

# THE MINORITY VOICE

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## HOMICIDE Piano Recital Held

By HERB BOYD  
Special to the AmNews

After he touched the casket and mounted the platform to the pulpit last week during Alberta Spruill's funeral at Convent Avenue Baptist Church, Mayor Michael Bloomberg began his remarks by recalling how she played multiple roles in the lives of so many. He then took the blame for her death.

Spruill's death, according to the medical examiner's report released on Tuesday, was a homicide, "sudden death following a police raid," said a spokesperson for Charles S. Hirsch, the chief medical examiner.

"I failed to protect someone," said Bloomberg, his voice soft and solemn. "Our actions failed her. ... We must not trample on the rights of law-abiding citizens."

Spruill, 57, died of an apparent heart attack on the morning of May 16 after a dozen or so police officers - on a tip supplied by an informant - mistakenly battered down her apartment door looking for drugs and weapons. The officers tossed a flash grenade into the apartment, hoping it would distract anyone inside. Spruill was handcuffed and then released when the police discovered they were in the wrong apartment. The police also learned that Spruill had a heart condition, but, according to them, she refused at first to be taken to the hospital. Suddenly

Spruill experienced cardiac arrest, and they rused her to Harlem Hospital. She died less than two hours later.

Bloomberg recalled how she used to tell her co-workers that if they messed with her, "I'll get the mayor down here."

"Well, Alberta, you did get the mayor here," he concluded.

A bus route she took to work for nearly 30 years at a city agency will be named in her honor, the mayor said.

A few hours after the funeral service, Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly met with an auditorium full of concerned citizens at police Area 5, located on 147th Street and Frederick Douglass Boulevard, not too far from Spruill's apartment, to discuss the details of the raid and her subsequent death.

Although the commissioner was repeatedly praised for holding the session, which many viewed as remarkably different from the way the former mayor and commissioner would have handled the situation, there were many in attendance who were not satisfied with the explanation for the wrongful death.

Commissioner Kelly listed eight mistakes the police made leading up to and during the raid, including failure of communication between commanders of the 25th and 32nd precincts, no indication in reports that the dope dealer targeted in the raid had already been arrested, improper procedures following the issuance

of a no-knock search warrant and lack of further surveillance of the site to verify the sale of drugs. "A lot of mistakes were made, and further investigations of the incident are underway," the commissioner assured listeners during a rather heated question-and-answer discussion. While the medical examiner's ruling indicates that Spruill did not blame the police for her death, which means the police avoid civil liability. "But if the police hadn't raided her apartment, she would still be alive today," said the Rev. Al Sharpton, who seemed perturbed that the police were not blamed for her death. As Sharpton noted, what remains is to establish whether the action by the police was criminal, and if so, who will be prosecuted.

Meanwhile, Johnnie Cochran, representing Spruill's two sisters, has filed a \$500 million lawsuit, charging the police with wrongful death.

Commissioner Kelly said he was not sure where the "confidential informant" was who gave them the information that set the deadly scenario in motion.

Several people who live in the same apartment building where Spruill lived asked him why a buy-and-bust process was not administered before the raid.

"I can only relate to you what happened," he replied. "Some mistakes were made, and we're doing all we can to make sure such a tragedy doesn't happen

continued page



**Piano Recital Held . . . . .** Piano students of Gloria Hines were presented in a piano recital recently. The students included Kaylah Brown, Destinie Corbett, Emily Dixon, Tawanna Franklin, Dedra Garner, Aniya Gaynor, Jasmine Johnson, ShaVonte' Mills, R.J. Smith and Catherine Wills. Certificates of Achievement were presented to each student and a reception followed with family and friends. First Row [L-R] Destinie Corbett, Kaylah Brown, Dedra Garner, R.J. Smith, Aniya Gaynor and Tawanna Franklin. Second Row (L-R) Emily Dixon, Jasmine Johnson, Catherine Wills, ShaVonte Mills and Gloria Hines, Teacher.  
photo by Jim Rouse

**Celebrate Black Music Month Throughout the Month of June on WOOW JOY 1340AM**

## State NAACP exec claims payday loans can help; National NAACP says no

EXCLUSIVE

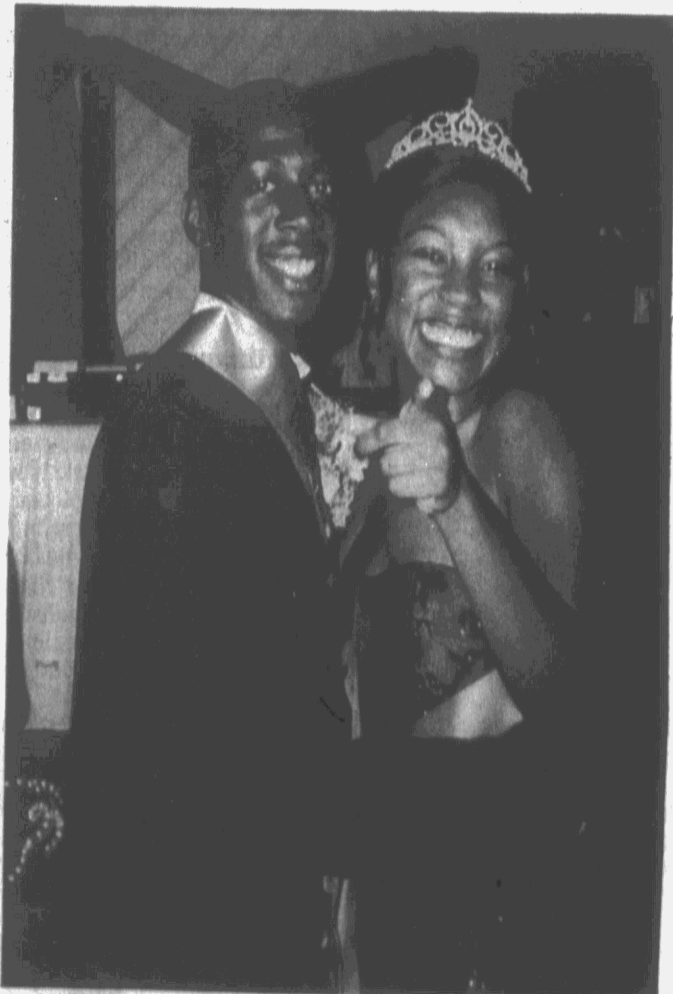
BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

Have the president and an Executive Committee member of the state NAACP Conference of Branches lobbied the General Assembly to pass a payday lending bill that many critics say would, if it becomes law, "allow lenders to charge exorbitant rates which ... trap vulnerable consumers in a cycle of debt?"

Sources in the state Legislature, the NAACP and activists against payday lending practices say yes, and wonder why the national NAACP Board hasn't come down on state President Melvin "Skip" Alston, a board member, and his third -vice president, Winfall Mayor Fred Yates, for allegedly going against their civil rights organization's resolution denouncing what some call a short-term version of predatory lending. One NAACP chapter officer, who asked not to be named but confirmed that Alston and

Yates have been allegedly "sneaking for over a year," told The Wilmington Journal "[Skip's] slowly sticking a knife in his heart." A Raleigh community activist close to the issues rhetorically asked of the allegations against

the two NAACP officials, "Where are the ethics?" Alston, speaking on behalf of himself and Yates, denies the charges. But so obvious were their actions, critics allege, that no less



**Everlasting Memories**

Paying tribute to two very distinguished individuals. J.H. Rose's 2003' prom king and queen (William Taylor and Candace Taylor). William and Candace Are both graduating seniors at J.H. Rose High School. William will be furthering his education at North Carolina Central University in Durham, NC, while Candace will be furthering hers at UNC in Chapel Hill. Keep up the good work and we're all proud of you.

## Black leaders launch independant death probe

By Stanley B. Chambers Jr.,  
The Daily Reflector

Local black leaders said Friday they have met with national NAACP officials and launched their own investigation into the March 7 death of a man in police custody.

During a news conference at the Pitt County NAACP office in Greenville, Calvin Henderson, president of the local branch, said the group still is waiting for a favorable response from elected city officials regarding a set of demands the group issued last month related to the death of Eugene Allen Boseman, 41.

The Greenville man died "as a result of agitated delirium caused by cocaine use, psychosis and stopping antipsychotic medications," according to an autopsy report. Boseman, who the autopsy report said suffered from HIV infection, nearly bit off part of one officer's hand in the struggle, police said.

His fiancée said she watched as officers beat him to death, but a medical examiner's autopsy report said that bruises found on his head, back and legs did not contribute to his death.

Boseman was behaving erratically and walking in his underwear in the travel lanes of Memorial Drive when Greenville police officers tried to subdue him in the early morning of March 7. Henderson and other local black leaders on May 18 issued a set of specific demands aimed at reforming criminal justice procedures in Greenville. The group requested that: The mayor and City Council immediately place the police, fire and rescue departments under a public safety commission appointed by the mayor and City Council.

All police personnel be required to satisfactorily complete a course in how to effectively deal with people with mental disabilities.

Greenville, Pitt County and the state immediately pursue the independent review of all police killings of citizens by federal authorities assigned outside the area where the killing took place.

No district attorney be allowed to review and decide the fate of a local police agency involved in the killing of a citizen within the reviewing DA's jurisdiction.

The NAACP, Concerned Citizens for Justice, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Greenville and Pitt County originally set a June 10 deadline for elected city officials to "respond favorably" to the demands, or the group would proceed with protest demonstrations and boycotts.

A letter addressed to Mayor Don Parrott, containing the demands announced on May 18 and signed by leaders of each group, was distributed at Friday's news conference.

"While we realize that you may not be able to accomplish all the things we have requested within 20 days from the date of this report," the letter states, "we ask you to at least inform us of your completed efforts and full intent within this time frame so that we may decide our next course of action."

In addition to the original demands, the letter asked the mayor to respond to questions about his knowledge of any events like the Boseman case in the city's history and his role in handling complaints filed against the police department. Parrott said he had not been informed of Friday's news conference.

"I will get input from the (City) Council and input from my staff, and I will respond to the letter in due time," he said. "I don't know what date that will be, but it will be fairly soon." Henderson said members of

the local NAACP chapter met Thursday with state executive director Jim Wiggins to discuss the Boseman case. The group plans to share information it gathers related to the case with national NAACP officials.

"The Boseman case is of great national interest, and the state, regional, and national officials will be visiting Greenville numerous times during this pending investigation," Henderson said.

The NAACP plans to hold its annual state convention in Greenville this October, Henderson said.

The NAACP and other local groups are using the Boseman case to address other concerns in the black community, including proposed tax increases, the quality of recreational facilities, alleged discrimination and disparities in the hiring and promoting of black city and Greenville Utilities employees and alleged mismanagement of funds for low income and disadvantaged residents.

Sitting next to Henderson during the news conference was councilwoman Rose Glover, who said she supports the efforts of the NAACP and believes that public officials should answer to community concerns.

"I'm not here to say that we're a perfect city government, but the government is for the people so we need to do what is necessary to see that people are being treated fairly," Glover said.

Henderson said he has received some resistance from the public but is not moved by negative comments.

"We will not stop till justice is done," he said.

Others who attended the news conference were SCLC state president Bennie Roundtree, Pitt County NAACP head of legal redress Ed Carter, and Boseman's two sisters, Cynthia Baylock and Regina Love.

# Opinions

THE MINORITY VOICE  
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And Save"

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## Reform the Rockefeller Drug Laws

May was the 30th anniversary of the New York state legislature's enactment of the so-called Rockefeller Drug Laws.

Proposed by Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller, the "get-tough" laws were supposed to solve the burgeoning drug and crime problem by locking up significant participants in the drug trade and thus deterring others from involvement.

But it hasn't worked out that way.

To be sure, the sentences are harsh. For example, a single ten-dollar sale of cocaine brings a minimum sentence of one to three years in prison—and four and a half to nine years if the offender has a prior conviction. A first-time offender convicted of participating in the sale of two ounces of cocaine will draw a minimum sentence of fifteen years—and, possibly, a life-term sentence.

However, contrary to the original justifications that they would target the major traffickers and violent individuals, the laws have largely been ineffective in thwarting the drug trafficking and violent crime they were designed to stop.

According to Ernest Drucker, Professor of Epidemiology and Social Medicine and

Professor of Psychiatry at Montefiore Medical Center /Albert Einstein College of Medicine, in New York City, 60 percent of those incarcerated



To Be Equal

were convicted of offenses in the three lowest classes of drug felonies, which involve very small amounts of drugs. And less than a quarter of these inmates had any prior violent felony convictions for any crime. Nearly a third had no prior felony convictions at all.

Since May 1973, more than 150,000 people have been sentenced to New York's prisons for nonviolent drug offenses—helping to fuel the state's astounding boom in both inmates, from 14,400 then to more than 70,000 today, and in prison expenditures.

But the misery hasn't been confined only to New York.

James Lanier, senior resident scholar for Community Justice Programs at the National Urban League's Institute of Opportunity and Equality, points out that "more than any other single legislative act, New York's adoption of the Rockefeller Drug Laws [symbolized] the beginning of the massive surge in incarceration" in states across the country.

Lanier and Drucker are writing separate essays on the nation's disastrous addiction to "mass incarceration" as a policy

of law enforcement for the Urban League's forthcoming scholarly journal, *The State of Black America 2003*. Both assert that because police drug enforcement is concentrated on the street-level trade in black and Hispanic communities, the effect of the Rockefeller drug laws and the laws it inspired across the country has been to exacerbate to an astonishing degree the racial character of who gets arrested, convicted and imprisoned for drugs in America.

Nationally, African Americans account for 13 percent of the nation's drug users, their proportion of the general population. But they make up 35 percent of drug arrests and 53 percent of drug convictions.

Moreover, such massive incarceration has been fiscally foolish. It's a highly expensive but ineffective deterrent in the important war against drugs and violent crime in America.

A better approach, now supported by experts across a wide philosophical spectrum, is to focus on drug education, prevention, and intensive treatment.

There's no doubt that the Rockefeller drug laws are unjust; and there is widespread, nonpartisan agreement that they should be substantially changed. Such government officials as Governor George E. Pataki, a Republican, and Sheldon Silver, the Democratic Speaker of the State Assembly, and a host of

other politicians have publicly supported revising them.

Yet, the laws remain as they have been.

Thus, it's welcome to see Russell Simmons, co-owner and founder of Def Jam Records, Sean "P. Diddy" Combs, and others involved in the hip-hop music industry at the head of a campaign that uses the appeal of hip-hop to mobilize ordinary citizens, particularly adolescents and young adults, to press for reform of the laws.

This is a vitally important effort for several reasons.

One is that the two latter groups are most "at risk" of, on the one hand, succumbing to the street-level lure of the illicit drug trade, and thus, becoming a statistic of the Rockefeller drug laws; or, in the neighborhoods in which many of them live, becoming an innocent-bystander victim of the variety of crimes associated with the drug trade.

Equally important, however, is the fact that, regardless of their musical tastes, these young people, and society as a whole, can reap enormous benefits from their becoming politically aware and motivated, benefits that can go well beyond the immediate, just campaign of righting what has been a terrible wrong.



### 14-Year-Old Soccer Player Signs \$1 Million Deal with Nike

(Special to the NNPA)—Freddy Adu, 14, has signed a \$1 million contract with Nike choosing to be represented by sports agents Richard Motzkin and Dan Segal at California-based SportsNet, LLC.

Arnold Tarzy, an Adu family advisor, helped the youth search for an agent. Adu is unlikely to sign a professional playing contract for another year, according to Tarzy.

Reports indicate that Adu, of Potomac, Md., had no intention of playing NCAA soccer and has renounced his amateur status by signing the contracts. He is using the Nike deal as insurance should an injury end his career.

"This deal gives Freddy the ability financially to go through school and not have to sell his playing ability [to a team] to get from point A to point B in his career," Tarzy told a reporter. "This acts as his insurance. There's not the same kind of money being offered around to soccer players like there is for basketball, and it is difficult to get the kind of insurance that could set Freddy up for life if something happened. There aren't LeBron James deals being offered in soccer."

Because of his age, Adu's contract calls for a specific number of appearances over the duration of the contract, rather than on a year-to-year basis. More details and an announcement about both signings is expected soon.

Scouts have been tracking Adu for years, because of his extraordinary skills. He has been featured on television and in newspapers in Japan, Brazil and England.

After being offered a lucrative deal from Italian-based Inter Milan when he was 11, Adu continues to train and practice with the U.S. under-17 national team in preparation for the August world championships in Finland.

### Somali Bantu Refugees Arrive in Denver, Phoenix

NEW YORK (IRIN)—The first group of Somali Bantus who were living in Kenyan refugee camps for the past decade have arrived in the American cities of Denver and Phoenix.

The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) said this was the beginning of one of the biggest resettlement operations to take place from Africa, in which some 11,800 Somali Bantus will be resettled in the United States.

After weeks of cultural orientation classes, the first batch of 74 Somalis left Kenya late last month. Another 150 are expected to travel before mid-June, the statement said. The Church World Service, along with eight other voluntary agencies, will oversee the resettlement program in the United States.

The refugees originally were scheduled to start arriving last year, but tightened security measures after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks pushed back the date.

The Somali Bantus—a minority group whose physical, cultural and linguistic characteristics distinguish them from the Cushitic majority in Somalia—were considered for resettlement in the United States, because they faced difficult circumstances in their country where they were treated as second-class citizens, partly because they are descended from slaves.

In the early 1990s, during civil war in Somalia, more than 10,000 Bantus fled to refugee camps in Kenya, where discrimination against them by major Somali clans continued.

### Cameroon's 'Freedom' Radio Station Forced Off Air

DOUALA, Cameroon (IRIN)—The government of Cameroon forced a new radio station to shut down last week, the day before it was due to go on air. Reporters without Borders (RSF) said.

It is the third government-ordered closure of a media group in recent weeks.

According to the Paris-based press freedom group, police surrounded the offices of Freedom FM in the port city of Douala and closed the radio station on the orders of Communications Minister Jacques Fame Ndong. The minister said Freedom FM did not have government permission to broadcast.

RSF described the move as "a serious attack on press freedom," designed to silence media criticism of President Paul Biya and his government in the run-up to next year's presidential elections.

"This uncalled for measure is a severe blow to news diversity in Cameroon," Robert Menard, the secretary general of RSF, said in a letter to the communications minister.

Independent radio and television stations are officially allowed to exist in Cameroon, but that in practice, says the RSF, they are forced to operate illegally since the authorities do not respond to requests for licenses. It urged the government to allow Freedom FM to go on air.

Pius Njawa, the head of the Messenger media group which owns Freedom FM, said the government had initially responded positively to the station's request for a broadcasting license.

"We completed all the formalities," RSF quoted Njawa as saying. "The ministry even sent technicians to inspect our equipment."

### Militants Suspected in Latest Nigeria Pipeline Blast

LAGOS, Nigeria (IRIN)—The main pipeline supplying natural gas to Nigeria's biggest power station has been ruptured by explosives planted by suspected ethnic Ijaw militants, the navy said.

The pipeline, which exploded last Saturday at the village of Ajama, near the oil town of Warri in the oil-rich Niger Delta, supplies gas from transnational Chevron/Texaco's Escravos gas plant to the Egbin thermal power station, near Nigeria's biggest city, Lagos.

No one has claimed responsibility for the blast, the second in two months in the volatile oil region targeting a key pipeline.

"We suspect the Ijaw youths did it," Shinebi Hungiapuko, navy spokesman, told IRIN.

Bello Oboko, a leader of the militant Federated Niger Delta Ijaw Communities, denied responsibility for the blast. He accused the military of carrying out some military raids in the area where the pipeline was damaged during the weekend, suggesting troops may have ruptured it unwittingly.

In April, a major pipeline supplying crude oil from Escravos to refineries in Warri and the northern city of Kaduna were similarly blasted with explosives. The previous month, armed Ijaw militants aggrieved over the distribution of electoral wards they said favored their Itsekiri rivals, engaged government troops in gun battles. More than 100 people were killed in two weeks of violence.

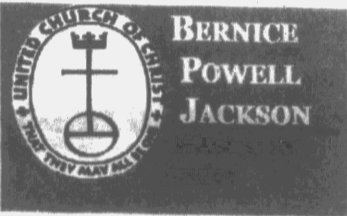
The government has responded with a massive deployment of troops in the region that produces most of Nigeria's oil. But activists in the impoverished region accuse President Olusegun Obasanjo's government of ignoring their plight and denying them access to the oil wealth produced on their land.

## In memory of the peacemakers

This Memorial Day holiday took on new meaning to the 160 American families who lost loved ones in the war against Iraq. Suddenly for them, this was more than a holiday for barbecues and baseball. It's appropriate that our nation honors those who have died in war for our freedom. But why do we only honor those who fought in wars for freedom, why don't we also honor those who make peace for our freedom?

Of course, there is Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the day we have set aside to honor him. But what about those others who died for their commitment to non-violence and civil rights for all Americans? Many of these heroes and heroines were young in age or young at heart. People who saw the goodness in human beings and who believed that they could change the world for the better. People like the thousands of young men and women who left college in the 1960's to join the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee's Freedom Summers in Mississippi and Alabama. People like Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James Chaney who went to Neshoba County, Mississippi in 1964 and who were killed for their voter registration work in the black community there. People like the Michigan housewife Viola Liuzzo who was killed in Lowndes County, Alabama for her civil rights work in 1965.

Or Jonathon Daniels, an Episcopal seminarian who was



killed in that same Alabama county in that same year. Daniels, a New Hampshire native, was shot dead trying to protect a young African American woman and friend after both had just been released from prison. Where are the national monuments and moments of silent thanksgiving for all those who died, who were incarcerated repeatedly, who were harassed and beaten because of their non-violent work on behalf of the oppressed and disenfranchised in our own nation?

Or do we pause to remember the contributions of Jean Donovan, a Catholic laywoman and Dorothy Kazel, an Ursuline nun and Maura Clarke and Ita Ford, both Maryknoll missionaries, all of whom were working with the poor in El Salvador and were killed in 1980 by para-militaries financed by the U.S.? Extraordinary women committed to peace for the poor in that war-torn land. When do we honor them?

Then there are the peacemakers like Amy Beale who made the ultimate sacrifice for her beliefs. Amy Beale was a Stanford University graduate, whose Fulbright scholarship took

her to South Africa, where she was studying and working with those trying to put back together a nation torn asunder by decades of apartheid. While driving in Capetown, her car was surrounded and she was beaten and stabbed by a group of outsiders who did not know her or what she had done on behalf of that community. The story of this amazing beacon of hope named Amy did not end with her death, however. Her equally amazing parents, Peter and Linda Beale, visited Capetown to see the community where their daughter had been killed and saw the conditions she was trying to change. Instead of being filled with anger and hate, they chose to be filled with love and hope and started the Amy Beale Foundation which continues to work in that community, including running

Amy's Bread, which provides jobs and food for the very community where she was killed. When do we honor Amy Beale for her contribution to freedom in the world?

And this year, when do we honor Rachel Corrie, the 23-year-old young American killed by an Israeli Defense Force bulldozer driver as she stood non-violently in front of the home of a Palestinian family? Even those who might not agree with her position, must acknowledge that she was a young woman committed to peace in one of the most violent places of a war-torn world. As she stood there in an orange fluorescent vest, she

practiced what all non-violent protesters have been taught - to try to look at your attacker in the eye with love and find that person's humanity. When do we honor Rachel Corrie and others, like the Christian Peacemaker Teams sent by the historic peace churches to that place to observe and stand between Palestinians and Israelis on behalf of peace?

Earlier this year, the World Council of Churches issued a statement decrying the war in Iraq. In it, Dr. Konrad Raiser, the World Council's general secretary, said, "Wars cannot be won, only peace can." Last December, on receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, former President Jimmy Carter said, "war may be a necessary evil, but it is evil." Yet we honor only war.

There is the Civil Rights Institute in Birmingham, Alabama which tells the story of not only the civil rights movement but also of human rights activists. There is the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee located at the old Lorraine Motel where Dr. King was killed. But as our nation discusses whether more war memorials should be built on the Mall in Washington, D.C., perhaps someone should raise the question of where is the monument to those who work for peace.

### STATE NAACP Continued from page 1

the national NAACP Board of Directors, wrote a stinging letter to members of the North Carolina General Assembly, making clear what the organization's official position on payday lending is in case they were confused.

"I am writing to urge you to stop the predatory practice of payday lending in North Carolina by preventing House Bill 1213 from becoming law," Bond wrote, adding that the "anti-consumer bill perpetuates the very practices its supporters claim they want to regulate."

"The NAACP, whose board I chair, has long opposed predatory lending in all its forms, and last year passed a national resolution specifically opposing payday lending," Bond continued. "On May 3, 2003, the NAACP Board passed a resolution prohibiting our [chapters] from accepting contributions from payday lenders. The Executive Committee of the North Carolina NAACP has condemned payday lending as a predatory practice

aimed at minorities."

Bond's passage about "...prohibiting our [chapters] from accepting contributions from payday lenders" has particular importance.

Published reports confirm that one of the major payday lending companies in the country Advance America, Inc. of Spartanburg, S.C. has cosponsored voter registration drives with NAACP chapters across the South, alarming some observers that the alleged motive is to gain influence in the African-American community, where many payday loan companies target low-income consumers with high interest loans.

Advance America is of particular interest here in North Carolina. Its president and CEO, Billy Webster, confirms he's had discussions with Alston, Yates, and other black leaders here about the battle over payday lending in the state, though he adds that none are lobbying for him.

But it doesn't end there. Webster used to work in the Clinton White House under then

Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles, who failed in his 2002 North Carolina bid for the U.S. Senate. The two are close friends today, with Webster's company contributing \$10,000 two years ago to Bowles' fundraiser for diabetes research.

It is widely known that both Alston and Yates were allegedly quiet supporters of Bowles' Senate bid. Bowles even thanked Yates publicly for his support the night he won the Democratic primary. That proved somewhat embarrassing, because Yates, beyond being state NAACP third vice president, is also chairman of the nonpartisan organization's Political Action Committee, which is supposed to vet the candidates fairly without bias.

So what does this have to do with payday lending?

Sources tell The Carolinian that Bowles has been calling state lawmakers on behalf of his friend Webster, pushing for passage of the HB-1213 payday-lending bill.

The full court press of Alston, Yates and Bowles, among others, helped to split the N.C. Legislative Black Caucus the

issue, and garner passage in the N.C. House, sources allege. The bill is now pending in the state Senate, and could be voted on as early as this afternoon.

Advance America CEO Billy Webster, in a phone interview from Spartanburg Tuesday, again denied having Alston and Yates to lobby for him.

"I know [Alston and Yates] have had some involvement, but I didn't know they were at the

Legislature," Webster told The Carolinian, stating emphatically that "we have no relationship."

"I think they're advocates for payday lending reform."

He also denied that he asked Bowles to intercede for him, and claimed no knowledge of his doing so.

"Erskine remains a close friend, as is his wife Crandall...and he's been involved in a lot of issues," Webster said.

But some in the Legislature say different.

## Tackling Racism - An Article Published in The Daily Reflector



Christiana Freeman, South of Central High School with fellow STIR member Sarrin Smith. "There are different people in America not just the people of your own race or your religion"

*edited for length by Micheal Adams The Minority Voice Newspaper*

When it comes to tackling racism in school and the community, the students of STIR hope to shake things up next fall.

But figuring out how to do that can be daunting when all the black students still sit on one side of the cafeteria, STIR members say, and all the white students still sit on the other side.

Or when a so-called "friend" will only talk to someone in the hallway because his friends laugh at him for talking to an Arab in the cafeteria.

It takes guts to change

For example, South Central 11th-grader Christiana Freeman, who is black,

doesn't want to feel ostracized by her peers for being friends with someone who is white, especially a white male. And she

doesn't want to feel like her teachers are favoring certain kids over other kids when it comes to discipline. It is situations like this that sets off Christiana and what makes her want to do something about what she sees happening in school with STIR, she said.

"We hope to stop all the nonsense - bring it to a complete halt," Christiana said. "There are different people in America, not just the people of your own race or your religion."

Fallon Speaker, a junior at Ayden-Grifton, believes people's attitudes would change if they could imag-

ine what life is like for another person. "You have to put yourself in someone else's shoes," she said. "It's the only way to know how they feel."

While students are concerned about the way they treat each other, their concerns extend to how students feel they are treated by teachers as well. These issues can range from a reprimand for speaking in a non-English language or watching a teacher smile vaguely when a top student makes a racist remark, rather than reprimanding that student.

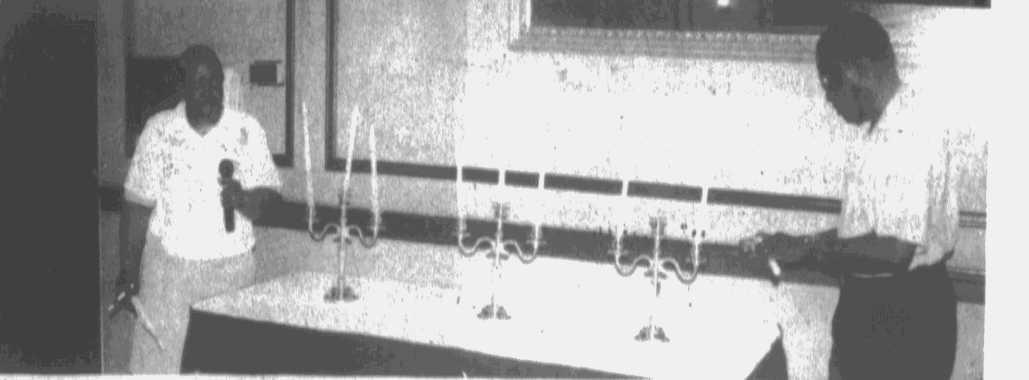
The attitudes and values each student has begins at home, the students said. It's difficult to break out of that mind-set once you're in it, Christiana said. "It's be-

cause we're all comfortable. Black people are comfortable with black people. No one wants to change," she said. The key is, she said, change must happen for the situation to improve.

Fallon said she has a friend who seems to have found a good balance of mixing with all kinds of groups in school, but he also stays true to himself. "He mixes with white people, black people, but she doesn't forget where she comes from," she said.

Erica Plouffe can be contacted at [eplouffe@coxnews.com](mailto:eplouffe@coxnews.com)

## C. M. Eppes Centennial Celebration 2003 Tea Sip

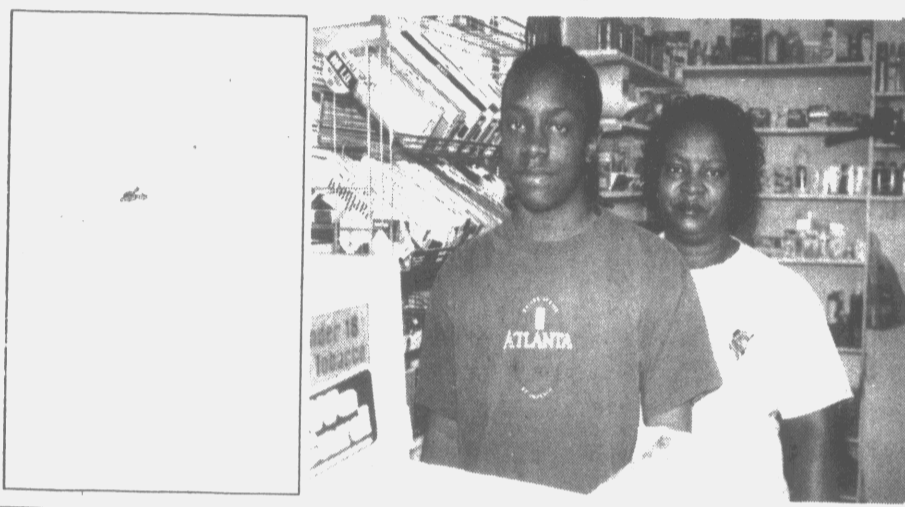


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## Out of Sight, Out of Mind?

### Sewer spills

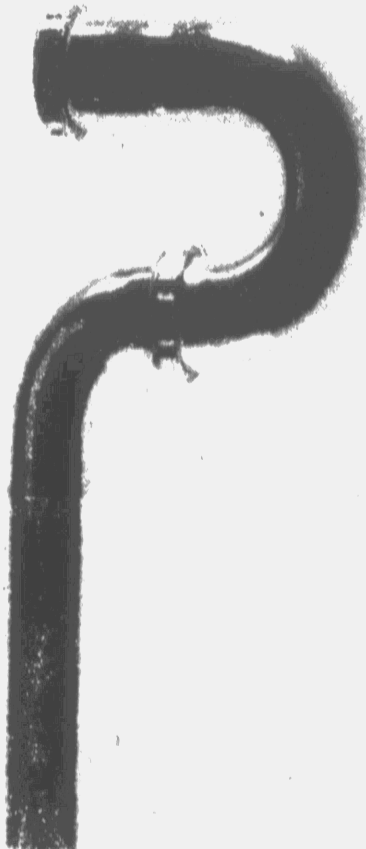
**YUK!** They're messy, bad for the environment, and can result in stiff financial penalties from state regulators. Greenville Utilities does everything it can to prevent sewer spills. But we can't do it alone. You play an important role in helping us maintain an efficient public sanitary sewer system.

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.

**Greenville Utilities**



# C M Eppes Alumni Centennial Parade



# Edification of A New Generation



Faith May

## HOW CAN A PARENT FIND PEACE OF MIND?

One of the most important lessons to be learned as a parent is mirrored in the way God deals with His children. He is a contract-making God. He tells us what will happen if we do

what He tells us, with sufficient specificity, what will happen if we refuse. He offers to help us make good choices if we ask Him for wisdom and readily offers to help us do anything He wants done that we cannot do on our own.

Central to the whole relationship with His children is the matter of choice. If His children go bad, it is their choice to do so. When they suffer the consequences, it is because they knowingly chose to go against His will.

Put this in a parenting relationship. This is the opposite of trying to make all of our children's decisions for them, and then trying to jump in and protect them when they have made bad choices.

The best we can do is to show them clearly what we expect,

and within what period of time. Tell them what will happen if they obey. Tell them what will happen if they don't.

When we do this we can stop yelling, threatening, an repeating ourselves. It means we can stop complaining and nagging to pick up the pile of clothes in their room. It means we can lower our voice and be civilized about our expectations. It is to say, "From now on, children, you choose how it will be with you. As God fathers us, so we will parent you. We're here for you, but on these terms. It's your move."

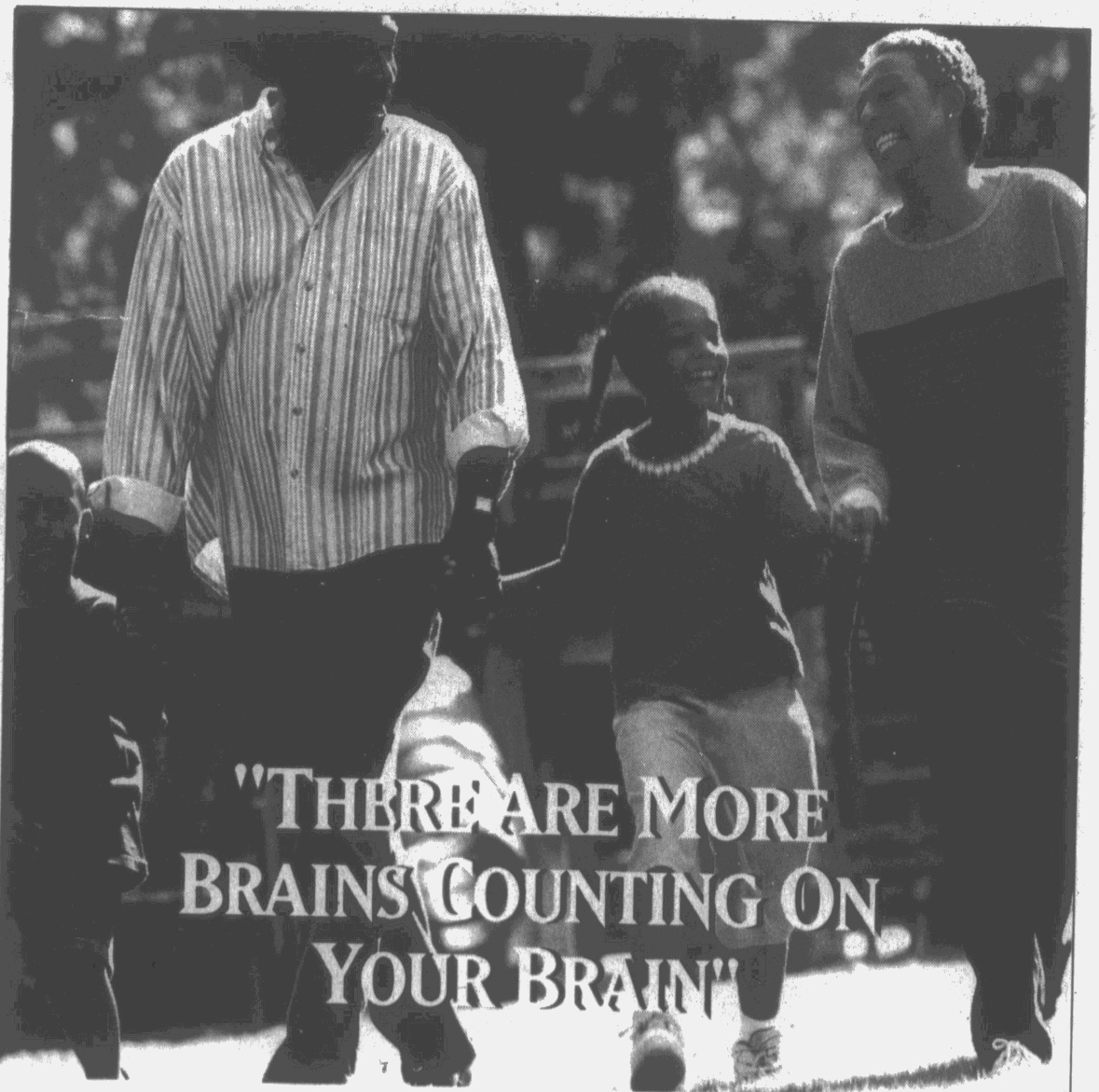
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If you suffer from high blood pressure, it may lead to a stroke. So why risk damage to your brain and losing a part of you that so many others count on? If you don't know your blood pressure, get it checked now.

So let's prevent a stroke by eating right and being active, monitoring and controlling your blood pressure, and calling 911 if you see the signs of stroke. You're too important to lose.

### Warning signs of stroke:

- ▶ sudden numbness or weakness of face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- ▶ sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
- ▶ sudden trouble seeing, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- ▶ sudden severe headache with no known cause

**Stroke is an emergency.  
Call 9-1-1!**

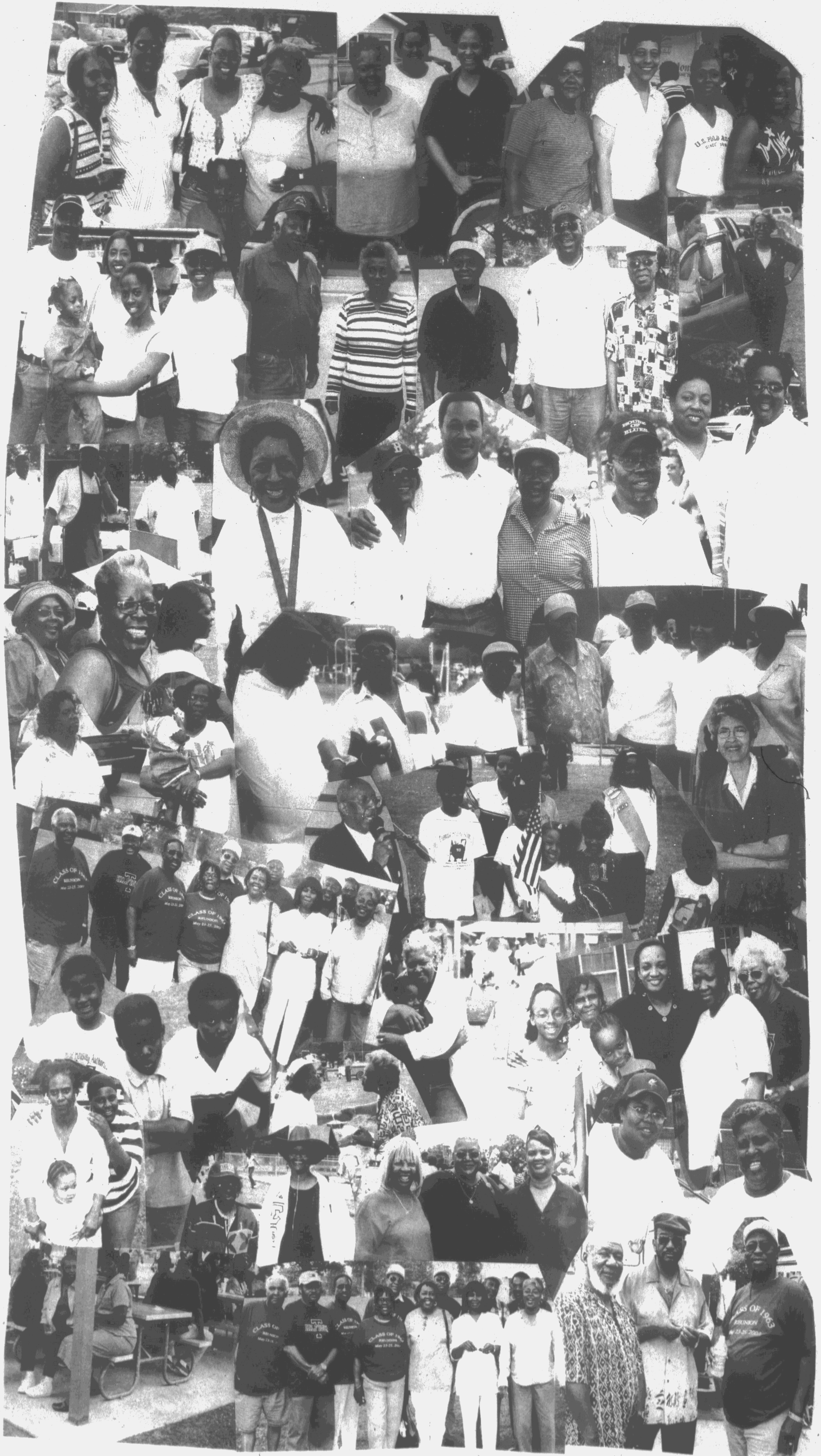
**Start WITH  
YOUR Heart**

Strike Out Stroke! **NC NN**

# C. M. Eppes Centennial Celebration 2003



# C. M. Eppes Centennial Celebration 2003



# Father's Day June 15, 2003 - We Honor Our Fathers Who Paved The Way In Education

## From The Desk Of Mrs Beatrice Maye



Mrs Beatrice Maye

**The editor**

Sunday, June 15 is Father's Day 2003. "Good fathers not only tell how to live - they show us."

You don't have to meet a man face to face to know what kind of a father he is. Just listen to the way his children refer to him.

The respect that children have for their parents can be a good indicator of how much respect they deserve. One of the Ten Commandments is to honor our father and mother (Exodus 20:12). But how many parents live in a way that is worthy of honor?

Would your child point out in a crowd and say proudly, "That's my dad!"

A good test of whether you

are a father who is respected by his children is to ask yourself, "Do I want my son to be what I am, to do what I do, to go where I go?"

Fathers, remember that never before in all history have your children needed the undivided interest and attention of loving parents as in these days of a polluter moral and spiritual atmosphere.

Boys need fathers to learn how to be men. Men have underestimated their own importance in raising healthy and competent sons and daughters. Through his action and words, a father can have an immeasurable impact on the life of his or her child.

"A Christ like example is a father's greatest gift to his children." *Beatrice Maye*

**10 Suggestions to Help Loved Ones Who Are Mourning**

1. Don't try to fix us. There is no magic pill
2. Don't tell us to snap out of it, we can't. We know you are uncomfortable seeing us in pain, but we will recover at our own pace, not yours.
3. Don't take it personally if we don't return your phone calls. We are just trying to get through each day intact. If you care about us, keep trying.
4. Don't be afraid to talk about our loved one. We find comfort

in knowing that other people miss them too. We want to hear your stories and special memories.

5. Don't assume the role of stand-in parent for our children. It hurts to see someone trying to fill in. For us, there is no substitute.

6. Don't tilt your head and look at us with puppy dog eyes. We don't want pity.

7. Don't ask about our financial situation. It's none of your business.

8. Don't harp on how strong we are. We're not trying to be role models. You may see us as strong, but chances are we fall apart when you're not around.

9. Don't be put off our moodiness. Some day we want to be social, other days we don't.

10. Don't abandon us. we need you as just as much a year later as we did a month later. And when things are better, we will remember how you were there for us.

**18 MORE "TRIED TRUE" WAYS TO BEAT STRESS**

1. Before going to bed, set out breakfast items and lay out everything you'll need for work or school - clothes, ( in perfect repair), lunches, homework, etc. - so you can simply pick-up - 'n-go in the morning.
2. Get up 20 minutes earlier so

you can have a non-rushed breakfast. (If you need an alarm clock to wake you up in the morning, you aren't going to bed on time, say sleep experts).

3. Walk whenever possible (take the stairs instead of the elevator, hand-deliver work, papers, etc).

4. Plan grocery shopping, banking, and post office visits so you hit the non-chaotic times ( e.g. don't grocery shop on Saturday afternoon, and don't try to mail a package on Monday morning).

5. Go to the bathroom before leaving home or work ( simple, but amazing stress reducer).

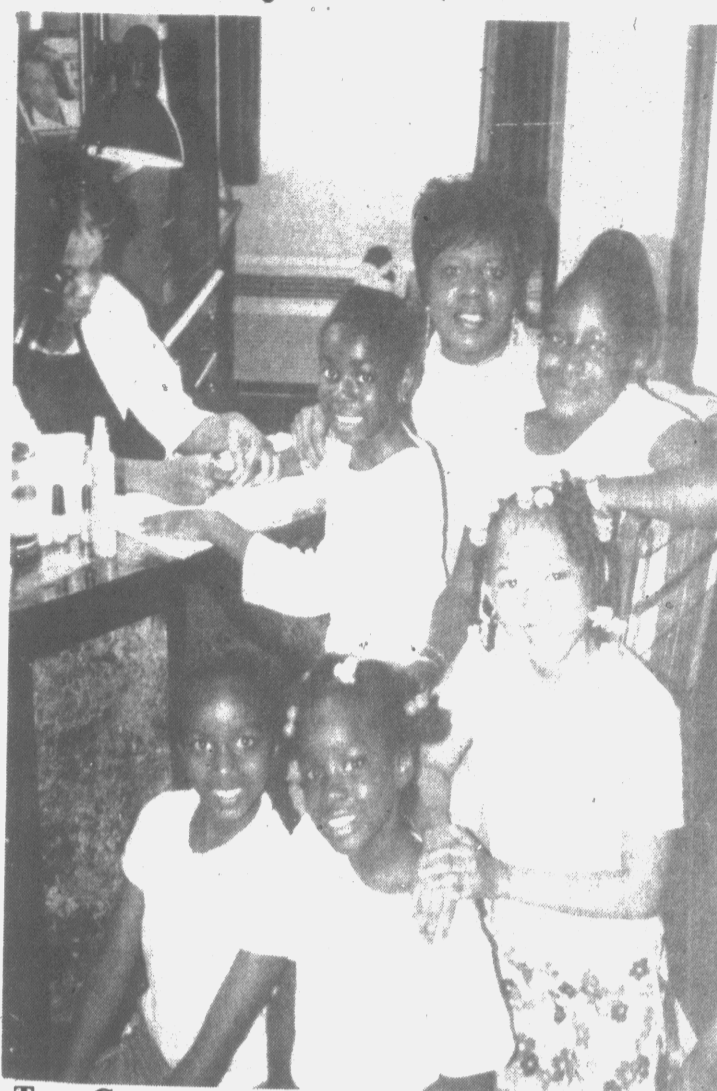
6. Look for the humor in every situation. Humor allows you to jump out of the picture so you can get a grip on things.

7. Tell people (including children) you'll "get back" to them with your decisions, rather than always making your decisions on the spot.

8. Get an answering machine so you can accept phone calls on your schedule, not other people's.

9. Always be in the middle of a spellbinding book; it's something to look forward to after a busy day.

10. Use traffic jam time to plan your weekends or vacations.



**True Connections Day Spa and Salon** located in the City Hotel on Greenville Blvd has an array of beautifying services. Stop in to see Ms Lola Thompson today. She is pictured here with a lovely array of children. God bless you Ms Thompson.

photo by Jim Rouse

## VISIONS

### Barber & Beauty Shop

## Pitt County

Pitt Community College  
4054 Community Square Shopping Center, Suite J

# JobLink

## Career Center

AJ Tyson, Jr.  
Director

**The Obituary**  
The day of our years are three score years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away  
Psalm 90:10

On Saturday, May 31, 2003 at 1:12 PM a mild afternoon. Mr. Claudie Atkinson, Sr. was called home to his eternal rest. Claudie was born in Pitt County to the late John and Rosa Atkinson on February 8@ 1913. He was a member of Faith and Victory Church. "Boy" or "Daddy Hawk" as friends affectionately knew him, grew up in the Rock Spring Church Community. He attended the Pitt County School System at an early age. He was employed by the Free State Tobacco Company. During his tenure he traveled the Southeastern United States from Kentucky to Florida, working different tobacco markets openings. When the tobacco market was open in Greenville, he was employed by E. B. Ficklen Tobacco Co. Off-season he was a pioneer entrepreneur in the community. Many of his associates called him the Fred Sanford of Greenville. He repaired bicycles & rented them to neighbors and the community at large. He was fond of old things and disliked throwing anything away. To him, "One man's junk is another man's treasure." During his retirement years he was a fixturer at Teel's Salvage. Claudie Atkinson lived on Mack Street in Greenville, NC, where he and his loving wife, the late Louise Tyson Atkinson reared five children. His survivors include daughters; Lena Spell of Greenville, NC, Beatrice Atkinson Henderson, husband, Calvin; and Cleatrice Hebert both of Winterville NC. Sons: Claude Atkinson Jr. (Saleem al-Ugdah) and wife Veronica, of Gastonia, NC. William I Atkinson and wife Annie of Greenville, NC, Alvin Ray Atkinson and wife Crystal of Royal Palm Beach, Fla. Twenty-two grandchildren, Ten great grandchildren, a host of nieces nephews, cousins and friends.

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<p><b>Ashley "Bittersweet"</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">\$499<sup>00</sup></p>	<p><b>All 8 Pc. Living Room Group</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Sofa, Loveseat, Chair, 3 Tables &amp; 2 Lamps</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">\$499<sup>00</sup></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">\$27<sup>00</sup>/month</p>	<p><b>9 Pc. Dining Group</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">\$999<sup>00</sup></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Up To 50% Off All Mattresses</p>
<p><b>Roll Top Desk</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">\$99<sup>00</sup></p>	<p><b>Marble Plant Stands</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">\$18<sup>00</sup></p>	<p><b>Riding Lawn Mowers</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">\$45<sup>00</sup></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">a month</p>
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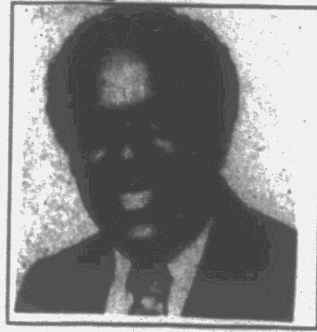
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# Spiritual Reflections



**Apostle George Hawkins**  
**The Ultimate Standard**

**Greetings:**

In these times which we live in people are trying to find the absolute truth, but if you look for truth from any other source other than God then you are looking in the wrong place. Jesus said I am the way the truth and the life. You cannot find truth from no one else but Jesus.

You can believe anything you want. "We each have to determine what is right for ourselves." That may be true for you; I have my own truth. Finding truth can be a tricky thing because of our own intellect we find ourselves making a mockery out of the very thing that we are trying to defend.

The Bible teaches that wisdom is the principle thing, therefore get wisdom but in all of your getting get an understanding. Let me explain my views on the subject of truth. The frightening thing about these modern viewpoints is that those who believe them become the definers of truth and reality. They leave no room for objective truth or absolutes. Yet if there are no absolutes determined by a Source that is higher than and above us as human beings, then we are all gods; or else no truth exists, and we have nothing to bind us together or define how we should treat each other. God did not leave His people Israel in such a philosophical mess. He clearly spelled out moral and spiritual absolutes, and warned His people to seek ultimate truth from Him, not from other sources (Lev. 20:6-8).

We who live today do well to pay attention to God's unchanging Word. Apart from Him, how can we coexist? By what standards will we define issues such as community, honesty, ethics, truth, morality, crime, and justice? Apart from His help, we are on a destructive path in a world where everyone is always right and no one is

ever wrong.

In today's age of acceptance and tolerance, it is not easy or popular to disagree with others. It seems that the one truth everyone must bow to is that everybody has the right to their own beliefs, and what's true for one may not be true for another. To suggest that someone else could be wrong or worse, to claim that there is such a thing as ultimate, absolute truth, is highly offensive in our culture.

But how can everything be true? That seems to be a contradiction in logic, if we agree with Webster that truth can be defined as 'fact, the state of something being the case,' or as 'actuality, the body of real things, events, or facts.' Jesus claimed to be the truth, not just a truth (John 14:6). He regularly spoke of telling the truth to his listeners

(for example, Matt. 5:18, 26; Mark 10:15, 29; Luke 21:3, 32; John 3:31; 16:7-23).

So what God communicated through Christ is extraordinarily important and must not be compromised.

But as Jude demonstrates, not all who begin to follow God's truth finish well

# Reflections, Expressions, and Reviews



**Sajeette Jones**

### The Power of Praise

It is generally recognized that one of the fastest growing segments of the Christian communion is that group of churches and congregations which are of the pentecostal persuasion. It is customary for Pentecostals to attribute their rapid expansion to their doctrinal distinctives and specifically to their emphasis upon glossolalia, or the speaking in tongues, as the initial evidence

of the baptism with the Holy Ghost.

Many outside and some within the movement have their reservations upon this point. But whatever one's position may be, it cannot be denied that the Pentecostal groups have rediscovered, for this day and age, the importance and power of praise. To the order of public worship, including periods of congregational singing, public prayer, and a gospel message, they have added another coequal with these: a period of united worship and vocal praise. Almost universally, at some point in the service (usually preceding the spoken Word) time is given specifically for the purpose of worshiping and praising the Lord. At a given signal, usually by the pastor, the entire group raises hands to heaven and, with uplifted faces, enters into adoration and praise. This is not a subjective thing, an attempt to "work up" an ecstatic emotion-

alism for the sake of the thrill. But the objective thrust of the united praise and worship of Him who alone is worthy often results in an inundation of the Holy Spirit's presence --- which is nothing short of heavenly, for it echoes the praises of the celestial throng around the throne. It is the scriptural program of massive praise which is responsible for the burgeoning growth of this movement. Regardless of one's position on the subject of tongues, there is nothing to hinder any group from adopting the scriptural practice of massive praise. The Church at large should sincerely repent of its failure to understand the overwhelming content of the Word on praise, and render due thanks God for those instrumental in its rediscovery.

Excerpted from:  
**"Destined for the Throne"**

## Eppes Alumni Parade: - - - - And The Band Played On!!!!



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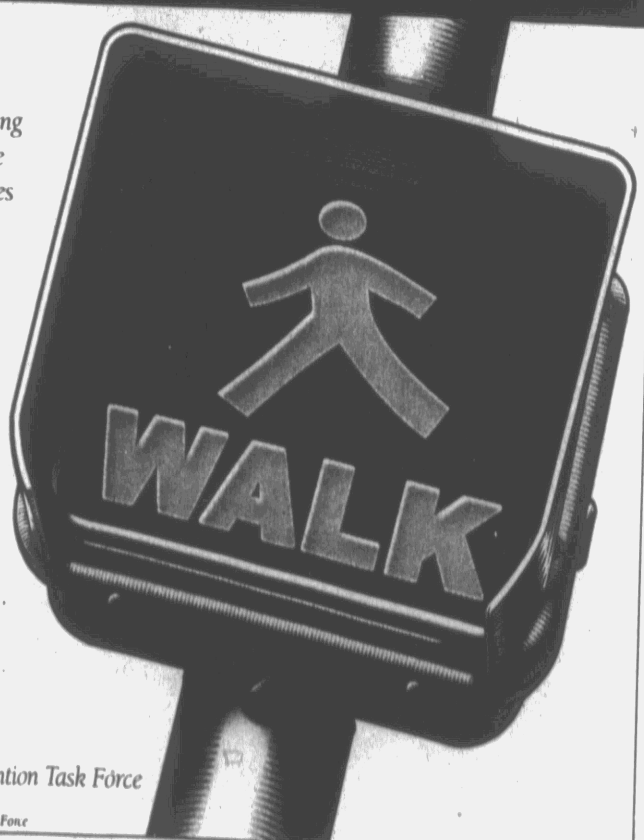
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# Get Going!

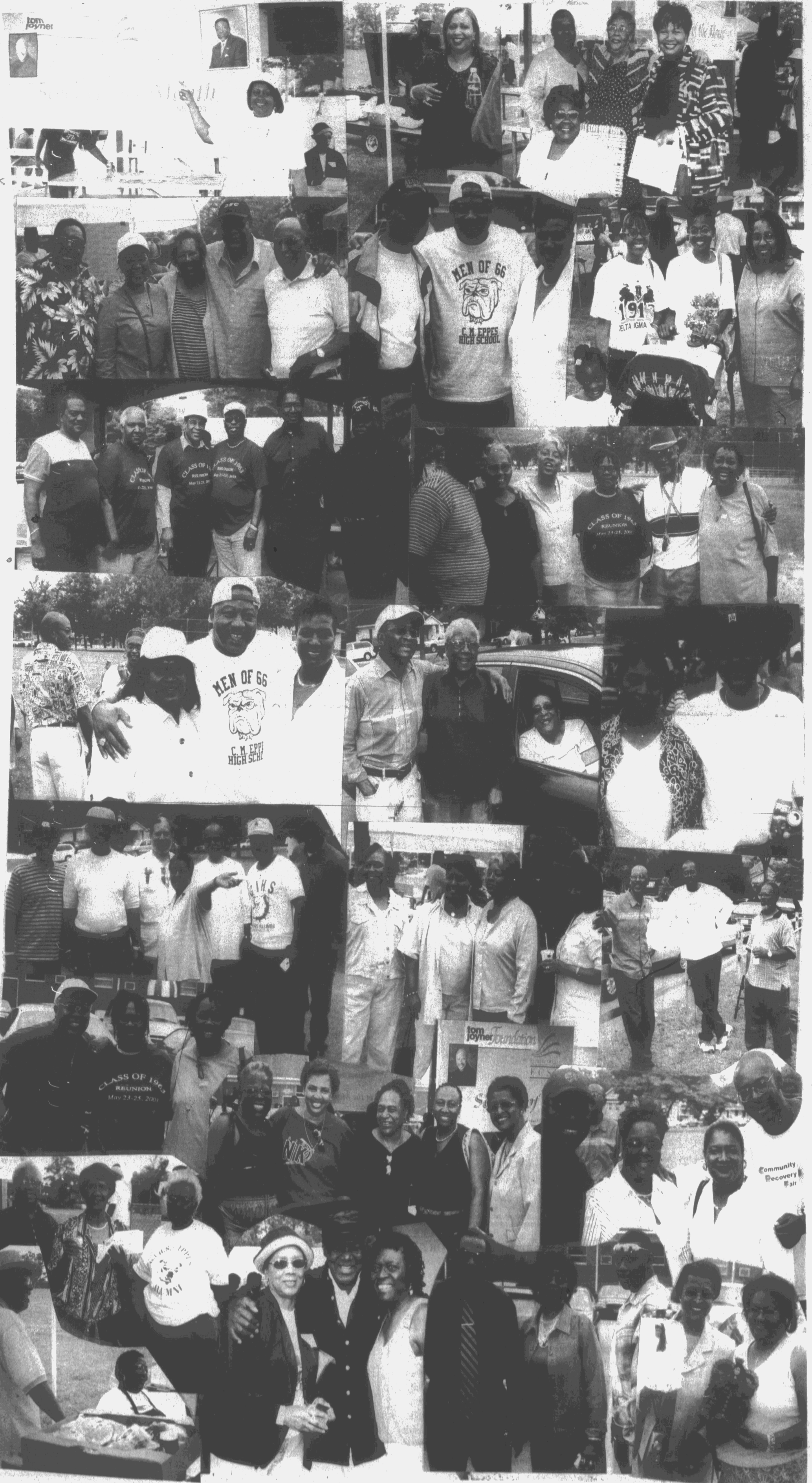
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Start **WITH** YOUR Heart

North Carolina Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention Task Force



# C. M. Eppes Centennial Celebration 2003 pg 9



**SUBSCRIBE TO THE MINORITY VOICE NEWSPAPER**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY . . . . .** Friends and Family members gathered together to celebrate the 83rd birthday of Mr. Frances Mebane. Mr. Mebanes an educator and leader in our community surprised as friends from near and far came to see him to give well wishes on his 83rd. Mr. Mebanes is also a leader in his church and lodge and always able to give wise counsel. It would do us well to listen to the advice of our elders. Remember, they didn't get to be of age being foolish.  
*photo by Jim Rouse*

**THE MINORITY VOICE NEWSPAPER**

**"What You See Is What You Get  
What You Read Is What You Know And Save"**

**Jim Rouse** Publisher  
**William Clark** General Mgr.  
**Michael Adams** Editor

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Please include your address and complete name.

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Fax: (252) 757-1793  
E-Mail: [woow.1@juno.com](mailto:woow.1@juno.com)

**GET INVOLVED IN CITY GOVERNMENT!**

The City of Greenville is accepting applications from volunteers to serve on the following boards and commissions: **Affordable Housing Loan Committee, Board of Adjustment, Citizens Advisory Commission on Cable TV, Community Appearance Commission, Environmental Advisory Commission, Firemen's Relief Fund, Greenville Utilities Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, Housing Authority, Human Relations Council, Pitt-Greenville Airport Authority, Pitt-Greenville Convention & Visitors Authority, Planning and Zoning Commission, Police Community Relations Committee, Public Transportation & Parking Commission, Recreation & Parks Commission, Redevelopment Commission and Sheppard Memorial Library Board.**

If you live inside the city limits of Greenville and would like to be considered for an appointment, please call 329-4423 to obtain a talent bank form to indicate your interest or send a written request to the City Clerk's Office, P. O. Box 7207, Greenville, NC 27835. Also, you can access a talent bank form on the web at <http://ci.greenville.nc.us/>.

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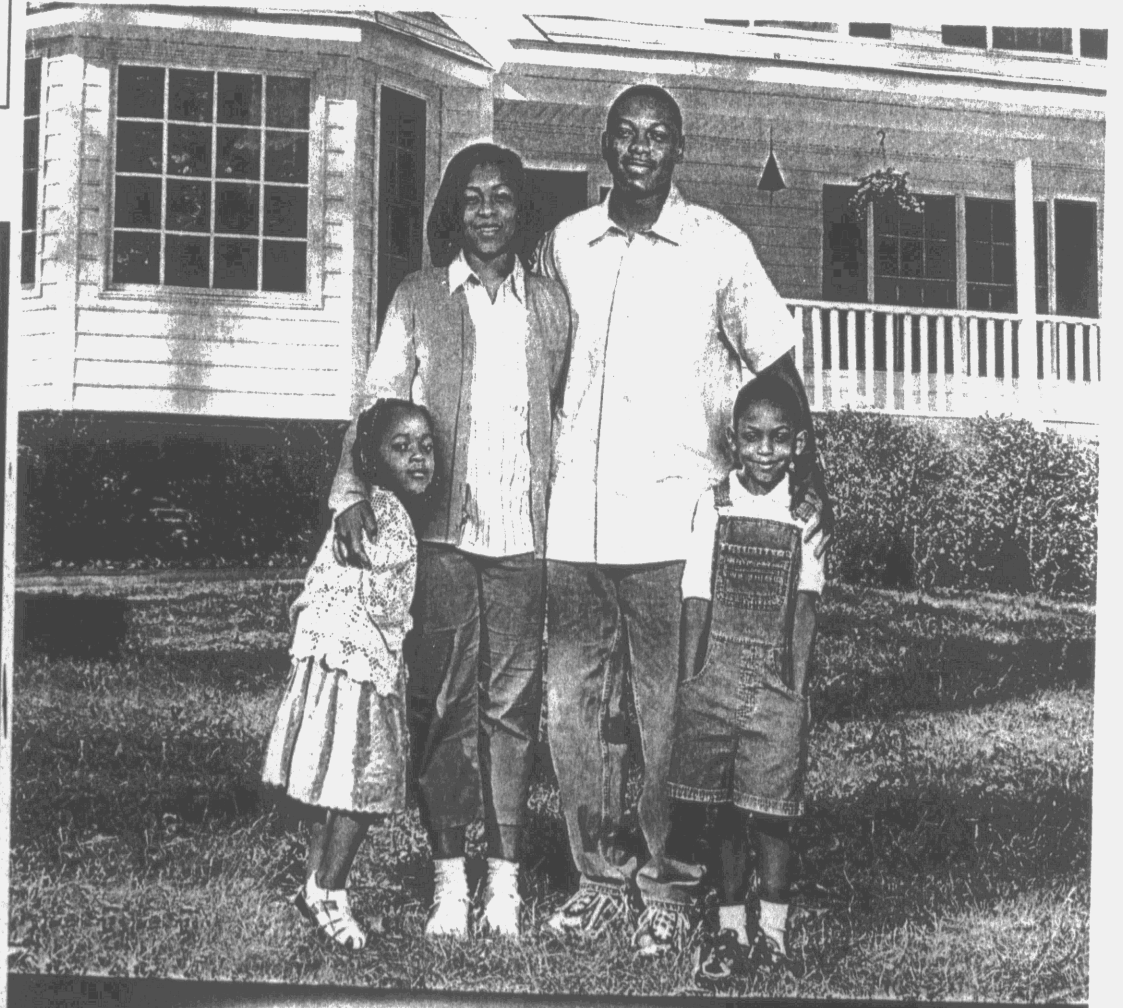
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**THE MINORITY VOICE NEWSPAPER**

Here, we believe that the future of Blacks will depend upon their awareness of the world around them. The "M" Voice newspaper is designed to inform, educate, and entertain. Additionally, each issue features local photographs, stories, and advertisements that mirror this region. We endeavor to market those products that are of concern to the minority community. Since 1981, The Minority Voice newspaper has been the best print medium to deliver your message into the homes of the minority communities that rely on us for news and information from a different perspective.

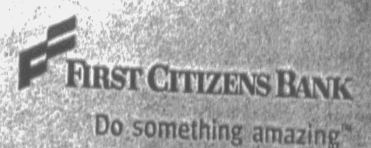
**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION**

The City of Greenville is accepting applications from volunteers to serve on the Environmental Advisory Commission. Appointees will be considered for the following category: a building contractor, land developer, or someone familiar with construction techniques. The EAC is responsible for recommending matters of environmental concern and serving as the technical advisor to the City Council. This Commission meets the First Thursday of each month, at 5:30 p.m., in the Conference of the Public Works Facility, 1500 Beatty Street. If you live inside the city limits of Greenville and would like to be considered for an appointment, please call the City Clerk's Office, 329-4423.



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# African craftsman slain by police

By HERB BOYD

Special to the AmNews

Only hours before Ousmane Zongo was gunned down at the Chelsea Mini-Storage warehouse last Thursday, he was the recipient of a bonus payment from one of his customers. "She wanted him to have more money than he requested for the work he had done repairing her piece of art," said Zoumana Trarore, a native of

the Ivory Coast and a close friend of Zongo's. "He was very good at what he did." Zongo, 35, an immigrant from Burkina Faso, was a master craftsman, a quiet man who never bothered anyone, according to Trarore. "Anybody here can tell you that he wouldn't harm a flea," Trarore said in a recent interview at the warehouse near several stalls overflowing with African artifacts.

"It makes no sense at all that he was trying to take the policeman's gun. He was probably running away since the officer was in plain clothes and he didn't know who he was."

According to the police report, the unarmed Zongo was killed by Officer Bryan Conroy, who said the man attempted to take his 9-millimeter service pistol. The officer was there as part of a raid on a CD-counterfeiting operation at the warehouse, 615 W. 27th St. Conroy was left to guard a cache of CDs when he encountered Zongo near the elevator on the third floor. The warehouse is a block-long building that stretches from 11th to 12th avenues, 27th to 28th streets.

Zongo, the police said, was being pursued in the maze-like warehouse corridors by the officer, who fired five times, striking the victim four times in the chest, abdomen and arm. Near the shooting scene are two bullet holes in the wall adjacent to stall 377. It's at the end of a short cul-de-sac. Zongo died of his wounds a few hours later at St. Vincent's Manhattan Hospital.

"We are investigating the incident," Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly told Zongo's cousin, a Muslim cleric in Harlem. "Something went wrong, and we're trying to find out what happened."

Kelly had just concluded a long explanation of events surrounding the death of Alberta Spruill to community residents.

The Rev. Al Sharpton, after meeting with friends and relatives of Zongo, called for an independent investigation of the incident. He said he had witnesses who were prepared to talk to an "objective investigator."

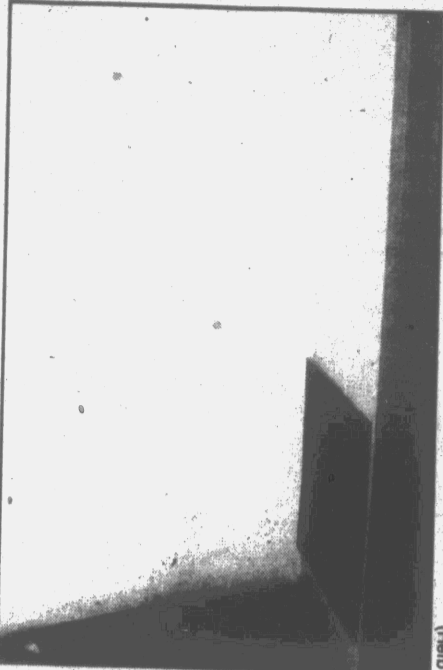
Kelly told Sharpton that if he has witnesses they should be available to speak to the police. Kelly said he was confident that the NYPD's Internal Affairs Department would do a thorough job of conducting the investigation, and as in the ongoing Spruill homicide, he promised to keep the community abreast of the developments. He said the police had not interviewed Officer Conroy.

Activity at the warehouse was returning to normal, which meant the presence of several African merchants and vendors gathering their statues, instruments and other artifacts for storage or to be transported to vans to sell. "We are not sure

what will happen next, so we are being very cautious," said Trarore.

Zongo's death, within a week of Spruill's homicide, was reminiscent of the police shooting of Amadou Diallo in February 1999 in the vestibule of his home in the Bronx. Like Zongo, Diallo had come to the United States to succeed as a businessman. They met a tragic similar fate at the hands of the police.

"Most of the police officers around here are white," said Trarore. "Maybe something should be done about that."



Bullet holes mark where art restorer Ousmane Zongo was gunned down by police.

(Herb Boyd photos)

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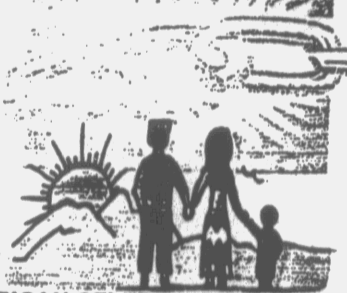
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