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February 19 - March 5, 1999

"Pride--If you haven't got it, you can't show it. If you have got it, you can't hide it."--Zora Neale Hurston, novelist

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The Minority Voice

Publisher: Jim Rouse
Editor: Trey Bankhead
Layouts: Chris White
Marketing: William Clark
 Stephen Johnson
 Brenda Rouse

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Jim Rouse Communications
 Home of AM Radio Stations
 WOOW & WTOW
 (JOY 1320 & JOY 1340)
 and
The Minority Voice

P.O. Box 8361
 405 S. Evans Street
 Greenville, NC 27834
 (252) 757-0365
 (252) 757-0425
 Fax: 757-1793

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Jasper, Texas: Jury delivers death sentence

JASPER, Texas (AP) -- Jurors decided today that John William King should be executed for dragging a Black man to his death behind a pickup truck, rejecting tearful pleas from the White racist's sickly father to spare his life.

He will become the only White on Texas' death row condemned for killing a Black person.

The 11 White jurors and their elected Black foreman took just under three hours to render the decision, about the same time as they took to find King guilty. They offered a few clues to their deliberations, sending out notes asking to see an 8-inch homemade knife found in King's cell as well as racist letters he sent from prison.

"As a group, we all agree that we are just common citizens who felt that serving on this jury was an obligation and not a privilege," foreman Joe Collins read from a statement. "Each of us believes that justice has been served."

Jurors convicted the 24-year-old King of capital murder Tuesday in the death of James Byrd Jr. last June. After the sentencing decision

was read today, Byrd's family members wiped their eyes but declined state District Judge Joe Bob Golden's offer to address King.

Renee Mullins, Byrd's daughter, said later that she was very satisfied with the decision. Nephew Darrell Verrett held up his fingers in the peace sign and said, "Everything's Okay."

As King was led from the courthouse, spectators outside taunted him, yelling, "Bye!" When asked if he had anything to say to the Byrd family, he responded with an obscenity.

King's father, who had pleaded for his son's life, was not in the courtroom when the punishment was announced.

"He just couldn't," said the Rev. Ron Forsage of St. Michael's Catholic Church, a family supporter. "He had to go home. He knew he couldn't take this."

Prosecutors asked for the maximum punishment, saying King would be a menace even behind bars.

"By giving Mr. King a life sentence, you're giving him at least

40 years to catch a Black guard, a Black nurse, a Black doctor, a Jewish guard, a Jewish nurse, a Jewish doctor, or anybody else," prosecutor Pat Hardy told the jury. "You're giving him a chance to catch anybody ... who doesn't believe in his satanic, racist views."

In deciding the sentence, jurors had to decide whether the murder was intentional, whether King was a continuing threat to society, and if any mitigating factor in King's background merited the lesser punishment of life in prison. They answered yes to the first two questions; no to the third.

Only one White man has ever been executed in Texas for killing a Black -- a farmer who killed another White farmer's favorite slave in the 1850s, according to research by a University of Florida professor.

Nationally, eight Whites have been executed for killing Blacks since the resumption of the death penalty more than two decades ago. Conversely, 124 Blacks have been put to death for killing Whites, according to the Death Penalty



Killer and victim: John William King (left) was convicted and sentenced to death for the vicious murder of James Byrd, Jr (right). King's compatriots are awaiting trial

Information Center in Washington.

Byrd, 49, died after he was picked up while walking home from a party. After a scuffle, he was pulled nearly three miles behind a pickup truck, chained by his ankles. A pathologist testified Byrd was alive until his head and right arm

were severed from his torso, which was dumped across from a Black cemetery northeast of Jasper.

Two other men, King's accomplices in the crime, Shawn Berry, 24, and Lawrence Brewer, 31, are awaiting trial for the crime.

Meeting explores issues surrounding Blue controversy

by Stephen Johnson

Community leaders statewide convened February 19 at St. Augustine's College in Raleigh for a strategy session with African-American legislators. Activist Rev. William J. Barber of Goldsboro and many of North Carolina's most prominent and influential African American leaders called a meeting of over 100 community organizers, ministers and progressive-minded individuals to offer their support for the legislators that recently attempted to elect Rep. Dan Blue (D-Wake) as Speaker of North Carolina's House of Representatives.

There has been a growing sense of discontent in the manner in which leading state Democrats successfully blocked the effort of former Speaker Blue from serving another term as Speaker of the House. African-Americans throughout the state are also deeply offended that the attempts of

Congressional Black Caucus members and Republicans to support Dan Blue were characterized as a "coup," rather than as a Bipartisan effort.

Rev. Barber described the situation explains in a press conference held later that day:

"The recent coalition between Black Democrats, progressive White Democrats and Republicans which was viewed by many as a 'coup' attempt should have been viewed as a strategy by major blocks of votes in the General Assembly to establish a power base that would best serve their respective constituents," he said. "The Black legislators who supported Dan Blue were first voting for the man that obviously the most qualified for the position. The man who had a proven track record as Speaker, who led the General Assembly and North Carolina to a major budget surplus, and who has been recognized nationally by legislators across the country.

Rev. Barber continued, saying "Secondly, they were sending a message that we will no longer tolerate 'cumulative disrespect'. Since the Black vote as a block is so important to this and future state elections at the grassroots, we see what happened in this Speaker's race in a much broader context. By cumulative disrespect, we mean how on a local level and state level conservative Democrats ride the coattail of straight ticket and then join with conservative republicans in enacting public policy that often has an adverse effect on low wealth communities; how the incumbent representatives like Eva Clayton and Mel Watts are challenged from within the party without any level of public outcry by other major White Democrats; how Blacks like Harvey Gantt and Jim Wynn can lose running on statewide tickets because while Black people remain loyal and vote straight tickets, other Democrats split their voting."

"Finally," he concluded, "they were educating their constituents

concerning power politics. If Democrats can tolerate all the time the conservative Democrats voting and being ideological twins with conservative Republicans, why is it considered high treason when Black Democrats engage in the same power rationale to elect a member of their own party for Speaker of the house?"

The meeting was held to establish understanding of the political significance of recent events surrounding Dan Blue, and to open new dialogues about African-Americans shaping and using their political power.

Barber asserted, "This meeting is not about leaving the Democratic party or joining the Republican party. Everyone agrees party affiliation alone will not solve all of our concerns. They believe, like all Black Americans, that Black America needs to be represented in both parties. The real question is, since we have, as a minority, the strongest block of votes that can

shape any election on a local or state level, how do we utilize these blocks to best affect change for the betterment of North Carolina?"

Throughout the press conference, Rev. Barber touched on several issues relevant to the African-American community, such as how can Black Americans use their political power to help close the wealth gap, education gap and quality of life gap for Blacks, Hispanics, and Asians?

"20% of the Black voting base are choosing to look at politics in a different way," he noted. "As we approach a new era, Blacks are beginning to take a strong interest in the economic development of our nation, as well as playing vital role in the final outcome of our nations success. Our voice must be heard, and, even more importantly, our opinions must be respected, for we are a people who have helped shape this country's history and, and will inevitable shape its future."

Court upholds Black Panther ruling

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- A state appeals court refused to reinstate the murder conviction of former Black Panther Elmer "Geronimo" Pratt, overturned by a judge because of revelations that a prosecution witness hid that he was a police informer.

Pratt, now free on bail, served 27 years in prison for the 1968 robbery and fatal shooting of schoolteacher Caroline Olsen on a Santa Monica tennis court.

He claimed he was in Oakland for Black Panther meetings when she was killed, and that FBI agents and police hid and possibly destroyed wiretap evidence that would prove it. He blamed the arrest on a campaign by J. Edgar Hoover's FBI against the Black Panthers and other perceived enemies of the U.S. government.

Judge Everett Dickey granted him a new trial in June 1997,

saying the credibility of prosecution witness Julius Butler, who had quoted Pratt as confessing, could have been undermined if the jury had known of his relationship with law enforcement.

Butler denied he was an informant. Evidence discovered later by Pratt's lawyers showed, among other things, that he was listed on the district attorney's files as an informant and that a prosecutor had agreed to let him avoid jail for four

felonies.

District Attorney Gil Garcetti's office appealed the ruling, arguing that the other evidence against Pratt, including two eyewitnesses, was so strong that he would have been convicted without Butler's testimony.

But the 2nd District Court of Appeal, in a 3-0 ruling, said it was "unable to profess confidence in a guilty verdict based solely on evidence unconnected to Butler."

Juliana Drous, a lawyer for Pratt, said the ruling should end the case.

"The courts have done the right thing," she said.

The district attorney said he's reviewing the case and would be unable to comment until February 17, spokeswoman Victoria Pipkin said.

BET and Microsoft launch Urban Express

WASHINGTON--Entertainment--Wire)--MSBET, the joint venture between Microsoft Corp. and Black Entertainment Television Inc. (BET), recently announced the launch of Urban Express, the search engine for Black and urban Internet sites. Simultaneously, in celebration of the history and culture of African-Americans, MSBET presents its "Hands Across the Net: The Best of African-Americans in Cyberspace" Black History Month campaign, providing links to Web sites with Black History Month content.

Urban Express is a key element of the redesign of the MSBET Web site, urban America's premier on-line discovery vehicle, located at <http://www.msbet.com/>. Urban Express is a Web directory containing a search engine and lists of annotated rated and editorially reviewed links to sites of interest to African-Americans and urban-conscious consumers. It operates in a channel format that provides access to information on music, health and news, and BET pro-

gramming such as Rap City, Planet Groove, BET Tonight, and Heart & Soul Magazine.

With Urban Express, users can search the carefully indexed database by keyword, URL, topic, review, editorial or title. A comprehensive system of categories and subcategories helps users narrow the vast selection of Internet resources. MSBET is inviting Webmasters to submit their sites to Urban Express for inclusion. This feature is easily discoverable on the Reference channel of MSBET. The bottom line is that when users go to MSBET, they leave with results.

"We are pleased to unveil this new Internet tool during Black History Month," said Robert L. Johnson, founder, chairman and CEO of BET Holdings Inc. "Every feature of this site's layout is designed to help users find information on African-Americans in the shortest amount of time, whether it's a list of African-American businesses, a specific Web community or scholarship information. The "Hands Across

the Net" campaign is a tremendous display of solidarity, providing a centralized page enabling visitors to find most of the online content celebrating Black History Month on one page."

Throughout the month of February, the Hands Across the Net: The Best of African-Americans in Cyberspace Web page, located at the cyberspace site <http://www.handsacrossthenet.com>, will feature links to Internet sites that are both informative about and celebratory of African-American history. Each of the participating sites will feature an icon that will serve as a link back to the "Hands Across the Net" Web page. A site-of-the-day feature, in which sites will be profiled for their Black History Month content, will also be included. Interactive features and articles with links to Microsoft(R) Encarta(R) Africana will reside in MSBET's Black History Month content.

"This is a tremendous display of solidarity for Black History Month," said Sandi Thomas, COO

of MSBET. "MSBET is playing a leadership role in making Black History Month easily discoverable for viewers interest in African American and urban culture."

Based in Washington, D.C., MSBET is a joint venture of BET Holdings Inc., the pre-eminent Media-entertainment Company reaching the Black consumer, and Microsoft Corp., the worldwide leader in software for personal computers. Since forming in 1996, MSBET has delivered a unique format of entertainment and information through a broad range of interactive online events and programming targeting African-American consumers.

BET Holdings Inc. is a multimedia entertainment company that owns and operates Black Entertainment Television. The first national cable network targeted toward African-American consumers, BET is currently available in more than 55 million households with cable nationwide, according to Nielsen Media Research.

Recently recognized as one of

America's best small companies by Forbes Magazine, BET Holdings owns and operates several affiliates and ventures, including Black Entertainment Television; BET on Jazz; The Cable Jazz Channel; BET Movies/STARZ13; BET International Inc.; BET Design Studio; BET Action Pay-Per-View; Emerge, Heart & Soul and BET Weekend magazines; Arabesque Books; BET Financial Services; BET SoundStage restaurant; BET SoundStage Club; and the BET on Jazz restaurant.

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (Nasdaq "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software for personal computers. The company offers a wide range of products and services for business and personal use; each designed with the mission of making it easier and more enjoyable for people to take advantage of the full power of personal computing every day.

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Politics & Point of View

Political Insights

Millions of men denied right to vote

Black History Month and the Politics of Cultural Arrogance

by Tyson King-Meadows

When I was growing up politically in the years of "supply side" economics and Jesse Jackson presidential campaigns, Black History Month was heralded as more than a symbol of cultural pride. February was a time for collective introspection and a reminder to America of the indelible mark Africans, slaves, and slave descendants have made on this country. In those days, the accomplishments of Ida B. Wells, Sojourner Truth, Martin Luther King, W.E.B. DuBois, Madame C.J. Walker were not only discussed, but analyzed for their applicability to the current political, economic, and social contexts. Today, however, in many of the educational and social circles of Black American flow discussions about the achievements of pop culture mega-stars and sports figures. Footage of Michael Jordan commands more attention than expositions on Cheops (designer of the Great Pyramid in Egypt, completed in 3730 B.C., 451 feet high, with 2,500,00 blocks of granite), architect and mathematician without whom the geometric principles of basketball would be lost on players. The lyrics of Brandy, Sean

creation of the word "White" during the late 17th century as a slot for words like "Englishmen" and/or "Christians."

When Black superstars are comfortable being known only by their first name or nickname (Whitney, Janet, Tyra, Oprah), they are forgetting when Blacks could not do the most important thing to the psychological development of a people: name themselves or their children, and connect the name to a cultural history. Does America refer to Harrison Ford as just Harrison, Bill Gates as just Bill, or Lynn Redgrave as Lynn or "Red?" Simply put, names signify lineage and heritage in a culture.

Why should all Americans remember? Why should Americans not forget a time period when Black males were lynched or castrated, when Black women were raped without impunity, or when restaurants refused to serve Blacks? Is a focus on the future not more enjoyable? Perhaps, but when a group of people forgets the past and ignores present-day reality, it becomes desensitized to certain occurrences when they begin to happen again. Let's not let

ines means remembering a responsibility to socialize individuals about the cultural heritage of both integrated and segregated America. By ignoring these responsibilities, White and Black Americas enable whatever oppressive forces that benefit from discrimination to maintain their hold over the cognitive, linguistic and emotional abilities of individuals. Remember, it is a constant struggle to create a progressive America.

Tyson King-Meadows is a professor of Political Science at East Carolina University.

The "M" Voice is YOUR voice!!

"Puffy" Combs, and Whitney Houston are recited by children who have been uneducated about Joseph Dickerson -- inventor of the record player arm.

Equally dangerous are compartmentalized treatments of Black history that begin in slavery, reach a zenith with jazz and the Harlem Renaissance, and end with "I Have a Dream" speeches and biracial coalitions. Who benefits from portrayals of Black history as either ancient, irrelevant phenomena or, conversely, the depoliticized achievements of cultural icons? Why have some chosen to forget the past, while at the same time heralding the present?

I believe both questions are answered by understanding the politics of cultural arrogance amongst Black and White Americans. This arrogance is a forgetting of the past-- an emotional, political and cultural detachment from the events that remind both groups of the struggles for freedom, political representation, and a distribution of power. Of course, those "privileged" enough to become arrogant generally believe that Black History Month serves its purpose. It does create opportunities for educational and economic institutions to recognize Black Americans, use target-marketing techniques to acknowledge Black purchasing power, and forces White Americans to examine the connection between race, gender and class. Also, it does divert attention from the fine print in American politics: without consistent and focused political participation, power will remain in the hand of oppressive regimes. This message is lost on most Black History program participants, simply because programmers and parents have shirked their responsibility to deal with real examinations of power in these hollowed halls of integration and desegregation.

In ignoring the themes of power, culture and politics in Black history (past and present), educators socialize children to accept social inequalities, economic isolation, and political alienation, while simultaneously encouraging children to embrace athleticism or musical talent as the great equalizer. Even the main character in F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby" soon realized that newly acquired wealth sheltered no one from discrimination. Yet, this cultural arrogance makes forgetting easy. It becomes beneficial, and your path to a corporate job, a better grade, your dues payment into a fraternity or sorority. Unfortunately, it also becomes your first mortgage payment on a house with no historical foundation.

Without a historical foundation, Black Americans can not find the words to verbalize our discontent with the historical teachings of African existence. Without such a foundation, the arrogance becomes overwhelming. Americans then ignore the 1619 legal statutes in Virginia that legalized White servitude, and recognized the first Africans to this country not as slaves, but as indentured servants. When Black history is not incorporated into American history, Americans allow history to exclude the linguistic and psychological

Americans forget the following atrocities: the death by dragging of James Byrd, Jr., in Jasper, Texas; the sexual assault and murder of Sherrice Iverson in a Nevada casino restroom; the alleged sodomy assault of Haitian immigrant Abner Louima by New York City police officers; the consumer relations and personnel problems of Denny's and Texaco; and the recent police shooting deaths of West African immigrant Amadou Diallo in New York and Tyisha Shene Miller in California.

America should also recognize and remember the more subtle forms of racism. There is, of course, the indisputable relationship between Senator Trent Lott, Representative Bob Barr, and the Council of Conservative Citizens ("CCC," as opposed to "KKK"). And, of course, there is the manipulation of Black voters by President Clinton during the 1998 congressional elections and the 1999 State of the Union Address. In the former, he mobilized minorities by reciting the Clinton-Gore record on civil rights and minority employment. In the latter, he made sure that the cameras showed Rosa Parks and Sammy Sosa sitting near the First Lady. All instances suggest a redefining of race relations, and illustrate the never-ceasing relevance of Black history as a cultural and political compass for all Americans.

How does America pay real homage to figures in Black history? First, homage means constantly reflecting on the reality of what others have experienced while exercising their right to participatory democracy...such as having dogs released to assault them, being attacked with high-pressure firehoses, and other acts of violence. It means remembering the struggles of Fannie Lou Hamer and the

Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (a grassroots insurgency group formed to challenge the racially exclusionary practices of the Mississippi Democratic party), which fought to get seats at the 1964 Democratic National Convention.

Second, paying homage means voting. By not voting, observers of Black History Month dishonor the legacy of Adam Clayton Powell -- who was expelled from Congress on charges of misappropriation of funds in 1967, voted back into Congress by his Harlem constituents, then had his expulsion declared unconstitutional in 1969 by the Supreme Court. Though consistent political participation, supporters of Black History Month honor the names of Shirley Chisholm and Reverend Channing E. Phillips, individuals who sought the nomination of President from the Democratic Party when Jesse Jackson was not a household name.

Finally, challenging cultural arrogance in the next millennium means not forgetting when Blacks and Whites could not afford to be unenlightened. A person who does not know the psychological, social, economic and political context of their existence forgets when that information was forcibly hidden from them, translated for them, or simply denied to them. Paying homage to Black heroes and hero-

WASHINGTON (The Final Call)—An estimated 1.4 million Black men can't vote in the U.S. because of felony convictions, according to a new report, "Losing The Vote: The Impact of Felony Disenfranchisement Laws in the United States," recently released by Human Rights Watch and The Sentencing Project.

According to the Oct. 22 report, 46 states and the District of Columbia prohibit inmates from voting while serving a felony sentence. Only the states of Maine, Massachusetts, Utah, and Vermont permit inmates to vote.

In addition, the report cites an estimated 3.9 million Americans, or one in 50 adults, have currently or permanently lost their voting rights as a result of a felony conviction. Of these, 1.4 million Black males, or 13 percent of Black men, are disenfranchised, a rate seven times the national average.

"I think this is a very large number and alarming," said Dr. William Lewis, associate professor of Political Science at Bowie State University. "It bothered me a bit because I never knew there were so many Black men unable to vote until I read the report."

The professor added, "this definitely has a political impact because you're talking about 1.4 million, and that's a substantial

number that ~~is~~ taking off of the voting rolls, and they can make a difference. These men have already paid the price, the least these states can do is streamline them back into society." Other report findings:

Ten states disenfranchise all ex-offenders who have completed their criminal sentence. Four others disenfranchise some ex-offenders. In addition, Texas disenfranchises ex-offenders for two years after they have completed their sentences.

1.4 million persons disenfranchised are ex-offenders who have completed their sentences.

In seven states that deny the vote to ex-offenders, one in every four African-American men are permanently disenfranchised.

Political experts differ on the impact of these 1.4 million disenfranchised Black male voters.

"Collectively, it could make a difference. But, you have to look at the distribution of these men by states," said Dr. Lewis. "The state has tremendous impact on the electoral process; and with this kind of report, Blacks need to close ranks in terms of putting public pressure on states to change these state laws."

"The numbers are so large they may be having a significant impact in many electoral races," said Marc Maer, assistant director of The Sentencing Project who co-

authored the report. "Perhaps not at a statewide level, but certainly at a more localized level, city or county election. There are so many disenfranchised felons or ex-felons that their numbers really could affect a race that otherwise could be close."

David Bostis, senior political analyst at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, said the 1.4 million disenfranchised Black male voters amount to little when looking at the whole spectrum. He assessed that there are an estimated 22 million Black voters in the U.S., and only half of that number participates in elections.

Nonetheless, Mr. Bostis asserted, the states that disenfranchise its voters "tend to be states with larger Black populations. There are four states that let their felons vote and they have something in common. They are all totally and completely White. Vermont is the Whitest of them all," he said.

"Fifty years after the beginnings of the Civil Rights movement, it is tragic that everyday more Black citizens lose their voting rights," said Mr. Maer, who also is assistant director of the Sentencing Project. "This is not just a criminal justice issue, but one of basic democracy."

Clayton helps Social Security

WASHINGTON—North Carolina Congresswoman Eva M. Clayton has been selected to serve on a Bi-Partisan Task Force of the House Budget Committee that will explore the range of alternatives under discussion to save Social Security. The Task Force will play a significant role in the development of a Social Security Reform proposal during the 106th Congress.

"I am pleased to be a part of this

important Task Force," Clayton said. "One of the most important issues we will face this Congress is reform of our Social Security system. Membership on this Task Force will allow me to advocate on behalf of my constituents."

President Clinton has proposed using sixty-two percent of a projected fifteen-year surplus -- more than \$2.7 trillion -- to directly boost Social Security reserves. The President has also proposed pre-

serving Medicare by using fifteen percent of the surpluses to shore up that program. Thus, eighty percent of the surplus funds would be placed into the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds.

The Social Security Task Force will be a major voice in leading Congress in its effort to develop meaningful Social Security Reform in the 106th Congress.

On February 17, Clayton held her first meeting with constituents

since being appointed to the Task Force.

"Our plan is to put Social Security on a sound footing for the next 55 years, until the year 2055, and to ensure the solvency of Medicare until the year 2020. My work with the Task Force will help us meet this plan," concluded Clayton.

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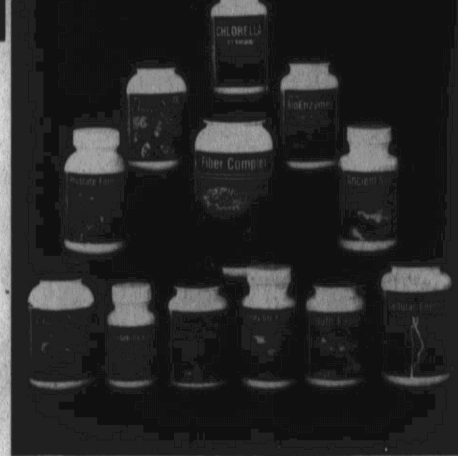
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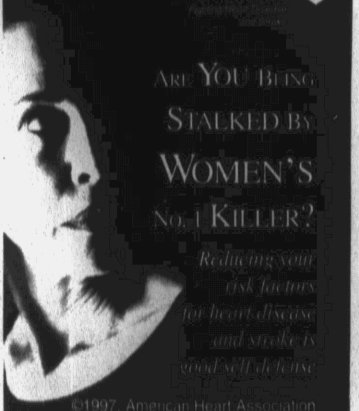
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Politics & Points of View

Perspectives of Stephen Johnson

Black America and the Internet

The latest advancements in technologies bring both good and negative results for Black America. One of the more recent negative results deals with the Internet and the explosive growth of White supremacist web sites. In a desperate attempt to reach a market in which they have been unsuccessful in the past, neo-Nazi and Klan web sites rose from only 163 in 1997 to 254 in 1998. These web sites are geared towards middle to upper class college-bound teenagers. Unaware of the hatred these organizations truly embrace, naive teenagers are impressed with the message of brotherhood and sisterhood. Some organizations even hide behind the voice of the church,

promoting Christian and conservative values to entice new members. But below the surface always exists the same message of separatism, hatred and White supremacy. What will Black America do to combat this issue? If left alone, these organizations will continue to grow at an alarming rate, and before long, we will be asking ourselves how did this problem get so out of control. Our children, both White and Black, have a lot to learn from one another. It is our responsibility as mothers and fathers not to allow the infiltration of hatred which so blatantly affected past generations to affect present and future generations. As Black Americans, it is also

our responsibility to educate not only our children about the history of Black America and who we are today as Black Americans, but to enlighten other nationalities as well. Far too many times we have allowed mainstream media and the entertainment industry to define who we are. As a result, mainstream media has been notorious in highlighting our most negative qualities, while the entertainment industry represents us as merely very talented singers and dancers. This brings up the question: Who highlights our doctors and lawyers, our college graduates, and our young entrepreneurs? If White American hate groups are beginning to aggressively use

the Internet to recruit children and inform them about their theories on the way they believe the world should be, then it is time that Black America use that same medium to teach children about the way the world truly is. We must begin to be responsible for our own image and stop allowing other institutions to label who we are. It has been my greatest hope that we would not enter into a new millennium with the same ignorance and prejudices we fought so hard to overcome. However, instead of a deterioration of hate groups and hate crimes, we are witnessing a significant increase. Whether it be the horrific killing in Jasper, Texas, or the subtle infiltration of

the Internet, White supremacists are once again beginning to speak, and we all know what they have to say. The world is continuously changing; often-times we find ourselves creating new solutions to old problems. Yet, what new approach will we take in the war against racism? Unfortunately the days of boycotts and peaceful sit-ins seem to be over. But we must create similarly effective solutions that are appropriate to this day and age. Our buying power is by far our greatest asset, but time and time again the new generation of Black Americans have fallen short of using this to our advantage. Why? Why have we chosen not to use our

buying power to enhance and empower the Black community? Why are we not using the same technological opportunities to inform and educate the rest of America about who we are and what our family values include? Remember, the Internet is a tool for the empowerment of all nationalities. Let's not miss the boat; let's not allow hate groups to infiltrate and corrupt the minds of young adults without offering a positive alternative in the arms of Black America.

Court ruling leaves women vulnerable to rape

ROME (AP) -- An Italian judge on February 12 defended his ruling that it is impossible to rape a woman if she is wearing jeans, while cries of outrage poured in from women and men as far away as Australia. Protesters said the ruling, which threw out a rape conviction on the reasoning that jeans are too difficult to take off without the woman's cooperation, spotlighted the sexism in many courts' view of rape. "It's not confined to Italy -- it doesn't matter what you wear, the

woman will still unfortunately have to shoulder some of the blame for rape," said Lisa Thorpy of Australia's NSW Rape Crisis Center. France's conservative daily Le Figaro sarcastically advised rapists in Italy to choose your victim among women wearing tight jeans. ... If you run into trouble with the law, an appeals court will acquit you. The presiding judge, Gennaro Tridico, insisted his detractors had taken his ruling out of context.

"The jeans only further confirmed that proof of violence was very dubious," he said in an interview with Associated Press Television News. "We have complete respect for women. We are sensitive, very sensitive to the sexual problems that afflict women in society," the justice said. "I stand by my actions and am ready to repeat them." Tridico is one of 410 male judges on the 420 member Court of Cassation, Italy's highest appeals court in criminal cases. The entire

court has scores of panels to hear cases because criminal cases in Italy often go all the way to the final appeal. The court threw out the rape conviction of a driving instructor and ordered a lower appeals court to hold another trial. The defendant, 45, had been sentenced to two years and eight months in prison for raping his 18-year-old student in 1992. The February 10th ruling said that it is common knowledge that it is nearly impossible to even par-

tially remove jeans from a person without their cooperation, since this operation is already very difficult for the wearer. The western fad of baggy jeans has not caught on in Italy. The appeals court sent the case back for retrial, but the alleged victim, now 24 and married, was quoted February 12 in the daily La Stampa as saying she didn't think she could bear another trial. On February 12, conservative women among the Chamber of Deputies wore jeans to protest the

ruling and urged other Italian women to do so, too. The invitation seemed to be catching on. The host of a talk show on RAI state radio told listeners before signing off that the female staff of the program all wore jeans to work on Friday. The head of Parliament's equal opportunity commission, Silvia Costa, called on the justice ministry to bar Tridico's panel from hearing any more sex crime cases.

Clyburn outlines CBC agenda for 1999

By Rep. James Clyburn
BOWIE, MD (NNPA)-Rep. James Clyburn (D-S.C.), at the recent commencement exercises for Bowie State in Maryland, told graduates

that he will carry the memories of those who fought for black equality with him when he enters the 106th Congress as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC).

"My agency is to continue their fights and to build upon the records and legacies of my predecessors in this office. But, I also plan to bring leadership to three additional priorities. Let me describe them briefly:

American population? If you said the fourth circuit, which represents Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina, you are correct. Now let me ask you part two. Which of the federal judicial circuits has no African Americans as sitting judges? If your answer was the fourth judicial circuit again, you got that one right, too. That's right, my friends, the circuit with the highest percentage of black population has no black federal judges. Now these are courts which hear cases every day dealing with fundamental issues like affirmative action, voting rights, congressional districts, and so on. And, yet those important cases in this district go without the participation of black judges at this crucial level.

may need to help me with this one. It's a tough one. On the one hand, minority citizens are regularly at risk from public leaders who bring unwelcome projects like landfills and hazardous waste disposal centers into low-income neighborhoods. Somehow, the same standards which apply in the affluent suburbs don't seem to apply in the inner city or small rural communities.

Constitution than the ability to deliver the decisions of the judicial branch through fair and broadly-based perspectives. There is nothing more fundamental to the American way of life than profitable and productive employment and reasonable protection against health hazards.

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The American system is supposed to be built on what is called the checks and balances system, and it's based on the theory of three independent branches of government--executive, legislative and judicial. There seems to be a fundamental flaw, however, when one of the three branches of government operates from the perspective of white-only judges in the geographic area serving the highest black percentage in the nation. Some checks. Some balances. The Congressional Black Caucus intends to do something about that.

1.) The Census. there is nothing more damaging to the rights of minorities than being undercounted. It's the means by which we allocate dollars, pave roads, provide health care and draw election districts. Being undercounted is like being under-represented, under-served and short-changed all at one time. During the last census, the Bush administration admitted undercounting the American population by eight million people, of which 40 percent were African Americans or Hispanics, around a million and a half people from each of the two minority communities.

2.) The federal judiciary. Let me give you a pop quiz. Which of the federal judicial circuits has the highest percentage of African

Environmental Justice. You

Companies which cannot meet environmental standards often cost minorities and their families their best source of regular income. So which way do you go? Big city mayors deserve support as they fight to create and protect jobs which their cities need so desperately. At the same time, minority and low-income neighborhoods should not become the dumping ground for hazardous pollutants who threaten the health and safety of residents. Obviously, balance and fairness are required, and the Congressional Black Caucus will push for decisions which are based on valid scientific assessments, and not political decisions based on racial insensitivity or disdain for low-income Americans.


These are three items which have implications far beyond their immediate application. There is nothing more fundamental to equitable treatment than the full and accurate counting of all Americans in the census. There is nothing more fundamental of the U.S.

But, this is not a black or minority agenda. These are not issues which should divide races, or parties, or regions against each other. This is not an agenda of preferential treatment or special interest. This is an agenda for all Americans dedicated to the principle of fairness and equity for all citizens. When I talk of liberation and emancipation, I am not talking about minorities, or those of a single racial identity. I am talking about all of America, and the need for our spirits to be freed and cleansed of the narrow and abusive preoccupations which have paralyzed the important processes of the Congress for too long. Democracy is not meant to be the tyranny of the majority. It is meant to be a noble forum in which ideas must stand the test of debate, and not the predetermined fate of simple numerical advantage. Our judgments, as Woodrow Wilson once said, should be "open covenants openly arrived at." America of the next millennium will be a community of minorities, and that our success as a nation will be based not upon the ruthless will of the majority, but upon the ability of diverse peoples to respect each other, to strive for common goals, and to build a society of tolerance and understanding. Our history teaches us courage and determination; our present teaches us of challenge and opportunity."

Sealed proposals will be received until 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 18, 1999, in the office of the Owner, Mr. Viren Tailor, North Carolina, (919) 716-3443, for the construction of the Greene County Correctional Center Vocational Building, at which time and place bids will be opened and read.

Complete plans and specifications for this project can be obtained from EDA-Greenville, 201 West 1st Street, Suite 202, Greenville, North Carolina 27858, (252) 758-3138, 758-0553 Fax, during normal office hours after February 22, 1999, or are available for examination at Construction Market Data Plan Room, 2300 Rexwood Drive, Suite 130, Raleigh, North Carolina 27607, Associated General Contractors Plan Room, satellite Office, c/o McGee Reprographics, 801 Dickinson Avenue, Greenville, North Carolina 27834, Dodge Plan Room, 1110 Navaho Drive, Suite 402, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609, or Eastern Carolina Contractors Plan Room, 415 N. Queen Street, Kinston, North Carolina 28501.

Plan Deposit: One-hundred dollars (\$100.00). The state reserves the unqualified right to reject any and all proposals.




Signed: Viren Tailor, Project Manager
NC Department of Corrections

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February 19 through March 5, 1999

Domestic Violence: An InDepth Look

What is domestic violence? Who abuses, and who's abused?

Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior that one intimate partner or spouse exerts over another as a means of control. Domestic violence may include physical violence, coercion, threats, intimidation, isolation, and emotional, sexual or economic abuse.

Frequently, perpetrators use the children to manipulate victims: by harming or abducting the children; by threatening to harm or abduct the children; by forcing the children to participate in abuse of the victim; by using visitation as an occasion to harass or monitor

victims; or by fighting protracted custody battles to punish victims. Perpetrators often invent complex rules about what victims or the children can or cannot do, and force victims to abide by these frequently changing rules.

Domestic violence is not defined solely by specific physical acts, but by a combination of psychological, social and familial factors. In some families, perpetrators of domestic violence may routinely beat their spouses until they require medical attention. In other families, the physical violence may have oc-

curred in the past; perpetrators may currently exert power and control over their partners simply by looking at them a certain way or reminding them of prior episodes. In still other families, the violence may be sporadic, but may have the effect of controlling the abused partner. Dr. Mary Ann Dutton, a leading clinical psychologist, defines domestic violence as a pattern of interaction in which one intimate partner is forced to change his or her behavior in response to the threats or abuse of the other partner.

Government and academic studies consistently demonstrate that the majority of victims in heterosexual relationships are female and that batterers in heterosexual relationships are overwhelmingly male. Battering also occurs in lesbian and gay relationships, and the use of gender specific language should not be construed to mean that domestic violence exists only in heterosexual relationships.

Domestic violence crosses ethnic, racial, age, national origin, religious and socioeconomic lines. Same-sex battering occurs at approximately the same rate as

opposite sex battering. Studies have shown that the most common trait between heterosexual victims is that they are female. Many abusive partners continue to batter their victims throughout their pregnancies.

Victims may be doctors, business professionals, scientists or judges, among others. Perpetrators may be police officers, sports heroes, CEOs or college professors. They may also be lawyers. Unlike victims, perpetrators do have at least two common traits - the majority of perpetrators witnessed domestic violence in their family of origin

and are male.

Abusers may appear charming and articulate, seemingly the "guy next door," or they may be seething with rage; similarly, victims are just as likely to seem angry or aggressive as frightened or passive.

It is virtually impossible to identify the abuser or the abused simply by looking. Rather than assuming that someone is the "type" of person that is a victim or a batterer, people must look for patterns of behavior.

What is important for me to know about domestic violence?

MYTH

Victims of domestic violence like to be beaten.

FACT

Victims of domestic violence have historically been characterized as masochistic women who enjoy being beaten. Evidence does not support this anachronistic psychological theory. Rather, victims of domestic violence desperately want the abuse to end, and engage in various survival strategies, including calling the police or seeking help from family members, to protect themselves and their children. Silence may also be a survival strategy in some cases.

Moreover, enduring a beating to keep the batterer from attacking the children may be a coping strategy used by a victim, but does not mean that the victim enjoys it.

MYTH

Victims of domestic violence have psychological disorders.

FACT

This characterization of battered women as mentally ill stems from the assumption that victims of domestic violence must be sick or they would not "take" the abuse. More recent theories demonstrate that battered women resist abuse in a variety of ways.

In addition, most victims of domestic violence are not mentally ill, although individuals with mental disabilities are certainly not immune from being abused by their spouses or intimate partners. Some victims of domestic violence suffer psychological effects, such as

post-traumatic stress disorder or depression, as a result of being abused.

MYTH

Low self-esteem causes victims to get involved in abusive relationships.

FACT

Traditional theories presumed that individuals with adequate self-esteem would not "allow" themselves to be abused by intimate partners or spouses. In fact, studies have demonstrated that victims of domestic violence fail to share common characteristics other than being female. There is little support for the theory that low self-esteem causes victims to become involved in abusive relationships; however, some victims may experience a decrease in self-esteem as a result of being abused, since perpetrators

frequently degrade, humiliate, and criticize victims.

MYTH

Victims of domestic violence never leave their abusers, or if they do, they just get involved in other abusive relationships.

FACT

Most victims of domestic violence leave their abusers, often several times. It may take a number of attempts to permanently separate because abusers use violence, financial control, or threats about the children, to compel victims to return. Additionally, a lack of support from friends, family members, or professionals, such as court personnel, law enforcement officers, counselors, or clergy mem-

bers, may cause victims to return. Since the risk of further violence often increases after victims separate from their abusers, it can be even harder for victims to leave if they cannot obtain effective legal relief. Victims who receive appropriate legal assistance at an early stage increase their chances of obtaining the protection and financial security they need to leave their abusers permanently. While some victims may become involved with other partners who later begin to abuse them, there is no evidence that the majority of victims have this experience.

MYTH

Batterers abuse their partners or spouses because of alcohol or drug abuse.

FACT

Alcohol or substance abuse does

not cause perpetrators of domestic violence to abuse their partners, though it is frequently used as an excuse. Substance abuse may increase the frequency or severity of violent episodes in some cases. Because substance abuse does not cause domestic violence, requiring batterers to attend only substance abuse treatment programs will not effectively end the violence. Such programs may be useful in conjunction with other programs, such as batterer intervention programs.

MYTH

Perpetrators of domestic violence abuse their partners or spouses because they are under a lot of stress or unemployed.

FACT

Stress or unemployment does not cause batterers to abuse their partners. Since domestic violence cuts across socioeconomic lines, domestic abuse cannot be attributed to unemployment or poverty. Similarly, advocates note that if stress caused domestic violence, batterers would assault their bosses or co-workers rather than their intimate partners. Domestic violence flourishes because society condones spouse or partner abuse, and because perpetrators learn that they can achieve what they want through the use of force, without facing serious consequences.

MYTH

Law enforcement and judicial responses, such as arresting batterers or issuing civil protection orders, are useless.

FACT

There is a great deal of debate about the efficacy of particular actions by law enforcement or the judiciary. Research on the usefulness of mandatory arrest or civil protection orders has yielded conflicting results. Most experts agree, however, that actions by one piece of the system are only effective when the rest of the criminal justice and civil systems are functioning, and that improved protocols can decrease domestic violence related homicides. Thus, law enforcement officers must make arrests, prosecutors must prosecute domestic violence cases, and courts must enforce orders and impose sanctions for criminal convictions. It is important for batterers to receive the message from the community

that domestic violence will not be tolerated, and that the criminal justice and law enforcement systems will be involved until the violence ceases.

MYTH

Children are not affected when one parent abuses the other.

FACT

Studies show that in 50-70% of cases in which a parent abuses another parent, the children are also physically abused. Children also suffer emotional, cognitive, behavioral, and developmental impairments as a result of witnessing domestic violence in the home. In addition, some children (especially boys) who experience domestic violence in their homes grow up to repeat the same behavioral patterns.

For example, an advocate at a

shelter in North Florida reported that one abuser threatened to come to the shelter and kill the victim and anyone who stood in his way. The abuser revealed that he knew where the shelter was because he stayed there as a child when his mother ran away from his father.

Domestic violence is irrelevant to parental fitness.

FACT

Because children often suffer physical and emotional harm from living in violent homes, domestic violence is extremely relevant to parental fitness.

A history of domestic violence can indicate that the perpetrating parent physically or emotionally

abuses the child as well as the other parent. In addition, abusers frequently use the children as pawns to continue to control the other parent. Further, an abuser's focus on controlling the victim undermines the abuser's ability to parent because the primary concern is not the child. Courts should consider the effects of the abuser's behavior on the children when determining custody and visitation arrangements.

Some courts mistakenly penalize the victim in custody cases by assuming that the victim is emotionally unstable because of the violence or because the victim "let the violence happen." In most states, however, custody statutes now recognize that domestic violence is relevant to the abuser's parental fitness. Courts in most states are required to consider domestic violence as a factor in

custody determinations or employ a presumption that perpetrators should not receive custody of the children.

MYTH

Domestic violence isn't really a problem. In fact, men are entitled to "get rough" every once in a while if that's what it takes to "keep their woman in line."

FACT

The bottom line is this: no one deserves to be abused. No one has the "right" to harm someone emotionally, sexually, physically, or economically.

Am I in an abusive relationship?

What types of things indicate abuse? Everyone argues or fights with their partner or spouse now and then. When you argue or fight at home, what happens? Do you ever change your behavior because you are afraid of the consequences of a fight?

Do you feel that your partner or spouse treats you well? Is there anything that goes on at home that makes you feel afraid?

Has your partner or spouse ever hurt or threatened you or your children? Has your partner or spouse ever put their hands on you against your will? Has your partner or spouse ever forced you to do something you did not want to do? Does your partner or spouse criticize you or your children often?

Has your partner or spouse ever tried to keep you from taking medication you needed or from seeking medical help? Does your partner refuse to let you sleep at night?

Has your partner or spouse ever hurt your pets or destroyed your clothing, objects in your home, or something which you especially cared about? Does your partner or spouse throw or break objects in the home or damage the home itself during arguments?

Does your partner or spouse act jealously, for example, always calling you at work or home to check up on you? Is it hard for you to maintain relationships with your friends, relatives, neighbors, or co-workers because your partner or

spouse disapproves of, argues with, or criticizes them? Does your partner or spouse accuse you unjustly of flirting with others or having affairs? Has your partner or spouse ever tried to keep you from leaving the house?

Does your spouse or partner make it hard for you to find or keep a job or go to school?

Every family has their own way of handling finances. Does your partner or spouse withhold money from you when you need it? Do you know what your family's assets are?

Do you know where important documents like bank books, check books, financial statements, birth certificates, and passports for you and members of your family are kept? If you wanted to see or use

any of them, would your partner or spouse make it difficult for you to do so? Does your spouse or partner sometimes spend large sums of money and refuse to tell you why or what the money was spent on?

Has your spouse or partner ever forced you to have sex or made you do things during sex that make you feel uncomfortable? Does your partner demand sex when you are sick, tired, or sleeping?

Has your spouse or partner ever used or threatened to use a weapon against you? Are there guns in your home?

Does your spouse or partner abuse drugs or alcohol? What happens?

If I, or someone I know, needs help, how do I get it?

Domestic violence is more prevalent in Eastern North Carolina than one might think. In Pitt County alone, several women have been killed through such abuse in the last few years. If you are being abused, or know someone who needs help, then there are resources available to help. Described here are two of those resources.

The New Directions Family Violence Center

Founded in 1986, this United Way of Pitt County affiliate provides a variety of services to Pitt County. A non-profit agency, New Directions exists "to present to women the concept that there are a variety of options for them, and that there are ways out of family violence."

The mission of New Directions is to "help break the cycle of domestic violence and promote healthy relationships in Pitt County by: providing resources and support (including safe housing, case management and other services) to women and children who are in abusive relationships; advocating for the rights of victims of domestic violence; increasing community awareness about domestic violence; and collaborating with other agencies to present a coordinated community response to domestic

violence."

New Directions is rated in the top ten in the nations, among the best responsive to the needs of the community. In addition, it is one of the model agencies in North Carolina.

In 1998, New Directions sheltered 65 women and 69 children who were involved in situations of abuse. Nearly ten percent of the women who admitted to the shelter returned more than once, often following a violent incident. 60% of the women admitted had been perviously served in by the agency in some capacity.

Of the 1018 people that were sheltered by the agency, 794 of them were women, 221 were children, and three were men.

However, regardless of how effective the agency has been in sheltering people from domestic violence, the staff at New Directions are quick to point out that a much larger effort is needed on the part of the community in order to stop domestic violence.

"Educating the community is the first step to ending domestic violence," said agency staff member Toya Sanders. Serving as the Program Assistant, Sanders coordinates the volunteers who serve the agency, as well as doing presentations for area schools. "My passion is with outreach," she said.

New Directions Executive Director Monica Bridgforth noted that the public needs to be made more aware of the danger posed by domestic violence. "Our mission is to break the cycle of domestic violence, and to show what a healthy relationship looks like."

ECU Marriage and Family Therapy Clinic

Administered through East Carolina University's Department of Child Development and Family Relations, this clinic serves as a training site for graduate students in the master's of science degree program in Marriage and Family Therapy. With its multicultural staff of 16 therapists, the MFT Clinic serves the community by providing a "real life" approach to therapy.

All therapists at the clinic operate from a family systems orientation which, while analyzing trouble areas in family relationships, also utilizes family strengths to construct positive solutions to their concerns.

"A family is a kind of system," says therapist Jennine Hill. "Every person is a vital part of that system. If one person has some type of problem or concern, then the entire system is affected, not just that one person."

Therapist Calvin Felder further describes the clinic's approach.

"No man is an island; what affects one person will affect everyone involved with that person," he says. "We help and support the families in analyzing their patterns of interaction, trying to determine if those patterns are positive to the relationship."

Ursuline Bankhead, another of the clinic's therapists, notes that families in need of therapy should not feel that they've failed in their relationship just because they seek help. "Sometimes a family needs help in sorting out all the things they go through," she says. "Let's face it: life can be very stressful. There's no shame in asking someone to help you find new ways of coping with that."

Areas where a family might need help include substance abuse, adolescent behavior problems, stress over money problems, family deaths, estranged relationships, sexual abuse, rape issues, and, of course, domestic violence.

"I'd guessimate that between a quarter to a third of our cases touch on domestic violence in some way," notes Dr. David A. Doss, Jr., who serves as the MFT program director.

The MFT Clinic operates on a sliding fee scale; No one is denied services due to an inability to pay.

How many women have been killed through domestic violence simply because someone else decided that "it's not my problem?"

PITT COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCES

Contact _____
Agency _____
Phone _____
Pager _____

In an EMERGENCY, call _____ 911
New Directions Crisis Line (24 hour) 752-3811

LEGAL
Clerk of Courts: Civil 830-6420
Clerk of Courts: Criminal 830-6405
Magistrate's Office 830-6450
DA's Office 830-6437
Pamlico Sound Legal Services 758-0113

VICTIM ADVOCACY
New Directions Family Violence Program 758-4400
REAL Crisis Center (24 hour) 758-HELP
Tedi Bear Child Advocacy Program 355-1060
Pitt County Sheriff's Dept Victim Advocate 830-4157
DA's Office Victim Advocate 830-6437
Greenville Police Department Victim Advocate 329-4135
NC Council for Women 830-6595

BILINGUAL (SPANISH/ENGLISH) HELP
REAL Crisis Center 758-HELP
Catholic Social Ministries 355-5111

COUNSELING
Pitt County Mental Health 413-1600
ECU Family Therapy 328-4236
New Directions Family Violence Program 758-4400
REAL Crisis Center 758-HELP

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Child Protective Services 413-1101
Adult Protective Services 413-1101
After-hours Social Worker Access 830-4141

HOUSING
Greenville Community Shelter 752-0829
Mid-East Housing 752-9548
Section 8 Housing 329-4008
Greenville Housing Authority 329-4000

If you pretend not to see abuse, then you're helping the abuser. Help the victim instead.

Domestic Violence: An InDepth Look

How bad is domestic violence?

How often does it happen?

Domestic violence crosses ethnic, racial, age, national origin, sexual orientation, religious and socioeconomic lines.

By the most conservative estimate, each year 1 million women suffer nonfatal violence by an intimate.

By other estimates, 4 million American women experience a serious assault by an intimate partner during an average 12-month period.

Nearly 1 in 3 adult women experience at least one physical assault by a partner during adulthood.

28% of all annual violence against women is perpetrated by intimates.

5% of all annual violence against men is perpetrated by intimates.

Battering tends to be a pattern of violence rather than a one-time occurrence.

During the six months following an episode of domestic violence, 32% of battered women are victimized again.

47% of men who beat their wives do so at least 3 times per year.

Is it true that it only affects older women? And doesn't it happen more in White households than in other races?

RACE
Race is not indicative of who is at risk of domestic violence. In fact, domestic violence is statistically consistent across racial and ethnic boundaries.

AGE
Batterers and victims may experience domestic violence at any age. Women ages nineteen to twenty-nine reported more violence by intimates than any other age group.

Women aged 46 or older are least likely to be battered by an intimate.

In a 1990 restraining order study, the age of abusers ranged from ages seventeen to seventy. Two-thirds of the abusers were between the ages twenty-four and forty.

CHILDREN
Domestic violence has immediate and long term detrimental effects on children.

Each year, an estimated 3.3 million children are exposed to violence by family members against their mothers or female caretakers.

In homes where partner abuse occurs, children are 1,500 times more likely to be abused.

Forty to sixty percent of men who abuse women also abuse children.

Fathers who batter mothers are twice as likely to seek sole physical custody of their children than are non-violent fathers.

In one study, 27% of domestic homicide victims were children.

When children are killed during a domestic dispute, 90% are under age 10; 56% are under age 2.

ABUSERS & ABUSED

90 - 95% of domestic violence victims are women.

As many as 95% of domestic violence perpetrators are male.

Much of female violence is committed in self-defense, and inflicts less injury than male violence.

During 1992-1993, women were 6 times more likely to experience violence by an intimate partner than men.

The chance of being victimized by an intimate is 10 times greater for a woman than a man.

70% of intimate homicide victims are female.

Male perpetrators are 4 times more likely to use lethal violence than females.

Does it only affect straight couples?

The prevalence of domestic violence among Gay and Lesbian couples is approximately 25 - 33%.

Battering among Lesbians crosses age, race, class, lifestyle and socioeconomic lines.

Each year, between 50,000 and 100,000 Lesbian women and as many as 500,000 Gay men are battered.

While same-sex battering mirrors heterosexual battering both in type and prevalence, its victims receive fewer protections.

Seven states define domestic violence in a way that excludes same-sex victims; 21 states have sodomy laws that may require same-sex victims to confess to a crime in order to prove they are in a domestic relationship.

By 1994, there were over 1,500 shelters and safe houses for battered women. Many of these shelters routinely deny their services to victims of same-sex battering.

While same-sex batterers use forms of abuse similar to those of heterosexual batterers, they can also threaten to "out" their partner to family, friends, employers or community.

Does domestic violence happen if you're only dating?

Violence against intimates may occur even though the victim does not live with her abuser. Violence against women occurs in 20% of dating couples.

An average of 28% of high school and college students experience dating violence at some point.

26% of pregnant teens reported being physically abused by their boyfriends. About half of them said the battering began or intensified after he learned of her pregnancy.

Victims of dating violence report the abuse takes many forms: insults, humiliation, monitoring the victim's movements, isolation of the victim from family and friends, suicide threats, threats to harm family or property, and physical or sexual abuse. Their abusers also blamed them for the abuse, or used jealousy as an excuse.

25 - 33% of adolescent abusers reported that their violence served to "intimidate," "frighten," or "force the other person to give me something."

What about poor people or immigrants?

Between one- and two-thirds of welfare recipients reported having suffered domestic violence at some point in their adult lives; between 15 - 32% reported current domestic victimization.

Abused (past or current) welfare recipients experience higher levels of health or mental health problems such as a physical disability, or serious or acute depression.

Welfare studies show that abused women do seek employment, but are unable to maintain it. It is possible that domestic violence presents a barrier to sustained labor market participation.

Battered immigrant woman may not understand that she can personally tell her story in court, or that a judge will believe her. Batterers often encourage these false beliefs.

It is common for a batterer to exert his control over his wife's immigration status in order to force her to remain in the relationship.

Battered immigrant women who attempt to flee may have no access to bilingual shelters, financial assistance or food. It is unlikely that she will have the assistance of a certified interpreter in court, when reporting complaints to police or a 911 operator, or even in acquiring information about her rights and the legal system.

If it's so bad, why don't they defend themselves?

Many battered women attempt to physically defend themselves from abuse.

Marital homicide differs significantly by gender: a large proportion of the killings by women are acts of self-defense, while almost none of the killings by men are acts of self-defense.

Defensive action by battered women to protect themselves or their children is often interpreted by law enforcement as an act of domestic violence. The number of battered women arrested for committing acts of violence against their partners has disproportionately increased in communities that overuse "dual arrest."

What's stopping the women from leaving? Why don't they just pack up their kids and their things and go?

Domestic violence may affect a woman's ability to financially support herself and her children.

15 - 50% of abused women report interference from their partner with education, training or work.

Examples of abusers' sabotage of their victims' attempts to work include: calling her employer and ordering the victim to quit; making allegations requiring the victim to appear before the police, court or social services; threatening to kill the victim; committing suicide in front of the victim; sabotaging the victim's car; beating her up on the way to an interview; stealing her work uniforms; starting fights each day before school or work; breaking the victim's writing arm repeatedly; manipulating her schedule by demanding visitation with the children; stalking; starting fights or threatening abuse which affects her ability to concentrate at work; or encouraging continued drug addiction.

In addition, batterers may attempt to frighten or control their victims through stalking. Some advocates believe up to 80% of stalking cases occur within intimate relationships. If stalking occurs within an intimate relationship, it typically begins after the woman attempts to leave the relationship.

Also, when a woman leaves her batterer, her risk of serious violence or death increases dramatically. Separated/divorced women are 14 times more likely than married women to report having been a victim of violence by their spouse or ex-spouse.

Women separated from their husbands were 3 times more likely to be victimized by spouses than divorced women, and 25 times more likely to be victimized by spouses than married women.

Worse, 65% of intimate homicide victims physically separated from the perpetrator prior to their death.

IF YOU'RE IN TROUBLE.

CALL 752-3811

What's the worst that happens in an abusive relationship?

HOMICIDE
Domestic homicide is often the culmination of an escalating history of abuse. Female homicide victims are more than twice as likely to have been killed by an intimate partner than are male homicide victims.

88% of victims domestic violence fatalities had a documented history of physical abuse.

44% of victims of intimate homicides had prior threats by the killer to kill victim or self.

For homicides in which the victim-killer relationship was known, 31% of female victims were killed by an intimate. 4% of male victims were killed by an intimate.

70% of intimate-partner homicide victims are women.

Why don't they call the police, or get a restraining order?

Only about one-seventh of all domestic assaults come to the attention of the police.

Female victims of domestic violence are 6 times less likely to report crime to law enforcement as female victims of stranger violence.

When an injury was inflicted upon a woman by her intimate partner, she reported the violence to the police only 55% of the time. She was even less likely to report violence when she did not sustain injury.

Arresting a batterer may reduce violence in the short term, but may increase violence in the long term.

The single most consistent result of studies of the effect of arrest on batterers is that unemployed suspects become more violent after arrest, and employed suspects do not.

PROTECTION ORDERS
Protection orders decrease, but do not eliminate, the risk of continuing abuse or homicide. A protection order issued by one U.S. state or Indian tribe is valid and enforceable in any other U.S. state or Indian tribe.

More than 17% of domestic homicide victims had a protection order against the perpetrator at the time of the killing.

Protection order defendants who had prior criminal histories were more likely to violate the order

than those who did not.

In one study, nearly half of the victims who obtained a protection order were re-abused within two years. 60% of women in one study reported acts of abuse after the entry of a protection order, and 30% reported acts of severe violence.

Entry of a protection order did not appear to deter most types of abuse, but it did significantly reduce the likelihood of acts of psychological abuse such as preventing the victim from leaving her home, going to work, using a car or telephone, and stalking and harassing behaviors.

One study showed 80% of women with temporary protection order said the order was somewhat or very helpful in sending the batterer a message that his actions were wrong. Less than 50% of the women thought that the batterer believed he had to obey the order.

Most violations of protection orders leading to an arrest occurred within 90 days of the entry of the order.

60% of those obtaining protection orders in one study reported violations within one year.

Calls to police due to violations of protection orders were high, but the arrests were rare.

Only 6% of protection order defendants were convicted of violating the order.

How often are women actually physically injured through domestic violence?

Victims of domestic violence often require medical care, although they may conceal the cause of their injuries.

Female victims of violence are 2.5 times more likely to be injured when the violence is committed by an intimate than when the same crime is committed by a stranger.

The rate of domestic violence detection by emergency room doctors is low; One study found that less than 3% of women visiting emergency rooms disclosed or were asked about domestic violence by a nurse or physician.

The use of emergency room protocols for identifying and treating victims of domestic violence has been found to increase the identification of victims by medical practitioners from 5.6% to 30%.

17% of those who visit emergency rooms for treatment are documented as having come as a result of being injured by an intimate. 37% of women injured by violence and treated in an emergency room were injured by an intimate; less than 5% of men injured by violence and treated in an emergency room were injured by an intimate.

243,000 people receiving emergency room treatment for violence-related injuries in 1994 had been injured by an intimate. Female victims outnumbered males 9 to 1.

"Acute domestic violence" was the reason for 1 out of 9 patients emergency room visit among women with a current partner.

One study of women visiting emergency rooms for treatment found that 54% had been threatened or injured by an intimate partner at some time in their lives, and 24% reported having been injured by their current partner at some time in the past.

A woman is the perpetrator in 19% of domestic homicides.

When a woman is the perpetrator of a domestic homicide, typically the abuser was killed during an assaultive incident in which the woman was the victim.

MULTIPLE-VICTIM HOMICIDE
In some domestic homicides, the perpetrator kills more than one person. In 1994, 38% of domestic homicides were multiple-victim, usually combining a spouse homicide and suicide, or child homicide.

Where there are multiple victims in a domestic homicide, 89% of perpetrators are male.

How can I tell if someone needs help?

Women
In general, women who are abused physically are often isolated. Their partners tend to control their lives to a great extent, as well as verbally degrade them. Some common examples include:

The woman mentions not being able to use the telephone.

She is forbidden to see friends unless he is along.

The man has exclusive control over all money and household financial matters.

She is not included in the decision-making process at home.

He won't let her learn to drive, go to school, get a job...any activity that could potentially strengthen her self-esteem.

She is limited in her freedom as a child would be. For example, he might tell her: "Go to the store. Get milk and eggs and come straight home. It should take you fifteen minutes."

She speaks very poorly of herself,

and suffers from issues with her self-esteem and self-concept. It is important to remember that this is an effect of domestic violence, not a cause.

Many times women complain of nonspecific aches and pains that are constant or recurring. These are stress related problems.

In cases of physical abuse, will have bruises, cuts, scratches, and other injuries...she explains them by saying things like "I'm just so clumsy" or the infamous "fell down the stairs" or "walked into the door again."

Children (Boys)
With children, it can be difficult to know for certain if they are involved in an abusive relationship. However, some common elements for boys include:

Serious problems with controlling his temper.

Continual fighting at school or between siblings.

Lashing out at objects, inside or outside the house.

Treating pets cruelly or abusively.

Threatening younger siblings with violence. For example, "You get over here now or I'll kill you!"

Attempting to get attention through hitting, kicking, or choking...in other words, modeling what they see the abusive parent doing.

Fear of being touched

Explosive bursts of temper at seemingly innocent acts, such as a hug.

Children (Girls)
With girls, it is often more difficult to spot symptoms of abuse. In some cases, they might mirror the behaviors of boys that have been abused. In other cases, however, the only signs may be something as subtle as their cringing at an upraised arm, as though they expect to be beaten.

Another thing to watch for is "inappropriate play" with dolls. Girls might mirror the behaviors of their parents by acting them out with dolls.

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D.D. GARRETT AGENCY

February 19 through March 5, 1999

From the Desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



which are in agreement with your own feelings. Get involved in these groups -- but don't feel self-righteous about it. You know certain things are wrong for you; you can't always judge for the other guy. Some of those you would like to call personal friends will have different friends with different senses of what's right. By including everyone as a friend, you'll be a bigger person.

Your closest friends will be those with whom you have most in common. There are a lot of people who think as you do about things, and many others who think enough like you to still be fairly close to you. These two inner circles of your friends. Then will come many other circles outside of that, until everyone fits somewhere into the orbits of your friendships.

BE YOUR OWN MORAL COMPASS.....NOT EVERYONE ELSE'S

Some may say, "Come on, take a drink with us." But, if they realize that you really don't want to, and you let them push you into it, they lose respect for you.

Social maturity doesn't depend on following the crowd. You may feel a little uncomfortable at certain affairs if everybody is doing something you feel is wrong. But this doesn't mean you can't be friends with everyone. You must not be a moral policeman, trying to clean up the morals of friends. Even so, you should let your own values be seen so as to swing your influence concerning what is right and wrong.

There are a lot of groups and social events you can be involved

Community News

Ron Williams, the son of Mildred and James Williams, accepted the position of Athletic Director of the Athens Drive High School in Raleigh, in addition to his regular position as an Art teacher. At East Carolina University, Ron was on the wrestling team.

Reverent sympathies are extended to families of Mrs. Martha Jones, Mr. James Lowery and others and others whose names I do not know.

A speedy recovery to Mrs. Christine Lewis, Mrs. Harriet Dixon and on the sick lists in the various churches and communities.

Funeral Director James Congleton, photographer Daniel Blount, former Housing Authority Director Sally "Ms. Savvy" Streeter, and attorney Jerome Ramey were speaking guests during the month of February in Mrs. Maye's Retirement Living Class at the Pitt County Council on Aging. All senior citizens are invited to attend these sessions each Tuesday at 10:30 A.M.

To all those honorees who did not receive their certificates of achievement at the Delta Sigma Theta program at York Memorial AME Zion Church, please stop by Mrs. Maye's house at 1225 Davenport Street and pick them up.

Delta Sigma Theta hosts annual community awards

Ladies in red.... the lovely ladies (top photo) dressed in red are members of the Greenville chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, which hosted a public service program on February 14th at the York Memorial AME Zion Church.

The program, which was titled "The Legacy of African American Leadership from the Present and the Future," featured Dr. Dudley E. Flood, a retired school administrator from Raleigh, NC, who holds more awards and accolades than we have space to print, served as the event's keynote speaker. He is shown (bottom photo, center) with Pastor Joe George (far left), Delta Sigma Theta chapter president Patricia Alexander (second from left), and Mrs. Beatrice Maye, a community leader, and columnist for *The Minority Voice* (second from right).

The program's purpose was to honor those persons in the news who have made reputable contributions and achievements.

Reverend Joseph George, Pastor of the York Memorial AME Zion Church, gave the closing remarks.



Congratulations!

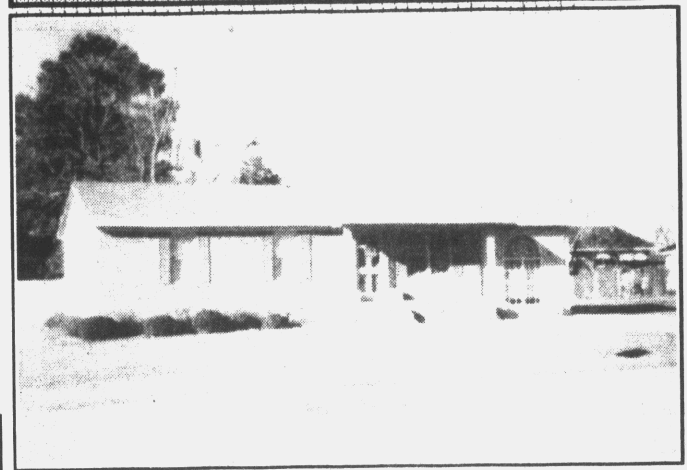
To James Ebron III, for his challenging and well-delivered Youth Day speech at Sycamore Baptist Church on February 7.

To Mr. J. J. Brown of Ayden, who celebrated his 92nd birthday on February 20 in the Ayden Housing Authority Complex.

To Mrs. Rosa Bradley's celebration of her birthday on February 25.

JOY
1340
Glorious Gospel

House of the Month



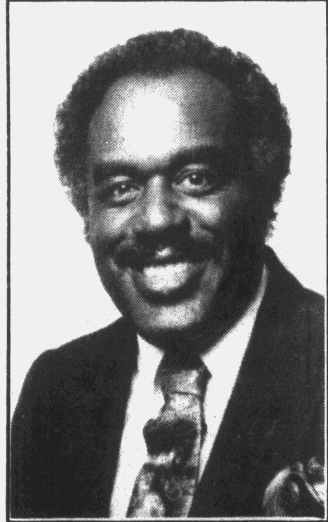
306 Luther Circle is our House of the Month selection for February 1999. Yvonne and Dwayne Garris are the proud owners of this beautiful ranch brick home in South Ayden. They have two children: Devon, a freshman at Ayden-Grifton High School; and Chrystal, who attends Ayden Middle School.

The House of the Month is sponsored by South Lee Street Neighborhood Improvement, Incorporated, and is designed to beautify the South Lee Street neighborhood. Homes are rated according to improvements, safety issues, cleanliness of the yard area, overall care of the home, enhancement of the home makes to the neighborhood, and the residents' involvement in the community.

The winner each month receives: Name and picture in the newspaper "House of the Month" certificate, SLSNI t-shirt, gift certificate from one of our sponsors, and "House of the Month" sign in their yard for the month. If you would like to enter your home or a home in your neighborhood, call SLSNI at 746-7003. Special thanks to Lowes' of Greenville and Domino's Pizza of Ayden for providing gift certificates.

Spiritual Thoughts

by Dr. George A. Hawkins



In order to be counted as a member of the body of Christ, it is necessary that the old things -- or earthly things such as ambitions, hopes and desires, affections, prodes, vanities, and all other "foolish things" -- be put away. Second Corinthians 5:17 states that "if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new."

These earthly things may be hard to give up because of the attractions of them to our flesh. It is the New Mind that the Lord recognizes as the New Creature and promises to reward. In order to abide in Christ, the Scriptures

clearly tell us that consecration opens the door and gives us the relationship, the backings, and the encouragement of the divine promises. It puts us in the place to cultivate the various fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22) and to attain joint heirship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

However, to maintain this relationship, the producing of these fruits is necessary as evidenced by love and devotions. Jesus Christ expressed this by saying "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit He taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he pruneth it, that it may bring forth more fruit" (John 15:2).

So then, the New Creature, just

continue in grace and knowledge of the fruits of the Spirit. Otherwise, his relationship to Christ will be forfeited, and another would take his place among the chosen ones.

Dr. George A. Hawkins is the pastor of the Tabernacle Church of Deliverance in Greenville.

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Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke

Choose Healthful Foods

DID YOU KNOW..... that singing superstar Janet Jackson's middle name is "Damita?"

DID YOU KNOW..... that "Malcolm X" was short for El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz?

American Heart Association
Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke

Would you give your right arm to avoid high blood pressure?

READ
It feeds your brain.

Sealed proposals will be received until 3:00 P.M. on Thursday, March 4, 1999, in the 1st floor Conference Room. Woodard Hall, E.N.C.S.D., Highway 301 North Wilson, North Carolina 27894-2768. Proposals shall be for construction of:

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CORRECTION OF FACILITY DEFICIENCIES
ID # 4497504702A

at which time and place proposals will be opened and read for Multi Prime (General, Plumbing, Mechanical, and Electrical) work.

A pre-bid conference will be held Tuesday, February 23rd 1999, 2:00 P.M. at Woodard Hall. All contractors are encouraged to attend.

Complete plans and specifications for this work can be obtained from THE EAST GROUP, P.A., 324 South Evans Street, Greenville, NC 27834 (252) 758-3746 during normal office hours after Tuesday, February 16th, 1999. They will be open for inspection in the Greenville office of THE EAST GROUP and in the local North Carolina offices of the following: AGC-Carolina Branch, W. Dodge Corporation, CMD Carolina Branch, and the ECC Planning Room in Kinston, North Carolina.

Plan deposit: \$75.00

The State of North Carolina reserves the unqualified right to reject any and all proposals.

Signed: Judy S. Hansley
Business Manager/CPC
Eastern N.C. School for the Deaf
P.O. Drawer 2768
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Carolina East Mall and JOY-1340 celebrate African beauty with fashion show

Cool weather, hot fashions!.....Carolina East Mall and JOY 1340 (WOOW-AM) put on a fashion show on February 20. The show featured gospel music, dancers, and, of course, clothes! Modeled were fashions for business, the classroom, leisure and recreation. Below are some pictures we took of all those involved. Enjoy!



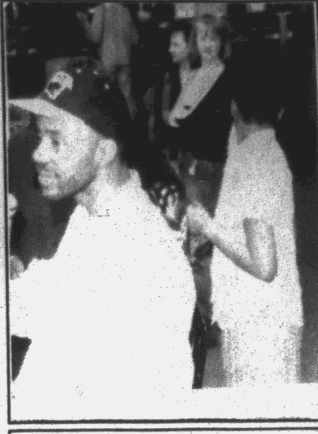
Responsible parties....instrumental in putting the show together were Carolina East Mall manager Jenny Slaughter (second from right), and JOY-1340 staffers Michael Adams (far left), William Clark (second from left), and Brenda Rouse (right).



Taking a break.....Shown here, in the foreground, are WOOV-AM DJ Michael Adams (back to camera), organizer Brenda Rouse (left), and models Fredrina Afflick (center) and Morris Dupree (right).



Looking sassy....is model Terry Lynn Adams, modeling a blouse perfect for work or play.



Serving up the tunes.... is DJ Michael Adams, who also acted as the announcer.



Praisin' and prancin'.....is a group from Bless My People Ministries, one of the star attractions at the fashion show. The energy of their dancing helped keep the high energy that made the show a success!




Watching the festivities.....is Bless My People Ministries, pastor Inez Dudley. Pastor Dudley was instrumental in providing the live musical talent that enhanced the show!



Encore performance? Maybe if we ask them nicely, the models on stage will agree to strut their stuff next year. Pictured on stage, left to right, are Germaine Carmon, Terry Lynn Adams, Fredrina Afflick, Kecia Moore, Renee Harris, Chris Brown, Dwanye Clark, Kimberly Mobley, and Morris Dupree.

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Minister jury resumes deliberations

LARGO, Fla. (AP) -- Jurors began their first full day of deliberations February 26 in the case of the National Baptist Convention USA president, who is charged with using his position to swindle more than \$4 million.

The jury got the case Thursday afternoon and deliberated about 2 1/2 hours before going home for the night.

Shortly after deliberations began, the Rev. Henry Lyons and a group of supporters joined hands and prayed in the courtroom hallway.

"We need you to work on their minds. We need you to get in their hearts," the Rev. Charles Emery, of Gary, Ind., prayed about the jurors. "We come at this particular

hour because of an urgency."

Among the group was Lyons' co-defendant and alleged mistress, his wife, a team of defense lawyers and more than a dozen ministers.

Lyons and his alleged mistress, Bernice Edwards, are charged with racketeering. Prosecutors say they swindled more than \$4 million from corporations seeking to market cemetery products, life insurance policies and credit cards to convention members. The two allegedly pocketed the money and used it to finance their own lavish lifestyles.

Prosecutors say the pair duped the companies by selling a membership mailing list that never existed and then used the money to buy a \$700,000 waterfront home, a

time share condominium, a huge diamond ring and luxury cars.

"Somewhere along the line, he traded the Good Book for the bank book. That's what this case is all about," Assistant State Attorney Bill Loughery told the jury.

Lyons' lawyers have accused prosecutors as acting as the "moral police," saying his failed business deals are not criminal matters and telling jurors the case actually is about religious freedom.

"The next thing you know, are they going to be writing the sermons? Telling us when to pray? When to kneel? When to stand up?" defense attorney Grady Irvin said in closing arguments. "This is a religious organization."

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LIGHTING THE PATH

At a time when it was nearly unthinkable for a black man to get a good education, Lewis Howard Latimer went a step further to become one of the country's great inventors. Latimer was right there working alongside Thomas Edison on the cutting edge of developments in the area of lighting.

CP&L recognizes the achievement of inventors like Lewis Howard Latimer, and pledges to commit its resources to develop tomorrow's African American leaders.



February 19 through March 5, 1999

Familiar Faces.....



An Historic Moment..... U.S. Congresswoman Maxine Waters (center) an entertainer and philanthropist Bill Cosby (second from right) congratulate their friend, *Essence* magazine editor-in-chief Susan Taylor. Taylor (second from left), who also serves as the senior vice-president of Essence Communications, Inc. (ECI), is being honored as the first African-American to receive the Henry Johnson Fisher Award from the Magazine Publishers of America (MPA). Joining Waters and Cosby are *Essence* co-founders Edward Lewis (far left), ECI publisher and chief executive officer, and ECI president Clarence O. Smith (far right). The Henry Johnson Fisher Award, now in its thirty-fourth year, is the magazine industry's highest honor. The award recognizes people who have dedicated their lives to the magazine business and helped the industry thrive and expand, or who their editorial policies address social, political, economic or lifestyle issues. Cosby presented the award to Taylor, who was saluted along with Rodale Press, Inc., president and chief operating officer Robert J. Teufel at a gala event held in New York City at the Waldorf-Astoria. (photo provided by Essence Communications, Inc.)



New President of the SCLC..... Brother Phil Higgs (right) is being congratulated by Brother Tip Taff for being selected as the new President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Brother Higgs, who owns All Star Transmission on West Martin Luther King Street, has been an active member of the SCLC for a number of years. Hats off to the SCLC for electing young leadership!



New preacher in town..... Progressive Free Will Baptist Church has a new preacher on staff. Reverend Melvin Tilley is now giving spiritual guidance. Drop by for Sunday services, and watch the new reverend do God's work!



Happy Birthday! Happy days are here again as Father J. J. Brown is shown at York Memorial AME for the annual Delta Sigma Theta Community Award Program. Father Brown is celebrating his 90th birthday!

Ooooooops!

Yes, even we at the *M Voice* have been known to make the occasional mistake. Sometimes. On very RARE occasions. Anyway, the two pictures below, along with their captions, got switched. We now present to you the RIGHT pictures with the RIGHT captions. Our apologies for any difficulties (or general amusement) the mistake may have caused.



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!



"Presenting.....Ms. Fashionetta!" Shanelle Maulsby (center) is smiling. And why not? On Dec. 12, 1998, she was voted Ms. Fashionetta in a contest sponsored by the Iota Kappa Omega chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc., sorority. Ms. Maulsby would like to thank the community for their support. Pictured with Ms. Maulsby is her mother (right), and her sister, Waquita (left).

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SURVEY
"Your Life In Diabetes"

This survey will be used to assist the ECU School of Nursing Community health students and the ECU School of Medicine in determining the awareness and usefulness of the radio show, "Your Life In Diabetes", broadcast on WOOW 1340AM on Wednesday mornings at 7:10 a.m.

Any input or suggestions will be greatly appreciated!

- 1.) Do you or any of your family/friends have diabetes?
yes no If so, who? _____
- 2.) Are you aware of the radio program, "Your Life In Diabetes", that is broadcast every Wednesday morning at 7:10 a.m. on WOOW 1340AM?
yes no
- 3.) Have you ever listened to "Your Life In Diabetes"? If so, how often do you listen?
yes no every week once a month once every two months
- 4.) If you have listened to the show, do you find it helpful?
yes no
- 5.) Whether or not you listen to the program, what topics would you want to hear if you listened?

Thank you for your time and input!

Could we please contact you in a couple of weeks to ask you if you or your family listened to the radio shows? yes no Name _____ Phone# _____

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The Minority Voice proudly salutes Black History Month

Black artifacts draw auction bidders

NEW YORK (AP) — A program signed by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and a copy of Army officer Henry Flipper's autobiography highlighted artifacts sold at the fourth annual "African Americana" auction.

President Clinton last week signed a pardon that expunged the 1882 dishonorable discharge of Flipper, the first black graduate of West Point. On Thursday, an original print of his book sold for \$1,200.

Nearly 400 other items were available at the auction, although many did not meet a minimum price and were withdrawn.

This is still a new market, not

like silver or first editions, and a lot of people are not really sure what they are looking at," auctioneer Nicho Lowery said.

The program from a 1963 "Stars for Freedom" rally in Atlanta, signed by King and several black entertainers, sold for \$3,000, and a 1915 "Blue Book" from a New Orleans brothel went for \$2,200.

Original 1960s-vintage FBI wanted posters for black militants H. Rap Brown and Eldridge Cleaver sold for \$475 and \$275, respectively. But two posters for King assassin James Earl Ray found no buyers.

A bidder paid \$10,000 for the oldest items, the 1773 collection of

poems by ex-slave Phillis Wheatley, whose work was once disparaged by Thomas Jefferson as "below the dignity of criticism."

Century-old objects relating to abolitionist Frederick Douglass included a copy of his 1852 oration in Rochester, N.Y., declaring that enslaved blacks had no reason to celebrate the Fourth of July. It sold for \$8,000.

Among the most popular items were military artifacts, including a 36-star battle flag, carried in the Civil War by the all-black 68th Missouri regiment, which sold for \$5,600, and a group photo of the 1890-era "Buffalo Soldiers" for \$4,600.

DID YOU KNOW.....
that Howard University established the first major African American art gallery?

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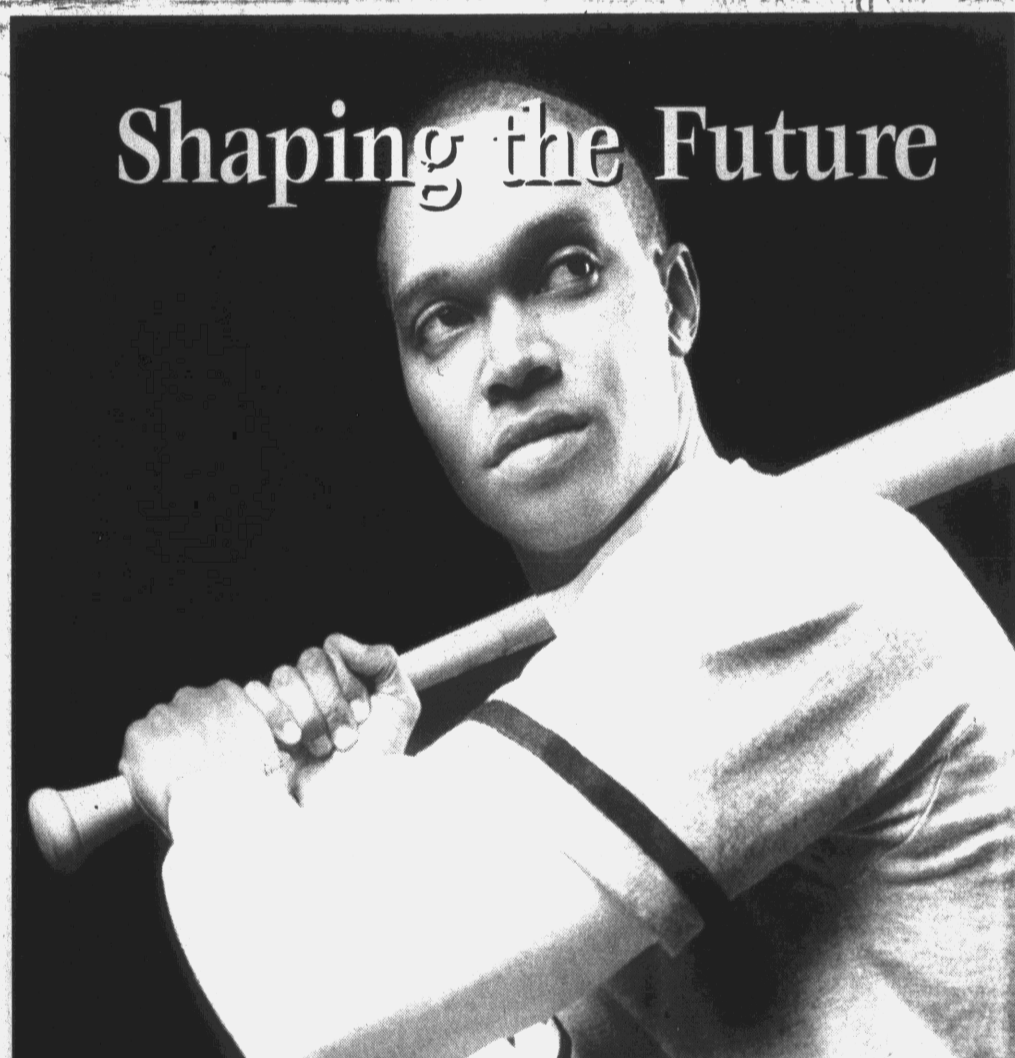
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IMAGES OF SOUL

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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Photo taken from a community theater production of "Most Valuable Player."



COCA-COLA CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH THROUGH THE LANGUAGE OF MUSIC

ALWAYS REMEMBER = ALWAYS REJOICE = ALWAYS COCA-COLA



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How well do YOU know Black History?

Directions: Write the correct matching name to each description.

1. Raid at Harper's Ferry _____
2. Rescued more than 200 enslaved men, women & children _____
3. Organized a Slave Conspiracy in Charleston, S.C. _____
4. Founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church _____
5. First African American Woman Employed at the Penn School _____
6. "Race Woman" _____
7. Founded National Association of Colored Women _____
8. Founder of Tuskegee _____
9. Itinerant Minister _____
10. Received Ph.D from Harvard _____

11. "Artist on Fire" _____
12. Initiated Scottsboro Defense Fund _____
13. "New Negro" _____
14. 60's Black Arts Forerunner _____
15. Founded the Organization of African-American Unity _____
16. "Conquering son of Kings" _____
17. Nobel Peace Prize winner _____
18. First Woman to Give a Public Lecture on a "Political" Question _____

P. B. Young
 Martin Luther King, Jr.
 Alain Locke
 Malcolm X
 Langston Hughes
 Kweisi Mfume

Maria W. Stewart
 Paul Robeson
 Booker T. Washington
 Ida B. Wells-Barnett
 Mary Church Terrell
 Charlotte Forten


John Brown
 Harriett Tubman
 Richard Allen
 W.E.B. DuBois
 Denmark Vesey
 Henry McNeal Turner

Black History quiz provided by Mrs. Beatrice Maye.

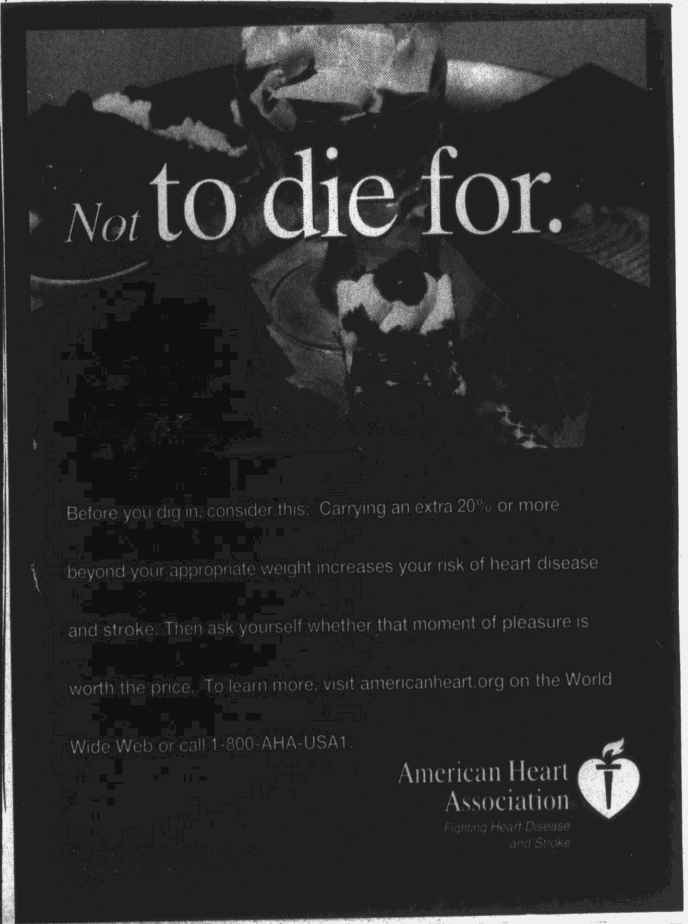
HEALTH TIP

While hard-to-resist temptations are all around you, good eating habits are essential to a healthy heart. So try and lower the amount of fat and cholesterol you eat, salt your food only during cooking, eat plenty of carbohydrates and proteins, watch your calorie intake and try to have no more than one alcoholic drink a day.

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 University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina



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American Heart Association
 Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke

The breakthrough procedure pioneered by cardiac surgeons at the University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina's Heart Center in Greenville is part of the reason we were recently rated one of the best heart centers in the nation by *U.S. News and World Report*. And one of the reasons we are being closely watched by other cardiac centers across the country. But what pleases us most about this remarkable new minimally invasive treatment, is that, compared to regular bypass surgery, patients resume their lives sooner and with less discomfort. And returning patients to their families, communities and workplaces, quickly and with the least recovery time is ultimately what the cardiologists, surgeons and support staff at our Heart Center strive to do. In every case.

Minimally invasive, video-assisted mitral valve surgery. Loosely translated, it means you'll go home sooner.



HEART CENTER
 University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina

For that reason, there are many other programs and services offered by the Heart Center. They range from Lifeworks, an outpatient cardiopulmonary rehabilitation program, to the Pediatric and Adult Congenital Heart Program, which carefully monitors people born with heart ailments, from birth through adulthood.

There is also a wide variety of cardiac treatment available at our community hospitals—Roanoke-Chowan in Ahoskie, Heritage in Tarboro, Bertie Memorial in Windsor and Chowan in Edenton. So no matter what your needs may be, whether highly specialized or more routine, rest assured, they'll be dealt with in the most effective and compassionate manner possible. For more information, call 252-816-4526. Or visit us at www.uhseast.com.