

The Minority Voice

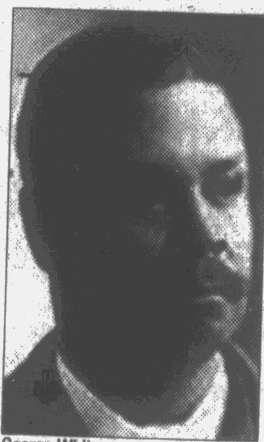
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Black politics in America: Before the Mayflower, Reconstruction and after WWII

by Saeed Shabazz
- Staff Writer

NEW YORK—George White of North Carolina was the last Black to have been born a slave and to have served in the United States Congress. He was also the last Black man from the Reconstruction Era, his term ended in 1900. During Mr. White's last speech to his colleagues, he told them "yes" he was leaving the halls of Congress, but it was not the end of Black electoral politics, because "Blacks would rise like a Phoenix and return to Congress." And his words came true.



George White

The next Black to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives was a Chicago Black Republican, Oscar De Priest, who was sent to Washington in 1928. "You will never get what you want politically, unless you elect leaders who will fight for your interests... Don't complain about racial discrimination. Change it by practical politics," Mr. De Priest told a gathering at Harlem's Abyssinian Baptist Church in 1929.

And so, the question begging for an answer is what was the Black political agenda going into Reconstruction, and coming out of WWII, leading up to the election of Harlem's Adam Clayton Powell Jr? Was there a "Black Agenda?"



Oscar De Priest

A wise man once said history rewards all research. *The Final Call* turned to world renowned Black History Professor Dr. Leonard Jeffries who, for the past 35 years, has been teaching Black History at the City University of New York, to guide us through the murky waters of Black political thinking and activity.

"We must see the demands by Blacks for freedom, and their taking up arms on both sides during the Revolutionary War as the first steps towards 'Black Power' and a 'Black Agenda,'" Dr. Jeffries explained.

"I try to hammer home to my students that what we as Blacks suffer from is a paralysis of analysis," he stressed. "We must look at our political sojourn in America from the basis of a system's analysis."

He added that to begin with the period of Reconstruction as the start of the Black political movement is ludicrous. "Blacks came to these shores in 1619, and by 1626, they were demanding their freedom in the English colonies of Virginia and getting it. By 1644, Blacks [were] demanding the same thing from the Dutch colonies in New Amsterdam," Dr. Jeffries said.

"By 1775, the British were realizing through their economic analysis that Blacks were becoming a real economic power in the colonies, and they offered them freedom, if they fought on the side of the British, and thou-

sands of Blacks did so. But men such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson also realized the importance of arming Blacks for their cause, and a similar offer was made."

"Blacks built a political dynamic early on with churches, fraternal lodges and educational institutions. But, in the 1800s Mr. Jefferson began to call attention to the growing Black population, and how it was slipping away from the plantation owners. And another dynamic that became a stumbling block to Black political and economic freedom prior to the Civil War was the dream of integration. We failed to put our economic foundation on a solid footing," he said.

Another issue he said that seemed to fall off the radar screen of Blacks between the Revolutionary War and the Civil War was the 1857 Supreme Court Dred Scott decision—slaves were property and could not be considered citizens under the constitution. "Let us for one minute take time to read something written by Lerone Bennett in his book 'The Shaping of Black America:' 'America or, to be more precise, the men who spoke in the name of America, decided that it was going to be a white place defined by the bodies and the blood of the reds and the blacks. And that decision, which was made in the 1660s and elaborated over a 200-year period, foreclosed certain possibilities in America.'"

Mr. Bennett continued, "The race problem in America was a deliberate invention of men who systematically separated blacks from whites in order to make money."

"So, Dred Scott took precedent over the Reconstruction Amendments, better known as the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments, and we must see our analysis of Black political awareness from the basis of White supremacy and the Industrial Revolution," Dr. Jeffries added.

He said that Blacks did not understand the dynamics of the Industrial Revolution, therefore they made some serious mistakes in systems analysis. "Blacks were talking about a bigger piece of the pie, and the White corporate moguls such as John D. Rockefeller were busy manipulating Whites against Blacks through the labor movements," Dr. Jeffries said.

In their book, "Labor's Untold Story," Richard O. Boyer and Herbert M. Morais wrote: "The paramount question facing every sector of the American people, but above all labor, was the fate of the Negro people. The question simply put, was whether the Negro people were to be enslaved again after the bloody war to free them."

continue page 9

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The voting rights of Blacks

A brief history

During the period known as Radical Reconstruction—from 1868 to 1877—Southern Blacks voted and held public office for the first time. In 1872 a Black Republican Lt. Governor, Pinckney B.S. Pinchback of Louisiana, sat in the governor's chair from December 9 to January 13, 1873. Another Black man occupied a seat on the State Supreme Court in South Carolina. Blacks were superintendents of education, judges, state treasurers, solicitors and major generals of militia.

An ex-slave, Blanche Kelso Bruce, was representing Mississippi in the U.S. Senate. Blacks during the Civil War period, and for a long time after, were Republicans. Between 1865 and 1867, Northern Republicans slowly became convinced that Reconstruction must recognize Blacks as American citizens, entitled to equality before the law, with the right to vote.

Laura F. Edwards in her book "Gendered Strife and Confusion: The Political Culture of Reconstruction" wrote: "Democrats defined manhood in race and class terms, the 'best man' invariably was white and propertied."

However, according to Nancy J. Weiss, author of "Farewell to the Party of Lincoln: Black Politics in the Age of FDR" the system of political exclusion began to unravel around 1872: She said a system of "scientific racism" tended to isolate Blacks politically.

For example: The Colfax, Louisiana Massacre of 1873, known as one of the most glaring examples of violent political repression, when 150 to 280 Blacks were killed by Whites over the issue of voting rights.



Gov. Pinckney B.S. Pinchback



U.S. Senator Blanche Kelso Bruce

On Easter Sunday in 1873, more than 100 Black men were gunned down in Grant Parish, Louisiana, for daring to assert their right to vote. Several months later, in Lexington, Kentucky, a Black man was denied the right to vote for not paying a poll tax.

By 1896, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Plessey v. Ferguson* that "separate but equal facilities" was constitutional. But analysts say that *Plessey v. Ferguson* also set the legal stage to deny Blacks the franchise, until the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

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—Saeed Shabazz



Opinions

Women's groups unite behind Braun

Commentary



DR. YVONNE SCRUGGS-LEFTWICH
BYRON FILE PHOTO

(WOMENSENEWS) - The National Organization for Women and the National Women's Political Caucus endorsed Carol Moseley Braun for president on the 83rd anniversary of U.S. women gaining the right to vote.

In so doing, activist women once again stood firmly in the "bully pulpit of their familiar" (to paraphrase author Alice Walker), from which they continue to fight to push women out of the margins and into the center of the political arena.

This time, they are lending their clout to an accomplished former senator and former ambassador, who despite her considerable political stature, is being largely ignored by many influential onlookers. In media discussions, her name is too often omitted from the roster of candidates.

Commentary about the Democratic and Republican candidates' "stud factor" and "alpha male" appeal appeared in the *Washington Post* on July 13, accompanied by caricatures of the men "flexing their muscles" in various stages of jock

undress. An earlier *Washington Post* commentary on May 25 discussed the relative advantage of candidates' "military record gaining a role in the 2004 presidential race."

Braun was mentioned in neither piece of these gender-biased pieces.

When she's left out like this, it contributes to the sexist assumption that she cannot be a serious candidate because she isn't visibly competing in this primarily male context.

Carol Moseley Braun has been dogged by allegations of improper money management.

However, the truth is that after intense smear efforts by partisan detractors who charged her with IRS campaign reporting irregularities, it turned out that she owed the princely sum of \$311.

This was such a small amount in the scheme of political campaigns that she was not even fined penalties or interest. Although she was fully investigated and found to be without guilt, baseless allegations continue to be dragged into assessments of her qualifications. The "politics of personal destruction" find an easy target in an overachieving and successful Black woman public official like Braun. Yet, most White male politicians benefit from the press' amnesia. For example, George W. Bush not only presided over the demise of an oil business and a baseball team, but also spent many years immersed in an alcoholic haze, all of which are rarely mentioned.

A male writer for a major East Coast daily recently called

her candidacy "silly," the same label he applied to the bid by the Rev. Al Sharpton, the other African American in the field of nine Democratic contenders.

Given the degree to which stereotyping often drives the media's perspectives, it is hard to discern whether that writer's "silly" label for Braun's candidacy was because of her gender, her race, or both, as often is the experience of Black

Democrats' references in an Illinois presidential primary, she led with 22 percent support of those polled. Dick Gephardt followed with 16 percent. In a *NBC/Wall Street Journal* poll, Braun placed fifth, ahead of John Edwards, Bob Graham, the Rev. Al Sharpton and Dennis Kucinich.

A tendency exists to overlook her, which has bizarre and distracting consequences. At

eral recognition of the discriminatory United Daughters of the Confederacy. She continues to challenge the status quo, aggressively advancing an institutional-change agenda. The two endorsements from politically powerful women's advocacy organizations are based explicitly on this tradition and her strong progressive record.

Carol Moseley Braun's campaign experiences are a quan-

coverage?

When asked this question, Candidate Braun identifies three imperatives: The first two are to raise money and do well in some early primaries; the third - and what she describes as the most important - is for Americans to believe in her as a viable candidate who will govern effectively as president.

Well, women are showing that they believe in her and there are 9 million more registered women voters than men.

In addition to her new high-profile endorsements from women's organizations, Braun's supporters include Gloria Steinem, co-founder of *Ms.* magazine; Dr. Dorothy I. Height, president emerita of the National Council of Negro Women; Coretta Scott King, founder of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change; Marie Wilson, founding president of the White House Project, which recruits women for public office; and Dr. C. DeLores Tucker, former secretary of state, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, political power broker and chair of the National Political Congress of Black Women.

Let's hope the support and energies of such high-profile women will help Braun achieve the respectful attention her candidacy deserves.

Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich is a consultant on national policy and civil rights issues and a senior faculty member at the National Labor College of the George Meany Center for Labor Studies.

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women.

It was not based upon her qualifications.

Braun has 25-plus years experience as an elected official at local, state and national levels, giving her far more political experience than either Bill Clinton or George W. Bush when they ran for office. She is a lawyer who was elected to the Illinois state legislature and also elected to countywide office in Cook County, Ill.

She is the first African-American woman elected to the U.S. Senate and only the second African-American senator since the Civil War and Reconstruction. She recently completed service as the U.S. ambassador to New Zealand.

National opinion polls have affirmed Carol Moseley Braun has a high approval rating among voters and is running respectably high in the otherwise all-male Democratic primary field. In an August poll of

one highly partisan political action committee meeting last spring, a savvy African-American activist who generously supports candidates of her choice, was asked to contribute to Braun's campaign.

Her surprising response was that, while she would make an initial pledge, she really did not yet know the candidate's platform. She asked, what does she stand for?

The planks of Braun's platform have been public for the last 15 years and explicit since earlier this summer, when she announced her candidacy. For political players not to know about them suggests just how successfully the male-dominated media pack has belittled the only female candidate in the field.

Nonetheless, Braun is still standing, just as when she alone led the successful defeat of former Sen. Jesse Helms' determination to continue fed-

tum leap forward by contrast to those of Rep. Shirley Chisholm, who in 1972 was the first woman and the first African American to mount a fully orchestrated national presidential campaign. She was neither supported by Black elected officials' organizations nor by most women's groups.

Chisholm wrote once about an encounter with a male voter in Harlem who criticized her in a way that seems positively quaint today. "Young woman, what are you doing out here in this cold?" the man challenged her. "Did you get your husband's breakfast this morning? Did you straighten up your house? What are you doing running for office? That is something for men!"

The question is: What will overcome the appearance of a stealth candidacy by Carol Moseley Braun and force her determination to win into mainstream consideration and media

John Kerry: Fence-sitting on the war and race

Commentary



RON WALTERS
BYRON FILE PHOTO

Have you ever seen a race where the lead runner, called the "rabbit," started off running and shocked people when it kept on running and won the race? Well, some are afraid that the current race for president is a little like that right now. Many people think that U.S. Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) is really the candidate who will emerge victorious, but that Howard Dean, the former Vermont governor, has started off like a house afire and will eventually burn out; then Kerry will come on and eventually win.

That scenario may well be

true, but you couldn't tell it from Kerry's formal announcement for president at Patriot's Point, S.C., recently. To begin with, many pundits scratched their heads at why Kerry would announce in South Carolina rather than in his home state and city of Boston. But I can understand the strategy of trying to get a "twofer" by establishing that he was not just a Northeast regional candidate and that he could compete in the South with Sen. John Edwards (D-N.C.) and, not incidentally, Al Sharpton.

Sharpton is expected to do well in the South and right now, Edwards is reported not to be doing so well in the polls there because the Black vote has not warmed up to him. Kerry may be concerned that he could suffer the same fate, that is, to win or place second in the Northeast primaries and then come South and fall flat on his face. So, he is trying to make nice in South Carolina, hoping that he can build a beachhead to other areas in the South.

All of this says that the Black vote, especially in South Carolina, is key. It constituted 25 percent of the entire electorate in 2002 and in a Democratic primary, probably constitutes up to 50 percent of the vote. So why would you

it.

But I'm still puzzled. One of the strong themes of Kerry's announcement party was his connection to the military, establishing his strength on this issue by invoking his credibility as a genuine war hero in

(so I am protected on the liberal flank). Vagueness on the war has become the sore point with many activist Democrats. Sure, it is a fact that Democrats Joe Lieberman, Bob Graham, Dick Gephardt and Kerry all sided with Bush on the war, but now

capped to win all along) will come on at the finish to win the race.

Meanwhile, Dean who, like Sharpton, also has taken the strongest positions on race and racism, just keeps on out-running the pack, presenting the clearest, strongest issues. You'd think the "fab four" would get it. They do, but then they are just jiding their time.

How Blacks react to this will be important, because the "fab four" have been the weakest on questions of race overall. Will we take it and fall in line, hoping to score with the group that is supposed to contain the eventual winner, or will we have the courage to push those who have had the correct positions all the way? I don't know. These days I find that courage is in pitifully short supply.

Ron Walters is a distinguished leadership scholar, director of the African American Leadership Institute and professor of government and politics at the University of Maryland-College Park.

Howard Dean, on the other hand, is getting a big push because of his clear opposition to the war and the post-war occupation of Iraq by the United States.

suppose that Kerry's speech included just one line about civil rights and his prepared text didn't even mention African Americans. He extemporaneously offered that discrimination should be ended with respect to African Americans, Hispanics, Asians and Native Americans. The prepared text only mentioned gays and lesbians. Maybe it's good that Kerry went South, so that his staff can understand the necessity for him to appeal more effectively to the Black vote. This outing just didn't get

Vietnam. One of the clearest signals of both his military theme and his wish to link to the South was to find former Georgia Sen. Max Cleland sitting on the stage with him. Cleland was also a highly decorated war hero and a former colleague of Kerry's in the Senate.

But Kerry's position on the war is weak. It goes something like this: I believe in the war (so I am protected on the conservative flank), but by the way, I oppose how Bush is conducting the post-war arrangements

want to have it both ways. Howard Dean, on the other hand, is getting a big push because of his clear opposition to the war and the post-war occupation of Iraq by the United States.

Ultimately Kerry's fence straddling seriously undercuts his credibility on the issue of defense and security with core Democrats. But then, the gang of four, led by Kerry, are betting that Dean, the rabbit, burns himself out on issues such as his opposition to the war and then they (who were handi-

Bush is 'shocked and awed' into reality

Commentary



GEORGE E. CURRY
BYRON FILE PHOTO

George W. Bush finally has been "shocked and awed" by the rising costs and casualties in Iraq, as well as the realization that efforts to rebuild the war-torn country will not be successful without assistance from the United Nations.

That was made clear in Sunday night's nationally televised address from the White House. It was not so much what Bush said - though the speech lacked the swagger and bluster of some of his earlier comments - but what he proposed.

Let's begin at the beginning. The major pretext for invading a country that had

not attacked the United States was that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction and posed a threat to Americans because of his ties to the Al Qaida global terror network.

To this day, Iraq's weapons of mass destruction have yet to be found. This has seriously undermined Bush's credibility at home and abroad. Even members of his administration now admit that Hussein's ties to Al Qaida were tenuous at best.

Bush's greatest mistake was trying to go it alone in Iraq. When the U.N. refused to sanction military action in Iraq, the U.S. thumbed its nose at it, dismissing it as irrelevant.

Under the direction of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, the U.S. launched its "shock-and-awe" attack on Iraq, unleashing a barrage of bombs on what were said to be carefully selected targets.

On May 1, slightly more than a month later, Bush stood on the deck of an aircraft carrier to announce: "Mission accomplished."

In some ways, the mission was just beginning.

Not only was no effective plan in place to quell Iraqi violence and looting that followed, American soldiers became sitting ducks, so much so that the number of American casualties suffered

15,000 troops are needed from the international community.

By contrast, the cost of the 1991 Persian Gulf War was \$82 billion in current U.S. dollars. Acting in concert with other nations, the U.S. paid only \$9 billion of that

effort in Iraq is complete.

Bush's mishandling of the war will undoubtedly be an issue in next year's presidential election. Already, there are signs that his popularity, which was unusually high during the war, is plunging. A recent Time/CNN poll showed

United Nations now have an opportunity and the responsibility to assume a broader role in assuring that Iraq becomes a free and democratic nation."

Bush should have done more to enlist international cooperation prior to attacking Iraq. Many allies had wanted to assist in the mission, but on a timetable established by the United Nations, not George W. Bush. And even while seeking U.N. help, the United States is still trying to dictate the terms, insisting that a U.N. force be headed by an American.

The tragedy is that this is a war we shouldn't have started. And if the administration had wanted to persist, it should have acted in concert with the United Nations. Now, we're paying the price, financially and in human casualties. We should not be shocked or awed to learn that we will pay an even higher price in the future for this lunacy.

George E. Curry is editor-in-chief of the NNPA News Service and BlackPressUSA.com.

after the war (149 as of this week) now exceeds the 138 combat deaths. That is shocking.

And lawmakers are in awe over how much money it is costing to attack and rebuild Iraq. In his address, Bush announced that he will ask Congress for \$87 billion for the fiscal year that begins next month; about \$75 billion of that is earmarked for Iraq. That's in addition to the \$79 billion Congress approved for the war. Further, administration officials say an additional \$30 billion to \$55 billion and

amount. Looked at another way, if the money being spent on Iraq was used at home, we could more than double the amount the federal government allocates to education. Even more would be available if Bush's \$674 billion tax cut was repealed.

Rather than engage in more domestic spending, the administration will increase the federal deficit, which had been eliminated during the Clinton years, to \$475 billion in 2004. It will go even higher, probably topping \$600 billion, before the rebuilding

that 63 percent of Americans believe going to war was the right policy. Bush's approval rating was 52 percent, about where it was before the war. However, a new poll by Zogby International put his approval rating at 45 percent and 54 percent negative.

Now, the U.S. must go before the United Nations, the same body that it dismissed as irrelevant at the onset of the war, to beg for help.

"We cannot let past differences interfere with present duties," Bush said Sunday night. "Members of the

Spiritual Reflections



Apostle George Hawkins

Where Will Judgment Begin?

Greetings:

Just look around you not at the world but at the churches, are you alarmed at what you see? The Bible declares in Matthew 24:37-39 But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark. And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. We are living in a time that we can't distinguish the church members from the world. Nevertheless, I want to REMIND you of what God said in 1 Peter 4:17-18 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? We are treading on dangerously thin ice, the return of Jesus could be any minute now and we the church people are acting like the world. I just want to tell you that IT'S HOLINESS OR HELL. You had better grab a hold of the horns of the altar and stay there until Jesus change your heart toward that which is righteous. If I could allow myself to reminisce, back to when I was a child those church mothers

would work with those young girls and those deacons would talk to those young men as the bible tells us to. CHRISTIANS, you are a Christian because you chose to be no one made you become a Christian. Yes, I know that no one can come to the Father except the Spirit draws you, but a choice still have to be made on your part. You see if you are not striving to be like Christ then you must take down the sign. After all, why are you going to HELL cramped up when you can go in style? Let's take closer look holiness. The first thing I would like to share with you about holiness is this:

HOLINESS IS NOT AN OPTION IT'S A REQUIREMENT.

According to Hebrews 12:14 we are to "Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord" So the writer of Hebrews is telling us to take seriously the necessity of personal, practical holiness. When the Holy Spirit comes into our lives at our salvation, he comes to make us holy in practice. If there is not, then, at least a yearning in our hearts to live a holy life pleasing to God, we need to seriously question whether our faith in Christ is genuine.

It is true that this desire for holiness may be only a spark at the beginning. But that spark should grow till it becomes a flame - a desire to live a life wholly pleasing to God. True salvation brings with it a desire to be made holy. When God saves us through Christ, He not only saves us from the penalty of sin, but also from its dominion.

The whole purpose of our salvation is that we be "holy and blameless in His sight",

Ephesians 1:4. To continue to live in sin as a Christian is to go contrary to God's very purpose for our salvation. One of the writers of three centuries ago put it like this: "What a

strange kind of salvation do they desire that care not for holiness. . . . They would be saved by Christ and yet be out of Christ in a fleshly state. . . . They would have their sins forgiven, not that they may walk with God in love, in time to come, but that they may practice their enmity against Him without any fear of punishment."

Holiness, then, is not necessary as a condition of salvation - that would be salvation by works - but as a part of salvation that is received by faith in Christ. The angel said to Joseph, "You are to give Him the name Jesus [which means Jehovah is salvation]", because He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). Therefore, we may say that no one can trust in Christ for true salvation unless he trusts in Him for holiness. This does not mean the desire for holiness must be a conscious desire at the time a person comes to Christ, but rather that the Holy Spirit who creates within us saving faith also creates within us the desire for holiness. He simply does not create one without the other.

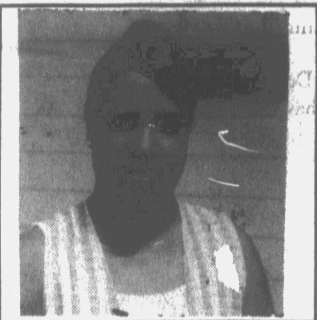
Paul said, "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age" (Titus 2:11-12). The same grace that brings salvation teaches us to renounce ungodly living. We cannot receive half of God's grace. If we have experienced it at all, we will experience not only forgiveness of our sins but also freedom from sin's dominion.

So again I say to you it's holiness or hell. God command is, "BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY." But as victims of sin's warfare, Christians are often prone to give up the fight, or at least to compromise with sin in its more difficult forms. Chose Christ and live.



No Weapons Ministries Minister Russell Early pauses for a minute to reflect. Bro. Early can be heard every 1st Sunday at 1:30 till 2:00pm on WOOW Joy 1340AM with No Weapon Ministry. A Minister of the Phillipi Church of Christ, Bro. Early has a compassion for the lost. Tune in you won't be disappointed. photo by Bro. Michael Adams

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 thier 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 pro-

tect 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."

Radio Show Promotes Pitt Community College



Pitt Community College has taken to the radio to inform listeners about its programs and academic opportunities. Pitt Community College Outreach with Ernest Lee airs each Wednesday from noon until 12:30pm. Lee, director of outreach for the college, interviews administrators and educators about topics from adult education and job training to financial aid and associate degree programs. There's a lot of citizens in Pitt County that do not understand how to use the community college, what it's for, and how they can utilize it to enhance their lives, Lee said. The program broadcasts on WOOW Joy 1340 AM.

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NEW DIRECTOR APPOINTED AT SHAW UNIVERSITY CAPE SITE

NEW DIRECTOR APPOINTED AT SHAW UNIVERSITY CAPE SITE

Dr. John P. Jones was recently appointed as new director at the Greenville site for Shaw University. Dr. Jones, the new director, has served at several universities across the nation before being assigned to Greenville. He received his undergraduate degree in Sociology from Shaw University 1966, a master's degree from Tennessee State University, a doctorate degree from the University of Missouri in 1978. Before coming to Greenville, Dr. Jones served at the Shaw University -Ahoskie site since 1997. Prior to that, he served as Vice-President of Student Affairs at St. Paul's College in Lawrenceville, VA. Additionally, he has been in leadership positions at the University of Missouri, the University of the Pacific, Lincoln University, and Tennessee State University.

Dr. Jones, a Aulander resident, spoke to a standing room only group of students recently and discussed his vision for the Greenville site located on 10th Street. He plans to increase enrollment at the local campus by offering more courses and services to meet the needs of the undergraduate and adult student(s) seeking a four-year liberal arts degree at an affordable cost and at convenient times.

For more information about the Greenville site of Shaw University call 252-439-5339.

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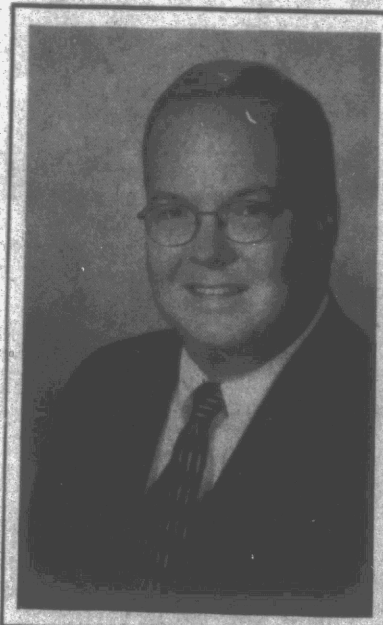


H.B. Sugg High School Class of 1968

The Class of 1968 and Friends of H. B. Sugg High School celebrated their 35th year reunion on August 30-31, 2003 at the Greenville Hilton Hotel. Emotions ran high during the two day celebration when classmates were reunited for the first time in 35 years. The class also made special presentations at the banquet to Mr. Francis H. Mebane, Mrs. N. J. Cobb, Mrs. L. S. Graham, Mr. F. Graham, and Ms. Hom-Parker for their dedication and commitment to all students. Councilwoman Rosemary Glover also attended the celebration.

Submitted by Geraldine Vines Wright

Let's Meet The Candidate



Steve Tripp is a candidate for the Mayor of Ayden. He is a graduate of Ayden-Grifton High School, and went on to attend the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He has been happily married for 23 years to Susan Ange from Williamston, NC. They have two children that are currently attending college.

Tripp has been a member of Ayden Christian Church and is now a member of Rose Hill Free Will Baptist Church. He has also been very active in the community. Tripp has been a member of the Pitt County School Board representing the Ayden district, and is currently serving on the Ayden Board of Commissioners and as Mayor Pro-Tem.

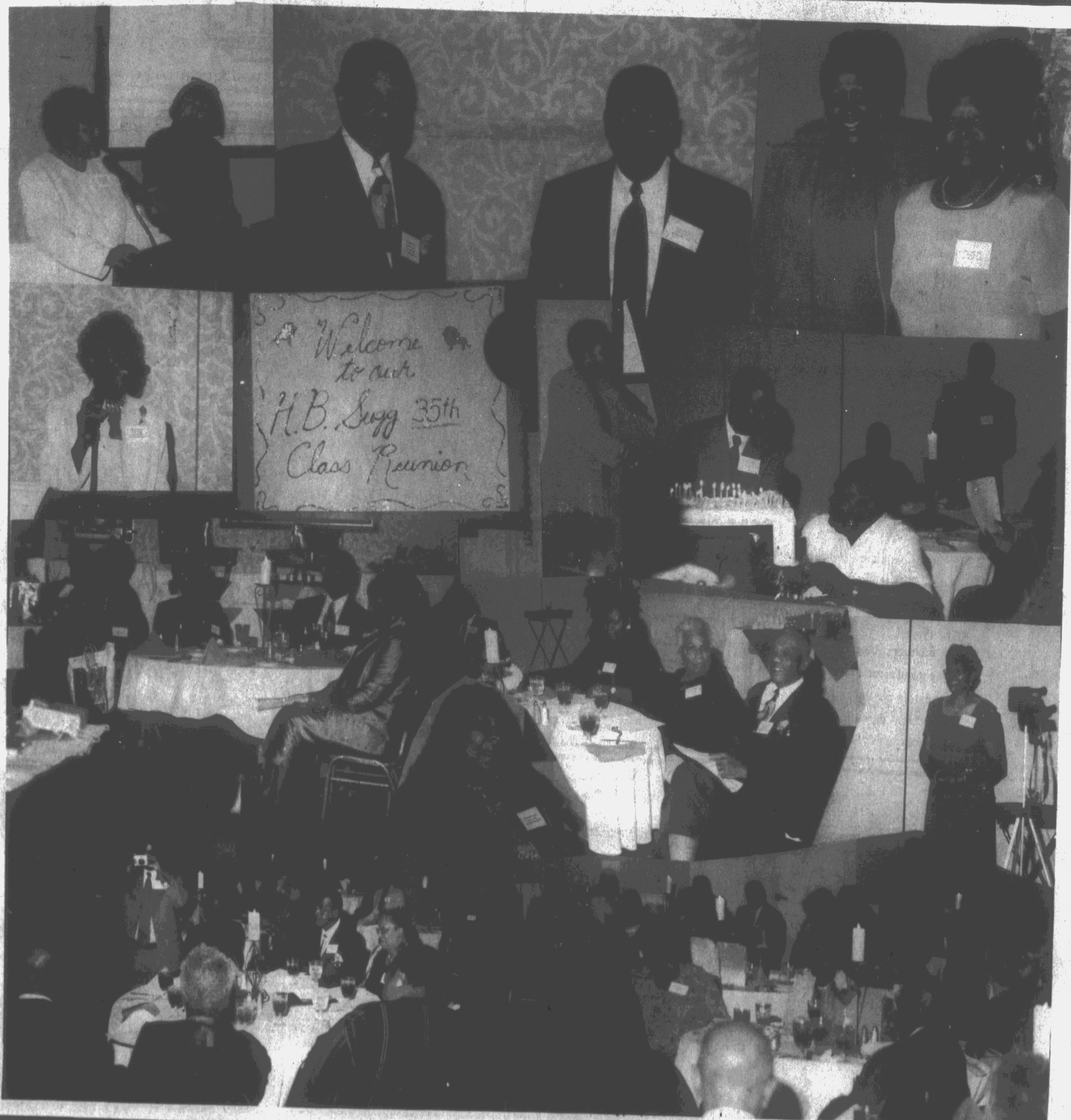
Tripp is 46 years old and has been a resident of Ayden during that period of time except when he attended college. His family roots spanned for over a hundred years in Ayden. He offers experience, honesty, and integrity.

Tripp's goals for Ayden are outlined as such:

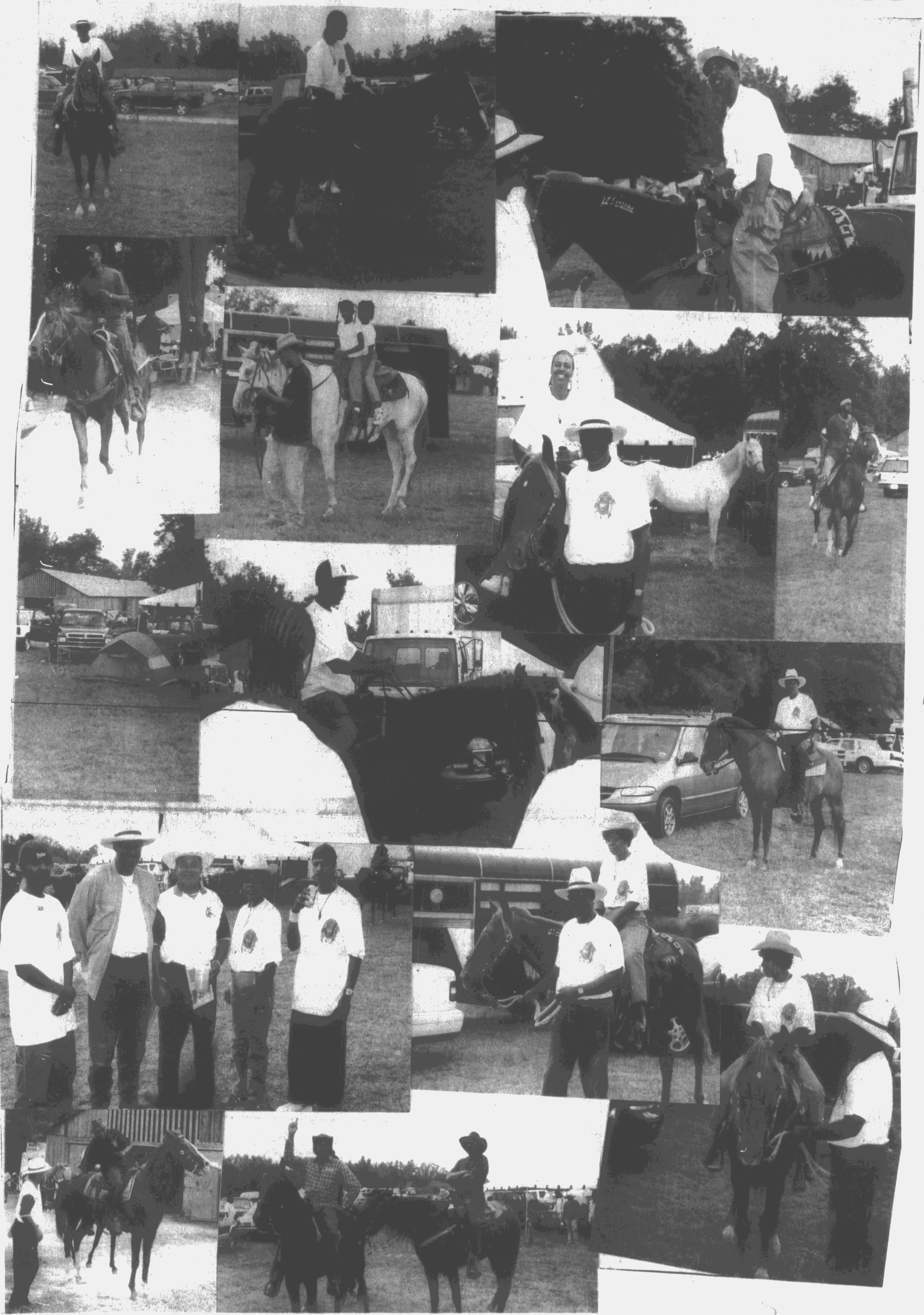
- Expand the infrastructure in Ayden (Sewer to the eastern part of town towards the Ayden Country Club and to the western part of town on Hwy 11.
- Work with the Planning Board to revise the Land Use Map and Zoning Ordinance in order to simplify and organize development.
- Continue with the clean-up efforts in the town - example repairing sidewalks, paint lines for parking, pick up trash, resurface roads, etc.

- Partnership with the Ayden Elementary, Ayden Middle School, and Ayden-Grifton High School in order to help improve education. Seek local funds from private sources in which the Town of Ayden will match up to \$10,000 to purchase technology that the Board of Education will not fund.
- Develop a program in which the citizens of Ayden will take ownership in the Town by working with civic groups, clubs, organizations, and churches to increase participation by the citizens in these groups. Work with the local Minister Association to help get the citizens to get involved in churches.

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Reflections, Expressions and Reviews



Ms. Sunjetta Jones

Ford's One Hundred Years and Blacks

During the 1920s and 30's, over a million blacks migrated from the fields of the South to factories in the North. Though many Northern factories only gave blacks menial jobs and paid them pennies - on the dollar compared to whites; Henry Ford hired blacks, and paid them the industry's highest wages. Ford was called a genius in the field of job equality, because he had blacks working on the assembly lines, in laboratories, skilled trades, and allowed them to be

promoted to foreman. Ford allowed blacks into apprentice programs; he also employed the auto industry's first salaried African-American, James Charles Price.

In 1915, Price was working as a cutter in a fashionable Detroit tailor shop. Among the customers was Henry Ford, who took a liking to Price and invited him to come work at Ford's company headquarters. Price stayed with the company 32 years, mostly as the company's purchasing officer for industrial diamonds and abrasives. He was regarded as the industry's "best purchasing official." When Price retired in 1947 and went into an office supply business with his sons, Ford Motor became their best customer.

Henry Ford respected and supported genius regardless of color, and held inventor George Washington Carver in great esteem. Ford offered Carver \$100,000 to come work at Ford Motor but was turned down by Carver. Later, Ford donated funds to continue his research into uses for the peanut, cotton, and the sweet potato. Ford incorporated many of Carver's agricultural Products innova-

tions into car parts. Carver's work intrigued Ford to the point that he generously supported research work at Tuskegee Institute.

Many companies can learn from examples set by this American Institution. Ford has an Executive Council on Diversity. Diversity awareness training is mandatory for all Ford's salaried employees. Ford has the largest number of minority dealerships among all auto-makers, and has more African-American dealers than all other automakers combined. Last year, Ford contracted \$3 billion to minority suppliers in the U.S., most of whom were African-Americans. This was the highest amount spent with minority suppliers in Ford's history and the largest amount spent by any auto company. The company has been awarded for helping to foster economic self-sufficiency in the African-American business community.

Condensed from an article by William Reed, Black Press International



I LOVE YOU THIS MUCH Pastor Shirley Atkinson was caught by our camera during a recent celebration of her birthday at her church. Pastor Atkinson can be heard on WOOW Joy 1340 Tues. & Thurs at 10:30am with "Basic Living" The church is located on S. Pitt Street in Greenville.

photo by Bro. Michael Adams

A Trip Down Memory Lane

by Modupe' Rouse

Bad Blood. It is instinctively ingrained in our psyche that we are destined to have bad blood. Bad blood is what many blacks were told as a diagnosis for illnesses. This concept may sound misinformed, but this mentality plagues many African-Americans today. Growing up in the rural areas of North Carolina, I remember being told by my great grandmother that she does not go to the doctor. I proceeded to ask why, Mama? She responded in a firm and confident tone "that when we (black people) go to the doctor we are in worse condition than before we decided to." As a girl you don't question this information, you accept it. As I began to mature and the need for healthcare became a part of life, I was unsure as to whether I was to trust the doctor for advice or if I should call my great-grandmother and find out what iodine mixture could cure the aches and pains.

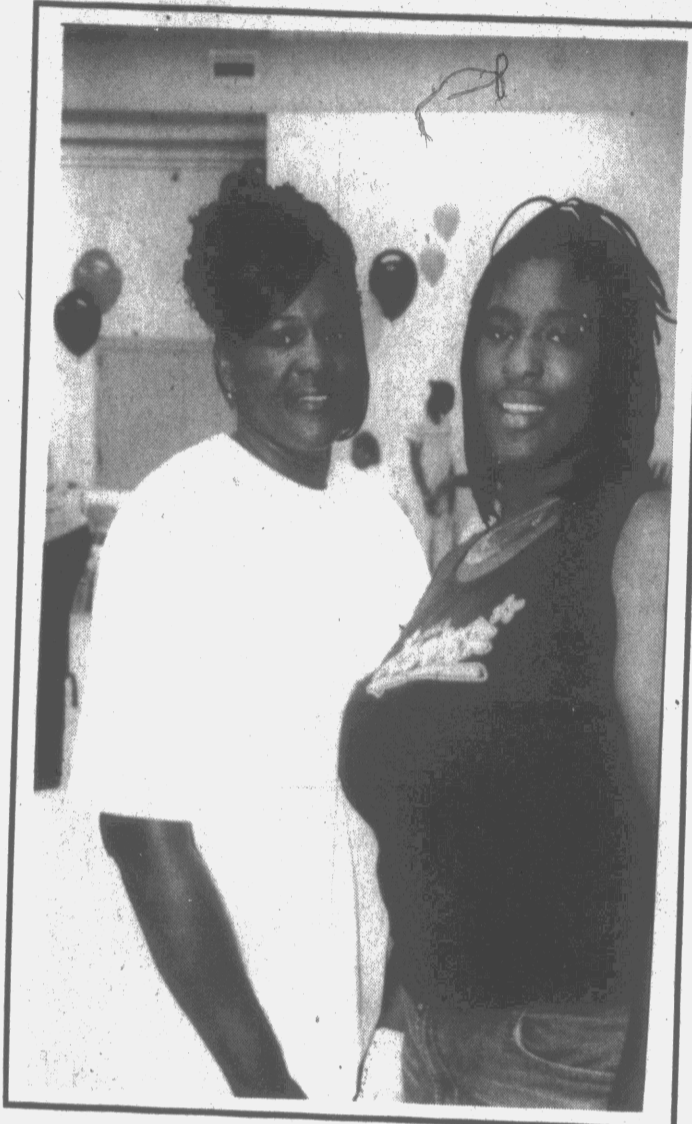
Becoming a woman was quite a task, faced with this mistrust for the health care establishment, I teamed this relationship between the health industry and myself, had to meet in some sort of information session. The end result of course, I learned that it takes time to choose a health care provider that you trust. Feeling comfortable to sit down in a cold, airy room that smells like alcohol and tell a nurse or physician what's wrong with you, is difficult. Nonetheless, it can be done. Imagine how many African-Americans feel the way I've described to you above, and rightfully so. Between 1932 and 1972, the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment study was conducted. This study would devastatingly affect the hearts of black people across America.

The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment was conducted to discover the theories of syphilis on blacks as opposed to whites. Few of us understand the seriousness of this matter, the experiment went on for forty years. Although the experiment ended in 1972, the lifelong implications from this study are prevalent today. The men infected their wives with this disease and leaving their unborn babies to enter this world with this ghastly and deadly illness. This experiment has left a legacy of mistrust for scientists and doctors.

What is syphilis? Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by a bacterium called treponema pallidum. This illness if left untreated causes a lifetime of mental and physical problems or fatal in many cases. In 2002, the North Carolina HIV/STD Surveillance Report concluded that seventy-four percent syphilis cases were reported for African-Americans. For 2003, the numbers decreased by a small percentage with sixty-eight percent syphilis cases being reported. We can continue to bring these numbers down. In order to do this we must trust ourselves enough to go to the doctor.

On September 16, 2003 Tom Joyner advocated the "Take a Loved One to the Doctor Campaign" This campaign encouraged African Americans everywhere to take friends and/or family to the doctor. Participating in campaigns such as this one can help us be informed of illnesses and the preventative measures we can take to save our own life or the life of a loved one.

Illiteracy is no longer a problem, although an illness amidst the black community there is a cure. Become informed and active in saving your race. For more information on sexually transmitted diseases visit: www.schs.state.nc.us/epi/hiv/surveillance.html



Something Inside So Strong pictured above (to the right) is Sherieonta Taylor and her mother Gwendal Everette. Sherieonta definitely has an inner strength which could only come from God. After recovering from a stroke which at first was believed to be the flu, she strived on to graduate and even walk across the stage to accept her diploma from D. H. Conley High School. She now plans to attend Pitt Community College in the beginning of the coming year. Mother Everette remarked that her daughter is truly a blessing. We stand in agreement. From the staff of the Minority Voice Newspaper, continue in God's Blessings Sherieonta.

photo by Bro Jim Rouse



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