

The Minority Voice

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June 21, 2000 - June 27, 2000

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Controversy Looms At Black Caucus Weekend

by: Cash Michaels.....
The Wilmington Journal

To hear NC Legislative Black Caucus Chairman Thomas Wright tell it, the needs and interests of Black North Carolinians have been served by the work of the 24-member body under his leadership.

"Part of our purpose is 'to promote policies and champion legislation of benefit to the historically under served communities (and) to ensure that the development of the legislative agenda....' that affects North Carolinians, affects all North Carolinians," Wright read from the program to those attending the Black Caucus Weekend Conference Town Hall meeting at the Sheraton Imperial RTP. Thanks to the \$3.1 billion bond referendum if passed, the five UNC System Black colleges will be getting over \$ 400 million --- more money than ever before to repair facilities and infrastructure, \$7.2 million in minority economic development programs are now a recurring part of the state budget, and the framework is being laid to

address the academic achievement gap between Black and white public school students statewide.

"We think we've done pretty well in making (these things) happen," Rep. Wright/D-New Hanover added.

But at what price those accomplishments, other caucus members ask. Many of the measures the caucus took credit for were that the group signed off on without a formal vote or agenda for African Americans. Previous caucus chairs have pushed Gov. Jim Hunt and white legislative leaders for years to make minority economic development funding a permanent part of the budget, instead of something they have to fight over annually.

As a nod to Black voters for putting Democrats back in power in 1997, Hunt finally relented and included it in his 1998 budget proposal.

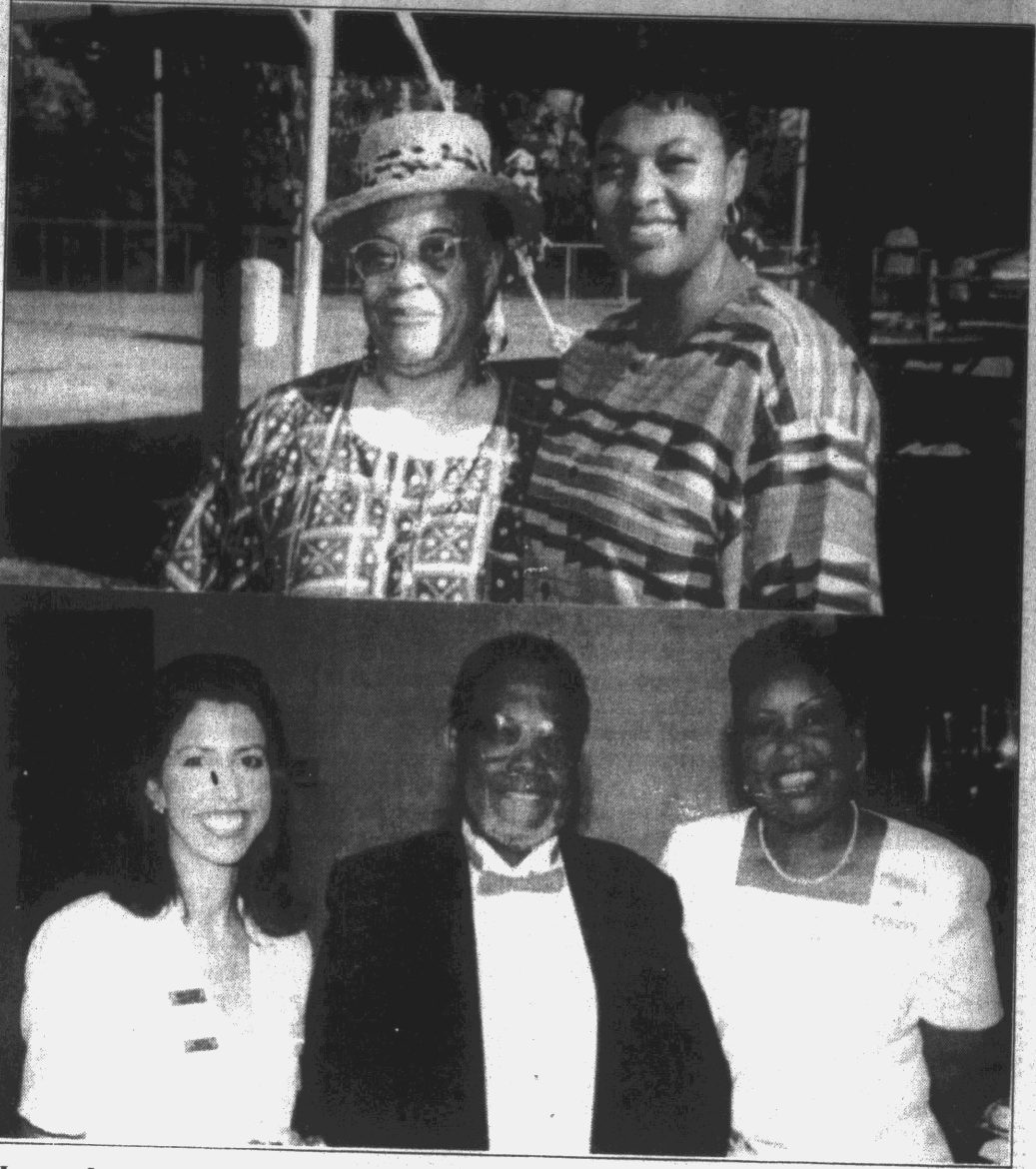
And though Black schools are getting hundreds of millions of dollars they've actually need more than twice that much. But because Wright and the Black caucus backed off pushing for more at the direction of House Speaker Jim Black, the schools

are getting less than half of what they deserve.

The caucus has challenged white Democratic leadership on little, say critics, and because individual members, including Wright, have been "paid off" with the legislative perks and positions, it isn't likely that it will come together as a force anytime soon.

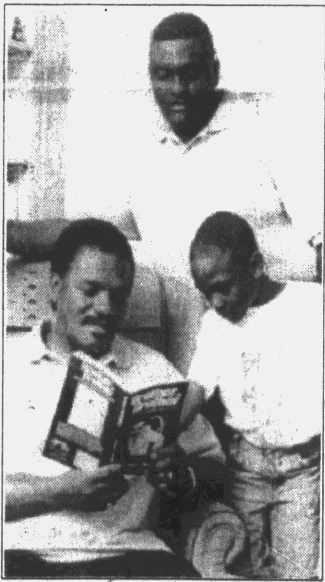
"I'll be the first to agree...we have progressed," Rep. Larry Womble/D-Forsyth, caucus second vice chair, stood up and said. "But look how (far) we could be rather than where we are (now). " "We must be about agenda, and we must be about coalition building."

Womble wasn't the only one expressing frustration with the caucus' failure to proactively push for more than what white Democratic leadership offered. Rep. H.M. "Mickey" Michauxi was still bristling at the conference about how many of his younger colleagues prefer to "go along to get along", as one member said, instead of leveraging the 17 votes Democratic Black lawmakers have in the House to stop measures they don't agree with.



Happy Juneteenth, the very first of all African American holidays. Shown in top photo is Mrs. Barbara Fenner (Executive Director of Greenville CDC) and Mrs. Darden (Member of CDC Board of Directors) are all smiles due to the success of this year's event. Bottom Photo: pictured from left to right is City Council Member Ariel Morris, Mr. Ash Lee Fenner and City Council Member Rose Glover shown at CDC Awards Banquet. Both events were combined due to scheduling changes resulting from Hurricane Floyd. Photo By Jim Rouse

Rev. Thomas Walker



race of people. Shown in the above picture is Rev. Thomas L. Walker (seated), with his son, Rev. Timothy J. Walker, Sr. (standing behind him), and his grandsons, Timothy J. Walker, Jr. (looking on). It is no accident that he is seeking to involve his entire family because statistics show that men whose ancestors had prostate cancer are at a higher risk of being diagnosed with this dreadful disease.

When Rev. Walker was diagnosed with prostate cancer in January 1996 at the age of only 47, he soon began to realize the tragic state of affairs of men all across this country. As he began to gather information to evaluate his own treatment options, he made some other shocking discoveries: reveal an excellent PSA reading of less than 0.3. Rev. Walker is convinced that African Americans must make health our number one priority by changing our eating habits, exercising, working to reduce our stress level, and above all, seeking to gain more knowledge about ways we can prevent the disproportionate number health problems in our community. When asked why he would dedicate so much time and energy to writing his book, Walker responded, "I'm convinced the Lord allowed me to have this disease and to be properly treated and cured in order that I might get involved with the mission to educate as many families as possible about the importance of prevention and early detection." His treatment of choice was brachytherapy. Radiation seeding is a more common term, which is a process of inserting radiation seeds directly into the prostate. Rev. Walker stated that this procedure

resulted in no side effects, and he is extremely pleased that the Lord allowed him to be healed through this method. Walker has also formed an association with other prostate cancer survivors across the nation. The association is called **Brother to Brother Associates**. He is organizing Brother-to-Brother support groups through churches and civic organizations when given the opportunity. He is currently doing research for his new book entitle, **The Wedding of Traditional and Holistic Medicine**.

Rev. Walker's book, **Brother To Brother** may be ordered from www.amazon.com or Eternal Gold Publishers, P.O. Box 4633, Rocky Mount, NC 27803, Telephone: 252-443-5605.

EBENEZER MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

The Church for All People

DR. THOMAS L. WALKER,
Senior Pastor
Every Sunday Worship
7:45 & 11:00 AM
Christian Education 9:45 AM
Monday Evening Bible Study
7:00 PM
Wednesday Noon Day Prayer
12:00 PM
Wednesday Night Worship
7:00 PM Plus
Wednesday Night Youth Bible
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The tragic saga continues--one useless death after another. Each year more than 40,000 Americans men die needlessly from prostate cancer because they fail to be diagnosed in time. Even more alarming is the fact that black men are 2 1/2 times more likely to be diagnosed and die from this disease. These startling facts alone were enough to propel Rev. Thomas L. Walker on a mission that began almost four years ago. He recalls a statement made by Don Speaks, conference coordinator for "Brother Can We Talk About It," a conference held in Atlanta, Georgia on May 2, 1998, "... if black people, especially black men do not start taking control of our own personal health status we will be on the verge of extinction by the end of the 21st century!" That statement confirmed what Rev. Walker already knew--that the business of our health must become a higher priority if we want to survive as a

History of Juneteenth

Cash Michael's
Wilmington Journal

On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the Civil War has ended and African American slaves were free. This was two and half years after President Lincoln had already signed the Emancipation Proclamation which had become official January 1, 1863.

Because there was a minimal number of Union troops in Texas to enforce the new Executive order, the Proclamation had little impact on slavery in the state. However, with the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of General Granger's regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.

So, when the announcement of

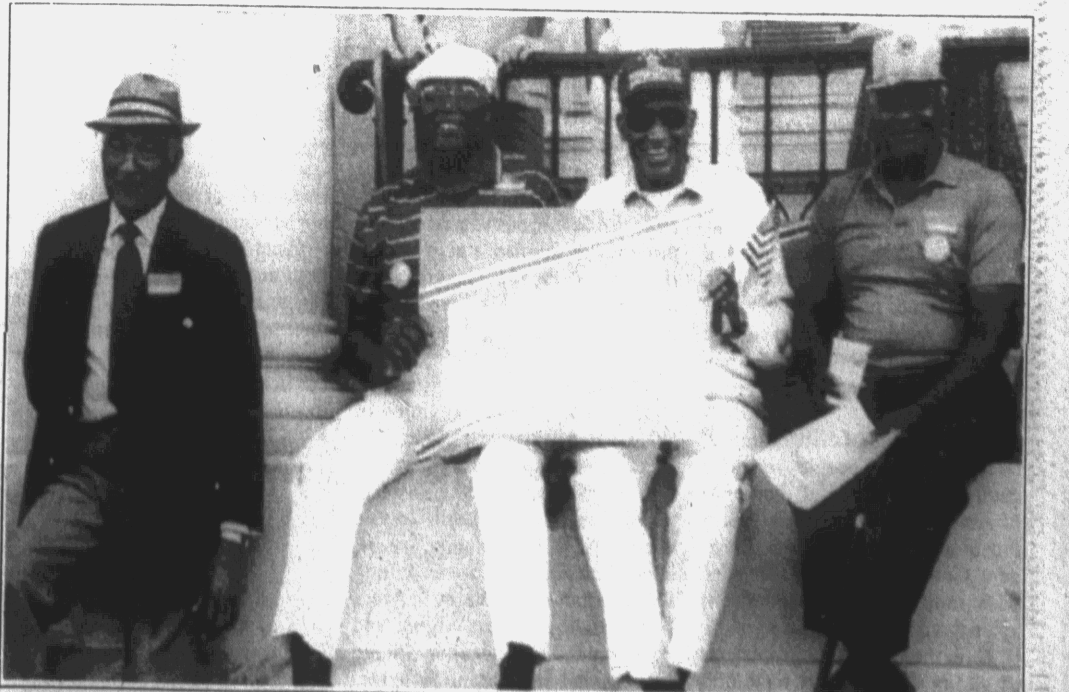
their freedom finally did reach Texan slaves on June 19, 1865, the reactions ranged from "pure shock to immediate jubilation." The celebration of this day was coined "Juneteenth" and grew with more participation from descendants. It was a time for praying and for gathering remaining family members. Juneteenth celebrations continued in Texas decades later as many former slaves and descendants would make an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston on this date.

For over 100 years, Juneteenth was celebrated with rodeos, fishing, barbecuing, and baseball. Other festivities included parades, floats, and marching bands. In 1972, two African American congressmen introduced a bill to the Texas State Legislature that recognized Juneteenth as annual holiday of significance to all African Americans in Texas. In

1979, the deed was done, and Juneteenth became an official holiday nationwide.

"It is our hope and aspiration not only to celebrate the physical aspects of freedom, we want to hopefully direct attention to the mental, moral, and spiritual horizons of productive responsibility and economic development. We would like to focus the attention of African American people to supporting African American businesses and to make a special effort to spend money in the African American community, and to strive to turn our dollars over a minimum of seven times before they leave our community," said Imam Abdul Rahman Shareef.

Janice El-Amin says "Juneteenth should be bigger than any other...African Liberation Day!! Johanna Thatch



From The "M" Voice Archives John Bizzell former Pitt County Board of Education member and Fire Fighter "Big John" Joyner and William Myers. All our friends are deceased and were great supporters of the "M" Voice Newspaper. All were great friends of Roscoe Norfleet where everyday wisdom carry wisdom carry on today

Photo By Jim Rouse

Princeville Fundraiser

On Tuesday, June 27, 2000, join a host of celebrities, leaders, and corporations including talk show host/author/radio commentator Tavis Smiley; actress and producer Daphne Maxwell Reid; executive producer Tim Reid; ABC radio show host Doug Banks; heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield; Major Broadcasting Cable Network (MBC) Chairman & CEO Willie E. Gray; American Legacy

Magazine Founder & Publisher Rodney Reynolds; and American Airlines executive Lou Phillips.

In Sept., 1999, the town of Princeville, NC, was completely washed away by Hurricane Floyd and President Clinton has asked all Americans to do what they can to help the residents of this community rebuild their town, their lives. Come and learn about a new national

fundraising effort being planned by corporations and concerned individuals to assist Princeville as it gets back on its feet to, again, become a viable community.

Again, come and let's join President Clinton and the number of celebrities mentioned above and join the quest to help rebuild the Town of Princeville, NC.

One Year Later: Troubling Questions Remain in the Margaret Mitchell Slaying

By EARL OFARI HUTCHINSON, PhD

Many still ask what ever happened in the Margaret Mitchell case. Mitchell was the middle-aged, homeless, mentally troubled woman gunned down by an LAPD officer a year ago in a scuffle over a shopping cart. There's a good reason they are still puzzled about the Mitchell shooting. Despite demonstrations,

marches, community meetings, protest rallies, memorials, a Justice Department investigation, a ruling by the Los Angeles Police Commission that the shooting violated LAPD policy, LAPD Chief Bernard Parks has given absolutely no indication what action, if any, will be taken against the officer involved. Parks could recommend that the officer be retrained, suspended, fired, and even prosecuted.

The Mitchell killing raised the same troubling questions as the Rampart scandal does about LAPD policies and procedures in questionable shootings of civilians. Two bike patrol officers claimed that they stopped to question Mitchell about a stolen shopping cart. According to their account, when she lunged at them with a screwdriver one of the officers lost balance and his gun discharged. Two eyewitnesses disputed the police version. They insisted that police shot her as she walked away from them, and that at no point did they see her threaten the officers with the screwdriver.

But even if she did hold a screwdriver, did a frail, older woman represent a life-endangering threat to the police? She was not a suspect in a murder, armed robbery, or gang shoot-out, but a suspect in a case involving an alleged pilfered shopping cart! Couldn't they have subdued her with pepper spray, a baton, taser gun, rubber bullets, or some other device in their arsenal of non-lethal weapons?

Beyond disputing whether the police killing of Mitchell was justified, another troubling question is why did it take six months for Parks to release his report on the case. It seems to be routine policy for police officials to hold reports in questionable shootings until near infinity. Police officials insist that this is necessary to track down witnesses, conduct interviews, collect statements, run tests, review and analyze the material collected, and assess whether the shooting is within or violates department guidelines on the use of excessive force.

Many, however, charge that police officials deliberately stretch out the time it takes to release reports in controversial shootings. They claim the police play for time in the hope that passions and anger within the community will die down, and that people will forget the shooting. Almost certainly there's truth in the reasons police officials and their critics give for the delay.

Of these reports. When the LAPD released its findings that the Mitchell case did not violate LAPD policy, it caused little stir within the black community. Simply too much time had passed. To their credit, the inspector-general and the Police Commission disagreed, defied Parks, and ruled the shooting out of policy.

The Mitchell slaying as no other excessive force case including the Rampart scandal cases again brought into question police training, guidelines, and procedures on the use of deadly force. This shoot-first-and-ask-questions-later policy has gotten the LAPD into hot water time and again over the years. Following the Rodney King beating and the L.A. riots this policy earned the LAPD the dubious honor of being branded the nation's poster police agency for police abuse.

In 1998 the U.S. Civil Rights Commission in a blistering report on police practices in Los Angeles flatly said that the LAPD has not cleaned up its act. It called for the appointment of an independent prosecutor to investigate police abuse in the city. The Congressional Black Caucus and Amnesty International also held hearings in Los Angeles in 1999 on police abuse. They heard from a parade of local officials, attorneys, Justice Department officials, victims of alleged police abuse and relatives and friends of persons killed by the police.

The sordid accusations by rogue LAPD cop, Rafael Perez, that some LAPD officers shoot, beat, plant evidence, and give perjured testimony against suspects, a threatened civil rights lawsuit by the Justice Department, and continued foot-dragging by Mayor Richard Riordan and a majority of the L.A. city council on implementing the major Christopher Commission recommendations on LAPD reform have done nothing to enhance the department's image and credibility. It certainly does little to ease public suspicion that the police are loath to investigate let alone prosecute officers who use deadly force against citizens, no matter what the circumstances.

Beyond deeply flawed LAPD policies that fail to punish the overuse of deadly force by officers, the Mitchell slaying also raised troubling questions about the care, treatment, and shelter of the homeless, and those who suffer mental disorders. Many ask: Why was she on the street in the first place? Where are the treatment centers for the thousands of men and women like her? Why haven't local and state officials done everything in their power to get more funds for the care of the Mitchells? When will state legislators reverse the disastrous policies of the Reagan years that closed scores of treatment centers and denied mental health care to only those deemed violent? This policy dumped thousands of men and women such as Mitchell on the streets. What is the policy of the LAPD toward the homeless and those with mental disorders that roam city streets?

The sad fact is that despite the anguish over the plight of the homeless in Los Angeles many persons still regard the homeless as America's untouchables. They treat them with a disastrous mix of contempt, shame and embarrassment.

These are the many troubling questions that the Mitchell slaying raised about failed LAPD policies and our own indifference toward the disadvantaged. A year later those questions still scream for answers.



URBAN PERSPECTIVE Amended DWB Bill is No Compromise; Has Ominous Implications for Political Leadership

State Sen. Kevin Murray's previous "Driving While Black/Brown" legislation to combat racial profiling differs significantly from his latest bill (SB66 amended). This so-called compromise with Gov. Gray Davis does not include mandatory data collection by the police, which is an abandonment of Murray's earlier commitment. The hallmark of the new watered down version is business cards and diversity training for police, which are virtually meaningless without hard data. Murray forfeited the guts of his legislation in the deal with the governor, who remains adamantly opposed to data collection.

Murray's own statement, best illuminates the contradiction between his "compromise" and earlier commitment to data collection as essential for curbing racial profiling: (In a compromise, each side makes concessions. If Gray Davis conceded anything, it must have been microscopic.)

Murray has said, "...Statewide data collection in California would increase accountability by the police and begin to help heal strained relations between minority communities and law enforcement officers. ... The data bill is necessary to compile the tangible information that explains why this is happening and how it can be solved so people can regain trust in law enforcement. ... While the CHP is collecting data voluntarily submitted by a number of jurisdictions, there is no uniformity to the data and it does include a number of larger metropolitan areas where there have been a number of complaints."

Murray's statements following Gray Davis's veto of the 1999 data bill were: "The decision is a devastating blow to communities of color and all Californians statewide. We need comprehensive hard data to determine if drivers are being pulled over on the basis of their race. ... People want hard facts to explain what is going on ... I feel it is a lost opportunity for Gov. Gray Davis to show his leadership in building a

bridge of trust between peace officers and minority communities."

Murray says that at his and Danny Bakewell's urging, the governor "was ready to admit that racial profiling is a significant problem. Now that (he) is willing to make a specific declaration that it is a fundamental problem, we no longer need a data study to prove it."

This curious reasoning misses the point since neither defining nor outlawing racial profiling was ever an issue. In fact, racial profiling has been outlawed since passage of the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The real challenge is working to eliminate racial profiling by holding police officers accountable based on evidence sufficient to curb illegal and abusive police behavior.

What about Murray's claim that "a data study" is no longer needed because the governor is willing to make a specific declaration, (acknowledging racial profiling)? This renders Murray's earlier commitment to data collection tenuous at best. Actually, Gray Davis's declaration has no bearing at all on the need for data collection by law enforcement.

It seems that political considerations may have outweighed other factors in Murray's arriving at the "compromise." SB66, his compromise bill, contains the following: A statement that racial profiling is an important problem; defines racial profiling; outlaws racial profiling; provides for accountability of individuals and departments; provides for retraining for every officer in the state, specifically on the patterns, practices and protocols that lead to racial profiling.

Again, it should be noted that the compromise bill without data collection to assess racial profiling, is fundamentally deficient.

The definition of racial profiling in the compromise bill may be too narrow and could backfire by allowing officers to continue current practice. The bill's training provisions omit last year's significantly expanded diversity training

for law enforcement. And, of course, the compromise bill substitutes business cards and reporting—requirements Murray himself championed until recently.

Murray's trashing of the ACLU was telling. Until the "compromise" with Davis, Murray was on good terms with the ACLU, having worked closely with the organization in support of his earlier anti-racial profiling legislation. So why the venom for ACLU? Excerpts of Murray's remarks provide some clue:

"... There are a few isolated organizations driven chiefly by the ACLU, who naively and for their own conflicted purposes continue to demand legislation which have no chance of being signed into law by the governor." (Apart from the fact that the governor's signature is only one criterion for supporting legislation, Murray apparently misses the fact that he is criticizing the ACLU and others for supporting the very legislation he strongly supported until the "compromise.")

And, Murray asserts that the ACLU's motive was "to provide data for lawsuits, not to actually solve the problem. ... The ACLU has been fund-raising ... on the backs of minority communities that have endured the pain and indignity of racial profiling." He adds, "It should be noted that some of these funds go to support the ACLU's efforts to protect the rights of the Ku Klux Klan and Nazi party to march through our neighborhoods."

Would Murray, a lawyer, no less, object to the ACLU (or NAACP) protecting the rights of African Americans or Latinos to demonstrate in any location? Unbelievable!

The DWB/B compromise also raises questions concerning political leadership. The process for reaching the so-called compromise was traditional, as was the strategy for building support for the legislation. Murray quickly cited political and community support, including the NAACP (the Los Angeles NAACP does not support the com-

promise bill). Apparently, the compromise was a fait accompli when community support was solicited. And, it may be that "community" as envisioned by Murray constitute only those folks who agree with his views. Of course, this represents the traditional political paradigm wherein rubber-stamping decisions of political leaders is not only expected, but often required.

Murray could have kept a data collection bill and subsequently proposed a new bill for diversity training for police officers, thereby remaining consistent and forthright. Instead, he compromised and jettisoned data collection in SB66 amended—which is still being pitched to the community as a legitimate solution to racial profiling.

Traditional political strategies are especially inappropriate and ineffective, given today's realities. Changing demographics, the volatile economic scene and the widening schism between middle class and poorer blacks, to mention just a few factors, requires new thinking, new strategies and new behavior by elected officials, others in leadership positions and the general community as well.

Murray's tactics around the compromise DWB/B legislation are in some ways an insult to the African American community, which is quite capable of independent judgment. The ACLU ruse was neither appropriate nor helpful.

New leadership is needed now more than ever and hopefully, Murray will rethink his "compromise" and reintroduce new data collection legislation involving a broader cross-section of the community in the process.

The DWB/B legislative struggle embodies much of what is wrong with politics in the African American community. But it also portends what must be done to respond to the needs of our community which is under siege, in some regards like never before. Business as usual is no longer acceptable.



BETWEEN THE LINES Without Options for President, Can African Americans Alone Save a Sinking Al Gore

Ever get that sinking feeling you're about to be pulled into an unwinnable situation, where every other option seems to be discounted, and you have nowhere to turn?

Many seem to think that is the position for the 90 percentile of African Americans who vote democratic and are chained to the leg of the sinking presidential candidacy of Al Gore. With four-fifths of black clergy of every denomination in his cap, there's still time of have that almighty, all night "Pray-in" that Al Gore will appeal to more than just us and pull off a victory in November. But with George Bush now giving death penalty reprieves, I think even the "Big Guy Upstairs" is now in the "undecided" category.

Al Gore is sinking faster than a cowboy in quicksand in a "B" movie. You know it's just a matter of time before you're put out of your misery. Unfortunately, misery for black folks will continue with a victory for Republicans, who seem bent on punishing blacks for their

blind loyalty to Democrats. Everybody else is considering options.

Everybody, I repeat, everybody; Asians, Latinos and Native Americans included, are split on everything from Republican to Reform Party. Even a few blacks are beginning to think about the possibility of Gore losing. But 90 percent of blacks are still pushing a Gore boat taking on water. *The Los Angeles Sentinel*—the largest black newspaper west of the Mississippi, even endorsed a Republican, Alan Keyes, in the California primaries, an attempt to get blacks thinking about options. This, of course, came out of the feeling that both Democratic candidates (Gore and Bradley) largely ignored the black community and the black press, save a select few that they thought would broker the influence of the masses.

Bradley found out, as Gore is finding out, that day is long gone. Gore will have to expand his base, even among blacks, to save his candidacy. In the meantime, without

options, blacks are thinking about how to save their only option, Al Gore. A scary proposition. Not to try to save Al Gore. It's scary that we would only consider Al Gore.

Certainly, the Republicans have been mean-spirited in rolling back the progress of the civil rights agenda, and using a second post-reconstruction period that has racism, and race-related crime as high as its been in the 20th century. The social construct has shifted right to protect the racial "pecking order" in the country that facilitates disparities in every area of social interface. That's real. But, in truth, Republicans have no incentive to change their politic or their level of sensitivity to the social change agenda because they receive little in return.

The fastest growing party in the American political system are the "Reformats." There are more registered independents than there are registered Democrats or Republicans. The appeal of the political "center" (moderates) have all three parties rushing to show their best "moderate" face. Yet, blacks haven't given the reform party any play. Jesse Jackson is the best reform party candidate out there, and you can't even get him to say, "reform" in a political context (beyond conversation). And he has spent most of his adult life trying to reform American politics. The "politics of inclusion" is his term.

Jackson, instead, would rather try to save Al Gore, and hold a quickly shifting (to the moderate center) Democratic party to the left as long as possible. The farthest left a "New Democrat" will move is now just left of center. California Gov. Gray Davis (whom I mistakenly called former Republican Gov. Pete Wilson last week because he is acting so much like Pete Wilson, you can hardly tell the difference) is the prototype for the "new" Democrat. A new Democrat is a Democrat who will consider republican platform and policies to attract the "swing vote" of moderates. If Democratic candidates and leadership are considering options to hold power, why shouldn't blacks? Politics is an options game. They intentionally play "one against the other" to seek, political advantage.

Blacks have no political advan-

tage because they only play with one, the Democrats. And when Democrats are played out, we're played out. We've been there and done that with the Reagan and Bush years, as well as the Deukmejian and Wilson years in California. But we still haven't learned our lesson. Our communities have most of its eggs in the Gore basket.

Saving Al Gore would mean convincing those who rolled with Bill Clinton in '92 and '96, to roll with Gore in 2000. Right now, Al Gore is running behind Bush in most all key demographics, white men, women, likely voters, new voters, and is splitting the "ethnic" vote among Asians and Latinos. The only one he has in his pocket, for sure, are blacks—and not in as great numbers as Clinton.

Gore is not "doing it" for black women (the likely voters in our demographic) like Clinton did. If you watched the recent Al Gore focus groups on C-SPAN, Gore is really not doing well with any demographic. Some like him. But that's it—they just like him, they don't "love him" or have a passion for his candidacy.

Part of the problem is Gore trying to reinvent himself every few months. People don't know what he stands for, or think he will stand for what is politically expedient. (Like when he went against the president on the Elian Gonzalez issue. Wrong call, particularly in the black community.) If you're not already made of something when you step out for president, you'll have a problem convincing someone you'll be made of something solid when you get there. That's Al Gore problem right now. His lack of sincerity is sinking him. Fast.

Between now and the convention, some major choices will be made, including a running mate, that will either bring the public to Al Gore or make them run away from him. In the meantime, I have one suggestion for the black community. "Get a back-up option, because Al Gore will need more than us to win. And he may have to cut us loose to do it.

Just look at Gray Davis for an example of what the "new" Democrat stands for. Everybody plays their options. Except blacks.

U.S.-China Trade Agreement: American Workers Lose Another One to 'Big Money'

By STEPHEN P. YOKICH

President Clinton and Vice President Gore hail the U.S.-China agreement on WTO accession "a hundred percent win" for America that will increase U.S. exports to China and create jobs for American workers. Nice words, but they made the very same claims for NAFTA. They were wrong then, and they are wrong now.

On this issue of critical importance to working people—one that could cost hundreds of thousands of American workers their jobs—President Clinton and Vice President Gore once again have sided with multinational corporations against workers here and abroad.

Over the past weeks, proponents of giving China PNTR have portrayed the same multinational corporations who today are exploiting the Chinese government's well-documented brutal repression of basic human and workers' rights to

fatten profits as the champions for a more free and open Chinese society. Meanwhile, the labor movement's insistence that the Chinese government demonstrate progress on human and workers' rights before the U.S. Congress permanently gives up its power of annual review is dismissed as selfish, myopic, and worse.

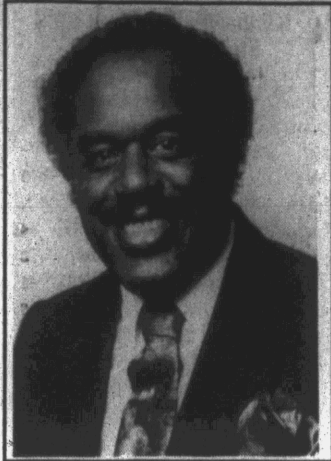
We are deeply disappointed that Vice President Gore has failed to speak out against these cynical attacks on the labor movement and our partners in this fight. Instead, he has tried to have it both ways on China PNTR. One moment presidential candidate Gore is telling the labor movement that he believes human rights, workers' rights, and environmental protections should be included in core trade agreements; the next, Vice President Gore is holding hands with the profiteers of the world and singing the praises of U.S.-China WTO accession agreement while lobbying for PNTR

for China. And, obviously, we can not turn to Republican candidate George W. Bush; his positions on issues of concern to working families are far worse.

America's working families need and deserve a president they can count on to stand with them on their tough issues, not just the easy ones. That's why we have no choice but to actively explore alternatives to the two major political parties.

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Spiritual Thoughts



Dr. George Hawkins

Praying Effectively

Part I of II Part Series

Greetings in the name of Jesus:

Prayer is not to be a religious form with no power. It is to be effective and accurate and bring results. God watches over His word to perform it. (Jer. 1: 12). Prayer that brings results must be based on God's Word.

For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power - making it active, operative, energizing and effective; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line or the breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [that is, of the deepest parts of our nature] exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12 AMP).

Prayer is the "living" Word in our mouths. Our mouths must speak forth faith, for faith is what pleases God. (Heb. 11:6.) We hold His Word up to Him in prayer,

and our Father sees Himself in His Word. God's Word is our contact with Him. We put Him in remembrance of His Word (Isa 43:26) placing a demand on His ability in the name of our Lord Jesus. We remind Him that He supplies all of our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:19) That Word does not return to Him void - without producing any effect, useless - but it shall accomplish that which He pleases and purposes, and it shall prosper in the thing for which He sent it. (Isa. 5:11)

God did *not* leave us without His thoughts and His ways for we have His Word - His bond God instructs us to call Him, and He will answer and show us great and mighty things. (Jer. 33:3) Prayer is to be exciting - not boring.

It takes someone to pray. God moves as we pray in faith - believing. He says that His eyes run to and from throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong in behalf of those whose hearts are blameless toward Him. (2 Chron. 16:9.) We are blameless (Eph. 1:4.) We are His very own children. (Eph. 1:5.) We are His righteousness in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 5:21*) He tells us to come boldly to the throne of grace and obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need - appropriate and well - timed help (Heb. 4:16)

The prayer armor is for every believer, every member of the Body of Christ, who will put it on and walk in it, for the weapons of our warfare are *not* carnal but mighty through God for the pulling down of the strongholds of the enemy (Satan, the god of this world, and all his demonic

forces). Spiritual warfare takes place in prayer (2 Cor. 10:4, Eph. 6:12 18.)

There are many different kinds of

prayer, such as the prayer of thanksgiving and praise, the prayer of dedication and worship, and the prayer that changes *things* (not God). All prayer involves a time of fellowship with the Father.

In Ephesians 6, we are instructed to take the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God and **pray at all times - on every occasion, in every season - in the Spirit, with all (manner of) prayer and entreaty** (Eph. 6:18 AMP).

In I Timothy 2 we are admonished and urged that **petitions, prayers intercessions and thanksgivings be offered on behalf of all men** (1 Tim. 2:1 AMP).

Prayer is our responsibility.

Prayer must be the foundation of every Christian endeavor. Any failure is a prayer failure. We are *not* to be ignorant concerning God's Word. God desires for His people to be successful, to be filled with a full, deep, and clear knowledge of His will (His Word), and to bear fruit in every good work. (Col. 1:9 -13.) We then bring honor and glory to Him. (John 15:8.) He desires that we know how to pray for the **prayer of the upright is his delight** (Prov. 15:8)

God has not left us helpless. Not only has He given us His Word, but also He has given us the Holy Spirit to help our infirmities when we know not how to pray as we ought (Rom.. 8:26.) God has provided His people with every possible avenue to insure their complete and total victory in this life in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 John 5:3-5.)

We pray to the Father, in the name of Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, according to the Word!

North Carolina Democratic Party offer Free Internet

RALEIGH -- The North Carolina Democratic Party, in conjunction with the Democratic National Committee, today announced a first-of-a-kind initiative to bring Internet access to everyone in North Carolina. The Democratic Party, with its technology partners, will offer free Internet access, including use of the World Wide Web and e-mail to anyone who wants it. Along with a free Internet Service Provider (ISP), the Party also announced the Democratic portal site at www.freeDEM.com.

"The Democratic Party has always stood for equality and opportunity," said Barbara Allen, Chair of the North Carolina Democratic Party. "Giving people across the state and nation the ability to have free Internet access will help narrow the gap between those who are 'wired' and those who need to

be." Allen continued. "FreeDEM.com marks the first time a political party has taken such a dramatic step to close the digital divide in America." In addition to the free ISP, the Democratic Party will offer a portal site at www.freeDEM.com. More than just a "start page," www.freeDEM.com will open to an on-line community where anyone, regardless of political beliefs, is welcome. FreeDEM.com will provide up-to-the-minute news, weather, stock quotes, sports updates and much more. With special shopping discounts and search engines where users can locate anything on the Web, the site will focus on valuable resources and information that make the Web meaningful. All Web advertisers on www.freeDEM.com will be family-friendly. "The portal site will provide information about the

political process, but also provide news, weather, sports and health information. By providing access to information about the political process, www.freeDEM.com will encourage people to stay informed and become involved," Allen said. Visitors to www.freeDEM.com will be invited to run and participate in on-line discussion groups, message boards and community groups.

www.freeDEM.com is open to all participants regardless of political persuasion. The Democratic National Committee and its technology partners MillionEyes.com and iBelong.com cooperated to create the free ISP and portal site. Current and future Internet users may sign up for free Internet access by visiting www.freeDEM.com or by calling 1-877-6FREE-ISP

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HEART DISEASE

Millions of Americans increase their chances of heart disease by things they do or don't do every day. But you can take steps to reduce your risk and live a longer, healthier life.

Regular exercise and not smoking are the most important steps in preventing heart disease.

If you smoke, stop, and you can reduce your risk of illness by as much as 50 percent. Lack of exercise increases the risk of heart disease and can play a role in obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure. Exercise increases blood flow to the heart and makes it more able to handle stress. Try to do an aerobic exercise, such as swimming, bicycling or jogging, 30 minutes or more three or four times a week.

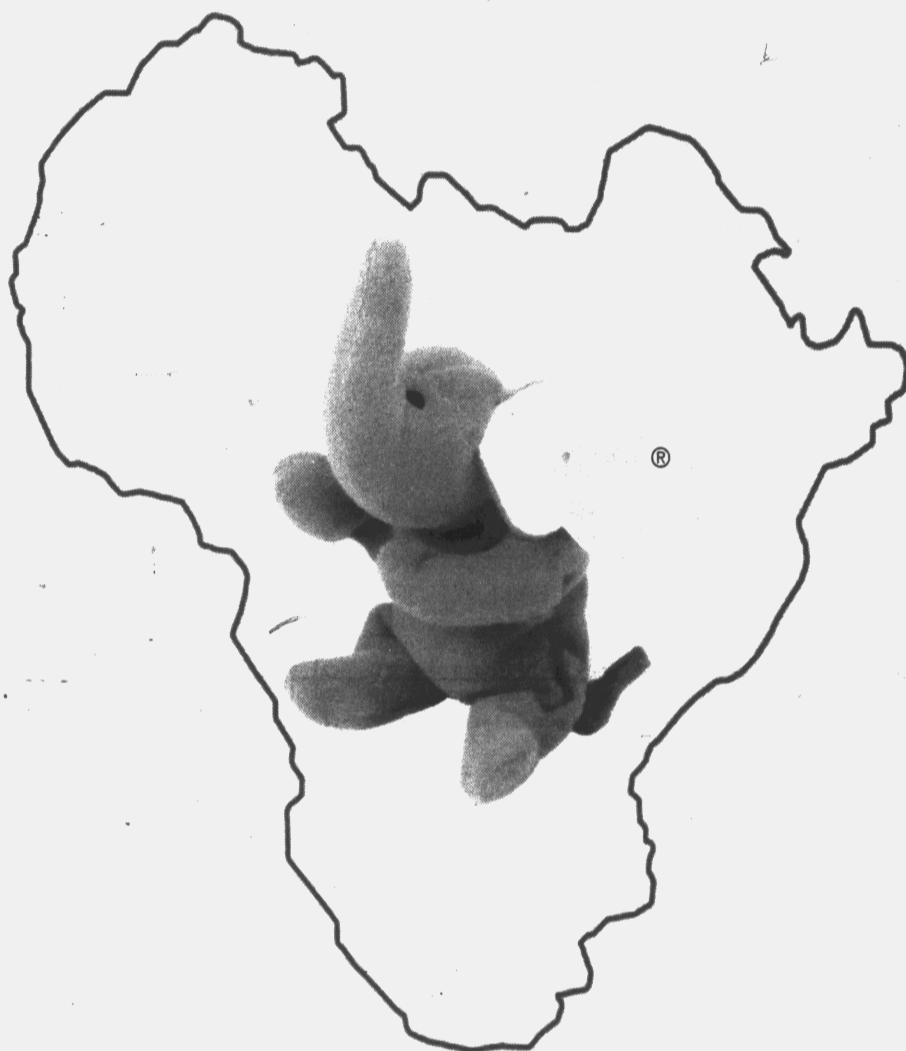
A low-fat, well-balanced diet can also help reduce your chances for disease. Follow the *Food Guide Pyramid* for tips on a heart healthy diet. The pyramid reminds us that grains should be our first food choice, followed by fruits and vegetables, meat and dairy and lastly sweets.

High levels of cholesterol in the blood increase the likelihood that you'll develop heart problems. Ask your doctor to check your cholesterol levels frequently. Keeping your total blood cholesterol level in the normal range is an important first step in reducing your risk for heart disease.

- Pitt County Memorial Hospital
- Bertie Memorial Hospital
- Chowan Hospital
- Heritage Hospital
- Roanoke-Chowan Hospital

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*While supplies last. Limits apply ask for details at participating McDonald's. Beanie Babies® plush toys are available at finer stores. © 2000 McDonald's Corporation ©1993-2000 Ty Inc.

From the Desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



going.

19. School is important.
20. Life ain't all good or bad. It's full of everything.
21. Don't give advice unless it's asked for.
22. People got their problems. I can't solve nobody else's problems for them.
23. Life ain't going to be perfect, but things will work out.
24. Keep it simple.

In LIFE IS SO GOOD, he shares wisdom on everything from parenting ("with children, you got to raise them. Some parents these days are growing children, not raising them") to attitude ("People worry too much. Life is good, just the way it is."). He says, There isn't anything I would change about my life." A current reading, George dedicates this book to his teacher, Carl Henry and his son, George Jr.

THREE KINDS OF PEOPLE

There are three kinds of people:

1. The Apathetic: those who have no interest in what's going on.
2. The Uninformed and In -- the -- Dark---those who don't know what's going on.
3. The Enlightened and Dedicated People: those who get involved.

The Apathetic Sideliners will not advance the struggle because they think that is a way it is and always will be.

The Don't Know - What - Happened, Uninformed People, can't take us anywhere because they don't know where to start, so they believe any road will get them there, but The Enlightened and Dedicated People will move us forward because they see what needs to be done and they do it.

THREE TYPES OF PEOPLE

There are three types of people in the world:

1. Those who sit on the sideline and watch what happens.
2. The few who get involved and make things happen.
3. The overwhelming majority who don't know what happened.

SEVEN CARDINAL VALUES

Seven cardinal values for the African American families of the future:

1. RESPECT
2. RESPONSIBILITY
3. RECIPROCITY
4. RESTRAINT
5. REVERENCE
6. REASON
7. RECONCILIATION

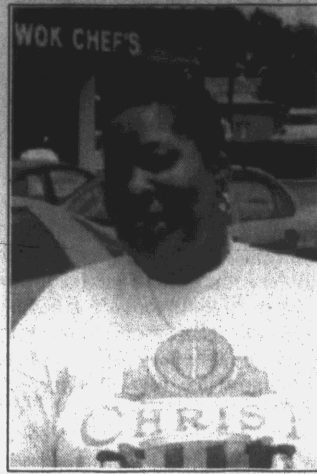
The family is the greatest source of strength and security.

IN HONOR

The Pastor and the members of Sycamore Hill Baptist Church named the newly completed Fellowship Hall, the "Matthew T. Lewis Fellowship Hall", honoring the head deacon, 65 years of dedicated and committed service.

Deacon Lewis,

WE SALUTE YOU !!!!!



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS

THE 34TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS WAS HELD AT THE GREENVILLE HILTON JUNE 2-4, 2000. THE MEETING was co-hosted by the

Cataytica Corporate, Greenville and Wilson Chapters of IAAP. Jo Gillin CPS, member of the Catalytica Chapter, was lead coordinator.

The weekend began on Friday with an Expo featuring over 30 vendors. Switch... to a Positive Line was presented by motivational speaker, Kathy Sprau. An Open House was held at Rock Springs Equestrian Center with live music by The Main Event Band. The keynote speaker for the opening business session on Saturday morning was Carol-Ann Tucker, Director, ECU Regional Training Center. Brenda W. Teague CPS, 1999-2000 NC Division President and member of the Hickory Chapter presided over the business session. A CPS luncheon was held honoring those members that have received their Certified Processional Secretary (CPS) rating or re-certified since last May. The Awards and Installation Banquet was held on Saturday night. Jo A. Peay, International Director, Southeast District (Winston-Salem Chapter) installed the following 2000-2001 officers:

President
Kathleen M. Stewart CPS
Metrolina Chapter (Charlotte)

President-elect
Kimberley Mitcham CPS
Statesville Chapter

Vice-President
Mary B. Baker
Catalytica Chapter

Secretary
Carol A. Wolf CPS
Land of the Sky Chapter(Asheville)

Treasurer
Sarah A. Joyner CPS
Wilson Chapter

Mary B. Baker, immediate past-president of the Catalytica Corporate Chapter, was elected and installed Vice President of the NC Division of the International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP) for 2000-2001.

The conference ended Sunday morning with an inspirational message from Dr. Garrie Moore, Vice Chancellor of Student Life at East Carolina University. Marsha V. Taylor was guest soloist.

The 2001 NC Division Annual Meeting will be held June 1-3 in Statesville, NC.

by: George Dawson

1. You have no right to judge another human being. George Dawson's father.
2. A white man enjoys his success, a colored man has to pay for it. Uncle Henry
3. You don't argue with your boss.
4. While most people are good, a person can't trust everybody.
5. Book learning isn't everything. Common sense will go along way. Me and Elzenia (George's wife), had plenty of that. And love too. A family got to have a lot of that.
6. A child doesn't learn so much by words as does by watching. The children were always watching what we do.

25. At 100, I've never used a cane, my mind is fine.
26. Some people are growing children, not raising them, and there's a big difference.
27. We're all really the same, rich or poor. A parent got to be there to, listen to children.
28. Look ahead.
29. Sometimes the morning is a better time to make a decision.
30. Be an honest man.
31. Always listen and watch.
32. Every person I've met, I have treated with respect. What goes around, comes around.
33. It all comes back, everything you do.
34. Be happy for what you have. Help somebody else instead of worrying.
35. I'm working to get my GED.
36. What I get, I will work for and earn.
37. Judge me not for the deeds that I have done, but for the life that I've lived.
38. Life is so good and it gets better every day.

About the author:

George Dawson of Marshall, TX, a 102 year old man who learned to read when he was 98, reflects on the philosophy he learned from his father --- a belief that "life is so good", as he offers valuable lessons in living and a fresh, firsthand view of America during the 20th century.

As a boy, George had to go to work to help support the family, and so he did not attend school or learn to read, yet he describes how he learned to read the world and survive it. He says, "Trouble is out there, but a person can leave it alone and just do the right thing. Then, if trouble still finds you, you've done the best you can." At 98, George decided to learn to read and enrolled in a literacy program, becoming a celebrated student. "Every morning I get up and I wonder what I might learn that day. You just never know."

- 7.. You don't always have to go to school to learn something. Just pay attention.
8. Give a man a chance to work and then see what he can do.
9. keep your pride.
10. You're hired to work, not to teach them.
11. Carry yourself so your children can be proud of you.
12. Listen to no excuses from your children concerning school work. They must take pride in themselves.
13. I don't eat with dogs. I eat with people. I am a human being.
14. Let the man do his job and don't have to approve of the rest of his life(in reference to President Clinton).
15. There ain't no sense in dwelling on things.
16. Treat your wives right and be honest. Never be unfaithful. I've been married four times.
17. A man is supposed to work and take pride in what he does no matter what the work is.
18. If anybody else can learn to read, I can too. I've been working hard all of my life. My first day of school was January 4, 1996. I was 98 years old and I'm still

Obituary

Howard

The Family of the late Mrs. Hazel Howard would like to thank all who participated with the services during the death of their love one. A special thank you goes out to Rev. Clifton Garden, JR Apostle Shears, and the United House of Prayer, Roundtree and Associates Funeral Home for their professional services. May God bless all of you.

Mr. Roescoe Howard & Family

Ross

The Family of the late Rev. Marvin "Jimmy" Ross would like to thank all who participated with the services during the death of their loved one. A special thank you goes out to Rev. James Lindsay, and the New Wynn Chapel MB Church, Bethel and Roundtree and Associates Funeral Home for their professional service. May God truly bless all of you.

Mrs. Lavern Ross & Family

Mrs. Minnie Taft Shields

Mrs. Minnie Taft Shields, 83 of Beverly Health Care Nursing Home, Greenville died Wednesday, June 14, 2000. Funeral services was held on Monday, June 19, 2000 at Warren Chapel FWB Church, Winterville, NC. Burial was followed in the Crawford Family Cemetery, Bell Arthur, NC. Mrs. Shields was born and reared in Pitt County and attended the county schools. She was a member of First Born Holiness Church, Grimesland, NC. She is survived by three sons: James E. Shields, Bowling Green, Kentucky, Edward E. Shields, Indian and Willie Ray Taft, Ayden. Four daughters; Four daughters, Martha Brown, Joann Moore and Cora Mae Taft Culpeper, Ernie Mae Taft, Ayden. She has twenty-seven grandchildren and fifteen great grade children and several great great grandchildren. Services was held on Sunday, June 18 at Done Brown Funeral Home. Funeral arrangement are being handled by Don Brown Funeral Home.

Mrs. Odessa V. Vance Garris

Mrs. Odessa V. Vance Garris, 74 of 15 Belvedere Court, Ayden, died Tuesday, June 13, 2000 at Britthaven Nursing Home, Ayden. Mrs. Garris was born and reared in Pitt County and attended the county schools. She was a member of Zion Chapel FWB Church.

Mrs. Garris is survived by four sons: Danny Garris of the home, Norwood Garris, Ayden, NC, Louis Garris, Baltimore, Maryland, and Milton Garris, Columbus, GA. One daughter: Phyllis Garris Acheampong, East Hartford, Conn., one brother: Dr. James E. Vance, Kinston, NC, one sister: Evangelist Hattie Mae Wellington, Atlanta, GA, eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Taylor

The Family of the late Mrs. Bernice White Taylor would like to thank all who participated with the services during the death of their loved one.

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Words of Faith



Svejette A. Jones

Pentecost throughout the entire age, all the other servants were to be chosen by the brethren themselves as they were needed, and as there were opportunities to serve.

The scriptural term, 'elder', applies generally to all who serve the church along spiritual lines. A pastor, a teacher, an evangelist, or a prophet would come under the general designation of 'elder'. The Greek word *presbuteros*, from which it is translated, signifies one who is mature. In the church it would describe one who is recognized as being sound in the faith and spiritually mature in experience.

The word 'bishop' is also used in the New Testament, and is applied to servants elected by the church. The Greek word *episkopos* from which it is translated means 'superintendent' or 'overseer'. All elders are properly, according to opportunity and ability, overseers in the church; for it is their duty to watch over the flock of God and care for their needs, particularly along spiritual lines.

The word 'deacon' appears a few times in connection with the arrangements of the Early Church. It is a translation of a Greek word *diakonos*, which means to 'run errands' or give assistance. The indications are that deacons were appointed to help with the material arrangements of the church. The first of these to be appointed were in the church at Jerusalem (Acts 6:2-4).

The scriptural qualifications for those who can properly be elected by a congregation to serve as

elders, or bishops, and deacons are set forth by Paul in I Timothy 3:1-13. In these qualifications, the expression 'apt to teach' implies a proper understanding of the truth of the divine plan as taught in the Bible. Any group of consecrated brethren, large or small, which has brethren who meet qualifications is authorized by the Scriptures to elect them to these services. When this is done, these appointments are recog-

nized by the Lord.

The Scriptures make it clear that no group of Christians need to look to a parent church for authority to elect servants, hold meetings, and carry on the work of the Lord in its community. Nor do congregations need to be large in order to exercise their liberty along these lines. The Biblical record is that many of the churches, or groups of Christians, in Apostolic times were organized in the homes of believers, who held their regular meetings in these homes. The same thing is being done today. And now, as in the past, the Lord is richly blessing those who find others with whom they can cooperate as a group or within the scriptural meaning, a church. These can elect their own servants by the simple method of stretching forth the hand. No membership roll is needed, nor is such authorized by the Scriptures. The church is not a building, although the word church is used to denote the place where a congregation meets. If the expressions "meeting house" were more universally used to describe the gathering place of congregation, it might help to lessen some of the misunderstanding which prevails concerning the true significance of the word church itself.

There is not much information in the Scriptures to indicate the nature of the meetings held by the various groups in the Early Church. Certainly the apostles, and others, on occasions gave discourses. But profitable meetings can be held even though there may be no one qualified to

preach a sermon. Meetings for Bible study in which all present have an opportunity to express their thoughts or ask questions are very helpful. An elder, if one has been selected, should serve to keep the study orderly. Prayer and testimony meetings are also spiritually profitable to those who are seriously endeavoring to know and to do God's will.

Mrs. Gertrude Langford Hill 100th Birthday Celebration

100 Birthday Celebration for Mrs. Gertrude Langford Hill

Mrs. Gertrude Langford Hill was born in Potocasi, North Carolina on May 28, 1900. Mrs. Hill was the second child of George and Ida Futrell's ten children. Her brothers and sisters are Willie, Charlie, Maynard, Clyde, Otis, Claudia, Ulysses, George and Josephine. Her pursuit for knowledge began at an early age. She attended schools in North Hampton County and graduated from P.W. Moore High School in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Elizabeth City State Teachers College.

Gertrude and Albert Clinton Hill were united in marriage on June 12, 1921. To this union three children were born: Albert Clinton Jr., George Warren and Doris Mable. During all of the Hills fifty-eight years of marriage, Mrs. Hill was a caring and devoted wife and mother.

Her professional career as an educator for the State of North Carolina spanned thirty-seven years. After her retirement she

was in demand as a substitute teacher for several years until she devoted all of her time to caring for her ailing husband.

Mrs. Hill was the recipient of many awards from North Carolina in addition to awards and certificates of Appreciation from other organizations.

Mrs. Hill, a Christian woman, accepted Christ at an early age when she attended Second Baptist Church in Potocasi, North Carolina. She was an active member of Corner Stone Baptist Church in Elizabeth City for more than seven decades. She sang in the Senior Choir and participated in many church activities. Each day she thanks God for her many Blessings.

At age 81, Mrs. Hill came to San Antonio, Texas to be near her daughter, Mrs. Doris Hill Horne Ellison. She immediately joined Mt. Zion First Baptist Church which was under the pastorship of Rev. C.W. Black Jr. She is currently a member of Mt. Zion Courtesy Committee, Mission 19 (now 4), Circle of Elders and Mount Zion Widows Group. She has served as treasurer for Mt. Zion Mission 19 and worked with

Mt. Zion First Baptist Vacation Bible School. She was the recipient of a Certificate of Appreciation from Mt. Zion Baptist for participation in the Art Gallery Exhibition on October 18-30, 1997. She is a member of the San Antonio Area Retired Teachers Association, Texas State Teachers Association, Senior Friends, AARP, North Carolina Government Employees Associations, Windcrest Garden Club and Windcrest Women's Club. The Altrusa Social Club selected her as Mother of the Year, 1990.

Mrs. Hill's hobbies include reading, gardening, sewing, traveling and quilting.

Mrs. Hill has four grandchildren: Greg Alexander Hill, Patricia Hill Moore, Darrell Keith Horne and Yvonne Horne Clemons, and eight great grandchildren: Kendra Janila, Cherayna Alexa, Kierra, Gene Jr., Faith, Albert, Darrell Keith II and Darcy Keandrea along with numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Mrs. Hill, virtuous, loving, friendly and righteous, can certainly be described as a most remarkable woman.



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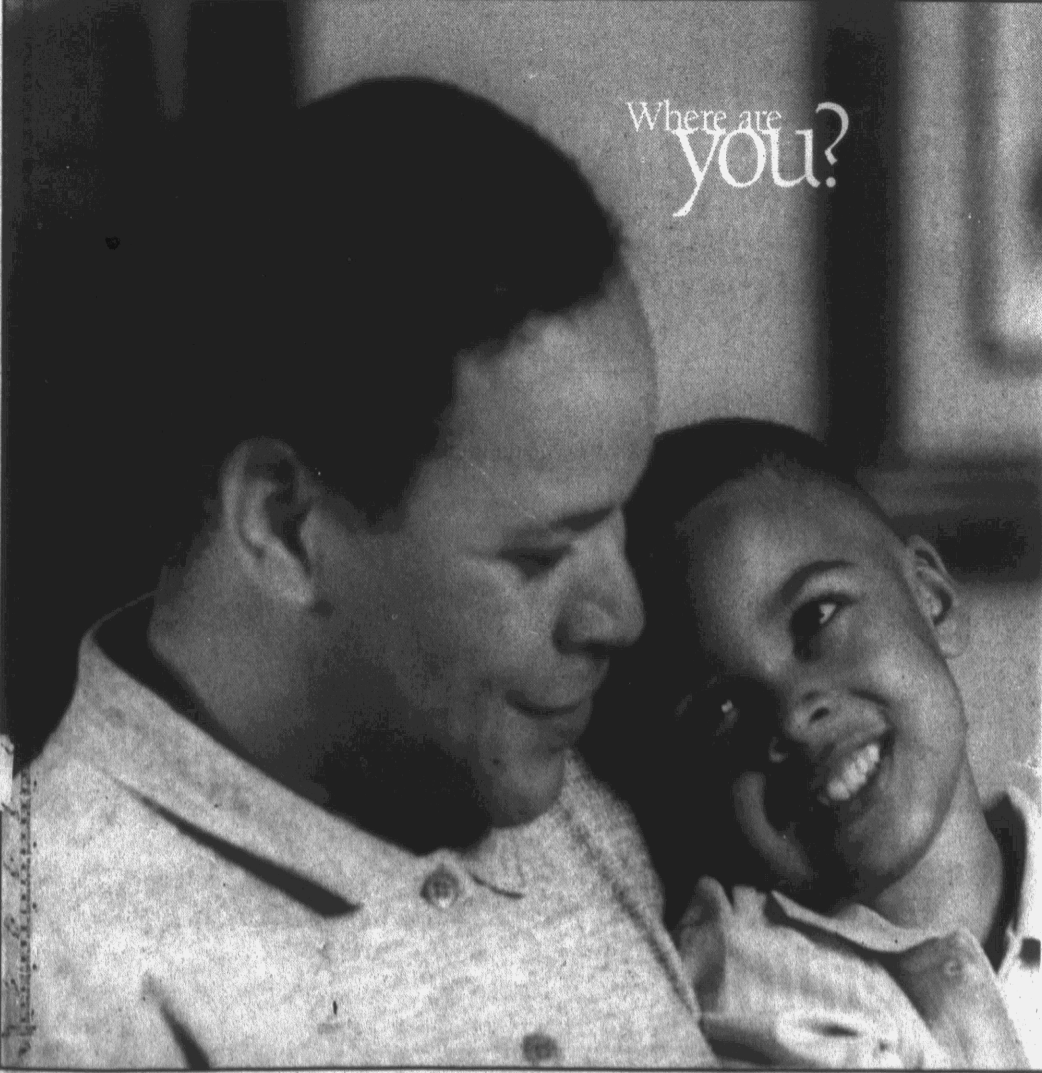
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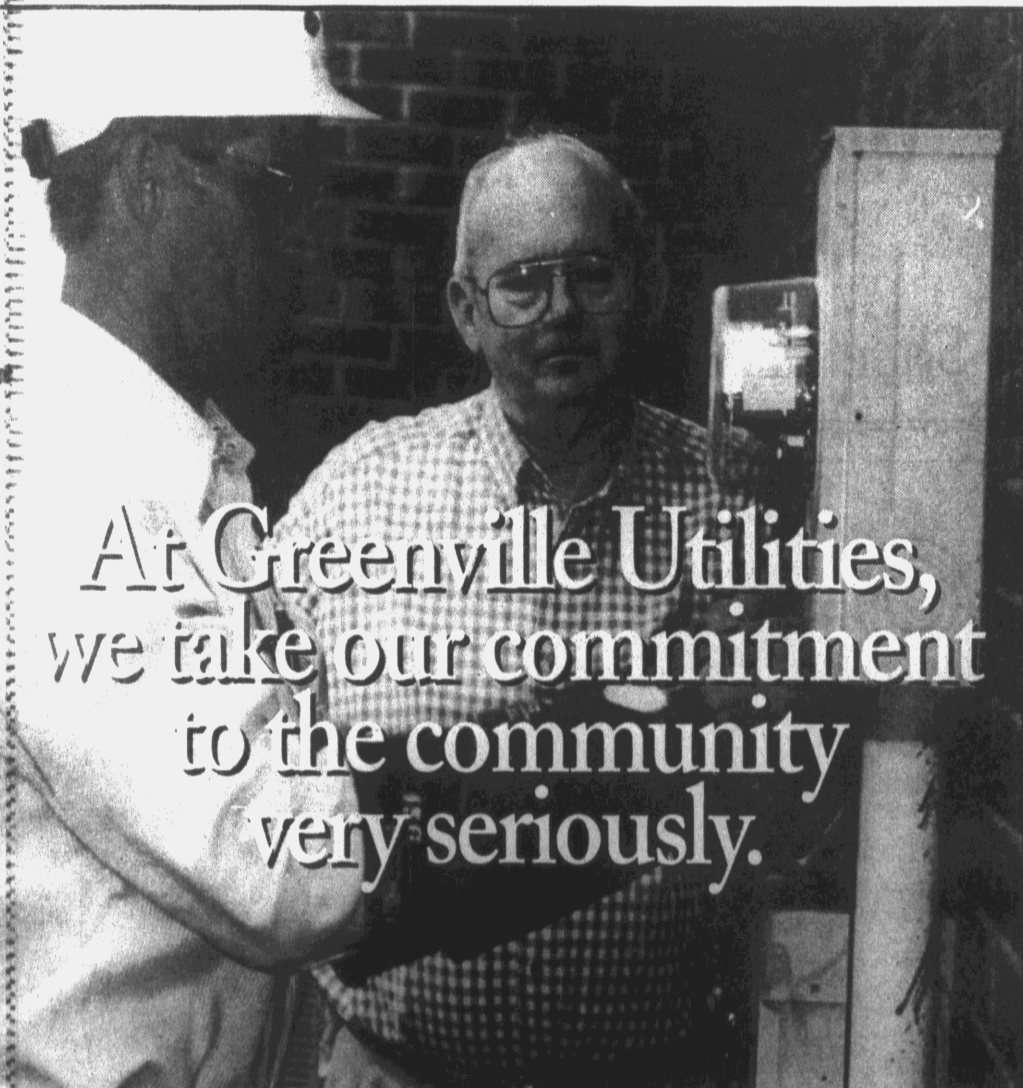
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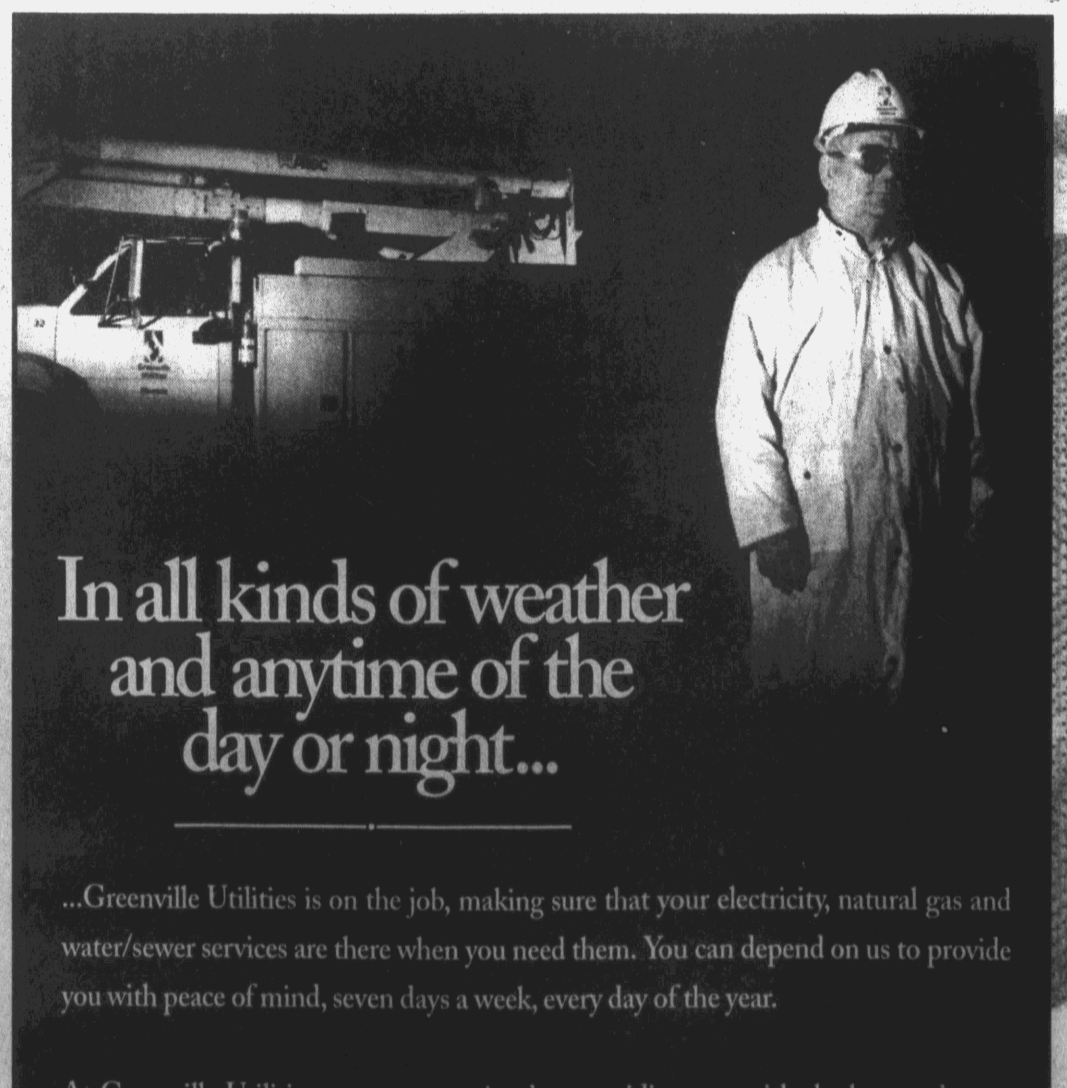
West Greenville CDC Awards Banquet



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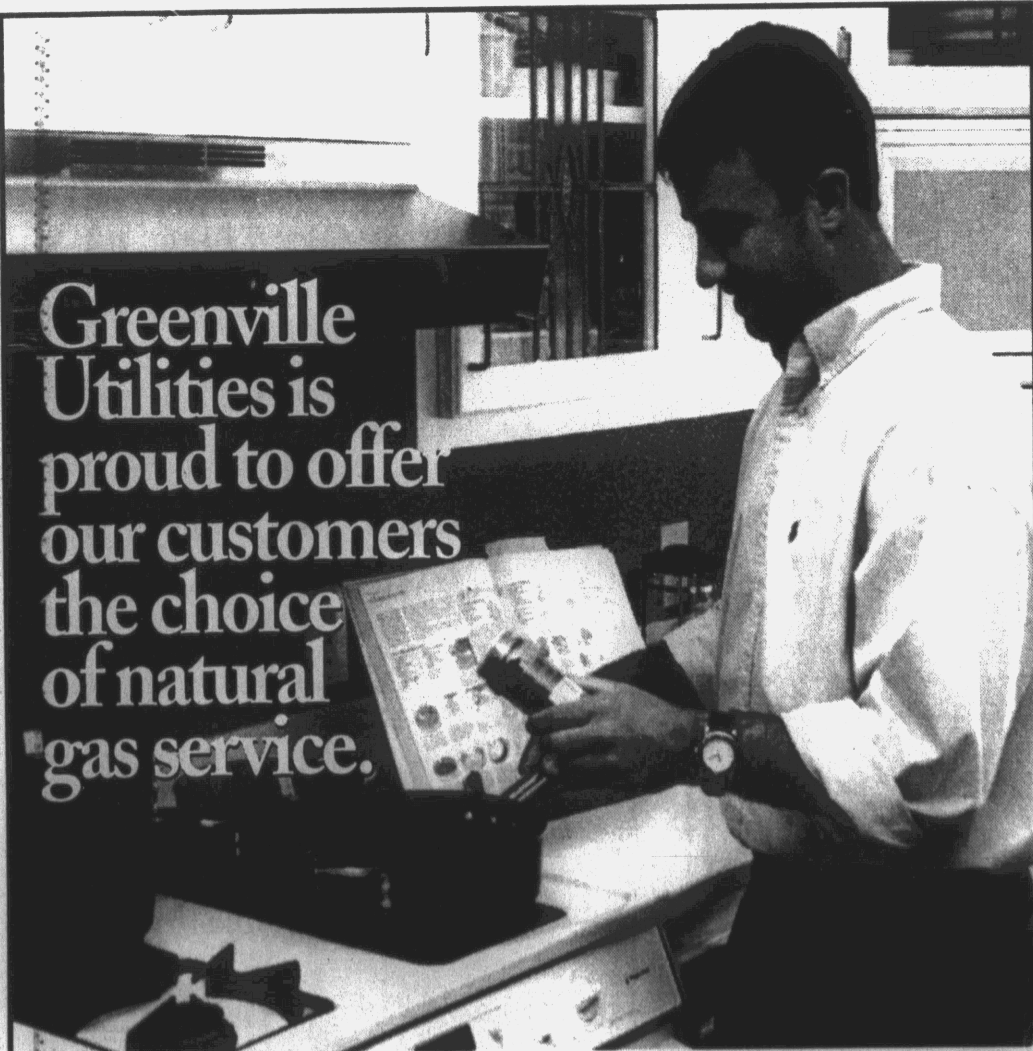
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Jackie Robinson Baseball League



Date	Time	Place	Home	Visitor	Date	Time	Place	Home	Visitor
Sat., June 24	10:00 AM	GSS	The Max "Yankees"	GHA "Stars"	Mon., June 26	6:00 PM	EPPES	Northcare "Grays"	The Max "Yankees"
	10:00 AM	Eppes	10th Masonic "Cubs"	Chick-Fil-a "Athletics"	Tues., June 27	6:00 PM	EPPES	Chick-Fil-A "Athletics"	Sertoma "Hornets"
	12:00 PM	GSS	Philippi "Eagles"	Sertoma "Hornets"	Wed., June 28	6:00 PM	EPPES	GHA "Stars"	NorthCare "Grays"
	12:00 PM	Eppes	North Care "Grays"	DST "Red Sox"	Thu., June 29	6:00 PM	EPPES	DST "Red Sox"	10th Masonic "Cubs"

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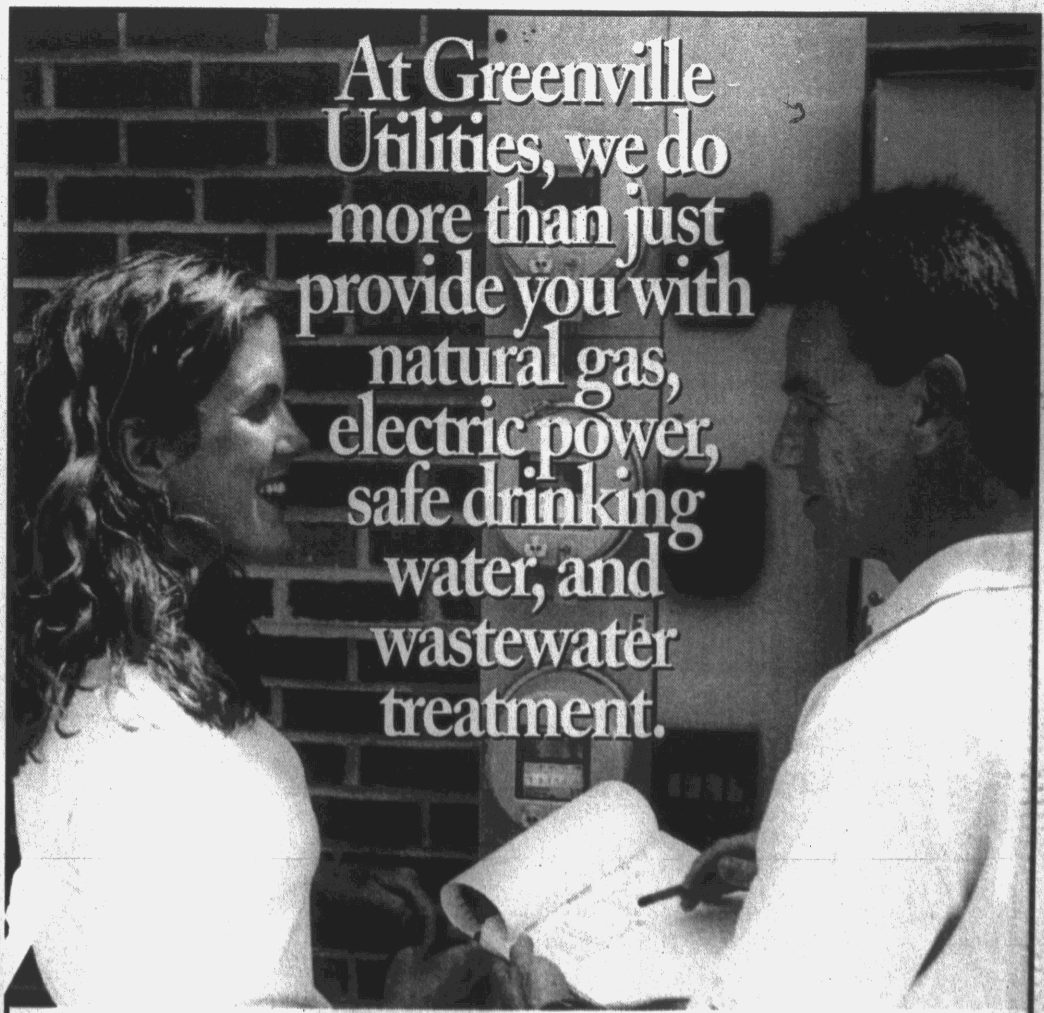
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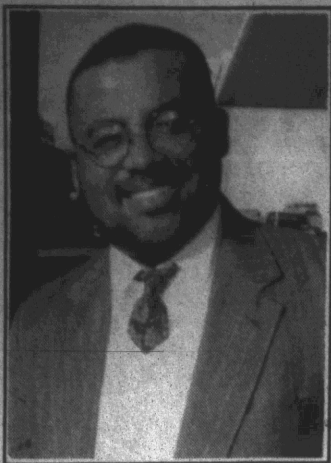
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Keith Cooper

On Monday, June 5, I addressed the Pitt County Board of Commissioners on another issue relating to helping our most vulnerable senior citizens in Pitt County. I asked them to set aside a fund to help seniors pay for the exorbitant cost of prescription drugs. By the way, Medicare does not cover the cost of prescription drugs beyond the hospital.

Clinton, Congresswoman Clayton, and others are fighting to change this through legislation. Let's have compassion on our seniors.

It's a shame that too many seniors have to choose between the monthly rent and life-sustaining medication. As a matter of fact, many seniors habitually break pills to stretch them during times of critical need. Since most of our seniors are on fixed income, they don't have too much money left after they pay for basic necessities each month. When seniors are forced to spend a large percentage

of their income on prescription drugs in a county abundant in financial resources, something is wrong. What happened to compassion?

I've heard testimonies of seniors having to resort to dog food after their meager income has been depleted. This is unconscionable. I'm sure many people know financially strained seniors who use four or more prescription drugs during the month.

Since numerous seniors suffer from chronic illnesses like diabetes, hypertension, cancer, and osteoarthritis, they sometimes have a nervous breakdown when

the extra money for drugs just isn't there. Where's our compassion?

Soon, I plan to address the Pitt County Board of Commissioners again to search for some compassion. I will ask them to establish a Prescription Drugs Supplemental Fund for Seniors. Commissioners may organize a task force to determine the specific criteria for making seniors eligible to receive monies for drugs. Meanwhile, I'll give each commissioner a detailed proposal to steer them in the right direction.

If commissioners can find \$800,000 to build a new animal shelter in this county, they can find funds for the seniors, who are more precious than any dog or cat. There are so many funding options available for anyone serious about helping senior citizens help themselves. For example, the county government has received \$22.5 million from the transfer of PCMH from a public to a private institution. The county is due another \$7.5 million by August of this year. Part of this money could be placed in the aforesaid supplemental fund. If the commissioners have difficulty finding funds, they may wish to tap into the contingency fund (emergency) since helping down-and-out seniors subsidize the cost of medication is an emergency. The fund is generally in excess of \$100,000.

Coalitions must be built with Social Services, the Council on Aging, businesses, the faith community, and others who wish to rescue those seniors drowning in a sea of despair, hopelessness, and financial hardship. Let's not wait on the Federal government to act. Indeed, charity begins at home in

Pitt County.

Our senescent population has paid its dues to this county. Without them, we would not be alive to enjoy a joyous life. We can't afford to leave them out in the cold.

Instead, we must bring them inside to the warmth of love and compassion. The government has the means to give seniors an oasis of hope. The honorable President John F. Kennedy was right when, in 1961, he vociferously stated the following: "If a free society cannot help the many who are poor; it cannot save the few who are rich."

Classifieds

GROUNDS KEEPER

Part time grounds keeper position now available. Applicants should have working knowledge and experience with the operation of farm tractors and equipment as well as lawn mowers and other lawn maintenance equipment. Valid North Carolina Drivers License Required. Applications will be taken at the Administration Offices of the Pitt Greenville Airport. Closing date for applications is June 30, 2000.

Maintenance Assistant :

Full-time maintenance assistant position now available. Applicant should have documentation and general working knowledge in the areas of basic plumbing, mechanical, and electrical trades. Applicants should also have experience in automotive repair and farm equipment operation. Valid North Carolina Drivers License Required. Position will work under senior maintenance personnel. Applications will be taken at the Administration Offices of the Pitt-Greenville Airport. Closing date for applications is June 30th



Praise the Lord! Gospel singer Debra Dixon is shown with Brother Ed Jones from WOOW Joy 1340 AM Radio, dropping off a copy of her solo release. Sister Dixon is the sister of Rev. Micheal Dixon a board member on the Pitt County Board of Education.

Read The "M" Voice !

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Where: Washington, DC
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Breaking the Silence

This event could save the life of someone you love!

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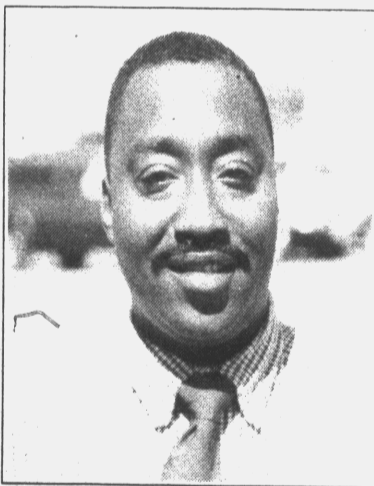
Event: "BREAKING THE SILENCE!"
"A CALL TO ACTION"
Date: TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2000
Time: 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Place: Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall 1001 Hooker Rd; Greenville, NC
27834 Dr. Howard Parker, Jr. Pastor
For further information contact:
Pat Townsend 252 695-2020

Come do your part.....
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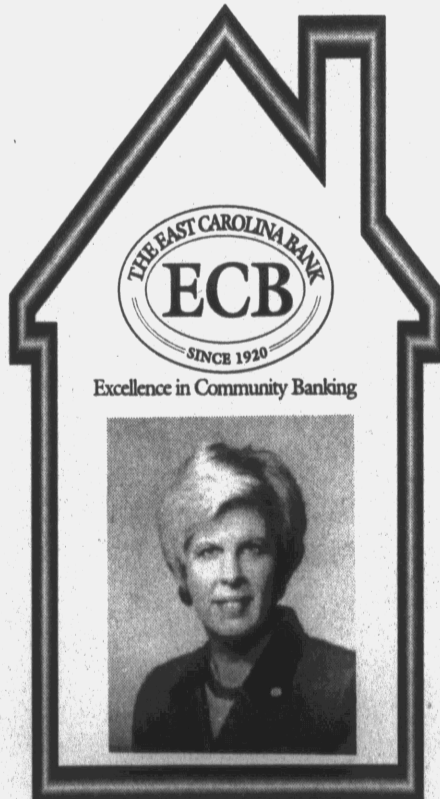


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24th Anniversary Carol Wilson Caldwell Memorial Foundation

Working to Eliminate the Death Tax

by Rep. Walter Jones

There is a saying that only in America can an individual be given a certificate at birth, a license at marriage, and a bill at death. The bill comes in the form of an estate tax, which is more commonly called the "death" tax.

The current tax system can devastate a person's life savings. At the time of death, the federal government taxes personal property at rates as high as 55-percent. Small businesses and family farms, like those in Eastern North Carolina, are particularly vulnerable to the death tax. While these

enterprises are typically rich in assets, they often do not have the liquid resources to settle their death tax bill with the federal government.

As a result, many family farmers and small business owners are often forced to sell some or all of their land or business. For many families, this constitutes more than just their job, but their livelihood as well.

Despite its often-devastating impact on our nation's families, the death tax is now the federal government's least significant revenue source. The Treasury Department reported that in Fiscal

Year 1998, the death tax raised just \$24.6 billion, which counts to only 1.3 percent of total federal revenues.

I am proud to report that Congress is working to eliminate the death tax. Last week, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 8, the Death Tax Elimination Act, which would repeal the death tax over a period of 10 years. This bill is a win for our consumers, small businesses, family farms, and loving families who have enough to think about when there is a death in the family. Paying the federal government should not be part of the grieving process.



Minority Business Expo Sept. 9th

**Pregnant?
Have a baby or small children?
Need healthy food?
Want free nutrition advice?
Call WIC 413-1393**



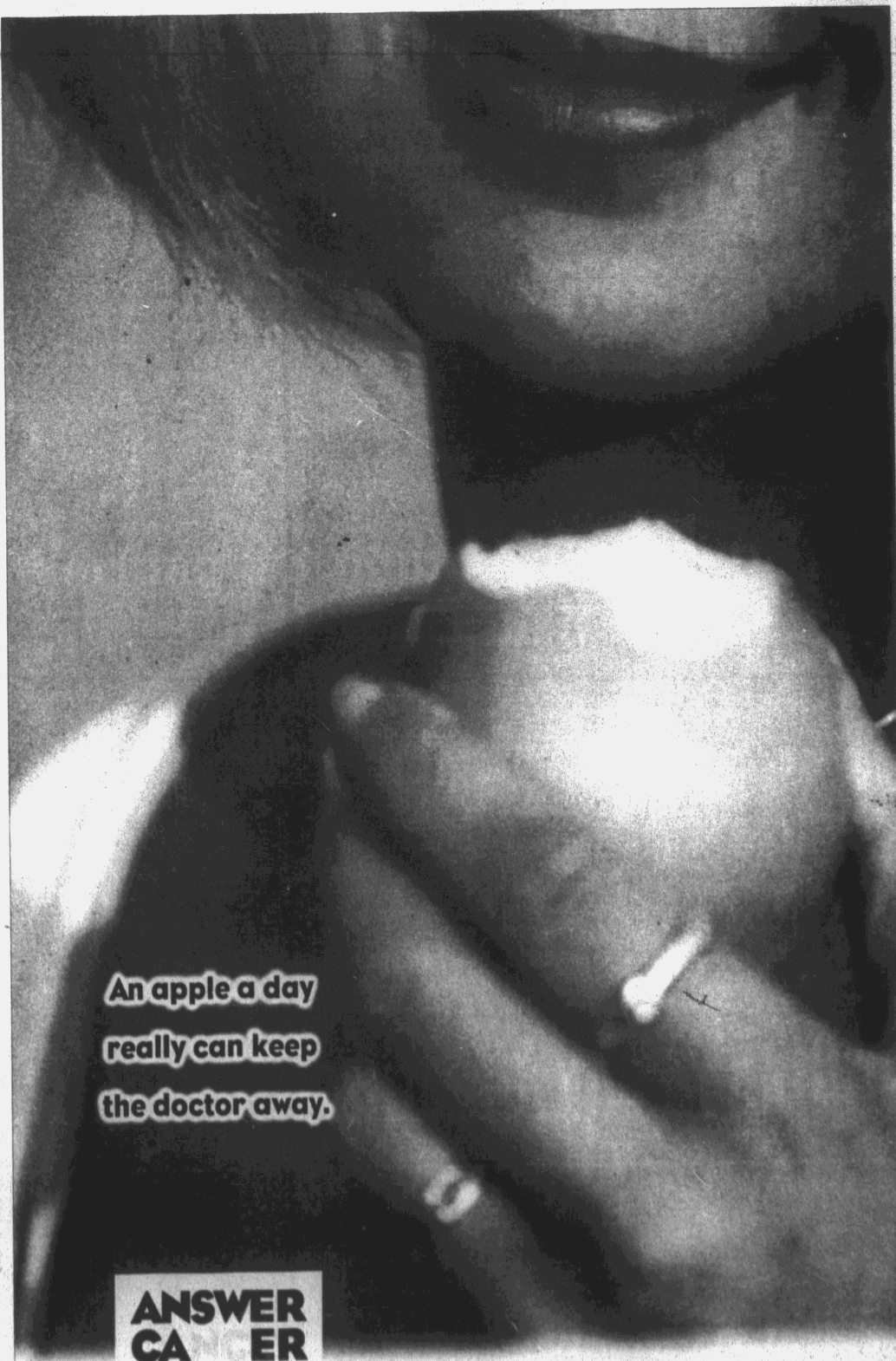
What is WIC?
WIC (Women, Infants and Children) is a food and nutrition program whose mission is to help you have a healthy pregnancy, baby, and child. WIC has been around for 25 years and has improved the quality of life for thousands of babies and children.

Research has proved that WIC helps **children (ages 1-5)** that get on and stay on the program do better when they reach school.

WIC provides at no cost:
milk, juice, cheese, dried beans and peas, infant formula, eggs, cereal, peanut butter, infant cereal, tuna and carrots (for breastfeeding women).
Call WIC 413-1393 and see if you are eligible for this valuable program.
WIC is a USDA program & prohibits discrimination in program administration.

Twenty four years ago, the Foundation was organized as an instrument to continue to perpetuate the many unfulfilled dreams and aspirations of Carol Wilson Caldwell who died at the tender age of 30 in 1976.

The Foundation also promotes Charitable, Civic and Cultural causes. The Foundation awarded some seven financial awards at a banquet on June 10th. The Banquet was held at East Carolina University's Willis Building at 7:00 PM. The Keynote Speaker was Dr. A. Dennis McBride.



**An apple a day
really can keep
the doctor away.**

**ANSWER
CANCER**

Eating 5 servings of fruits and vegetables a day could reduce your risk for cancer. Cancer is scary. But by taking a little time to think about it today, you can reduce your risk for having to live with it tomorrow. So eat those apples (and cabbage and carrots and bananas and...). Maintain a healthy diet with 5 servings of fruits and vegetables a day and join the many North Carolinians who have decided to Answer Cancer. It's up to you.

North Carolina Advisory Committee on Cancer Coordination and Control

The Minority Voice Rocky Mount Edition Coming Soon!



Millie Jackson shown above, still sensational and talking trash at Shacks, formally known as the Historical Brown's restaurant !



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