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When A Woman's Fed Up

Labor Day Reunion

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JULY 16, 2001 - JULY 30, 2001

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The Desk of Mrs Beatrice Maye

WAL-MART CUSTOMER SUES OVER RACIAL SLUR PRINTED ON RECEIPT

Charlottesville, Va. (AP)..... A Wal-Mart customer has sued the company over a racial slur printed on a receipt she received from a Charlottesville-area store, it was learned last week.

Sherita Grady, 29, filed the lawsuit in US District Court in Charlottesville, alleging the store violated laws designed to protect blacks from intimidation.

The layaway receipt for a television set contains a racial epithet for a street name. Grady is black.

"We are as upset about this as anybody could be. If we knew who did this, we would fire them in a minute," said Bill Wertz, spokesman for Wal-Mart at the company's Bentonville, Ark., headquarters.

Grady went to the store to

buy a TV for her daughter for Christmas 2000, said her attorney, John Davidson. She made a payment and placed the set on a layaway plan.

Davidson said a white woman handed Grady the layaway receipt but it wasn't until several weeks later that Grady, preparing to make another payment on the TV, noticed the racial slur.

The lawsuit, filed in February, does not seek specific monetary damages.

"That would be up to the jury to decide," said Davidson. "She just doesn't want this to happen to anybody else."

Wertz acknowledged that someone at the store typed Grady's name and address into a computer, substituting a racial slur for her address.

One person working in the department where the TV was sold had logged onto the computer, but all four people in the department shared the computer, he said. Three of the employees are still with the company.

"We have not been able to determine who typed this offending information into the system," Wertz said, adding that the investigation was continuing.

"This type of behavior violates a basic principle of the company, which is respect for the individual," he said.

Wertz said a financial settlement was offered to Grady before the lawsuit was filed. Grady turned down the offer. Wertz declined to disclose the amount.

Commission Proposed To Study Reparations In New York

by: Charles Brooks

The reparations movement has been growing stronger and gaining momentum in recent months as grassroots organizations and high-profile attorneys continue to push the issue. But lately, elected officials nationwide are joining the campaign to compensate the descendants of African-American slaves for 250 years of chattel

slavery and 100 years of subsequent legal segregation.

Recently, a group of lawmakers in Albany has also joined the effort to secure reparations. New York state Assemb. Roger Green, who serves as president of the Assembly's Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus, has proposed a bill that would essentially establish a nine-member com-

mission to determine the debt owed to African-Americans who ancestors were slaves in the New York area during the 18th & 19th centuries. "There are three principles involved in this legislation: to expose the truth of slavery in New York and the colonies, move toward reconciliation and move towards closure. If you look at history, this was never accomplished,"

cont. page 5

Church Bombing Figure Found To Be Incompetent

By KEVIN SACK
New York Times

ATLANTA, July 16 — An Alabama judge all but ended the prosecution of the 1963 Birmingham church bombing case today by ruling that the sole remaining defendant, Bobby Frank Cherry, was mentally incompetent to stand trial.

After hearing conflicting testimony from four mental health experts in a two-day hearing last week, Judge James Garrett of Jefferson County Circuit Court in

Birmingham ruled late today that Mr. Cherry's dementia was too severe for him to help his lawyers.

Without elaborating, Judge Garrett ordered yet another round of psychological testing for Mr. Cherry, who has already been examined four times this year, but lawyers on both sides said they could not imagine that further testing would persuade the judge to reverse his ruling.

Mr. Cherry, 72, is a former Ku Klux Klansman who has been suspected of involvement since shortly after the

Sept. 15, 1963, explosion at the 16th Street Baptist Church, where four black girls were killed in a basement lounge. He was indicted for murder last year, 37 years after the attack, along with Thomas E. Blanton, another former Klansman. Shortly before that trial, however, defense lawyers gave Judge Garrett test results that suggested that Mr. Cherry might be incompetent, and the judge indefinitely postponed the case against him.

Despite the passage of time and the death of key witnesses, a Birmingham jury convicted Mr. Blanton, 62, after a two-week trial in May. Prosecutors won a critical ruling from Judge Garrett that allowed them to play secretly recorded F.B.I. tapes of conversations in which Mr. Blanton spoke generally about playing a role in civil rights bombings. But the age of the crime ultimately caught up with prosecutors in the case against Mr. Cherry.

"We're disappointed," said Doug Jones, the former United States attorney who directed the prosecution of Mr. Blanton. "But whenever you're dealing with a case this old, it should be no surprise that things like this come up, whether a physical or mental condition or even death."

Mr. Jones left the federal prosecutor's office for private practice shortly after the Blanton trial, but had

been appointed to prosecute Mr. Cherry as well. He said he doubted that further testing would demonstrate Mr. Cherry's mental competence to the judge's satisfaction.

"We're assuming at this point under the rules of procedure that the only thing left for the court to find is whether or not there's a substantial probability that he can be restored to competence through medication or other treatment," Mr. Jones said. "My recollection of most of the testimony was that everyone agreed he suffered from some sort of dementia, either mild or moderate, and the testimony of the doctors was that this is a progressive disease. So we don't have a lot of hope that he will be restored to competence."

Rodger D. Bass, one of Mr. Cherry's lawyers, said he could not understand the point of further testing. "I guess they want a fifth, sixth, eighth opinion," Mr. Bass said. "I intend to say, 'Judge, what do you want? Let's just cut his head open and see what's in there.'" Mr. Bass said Mr. Cherry did not understand the import of the news. "He doesn't understand what's going on," Mr. Bass said. "He thought it meant he was going to have to turn himself in and go to prison. He said, 'What am I going to do with Mama?'"

Sarah Collins Rudolph, who lost her sister, Addie Mae, in the blast and also

lost the sight in one eye, said she was disappointed in the ruling.

"I tell you, we're just not satisfied with that because we felt he was competent to stand trial," Ms. Randolph said. "I feel like it just wasn't fair."

Alpha Robertson, the mother of one of the victims, Carole Robertson, said she remained hopeful about the next round of testing. "We'll just wait on that," Ms. Robertson said. "I don't really have too high hopes that he'll be tried, but he'll have to pay for it eventually so we'll just have to wait and see."

The other two victims were Denise McNair and Cynthia Wesley. All were 14 or younger.

The F.B.I. initially identified two other suspects in the case, though law enforcement officials acknowledge that they do not know how many might have been involved in planning and executing the bombing. The suspected ringleader, Robert Chambliss, lived free until 1977, when he was tried, convicted and sentenced to life. He died in prison eight years later. The fourth suspect, Herman Cash, died in 1994 without ever being tried.

Mr. Jones said today that the prosecution clearly suffered because of the high standard of proof demanded under Alabama law. Once a defendant demonstrates he is incompetent, as was the



GOOD FOOD, GOOD FUN GOOD TIMES.....Pictured above is Bernadette Stanis with Monte (owner of Monte's Restaurant) posing for the M' Voice camera. Ms Stanis who is known for her role in the TV sitcom Good Times took a break for lunch at the #1 soul food restaurant in Eastern North Carolina.



Hot Fun In The Summer Time... pictured above is the founder of Grifton Beach, Mr Tillery. The beach is now called Liberty Beach. Archive photo M' Voice

The M' Voice Newspaper

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EDITORIALS

A fitting farewell for a scoundrel

We hope no one ever considers him a martyr, but Timothy McVeigh still got his way. He reportedly wanted to be killed by the government and he was — fatally, lethally injected with three different types of drugs. Even though *The Tri-State Defender* has taken a firm stance against the death penalty because it is patently racist and biased against Blacks and other minorities, it was fitting punishment for the unrepentant, boastful arrogant tyrannical Gulf War veteran whose insane act at the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City six years ago took many more American lives than did Saddam Hussein's troops in all of the Gulf War. There was no racial issue here: McVeigh was White, not retarded and privileged. But,

there are still more than a dozen men on the federal Death Row in America, none of them for crimes as heinous as McVeigh's, most of them minorities. The U.S. Justice Department found just last year that minorities are disproportionately represented on the federal Death Row — 74 percent of the defendants for whom prosecutors sought death were minority — and only three White and three Hispanics, but 14 Blacks are currently facing a date with the Grim Reaper. McVeigh's was the first federal execution in nearly 40 years. We hope it will be the last, unless the crime an inmate is sentenced for is one of such magnitude, the guilt so unquestionable — as in the McVeigh case — that to let such a person live might undermine the very meaning of justice.

Here's a blueprint for school reform

The latest edition of the nation's report card released last month paints a dismal picture of how Black youngsters are doing in school. According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, nearly two out of every three Black children in the fourth grade read below the basic level. That means they can state a simple fact about a story they read, but can't analyze it. Those pitiable skills, if one may use that word here, won't get them very far in the 21st century economy. That sort of poor performance is disgraceful, and unacceptable. My harsh words aren't directed toward the children. Children want to do well. When large numbers of them fail, it's because adults — school administrators, teachers, parents, and their larger community — have failed them. We know it doesn't have to be this way. Poorly performing public schools can be turned around if the adults around the children mobilize to do so; if adults say: 'No more excuses for school failure.' This is not to glibly dismiss the problems that many poorly performing public schools, often located in impoverished communities and neighborhoods, must wrestle with. In fact, my point is just the opposite. It is to say that the impact of "outside" problems of poverty on school pupils' scholastic performance can be overcome if a community mobilizes to save the children. That's not the rhetoric of a Pollyanna. It's based on hard facts — in the current case, the standardized tests results in reading for fourth graders in the Mount Vernon, N.Y. public schools. In recent decades, the public schools languished in Mount Vernon, a Westchester County suburb of New York City, whose school district is predominately Black and where 60 percent of the public schools are poor. The evidence was seen in the students at an early age. Three years ago, just one-third of the fourth graders met the state fourth-grade reading standards. Two years ago, the Mount Vernon community set out to turn things around. First, citizens elected a new school board. Then, that school board fired the old superintendent — who had been there 25 years — and brought in Ronald O. Ross, a former teacher and principal in the New York City, and Hempstead, Long Island schools. Third, Ross, with the help of an energized school staff and a mobilized community, started to set things right by declaring that he would not accept excuses for minority and poor children not doing well academically. This year the fruits of that community-wide

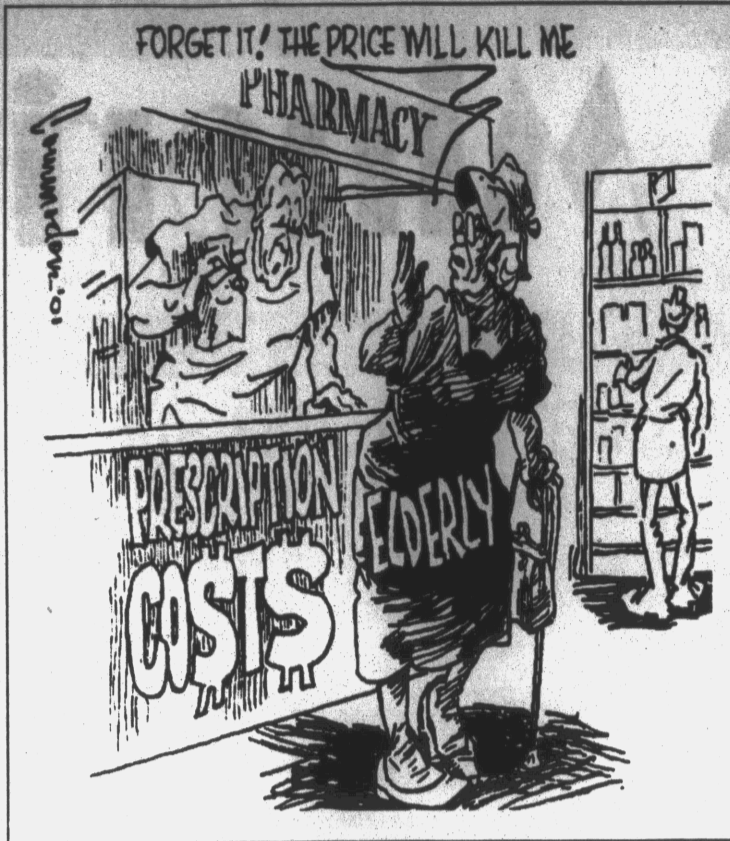
policy stunned educators across the state. This year the results of the state fourth-grade reading tests showed: that Mount Vernon schools included three of the state's most improved schools; that several Mount Vernon schools had more than doubled the percentage of students passing the test since 1999; that in one school the percentage of students exceeding state standards soared from 21 percent to 60 percent, and topped 90 percent in two other schools; and that system-wide, the percentage of pupils exceeding state standards — remember, only 33 percent three years ago — is now 77 percent. What has happened in Mount Vernon shows the power of high standards at work. Ross said he would not accept failure, and the school district backed him by doubling its investment in professional development for teachers, hiring curriculum specialists to help principals and teachers plan a coordinated effort to improve pupil performance, and adjusting teachers' schedules so that they'd have the time to plan effectively. And they increased the standards for writing and reading in each of the early grades, and made sure students got the proper instruction and the necessary help to do well. For example, all fourth graders are now expected to write a convincing essay and be able to understand the main point of a story. Parents are directly involved, too. After the first grade, all students are expected to write in a journal each night, and they carry home with them forms that an adult must sign, confirming that each student has read at home for thirty minutes. I am even more pleased about the Mount Vernon effort because two stalwart Urban Leaguers are playing significant supportive roles in it. The Rev. Dr. W. Franklin Richardson, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, in Mount Vernon, and Ernest Prince, the head of the Urban League of Westchester County, our affiliate there, are among the leaders of the African-American Leadership Forum of Westchester County. The Forum has vigorously backed the changes made in the schools and supported the continuation of state standardized tests in reading and other subjects. Their involvement, and that of the entire Mount Vernon community, exemplifies what can happen when you wed high standards with high adult expectations of young people and the resources necessary to help young people do well. When adults do that, they ratify what is the natural inclination of children: To strive to do their best. (Guest editorial by Hugh Price, president, National Urban League.)

As we see it, each one should teach one

We all have, or should have, a stake in the complete and thorough education of our children. We cannot merely leave it up to the educators and administrators. As hard as they try, they cannot do it all. Parents, you must try — because you are charged with helping produce the best and most educated, well-versed off-spring that you can; older brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles and other members of the extended family, because you may have the experience in school and/or the expertise to help mentor a child who needs it; and the community and its organizations, because a wise and educationally well-equipped child makes for a better citizen and resident. We all can help make our schools safer and

more efficient repositories for what they are supposed to produce: educated, knowledgeable young men and women who are patently prepared for the workplace, be it in a White — or blue-collar positions, and productive citizens who will be an asset to their community and nation. We are quite confident that the administrators will do their level best to bring to the fore the kind of school system and schools that will produce "fruit that will last." But, at the end of the day, it is still the individual student's, his parents' and the community's ultimate responsibility to educate our children. There can be no real and true educational reform and progress without you. As the old African axiom says: It takes a village to raise a child. Or, each one teach one.

OPINION



COMMENTS

Children, you can be all The Creator made you to be

by Rev. Gregory Guice

Children: I felt motivated to write this letter to you after I became disturbed by the way so many members of our society — men, women, teachers and even preachers — were complaining about you. I know that you have heard their comments before: "What's wrong with our children?...They're a lost generation...They have no sense of direction...They don't care about anything, not even themselves...No respect...They don't listen, don't want to learn...Half of them should be locked up....Hip-hop gangsta-wanna-be..." Finally, I felt an urge to speak out, not to my adult peers, educators, politicians or parents, but to you — the future of our society. I hope that you will feel the ideas that I am trying to express. I hope that you will understand my thoughts for you. First, let me begin by saying that I know that God has blessed you with so much potential and so many talents. Your generation will be the one that will carry us forward in the new millennium. With all of the abilities that are at your beck and call, I speak these words to you with all sincerity. The thoughts you have of yourself will create the life that you will live. If you want to be successful in life, create the thoughts that will inspire the mind to achieve the goals you have created in your mind, heart and soul. Remember, if you want to be a lawyer, begin by simply saying, "Yes, I can." If you believe it, you can achieve it! No matter what the world thinks or says about you, there exists within you a seed of greatness — a DNA cell of excellence, and it begins when you say, "Yes, I can."

These thoughts will mean nothing, however, if you don't put action behind them. We can talk all we want, but if we don't try to do it, we won't achieve it. If we want to do well in school, we must take the time to study, to read, to write, to put in the effort and hard work. Let's be real on the subject. We'll talk a good game about the things we want, or what we'll be in life. The truth being told, the challenge is centered around the real question: "Are we willing to walk our talk?" My young brothers and sisters, the world is there for you to become the best that you can be. You must realize your potential and accept the challenge that lies before you. Though the world may paint a picture of your generation as lost and confused, we know that each of you is a reflection of us. If we see within you a negative image, then we must ask ourselves what you see within us. I must take this moment to challenge you, for society might never know the brilliance that God has given you. It is up to you to rise to your full glory. Take that step to become the best. Rise above your afflictions. Say "no" to the drugs and crime that filter into your view. Reach above the sadness of today's confusion and stretch beyond someone else's expectations of you, knowing that only you and God can define that dream for you. Yes, my brothers and sisters, I'm writing this letter to you, for I see in you the greatness of our people — the builders of kingdoms and civilizations that have shaped history. Fear not tomorrow, for God has placed within you the grace, the glory and the love of Jesus Christ. God bless. (Guice is pastor of Unity Christ Church, Ft. Wayne, Ind.)

Need to start thinking about our energy tomorrows today

by Lynn Elder

Tour grandparents it was a great marvel of the age. To us, it's something we take completely for granted. It's a convenience we expect to work...and work instantly without any delays, interruptions or problems...everytime we flick the switch. I am talking about our reliance on electricity. There was a time, not very many years ago, when affordable, reliable power was a rare thing in this part of the country. But then came the Tennessee Valley Authority which brought new jobs, new industry and a much higher standards of living and a better lifestyle to Tennessee. But now, after nearly 70 years of success, we may have forgotten what makes that all possible. We must have enough power plants and transmission lines to generate and deliver the electricity we've all come to rely on to do so many things in our daily lives. That's why what's been going in California in recent months with all the rolling blackouts and power outages has everyone so concerned. It certainly has my attention because I depend on electricity not just in my personal life but to keep my business operating and my employees working. While we have a power contract that allows TVA to interrupt our service during extreme peak periods, that's not something we can live with for any period of time.

So obviously I am happy to hear that TVA predicts it will give plenty of power to handle all of us this summer. It means we can keep working and keep our folks employed. But I am concerned that we have a national energy policy that recognizes the necessity of adding more power plants and transmission lines as our country and state continues to grow. Too often in recent years, that concept has been lost or overlooked. It was like don't worry about where or how we get our power. It will just always be there. Now what's happening in California is reminding us how important having reliable, affordable power is to all of us. Sure we need to conserve where we can. We are always looking to conserve in my company. It's just good business, but there are limits to what conservation can achieve. There are those who say the new national energy policy proposed by the Bush administration looks too much to tomorrow rather than immediately solving today's energy crunch. I say we have today's problems because we haven't thought enough about tomorrow's energy needs in the past. If we don't want to be like California, we need to start thinking and doing something about our energy tomorrows now. (Elder is chairman of the Tennessee Valley Industrial Committee. TVIC is made up of 35 large industrial companies who purchase electricity directly from TVA.)

LETTERS

LETTER POLICY: We welcome letters to the editor via mail, fax or internet. Letters may be edited for length or clarity and should refer to issues vital to the Minority Voice readership or subject matter published in the Minority Voice Newspaper. Please include your address and complete name. Mail letters to: The Minority Voice News 405 Evans Street Greenville NC 27835 Fax: (252) 757-1793 E-Mail: www.mvskatech.net

McVeigh 'poster child' for vegetarians?

Dear Editor, It seems Timothy McVeigh may have had a change of heart before he was killed. In his final days, he spoke of not wishing to cause any more trauma. A newspaper quotes reports from prison inmates that McVeigh chose a vegetarian diet, not only skipping the meat at his late meal, but in his last days, as well. McVeigh was a hunter of animals and, later, of human beings. He believed both were justifiable. As People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) pointed out in letters to him, by taking life in the woods he had learned to steel himself against any emotional response to death, a coldness he held in common with the young men who hunted animals before firing on their schoolmates in Oregon, Arkansas, and Colorado. Odd as it seems, McVeigh might end up being a good "poster child" for vegetarianism. If a man like him can reflect, change, and then openly speak of wanting to bring peace, as he did, it brings great hope to those of us who work to stop violence in every part of our society, including in the slaughterhouse. Surely "ordinary" people can do as much, and also reject killing. After all, eating is not even a political matter for most people, it is a matter of taste. In the 21st century, with vegetarian options all around us, can't we simply agree to reject the taste of blood and learn to live in peace with even those we relate to least? Ingrid E. Newkirk president, PETA

Lauding TSD staffers for positive impact

Dear Editor, I just would like to say how proud we are of your continued success in the publication, political and business fields. You show our young people, especially our Black males, that there are other avenues to success in this country. Thank you for your help and positive impact on the Memphis Metro Area and all of West Tennessee. God bless *The Tri-State Defender* and all its employees. Mark A. Rawls, Brownsville

A Lewis apology 'from the heart'

Dear Editor, The statement I made on the May 20 *CBS Morning Show* was made in error. It is certainly not how I feel. I admire people with disabilities. That's why I've worked so hard for all these years. Many of the people that I work closely with are in wheelchairs and I have never seen any of them as inferior to anyone else. They are my friends and co-workers. I would never intentionally harm or demean anyone with a disability. I believe in my heart of hearts that I have done good work. I have spent more than 50 years trying to make a difference. To make life better for those with disabilities. The American public has been supportive of MDA and our cause and has never let us down. I would hate to think that I had ever let them down. That's not what I'm about. I'd hate to think that all the work I have done these 50 years can be so diminished. I am a comedian by profession and a fund-raiser because I care. I have a successful career in the entertainment industry and have always felt I need to give back to the public that has supported me so tirelessly for all these years. I've done the best I know how to do. But never at the cost of those I serve. Please accept my deepest apology. Jerry Lewis, chairman, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Phoenix, Ariz.

THE M' VOICE NEWSPAPER

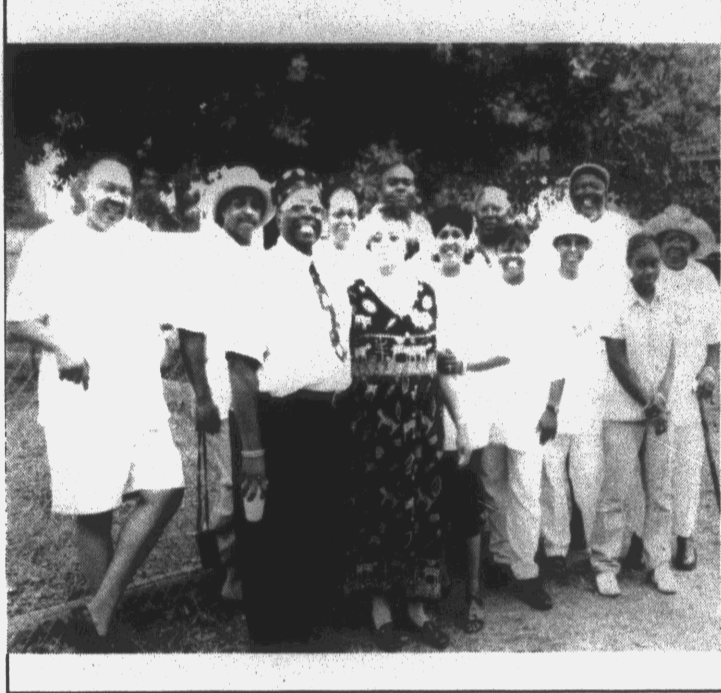
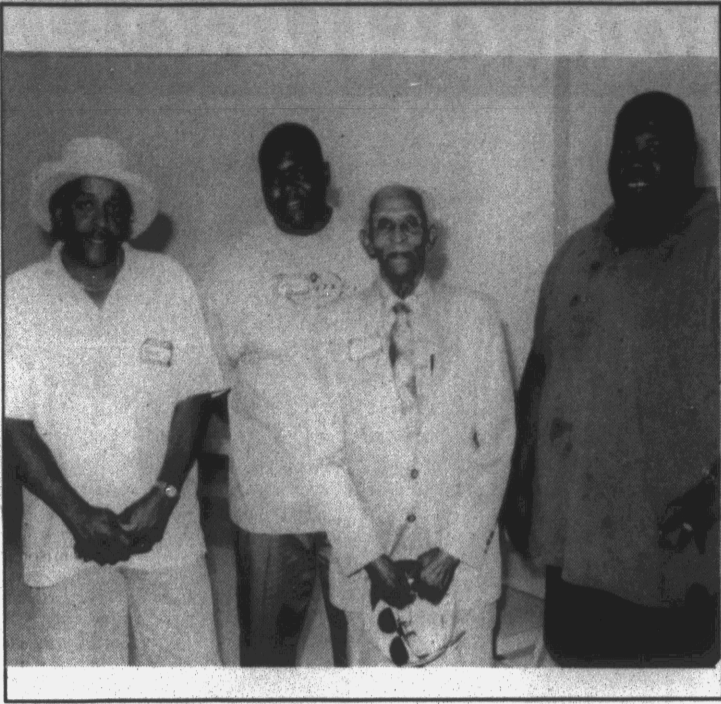
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**LETTER TO THE
EDITOR**

Subject: Letter To The Editor,

Your readers will not know me, but I would like to share something with them. It deals with the care given in Nursing Homes.

It's been my belief that we are all put on the path we trod to allow us to grow at the pace suitable for our purpose in learning what we need to learn. As physical persons and spiritual beings (at the same time) we learn from physical experiences that let us grow more spiritual. By "spiritual" I mean acceptance of God's creations and realizing that we all can achieve the Serenity to accept the things we cannot change, Courage to change the things we can, and the Wisdom to know the difference. People will cross our path and help us at the times they are needed most. Those that are with us long enough to share a smile or do one deed of kindness will give us a "spiritual boost" and let us know we are NOT alone. Some of those "sent" to help us will become our best friend, mentor, or caregiver. They have crossed our path for a purpose. Not only for our benefit but theirs as well. Every time two people share a part of themselves with each other they both gain.

It's ironic! I am fascinated with how and why paths cross and I get the privilege to come to 'Cross' Creek Health Care in Swan Quarter NC. Before my arrival here I had heard of it's reputation for having professional employees, yet very giving of themselves and compassionate. I am 47 and been in a wheelchair for 31 yrs. and a double amputee. When I came here on 1-11-01, I was greeted by the various dept. heads, nurses, aides, and could sense a definite family environment. My stay here has justified all that I had heard (and more). The staff treats the residents as they would their own mother, father, brother or sister. Discussions with individual residents have revealed to me just how much they appreciate the respect and care given them. There is no generation gap or race barrier here. Everyone is accepted for who they are and needs are met accordingly. Every day I get chance to witness the sparkle in an attendant's eyes when they patiently feed someone who needs total care (or) when they perform a task that makes someone more comfortable. So much that needs to be done for so many, yet never a raised voice or unkind word. This is unlike any Nursing Home you will ever hear of it has a "Feeling of Family!" Some people choose not to come to this area because of it's location, but quality of care far out-weighs any concerns about it's location. I flew from Maine when I learned of an opening here. It's a total-care facility. I would attest to the invaluable support/care given here.

Sincerely,
Benji

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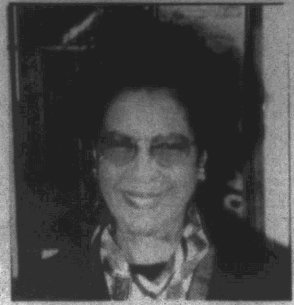
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A good reputation is a fragile thing, especially in this day of rapid communication and mass media. Just being in the wrong place and the wrong time can ruin a person's life.

A reputation is not something to be taken lightly.

A good name is to be chosen over great riches (Proverbs 22:1) and is better than the "precious ointment" (Ecclesiastes 7:11). It's something to value and protect. A person who doesn't value his reputation may someday desire credibility and not find it. Our reputation can be ruined by wrong things we do, by the people with whom we are associated, or by disparaging words about us. In all three cases, evil is involved.

One unfortunate court case, a significant round of gossip,

an influence, an unflattering newspaper article, or fifteen minutes of notoriety can destroy everything a person has worked for all his life. Prayer is our only defense.

A virtuous wife, the Bible says, has a husband who is respected.

It's true that a man gets a certain amount of respect for having a good wife.

May the fruit honesty, trustworthiness and humility sweeten all his dealings so that his reputation will never be spoiled? May his light so shine before men that they see his good works and glorify You, Lord (Matthew 5:16).

A LETTER

My dear daughter,

As you prepare to begin your life as a wife, I hope these thoughts will guide you. You have moved out of my house but you'll never move out of my heart.

Be loyal to your love. Loyalty is the absolute essence of a marriage. Talk to each other about what bothers you. As the marriage vows say, "Forsake all others and cleaved only unto your husband".

Learn to compromise. Never get upset about the little things. Be flexible, and pick your battles carefully. Never go to bed angry. Say what annoys you, and then finish with "I love you". Trust me, it makes the morning brighter.

Enjoy the new. No one, no matter how famous or rich or brilliant, has a life without its pockets of darkness. Be aware, everyday, of the things you and your spouse are blessed with: youth, health, friends, family and each other. Find delight in every day, in every way you can.

Don't displace your anger. It's so easy, when things are rotten at work, when friends let you down, to take it out on the ones you love. Try not to turn your anger unjustly on your mate.

Take a deep breath before you blow your top, and remember how much you love your husband.

Make your marriage size. Stay sexy, keep

yourself attractive for your husband. Remember how you looked when you were courting?

All the cute little outfits you wore with your hair just right and your makeup perfect? Don't clod around the house in old t-shirts and torn jeans. He may be your husband, but he's your lover too.

Keep laughing. A sense of humor has always helped pull me through life. It kept your Dad and me going for 22 unforgettable years. We have been a great team, not merely mother and daughter, but devoted friends. And so, I am releasing you, my darling daughter to go off and start your life together with your mate. I send you my blessings and the start of a great adventure. I love you with all my heart.

Your are my heart.

From: Joan Lunden's Making the Most Out of Every Day



Pastors James and Delores Corbett caught by the M'Voice Newspaper while watching Annual Championship Baseball Game
Photo by: Faith May

Commission To Study Reparations - front pg.

said Green. He explained that the debt owed to African Americans to compensate for the unpaid slave labor which helped to build America was aborted, citing the failure of the Freedmen's Bureau, the promise of 40 acres and a mule, as well as the 1877 Compromise.

"Freed Africans were living as badly as they were during legal slavery and this bill seeks to remedy that," said Green.

Assemb. Gloria Davis said, "Our ancestors were brought here and helped to build this country. Every nationality of people have been rewarded, but we have not been. Every immigrant who came over here to Ellis Island felt as if they were a part of this country, but our men, women and children were enslaved." She continued, "We were promised 40 acres and a mule; we were wrote out of history. Members of the Jewish community were enslaved and killed and were allowed to sue those compa-

nies that enslaved them, it's time for us to do the same thing."

The commission would examine the local and state government role in supporting the slave trade as well as identify the corporations who benefited from free slave labor. The bill seeks to "research, identify and document those businesses and corporations doing business in New York state which profited or attempted to profit from their business involvement with the international and domestic trade of enslaved Africans, or from the exploitation of the forced labor of enslaved Africans." This commission will also determine how much is owed by those coporations and the New York state and local governments.

The will also recommend specific remedies to the New York state Legislature that would compensate African-American communities throughout the state for vio-

lation of their collective human and civil rights during 250 years of slavery and their subsequent treatment as second class citizens. Ron Daniels, executive director of the Center of Constitutional Rights, told the AmNews, "It's a very important piece of legislation for African Americans and other communities to mobilize behind. It's an encouraging new inquiry in relation to reparations and I'm hoping that other cities and states will do likewise."

While the bill has to be voted on before the entire Assembly before being passed into law, Green said that there are some critics who ask why people who never participated in the slave trade should have to pay reparations, but he responds by maintaining that is not what he's trying to do with this proposed legislation. "It would be wrong to assign guilt to them, but we should hold institutions, governmental and corporate,

accountable if in fact they have benefited from domestic and international slave trade and that's quite different," said Green. The bill has garnered support from the Puerto Rican and white elected officials.

Assemb. Rubian Diaz told the AmNews, "I think that you'll see more and more people come on and support this bill. We could lead the way in this country and put an earnest, attempt to repair one of the , if not the most, horrific occurrences in history. If this bill is passed, it will go a long way to start the healing process by identifying how African-Americans were abused in the work force and how their families were broken up due to slavery."

Diaz continued, "We cannot deal with current issues such as police brutality, racial profiling and racial discrimination unless we deal with the mindset that caused it."



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Tyriq Wooden, proudly held his little sister Erianna Crump, Sunday, July 15th, during the Johnsonaires Anniversary.
Photo by: Faith May

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REFLECTIONS EXPRESSIONS and REVIEWS



Ms Suetette Jones

The End of An Era by Dorothy Jones

Across the tracks, on the edge of Bull Durham's downtown area was a thriving self-supporting "Colored Community" called Hayti. This community dates its beginnings to the early Reconstruction days when African-Americans, recently freed from slavery, began their search for a new life. Oral history, old manuscripts, and memorabilia combine to bring to life the men and women who became involved in creating a community. From 1887 to 1910, Hayti was described as the most progressive black community in the United States. It was destroyed by Urban Renewal in 1979.

Normally dedicated to the ancestors, homes and

achievement of a selective few, local historians often ignore the contributions of average citizens. Rarer still is the study of reconstruction, segregation, and civil rights from the female African-American perspective. The author is a pioneering spirit as she reintroduces the reader to Durham's Hayti and the laborers and artisans who formed a thriving community from 1887-1910. Her interpretation of Hayti's evolution traces the path chosen by community members in religion, education, business, healthcare, civil rights and ultimately the empty promises of urban renewal. Her work is a necessary and important addition to the study of Hayti and its diverge community. During the long wintry night, of Jim Crow (or -legal segregation)

Hayti was a beacon of hope for African-Americans. W.E. DuBois, Booker T. Washington, and other well-known blacks made annual trips to this thriving place known as the "Capital of the Black Middle Class." In this remarkable book, Dorothy Jones takes the reader on a journey into the homes, businesses, and streets of Hayti to meet the people in the prose and poetry of Zora Hurston and Langston Hughes. The author's beautiful illustrations depict the tragedy of Hayti's destruction through the faces of urban renewal, but also show that the spirit of Hayti lives on.

BOMBING

CONT FRONT PG

finding of both a defense psychologist and a court-appointed psychiatrist, the prosecution's burden is then to show "clear, unequivocal and convincing evidence" that he is competent to stand trial.

Judge Garrett pointed out in his ruling that this standard is "substantially different" from a federal standard that requires only "a preponderance of the evidence."

All of the experts at last week's hearing, including two prosecution doctors, found that Mr. Cherry probably suffered from some form of dementia, though they disagreed about its severity. The prosecution experts testified that he was capable of assisting his lawyers and testifying in his own defense if necessary. The other doctors disagreed. They testified that Mr. Cherry had difficulty performing simple mathematical calculations, that he was forgetful and had trouble remembering recent events, and that brain scans showed gaps in brain activity. They diagnosed him as having vascular dementia, presumably caused by a series of small strokes.

Mr. Jones countered that Mr. Cherry was faking, or at least exaggerating, his condition. His experts testified that Mr. Cherry had performed well on some intelligence and memory tests, and that he could not have done so if his dementia was debilitating.

Exxon hit with charges of conspiracy

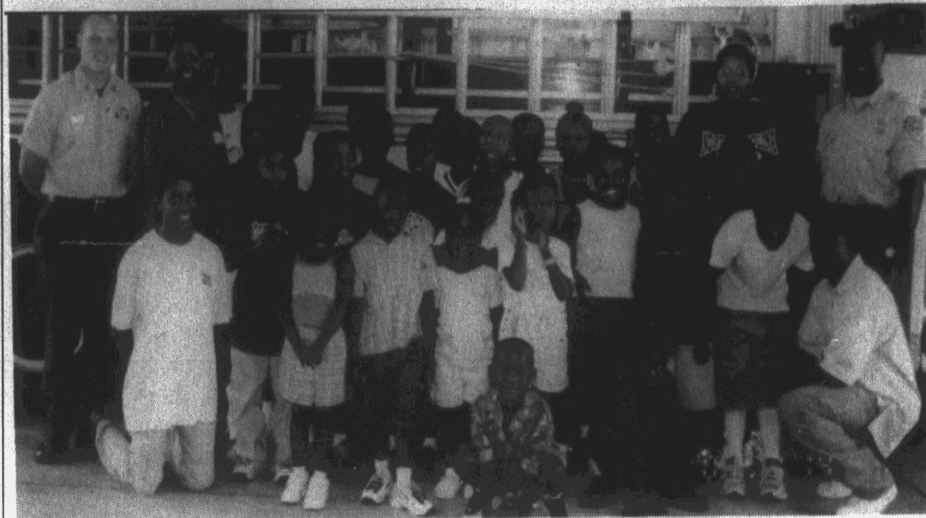
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Willie Gary, one of the nation's most successful trial lawyers, outlined a conspiracy Monday by the Exxon Mobil company to sustain high gasoline prices at the pump by preventing DAG Petroleum Suppliers, an independent oil supplier and station owner, from participating in the sale of 1,740 gas stations in the Northeast that Exxon Mobil was ordered to sell to a competing oil company.

"Consumers are paying higher gasoline prices because Exxon Mobil rigged the bidding process and limited true competition at the gas pump," Gary declared as he announced that he is joining the legal team for DAG Petroleum. The Virginia-based, minority firm has filed a federal lawsuit against Exxon, Mobil, saying they were victims of racial discrimination and antitrust violations.

Gary noted that while Exxon Mobil operates gas stations used by many African Americans across the nation, the company blocked a Black-owned firm from purchasing the service stations that were put up for sale.

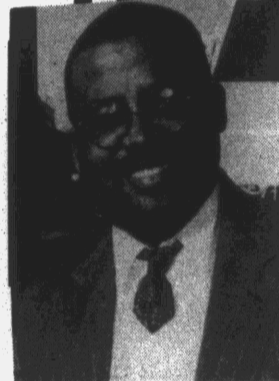


The M'Voice Newspaper Congratulates The Johnsonaires On A Successful Anniversary



Pictured above is the Thomas Foreman/C.M. Epps Recreation Summer Camp. They were at the Greenville Fire and Rescue Department where they so graciously posed for the Minority Voice Camera.
Photo by faith May

THE BOTTOM LINE



Many people work multiple jobs to make ends meet. In a society abundant in wealth and resources, this is unconscionable. Too many Greenville City employees are not making strong wages needed to pay their bills and invest in their children's education. The pay grades and salary ranges need to be adjusted to promote a more just city government where pay equity becomes a hallmark for compensating the hard work of city employees.

It is a shame that refuse collectors, as of July 2000, received a starting salary of \$18,408. Although there have been slight improvements in pay, much more needs to be done to offset the recent costs of living increases. With the rising

costs of basic necessities (i.e. food, shelter, fuel), there should be concomitant salary adjustments to provide more disposable income for industrious employees work when scheduled and obey the rules.

Refuse collectors are grassroots employees who perform back-breaking labor to keep Greenville clean. The employees often work under inclement weather "chicken change." We can and must do better than this. All of God's children must be treated fairly and adequately compensated for their diligence, perseverance, and tenacity on the job.

If all Custodian I and II employees and refuse collectors (Grades 16 and 17, respectively) were to walk off the job, Greenville would be shut down in less than one week. These employees are the backbone of the city. They need decent money to take care of themselves so they may continue to accommodate us. They deserve to be paid well.

Transit drivers, whose starting salaries are in the early \$20,000 range, are poorly paid too. Many citizens, including senior citizens,

need transportation to work and appointments. These drivers work very hard to meet their deadlines and schedules. High gasoline prices mean more bus passengers, and to some extent, added headaches.

The maximum salary for the transit manager is almost \$70,000. This is too much money for a figurehead.

There are wide disparities between the salaries of low-grade city positions and those of high-grade positions. Most city jobs are invaluable to Greenville and its quality of life. Concerned citizens should ask their elected officials to intercede on behalf of those disenfranchised city employees who are being shafted.

I support a meaningful 15 to 20 percent across-the-board salary increase for Grades 1 - 25. This would do much to boost the productivity, dignity, and morale of employees and help feed their children. Furthermore, absenteeism and tardiness would be curtailed. Additionally, the revenue base would be strengthened for the long haul.

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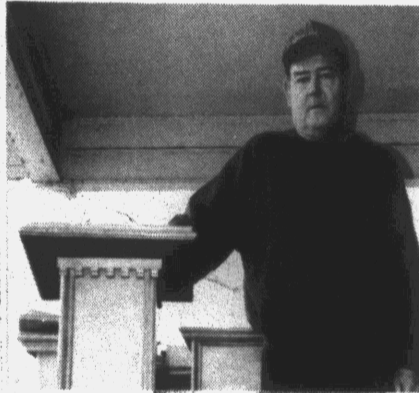
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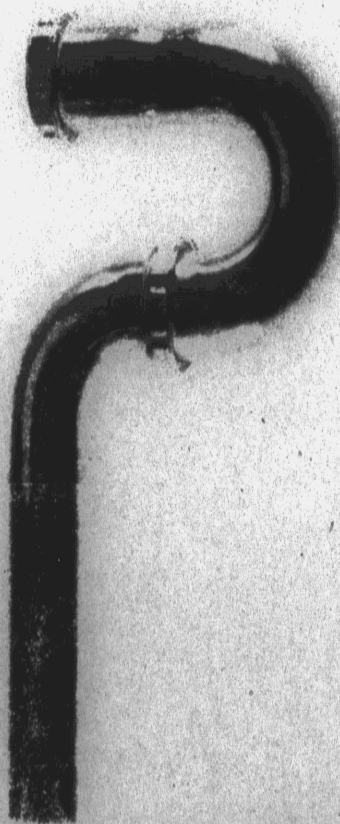
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Out of Sight, Out of Mind?



Sewer spills

YUK! They're messy, bad for the environment, and can result in stiff financial penalties from state regulators. Greenville Utilities does everything it can to prevent sewer spills. But we can't do it alone. You play an important role in helping us maintain an efficient public sanitary sewer system.

What causes sewer spills? It's simple. They're caused by improper disposal of items into the sewer system. We ask you to be aware of the following guidelines:

- Please avoid pouring fats, oils or grease from cooking down the drain. Instead, collect them in a container and dispose in the trash.
- Please don't use your toilets as a wastebasket. Place a wastebasket in the bathroom to dispose of items such as disposable diapers and personal hygiene products.
- Unless you have a garbage disposal, please don't use your drain to dispose of food scraps. Place food scraps in waste containers or garbage bags for disposal.

We appreciate your cooperation in following those few simple guidelines. Together, we can protect our sewer system and our environment. For more information, please contact us at 551-1551.





Heel/Sew Quik

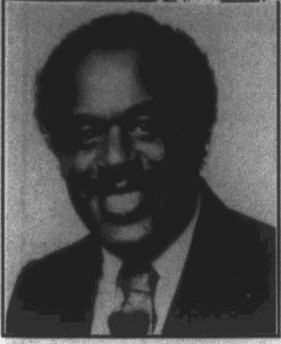
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Dr. George Hawkins

The Battle in Your Mind

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ:

When you set yourself to submit to God's will, you build strength into your soul. You will need that strength, because you face a battle every day that you live--a battle for your will. Satan is a master at getting to your will and affecting your decisions. His tactic?

He manipulates your will by influencing your thoughts and your emotions. The devil has access to your mind. His negative thoughts

can penetrate your mind and exercise great influence over you. He can also cause enough distractions and confusion that it becomes hard for you to hear God's voice. In the parable of the Sower, in Matthew 13, when Jesus is describing the seed of the Word falling on various kinds of ground, He says, "When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart." (Matt. 13:19).

Let me tell you what goes on during a service when a man or woman of God is preaching. Many of you sit in the congregation and have a battle over concentrating on what the preacher is saying. You are having thoughts about your children, your roast you left baking at home on low, bills that are due and you are wondering where the money is going to come from to pay them, etc. We can have a thousand different thoughts pressing at our minds, because the enemy of our souls does not want us to listen to the Word of God. Notice these are not evil thoughts, just distracting thoughts.

Satan is terrified of what will happen when we hear God's Word, so he comes and catches away that which was sown in our hearts. The devil is able to influence your thinking, but he can't make you think anything. He tempts you by firing wicked thoughts into your head. Then he tries to make you feel guilty for even thinking such a thing! You are not wicked just because you think a wicked thought, yet that's been his tool in tripping up many Christians for years. He's been firing certain thoughts at you and then you feel guilty for having the thought.

Remember that when this happens, it's not your thought, and you don't have to accept it. When such a thought comes, you can say, "Satan, you are putting that thought into my mind. I cast down every imagination and high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and I bring every thought into captivity and obedience of Christ. I do not receive it in Jesus' name. Satan get it out of here, and get it out now!"



LOCAL HOME DAYCARE CENTERS RECEIVE TOP RATINGS
by Faith May

The Association For Family Child Care Homes held their Mid-Year Celebration at the Boys and Girls Club. The association is a local support organization. The organization was formed in September 2000.

The purpose of this group is to go into daycare homes that want to apply for 3,4, or 5 star rated daycare licenses. The consultant reviews the compliance history and makes recommendations.

Members of this association live and operate daycare homes in and around the counties with a Sister Support Group operating out of Edgecombe and Nash County.

The main purpose is to offer love, encouragement, praise and support in achieving the highest rating for quality child care. The goal is to

strive to be the best and provide the highest quality of care to our children. The following homes received four of five star licenses:

- Because We Care Child Care Home of Greenville (Five Star License) Owner - Brenda Ward
- Yearning To Learn Child Care Home of Greenville (Five Star License) Owner - Gwendolyn Worthington
- Learning Den and Tutoring Service of Greenville (Five Star License) Owner - Geraldine Wright
- Ms. Lil's Loving Home Day Care of Greenville (Four Star License) Owner - Lydia Barnes
- A Mother's Touch Home Day Care of Greenville (Five Star License) Owner - Beronica Muhammad

The Homes that received four of five star licenses received trophies that read, **Congratulations For Receiving The Highest Recognition For Quality Childcare 6-23-01.**

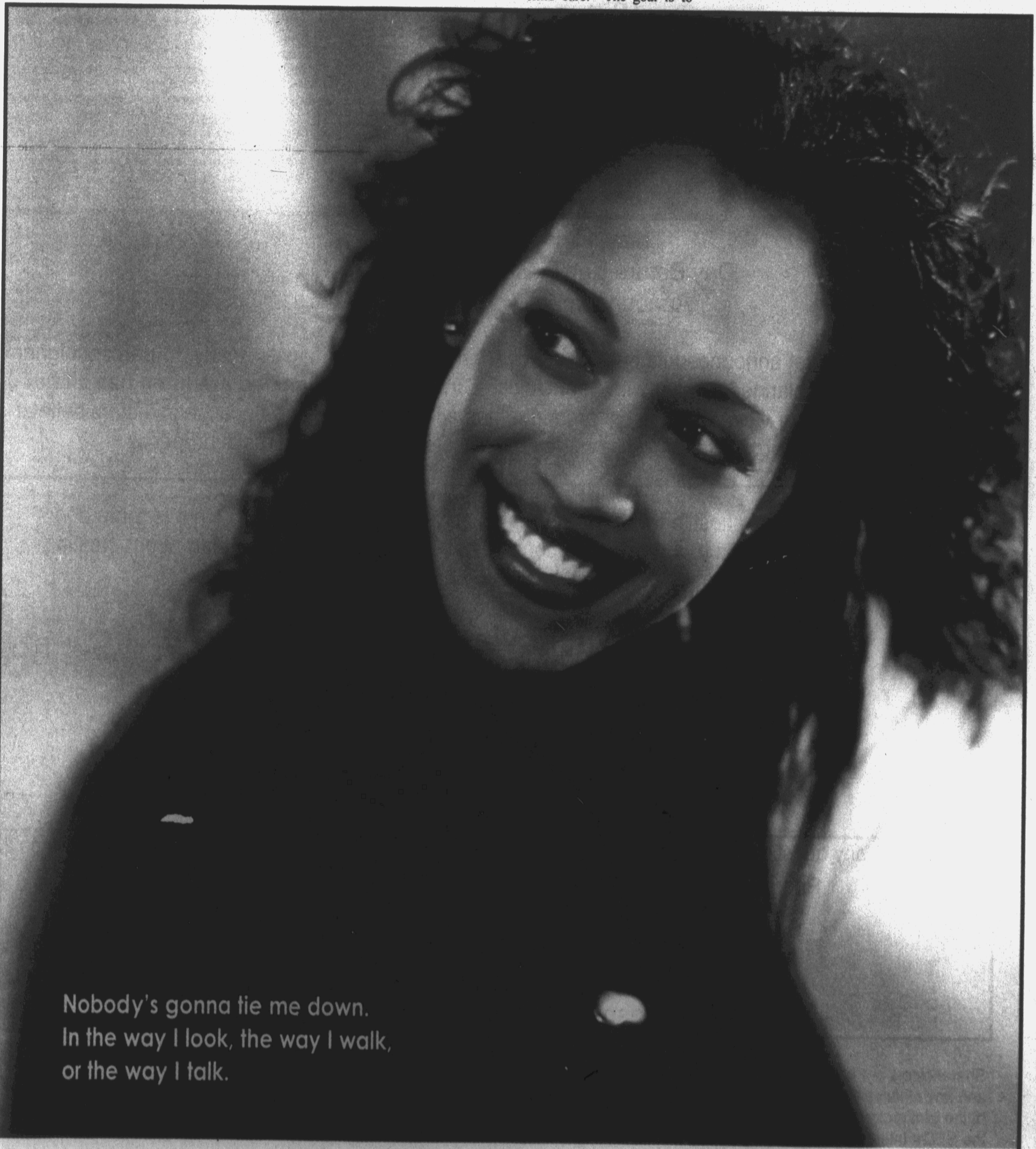
In addition, they received the Humanitarian Award of Notable Achievement & Excellence from Ms. Brenda Ward, President of the Association For Family Child Care Homes.

A special thank you is extended to Riverside Steak Bar, A-Hearts Desire- Mrs. Vivian Edward designer of the corsages.

The Trophy Case for the Trophies and The Star Lapel pins, and a special thank you to Mr. Perry Worthington and staff of the Boys and Girls Club. Also to Mr. Jim Rouse, of the Minority Voice Newspaper for taking pictures.

The next monthly meeting of The Association For Family Child Care Homes will be held July 13, 2001 at the Boys and Girls Club in Greenville, at 7:00pm. Anyone interested in attending, please contact: Mrs. Gwen Worthington at 413-0899.

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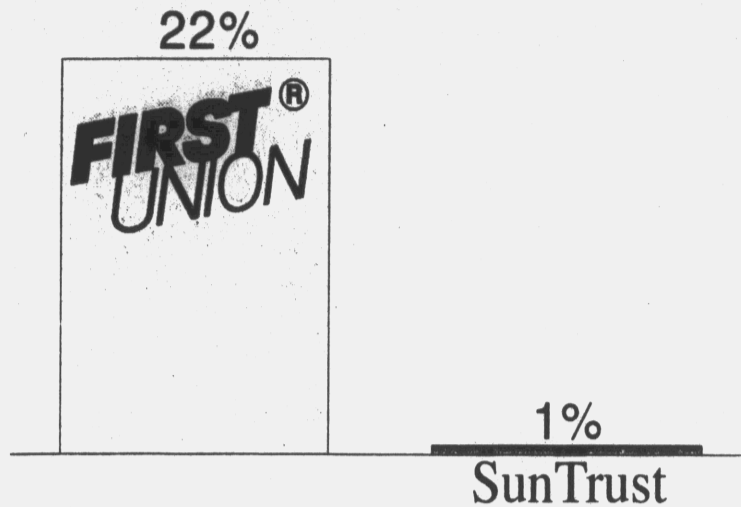
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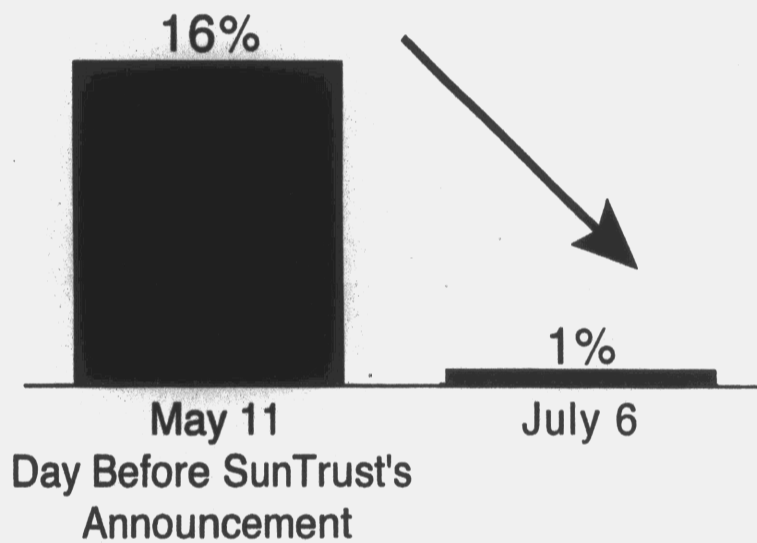
Year-to-Date Price Performance

(Through July 6, 2001)



When we began talks with First Union in earnest in April, an intensive examination of its businesses showed us a revitalized company and a genuine turnaround. In our view, the performance of First Union's shares this year suggests that investors agree with our conclusion.

SUNTRUST'S PREMIUM HAS ALL BUT EVAPORATED



When SunTrust first announced its hostile takeover proposal, its value was nearly 16 percent higher than Wachovia's planned merger with First Union. **Since then, the implied premium has all but disappeared.** In our view, SunTrust's "premium" has all but disappeared because investors believe that the prospects for the new Wachovia are superior to SunTrust's proposal.

We believe SunTrust's hostile takeover attempt is an act born of desperation that is more about preventing the formation of a formidable competitor – the new Wachovia—than about creating value for Wachovia shareholders.

**Vote FOR the Wachovia / First Union merger
on the WHITE proxy card.**

WACHOVIA

If you have any questions regarding the merger, you may call our proxy solicitors at the following hotlines. Representatives will be able to assist you between 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. EDT. Please leave a message if you call after these hours.

MacKenzie Partners: 800-322-2885
Georgeson Shareholder: 800-223-2064

Shareholders are urged to read the joint proxy statement/prospectus regarding the proposed merger between Wachovia and First Union and any other relevant documents filed with the SEC because they contain important information. Shareholders may obtain a free copy of the joint proxy statement/prospectus, as well as other filings containing information about Wachovia and First Union, without charge, at the SEC's Internet site (<http://www.sec.gov>). Copies of the joint proxy statement/prospectus and other SEC filings that are incorporated by reference in the joint proxy statement/prospectus can also be obtained, without charge, from Wachovia, Investor Relations, 100 North Main Street, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27150 (866-883-0789), or from First Union, Investor Relations, One First Union Center, Charlotte, North Carolina 28288-0206 (704-374-6782). The information presented above may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements can be found in Wachovia's and First Union's public reports filed with the SEC.

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The deadline for submission of the completed proposal is noon August 17, 2001.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation is soliciting qualifying firms who may be interested in becoming certified as MBE/WBE with the Department. All such firms must meet the Federal Standard of 49 CFR part 26...

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