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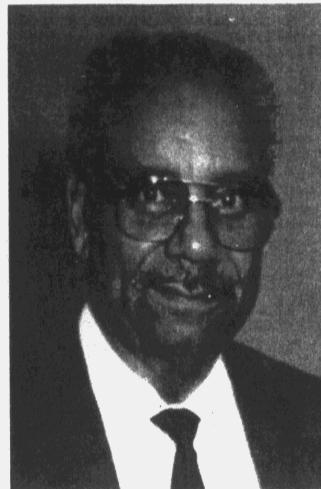
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EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S MINORITY VOICE SINCE 1981

ISSUE WEEK JULY 17-AUGUST 4, 1998

## Local NAACP Head Views Education As Key



GASTON MONK

By Kitty J. Pope

Gaston Monk has been President of the Pitt County NAACP for the past 10 years. A retired principal, he has been a member of the NAACP for as long as he has been an educator. Before becoming President of the NAACP, Monk had worked in the field of education and civil rights for 33 years. As a youth, Monk had dreams of going into medicine to become a medical doctor. He was unable to pursue his ambition because hardly any medical schools were available to blacks at that time. He was drafted into the Army before he finished college. Because he had college credits and had done

well on the SAT, the Army initiated an engineering career for him. Not wanting to become an engineer, he pursued his career in the field of education once he got out of the Army. After getting his degree in Elementary Education, he began work as a head teacher and became a principal after teaching for a year. His first principalship was with only three teachers. By the end of his career, his school consisted of 40 teachers. While working in the school system, Monk remembers having to drive to Greensboro every Saturday to North Carolina A&T State University to work on his master's degree.

"At that time blacks were not allowed to attend East Carolina University, so I had to go to Greensboro and take some extension courses in Rocky Mount and Kinston in order to get my master's degree," recalls Monk. Monk, who went on to get his master's degree in Education Supervision, says that one of his earliest experiences of racism in the school system was having to walk to school while the whites rode buses. "Even as a boy I noticed that our schools were inferior and we were given ragged and outdated books and this made me upset," recalls Monk. When he began his career as an educator, Monk noticed that his

school was still given damaged and outdated books. He immediately got in touch with the superintendent to get better books. The superintendent responded by delivering new books, but dumping them outside on the school grounds. "At least we got some good books," said Monk. All of this prompted Monk's interest in the fields of education and civil rights. He knew that the two were connected and he knew he had to take action. He went on to become an active member of the NAACP and he continued his career in education. He has continued to work for civil rights and educating his people to this day. (See EDUCATION, P.2)



KWEISI MFUME  
National NAACP President

## National NAACP Meet Termed Success

By Kitty J. Pope

National NAACP President/CEO Kweisi Mfume said that the annual National NAACP Convention held this year in Atlanta was a success. He said in a press conference on the last day of the convention that this was one of the best that they have had in terms of attendance, accomplishments and enthusiasm. More than 6,000 NAACP delegates attended the six-day conference. Delegates held workshops, meeting and voted on issues pertaining to the organization and black America in general. Featured speakers included Vice President Al Gore, Gen. Colin Powell, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Attorney Johnnie Cochran, BET news anchor Tavis Smiley and many other distinguished leaders. Performers for the convention included Patti LaBelle, Jennifer Holiday, Kirk Franklin, Peabo Bryson and the groups NEXT and the GAP Band. During the conference, Mfume and the delegates discussed issues facing the black community. He challenged black people to be more strident in their effort to fight discrimination and rejuvenate the NAACP. "Racism, sexism, bigotry and pain continue to terrorize our country and polarize our people," he said. Mfume stated that along with combatting injustice, the NAACP will focus on health issues facing

(See NAACP, P. 2)

## MLK III Installed At SCLC Meet

By Kitty J. Pope

The 41st Annual Southern Christian Leadership Conference Convention was held in Washington, D.C. July 25-29. Martin Luther King, III was inaugurated as the fourth president. The inauguration took place at the Jerico City of Praise in Landover, Md., where his family, leaders and dignitaries from all over the world attended. King, III succeeded Rev. Joseph Lowery as the new president of the organization that his father, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., cofounded more than 40 years ago. After the presidential inaugural, King gave his presidential address on Sunday. In his address, King, III said that the spirit of past leaders must merge with the youth leaders of today. "Leaders must share problems and solutions," he said. "This marks a beginning of new leadership and it is time to update our methods and find a 'new way' for a 'new day.'"

"Updating includes improving communication methods by the use of websites. One of our missions is to have the Internet in every African-American church," said King, III. "We must have knowledge of what's going on in the superhighways of the website because knowledge is power," he added. King, III went on to say that organizations such as the SCLC must utilize the youth or drugs and violence will. "It is time for the SCLC and other organizations to help youth to find their calling and be willing to help them to learn how to serve," he emphasized. "When many of our children are being 'locked up' instead of 'helped up,' something is wrong because God did not design us to be in jail. It is up to us to prepare the youth for the new millennium." A prayer breakfast was held that Monday, with the Rev. Bernice King as speaker. The breakfast was followed by the SCLC opening plenary meeting. After the meeting, an awards luncheon was held, with actor Tony Ford of the TV

show "Martin" and "New York Undercover" as featured speaker. That evening, poet Maya Angelou hosted the Inaugural Gala at the Omni Ballroom. Tuesday's focus was on the youth, which featured a youth luncheon, a youth/adult issues forum and a youth town hall meeting. After a prayer breakfast and SCLC business session on the closing day, U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher addressed the conference, speaking from the subject, "Health is Wealth." The SCLC was founded following the Montgomery Bus Boycott. The organization's activism inspired the Birmingham Public Accommodations Movement in 1963, the Selma Voting Rights Campaign which wrought the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The SCLC has supported every great social justice movement in this country and abroad. The organization has been recognized by the White House for the effective- (See SCLC, P. 2)



NEWLY INSTALLED SCLC PRESIDENT—Martin Luther King III (l.) was recently installed SCLC President. He is pictured here with his mother, Coretta Scott King, and former SCLC President Joseph Lowery (r.).

## NAACP Pledges Support To Million Youth March

By Nicole Lee

Organizers of the Million Youth Movement (MYM) focused on the importance of voter education, and voting for young people at a press conference held at the Georgia World Congress Center recently. Dennis Rogers, national chairman of the MYM, said young people aged 18-24 are the target category for voter registration. He stressed education as the tool to teach black youths the "legacy, history, and importance" of voting. Rogers stated that the lack of education concerning political policies such as affirmative action and Proposition 209, is the primary reason for the minimal voter turnout of young adults. He added that it is imperative to bridge the intergenerational gap between the

older generation of civil rights pioneers and the youth of today in order to develop the leaders of tomorrow. Kweisi Mfume, President/CEO of the NAACP, was on hand at the press conference to pledge the support of his group for the Million Youth Movement. In line with the 'national convention's' theme, Mfume said that in order for the NAACP to continue to be the most influential African-American organization in the country, members must be willing to mold and encourage younger generations. Voter education workshops and other activities have been scheduled by MYM organizers in order to bring young people to the polls. The Million Youth Movement will take place in Atlanta Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4-7.

## Dr. John H. Clarke, Historian, Dead At 83

By Cash Michaels

I want to make it clear that the black race did not come to the United States culturally empty-handed. The role and importance of ethnic history is in how well it teaches a people to use their own talents, take pride in their own history and love their own memories. "In order to fulfill themselves completely, ...it is important that the teacher of history of the black race find a definition of the subject, and a frame of reference that can be understood by students who have no prior knowledge of the subject." From "Why Africana History?" by historian Dr. John H. Clarke. Several years ago, The Black Collegian magazine asked Dr. Clarke to recommend several books he felt would best inform African-American students about the true history of their people. Among the 14 titles he suggested was From Slavery to Freedom, the groundbreaking 50-year-old work by Duke University historian, Dr. John Hope Franklin. On Monday, after being informed that his dear friend and colleague had passed last week, a reflective Dr. Franklin gave praise. "A great and good friend of many, many years is gone," Franklin told The Carolinian exclusively from his home in Durham. "He was a distinguished historian and great teacher." "(Dr. Clarke) made a great contribution through his teachings and his writings." Renowned historian Dr. John Henrik Clarke, considered one of the world's foremost authorities on African and African-American history, died July 16 in New York of a heart attack at the age of 83. His funeral was held Tuesday at

Harlem's Abyssinian Baptist Church, with its pastor, Rev. Calvin Butts, presiding. He is survived by his wife, Sybil Williams-Clarke of New York. Civil rights leaders, community activists, and academicians from across the country said their final goodbyes to the man many say knew more about black history



DR. JOHN H. CLARKE

Ben-Jochanan, John Henry Jackson—all of these are phenomenal, phenomenal scholars," Kambon told The Carolinian. "They have forgotten more than most of us will ever know, but Dr. Clarke was known as the 'Master Teacher.'" "The history of the modern world was made, in the main, by what was taken from African people," Dr. Clarke wrote in Why Africana History? "Europeans emerged from what they call their 'Middle-Ages,' people-poor, land-poor and resources-poor. And to a great extent, culture-poor. They raided and raped the cultures of the world, mostly Africa, and filled their homes and museums with treasures, then they called the people primitive." Dr. Clarke continued, "The Europeans did not understand the cultures of non-Western people then; they do not understand them now." "He never worried about daily events," activist Rev. Al Sharpton told the N.Y. Daily News. "He wanted us to understand how they all fit into history. We're ripples on a long wave." A native of Union Springs, Ga., this son of sharecroppers with only an eighth-grade education, took a freight train to New York City, making Harlem his home since 1933. Soon he became politically active, culturally aware, and historically inspired, calling, among other notables, Malcolm X as a friend and confidant. Dr. Clarke is credited with writing and editing 27 books about such figures as Marcus Garvey, Malcolm X, and Nat Turner, in addition to numerous short stories, (See DR. CLARKE, P. 2)

## Hispanic Labor Impacts The South

By Myra Blue-Lane

Construction jobs, house painting, commercial painting, roadway labor were all jobs where blue collar black workers once enjoyed a virtual monopoly. Many black males who had opted not to attend college in search of the more white-collar, professional jobs, often sought vocational training for one of several other opportunities. Until recent years, they were in relatively plentiful supply. Social commentators have noted,

however, that the employment tide has changed significantly due to a recent influx of Hispanics into the South in recent years. Just five years ago, it was no big deal to see Hispanic crews working together on various day labor jobs on the West Coast. The only bone of contention was that employers were constantly being taken to task for exploiting the laborers by employing them to do the same jobs as American laborers at basically half the pay—sometimes less. This was possible because many

of those laborers had migrated illegally across the border from Tijuana into Chula Vista, which is the first southern California city due north of the Mexican border. Many illegal immigrants were willing to work for no more than room and board because conditions in northern Mexico were so depressed, even to the extent that many did not even have indoor plumbing. Sometimes as many as 10 or 12 lived in a three-room house. So, cheap day labor mi- (See LABOR IMPACT, P. 2)



CLASS OF 1963—Shown above at the C.E. Eppes Alumni Reunion is the class where Doctors and Lawyers and Presidents, Engineers, Nurses, Ministers, Evangelists, and some of everybody, who has contributed to the African-American way of life. (Jim Rouse Photo)

**Home Tips**

**SECURE PLANT** — Push a plastic drinking straw a little way into the ground beside your small bedding plant when you plant it, and tie a trash bag twister around both loosely to hold the plant up until it gets started. It works! Hazel R., Coschocton, Ohio

**SOAP ON A ROPE** — Collect those small leftover pieces of bar soap. Put them in the toe of a two-foot length of an old nylon stocking. Tie it to a rope and hang over your showerhead. Add more pieces of soap when available. Dorothy B., Port Washington, Wis.

**CHEESE SLICES** — I remove the roller that comes with cheese slicers because I like to use it to cut hard-boiled eggs for salads. It goes through eggs so easily. I also use it to chop up hard-boiled eggs for egg salad to the point where using a fork is easier on the wrist. Katy G., Oxnard, Calif.

**THOUGHTFUL GIFT** — I have eight children and their finding a gift for me is a problem. (I'm in my 70s.) My rule is, all gifts that need

installing they have to install. This year they got together and while my wife and I were on vacation, each couple came over and painted one room each. What a Father's Day gift!

Each holiday a different couple invites the family for the holiday and serves the meal. I think I died and went to heaven! Dennis W., Westville, N.J.

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National NAACP Dignitaries on Presentation platform included Vice-President Al Gore, Kweisi Mfume, Myrlie Evers-Williams, Julian Bond and others.

TO: All Concerned Citizens  
FROM: Gaston Monk, President  
SUBJECT: Membership Drive

The NAACP is the oldest, largest and most consulted civil rights organization in the United States. It began its fight in 1909, 80 years ago. Among its many accomplishments are implementing desegregation in the American school system, gaining free access to the ballot for black voters and championing the passage of landmark civil rights laws such as the voting and civil rights acts.

Thanks to the NAACP, discrimination in public housing, eating places and public transportation were outlawed. These privileges are taken for granted today, but they were not obtained without a struggle and sacrifice.

Why, then, do we need the NAACP today?

"We need the NAACP because every single day the NAACP is out working to better the quality of life for all Black Americans. Every day they go into some courtroom in some city to fight the battle for those who cannot fight their own."

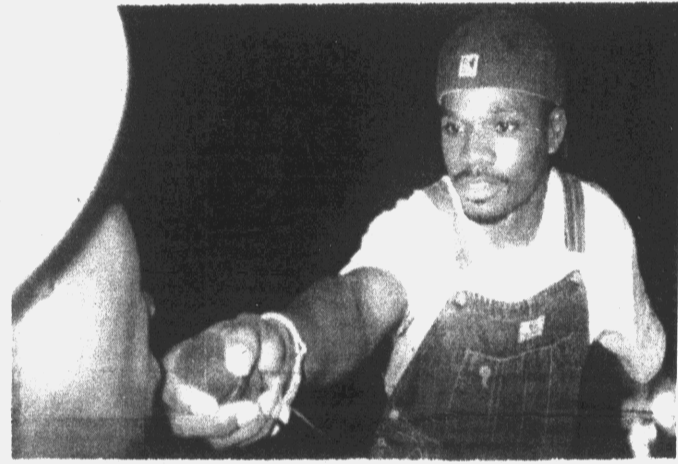
The NAACP's strength and effectiveness lies in its membership. If you believe in equal rights, join the NAACP today.

Sincerely,  
Gaston Monk  
President

**Support the Black Press**



"M" Voice Editor, Kitty Pope, who was the delegate for the Pitt County NAACP in Atlanta is pictured with NAACP National President, Kweisi Mfume.



Rapping with the youth at the NAACP Convention is GOSPEL Artist Kirk Franklin.

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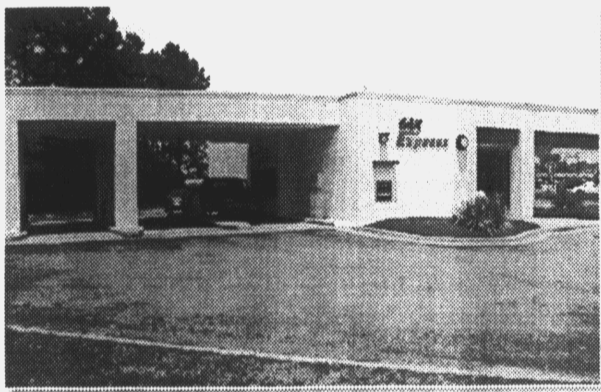
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MYRLIE EVERS-WILLIAMS  
83rd Spingarn Award Winner



Coretta King applauds speech of VP Al Gore



VP Al Gore shakes hands of NAACP Delegates



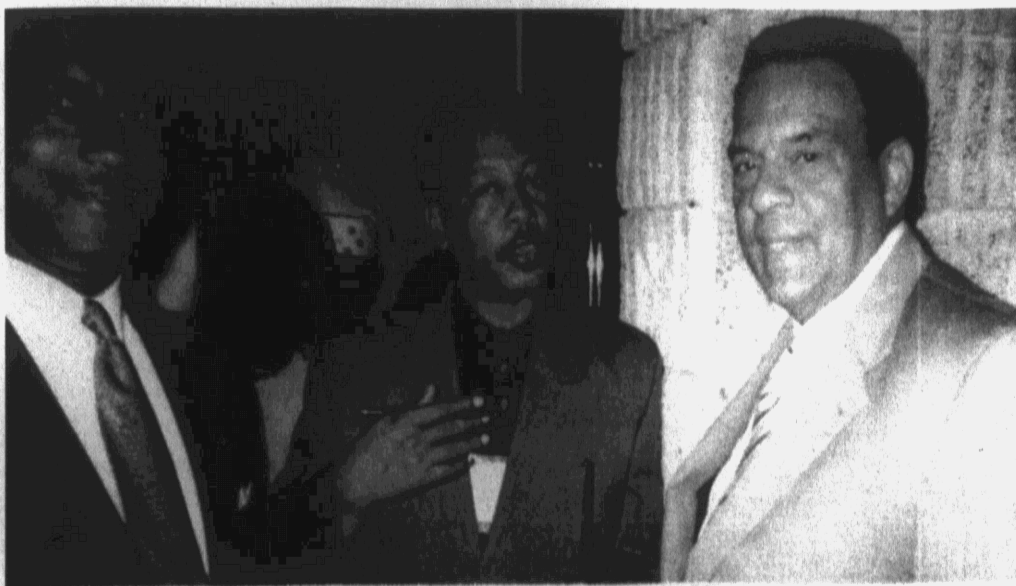
ASHLEA POPE  
Youth Delegate



Mfume Presiding At National Convention



KRISTINA POPE  
Youth Delegate



Sharing a moment at the NAACP Convention are Dept. of Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater (left) and Former US Ambassador Andrew Young.



LINKS ALL SMILES—Greenville Links pictured here include: (l.-r.) Helen Harrell, Lil Powell, Allegra Gross, Gloria Hines, Jennifer Congleton. Not shown: Carolyn Ferebee-Edwards.

## Assembly In Boston, MA Links Hold 31st Biennium

The Links, Inc., a national African-American women's organization, held its 31st biennium assembly in Boston, MA recently. Area Links in attendance were Gloria M. Hines, President of the Wilson-Rocky Mount-Tarboro Chapter, and Lil Powell, immediate past Protocol Officer of the chapter.

Other members attending the assembly were: Marian Farmer, Diane Myers, Vandahlia Reid from Wilson, Juanita Burnett, Julia Congleton-Bryant, Josie Davis, Brenda Edge, Jessie Jones, Jessie Pash, Bettie Simmons, and Mary Sutton from Rocky Mount.

Founded in 1946, The Links, Inc., currently has 10,000+ members in 270 chapters across 40 states, Nassau, Bahamas and Frankfurt, Germany. Wilson-Rocky Mount-Tarboro Chapter, the area chapter, was chartered in 1949 in Rocky Mount and was recognized at the assembly as the oldest chapter in the Southern Area.

Since its inception, The Links, Inc., an invitational African-American women's group, has donated more than \$20 million to local and national charitable organizations including the United Negro College Fund and the NAACP. The organi-

zation has logged more than two million hours of volunteer service and established lifelong friendships while serving the needs of its communities.

Greenville Links include Jennifer Congleton, Carolyn Ferebee-Edwards, Allegra Gross, Helen Harrell, Gloria Hines and Lil Powell. Mrs. Edna B. Graves is an alumnae member of the chapter. Dr. Barbara Dixon Simpkins, Prince George's County, M.D., is the National President.



## Drive Safely

## ECU Pirates Set Meet The Press Nite

The fifth annual "Meet The Pirates" Night will be held at 7 p.m. on Saturday, August 22 at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium on the campus of East Carolina University.

Here is your chance to enjoy a meal with your favorite ECU Pirate football players and coaches in a relaxed dinner setting. The gates will open at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will

be followed by a photo & autograph session at 8 p.m.

Due to limited seating, advanced registration is required for the dinner; admission is only \$3 per person. The photo & autograph session requires no advanced registration and is open to the public. To reserve your spot at the 1998 Meet The Pirates Night call (252) 328-4530.

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# The power of a Grandma.

Children have a very special relationship with Grandma and Grandpa. That's why grandparents can be such powerful allies in helping keep a kid off drugs.

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"How come you're doing poorly in history?"

"Why are your eyes always red?"

"Did you go to the doctor? What did he say?"

The same kid who cons his parents is ashamed to lie to Grandma. Without betraying their trust, a loving, understanding grandparent can discuss the danger of drugs openly with the child she adores. And should.

- The average age of first-time drug use among teens is 13. Some kids start at 9.
- 1 out of 5 American kids between 9 and 12 is offered illegal drugs. 30% of these kids receive the offer from a friend. And 12% named a family member as their source.
- Illegal drugs are a direct link to increased violence, to AIDS, to birth defects, drug-related crime, and homelessness.

As a grandparent, you hold a special place in the hearts and minds of your grandchildren. Share your knowledge, your love, your faith in them. Use your power as an influencer to steer your grandchildren away from drugs.

If you don't have the words, we do. We'll send you more information on how to talk to your grandkids about drugs. Just ask for your free copy of "A Parent's Guide to Prevention." Call 1-800-624-0100.

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**UNITED TO BE ONE**—Shown above at Mount Calvary Freewill Baptist Church is Pastor Elmer Jackson, Jr. last Saturday on the occasion of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Kimble Williams. Pastor Jackson is the uncle of the bride. (Staff Photo)

## Ashleigh Watts Chosen By Deltas For Dr. Shabazz Academy

Ashleigh Watts, the daughter of Charles, Jr. and Annie Watts, was chosen by the Greenville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. as a nominee for the Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy. Ashleigh's essay and a recommendation by the Alumnae Chapter's president, Patricia Alexander, was submitted to the Delta Presidential Academy in Washington, D.C.

Ashleigh's winning essay was selected from among many applicants nationwide to attend the Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy in New Orleans, La. She and other young girls will be involved in scholarly activities at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Special mentoring programs at the Radisson Hotel and several educational outings at Xavier, Dillard and Southern Universities in New Orleans, La. are also included on their agenda.

The Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy strives to provide scholarly enhancements for young girls. The Academy's goal is to augment

scholarships in math, science and technology. It also fosters service in the form of leadership through service learning and sisterhood, which is defined as the ability to cultivate and maintain positive relationships with peers and others.



**ASHLEIGH WATTS**

Ashleigh is an aspiring sixth grader and an honor student at Bethel School in Bethel

## Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class T. M. Carmon Visits Hong Kong

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Timothy M. Carmon, son of Robert L. and Zelma V. Carmon of 3111 Jolly Road, Winterville, recently visited Hong Kong while on a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific Ocean and Arabian Gulf aboard the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, home ported in Everett, Wash.

During the port visit, Sailors and Marines from Carmon's ship participated in Project Handclasp providing humanitarian aid to adults and children residing in a disaster relief organization, a school for the mentally handicapped and an international Christian school. In addition to providing food, hygienic items, toys, books and paper to the recipients, members of Carmon's ship cleaned, repaired and painted buildings.

Project Handclasp is an official Navy program established in 1962 to promote mutual understanding, respect and goodwill through direct person-to-person contact between American citizens and citizens of other lands. Educational and goodwill materials donated by various U.S. organizations are distributed to needy citizens in foreign countries.

Carriers, like USS Abraham Lincoln, are forward deployed around

the world to maintain a U.S. presence and provide rapid response in times of crisis. They serve as a highly visible deterrent to would-be aggressors and, if deterrence fails, offer the most versatile and powerful weapons available.

The 1990 graduate of D.H. Conley High School of Greenville, joined the Navy in August 1990.

## NUL Tells State Of Black America

"The State of Black America reveals that whites possess nearly 12 times the assets of blacks. It shows that blacks are much more likely to slip into or dwell in poverty while whites are much more likely to recoup or expand their assets at any given time. It means that policies, programs and laws governing and protecting inheritance and other measures of wealth will become fertile ground for the next wave of the civil rights movement."

Hugh B. Price, President, National Urban League The National Urban League of New York, N.Y. unveiled the widely anticipated annual "State of Black America" report at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., Holeman Lounge on Thursday, July 30.

African-Americans face certain exclusion from growing prosperity in America unless national leaders

heed the call of the National Urban League and set new agendas for action, focusing on wealth, securing assets and rebuilding infrastructures. This groundbreaking report is a wakeup call from some of our country's finest thinkers and social analysts.

"The State of Black America 1998" was announced by NUL President Hugh B. Price. It includes an overview titled, "The Political Economy of Black America." This landmark report focuses on lingering gaps between white and black communities. It also highlights damaging trends that must be addressed now, before African-Americans and other people of color enter a permanent state of poverty.



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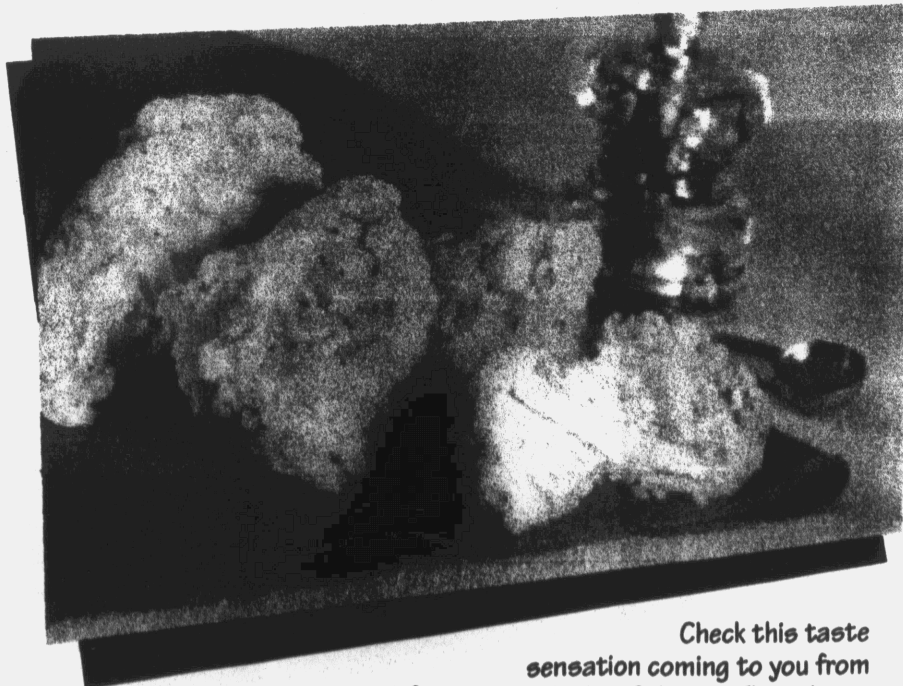
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**BLACK GOLFERS**—Shown above recently at the Ironwood Country Club for the First Annual Black Charity Tournament are Black Golfers on the Links. The 'M' Voice Newspaper wants to salute Sister Hammond of Flanagan Funeral Homes for a job well done! (Jim Rouse Photo)

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- Date: July 29<sup>th</sup> through August 1<sup>st</sup>
- Location: July 29<sup>th</sup> - Hilton Inn, Greenville, N.C.  
30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup> - East Carolina School of Medicine, Brody Building
- Time: July 29<sup>th</sup> - 5:00 PM Registration, Dinner to start at 6:30, ending 9:00 PM  
July 30<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 AM - 7:30 PM  
July 31<sup>st</sup> - 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM (Pizza and Sub Party starting at 6:00 PM)  
August 1<sup>st</sup> - 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon (Cook-Out/Pig Pickin/Games)
- Cost: \$15.00. This cost includes all events during the four days and the dinner at the Hilton. Scholarships available upon request. (Please call 252-715-8431 for information on scholarships.)

FREE child care will be provided for children fifteen months and older. If transportation is needed, please call your local health department.

### For more information call:

- Bertie County Health Department (919)794-5322
- Edgecombe County Health Department (919)641-7990
- Greene County Health Department (919)747-8181
- Martin, Tyrrell and Washington Counties Washington County Health Department (919)791-3125
- Pitt County Pitt County Public Health Center (919)413-1424

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## Think Safety

## EDUCATION

Continued from page 1

Education of the children and keeping them in school are issues that Monk will put at the forefront of NAACP's agenda for Pitt County.

"The children are our future and they must get an education to better themselves," says Monk. Though all will not go to college, Monk believes that they must at least finish high school.

"We have too many black students being suspended and failing their grades," says Monk. He says that the Pitt County NAACP agenda will include continuing to fight racism and developing programs to help keep children in school.

Monk and his wife Virginia, also a retired educator, both grew up in homes that stressed education. Because their parents knew the importance of education, both attended boarding school, where they first met. The couple, who have continued stressing their parents' tradition of getting a good education, have four children who have all attended college.

## SCLC

Continued from page 1

ness of its drug program. The SCLC was very much involved in the fight against apartheid and the release of Nelson Mandela.

SCLC President Bennie Roundtree and the SCLC would like to thank all churches and organizations for their support of the SCLC Convention. Your continued help is important. Please register to become a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference at: 623 Albemarle Ave., Greenville, NC.

## NAACP

Continued from page 1

blacks. He urged African-Americans to be "disciplined consumers" and to demand economic equity from all businesses.

The NAACP president also challenged the delegates and those present to make youth outreach a priority. He encouraged members to pay attention to conditions in Africa because African-Americans have a responsibility in promoting social and economic development for their brothers and sisters there.

The NAACP also expressed support for justice for black farmers.

On a beginning day of the convention, the NAACP delegates marched through downtown Atlanta in an effort to draw attention to the AIDS crisis. The NAACP has called on the government to declare AIDS a state of emergency in the black community since it is the leading killer of blacks aged 25-44 and African-American women represent 56 percent of the total AIDS cases among females.

Mfume's sharpest challenge to the delegates came on the issue of African-American youth. He praised ACT-SO, the NAACP's program dedicated to the educational enrichment of youth, for challenging and uplifting youth people to strive for their personal best.

However, he also acknowledged that "too many of our young people are going to jail. We must strive to give them a sense of purpose and belonging." The NAACP Convention also included many programs, and workshops as well as entertainment for the youth.

Included in the organization's mission are six points: civil rights, educational excellence, economic empowerment, voter education, registration and turnout, and youth health outreach. Mfume encouraged members to keep their eyes focused on these six points instead of becoming distracted.

"We must never get hung up on reading our headlines when there is so much work to be done," he said.

The NAACP must "look at what we do best and see where we can move forward. We are not a perfect organization... this is not a perfect country... but God still calls us to a perfect mission," said Mfume. "If we are not prepared to make the commitment, no one else will do it for us."

## DR. CLARK

Continued from page 1

and essays.

He was also founding president of the African Heritage Studies Association, founding member and chair of the Council of Elders of the Association of the Study of Classical African Associations, and the Black Academy of Arts and Letters.

Clarke started the black studies program at New York's Hunter College, and was a visiting professor of African history at Cornell University, where a library of

Africana literature is named after him.

Clarke was also associated with the world-renowned Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem.

"History, I have often said, is a clock that people use to tell their political time of day," Dr. Clarke once wrote. "It is also a compass that people use to find themselves on the map of human geography."

"History tells a people where they have been and what they have been. It also tells a people where they are and what they are. Most importantly, history tells a people where they still must go and what they still must be."

## LABOR IMPACT

Continued from page 1

grated across the border and took its share of blue-collar opportunities in the state of California.

All of this comfortably occurred in a state located 3,000 miles from North Carolina and the South.

Then, almost as if overnight, Hispanic crews began to make an appearance in various capacities in this state. Their presence was felt so significantly that the educational system had to readjust to make special allowances to educate their children. In the summer of 1993, several reading and writing educators were solicited to teach summer school sessions specifically designed to prepare Hispanic students to "mainstream" into the next school year.

Quite possibly the most significant area Hispanic presence is hitting home is in terms of a decline in employment opportunities within the black community. Hispanics are taking over roles traditionally held by black men.

Dean Chapman, a former Department of Transportation employee who has started up two local businesses, Presigio Custom Clothiers and a commercial cleaning business, thinks the reason hispanics have been able to muscle out blacks in some of these jobs is because of what he calls a "hunger for the opportunity."

"I'm not going to say blacks had become complacent in these jobs, maybe a little comfortable, but why not, when these had been jobs that had not previously been threatened?" he said.

"I believe, however, that employers are attracted to the drive and relentlessness the Hispanics show."

Citing personal experience as a business owner, Chapman said that he had always had other blacks working with him in this cleaning business and had not really had any problem. "So what I think is happening is not a matter of what we [black men] are doing wrong, it's a matter of what they [hispanics] are doing right," Chapman said.

"For instance," he said, "I had

gotten into the habit of always showing whoever was helping me on a particular job, how to set up the equipment and get prepared for a cleaning job. But every time we had another job to do, I would still come prepared to set the equipment up before we began. Oftentimes my help would just wait for me to go through this step.

"However, I recently had an occasion where I got a Hispanic to help me on a two-day job because the person who would have helped me was not available," Chapman explained. "So the first night I got there and set up the equipment and we got the job done with no problems."

However, what happened next is what Chapman says got his attention.

"The next night when I arrived with the equipment and everything, I was going through looking at the building and noting what all had to be done, and when I got back the fellow who had helped me the night before had set up the equipment and had everything all set to go.

"I was amazed. Almost as if with photographic memory, that fellow had remembered every single thing I had done, and instead of waiting for me to get back for us to begin the job, he had done everything I would have had to do. He made it extremely clear to me that he desperately wanted that work," Chapman said.

"He showed me that whatever it was going to take to get the opportunity to work with me again, he was willing to do."

Chapman stated that he is by no means looking to replace his loyal,

long-standing black help with Hispanic help, "I'm just trying to help everyone understand why it is Hispanic labor is muscling some of us out of our jobs." Chapman said that if anything, he is trying to contribute to the information African-American men may need to hold onto their jobs.

Tony O'Neal, a local African-American painting contractor, says he once held a long-standing repeat business relationship with MerryLand Properties which manages several apartment complexes across the country, to paint various complexes in and around the city of Raleigh. Most often, he provided labor to paint the interior of apartments as tenants moved.

O'Neal says he often simply did these jobs himself unless there were several painting needs at once. He was also qualified to provide exterior painting as well. For several years, O'Neal enjoyed a strong relationship with the management team and received only high praises for his consistently above standard work.

Even so, currently, one of Merry Land's larger complexes in Raleigh, Sommerset Place is undergoing an exterior paint overhaul by what appears to be a completely Hispanic crew providing labor on the contract. Complex residents say they have only seen Hispanics doing painting on the job, no whites, and definitely, no blacks.

In addition, the crew that was contracted to provide an interior plumbing overhaul back in the spring for the same complex appeared to be completely Hispanic also. Residents say they definitely

did not see any blacks on the job.

So what does the ever-increasing influx of Hispanics mean for African-American labor opportunity?

"That they're taking over our jobs," said Orlando Fenner, an auto mechanic who is also employed as a maintenance service technician for a private school in Raleigh.

"You don't see crews of them taking over office jobs, do you?" he asked. "They're taking over jobs that typically were many of ours [blacks]."

"It's just like anything else. Here is another area where if we don't watch out, we run the risk of getting left behind," said Fenner. "Americans in general tend to let people of other countries come in here and get ahead."

"Look at the big businesses the Japanese run and look at how many restaurants from other cultures are thriving here," he said. "This is one area where we are going to have to really compete to

keep our place. We provide just as good labor if not better, we just need to be careful not to let these opportunities continue to slip away from us."

Fenner warned that nowadays, if a black doesn't like something about the way his job is going, he needs to learn to talk things out and not entertain thoughts of walking off a job, thinking that an employer is going to suffer.

"Those days are gone," he said. "With the new kids on the block, handling employment improperly could now mean the end of it. Someone else is definitely waiting to take your place."

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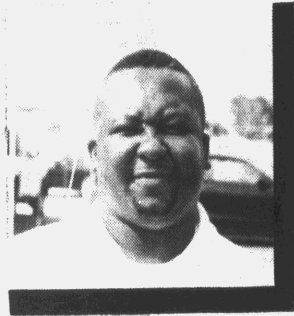
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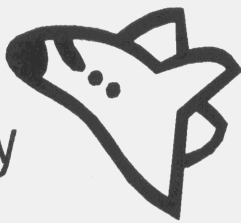


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## from the Desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye

### WILLIAMS CELEBRATES 80

The following is the text of remarks given by Tracey Bennett during the celebration of the 80th birthday of her grandfather recently.

Good evening everyone. I'm Tracey Bennett, grand daughter of James and Mildred Williams, and I'd like to thank you for coming out tonight in celebration of the 80th birthday of my grandfather, James Williams.

We begin tonight by telling you how my grandfather became the man he is today.

Born in 1918, James Williams is the son of Jesse and Della Williams of Pitt County.

Like most of us, he came from humble beginnings but that never stopped him from doing great things.

And no one would argue that one of the greatest things was his marriage to Mildred Purvis. Five children came from their marriage and those of you who have children know that raising one isn't easy, let alone raising five.

But my grandfather worked diligently to make sure his family had everything they needed including a home on Davenport Street.

To accomplish this feat he worked for 15 years as a courier for the Home Savings and Loan Association of Eastern Carolina.

Early in his career, he braved the elements to help lay the foundation for many buildings on the campus of what we now call East Carolina University.

Outside of family, one of his loves was and still is the church. For 13 years he served as president of the Senior Usher Board of Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church.

His next love is nature. Most of you have visited the Williams home and you know that when you enter the yard, you're met by three massive pine trees which line the property.

What you probably didn't know was that many years ago, my grandfather cultivated the soil, planted and nurtured those pine trees and even today, still maintains the trees.

I think those three beautiful pine trees are a metaphor for the three things my grandfather cares most about in life. They are his church, his family and his community. Today, all of these institutions are stronger because of his unselfish love and generosity.

It is for these reasons, we are here to extend our thanks and to say we love you, James Williams.

I leave you with this thought, one gets from his community what one puts into it.

I am grateful to have a grandfather that has given so much over the years.

Happy 80th birthday, Papa.

### CURIOUS FACTS AND INTERESTING INFORMATION ABOUT THE BIBLE

The 66 Books or subdivisions comprising the Old and New Testaments contain: 1,189 chapters, 31,093 verses; 773,692 words and 3,586,489 letters.

The shortest verse in the Bible is the 35th in the 11th chapter of St. John.

The longest verse in the Bible is the 9th in the 8th chapter of Esther.

The middle verse in the Bible is the eighth in the 118th chapter of Psalms.

The 21st verse of the 7th chapter of Ezra contains all the letters of the alphabet except "J."

The 8th, 15th, 21st, and 31st verse of the 107th Psalm are alike.

Every verse in the 136th Psalm has the same ending.

The longest chapter is the 119th Psalm.

The shortest chapter is the 117th Psalm.

The word "Lord" occurs 7,736 times in the Old and New Testaments.

The word "God" occurs 4,370 times in the Old and New Testaments.

—Selected

TO: The Editor

How badly do we need today gentlemen and ladies! Our dysfunctional families, our values and morals are represented through gentlemen who are courteous, gracious with a strong sense of honor. Ladies who are polite, refined and well-mannered.

Today, the world needs more ladies and gentlemen. Please, mothers and fathers, let your children see these qualities, attributes, characteristics in you, for "more is caught than taught."

Ladies, still respect men who open doors, walk on the curb side, have table manners, allow them to precede them through doors, assist



Beatrice C. Maye

older or feeble ladies up steps, take off caps and hats when introduced, rise if seated to shake hands, instead of saying "excuse me for not standing," are careful about their language, and who sneeze or cough in a handkerchief/tissue, among many other courteous behaviors. All of us can check up, read up on common, everyday courtesies. Right?

Good manners are never obsolete. These really judge a gentleman or a lady. As Jesse Jackson says, "Any man can get a baby, but it takes a real father to rear him."

Would your son nominate you as his role model? Would you be deserving if he should?

## Former Cowboy Coach To Breakfast

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MAMA!!!**—Ms. Johnnie Mae Atkinson, who resides in the Greenviled Terrace subdivision of Greenville, was the guest of honor at a surprise cookout/party recently given by her children to mark her birthday. Which one? Well, it's not proper to ask a lady her age...but, our news "snoopers" have learned that this vibrant bundle of vitality has reached a new plateau. As unbelievable as it may seem...she is now a SEPTUAGENARIAN!!! Good fun, food, and fellowship were enjoyed by family and friends alike who attended. (Jim Rouse Photos)

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Pictured: Frank Muir, Manager of Business Developments, Strategic Resource Solutions and Dr. Isaac Horton, Founder, Remote Source Lighting International

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## Michael Jackson, Detroit Businessman Team To Develop Theme Park

DETROIT, Mich.—Michael Jackson has joined the team of Detroit businessman, Don Barden to own and operate a billion-dollar entertainment complex to be called the Majestic Kingdom.

The project will be located on more than 75 acres of land that Barden controls near the Detroit River, east of the Ambassador Bridge. The entertainment complex will feature the "Michael Jackson Thriller Theme Park," a 800-room "Mansion In The Sky" Hotel Resort, and a location for the Majestic Star Casino.

Majestic Kingdom will also feature a large underground aquarium that will contain dolphins and other members of the aquatic kingdom. In its entirety, Majestic Kingdom will contain an environmentally friendly network of aesthetically pleasing, landscaped area and scenic views. Botanical gardens, children's theatres, nightclubs and restaurants, and an amusement park are a few of the other features of the "Kingdom."

An open-air feature during the warm weather months, while being enclosed in a transparent bubble during the winter will enable the "Thriller Coaster" to operate year round. Planners say this advanced technology will allow the Majestic Kingdom to operate regardless of weather, as a major tourist destination.

Plans also call for the Majestic Kingdom to be connected to Detroit via a state-of-the-art monorail system. The year-round, tower-style, 100-foot-high, multi-screen, inter-

active video tower will be strategically located and wired for audio access throughout the park. The tower will also serve as the visitor information and orientation center.

Barden and Jackson formed a joint venture a number of months ago to explore domestic and international business opportunities, including investments in the hotel, casino, and theme park industries.

Since April, the pair have traveled to Las Vegas, St. Croix, in the Virgin Islands, Namibia, and South Africa, on fact-finding missions identifying potential projects for investment.

Jackson's Detroit visit was scheduled to coincide with the return visits of Barden and Jackson to Africa, for scheduled meetings with the president of the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire), the King of Swaziland and to attend the 80th birthday celebration of South Africa President Nelson Mandela.

It will be up to Detroit voters to decide the fate of the Jackson-Barden Majestic Kingdom project, which they can do by voting "Yes" on Proposal 1 and "No" on Proposal 2 on Aug. 4.

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PHELPS DISCOUNT \$750  
YOUR COST \$10,675

TOTAL SAVINGS \$1,500

## NEW 1998 4 DR TRACKER

STICKER PRICE \$16,701  
CHEV REBATE \$2,500  
PHELPS DISCOUNT \$500  
YOUR COST \$13,701

TOTAL SAVINGS \$3,000

## UTILITIES

GREAT SELECTION: 8 TAHOES, 5 SUBURBANS, 12 BLAZERS, EXPLORERS, BRONCOS, JEEP GRAND WAGONEERS. ALL BELOW MARKET PRICE.



Call Your Down Home Team!

**PHELPS**  
OLDSMOBILE  
GREENVILLE

3325 South Memorial Dr., Greenville, N.C.  
756-2150