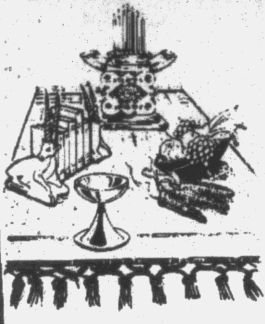


HAPPY KWANZAA



The Minority Voice



Serving Eastern North Carolina Since 1981

December 17 - December 24, 1999

Free!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Be safe this holiday season from the staff of WOOW and the "M" Voice Newspaper!

Approaching the Millennium, Black Africans Still Enslaved in Sudan

By Betty Pleasant
Sentinel Contributing Writer

On the cusp of a new millennium, black people—thousands of men, women and children of Africa—are victims of a crime from centuries of yore; slavery. Today, on this planet, black people are being hunted down, captured and abducted from their villages like Kunta Kinte, shackled and driven to market like cattle, bought and sold like pieces of machinery and bred like pedigreed pets. They are examined on the auction block for their value as workers and concubines, branded with the identifying marks of their masters, who use their bodies for endless toil and wanton pleasure, and maimed if they try to steal away.

Today, on this planet, the Ante-bellum South lives. It lives not south of the Mason-Dixon Line, this time, but just north of the Equator, in the Republic of The Sudan, the largest country in Africa. The Sudan measures 966, 757 square miles, which represents more than eight per cent of the African continent and almost two percent of the worlds entire land area.

Since ancient times, the Sudan has been an arena for interaction between the cultural traditions of Africa and those of the Mediterranean world. In recent centuries, Islam and the Arabic language have achieved ascendancy in many northern parts of the country, while older African languages and cultures predominate in the south. The name "Sudan" derives from the Arabic expression bilad as Sudan, by which medieval Arab geographers referred to the settled African countries that began at the Southern edge of the Sahara desert.

A major cleavage exists between the northern and southern parts of the Sudan. The north is dominated by Muslims, most of whom speak Arabic and identify themselves as "Arabs," while people of the south are "Africans" (i.e. blacks) who, for the most part, follow traditional African religions, although about 10 percent of them are Christians.

The vast majority of non-Muslim Sudanese live south of latitude 12 (N), in the three southern states of Bahr Al-Ghazal, the Upper Nile and Equatoria, Chief among the African peoples of the Sudan are the Dinka, an exceedingly tall and proud pastoral people who are mostly cattle herders on the eastern plains of the White River; the Shilluk, who are the most settled farmers on the west bank of that river; the Nuer, who live farther south, the Bari, who live even farther south, closer to the border with Uganda and the Azande, who are a group of people scattered between the Sudan and

Zaire. One of the most important black peoples in the country are the Nuba, who live in the Nuba Mountains and are hill cultivators who tend to be isolated from adjacent peoples in the Nile Valley.

HOLY WAR AGAINST BLACKS

Today, the "land of the blacks" is the land of the black slaves, where the Arab and Islamic northern Sudanese are slaughtering and enslaving thousands of black Christian and animist (native) southern Sudanese. Why? Because the Islamic fundamentalist government in the north has embarked upon a holy war to unify the country by imposing the Muslim religion and Arabic culture upon the southern blacks—in the words of that famous black American Muslim, Malcolm X—by any means necessary.

This bloody, dehumanizing holy war, or *jihad*, as they call it, has been going on for 18 years to the deafening silence of the rest of the world. The Sudan is a country virtually closed to foreigners and the government has restricted access of those who have tried to document allegations of slavery and slaughter. But despite the government, word of this modern-day atrocity is trickling out of the African nation and groups of 20th century abolitionist are risking their lives to gather facts and tell the story, to operate underground railroads and help run-away slaves get to freedom and as a last resort buy slaves, themselves and return them to their families.

The Sudanese Government says there is no slavery in that country and that the very notion of slavery is contrary to the religious tenets of the Islamic faith the government espouses.

Minister Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam opened an NBC "Dateline" television program, entitled "Spotlight on Slavery", which aired Dec. 12 1996, expressing doubts about the existence of black slavery in Sudan. According to the transcript of that program Farrakan stated: "If slavery exists, why don't you go as a member of the press and you look inside of Sudan. And if you find it, then you come back and tell the American people what you have found."

"Dateline" spent the next hour doing just that. Traveling with Baroness, Caroline Cox, deputy speaker of the British House of Lords and president of Christian Solidarity International, "Dateline" reporter Sara James presented a vivid picture of slavery in Sudan through on camera interviews of survivors of slave raiders whose family members were abducted, and escaped and rescued slaves. The program also

featured an interview with a slave trader named Chain, who told the viewing audience that the price of one slave varies, "depending on the owner, but usually two or three cows a person." (or the equivalent of \$300.00 US)

James interviewed an unidentified captured Arab militia officer who admitted that black children are taken against their will and forced to work by their captors.

James : "Those children children became slaves ?"
Militia officer "Yes. Some are put to work with cattle, others in homes. It is happening."

1.9 Million Blacks Have Died

The US. Department of State estimated in 1993 that 90,000 blacks lived as the property of North African Arabs (known as Beydanes or white Moors). Other sources estimate that total to be 100,000 today, to which they add

300,000 part-time and ex-slaves, known as heratins, many of whom continue to serve their owners out of fear or need. More than 1.9 million Africans have died as a result of the NIF governments genocidal war policy, according to a report published by the United Nations Committee for Refugees. UN Special Rapporteur, Dr. Garpar Biro issued a report that stated : "It should be stated that all these (slavery) practices have a pronounced racial aspect, as the victims are exclusively southern and persons belonging to the indigenous tribes of the Nuba Mountains and the Ingassema Hills (black Muslims), the racial aspect of the violations can not be disregarded."

According to the reports some issued as recently as Oct. 29, by Dr. Biro, Dr. Leonardo Franco, also of the United Nations and other human rights organizations, this is a pattern of dehumanization being inflicted upon the black people in the Sudan.

The raiders swoop down upon black African villages, yelling Allah is great!" Allah is great!" and set about committing gratuitous violence upon the people. the elderly and women unfit for heavy labor are beaten and robbed of their possessions. Mature, virile men are routinely shot on the spot, as youthful, more malleable males are taken to be trained as useful and harmless slaves. Children as young as five and young women are almost always captured into slavery.

The women slaves are made to carry on heads and backs the booty of their captors that which cannot be carried is burned leaving the remaining villagers completely destitute.

Some slave are taken to the north by their captors for their own personal use for house or farm labor, for sex. and for breeding.



New Council Women Arielle Morris and Rose Glover along with Mayor Pro-Tem Mildred Council and City Councilman at large Chuck Autry. All were in attendance at the swearing in ceremony at City Hall. Greenville's new voices for the millennium are very vocal and dynamic women and men. We look forward to many changes in the near future.

Photo By Steve Johnson

Greenville's City Council elects New Mayor Pro-Tem



Congratulations Mayor Pro-Tem, Mildred Council pictured shortly after being elected Mayor Pro-Tem of Greenville. Hats to all our Strong Black Women paving the way for a new generation. The management and staff of the "M" Voice wish sister Mildred much success in the New Year.

Photo By Steve Johnson

By Faith May

Mildred Council an active registered democrat for twenty plus years is the first African-American female to be voted as a Greenville City council member. 1987. Now in 1999, she has again made history as the 1st African American female to be voted Mayor Pro-Tem, of Greenville. Ms Council promises that she

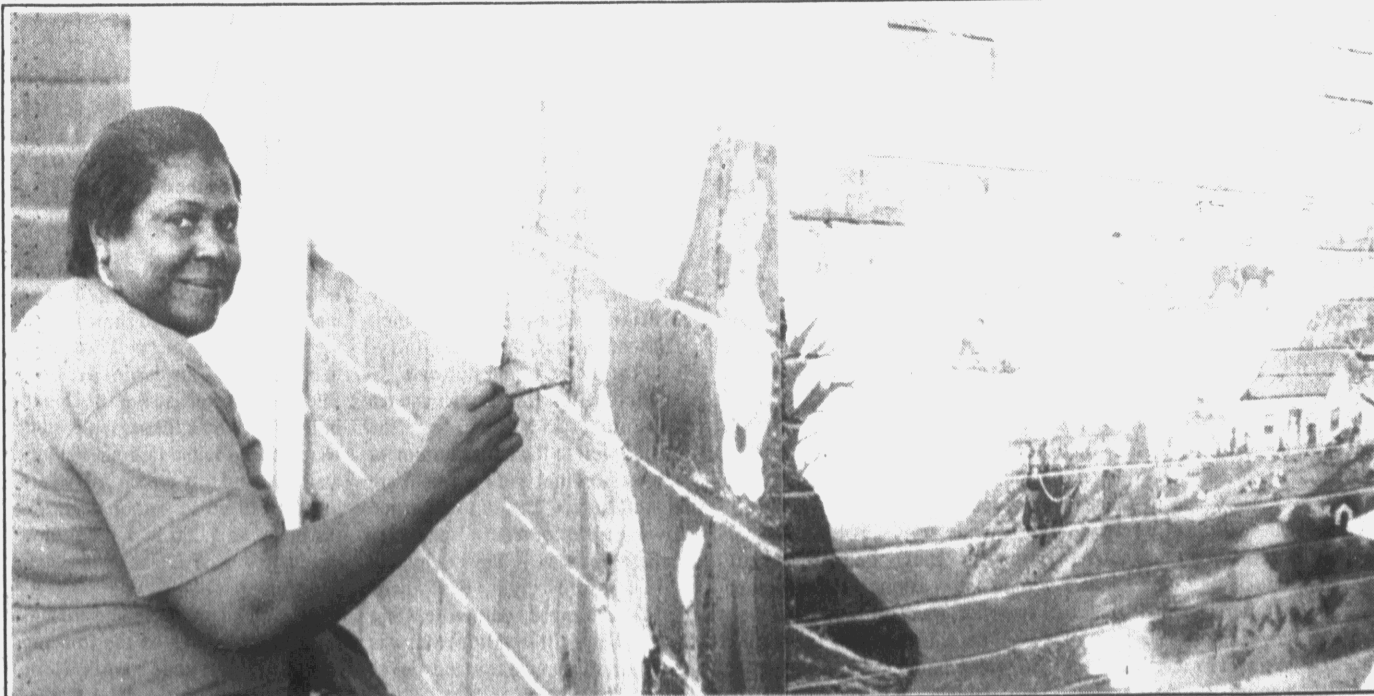
will be a strong voice for the people in the new millennium. She supports affordable housing, business development and growth, job opportunities with benefits and safe neighborhoods.

Ms Council has a three-step Flood recovery plan that includes: .Finding and educating all affected families and businesses about FEMA, SBA, Insurance, etc... She believes in assisting one family and business at a time to

see what needs and desires have not been met.

Ms Council states "Greenville must be an aggressive city in order to meet it's growth demands." "We must provide city services to the residents, they deserve the best". "Tax payers invest their monies to make sure that their needs are met." "It is part of my job to make sure that their needs are met."

continued on page 3



Holiday Greetings, from our sister who will draw Kwanza on your window or wall or a Christmas Santa Claus who look just like you! Our sister is a super artist she can draw anybody or anything.

Photo by Jim Rouse



Historical Photo Jonah Reese Owner of many businesses in the community, he was a pioneer that led the way for other small business owners to be successful. We fondly remember one of Mr. Jonah Reese's sale slogans. "EVERYTHING MUST GO!", "WE ARE SELLING OUT TO THE BARE WALLS!" Photo by Jim Rouse

CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

Assault on the Homeless

All of the world's major religions teach compassion for the poor and those who are vulnerable. It seems that many of our modern-day politicians have forgotten the messages and have decided instead to persecute those who can least fight back—and the rest of us are just sitting by and watching it happen. Look at what is happening to the homeless and those who live in the worst public housing in two of the largest cities in our nation—New York and Chicago.

In New York, Mayor Giuliani, the Republican New York Senate candidate whose new television commercial calls him "compassionate," has launched an attack on the homeless together with the governor of the state. They have issued an edict which states that "able-bodied homeless" people must work in return for their beds in city shelters. Parents who do not comply under these rules could lose custody of their children and will find themselves out on the streets in the dead of winter.

On the surface of things this new promulgation might not look too bad to some. But a closer examination shows that the number of homeless families with children has increased significantly over the past decade and that families with children in shelters are among the fastest growing segments of the homeless population. Indeed, 40 percent of people who become homeless today are families with children. So the victims of Mayor Giuliani's new assault will be homeless children in New York City. Homeless children whose families are already in crisis, homeless children whose education is already interrupted, homeless children who already are more apt to have asthma (a staggering 38 percent of New York city homeless children have asthma—four times that of other New York children) and middle ear infections (which they already have at a rate 50 percent greater than the national average). Homeless children who are likely to be five years old or younger and whose mothers are likely to be suffering from depressive disorders (one-third of homeless mothers have made at least one suicide attempt.)

Moreover, homeless adults in New York City, as elsewhere, are people who lives are in disarray and profound crisis. Very, very few human beings want to be homeless. Many have severe drug or alcohol addiction problems. Many suffer from mental illnesses; 40 percent of the homeless men are veterans, some of whom suffer from vestigial effects of war. About a quarter of the homeless parents are homeless because of domestic violence—women who escaped with their lives and their children. These are the people whom the compassionate Mayor Giuliani has now targeted.

Then there is the attack on poor people living in public housing in Chicago by Democratic Mayor Richard M. Daley. Chicago has carried out a plan of closing many of its downtown public housing projects, forcing many long-time tenants to move, sometimes without providing them with alternative housing. If the city were replacing these run-down buildings with new housing for low-income residents it would be one thing, but these conveniently-located buildings are being replaced with middle income housing which most of the current residents could not afford. For instance, one plan calls for 1,000 families in the new unit to be at a median income of \$59,500 for a family of four, current residents have a median income of \$6,160.

To implement this new housing policy of providing housing for middle income folks, the City of Chicago has increased evictions in buildings it has targeted for redevelopment. From 1995-1998, for instance, it evicted more than 1,000 families from 13 developments scheduled to be torn down and redeveloped and more than 300 families from 10 developments that were not even scheduled for revitalization.

The reality is that the availability of housing for low-income people is shrinking across the nation at the same time that many poor families have lost welfare income. The gap between the number of affordable housing units and the number of people needing them in what is currently the largest on record, an estimated 4.4 million units.

And while many of the parents formerly on welfare are now working, they often are in economic crisis because of lack of transportation, affordable and safe child care and lack of health benefits in their low-paying jobs. Meanwhile, subsidized housing, like that in Chicago, is so limited that fewer than one in four families now receiving temporary assistance from the government lives in public housing or receives a housing voucher to help them rent from a private landlord. The waiting time for public housing across the nation averages nearly three years and more than two years for the voucher program.

To target the homeless and those living in low-income public housing is unconscionable. It is politics at its worst. In this, the wealthiest nation in the world, we can do better. In this, a nation which prides itself on its religious underpinnings, we must do better. Or we will all deserve the kind of government that we get.



KLEAVER'S KLIPPINGS

A Meeting With the Riverside Police Chief

Contrary to what many people might think, Jerry

Carroll, the chief of police for the City of Riverside makes a lot of sense and he has the courage of his convictions. The embattled top cop of the Inland Empire city had the intestinal fortitude to meet with at least 30 high ranking black police officials recently and discuss the position on the Tyisha Miller shooting.

Knowing he might be faced with more than token opposition, Carroll came to a meeting of the Southern California Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement officers in Rialto and talked candidly and at length about his feeling and reaction to the tragic shooting in his city some months ago.

He acknowledged that there are and have been problems within his department. He became chief in October 1997. Since that time, he explained he has had to attempt to build trust in Riverside. "There must be trust between the police and the community" he explained. He went on to say, however, that "leadership is the key to good police work." Apparently, he offers that leadership.

Carroll explained that he makes it a practice to personally go to all

officer-involved shootings and on Dec. 28, 1998 when he was called out on the Miller incident, he found himself in an unenviable position.

The officers, he charged, found Tyisha Miller with a weapon and under the influence. "But good judgment didn't happen that night."

As a result, when all of the dust began to settle and the legal hurdles were overcome, four police officers and a sergeant were fired from their jobs. He acknowledges that the issue of racism has been considered a major factor and that there has been a lot of finger-pointing. His comment along these lines was simple and concise. "Racism is alive and well in America."

How prevalent is it, he asks? He then cited the fact that he has recently promoted two minority officers, one African American and the other Hispanic and is facing opposition from seven sergeants within his department.

Citing the fact he has promoted an African American female to the rank of captain, he commented that within the ranks of most urban police departments, white males make up the majority.

This is almost a given within the ranks of law enforcement. In Southern California, the first black chief of police was the late Thomas

Cochee, who became the head of the Compton PD in the early 1970s.

Then there was Joe Rouzan, who replaced Cochee several years later and then became the first black chief of police for the City of Inglewood. Ray Johnson replaced Rouzan and Oliver Thompson replaced Johnson and Ron Banks is the current chief.

In Los Angeles, Willie Williams from Philadelphia beat out Bernie Parks for the top job, but Parks held on and wound up replacing Williams five years later. It is interesting to note that Wes Mitchell, a black man, has been chief of the Los Angeles Unified School District police for a number of years. Al Reddick retired as chief of the Community College Board Police Department several years ago.

It is even more interesting to look back at the history of black officers who came through the LAPD ranks to move on to more important jobs after their retirement. Homer Broome, the first black uniformed captain in LAPD and subsequent commander, went on to become administrator of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration in Washington after leaving LAPD.

Roberta Reddick retired from LAPD, but has been in demand as a consultant for many years and sits on various boards across the nation.

Interestingly enough, she may very well be the first black woman to act as chief of police in Southern California. Joe Rouzan tabbed her as acting chief during one of his prolonged absences. Ron Nelson made lieutenant in LAPD but became chief of police for China Lake and is now Chief for the UC San Francisco department.

With this as backdrop, it becomes crystal clear that Carroll's comments about racism being alive and well in America are right on the money.

Carroll brought up what he considers one of the key issues. He said that as young officer, other officers expected him to support them—right or wrong. He said he took the position that he would not back a partner if the partner expected him to lie or cover up. He explained that he had considered that integrity was and is more important than loyalty. "Police departments should not be afraid of the truth. None of us are perfect. There has only been one perfect person," he alleged.

Pointing out that discipline is to bring about change, he said he asked himself if he as chief of police could take the Riverside police department forward. He suggested that one of the keys to alleviating some of the problems might be mentoring.



URBAN PERSPECTIVE

Report on California Population Projections

California's future population is of utmost importance to

all citizens. And, population trends are especially significant and potentially problematic for African Americans whose numbers are decreasing in the state. (In Feb. 2000, this column will report specifically on the growing complexity of racial and ethnic identity in California.)

How Many Californians? A Review of Population Projections for the State, a report by the Public Policy Institute of California, compares and analyzes population projections produced for the state by various organizations: the California Department of Finance, the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, UCLA and the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy. Those projections are used in short-and-long range planning by local, state and federal government agencies, as well as by private firms.

The current projections agree on some basic issues: Growth rates will be lower than in the past, but absolute levels of growth will remain high. Natural increase will have more effect than net migration on population growth. Domestic migration will be lower, while international migration will remain strong. California will still have higher growth rates than the rest of the country. However, the projections of future population and rates of population growth vary widely.

Authors of this report maintain that each of the projections is plausible if you accept its assumptions regarding migration to and from California. The differences in migration assumptions drive almost

all of the differences among the various projections. Over the past fifteen years, domestic migration between California and other states has fluctuated dramatically. It is possible that California is on the verge of a new demographic era, one in which the state no longer attracts more domestic migrants than it sends out.

It is also possible that the state will return to its longtime demographic history of being a place that attracts more migrants from other states than it sends to those states. The lowest projections assume the former, while the higher projections assume the latter. The most recent evidence indicates that the large domestic migration losses of the early 1990s have ceased, although the state has not returned to the positive flows of domestic migrants that characterize its past.

The distinguishing feature of California's population is its dynamism, which is evident not only in rapid population growth, but also in the increasing diversity of the state's population. For decades, California's population growth rates have rivaled those of many less developed countries rather than those of developed regions. As recently as 1950, the state had only 10 million residents, less than one-third of today's 33 million. Over the past few decades, the state has also experienced a dramatic increase in ethnic and cultural diversity.

In 1970, white non-Latinos accounted for almost 80 percent of the state's population; today, they account for approximately half of the state's population. By 2020, Latinos will be the single largest ethnic group in the state.

The sheer size of California's population increase has important implications for almost all government services and functions including welfare, education, transportation and corrections. It also has important implications for protection of natural resources, distribution of water, agriculture, and location and nature of development. Equally important, but less predictable, is how the changing composition of the state's population will influence its economic evolution, political representation and cultural identities.

Projections of 50 million Californians by 2025 suggest that policy issues related to population growth will be of utmost importance to policymakers. However, projecting future populations is an uncertain undertaking. For example, the recession of the early 1990s saw record numbers of domestic migrants leaving California. From 1990 through 1996, between one million and two million people left California for other states than moved to California from the rest of the United States. At the same time, immigration (international migration) to the state increased substantially during the 1970s and 1980s and though slowing, still remained substantial during the recession of the early 1990s.

The Public Policy Institute report compares and analyzes a number of long-term population projections for California. Projections of the state's population diverge widely over time; the difference between the highest and lowest projection is greater than 10 million people. These projections (from different agencies) imply very different levels of population growth.

The highest projections suggest that California will need to accommodate another 20 million people by 2025, while the lowest suggest the state's population growth will total only about 8 million people between 1995 and 2025. Total population increases would amount to 29 percent of the state's 1995 population, according to the lowest series compared with 64 percent according to the highest series.

Only the projections of the California Department of Finance and the Census Bureau provide race/ethnic detail. While the DOF and CB projections agree on the direction of race/ethnic distributional changes in the state's population, the projections differ on the magnitude of those changes. In particular, the DOF projects that a somewhat larger share of the population will be white, and a somewhat smaller share will be either Latino or Asian and Pacific Islander than the CB projects. According to the CB projections, no race/ethnic group currently constitutes a majority of California's population. According to the DOF projections, such a majority will be reached between July 2000 and July 2001. The CB projects that by 2014, Latinos will be the largest single race/ethnic group in the state, whereas the DOF projects that will occur around 2021.

The level of plausible variation in California's future population requires serious consideration by policymakers and planners. Planners must consider several different future levels of California's population in developing their plans. Policymakers, obviously, must be attuned to the implications of California's future growth rates.



BETWEEN THE LINES

Underground Railroad: Sites Seen, Not Heard—Still Bear Tracks to Freedom

PART THREE

The third column of this series focuses on "the railroad" itself, and how its routes and stops were as invisible as they were plain; but also how collaboration and ingenuity played key roles in making it work. Traveling to freedom on the underground railroad was a complex and harrowing experience that required faith, courage, stamina and fortitude of all who partook of it; men, women and children alike. It wasn't a trip for the faint-hearted, the "wishy-washy" (who loved massa one minute and wanted to leave him the next), the whiney or the undisciplined (those who wanted to run "their own program" as soon as they cleared site of the plantation—we had those kinda ni—as, even then).

Most of those who were caught, killed or returned were those who escaped outside the railroad (running their program thinking they could do something because they saw someone else do it). Those who stuck to the program were most likely to find freedom. There was only one love, one goal, one program on this excursion, and that was to be free. And freedom was a contract to which there was no turning back. You committed to making it, or died trying.

If you were caught, you would likely be killed unless the slave catchers were given strict instructions to bring you back alive (which

was rare). And if you turned back on your own, the conductors of the URR were instructed to "take you out." No one could afford a returning slave to tell what he had seen or knew, relative to stops along the railroad. The URR was called "the invisible tracks" but the railroad was hardly invisible.

The "invisible" term came as a result of the fact that, in spite of so many enslaved people leaving the plantation, slave catchers on horses with bloodhounds would give chase soon thereafter (sometimes with less than eight hours following an enslaved person's departure), and runaways seemed to disappear off the face of the earth. It seemed as if they just disappeared, or became "invisible."

Though slave catchers knew they (runaways) had to be around somewhere, they could never find them. No tracks, no scent, no people walkin'. Nothing. However, railroad stops were homes, businesses, barrelhouses, rivers, wells, caves, forests, anywhere that provided cover for a minute, hour or sometimes days. Then there are the infamous tunnels that provided quick escapes when searches took place and capture seemed certain.

It seemed almost impossible that this type of coordination could take place and people turn up without a trace. How did enslaved people know

when to leave? How did they communicate? How did they know what to bring? What to wear? (you know that wasn't always an issue with us.) How long would it take? All were issues when talking about "going to freedom somewhere." It's well-known that our people communicated by song. Allso-called "slave songs" were spiritual because our people were "who they were and who's they were." "I'm ready to give up this slave existence for a new (free) beginning," a code song for "I'm ready to run to freedom." Water songs, in particular, were known as code or "escape" songs. "Wade in water, chil'un" is not about a baptism. "Wade in the water" meant "meet at the river tonight, then train is coming." "Follow the drinking court" meant follow the river to freedom's light. Water was key to providing quick escape because they shed clothes, cleaned their scents and threw off dogs. And water left no tracks.

The average escape to freedom took between two to six weeks, depending on where you left. The average rate of travel was 25 to 30 miles a day, mostly after sundown (unless there was cover or long stretches of clear land to travel by day). An average travel group was five or less. Most of the escapes in the middle of the country went to Canada via Ohio and Michigan because of its proximity to lakes and rivers.

Also Ohio, being the country's most notorious anti-slave territory, provided greater cover for an otherwise very long and dangerous trip. Runaways went deep into Canada (twenty to 100 miles) so that slavecatchers couldn't easily pull them back across the border.

From Kentucky into Canada (25 miles past Detroit across the river) was about 350 miles. Alabama to Canada was about 800 miles. Arkansas to Canada was about 880 miles. Mississippi to Canada was about 920 miles. This wasn't all flat land either. It was very rugged terrain and steep hill climbing.

Women's aerobic fitness workshops had nothing on "sistas" "stairmastering" to freedom. And they ran with kids in tow. And the children knew to be quiet. Try taking your children someplace today, run (walk 'em fast) for 25 miles, then ask to stand someplace for an hour (much less several hours) without speaking (above a whisper). If it was my six year old, everybody would be caught because she ain't gonna stop askin' you 'til you answer her, loudly.

Where did runaways know where to stop? Safehouses provided several coded signs or signals that waved them in or told them to stay put. It could be as simple as "leaving the light on" at the Rankin House (one of the historically recognized

Underground Railroad sites), which still sits 400 feet above the town of Ripley, Ohio on the banks of the Ohio River. This site alone guided 2,000 people to freedom, mostly from Kentucky.

Those little "colored" lawn jockeys that we find so offensive today provided great cover for the runaways then. At abolitionist Seth Marshall's house in Painesville, Ohio, a scarf around the jockey's right or left arm meant it was "safe." The scarf around the jockey's neck meant, lay low. The light on (in the jockey's hand) meant he had space for runaways; light off meant he was full, and go to the next safehouse stop. That's really where roadside motels got "cutting their lights off" when they were full—from the underground railroad.

There is the Harding House (in Xenia) that had a tunnel from the outside well to the house basement (the well, tunnel and basement are all still intact; the house burned down in 1965) where runaways jumped in the well and hid by day and escaped by night. There's the Old Tavern on the Unionville, Ohio county line (still standing) that was the courthouse upstairs and slaves escape downstairs.

During the time of the Slave Fugitive Law, every citizen had to cooperate with slave catchers. So when they handed runaways over to authorities

they took them to court and while "papers were being verified," runaways would escape via tunnel under the court house into a graveyard across the street, which also happened to be in the next county. Not only would they have to catch them again (if they could), they'd have to take them to the court in the next county 50 miles away.

There's the Rider Inn (which still stands in Painesville) that housed many of the slave catchers, but had several tunnels underneath (still there) whereby the owner could give runaways advance notice to hide or escape.

There's the Fairport Harbor Light-house that was operated by a federal employee that signaled ships when it was clear to come and pick runaways to take them to Canada via Lake Erie. There was the Second Baptist Church in Detroit (who's first seven pastors were underground railroad conductors) that still sits on the site where tunnels existed to harbor runaways (as many as 5,000 at a time) until conductors came to take them across the river.

Cleveland and Detroit were significant landmarks on the freedom trial. They had code names, Hope (because if you got as far as Cleveland, you had a good chance of being free), and Faith (because you reached Detroit on faith).

Next time, freedom sites and URR historical museums.

By A. ASADULLAH SAMAD



Historical Photo Olga Meyer a long time educator and mentor of Epes High School, was a shining example and mentor of many Pitt County professional doctors, lawyers, teachers etc. All of them are a product of this woman's dedication to her students.

Council continued from pg 1

Mildred Council has Masters Degree in Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (1974) Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology, Shaw University, Raleigh, NC (1971) Academic diploma, Bethel Union High School, Bethel, NC (1967) She has spent 12 years of public service to the citizens of Greenville. An elected member of Greenville City Council (6 two-year terms, 1987-1999) Currently Liaison on the following boards (1997-Present) Environmental Advisory Commission Planning and Zoning Commission, North Carolina League of Municipalities Vice President of Women in Municipal Govt. and District IV Representative 1987-Present) Past

President (1994-1997) and member of N.C. Black Elected Municipal Officials (NCBEMO) currently Membership Chair scholarship.

In addition to all of these accomplishments, Mildred A. Council is still a loving mother. She has two dynamic sons, Logan who is an 8th grader currently enrolled in E.B. Aycock Middle School (Academic Gifted) and "Baker" who is a freshman Presidential scholar at Shaw University in Raleigh. she is currently employed as Sickle cell educator counselor/ N.C. Dept. Health and Human services. She has a devoted husband, named Walter. He supports Ms Council in all her endeavors. Hats off, to Mayor Pro-Tem Mildred Council!

KWANZAA



A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture

The Symbols of KWANZAA

KWANZAA has seven basic symbols and two supplemental ones. Each represents values and concepts reflective of African culture and contributive to community building and reinforcement. The basic symbols in Swahili and then in English are:

MAZAO (The Crops) These are symbolic of African harvest celebrations and of the rewards of productive and collective labor.

MKEKA (The Mat) This is symbolic of our tradition and history and therefore, the foundation on which we build.

KINARA (The Candle Holder) This is symbolic of our roots, our parent people--continental Africans.

MUHINDI (The Corn) This is symbolic of our children and our future which they embody.

MISHUMAA SABA (The Seven Candles)

These are symbolic of the Nguzo Saba, the Seven Principles, the matrix and minimum set of values which African people are urged to live by in order to rescue and reconstruct their lives in their own image and according to their own needs.

KIKOMBE CHA UMOJA (The Unity Cup)

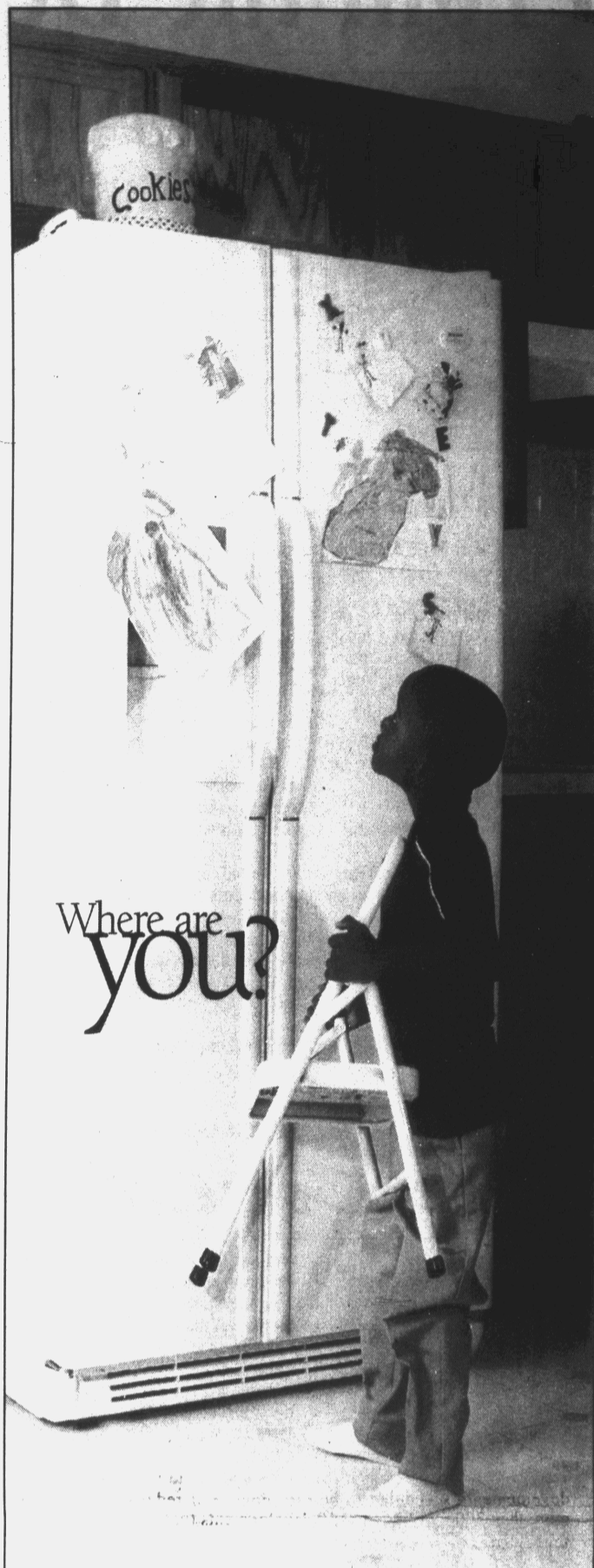
This is symbolic of the foundation principle and practice of unity which makes all else possible.

ZAWADI (The Gifts)

These are symbolic of the labor and love of parents and the supplemental symbols are:

BENDERA (The Flag)

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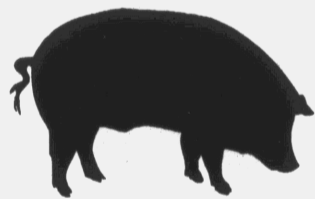
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From the Desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



TWENTY-FIVE LESSONS FOR LIFE

Marian Wright Edelman, President, Children's Defense Fund

1. Always remember that you're God's child. No man or woman can look down on you and you cannot look down on any man or woman or child.
2. Don't wait for, expect, or rely on favors. Count on earning them by hard work and perseverance.
3. call things by their right name.
4. Don't listen to naysayers offering no solutions or take no or but for an answer.
5. Don't be afraid to stick your neck out, to make mistakes, or to speak up.
6. Keep your word and your commitments.
7. Be strategic, focus, and don't scatter your energies on many things

that don't add up to a better whole.

8. Watch out for success. It can be more dangerous than failure.

9. You can't do everything by yourself but you can do a lot.

10. Asking the right questions and measuring the right things may be more important than finding the right answers.

11. Travel lightly through life and resist the tyranny of burdensome or unneeded things.

12. Be a pilgrim and not a tourist in life and don't confuse heroism with fame or celebrity.

13. God has a job for all of us to do. Open up the envelope of your soul and try to discern the Creator's orders inside.

14. Follow the Golden Rule rather than the world's silver, iron, bronze, and copper rules.

15. Bear all or most of the criticism and share all of the credit.

16. Be real. Try to do what you say, and say what you mean, and be what you seem.

17. Avoid high-maintenance, low-impact people and life in the fast lane.

18. God did not create two classes of children or human beings - only one.

19. Don't ever give up on life. It is God's gift. When trouble comes, hang in.

20. Strive hard to be a good parent.

21. Be a good ancestor. Stand for something bigger than yourself. Add value to the earth during your sojourn.

22. Don't let anything or anybody get between you and your education.

23. Never judge the contents of a box by its wrappings.

24. Take responsibility for your behavior. Don't make excuses, blame, or point fingers at others or hide behind "everybody's doing it".

25. Possessions and power don't make the man or woman: principles, character, and love do.

A PARENT'S PLEDGE

I PLEDGE TO:

1. Listen to my children.
2. Communicate with my children.
3. Teach my children right from wrong and be a good role model for them.
4. Spend time with and pay attention to my children.
5. Educate my children in and, body and soul.
6. Work to provide a stable family life for my children.
7. Vote for my children to ensure them fair treatment and opportunity.
8. Speak out and stand up for my children's needs and support effective groups that help children.

From: LANTERNS: A MEMOIR OF MENTORS, Maran Wright Edelman, author of the #1 NYT Best Seller

She pays tribute to the extraordinary personal mentors who helped light her way: Martin Luther King, Jr., Robert Kennedy, Fannie Lou Hamer, William Sloane Coffin, Ella Baker, Mae Bartha Carter, and many others.

TO: BROTHER "BIG BO" TYSON MEDIA MINISTER WOOW 1340 AM RADIO STATION

FROM: MISSIONARY AUDREINEE "AUDREY" HARVEY "AN AVID LISTENER OF WOOW JOY 1340 AM"

RE: THE WOOW "BIG BO'S SUPER ROLE MODEL" PROJECT

There are many Super Role Models that have "forcefully" made impressions upon my life but... I will focus on women of African American decent. Allow me to also state that during this 1999 calendar year there were many super role models that have gone home to be with the Lord (Mrs. Mamie Maye Garrett) ... My Grandmother... the only cheerleader I ever had... Ms. Esther Rich... a woman blind her entire life that taught me how to type at (9) years old ... Mrs. Salive Ann Early... As a best friend to my Grandmother taught me how to be a loyal friend... Deaconess P. Moore taught me how to walk with a loving, meek and quiet spirit ... regardless of circumstances..

To date.. there are (2) African American women , of the Pitt County area that have had a major impact on my life.

I Honor and Recognize

Mrs. Clotea Garrett & Mrs Beatrice Maye

These (2) African American women are first and foremost ... women of God!!! (42) years of my life I recall character that reflects no spot or blemish.

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Wives

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Delightful personalities

I know you might possibly think that because these are my relatives I am partial but... anyone that knows me knows that I would "never" give accolades to anyone that does not rightly deserve honor!

Mrs. Maye (Aunt Bea) ... I can not say is a retired educator because... even until this very day she teaches a class once a week! In addition ... she pioneers journalism as a writer for the Minority Voice Newspaper. The wife of (1) husband (the late Mr. Howard Walter Maye, SR.) Faithful Mother of (2) children, MR. John Walter Maye, Jr. & Mrs.

Mamie E. Maye- Bryan & (6) grandchildren Sycamore Missionary Baptist Church Member. Where the pastor is Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr. Mrs. Maye has taught me the ease of carrying myself with the Dignity & grace of a proud African American Christian woman. The wisdom to know that education is the key and necessary & the knowledge that it is never ever to late to conquer any goal that I have in mind ... Never allow age to be a hindering factor!

Mrs. Clotea Garrett (Aunt Clotea) ... is the conglomerate of all of my personal goals... Aunt Clotea is a wonderful mother grandmother Real Estate mogul of this community / D.D. Garrett Real Estate 606 Albermarle Ave. Greenville.)

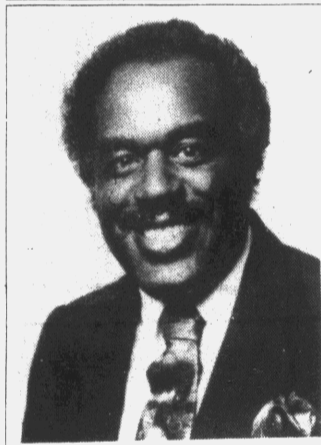
Great Missionary; (Doing things in a big way but without calling attention to self)... Prayer warrior of phenomenal proportions! She is the honorable wife of D.D. Garrett Sr.,

(2) sons, Reverend D.D. Garrett, Jr & Michael Garrett.. Grandmother of (5) Grandchildren.

Aunt Clotea has taught me that God is the one that must direct my every path ... prayer is the key to "Good Success". Owning & having a successful business is attainable if you are steadfast in your efforts she made me understand that a good sense of humor is a Godly thing & foremost ... she caused me to understand how to walk in the way of Holiness! Holy Trinity United Holy Church member. where the pastor is Bishop Ralph Love.

Mr. Tyson. Thank You for giving me the opportunity to honor these (2) women today

Spiritual Thoughts



Dr. George Hawkins

From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings:

Genesis 1:1-3 says that "in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was

without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said Let there be light; and there was light.

Death and life are in the power of the tongue; and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof (Proverbs 18:21).

Ever since the world was created, words have and always will play an important role in our lives. They determine whether we will be blessed or cursed. They will determine if we will receive life or death in any given situation. Words, beloved, are powerful. If we had known then what we know today, our circumstances and situations would have had a different outcome, but because of the lack of knowledge, we went through a lot of things needlessly. I am not saying we would not have experienced what we did but had we known better, it would not have been so hard.

Genesis 1:1-3 are some very

powerful scriptures, especially verses 1 and 3 and God said, Let there be light is a sermon by itself God could have easily created the light, darkness, the firmament, the days, etc., but He chose to speak it into existence. Why? It demonstrates faiths The God-kind of faith. The faith that He gets from believers. God had enough faith in His own words to believe that if He said it, it would come to pass. God knew His word had power. He knew that one day we would be proclaiming the same word. Faith without works is dead. I believe that God did this to prove to us that life and death are in the power of the tongue and that if we have His faith, we could do likewise. So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. When God's words went out, what He spoke materialized. How? The voice of His Word. God's word has a voice.

We know that the Bible is the Word of God, but if you hold it up to your ear, you don't hear anything. The logos of God's Word makes no

sound. It has no voice by itself. Yes, it is His Word but it doesn't have sound until we give voice to it. We must give voice to God's Word! Why? Because angels hearken to that sound. I believe that when God spoke He gave voice to His Word, thereby causing the angels to bring it to pass. Just because the Bible says, "By his stripes, ye were healed," does not mean you will receive the benefits of it. It won't work just because you read it in the Bible. It won't work just because you believe the Bible is true. It will work only when you get that word down in your spirit and give voice to it.

Each time you talk contrary to God's word, the angels hear, back off and fold their hands. They can't work because they hearken to the voice of God's Word. How are angels going to hear the voice of His Word if you don't speak it? You have angels assigned to you. What are you speaking? What are you proclaiming? Angels can't act in your behalf when they hear words

like, it's not working out. We will never get out of debt. I'll never have the money to make the payment on this car. You just watch, we'll lose our car." You are not voicing God's word. You are voicing the word of the enemy.

By speaking those words of unbelief you are binding and provoking the angels. Not only that, you have loosed Satan to operate with those words. Again I ask, What are you voicing? Whatever you speak, the angels are listening. That's why it is important to read God's word aloud sometimes in your home during study time because when the angels hear it, they are going to hearken only to the Word of God. You and I are the voice of God's word. Have your ever read the word in silence and then at other times aloud? Which benefited the most? You can read "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper" and then read it audibly, and I guarantee it will quicken to your spirit quicker than when you read it in silence. Don't

get me wrong by what I just said. I believe you can be blessed both ways but remember what St. John 6:63 says "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life. You can have what you say. It's time you start speaking things into existence. Proclaim those things that are not as though they were.

This is a very broad topic concerning angels. As you can see, they played a major part in creation and they play a major part in our lives. They do exist and they will stand ready to work for us but only according to the word of God. Remember, if we don't give God's word a voice, then the angels have no voice to hearken to in the earth. The power of binding and loosing is on earth. This is where many of God's people miss it. They are not giving voice to His Word. The angels are waiting for you to say things that will loose them! Begin to speak the word of God. Loose your angels!

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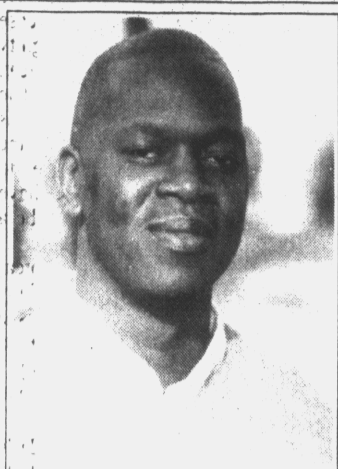
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WOOW

Beaufort County School announce teacher and principal of the year recipients



Willie Joyner

By Pamela W. Daw
Beaufort County School
Laura Bilbro-Berry, second grade teacher at John C. Tayloe Elementary School, is Beaufort County's 1999-2000 Teacher of the Year.

The announcement was made at a reception at Beaufort County Community College on August 19.

In making the announcement, Board of Education chairman Dr. Jack F. Cherry read excerpts from her portfolio. When asked what her message would be if she were chosen as the North Carolina Teacher of the Year, Bilbro-Berry's response was: "I would communicate to others that we must do whatever it takes for the students' sake. In order to ensure success for all students, we must be open-minded and innovative. As we head into the new millennium, it should be our mission to make education the most important aspect of our lives. We can accomplish this goal only by creating better partnerships, fostering open-mindedness and using innovative practices."

Robert Belcher, principal at John C. Tayloe School, said in his letter of recommendation: "I admire Mrs. Berry's keen sense of organization and her attention to detail. She is very thorough and uses the computer as a vital tool in this area as well as classroom instruction. She is very intelligent,

being an Honors Graduate and Teaching Fellow at UNC-Chapel Hill."

Cecelia Cutler, a parent from John C. Tayloe, wrote in her letter of recommendation: "Mrs. Berry has made a definitive and lasting impression on my children. She puts forth a considerable effort to ensure a quality education for all of her students. I am most appreciate to Mrs. Berry for the outstanding influence she has had in my family members' lives."

Willie Joyner, computer skills and computer enrichment teacher from Belhaven Elementary School, was recognized as Teacher of the Year runner-up. Dr. Cherry cited this excerpt from Joyner's portfolio: "My message to the community would be to expect nothing but the best education for your child. It is also your responsibility to play a part in your child's development. Do not expect miracles to be worked in someone if the basic values have not been taught at home. We must all work together to ensure the success of

our sons and daughters. We must do so by communicating openly and honestly about everyone's needs."

Superintendent Dr. Curtis Rains announced that Andrea Roberson, principal at the Ed. Tech. Center, will represent Beaufort County as Principal of the Year.

Commenting, Roberson, principal said: "I feel that one of my greatest contributions in the field of education's being a role model and an example of success. When students see me, I would hope that they would see someone who has experienced obstacles yet achieved her goals in spite of them. There is no greater joy to me than to be able to influence the life of another, as I was influenced during my teenage years. I feel that teaching does not stop in the classroom but stretches into the community, churches and wherever we come in contact with our youth."

This is Roberson's first year at the Ed. Tech Center. She was previously principal at S.W.

Snowden for five and one half years.

Each winner was presented flowers and a plaque from the board of education. Bilbro-Berry and Roberson will represent the county in regional competitions to be held in October.

Special guests attending included Representative Dr. Zeno Edwards; 1998-99 teachers of the year from various school; and board of education members, Betty Randolph, Billy Jefferson, E.C. Peed, Bryant Hardison and Mac Hodges. Also present was Beaufort County Schools 1998-99 Teacher of the Year Sarah Faucette, who provided a story regarding attributes of a teacher of the year.

Other candidates for Teacher of the Year were: Kim Mayo, Aurora High School; Kathy Gwynn, Bath Elementary School; Kathy Ormond, Beaufort County Elementary School; Lewis Cutler, Chocowinity High School; Lynn Whittington, Chocowinity Primary School; Debbie Poe, Eastern

Elementary School; Vernetta Wallace-Victor, Ed. Tech. Center; Joyce White, John Small School; Kris Noland, Northside School; Greg Singleton, P.S. Jones Middle School; Faye Wallace, S.W. Snowden Elementary School; and Donna Woolard, Washington High School.

Each candidate prepared a portfolio of information which included: educational history; professional biography; community involvement; philosophy of teaching; education issues and trends; the teaching profession; impact on student learning; and letters of recommendation. This information was presented to an interview committee consisting of Norm Smith (retired educator), Ruby Bailey (retired educator), Daniel Mallison (field representative for Congressman Eva Clayton), and Dr. Jack Cherry (board of education chairman).



Keith W. Cooper

In 1998, I proposed the establishment of a Pitt County Human Relations Council to have jurisdiction throughout the entire county. At that time, the Honorable Commissioner Farney Moore was the sole commissioner (of nine) to advance the concept. Vacillation and procrastination notwithstanding, I was determined to succeed if

I had to walk that lonesome valley by myself. Thanks to people like Dr. Reginald Watson, Rev. Walter Sadler, and other faithful supporters who made phone calls and encouraged the concept of a countywide council in other ways, we succeeded. On Monday, December 6, 1999, the Pitt County Board of Commissioners (PCBC) agreed to support the establishment of a Pitt County Human Relations Council.

On December 6, Commissioner David Hammond became the new vice-chairman of the PCBC. Charles Gaskins was elected chairman. At that time, the Honorable Commissioner Hammond went down in history as the commissioner who insisted that the proposal for the council be placed on the agenda. He then encouraged a favorable vote on the issue. Commissioner Terry Shank (long-time human relations supporter) seconded Hammond's mo-

tion. The PCBC voted 7-0 to support the idea of a countywide council. Two commissioners were absent during the historic vote. Commissioner Savage (who was vice-chairman until that historic day) asked to be excused to get some rest after a return from New York. Commissioner Eugene James, who lost his title as chairman, wanted to be excused to attend an out-of-town conference.

Why did Mr. Hammond move on the issue? Well, Hammond, who has been in Pitt County for many years, realized that business as usual must be challenged. As a matter of fact, he has been a vocal supporter of justice for all and the need to open the channels of communication so that people of different cultures and backgrounds could talk more. This is the only way we're going to get meaningful solutions to the problems, which have been nagging this county for so long. It is true that the "journey

of a thousand miles begins with one step." Hammond made that first step. This will be part of his legacy of praiseworthy achievements for years to come.

We, the hard-working, commitment-driven citizens of Pitt, need to take that second step. We must support action-driven dialogue to put solutions on the table. Too often, we've witnessed situations where people, in their suspenders and pinstriped shirts, attended meetings in "smoke-filled" rooms. The players, who sometimes choked on big Cuban cigars, talked just to hear themselves talk. Once the dust cleared, nothing substantive was accomplished. We are now poised to reach consensus in many important arenas with the new council.

Some people say that talking about problems won't lead to constructive change. I say "malarkey." If this were true, we, as blacks, still would be slaves.

Frederick Douglass and other abolitionists, through private and public discourse, negotiated a successful end to slavery with President Lincoln. Furthermore, had the NAACP not been formed around 1909 to fight the lynching of blacks, many black males might be seen hanging from a nearby tree with a cigar in their mouths. What about Dr. Martin Luther King, Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Rev. Jesse Jackson and countless other civil rights giants? They did more than talk; they acted. They got things done in such a way that will make our posterity proud. Through their efforts, we got the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Civil Rights Act of 1968. Hence, we must never undermine the importance of Commissioner Hammond's audacious move on Dec. 6.

What might fall within the purview of a countywide council? Discrimination in employment,

public accommodations, education, and age, disability, and wage discrimination would qualify for consideration. This council transcends race. It's about advancing human relations issue would be fair play. Homelessness, joblessness, helping abused children, providing support groups to help women cope with breast cancer, and assisting elderly citizens with Arthritis and Alzheimer's Disease are still some of innumerable human relations concerns.

The great poet, Langston Hughes, warned us of the danger of "dreams being deferred." The countywide council was a dream come true. Moreover, George Bernard Shaw was right when he said, "Some people see things as they are and ask, "why?" I dream of things that never were, and ask, "why not?" Let's help Commissioner Hammond make the Pitt County Human Relations Council a success.

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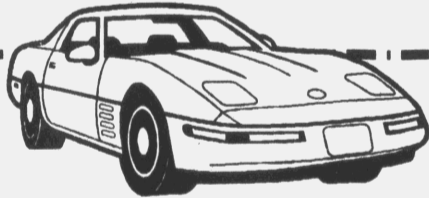
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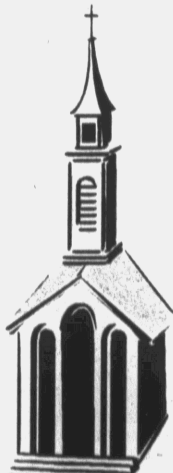
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Words of Faith



Suejette A. Jones

Jesus, the World's Savior

Isaiah 9:6,7 is a wonderful prophecy of the birth of Jesus and the worldwide scope of the government over which He will preside. To understand what His rulership will mean for the people, this prophecy assigns several very meaningful titles to Him. Says the prophet, "His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Some Hebrew scholars claim that no punctuation should follow the word "Wonderful," that it is merely an adjective, like the word "mighty" in the title "The mighty God" and the word "everlasting" in the title "The everlasting Father."

We know of course, that Jesus is "Wonderful." No matter from what standpoint we view the Master, He is "Wonderful." But it does seem reasonable that here the Lord is telling us primarily that Jesus is a "Wonderful Counselor."

The term "Counselor," as used in this prophecy, means more than one who gives advice; it is more like our word attorney; that is, one who represents a client before the bar of justice. It will be in this capacity that Jesus will act when He serves as "Mediator between God and men."

(I Timothy 2:4-6) His work as Counselor will be closely akin to His role as Judge. In both

respects He will be dealing with the people for the purpose of effecting their reconciliation with God, and upon the basis of this, giving them everlasting life. And Jesus will indeed be a "Wonderful Counselor" and a righteous Judge.

Another title ascribed to Jesus is "The mighty God." (Isaiah 9:6) This does not mean that Jesus is the "Almighty God," but it does mean that He has been highly exalted in the divine arrangement and that the Creator is pleased to have Him recognized as a mighty God and to be worshipped.

Another prophecy concerning Jesus foretold that His

name would be "Immanuel," which means, "God with us." (Isaiah 7:14) We are not to understand this as meaning that Jesus is the Almighty God, the Creator Himself, but rather that He would be the representative of God. (John 3:16) His miracles were an eloquent illustration of God-given power, that power which will be employed by the glorified Christ for healing all the sick and raising all the dead.

Isaiah declares that Jesus will also be "The everlasting Father." The term father means life-giver, and an everlasting father would be one who gives everlasting life. The life received by the people from their natural fathers has

been uncertain and brief, but all who then come to Jesus will be given everlasting life. Jesus, the Savior of the world, will also be "The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6) The angelic song which heralded the birth of Jesus featured the happy theme of "peace on earth," and finally this foretold peace is to become a reality rather than, as heretofore, merely something to sing about at Christmas time.

Suejette Jones is currently enrolled in a Bible studies class at Pitt Community college.

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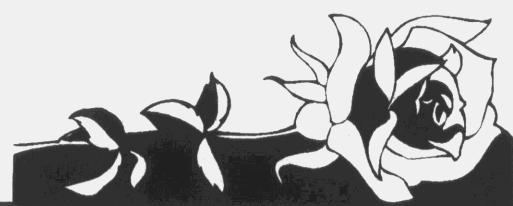
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ing their lives. Currently, victims of the flood are displaced, living either with relatives, friends, in homeless shelters or in other insufferable conditions.

The Brotherhood of the House of the Lord Pentecostal Church requests your support and invites you to participate in this effort. During the weekend of Friday, Dec. 3, the Brotherhood of the House of the Lord Pentecostal Church will be sponsoring a two-day information symposium. The symposium itinerary is two-fold and scheduled as follows: Saturday,

Greenville, N.C., and stated, "Some areas of Greenville are like a ghost town heaped with foul smell and people with faces of despair. The situation in this town needs more widespread attention. A brief documentary will be shown during the forum on Dec. 5."

Guest speakers will include Jeff Savage, Pitt County commissioner, Greenville N.C.; Rev. Daniel House of St. Peter's Missionary Baptist Church in Greenville, N.C.; and Jesse Daniels of Daniels Trucking Co. in Greenville, N.C.

Black retail organization bans Pepsi at conventions

The removal of all Pepsi Cola products from venues used by more than 200 conventioners was the first order of business when the National United Merchants Beverage Association (NUMBA) convened for their late October Annual Marketing Summit at the Nassau Marriott Hotel, Nassau.

Management of the Nassau Marriott Hotel complied with NUMBA's request, after Melvin Cornelious, president of NUMBA, said, "If you want our business you will remove any and all Pepsi products from the areas of the hotel that we will be using."

NUMBA is the largest African-American retail trade organization in the United States. Their membership is comprised of licensed beverage accounts organized under state and city-wide chapters across this country. NUMBA members are owners and operators of bars, taverns, grocery stores, package stores, convenience stores and restaurants. The organization's total membership is well over 1,200 small and medium-sized businesses.

Cornelious said the removal of Pepsi products was in response to Pepsi's refusal to support NUMBA and its cutting-edge programs. "Pepsi Cola has steadfastly refused to support our organizations and any of its programs. We have written numerous letters to Pepsi's corporate office in an effort to resolve this issue - to no avail."

"In the past, Pepsi Cola has not only supported NUMBA's Convention and Marketing Summit, but also our Scholarship and Intern Programs. However, in recent years, they withdrew their support of NUMBA completely. It is our policy to support companies that support NUMBA, our community, our business goals and commitment."

It was also disclosed that the group's Board of Directors voted to continue a policy of refusal to expose its membership to any company's products that are not supportive of the goals and programs of the National United Merchants Beverage Association.

The organization's National Network ProNet was designed for its members across the country to group themselves in a promotion network that provides retail operators with opportunities to participate in national promotions exclusively for ProNet members. The ProNet marketing team and industry partners plan and coordinate feature events for sponsoring brands within both on-premise and off-premise environments. This synergy produces "action centers" in the community and provides opportunities to build consumer traffic and to broaden brand sales.

The National United Merchants Beverage Association also provides its members and trade partners with a national communications vehicle to exchange information that keeps them abreast of important issues, programs and activities affecting their industry and communities. The quarterly newsletter known as "A Slice of NUMBA" includes President's Message, Public Relations, Legislative Action, Chapter Highlights & Upcoming Events, Marketing Strategies, Corporate Corner and Trade & Community Relations.

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Department of Education reported that 67% of the city's fourth grade students failed the State Regents test given last January. Seventy-eight percent of the fourth grade students in Harlem, South Bronx, and Bedford Stuyvesant scored far below grade; in reading and writing simple English.

Shipwrecked System

Given the resources available, the shipwrecked public school system should not surprise anyone. Just look at the sorry state of libraries in the 625 elementary schools. The State Library Division admitted that 550 elementary school libraries reported the lack of a certified school librarian. State officials said that most libraries in elementary schools were poorly supervised by uncertified librarians or by teachers who lacked basic library skills. Many school libraries were assigned to paraprofessional clerks who don't possess library skills.

New York State law orders that the New York City School Library System give all elementary schoolchildren access to libraries located within their schools. Libraries, known as "School Library Media Centers," are of no use to students unless a certified school librarian is on duty to assist children with computers and to teach them how to find information they need for homework. New York City's Board of Education ignores the state law, which requires that all schools have a functioning library system that assures a method of delivery of library materials to students.

We have a two-tiered educational system.

The families of tens of thousands of students survive on incomes below the poverty level. Parents cannot afford to spend money on books and magazines. When public schools deprive children of libraries supervised by trained teachers, hundreds of thousands of children may never learn to read, write, or reason well enough to work for a living as adults. In the modern age of television and videos, reading books is going out of style for

David R. Jones is President of the Community Service Society of New York, an anti-poverty group that focuses on health care, public education, housing, and welfare-to-work issues. The views expressed in this column are solely those of the writer. Past columns of "The Urban" are available on CSS's website, www.cssny.org



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American children. Unless schools are equipped with trained librarians, New children will remain dumb-ignorance. The proof? 67 percent of third graders

now need remedial classes in reading! Surveys show the American people vote education as their number one priority. In New York, however, politicians have been attacking education. Tuition has been jacked up at CUNY and SUNY colleges while funding for lower early grade class size and universal pre-kindergarten has been cut.

The lack of adequate library facilities is another example of the state's disinvestment in the city's public schools. Not only does the city receive thousands of dollars per student less than downstate suburban districts. It even gets about \$2,000 per student less than other urban areas such as Buffalo and Yonkers. We have a two-tiered educational system, one for New York City and the other for the rest of the state.

The corrosive effects of funding inequity can be seen in the test scores, but the worst may be yet to come. The Board of Regents has stiffened standards for high school graduation. All students must now pass a toughened English Regents exam in order to graduate. Raising standards should provide a better education for students and enhanced the quality of a diploma from the city's school system. But how will students who have fallen behind grade level in reading as early as third grade be able to handle this heightened requirement? It is clearly unfair to throw stiffer standards at students and deprive them of more and better resources from an early grade.

Racism Rears Its Ugly Head

Make no mistake about it, the issue of spreading dumbness is about race! Imagine the response of local officials, school boards, and the state if three-fourths of the students in wealthy white school districts in Westchester, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties failed a reading test. New York City schools are 80% minorities - Black, Hispanic, and Asian. Many thousands of the fourth grade students who failed the state-wide test last January are doomed to move up and out of the dumbed-down public school system - another generation whose education is a sham - to dead-end jobs and dead-end lives.

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of Faith



Working hard, Morris Moya associate of Gardner Bail Bonding is shown outside of Phillippi Church getting another brother out of jail. Photo by Jim Rouse

at Jesus matter we view le is pes seem he Lord ily that nderful

lor," as , means o gives like our is, one

respects He will be dealing with the people for the purpose of effecting their reconciliation with God, and upon the basis of this, giving them everlasting life. And Jesus will indeed be a "Wonderful Counselor" and a righteous Judge.

Another title ascribed to Jesus is "The mighty God." (Isaiah 9:6) This does not mean that Jesus is the "Almighty God," but it does

name would be "Immanuel," which means, "God with us." (Isaiah 7:14) We are not to understand this as meaning that Jesus is the Almighty God, the Creator Himself, but rather that He would be the representative of God. (John 3:16) His miracles were an eloquent illustration of God-given power, that power which will be employed by the glorified Christ for healing all the sick and raising all the dead.

been uncertain and all who then come to be given everlasting Jesus, the Savior of will also be "The Peace." (Isaiah 9:6) an angelic song which the birth of Jesus for happy theme of earth," and finally told peace is to reality rather than, fore, merely someth about at Christmas

Abortion just another term for ethnic cleansing

by Jackie Cissell

Years ago, I was called an extremist when I spoke out about the 1930s-era "Negro Project." Now, a dangerous new study entitled "Legalized Abortion and Crime" has African-Americans in shock because it could threaten the very survival of the race. Who's extreme now?

In the study, economist Steven D. Levitt of the University of Chicago and Stanford Law School Professor John J. Donohue III conclude that legalized abortion might explain why American experienced an overall reduction in crime from 1991 to 1997.

This study is so dangerous it is hard to know where to begin. But let me start with some historical perspective. Earlier in this century, Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger and her followers advocated a brand of ethnic cleansing called eugenics. Eugenics is defined as a movement dedicated to improving the human species through the control of hereditary factors in mating. Sanger's agenda was to "encourage more children from the fit and less from the unfit."

One of the ways Sanger sought to implement her eugenics policy was to partner with Black religious leaders to encourage Black women to abort their babies. She called this the "Negro Project." Sanger said, "The most successful educational approach to the Negro is through religious appeal. We do not want word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population, and the minister is the man who can straighten out that idea if ever occurs to any of their more rebellious members."

While African-Americans survived the Negro Project, "Legalized Abortion and Crime" resurrects Sanger's ideas. It suggests that those who would have been the greatest contributors to criminal activity

during the peak crime years of young adulthood — the unwanted offspring of teenagers, the poor and minorities — were aborted at a disproportionately high rate starting more than two decades ago. One could interpret the results of this study to mean that all it takes to predict criminal activity is to look at the color of the skin of the mother. If you can get a Black woman to abort her child, the country will be a better place to live.

Being poor and having brown skin seems to be a desperate condition for pre-born children. The study implies children born into poverty will suffer neglect and abuse. This is an apparent reason to encourage abortion. For the liberal elite in our nation's colleges and universities, however, "poor" could be defined as those not owning a microwave oven or a family without a second car. Depending on their definition of poor, many of us would not stand a chance.

African-American and Hispanics have always been at the lower level of the economic scale in America. If economics had anything to do with the survival of the races, we would have been extinct a long time ago.

Another reason "Legalized Abortion and Crime" is dangerous related the recent racial and ethnically motivated killings in the country. The results will most certainly gives groups prone to this behavior ammunition to fuel their hatred.

It proves once again that racism is still alive and well — dangerous. As long as the liberal elite can get away with making allegedly rational arguments for racial genocide, our society is worse off than we thought. But we are truly in trouble if we don't call abortion exactly what it is: another form of ethnic cleansing.

(Cissell serves on the National Advisory Council of Project 21 and is director of the Indiana Family Institute.)

Black Cyberspace Online, Inc. launches premiere Black-owned internet service provider

CAMDEN, NJ — Black CyberSpace OnLine, Inc. has played a historical role in helping bridge the "digital divide" of the underserved Black Internet market. The company has launched a premiere, national Internet Service Provider (ISP) owned by Blacks. Black CyberSpace OnLine has embraced its pledge of "Building the World's Largest Black Community in CyberSpace" through the online service, www.blackcyberspace.com. The ISP has debuted with a soft launch. The company plans to progress to an aggressive \$20 million marketing push by the end of the year.

Black CyberSpace OnLine has undertaken a philanthropic commitment to the African-American community. Individuals, businesses and service organizations are encouraged to sign-up users to the blackcyberspace.com Internet family, and the company will give a portion of the monthly service fees to an African-American organization of the client's choice.

According to company co-founder, Senior Vice President and COO, Nathaniel R. Causley, Jr., "blackcyberspace.com will re-define and challenge what is considered quality service among the online community. We plan to set a higher standard in providing service and information to the approximately 6 million Black Internet users, while attracting the other 82% of the Black population currently not online."

At an affordable monthly fee of \$17.95, Black CyberSpace OnLine offers on-line service, high-speed access, e-mail, web site design and development, along with a host of other Internet services. In addition to standard Internet service through CD-ROMs, Black CyberSpace OnLine will develop and distribute original content that targets Blacks. The ethnic focused e-commerce section, that went live in November, is the home of the most extensive ethnic health and beauty care store, Black-owned bookstores, an auto mall of minority dealership owners, and a host of other retail sites.

At least one BE 100s CEO is looking to the next millennium by logging on to blackcyberspace.com. James C. Smith, CEO of Systems Engineering and Management Associates Inc. (SEMA) (No. 80 on the BE Industrial/Service 100 list with \$27.2 million in sales), has partnered with Black CyberSpace OnLine Inc. At a cost of \$750,000, Smith purchased a 20% equity stake in the Internet service provider (ISP) and has been appointed its new chairman. Along with the Web company's co-founders, the African-American ownership in the new ISP is 84%. McCollum and Causley started 4-Sight Entertainment Inc. in 1992. Their Internet directory spin-off offers a portal to a broad variety of ethnic interests, including shopping, bookstores, banking, stock and mortgage services.

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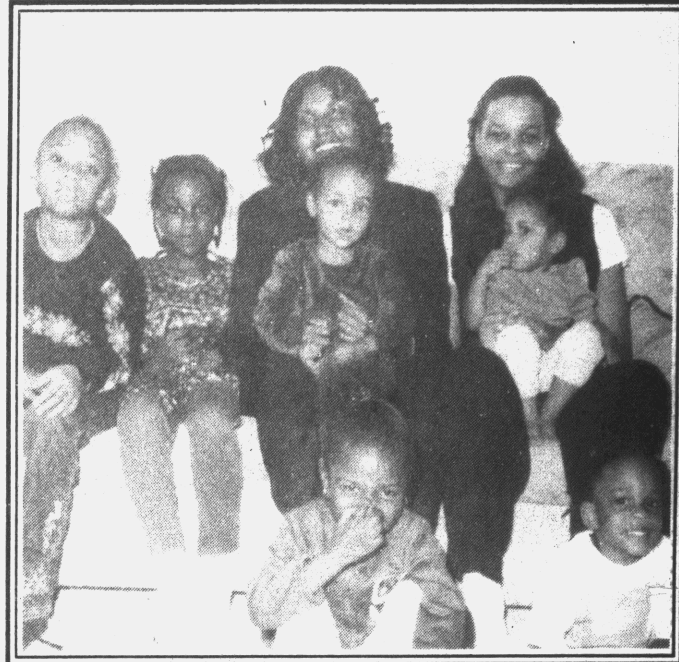
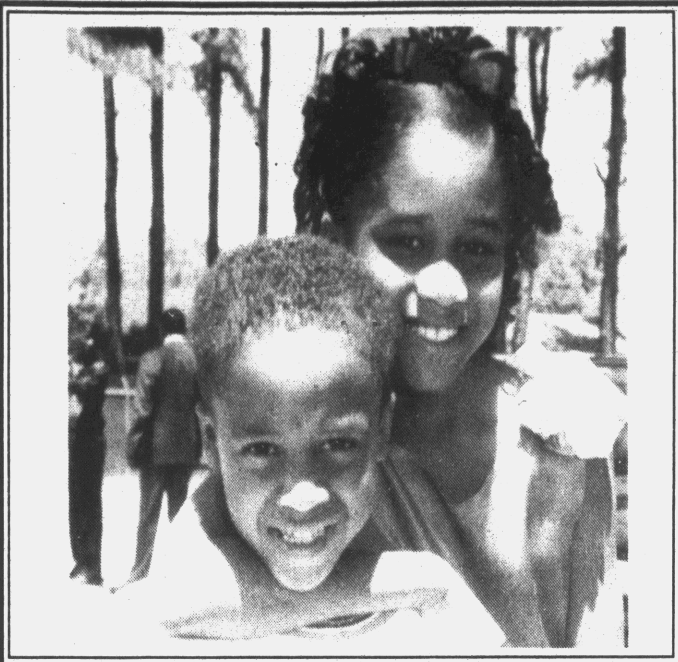
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Merry Christmas from the staff of WOCW

The Minority Voice Newspaper Remembers Vern Ebrons A Young Brother Gone Too Soon



VANESSA WILLIAMS

To host Showtime special

Vanessa Williams will be hosting a 90 minute Showtime special titled *It's Black Entertainment*. The film will be produced by Russell Simmons, Stan Lathan, John Davies and Stephen Lewis.

The special will detail the gains of African Americans in entertainment and bring attention to the struggles that Black artists continue to face. The documentary will feature interviews with Quincy Jones, Gregory Hines, Billy Dee Williams, Alan Parker, Fayard Nicholas, Hugh Masekela, Jasmine Guy, Smokey Robinson, Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, Little Richard and many others.

STEVIE WONDER

New Wonder archives release

Are you still angry at your sister for destroying your copy of Stevie Wonder's legendary album *Journey Through The Secret Life Of Plants* back in '80?

Well, we would be too. Good Stevie is hard to find these days. But today the search has just become a whole lot easier with the release of a gem from Motown. *Stevie Wonder: At The Close Of A Century* is a very comprehensive box set of 70 of his greatest hits from through out his career. So, instead of going another year searching and hating family, go check this out and be happy. The set contains 4 CDs and 70 selections like, *Part-Time Lover*, *My Cherie Amour*, *Superstition* and the whole nine. There's also a very rare first-time-on-CD selection. Wonder's original 1967 version of *Until You Come Back To Me (That's What I'm Gonna Do)*, a Top 10 hit for Aretha Franklin in 1974.

ROSA PARKS

Loses lawsuit against rapper

Well, this could be considered good or bad news depending upon how you stand on this one. A Detroit federal judge has ruled that civil rights activist Rosa Parks did not have her rights violated by rappers Outkast's song *Rosa Parks*.

The judge ruled that Outkast was protected by the First Amendment and they are not obligated to compensate her.

CARL GRIFFIN

New top dog at N-Coded Records

Carl Griffin has been fingered as the new top dog at N-Coded Records.

It's parent company, Warlock Records, is the home of jazz giants like Jonathan Butler, former Dizzy Gillespie protege Arturo Sandoval, drummer TS Monk and saxophonist Candy Dulfer. Griffin joined N2K Encoded Music in 1997 as vice president of A&R. Griffin has worked with the great ones; Stevie Wonder (deja vu), Marvin Gaye, and he was responsible for placing *Tell Me Something Good* with Rufus. Griffin is the recipient of two Grammy Awards for producing B.B.King at *Live at The Apollo*, and co-producing Arturo Sandoval's *Hot House*.

WILLIE D.

Makes boxing debut Dec. 8

According to *DaveyD.com*, Willie D of the Geto Boys is hanging up his microphone for a hot second when he makes his professional boxing debut on December 18th against former Light Heavyweight and Middleweight champion Reggie Johnson.

This decision isn't really as dumb as it looks. Willie knocked out a very diesel Melle Mel in a celebrity boxing match a few years ago.

BRANDY NORWOOD

Feeling better

Brandy Norwood is reportedly doing just fine after suffering from dehydration last week.

As a matter of fact, she's preparing for the premiere of her first live concert footage special *Brandy In Concert: A Special For The Holiday*. The special will feature footage from her very short *Never Say Never* tour. It will premiere in national syndication this weekend.

OL' DIRTY BASTARD

Guilty of wearing body armor

Ol' Dirty Bastard faced the music last week in Los Angeles and pleaded no contest to charges of wearing body armor (against California law for convicted felons) and making terroristic threats.

A judge ordered him to serve three years probation and enter drug treatment. The judge also ordered him to pay a \$500 fine, to undergo anger management counseling and stay away from alcohol and drugs.

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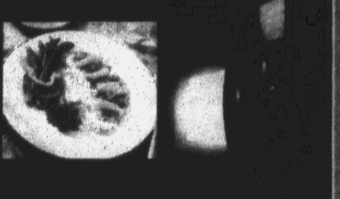
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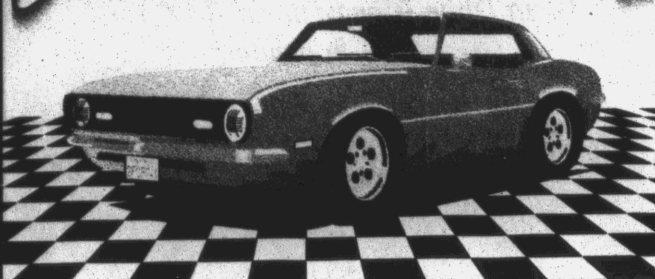
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