the Mountain Top" right before he died.

Put together, they give a picture of a man who had faith, hope and trust in the American system and was confident that his revolution would succeed.

But read any other of his speeches and writings, and a different picture emerges.

Especially as time wore on into 1967 and 1968, his ideas became more hard-edged, and the word "revolution" crept more and more often into his prescription for change.

King was the first one to comment ruefully that his "dream" had become a "nightmare," and that something more drastic had to be taken place to change America.

And, though he "had seen the promised land," he was quite clear that blacks as a people were a long way from getting there.

So yes, by all means, honor Dr. King on his day. But read what he had to say about America. All of it.

Support For The CBC Task Force

NNPA Editorial

At the December national conference of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) in Milwaukee, Wis., a timely and worthy resolution was passed in support of the Congressional Black Caucus Task Force and Working Group on the Tobacco Settlement.

NNPA joins the black state legislators in giving special recognition to the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) for its leadership efforts to make sure African-American interests are adequately and clearly represented in legislation on the tobacco agreement now being discussed, debated, and developed in the U.S. Congress.

Under the able leadership of Rep. Bennie Thompson of Mississippi, the CBC Task Force and Working Group on the Tobacco Settlement include broad representation of African-American health, legal, financial, education, and media organizations. NNPA is pleased to be an active participant on this Task Force.

As Task Force chairman, Rep. Thompson has organized an active and representative working group to provide input for the development of a black legislative perspective on the Tobacco Settlement and to be at the table to help determine an equitable

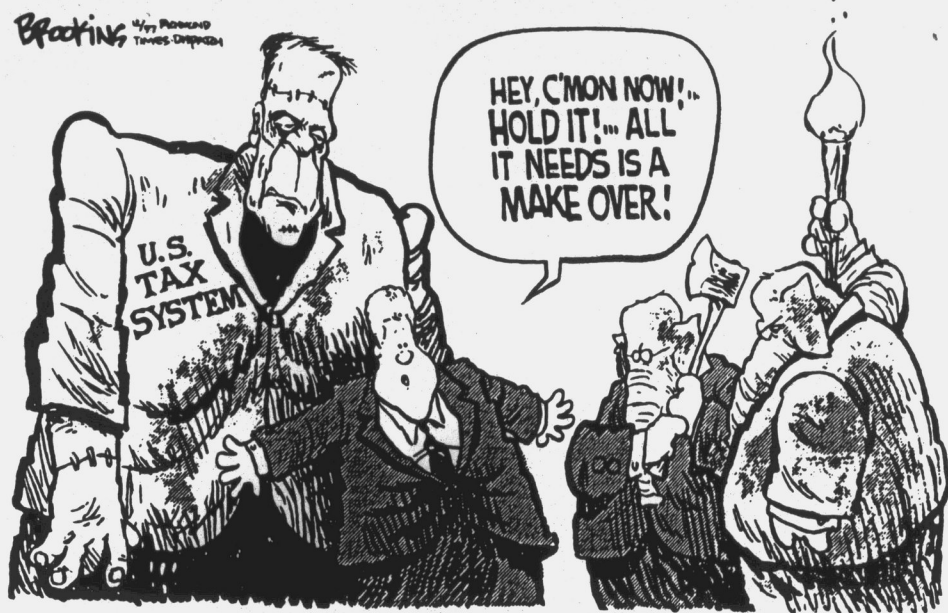
system for the distribution of the settlement's proceeds for research, education, cessation programs among young people and media advertising campaigns.

Until the Congressional Black Caucus established a Task Force, all participants in the agreement reached by the state attorneys general and subsequent discussions by national health organizations, the executive branch of the federal government and members of Congress were white.

As we have stated emphatically in a previous editorial on this subject, African-Americans have a vital stake in both the health and economic implications of the Tobacco Settlement and we need to be involved in all discussions on the congressional legislation incorporating the tobacco agreement reached by the all-white state attorneys general.

NBCSL is on target in commending CBC Chair Rep. Maxine Waters and CBC Task Force Chair Rep. Bennie Thompson on their leadership initiative on an issue vitally important to the African-American community.

There cannot be any national legislation on the tobacco settlement without significant African-American input and support.



"Just Do It" Is Great Advice

BY TREY BANKHEAD



"The problem with most people is that they dream of doing something instead of just DOING it!"

Believe it or not, I got that quote from Cinderella's Fairy Godmother. (Okay, so I saw it on a television special starring Brandy and Whitney Houston—so what? That doesn't change the fact that it's still a pretty accurate assessment of most people.)

I mean, look around you. I've got a friend who dreams of becoming a race car driver, and also wants to be an auto mechanic for race cars. What has he done about his dream? Nothing.

I know I talk about a lot of things in my various writings, and I believe every word. But, still, I'm not perfect. I could stand to be in better shape, for example. I tend to snap-judge things (and people), rather than take the time to make an informed judgment. Other times, I take far too long to make a decision, rather than take a chance.

So, I'm taking my own advice (Don't look so surprised! Writers expect you to follow what they say all the time. Why shouldn't we follow our own advice?). Rather than complain and whine and moan about how terrible my life is (those of you who read my LAST column know what I'm talking about), I'm going to do something about it!

The first step in coming up with a way to improve your life is to make a plan. You need to figure out what you're not satisfied with, and find ways to improve it. In my case, I've made a list of five main areas where I need to improve. In the interests of saving space, I'll list two of them here.

In my opinion, I could definitely stand to be in better physical shape. Sure, lots of my co-workers say that I'm in perfect shape, but I know better. Ever hop out of the shower, towel off, reach down for your slippers, and have a river of water come flowing out of your belly button? Well, my stomach used to be FLAT, but now it's got that "Dunlap" thing going as in it "dun lapped" over my belt. I mean, it's gotten so soggy down there that water CAN hide in my belly button, which is utterly ridiculous (not to mention embarrassing!) to me! Add to that the fact that my arms and legs have gone kind of soft, and that my rear end has also gotten a tad less firm than I would prefer... you get the picture. Even though my wife STILL says that my shoulders, arms, and butt are sexy, I just KNOW they could look better.

Which brings me to the question: WHAT AM I GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

I crafted an exercise program that is tailored to MY needs, MY wants, and MY interests. Generic programs have never worked for me. They're too impersonal. The one I worked out for me works for me. I want more physical endurance? I've worked in an aerobic routine. I wanted better muscle definition, so I added weights to the aerobic routine, which will boost my strength AND improve my endurance. I like martial arts, so I added some routines from kung fu and aikido to the mix, bringing back my old self-defense skills and bringing me back into shape, and NOT letting me get bored while exercising! All this, I've put into a one-hour program that I'll do every day. That's one hour non-stop, to make sure that the intensity doesn't waver.

The other area I feel I need to work on is my image. I mean, I know I look good NOW (so I'm told), but, with some work, I could look so much better! Getting back into shape will help me along in this area, but that also means that I'll have to watch what I wear as different parts of me start to become more defined. For example, if I'm working on my chest, shoulders, and upper arms, I'll have to look for shirts and suit jackets that won't bind in those areas. While I'm at it, I can take the opportunity to update my wardrobe. There's some newer styles I'd love to get into, and I already know I'd look goooooood in. So, why not? The clothes I wear now, I show them off. What I need are clothes that show ME off (ladies know exactly what I'm talking about... guys, this is an area where they get frustrated with us because we usually just don't get it!).

So, in that respect, I'm going for a total makeover. I'll be improving my body, which will improve my health, self-esteem, and sex life (that last one is ALWAYS a good goal!). I'll be improving and updating my look, which works out for my career and, again, my self-esteem. (Remember Will Smith in "Men In Black," when he says "The difference between you and me is that I make this look gooooood." Same thing. Think "confidence.") You'd be surprised at the confidence you can get if you're in good shape and good clothes. I learned that from my wife: she dresses up more for HERSELF than for anyone else, which is what most women do! Why ELSE do you think women are so careful about how they dress? Did you think they did it for US, guys? Well, time for a reality check; They may like us, but they don't like us THAT much! It may be a relatively small point, but they can FEEL good

Other Viewpoints

IS IT TIME FOR A BLACK COMPUTER COMPANY?
By John William Templeton

Special To The NNPA

SAN FRANCISCO—Sometimes you can't see the forest for the trees.

That is the case with one of the most amazing trends in the African-American consumer market.

Beginning in 1995, African-Americans spent more on computers than they did on televisions, according to the Current Population Surveys of the U.S. Census Bureau—\$589 million to almost \$500 million for televisions.

They also spent another \$180 million on computer software—equivalent to the amount spent on CD-ROMs and other recorded music. When statistics for 1997 are released, the total amount spent on hardware and software is likely to top \$1 billion.

Marketing research indicates that most of these computers were bought for students so that they can stay competitive in school. An Apple Computer, Inc. executive confided that its studies indicate that single black mothers index highest of any group in a willingness to buy a computer for their children.

The ironic aspect of this trend is that it is a total gift to the computer industry, which has done worse than nothing to market technology to African-Americans, even though some of the biggest breakthroughs were pioneered by blacks. Did you know that the lead engineers for the first IBM PC, Windows 95 and the Macintosh disk drive were black?

In the spirit of the recently passed Kwanzaa, perhaps it is time we do something for ourselves. As much as the black computer market has grown, it still only scratches the surface. When President Bill Clinton gives his State of the Union address, he will open the doors to an even greater opportunity by committing funds to the rejuvenation of schools in school districts with a high proportion of children living in poverty.

The mid-March deadline to qualify for the e-Rate's 90 percent discount for schools will also force educators to begin addressing their technology needs.

Black parents are being forced to buy computers for their children because their schools are not equipped with them. There is a 14 percent gap in computers per student at the 4,200 schools with 75 percent or more African-American student bodies compared to the national average, reports QED's Jeanne Hayes in Denver.

If the president is serious—always an open question—it would mean a substantial commitment to buying the 1.2 million computers that it would take to reach the national goal of five students per computer by the year 2000 for the seven million African-American K-12 students.

Even if the feds do not follow through, we as a community should require our local school boards and charitable organizations to come up with the dough.

Now, if you're still with me. Somebody needs to make those computers and somebody needs to make software that mines the rich oral tradition of the African experience and the creativity of today's artists. Although computer purchases are going up, software purchases are going down as black buyers find an even worse situation than the book and movie markets when they go to software stores.

There is nothing for black children and a void in practical resources geared to the specific needs of adults. In our inimitable fashion, we've been taking that imperfect environment and adjusting it to meet our needs. That's where the business opportunity lies. Practically all American computer companies have sourced their manufacturing offshore in Asia. That means much of your hard-earned dollars spent for computers floated away.

Given that technology is one of the boom fields for the 21st century, it provides an opportunity to create a company based on meeting the specific demands of African-American computer buyers, either as a stand-alone firm or in alliance with existing manufacturers here or offshore.

None of the existing firms have any sales channels in inner cities nor in Africa or the Caribbean. There is not only a demand for a manufacturer but also a retail company that would focus on these markets.

During the recent conference, "African-Americans in the Digital Age: Learning and Earning on the Internet," Dr. Frank Greene, one of the pioneers of Silicon Valley and managing member of New Vista Venture Capital, discussed how his group is putting \$40 million into developing the next wave of Black computer companies.

by LOOKING good. And so, for that matter, can WE!

Anyway, that's it: Two areas I'll be improving my life. I've got the goals and the plans on how to reach those goals all laid out, and I intend to have the physical reconditioning part of it accomplished by my birthday (which is Jan. 11, so I don't have a lot of time). Now, all have to do is take the advice of both Nike and Cinderella's Fairy Godmother.

I need to "Just DO it!"



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Some Mayan Indians played a game that resembled basketball around A.D. 700 to 900. The object of the game was to hit a rubber ball through a hoop with their elbows or hips. Mayan ball players wore thigh guards and a thick, protective belt when playing.

DROP BY AND SAY HELLO—Sister Joyce (r.), shown here with her daughter, can be found at the Kash & Karry on Pactolus Highway. She invites all 'M' Voice readers to drop by and say "hello." (Jim Rouse Photo)

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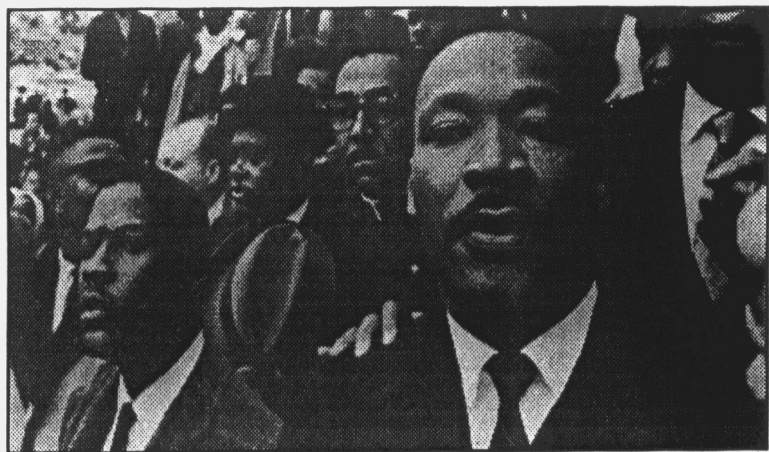
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Variety Of Options Available To Tackle Rising College Costs

By Beth Rilce

Business Feature

RADFORD, Va.—It's a math problem all parents fear: "By the time my son or daughter is ready to go to college, how much will it cost?" Equally daunting is the corollary question: "How will we ever afford it?"

College costs have risen dramatically over the past two decades and the trend is expected to continue. While inflation has increased 80 percent since 1980, college costs have risen 221 percent during the same time period according to The Heritage Foundation.

As costs continue to increase six to seven percent annually, parents of a child born in 1998 and entering college in 2016 can expect a four-year public education to be around \$140,000, while four years at a private school could be as much as \$286,000.

Before you throw your calculator out the window, there is good

news. No matter if you're the parent of a newborn or getting ready to send a child off to school this fall, there are more options than ever to help pay for college.

"The trend in financial aid is 'wrapping,'" explains Herbert S. (Buddy) Johnston, director of financial aid at Radford University in Radford, Va. "We wrap together a number of financing options, including scholarships, grants, loans and work-study, to present the best possible aid package to a student."

Many schools can estimate the amount of aid a student might receive even before he or she applies. "By filling out a one-page worksheet, parents and students can get a rough idea of the types of aid available," explains Johnston.

The Internet is making the process even easier as many colleges and universities have on-line calculators and application forms. "Parents, students and guidance counselors are really beginning to use

the Internet to get information about paying for college," says Johnston. "In the past a person would write off to a college and have to wait several weeks to find out what kind of aid was available. Now he or she can click on a web site and learn about eligibility, apply for financial aid over the Internet or even do free scholarship searches in a matter of minutes."

While the amount of overall aid available is increasing in the United States, up five percent over last year, Johnston warns against relying too much on financial aid and encourages people to do some wrapping of their own.

"Parents and students have gotten quite creative and are figuring out ways to get a little here and there to help supplement aid."

Sparking this creativity is the availability of more college funding programs than ever before. Parents and students can choose from a number of investment and pay-

ment options to combine with financial aid and scholarships. Some of the newer college funding programs growing in popularity include state savings trusts and savings bonds, prepaid tuition programs and installment plans.

The interest in these options is growing thanks, in part, to new tax laws deferring payment of federal and state taxes on the increase in value of tuition plans and other savings for higher education expenses. At the same time there are important considerations associated with each option. As always, it is best to consult a financial advisor for specific information.

While they don't earn as much of a return on investment as mutual

funds or stocks, state savings trusts and savings bonds can provide substantial tax advantages under certain conditions. The catch is there are often strict requirements on the way investments are set up and how they are used. Still, savings trusts and bonds are relatively safe investments and guarantee some money is set aside for college.

Prepaid tuition plans lock future costs into today's prices. Parents and students pay the current college cost and don't have to worry about increases by the time a student goes off to college. Many states have prepaid tuition plans or are considering them and parents and students should contact

plan representatives for specific information. Depending on the plan, payments can be in installments or lump sums and the state assumes all risk of investments.

Again, a family's financial situation and investment strategy are important factors. While the money may have a greater return in other investments, prepayment plans offer security. They are, however, not for everyone. Prepaid tuition plans can be attractive to middle-income families interested in conservative investments, but for low-income families the plans may actually jeopardize chances for aid while forfeiting money needed for immediate essentials.

We salute his dream...



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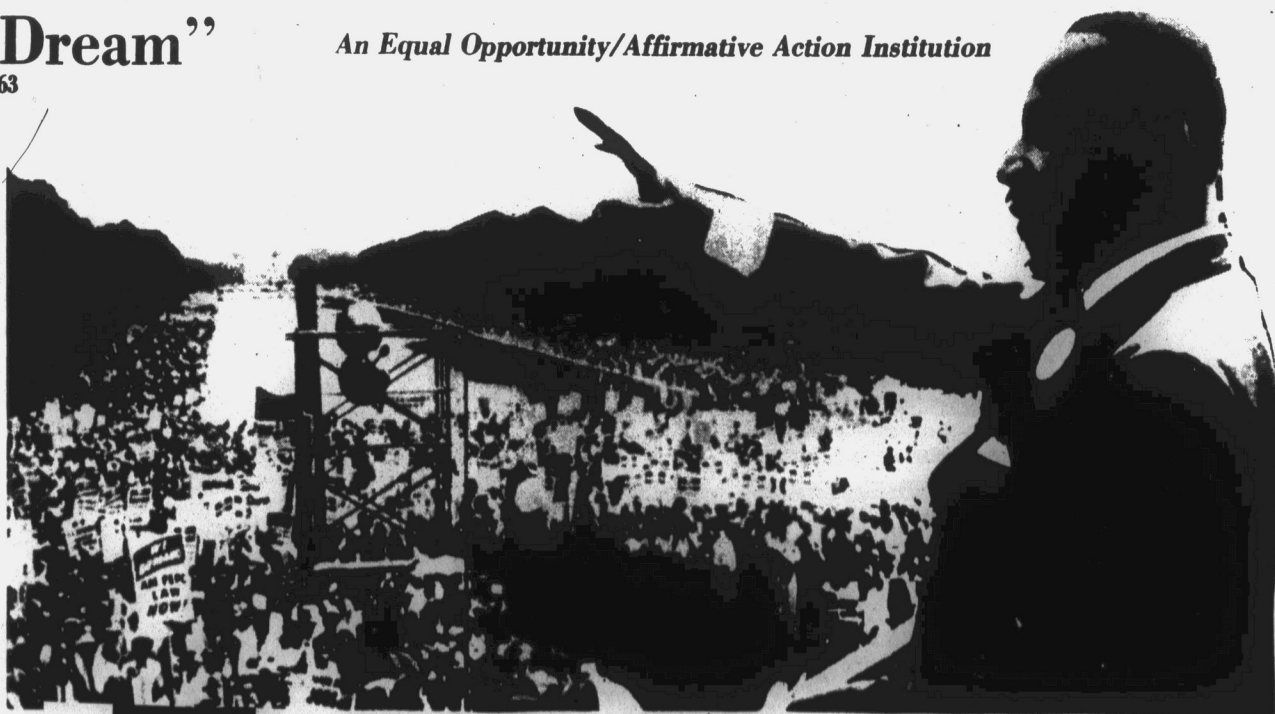
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Ruth Brown Receives Honors At Age 70

NEW YORK, N.Y.—Miss Rhythm herself, Ruth Brown, has special reason to rejoice on her 70th birthday on Jan. 12. Rhythm & blues' first bona fide female star has received her third Grammy Award nomination for her debut Rounder Records/Bullseye Blues album, *R + B = RUTH BROWN*. The album was nominated in the

best traditional blues category. The album is a celebration of Brown's 57-year career and features some of her favorite songs she's enjoyed hearing others sing over the years, and a few well-chosen new musical chestnuts. The set boasts duets with blues fiddler Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown on "False Friend Blues" and Brown's biggest fan, Bonnie Raitt, on a bluesy cover of "I'm Gonna Move To The Outskirts of Town." Renowned for her '50s-era million-sellers such as "Mama, He

Treats Your Daughter Mean," "5-10-15 Hours" and "Tear Drops From My Eyes," Brown has been enjoying a well-deserved career revival since 1988 when she won a Tony Award for her role in the Broadway musical "Black & Blue." Her book, *Miss Rhythm: The Autobiography of Ruth Brown, Rhythm and Blues Legend*, will soon be a Showtime movie. She will be playing a weeklong engagement at New York's Blue Note Jan. 20-25.



SALUTE TO GREAT FATHERS—Shown at the funeral of Millard Bell are his father, Filmore Bell and the late Brett Hagin, who passed away the night after this picture was taken at the Dubois Center. May God continue to bless the fathers who open doors for our young people. The history book doesn't talk about fathers like these two gentlemen. (Jim Rouse Photo)

Work is of two kinds: first, altering the position of matter at or near the earth's surface relative to other matter; second, telling other people to do so.

—Bertrand Russell.

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MAYE

Continued from page 3

best.
 Don't think it's dumb to try to pass a test.
 Drugs, alcohol, tobacco and a host of other symptoms reflect the misdirection spoken of in this poem. Education is a basic for proper and healthy human development. To attempt to function as an illiterate is to play a losing hand.
 Don't think it's bad to try not to fail.
 Don't think it's wrong to try to excel.
 Just think! Just think! Just think!
 —A reprint of a poem written by a television community affairs director recently appeared in a periodical published by the North Carolina Association of Educators.

IF YOU ARE NERVOUS, DEPRESSED, OR ALWAYS TIRED

1. Be sure that your goals are possible and that they have to do with the welfare of others rather than with personal prestige. Nervous people usually have self-centered goals or none at all.
 2. If possible, eliminate what makes you most nervous or weary. Overly heavily washes, doors that slam, children who fight, men who don't get home for dinner on time, in-laws who criticize, can be brought under control so that they won't use up so much of your energy.
 3. Build up your enthusiasm and interests. Plan your days and simplify your life so that you have ample time in which to do well the things you must do, one thing at a time in the order of their importance, and some time left over in which to do things you particularly enjoy. If necessary, ask an efficient friend to help you develop better work habits. If you have been serving as someone's slave, stop doing so.
 4. Practice making prompt decisions and sticking to them. Spending hours trying to decide whether to do this or that uses up more energy than the action itself, and often one course is as good as another anyway.
 5. Improve your health. Drink plenty of milk and eat more vegetables and meat. Learn how to relax your muscles and really rest.

Have a physical checkup if one is due. Use poems, songs, prayers, and memories which help you let go.

6. Face the sex problems you may have and resolutely seek a solution for them. Men and women who enjoy each other are seldom nervous and tired.
 7. In periods of depression, remember that everyone has troubles, that "this too will pass" and concentrate on riding out the storm well.

THE ENVIRONMENT YOU ARE GIVING YOUR CHILD

1. Do you run your home efficiently? Is it orderly, but not so orderly that your family feels uncomfortable in it?
 2. Do you have fairly definite schedules and jointly made, well-understood rules which you are on the job to enforce?
 3. Have you and your husband solved enough of your problems so that you are setting a good example of cooperation, mutual respect, and happy, zestful, responsible behavior and so that your child is looking forward to growing up and to marriage and parenthood?
 4. Are you and your husband living examples to your child of good citizenship and social responsibility, working to make your street a friendly neighborhood, participating in community undertakings, and feeling responsibility for good government?

MAY YOU HAVE

Enough happiness to keep you sweet,
 Enough trials to keep you strong,
 Enough sorrows to keep you human,
 Enough hope to keep you happy,
 Enough failure to keep you humble,
 Enough success to keep you eager,
 Enough friends to give you comfort,
 Enough wealth to meet your needs,
 Enough enthusiasm to look forward,
 Enough faith to banish depression,
 Enough determination to make each day better than yesterday.

THE ROAD OF LIFE

"I expect to pass through this world but once. Any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now... for I shall not pass this way again."

LORD

"I shall be very busy this day. I may forget Thee but do not Thou—forget me."

IT IS HARD

To forget
 To apologize
 To save money
 To be unselfish
 To avoid mistakes
 To keep out of a rut
 To begin all over again
 To make the best of all things
 To keep your temper at all times
 To think first and act afterwards
 To maintain a high standard
 To keep on keeping on
 To shoulder blame
 To be charitable
 To admit error
 To take advice
 To forgive

BUT IT PAYS!

"What you are speaks so loud I can't hear what you're saying."
 "To be without friends is a serious form of poverty."
 "Be generous with compliments and stingy with questions."

LEST WE FORGET

Many African-Americans (or Blacks or Negroes) "came up the hard way," but we made it on our own. Some of us were born to teenage mothers who worked in green tobacco and tobacco factories, picked cotton, scrubbed floors most of our lives to send our children to college. Some of our grandparents' homes, where we grew up, had no plumbing or electricity. We used an outhouse drew water from a well, bathed in a tin tub in the kitchen on Saturday night and lit the house with kerosene lamps. That was not uncommon in the South in the '40s and '50s.
 Don't write off anyone because he came up the hard way. But there was genuine love and friendship. People cared and were concerned about others. You helped me harvest my tobacco crop and I helped you harvest yours. We did for each other, shared with each other and never expected a dime.
 The school had a pot-belly stove, outdoor privies, dilapidated buildings, none of the frills—computers, secretaries, no assistant principals and many principals taught part-time, counselors, nurses, psychologists, but teachers taught, children learned. They could spell, read and write. No behavior problems. They were well-disciplined. We didn't

have much but we were happy. Those were the good old days. Does anyone remember?

QUOTES...

"Excuses are the nails used to build a house of failure." "Be patient with everyone, but above all with yourself."
 "Getting people to like you is only the other side of liking them". (Norman Vincent Peale)
 "The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing in the right place, but to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment". (Dorothy Nevill)
 Things worth remembering:
 The value of time.
 The success of perseverance.
 The dignity of simplicity.
 The worth of character.
 The virtue of patience.
 The wisdom of economy.
 The power of kindness.

YOUR HOME

Is your home a battleground? Fighting, arguing, fussing incessantly? Arguing in the family has become a common problem. There are so many unhappy marriages. One-third of American marriages end in divorce. Too often the years leading up to a divorce are filled with yelling and fighting. Many families stay together in spite of constant battles. So many teenagers must face all this tension and stress in the family—shouting, cursing, yelling, and hitting. This family needs help, but too often parents won't seek it.
 Teenagers, don't run away from home. You will not generally find life any easier out on your own. There is the possibility of quitting school and messing up your own

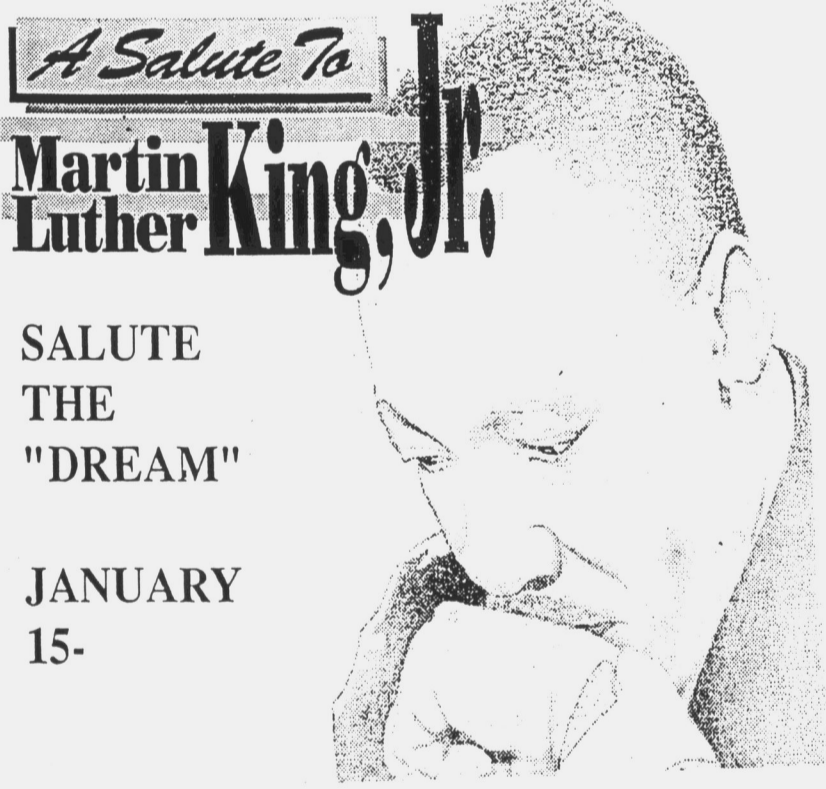
life.
 Let's not turn to drugs and alcohol for escape. There's only heartache and misery in their wake. These cause your problems to double. They don't solve family problems; they create new ones for you.
 Please realize it's not your fault if your parents are not getting along. This is especially true if parents divorce.
 Taking sides with either parent causes children to be caught in the middle. Please don't take sides with either parent.
 So what do you do? The family problems are severe. After praying a great deal, calmly sit down and discuss your family life with your parents. When children love both parents they can contribute stability in a family.
 Then talk with an adult in whom you trust—probably your minister, your teacher or a counselor. Remember to consider your parents' privacy and confidentiality.
 Sometimes you must move in with a grandparent or a relative while your parents sort out their problems. This is not running away.
 Finally, love and honor your parents, in spite of their problems. No one is perfect. We are living in trying times. Under stress, far too many parents have turned to alcohol or drugs. Tempers are sometimes short and flare up.
 Be aware that you have your own life to live, whether or not your parents get hold of their own problems, you must press on. Turn to God for stability and comfort.

themselves and their accomplishments.
 To encourage people to listen to you—pronounce every syllable of the word, completely and crisply.
 Speak accurately and precisely.
 Remember and use people's names.
WHAT IS MY TITHE?
 My tithe is more than a check or a sum of money. It is:
 My investment in a better community.
 My aid to Christian youth.
 My expression of faith in the future.
 My gesture of good will
 My contribution to Christian education.
 My outreach in healing and teaching through missions.
 My vote for a Christian world.
 My tithe is a holy offering, dedicated to God for the building of his kingdom on earth.
THE MEASURE OF TRUE GREATNESS
 A church is great in the sight of God only when it is:
 Great in spirit. The warmth of fellowship is apparent to all who worship in a great church.
 Great in love. Its love abounds toward all sinners. The members love one another with real devotion.
 Great in compassion. Its heart reaches out to those who need its ministry. Only by having a compassionate heart can a church be great.
 Great in Christian living. Its members live a dedicated Christian life. It has no place for worldliness.
 Great in loyalty. Its members are loyal to the Lord and his church through their dedication of time, talent, and money to His service.

Pitt Community College
Continuing Education Division
Schedule of Courses
for
January, 1998



Courses	Cost	Dates	Day(s)	Time	Location
Art: Arts and Crafts	\$39.00 (CS)	1/5 - 4/6	M	10:30a-12:30pm	Winterville
Art: Mixed Media	\$35+\$10(AP)	1/8 - 2/26	Th	6:30 - 9:30 pm	JC Park
Art: Oil Painting	\$35+\$10(AP)	1/8 - 2/26	Th	9 am - 12 Noon	JC Park
Art: Oil Painting	\$35+\$10(AP)	1/8 - 2/26	Th	1 - 4 pm	JC Park
Art: Watercolor Painting	\$35+\$10(AP)	1/8 - 2/26	Th	6:30 - 9:30pm	Grifton CC
Art: Watercolor Painting	\$35+\$10(AP)	1/7 - 2/25	W	9 am - 12 Noon	JC Park
Art: Watercolor Painting	\$35+\$10(AP)	1/7 - 2/25	W	6:30 - 9:30 pm	JC Park
Asbestos Training	\$35.00	2/9 - 2/10	M, T	7:30am-4:30pm	Winterville
Auto Care: Basic Handyperson	\$39.00 (AP)	1/13 - 3/3	T	7 - 10 pm	VW-23
Auto Safety Inspection	\$35.00 (AP)	1/8	Th	1 - 9:30 pm	VW-47
Cake Decorating	\$39.00 (AP)	1/6 - 2/24	T	7 - 10 pm	L-216
Certified Purchasing Manager	\$100.00 (AP)	1/27 - 3/3	T	6 - 9 pm	L-143
Certified Quality Manager	\$350.00 (AP)	1/27 - 1/28	T, W	8 am - 5 pm	Campus
Community First Aid and Safety	\$35.00	1/14 - 1/15	W, Th	6 - 10:30 pm	T-24
Creative Writing Basics	\$60.00 (AP)	1/5 - 4/27	M	7 - 10 pm	VW-10
Creative Writing for Publishing	\$60.00 (AP)	1/8 - 4/16	Th	7 - 10 pm	Campus
Creative Writing Seminar	\$60.00 (AP)	1/8 - 4/16	Th	7 - 10 pm	VW-10
Crochet: Beginning	\$39.00 (AP)	1/13 - 3/3	T	9 am - 12 Noon	JC Park
Crochet: Beginning	\$39.00 (AP)	1/26 - 3/16	M	6:30 - 9:30 pm	JC Park
Effective Teacher Training	\$35.00	1/6 - 2/5	T, Th	6:30 - 9:30 pm	Campus
Electrical Apprenticeship Program (Level IV-A)	\$35.00	1/5 - 3/25	M, W	6:30 - 9:30 pm	L-125
Electrical Apprenticeship Program (Level I-B)	\$35.00	1/6 - 3/26	T, Th	6:30 - 9:30 pm	L-125
Financial: Retirement Success	\$30.00 (AP)	1/14 - 2/4	W	3 - 4:30 pm	L-218
Financial: Taking Control - A	\$35.00 (AP)	1/14 - 2/4	W	7 - 8:30 pm	L-218
Financial Workshop for Women	\$39.00 (AP)	1/8 - 2/26	Th	7 - 9:30 pm	L-216
Floral Design	\$35.00	1/12 - 5/11	M	6 - 10 pm	Campus
Home Companion Aide	\$39.00 (AP)	1/8 - 2/19	Th	6:30 - 9:30 pm	Campus
How To Talk So Kids Will Listen	\$39.00 (AP)	1/13 - 3/3	T	6:30 - 9:30 pm	Carpet
Interior Decorating	\$39.00 (AP)	1/13 - 3/3	T	6:30 - 9:30 pm	Fashion
Introduction to Sailing	\$39.00 (AP)	1/14 - 3/4	W	6:30 - 8:30 pm	Campus
Investment Strategies for the 21st Century	\$100.00 (AP)	1/26 - 2/23	M	6:30 - 9:30 pm	Campus
Investments for the Conservative Investors	\$30.00	1/13 - 2/17	T	2 - 4 pm	JC Bradford
Investments for the Conservative Investors	\$30.00	1/13 - 2/17	T	7 - 9 pm	JC Bradford
Knitting: Beginning	\$39+\$10(AP)	1/13 - 3/3	T	6:30 - 9:30 pm	JC Park
Knitting: Beginning	\$35+\$10(AP)	1/26 - 3/16	M	9 am - 12 Noon	JC Park
Landscaping and Gardening	\$39.00 (AP)	1/6 - 2/3	T	6:30 - 9:30 pm	Countryside
Landscaping and Gardening	\$39.00 (AP)	1/8 - 2/5	Th	6:30 - 9:30 pm	Greenhouse
Mentor Training for Teachers	\$35.00	1/7 - 2/25	W	6:30 - 9:30 pm	L-207
National Teacher Exam Review	\$35.00	1/26 - 2/25	M, W	6 - 9 pm	Campus
North Carolina Building Codes	\$35.00	1/13 - 3/3	T	7 - 10 pm	L-126
Ophthalmic Frames and Lenses	\$35.00	1/8 - 3/12	Th	1 - 5 pm	Campus
Plumbing Apprenticeship I-B	\$35.00	1/13 - 5/5	T	6:30 - 10:30 pm	Campus
QS9000 Overview	\$195.00 (AP)	1/26 - 2/16	M	6 - 10 pm	Campus
SBC: How Your Past Affects Your Present	\$29.00 (AP)	1/27	T	1 - 4 pm	Campus
SBC: How Your Past Affects Your Present	\$29.00 (AP)	1/29	Th	6 - 9 pm	Campus
SBC: Personality Realities	\$29.00 (AP)	1/20	T	1 - 4 pm	Campus
SBC: Personality Realities	\$29.00 (AP)	1/22	Th	6 - 9 pm	Campus
SBC: Small Business Basics	\$35.00 (AP)	1/7 - 1/28	W	6:30 - 9:30 pm	L-146
Sign Language - Beginning	\$39.00 (AP)	1/13 - 3/3	T	7 - 9:30 pm	F-110
Sign Language - Intermediate	\$39.00 (AP)	1/15 - 3/5	Th	7 - 9:30 pm	F-110
Spanish: Advanced Conversational	\$39.00 (AP)	1/8 - 2/26	Th	7 - 9:30 pm	L-202
Spanish: Beginning Conversational	\$39.00 (AP)	1/7 - 2/25	W	7 - 9:30 pm	Campus
Spanish: Beginning Conversational	\$39.00 (AP)	1/5 - 3/2	M	7 - 9:30 pm	L-202
Spanish: Interm. Conversational	\$39.00 (AP)	1/6 - 2/24	T	7 - 9:30 pm	L-202
TPAI/TPAS	\$35.00	1/13 - 3/3	T	6:30 - 9:30 pm	Campus
Weaving	\$62+\$10(AP)	1/12 - 5/4	M	9 am - 12 Noon	GRD
Weaving	\$62+\$10(AP)	1/14 - 4/22	W	9 am - 12 Noon	GRD



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All Pay & Community Service - (AP/CS) Registration Fees are non-refundable.



HOMEGOING SERVICE HELD FOR BRO. MILLARD A. BELL—Shown above is Mother Bell at the funeral of her son who passed away Dec. 24th. Services below were attended by relatives and friends at Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church in Greenville, N.C. The Rev. Sidney A. Locks, Jr. officiated. (Staff Photos)



A SMALL SCHOOL WITH A BIG HEART—Bethel School students internalized the true meaning of giving. Annie Watts' First Graders wanted to make a difference for others for the new year. The students learned about community services, needs and wants. After learning about the Salvation Army and the Adopt an Angel Project of the Greenville Community Shelter, the students decided to help both services. The First Graders made their presentation to Terri Zabriskie, Case Manager of the Community Shelter. After thanking the children for their generosity, Ms. Zabriskie talked with them and gave them a tour of the shelter. The youngsters raised over \$300.

IRS To Offer Assistance To Taxpayers With Questions

GREENSBORO—The Internal Revenue Service offers free assistance to taxpayers with questions regarding federal income tax returns at local IRS offices. An appointment to talk with an IRS representative is not necessary. Assistance is offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Taxpayers unable to personally visit the IRS office can get assistance through the Internet by dialing the IRS homepage at <http://www.irs.ustreas.gov>. Another service available is the IRS TeleTax line that provides taxpayers with

free information on more than 140 federal tax topics 24 hours a day by dialing 1-800-829-4477 using a touch tone telephone.

South Lee Street Neighborhood Improvement Inc. Hosts Martin Luther King Day Celebration

This event will take place on Monday, January 19, 1998 at 6:00 p.m. at the Ayden Arts & recreation Building Auditorium located on 511 South Lee Street. Free admission and various activities for the entire family. For more information, please call 746-7003.

A Mind Is A Terrible Thing To Waste.

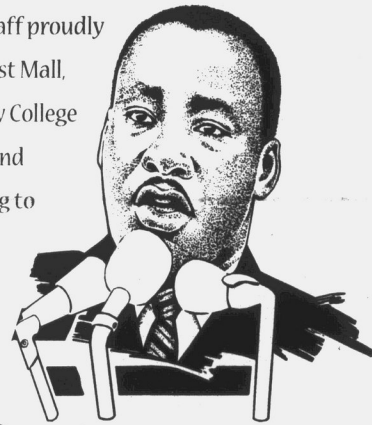
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BELK, BRODY'S, SEARS, K&W CAFETERIA & 50 SHOPS
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The Carolina East Mall Management Staff Proudly Salute Dr. Martin Luther King.

The Carolina East Mall Management Staff proudly salute Dr. Martin Luther King. Carolina East Mall, located one mile north of Pitt Community College on Memorial Drive, offers over 50 stores and specialty shops ranging from fine clothing to automotive needs. While you're shopping stop and have a quick lunch in our food court. Carolina East Mall! Meeting the consumer needs in the community.



BELK, BRODY'S, SEARS, K&W CAFETERIA & 50 SHOPS
OPEN MONDAY-SATURDAY 10-9, SUNDAY 1-6

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**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
GREENVILLE UTILITIES COMMISSION
GENERAL UTILITY WORKER**

GENERAL UTILITY WORKER

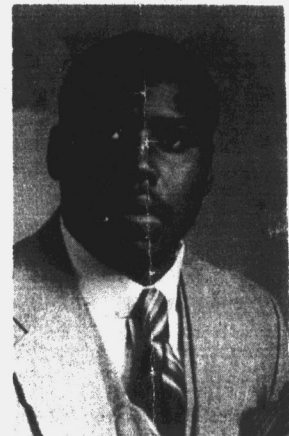
Position available for person to perform semi-skilled and limited skilled laborer work in the maintenance, repair, and construction of the Water Resources Distribution System. Knowledge of water and sewer construction and maintenance is preferred. A valid North Carolina commercial driver's license is required. Applications accepted through January 14, 1998. Salary Range 415,808 - \$23,483.

PIPE LAYER

Position available for person to perform skilled work in the installation, maintenance and repair of water and sewer pipelines and mains. Prior experience in water and sewer pipeline construction work and a valid North Carolina commercial driver's license is required. Applications accepted through January 16, 1998. Salary Range \$17,472-\$25,938.

Interested persons should contact the Human Resources Office, Greenville Utilities Commission, P.O. Box 1847, Greenville, N. C. 27835. Employment is contingent upon passing a physical examination including a drug screening urinalysis.

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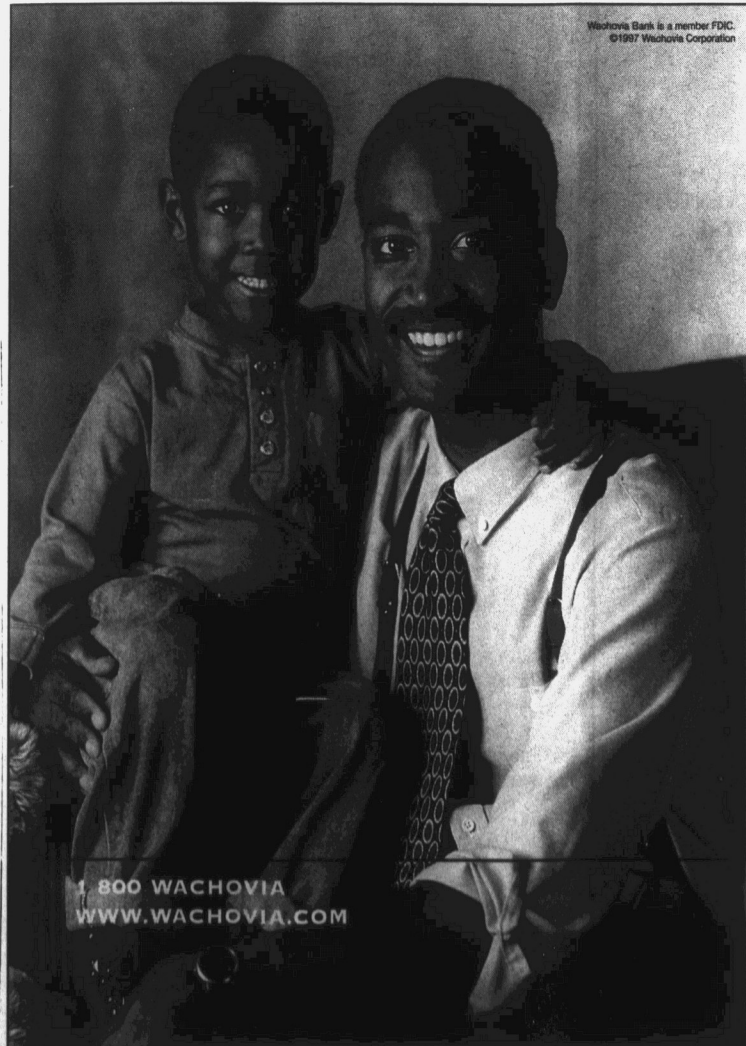
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MS. SALLYE STREETER RETIRES—The staff of Greenville Housing Authority and officials of the City of Greenville recently held a reception at the Moyewood Cultural and Recreation Center to honor Ms. Sallye Streefer on her retirement. Ms. Streefer had served as Director of Tenant Affairs for the Greenville Housing Authority for more than 32 years.

Did You Know?

(NAPS)—You can now make toll free calls beginning with the number 888, in addition to the traditional 800 number.

Cookbook author and TV celebrity chef Nathalie Dupree says mushrooms help make everyday dishes more appealing.

Women are easing into spring

by wearing light career knits made with 100 percent soft acrylic and acrylic blends.

Protecting and preserving precious important family documents, family recipes and other printed materials can be easier than replacing them with the help of a laminator from Royal Sovereign Corp.

'Eve's Bayou' Most Successful Independent Film In '97'

By Dr. Earl Ofari Hutchinson

Entertainment Feature

The news that *Eve's Bayou* was the most commercially successful independently produced film in 1997 should be cause for much rejoicing. It showed that an independent film with an all-black cast, sans the ancient racial stereotypes of crime/dope/guns/freaky sex/cartoon caricatures/human wrecks that far too many Hollywood films traditionally reserve almost exclu-

sively for blacks, can do well at the box office.

But equally important, *Eve's Bayou* shattered two other myths. Writer-director Kasi Lemmons echoed the first myth when she remarked that "You can't really point to any film and say this proves that this film will attract a white audience. What examples can you use?"

Lemmons seemed doubtful that whites will go see an all black film. But why?

For decades whites have packed concerts featuring black artists, hailed black sports figures, enshrined black divas, praised the works of black writers, poets, and playwrights. If a film is well-crafted, and compelling, there is no reason why whites wouldn't or shouldn't crowd the theaters to see it.

Spielberg's *Amistad* is a good example. Despite its painful, and still controversial theme of black slavery, from initial box office reports a sizable percentage of those who went to see it were white.

The second myth is that independent, all-black films are doomed to

fail commercially. In the 1930s, pioneer black filmmaker Oscar Micheaux made independent films with a small budget and no major studio backing, or distribution deals. The films didn't present the stereotypical Amos 'n' Andy, Stepin Fetchit comedy, or minstrel-type song and dance depictions of blacks prevalent in that era. The films were dramas, western, and detective movies. They employed hundreds of black actors, actresses and technicians and were financially successful.

Subscribe!

WOMEN VOTERS PRESENT PROGRAM

The International Relations Committee of the League of Women Voters of Pitt County will present a program on "Emerging Infectious Diseases: Relevance to North Carolina and Pitt County" on Jan. 20, at 7:30 at the Willis Building, corner of Reade Circle and First Street.

The speaker will be Paul Cook, M.D., Clinical Professor of Medicine at East Carolina School of Medicine and former Medical Consultant with the Pitt County Health Department.

Everyone is invited to attend and participate. For more information please call 355-6389.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY FINANCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

This position is needed to perform a variety of difficult to complex secretarial and general office management duties for the Financial Services Department. This individual is responsible for preparing a variety of spreadsheets, forms, reports and other documents; composing correspondence; assisting in preparation of departmental and City budget; collecting information and compiling reports related to Financial Services Department activities as needed; assisting with completion of Budget and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report; assisting with City Council agenda items; assisting citizens (telephone and walk-in public), and other daily activities of the department.

Graduation from an accredited high school, supplemented with courses in secretarial science, business practices, office management, or other related courses; completion of an associate's degree in secretarial science preferred. Requires experience in office management and extensive computer skills (WordPerfect, Lotus 123, Windows 95 and PowerPoint or other presentation software). Financial office experience is a must.

Starting Salary Range: \$23,483 - \$28,641, depending upon qualifications and experience.

Apply by 5:00 p.m., Friday, January 16, 1998, to the City of Greenville, Human Resources Department, 201 West Fifth Street, P.O. Box 7207, Greenville, N.C. 27835-7207.

Resume will not be accepted in lieu of City application. If you are out of the area, please contact 919-830-4492 for an application.

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PITT COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL PRIVATIZATION IS THE PUBLIC BEING HOODWINKED?

ON JANUARY 7, KENNETH DEWS, CHAIRMAN, COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MOVED FORWARD THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF ALL PCMH ASSETS AND DEEDS TO CHANGE OUR HOSPITAL TO A PRIVATE NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION. THE LAND AND HOSPITAL WILL NOT BE LEASED, BUT ABSOLUTELY DEEDED AWAY BY THE COMMISSIONERS.

COMMISSIONERS EUGENE JAMES AND JEFF SAVAGE UNSUCCESSFULLY VOICED THEIR OPPOSITION AND CONCERNS THROUGHOUT THE MEETING.

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE THAT A CONTRACT WITH AMBIGUOUS LANGUAGE BETWEEN PCMH AND THE COUNTY IS SUFFICIENT TO PROTECT THE INTEREST OF THE COUNTY.

NOT SO
HERE IS WHY

REVERSION OF PCMH BACK TO COUNTY

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE THEY CAN CAUSE THE HOSPITAL TO REVERT BACK TO THE COUNTY IF THE VENTURE FAILS. WRONG. ONCE THE COMMISSIONERS CONVEY THE HOSPITAL PROPERTY AWAY BY A CLEAR UNRESTRICTED DEED, IT COULD NOT REVERT BACK. WHY DON'T THE COMMISSIONERS TELL YOU THIS?

100% PAYMENT OF INDIGENT CARE/MEDICAID IF PRIVATIZED PCMH CAN STILL COME BACK TO THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SEEKING RELIEF FROM CONTRACT OBLIGATIONS TO PAY FOR ALL INDIGENT CARE AND MEDICAID COST.

PCMH SALE OF ASSETS: IF PRIVATIZED PCMH WILL HAVE THE POWER TO SELL OFF 5% OF ITS ASSETS EACH YEAR.

NO GUARANTEES WITH PRIVATIZATION OTHER PUBLIC HOSPITALS THAT BECAME PRIVATE NOT FOR PROFIT HAVE ALREADY FAILED AND ARE BEING SOLD. FOR THIS REASON ALONE THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SHOULD TAKE A WAIT AND SEE APPROACH. WAIT TWO YEARS, AND THEN RECONSIDER.

OPPOSE THE PROPOSED GIVEAWAY OF PCMH GET INVOLVED; CALL YOUR COUNTY COMMISSIONER TODAY! ATTEND THE JANUARY 20TH MEETING, 3:00 PM. COUNTY BUILDING ALSO WRITE YOUR COMMISSIONER TODAY AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:
COMMISSIONER
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER
1717 WEST 5TH STREET
GREENVILLE, NC 27834-1696

ED BRIGHT 524-5253, KENNETH DEWS 355-2276, CHARLES GASKINS 758-3314, EUGENE JAMES 752-6336, TOM JOHNSON, SR. 752-1796, FARNEY MOORE 758-1047, MARK OWENS 749-4081, JEFF SAVAGE 758-5770.

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The City of Greenville and the Greenville Human Relations Council
Invite You to the 1998
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Festivities

Sunday, January 18, 1998

Memorial Service - 6:00 PM
Selvia Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church
400 Watauga Avenue

Speaker: Dr. W. H. Mitchell
Pastor of Good Hope Free Will Baptist Church, Winterville, NC
Entrepreneur of Mitchell's Funeral Home
Sponsored by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference
and the Coalition Against Racism

Monday, January 19, 1998

Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce Activities:

Community Unity Breakfast - 8:00 AM
Rose High School Auditorium
600 West Arlington Boulevard
Speaker: Dr. LeRoy T. Walker
U.S. Olympic Committee, President Emeritus and Board Member
Sponsored by the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce

Citywide Solidarity March - 10:00 AM
Thomas Foreman Park

Youth Program - 1:00 PM
"Poor People" Feast - 4:00 PM
Selvia Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church
Sponsored by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference
and the Coalition Against Racism

East Carolina University Activities:

Candlelight Vigil - 6:00 PM
at the Crest of College Hill, ECU

Speaker: Dorothy Spruill Redford - 7:30 PM
Hendrix Theater, ECU
Sponsored by the Ledonia Wright African-American Cultural Center, the Cultural Awareness Committee, the National Panhellenic Council, Allied Blacks for Leadership and Equality, and the Chancellor's Martin Luther King Committee

The City of Greenville and the Greenville Human Relations Council
co-sponsor these activities, except the services being provided by
East Carolina University and the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce.

Black Farmers To Get Another Day In Court

By Ken Morgan

Special to the NNPA

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On Jan. 26, African-American farmers will get another day in court, when U.S. District Court Judge Paul Friedman assesses the progress of settlements between black farmers and the U.S. government, as well as the adequacy of the mediation process between the two.

Last month more than 70 black farmers and their supporters filled Friedman's courtroom in proceedings on the issue. Then, Friedman gave the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) 30 days to develop a speedy way to resolve hundreds of discrimination complaints lodged by black farmers or be confronted with a trial date.

He also approved a government request that the 1,000-plus cases being mediated be done on a case-by-case basis, as opposed to being dealt with as a group within six months.

Black farmers and their lawyers, however, contend that it will take at least two years, not six months, to hear and mediate complaints individually. Aggrieved farmers will have the option to have their cases heard through a process set up by USDA to hear complaints or by Michael Lewis, the court-appointed mediator.

Last Aug. 28, Black farmers filed a \$2 billion discrimination lawsuit against the USDA. Pigford, et.al. vs. the U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman contends that black farmers have been the victims of racial discrimination after repeatedly being denied loans and other management and technical services by USDA.

It also asserts that from 1983 to 1997, the USDA failed to investigate hundreds of discrimination complaints filed by black farmers (a request to have black farmers discriminated against before 1983 included in the suit was denied).

According to the farmers, discrimination took the form of

"stretching the review process out many years—or conducting vacuous or ghost investigations—or failing to take action." These practices led to foreclosures, bankruptcies and other serious economic problems for Black farmers, they said.

Alexander J. Pires, Jr. is the lead attorney for the plaintiffs, and Michael Sitcoff of the U.S. Justice Department is the lead attorney for the defendant. The judge has allowed two other lawyers representing black farmers in Alabama and Mississippi to join the mediation negotiations.

Friedman has not yet ruled on significant points in the case, including whether or not the statute

of limitations can be invoked by the Justice Department. Its implementation would mean that about 95 percent of plaintiffs would not be able to receive damages for their ill-treatment at the hands of local USDA officials.

Sitcoff said farmers may only be able to receive forgiveness of their debts and top priority for new loans. However, echoing black farmers' sentiments, Everett Greer of Yazoo, Miss., said, "We want debt relief and compensation for our suffering."

The National Black Farmers Association led by John Boyd, Gary Grant, and Tim Pigford first called national attention to their plight

Dec. 12, 1996. Then, a group of 50 black farmers protested in front of the White House against what they said were discriminatory USDA practices. They also demanded a meeting with President Clinton.

They returned to the nation's capital to protest at the USDA, April 23, 1997, two months after the agency released a report acknowledging the discrimination problem and vowed to develop a plan of action. More than 250 black farmers and their supporters protested the inadequacy of the plan and the inaction of USDA in resolving the problem.

Black farmers are losing 9,000 acres per week, according to re-

ports. Between 1920 and 1992, black farms decreased from 925,000 to 18,816.

Government statistics show that black farmers are going out of business at three times the rate of their white counterparts. The average income of a black farmer is one-third that of whites, while poverty rates for the black farmer are 20 percent higher than whites.

As far as financing goes, an Associated Press (AP) analysis looking at lending practices between 1980 and 1992, revealed that black farmers receive 51 cents for every dollar loaned to whites. Over that period, the number of loans dropped by 66 percent for white

farmers and 82 percent for black farmers.

In 1982, the U.S. Civil Rights Commission wrote a report titled, "The Decline of Black Farming in America," in which it said that "Unless government policies of neglect and discrimination are changed, there may be no black farmers by the year 2000."

According to several advocacy groups and agriculture experts, some of the black farm loss can be attributed to the conditions confronting small family farmers such as government policies favoring corporate, big-business farmers, low prices, and natural disasters.

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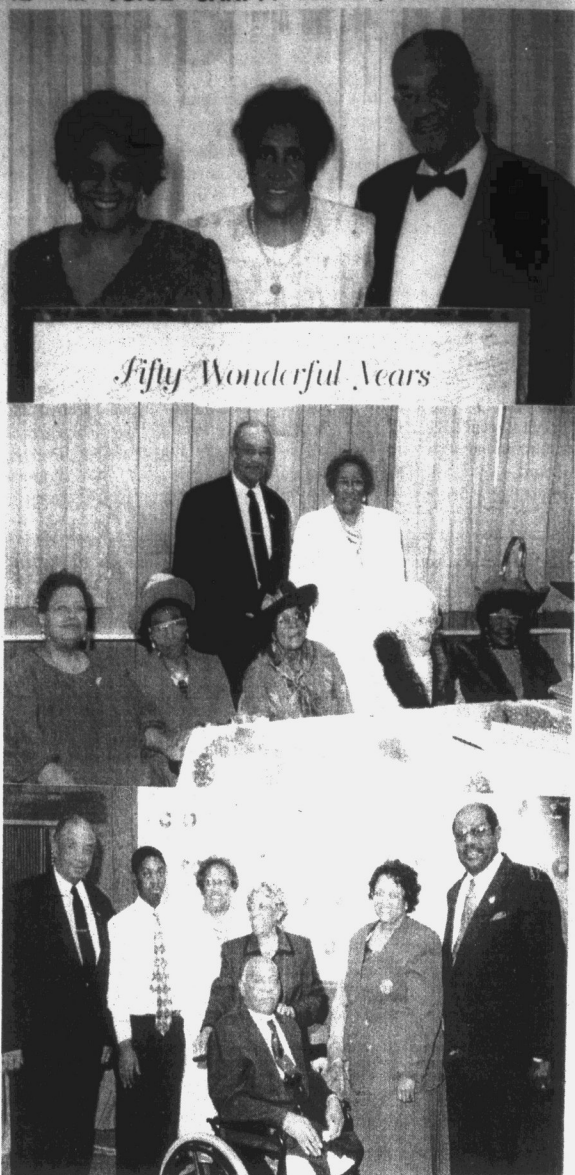


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Fifty Wonderful Years

PROMINENT COUPLE CELEBRATES GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY—A "once-in-a-lifetime" celebration, honoring the 50th wedding anniversary of Deacon Francis H. Mebane, 33 Mason and State Board Member of N.C. Senior Games, and Beulah Whitfield Mebane, both retired educators, was held in Greenville the weekend of Dec. 20-21. The festivities were divided into three main segments: a Fellowship Hour and Fashion Show, Dance, and Reception.

Their daughter, Gracie Mebane Vines, her husband, Thomas F. Vines, and their son, Justin Mebane Vines, entertained the guests with a party Saturday, Dec. 20, featuring Nathan Cobb's LaBogue Productions followed by dinner for the hotel guests. Guests came from other parts of N.C., Ga., Md., Va., Ohio, New Jersey, and Washington, D.C. Also hosting the afternoon event were Dr. Linner Griffin, Ms. Olga Mike, and Ms. Gwendolyn Lee-Tyson. Guests were registered by Ms. Vernisteen Paige.

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Martin Luther King, Jr.



Pointers On Pets
Odorless Deodorizer Erases Pet Smells

(NAPS)—Do you have a new puppy or kitten at home still learning the finer points of housebreaking? Animal experts agree that praise works wonders when training your pet. Be sure to use plenty of verbal rewards, in addition to treats, when your dog or cat relieves itself outside or in the litter box.

Some housebreaking points to remember: Give food and water on a strict schedule. If your pup is not with you, confine it. Take your puppy out first thing in the morning, last thing at night, and after every meal.

You've cleaned up your pet's mess but the odor remains—finally there's a deodorizer product that really

works. "Natural Magic" Odor Blaster" is a non-scented deodorizer that permanently removes odors without leaving a masking scent. It works by breaking down the sulfur bonds responsible for the odor—the same process used in nature.

Natural Magic permanently eliminates the worst pet odor problems imaginable, including odors from urine, cat spray, vomit and feces. The product even removes skunk odors: a pet owner's worst nightmare.

Natural Magic is safe to use on pets and all around the house; wherever there are unpleasant odors. Use Natural Magic to remove cooking odors, sickroom odors, bathroom odors and cigar smoke.

Simply put, the product is the permanent solution to odor problems. Natural Magic is non-toxic, non-all-

genic and biodegradable; safe for kids, pets and the environment. Call 1-800-376-2442 for the name of a retailer near you. You can also visit the World Wide Web site at <http://www.naturalmagic.com/>

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Your support will help us make sure that outstanding health services are part of everyone's future in Pitt County.

Your Hospital, Your Future
Support the Transfer of PCMH and the Future of Pitt County

