

Happy Birthday Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The Minority Voice

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Special Saute to Martin Luther King Jr. Edition!

Curtis Mayfield Dead at 57

BY RUSS BYNUM
Sentinel Wire services

ATLANTA (AP)..... Curtis Mayfield urged black Americans to "Keep on Pushing" at the height of the Civil Rights Movement, with songs that preached pride and perseverance. His life imitated his art when an onstage accident in 1990 left him a paraplegic, but failed to stop his music. he continued to record new songs by singing flat on his back. The gentle voice that sounded more like a pensive philosopher than a raging revolutionary was silenced on DEC. 26 when Mayfield died at age 57.

With classics such as "People Get Ready," "We're a Winner" and "Freddie's Dead" in the 1960s and 70s. Mayfield put civil rights at the forefront of soul music when black radio was dominated by love songs and dance tunes. You don't have to break anything over anybody's head, no matter what you're trying to say. It doesn't have to be preached." Mayfield told The Associated Press in a 1996 interview. "What's important for me is that it's said in a manner where it gives food for thought."

Music critic Nelson George dubbed Mayfield "black music's most unflagging civil rights cham-

panion." Rolling Stone magazine declared in 1997 that "black music as we hear it today simply wouldn't exist without him." Mayfield's socially conscious lyrics paved the way for rappers more interested in gritty urban landscapes than heavenly romance. The funk grooves on his album "Superfly" proved irresistible to hip hop samplers. Longtime manager and business partner Marv Heiman said Mayfield "wanted people to think about themselves and the world around them, making this a better place for everyone to live." Mayfield was paralyzed when he was struck by a lighting rig that toppled while



African American Sailor Pardoned by President Clinton After 55 Years

By Kaia Shivers
Sentinel staff writer

Freddie Meeks and his wife Eleanor say they are thankful for the recent pardon President Bill Clinton granted to Meeks, a former black sailor that was unjustly convicted of mutiny more than 50 years ago along with 49 other blacks in the Naval force. Said Freddie Meeks, "I feel good about it because it was something that was held over our lives and it shouldn't have been. At that time we didn't know nothing about no mutiny." Meeks is one of the three survivors left from the 50 black soldiers imprisoned during World II, following an explosion that left more than 200 dead and about 500 injured. A five year campaign to pardon Meeks was brought to a closing when Meeks receive the presidential pardon on Dec. 23. Said Meeks, "This is something I can finally get off of my chest. I'm 80 years old and now I can feel good that those charges of mutiny were lifted off of me." At the time of the tragic blast on July 17, 1944, Meeks was in Oakland

on a three-day pass. "They sent word for us to come back to the base so they could get a count of the survivors, but we didn't go back because we had a three day pass."

When Meeks and the other sailors returned they were thrown into the brig. Soon after, they were ordered to resume the dangerous and laborious task of loading the live munitions, while white sailors received 30 day passes.

"We (back sailors) had a big pow wow out on the compound and talked it over. We talked to the lieutenant about it and he told us to write the Red Cross. The Red Cross told us that there was nothing they could do for us 'boys."

When the time came to resume duties, 50 men refused to load the munitions. The remaining black soldiers that consented to continuing their duties were shipped off to different places in the world, some even dishonorably discharged. The men who refused were arrested and tried.

"They wanted to shoot us to make an example out of us, but instead we were shipped to Treasure

Island in San Francisco."

The sailors were initially given between eight and 18 years, but with the help of civil rights lawyer and first African American supreme court justice Thurgood Marshall, sentences were reduced. Now, after years of maintaining his silence about the incident, Meeks is more than willing to tell his side of the story.

"I guess I'm still here to let people know what happened," said Meeks. "I don't know if all the other men will get pardoned, but I think they should. All we were there for was to serve our country."

Added his wife Eleanor, "Those 50 guys did what they thought was right. They stood up for what they thought was right and there was no such thing at that time for a black man."

They just stuck to their faith, believed and refused to go back. Now his grandchildren and great grandchildren can read about him in the history books and know that he did not back down."

Ready," "We're a Winner" and "Freddie's Dead" in the 1960s and 70s, Mayfield put civil rights at the forefront of soul music when black radio was dominated by love songs and dance tunes. You don't have to break anything over anybody's head, no matter what you're trying to say. It doesn't have to be preached," Mayfield told The Associated Press in a 1996 interview. "What's important for me is that it's said in a manner where it gives food for thought."

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black keys on the piano.

In 1956, he joined church choir member Jerry Butler, brothers Arthur and Richard Brooks, and Sam Gooden in a group called The Roosters. They change their name to The Impressions two years later, and has a No. 11 hit with "For Your Precious Love."

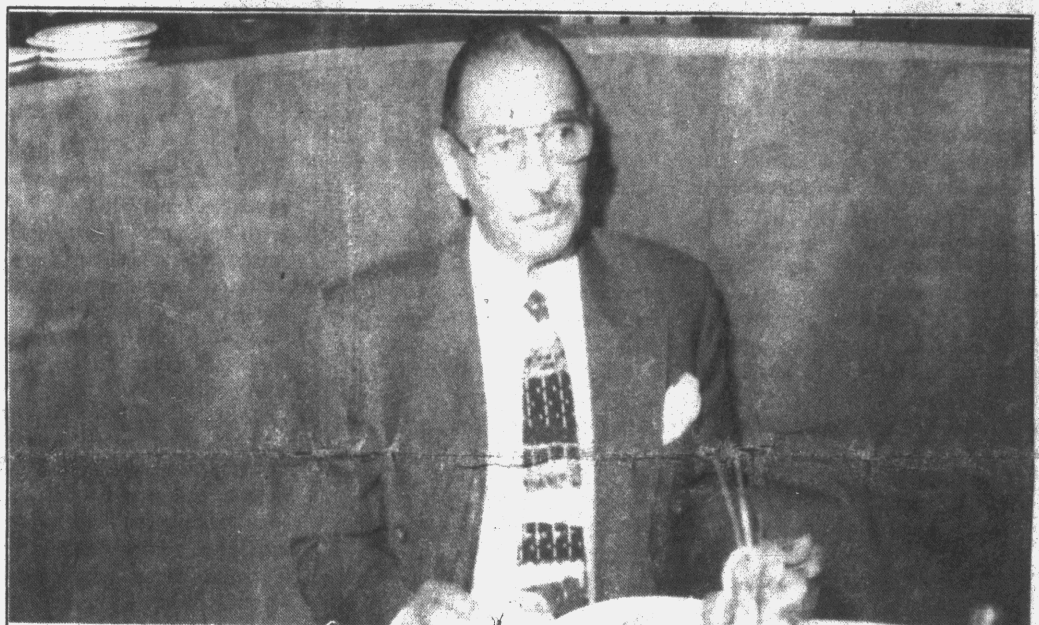
The group went on to record a string of hits, including "Gypsy Woman", "It's All Right" and "I'm So Proud."

It was in 1964's "Keep on Pushing" that marked a turning point for Mayfield, and broadened the parameters of black music. Widely regarded as the first rhythm and blues song to rally blacks behind the civil rights movement, "Keep on Pushing" became a Top R & B and pop hit. Mayfield continued putting black pride and social issues at the forefront in Impressions hits such as "We're A Winner," "This is My Country" and "Choice of Colors," which asked: "How long have you hated

After his accident, Mayfield found he could still sing by lying down, letting gravity put pressure on his chest and lungs. With vocals sometimes recorded lines at a time, Mayfield released his final album, "New World Order," in 1996.

Mayfield was a two-time inductee to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame--as a member of the Impressions, and as a solo artist. Though his songs often invoked bleak surroundings, they never lost sight of hope. "Like a true nonviolent civil rights activist, Mayfield looked for the best in antagonists as well as friends, gently prodding for change and rarely pointing an accusatory finger in anger," critic George wrote in his 1988 book, "The Death of Rhythm and blues."

"There was dignity in his approach, a feeling that his ideals were for the elevation of his listeners."



A trip to the Nation's capital, shown above is Brother Rouse... Owner of WOOW Joy 1340 AM & WTOW 1320 AM was in Washington, DC to speak to the FCC regarding low power FM Radio and Minorities. Brother Rouse is shown with Retired Col. Powell's son, Micheal Powell who is a commissioner with the FCC, along with other NC Broadcasters. Also, shown is congressman John Conyers, who dined with brother Rouse and Micheal Powell for lunch.



Herbert A. Gardner has been nominated to receive the Congressional Committee's 1999 Businessman of the Year Award. This award is given to top business leaders in the country who have been instrumental in helping to reform the IRS, pass the Financial Freedom Act of 1999 and maintain the Republican Majority in Congress. He was singled out to receive this prestigious appointment because of his generous financial support to the National Republican to the White House in 2000.

MIRANDA RIGHT IN JEOPARDY

BY NISA ISLAM MUHAMMAD

Soon you may not have a right to be forewarned of your rights. The U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments early next year and decide in June whether or not to tinker with the 33 year-old ruling that mandates police to inform criminal suspects that "you have the right to remain silent.... a warning better known as the Miranda rule.

Some observers view this as the most important criminal case the Supreme Court will hear in years. Miranda became law in 1966, but the Court must determine if a 1968 law passed by Congress overturns Miranda. The 1968 law allows federal prosecutors to use voluntary confessions even if the person was not read his Miranda rights.

And while that law has never been enforced, Attorney General Janet Reno told congressional members in 1997 that she viewed the congressional legislation as unconstitutional.

The case that has brought Miranda to the Supreme Court is Dickerson vs. The United States. And oddly, it has made the Justice Department and Plaintiff Thomas Dickerson strange bedfellows. Mr. Dickerson was arrested in 1997 for driving the getaway car in an \$876 bank robbery in Alexandria, Va. While in custody, Mr. Dickerson made statements to FBI agents that later were used against him in court. It was discovered that he had not been properly read his Miranda rights. A federal judge in Alexandria refused to allow Mr. Dickerson's remarks as evidence because he had not been read his Miranda rights prior to the statements.

Happy Birthday Dr. King
We Salute You!
The Minority Voice Newspaper

URBAN TECHNOLOGY
The Issues and the Impact

Medgar Evers College celebrates 10th annual convocation

It was a bright and sunny day on Wednesday, Dec. 1, when at noon, an overflow crowd of over 700 gathered at Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York (CUNY) for the 10th Annual Academic Convocation which was held in the College Auditorium, and televised to other rooms.

With the very dynamic and personable Dr. Edison O. Jackson at the helm as president, the college honored the Rev. Dr. Gardner C. Taylor, senior pastor emeritus of Concord Baptist Church of Christ; Iyanla Vanzant, founder and executive director of Inner Visions Worldwide, and also a minister, author, orator and empowerment specialist; and yours truly, with the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. Vanzant was also the very inspirational keynote speaker.

Also participating in the very moving program were Dr. Kofi Lomotey, senior vice president and provost, who presided; Dr. Taylor, who gave the invocation and benediction; and Jackson, who brought greetings, conferred the degrees, introduced the convocation speaker and gave the closing remarks. Dr. Matthew Goldstein, chancellor of CUNY, addressed the gathering; Kenneth Cook, member of the board of trustees, brought greetings; and Dr. Mwalimu Shujaa, dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Education, beautifully presented the candidates our honorary degrees.

Also on hand were honor guards, officers Paul Brown and Jacqueline D. Jones; Grand Marshall Dr. Don Quinn Kelley; bass baritone Benjamin Matthews, who sang "Guide My Feet" and "God Is A God"; the Medgar Evers College Choir, who rendered the musical selection "And The Glory of the Lord" from "The Messiah" by George Handel; and music by the Andre Strobert Ensemble.

The convocation was attended by friends and family of the honorees, community leaders, elected officials and members of the Medgar Evers College family and students. Among the many in attendance were educator Florence Jackson, first lady of Medgar Evers College; Ambassador Dr. Lamuel A. Stanislaus, Grenada's ambassador to the United Nations; Dr. and Mrs. Clinton J. Watkis (Rosa); their daughter Dr. Eva M. Watkis, and her husband Kenton Bynoe; Edward Davy; Margaret Allen of Health and Hospitals Corporation; and Marguerite Johnson, president emeritus of the Shirley Chisholm Cultural Institute for Children.

Also present were John Morning, member of the Board of Trustees of CUNY; Dr. and Mrs. Oscar Allen (Hattie); Helene Cave, widow of Dr. Vernal Cave; Hon.

Arthur Bramwell, Kings County Republican chairman; C. David Williams, rector of St. George's Episcopal Church; Councilwoman Annette Robinson, who presented the honorees with citations from the City Council; Councilwoman Mary Pinkett; State Sen. Marty



Sadie Feddoes

Markowitz; Dr. Judith LaRosa, wife of Dr. John LaRosa, president of SUNY Downstate Medical Center; Martha Thomas, also of Downstate; Roderick Mitchell, president of Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation; and Allison Bledman Babb and Charles Palms of the same organization.

Also on hand were retired Commissioner Myrtle G. Whitmore; Ruth Lewis, widow of Assemb. Woodrow Lewis; Barbara Simons (Mrs. Calvin); Dr. Randall Bloomfield of Downstate; former Deputy Commissioner Carl I. Butler; Malcolm McCoy, retired vice president of Citibank and his wife Dorothy; Leona Sharpe, wife of Glenn Edward Sharpe, vice president of Citibank; Robin Verges, senior vice president of Rubenstein Associated; Alithia Alleyne and Abiba Wynn of the Brooklyn Museum of Art; 92-year-old Edina Singleton of Bridge Street AME Church; Doctors James and Rubie Malone of John Jay College of Criminal Justice; and Dr. Marcella Maxwell of the Links.

Also there were Jessie Kelly, president of the Brooklyn Historical Society; G. Winifred Kagwa, retired professor of Hunter College; Verna Smith, host of the television show "Caribbean Roundtable"; former Sen. Anna V. Jefferson; Margaret Ross, professor at Medgar Evers College, and her sisters Ruth Gray and Theopha Green (who is the mother of Assemb. Roger Green); Maizie and George Henry of the Comus Club; Janet Fisher, public relations director for Pratt Institute; and Deborah Trenchard from London, England, who is in the process of writing a book.

Other members of the Medgar Evers College family in attendance included Fontaine D. Davis, vice president of operations and chief of staff; Dr. Margaret Baker Green; Arthur Taylor, vice president of finance and administration; E. Thomas Oliver, vice president of external relations; Dr. Nan Fisher Williams, dean, faculty and staff relations and counsel to the president; Dr. Sharon Simmons, chair of the department of education; Dr. Mary Umolu, chair of the department of mass communications, creative and performing arts and speech; public relations director Fred Price; Dr. Beverly Bonaparte of the department of nursing and student Shelly Samaroo who was an ambassador for the day.



KLEAVER'S KLIPPINS

An Attempt to Clear the Path for the Future

A number of years ago, the late Attorney Kenneth Thomas, the former publisher of *The Sentinel*, used to kid me a lot about looking into the past. But he also understood that the road to the future lies within the problems overcome in the past. This is essentially the key to avoiding basic errors.

In recent weeks, we have seen a variety of incidents involving young people. One of them has resulted in a death, with at least one other sending a young girl to the hospital with a severe knife wound. These are all major problems, which must be handled forthwith.

In each of these cases, racial charges have been levied. They may or may not be true. These are things to be determined by courts of law or by whatever means necessary.

Meanwhile, we need to take a closer look at the children we are rearing and ask ourselves if we are preparing them to deal with a world that is both hostile and friendly.

Some of the barriers have fallen. Some others have not. It is important that we teach our children to know the difference, and how to deal with either or both sets of circumstances.

Of equal importance in this equation is the role of the adult, i.e. the parent, grandparent, et al. Somewhere along the way, as we attempted to throw off the yoke of oppression, we failed to reinstate something called respect. Such action has resulted in an almost-total breakdown of our society.

In the "olden days," African Americans said "Yes Sir, No Sir,

Yes Ma'am and No Ma'am" whenever they spoke to white people. It was a matter of respect. In that same vein, they said the same thing to their parents and elders. In accordance to most African culture, older people are venerated. They are revered and they are respected.

When the concept of integration became the law of the land and the oppressive bonds were thrown off, we began to think that because we no longer said "Sir" and "Ma'am" to white people, we no longer needed to show respect to our own elders.

What a sad mistake that was. The concept of respect to our elders had not come out of fear, as it had with white people. It had come from an African tradition of genuine respect. We lost it. We have not found it yet and our children are running rampant through the communities.

It's cold but it's real. In our community, the culprits don't speak Spanish. They don't have foreign accents. As a matter of fact, some of them can barely speak English because they only thought they only needed to go to school long enough to learn to sign their names. And some of them are illegible.

The problem is that we don't stand behind the schools and the teachers. When a teacher sends a note home to a parent, like as not, the parent goes to his or her local armory, checks out an AK47 and then goes to school with killing the teacher in mind. Still, Johnny can't read, write or decipher.

Johnny and Jennie go to school with the notion of telling the teacher where he or she can go and the

parents support their actions. This is wrong, and we see the results of the folly everyday.

We cannot continue to blame the school and the teachers for the failure of our kids. These teachers don't teach our children to rob and steal. They don't provide gun-handling classes. These are things learned outside the classroom, and in some cases, condoned by the parents. There have been several incidents where parents have bought weapons and given them to their children.

Nobody wants to accept the blame for the lack of respect, the failure to learn and the unwillingness to be corrected on the part of our children. Every parent in the world, so to speak, will say, "I know my child and I know he/she would not do anything wrong."

When the wrong occurs, the parent is quick to explain they learned it from the television or from a neighbor's son. It simply was not the fault of the child or the parent.

Horse Manure!
It is too easy to cast the blame off on someone else. The onus belongs on the shoulders of the parents in most cases. In some cases, it is not the parents' fault and this statement alone will give all parents an out. They will be quick to grab onto this little blurb and say, "Well, at least he's not talking about me."

Wrong! In most cases, you are exactly the one I'm talking about. To misquote the Bard, "Methinks thou doth protest too much."

Maybe nobody else wants to deal with it. But something has got to be

done before we find ourselves shot to death in some alley or have our homes invaded by the kids who live next door something equally stupid.

Somewhere along the way, we have got to wake up and understand that we have in fact bred a generation of vipers (with apologies to Philip Wylie.) and now they have begun to bite us. This ain't about race. This is about survival. We have turned deaf ears to the problem, claiming this was the white man's influence or his problem. He does not live in our community for the most part. He does not come into our community and break into our homes. He does not rob the mom and pop stores on the corners. These are our kids and we are looking for every kind of excuse in the world to excuse them. It just doesn't wash and it is about time that we stopped trying to fool ourselves into believing the problems we have are somebody else's fault.

When we stopped teaching our children respect, we turned the corner onto a one-way street. There is a brick wall at the end of that street.

Perhaps it is too late for some of the youngsters. It is not, however too late for all of them. Let us look at the African traditions we have been given and if nothing else, follow the ones that are there in front of us.

We must be able to look to the past in order to forge ahead for the future. After all, we have been complaining that this nation took our history from us. Well, there are some things they have not taken from us and we would do well to look at the past and see what lies ahead for us.



URBAN PERSPECTIVE

Violence Prevention: Focus on Youth

The California Wellness Foundation recently held its seventh annual Violence Prevention Initiative Conference in Los Angeles. Violence is a serious public health problem and arguably, violence prevention should be this nation's top priority. Violence mirrors the direction and quality of life for youth. It also reflects the social justice and public policy priorities of America.

Gun violence is a public health epidemic and the leading cause of death for California's young people. The annual conference provides an opportunity for all Violence Prevention Initiative participants to convene and strengthen the statewide network of advocates. The intention is to transform public discourse, inform policy development and create new community strategies for prevention.

The VPI has several dimensions, one of which is a media or public information component. This provides background information which better enables participants and the general public to understand the complexities and challenges of violence prevention.

Violence among America's youth remains at historically high levels, and both offenders and victims are getting younger each year. Youth are the most frequent victims of violence nationwide, with teenagers at least twice as likely as adults to become the victims of some sort of physical assault. Every day, 13 children under the age of 20 are murdered. Although there has been a 30 percent decline in juvenile homicides since 1994, homicides account for 20 percent of all deaths of the 10-24 age group and is one of the leading causes of death for this group. On an optimistic note, national statistics show violent crime arrests fell 4 percent in 1995 for juveniles 17 and under, the first drop since 1987. Teenagers' perception of violence or crime as the biggest

problem facing their generation has also declined from 22 percent in 1994 to 7 percent in 1998. But despite violence prevention programs and declines in rates of youth violence, juvenile-related crime continues to take its toll.

Once considered sanctuaries of safety and learning, American schools today are often perceived as dangerous places. With the recent media frenzy surrounding school shootings, the public has been inundated by images of children shooting classmates and teachers, leading to the belief that school-related violence is surging. Heightened concerns and exacerbated fears about school safety have also resulted in public policy initiatives. Statistics show, however, that the perceived "trend" in school violence may be more a media phenomenon of linking together sensationalistic incidents than a pervasive problem.

Of course, this is not to say that America's youth face no threats to their safety. Guns have killed children in America 12 times as often as they have killed children in other industrialized countries. The real dangers are not so much in schools, but away from them, as 99 percent of children's deaths occur outside of schools. Tragically, 11 American children are killed every two days by their parents or caretakers.

Resources for Youth is a public education campaign funded by the California Wellness Foundation which seeks to provide California's leaders and decision-makers with tools and information to help promote increased public and private investment in violence prevention efforts and policies that reduce firearm injuries and deaths. RFY is a component of the ten-year, comprehensive Violence Prevention Initiative. (The VPI has three primary goals: change the view that violence is inevitable, stimulate and support innovative programs, and give Califor-

nians a direction for dealing creatively with violence prevention.) RFY has developed a database of more than 15,000 opinion leaders and broad-based support from the grassroots as well as professional communities.

The seventh annual Violence Prevention Conference offered speakers and a wide range of workshops and discussion sessions. These include *Seizing Political Opportunities, Identifying Allies and Making It Happen*—by the end of this session, participants had the opportunity to share experiences that have helped community-based organizations strategically position themselves in the political structure of their communities. *Adolescent Violence: A Practical Perspective—Case Studies*—by the end of this session, it was intended that participants be able to assess and/or identify risk factors associated with youth violence. Participants were to develop a management plan for an identified at-risk youth. *Talking Out Loud About Juvenile Justice*—by the end of this session, participants were to be better able to frame public health arguments about juvenile justice. *Fostering Youth Leadership*—by the end of this session, participants should have had a good understanding of the knowledge of the ingredients for developing effective youth leadership programs.

Perhaps the most innovative and significant thing about the VPI conference is its strong focus on youth, both as leaders and participants. A future column will summarize the results of the seventh annual Violence Prevention Initiative Conference, which will likely be interesting and have important practical implications.

A personal note: One of the Wellness Foundation's 1999 Peace Prize recipients is Los Angeles' Ruben Lizardo, who works hard to better other communities as well as his own—a rare, invaluable trait. Thanks, Ruben.



BETWEEN THE LINES

African American Civil Rights Census Committee: Making Sure We Get Counted

With the mailing of the 2000 Census a little more than three months away, there is great concern as to who is going to count the African American community and how it will be done. We weren't counted very well in 1990. The total undercount for the 1990 census was an estimated eight million, a great majority of which were communities in urban centers like Los Angeles, Chicago, Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia. You know ... us.

And as a result, the African American community (in the collective) suffered major losses in public resources (money), possibly representation, and certainly an opportunity to establish a greater voice in the allocation of infrastructure and governmental assistance dollars (community development block grants, etc.) that help communities function. Los Angeles alone lost \$120 million over 10 years for its undercount and the city hasn't seemed to have learned its lesson.

The census count coordination in the African American commu-

nity seems to be repeating history with confusion around community hiring for crew leaders and enumerators. The census offices in and around the African American community seem to be misplaced and misdirected in terms of a high priority strategy to reach the "hard to reach" and the "hard to hire."

The African American community is a "sub-committee" focus in the City of Los Angeles' outreach efforts. Not real high priority for a segment of the community with \$120 million in future state and federal revenues laying around it (some sources project that figure will be as high as \$227 million if the same level of count inaccuracy occurs). The community asked questions but couldn't get any answers about census resources.

Trying to get a fix on how the African American undercount of 1990 would be resolved has been harder than trying to count leaves on a windy day. The State of California has received almost \$24 million to assist census count facilitation to improve data and accuracy collection this time around. But

games are being played relative to "who's going to receive the money," "what processes will be used to support census offices," "how will the money be spent," "where is the money going to be placed (partners, collaterals, etc.)." All of this is going on while other communities have their money and resources in place, and are off and running with respect to their census support workplans.

The confusion around disclosing an African American approach seemed to justify rumors that the African American community had been "written off." Census officials deny this, but the proof is not in the words, but in the pudding (actual deeds).

Allegations that hiring for inner city census jobs have been convoluted with data base (job applicants) manipulation. The absence of local census offices in two key African American communities, Watts/Willowbrook and Crenshaw/Leimert Park, make it obvious to many who understand the Central and South L.A. community geography and demography that there will

be major lapses in both enumerating and hiring because of Census takers unfamiliarity with the area. The claim is that nothing more is being done than before, and what do you call doing things the same and expecting a different result? You call it insanity.

Well, African American communities are preparing to deal with how to avoid "census insanity." They are called African American "Civil Rights" Complete Count Committees. They are designed to prevent the census bureaucracy from systematically excluding the African American communities from being fully and equitably involved in the execution and accuracy of the census.

Two weeks ago, Congresswoman Maxine Waters (co-chaired with Assemblyman Rod Wright) announced Los Angeles' African American "Civil Rights" Count Committee in the presence of U.S. Census Director Kenneth Prewitt, amid continuing charges that the Census Bureau has, again, sought to minimize the role of the African American community where jobs,

partnerships, advertising and training is concerned. This effort, which received the endorsement of Prewitt and U.S. Department of Commerce Regional Director John Reeder, will allow the black community to fast-track its efforts to educate the community about the census and make sure that not only are we counted, but that we do the counting.

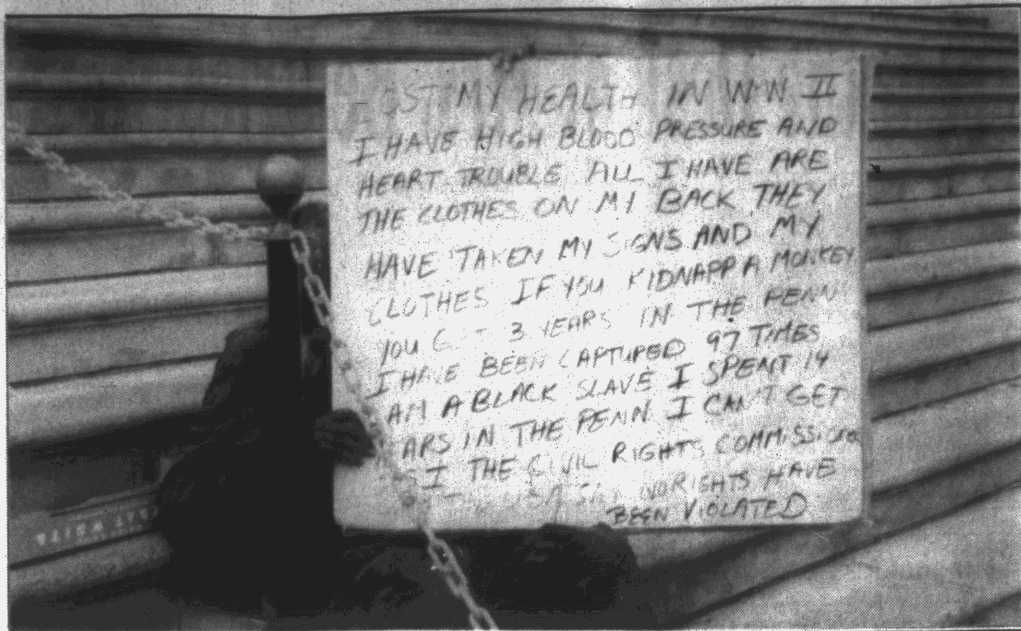
It's extremely important that we, as a community—with our many fiefdoms and sub-cliques, come together on this one. Blacks can't afford to be miscounted, undercounted, or discounted this time around. Too much rests on this census count. This is not the Million Man March (you see what happened when the National Parks Service attempted to enumerate us in one place, on one day), where you can ballpark a figure and let it stand.

There is now four months to find 40 (plus) million of us, and nobody knows our communities better than us. We have hundreds of communities in this state (California) that were "ballparked" last time around, that must be counted accurately this time around. Community outsiders

that have to count a housing project and if unfamiliar with it, will walk right by it. Three hundred families become 50 on the census count.

This process is how America divvies its pie, its Congressional representation, its federal dollars to the states and cities, its justification for infra-service and highway services—all are tied to who is counted in a community. Our civil rights are many times funded by our community's enumerated rights. Call (323) 292-3009 to find how you, your church or community organization can work with the African American "Civil Rights" Complete Count Committee. Don't get with just any Complete Count Committee. Remember, as far as the Census goes, if it ain't about your "Civil Rights" (in the name), it's not about counting you.

We need to count this time, and we need to do the counting. The census is not about "the man" or giving up information, it's about "representing" when it's time to be represented. The only way to know is if you're in the count. Help us do it.



The changing face of Homelessness pictured former World War II Vet, now homeless, shown holding a hand written sign describing his plight as he sat on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Hats off to all our former World War II Veterans who paved the way for America today.

Photo By Jim Rouse

THE CHANGING FACE OF HOMELESSNESS

By Valerie Daye

In the past two to three decades, this country has witnessed a rise in the number of men, women and children living either in homeless shelters or on the streets. For those who have the good fortune of never having to have been a part of this ever growing population, it is quite easy to stereotype and dismiss the homeless community as not only "homeless" but also "helpless". We would wish only to get on with our lives and not think of "those other people."

Unfortunately, "those other people" actually exist, not only in society at large, but at an increasing rate here in the City of Raleigh. It is estimated on a given night that there are well over 2000 homeless persons in our City. And while there is an alarming truth to the myths of drug use and abuse which are reported from the homeless community, there are untold realities which require our concern, attention and assistance as well.

In the City operated homeless shelter at 1420 S Wilmington Street, between 250-330 men and

women reside at the shelter on a given night. More than 43% have a medical condition or disability, 80% or greater suffer from some form of substance abuse. An even greater percentage of the residents in the city-run homeless facility suffer unresolved emotional or physical abuse issues.

Of the female residents, at least 40-60% are victims of domestic violence, such violence oftentimes continuing during their stay at the shelter.

While these statistics are staggering, none of the problems are insurmountable and there is hope.

More than 60% of the females and 80% of the males are regularly employed, either by an outside employer or through day labor services. Lack of money management skills, a failure to understand and utilize spending priorities and or bad credit histories render home ownership of apartment renting unlikely without outside intervention.

Assistance in the form of services is absolutely necessary to reverse the trend of homelessness in our locality and this factor cannot be overstated. Even more, however, in our encounters with the homeless, we must be vigilant in establishing proper boundaries,

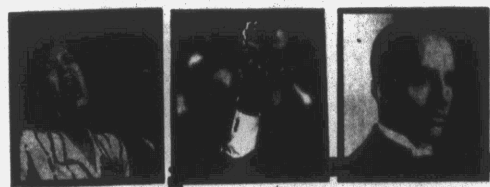
promoting self esteem, assisting in goal setting and maintaining a positive focus, wherever we can, however we can.

The City's support in seeking homeless persons to employ during the Special Olympics created overwhelming enthusiasm at the Shelter and is but one example of how positive efforts by the City can be utilized to build positive self worth.

Teaching respect and dignity through example is equally as valuable, especially when we consider that many in the homeless community have never experienced a values system in their lives. This lacking need, unfortunately can be a breeding ground for anger, violence and abuse.

Aiding those in need can have a tremendous positive impact on society, on the homeless community and on self. The best part of making a compassionate contribution to those who have reached great levels of hopelessness and despair is that the only tool needed is the humanness of a beating heart. And, we all have one of those.

**The statistics used in this article are based on observation and staff estimates*



IMAGES OF SOUL

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

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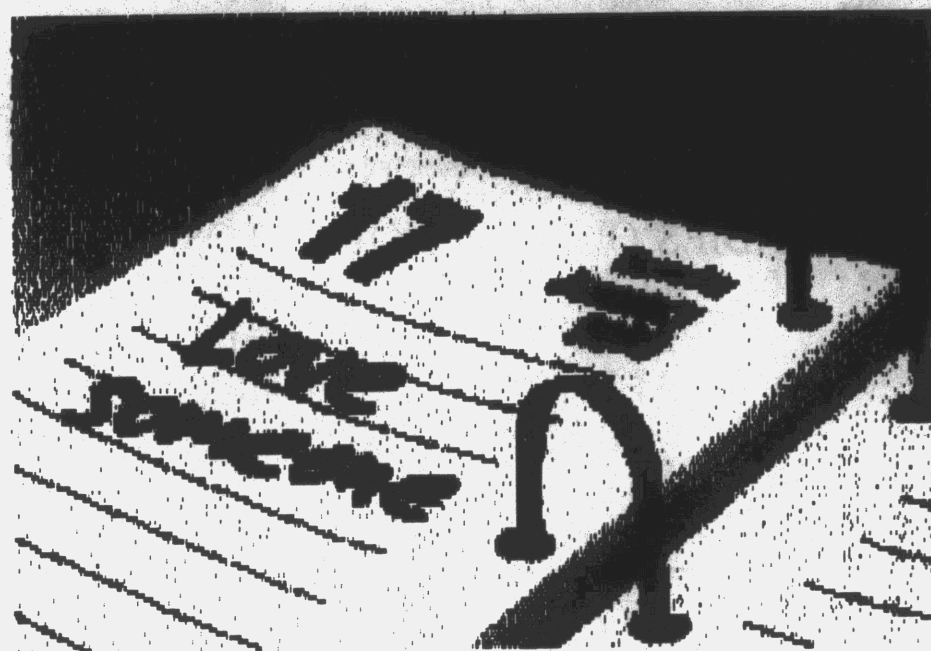
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AIDS a man-made disease

in this country, millions of individuals were infected with a simian virus—SV-40—through a polio vaccine. Luckily, it was harmless.

In Germany, in 1967, some workers there were not as lucky. They were infected with a Marburg virus from African green monkeys. The virus didn't phase the monkeys; it killed those workers.

Most likely the AIDS virus transfer occurred when the oral polio vaccine was squirted in the mouths of the experimental subjects and it entered the bloodstream through a sore in the mouth of the subject. And then further transfers of the virus occurred by sexual contacts

to start this AIDS pandemic. The earliest documented case of HIV-1 occurred in 1959 in Kinshasa in what was the Belgian Congo then, was later Zaire, and now is Congo. The oral vaccine experiments were in the Congo, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. That's also where the AIDS virus has been most devastating the earliest.

Mr. Hooper's book doesn't tie down the beginning of AIDS in humans to oral polio vaccine testing in Africa as clear as 2 plus 2 equals 4; however, he put AIDS data with the oral polio vaccine experiments information and it comes within a fraction or two of clearly adding up to the right number.

There are two reasons for the scientific community's reluctance to find out if vaccine testing on African natives caused AIDS to be born. For one, it won't go down too good with us, Black Americans and Africans. Another is that if the polio vaccine is the culprit, the

public's faith in vaccines will fall.

AIDS will kill more people than any other known plague in history. So far there are at least 16 million people dead from AIDS and 33 million infected with the virus; and both of those numbers are steadily going up.

That's why the scientific community needs to know as much as it can about AIDS, including how it started. For one, so that mistakes won't be made again. Also, the more scientists know about AIDS, the more likely a vaccine or cure can be found.

(Emory Curtis is a freelance writer based in Fair Oaks, Calif. He can be contacted at (916) 967-9407, fax (916) 961-1596, or e-mail eccurtis@hotmail.com. To read other columns by Mr. Curtis visit [http://home.earthlink.net/~eccurtis.](http://home.earthlink.net/~eccurtis))

From the Desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



SOME BIBLICAL LESSONS

1. Faithlessness is contagious and infectious. Faithlessness opens the door to discontent and despair. We often want to blame someone else for the results of our own choices.
2. Wrong choices bring negative consequences. Right choices bring rewards!
3. Many adults are influenced by the opinions of others and are reluctant to go against the crowd.
4. When life is trouble free, we tend to become complacent.
5. God's time is best.
6. You can do more than you think you can.
7. We don't want something until we're told we cannot have it.
8. We reap what we sow.
9. We all suffer for our mistakes.
10. God is always moved by the penitent prayers of His children.
11. When people are in love, selfishness fades. Each one wants to please the other. When we love God, we do what He wants us to do.
12. Heed God's warnings NOW while there is still TIME.

13. You are not respecting yourself when you tolerate that which is evil.

14. The Word of God only makes only churches of God.

15. The men who make history are not the ones who write it; they don't have time.

16. You go out of your way to help some people, and instead of them thanking you, they complain, "Why didn't you help me more?"

17. Belong to Christ, not to a denomination, and be simply a member of his body, the church.

18. Not all skeletons are in the closet; some may be in shelving room with the flesh still on them.

19. The first step in getting on your feet should be getting on our knees.

20. We must be resolved to follow the Bible and that alone, even if it means sometimes standing alone, if we are to be found faithful to God.

21. What a person stands for determines what he stands against.

Treat others as you would like to be treated.

American moms are teaching their children all sorts of lessons and American children are listening! Here are a few of the lessons learned from their moms.

Be honest

Be fair.

People are more important than things.

Express yourself!

Don't let people say you can't do something because you're a girl

Eat your veggies!

Feel for other people.

Check your work

Don't talk to people when they're reading.

Your can have as many best friends as you want

Always have a sense of humor.

Don't grow up too fast

Do what makes you happy. Don't always follow the crowd!

Respect people, plants, and animals.

Tell people when you have a problems Don't just keep it to yourself

Don't cut your hair by yourself!

You get what you pay for.

Listen to others, and they'll listen to you

No matter how big or small the gift, it's the thought that counts.

Don't bug Mom when she's on the phone!

Don't sit too close to the T. V.

Cleanup what you messed up!

Look around in different places to find your friends.

Stop and talk it out Don't fight!

It's O. K. to make mistakes.

Stand up for what you believe.

Be creative!

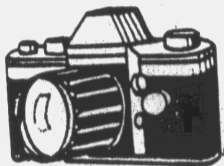
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Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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POEMS WANTED FOR NEW NATIONAL CONTEST

Poems are now being accepted for entry in Sparrowgrass Poetry Forum's new Poetic Achievement Awards poetry contest. Cash prizes totaling \$1,000 will be awarded, including a \$500 grand prize. The contest is free to enter. Poets may enter one poem only, 20 lines or fewer, on any subject, in any style. Contest closes February 29, 2000, and poets are encouraged to send their work as soon as possible. Poems entered in the contest also will be considered for publication in the Fall 2000 edition of Poetic Voices of America, a hardcover anthology to be published in September 2000. Anthology purchase may be required to ensure publication, but is not required to enter or win the contest. Prize winners will be announced on April 30, 2000. "Poetry is more popular than ever," says Jerome P. Welch, Publisher. "Our contest offers a public forum for new poets that allows them to share their work.

And we reward all the new poets that we publish with a special gift of a year's subscription to the popular and informative Sparrowgrass Poetry Newsletter. We welcome poetry of all styles and themes. Many of our contest winners are new poets with new ideas." Poem should be sent to Sparrowgrass Poetry Forum, Dept. L, 609 Main St., PO Box 193, Sistersville, WV 26175.

ABOUT THE CONTEST SPONSOR: Sparrowgrass Poetry Forum has sponsored poetry contests for over 12 years. During this time Sparrowgrass has dedicated its efforts to encouraging and rewarding young, aspiring poets. At the same time Sparrowgrass has also actively promoted the careers of experienced poets with its Poets of the Year program. Over the last year Sparrowgrass fully funded the publication of complete books of poetry by five different authors and will sponsor two more books at the end of 1999.

Give me your tired ... white immigrants
Black legislators call for change in racist U.S. immigration policies

by Nisa Islam Muhammad
Staff Writer

It is an international refugee case of "if you're Black get back, brown stick around and white you're all right."

Africa, according to the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees, has the largest number with 4.9 million, roughly one third of the world's 13.6 million refugees. But it has one of the smallest numbers of refugees admitted to the United States each year.

The numbers are startling. For fiscal year (FY) 2000 there is a ceiling of 18,000 African refugees. For Asia and the Near East the ceiling is 16,000. For Europe, the ceiling is 47,000.

These disparities are highlighted by a Dec. 1 State Department ruling that terminated refugee family reunions for six African countries while leaving the reunions open indefinitely for European countries. The countries include Cameroon, Chad, Djibouti, Liberia, Nigeria, Somalia and Uganda.

"Yes, in general, there is a disparity. Fewer Africans are allowed in compared with Europe, Asia and the former Soviet Union", said Mwiza Munthali, information specialist for the Washington-based TransAfrica.

It would be easy to just call the disparity another form of racism. In FY 99 America allowed 13,038 African refugees to enter. In that same year 24,498 refugees came from Europe, 16,922 came from the former Soviet Union and 14,156 came from Kosovo.

"From the inception of this country, it has never offered justice to people of color.

The laws and their implementation have never been fair. The State Department's rulings are racially based", said Torli Krua, executive director of Universal Human Rights International (UHRI), a Boston-based group that promotes African refugee issues.

But according to the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), a national organization that believes the American immigration policies should be reformed, racism is not the reason for exclusion. "We're still fighting the cold war with refugee status. Countries with high numbers of refugee admissions are countries (governments) that America doesn't get along with," said Ira Mehlman, FAIR's media director, explaining that Cuban refugees can come because of the U.S. policy against Fidel Castro.

"Just because we disagree with a country doesn't mean everyone is a refugee," he said. Another reason is the ignorance of the American people that the disparity even exists. "American citizens don't know about this unfair treatment. The State Department has been able to carry out this policy because the Americans don't have refugees as a day-to-day issue", said Mr. Krua.

Whatever the reason for the exclusion of African immigrants, the facts still remain that Africans are getting the short end of the stick when it comes to refugee admission. The roars of racism coming from the African immigrant communities is so strong that the Caucus of Black State Legislators overwhelmingly approved a resolution calling for the elimination of discrimination in U.S. refugee admission policies.

The caucus resolution calls for the U.S. to "immediately institute a refugee admission policy which offers fair and equitable

treatment of all war victims irrespective of race, religion and national origin, beginning with an immediate hearing into the racial quota system of the State Department."

Massachusetts's legislators Benjamin Swain and Gloria Fox, both democrats, submitted the resolution in conjunction with UHRI. "By no means is this over. We just bought them some time. It is sheer racism to forever separate refugees from their families. It is a move to disconnect them forever," said Rep. Gloria Fox.

U.S. refugee admissions are categorized into three categories:

Priority One—all nationalities are eligible to apply.

Priority Two—discrete groups with unifying characteristics are identified and found to be in need of resettlement.

Priority Three—access available to close relatives of certain nationalities.

The African countries were terminated from the Priority Three programs, which seeks to unite family members that have fled their homelands.

The State Department said it terminated the refugee status because of the changing conditions of those countries. Many agree that the new ruling is unfair.

"We believe it should be based on merit not what country you come from. It should not be an extension of U.S. foreign policy," said Mr. Mehlman.

"The State department is run by a former refugee, Madeline Albright," said Mr. Krua. "She would never have become Secretary of State in Czechoslovakia. She should understand the needs of refugees but the criteria are totally different for Africa. The problem is the racial quotas. The smallest numbers are assigned to Africa."

Louima trial could expose cop silence

Special to the Tri-State Defender

NEW YORK (AP) — It's a trial civil rights activists say will further expose the so-called blue wall of silence — a supposed code among police officers never to rat on each other.

It's also one defense attorneys hope will prove that former Officer Charles Schwarz was wrongly convicted in one of the most notorious brutality cases in city history. Jury selection for the trial — the second prosecution stemming from the 1997 assault on a handcuffed prisoner, Abner Louima, in a police station bathroom — began Monday in Brooklyn federal court. Opening statements are tentatively set for Jan. 31.

In a case that flamed tensions between police and minorities and sparked social unrest, Schwarz, who is White, was convicted last year of violating Louima's civil rights by holding him on the 70th Precinct bathroom floor while another White officer, Justin Volpe, sodomized the Black Haitian immigrant with a broken broomstick. Volpe pleaded guilty and has since claimed that the other officer in the bathroom was Thomas Wiese, not Schwarz.

Schwarz, 35, Wiese, 37, and Officer Thomas Bruder, 34, now stand accused of obstructing justice by concocting to shield Schwarz from federal investigators. If convicted, they each would face a maximum five years in prison.

Joining other activists outside the courthouse Monday, the Rev. Al Sharpton told reporters, "What Justin Volpe did could not have been done without an active cover-up in the 70th Precinct. ... So to us, this is just as important as the first trial."

Schwarz's wife, Andra Schwarz, said she expects the new trial to vindicate her husband, who has been in federal custody since his conviction in June.

"We hope the truth is going to come out," she said.

In the first trial, all three defendants were cleared of charges they beat Louima while taking him by patrol car to the station house. Bruder and Schwarz "are looking forward to being acquitted a second time," Bruder's attorney, Stuart London, said following a brief pretrial hearing early this week.

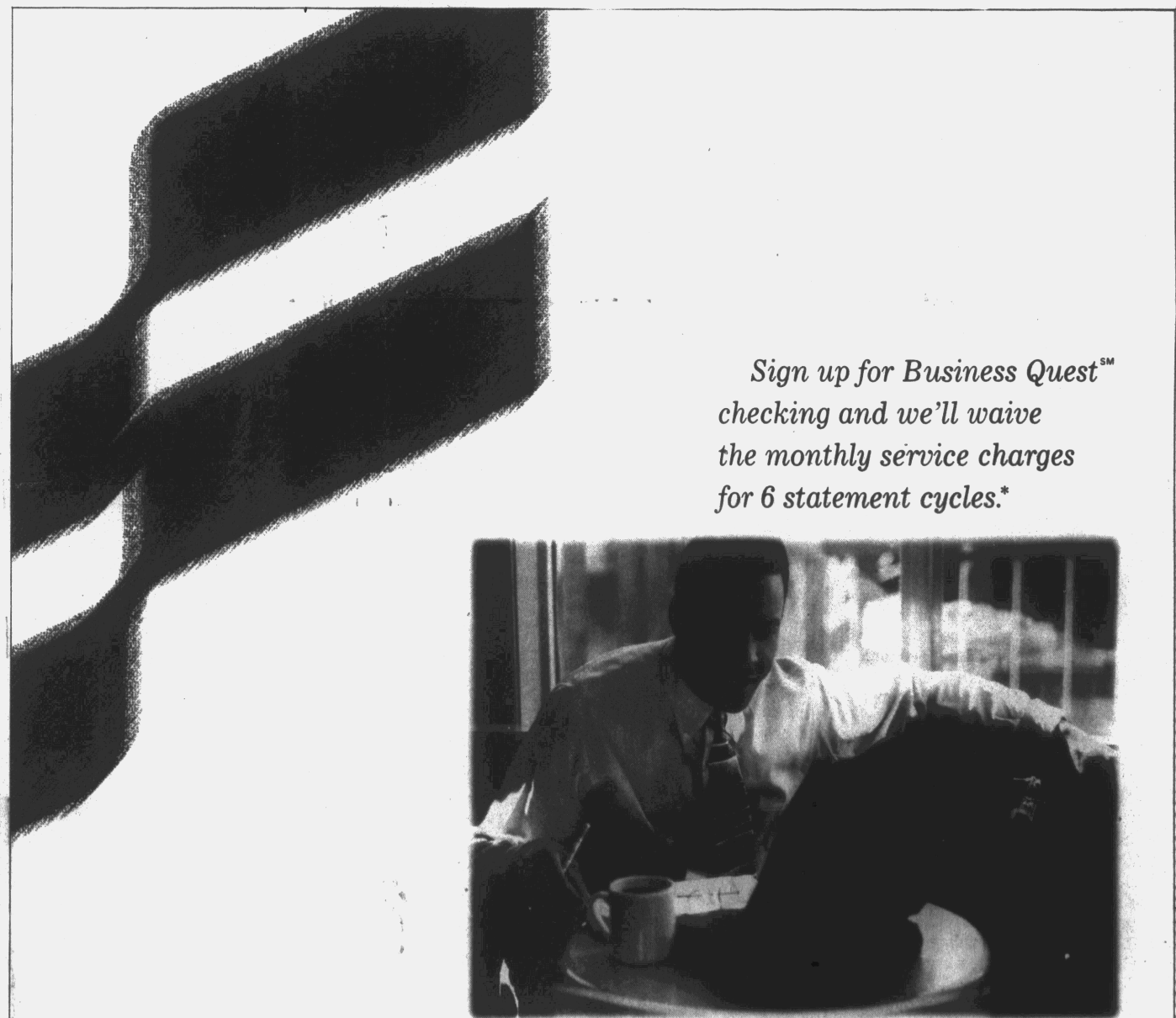
Both London and Wiese's attorney, Joseph Tacopina, said their clients still contend Schwarz was never in the bathroom.

More than 500 people filled out 47-page questionnaires, the first phase of a jury selection process designed to screen out candidates tainted by pretrial publicity. U.S. District Judge Eugene Nickerson plans to begin questioning finalists in his courtroom Jan. 19.

Potential jurors were asked whether they think police discriminate against minorities, what "blue wall of silence" means, if it's wrong to second-guess officers and whether they have heard or read any media accounts about Schwarz's role in the attack on Louima.

Last month, Volpe was sentenced to 30 years in prison. The former patrolman had admitted ramming the stick up Louima's rectum in a blind rage, thinking — mistakenly — that his prisoner had sucker-punched him outside a Brooklyn nightclub. Prosecutors said Louima's cousin actually punched the officer. Volpe and Louima are expected to testify at the second trial.

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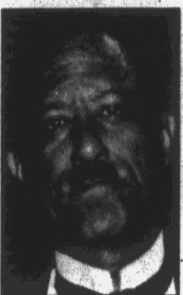
Hot! that the Boys weren't in concert



This item from the "Shame On You!" Department: Viewers tuning in to BET (Black Entertainment Television) for the much-promoted Hot Boys Concert New Year's Eve, actually got snippets of badly-filmed concert footage sandwiched between the yet more-of-the-same videos the channel already airs too much of.

Not only was the pieces of concert footage badly filmed, but what was offered was of low grade, as well. The Hot Boys (Juvenile, B.G. and Lil' Wayne) were shown merely jumping around on the stage, mulling. That's it! None of the camera angles were close-up shots. The net result was a true mess, and a very disappointing night for fans of the group looking forward to seeing the boys in concert as the network promised!

Brown puts gavel down on career



This item from the "Riding the Wave While It Lasts" Department: Once April arrives, Criminal Court Judge Joe Brown Jr. says he will step down to focus on his Hollywood career. Brown wants to devote his all to his successful syndicated court room program, *The Judge Joe Brown Show*. He believes he can best serve the public by concentrating on TV show.

But who can blame him? On the one hand, you have the prestigious, make-a-difference-in-the-world occupation of criminal court judge. On the other hand, you have the glitzy, highly-paid, Hollywood job of presiding judge on one of those oh-so-popular courtroom shows on TV today. (Now you make the choice!) And though most of us reasonable-thinking folk can't seem to understand why anyone would take their legal conflicts to TV to be tried under the glare of cameras and an "every-time-I-give-a-ruling-I-try-to-be-cute-with-my-statements-and-show-you-how-much-I-am-in-control-of-this-courtroom" judge this doesn't matter at all...not as long as dollars are made, careers are catapulted and TV viewers are happy to look at the misery of others from the comfort of their living rooms.

Holy Moses! the circus is in town

Slowly but surely (taken as a whole), today's televised religious programs (most of them, anyway) are becoming a bigger sideshow than professional (?) wrestling. Whether it's gaudy set decorations and gold leaf, gospel rap, end-of-the-world predictions, bigger-than-the-Memphis-Pyramid size audiences, white hair, pink lipstick and rouge, or ministers with the supposed power to "knock someone out" simply by the laying on of hands - this is the biggest carnival act going bar none! The only thing needed that isn't featured now would be a three-ring circus set, a lion tamer, dancing elephants and a traveling caravan under the P.T. Barnum banner! The way things are going, nobody would think twice the day a UFO lands and three aliens abduct a minister in front of a live television audience. Viewers would simply think it was par for the course.

Ricki's show should be thrown in the lake

Monday morning's *Ricki Lake* show (the first of the new millennium) presented a 21-year-old Black, "religious," male stripper who is a virgin. He believes in the church enough to remain chaste but (obviously) not enough to abstain from flaunting his naked body on stage before a crowd of people! Anyway...such was what set the pace for the new year on the *Ricki Lake* show. (How sad!) Between this, the new "millionaire" game shows, makeover tips, fights, courtroom shenanigans, and "my wild teen needs to go to boot camp" programs - there really isn't much need to turn your television set on before, say, 7 p.m.!

What method behind this mayhem is this?

Tommy Lee's (Pamela Anderson's ex) new music project is labeled *Methods of Mayhem*. The group told *The Box* music channel that it is composed of regular folk, and some "people" from the fourth dimension. Yet their first single is titled *Get Naked*. (Go figure!) Aren't entities from higher dimensions supposed to be more enlightened than we lowly people of the third dimension? (Maybe not!)



Oakwood College Visit Greenville NC, Greenville, NC had some visitors from Huntsville Alabama who attend Oakwood college, which is historically a Black college. pictured above are the young people who visited the studios of WOOW and sang songs for our listening audience.

Photo By Jim Rouse



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MLK

With quiet dignity, Dr. Martin Luther King publicly alluded to his own death, toward the end. The thought hardly deterred him, though. His body was animated by his deeply rooted belief in God and this was the engine that propelled the man, the movement and the country forward.

On April 4, a bullet left the body crumpled on the ground. But as his spirit ascended, his words transcended. He showed us that in a democracy, one could demand freedom from an oppressor without resorting to revenge or retaliation. A country in need of healing devoured his



Armstrong Williams
Eucharistic message. Even in death he helped us heal.

That is why King's wife, Coretta Scott King, was so successful in her efforts over the past decades to raise money and put to use taxpayer dollars for the construction of the King Center, an archive of her husband's personal papers. This building was envisioned not only as a testament to her husband's work, but also as a means by which the public could share and learn from the intimate thoughts of one of its cultural prophets.

Recently, all that has changed. Coretta Scott King is currently toting her husband's words - his voice, his soul - to the Library of Congress to the tune of \$20 million. It seems that Dr. King's deep dedication to altruism, spirituality and social justice are more than the spirit which animated this cultural prophet. They are also big business.

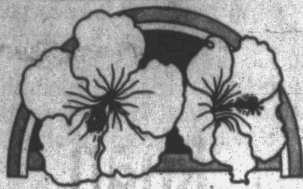
I don't begrudge Mrs. King for attempting to hit the big jackpot. It just seems a little crass, considering King's wish that his message never be eclipsed by his persona; his desire merely to be seen as a humble servant. Alas, a mere oversight, I suppose, that King's personal papers omit the idea of making a commercial killing off his name.

For her part, Coretta Scott King neatly reasons that she is giving the Library of Congress a gift. After all, the King family, along with their appraisers, valued his papers at \$30 million. They have concluded that they will sell them to the Library of Congress for \$20 million; therefore, giving the library a gift of \$10 million. And let us not forget the historical implications: King left an imprint on this country's fabric which was as visible as a birthmark. We are now blessed with a precise measurement of his contribution: \$20 million. Those academics who prostrate themselves beneath the thumb-nail of historical accuracy will no doubt be pleased.

Never mind that King was a deeply religious man and his movement was one of faith, not politics or the marketplace. He strongly believed in Jesus Christ (and incidentally, I don't recall Christ auctioning his relics while he was hanging from the cross). Never mind that there is a rich history of great thinkers donating their intellectual property to the Library of Congress so that in death, as in life, they can contribute to the betterment of society. Never mind that King never tried to hit the big time with a book. He gave his precious words away for free in hope of reaching as many people as possible. Never mind that he died for this very reason.

Coretta Scott King remains hard at work negotiating these values for a big payday. And, it is true, the public is not owed the benefit of King's thoughts. I simply think that is the way he would want it.

After all, King's legacy was predicated upon work for the people. At the center of his life's work stood certain immutable social principles: a dedication to spirituality, morality and social justice. Once these principles formed a cultural prophet. Now they fall by the wayside of negotiations for a \$20 million payday.



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WOOW

Graham: Farrakhan doesn't preach unity

WASHINGTON - The Rev. Billy Graham says Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan is not the person to preach unity for all races and religions, *Associated Press* reported this week.



Farrakhan

Graham told *Fox News* that Farrakhan could not be the unifying figure he now says he wants to be.

"I doubt if he could," Graham said noting that Farrakhan had asked to meet with him. "His views and my views will be very far apart, and it would be very difficult for us. We could be friends, but it would be very difficult for us to say that we are the same, or that we could be the same religiously."

In December, Farrakhan made his first public appearance in months following a bout with prostate cancer and a radiation-related rectal ulcer. Criticized for making anti-White and anti-Semitic remarks in the past, Farrakhan said his health problems have changed his outlook.

"Only through our act of atonement can we be forgiven for what we have said or done to injure other human beings - a member of another race or a member of another religious group, another nation or another ethnic group," Farrakhan said at that time.

Graham also offered comments on controversial plans by the Southern Baptist Convention, his own denomination, to send evangelists into Chicago to try to convert Jews and Muslims.

"I normally defend my denomination. I'm loyal to it," Graham said. "But I have never targeted Muslims. I have never targeted Jews. I believe that we should declare the fact that God loves you, God's willing to forgive you, God can change you, and Christ and his kingdom is open to anybody who repents and by faith receives him as Lord and Savior."

In the same *Fox News* interview, Graham said it was "wonderful" to hear Texas Gov. George W. Bush name Jesus Christ as the philosopher or thinker who had the most impact on his life.

"It was a wonderful answer," Graham said. "I mean, to millions of young people especially in the United States, Jesus Christ is the greatest man in this - in the history of the world. And to me, he's the greatest person in the history of mankind and the universe. We can't prove it, I can't put it in a test tube or in an astronomical formula, but by faith I believe it because the Bible teaches it."

During a debate last month in Iowa, Bush responded to the question on who was philosopher or thinker who had the most influence on his life by naming Christ.

"When you turn your heart and life over to Christ, when you accept Christ as your savior it changes your heart," Bush said.

Two other Republican presidential candidates, Sen. Orrin Hatch and Gary Bauer, also mentioned Jesus.

Airport scanners showing signs of racial profiling

A whole new can of worms may be opened with the addition of new body scanners at O'Hare and other airports. Agents may feel they have even more leeway now to stop and search innocent travelers who just happen to be African American or female.

Under new guidelines, all Customs Department inspectors at the airport will receive new sensitivity training on who to detain and we would hope that the indoctrination makes them more — shall we say "discriminating" in who they detain, but not in a negative way.

Just because someone is young and/or African American or of foreign extraction should not send up an automatic red flag.

Customs officials say who will be singled out for pat-down and body searches, as well as scanner probes will remain a

judgment call on the part of the individual inspector but that they will be better trained to make more informed and less biased decisions. That is commendable, if it works.

Customs has also eliminated a check list of criteria to determine when a traveler should be searched. It will also require officers to contact the U.S. Attorney's Office when they detain someone longer than eight hours.

Racial profiling — whether it be on the road or at the entry gate of an airport — has no place in modern society.

It is hoped that the changes at U.S. Customs sites across America will adequately address the concerns of many because far too many African Americans, women and other minorities have been unjustly stopped and searched by overzealous and biased customs agents. Maybe that will change now.

The Minority Voice Newspaper like to wish
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
A Happy Birthday



A Salute To Martin Luther King, Jr.

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From the "M" Voice Archives, shown above is Mrs Rosa Bradley owner of Rosa Bradley home for the Elderly. She is pictured with her Family.

Photo By Jim Rouse



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Is AIDS a man-made disease?

by Emory Curtis
—Guest Columnist—

I'm sure many of you have heard that AIDS was started in Africa, either deliberately or accidentally through an experiment. A new book is out, "The River" by Edward Hooper, that fingers the experimental testing of an oral polio vaccine on about a million Congolese from 1957 to 1960 as the culprit.

have been together in the same places in Africa and other places from time immemorial, why did the virus just decide to make that jump from chimp to man in the last 40 or 50 years? And how did it make that jump? What gave it the wings to make that jump?

Between chimp and man, or woman, the transfer was likely a blood to blood transfer. That could occur from a scratch or bite when the

In Germany, in 1967, some workers there were not as lucky. They were infected with a Marburg virus from African green monkeys. The virus didn't phase the monkeys; it killed those workers.

This column is based on his findings.

According to the author, the testing was done by a U.S. firm, Wistar Institute, with two Belgium firms joining them later. Of the 28 cases of AIDS in specified towns in Africa through 1980, 23 of those cases came from the same towns in which oral testing of a polio vaccine was undertaken, or at least within 175 miles of those locations.

Testing of the oral vaccine was also done in Sweden and at a women's prison in New Jersey. No early AIDS cases occurred in Poland and Sweden and no early documented cases occurred here.

But, in 1973 a New Jersey teenager had a baby who was born with HIV. Is it linked to those tests? Scientists generally agree that the ancestors for AIDS viruses were in the simian population. HIV-1, the virus that is most prevalent, derives from an immunodeficiency virus of chimpanzees; HIV-2 is most likely an immunodeficiency virus from the sooty mangabey monkey.

Only a very small percent of simians have the immunodeficiency virus. However, whether a small percent or a large percent have the virus is of no concern if it can't make that jump from a chimp or monkey to us.

The real question is, how does the HIV virus make that jump? Since man and chimps

were being killed for a meal or two.

However, the natives in the Congo basin and many other places have been eating chimps and monkeys and having inadvertent blood to blood transfers for centuries—and AIDS was unheard of.

The book, "The River," points to oral polio vaccine batches contaminated with chimpanzee AIDS virus as the change agent for that chimp to man jump. Supposedly, that couldn't happen because polio vaccine is made with cells from monkeys, not chimps.

However, the author, Edward Hooper, points out that a large colony of chimpanzees were in the area where the primates were caught for oral vaccine experiments. It is quite likely that some chimps were caught in the simian drag net for experimental subjects and their cells were used to make some batches of vaccine.

And if they were, since the immunodeficiency virus is rare among the chimps, only a few random batches of the experimental oral polio vaccine would have that virus. Then, only in certain places where the contaminated batches were given would the first HIV viruses show up. That happened.

There have been cases of simian viruses jumping from monkey to man via polio vaccine. In the '50s and early '60s,

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Judge removes teens from boot camps

Teenage boys who attended boot camps in Western Maryland told a judge they were beaten and abused by guards. After listening to the testimony and reviewing written complaints, Judge Martin P. Welch ordered 26 juveniles moved from state-run boot camps. The judge said he was concerned about how the abuses—which allegedly included throwing a boy through a window and sticking another one in the eye—occurred in the first place. The boys are to be moved to another secure juvenile facility.

Harry Langmead, the Department of Juvenile Justice official who oversaw the camps, said he was embarrassed by the revelations. During visits, the camp seemed nice, he said. A state probe of the camps was sparked by newspaper articles that said boys in at least one camp were regularly abused. All of the boys were from Baltimore and some 200 youths—convicted of various crimes, except murder—attend the camp each year.

Polls: Blacks, whites believe cops use racial profiling

A new Gallup poll found a majority of Americans, across racial lines, believes racial profiling happens all the time across the country. Three out of four young Black males polled said they had been pulled over just because of their race. Poll participants were asked what they thought about reports that motorists in certain racial and ethnic groups were stopped by cops because they were thought to be more likely to commit crimes.

In addition, the poll found four of 10 Blacks, across age and gender lines, said they believe they have been stopped by police because of their race. The telephone poll, which included 2,006 respondents (including 1,001 Blacks) was conducted from Sept. 24 to Nov. 16 and has an error margin of plus or minus 4 percentage points, was part of the annual Gallup audit of Black-white relations. A majority of Blacks had positive views about police officers. One-third had negative views, and most males 18-34 had a negative view of cops.

Urban League: Spend more on schools

Higher educational standards must be coupled with better teachers and facilities for students to succeed, said Hugh Price, president of the National Urban League, during a Dec. 10 press conference in Washington, D.C.

As school districts nationwide adopt tougher standards for graduation, problems like unqualified teachers, outdated books, overcrowded classrooms and crumbling facilities need to be addressed, Mr. Price said. The education investments should start in preschool, he said.

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Suspicion hovers over police chasing Blacks

How much freedom does freedom make? If we don't begin to answer that question soon, we just might wake up one day and find that our freedoms have been gradually chipped away to nothing. And, Freedom sho' nuff ain't free.

Citizens must be vigilant about freedoms for a simple fact noted by Lord Acton around the turn of the century. Paraphrased it says: "Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." Individuals with power have a vested interest in ensuring that they retain their power by remaining vigilant in questioning every new or proposed policy to see if it fits the concept of freedom.

A situation is now brewing that will test our resolve in that regard.

The U.S. Supreme Court will determine shortly whether or not it is alright for a policeman to chase and arrest an individual merely because he or she exhibits "suspicious" behavior. James Koch, an attorney who opposes this position, recently argued a case before the justices on the illegality of policemen stopping people who run from them. In a *Chicago Defender* article, Koch said, "We don't want the police to decide everything that's suspicious that might be. A lot of things that are suspicious to police are not constitutionally acceptable."

Koch's client was reportedly standing in front of a building during lunchtime waiting for someone when four police cars and eight officers came down the street. His

client ran, was caught and was convicted and given a two-year prison term. Koch's client said that he ran "because there might be some arrests or gunfire. People were ducking and running everywhere." As it turned out, Koch's client was armed and was charged with unlawful use of a weapon by a felon.

At first glance, people might ask, "So what if the police arrest someone who runs. He must have been guilty of something if he ran." Think again. With the high-profile cases of recent police abuses, more and more people are becoming fearful of the mere presence of the police. For instance, Amadou Diallo and others listed in *The Stolen Lives Project* lend mute testimony to why growing numbers of African Americans, especially poor African Americans, might have reason to fear the police.

In the best case scenario, if it is determined to be alright for the police to chase and arrest someone just because they behaved suspiciously by running, everyone would behave alright and there would be no abuses. But the world is not perfect and, human nature being what it is, some unscrupulous officers might be tempted to the breaking point to commit abuse. In other words, giving that kind of power to a certain class of mean-spirited policemen would be like giving a child a boatload of candy and telling him not to eat.

We must safeguard our freedoms and we cannot do this by giving them away. We hope the U. S. Supreme Court agrees.

PEOPLE

PUFFY COMBS

Romance on the rocks



Sean Combs and Jennifer Lopez's romantic relationship may have taken a severe blow as a result of their "gun" incident.

According to the *New York Daily News*, Lopez gave "Puffy" a piece of her mind, lashing out at the hip-hop mogul for getting her into a dangerous situation at a Times Square nightclub and tarnishing her image. When police were processing the duo, a crying Lopez reportedly screamed "Look at the trouble you got me into," according to a source. After the 14-hour ordeal at the police precinct, there were no charges filed against Lopez, but Combs was charged with two counts of felony weapon possession.

KNOLLY WILLIAMS

Separation of religion and rap

Some people think that the words Christian and rap go together like crips and bloods, but a man named Knolly Williams is trying to change all that.

His Austin, Texas based Grape-tree Records is the music industry's largest Christian rap label. "In Nashville or L.A. or New York, you tend to make music that is geared to sound better than the guy across the street," Williams told the Associated Press. "There is nobody else here. The gangsta rapper comes up and says, 'I'm in the ghetto. I've got to kill to survive. I've got to shoot you in the head.' From a Christian perspective, we look at it like, 'Man, I'm in the ghetto, too, but I know there is hope.'"

DAME GREASE

On the way up

These days Dame Grease is one of the most platinumized producers in the game.

Producers are often stigmatized for attempting to enter the game as an emcee. But Dame Grease may be the exception. His new album is titled, appropriately enough, *Me* and has 12 songs which feature the likes of Scarface, Memphis Bleek, DMX, NORE, NAS, and Drag-on. He's currently in the studio working on another project.

CURTIS MAYFIELD

Stars to gather in tribute



The recent death of soul legend Curtis Mayfield is on the minds of everyone in the music industry.

Now a tribute album to Curtis, who was buried this past

Tuesday, is currently in the works. According to Marv Heiman, his manager of 30 years, there has been an outpouring of entertainers wanting to do something to honor the man and his music. "We're working right now, but many of the major recording stars have contacted us that they want to do something," Heiman told www.launch.com. "So, what I think we're gonna do is one memorial service where a bunch of the superstars are going to come together to do a tribute musically to Curtis, and we'll tie it together with some kind of charitable foundation. Among the artists who've already asked to be involved are Eric Clapton and Gladys Knight."

HALLE BERRY

Nominated for Golden Globe



We would like to give a big fat "You go girl!" to Halle Berry.

She was recently nominated for a Golden Globe for her role as Dorothy Dandridge in her HBO movie *Introducing Dorothy Dandridge*. The television movie was about the life of the first Black woman nominated for an Academy Award.

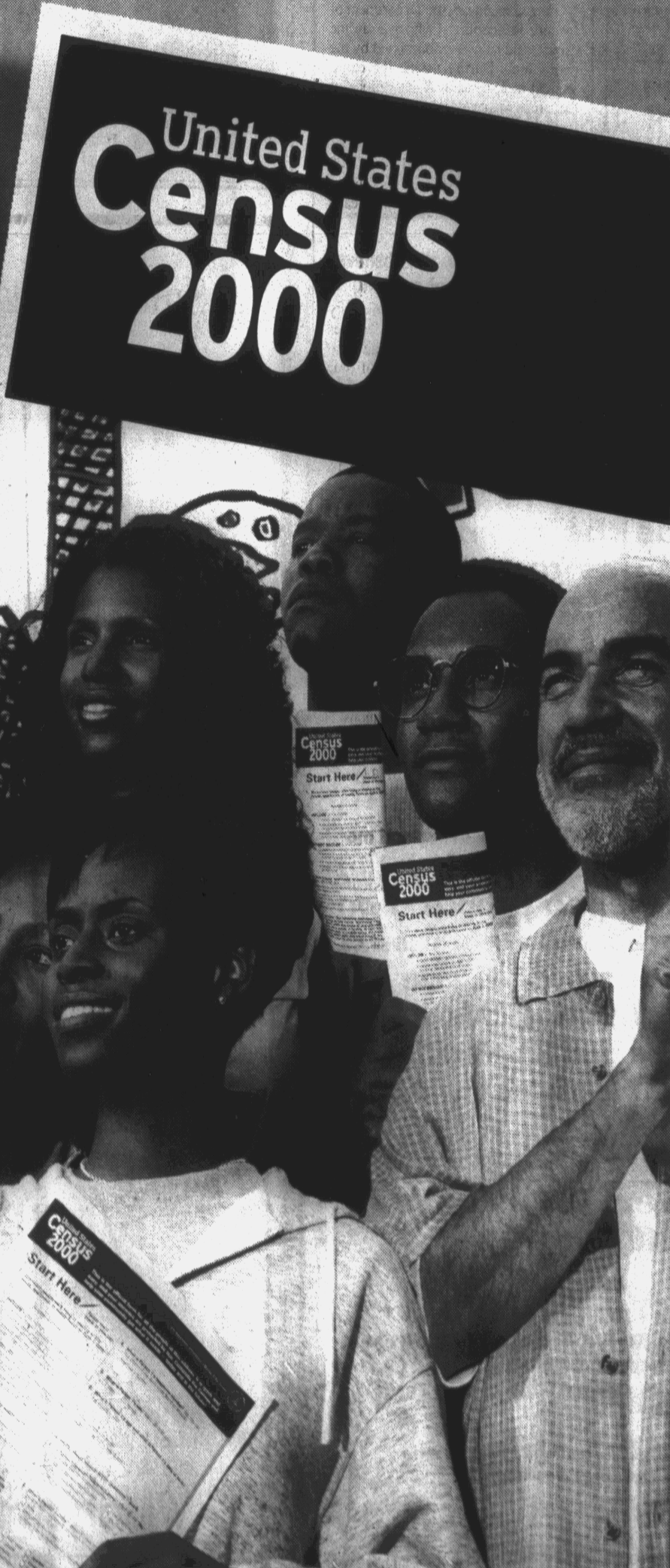
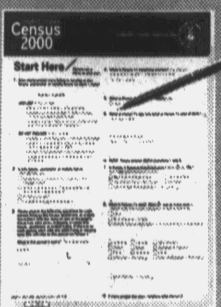
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Words of Faith



Suejette Jones

Before the Due Time

The nearest any human has come to actually seeing Christ as a glorious divine being was when Saul of Tarsus met Him on the road to Dasmascus, and the momentary glimpse of such heavenly glory (the Shekinah glory) shining "above the brightness of the sun"-- blind Saul. (Acts 26:13) Later he wrote about this experience, saying that he was one who had seen Jesus after his resurrection. But Paul's sight of the Master was different from that experienced by the other Apostles, for he said that he saw Him "As...one born out of due time." (1 Corinthians 15:8)

Evidently Paul understood clearly the importance of the lesson Jesus outlined to Nicodemus concerning the necessity of being born again in order to enter into the kingdom of God. In many places in his

writings he speaks of the Christians' hope of living and reigning with Christ. In that famous treatise on the resurrection in which he speaks of seeing Jesus as one "born out of due time," he emphasizes that the true followers of the Master are, in the resurrection, exalted to immortality with Him, that their resurrection puts them in the same position of glory as that occupied by the Master, and that they, too, are to be "quickening spirits."

Obviously, then, the Apostle understood that the Spirit birth of Christians would be the same as it was with Jesus, occurring when they were raised from the dead and made like Him. But as Paul explained, on the Damascus road he had seen Jesus as one "born out of due time," that is, he had momentarily seen Jesus as all His followers will see Him when, in the resurrection, they are made like Him.

This will be in the "first resurrection," at the close of the Gospel Age. It is in "that day" mentioned by Paul when he wrote to Tomothy, saying, "There is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but to all them...that love His appearing." (1 Timothy 4:8)

Suejette Jones is currently enrolled in a religious studies class at Pitt Community College

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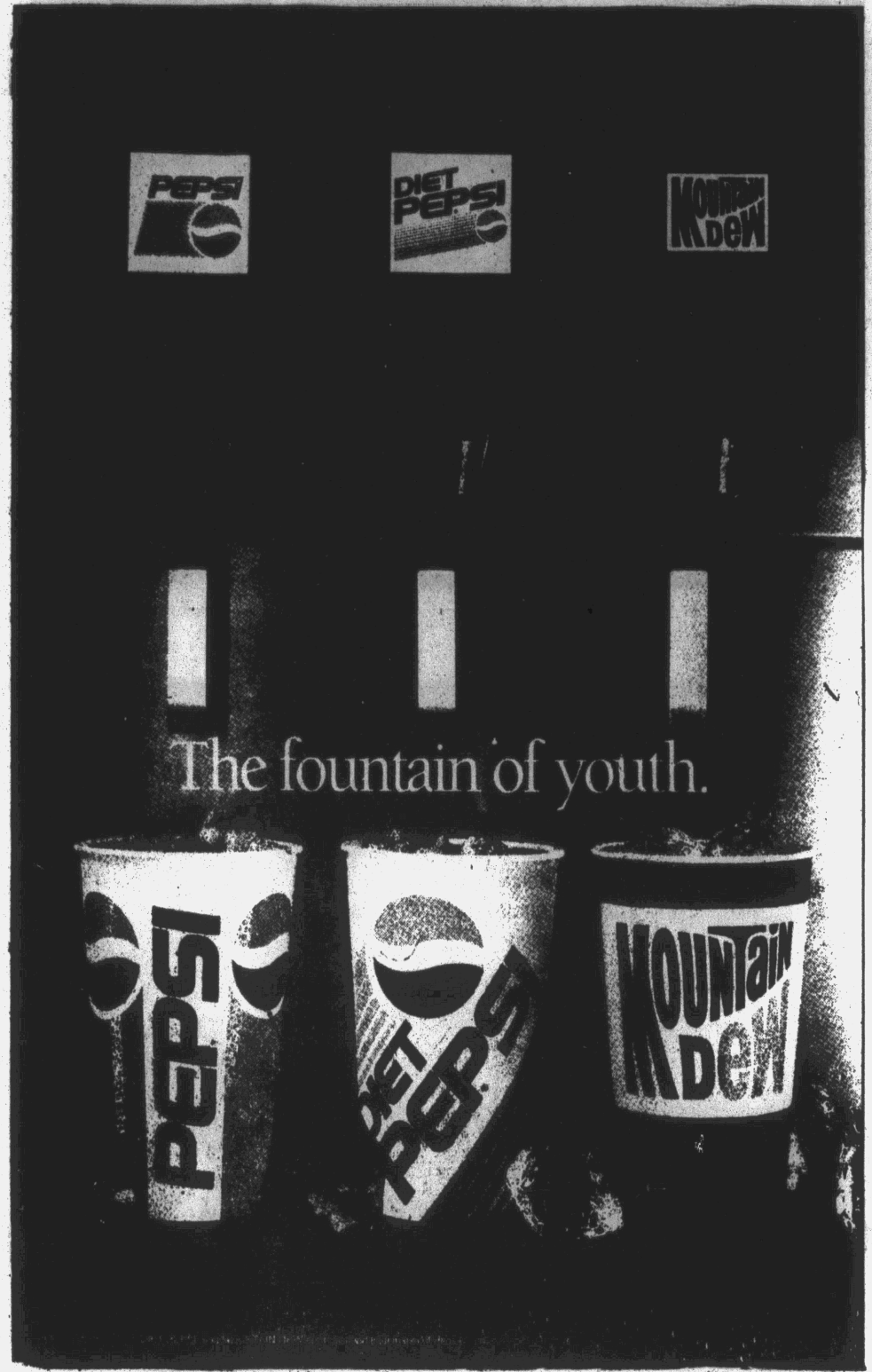
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From the "M" Voice Archives shown above are some of the brothers that hang out at the detail shop on the corner of 5th and Albermarle ave. Question, who is still living?

Photo By Jim Rouse

Martin Luther King, Jr.

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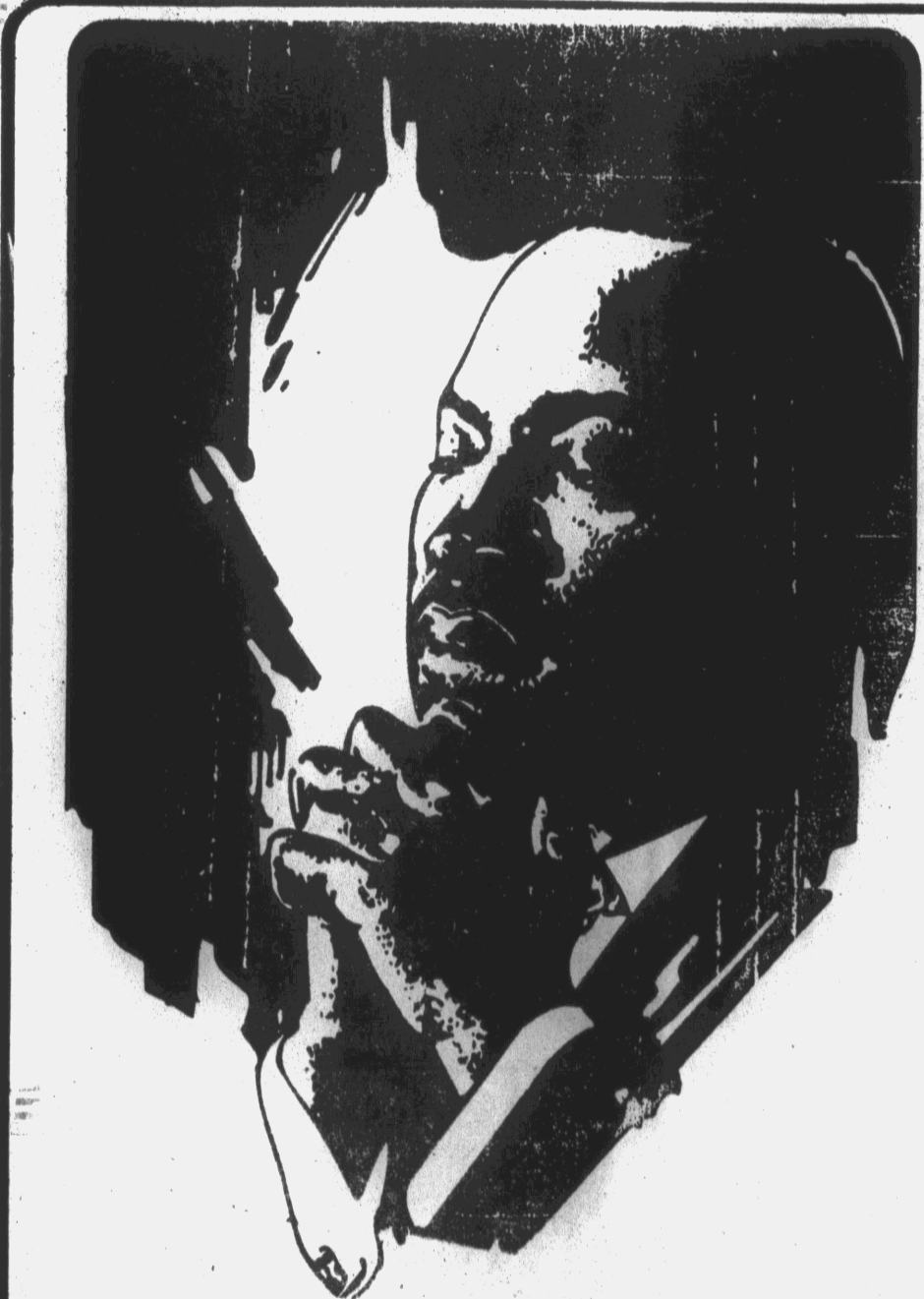
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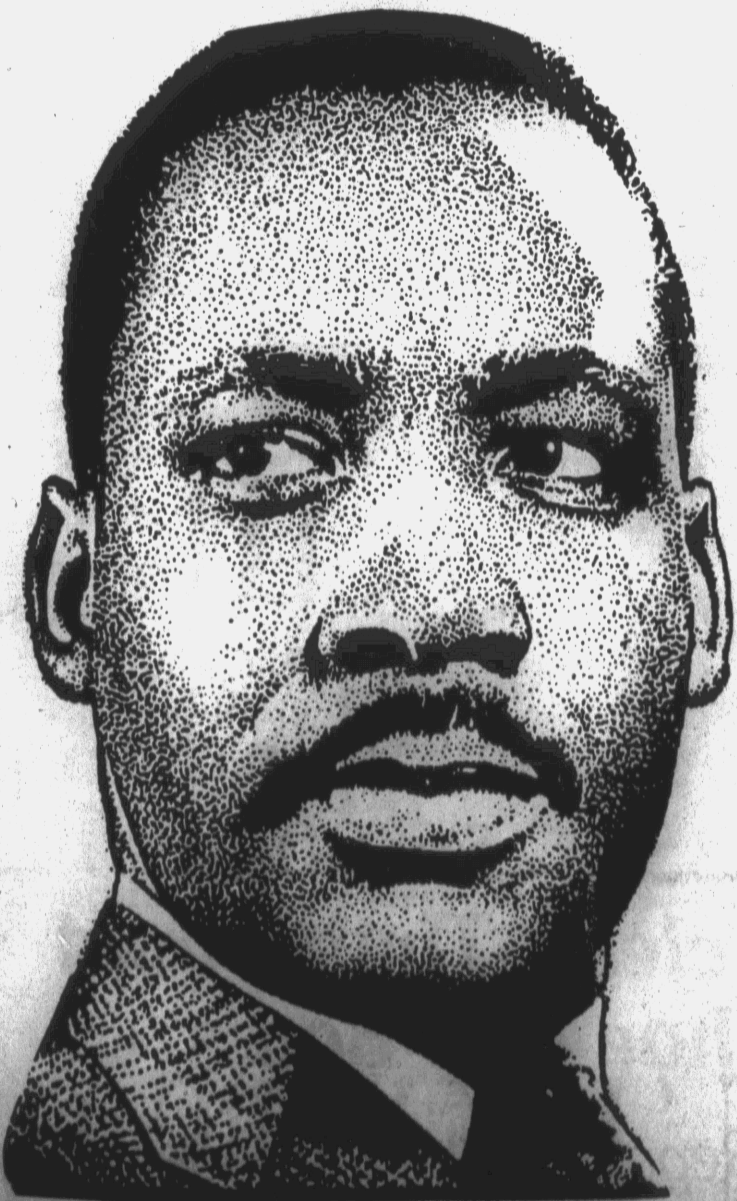


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