

The Minority Voice

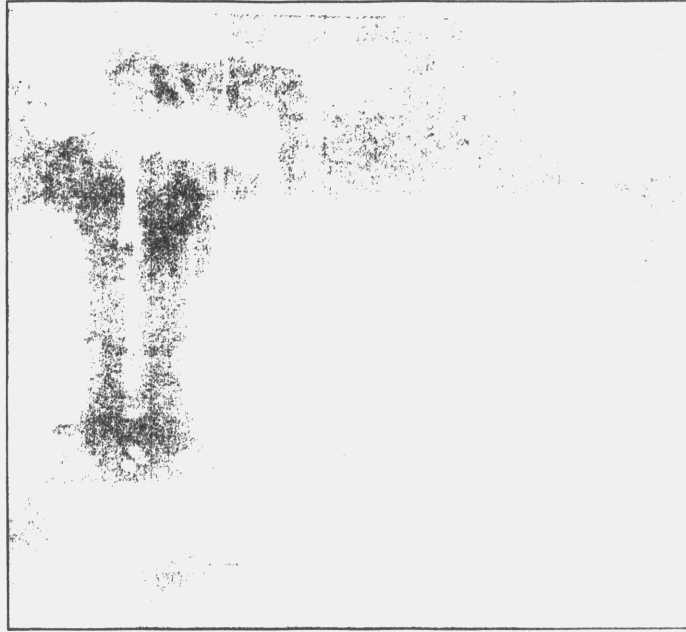
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October 14 - October 21, 1999

FREE!

"There's no free lunch. Don't feel entitled to anything you don't sweat and struggle for." - Marian Wright Edelman, child advocate

Worker Finds 'Lynched' Coke Bottle in Auto Plant; Sues Toyota for Racism



Come now James Callier, a black employee of a Long Beach Toyota company, who filed a \$5 million lawsuit in Superior Court recently alleging racial harassment and discrimination in his workplace.

Callier sued TABC, Inc., an auto parts-making subsidiary of Toyota Motor Manufacturing of North America, for whom he is a press operator, claiming that on Sept. 14, 1998 he found a Coke bottle on his desk that had been painted black, with eyes drawn in and wool-textured material glued on as hair.

Callier's suit alleges that a rope fashioned into a hangman's noose was wrapped around the neck of the bottle, simulating a lynching.

Upon seeing the lynched bottle figure, "Mr. Callier immediately understood that he had become

the direct target of what seemed to be a known and tolerated, racially hostile work environment that existed at the company," said Tom J. Jaramilla, Callier's attorney.

In his suit, Callier contends that he and other employees at the Toyota company were made to tolerate racist slurs on a daily basis, that swastikas were drawn on the equipment and that "NIGGER go back to Africa" was scrawled on the company's bathroom walls in plain view of the supervisors, who, themselves, addressed African American employees as "nigger" or "black boy," Callier's complaint states. Callier claims that he, himself, was directly addressed as a "damn nigger" by a white employee.

Callier was hired by the company in 1992 and continues to

work there. "He should not be the one to leave," Jaramilla said. "He's been a victim and he did nothing wrong."

Jaramilla said her client complained to supervisors about the alleged racist work environment in the plant about 10 to 15 times. "It was only this final incident with the lynched Coke bottle when he finally said 'enough' and filed the lawsuit," she said.

The local chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality held a news conference last Thursday at which it called for a boycott of Toyota products in a show of support for Callier, and the group plans to demonstrate at the Long Beach plant this week.

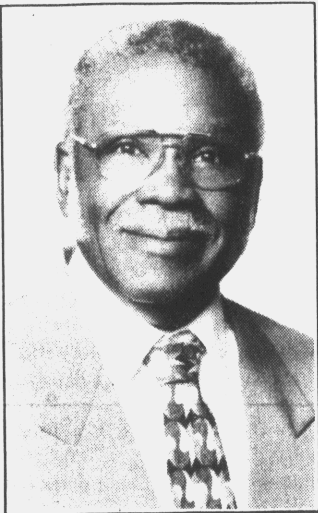
TABC's Vice President David Dedinsky denied all of Callier's claims and told the City News Service:

"We refute the charges and intend to defend the action. As a company, we make a very strong effort to create a positive work environment, which is free from any racial, sexual or religious harassment of any sort."

"This particular episode was fully investigated, and we even took steps to offer a \$1,000 reward for any eyewitnesses, and had professional fingerprinting tests performed on any of the objects in question. All of that was unsuccessful," Dedinsky continued.

The company official said Callier's claims that his complaints to supervisors were ignored are "not true."

"We reacted instantly, as soon as we found that bottle. We reacted at the first complaint," he said.



Brooks Announces Candidacy

Richard Brooks announces his candidacy for Washington City Council. Brooks is retired from E. I. Dupont in Kinston. He currently operates a private maintenance service. The candidate is married to Mary Little Brooks and they have one daughter, Flora May, and one son Richard Lee. The Brooks have one granddaughter Keisha Langley. The family resides at 820 Boston Avenue. Brooks was appointed to the Washington Board of Adjustments in 1982 and served on that appointed board until 1997. He was the chairman of the Board of Adjustments for 3 years. The family are active members at The Temple of Jesus Christ in Washington. Brooks serves as the chairman of the trustees in addition to other committees. He also serves as president of the Boston Avenue Community Association. Brooks has served as a Washington volunteer fireman for 19 years. "I have been interested and involved in community affairs for many years. Now that I am retired, I feel that I have the time to contribute to help improve our community so that it will be a good place to live. I enjoy helping people and I want to make sure that everyone in our community is treated fairly. The only promise that I will make is that I will listen to everyone's opinion before I make a decision on City Council."

NAACP pressures Alabama law enforcement to solve mysterious disappearance of six in 1986

By J. ZAMGBA BROWNE
Amsterdam News Staff

The mysterious disappearance of six African-American adults in Alabama last May has become a major concern of the nation's oldest civil rights organization, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Kweisi Mfume, who heads the organization, has asked Alabama law enforcement to accelerate its investigation of the missing people, who range in age from 22 to 28 years old. They were last seen riding in a 1986 Chevrolet Caprice near Opp, Ala., in the southeastern part of the state.

The civil rights leader said family members and friends asked the NAACP to press state investigators for details about the case and to find out why it is taking them so long to solve it.

"Law enforcement is investigating the case, but perhaps more resources are needed," said Mfume. "We think that, as a result of our involvement, authorities have stepped up their probe."

"A car full of people can't just vanish into thin air. Somebody must know something," he added.

The missing people were identified as Eula Josett Lee, 27; Lamar Junior Stackhouse, 25; Tamara Monique Ward, 22; Valeria Genieta McCoy, 27; Angela Roberts Young, 26; and James A. Reynolds, 28.

Mfume described the car they were driving as faded maroon in color with Alabama license plate No. 34BM771. Anyone with information should call the Alabama Bureau of Investigation

Town chartered by slaves flooded

TARBORO, NC - Lorenzo Lyons is in shock. In less than two weeks, the lifelong Princeville resident has lost his home, his job and dreams. When Hurricane Floyd dropped 20 inches of rain on the historic eastern North Carolina town Sept. 17, Lyons, 31, like most others there, had no idea his life would be changed forever.

"I'm in shock," he said, eating a hot dog in the parking lot of his new "home" - Tarboro High School, one of two emergency shelters set up after Floyd hit.

Most of the hundreds at the shelter are his neighbors from predominantly black Princeville, population 1,800 plus. They too believe that after some wind damage and minor flooding, they'd be back within a day or two. Instead, the first town chartered by freed slaves in 1885 has made national headlines for being literally underwater for two weeks. The dikes that were constructed to keep the Tar River out have now kept the flood waters have subsided, officials say it will be a while before it completely drains and Princeville can be rebuilt.

The residents can't wait that long. Many are elderly with fixed incomes; others are young families who work on nearby farms or in factories in Edgecombe County.

Those were flooded out too, leaving tens of thousands throughout the region with no home, no business and no job. By Tuesday, over 47 statewide were known dead.

"Some are sad," said Lyons, "and some are like me - they can't believe it."

Donald Ray Williams, 51, has lived on Mullins Street in Princeville for just under a year. His wife, Bettie, pastors a church right next door. The morning of Floyd, he

grabbed a small bag because he was sure he'd be back. Now both buildings are underwater. "I didn't know it would happen like this," he said, standing in front of his car at the shelter and whatever worldly possessions he was able to grab.

"They said we can't go back because of all of that disease and stuff," Williams said. "Dead bodies and dead animals."

To compound the problem, hazardous chemicals from a nearby farming plant are believed to have been released into the floodwaters along with sewage, adding to the probability of disease. In all, 650 homes, 30 businesses, are gone - an estimated \$43 million in damage and destruction. Bettie, 51, says many of the people are hurt. Some feel they haven't been treated fairly since arriving at the shelter. Some are anxious to get back home, no matter what the condition. And many are hearing disturbing rumors that several of their neighbors are unaccounted for because they didn't believe such an unprecedented catastrophe could, or would, happen.

VOTE NOV. 2ND



Princeville Mayor Lorenzo Lyons is shown above with Pitt County Commissioner Jeff Savage, Dr. Tommy Hines, Bro. Bobby Teel and others. They were enjoying happier days last year during Commissioner Savage's campaign for the 8th House District representing Edgecombe County. The mayor was in the process of making the town of Princeville a historic tourist location.
Photo By Jim Rouse



Adopt a Family. Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church was the scene for the Ministers and Civil Rights Leaders such as Martin Luther King III, state president of the SCLC Bennie Roundtree, former Congressman Walter Fontroy, National Talk Show Host Joe Madison from WOL Radio station Washington, D.C., and famous civil rights fighter Golden Frinks. The pastor of Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church is Sidney Locke.
Photo by Jim Rouse

Flo-Jo's Mom Sues Son-in-Law for Wrongful Death of Athlete

SANTA ANA—The mother of the late Florence Griffith Joyner has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against her son-in-law, Al Joyner, in what she says is part of a family dispute over control of the famed runner's legacy.

The complaint filed last week in Orange County Superior Court alleges that Joyner failed to "exercise reasonable care to avoid foreseeable risk of harm" to his wife and that "harmful or offensive touching" caused her death.

An Orange County coroner's report completed shortly after Griffith Joyner's death in September 1998, at age 38, concluded that she suffered an epileptic seizure in her sleep and suffocated.

The autopsy found no indication of foul play or suspicious circumstances.

"We're standing by our autopsy," said Assistant Sheriff George Jaramillo.

The plaintiff, 69-year-old Florence Griffith, declined to speak directly about the suit, but said it stems in part from a dispute with Joyner over his decision to start a foundation in his wife's honor.

She said the Flo-Jo Memorial Community Empowerment Foundation is undermining the efforts of a separate charity group, the Florence Griffith Joyner Youth Foundation, which she supports.

Griffith said Joyner also tried recently to evict her from the Rancho Santa Margarita home in which she lives. Joyner owns the home, she said, but her daughter had allowed her to live there.

Al Joyner could not be reached for comment.

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BETWEEN THE LINES

**Stealin' Away to Freedom:
Retracing the 'Invisible Tracks'**



PART 1

When I received a call inviting me to be part of the National Underground Railroad Familiarization Tour, I initially viewed it with conflicted skepticism. Was it substantive enough to clear a crowded week of appointments? Or was this a subliminal excuse for a half-hearted opportunity to "get away" under the guise of writing about culture and heritage? Upon returning from the trip, I found it more than substantive. I found it soul-searching, even soul-touching in terms of reminding me (and us) of the ravages of the time and the difficulties and risks our "immediate" ancestors endured to become the creature they were created to be, free.

In a time when conveniences undermine our desire to struggle, and our vision (and children's vision) to see beyond restricted social acceptance and material pleasures, this tour that is being formalized in several parts of the country (Michigan, Ohio, Missouri, Maryland, Canada) in such a way as state or federally funded "historical" tour sites (many run by whites that resisted but now see the economic benefit to heritage tourism) that it not only helps you understand the historical significance of the sites, but also that struggle and sacrifice was. It would provide a true cultural "reconnection" for most of us, if not all of us.

Even the "blackest of the black (philosophically)" would gain invaluable insights to the psyche of the man or woman who had the courage to risk what they risked to leave the plantation in search of freedom. We need to get away and experience the hardships of the "invisible tracks" firsthand. See what they saw and try to feel what they felt. It wouldn't be hard. Like visiting Egypt or Goree Island in Senegal, visiting the safe houses and tunnel sites (many just discovered recently), the ancestors are so close to you, you feel their spirits tapping you on the shoulder.

Even if we have to "steal away" from work for a week, it is well worth it. And this is an absolute must for our children, and anybody who claims "they know our suffering." National Underground Railroad Tours are our Museums of Tolerance for those who have such great desires for multicultural exchange of painful experiences and cultural dialogue.

The latest new phenomena sweeping the East Coast, Southern, and Midwest states are called "Heritage Tours." While black is out in the West and Northwest, "black is back" around the rest of the country. The latest area of study is the demise of 19th century political economy in the South.

The tool that broke down the South's primary economy, slavery, and the politics that went along with it after the Civil War, was the underground rail; a system so sophisticated that much of its mechanics are only coming to light 140 years later. In the historical context of how African people in their desire to remove themselves from the wrath of slavery, the Underground Railroad is just a footnote. Historical discussion, in both American and so-called "black" history, are limited in acclaim and account. Escape from slavery was by and large viewed as an anomaly.

But it was a deeply spiritual endeavor, a burning desire to reconnect with the creator on human terms and go beyond the subhuman realities created by oppressors of man. And just as the civil rights movement has been secularized in history to evolve around one personality, Martin Luther King Jr., so has the Underground Railroad attributes been secularized to one personality, Harriet Tubman.

Recounting the escapades of the most successful conductor, Harriet Tubman (who freed 300 out of bondage) trivializes the impact and true effect of those who collaborated in a sophisticated system of escape that branched 23 states and freed 40,000 (that they could account for). That doesn't account for the half-million that left and were caught and/or killed trying to escape slavery. So many were escaping, and being aided by free blacks, abolitionists, Northern business people (who couldn't compete against the South's free labor) that it broke down the system. It wasn't about Lincoln altogether, and it's a puzzle now being put together. As the pieces have begun to fall in place in great volume, the picture is clearer now.

What makes this exploration of the Underground Railroad such an intriguing proposition is that it offers the opportunity to expand history and, in some cases, correct history as it relates to our transition into American society. It wasn't like there were four million of our ancestors just standing around just waiting for somebody to free them. It was a constant engagement of how to escape versus how to keep them enslaved. It was the creation of codes and unwritten systems, many of which are still in effect today (on both sides of the color line), whereby two races forced to interface under the most horrendous circumstances, yet could not communicate their sincerest thoughts to the other.

Life for the enslaved and the enslaver was a constant gamesmanship (much like it is today). Who can manipulate whom? One with the force of man's law, the other with the force of God's law. The Underground Railroad is a testament that man's law didn't always prevail over God's law, no matter how history tries to represent it. And for the African American, there has been a "gap" in study to focus on our experience at its highest point (when we were kings and queens) instead of during our lowest points (when the truest test of our God-centered nature was called to bare). We focus on our "ancient" ancestry versus our "immediate" (or not so ancient) ancestry.

The first generations of Africans in slavery in America, as well as the last generation of enslaved Africans, had to be as learned, as disciplined, as calculating as any European scholar and without the benefit of formal education; following the rivers and lakes, reading the sun, moon and stars, communicating by rhythms and sounds, reading body language and attitudinal behaviors to discern friend or foe in life or death situations. The fruit of their sophistication and their struggle was, in part, the success of the Underground Railroad.

Over the next three installments of this series, you will be able to witness how complex this system was in its timing, in its collaboration and in its geographical breath. The route we took was considered the most traveled (and most dangerous) route, through Kentucky, Ohio, and Michigan to Canada (Harriet Tubman escaped from Maryland and took, the East Coast route through Rochester, New York).

Those of us who went on the tour had to go through a deprogramming of our own, given by the tour operator, a sister, named Angela deSilva, considered one of the foremost modern day scholars on the Underground Railroad (she's identified several sites on the tour undiscovered before her contact with them). First, what is the Underground Railroad?

You wouldn't believe how many people thought (and still think) it was an actual railroad. Most people thought it was a singular route traveled back and forth. All of that was incorrect. The Underground Railroad was a coordinated system that had literally hundreds of routes, and the routes changed frequently by day or night, and by state and jurisdiction. Thus coining the term, "Invisible Tracks." If you knew where it was, you could close it down. It never happened. Slavery closed down first.

(FIRST OF A FOUR-PART SERIES, PUBLISHED FIRST WEEK OVER THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS.)



KLEAVER'S KLIPPINGS

If it Ain't Broke, Please Don't Fix it

In a recent conversation about the upcoming political (or silly) season, John Hill, chief of staff for Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, and former head of affirmative action for Los Angeles County, struck a chord that has been reverberating for days.

Hill, a very thoughtful, intelligent and intense gentleman, pointed to some issues which seem to have been overlooked by far too many African American people.

He pointed out that the current (Clinton) administration has created a climate in this country that no chief executive of the country has equaled or has even come close to equaling.

As he talked, it became clear that during this administration, more minorities have been placed in policy-making positions than ever before in history.

Beginning with the late Ron Brown, who was named secretary of commerce of the United States. Then there was Hazel O'Leary, who was secretary of energy. Ron Espy, who headed the agriculture department.

An attempt to smear Espy wound up in defeat, but Espy was seriously damaged in the fray. Still he had been appointed to the post and did a damned good job while he held the office.

Clinton had the nerve to name a black woman, Dr. Jocelyn Elders, as surgeon general, and when she came under fire from his opponents, he had no choice but to accept her

resignation.

Still, he was undeterred. He named Dr. David Satcher as her replacement. Satcher has some local ties since he once headed the Drew Medical School here in the Southland. He stole Satcher from the presidency of Meharry Medical College in Nashville. These are just a few of his appointees.

The real issue here is simple: For the first time in history, the cabinet of the President of the United States began to take on the color: if you will, of the nation itself. This was, and is, the legacy of the Clinton administration.

Today, there are blacks, Hispanics, and women, all in positions of real, not imagined, power. Other presidents, including John Kennedy, could have done it, but they didn't. Lyndon Johnson could have done it. He certainly had the power, but he did not use it for us. The list goes on ad infinitum.

This brings us to the next point. Hill pointed out a survey, which indicated a number of African Americans are supporting the candidacy of George W. Bush on the Republican ticket. Hill asks a simple question and we concur. Why?

The economy of this nation has never been better. There are black people making more money than ever before. What could be changed or made better by electing a George W. Bush, or a Pat Buchanan? Would either of them do more for minorities than Clinton has done? We think not. Yet we seem to have an inordinate number of black people run-

ning to the Republican Party to support one or another of their candidates. Again, why?

The whole intent of the various Civil Rights Movements in this country since the end of the Civil War has been to achieve racial equality and to be a viable and functional part of the rules-making group. It is finally a reality.

For the first time since we were brought to this country in chains in the 17th century, we are there. Why would or should we want to go back to the way things were 100 years ago?

It makes no sense.

This is not a political endorsement for any candidate. It is just some statements of fact that cannot be refuted or even argued. The things, which have taken place in this country within the past seven years, are things we longed for, begged for, marched for and died for.

There is another issue, which must be seen for what it is. Within our ranks, we have those men and women whose only concern is themselves. So, if they align themselves with certain political figures, it bodes well for them. But it does not necessarily bode well for the rest of the African American people. They don't give a tinker's damn about the plight of the race. They are concerned primarily with their own greed.

They can boast of their affiliation with the "other" group with some degree of selfish pride. They have helped themselves and perhaps to some degree, have been able to help a few others. But those

few others they have helped are not a drop in the proverbial bucket, when we have had to look at all of the others who are still in need.

The steps that have been made in our behalf since the inception of the Clinton administration are unparalleled. We need to recognize that without a lot of hoopla and fanfare, he has gone about his mission with clarity and determination.

There are some among us who will lambaste his personal life. That is their individual prerogative. In the meantime, those detractors need to look at the strides made by African Americans since he took office.

None of the things for which he has been charged had anything to do with how he handled his office and how he made sure that his cabinet was reflective of the America he swore to serve and uphold.

Factually, it is time we pulled our collective head from the sand and realized what has been done in our behalf these past seven years and than ask ourselves what the future will hold?

Clearly, all is not right with the world just yet. We are, however, on the right track. When we are faced with the choices we have, we need to look closely at the track records of those people who seek our support and our votes.

Even with the remaining problems, it appears we are on the right track. If that is the case, why should we attempt to force the wheels of progress to move backward?

If it ain't broke, the best thing to do is leave it alone.



URBAN PERSPECTIVE

A Hard Look at Clinton's Initiative on Race

PART 2

The final report of the advisory board to the president's Initiative on Race is entitled, *One America in the 21st Century: Forging a New Future*. The report is important because it is supposed to shape the race relations debate in the United States in the near term. Accordingly, assessments of the report of the advisory panel provide instructive analysis and, hopefully, public discourse on race relations issues.

This week's (and last week's) column provide two views of the One America report. The first was Professor Howard Winant's *Racial Formation in the United States—from the 1960s to the 1990s*. Today's column summarizes *Race and Class in the 21st Century* by Dr. Darlene Clark Hine, professor of American History at Michigan State University.

W.E.B. DuBois accurately prophesied in the *Souls of Black Folk* (1903) that the problem of the 20th century would be that of the color line. In later writings, he elaborated on the color line metaphor and added a class analysis. DuBois' keen insights into the contours of divisions and tensions between the predominantly white imperial master capitalists and the international laboring groups of all colors bequeathed to us, among other things, a powerful, indeed sobering, paradigm.

All conversations about race, racism and race relations require a simultaneous class analysis and sustained consideration of gender. But it is within the framework of race and class intersection that Professor Hine offers reflections on *One America in the 21st Century: Forging a New Future*. The President's Initiative on Race's Advisory Board Report to the president.

Executive Order #13050 created the Initiative on Race and an advisory board charged with the task of advising the president on issues of race and racism. The advisory board held a series of conversations and forums with private citizens and corporate, religious and local leaders over a period of 15 months. The board's

hearings and meetings concentrated on deciphering the role race plays in a wide array of institutions and cultural practices and public policy, including civil rights enforcement, education, poverty, employment, housing, stereotyping and the administration of justice, health care and immigration.

Any review of the *One America* report is likely to raise troubling questions. The assertion that as a country we are more "united than divided" obscures the deep historical and contemporary divisions that characterize the basic fabric of American society. Moreover, one must ponder whether the report advances our understanding and ultimate goal of resolving the crisis of color and class. In other words, should the objective have been to break new ground rather than to find common ground? Did the conundrum of race and political expediency prevent the advisory board from calling outright for a transformation of American capitalism?

One of the strengths of the *One America* report is its discussion of the changing nature of "race" in America. For too long, the terms of race analyses have focused on the easy dichotomy of white and black. The report offers five categories for race in contemporary America: American Indian or Alaska Native; black or African American; Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander; white or non-Hispanic white; Hispanic or Latino. These underscore the nuanced complexity of racial taxonomy to a degree heretofore unmatched in the history of race relations in the United States. We desperately need new paradigms that honor and accept and, indeed, deify difference.

A major reservation of Professor Hine's is what she calls the problem of an "invisible hand." The *One America* report does not make explicit who or what is doing whatever to which group(s) and who will implement or enforce its recommendations should any of them become public policy.

Advisory board member Linda Chavez Thompson declared, "One of the things we'd like to

see is more and more companies investing in their workers ... on training and education programs to provide them upward mobility." Professor Hine says this seems like a reasonable request. If only these minorities be made to mirror the larger white ideals, they could escape their problems growing out of "racial disparity." Minorities, while willing to embrace a core of shared American values, are nonetheless loathe to relinquish their distinct traditions, history and cultural productions as payment for a fully assimilated American identity.

As America has become the world's pre-eminent post-industrial superpower, its myriad minorities continue to press for greater participation in a rational economy and equal access to the social and educational systems and make incessant demands for a more equitable share of political power.

Racial discourse is now so convoluted that it must have been a welcome respite, as some board members implied, to listen to ordinary, everyday people talk about their perceptions and understandings of race. Anecdotal recollections and poignant testimony, however, while certainly cathartic for some, do little to extricate us from the difficulties and disparities of race, conjoined with class, sexuality and gender. It bears repeating that racial discrimination does violence to human dignity and personality and devalues the culture and lifestyle of those marked "other."

We must collectively inculcate in the next generation a deep appreciation for those moments and times when differences are irrelevant and even retrograde. As the advisory board correctly posits, all Americans share core values and beliefs in justice, dignity, respect, equality and opportunity and inclusion. To this extent, we are one America, but we are not a perfect union. The most pressing challenge is to identify the forces, make visible the underlying systemic factors and mount a concerted relentless movement to traverse and eradicate the barriers that divide us.

STANLEY CUTCHINS,



retired from New York City Health Department — We must encourage ownership of Black businesses by contracting corporate companies for sponsorship. Hold seminars in schools, churches and civic organizations to give advice about starting your own business and to encourage keeping Black dollars in the Black community. Forget about getting rich through lotto.

RALPH G. COOK,



president, the Gil Group — We must require from the Black consumer respect, and you as the vendor must respect the people that we deal with and the pleasant and thoughtful salesperson that makes your day and gets your business on the right track. We must seriously admit that goodwill alone will not close the gaps in income between Black and white households. Closing the wealth gap is something we African-Americans can do more about on our own thorough perseverance.

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By HOWARD DODSON

Over the last four decades, scholarship on the transatlantic slave trade has experienced something of a renaissance. Scholars in Europe, Africa, the Americas and the Caribbean have made the slave trade the object of new historical, economic, political and cultural studies. Gradually, they have begun to discover and assess the far-reaching impact that the silver trade and slavery have had on their respective societies, nations and continents as well as on the global political economy. What I propose to do in this brief presentation is suggest some of the ways in which the intended and unintended consequences of the slave trade shaped the modern world as we know it today.

There is no general agreement in academic circles or among the public at large about what constitutes the modern world and when it began. Some trace its origins back to the 13th century. Others date it from the late 19th century, when European colonial powers consolidated their economic and political hold over the peoples of the world, including Africa and Asia. For my purposes, and with-

in the context of this presentation, I have chosen to date the origins of the modern world from the first of the Columbian transatlantic voyages. Said another way, the modern world began with Columbus' first voyage to the Americas; it was that voyage that ushered in the era of European colonial expansion that resulted in, among other things, the organization of the transatlantic slave trade. The slave trade, in turn, fostered the development of entirely new levels of communication, trade, cultural exchange and economic and political interdependence between the peoples of Europe, Africa and the Americas. The emergence and development of these interdependent continental relationships distinguishes the modern era from its predecessors.

Over the 400-year history of the trade, upwards of 12 million Africans survived the middle passage and were distributed throughout the Americas - North, Central and South America - and the Caribbean. Estimates of the total number of African lives lost or impaired by the process of warfare, capture and enslavement that fueled the trade range from



Captured slaves being led away

50-100 million people. The slave trade in all its facets - capture in Africa, transshipment across the Atlantic and sale in the Americas - took place in a market-driven, uneven fashion over a period of 400 years. It was uneven in terms of the time when the migrations occurred, the places from which the African captives were taken and the islands, continents and colonies in which they were enslaved.

Upwards of 40 percent of the Africans sold in the western hemisphere went to Brazil, while only 4.5-5 percent ended up in the continental United States. The tiny island of Barbados matched the United States' percentages, while Jamaica almost doubled them. Upwards of 50 percent of the survivors of the middle passage were transported to the Americas during the 18th century. Over 90 percent of the Africans involved in the trade were from the west African coast.

The demographics of the slave trade take on an even more remarkable significance when studied within the overall context of the peopling of the Americas. Contrary to popular opinion, African peoples constituted the majority of the people who migrated from the Old World to the New World during the formative stages of European colonial expansion in the Americas. This suggests an even larger economic, political and cultural role for African peoples in American colonial development than we have even begun to imagine.

According to several sources, between 1492 and 1776, or roughly the first 300 years of what we understand to be the colonial period of American history, 6.5 million people crossed the Atlantic from Africa and Europe and settled in the Americas: North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. Of those 6.5 million people, only 1 million were European. The other 5.5 million people

were African.

Most of the histories that we have read have been written from colonial perspectives: from the perspectives of the minority of the population; from the perspectives of the institutional histories of the colonizing powers. They haven't taken into account any of the economic, political and social consequences of the simple demographic fact that the overwhelming majority of the people involved in the making of the colonial Americas were African. Indeed, as late as 1820, the ratio of Africans to Europeans who had come from the Old World to the New was still 3:1, so those of us who are involved in the study of the African Diaspora and the American experience are really faced with two sets of intellectual challenges.

The first is to set the record straight about the African experience in the Western Hemisphere, but second, and of equal importance, we are faced with the challenge of rewriting, in a fundamental way, the history of the Americas. Because if, as indeed appears to be the case, two-thirds or more of the peoples of the Western Hemisphere have not been included in the history, then we don't know very much about the history of the Western Hemisphere. We are faced with the twin challenges of trying to rethink and understand, both what has been the nature of the African experience in this hemisphere, and what has been the impact of the African presence, and African economic and political and social activity on the shaping of the Americas. What has been the impact of African peoples on the making of the Americas and the modern world?

It should be clear from the preceding summary that one of the major consequences of the slave trade for the Americas was in the peopling of the Americas. African peoples formed the foundation on

which the societies and cultures of the Americas were built. Moreover, if there is any truth to this notion that the Americas should be called the "New World," it was the African peoples in the Americas who made the Americas new. If the concept of the "New World" has any real meaning, it is a direct consequence of the presence and activities of African people in this hemisphere (the majority of its immigrant population) during the formative period of the development of the nations, communities and societies of the Americas, especially those in the Caribbean, Central and South America and the southern United States.

Let's begin with the people themselves. There has been a tendency among some sectors of the academic and educational community to think of Africa as a country rather than a continent, and to think of African peoples as a homogenous group. The fact of the matter is that the African people who were involved in the slave trade experience were extremely diverse, frequently as much strangers to each other as they were to their European captors. Africa is indeed a continent with a multiplicity of ethnic, national and religious groups and this cultural, religious, national and linguistic diversity was represented in the populations that were involved in the slave trade.

Upon arriving on these shores, they fashioned themselves into new peoples. They brought their Yoruba and Ga and Akan cultural attributes with them, but these facets of their identity were interconnected and intertwined with the cultural and ethnic experiences of the other Africans they met, as well as with indigenous peoples and the peoples of the various colonial powers. And so the African peoples themselves, both biologically and culturally, were transformed into new people

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4. Do not have High Blood Pressure
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6. Do not have Diabetes.....



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Bob Ramey believes the Greenville City Council should begin its meetings by acknowledging the presence of Almighty God. With God on our side, the City of Greenville can accomplish many things.

Bob is a devout member of St. James United Methodist Church and is a strong believer in the power of prayer. On Tuesday November 2nd help put prayer back in City Council meetings by voting Bob Ramey.

City Council District 4

Paid for by Ramey Election Committee

Sponsored By Budweiser

Seats up for Election: Mayor, 1 At Large Council Seats, 5 District Council Seats 2 Year Terms

Budweiser would like to encourage everyone to get out and vote Tuesday November 2nd. These are your candidates, so please make an informed decision.

Greenville	Council	Mildred Atkinson	410 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.	Greenville	NC 27834 Council	1	7/27/99
Greenville	Glover	Rose	2115 S. Village Dr.	Greenville	NC 27834 Council	2	7/2/99
Greenville	Huggins	Rufus	68 Club Way Dr.	Greenville	NC 27834 Council	2	7/2/99
Greenville	Fridley	Inez	802 River Dr.	Greenville	NC 27858 Council	3	8/2/99
Greenville	Minerva	Gregg W	1307 E. Second St.	Greenville	NC 27858 Council	3	8/6/99
Greenville	Brown	Van	101-A Juniper Ln.	Greenville	NC 27858 Council	4	7/2/99
Greenville	Farley	Charles	206 Oxford Dr.	Greenville	NC 27858 Council	4	7/30/99
Greenville	Forbes	Blanche	1901 Red Bud Circle	Greenville	NC 27858 Council	4	7/15/99
Greenville	Ramey	Bob	1802 Rosewood Dr.	Greenville	NC 27858 Council	4	7/16/99
Greenville	Bostick	Douglas G	2921 Apple Rd.	Greenville	NC 27858 Council	5	7/12/99
Greenville	Leech	Betsy Hoggard	2921 Newew Dr.	Greenville	NC 27834 Council	5	7/2/99
Greenville	Moore	Robert L. (Bob)	603 Club Pines Dr.	Greenville	NC 27834 Council	5	8/6/99
Greenville	Morris	Arielle	2022 Shadowood Ct. Suite B	Greenville	NC 27858 Council	5	7/6/99
Greenville	Autry	Chuck	91 Barnes St.	Greenville	NC 27858 Council	At-Large	7/2/99
Greenville	Hilts	Kerna	P.O. Box 8496	Greenville	NC 27835 Mayor		7/14/99
Greenville	Jenkins	Nancy M	1855 X Quail Ridge Rd.	Greenville	NC 27858 Mayor		7/29/99

Sample Ballot

OFFICIAL NONPARTISAN BALLOT
CITY OF GREENVILLE
MUNICIPAL ELECTION
DISTRICT 2
NOVEMBER 2, 1999

OFFICIAL NONPARTISAN BALLOT
CITY OF GREENVILLE
MUNICIPAL ELECTION
DISTRICT 3
NOVEMBER 2, 1999

OFFICIAL NONPARTISAN BALLOT
CITY OF GREENVILLE
MUNICIPAL ELECTION
DISTRICT 4
NOVEMBER 2, 1999

OFFICIAL NONPARTISAN BALLOT
CITY OF GREENVILLE
MUNICIPAL ELECTION
DISTRICT 5
NOVEMBER 2, 1999

Instructions to Voter
a. TO VOTE: Complete the arrow(s)
← →
pointing to your choice(s), like this:
← →
b. If you tear, deface, or wrongly mark this ballot, return it and get another.
c. Mark with a #2 pencil or marking pen provided (NO RED INK).

Instructions to Voter
a. TO VOTE: Complete the arrow(s)
← →
pointing to your choice(s), like this:
← →
b. If you tear, deface, or wrongly mark this ballot, return it and get another.
c. Mark with a #2 pencil or marking pen provided (NO RED INK).

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a. TO VOTE: Complete the arrow(s)
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pointing to your choice(s), like this:
← →
b. If you tear, deface, or wrongly mark this ballot, return it and get another.
c. Mark with a #2 pencil or marking pen provided (NO RED INK).

FOR MAYOR
(You may vote for ONE [1])

Kerna Hilts ← →

Nancy M. Jenkins ← →

FOR CITY COUNCIL At-Large
(You may vote for ONE [1])

Chuck Autry ← →

FOR CITY COUNCIL District 2
(You may vote for ONE [1])

Rose Glover ← →

Rufus Huggins ← →

Pitt County, NC
Municipal Election
November 2, 1999

Portions of Precincts in Greenville District #2
Greenville #4 Greenville #7
Greenville #5 Greenville #12
Greenville #6

FOR MAYOR
(You may vote for ONE [1])

Kerna Hilts ← →

Nancy M. Jenkins ← →

FOR CITY COUNCIL At-Large
(You may vote for ONE [1])

Chuck Autry ← →

FOR CITY COUNCIL District 3
(You may vote for ONE [1])

Inez Fridley ← →

Gregg W. Minerva ← →

Pitt County, NC
Municipal Election
November 2, 1999

Portions of Precincts in Greenville District #3
Greenville #7 Greenville #9
Greenville #8

FOR MAYOR
(You may vote for ONE [1])

Kerna Hilts ← →

Nancy M. Jenkins ← →

FOR CITY COUNCIL At-Large
(You may vote for ONE [1])

Chuck Autry ← →

FOR CITY COUNCIL District 4
(You may vote for ONE [1])

Van Brown ← →

Charles Farley ← →

Blanche Forbes ← →

Bob Ramey ← →

Pitt County, NC
Municipal Election
November 2, 1999

Portions of Precincts in Greenville District #4
Simpson Greenville #9
Greenville #6 Greenville #10
Greenville #7

FOR MAYOR
(You may vote for ONE [1])

Kerna Hilts ← →

Nancy M. Jenkins ← →

FOR CITY COUNCIL At-Large
(You may vote for ONE [1])

Chuck Autry ← →

FOR CITY COUNCIL District 5
(You may vote for ONE [1])

Douglas G. Bostick ← →

Betsy Hoggard Leech ← →

Robert L. (Bob) Moore ← →

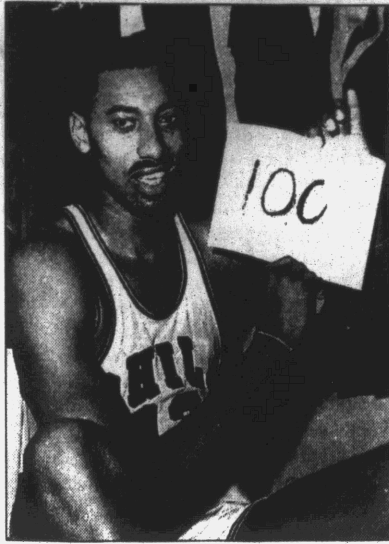
Arielle Morris ← →

Pitt County, NC
Municipal Election
November 2, 1999

Precincts in Greenville District #5
Greenville #11

Portions of Precincts in Greenville District #1
Arthur Greenville #5
Winterville East Greenville #6
Winterville Central Greenville #12
Greenville #4

WILT CHAMBERLAIN scored 100 points in a single NBA game, leading the Philadelphia Warriors to a 169-147 win over the New York Knicks on March 2, 1962. Chamberlain died Tuesday at age 63.



Associated Press
file photo

Chamberlain, 63, found dead in Los Angeles home

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Wilt Chamberlain, a center so big, agile and dominant that he forced basketball to change its rules and the only player to score 100 points in an NBA game, died Tuesday at 63.

Chamberlain was found dead in his bed at his Bel-Air home at about 12:30 p.m., police said.

There were signs that he might have had a heart attack, authorities said. Chamberlain was hospitalized with an irregular heartbeat in 1992, and his agent, Sy Goldberg, said the Hall of

Famer was on medication.

Known as "Wilt the Stilt" and "The Big Dipper," the 7-foot-1 Chamberlain starred in the NBA from 1959 through 1973, when he played for the Philadelphia (later the San Francisco) Warriors, 76ers and Lakers. He later stirred controversy with boasts of his sexual exploits.

Chamberlain scored 31,419 points during his career, a record until Kareem Abdul-Jabbar broke it in 1984. Chamberlain, who never fouled out in 1,205 regular-season and playoff games, holds the record for career rebounds with 23,924.

"Wilt was one of the greatest ever, and we will never see another one like him," Abdul-Jabbar said.

Chamberlain, who began his professional career with the Harlem Globetrotters in 1958, was one of only two men to win the MVP and rookie of the year awards in the same season (1959-60). He was also MVP in 1966 through 1968. He led the NBA in scoring seven straight seasons, 1960-66, and led the league in rebounding 11 of his 14 seasons.

"We truly lost one of the icons of professional basketball and, more importantly for myself, someone who I've

known for almost 40 years," said Jerry West, a former teammate and now the Lakers vice president.

Chamberlain was such a force that the NBA changed some of its rules, including widening the lane to try to keep him farther from the basket. One of his most famous records is the 100 points he scored in the Philadelphia Warriors' 169-147 defeat of the New York Knicks on March 2, 1962, in Hershey, Pa.

**BS1
OFFICIAL BALLOT
CITY OF WASHINGTON
MUNICIPAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 2, 1999**

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER

- a. TO VOTE FOR a candidate whose name is printed on the ballot complete the arrow pointing to the candidate for whom you desire to vote.
- b. Mark only with pen provided by precinct official.
- c. If you tear, deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it and get another.
- d. To vote, complete the arrow to the right of your choice, like this:

FOR MAYOR

(YOU MAY VOTE FOR ONE)

L. STEWART RUMLEY

FOR COUNCILPERSON

(YOU MAY VOTE FOR FIVE)

WILLIAM T. (BILL) BOOTH, SR.

JERRY C. BRILEY

RICHARD LOUIS BROOKS

ED GIBSON

EMMA W. HOWARD

JUDY MEIER JENNETTE

JOSEPH CARTER LEARY

J. R. (JIMBO) MCKEON

DOUGLAS MERCER

EDWARD MOULTRIE, JR.

F. SUSAN MURRELL

DAN OLSON

CITY OF WASHINGTON
MUNICIPAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 2, 1999

WARRANT

City of Washington
District of Columbia

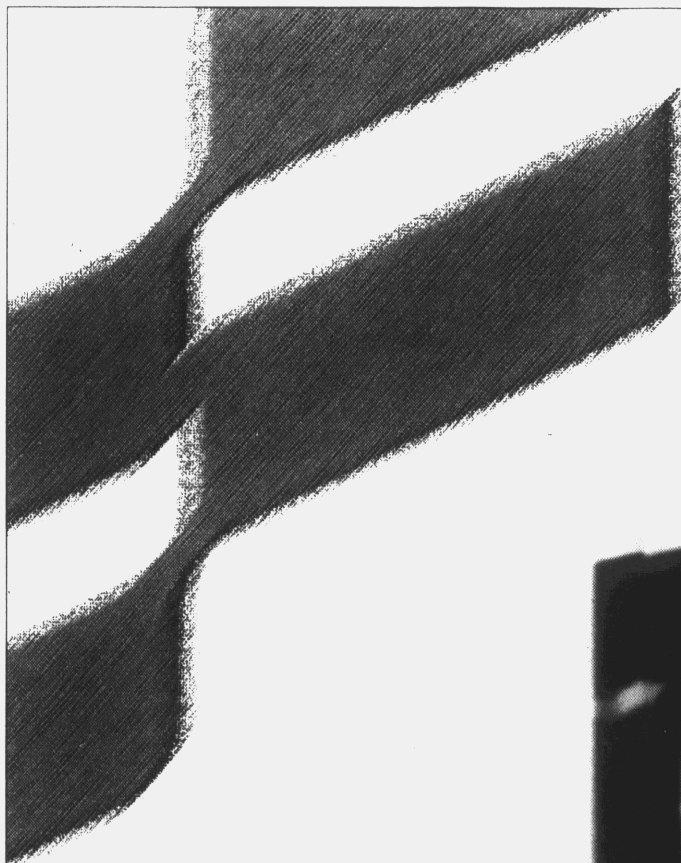


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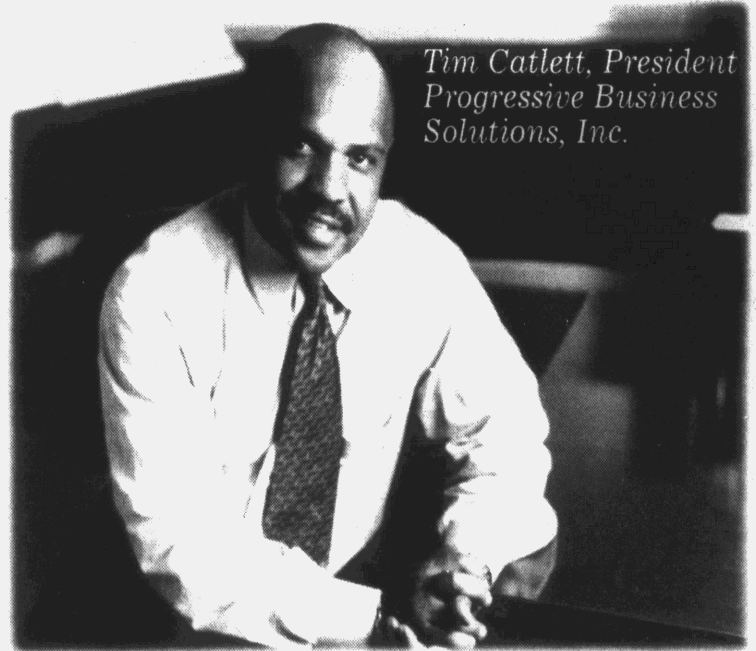
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For District #2

Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Councilman Rufus Huggins



CHRIS OFILI'S "THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY"

Free Speech or "Disgusting"

Mayor Rudy Giuliani has drawn the Brooklyn Museum of Art (BMA) into a bitter controversial struggle regarding its upcoming exhibition called "Sensation: Young British Artists From the Saatchi Collection" which is scheduled to begin on Oct. 2.

The mayor who hasn't seen the exhibition, says he is offended by the various works of art and has characterized it as "disgusting" and "commercial sensationalism."

The mayor has publicly threatened to terminate \$ 7 million in city funding for the museum and its lease if the Brooklyn Museum doesn't cancel the exhibition of modern art.

Deputy Mayor Rudy Levine joined in the fracas, publicly stating that the monthly checks which BMA receives will be suspended unless the exhibit is

canceled, and the city will block \$20 million in construction funds for major repairs and other construction projects.

New York State Chairman for the Democratic Party Judith Hope said, "This is yet another example of classic Giulianiism. While we certainly do not condone this particular artwork, the mayor's complete and total overreaction sends a scary message of how he wants to rule this city." In addition, the mayor has threatened to seize control of the museum and fire BMA's board of trustee's and has even stated "We'll do everything we can to remove funding for the Brooklyn Museum until the director comes to his senses and realizes that if you are government-subsidized enterprise, then you can't do things that desecrate the most personal and deeply held views of people in society.

Apparently, the mayor has no legal ground to stand on because the law is very clear that once there's municipal funding to the arts it cannot be revoked if public officials deem the work of art "offensive." Because the mayor has no strong legal argument, there's widespread speculation that his singling out a few pieces of art has more to do with politics than with offensive art. As the mayor positions himself for a New York Senate seat, his motives are being viewed as political posturing to the Catholic voting bloc in New York.

"This is a very thinly veiled attempt to curry favor with the right-wing Republican conservatives. He's more interested in appeasing the right-wing extremist than preserving the otherwise strong tradition of the Brooklyn Museum of Art," said Hope.

BAD ART: Good for a few bucks for a curious public

At the core of our first and 14th amendments is the sanctity of verbal and written expression. Understanding that the very nature of ideas is subjective, these amendments inhibit the government from legislating the free flow of ideas. In American, 1999. Ku Klux Klan members can freely assemble and march down your street without fear of government sanctions because of our constitution recognizes the greater good: the free market of ideas is essential to "the common quest for truth and the vitality of society as a whole" (Bose Corp V. Consumer Union of US, Inc.: 1984). These amendments are sacrosanct to our democracy. They also account for a substantial amount of bad art.

Exhibit A: The "Sensations" display at the Brooklyn Museum, which features such graceless expressions as nine pints of human blood encased in a stainless steel caste of a human head: a depiction

of the Virgin Mary splattered with elephant dung; various severed livestock parts; graphic nudes.

An art display this bad is not accidental. Museums do not stumble backwards into depiction's of the Virgin Mary splattered with elephant dung. What the Brooklyn Museum surely realized was the sheer vivacity with which this display was bad. Unlike the usual chow line of dull squiggly lines, "Sensations" never falls flat. Its assault on the senses is continual, endless, senseless, felt flesh to bone. It is the captain Ahab of bad art. Such extremes are always good for a few bucks from the curious public. Giuliani on NBC's "Meet the Press." "What I'm saying is very simple." The mayor said, "Nobody wants to suppress it. Put it in a private museum, pay for it yourself [as opposed to with tax dollars.]" Both functions miss the point; this is hardly a first amendment issue.

No one is trying to press charges against the artists, to denounce them as pornographers and such. No one is denying them the right to artistic expression or threatening to arrest him or her for their bad art. No one is attempting to legislate taste. Should they find independent financial backers as avant-garde Manhattan museums traditionally have done-they would be free to display their bad art as they wish.

By threatening to remove public funding to the museum, Mr. Giuliani is simply saying that public funds should not be used to finance offensive art, hurtful art. Mr. Giuliani is not denying these artists the right to produce and display bad art. He's simply refusing to fund such art with taxpayer's dollars. If Mr. Giuliani has his way, these artists will have to look to private investors from the funding of their bad art. He's not denying them artistic assault.

VOTE

ROBERT L. "BOB" MOORE
FOR
GREENVILLE CITY
COUNCIL...DISTRICT #5

Dear District 5 Neighbors,

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- Certified ISO Quality Auditor
- 1998/1999 President of the J.H. Rose Advisory Council
- Current President of the Carolina East Neighborhood Association (Club Pines/Belvedere Neighborhoods)

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- 2) Engage Task Force to define and correct conditions that cause Pitt County/Greenville to be identified as the third most dangerous place to drive in North Carolina.
- 3) Crime: Step up city's crime prevention plans.
- 4) Work to improve heavy traffic conditions.

If you really want to help yourself and me for the next 2 years, I ask only for your vote on November 2nd.

Paid For by Committee to Elect Robert L. Moore

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Continuing a legacy, shown above Martin Luther King III who has called a national boycott of the state of South Carolina to remove Confederate flag that flies at it states capital under the United States and South Carolina Flags

Photo by Jim Rouse

Encourage Your children to read. Understanding is The Key To The Future!



Enjoying Brandy's wedding. Shown is sister Yolanda, her mother, brothers and friend in attendance at the wedding. Yolanda you're next!!!

Photo By Jim Rouse

BY LEE HUBBARD

Bringing down the Confederate Flag

It was a hot day in Oakland as I walked down a busy street and came face to face with a bearded, middle-aged White man in a cowboy hat, boots and a body length shirt picturing a huge confederate flag.

I was in a rush, but the stars and stripes of the confederate flag caught my attention, so I stopped to look at the man. As I stood to read the slogan "Dixie Pride" on the back of the shirt, a Black woman in her 40s began cussing at the man about his shirt. The interaction between the two of them signals the racial divisiveness that the confederate flag creates.

It was the banner uniting the group of southern states that seceded from the United States in 1860-1861 and marched to war over the preservation of slavery. To some White people, the confederate flag symbolizes honor and southern pride. To Blacks, on the other hand, it is the visual equivalent of the "N" word and a sign of racial oppression and White supremacy.

The flag is now at the center of a national boycott of the state of South Carolina, called by Martin Luther King III and his Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), a group his father once led.

South Carolina is the only state in the Union that publicly flies the confederate flag at its state capital under the United States and South Carolina flags. It was re-raised in 1962 to symbolize the Civil War centennial - coincidentally at the same time the civil rights movement was dismantling American apartheid throughout the south, and it has remained affixed to the state capital ever since.

There have been attempts before to remove the flag. The former South Carolina Governor David Beasley (R) tried and was defeated in a re-election bid for saying he wanted it moved. But, Mr. King's current call to boycott the state may be the quickest way to end this visual showing of nativism.

Tourism is a big deal in South Carolina, and Black tourists spend over \$280 million a year. So far, the NAACP and the Progressive National Baptist Convention are supporting the SCLC boycott. The African Methodist Episcopal Church and the National Urban League have

even re-scheduled conferences - that generate millions in revenues - to other states until the flag comes down.

"In the 21st century, it is time that we move in a positive direction," said Mr. King. "The confederate flag belongs in a museum."

Some legislators in South Carolina like State Senator Arthur Ravenel Jr. (R) say the flag symbolizes "the blood and the sacrifice of the people, who carried that flag." During the Civil War, there were many courageous confederate soldiers who fought for the flag, including between 60,000-90,000 Black soldiers who served in some capacity under the confederate flag in exchange for their freedom.

But, flying the flag in its present form is the visual equivalent of Germany hanging a Swastika under the current flag of Germany. It should be taken down," said South Carolina U. S. Senator Fritz Hollis (D). "It is being used by extremists."

While politicians in the state are slow to move on the action, they may need to look at the actions of their southern brethren at the University of Mississippi. In the past, after a football score, hundreds of students and alumni at OLE Miss, would wave and fly the confederate flag in celebration.

But after years of losing the recruiting battle for top Black athletes, as a result of the flag waving celebration, Tommy Tuberville, the head coach of the football team, went on a public plea to fans and alumni to stop the flag waving. You see less talent equals losing, less exposure, and ultimately less money to the football team and university coffers.

Since Mr. Tuberville's plea, flag waving has virtually stopped at the games.

The moral argument against having the confederate flag rest on top of the state capital is sound. But, the call to boycott the state of South Carolina may make politicians reconsider the symbol that as Mr. King says, "needs to be hanging in a (state) museum." Instead of flying on top of the state capital.

Lee Hubbard can be reached for question or comment at: superle@hotmail.com.

KERNA HILTS - MAYOR

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I will face the issues squarely.

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As Mayor, I will be accessible, working closely with the people and our businesses. Together, we will Chart the Future of Greenville into the New Millennium.

I would like the chance to prove that I am the Best Person for the job!

PLEASE VOTE

KERNA HILTS
★ MAYOR ★

VOTE NOVEMBER 2, 1999
PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT KERNA HILTS-MAYOR

KERNA HILTS - MAYOR

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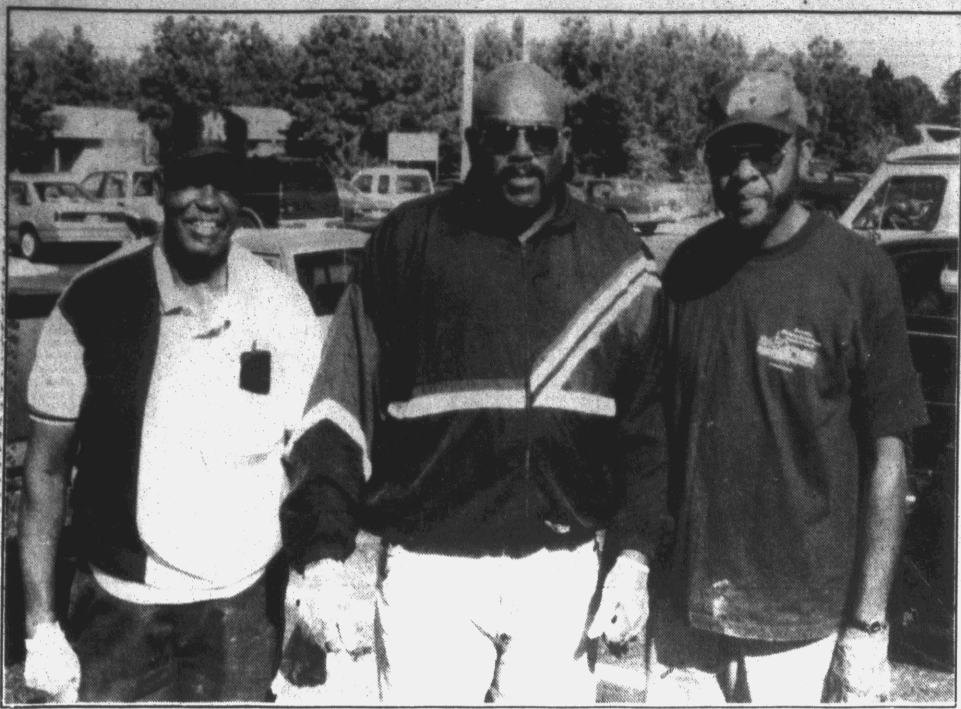
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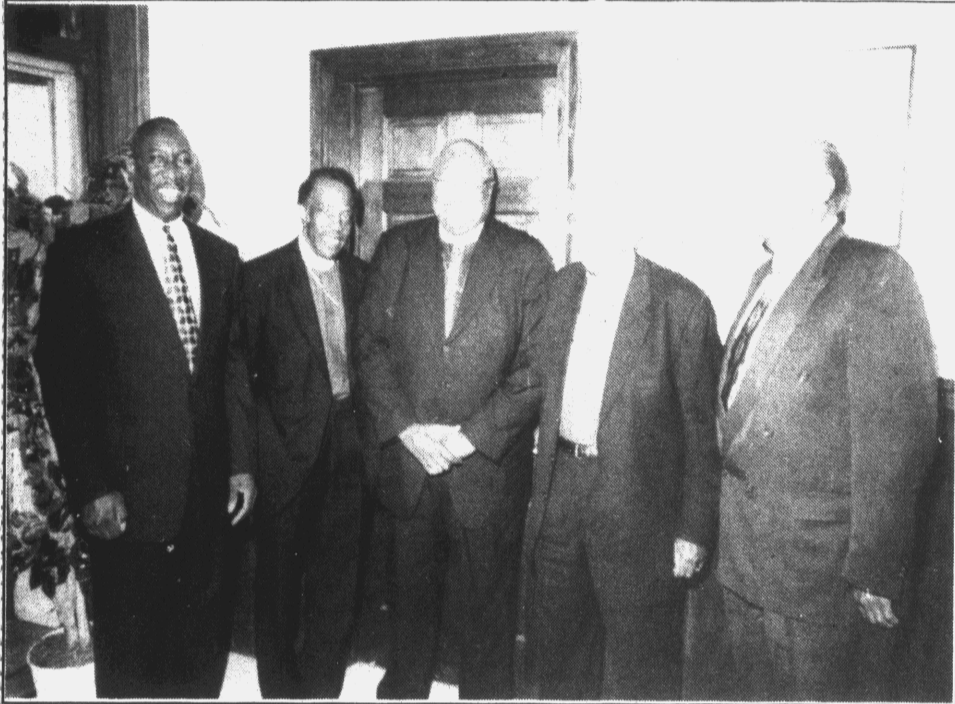
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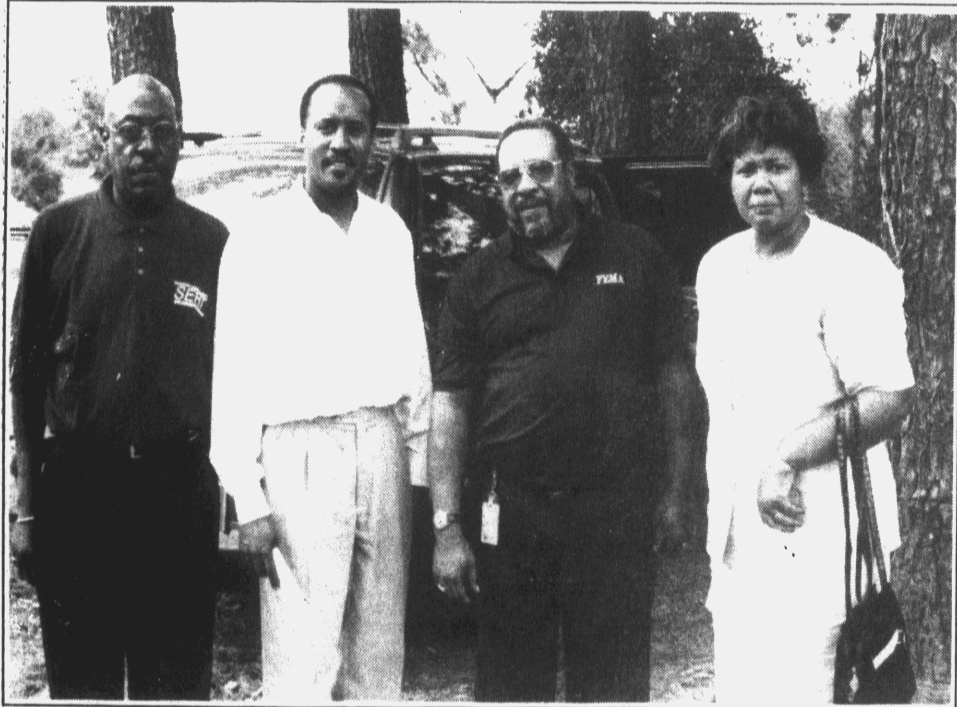
Wonderful Black Brothers, above are members of Cornerstone Baptist Church who are helping flood victims by cooking fish and helping out at the church.

Photo By Jim Rouse



Wells Chapel was the scene to welcome Bishop Leroy Jackson Woolard and Bishop Broom from Arkansas, Bishop Walker from Oklahoma and Greenville's own Pastor of Wells Chapel, superintendent Austin Parker. They came together to help the Flood Relief victims here in North Carolina.

Photo By Jim Rouse



Black Men In Charge Of FEMA In The East. Shown with County Commissioner Jeff Savage, Greenville City Council woman Mildred Council posed for the "M" Voice camera as they are introduced to two brothers who are heading the emergency relief help in North Carolina. One is from the State and the other works for FEMA.

Photo By Jim Rouse



Princeville. Above are two photos of signs representing when and how the community of Princeville was established. We are hoping that "Freedom Hill" now called Princeville, will rise back to it's former glorious state and again become the historical landmark it once was.

Photo By Jim Rouse



Having a good time shown above are friends and family in attendance at the wedding of Mrs. Brandy Forrest and her husband Quinton Forrest, enjoying themselves at the reception which was held at the Holiday Inn Express.

Photo By Jim Rouse

★ Get out and Vote Nov. 2nd ★

Greenville's New Beginning

KERNA HILTS

★★ MAYOR ★★

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Mother Love's Daughter. A mother's love for her daughter can be seen on sister Jessie's face as she poses for the "M" Voice camera.

Photo By Jim Rouse



Newlyweds. Shown is the lovely Mrs. Brandy Forrest and her handsome husband Mr. Quinton Forrest. The couple were recently married at York Memorial AME Zion Church by Pastor George. The reception was held at the Holiday Express. You can see for yourself how thrilled they were to tie the knot.

Photo by Jim Rouse

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Your Vote Is Needed To Help:

- Restore A Unified City Council * Growth & Expansion * Crime Prevention
- Initiate Early Intervention and Prevention Efforts For At Risk Youth.
- Develop, Encourage and Fund Home Ownership For Low Income Families
- Expand Community Policing * Restore Homes Occupied By Low Income Elderly

Vote

Rose Glover

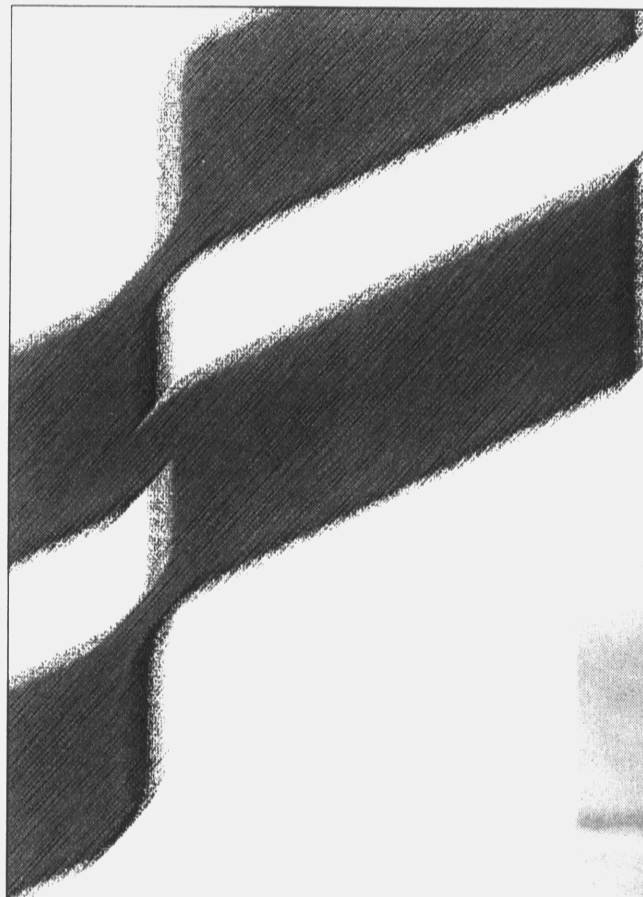
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Faith & Inspiration

From the Desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



HOW TO BE A GOOD SPORTS PARENT

Parents come to youth sports because they care about supporting their children, appreciating the benefits of physical exercise and team play. This caring usually helps children enjoy sports and remain healthy, both emotionally and physically.

However, it is possible to care too much, which can make sports one of the most negative experiences for a child.

By adopting the following positive behaviors and avoiding some of the common pitfalls, parents can help keep the games and enjoyable and rewarding for the rewarding for their children.

1. Start with the fundamentals. Most experts say children should start in sports when they show a genuine, self-motivated interest. This does not seem the first step should involve organized competition.

Getting started means playing. It seems learning fundamentals and skills. It means picking up games and playing catch, kicking balls

and shooting hoops in the backyard. Too often, kids/lightly over play and skill building and get right to the game action and all of its trappings. Instead of focusing on fundamentals, they're more intent on performing.

Age 10 is the right age for kids to get involved in organized sports. By age 12 many kids have done everything. They've traveled, received trophies, had new uniforms, been cheerleaders, made the all-star team, the whole thing. What's to look forward to?

2. To prevent burnout, don't overdo the rewards. It's OK to miss a game, parents. Supportive parents have been known to start living through the children, pushing kids accomplish what the parents could not. It is what experts call achievement by proxy, which can damage a parent-child relationship. Back off parents. Don't wear T-shirts saying "I am Johnny's mother". Don't go to every practice. Skip a game or two. Part of growing up is the separating process. The child should not have a mom or dad looking over the fence at every move. Kids see themselves in sports as an opportunity to be with friends, wear a shiny uniform, and if the ball comes to them, fine, they try to score.

3. Avoid projection. As a parent, it is not easy to stay in the present with children. Too often in sports, parents start projecting

that. Woow, my daughter could be a great star some day. Projection implies a dissatisfaction, that what the child is doing now is not good enough. It also adds pressure on kids who face enough pressure already from their peers, at school and from within. More than 70 per cent of children drop out of youth sports by age 12. The number one reason is too much pressure. Parents may be pushing their child toward a

college scholarship. For every \$1 dollar available in academic scholarships. "So, if you are in it for a scholarship, it pays to have your children do homework rather than shooting free throws", says Keith Zembower, sports consultant and retired coach.

4. Approach the coach with a cooperative attitude. Coaches are powerful role models for children, and sometimes face staggering responsibilities.

Many coaches do a good job, but all coaches make mistakes. Evaluate the coach early in the season. He may know about sports, but is he or she a good person. If the coach treats people fairly, and if he doesn't, don't let your kid play for the coach.

Never, parent, come out of the stands and confront a coach before, during, or after a game. Your child learns that's how you resolve things. Wait a day. Call and rather than being confrontational, be cooperative. Most coaches today are volunteers.

Ultimately, being a good sports parent is a balancing act. You hug your children in loving support and at the same time you let them go. Too much of one or the other can cause problems, but if parents have to err to one side, it would be on the letting go side. Listen first say less, hug more, but let the children play their games.

6. Parents, find yours sport, go play your own game. Get involved in a soft ball or tennis league, or play pickup hoop games at your health spa/club. You will get good exercise, burn up some of your nervous energy and quickly remember - or learn -that the game you watch your son or daughter play is not always as easy as it looks. After you play your game, you will probably be quicker to empathize than criti-

cize your child's play. Who knows, maybe when you feel blue that a grounder got through your legs and cost your soft ball team the championship, it will be your child who puts an arm around you and say, "That's OK. It happens to everyone".

(BY: Gary Legwold, BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS, APRIL 1998)

TEACHING CHILDREN GOOD MANNERS

Teaching children is not interrupt adult conversations, follow these:

First, in learning not to interrupt strengthens patience.

Second, learning not to interrupt strengthens respect for adults.

Third, the adult is annoyed when a child interrupts an adult conversation.

With regard to the last, it seems that today's parents teach their children it's perfectly all right to interrupt two adults in conversation and for any reason at all, by simply saying, "Excuse me!" Too many parents are lazy when it comes to taking time to teach their children. They think parenting is taking a child to a basketball game and watching from the stands. Parenting is not a spectacular sport. It's hands on. Take the time to teach a child by explaining and rehearsing how to be recognized when two adults

are engaged in conversation.

And don't forget, when your child does the right thing, to tell him how proud you are. Punishment is a necessary aspect of discipline, but without equal amounts of praise, it breeds contempt.

John Rosemond, Child psychologist/author

Note:

A dining room is just a physical space.

WORDS OF WISDOM

Knowledge is indeed power. Maya Angelou

You touch people by realizing that they want what everyone wants: recognition, respect, and to feel as if they matter.

When you get into a tight place and everything goes against you until it seems that you cannot hold on for a minute, never give up then, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn. Harriet Beecher Stowe. Look at the business of daily living - getting groceries, paying bills, overseeing homework, doing household chores, buying birthday gifts and occasionally running to the bank, shoe repairs, gas station, dry cleaners, and the post office.

FAMILY VALUES

1. Do not lie, steal, throw tantrums, or appear in public poorly groomed.

2. To criticize family to outsiders is unconscionable. Let complaints stop at the door.

3. You can do whatever you put your mind to.

4. Defend and depend upon one another.

5. Household rules are absolute and chores mandatory.

6. Stay close, even in living far apart.

FRIENDSHIP

1. It is noble to have a friend, but still nobler to be a friend. Richard Wagner

2. Say a good word about everybody.

3. Nothing bad ever came from real LOVE even an overdose of real LOVE. Virginia Brasler

4. Those who bring sunshine into the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves. Sir James Barrie

5. No one is rich enough to do without a neighbor. Danish Proverb

6. Wars and strife shall end when man has made the man next door a friend. Edgar A. Guest

7. After the verb to love, to help is the most beautiful verb in the world.

8. When a friend ask, there is no tomorrow. Old Proverb

9. A friend is what the heart needs all the time. Henry Van Dyke

10. The language of friendship is not words but meanings. Henry David Thoreau

11. Some people make the world brighter just by being in it.

12. A little act of kindness can fill a heart with joy. Katherine Nelson

TIP TALK

1. Don't rest your ladder on a gutter. If you bend or dent it, water may puddle.

2. Rake when leaves are dry. Wet ones are heavy and slippery.

Greenville's New Beginning

KERNA

HILLS

MAYOR