

The Minority Voice

Serving Eastern North Carolina Since 1981

July 16, 1999 - July 23, 1999

FREE!

Tell me and I'll forget. Show me, and I may not remember. Involve me, and I'll understand. - A Native American Saying

Desoto County Rally to Target Police in Alleged Dragging of Man

By Tony Jones

The alleged "foot-dragging" by Marshall County law enforcement officials in the victimization of a Black man thought to have been dragged behind a moving vehicle has led to a group of ministers calling for a public rally and protest Saturday in Olive Branch, Mississippi.

The Desoto/Marshall County Ministerial Alliance will lead a public information rally at the St. Paul M.B.C., 5960 Pleasant Hill Road in Olive Branch, one of Desoto County's central cities. An information line has been set-up at (901) 346-7953.

Organized by pastors Ollie Gardner, St. Matthews MBC, the Rev. Steven Mayhorn, Hurts Chapel CME, and Elder Earl Shannon, VP, St. Luke's COGIC, the ministers want to get support from Memphians. "We are urging concerned Memphians to

join us because this affects the entire area. Law enforcement in this area must be put on notice that we demand fair, thorough and proper treatment. This will always be The Delta, but the "Old South" way of law enforcement and civic administration is dead.

Serving as public spokesperson for the group, Carl Nelson, Mark Lutrell Correctional Center chaplain, who is considered the area's top anti-gang activist, says Mississippi has "too many modern casinos and too much old-time 'Just-Us' justice. It's what's going on and it's time people woke up to it and did something about it."

Nelson usually comports himself as a cool-mannered member of the clergy with a strong civic agenda, but right now he's "boiling mad" at the civic treatment Blacks receive in Desoto and Marshall counties and has joined

a group of ministers to call attention to the alleged problems.

The ministers feel, "It's time for Mississippi to wake up. In certain parts of Mississippi there are lily-white law enforcement and public boards thinking that a slave mentality will look aside at their actions. Not anymore," Nelson says. "This is why this Alliance has come together to begin to draw attention to the way Blacks in this area are being treated."

Three specific cases have proved to push anger to the limits in Mississippi. Most recent, the case of Foster, who was found heavily injured and semi-conscious by the side of the road on June 6 at 9:47 a.m.

Anger flowed and grew as no charges immediately came forth in the case. Citizens in Mississippi and Memphis accused law enforcement officials

of dragging their feet in investigating the case, which felt strangely reminiscent of the hate crime murder of James Byrd, Jr., in Jasper, Texas, who was fatally wounded by being dragged behind a truck by three young Whites.

Sentiment painted Taylor's Doxsey says, "There was no racial involvement at all. I cannot comment on the specific evidence but we have charged an individual in that case."

George Hunsucker, a male White, has been charged with kidnapping, aggravated assault and the felony level of leaving the scene of an accident. He was arraigned Friday, July 2, and is being held in custody without bail awaiting the convening of a grand jury Sept. 16.

But Nelson says the gap between the identifying of the suspect and the time it took to arrest and charge him is indica-

tive of the way justice works in Mississippi.

The ministers cite two other cases as being highly suspicious, the odd twist of the case of Marco Nelson and the robbery and murder conviction of Jerry Bogan.

Nelson says that no witnesses identified Bogan in the course of the investigation of a robbery of a fast-food restaurant in which a young employee was shot. The matter in consideration before the Mississippi State Supreme Court. "We are watching this case very closely. None of the facts identify Jerry Bogan as the suspect and the young guy wounded in the case did not identify Bogan, but he says he and the robber went to school together."

A third matter is the conspiracy to commit murder charge leveled against Marco Nelson, who was arrested and

charged with two count of conspiracy to commit murder after his girlfriend aimed a pistol at her parents after threatening to kill herself. Nelson was not in the home at the time.

A letter from him was found on the premises in which he allegedly wrote to the young woman that he would "do anything you want me to do", but because he was at home during the incident, the ministers, and many citizens, feel that Marco Nelson is being marked for being a young Black man in an interracial relationship. The young woman in the case received a lesser charge of aggravated assault.

Information in this story was investigated by Tony Jones, staff writer for the Tri-State Defender.

Pitt County Skater Brings Home More Than Medals

By Dawn Bryant

WINTERVILLE--Of all the medals and souvenirs Patient Gardner brought back from the Special Olympics World Games, his wide smile is the most telling.

The pearly grin is constant as Gardner, a roller skater from Winterville, tells of his three competitions, his new friends and the celebrities he saw during the week-long festivities in the Triangle.

"It was a lot of fun. It was great. I had a nice time out there," said Gardner, 17. "There were a lot of people out there."

Pitt County's only participant in the World Summer Games, Gardner returned to Winterville with three medals, souvenirs and memories.

Locals are honoring the triple medal winner, with business signs bearing congratulatory wishes and government boards asking Gardner to attend their next

meeting for recognition.

"I think (his performance) was very good," said Pitt County Commission Chairman Eugene James, who presented Gardner with a resolution. "We are very proud of him. He represented Pitt County well."

Gardner, a D.H.Conley sophomore, competed in three skating events in Raleigh's Dorton Arena--medaling in each.

He earned gold in the 100-meter race and silver medals in the 300-meter mix and the 4X100 meter relay. In the relay, Gardner, as the team's strongest skater, skated the final leg.

"I was going really fast out there," Gardner said.

A mild injury at the starting line of the 300-meter race kept Gardner from winning the gold in that competition, he said.

Before the event started, another skater lost his balance, grabbing Gardner's arm for support. Gardner fell on the competitor's

skate, bruising his abdomen.

While the coach motioned for Gardner to return to the sidelines to be examined, Gardner didn't budge. He was determined to skate.

"I was hurt but I went back in the lineup," he said.

But completing the turns strained the bruised muscle, and Gardner couldn't catch the lead skater. He settled for the silver.

"I was right at her. I just stopped. It hurt," he said. "I was right behind her back and was so close."

Gardner's father, Quency Gardner, added: "During the race it got progressively worse. That was the only thing that kept him from getting first place."

Gardner's coach for the past eight years, David Nelson, said he couldn't be more proud.

While he wasn't able to attend the Games in Raleigh, he kept a close eye on his star skater and

hung a congratulatory banner at Sportsworld, a local skating rink where Gardner practices and works.

"Once he puts his skates on, he knows what to do," Nelson said. "I was quite proud of him. I knew that he would do good, but I was a little apprehensive about the competition he would be up against."

"What Patient has done will rub off on other athletes. You can accomplish things you never thought you could do."

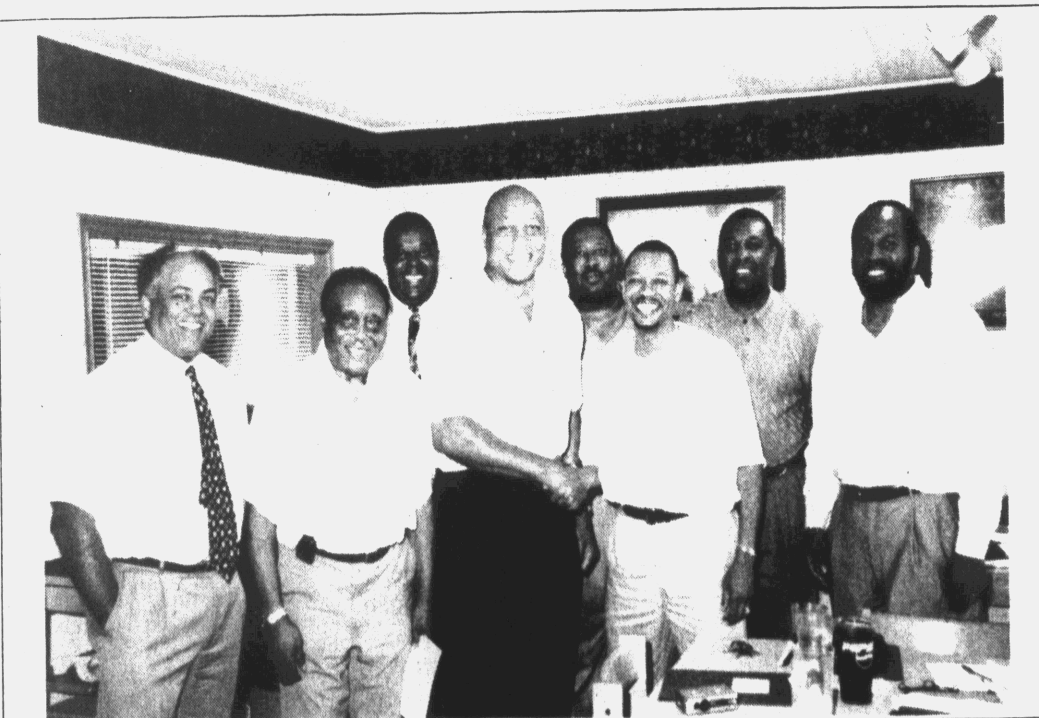
The World Games medals, with purple-and-white straps bearing the motto: "It's All About Attitude," are the latest additions to Gardner's already impressive collection.

Competing in local and state Special Olympics for about eight years, Gardner, who has a learning disability and speech impediment, has won so many medals he and his coach have lost count.



(Another proud moment) For Patient Gardner (middle) his father Mr. Gardner (left) and David Nelson (far right) as Patient Gardner earns three medals from the Special Olympics World Games (one Gold and two Silver). Congratulations Patient, for a job well done!

Boxer Throws Weight Behind Millennia Community Bank Enfield CC Donates Posters



Pictured: Mr. Raymond Carney, Dr. Andrew Best, Bone Crusher Smith, Monte Williams, Brother Wilkins (Background) Commissioner David Hammond, Mr. Herb Gardner and Mr. Butch Congleton

Heavyweight boxer James "Bone Crusher" Smith announced his support for the proposed Millennia Community Bank during a meeting with bank officials Friday, June 25th.

"I think it's a good opportunity for a lot of folks in eastern North Carolina," the former World Boxing Association champion said over dessert at Monte's Dining in Greenville. "We need good banks that appeal (to) and look out for everybody."

He is a native of Magnolia in Duplin County, and attended Shaw University with one of the Millennia's board members, Kennis Wilkins.

Smith said he has talked with the board of directors about doing public service announcements for the bank.

"We'll be talking to (key people) to support the bank, and kind of go from there," he said. Many of those key people are fellow sports and entertainment celebrities who, like Smith, are in town for the Michael Jordan Celebrity Golf Classic, he said.

Smith said they might hear of his endorsement and say, "Bone Crusher did it? Oh my God, I need to do it too."

Herb Gardner, chairman of the bank board of directors, said Smith's pledge of support is

"advantageous to us, and we certainly appreciate it. It increases our profile in the community."

Millenia Bank would be Eastern North Carolina's first minority-owned bank. Organizers say it would make a special effort to meet the needs of depressed communities and of people who have been unsuccessful in their dealings with larger banks.

The proposed bank has raised about \$4 million of the \$5.5 million needed to get off the ground. It is scheduled to open Jan. 15.

Enfield CC Donates Posters

By Joe Holliday

Enfield - The Enfield Civic Club just donated posters last week to Arletha Herring's first grade class at Inborden Elementary School to commemorate Black History month.

Herring said at the presentation "We appreciate it kindly and it comes along with the Black History month."

Club member David Chaney, Sr. stated "It's something we wanted to do for the kids. Black History is not just Black History it's American History. We should try to learn everybody's history so that we can work together and that's what it's all about."

Calvin Pittman, Civic Club President, noted, "We try to encourage our youth, black and white, to get a good education and say "No to Drugs."

"Children really need that parental guidance," He added, "teachers can't do it all. It starts at home."

Chaney interjected, "Then the schools, then the churches." "Teachers need all the help they can get," Club Vice-president James Hunter commented.

He mentioned that the Civic Club has been a "mainstream in the community" since the 1970's and present day members try to be role models for today's youth especially those single-parent families headed by females.

"It makes a difference when there is a man in the household" Hunter stated.

He said he thinks parents are not encouraging children to read books.

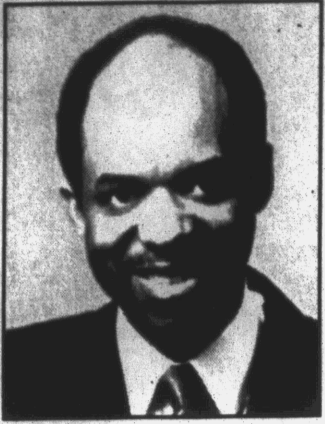
"Knowledge is key," he told Pittman remarked "The doors of education are open to Everybody now." The Club is currently planning a reunion for all club members, past and present.



(Terry Town Entrepreneur) Shown above is sister Iris at her shop located inside Terry Town Mall in Rocky Mount. Sister Iris sells Black art, African dresses, Black books and a variety of things for your home. So remember, when in Rocky Mount be sure to stop by her shop for the best gifts in Eastern North Carolina.

Photo By Jim Rouse

Minority Voice Editorials



CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

By James E. Booker

TOP DRAWER STUFF

NEW YORK, NY...

ONE THE EVE of July 4th, signs of our declarations of independence continued to appear in The South when last weekend the Louisiana State Democratic Party, for the first time in history, unanimously endorsed and African American, five-term New Orleans Congressman William J. JEFFERSON, as the party's candidate for governor to oppose Republican incumbent Gov. Mike FOSTER. Jefferson will have an uphill fight as recent polls show Foster with nearly 70 percent popularity, despite recent disclosures of his dealings with former KKK leader David DUKE...

ALTHOUGH UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA officials said they found no evidence of wrongdoing by basketball coach Clem HASKINS, they have agreed to a \$1.5-million buyout of his contract as of June 30, although he had three more years remaining, in order to restore confidence to the University...

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SPORTS WRITERS, representing the top 25 outstanding sports people from all nations during the century and included only five from the USA: Michael JORDAN, Muhammad ALI, Jesse OWENS, Carl LEWIS and Mark SPITZ (who was the only white American to make it!)...

IT MAY HAVE BEEN one of the weddings of the year on June 26th at New York's St. Thomas Episcopal Church on Fifth Avenue when Alexandria Maria LLEWELLYN, 32-year-old free lance journalist, wed best selling author Tom CLANCY, 52, before a who's who audience of 200 close friends and relatives. A fleet of limousines brought the wedding party two blocks away to the Tony St. Regis Hotel for the reception and bagpipe music filled the air as the guests left the church. Mrs. Clancy is the daughter of Jacqueline Llewellyn, who was a New York City Assistant Fire Commissioner during the Dinkins Administration and J. Bruce Llewellyn, chief executive of the Philadelphia Coca-Cola Bottling Company, which is listed in this year's Black Enterprise Magazine as the nation's Number 1 Black-owned service business. Actor Tom SELLECK served as a groomsman helping to seat guests, which included realtor Louis RUDIN; retired Judge William SESSIONS, former head of the FBI; Essence publisher Ed LEWIS and ad agency owner Byron LEWIS. Among the bride's family and guests were her grandmother, Mrs. Nessie Llewellyn, 100 years old; Mrs. Colin POWELL, Federal Judge mother, Barbara DEPASSE; music executive Suzanne Depasse and her and her mother, Barbara DePasse; music industry producer Sylvia RHONE and her mother, Marie Christmas RHONE...

THE NEW JERSEY STATE Attorney General this week stripped Essex County Prosecutor Patricia A. HURT of control over her budget and staff and gave the authority to one of her aides. The office, one of the busiest in the state, has been under some criticism in recent months over various investigations where state and federal officials have had to come in...

TWO FORMER BOSTON CELTICS; John THOMPSON, who went on to become the acclaimed Georgetown University winningest basketball coach; and Wayne Embry, who recently stepped down as general manager of the Cleveland Cavaliers, are among the new winners elected to the basketball Hall of Fame, and will be inducted Oct. 1 in Springfield, Mass...

REV. AL SHARPTON announcing that he will hold a major demonstration against racial profiling in New Jersey, blocking the busy Atlantic City Expressway on the first day of the July 4th weekend when the gambling city's Tropicana Casino is hosting a three-show reunion of the greats in R&B that weekend, including Ben E. KING,

Increased condom use Worldwide urged

WASHINGTON (IPS) — The use of condoms worldwide must triple in order to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs), according to a report by a prominent U.S. public health agency.

An estimated six to nine billion condoms are used throughout the world each year, but this number must be increased to 24 billion in order to impede the spread of AIDS and other diseases, says the study, "Closing the Condom Gap," by the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in Baltimore, Md.

"Narrowing the gap between the need and use of condoms is a major public health challenge," stated the report.

New efforts are needed to make condoms more accessible, including lowering their cost, effectively promoting their use, and overcoming the many social and personal obstacles to their use, particularly in developing countries where the impact of AIDS is most acute, it said.

At least 33 million people worldwide are living with HIV/AIDS, and another 14 million have died. Some 16,000 new infections are estimated to occur every day, about 60 percent of them in women, many of whom pass the disease along to their newborn children.

Nearly six million people became infected last year alone, according to the U.N. special AIDS program (UNAIDS), about two-thirds of whom live in sub-Saharan Africa. Several countries in the southern part of Africa report that more than 20 percent of their adult population is infected.

AIDS is also spreading quickly in Asia, particularly in South and Southeast Asia. The region is believed to account for another 20 percent of all new 1998 infections.

In addition to the toll exacted by AIDS last year, other sex-related diseases infected some 333 million people, according to the report, which is based on dozens of recent studies.

Most of all diseases could be prevented if people used condoms correctly and consistently, according to the report which notes, "Laboratory tests show that no sexually-transmitted infection, including HIV, can penetrate an intact latex condom."

Still, people often are reluctant or unable to use them. Many simply don't like the condom as a form of contraception, but many more cannot afford them or obtain them easily. Still others believe they face little or no risk of pregnancy or disease.

Unmarried young people are especially at risk, according to the report. Many face social pressures to have sex but have difficulty getting condoms, in part because many family-planning programs are not geared toward them.

"Family planning programs usually focus on the contraceptive needs of married women, while much of the need for condoms is to prevent HIV/AIDS and other infections among unmarried people, particularly youth," the report stated.

Half of all people who become infected are between the ages of 10 and 25 years. "In the era of AIDS young people need guidance, encouragement, and access to condoms."

Hopkins researchers estimate that 71 percent of condom need is among sexually active unmarried men; the rest are used by married men who have extramarital affairs and by married couples.

Condoms should be made accessible to all at subsidized prices and provided not only through health clinics and retail shops, but also in hotels, bars, grocery stores, and vending machines, the report says. In addition, special programs should target specific groups, including youth, unmarried men and sex workers.

programs in 37 countries sold about 575 million condoms; by the end of 1997, total sales had almost doubled.

Many women and men report that they have changed their sexual behavior in response to the AIDS crisis. In Zambia, for example, 72 percent of married men surveyed recently said they had restricted sex to one partner, and 13 percent said they had begun using condoms.

Part of the challenge is overcoming basic ignorance. "In most countries everybody has heard of AIDS. Knowledge of condoms is also widespread," according to the report. "Yet many people who know about AIDS and about condoms do not know that using condoms can prevent

AIDS."

In Uganda in 1995, for example, all never-married men surveyed had heard about AIDS, but only 40 percent knew that condoms could prevent it. In Bangladesh, 33 percent of married men had heard of AIDS, but only 18 percent knew that condoms could prevent it.

Condoms, according to the report, can be very cost-effective when considering the costs of medical care for people who contract AIDS or other STDs.

In the United States, each case of AIDS costs an estimated \$100,000 to \$200,000 in lifetime costs for medical care. One estimate puts health care savings for using condoms at \$27 per condom

Charlotte white parents oppose funding "racial equality"

The Ugly American

By Myra Wooten

CHARLOTTE—White parents who are suing to end school desegregation there, have filed a motion in U.S. District Court to block efforts by public school administrators to improve education in predominately Black schools. Officials of Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools want to give those schools better resources like higher paid teachers and better programming, so that poor children will have the same opportunities as their white counterparts. But white parents want the judge hearing their case to stop it, saying no new money should be spent towards racial equality.

As they made their way into St..... Peter's Parish Hall, the scene was set. They came bearing smiles and gifts, their arms laden with packages for all in attendance. Small origami cranes, and pinwheels, plastic samurai swords, little geisha dolls, fabric with bold Japanese letters. Each gift was a representative of their pride in their heritage. Their crisp white sweat suits emblazoned in bold black letters one word, JAPAN. They were TEAM JAPAN as so many called them that night. Exceptional athletes who were worthy enough to travel across the World in order to compete in the 1999 Special Olympic World Games. They walked in single file and politely offered a "thank you", when served a meal of grilled chicken breast, green beans, stewed potatoes, rolls and of course sweet tea. Chopsticks were set at each place, although many athletes chose instead to use a knife and fork. They practiced their English as they attempted to converse with all present. "I'm very, very, happy," one athlete wrote in English letters. They came prepared to cross language and cultural differences. They came with a spirit of humility, wide-eyed wonder and maybe even surprise. They came with, dare it be said, "the red carpet" rolled out. And Greenville, North Carolina showed them just who we were; once again, true to the old the cliché, the ugly American. Did we roll out that wonderful red, white, and blue banner and step up to the plate? Did we show our visitors the spirit of the land of the long leaf pine? The answer to that question would be no. With only a handful of leaders, and VIPs present, the reception while well planned, seemed lacking and empty. No cameras crewed preserved the moment, and the athletes snapped pictures as though were the honored guest and not the other way around. Where were the VIPs of Greenville? Emerged in a glittering display, set up for celebrities and eighteen holes. In fact the city itself, rattled around shouting that name that at any given day can bring the city and its residents to a halt, Michael Jordan. Perhaps the recent comment made by Commissioner Dave Hammond distracted the media from the true purpose of the athletes presence. To clarify any confusion, the city of Greenville was to play host to this delegation. Not just those specifically involved in Special Olympics, but media, VIPs, and elected officials, which includes county commissioners, and school board members were to be tour guides and representatives of North Carolina and The United States.

What an honor to play a role in one of the largest events to take place this year, The World Games. Athletes from all over the World gathered in cities across Eastern Carolina to be embraced by southern hospitality, and the closest they came to it was a tall glass of sweet tea. The disregard by media, both television and print, showed with all clarity the lack of inclusion for the special population here in Greenville along with a complete disrespect for events surrounding the athletes. At a time when people are attempting to be politically correct, and tolerant of differences, it seems that the focus is still on separate but equal. When a term like "Jap" is unacceptable and offensive, but indifference of a group of athletes is accepted it is time to question priorities and motives. It would appear that Greenville was and is motivated by commerce and status. The purpose behind fund-raisers like The Celebrity Golf Classic should be applauded, but when it detracts from the spirit of helping, so much so that a reception hall is almost empty then somewhere along the way something has gone wrong. The Special Olympics Oath says: "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt" Perhaps our elected officials and representatives should take note of the spirit of team and the meaning of helping others; a lesson easily learned from these athletes. And citizens of Greenville perhaps should rethink individuals placed in positions to represent the entire city. As an invited guest to the reception to celebrate these athletes I can only say thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to share in such a wonderful occasion and to meet such A+ people, the athletes from Japan.

Ralph Ellison's Second Novel Published A Legacy Continued

By Sean Yoes

"I am an invisible man." With these words Ralph Waldo Ellison began one of the most influential American novels of the 20th century and he chronicled perhaps the most basic bane of the African-American experience.

Ellison, an unknown writer at the time from Oklahoma wrote Invisible Man 47-years ago and the book went on to win the National Book Award in 1953.

The main theme of the book, the need for self-awareness was instilled in Ellison early on. His father named him after Ralph Waldo Emerson, hoping he would become a poet. His mother was a domestic worker who enlisted Blacks into the Socialist Party.

In the early 1930's Ellison won a scholarship to Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. He later traveled to New York where he met Richard Wright and the two young writers were involved with the Federal Writers' Project.

After a stint as an U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II, Ellison thought he would write a war novel. Instead he wrote Invisible Man.

Although he published two collections of essays: "Shadow and Act" (1964) and "Going to the Territory" (1986). Ellison never published another novel until now, five years after his death.



Ralph Waldo Ellison

Ellison's long awaited second novel, "Juneteenth," was published recently. The literary icon grappled with completing it for 40 years until his death in 1994. However, his widow Fanny enlisted John Callahan, Ralph Ellison's literary executor to compile thousands of pages of notes and drafts into Juneteenth.

The title refers to June 19th 1865, when Texas slaves first got word of their freedom, two years after Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

The book revolves around two characters: a man named "Reverend Hickman," a jazz musician turned minister and a child, "Little Bliss."

Little Bliss has a White mother, but his father is unknown. Rev.

Hickman along with other members of his congregation raise the child as Black.

Little Bliss runs away from the world in which he was raised as an adolescent and grows up to become a race-baiting Senator from a New England state who is later assassinated.

As the Senator is dying in the hospital he and Rev. Hickman reminisce about and reconstruct their respective pasts.

Part of the original manuscript for Juneteenth was lost in 1967 when Ellison's house burned. But, what Callahan discovered as he sifted through Ellison's voluminous notes was that the writer actually had several potential novels going. According to Callahan the one that was most coherent and complete was Juneteenth.

So, now we have this posthumously published gift from Ellison. Another masterpiece of American literature for us to sort through over years and learn the lessons it offers.

Like Invisible Man, Juneteenth is also filled with revelations about ourselves and each other and our place in this country and this world. Revelations from a man who perhaps like no other author is able to speak so clearly, so profoundly to Blacks and Whites alike.

This is Ellison's real gift, to all of us.

A Letter To The Editor

Keith W. Cooper

Housekeepers, who typically are overworked and underpaid, often don't get their due recognition and respect. Without housekeepers, many of our clean, attractive buildings would be condemned for sanitation purposes. However, Mayor Jenkins, on Friday, June 25th, took time from her busy schedule to participate in the Pitt County Housekeepers' Appreciation Ceremony in Greenville. I organized this historic event because I respect housekeepers and other grassroots employees.

I asked Mayor Jenkins to issue a proclamation designating June 25-July 2 as Housekeepers' Appreciation Week; she did. The Mayor realizes the importance of supporting grassroots employees and encouraging them to keep the faith. Therefore, I give the Mayor an "A" for responsible constituency service. In fact, she takes her job seriously. I'm confident that she will continue doing an impressive job as mayor even after she's reelected next year.

It is important that businesses boost the self-esteem and morale of their housekeepers. For example, a supervisor may wish to give his housekeepers a pizza party or lunch where housekeepers will be complimented for their perseverance and "stick-to-it-ness". When housekeepers feel good about themselves and their jobs, absenteeism and turnover will be reduced. This translates into increased business productivity. Smart business owners should know that keeping their employees happy makes good business sense. Hence, all parties win.

Housekeepers deserve higher wages, better working conditions, access to grievance-redress mechanisms, and meaningful benefits. We are all God's children; thus, we are special. In any event, I encourage businesses, clergymen, and other concerned citizens to sponsor activities and ceremonies to recognize and honor all housekeepers annually. I trust that the recent ceremony will serve as a springboard to a better future for our dedicated, commitment-driven housekeepers.

All businesses should have a Housekeepers' of the Month or a Housekeepers' of the Year award. This would motivate and inspire housekeepers to aspire to higher levels of service. Again, this is in the interest of maximizing profits while simultaneously promoting on-the-job happiness.

One of the biggest complaints that too many housekeepers have is that they are underpaid and overworked. Housekeepers put food on the table to feed their families, pay the utility and insurance bills and car note, and save for other basic needs. Therefore, they need to be well paid. I am anxious to see that day when housekeepers get a chunky slice of the "American pie."

Read: It Expands Your Mind

Around The Nation

NO BLACKS IN NEW FALL LINE UP

By Paul Farhi
Tuesday, July 13, 1999;

Here's one thing you won't be seeing much of when the big TV networks roll out their new sitcoms and drama series this fall: black people. In what is likely to be the whitest television season in a generation, not one of the 26 new shows set to debut on ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox will star an African American. Blacks, along with Hispanics and Asian Americans, will occupy few secondary roles as well.

The new season continues what amounts to a disappearing act for blacks and black-themed shows during the 1990s. After a decade in which Bill Cosby ruled television, and predominantly black sitcoms like "A Different World" and "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" broke through to general audiences, African Americans are accounting for a steadily declining share of roles as broadcasters chase more numerous and affluent white viewers. Last season, for example, only four shows with blacks or other minority actors in lead roles survived a full season. Three of these were on CBS, and two featured Cosby ("Cosby" and "Kids Say the Darndest Things"), while ABC had the family sitcom "The Hughleys." At mid-season, Fox offered "The PJs," an animated sitcom featuring

African American Claymation characters. Among the big four, NBC -- whose hit sitcoms "Seinfeld" and "Friends" have portrayed a Manhattan largely devoid of minorities -- didn't carry a single show with an African American in the lead. The trends have alarmed the nation's largest civil rights

organization, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. At the NAACP's national convention in New York yesterday, President Kweisi Mfume blasted the ebbing diversity and suggested that legal action could be warranted. "When the TV viewing public sits down to watch new prime-time shows scheduled for this fall's lineup, they will see a virtual whitewash in programming," Mfume said in an address to the group. "This glaring omission is an outrage and a shameful display by network executives, who are either clueless, careless or both."

Mfume, who called for federal hearings on station and network ownership, said the NAACP plans to monitor the movie and TV industry out of its new branch in Hollywood. He said the NAACP is "actively exploring" litigation against the four networks and boycotts of their sponsors, though he wasn't specific. The top programming executives of CBS, NBC and the smaller WB and UPN networks acknowledged the general racial trend in interviews, but each defended his network's fare (Fox's top executive, Doug Herzog, and ABC Entertainment President Jamie Tarses were not available for comment, despite repeated requests during the past month). "Most networks and production companies are aware of the need to strive to diversify," said Leslie Moonves, president of CBS, the network most popular among both black and white viewers last season. "It's important for us to represent America the way it really is." But Moonves called the absence of blacks in

major roles on forthcoming shows "an exception." He believes the pendulum will eventually swing back. "Everything on TV is cyclical," he said. Yet the trend seems to have largely gone in one direction for several years. During the 1993-94 season, according to the Washington-based Center for Media and Public Affairs, 18 percent of the characters on entertainment programs were African American. In the season just completed, the figure had fallen to 10 percent.

Since African Americans actually make up almost 12 percent of the U.S. population, that means the leading networks now underrepresent them on the airwaves. Hispanic Americans have had a similar fate for years. Although Latino characters increased from 2 percent of all roles in 1992-93 to 3.8 percent last season, this still is far less than the 11 percent share of the U.S. population that identifies itself as part of the fast-growing Hispanic segment. The trend for blacks is actually worse than the percentages indicate, said Robert Lichter, the center's director. He pointed out that since all four networks now pack their schedules with newsmagazine programs like "Dateline" or "60 Minutes," there are fewer dramas and sitcoms on their schedules. In effect, that means blacks are accounting for a smaller share of a shrunken pool.

This pattern runs counter to statements made recently by some of the networks' top decision-makers. Tarses, ABC's entertainment president, told reporters last summer, "I think all the networks are working on" increasing roles

for blacks, as well as other minorities. "I think we're always looking to make the ensembles of our shows as eclectic as we can." In an interview, NBC's chief entertainment executive, Scott Sassa, repeated his determination to provide "more diversity, less sex, less New York and more family" in his network's shows. "It's about variety," he said. "One point is diversity. We made a mistake having too many things that are unoriginal and alike." Black characters do have prominent though usually supporting roles in several network dramas, including "NYPD Blue" and "The Practice" on ABC, "Ally McBeal" on Fox, "ER" and the canceled "Homicide: Life on the Street" on NBC, and "Touched by an Angel" on CBS. In a noteworthy exception, CBS has scheduled producer Steven Bochco's "City of Angels" -- a new medical-center drama featuring a mostly black cast -- as a mid-season replacement next year. The program will be among the few dramas in TV history in which black characters predominate. But network sitcoms are almost exclusively white -- a reversal from the days when "crossover" shows like "Sanford and Son," "Good Times," "The Jeffersons," "Amen," "227," "Diff'rent Strokes," "Family Matters" and "Fresh Prince" dotted network schedules. Indeed, Fox built its challenge to CBS, ABC and NBC by attracting the young -- and often black -- audience overlooked by the networks with "black" comedies like "Martin," "Roc," "Living Single" and "In Living Color." Filling some of the void left by the

big four are the WB and UPN networks, which started four years ago. Both air a number of shows starring African Americans, featuring comedian Jamie Foxx, in a self-titled sitcom, and pop singer Brandy ("Moesha").

Jamie Kellner, WB's chief executive, said his network "from the beginning looked at viewer groups that were not well represented on network TV. Young people were not well represented. African Americans were not well represented. . . . If the other networks don't want to put those shows on, it makes good business sense for us to pursue them." But the WB and UPN are still small, with original programming airing only five nights a week last season and together attracting only about 8 percent of the TV audience each night during prime-time hours. ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox, meanwhile, collectively attract more than half of all viewers each night. What's more, both WB and UPN cluster their "black" sitcoms on their schedules, lending the impression that these shows are segregated from the rest of the lineup.

Some blacks are suspicious about whether the start-up networks are really committed to black audiences. At a recent industry dinner in Los Angeles, comedian Steve Harvey, who stars in a self-named WB sitcom, voiced his doubts publicly, noting that Fox has abandoned its African American stars for the likes of "Manchester Prep," one of several new all-white shows about the lives and loves of young people. Black actors and producers also complain that series with a strong appeal to black audiences are the

last to be added and the first to be dropped when ratings fail to meet expectations. This perception was reinforced recently when Fox moved "The PJs" off next fall's schedule and replaced it with a half-hour version of "Ally McBeal." The move angered "PJs" executive producer Eddie Murphy, who is also the voice of one of the characters. Fox says the sitcom will be brought back at mid-season. "The pendulum may swing back, but it never seems to swing back too far in our direction," said James McDaniel, the African American actor who portrays Lt. Arthur Fancy on "NYPD Blue." "To be told, 'You're not in vogue for the moment' makes [one] feel like a second-class citizen." A proposed program featuring blacks, he said, "just in its very nature is perceived to be much less valuable than a comparable white project. That's just a fact." Said Tim Reid, a veteran actor and program creator ("Snoops," "Frank's Place" and the pay-cable series "Linc's"): "Hollywood is supposed to be a liberal bastion, but in reality, it's 'Do as I say, not as I do.' This is the last segregated industry in America." Both McDaniel and Reid suggest the problem stems from a lack of diversity in the networks' executive suites. Although women have recently ascended to the top programming ranks at the networks, no African American has ever overseen programming at a major network.

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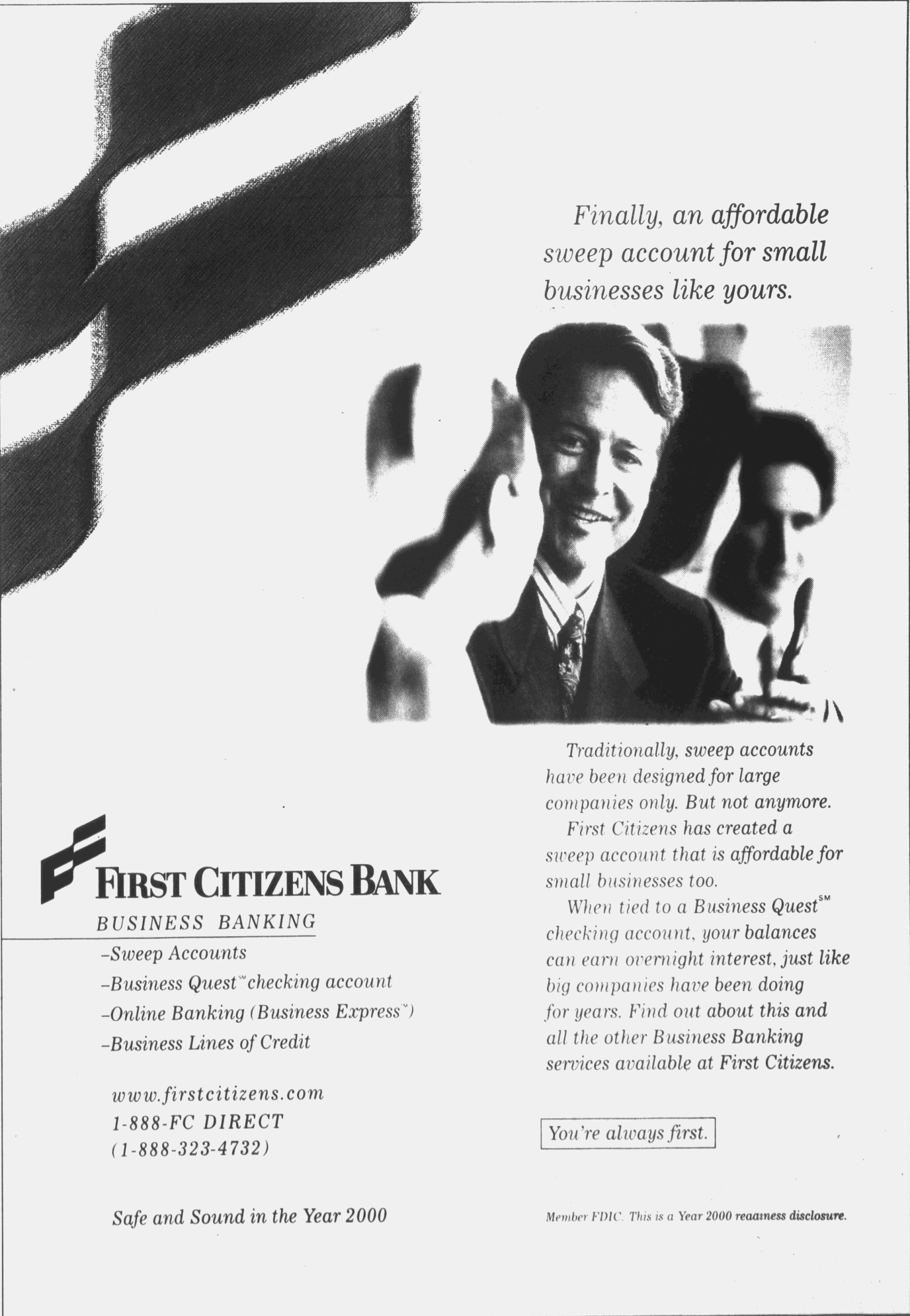
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Faith & Inspiration From the Desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



"DO YOU HAVE A PYRAMID-SHAPED KITCHEN? or HEALTH DOSE?"

"Weight gain is the No. 1 nutritional problem in the United States," says Lawrence J. Cheskin, MD., director of the John Hopkins Weight Management Center and author of "Losing Weight for Good: Developing Your Personal Plan of Action".

Diet has a bearing on high blood pressure, which affects 25 percent of adults in the United States. "We have these problems because of the way we eat and of the way we live," says Michael J. Klag, MD., MPH, Director of General Internal Medicine at the John Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Americans typically eat a diet

high in processed foods (full of fat and salt) and low in fruits and vegetables (full of fiber and potassium), factors in lowering blood pressure.

Healthy habits begin at home. Turn your kitchen into your family's own wellness center, a nutritionally smart hub of meal planning, shopping, preparation and serving. Healthy changes to your diet need not be drastic. Substitute baked fish for fried fish sticks. Choose sherbet or frozen yogurt instead of calorie-laden ice cream. Cut carrots and make fruit available for snacks. Make water your beverage of choice, with limits on juice, soda and caffeine beverages.

On your next trip to the grocery store, take along a copy of the Food Guide Pyramid. Shop the "outsides" of the store where whole fruits and vegetables usually are displayed, rather than ends of aisles, which are loaded with prepared specials. Read food labels and learn what they mean.

Parents, childhood is the best time to start forming healthy eating and exercise habits, not at age 40 and 50. Overweight children are likely to become overweight adults.

People are eating more and exercising less, spending more time riding in cars, watching TV, and

in front of a computer. Today's kids are eating more take out and junk foods, and that means more dietary fat.

"For kids who grow up watching their parents stuff themselves with all sorts of garbage, it's hard to get them to develop healthy eating habits", say Leon Rosenberg, Ph.D. After all the apple, or should I say the candy bar, doesn't fall far from the tree.

Start by adding more exercise and fiber while cutting the fat, sugar, and idle TV watching from your own life style before jumping all over the kids.

Make exercise family time. Take walks together after dinner. Go for a family bike ride. If Mom has exercise tapes, get everyone leaping/ twisting. Take the family out roller skating, ice skating or play badminton; even horseback riding, skiing or swimming.

From: BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS, May 1999

WHAT'S YOUR TIME REALLY WORTH?

Every morning, we are credited with 86,400 seconds in accounts for the next 24 hours. By the next morning, whatever amount of time we have failed to invest in good purposes is written off as a loss. No balance is carried over; overdrafts are not allowed. Each

day, a new account opens for us and the records of the previous day are burned. If we fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is ours. There is no going back. There is no drawing against "tomorrow".

We must live in the present day's deposits. We must invest our time to get the most in health, happiness and success! The clock is running. Make the most of today.

* To understand the value of ONE YEAR...ask a student who has failed an exam.

* To understand the value of ONE MONTH...ask a mother who has given birth to a premature baby.

* To understand the value of ONE WEEK...ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

* To understand the value of ONE DAY...ask a daily wage laborer who has a family.

* To understand the value of ONE HOUR...ask the person stalled in traffic.

* To understand the value of ONE MINUTE...ask someone who has issued a train.

* To understand the value of ONE SECOND...ask a person who has survived an accident.

* To understand the value of ONE MILLISECOND...ask the person

who has won a Silver Medal in the Olympics.

Treasure every moment that you have! And remember, time waits for no one.

What Does A Church Clergy/ Pastor/Minister Do All Week

Rate Yours !!!

Congregations need to understand that ministry is more than giving a sermon and greeting people on Sunday morning. They should know that one sermon involves many hours of preparation. Pastors today are overloaded with home visits, personal and family counseling, board meetings, Bible studies hospital calls, administrative duties, crisis counseling, baptisms marriages, divorces and funerals. Some are expected to referee family fights. In addition to all of the above, the congregation expects its pastor to be available all hours of the day and night. No wonder so many ministers experience burnout and health and family problems.

Marriage :

The duties of the "best man"

1. The minister should be paid when he or she arrives to perform the ceremony. After the ceremony, the minister is a forgotten person.
2. Give the minister the marriage license before the ceremony.

please put the fee in the envelope with the license.

Combining two duties into one should simplify the best man's responsibilities.

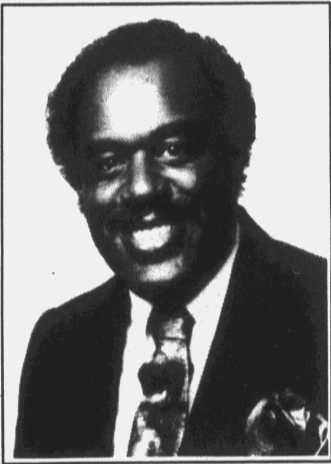
THE NEW EMPLOYEE

The new employee must meet some firm expectations :

1. Promptness is essential. Management prefers workers to clock in on an actual clock at least ten minutes before their areas open to the public. Tardiness is unacceptable. Repeated tardiness will lead to dismissal.
2. Communication is key. Employees are expected to listen to and follow directions accurately, asking questions if they are unsure about what they've heard. They also are expected to accept constructive criticism gracefully and share problems they may have relating to coworkers.
3. Taken responsibility for his or her own actions goes hand in hand with functioning smoothly as team members. Each individual is expected to do his or her part and more.
4. Demonstrate strong interpersonal skills in dealing "with" each other and with the public. Courtesy is essential. Attitude is unacceptable as in uncontrolled anger.

* PS, From The Desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye Correct Usage or Procedure : Master of ceremonies not Master of Ceremony or Mistress of Ceremony. printed programs : Follow the printed program is correct. It is unnecessary for the Master or Mistress of Ceremonies to cite each item on the printed program assuming that each person in the audience has a printed program. If any changes are made, the Master or Mistress of Ceremonies will state that change prior to the beginning of the program.

Spiritual Thoughts



Dr. George Hawkins

SPIRITUALISM

(NOTE: The June 11 issue of The Daily Reflector carried an article with this caption: "Christian Groups urge boycott of Army until witchcraft ejected." The article states: "Until the Army withdraws all official support and approval from witchcraft, no Christian should enlist or re-enlist in the Army and Christian parents should not allow their children to join the Army," said Paul M. Weyrich, President of the Free Congress Association, one of the organizations calling for the boycott. "An army that sponsors satanic rituals is unworthy of representing the United States of America.")

The Bible story of King Saul's "seance" with the witch of Endor, a necromancer or spirit medium, as related in I Samuel 28:7-20, is an illustration of what is claimed to be performed today. Other common names for Spiritualisms are: black art, sorcery, wizardry, mediums, palm-readers, spirit of divination, fortunetellers, Ouija board players, planchettes, and so forth. The Bible refers to these devices as familiar spirits, lying spirits, seducing spirits, evil spirits and demons. Because Spiritualism demands a bonding of self-control, our Lord Jesus Christ looks upon this practice as a sign of evil. God respects our individuality and appeals to it and

urges our self-control in harmony with the principles of righteousness laid down in His Word rather than in the principles of Spiritualism.

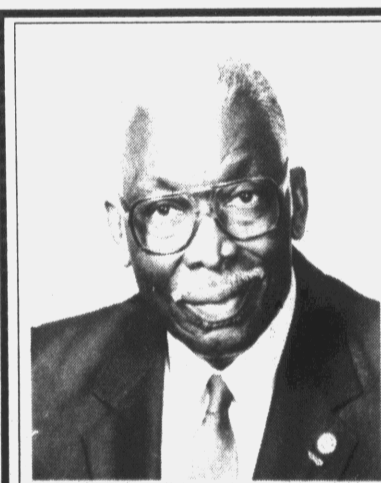
We all know another Bible story (ACTS 8:4--9) of how Simon practiced witchcraft in Samaria for many years and had bewitched people to the extent that they believed he was a Man of God when Philip was sent to preach and baptize the people and to perform miracles and signs. Simon also believed and was baptized when Peter and John followed and began to lay on hands for believers to receive the Holy Ghost, Simon offered his "filthy lucre" (ill-gotten money) to

buy the Holy Ghost, only to have the apostles tell him "Thy money perisheth. It is a gift from GOD."

No Christian who has the slightest confidence in the Bible as the inspired Word of God should submit himself to the influence of, nor give up the use and control of his own mind in preference to the unseen powers and evils of Spiritualism, that tries to control the individual. God's Word has warned us that it is the way that leads from God and righteousness and leads to mental, moral, and physical ruin and sin. The methods used by the evil spirits through the medium at Endor were similar to those in use today.

There are good spirits, as the Scriptures freely declare; and these holy angels are charged with the care of all who are fully consecrated to the Lord. These good spirits do not operate in darkness, nor through mediums (who communicate with the dead). They have better use of time than tipping tables, rapping out answers to foolish questions, and entertaining humanity. HEBREWS 1:14 reads: "Are they (holy angels) not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"

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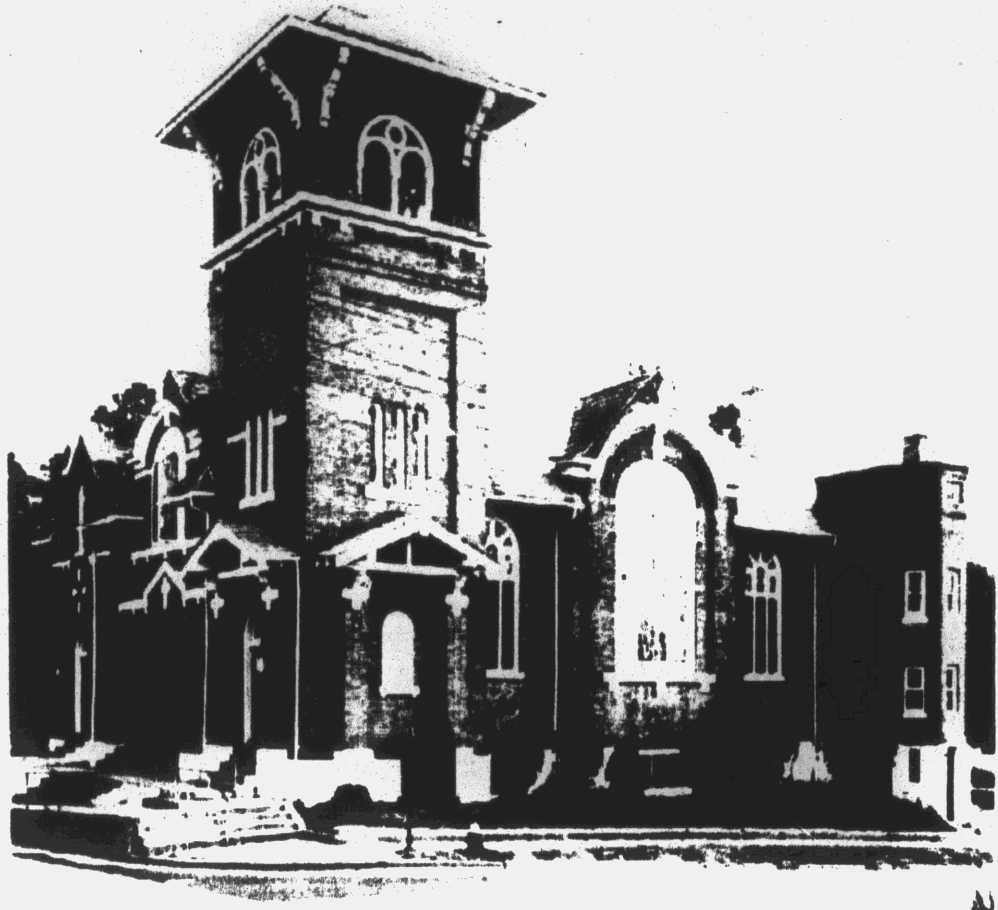
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Words Of Wisdom : Know Thyself, believe in God and dare to dream - John Salley

The History of Sycamore Hill Baptist Church

Our History



SYCAMORE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Sycamore Hill Baptist Church was created in the minds of a few sincere Christians on a cold wintery night in 1865. Divinely inspired forethought, sacrifice, courage and determination gave us our rich heritage.

A group of twenty-one persons assembled in the home of Sister Ruth Armond on North Greene Street for a prayer service. They felt the need of a church and asked God for guidance in their efforts. Soon they were asking questions: "How will this church be financed?" and "Where will it be located?"

These pioneers were Sarah Cherry, Annie Daniels, Lucy Eaton, Jane Hardy, Catherine Knox, Bettie Moya, Fiebie Nobles, Jane Powell, Martha Simmons, Madison Forman, Daniel and Bettie King, Virginia and Moses King, Tom Moya, Alfred Payton, and Percy Williams.

With each of the 21 persons becoming responsible for an important part in the building of a church, they continued to meet. First they met in one room; then after two years a small wooden frame building was erected on the corner of First and Greene Streets. There were Sycamore trees in the front of the lot; thus the church became known as the Sycamore Hill Baptist Church. The Reverend Sam Perry was the first minister.

Years passed before the Reverend Austin Hood, the second minister. Third and fourth pastors were the Reverend Mack Matthewson and, from Tarboro, the Reverend Anderson Robinson. After their short pastorates of three or four years, the church progressed under the Reverend

S. P. Knight's administration. During his four or five years, he preached on second and fourth Sundays. Because of growing membership a new church was planned. Forty-seven members had added to the church roll before Reverend Knight died in 1901.



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Mr. & Mrs. James Boone



Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Bradley & Mrs. Zenna Bangley



Mr. Hezekiah Bradley



Mrs. Launa Brewington



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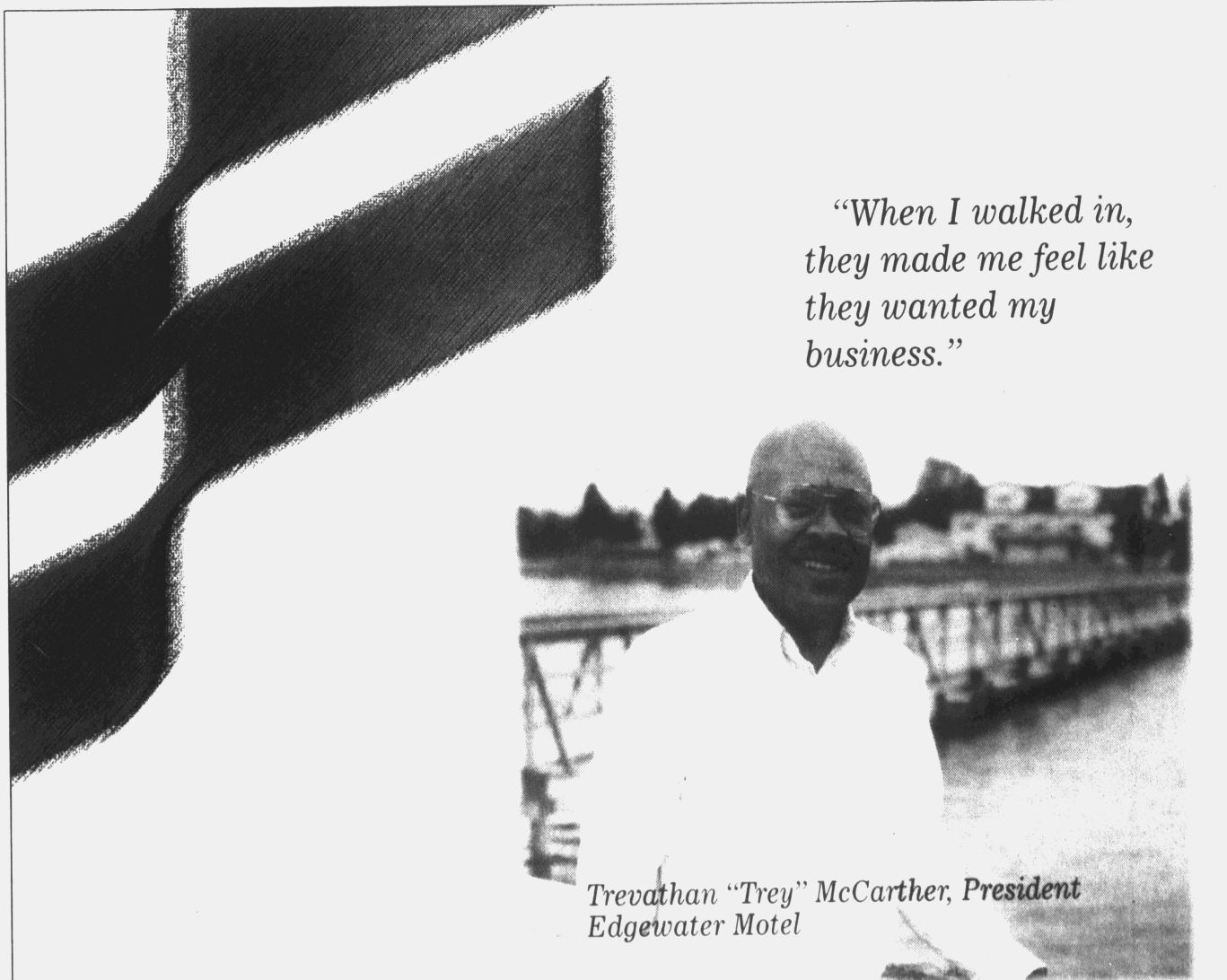
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Sycamore Hill Baptist Church
founded - 1865

Faces & Places



Family Reunion: The Descendants of George Newton & Betsy Darker met at the Holiday Inn Express for their Annual Family Reunion shown above is Father Newton who built his own home in Pitt County over 50 years ago. Shown below is the many family members who came from all over the world to Greenville, NC to fellowship with Family Members & Friends.

(PHOTO: Jim Rouse)



(Cool Jazz with George Benson) at the Annual Hampton Jazz Festival the "M" Voice Publisher was on hand to snap pictures of brother Benson as he performed many of his hits. Many others appeared & Black folks camped out for the entire 3 day festival.

(Photo By Jim Rouse)



(Family Fellowship) Pictured above the Mills family enjoying each other as they reunite at their annual family reunion each Fourth of July. Below Miss Mills, Miss Morris, Captain Hardy The "M" Voice Mrs. Beatrice Maye and City Council Woman Mildred Council

Family History

The Mills Family reunion was started by the children of Charlie and Velma L. Cox Mills. The First Family reunion was held on July 4, 1973., at the residence of Charlie and Velma in Grimesland, NC. Each year the Family will set aside the First Saturday in July as the Mills reunion day.

on July 2nd, at 7:00p.m. at the Kiwanis Club located at 188 West Forlines Street, Winterville, NC. A talent show featured a fashion show with contests and prizes. The reunion will be on Saturday, July 3rd, at 1:00 at the W.H. Robinson Elementary School in Winterville, NC. On Saturday, church service was at Joe's Branch F.W.B. Church, HWY 43 Route 1, Calico, NC., Dr. Allen Smith pastor.

The twelve children had a dream that one day each of them with other family members and friends would come together and dedicate, as well as honor their parents and say, "thank you mom and dad" for a job well done. We all love you. The children of Charlie and Velma Mills.

Submitted by The Mills Family

This year it was held on July 2,3,4, 1999. The social was held



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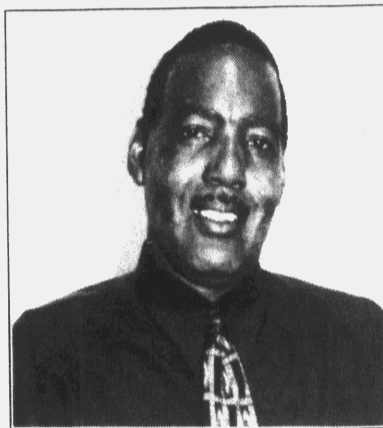
Session 1 8:30 - 11:15 a.m.
Session 2 10:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

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Prayer Meeting.....7:00 PM

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Minister Jack Bircher
and the
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Friday 7pm

Sis. Laura Hamilton
and the
Cornerstone Praise Team
Saturday 7pm

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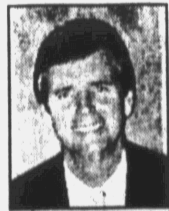
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Advertise With The Minority Voice

Position Available

CASEWORKER POSITION:

Responsibilities:

Manager casework of various constituents; ability to act as a liaison with federal, state, district, and local agencies. Serve as representative at various community functions, assist in planning and executing successful community forums.

Qualifications:

Strong academic credentials, including college degree and/or related experience; strong oral and written communication skills, proficiency with computer; strong telephone skills; ability to work long hours if necessary. Candidate must be self-directed, exercise good judgment, meet deadlines, and work well with others.

Salary:

commensurate with experience.

Please Respond to:

CW - LJ
P.O. BOX 670
NORLINA, NC 27563
FAX: 252-456-2611

Position Available

Staff Assistant (Receptionist) Position:

Responsibilities :

Provide administrative support to office staff; answer the telephone; provide secretarial services for staff, provide constituent information, and other outreach tasks.

Qualifications :

High School graduate with college training and/or minimum of (2) years office experience, professional telephone manners ; proficient with computers and other office equipment; skilled in typing at minimum rate of 40 words per minute. Ability to write and orally communicate with all people, should have intake and interviewing skills. Ability to work long hours if necessary.

Salary:

Commensurate with experience

Please Respond To

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The Minority Voice

OBITUARY

lanagan
FUNERAL HOME INC

BROOKLYN, NY - Mr. Linwood Edward Spruill Sr., 62 died Wednesday, July 7, 1999.

Funeral services Thursday 11a.m., York Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, Greenville, NC Burial in the Council Family Cemetery, Bethel, NC.

Mr. Spruill was a graduate of C.M. Eppes High School in Greenville and attended New York Technical University. He was a U.S. Army veteran and a retired employee of the U.S. Postal Service. Mr. Spruill was a member of Lafayette Avenue Church of God.

Surviving: his wife, Carol Brown Spruill; sons, Linwood Edward Spruill Jr. and Michael Spruill, Both of Brooklyn; daughters, Pamela Spruill of Brooklyn, Vivian Spruill Mitchell of Charlotte and Jacqueline Spruill of Virginia Beach, VA.; two grandchildren.

Men's Day Celebration
at

Warren Chapel United America Free Will Baptist Church Sunday July 18th

11:00 A.M.

The sermon will be delivered by the pastor, Elder W.H. Joy. Guest singers will be *The New Golden Dove Singers* of Ayden, North Carolina.

Men Ushers are invited to join in and make a combined usher group. The public is invited as well so please Come, and help us lift Jesus up

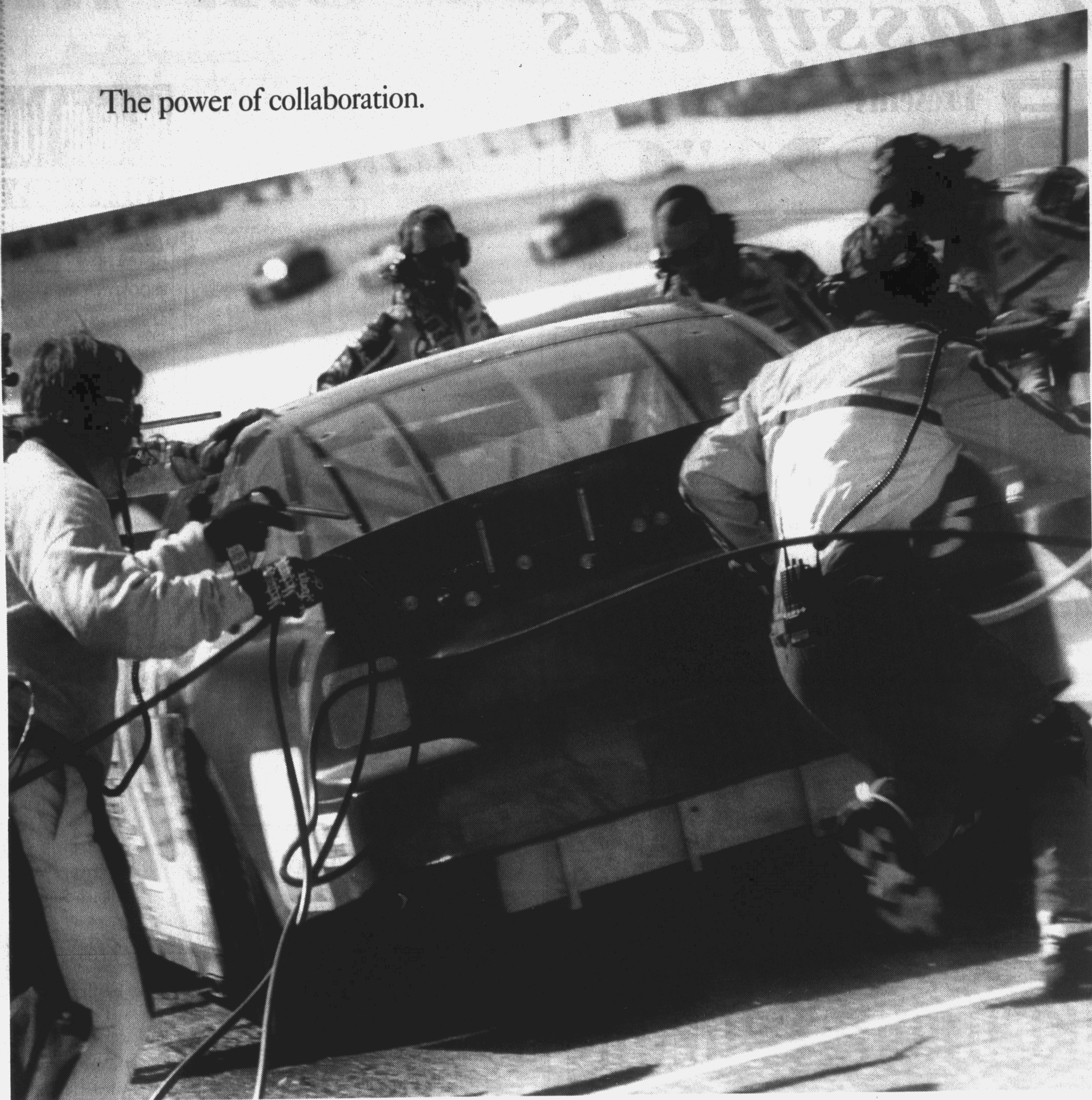


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