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News for the Black and Community

Black History Month

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Is American Justice Destroying the Black Community?

by Trey Bankhead

Thirty years ago, during the high-point of the Civil Rights movement, many Blacks asked themselves if their local police officers were more of a danger to them than a help.

Today, many civil rights groups are beginning to ask the same question.

It is no secret that there is prejudice and racism in this country. Indeed, we live in a world where a man can be beaten to death, burned alive, beheaded, or chained and dragged to death behind a truck, merely because of his skin color. While many groups are advocating that inside, were all the same, it appears that, as in the past, a sense of fear and hatred of that which is other is making a deadly comeback.

For those living in such a reality of unrelenting hatred, one would assume that the police would be in a position to help deter, and prevent, such hatred from finding the deadly expression of days long gone, and days of recent past.

Granted, in the majority of cases, that assumption would be an accurate one. However, it is some cases, the police are not a part of the solution to such a dangerous situation.

In some cases, they are the problem. In this country, the media tend to portray Blacks in a decidedly negative light. For example, television news broadcasts will rarely display images of Blacks, or other minorities, engaged in any type of positive action. Rather, minorities are shown in the worst possible light: having committed a crime, or interviewing them in such a manner as to display the interviewees poor education. In comparison with their White counterparts, minorities in the media are shown to have done something wrong far more often. The popular television program Cops is a prime example, with the majority of their criminal captures member of the minority community.

This false media image has contributed to the way minorities are perceived, which results in prejudgment based upon that

false information. When a great deal of media propaganda portrays minorities to be drug dealers, murderers, and thieves, it is no wonder that many people begin to believe that image. In the case of law enforcement officials, this bias is demonstrated through their records of arrests, convictions, and sentencing.

The American Civil Liberties Union, which has been investigating such problems for several years, noted that scores of African-Americans, including prominent athletes, members of Congress, actors and business leaders, have experienced the humiliation of being stopped on the nation's roads for no other reason than the alleged traffic offense derisively referred to as Driving While Black. One such investigation, conducted in the state of Maryland, gives some insight into the nature of the problem. Conducted over the period of a year, it was discovered that 73 percent of the cars stopped and searched were driven by African-Americans, while they made up only 14 percent of the people driving

along the interstate. For that matter, only one in every five motorists detained and searched by state police was White, even though three-quarters of the motorists committing traffic violations were White.

The findings of the ACLU investigation were such that they warranted federal or state lawsuits against police departments.

Temple University Professor John Lamberth, who provided the ACLU with expert analysis of the research data, said in his written report that by statistical measures the data compiled by the ACLU is so "wildly significant" that its statistical significance "is literally off the charts." Although Maryland police officials previously have claimed the racial skewing in the search numbers is mere "coincidence," Lamberth and the ACLU strongly dispute that. According to Lamberth's report, the "probability that Black drivers are subjected to searches at so high a rate by chance is less than one in one quintillion."

The harassment of being stopped due to skin color is an



MVoice Archives: Checking out the C. M. Eppes parade which takes place every year, Roscoe Norfleet (deceased), Mrs. Norfleet along with William Meyers
 photo by Jim Rouse

annoyance and an insult, but such a difficulty is rarely physically dangerous. However, in recent days, there have been more and more occasions of Blacks being killed by police in apparently unprovoked shootings. Recent incidents, for example, in New York

and California seem to demonstrate a type of deadly contempt for the Black community on the part of some law enforcement officers.

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ECU professor questions Black leadership

Black Leadership and the Presidential Crisis: A Different Perspective on Impeachment and the Presidential Race of 2000
 by Tyson King-Meadows

Once again, the politics of race has divided America and its interpretation of social, legal, and

political phenomena. Citizen perspective on the impeachment and removal of President William Jefferson Clinton seems similar to that concerning the Jefferson-Sally Hemmings "relationship," the guilt or innocence of O.J. Simpson, and affirmative action. These issues reflect more than simply the racial divide, but the willingness of American voters and interest groups to take sides. For Blacks, recently impeached President Clinton, like former Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy, is a victim of a politically motivated witch-hunt designed to attack a progressive political agenda. For others, the Chief Executive Officer violated his Constitutional duty to faithfully execute the laws, and manipulated his massive amount of institutional resources to evade, mislead, and circumvent the judicial process. Neither side has conceded the tiny amount of truth both perspectives may offer. Yet

rarely in this tale of heroes and villains has Black America re-examined its spirited efforts to protect President Clinton, or questioned how the actions of Black apologists have the potential to widen the increasing racial divide. Clifton's continued support among otherwise morally conservative Black America is particularly bewildering given the President's admittance of having an improper and sexual extra-marital relationship with a subordinate.

Despite that fact, Black Democrats have expended their political capital by holding press conferences to denounce the "partisan" action and have assisted the "save the Clinton presidency" grassroots campaign effort. Have Black elected officials or Black interest groups realized their role in setting the stage for this political "minstrel" show? In "black face," Democrats played out the interests of America as one featuring a

dash between the Democratic "good" of progressive politics versus the Republican "evil" of reactionary sentiments. These Democrats, like in 1992, parodied Black dress, speech, and song, hoping to connect with the Black electorate for political gain, or at least political status. Unlike the minstrel shows of old, this show did not provide commercial entertainment, but it provided political entertainment at the expense of Black America. Black versus Whites, in perception, politics, and action for political profit. The damage this time, however, is not limited to the creation of disparaging stereotypes of Black identity. The damage this time centers on the potential creation of two equally damaging events: another White backlash against civil rights policy, and another election where Black voter expectations enable the Democratic Party to position itself as the only game in

Presidential politics.

The term "another" is used to reflect the reality of political history. In *Issue Evolution: Race and the Transformation of American Politics*, authors Edward Carmine and James Stimson trace the development of the Republican and Democratic parties to the racial concerns of its potential and actual constituents. Issue confirms how rhetoric and actions of Presidents and presidential candidates within the Republican party has shifted to attract the racially disaffected Southern Democrats who yearned for racial conservatism (and state determination) in national politics. Their analysis of party platforms revealed that not only did the parties differ in racial progressiveness, but that the Democrats articulated policy of racial liberalism. This liberalism differed from Republican racial conservatism, and attracted what we now call

the Solid Republican South in presidential races. Some of these disaffected Southerners transferred their partisanship into the Republican party and socialized their children to accept, and vote for, those ideals of limited government power, individualism, law and order, free-market capitalism, and legislative restraint in the area of civil rights.

Perhaps the 1964 Democratic leadership did not contemplate the potential long-term effects of advocating for civil rights: beholden to campaign for the Black vote, held to former President Carter's standard regarding Black appointments, and criticism for not articulating a position on Africa, civil rights, affirmative action, and urban politics. At the same time, Democratic presidential candidates were told to recap

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The 'M' in Minority Voice

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DST speaker.....Dr. Dudley E. Flood, a retired school administrator from Raleigh, NC, will be the keynote speaker for the Greenville chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc's Community Recognition Day program, which will be held in Greenville on Sunday, February 14.

Dr. Flood, who holds a Ph.D. from Duke University, served in the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction for 21 years, as both Assistant and Associate State Superintendent. He has been a visiting professor at Meredith College and at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Most recently, he served for five years as Executive Director of the North Carolina Association of School Administrators.

He has received more than 300 awards for civic service, and has been presented with the Order of the Longe of Pine, North Carolina's highest civic award, by two different Governors of the state. He has received the Outstanding Alumni Award from

East Carolina University, and the Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

He is a member of the Phi Beta Sigma, and a member of the Board of Trustees for North Carolina Central University. He serves on the Extension Service Advisory Council, the state PTA board, and on several other public service boards. He is a member of Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh.

The Delta Sigma Theta sorority is hosting the event. Patricia Alexander, the Chapter President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., invites the public to attend. The Celebration Day Program will be held at York Memorial AME Zion Church, 201 Tyson Street in Greenville, at 4:00, at which time those persons in the news who have made reputable contributions/achievements will be honored by receiving a certificate of merit.

Reverend Joseph George, Pastor, will conclude the program with remarks.

NAACP and NASA open school

Baltimore, MD The first day of class for the NAACP/NASA Math, Science & Technology Saturday Academy established for elementary school children was held Saturday January 9, 1999 at four locations in the Baltimore Metropolitan Area.

The Math and Science Saturday Academy expands the NAACP's commitment to educational opportunity and excellence.

President and CEO of the NAACP Kweisi Mfume said, "This is an important partnership to help give young students a competitive edge in realizing their potential in the fields of math, science, engineering and technology."

Meeting at Baltimore City Community College (Liberty Campus), Dundalk Community College, Essex Community

College and Catonsville Community College, classes will be in session through May 29, 1999.

NASA funded this pilot program to provide hands-on classroom and laboratory instruction for 125 students in grades 4, 5, and 6. The program will also provide support and oversight for the parents of the participating students.

Wyoming hate crime bill defeated

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (Associated Press) -- Four months after gay college student Matthew Shepard was beaten to death, a move to pass a hate crimes bill in Wyoming was scuttled Wednesday by a legislative committee.

The committee killed two bills, and supporters said that ended their hopes for the year.

State lawmakers have rejected similar measures four times since 1995.

After Shepard's death in October, calls for a law increased. Republican Gov. Jim Geringer for the first time supported the passage of a bias crimes law. Wyoming is one of nine states

without bias crimes legislation.

State Sen. John Schiffer, the committee chairman, said he hoped supporters of bias crime legislation would come back in future sessions with legislation that would have broader support.

This legislation as written does not fit with what this state wishes to have in a bias crimes bill," said Schiffer, one of three people who voted against the bills.

Some opponents of the bills objected to listing motivating factors, such as race, religion and sexual orientation, saying they offered special protection to certain groups. Others said no new

laws are needed, just strict enforcement of existing measures.

The measures that died in the Senate Judiciary Committee would have increased the maxi-

mum fine for a felony by up to \$5,000 and the maximum prison sentence by up to five years if prosecutors could prove the crime was bias-related.

Wende Barker, state coordinator for the Wyoming Bias Crimes Coalition, said she was disappointed but not surprised. We'll move on from here. The coalition is going to stay together and work on some public education and try to come back next year," she said.

Civil rights groups sue Berkeley

SAN FRANCISCO (The Associated Press) -- Civil rights groups sued the University of California, Berkeley on Tuesday on behalf of high-achieving minorities who were rejected, saying the university system's flagship campus over-emphasizes test scores and advanced courses in admissions.

"This is an admissions process that grants preferences to the privileged," said attorney Joseph Jaramillo of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

The weight given to the Scholastic Assessment Test, an examination of English and math

fluency, and advanced-placement grades has a discriminatory effect on Blacks, Hispanics and Filipinos, and lacks educational justification, the suit said.

Advanced-placement courses, worth an additional grade point in UC admissions ratings, are far more available in predominantly White high schools, Jaramillo said.

What advanced-placement and SAT scores don't show is talent and ability to succeed in college, said one of the plaintiffs, Justine Certeza, a freshman at UC San Diego who was rejected by Berkeley.

The lawsuit seeks court orders

requiring Berkeley to admit Certeza and six other minority students and adopt an admissions policy that gives qualified Blacks, Hispanics and Filipinos a fair and equal opportunity.

UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert Berdahl said the campus retains a "strong commitment to access and diversity" despite a new set of legal limitations -- the ban on affirmative action in all state and local government programs by Proposition 209.

Minority enrollment nevertheless fell dramatically last fall in the first freshman class at Berkeley affected by the regents' action.

The staff of the M Voice salutes the achievements of Black America: Past, Present, and Future!

Foes of racial preferences raise pressure

WASHINGTON (The Associated Press)--Conservatives who say top U.S. colleges are illegally using racial preferences in admissions are taking their case to the nation's college newspapers.

The newspaper ads by the Center for Individual Rights, a conservative law firm representing students suing universities, are headlined "Guilty by Admission" and charge that nearly every elite college in the United States violates the law.

But many educators say the law

firm has misrepresented 20 years of court rulings and overstated colleges' efforts to bring diversity to their campuses.

The center issued two 30-page handbooks it says are intended to help students identify discrimination and to help institutions keep from getting sued, but critics say the handbooks are designed to incite lawsuits.

"Colleges very clearly understand they may not use quotas," said Norma Cantu, the assistant secretary for the Department of

Education's Office of Civil Rights, referring to programs that don't consider a student's merit.

"There's no need for a handbook."

Dartmouth spokeswoman Laurel Stavis said the college would not comment until it had seen the handbook.

The ads started running Tuesday in campus newspapers such as The Daily Dartmouth. While that newspaper and those at other Ivy League colleges have occasionally rejected ads, such as one denying the existence of the Holocaust, such rejections are rare, said editor Jacob Elberg.

"This is clearly something that's being debated all over the country," Elberg said.

The ads and handbooks are part of a campaign to highlight the use of racial preferences in admissions, say conservatives, including former Education Secretary William Bennett, who called col-

lege diversity programs "an antithesis of the civil rights movement."

At a news conference in Washington on Tuesday, they cited anecdotes and a handful of state-specific studies as evidence that race preference without merit is widespread.

According to the government, minority college enrollment was 25.3 percent in 1995, up from 16.5 percent in 1980.

Another group supporting the campaign, The Center for Equal Opportunity, was releasing a study today concluding that the odds of a White candidate being admitted to the University of Virginia instead of an equally qualified Black candidate are 45 to 1.

The data, based on 1996 applications for 10 public Virginia universities, include the race, sex, SAT scores, class rank and high school grade point averages of 72,000 applicants who were ad-

mitted or rejected. "We've found use of racial ethnic preferences in all of the states. The more selective schools tend to use preferences the most," said Roger Clegg, general counsel for the group.

But Rene Redwood, executive director of Americans for a Fair Chance, a group that advises colleges and community groups on affirmative action, says many preference programs are still needed.

"We have studies that show that there are communities that are healthier because women and minorities who become doctors often return to those communities," Redwood said.

Both sides in the affirmative action battle cite the 1978 Bakke case, in which a white student denied admission to medical school claimed specific slots for minority students were unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court decided

colleges could not have separate admissions criteria for minority students, but could consider race a "plus" factor.

In 1996, a federal appeals court in the Hopwood case from Texas essentially contradicted Bakke and barred the consideration of race in admissions and financial-aid decisions, citing other high court rulings involving government contracting.

The Supreme Court has refused to hear Hopwood, but the appeals court's decision is binding only in the its region of Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Universities also must consider state ballot measures such as California's 1996 Proposition 209 that ban many racial preferences.

"Colleges do not just seek racial and ethnic diversity when composing a class," said Deborah Wilds of the American Council on Education, a Washington group representing 1,300 public and private universities.



Where are you?

Black doctors cancel 2001 convention

SEATTLE (The Associated Press) -- An association that represents Black doctors pulled its 2001 convention out of Seattle because of the state's recent passage of an anti-affirmative action measure.

"Such legislative enactment is counter to the basic tenets upon which the National Medical Association was founded more than 100 years ago," said Lorraine Cole, the organization's executive director.

Between 8,000 and 10,000

people usually attend the convention, said NMA spokeswoman Tomeka Rawlings.

The Washington, D.C.-based association, which represents 20,000 Black physicians, listed Denver, Miami, Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore, Nashville, Tenn., and Orlando, Fla., as potential new sites.

In November, nearly 60 percent of Washington state voters approved Initiative 200, although a majority within Seattle voted no.

The initiative bars state and local governments from giving preferential treatment to women and minorities in contracts, jobs or public higher education.

Mayor Paul Schell plans to ask the association to reconsider, spokeswoman Vivian Phillips said.

John Carlson, who headed the drive to put the initiative on the ballot, said "the medical association's decision is their loss."

"Unless their organization was founded on the tenets of racial

quotas and preferences, they are seriously misreading Initiative 200 because that's all that prohibits," he said.

The "M" Voice is YOUR voice!

Court hears case on race-drawn districts

WASHINGTON (The Associated Press) -- A Supreme Court hostile to election districts drawn with race in mind soon may provide important new guidelines for policing the map-making efforts of state and local lawmakers.

While hearing arguments in a North Carolina case, the justices wrestled with a key issue: How much evidence is needed to conclude that an election district is the product of unlawful gerrymandering because racial considerations played too large a role?

The court's decision, expected by late June, could have enormous influence on political redistricting nationwide after the 2000 census.

A redistricting plan based on partisan politics cannot be ruled unlawful just because "it happens to correlate with race," Washington lawyer Walter Dellinger argued in defending the makeup of North Carolina's 12th

congressional district, now represented by Democrat Mel Watts.

"This is a Democratic district that makes sense," Dellinger told the court.

Robinson Everett, a Durham, N.C., lawyer representing voters who successfully challenged the 12th District in a lower court, said state legislators had "used code" in considering how to draw it in 1997.

"They said 'Democrats' but these are particular Democrats who are African-Americans," Everett contended in discussing how some of the district's boundary lines were drawn.

In a series of decisions since 1993, the Supreme Court has scuttled attempts by state and local lawmakers to draw districts that preserve or enhance minority candidates' chances to win if race was a "predominant factor." Most of those rulings were reached by 5-4 votes that traced the court's

ideological divisions.

Redrawing 12 congressional districts after the 1990 census, the North Carolina Legislature created two majority-Black districts in 1992 -- the 1st and 12th -- and voters that year sent the state's first Blacks to Congress since 1901.

That 1992 redistricting sparked two Supreme Court decisions, one in 1996 that struck down the 12th District as unlawful. The Legislature redrew the district in 1997, one in which Blacks comprise 47 percent of registered voters.

A three-judge federal court ruled last April that the 1997 plan was unlawful, too. The three-judge court did not conduct a full trial but made what lawyers call a "summary judgment" after considering the district's shape and its racial makeup.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, a key member of the highest court's slender majority in past redistrict-

ing cases, appeared sympathetic Wednesday to North Carolina's district-drawing efforts.

"There may well have been sufficient evidence to preclude the (lower) court from granting summary judgment," she told Everett at one point.

But Justice Antonin Scalia seemed to think the three-judge court was entitled to take recent history into account.

"This is a legislature that has been pulled, kicking and dragging, into drawing a district that does not take race into account," Scalia said.

Questions and comments from other justices suggested the court may be closely divided again. Its eventual decision is sure to be studied by political map drawers for new insights into the "dos" and "don'ts" of redistricting efforts.

Do you believe the family can become stronger? Are you searching for more effective coping strategies? Can you count on community institutions to help? We are here. As a second year sponsor of the National Black Family Summit, we're helping provide a forum for interested and involved people to address these and other issues and take new answers back to their communities. Under the leadership of the University of South Carolina College of Social Work and the Columbia Urban League, the 1999 Summit theme is, "Countering the Impediments Against Family Integrity and Stability: The Family Fights Back." For registration information, contact Dr. Augustus Rodgers at 803-777-4309 or visit www.sc.edu/cosw/nbfs99.html.

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A four County Narcotics Task Force in northeast North Carolina is seeking applicants for **undercover agents**. Applicants must possess the highest degree of integrity, be certified in NC as law enforcement officials. Experience in narcotics enforcement and/or financial investigations including psychological, financial and polygraph testing. Positions include random drug testing. Agents will be responsible for the enforcement of the NC Controlled Substances Acts and the Criminal General Statutes of North Carolina. Salary depends on qualifications. A completed Sheriff's Education and Training Standards Commission form F-3 is to be received by Keith Road, P.O. Box 308, Williamston, NC 27892 no later than 5:00 P.M., Monday, February 8, 1999. The Narcotics Task Force is an equal opportunity employer. Minority applicants are especially encouraged.

FBI spies on university professor

ATLANTA (Associated Press) -- A college professor who was investigated by federal agents, allegedly for inviting a Cuban government official to speak at a symposium, sued the U.S. Justice Department and the FBI.

Beatriz Morales Cozier's federal lawsuit, filed Tuesday in Atlanta, seeks access to the entire file the FBI compiled on her during an investigation almost five years ago, when she was at Georgia State

University. The suit asks that a federal judge review the file privately and determine whether "national security" justifies the deletion of many passages in the file.

Ms. Cozier, who immigrated from Cuba in 1961, originally asked for the file through the Freedom of Information Act. The FBI took 3 1/2 years to release the file and then gave her only 30 pages of the 62-page file, the lawsuit said, adding that many of

the pages contained heavily edited portions under the justification of "national security."

"A law-abiding citizen has the right to know why the FBI is spying on her through her neighbors, friends and family," said Gerald Weber, one of Ms. Cozier's lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union. He argued that there is no reason national security would apply to her case.

The FBI repeatedly interviewed

Ms. Cozier's family, co-workers and friends, and looked at her real estate, employment and tax records, he said.

Molly Halle of the FBI's office in Atlanta declined to comment Tuesday.

While at Georgia State in 1994, Ms. Cozier invited Jose-Luis Ponce, then secretary of the Office of

Cuban interests in Washington, to attend a symposium. Ponce accepted the invitation and allegedly criticized the U.S. government during his remarks.

A few weeks afterward, an FBI agent arrived at Georgia State and questioned Ms. Cozier, the lawsuit says. Ponce's visa was revoked in 1996 by the United States, in

response to a decision by the communist Cuban government to expel a U.S. diplomat from Havana.

Ms. Cozier now teaches anthropology at Morris Brown College in Atlanta.

School loses admissions policy battle

BOSTON (Associated Press) -- School officials will not ask the Supreme Court to overturn a ruling against its race-based admissions policy at prestigious Boston Latin School for fear a negative outcome could damage affirmative action programs nationwide.

"This is not a case that would be isolated to Boston," school Superintendent Thomas Payzant told The Boston Globe after the vote Wednesday. "The whole country would have to live with the decision."

The unanimous decision came two months after the board voted to appeal a Nov. 19 ruling by the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which found that an admissions policy used to boost minority enrollment at the nation's oldest public secondary school was unconstitutional.

The disputed policy required

half the students be selected solely on entrance exam scores and grades, with the remaining slots to be weighted by race considerations.

The committee's reversal came after consultations with civil rights leaders, said chairwoman Elizabeth Reilinger.

Those leaders advised that the Supreme Court might rule against the city, which could hurt race-based primary- and secondary-school admissions policies throughout the United States.

"The Legal Defense fund of the NAACP certainly was very strong in their encouragement of us not to appeal, as were a number of civil rights organizations," Reilinger said.

The appeals court in May reversed a lower court's decision that upheld Boston Latin's argument for having a race-based policy.

The legal challenge was brought by Sarah Weissmann, a white student who claims she was denied admission to the school in favor of less-qualified minority students.

The U.S. Supreme Court has yet to consider any appeal of public school affirmative action.

The committee's decision will not change the admission policy for next year's classes at Boston Latin and the city's two other examination schools. While the case was pending, the committee decided to stop considering race in its admissions process.

The panel said it will begin working toward revising its exam school admissions policies so they will promote the city's goal of diversity and withstand potential court challenges.

Famous Boston Latin alumni include Ralph Waldo Emerson, Cotton Mather and Ben Franklin.

Plush home central to Lyons case

LARGO, Fla. (AP) -- Weeks after buying an expensive Florida home with the Rev. Henry Lyons, Bernice Edwards spent her days being shuttled to jewelry shops and department stores, a taxi driver told jurors.

Meanwhile, a friend of Ms. Edwards testified that Lyons' alleged mistress was living in Milwaukee without a bank account and worrying she'd be kicked out of her modest home for not paying taxes.

The portrait of Ms. Edwards' dual lives emerged Monday in the racketeering trial against her and Lyons, president of the Nashville, Tenn.-based National Baptist Convention USA.

The pair is accused of swindling more than \$4 million from corporations seeking to do business with the powerful Black church group, using the money to finance their

own lavish lifestyles.

Josephine Hicks, a Milwaukee diner owner, said she loaned Ms. Edwards \$3,000 for taxes she owed on her home.

"She told me she was in a bad situation at that time, around Christmas time," Ms. Hicks testified about the woman she knew as Bree Jones.

Ms. Hicks also cashed checks for Ms. Edwards because she did not have a bank account of her own.

Eventually, Ms. Hicks opened a bank account under the name J & H Associates so she would not have to cash the checks through her business account, she testified.

Prosecutors say more than \$1.6 million was funneled through that account. Ms. Hicks said she was unaware of that, but was informed by the bank when a deposit exceeding \$200,000 was made to

"I asked, 'Is it legal? Where did it come from?' My social security number is on that account and I don't want to be involved with the IRS," she told jurors.

Ms. Hicks believed the money was coming from Ms. Edwards' job as public relations director for the convention, she said.

Lyons also is charged with grand theft, accused of stealing about \$250,000 from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith intended to rebuild burned black churches in the South.

He faces another trial this spring on 54 federal charges of bank fraud, wire fraud, extortion and money laundering.

Lyons' lawyers have said his failed business deals are not criminal matters.

the account.

School official attacked because of color

LOS ANGELES (Associated Press) -- A White principal beaten outside his predominantly Hispanic elementary school reportedly sought outside help to ease growing tensions twice before he was attacked this week.

Monday's assault on 65-year-old Norman Bernstein, principal of Burton Elementary in the Panorama City section of the city, is being investigated as a hate crime.

Bernstein was ambushed as he stepped from his car by two men who held a sharp object to his throat and punched him in the head, said police Detective David Escoto.

Bernstein described the men as Hispanics. One attacker told him, "We don't want you here, White principal," Escoto said.

He was treated and released from a local hospital.

The Los Angeles Times re-

ported in recent editions that Bernstein had asked the Anti-Defamation League last month for help in dealing with what he saw as growing anti-White sentiment at the 750-pupil school.

"He wanted advice regarding what was potentially a discriminatory situation he felt he was experiencing," said Sue Stengel, a lawyer for the group. The ADL sent him complaint forms, but they were not returned.

Bernstein also called on Los Angeles Unified School District administrators for help, said Eli Brent, president of the principals union.

Instead, Bernstein was told he might be dismissed or demoted because his administration might be responsible for the unrest, Brent told the Times.

The attack occurred as the nation's second-largest school district struggles with teaching

681,000 students from widely different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. The school where the attack took place is 90 percent Hispanic.

Those factors can sometimes lead to racial tensions and misunderstandings, school officials said, but racially motivated violence against principals and teachers is rare.

Teachers said some parents are upset that Bernstein is not Hispanic and does not speak Spanish. Others said the attack was simply a matter of disaffected individuals using the White-Hispanic issue to spread hate.

"Parents at all schools say they want to change principals sometimes," said teacher's aide Pedro Mendoza, who rushed Bernstein to the hospital. "But they wouldn't go to the extent of hurting an individual."

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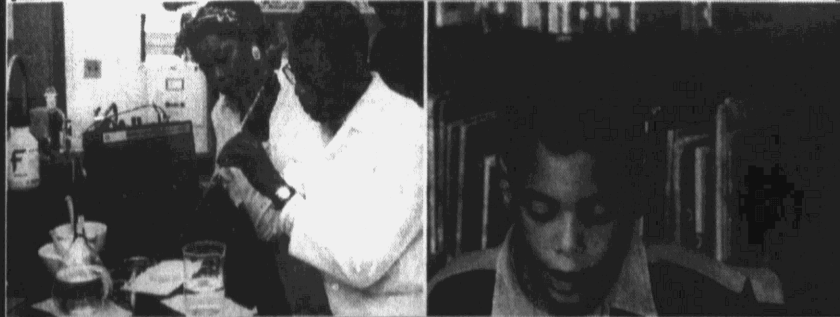
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IMAGES OF SOUL

What is soul?
Soul is the image of Billie Holiday,
eyes closed, singing the blues.
Soul is the image of hands raised,
joined in a gesture of unity.
Soul is the image of Dr. Carter G. Woodson,
who fought to keep Black History alive.
Soul. You know it when you see it.

BUDWEISER CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH BY RECOGNIZING THE PEOPLE AND PLACES THAT HELP SHAPE OUR WORLD.

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Perspectives of Stephen Johnson Who speaks for Young Black America?

It is generally assumed that the youth of America will one day become the leaders of tomorrow. However, there currently seems to be a disturbing lack of leadership representative of Young Black America. Unfortunately no one speaks for the young, particularly on those issues that affect them the most. These days, as we realize that there is a shortage of Black leaders, questions of who will lead the future of Black America constantly arise. The problems that have faced us in the past still affect us today. However, the methods we use in dealing with

them have changed considerably. While the older generations dealt with an overt form of racism, we have grown up in the aftermath of the Civil Rights Era. The prejudices we face are usually far more subtle, and infinitely more dangerous. Yet, overt racism is also on the rise, as well. Unlike our parents, we have to deal with both. Also, most young Americans of all nationalities are business minded. Our generation contains the biggest boom of entrepreneurs on record. We believe the key to success in America is to own a

piece of it. Because of that, the growing communications technologies, and our interaction with other nationalities, working together to achieve a greater America is evitable. There is still much for young Black America to learn and to teach, particularly since many "Generation Xers" are now also mothers and fathers. We understand that our children must come first, just as our parents felt we were their future. We believe that our children are our future. Whatever measure of success we achieve is for the sole purpose of

leaving a legacy for them, so that they may grow up in a world better than our own. However, it takes generations of men and women to teach and encourage the young. Yet the question remains, who speaks for young Black America? What keeps Young America from voicing their opinion on the state of our nation? Where is the opportunity to voice them? Does anyone truly believe we have nothing important to say? Will you speak for young Black America? Will anyone?



Young Black Americans: Our children, our future.

"Leadership": continued from page 1

ture the dissatisfied White American who wanted government intervention without racial preference. Republican presidential candidates were never equally challenged to appeal to the Black voter, although the 1990 Republican National Chairman, Lee Atwater, hoped to garner 20% of the 1992 Black vote—ensuring Republican dominance in presidential and congressional elections. Recognizing this, Arkansas Governor William Jefferson Clinton and Senator Al Gore helped found the Democratic Leadership Council in 1985. This organization of centrist Democrats was designed to develop unifying political themes, both for party and electorate. In 1992, these "new" Democrats took the presidential stage, only after distancing themselves from a liberal, leftist, old Democrat named Jesse Jackson during his own national

convention. This particular strategy was predicated upon an assumption that Black voters only had one real choice. Blacks would either a) vote Democrat; b) endure the psychological damage of voting for the party of Jesse Helms; or c) endure the pain of staying away from the polls as they did in 1988 (in protest to Dukakis dangling the vice-presidential plum before Jackson). Perhaps in light of the impeachment melodrama, one can assume that Clinton has again presented Black America with similar alternatives and similar dilemmas: Rally behind Clinton or face the Republican alternative. This is an interesting proposition given the "new" Democrat's past treatment of Lani Guinier, Henry Foster, Jocelyn Elders, and Mike Espy, to name a few. Moreover, given the voting history of the American electorate, this proposition places Black America in a predicament. Immediate electorate gratification may present long-term effects if the coalition

supporting the Democrats splits again with White America overwhelmingly on one side and Black America on the other. Expending political capital on supporting Clinton could prove misguided, particularly if Black America requires such capital for future endeavors. Such capital is essential if Black America is required to negotiate substantive coalitions in the upcoming year 2000 presidential contest. Has Black America considered the credibility effects of placing the future of Black interests on an embattled president and party? History confirms the danger of White backlash against Democrats who placed civil rights protection center-stage. Black America has moved away from being the swing vote in presidential races to being the vote taken for granted. The 2000 presidential races would reconfirm this. For example, suppose Clinton resigns, or a Senate conviction removes him from office. Vice-President Al Gore then must take over as Chief Executive Officer.

His front-runner for the 2000 campaign is now called into question: Does he distance himself from Clinton and the scandals? Alternatively, does Gore continue presenting an agenda (seemingly) amenable to Blacks? Choosing the former may present Black America an opportunity for increased political influence, or it may close the door on future influence. Black America must consider whether presidential candidate Gore could survive questions about government's role in assisting race relations. Conversely, if Gore chooses the latter, it may require Black America to again resign itself to a less prominent role in presidential politics, a proposition of interest given its strong 1998 showing. Additionally, could Gore withstand a strong Republican challenge, particularly with Black Republican J.C. Watts, the incoming Chair of the Republican House Caucus, leading the call for Black America to rethink its political allegiance? Even if Clinton sees

out his term, these questions remain. The elite of Black America seems not to have thought of these challenges. Instead, Black America is inundated with press conferences, spiritual vigils, and pleas to contact their member of Congress. Even more disturbing, given the recent victories of California's Proposition 209 and Proposition 200 in Washington state, supporters of affirmative action are politically "running scared." Blanket support without critical analysis and rebuke undermines Black America's future position. How can Black America criticize the use of race for political gain by Senators Jesse Helms and Trent Lott and simultaneously applaud Clinton's usage of the race card? During the recent State of the Union Address, Clinton sat civil rights movement icon Rosa Parks in the row of the First Lady for all of Black America and the media to see. According to him, it was to illustrate the courageousness of Americans who question

institutionalized racism and the state of race relations. Well, who in Black America is questioning the Democratic Party's use of racial language and racial imagery to keep Blacks as partisan Democrats? As cultural icons age so must political sophistication regarding how both parties have used race to their advantage, and to the collective disadvantage of Black Americans. At no point should Black America confine its intellectual and political resource to merely responding to the Republican agenda. Contrary to popular beliefs, when Black Republicans began voting for the Democrats in the 1930's and 1940's, it did not intend to concentrate its resources into the Democratic party. Roosevelt had a dismal record on civil rights and race during his earlier terms. Yet Blacks voted for the Democrat out of political necessity. But, from 1952 to 1960, they remained slightly independent of the party. Today, the majority of Black America seems to have forgotten

"Justice": continued from page 1

In New York, an unarmed man with no criminal record was shot and killed by four officers who were searching for a serial rapist. Amadou Ahmed Diallo, a 22-year-old West African immigrant, was killed February 4 in the vestibule of the building where he shared a small apartment with two roommates. The four officers involved fired a total of 41 shots. We don't know what happened, because we haven't spoken to them, but it looks like one guy panicked and the rest followed suit." The New York Times quoted an unidentified police official as saying, "Three of the four officers involved, all assigned to the 43rd Precinct in the Bronx, have been involved in prior shooting incidents. No criminal charges were brought in two cases, and the third is still under investigation. In California, a 19-year old Black woman was killed by police who apparently fired at least 27 bullets at her as she sat locked in a car with a gun. A witness at the scene stated that the victim, Tyisha Shenee Miller, was unconscious, and couldn't have raised a gun at

officers, as police claimed. Police later rescinded earlier statements that Ms. Miller had fired a shot at officers. Relatives also disputed that she grabbed a gun. "First they say she shot a gun, then she didn't shoot," said Bernell Butler, an uncle. "What will it be tomorrow? That she made a gun? They shot a sleeping woman." In the California case, the police department and the district attorney's office are investigating the incident, and a federal civil rights probe could follow. That bias exists in the criminal justice system is a given. However, the previous examples notwithstanding, it is surprising that so many law enforcement officials continue to deny that biases exist. In the state of New Jersey, the Supreme Court recently dismissed a challenge to the state's death penalty. Citing two years of investigation and deliberation, the court came to the conclusion that there was insufficient evidence to support the argument that Blacks are far more likely to receive the death sentence more than their White counterparts. Local civil rights activists were outraged, and claimed that they would appeal the Supreme Court decision. The case centered on

death row inmate Donald Loftin, a Black man convicted of killing a gas station attendant during a 1992 robbery. Loftin's attorneys said an analysis of cases showed Blacks had a higher risk of receiving the death penalty for comparable crimes than non-Blacks. Such suspicion regarding the fairness of the sentencing process is not confined to New Jersey. Perhaps the most visible case involving charges of racism in the sentencing process is that of Mumia Abu-Jamal, author of "Live From Death Row", and prisoner on Pennsylvania's death row. Mumia, who co-founded the Philadelphia Chapter of the Black Panther Party at age 15, later became a journalist who reported on cases of brutality and corruption of the Philadelphia Police Department. On December 9, 1981, police officer Daniel Faulkner (who, according to witnesses, was beating Mumia's brother, William Cook) was fatally shot on a Philadelphia street. Mumia Abu-Jamal, who had arrived on the scene, was also shot, critically wounded and beaten. Mumia was arrested for the murder of the police officer, and was tried before Judge Albert Sabo in 1982.

Key points of why protesters insist that Mumia Abu-Jamal should receive a new and fair trial are include that Judge Sabo has sent more people to death row than any other seated judge in the country and has a documented bias against Black defendants. Also, the prosecution claimed that Mumia had confessed to killing Faulkner, although initial police reports state that Mumia made no comments and the police only "remembered" the alleged confession two months later. The writer of the words "the negro male made no comment" on a December 9th police report, Officer Gary Wakshul, was reportedly "on vacation" during the '82 trial, and Judge Sabo did not wait for his return. Mumia was denied his right to self-representation and was even sent out of the courtroom during key portions of the trial. There was no concrete evidence tying Mumia to the crime. The medical examiner judged the bullet that killed Faulkner to be .44 caliber. Mumia's gun, a legally registered .38, was not tested to see if it was recently fired, and Mumia's hands were never checked for gunpowder residue. Finally, the prosecution's star witnesses changed their stories

reportedly, and any allegations of bribery or threats against the witnesses was suppressed by Judge Sabo. A December 1995 edition of the American Lawyer stated that "flaunted his bias, oozing partiality toward the prosecution." The previous examples demonstrate a dangerous bias that affects the perception of the Black community by law enforcement officials. In an era where we are told to reach for the stars, it seems clear that there are those determined to hold others back, either from fear or a contaminated point of view. It would be fair to assume that the majority of law enforcement officers and officials are fair and impartial in their dealings with the minority communities. The difficulty, however, comes from not knowing what type of officer will be coming to assist you when there's an emergency, or what type of official will be present during legal difficulties. One hopes that, at some point, the law enforcement establishment will accept the fact that they are human, too, and that they are capable of bias, just like everyone else. Trey Bankhead is the editor of the Minority Voice.

how Clinton and the Democratic Leadership Council abandoned the principles of liberal politics in order to win the 1992 and 1996 presidential elections, only to revisit racial issues again in desperation of the 1998 congressional elections and the 1999 State of the Union Address. What new dilemmas will the presidential race of the new millennium present Black America? Will Black America seize this moment in history to re-examine its political allegiance and challenge both parties to present concrete strategies designed to strengthen the fabric of communities, alleviate poverty, apathy, and racial antagonism? Alternately, will Black America relegate itself to the political background again, only to be called upon "when the time is right" for opportunistic politicians? Tyson King-Meadows is a professor of Political Science at East Carolina University.

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- Youth Baseball Supervisor and Leaders/Coaches
- Tennis Instructors/Coaches
- Camp Sunshine Day Camp Counselors/Special Populations
- Epps Recreation Assistant
- River Park North Day Camp Counselors
- Bus Drivers/Counselors
- Aquatics program personnel (outdoor City Pool) Pool Manager, Assistant Pool Manager, Lifeguards, and Swim Instructors.

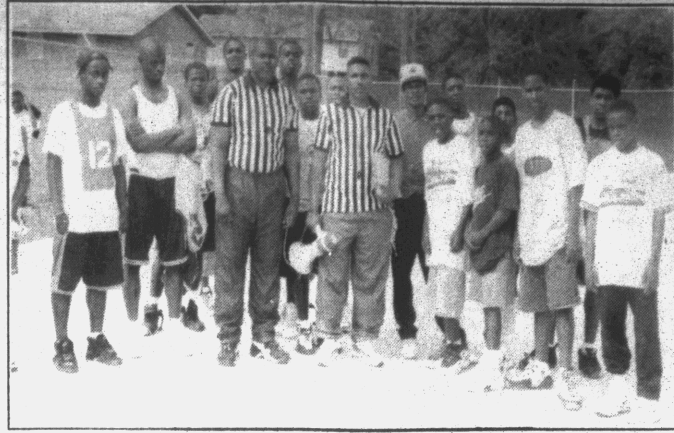
Most jobs are 20-30 hours per week for 7-8 weeks, beginning June 14th. City Pool begins May 29th. Aquatics & Fitness Center job openings at present time as well as during the summer.

Salary: Non-supervisory - \$5.15 to \$5.40 per hour
Supervisory - \$6.00 to \$8.00 per hour
(Hourly rates vary for selected positions based on specific job requirements)
Apply by Friday, April 16, 1999 to the City of Greenville, Human Resources, 201 Martin Luther King Jr., Drive, (West Fifth Street) P.O. Box 7207, Greenville, NC 27835

From the "M" Voice Archives.....



Hats off!!!!.....to the memory of "The Hat Lady," Mrs. Lillie Shiver. The "Money Hat" she wore helped support the fund-raising efforts of the GIHS/Eppes Alumni Scholarship fund.



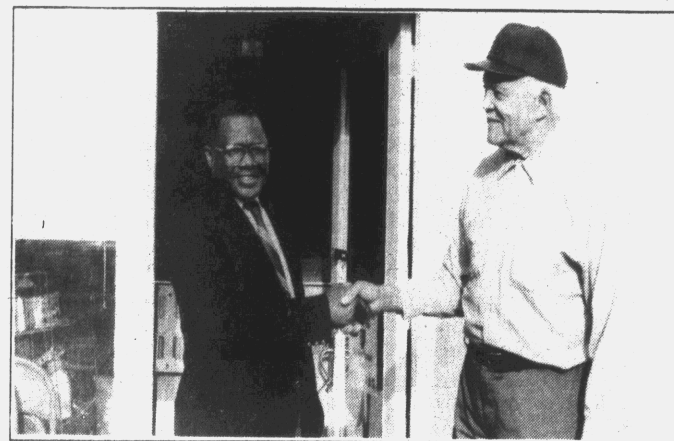
Pictured Above : Break Time During summer break, kids and staff at the Moyewood Community Center take time for some B-ball. Staff photo by Jim Rouse



"I am somebody! I am somebody!".... echoed over and over during a visit to our area by the illustrious Jesse Jackson, Jr. What better time to reflect back on these photos from the "M" Voice Archives than Black History Month?



Did You Know?.....that City Cab Company was started by the late Luke Best. The Best family was one of Pitt County's richest Black families, and owned land all over Pitt County. Today, City Cab Company still gives good service, with Luke Best's children running the business he started over forty years ago.



"Fill 'er up?" The Eaton Gas Station was the last Black-owned gas station in Pitt County. Shown above at his Albemarle Avenue Shell station is owner Father "Red" Eaton (right), shaking the hand of former principal J. B. "Barbeque" Smith. Red can give you a history of Black folks from "back in the day!"



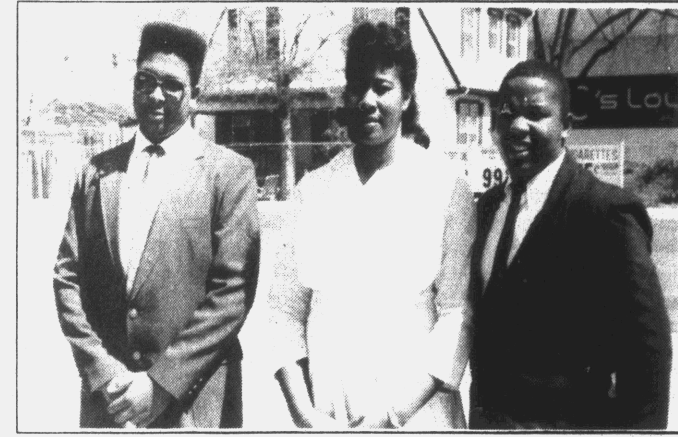
"Through the corners of my mind".....Brother Cornel Holiday (left) says that "Whenever I pause to reflect on the heroes in Black History, the first person who comes to mind is my father." He's referring to the late Jimmy Holiday (right).



Old timers:.....Here are some of Greenville's oldest baseball players, who played ball back in the day of the Colored League. Shown here, from left to right, are George Garrett, "Skip," "White," "Bo" Nobles, and "June" Johnson, standing at the old Eppes Field on West Fifth Street.



Standing proud.....is Elizabeth Lee Pritchard, who won a scholarship to Winston-Salem State University in the Jabberwock Scholarship Contest. Ms. Pritchard has completed one summer session and one fall session at Winston-Salem, and is hard at work during the current semester. Keep up the good work!



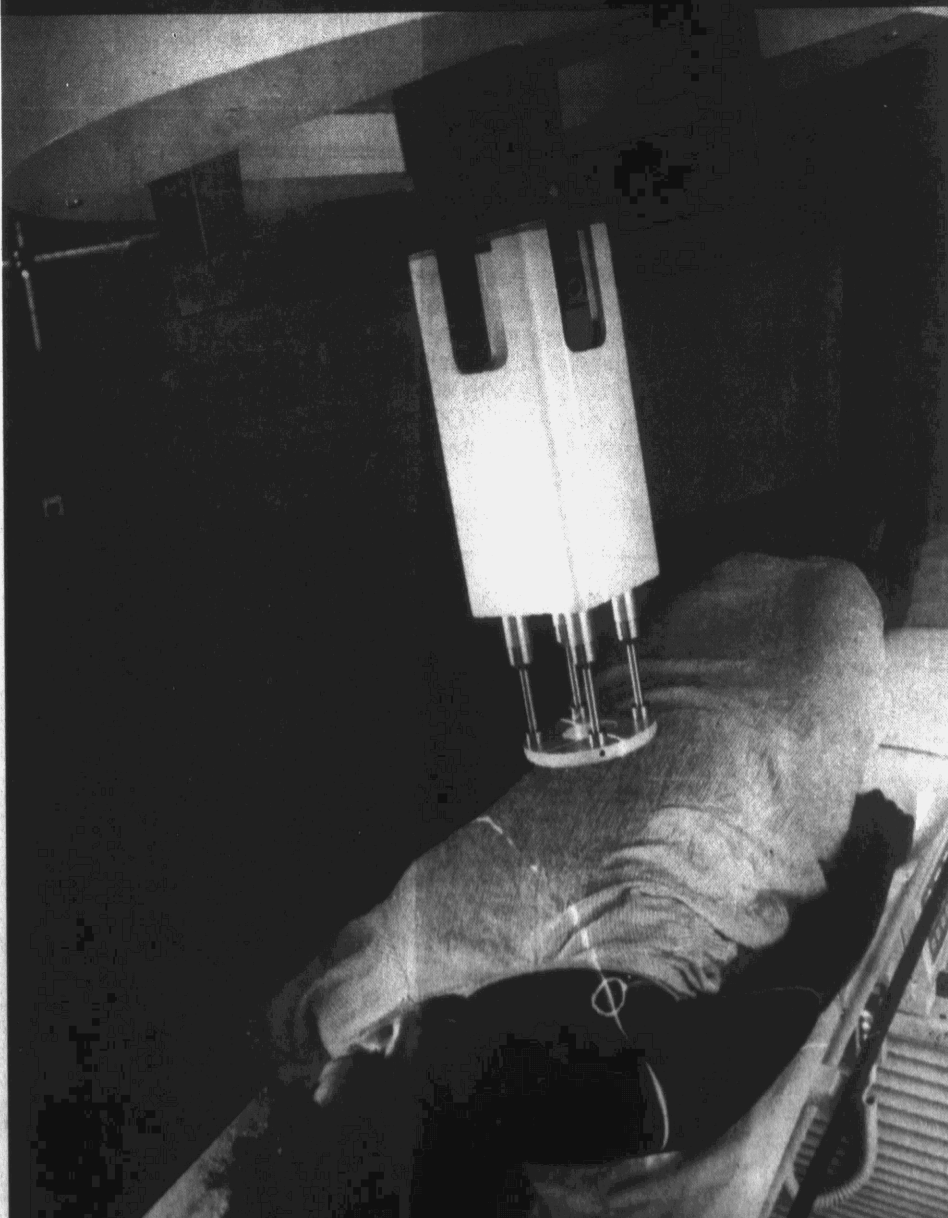
Win a free CD!!!! Shown above is one of Greenville's finest police officers (right), shown with his family. Name this officer and win a free CD, compliments of *The Minority Voice*.

Hear the word "cancer" and your mind probably turns to thoughts of pain, suffering and fleeting time. But here's another word for you: Hope. And at the University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina's Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center, we're using leading-edge technology, breakthrough surgical treatments and innovative clinical trials to give cancer patients more and more hope each year.

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a host of educational and support services. And now, people throughout our region have access to the high-tech equipment and special expertise at our Cancer Center. As well as vital services offered at our community hospitals—Roanoke-Chowan in Ahsokie, Heritage in Tarboro, Bertie Memorial in Windsor or Chowan in Edenton. So no matter which University Health Systems hospital is nearest you, be assured that you and your family will receive the most sophisticated and compassionate care available. And that means that, today, where there is cancer, there is also a tremendous amount of hope. For more information, call 252-816-4526. Or if you prefer, visit us at www.uhseast.com.

Familiar Faces.....



IN HONOR OF MY SON, WESLEY
A SPECIAL MIRACLE CHILD
 Submitted by his mother, Mrs. Christine E. Jetter
 Dedicated to the Memory of My Husband Glenn

Born on November 27, 1962 in Plymouth, North Carolina, at the Washington County Hospital, Wesley, as he is affectionately called by his family and friends, lived his primary years in Pantego, North Carolina. He attended the Pantego public schools for his first grade and part of his second grade, for his family relocated to Pitt County. Wesley continued the remainder of his informal education in Pitt County, graduating from J.H. Rose High School. Upon graduation, Wesley attended North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro. Having attended North Carolina A&T for three years, he looks forward to his fourth year and the completion of his formal training in engineering.

Living in Greensboro proved to be very beneficial for Wesley, for he is yet surrounded by the love and support of his family and in-laws (the Hammond Family), Pastor, church family and friends. Wesley is shown (above) here with members of his immediate and extended family. Harold Wesley had been married to Cheryl Hammond Patrick (LOCATION) for twelve years. They have three lovely children: Bethany, Trey, and Hazel, and one handsome son, Kentrell, whom they are raising as their own. Harold was also instrumental in helping to raise his nieces, Cynthia and Michelle Winfield and nephew, Tyrone Rogers.

At birth, the medical physicians thought that both Wesley and I would not live, but God was in control. I made a commitment to God in my spirit the very day of Wesley's birth that if He spared our lives, then I would rededicate my life and the life of my miracle child back to Him. God answered my prayers. As Wesley grew older and acted as if he had little concern about his spiritual life, drifting in and out of church; I would oftentimes pray and ask of God: "Do you really want Wesley as your

servant?" Wesley would always listen respectfully to what I had to say to him, but he would never respond.

Wesley's spiritual life had begun at the embryo stage and continues on today. He attended the St. Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church in Pantego as well as other churches in the community. Denomination was not an issue with our family so any church that was available and willing to accept us was attended. On fourth Sundays, we visited the First Baptist Church in Belhaven and/or the Antioch Disciples Church of Christ in Board Creek where Rev. Boomer maintained his membership. Whenever we visited church, altar calls were always held. I would drag Wesley to the altar for prayer. Wesley would be pulling back, but I would take him to the altar anyway. Eventually, Wesley was old enough to make his own decisions to receive to altar prayer. In Greenville, North Carolina, Wesley united with

Cornerstone MB Church. Wesley was faithful at Cornerstone, serving diligently in Sunday School, the Youth Choir, Baptist Training Union (BTU), "Boy Scouts and other spiritual church functions.

Prior to Wesley's third birthday, Wesley's father deserted the family and I was left to assume the roles of both mother and father. Wesley was devastated, as any young child would have been. Wesley eventually succumbed to depression and a life of being extremely unhappy. Wesley finally began to emerge from his state of depression and expressed a desire to have a father figure in his life. Five years had passed since the desertion of his father when Mr. Glenn Jetter, Jr., appeared on the scene. Glenn later became Wesley's stepfather. Glenn truly fulfilled the father-figure desire for not only Wesley, but to many other children who lived in our home--many of whom were not biologically related to the family. Glenn's practice of expressing love and concern to all, both young and old, was witnessed by all until Glenn's death. Glenn had enrolled Wesley, Jake, and David in community programs including Scouting to help en-

hance their potentialities, build self-esteem and develop their personalities and attitudes. Wesley and his stepfather were close. Wesley learned a lot about traveling as well as learning how to prepare and pack for traveling. Wesley provided quality time with Glenn during his illness and continued to do until Glenn's death. On many occasions, Wesley would dress Glenn and take him to church.

As indicated previously, Wesley was very active in the community. To my surprise, he gave much of his time to helping the elderly. It was only after Wesley left for college that I learned how much time Wesley donated to assisting the elderly--for there were many older people that continued to inquire about him. Wesley had been cleaning their yards, and keeping them stocked in firewood. To his belated grandmother, Mrs. Bertha Ensley, Wesley was a

jewel. He kept a close check on her, especially when he wanted to get away from home and have more freedom. Unbeknownst to Wesley, he was of great assistance to me. His step-grandmother Henrietta Collier, his step-aunt, Margo Wynn, and their families adored Wesley. He made our home environment pleasant and enjoyable whenever he visited our home from the State of New Jersey. Wesley's cousins treated him as if he was their biological brother. There are many miracle children in this world but Harold Wesley Boomer, Jr., is definitely a miracle child.

His being a miracle child was evidence enough for me that God had a special calling planned for Wesley's life. He recently took his first steps in gospel preaching; he preached his initial sermon recently in Greensboro, North Carolina, at the Nu-Life Church of God in Christ.

Today I am confident that God worked things out for us as He saw fit. I was uneasy with Wesley preaching his initial sermon, for I felt that he was not yet adequately prepared to present God's Word to God's people. It was my thoughts that Wesley

should wait a little longer and overcome more valleys and mountains in his life before standing before a congregation and declaring the Word of God. I had no doubt that he could do the job; I just wanted to feel unequivocally assured that Wesley was prepared, steadfast, unmovable and confident in the knowledge that he was doing what thus said the Lord regardless of how anyone else felt. Nevertheless, I was wrong, for God had dressed him up and prepared him for the task at hand. I could see that Wesley was sure about his calling, for he was willing and anxious to stand up and deliver what God had placed in his heart to tell the waiting congregation. I was very elated. I could see that Wesley had studied in his lessons and was fully prepared to declare God's Word. My confidence level rose from that day, for I had the blessed assurance that Wesley had moved on to the next level of Christianity with confidence in himself, regardless

of what the world may say about him.

Pray for him that he will hold to the gospel plow, be strong and not be destroyed by the "wilds of the devil." The extreme best is yet to come as God continues to mold him and to make him after His own will. Wesley has made a start and he has taken a big step. He can never turn back now. He has now applied his hand to the gospel plow therefore he cannot look back. He has to remain focused and move forward.

To God be the Glory for what He has done and is still doing in the lives of the Ensley, Jetter, Boomer, Winfield, Rogers, and Hammond families.

As a parent, grand-parent and even a great-grandparent, I sincerely believe that when parents teach and train their child/children starting from embryo thru the developmental stages teaching them properly, steering examples, doing the right thing before them, sharing quality time with them, and supervising their activities, our children will be what God require of them to be, because we are to train our children while they will still listen to us.



Yesterday's students, tomorrow's doctors.....(Back row, left to right: Zena Arthur and Pam Crawford; Front row: Lukeshia Bonner, Belinda O'Neal, and Portia Lloyd)

The five young women pictured above just graduated from the Nursing Assistant II program at Beaufort Community College. These five students successfully completed the course in January, and are now prepared to work in supervised health care positions in hospitals and nursing homes.



Learning about their heritage.....Sylvester Tyson and Tommy Hines (left) learn facts about "how we got over" from Ernest "Red" Eaton and Alonza "Bud" Hall (right). After all, Red and Bud have been there, and done that! (photo by Jim Rouse)



Setting the standard.....Black history starts with these fathers. Posing for the "M" Voice camera are Red Eaton (left) and Fillmore Bell. Both of these fathers work for themselves, setting good examples of Black men as strong individuals. They both believe that hard work and dedication to your community, church and family will keep you around a loooong time past 70 years! (photo: Jim Rouse)



Royalty among us.....Father Prince Hemby, who has been around and knows the history of Greenville from "back in the day," remembers the days when a Black man had to walk softly and speak only when spoken to. Times have certainly changed! Brother, keep on keepin' on! (photo by Jim Rouse)




"Brothers and sisters, lend me your ears.....Renowned story-teller and educator, Mrs. Bennie Streeter Wilkins (right) pauses to enjoy some quiet time with her mom, Mrs. Hattie Streeter (left), and one of her dearest friends and staunchest supporters, Mrs. Sujette Jones (center). Now residing in California, Mrs. Wilkins is a Greenville native who comes home every time opportunity allows. We look forward to her return so she can "bend our ears" with another of her interesting stories. (photo by Jim Rouse)



"I don't feel no ways tired...." Local legend Brother J. J. Brown, shown here at a ceremony where he was the guest of honor, is certainly a man among men. His continuous efforts for the betterment of mankind are tireless. (photo by Jim Rouse)

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From the Desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



(MRS. B. C. MAYE'S COLUMN)
CURRENT BLACK HISTORY FACTS

African president.

1. Nkem Chukwu, a Houston woman, who recently became the mother of the world's first surviving octuplets.
2. Michael Jordan is nation's favorite sports star.
3. Kweisi Mfume is national president of the NAACP.
4. Famed comedian Flip Wilson died.
5. Don King pledged an unspecified amount of millions of dollars for the Shaw University gymnasium to bear his name.
6. Esther Rolle, who won fame on the '70's sitcom "Good Times", recently died.
7. Mark Whitaker named first Black editor of NEWSWEEK magazine. He's a 1979 Harvard graduate.
8. Nelson Mandela is South

9. Retired General Colin Powell recently urged Hollywood to show youth better images of Blacks on TV.
10. Willie Mays ranked second of greatest Black baseball players. (Babe Ruth, first first).
11. Children are more likely to excel in school when their parents are involved.
12. Proper exercise is key to boosting your health.
13. The late civil rights lawyer Thurgood Marshall, who rose to become the first U.S. Supreme Court Justice, had a building named for him in the nation's capital on February 3, 1999.

14. Eva Clayton, the only Black woman to ever represent North Carolina in Congress.
15. More education equals higher earnings in life.
16. Record high of 60-plus Blacks working with Clinton at White House, as of March 30, 1998.
17. Dr. Benjamin Solomon Carson, Sr., renowned neurosurgeon, heads the pediatric neurosurgeon unit of Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. He successfully separated the Siamese twins in 1987.
18. Vanessa L. Williams, popular recording artist and actress, became the first Black woman crowned "Miss America" on September 17, 1983.
19. Martin Luther King, III, president of the Southern Christian

Leadership Conference (SCLC).

20. Oprah Winfrey is recognized as the richest woman in television. (MRS. B. C. MAYE - PAGE TWO) BLACK HISTORY FACTS
21. Toni Morrison in 1993 became the first Black American to win the Nobel Prize in Literature. Her latest-selling novel is PARADISE.
22. Reverend Jesse Jackson, President Clinton's family spiritual adviser.
23. George Stevens, Jr., 16, has overcome being born without arms by using his feet the way many would use their hands. He uses his feet to excel in life.
24. Laughter is the best medicine.
25. Mary McLeod Bethune, one of the most visible and influential African Americans.
26. Shirley Chisholm, 1972 ran for President of the United States.
27. Madame C. J. Walker taught women feminine beauty with her beauty care products.
28. Sarah McWilliams invented a metal "hot" comb and a hair conditioner (known as hair straightener) for Black women.
29. George Washington Carver, most famous for his work with the peanut, from which he derived some 300 products; and from the sweet potato more than 100 products. The George Washington Carver Library located on West Fourteenth Street in Greenville is named in his honor.
30. James Weldon Johnson wrote

the Negro National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing".

31. Dr. Carter G. Woodson, "The Father of Negro History", which he started in 1926. 32. The 1999 theme: "The Legacy of African American Leadership for the Present and the Future".
33. Clarence Thomas was appointed U.S. Supreme Court Justice by President George Bush following Thurgood Marshall.
34. Colin Powell named Chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff (a most powerful military position in the world) by President George Bush.
35. Marian Wright Edelman, Founder Children's Defense Fund, 1973, fights for freedom and equality for Blacks and non-Blacks as a civil rights activist and for her fight for the moral and political health of America.
36. The Bill Cosbys gave 20 million to Spellman College.
37. Johnetta Cole, first Black woman President of Spellman College. QUESTION: Who are the most influential Blacks in Greenville? Pitt County? (MRS. B. C. MAYE

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Even though there were no other Black funeral homes in Pitt County at the time Walter still ran into opposition, primarily because Black residents were being serviced by local White funeral homes. Walter spent a great deal of time sitting near the bridge that crosses the Tar River at Greene Street, patiently waiting for passers-by who had need of burial services. Finally, Walter received the support of a local Black Physician, Dr. J. A. Battle, who became an instrumental part of his gaining acceptance in the community.

In 1926, Walter become interested in real estate. After excellent successes in the Greenville market, he decided to expand his investments to Raleigh, and eventually to New York, Washington, and Baltimore. Although real estate proved to be lucrative for Walter, it also did not come easy because of his color. He was often forced to assume the role of a painter or carpenter to gain access to certain real estate he wish to purchase. In 1932, the Depression came and found Walter in the position of being an unofficial loan agency. He made interest-free unsecured loans to assist his friends and neighbors to save their homes.

While real estate had been very good to Walter over the years, he felt that he needed to concentrate on his first love: the funeral home business. With a reputation for providing a high quality service, Walter slowly expanded his services from the Greenville-Pitt County area to the point where he now has offices in the following neighboring communities: Bethel, Robersonville, Vanceboro, and Williamston.

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The staff of the M Voice salutes the achievements of Black America: Past, Present, and Future!

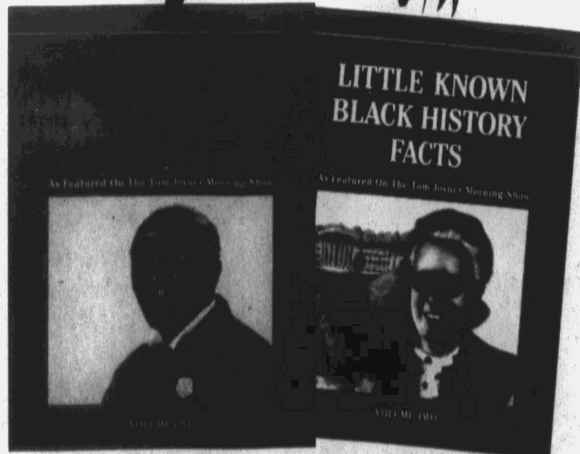
DID YOU KNOW

that the original model of the Statue of Liberty was an African American woman holding broken chains?



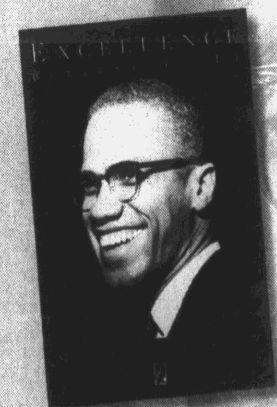
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BLACK HERITAGE USA 33



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OUR HERITAGE: Marcus Mosiah Garvey

Marcus Mosiah Garvey (1887-1940) arrived in the United States from Jamaica almost penniless in 1916 but within six years he boasted of an organization with branches worldwide that had over six million registered members. He was almost worshipped by the black masses throughout the world for his vision of organizing the black race through race pride, education, self-reliance, economic development, and the desire to build a strong African motherland controlled by Africans. Garvey wrote: "I read Booker T. Washington's *Up From Slavery* and then my doom—if I may so call it—of being a race leader dawned upon me. I asked, Where is the black man's government? Where is his king and kingdom? Where is his president, his country, his ambassadors, his army, his navy, and his men of big affairs? I could not find them. I decided, I will help to make them."

Marcus Garvey founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) in Harlem in 1918. By 1924 there were over 700 branches in 38 states and over 200 branches throughout the world as far away as South Africa at a time when there was no e-mail, television, or even radio to advertise. Those who could not hear Garvey directly received his views through his newspaper called the *Negro World*, which boasted a circulation as high as 200,000 by 1924. The most recent speeches of Marcus Garvey were published in addition to articles on race pride, self-reliance, and anti-colonialism.

In 1919, the UNIA and *Negro World* were blamed for the numerous violent colonial uprisings in Jamaica, Grenada, Belize, Trinidad and Tobago. British and French authorities deported all UNIA organizers and banned the *Negro World* from all their colonies, but seamen continued to smuggle the paper throughout the world. In 1921, the U.S. Marines invaded a UNIA meeting in the Dominican Republic and arrested every man, woman and child in attendance. In Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) in 1927 an African was given life imprisonment for smuggling in only three copies of the newspaper. Although the *Negro World* was banned in Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta, the first president of independent Kenya, told how "someone who could understand English would read Garvey's *Negro World* message to a group of Africans until they were able to memorize it. They would then spread the message far and wide throughout the countryside."

"Race first" was the first major theme of Garvey in his attempt to restore race pride and to destroy the inferiority complex of black people. Garvey demanded that black people have black heroes: "Take down the pictures of White men and women from your walls and elevate your own men and women to that place of honor. Mothers! Give your children dolls that look like them to play with and cuddle." He demanded that his followers abandon skin lighteners and hair straighteners.

"God made no mistake when he made us black with kinky hair ... take the kinks out of your minds instead of your hair," Garvey said. In religion, Garvey insisted that black people should worship images of God and angels that look like them. Marcus Garvey also thought history was extremely important and told his audiences: "We have a beautiful history and we shall create another one in the future. When Europe was inhabited by savages, heathens and pagans, Africa was peopled with a race of cultured black men, who were masters in art, science and literature. Whatsoever a black man has done, a black man can do."

Self-reliance and economic development was Garvey's second major theme. He founded the "Negro Factories Corporation" in 1919 with the ultimate objective of "manufacturing every marketable commodity" and establishing factories throughout the world, which could also employ and train thousands of black workers. Garvey was proud that his corporate stock was only available to black people. Yet, he still raised enough money in New York City alone to operate three grocery stores, two restaurants, a printing plant, a steam laundry and a men's and women's manufacturing department that made uniforms, hats and shirts for such groups as his Black Cross Nurses. Similar enterprises occurred throughout the United States, Central America, and the West Indies.

In order to distribute these products worldwide, Marcus Garvey's organization raised enough money within one year (1919) in \$5 stock certificates to purchase three ships which he called the "Black Star

Line." Hugh Mulzac, a black ship's officer said that hundreds of thousands of people throughout the Western Hemisphere welcomed them as conquering heroes wherever they docked. He wrote: "Thousands of peasants came down from the hills on horses, donkeys and in



MARCUS GARVEY

makeshift carts, showering us with flowers, fruits, and gifts ... we had the first ship they had ever seen entirely owned and operated by colored men."

"Africa for Africans at home and abroad" was another very strong message from Marcus Garvey. He believed that if black people could not develop a strong country in Africa as a protective base, then white

people would eventually destroy all blacks especially African Americans; just as they had done to the Tasmanians, native Australians, and native Americans. Garvey petitioned the League of Nations, after World War I, to give the African colonies of Germany back to native Africans and to allow the UNIA to serve as custodian. He also negotiated with Liberia for land that could serve as a beachhead for trained African Americans to spread modern technology and scientific skills throughout Africa.

Garvey sent thousands of dollars of equipment to Liberia in preparation of transferring his headquarters to Monrovia, but was blocked at the last minute by extreme pressure from the neighboring British and French colonies. Garvey never gave up his dream of an independent African continent and even created the red, black and green flag in addition to a national anthem for his future African Republic.

The UNIA held a total of eight international conventions but none was more spectacular than the first, which was held from Aug. 1-31, 1920. Over 25,000 black delegates from around the world packed Madison Square Garden and the surrounding New York streets. Delegates reported to the convention on the problems of their native country and many of their grievances were contained in the "Declaration of Rights of the Negro People of the World." The major demands included: "All persons of African

descent anywhere in the world should be accepted as free citizens of Africa; Africans must set out to win justice by whatsoever means possible; blacks must not be tried by all-white judges and juries; Use of the word 'nigger' must cease; black history must be taught to black children; and there must be no taxation without representation."

Black intellectuals, especially W.E.B. DuBois, joined the NAACP and other Garvey haters and demanded that the U.S. attorney general have Garvey arrested and deported back to Jamaica. They were exceptionally jealous of Garvey's ability to amass millions of black supporters and raise millions of dollars while refusing to accept any money from whites. In 1922, Garvey was arrested and charged with mail fraud while promoting stock for the Black Star Line.

The trial was a complete mockery of justice. Even the judge, Julian Mack, was a member of the NAACP, which instigated Garvey's deportation. Garvey was given the maximum five-year prison sentence, but worldwide protests forced President Calvin Coolidge to commute his sentence after two years and have him deported. Marcus Garvey moved from Jamaica to London in 1935 and died of a stroke on June 10, 1940.

Upon his death, the man who had led the largest, most widespread, most powerful, and most influential movement among people of African descent in world history was completely ignored by American text-

books. Fortunately, his spirit lives through the millions of people he has uplifted. For example, Elijah Muhammad was a former UNIA member and while creating the Nation of Islam, he adopted many of Garvey's ideas like race first, self-reliance, and a separate black nation. Ho Chi Minh of Vietnam in his youth was a seaman and once spent several months in New York regularly attending UNIA meetings. Kwame Nkrumah, the first president of Ghana, attended many UNIA meetings as a student in New York and so admired Garvey that he named Ghana's shipping company the "Black Star Line" after Garvey's line.

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A Close Call For Black "Leaders"

Our black leaders in the N.C. State House sure had a close call last week, didn't they? We mean, they came within a hair's breadth of electing one of our own to the most powerful post in that legislative body, after our political masters the Democrats had told us that it wouldn't be proper to have him in that job.

As it was, it took 10 of our 17 elected "representatives" voting for the other side to set things right. And even then, it came within one vote of happening.

Whew! That was close! But the black community can breathe a sigh of relief now. The "outlaw" plan was averted, and the Democrats will be endlessly grateful to us for supporting them instead of ourselves. Like they always are. Right?

The outrageous plan (which seemed like it had all of the Black Caucus members' support) started out as a way for blacks to flex their own political muscle and put Dan Blue in as speaker in spite of the Democrats' decision to snub him.

No, no, no, the "reasonable" black folks in political circles say. That's not the way things work politically. We're a *minority*. We have to remember that, and act like it.

If we want power, we can't elect our own people, form our own coalitions that serve our own needs or get things done on our own terms.

No, if we want power, we have to vote for *other* folks who have our best interests at heart, or at least are willing to consider them when they've finished taking care of their own priorities.

And if we want our people in positions of power, we have to wait—~~patiently~~—until those we have helped

put in office feel the time and place are right, and then ask, politely.

And don't forget to say "please." They hate it when we demand things or act like we have some considerations coming.

But, some of our people argue, how could Dan and the caucus even think about making a deal with the Republicans? Sure, they were willing to vote for him, but it was only for purely ulterior political motives.

They don't love us for who we are, like the Democrats do. Uh-huh.

One thing about last week's fiasco puzzles us. Black folks have had nothing but contempt for the few black Republicans in office, because they don't put their race first.

When there is a conflict between what's best for black people and what the Republican Party wants, they are clearly Republicans first, and blacks second. Or third.

So how *exactly* are the black Democrats who buckled and fled in sheer terror in the face of the outrage of the Democratic Party different from those black Republicans we are supposed to despise?

No, we aren't going to call those blacks who voted against Dan Blue traitors or "not black enough." We have always hated it when demagogues whipped out that favorite catch-phrase.

No, those folks just made a bad decision. We need to sympathize and understand.

And we need to explain it to them in simple, declarative sentences that can't be misunderstood.

The black community needs representation.

If they can't give it to us, we'll find someone who can.

NAACP suspends branch members

NAACP President and CEO Kweisi Mfume moved swiftly to suspend several Dallas branch members for installing newly-elected officers on Jan. 5 in direct violation of the rules as outlined by the "NAACP Constitution and Bylaws for Branches" and the "NAACP Manual for Branch Election Procedures."

The Dallas Branch election held Dec. 5, 1998 was officially challenged and until it is certified or a new election is called, leaves in place the officers who served during 1997-98. The branch was notified of its status on Dec. 24, 1998.

"The National Office is immediately suspending everyone who participated in this unauthorized installation of officers," Mfume said. The suspension period will run through Feb. 28 or until the matter is adjudicated.

"Such an affront to our procedures is intolerable. This behavior will not be allowed in the Dallas Branch or anywhere else in the country. There are clear directives that branches whose elections are challenged must operate under these rules," Mfume said.

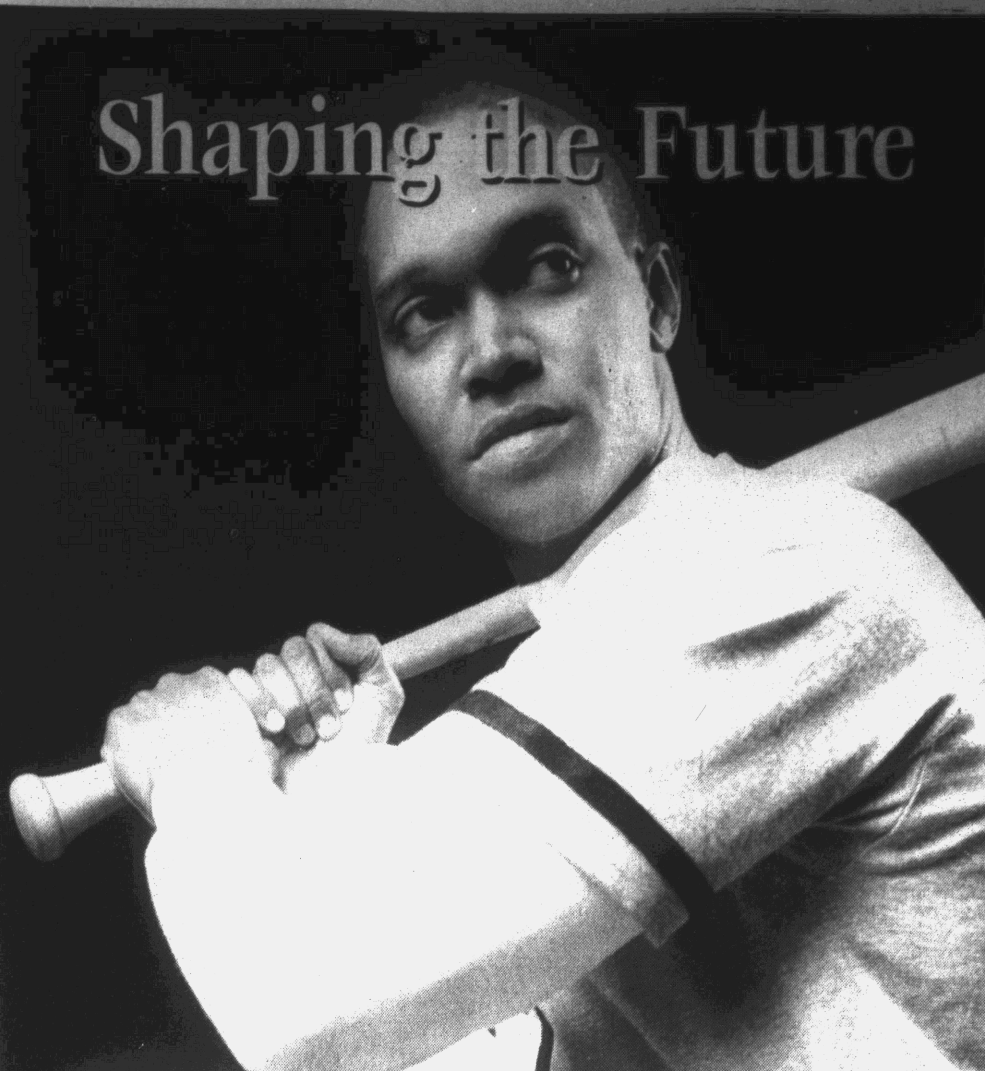
Howard law alumni elects new president

Attorney F. Malcolm Cunningham Jr. has been elected the national president of the Howard University Law Alumni Association for a one-year term. He has been an officer of the 3,500-member association since 1996.

As president, Cunningham will be responsible for all alumni activities including serving as an officer of the Howard Law School.

"Most of the year will be spent on infrastructure issues including the use of technology to enhance communications among alumni," he said. "I will spend the rest of the time raising money for the law school, recruiting students, and reminding America that the mission of the law school is to produce lawyers who are social engineers for justice."

A managing partner of Cunningham Law Firm in West Palm Beach, Fla., Cunningham received his juris doctor degree in 1980. He was admitted to the Florida Bar that same year. He is a member of both the American and National Bar associations.



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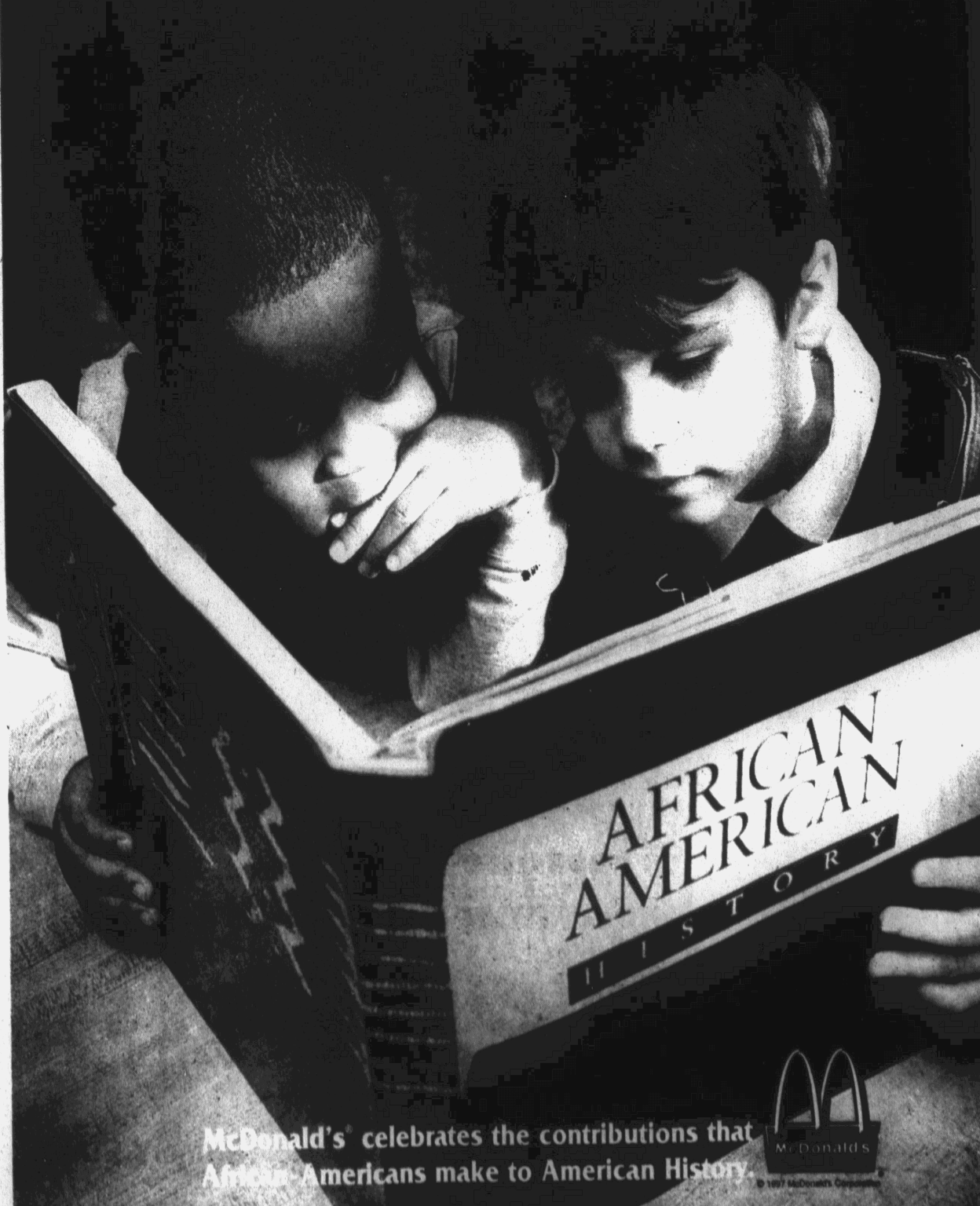



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Creative Souls

Outside

By Tracy Lovitt

I look across Halifax from Right Step and I see a big empty field. I close my eyes and picture how our ancestors worked in fields four times the size of that field. I can see how my great-great-great-great-grandparents slaved over the cotton and tobacco fields with their blistering hands and feet continuing to work under the unfair abusive conditions their masters formed for them. I can also see how many times they tried to escape from this unfair way of life.

Walking barefooted in the blazing sun sweating to death for their masters. In order to stay alive they groveled at their master's feet for another chance to do better and continue to live. Sometimes refusing to rebel, the slaves continued to work under these abusive conditions. The big tree at the center back of the field is where our ancestors, many of their friends and fellow co-workers in the field were tied to the tree and beaten like wild animals until they could no longer stand on their feet and they were barely conscious

I can see them trying to escape from this harsh life in the far left side of the field through the bushes. They hide in the bushes until nightfall for the perfect escape then just when they get far enough to think they're almost free... a faint but traveling dogs bark is heard coming from all directions, coming to take them back to their plantation where they belong. Dragged back to the "beating tree" I hear a slave cry for help in the dark and still night. Tying the slave to the tree for his punishment for trying to escape. I can hear as the slave owners crack the whip over his back as hard as they can beating the slave unconscious. When regaining consciousness, thinking to himself, he says, "One day, I will make it away from here. I will one day live a better life."

Tracy Lovitt, the author of this poem, is a Junior at the Right Step Academy charter public school in Greenville.

How?

By Ashley Staten

How can someone smile
when things are going wrong
But yet they still go on
And continue all the while?

How can someone stand
still
With destruction all around
But yet it makes no sound
To those within its will?

How can someone believe
In myths still left untold
And truths that won't unfold
But yet you're still deceived?

All are these questions and
more
And yet I still ask How?

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Winter Lace

By Ashley Staten

In the midst of the forest
As the sun begins to peer,
Through the limbs of the
trees
Life's essence becomes clear.

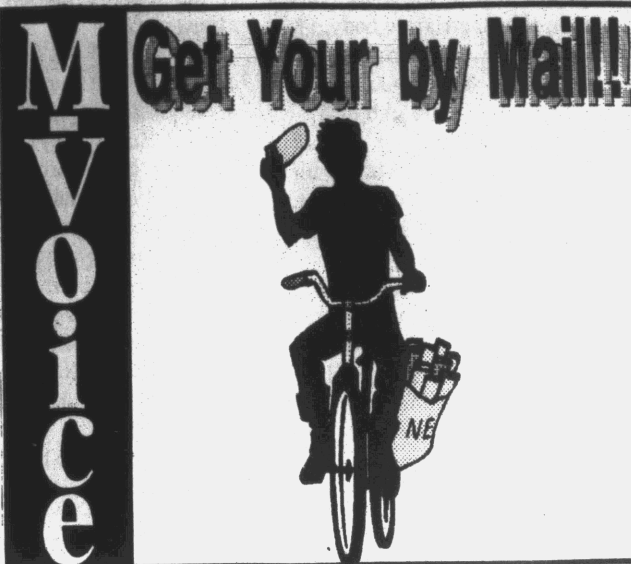
While winter winds grow
harsh,
The cloudless sky transforms
And manifests a veil
While winter takes its form.

Its first peak is a mist
So soft, so sweet, so warm;
It gently drifts and lands
But in a flash it's gone.

In the forest it clothes
And quilts every inch of
ground
As if to bespeak its love
To all that it has found.

While smoothly spread about
The scene bedazzled its grace
As forest, trees and limbs
Were covered with White
Lace.

Ashley Staten, the author of
"How?" and "Winter Lace," is
a Sophomore at
Farmville High School.



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