

Opinion - Black Violence

Reflections Expressions and Reviews

Church Dedication

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*Spiritual Reflections*



DR. GEORGE HAWKINS

**Editorial**

**Black On Black Violence**

**At The Movies with Nareya Namaz**

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**The Desk of Mrs Beatrice Mays**

## THE GREAT BLACK HOPE

**GREAT BLACK HOPE?**

Is FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell, the son of Secretary of State

Gen. Colin Powell, being groomed by the GOP to become America's first Black president?

With the Republican Party plan to design its ideal up-and-comer in a Gattaca-style genetics lab, the result would look and sound a lot like Michael K. Powell. A scion of Beltway royalty, Secretary of State Gen. Colin Powell's only son is that rarest of political gems--a Black Republican farhard free of the kooky far-right vibes that dog Alan Keyes and JC Watts. John McCain loves him, as do a number of starstruck Democrats bewitched by his lineage and smarts. For many, the junior Powell seems a younger and brighter version of George W. Bush.

Unlike Bush, however, Powell has not squandered his youthful ambition on failed oil derricks and Texas keggars. At the tender age of 38, he is the new chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, the five-person panel that lords over Big Media and the Baby Bells. Rep. Ed Markey, a Massachusetts Democrat, made light of his wonkish might in March, at Powell's first Capitol Hill appearance as head of the FCC.

"People are always asking me to compare you to your father," Markey said. "What I always tell them is you're just as smart as your father, but you have a lot

more power to affect the world."

If insiders are right, the FCC gig may be only a stepping stone. Some are touting Powell as a Virginia congressman or governor, maybe even as Bush cabinet member. And if he bides his time and plays his cards right, he could well become

tions industry.

Last week, aghast at the FCC's recent handiwork, South Carolina Democratic senator Ernest Hollings accused Powell of fostering "an erosion of diversity in our local markets." Hollings has introduced legislation to stop the slash-and-burn juggernaut, but few expect his

The decision could pave the way for the sale of BNC to AOL Time Warner, or--- if the rule is relaxed still further---to Viacom. In June, Viacom president Mel Karmazin announced he "would absolutely love" to purchase his broadcast rival, a deal that would make the world's third largest media

is neither warranted nor just." Among the big winners was San Antonio-based Clear Channel Communications, the nation's largest radio group, which added seven more properties to its 1200-station empire. As Salon's Eric Boehlert reported in April, Clear Channel already controls 60% of the country's rock-format stations.

Outgoing FCC At the same time, Powell has been an outspoken critic of providing low-power radio licenses to community or religious groups, citing the "cost....to existing stations that provide equally valuable service to their communities." He did not elaborate on how one of Clear Channel's vanilla Top 40 outlets can provide service on a par with that of an independent, or how a station relegated to the FM dial's nether regions could possibly harm the bottom line of a Dave Matthews-playing titan.

Powell's laissez-faire machinations could be more easily forgiven if not for his flip dismissals of the FCC's role in helping customers---as the agency's handbook notes, its mission is to protect the public's "best interests". At a recent American Bar Association panel, however, Powell curtly pooh-poohed the notion of a public-interest standard, calling it "about as empty a vessel as you can accord a regulatory agency."

The statement was in line with an earlier quip, in



**FCC CHAIRMAN & SECRETARY OF STATE'S SON.....Striking a pose for The 'M' Voice Newspaper cameras, the head of the FCC and the only son of the Secretary of State General Colin Powell....Chairman Michael K. Powell. Publisher and CEO of WOOW, WTOW, & The M' Voice Newspaper Jim Rouse met with the FCC Chairman earlier this year at a NCAB meeting in Washington, DC. (Staff Photo)**

the first African American president.

Powell's actions as FCC Chairman have made his pro-business, consumer-battered politics more than evident. In an administration bent on rolling back regulations, Powell is the consummate good soldier, zealously blasting decades-old rules to the delight of the \$950 billion communica-

bill---designed to protect caps on market dominance---to ever become law.

Communications conglomerates, by contrast, are rapturous over Powell's quick success in defanging the FCC. They re-joined when he coaxed the commission into relaxing its long works, clearing the way for Viacom to retain UPN even after it bought CBS.

conglomerate (200 revenues: \$ 20 billion) an even more pervasive presence. In the name of free-market efficiency, Powell has also expedited dozens of merger reviews, including the \$29 billion marriage of VoiceStream and Germany's Deutsche Telekom.

He quickly pushed through 32 radio deals in March, claiming that "further delay

## BLACK LEADERS UNDER ATTACK

**Attacks resume on Black leaders**

by: Cash Michaels  
Tri-state Defender

For several weeks after Rep. President George W. Bush assumed office in January, Black leadership fell under blistering attack from the conservative right, who hoped not only to diminish the stature of figures like the Rev. Al

Sharpton and Kwesi Mfume, president/CEO, NAACP, but even put "troublemakers" like the Rev. Jesse Jackson completely out of business.

While the FOX News Channel and other conservative media took dead aim at Jackson's out-of-wedlock extramarital affair, conservative activist David Horowitz sparked a national firestorm on college campuses declaring that it's Blacks, not

Whites, who should pay reparations for slavery.

The "Bush Black Plan," as it was coined back in March got the president to bond with what little conservative Black leadership there was, giving them stature and access, and then, link arms with as many of the Black clergy as possible, using the promise of federal dollars to help their programs as the lure.

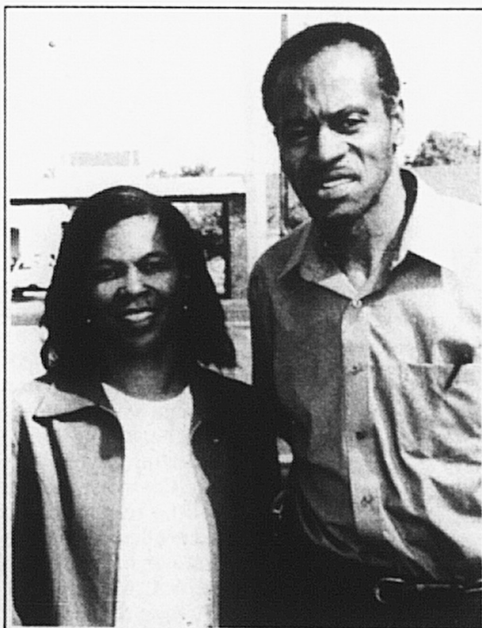
Coupled with his quick successes out the gate on education and tax reform, and high-level appointments of Gen. Colin Powell and Dr. Condoleezza Rice to his

administration, Bush seemed to be untouchable for a while. "If one thing is certain as the victorious GOP contemplates world domination," Debra Dickerson, a senior fellow at the new American Foundation wrote in the Washington Post in March, "it's that the concept of racism must be gnawed to jabberwockian meaninglessness when uttered by a minority."

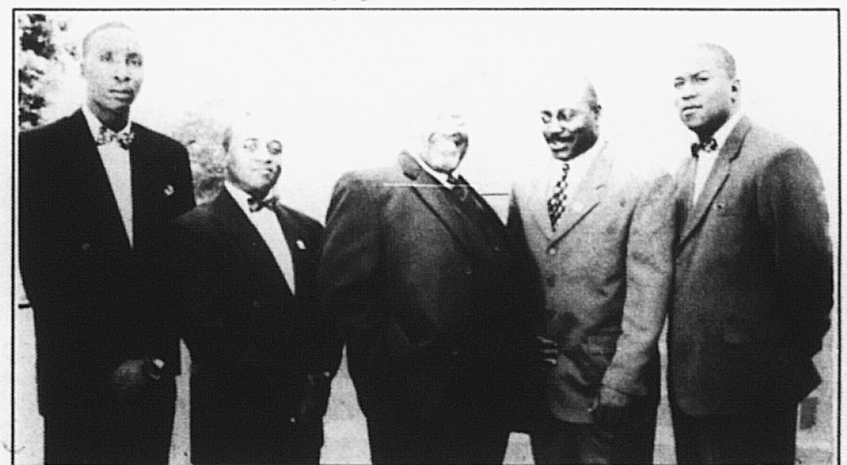
Regarding Bush efforts to "replace" established Black leadership with his designated group, Dickerson continued, "By patting them on the head, and affixing spitticky gold stars to their

foreheads, the GOP is gambling that those so rewarded won't notice they've been promoted to mere credits to their race."

But then the mistakes began---the biggest being the powershift of the US Senate to the Democrats, thanks to Bush's disregard for then Republican Vermont Sen. Jim Jeffords, who switched to independent and now, six months after he's taken office, the president is fighting several negative perceptions that promise to cripple his first year, and maybe his presi-



**Pastor of St. Paul's Church, Tarboro, NC.....** Shown outside WCPS studios is Rev. George Terry, discussing the issues concerning the Town of Princeville with NAACP former Pres. Crystal Moya. They want to encourage all kids to seek GOD and not DRUGS. (Photo by Jim Rouse)



**Tarboro, NC.....**Shown above are Brothers that care concerned about the recent violence that erupted in the town of Princeville. Posing is Brother Na'im K. Akbar, Brother Robert Mohammad, Sheriff Knight at St. Paul's Church in Tarboro attending the burial of Maurice Clark. Na'im Akbar grew up in Princeville, and runs a program in the Tarboro community. "Black folks need to learn to work together and not against each other to end this senseless violence." (Photo by Jim Rouse)

THE MINORITY VOICE NEWSPAPER

BLACK HOPE

panel, however, Powell curtly pooh-poohed the notion of a public-interest standard, calling it "about as empty a vessel as you can accord a regulatory agency."

The statement was in line with an earlier quip, in which he mocked the idea that the FCC should get involved in ensuring the spread of technology to underprivileged communities. Digital divide?

Not according to Powell. "I think there's a Mercedes divide—I'd like to have one; I can't afford one," said the chairman, whose federal salary is \$133,700 a year. "I think that's an important social issue. But it shouldn't be used to justify the notion of essentially the socialization of the deployment of the infrastructure."

One wonders if the 20 million Americans who remain without telephones, to say nothing of Internet access, share that view.

Powell's hijacking of the FCC has delighted his benefactors, including some of Capitol Hill's most recognizable names. He owes his FCC entree to McCain, who plucked a greenhorn Powell from the shadows in 1997.

In a move widely viewed as a kowtow to Powell's papa, McCain single-handedly nixed a second term for the highly regarded Rachelle Chong and backed the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell's son instead. When Powell was tapped for Chong's seat, he was just four years out of Georgetown Law School

and had been in government less than two months, as chief of staff to Department of Justice antitrust czar Joel Klein. Prior to that, he'd worked for O'Melveny and Myers, an uber-connected law firm whose partners have included Warren Christopher and whose clients include Disney, Sony Pictures, and GTE.

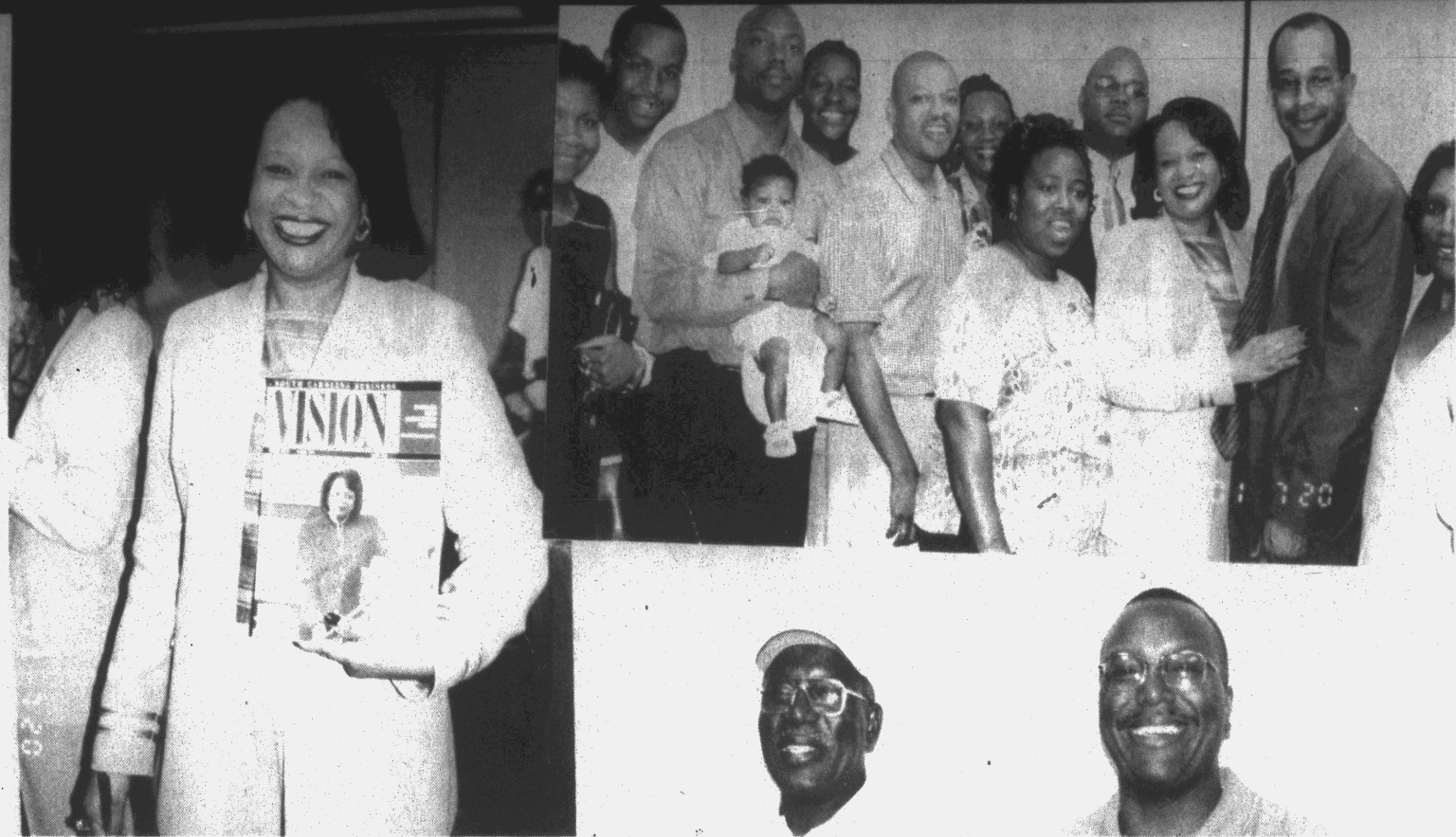
But sucking up to a four-star father was not McCain's sole intent; in Micheal, he found the ideal bureaucrat to appease Big Media. Despite his reformist rhetoric, the Arizona Republicans has close ties to communications interests. No senator has received more money from the industry over the past eight years than McCain (\$685,929 as of 2000, according to the Center for Public Integrity).

When Viacom and CBS merged last year, for example, FCC rules dictated that the company would have to sell off several stations to meet the 35% audience cap. McCain quickly introduced a bill that would raise it to 50%—now a moot effort, thanks to Powell's likely intention to dump the limit altogether.

Powell enjoys an even closer connection to Louisiana Republican Billy Tauzin, a relationship critical to his ascension from FCC commissioner to chairman. Tauzin heads the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which oversees the agency. Telecommunications interests have showered the congressman with lavish perks,

including a \$400,000 Mardi Gras-themed party at last year's GOP convention that was jointly underwritten by SBC, BellSouth, and Comsat.

One of Tauzin's first Bush-era acts was to engineer Powell's promotion. Beltway was expected the FCC job would be given to Pat Wood III, a Bush crony who headed the Public Utility Commission in Texas. But on Dec. 08, Powell keynoted a conference at the Progress and Freedom Foundation, an FCC-bashing think tank funded by the likes of AOL Time Warner.



Pictured above are Ron and Diane Chapman with many local business-minded people who attended the business seminar that was held at the Holiday Inn Express July 20, 2001. Diane Chapman a wealth builder and a founding member of Fortune Hi-Tech Marketing Inc., helps others gain financial independence. Staff Photo

Surrounded by a host of industry luminaries and lobbyists, Powell delivered a crowd-pleasing speech in which he compared the agency to Dr. Seuss's Grinch—a nonsensical brute that was ruining corporate America's profiteering with a mis-guided emphasis on the public interest. "The oppressor here is regulation," he proclaimed, to thunderous applause.

Tauzin then took the dias and boldly named Powell his pick to head the FCC. "He is the brightest light on the commission, the brightest mind," gushed Tauzin, whose aide later insisted the speeches weren't coordinated.

"The next sound could have been the air being let out of the candidacy of Pat Wood," Broadcasting and Cable wrote. Powell was promoted just after the New Year.

As a relative rookie,

Powell wouldn't dare mess with the wishes of a player like Tauzin—or, for that matter, with Big Media, who pumped \$1.07 million into Bush's campaign coffers. Like Tauzin, Powell wants to toss the rules governing cross ownership in the same market. Those are the same regs vexing moguls-like Rupert Murdoch, who has already obtained one waiver in order to own both the New York Post and the city's Fox affiliate, and who would like to expand his reach further.

"I don't know why there's something inherent about a newspaper and something inherent about a broadcaster that means they can't be combined," Powell told reporters in April. Murdoch's sentiments exactly.

Despite his insensitive gaffes and obvious pro-business sentiment, Powell's mere appearance in the corridors of power touches off a bipartisan lovefest. At his first Capitol Hill hearing, for example, Powell was greeted with praise more befitting a Medal of Honor recipient than a bureaucrat.

Aside from the unexpected flattery from Tauzin ("I almost want to applaud after your statement"), Democrat John Dingell of Michigan commended Powell's de-regulatory blather as "right on the money." Jane Harmon, a California Republican, added, "If you bring those skills to reforming the FCC, the rest of the federal government should come next."

Harmon is not the only

Washington insider who's gaga over Powell's political outlook. "He's just a very likeable guy, kind of like Bush," says Charles Cook, a political analyst for the National Journal Group and editor of The Cook Political

Report. "You wouldn't mind going fishing or having a beer with him, or going to a cookout.....He doesn't

come across as an ideologue or terribly partisan."

Powell's Web site (www.fcc.gov/commissioners/powell) features unintentionally comic photos of him mugging with Diana Ross and the Osmonds, publicity shots that ooze non-threatening geekiness. Reporters who gain access to his inner sanctum are invariably regaled with the tale of the jeep accident that cost him his army career, which he illustrates by whipping out old CAT scans of his shattered hip.

That charm has enabled Powell to develop a Teflon resistance to criticism. The fact that his chief of staff, Marsha McBride, previously served as a Disney lobbyist has barely merited a mention. And Powell's questionable conduct during the AOL Time Warner merger review has largely been forgotten. Though his father sat on AOL's board and held options to purchase 320,000 shares of stock, Powell, with legal clearance, refused to recuse himself from the vote.

On Jan. 11, the same day the FCC gave the merger its final approval, Colin announced his resignation

from the AOL's board and his intention to exercise those options. His net profit should be in the neighborhood of \$9 million.

Powell was just reconfirmed for a second FCC term, which won't expire until 2007. Yet few believe he'll serve that long. Embarrassed by the sea of lily-white faces at the Philadelphia convention, Republicans are desperate for a rising African American star—a Great Black Hope, as it were. That title was formerly held by JC Watts, the Oklahoma congressman who once rebutted a Clinton State of the Union Address with a metaphor about magazine cut-outs. But Watts was too visibly tied to the religious right's moral agenda, and has since faded from the GOP's national spotlight. Race alone is not enough to spur party switching among minority voters.

Powell, for his part, flaunts his centrist credentials. "I'm not a blind ideologue.....It's fair to say I'm a moderate," he told an interviewer in 1997, mimicking his father's middle-of-the-road politics. But FCC veterans haven't been fooled by his conciliatory posturing.

"Everyone knows Powell's not like Daddy," says one former aide to William Kennard, the last FCC chairman under President Clinton. "He's a Republican all the way, really keeps with the party line."

Unlike his father, for example, Powell opposes affirmation action. Yet he has evaded criticism from

African American leaders by coauthoring a bill with McCain that offers tax credits to minorities who buy media companies—a pleasant-sounding "trickle down" measure that benefits only the most privileged. And Powell has conveniently become a champion of several non-objectionable crusades, such as asking Congress for the power to levy stiffer fines against corporate scofflaws—though the rare \$10 million penalty is unlikely to trouble a Baby Bell with annual revenues upward of \$60 billion.

He's mum on the future, but even Powell's supposed critics acknowledge that he's primed for a larger stage. "Michael Powell's political prospects are great," says Gigi Sohn, ex-director of the Media Access Project, a consumer advocacy group. "He's smart, very politically savvy....Bush talks about being a uniter, not a divider. Michael Powell is one."

Ah, yes—another junior member of a modern right-wing dynasty, itching to let corporatins unite in the name of laissez-faire and content to let the divide between Big Media's mandarins and the captive public grow ever wider. A scientist could scarcely clone a better candidate.



**When Lou Gehrig's widow** chose an agency to lead the fight against amyotrophic lateral sclerosis — the muscle-wasting disease that killed her husband — she selected the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

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Book Ends

Review by Kam Williams

We Can't Go Home Again: An Argument about Afrocentrism

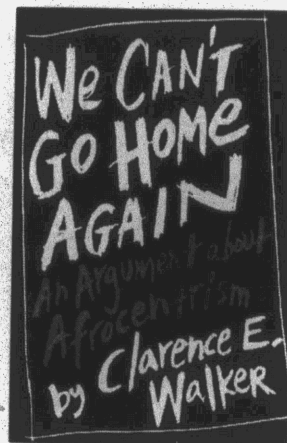
by Clarence E. Walker  
Oxford University Press

"I take issue with Afrocentrists who claim that Africa was the mother of the West. This assertion is questionable because, for example, ancient Egyptian writing and architecture resulted when the Nile Valley civilization came into contact with the Sumerians. Afrocentrism offers not an empowering understanding of black Americans' past but a pastiche of simplistic fantasies."  
--Clarence E. Walker--

Would you believe, in this day and age, that any educator would write a reactionary book about why it's better to refer to black people as Negroes rather than African-Americans? Clarence Walker, himself a black man and a Professor of History at the University of California at Davis, makes just such a case in "We Can't Go Home Again: An Argument about Afrocentrism".

In the preface to this work of dubious merit, the author states by way of introduction, "Throughout the text I use the term 'Negro'... I am uncomfortable with the term 'African-American', and one of my purposes in writing this book is to show why." Apparently, Walker has some bones to pick with 'Afrocentrists', a set of mostly black historians who tout what he considers a therapeutic, but misguided version of African history.

Walker goes to considerable



lengths, in a sloppy, confusing style which borders on gibberish, to debunk the life's work of some highly-regarded scholars such as John Henrik Clarke and Melville Herskovits. The book's basic premise is that Africa does not have a provable past worth of study and that, "Afrocentrism is Eurocentrism in blackface."

There is something a little unsettling about a person who would go out of his way to deny his connection to his ancestors and then to trivialize their contributions to the world. After all, what is he saying by calling himself a Negro? There is no Negro-land. So, the monicker 'Negro' gives little sense of a people's roots. But there is an Africa, which is why the term African-American makes perfect sense.

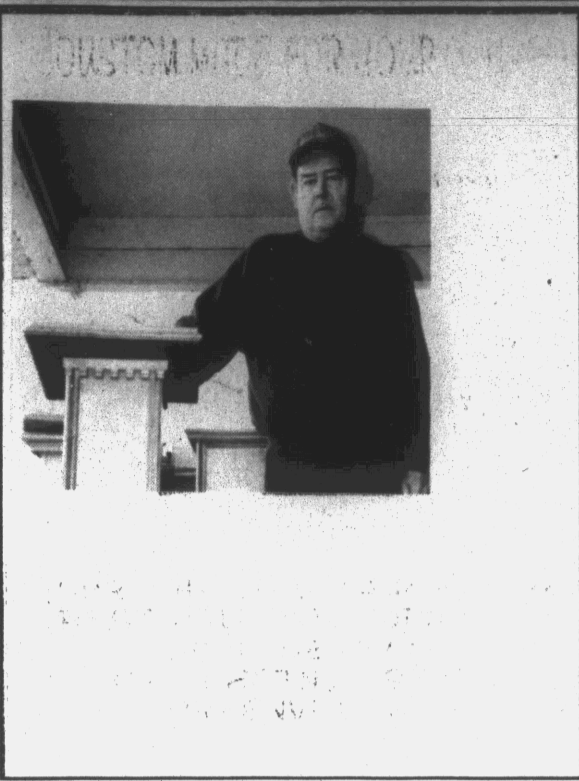
Despite all the credentials, I considered the possibility that perhaps Walker is writing tongue in cheek, because his philosophy is so patently self-hating. His antiquated attitudes aren't far afield from the outdated dyed in the wool racism once espoused by the likes of Columbia University's John Burgess who argued in 1902 that, "A black skin means membership in a race of men which has never of itself succeeded in subjecting passion to reason. has never created any civilization of any kind." If Walker's was a serious endeavor, I wouldn't be surprised to find that a conservative think tank underwrote the research which led to such ludicrous conclusions.

Any questions?

Drug Task Force Agent

A Five County Narcotics Task Force in northeast North Carolina is seeking applicants for undercover agents. Applicants must possess the highest degree of integrity, be certified in NC as law enforcement officials. Experience in narcotics enforcement and/or financial investigation is preferred. Applicants must also be willing to undergo background investigation including psychological, financial and polygraph testing. Positions include random drug testing. Agents will be responsible for the enforcement of the NC Controlled Substance Act and the Criminal General Statutes of North Carolina. Salary depends on qualifications. A completed Sheriff's education and Training Standards Commission form F-3 is to be received by Keith Roach, PO Box 308, Williamston, NC 27892 no later than 5:00 pm, Wednesday, August 1, 2001. The Narcotics Task Force is an equal opportunity employer. Minority applicants are especially encouraged.

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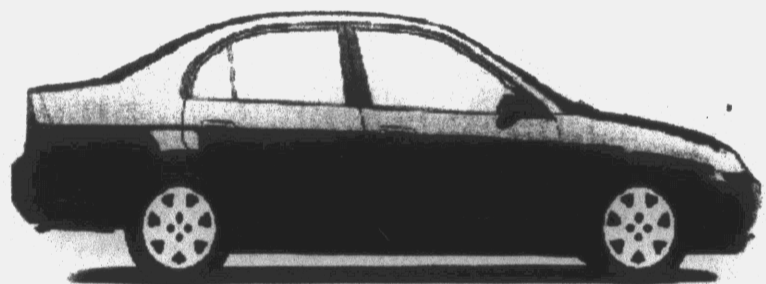
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Officiating

## Antonio Maurice Clark

St. Paul Missionary  
Baptist Church  
Tarboro, North Carolina



# From The Desk Of Mrs Beatrice Maye



Mrs. Beatrice Maye

Letter to the Editor:

What is the role of the black church today Black churches could serve as community centers for health services, employment opportunities, leadership and business training, especially for the growth of Black underclass who feel abandoned and confused about what its role is in today's America. Churches should ally with families and schools to share this social burden.

This burden falls primarily on the shoulders of the church because nearly all other institutions within Black neighborhoods are functional, and various levels of government have disavowed any responsibility to aid this segment of the Black community.

It would be helpful if Black churches would teach to enlighten rather than preach to excite. All too often, our Black congregations go to

church simply to get excited and to walk away feeling good. Most blacks need them to negotiate the economic and political world outside of the church. Churches could develop educational programs to educate Black youth and adults by teaching them economic principles and capitalism from the pulpit and in Sunday schools. Churches could help parents and other adults learn how to be self-efficient and competitive by building

Black communities, practicing ethno-aggregation and vertical integration, and commercializing Black culture through business development and inculcating a code of conduct.

Every Monday morning, Black churches typically deposit approximately \$1 billion in white-owned banks across America. In most instances, these are very same banks from which Black people, as well as Black churches and Black businesses, have a difficult time securing loans. Churches could establish banks, savings and loans, credit unions, or loan funds designed to provide business and personal loans to Black businesses.

Church leaders have to work together to fine tune these suggestions and shape them so that they are practical.

Beatrice Maye

Montel Williams:  
Life Lessons and Reflections

Lessons Worth Learning:

1. Don't wait for your ship to come in. Swim out to it.
2. There are no secrets to success. It's the result of preparation, hard work, learning from failure. (Colin Powell)
3. Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend. (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)
4. Love truth, but pardon error.
5. No violence. Make sure the words that come out of your mouth are words that make your children feel good about themselves, not words that break their hearts.
6. What did I do today that is worth talking about tomorrow?
7. Of all the passions, fear weakens judgement most. (Cardinal de Ritz)
8. Children need to be taught values. They need to be taught that there is a

future for them, that there is some point in their lives where they can be helpful to others.

9. There are no shortcuts in this world and no hand-outs. We've all got the same shot at the brass ring.

10. No one can make you feel inferior without your consent

(Eleanor Roosevelt)

11. Whoever is happy will make others happy, too. He who has courage and faith will never perish in misery.

(Anne Frank)

12. Some men see things as they are and ask why. Others dream things that never were and ask why not. (George Bernard Shaw)

13. Character builds slowly, but it can be torn down again with incredible swiftness.

14. Children will never learn responsibility if they can't recognize it in their parents.

15. When you cease to make a contribution you begin to die.

16. Do not regret growing older, it's a privilege denied to many.

17. The most important

thing in life is belonging.

18. Discipline builds character, character propels you toward your goals. (Gemme Simmons)

19. They wrote documents hundreds of years ago stating that all men are created equal. We talk a mean game in this country, but we play a meaner one.

20. You should be okay with your image. Don't let society define you; define yourself.

21. Your character is the result of your conduct. (Aristotle)

22. Making a mistake doesn't mean it's all over. It doesn't mean you quit and live off that as an excuse for not being successful. You use that mistake as a springboard to becoming successful.

23. A living is defined by what you get. A life is defined by what you give.

24. Intentions often melt in the face of unexpected opportunity.

(Shirley Temple Black)

25. That which does not kill me makes me stronger. (Nietzsche)

TRACEY BRADLEY

Chicago mom waits, prays

Seeking comfort for her heartache, Tracey Bradley sang hymns and played a tambourine during a church service while police and FBI agents continued the 10-day search for her daughters.

The day after America's Most Wanted featured the case, investigators appeared no closer to finding 10-year-old Tionda Bradley and her sister, Diamond, 3.

Chicago police spokesman Thomas Donegan said officers were investigating the "few" tips they received after the broadcast of the Fox network show. The girls have been missing since July 6.

"We're actually re-following up on leads to make sure everything is checked on," Donegan said.

"My family keeps getting stronger, stronger, stronger," Bradley told the 50 parishioners.

Fleming told the congregation that Bradley has at times been misunderstood by those who have questioned why she has not been more visible while authorities search for her daughters.

Fleming said the stress on Bradley was compounded by bad advice that led her to initially balk at viewing a grocery surveillance tape that investigators said showed two girls who bore a strong resemblance to her daughters.

Bradley has since reviewed several tapes from various stores and determined her daughters appeared on none of them.

SEAN PUFFY COMBS

Hoodwinked by server

Sean "P. Diddy" Combs was hoodwinked by an autograph seeker last week. After his appearance on *Live With Regis & Kelly*, Combs stepped out of his limo to sign autographs and greet fans when a process server switched up the notebook and pen he was holding and served Combs with a child support lawsuit by ex-girlfriend Kim Porter.

Porter is suing Combs for more child support for his youngest son, Christian, seeking more than the \$7,000 a month that he currently pays.

QUINCY JONES

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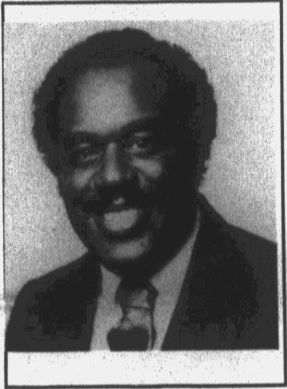
The music network has produced *Say It Loud: Black Music In America*, recounting the evolution of Black music. The special includes comments and testimony from artists like James Brown, Smokey Robinson, George Clinton, and more than 70 others, covering the genres of jazz, blues, gospel, hip-hop and R&B.

The five-part documentary series will air Oct. 8. VH1 knows you'll love it so much, that they are, via Rhino records, releasing a six-CD boxed set on Sept. 18, a CD soundtrack on Oct. 2nd, and a VHS/DVD title on Oct. 23.

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## Spiritual Reflections



Dr. George Hawkins

To Know God Through His Word

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:

*Daniel 11:32 "And by smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will display strength and take action."*

One of the most vital teachings of Scripture is that God can be known. The highest knowledge to which

men and women can attain is a personal knowledge of God. Since we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God, we do not naturally possess this knowledge even though we know that He exists. Knowing that God exists is not the same as knowing God personally, just as knowing the President does not mean that you necessarily know him personally. This knowledge of God is crucial, however, since to know God personally is to be saved and have eternal life. We should rejoice in the fact that God earnestly wants us to attain this knowledge. That is why He has spoken to us in His Word, revealing Himself and disclosing the means by which we may know Him.

While God surely can be known, there is always more to be learned about Him. There are many Scriptures which teach that our knowledge of God is partial. It is said to be "too wonderful" "unsearchable" and "infinite". Since our knowledge of God is incomplete, we must increase it through spiritual growth. Paul for example, prays to know God

better. We are even commanded to grow in the knowledge of Christ. The development of one's intimate knowledge of God constitutes one of the greatest delights of the Christian life.

The Bible also reveals that God cannot be known personally apart from His Word. It contains the gospel which must be believed, and the gospel brings forth saving faith in itself. The gospel can therefore be called "the power of God for salvation." The part that the Scriptures and the gospel contained within them play in bringing men to know God is described in three important illustrations: the gospel is the agent of the new birth, that is, it is like the implanted seed without which the conception of new life cannot occur; St. Luke 8:11 says "now the parable is this, the seed is the word of God"; it is also a cleansing agent through which God gives the believing sinner a spiritual bath that results in salvation; and the Scriptures are like an educator bringing the wisdom that leads to salvation



GOSPEL GEMS..... Pictured above is Sam and Audrey Tate of the nightly feature, "Gospel Gems" which is heard on WOOV Joy 1340AM. The Tates visited the studio of Joy 1340 while vacationing. They expressed their delight in having a chance meet and talk to some of the listeners in this area. Sam Tate was also a recent recipient of the 2001 Black Heritage Music Award. Come back soon Sam and May God Bless!

Photo by Michael Adams

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*All The Movies w/ Nureya Namaz*

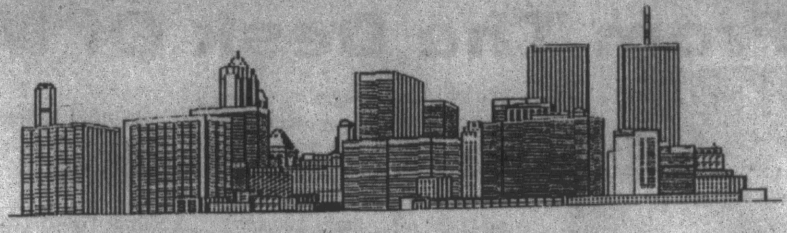
**The Spanish Prisoner: Prisoner of the Mind**

Reviewed by  
Nureya Namaz

The Spanish Prisoner was directed and written by David Mainet. stars Campbell Scott, Rebecca Pidgeon, Steve Martin, Ben Gazzara, Ricky Jay, and Felicity Huffman. Never trust anyone, especially greedy corporate businessmen. The Spanish Prisoner was released back in 1997 and focuses on trust issues and how quick people are to take advantage of total strangers. Joe Ross (Campbell Scott) represents the everyman that works very hard and is pretty darn good at his job, so good that he invents something called "The Process," an incredible procedure that would allow the company he works for to gain complete control of its market. Like anyone in Joe's situation would expect and do, Joe asks for a raise but

his boss wavers making Joe feel awfully uncomfortable with his place in the company. Even though he's invented this incredible "process," does his position as a regular employee automatically prevent him from attaining a better and improved position in the work place and in life? Later Joe goes to the Caribbean on a business trip. While there he runs into Jimmy Dell (Steve Martin), a mysterious wealthy man that tells Joe about life and the corporate world. Days pass and while back in the States, Joe runs into Jimmy again and from there we go on a tangled web of deception so thick your left on the edge of your seat waiting for those final clues to lead you to those final answers to all of your why's and how's. If you enjoy films that make you think and also allow you not to second-guess the plot, The Spanish Prisoner is for you. There are some predictable moments, but not too

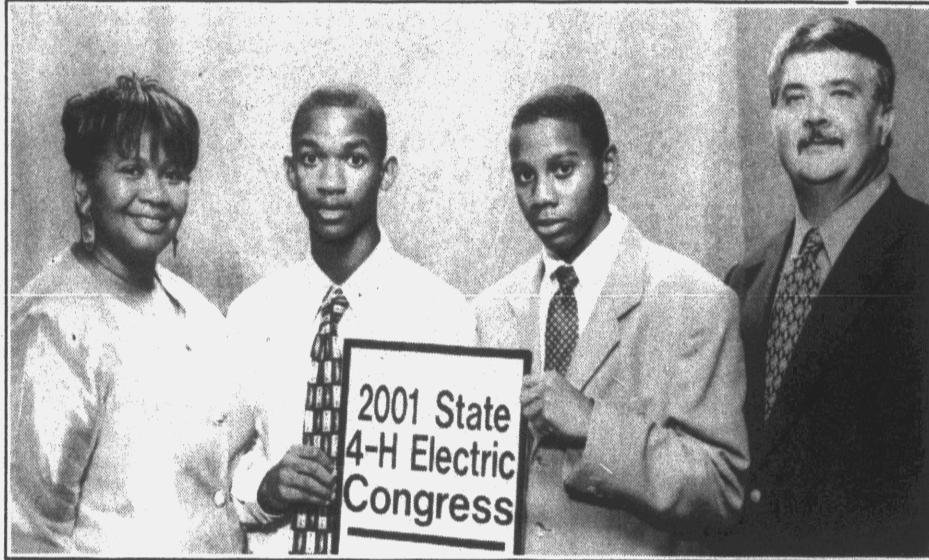
many where you know exactly what turn Joe's character will take or second guess who he can trust or not. Yet when you reach the end of this film, you have to wonder is it truly the end or just a continuation of the deception. Are we all just living a life of illusion and deception like everyman Joe? Rent this film and share Joe's journey to understanding that no one can be trusted except maybe yourself and if you are spiritual, God. Learn to be able to distinguish falsehood from truth. If you can do that you can prevent others from ever taking advantage of you. Going back to my first sentence, never trust anyone, especially greedy businessmen, because frankly you have to ask: How did they get so rich in the first place? Well, in the film's case, some get wealthy by playing games with other people's lives and I say to you with a preachy send off- watch your step. I'm sure Joe wished he did.



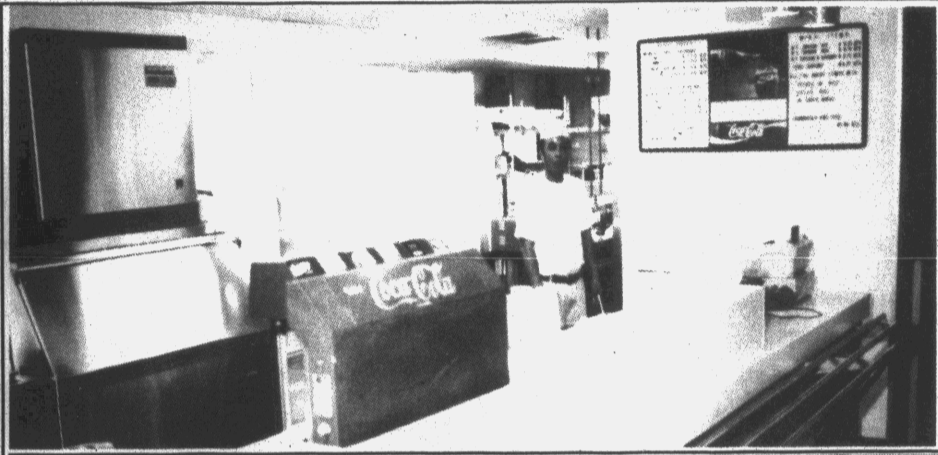
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Pitt County representatives at the 54th Annual State 4-H Electric Congress at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Pictured ( left to right ) Mildred Council, Logan Council, Pierre Westmoreland, and Bryant R. Brooks, Dominion NC Power Representative.



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# REFLECTIONS EXPRESSIONS and REVIEWS



**Ms Suetette Jones**

**RETIREMENT**  
(A Forbidden Word)  
BY: Suetette A. Jones

Growing older need not mean getting depressed or bored. Seniors today refuse to sit in a rocking chair twirling their thumbs especially if they are in good health, and regard retirement as an opportunity.

Retirement is no longer in vogue---it is a thing of the past. Most of us are task-oriented and when we retire we lose our purpose in life. For some older adults---even those surrounded by friends and family, including grandchildren---boredom, lethargy and depression can set in. Several ideas are suggested as to how to keep alive and zesty even after

retirement. They are:

**1. TAKE A JOB.** Many minimum-pay jobs such as working check-out counters or being ticket-takers can give one an opportunity to talk to people as well as a supplement to Social Security benefits. There is no loss of dignity in doing any kind of work.

**2. GET CONNECTED.** Don't be afraid of computers. Some agencies offer courses to senior citizens.

**3. GET A HOBBY.** It will bring much joy. Learn to do something with your hands; sewing, knitting or crocheting for women---crafts and woodworking for men.

**4 BE A MENTOR.** Schools that have special education classes and after-school programs need one-on-one services for some students. You don't need a college degree to listen to a child read or read to a child. It will give you a sense of self-worth. Become a volunteer in community-based facilities and institutions.

**5. PUMP IRON.** All seniors can benefit from staying fit through exercise. Most health clubs have programs for seniors. A simple walk for twenty minutes

each day can build muscles which enhance the release of valuable hormones and strengthen bones to protect against osteoporosis.

**6. KEEP SEX IN YOUR LIFE.** Sex is a fundamental human activity.

Not only is sexuality fulfilling and beneficial but the early Eastern World regarded it as sacred and honorable. They practiced it as a part of their religion. One enduring myth is that at a certain age ( fifty or so) an active sex life is over.

Studies reveal that older Americans are indeed sexually active.

Once upon a time, retirement was a short reward for a life of hard work. Shortly, after it began, it ended. Now retirement is just another stage of life---with potential to benefit self, family and community, and with risk of wasting it until the retiree wastes away. It can be an opportunity to pursue your favorite interests. You know have all the time to do all of the things that you never had time to do. Retire from life? NEVER !!!!!

Source:  
Parade Modern Maturity

"Life Without Limits"  
by: Dr. Robert Stone

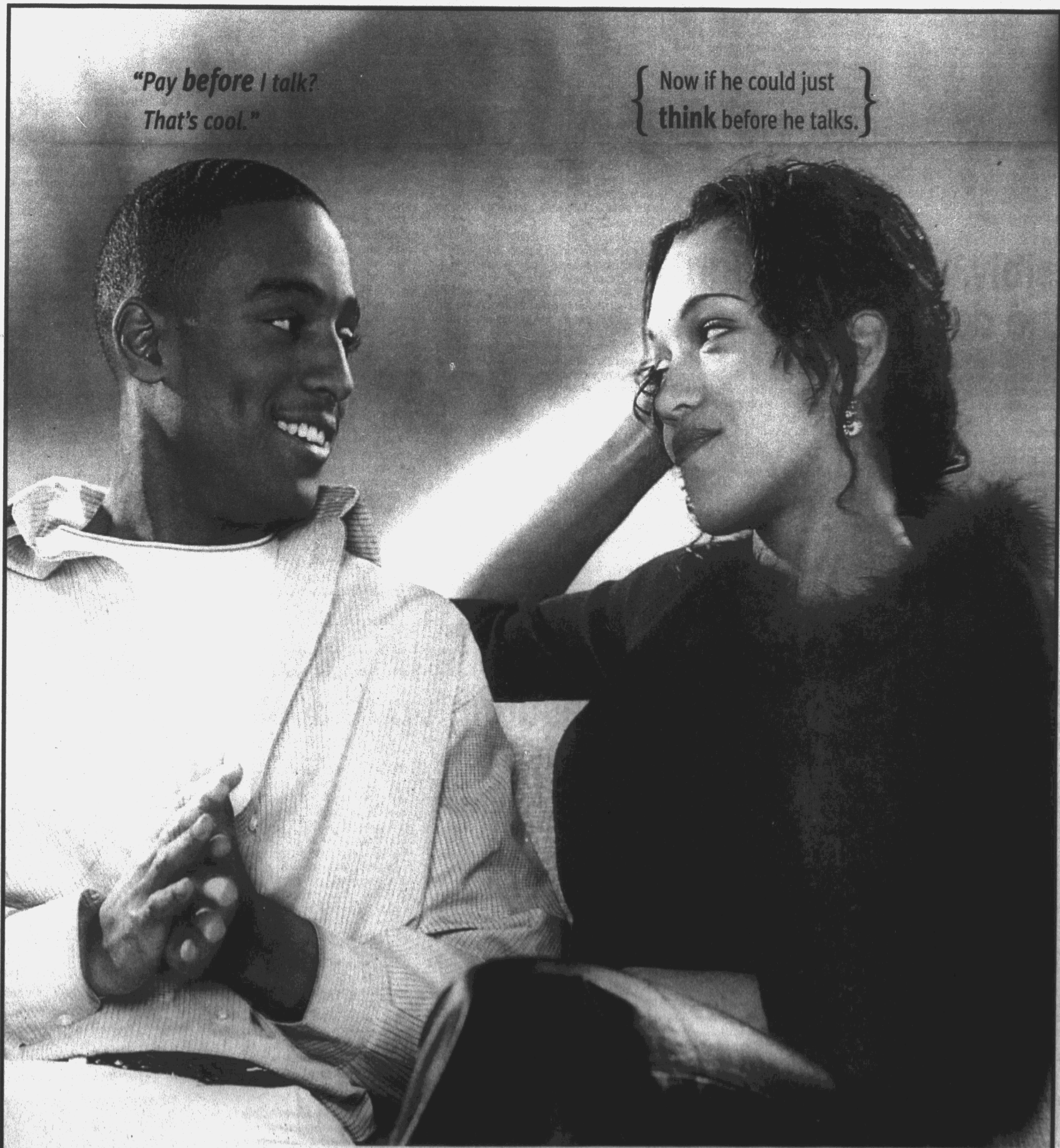
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**CHURCH DEDICATION.....** Above, along with Pastor B.V. Rhinehardt (seated), the members of formerly The Guiding Light Temple pause to take a picture for the M' Voice Newspaper before starting their march to the new church which is located at 604 Albermarle Ave. The Dedication Service was followed by a grand dinner outside of the new church. The name of the new church is Healing the Hurt Deliverance Ministries which by the way is also the name of their radio ministry. It can be heard on Saturday afternoons at 4: 30 pm on Joy 1340 AM Radio. During the many years of their radio ministry they have always been available to let GOD use them to Heal The Hurt of hearts broken by the difficulties of life. The service took place on July 22, 2001. We at WOOW pray for your continued success. This is the place where. "The Lord Is Moving"  
Photo by Michael Adams



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OPINION

The M' Voice Newspaper

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Jim Rouse/ Publisher/ CEO M. Adams/ Editor

Wm. Clark/ General Manager

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EDITORIALS

Only you can prevent Black-on-Black violence

Black-on-Black violence must stop!  
For the past few weeks, the number of Black homicides, and Black-on-black violence as a whole, has grown to a rate that will likely surpass the homicides for all of last year.

Many living in the Black community hate to see warm weather come because they know the window-shaking, booming music, kids hanging out on street corners and shootings increase when summer arrives.

Gunshots become a common sound, and it's rarely a single shot. It's almost always an automatic weapon with shots that send you diving for cover as you pray that a stray bullet doesn't hit you or a loved one inside your own home.

In the Monday morning Union Planters National Bank shooting on Lamar Avenue, two people, a 25-year-old woman, Sheryl Lynne White, a bank customer, was killed and James Earl Jones, 63, the bank security guard lies in critical condition at The MED, hanging on to life from a gunshot wound to the face. And, throughout the city, other bank robberies and killings not related to bank jobs.

Why all the killing?  
The age-old excuse of "they can't find decent jobs" no longer holds water. It's pretty clear that if you drop out of school, you will not find a decent job. You also won't go very far if you just do what it takes to get by in life. Jobs exist and there are plenty of ways to get them, including going to college and participating in training and apprenticeship programs.

Our forefathers fought and died to open doors for posterity, but in many cases, young people prefer hanging out on corners, selling poison to make an easy buck.  
Despite all the killings, the Black community appears to be numb to all the violence, often giving little or no information to police to curb the destruction.

If the police had gunned down those bank-robbery suspects during their arrests Tuesday, protests would have erupted all over Memphis. We would have called the city and county mayors, our Black and

White elected officials, the national NAACP, the Revs. Al Sharpton, Jesse Jackson and any other Black leader we thought we could have gotten responses from.

But, seemingly, when we should protest, we don't, most hiding behind the excuse: We have no local leadership that is concerned about us until it is time for an election. In part, that's true, but we have to ask ourselves: Do we pressure them with our concerns or even offer suggestions at meetings and sessions that will force them to pay attention to them.

The time has passed for us to stop turning our heads, covering our ears and closing our eyes when Blacks kill other Blacks. If we're going to have prosperous communities, where our kids grow up without the threat of violence, we have to take a stand.

We must demand more of our young people—our posterior—by showing them that there's a better way in life than gang-banging and/or selling and taking drugs. Show them there are no shortcuts in life. Stress to them that hard work and determination are values that must be instilled and kept.

And, the silence with the police must also stop. There's a bad apple in every bunch, and we must rid our communities of those who are poisoning it. That means talking to the police when crimes take place near our homes.

It's time for the churches—pulpit and pew—sitting on every other corner and across the street from each other—to unite and at least visit the hedges and highways with the true meaning of the gospel or good news. It's time for all of us who live and work together to say we're not going to tolerate the violence any more.

How do we do it?  
Give the police our full support, show the bad element that we will not support thugs in our communities. Anyone who would gun down another human over drugs or money is a hoodlum and not worth protecting.

Let them know...Not In Our Neighborhood! Not In Our City or County!

But as long as we are silent, it will continue.

Possibly, some new light for the death penalty

Even U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor—a chief architect of what many see as the nation's archaic death penalty laws—has now finally seen the light and has added her name to the growing list of prestigious Americans who have come to question the necessity—and fairness—of the "ultimate punishment" for capital lawbreakers—the death penalty.

She has joined fellow justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg—who in April, voiced support for a proposed moratorium on executions in Maryland—former colleagues Harry Blackmun and Lewis Powell, Illinois Gov. George Ryan, the Rev. Jesse Jackson and others, including this newspaper in expressing fears about the appropriateness and fairness of legal executions.

Said O'Connor last week to a meeting of Minnesota women lawyers: "After 20 years

on the high court, I have to acknowledge that there are serious questions being raised about whether the death penalty is being fairly administered in this country. Perhaps most alarming is the fact that if statistics are any indication, the system may well be allowing some innocent defendants to be executed."

From an officer of the highest court in the land, those are some chilling, but sage and credible words.

In the past 25 years, according to those who compile such statistics, at least 91 former Death Row inmates have been exonerated in the U.S., one posthumously.

The O'Connor statements should at least further the national dialogue on the death penalty and whether the U.S. should remain one of the few democracies that still employs it, as flawed, racist and final as it can be.

The changing face of AIDS in America

The more than 20-year-old malady known as HIV/AIDS has a new face, according to an alarming new report by the venerable *New York Times*, and it should be a wake-up call for governments—and all persons who are at risk for contracting the sometimes deadly disease.

The face of AIDS is Blacker, younger and increasingly more female. Cases among women, especially Blacks, are surging in the South according to the report, which points to areas such as the Mississippi Delta and areas of Alabama and North Carolina as places where a virtual crisis exists in the transmission of AIDS.

Some of the sad and stunning facts, from 1981 to 1999, according to the *Times*:

• Some 26,522 Black women developed AIDS in the 11 states in the Old Confederacy, including in Mississippi and North Carolina, where more Black women than White

men contracted HIV over the course of the epidemic.

• Black women, who make up 7 percent of the nation's population, accounted for 16 percent of all new AIDS diagnoses in 1999, a percentage that has grown steadily since the syndrome was identified 20 years ago.

The reason for the burgeoning toll in the South are myriad: unemployment, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy and minimal access to healthcare and preventive education programs.

Clearly, in the newest "hotbed" for the disease, the message about AIDS prevention is not getting through to those who need to hear and follow it.

Governments in the affected areas—and in fact the U.S. government itself—need to provide more monies for education and treatment to prevent the South of America from becoming a close kin to the South Africa.

DO YOU THINK UFO'S ARE CAUSING THIS RASH OF MISSING PEOPLE?



COMMENTS

All citizens must consider the state of Black America

by Hugh B. Price

The Secretary of State of the United States of America is an African American, a "first."

The national security adviser to the President of the United States is an African American, another "first."

The Secretary of Education in the President's Cabinet is an African American, also a "first."

These and other "firsts" of the Bush Administration, along with the Cabinet and sub-Cabinet-level "firsts" of the administration of President Clinton, and the job and economic gains of the 1990s for Black at most economic levels support the assertion that there's never been a better time to be Black in America.

But even now, with professions of a commitment to tolerance and diversity being socially as well as legally required, the difficulties, tensions and problems that are rooted in America's racial past—and present—remain sharp, even if unseen, or, as is often the case, ignored. No one should be surprised by this complexity, this juxtaposition of significant progress and persisting problems. America is still trying to live up to that splendid ideal written into the nation's founding document: *We hold these truths to be self-evident...*

For more than a quarter-century the National Urban League's policy journal, *The State of Black America*, has been keeping tabs on how that journey toward the ideal has been progressing. And every year the need for the scrutiny of scholars, public-policy experts, legislators, and activists it brings together to examine some crucial issues seems to intensify. The reason is simple: As more progress is achieved, the comparison with the problems that remain, and the new problems that appear, grows sharper, too.

So it is with our current issue, which has just been released. It examines some of the issues with which the rising generation of African Americans, those under 35, have to grapple. Many in this Black cohort are fulfilling the promise of the civil rights victories of the 1960s. They've been able to take advantage of the significant equalizing of opportunity across the color line. But, even they face problems that are still rooted in race, as the national survey of Black Americans, which forms the volume's centerpiece shows in dramatic fashion.

And some of the broader problems affecting Black Americans are still severe.

For one thing, consider the public schools, which 95 percent of Black pupils attend, and which, taken as a whole, are more racially segregated now than at the time of the Supreme Court's landmark rejection of segregation in the *Brown* decision.

We can't wait for or depend on the mere fact of racial integration to attack—and solve—the problem of inspiring Black children to do well in school. And, anyone who thinks the problem of under-performing schools in Black neighborhoods is not connected to the larger issues of school and housing integration is "just whistling Dixie."

Indeed, the entire public discussion about educational vouchers and charter schools is grounded in spoken and unspoken assumptions and presumptions about race.

A second example of the "other side" of all the fine examples of racial progress is the Black unemployment rate. In the late 1990s it fell to the single digits, levels not seen since the end of World War II. It took that long for the positive effects of the decade's unprecedented economic recovery to reach the low-wage levels of the workforce ladder and open up millions of new jobs. When it did, masses of unskilled, poorly-educated Blacks were among the million rushing to fill them—in the process, showing that three decades' worth of glib theorizing about the Black poor's "cultural deficiencies" was just so much bunk.

But now the economy is souring, and layoffs of white-collar and blue-collar workers are rising, and those jobs at the bottom are shrinking sharply. It doesn't require genius to predict what will happen to the Black unemployment rate.

Or, to consider a third issue, juxtapose all the good news against the racial divide between many, many police departments in this country and Black people.

Note that I didn't say "Black criminals." No, a divide—that is to say, an antagonistic relationship between police and criminals—is exactly what law-abiding citizens want.

But, in Black America the law-abiding are caught, and often caught hard, by the inclination of some individual White officers, and the overt or implicit policy of some departments as a whole to consider all African Americans (and darker-hued Latino Americans, and Asian Americans, too) as guilty—of something—until proven innocent.

That leads to police racial profiling or other forms of police misconduct. Amid all the talk about the growing diversity of American society and the growing tolerance for diversity among Americans, it is with us, still, in the first years of the new century.

How long this pattern of stark contrasts characterizes the state of Black America is a question, and a responsibility, for all Americans to consider.

(Hugh B. Price is president of the National Urban League.)

Many Christians are not measuring up to Jesus

by Louis "Hop" Kendrick

Rarely, if ever, discuss religion with anyone who has no involvement in organized religion. There are many reasons they give to justify why they believe the church is a house of false Christians.

Let's examine some of them. One of the oldest arguments is from the First Crusade in the year 1095 by Pope Urban II who said, "God wills it." The soldiers would say that victory in battle was the extension of God's kingdom.

A young man told me for years he would not go to church because his father was a staunch church-goer who fought with his mother, got drunk every Friday and Saturday, cussed everybody out and went to church every Sunday. To him, his father was a false Christian.

There are certain people in church who look down on others based on how they dress.

Some of the Sunday Christians question others who fail to contribute money in a large and substantial manner. There is an over emphasis placed on church beautification, members with college degrees, the number of years they have in the church and the fact that they have a special seat.

Some officers show more concern about the position they hold than they do about their responsibilities.

Too often we hear them boast about their pastor's salary, his degrees, his ability to preach, the number of services held on Sunday, but very rarely do you hear them stress the fact that the pastor is really a messenger of God.

There are also those who are not emotional in church and are taken to task for not shouting amen often enough. There are church-goers who go to Sunday School, Bible study and every special event, but don't speak to their neighbors.

There are those ministers who are unable to sit at a table of concern unless they are in charge.

There are those alleged Christians who make a distinction between youths by referring to them as "those kids" instead of "our kids."

Some stress that if you live by the Bible you will be blessed materially. But, whatever happened to spiritual blessings?

There are ministers who preach that their denomination is the only gateway to heaven and any other denomination is the doorway to hell.

And on Sunday mornings across this nation, there occurs the most segregated hour—congregations are 99.9 percent or 100 percent Black or White.

Judge Christ by the actions of today's Christians?

(Kendrick is a contributing writer to *The Tri-State Defender*.)

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One bad apple (driver) is spoiling the whole barrel (route)

Dear Mr. Hudson,  
It has been brought to my attention that on July 5, around 5:11 p.m., the rude operator showed his rudeness on that 53 Weaver route. As a result, once again, he caused a big uproar with the passengers on the bus.

According to eyewitnesses, a passenger got on the 5:11 p.m.'s bus at the North End Terminal with a legitimate transfer. The passenger informed the operator that it was her intention to catch the 4:02 p.m. bus, but that it broke down at the North End Terminal. Therefore, she has to wait on the next available bus which was at the 5:11 p.m. (The passenger's story was confirmed by the other passengers who were on the 4:02 p.m. bus which broke down.)

However, the operator did not accept her story. In fact, the operator talked to the passenger as though the passenger was a little child, telling her to "shut up." It was during this time he decided to call dispatcher.

According to witnesses, dispatcher confirmed the passenger's story but the operator was determined that he was going to force this passenger to pay another fare, anyway. In the meantime, I understand that the operator pulled the bus over to Front/Linden for a period of 10 minutes while all of this was going on. I, also, understand that the actions and the attitude of the operator was so bad that even some of the other passengers became heated and upset with the bus operator.

Mr. Hudson, this is the third letter I have written about this operator. If you continue to show an unwillingness to deal with the conduct of the operator, I will be happy to come before MATA Board at the next board meeting.

This operator is not just harassing the passengers of the Memphis Area Transit Authority on the 53 Weaver. These are homeowners. These are voters. They are hard-working citizens who are trying to get home peacefully. They are my neighbors. They are my friends. If it comes down to petitioning the MATA Board or our elected officials in order to deal with this situation, they stand ready to do so.

Mr. Hudson, please do not take lightly the fact that one of your operators is creating a hostile environment on the bus. In the last two letters I wrote you, I asked that you take some needed steps in dealing with this operator who has been rude to the passengers and who showed no respect for the job. I ask you for the third time for you to take some needed actions. At the time of writing this letter, I just received another telephone calling complaining about this same operator.

This bus operator is making the good bus operators look bad. This is making a simple bus ride a living hell for my neighbors who are just trying to get home from a hard day work.

In the meantime, I would like a written respond. Thank you.

Johnnie Mosely,  
president, Citizens Action Committee,  
Memphis

MATA takes action on 'rude' bus driver

Dear Mr. Mosely,  
Let me take this opportunity to thank you for the information you provided me regarding rudeness on the part of one of our operators. The operator was suspended without pay pending further investigation. As you may know, you can't always react to complaints until they are fully investigated. However, in this case the facts are present for all to see.

The driver will remain on suspension until this matter is fully resolved. I can assure you that the steps are being taken to prevent such incidents in the future.

Thank you again for your interest and participation. If you can further assist you, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (901) 722-7 1.

Will Hudson,  
resident/general manager,  
MATA

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dency. The response from the conservative right intensify the assault on progressive Black leadership.

After a US Civil Rights Commission report on the 2000 Florida presidential vote debacle that blocked tens of thousands of Black votes from being counted, and cost Democrat Al Gore the election, was leaked, Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris, who was severely criticized for her handling of the election, called it "degrading and demeaning" and charged that the chairwoman, Dr. Mary Frances Berry, supported Gore.

Harris was state co-chair of the Bush for President Committee.

Florida Republican Gov. Jeb Bush, who was also criticized in the leaked report, earlier blasted Berry and the Democratic majority on the commission as being partisan and biased. The outside support emboldened the Republican member of the panel to accuse her chair of leaking the report before it could be reviewed and changed.

Berry vehemently denies that claim. Indeed from the one-day trial and 90-day federal prison sentence imposed on Sharpton after he was arrested, tried and convicted of trespassing while protesting the US Navy's bombing exercises on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques (he had also announced a possible 2004 run for president), to the alleged harsh treatment of Jacqueline Jackson, wife of Rev. Jesse Jackson, who served just over a week in prison for the same offense before she was released, the hammer seems to have come down harder on any African American leader who stands up to the Bush Administration.

After over a month in a Brooklyn federal prison and 25 pounds lighter, Sharpton stopped his hunger strike last week. He will remain behind bars until August.

But even behind bars in his weakened state, the usually adept spokesman found himself manipulated by Fox News into criticizing Rev. Jackson during an interview. Realizing that there was nothing their enemies would love more than to have them fighting each other publicly, instead of injustice, Sharpton apologized for his remarks in a letter to Jackson.

Now they're being portrayed as heartless "demagogues" who care nothing about abused Black children if other Blacks are allegedly responsible.

That charge was made on Fox News "O'Reilly Factor" Monday evening by the host former newsman and now commentator Bill O'Reilly.

After reporting that the US Attorney's Office in Atlanta had charged 13 men and a woman—all Black ----with

more than 200 counts in connection with an alleged prostitution ring that exploited and brutalized homeless Black children as young as 10-years old, O'Reilly blasted Rev. Jackson and the NAACP for not protesting the crimes.

"Unfortunately we're in a situation where it seems that evil has to wear a White face before it generates the kind of outpouring of protests," charged Robert Woodson, a Black conservative guest on the show promoting a rally in Atlanta later this month.

"You would think these (children) are the most defenseless of African Americans, these poor little girls, and you would think when something like this happens (Black leaders) would run down, but as you say it might be a color deal," O'Reilly charged.

The host and Woodson admitted that the case got very little national publicity beyond Atlanta. They also failed to acknowledge the many "Stop the Violence" campaigns that Black leadership, both national and local, have been sponsoring in communities for years.

In the very next segment, the host asked "Are the power days of Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton over?" and brought on the Rev. Eugene Rivers, a Black minister who voted Democrat last year, but now fully backs Bush's Black initiatives, earning him a top leadership role in the Republican president's

Ten Point Leadership Foundation.

"Rev. Jackson and the civil rights leadership represent an orientation that is exhausted," Rivers said. "The real question isn't Rev. Jackson anymore, but about post-Jackson leadership. There are some new voices and visions on the horizon.

O'Reilly called Jackson and Sharpton "ideologues and demagogues, in my opinion."

The program didn't end before O'Reilly focused on allegations of impropriety by Black San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown, who was so disturbed by the prior segments, he remarked on-air, "I'm very concerned on today, that Fox News has stacked a situation where you have African American leadership riding back-to-back, making it appear that we are fighting over some bones.

Earlier in the program while responding to a guest's suggestion that Bush missed an opportunity to honestly reach out to African Americans when he failed to guarantee that every vote will be counted in the next election, O'Reilly replied, "I don't think that's going to resonate because most Americans feel they did have an opportunity to vote, and what happened (in the Florida 2000 presidential vote), happened."

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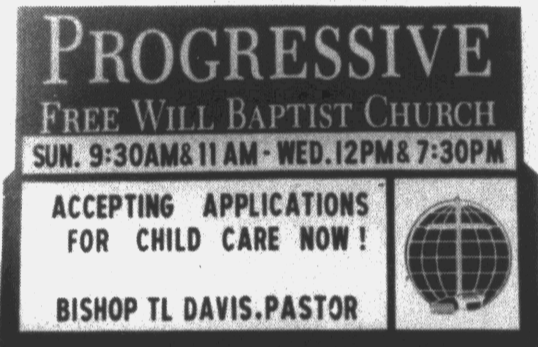
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### PITT COUNTY HOSPITAL ER ADDITIONS & RENOVATIONS GREENVILLE, NC

Bid date: Bids are due to Beers Construction by 2:00p.m., Wednesday, August 22, 2001. Project documents are available for review at: Beers Construction, Winston-Salem; AGC: Charlotte, Fayetteville, Raleigh, Greensboro & Wilmington; CMD: Raleigh; and Kinston Plan Room. Beers Construction recognizes the need to take affirmative action to ensure that MBE/WBE companies shall have an equal opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts financed in whole or part with city or state funds, MBE/WBE bids relating to this construction project are hereby solicited, EOE

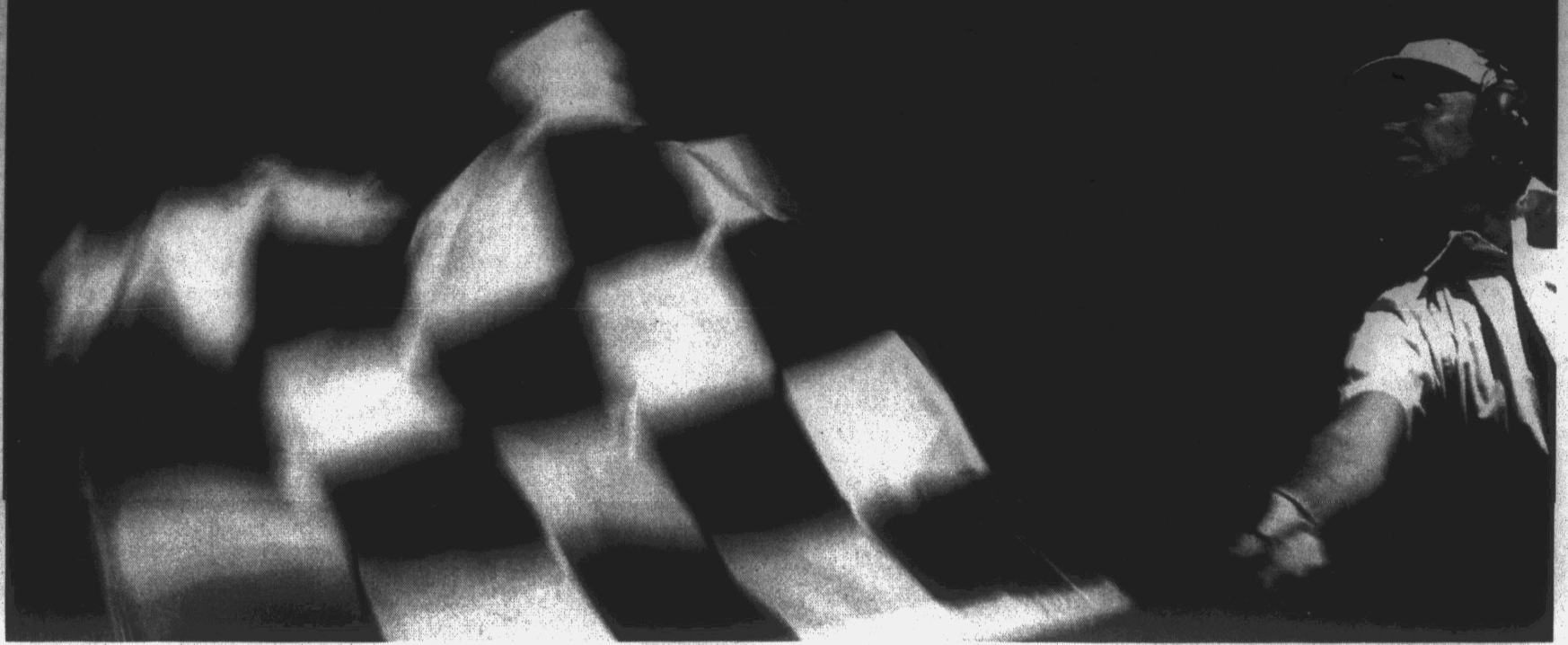


Progressive Child Care Center officially opened on June 07, 2001. Ms. Nanette McCoy serves as the Director. Children ages 2 to 5 years old are accepted. The Center's operating hours are Mondays - Fridays, 6:30 am - 6:30pm. Pictured above is Sister Nanette McCoy, Daycare Director; Mother Jacqueline Jackson, and Sister Cassandra Daniels.

Staff Photo

To All Wachovia Shareholders:

# The Finish Line is in Sight



On July 20, the North Carolina Business Court dealt a severe blow to SunTrust's unsolicited attempt to take over Wachovia. In a landmark decision, the court rejected SunTrust's desperate and last-gasp effort to block our negotiated merger of equals with First Union. And just this week, the nation's leading stockholder advisor organization, Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS), recommended that Wachovia shareholders vote **FOR** the merger with First Union.

The way is now clear for you to express your views by voting on the merger.

Since SunTrust first announced its hostile proposal in mid-May, its so-called "premium" has largely disappeared. Now, with Wachovia's August 3 shareholder meeting just days away, the end is in sight. With your vote, and receipt of regulatory approvals, which we hope to receive shortly, you could be in a position to receive your new Wachovia shares *in a matter of weeks*.

- ❖ Just last week, Proxy Monitor recommended that Wachovia and First Union shareholders vote **FOR** the merger. Proxy Monitor is a leading shareholder advisory organization.
- ❖ Wachovia and First Union have already received Hart-Scott-Rodino anti-trust clearance from the U.S. Federal Trade Commission for our merger.
- ❖ We continue to make excellent progress with our merger integration planning. Among other things, we have already selected key business leaders, announced employee benefits packages and announced our Community Commitment program for \$35,000,000,000 for the new Wachovia.

With an important endorsement from a leading proxy advisor, regulatory approvals which we hope to receive shortly and much of the integration process already under way, we need your vote **FOR** the merger. With your help, Wachovia and First Union can move swiftly to realize the many benefits of our merger.

## DON'T LET SUNTRUST FOOL YOU

SunTrust offers you nothing more than uncertainty and blatant speculation. Contrary to what SunTrust wants you to believe, a vote against our merger, or even no vote at all, does not mean a transaction with SunTrust would ever happen.

## WE ARE ALMOST THERE HELP US CROSS THE FINISH LINE

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



### Important Reminder

Your vote is extremely important. We need your vote **TODAY** to create the new Wachovia. If you vote for the merger on SunTrust's blue card and our white card on the same day, it could nullify your vote. Please vote **FOR** the merger of Wachovia and First Union by signing, dating and returning the **WHITE** proxy card **TODAY**.

Please discard SunTrust's blue card.

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. - 9 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.

# THE FOCUS IS ISLAM

The Focus is Islam

By  
Noria Namaz - Masjid  
Al Nur 1117 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
The Search for Truth - Part II  
Listen to Islam In Focus Sunday Night  
8:30PM on Joy T340 AM

## The Search

Revelation or Wahy in Arabic is God's word, sent to mankind over several millennia through many Prophets or Messengers. Through revelation, God speaks directly to us and we learn what is pleasing and displeasing to Him. Revelation should provide specific instructions on how to follow and apply God's guidance in our lives and in our societies. A test for true revelation is that it should be conspicuous, revealed within localities and among people to whom prophets came often bringing some form of revelation and there should

be at least one common link. Globally we have many prophets and several books; however, diligent scrutiny uncovers that the most prevalent place for prophecy and revelation was Arabia around a section of land aptly called the Fertile Crescent. History reveals God's known prophets from Prophet Adam to Prophet Muhammad come from this vicinity. In fact, archeologists have uncovered clues indicating that the rich fertile land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers is where civilization began.

It is here that we expose another important clue, Prophet Abraham, who with his sons Ishmael and Isaac re-established the worship of the one True God. Prophet Abraham is a major clue because he is a common link between the three dominant monotheistic religions,

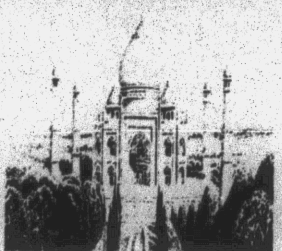
Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

The first recipients of scripture were the Jews. The Jews are the descendants of Prophet Abraham through his son Isaac. Over a period of two thousand years, they were the recipients of several prophets and they have oral and written scripture, the Old Testament. The first five books of the Torah came to them through Prophet Moses. Prophet Moses, with God's awesome help, frees his people after 400 years of slavery in Egypt. Later he rendezvous with God on a mountain called Horeb—here he receives the Torah over a 40 day and night period. During this period, the Jews display the severe signs of

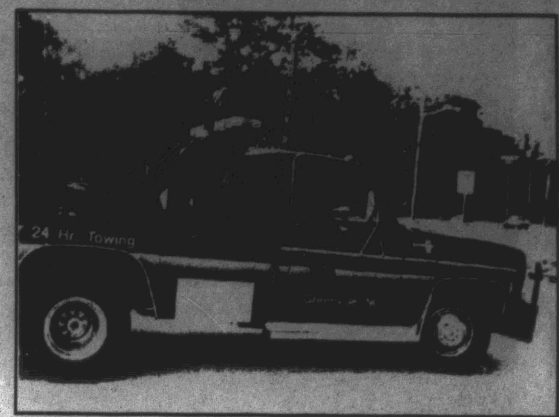
obstinacy, which characterizes them throughout the Old Testament.

They revert to the forbidden worship of idols by making a golden calf and worshipping it. Their acts of disobedience cause them to wander in the wilderness for forty years.

So far, our clues have led us to an area where people received prophets that came to them often with some form of revelation. Does our search end with the Old Testament?



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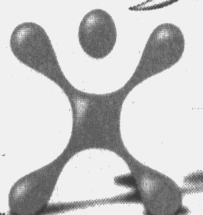
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## FSS Success Leads to Degree

May 12 was a banner day for Section 8 resident Carol Parker—she got a college degree.

Not some two-year diploma from a community college, but a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Shaw University.

Parker, a participant in the Family Self-Sufficiency program run by FSS Case Manager Agatha Moore, had already begun taking courses at Shaw's extension campus in Greenville, and the boost she got from FSS made her even more determined to graduate.

"I set my own goals," said Parker, a focused and confident mother of two. "I had been working as a nursing assistant, and there was no room for advancement. I decided to go back to school, to get a job where I can move ahead."

She left her hospital position to take a similar job with more flexible



hours at a rest home. That let her take daytime classes three days a week, sometimes at Shaw's Rocky Mount campus.

For many people, getting a degree signals the end of a process. For Parker, it's just the beginning. Last month she began taking computer classes.

"I would really like to teach," she said. "I may go back and get my master's in teaching ..."

The FSS program is available only to Section 8 residents, but will eventually be expanded to include all residents.

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