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Africa laureate dismisses AIDS "bioweapon" flap

By Wangui Kanina, Reuters

NAIROBI (Reuters) - Wangari Maathai made a typically combative start to her first full day as a Nobel laureate on Saturday, defending a recent suggestion that the HIV virus might have been made in a laboratory as a plot against Africans.

The outspoken Kenyan environmentalist became the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for aiding the poor with a campaign to plant trees and slow deforestation.

Maathai, rarely reluctant to challenge the status quo or confront the powerful, said her comments in August were intended to promote an inquiring attitude to AIDS among Africans and combat the fatalistic notion that it was a curse from God.

"Would you solve the problem if it you believed it was a curse from God?" she told a news conference, adding that one theory was that AIDS was created by a scientist in a laboratory as an agent of war. "I was encouraging people to ask questions, which is what I always do."

Maathai caused a furore in Kenya when she was quoted in Kenya's East African Standard daily as calling AIDS a biological weapon devised to destroy black people.

"Do not be naive. AIDS is not a curse from God to Africans or the black people. It is a tool to control them designed by some evil-minded scientists, but we may not know who particularly did (it)," the August 31 article quoted her as saying at a seminar in her home town of Nyeri.

A U.S. State Department spokesman on Friday congratulated Maathai

on the Peace Prize but said without elaborating that Washington did not agree with her on every issue.

A senior U.S. State Department official, who spoke to reporters on condition that he not be identified, said: "She has made some statements about the source of HIV/AIDS that we have very much disagreed with. She said it was invented as a bioweapon in some laboratory in the West. We don't agree with that," a senior U.S. official told reporters.

WELL-WORN THEORY

The idea that AIDS began as a plot by Western scientists to control Africa's population is commonly heard across Africa.

Maathai, speaking at the office of her environmental lobby group, said she never suggested any particular region was responsible for creating AIDS but she

was suspicious about what she called the secrecy surrounding the origin of the virus.

"Some people say it came from the monkeys and I doubt it...others say that it is a curse from God. But I say it cannot be that only black people are cursed, because we are dying more than any other people on this planet and that's a fact."

Maathai has campaigned for years to educate Kenyans that felling swathes of woodland wrecks irreparable damage on Kenya's ecosystem, destroying vital water catchment areas that sustain the backbone farming and hydro electric sector.

She said Mount Kenya, the continent's second highest peak and the source of 13 of Kenya's rivers was endangered because several acres on the mountain had been cleared for firewood and charcoal while marjuna was being grown in the forests.



Proposed black business district prompts bitter debate in Detroit

By Sarah Karush

DETROIT (AP) - Detroit has a Greektown section that tempts visitors with moussaka and baklava, and a Mexicantown neighborhood with Latin American groceries and restaurants. Now, politicians are pushing for a business district identified with the city's biggest racial group - blacks.

The plan, dubbed "African Town" by some proponents, has stirred fervent opposition, in part because the new district would be established using taxpayer money that would be available only to black business owners.

Detroit, with a population of just under 1 million, is more than 80 percent black after a decades-long white exodus that was driven in part by racial

tensions, including the 1967 riots.

A majority on the City Council has endorsed the basic tenets of "African Town." But the plan is unlikely to become a reality. The mayor is against it, and many community leaders say the very notion undermines the city's efforts to promote economic revitalization through regional cooperation.

The plan was drafted by Claud Anderson, author of a popular book on black economic empowerment. The former Detroit resident was paid \$112,000 (90,950) for the City Council-commissioned report and says he could be involved as a developer in the projects he proposes.

Anderson's 2001 book "PowerNomics: The National Plan to Empower Black America" spent more

than two years on the best-seller list of Essence magazine, which tracks sales at black-owned bookstores.

Under his proposal, the city would dispense grants and low-interest loans to blacks only, using a \$30 million (24 million) minority business-development fund that Detroit's casinos agreed to pay into long before the African Town idea ever surfaced.

Anderson says the new district would include such things as a fish processing plant, a black beauty-supply store, and soul food and Caribbean restaurants.

He does not use the term "African Town." He says he is concerned only with the plight of "native black Americans," or descendants of slaves. In fact, he says immigrants have taken resources away

from black Detroit residents and contributed to black poverty.

Late last month, a few dozen people led by Hispanic and Asian community groups protested in front of City Hall, demanding an apology from the council.

A spokesman for Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, Howard Hughey, said the mayor, who is black, supports the concept of an "African Town" but believes it would be wrong to use public money in a way that would benefit only blacks.

The City Council, on the other hand, already has passed two related resolutions that are part of Anderson's plan, with seven out of nine council members voting in favor. The first resolution declared blacks Detroit's "majority minority," and the other resolved to create a

development agency to administer the loans and grants.

Many Detroit residents still mourn the loss of Black Bottom and Paradise Valley, vibrant black business-and-entertainment districts that were leveled to make room for Interstate 75 and other projects in the 1950s.

According to the 2000 census, 26 percent of Detroit residents lived below the poverty line. Unemployment in the city has averaged 14 percent this year, about double the statewide rate.

"Nobody's addressing those issues. They keep pretending that somehow if they ignore the problem it will go away," Anderson said in a telephone interview from his office in Bethesda, Maryland.

Kay Everett, one of the two council members to vote against the resolutions,

said Anderson's plan is "reverse racism." "This money belongs to everyone. It doesn't belong to one race. We cannot be race specific - it's also illegal," said Everett, who is black. "What if you came up with a white town?"

JoAnn Watson, the plan's main proponent on the City Council, denied the African Town idea is anti-immigrant or promotes racial separatism. "African Town is proposed as a cultural and economic vehicle... which can attract and serve all citizens," she said.

Anderson said he was not surprised by the controversy his plan has evoked. Detroit leaders, he said, "are hiding behind a colorblind, race-neutral myth and using it as an excuse to do nothing for the underserved, black population."

Fewer black recruits joining the Armed Forces

By Chris Cooper

NEW YORK - The U.S. Army's ability to attract African-American soldiers has plummeted recently, a trend that threatens to place further strains on a military already stretched by wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Blacks attracted to the force

numbered 12,103, or 15.6% of the total enlistment pool, in the year ended Sept. 30, down from a peak of 16,695, or 21% of recruits, in fiscal 2002, statistics gathered by the Army's recruiting command show. The timing of the drop in the share of black recruits roughly corresponds with the mass movement of troops to the Middle East and the out-

break of the Iraq war. Figures for the Army Reserve show a similar, albeit more dramatic, drop — of about 27% for the same period.

By contrast, the percentage of white recruits has held relatively steady. White enlistees made up 65.2%, or 50,586, of the recruiting pool in fiscal 2004 and 62.7%, or 49,846, of recruits in fiscal 2002.

In each of the past four years, the Army overall has recruited about the same number of enlistees, and so far, it has been able to reach its goals for the regular service, says Brig. Gen. Michael Rochelle, head of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command. Gen. Rochelle says he

believes he will meet the next annual goal of attracting 80,000 regular Army soldiers overall and 22,000 reservists, although privately many people both inside and outside the Pentagon are skeptical.

Far from an exact science, recruiting is subject to a number of variables, and Army officials caution that the drop in black recruitment may not signal a trend. Indeed, the Army says the drop in black recruits as part of the overall force is a positive sign, since it wants to build an organization that roughly matches the demographic makeup of the nation. Black Americans accounted for 24% of the Army as of fiscal 2003, but make up

about 13% of the U.S. population.

"We want the Army to be representative of the overall population," says Douglas Smith, a spokesman for the Army's recruiting command. Even with the recent drops, black recruits, he says, "are still at or above their percentage in the overall population."

Though the decline in black recruitment isn't unprecedented — the Army also had a 15.6% black enlistment rate in fiscal 2001 — such dips usually come when the economy is booming and high-school graduates have more employment options.

The current decline comes at an awkward time for the Army, which is being pressed by the Pentagon to provide more combat-ready soldiers. In August, the Army began offering \$10,000 bonuses to recruits. Yesterday, it sweet-

ened the offer, tacking on a \$3,000 "quick ship" bonus for recruits who are ready to enter immediately. Also in August, it bumped up the cash awarded for college to \$70,000 from \$50,000. Such incentives, Pentagon officials and others say, often appeal to potential recruits from less wealthy families. The Army has traditionally used cash bonuses to nudge up enlistments in peacetime.

Some military officials and outside analysts say a sustained decline in black enlistment could disrupt how the Pentagon staffs its operations.

Black recruits have historically been overrepresented in "behind-the-line" support roles. Indeed, Pentagon statistics from fiscal 2003 show that 67% of all black soldiers were in combat service or support units. At the time that the



PRINCEVILLE - Recently in Princeville, the oldest incorporated black community in the United States; Mayor Oats and the town's commissioners came together to hosted a group of other North Carolinian African American Mayors in their city. Former State Supreme Court Judge and now newly elected Congressman, G.K. Butterfield, along with Judge Jim Wynn who sat on the Court of Appeals, and is currently campaigning for a seat on the Supreme Court of North Carolina, served as a keynote speakers. Unlike at the federal level, where Supreme Court Judges are appointed by the President, judges sitting on North Carolina's Supreme Court must be elected the it's citizens.

The group above gathered in front of the Princeville's recently constructed Town Hall. The old town hall (pictured at bottom) was inundated by flood waters that submerged the town during Hurricane Fran. The town's residents, rejecting federal buy-outs, chose to rebuild their town rather than to abandon it

Photos: Jim Rouse

Report Undercuts Bush's Rationale for Iraq War Inspector Says Saddam Wasn't Pursuing Weapons of Mass Destruction ...

By John J. Lumpkin

WASHINGTON (Oct. 6) — Undercutting the Bush administration's rationale for invading Iraq, the final report of the chief U.S. arms inspector concludes that Saddam Hussein did not vigorously pursue a program to develop weapons of mass destruction after international inspectors left Baghdad in 1998, according to lawmakers and others briefed on the report.

In drafts, weapons hunter Charles Duelfer concluded that Saddam's Iraq had no stockpiles of the banned weapons but said he found signs of idle programs that Saddam could have revived if international attention had waned.

"It appears that he did not vigorously pursue those programs after the inspectors left," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity in advance of the report's release.

Duelfer was providing his findings Wednesday to the Senate Armed Ser-

VICES Committee. His team compiled a 1,500-page report after his predecessor, David Kay, who quit last December, also found no evidence of weapons stockpiles.

Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., briefed on the report earlier Wednesday, said Duelfer found Iraq's capability to produce and develop weapons of mass destruction had degraded since 1998.

The report was "inconclusive" about what ultimately happened to Saddam's supposed weapons stockpiles from earlier in the 1990s, which might

have been destroyed or transferred to Syria, said Roberts, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Pointing to apparent prewar confusion inside the country itself, the report suggests that Saddam's senior advisers, and perhaps Saddam himself, actually believed Iraq had weapons of mass destruction even when it did not, Roberts said.

A Democratic senator briefed on the report, Dick Durbin of Illinois, said the

BLACKONOMICS African-American trade deficit is getting worse

By James Clingman

CINCINNATI - The more I see the statistics relating to the so-called Black economy and Black buying power, the more desperate my message becomes and the more insulted I feel. How can we get so excited about having an annual aggregate income of more than \$700 billion while we are at the bottom of every economic category in this country? Do you feel insulted, maybe embarrassed, about the fact that Black Americans create vast wealth for others at the expense of creating and retaining wealth for ourselves? Can we look our children in their eyes and assure them that we, as a collective body, will leave a strong economic foundation upon which they can stand? Black America is operating at a huge deficit. We must change that.

Just as the government gets a bit antsy when the U.S. trade deficit goes askew, Black folks in the United States should feel the same about ours, and we should finally do something about it. Our trade deficit is horrendously out of kilter, and it's getting worse everyday. Oh yes, I almost forgot, we are currently enthralled with who will be our next president, and it's difficult to draw our attention away from that circus, isn't it? But can't we walk and chew gum at the same time?

Black Americans cannot afford to neglect our trade deficit, and continue to allow it to spiral out of control, while we discuss politics as usual and prepare to cast our votes for two guys who either don't care about us or take us for granted. What a choice, huh?

Well, we have another choice,

brothers and sisters. We can choose to redirect more of our \$700 billion toward our own businesses; we can choose to start and grow more businesses; we can choose to create more jobs for our children; we can choose to teach our children how to be entrepreneurs; and we can choose economic freedom over economic enslavement and modern-day sharecropping.

I read an article by the so-called Black conservative, Larry Elder, in which he stated, "despite slavery, Jim Crow and racism, the progress of American Blacks is simply astounding. Black America, if divided into a separate country, ranks No. 16 in Gross Domestic Product, ahead of Australia, Turkey, Thailand, Argentina, the Netherlands, Taiwan and South Africa."

A little economics lesson is in order here. The broad components of Gross Domestic Product are: consumption, investment, net exports, government purchases and inventories. Consumption is by far the largest component, totaling roughly two-thirds of GDP.

Let's see now, Blacks save and invest very little, as evidenced by our median net worth per family, which is one-tenth that of white families. Exports? Not much going on there either, although our brothers and sisters in Africa and the Caribbean eagerly await the day when get our act together and start taking care of business. Government purchases? Well, we have a lot of government jobs, if that counts. And finally, our inventories are not much to speak of either as we don't seem to care much for ownership of distribution channels, e.g., The MATAH Network.

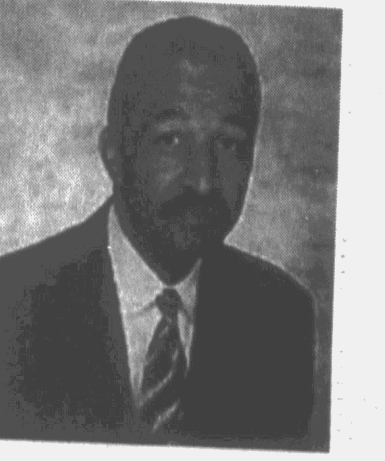
Now let's look at consumption. As

the definition of GDP tells us, consumption is the largest of its components, totaling roughly two-thirds of GDP. Now we're talking, right? Now Blacks folks really make the grade. We have that consumption thing down pat. Two-thirds of GDP? Nah, we can do much better than a measly 66 percent. Our consumption is as high as 95 percent—and our consumption is from businesses other than our own!

No, Mr. Elder, I don't think we can use Black GDP to show how far we've come in America. Quite frankly, it's embarrassing. I'd be willing to bet that Taiwan and Thailand export a whole lot more than they import; we can look around our homes at labels and tags and see that. Comparing our GDP to that of the Taiwanese, and the rest of those 14 countries, is a real joke, even if we do earn more money than they earn. We may rank 16th, but we'd have a huge trade deficit.

Yes, it feels and looks good when we use that line about Blacks being the 10th, 12th or the 16th richest "country" in the world. It's balm for our injuries, consolation for our wounded psyches and ammunition for those who say, "We've come a long way, baby!" But what good is it doing us if we consume everything someone else makes, fail to save a minimum of 10 percent of what we earn, have no import/export relationships with brothers and sisters who live in Africa, the richest land in the world, and fail to support the one distribution channel we have in this country?

What good does it do us to have \$700 billion if we are in a constant trade deficit with the other groups in this country, i.e. Koreans, Indians, Vietnam-



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The Voice OP

Because whatever happens to America happens to Black America first....

The Color Of Justice

By Paul Ryan Haygood

The past is never dead; in fact, it's not even past. — William Faulkner

In an incredible (and true) story, a 19 year-old New York University undergraduate student was recently arrested and charged with committing three felonies, including criminal sale and possession of a controlled substance, and criminal sale of a controlled substance on or near school grounds — each charge carrying a maximum sentence of 25 years in prison. The undergraduate student sold high-grade marijuana, cocaine and hallucinogenic mushrooms to an undercover New York City police officer on eight separate occasions from the lobby of her dormitory. But that's not the incredible part.

Despite facing up to 75 years in prison for her offenses, the student, a white female from a wealthy family, will actually never see a prison cell if she satisfies the gracious terms of the deferred prosecution agreement brokered between a Manhattan District Attorney and the defendant's private attorney. The sweetheart deal — brace yourself for this one — includes 10 months at a drug rehabilitation center in Idaho followed by 8 months of work or school, and 5 years probation. Moreover, she will be permitted to plead guilty to lesser charges (perhaps misdemeanors) in 2006, pending successful completion of her sentence. Perhaps most importantly, her case was handled by state, rather than federal, authorities, allowing her to avoid several federal mandatory minimum laws that would have likely resulted in a lengthy prison sentence.

What is striking about this story is that the district attorney treated this white offender's crimes as a public health problem requiring treatment and rehabilitation rather than incarceration — an approach that should be available

to all drug using offenders on the same terms. This story presents a vivid illustration of the fact that the architects of America's "war on drugs" never contemplated ensnaring wealthy, white, female, college students in their dragnet.

In America's inner cities, however, where the "war on drugs" is waged against low-income Black and Brown people, mass incarceration rather than treatment and rehabilitation guides police drug enforcement strategies. In fact, the criminal justice system harbors a deeply held belief that, unlike many white offenders, Black and Brown offenders are beyond rehabilitation.

But America's present obsession with the mass incarceration of Black people is by no means a recent phenomenon. Indeed, as historian David Oshinsky notes in his compelling book, *Worse Than Slavery*, America's endeavor to warehouse Black folks in cages has deep historical roots that can be traced back to the conclusion of the Civil War.

In 1865, the South attempted to rebuild its bankrupt economy after it suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of the North. Institutions like Mississippi's Parchman Farm were quite literally transformed from slave plantations into prisons, intended not to rehabilitate offenders, but to produce revenue for a state that had lost its greatest economic resource: free Black labor.

In an attempt to regenerate the South's labor supply by incarcerating as many Blacks as possible, Southern legislatures quickly passed acts known as "Black Codes," which listed specific crimes for free Blacks only, including "mischievous" and "insulting gestures." Not surprisingly, through enforcement of the Black Codes conviction was almost always imminent for Blacks accused by white men or women of the slightest offense.

As convictions mounted, Southern jails turned Black. Once incarcerated, the

labor of former slaves was "leased" to private parties, often to perform the same tasks as they did during slavery. Local sheriffs made profits responding to "crime waves" by arresting Blacks, judges were awarded cash bonuses for convictions, jails profited from charging leasing fees and planters profited from Black labor. Mass incarceration became the "cash crop" of the South.

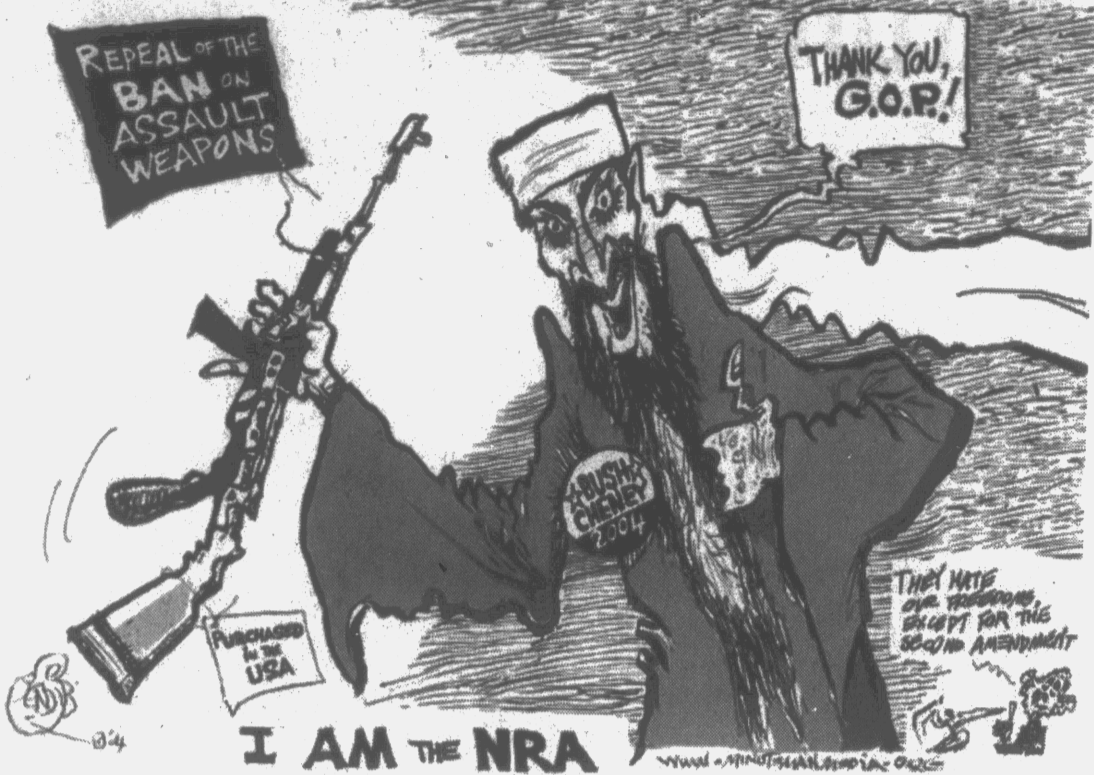
Of course, white men rarely sent fellow white men to jail even for serious crimes like murder, and when they did, it was not for long. Southern culture taught that to deny a white man his liberty was to treat him like a slave. And to deny a white female her liberty, irrespective of her crime, was virtually unheard of.

Against this historical backdrop, it is not surprising that today, in the era of the "war on drugs," Black people comprise nearly half of our nation's swelling incarcerated population of 2.1 million people, notwithstanding the fact that Blacks represent only 13% of the country's overall population.

These absolute numbers translate into catastrophic rates of imprisonment for Black men, with 1 in every 21 adult Black men incarcerated on any given day. For Black men in their late twenties, the figure is 1 in 8. Given the current trends, The Sentencing Project reports, 1 in every 3 Black males born today can expect to go to prison in his lifetime.

While the incarceration rate is lower for Black women, who represent the fastest growing imprisoned population, the racial disparities are equally dramatic. Black women comprise nearly half of the nation's incarcerated female population of about 150,000. If current trends continue, 1 in every 18 Black females born today can expect to go to prison.

Federal sentencing guidelines contribute to the over-incarceration of the Black community by requiring harsher penalties for drug offenses that Blacks are



more likely to be convicted of. These guidelines treat crack cocaine as being one hundred times worse than powder, despite the fact that each gram of powder produces .89 grams of crack. Possession of 500 grams of powder cocaine, but only 5 grams of crack, results in a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years.

Among all controlled substances, crack is the only one with a federal mandatory minimum sentence for a first offense of simple possession. As a result, crack users and dealers, who overwhelmingly tend to be Black, receive more severe penalties than users and dealers of powder cocaine, who tend to be white.

As intended, targeted law enforcement techniques have resulted in Blacks constituting more than 80% of crack defendants, despite the fact that approximately two-thirds of drug users in the general population are white. Con-

sequently, 57% of all drug offenders in state prison, and 41% of federal drug offenders, are Black.

Kemba Smith was a casualty of America's "war on drugs." Like the New York University student, Kemba was a college student in 1995 at Hampton University. But unlike the New York University student, Kemba never handled or sold drugs but was in an abusive relationship with a drug dealer. Unlike the New York University student, Kemba is Black, which is a critical distinction.

Law enforcement spent months trying to make a case against Kemba's boyfriend, but he was murdered before police could catch him. Incredibly, Kemba was sentenced under federal sentencing guidelines to nearly 25 years in prison for her "involvement" in the crack cocaine conspiracy. Although prosecutors admitted that she had never sold drugs, Kemba was held accountable for

the crack cocaine distributed by her boyfriend. It wasn't until President Clinton granted Kemba's petition for clemency that she was finally freed after serving 6 1/2 years of her sentence.

The contrast between the stories of these two young women — one white, one Black — and the criminal justice system's treatment of them is as stark as day and night. It is the result of policies that wage "war" on one community and treat "epidemics" in another. Until we expose the color of justice, the color of incarceration, and the harmful racial undercurrent of our criminal justice philosophies, we will continue to be a nation that attacks its people of color, pardons the transgressions of the privileged, and builds an economy that thrives upon caging Black bodies.

Ryan Paul Haygood is an attorney in New York City

The Tragedy of Haiti: Victims of Storms

Kevin Pina, Associate Editor

When Tropical Storm Jeanne hit Gonaives, the police literally ran away from the city, leaving behind a horrific human crisis. As Kevin Pina reports, the U.S.-installed Haitian regime is hardly a government at all — just a gangster clique incapable of carrying out the most basic civic services.

A political storm hit northern Haiti long before Tropical Storm Jeanne came along. On March 20th, Interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue flew into Gonaives where a huge and boisterous crowd of thousands welcomed him. Latortue embraced gang elements and the former military that helped overthrow the democratic government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide as "freedom fighters." Since then, Latortue and his government have done little to take control of Haiti's third largest city and have allowed gang leaders like Buteur Metayer and Wilfort Ferdinand to run it like a private fiefdom. This has had serious consequences since Tropical Storm Jeanne arrived to stake her claim of Haiti's misery.

The political storm took many victims as well and left Haiti ill-prepared for the devastation brought about by Tropical Storm Jeanne. One of its first victims was the Civil Protection Office following a rampage led by the "freedom fighters" against suspected Aristide supporters. This politically benign institution had been established in cooperation with the local municipal government by grants provided by United

States Agency for International Development (USAID) and administered through the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF). PADF's own website confirms that, "PADF's emergency response and reconstruction efforts are complemented by community training in disaster preparedness. Mitigation training promotes the development of civil action plans that enable communities to identify priorities and reinforce key infrastructure. Last year, 23 local civil protection committees were formed and over 5,000 people were trained in disaster awareness, leading to safer communities." Unfortunately, with Washington, Paris and Ottawa ushering in a man-made disaster with the destruction of constitutional authority in Haiti, all of the tax dollars USAID invested in preparing for natural disasters like Tropical Storm Jeanne were wasted as well.

Tropical Storm Jeanne is exactly the type of disaster USAID and PADF's programs were set up to manage. There were components that monitored incoming tropical storms and provided an advanced warning and preparedness network designed to plan a response before disaster struck. Plans included advising communities in advance of approaching storms and preparing for them by storing large supplies of drinking water, food, medical supplies and portable tents for those displaced from their homes. When Tropical Storm Jeanne hit these structures no longer existed and all of the trained and competent participants in the program had long been driven out of the area and their offices pillaged and burned. No-

where was this more evident than in Gonaives where many associated with the Aristide government and the Lavalas party were reportedly dragged through the streets and burned alive.

Instead of reasserting control of the State and rebuilding the necessary infrastructure that was destroyed following the coup of February 29th, Latortue followed a policy of benign neglect and accommodation with thugs in the region that has led to needless death and suffering in the wake of Tropical Storm Jeanne. In all fairness, the fault does not lie exclusively with the US-installed government. The Bush

COMMENTARY

by Arthur L. Webb

Racism must be overcome if Black people are to succeed and excel. We cannot limit ourselves to simply hoping and praying that it will go away; just as our ancestors had to study and work harder, run faster and jump higher, so must we today. Anyone who suggests otherwise, particularly to their children, is ignorant to the realities of life in America and are guilty of child abuse.

Black people who have and continue to achieve do so not because racism was not present but in spite of it. They achieve because they made the conscious decision to not allow racism to prevent them from the pursuit and attainment of their goals. It was many years ago that my grandfather said to me, reach for the moon and even if you fall short, you'll wind up among the

stars." Not bad advice I believe. There are several predicaments (generally of our own making) that we can find ourselves in that we make poverty a likely eventuality. None of these, by the way, have the slightest thing to do with racism. One is being a high school dropout. In this day and age, even a high school graduate who doesn't pursue further education — either academic or occupational — exposes himself or herself to the risk of being eventually being counted among the nation's poor.

Another is being an unwed mother or being the child of an unwed mother. Still others are being a thief, robber or a dope dealer or user. And of course being an abuser of alcohol. None of these lead to success and all should be avoided at all costs.

Even these situations, though, don't have to be permanent. The alcoholic, the shopaholic, the crack addict or any administration shoulders much of the blame for the current situation with an ill-conceived regime change that has replaced what they considered a failed state with an even more failed state.

The United Nations also bears a large responsibility for the armed gangs and elements of the former military currently hampering relief efforts in northern Haiti. Like Latortue's accommodation of the gangs in Gonaives, the UN forces have stood by while the former military has taken over several towns in the north. The official excuse of the UN has been that they do not have enough

forces on the ground to challenge the former military from seizing control of the region. It seems that by the time they do have the necessary forces they will wake up to find themselves bunkmates with the very forces they claim to want to keep out of power. This does not bode well for the inhabitants of Port au Prince should a natural disaster ever strike the capital to combine with the current political disaster as it has in Gonaives.

In the end, the UN and Latortue are victims of their own failed policies and ultimately the failed policy of the Bush administration in Haiti. The ones

who will suffer the most as a result of these failures are the very people they claim to have come to this island nation to help. The disregard for institutions destroyed during the latest coup and the lack of planning and response for natural disasters is only a symptom of a political storm that is far from over in Haiti — a storm that is being fed by poor political judgment. Sadly, this has resulted in more needless suffering for the people of Haiti during this time of crisis.

Kevin Pina is an independent journalist, filmmaker and currently resides in Haiti.

Amnesty Report: Racial profiling against minorities still exit

By J. Zamgla Browne
Amsterdam News Staff

Racial profiling practices by law enforcement have expanded in the government's war on terror and threaten to affect an estimated 87 million individuals in the U.S., according to a new report released by Amnesty International.

The report, "Threat and Humiliation: Racial Profiling, Domestic Security, and Human Rights in the United States," says that law enforcement's use of race and religion has undermined national security.

"Racial profiling is so pervasive that there are an estimated 32 million victims in the U.S.," the report noted, adding that individuals are targeted while walking, driving, shopping, flying, sitting at home, or worshipping.

City Councilman Phil Reed (D-East Harlem), who successfully put through a bill last July outlawing racial profiling in New York City, said that the Amnesty report did not surprise him.

"People should be aware that this type of problem as detailed by Amnesty is widespread, and they should be prepared to fight it tooth

and nail through the court system," said Reed. In releasing the report, Amnesty's executive director, Dr. William F. Schulz, said during a press conference that racial profiling blinds law enforcement officials to real criminal threats and creates a hole in the national security net.

Amnesty's report is based on a series of hearings across the nation and a yearlong analysis of profiling practices by law enforcement. Prior to 9/11, racial profiling was frequently referred to as driving while Black. But the focus shifted from African-Americans to Arabs.

"Now the practice can be more accurately characterized as driving, flying, walking, worshipping, shopping or staying at home while Black, Brown, Red, Yellow, Muslim or Middle-Eastern appearance," the report noted.

In 2001, President George W. Bush pledged to end racial profiling, adding two months ago that he was "the first President of the United States to ban racial profiling in federal law enforcement."

However, the report alleges that under the Bush administration, profiling has steadily increased.

What Lincoln Foresaw: Corporations Being "Enthroned" After the Civil War and Re-Writing the Laws Defining Their Existence...

by Rick Crawford,

Here is a sobering quote by Abe Lincoln:

"I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble or the safety of my country. . . corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed." U.S. President Abraham Lincoln, Nov. 21, 1864

This quote was taken from a letter he had written Col. William F. Elkins and was extracted from The Lincoln Encyclopedia by Archer H. Shaw (Macmillan, 1950, NY)

Some people expressed doubts about its authenticity, given Lincoln's work as an attorney for railroad corporations! It was an interesting job tracking it down and verifying its authenticity.

The first reference I heard for this quote was Jack London's 1908 Iron Heel. And although the quote indeed appears there (near p. 100), Jack London offered neither context nor source.

More recently, David Korten's book, *When Corporations Rule the World* (1995, Kumarian Press), sources the quote to Harvey Wasserman

(America Born and Reborn, Macmillan, 1983, p. 89-90, 313), who in turn sources it to Paha Sapa Reports, the newspaper of the Black Hills Alliance, Rapid City, South Dakota, 4 March 1882. But given Wasserman's ties to Howard Zinn, and his status as co-founder (?) of the Liberation News Service, citing that kind of trail is like waving a red flag for the skeptics :-)

Fortunately, after some burrowing in the university library, I was able to confirm its authenticity. Here it is, with more surrounding context:

"We may congratulate ourselves that this cruel war is nearing its end. It has cost a vast amount of treasure and blood. . .

It has indeed been a trying hour for the Republic; but I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed.

I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war. God grant that my suspicions may

prove groundless."

The passage appears in a letter from Lincoln to (Col.) William F. Elkins, Nov. 21, 1864.

For a reliable pedigree, cite p. 40 of The Lincoln Encyclopedia, by Archer H. Shaw (Macmillan, 1950, NY). That traces the quote's lineage to page 954 in another book on Abraham Lincoln: A New Portrait, (Vol. 2) by Emanuel Hertz (Horace Liveright Inc, 1931, NY).

Based on about 3 hrs of research, it appears that Lincoln had been extensively SANITIZED FOR OUR PROTECTION. The Hidden Lincoln; from the Letters and Papers of William H. Herndon, by Emanuel Hertz (Viking Press, 1938, NY), details how Herndon (Lincoln's lifelong law partner) collected an extensive oral history and aggregated much of Lincoln's writings into a collection that served as the basis for many "authoritative" books on Lincoln.

By all accounts, Herndon was scrupulously honest and plainspoken. Hertz quotes Herndon's characterization of the various "big-name" authors who relied on his collection for primary source materials:

"They are aiming, first, to do a superb piece of literary work; second, to make the story WITH THE CLASSES AS AGAINST THE MASSES. [my emphasis added] It will result in delineating the real Lincoln about as well as does a wax figure in the museum."

In several books, I found numerous places where Lincoln spoke about Capital and Labor ("Workingmen"). Lincoln re-used his own material frequently, and virtually identical passages appear in several places. Lincoln praises the moral rightness of both Capital and Labor, but this is invariably in the context of a nation where NO MORE THAN ONE MAN IN EIGHT is a Capitalist or a Laborer, ie, where 7/8 of the population are "self-employed" on their own farms and homesteads.

This social context of general self-sufficiency would explain how Lincoln could serve for years as a railroad corporation lawyer with (apparently) no qualms, yet pen the "corporations enthroned" passage to Elkins.

A final Lincoln tidbit, although it pertains to one very specific case: "These capitalists generally act harmoniously and in concert to fleece the people, and now that they have got into a quarrel with themselves, we are called upon to appropriate the people's money to settle the quarrel."

This speech was made to the Illinois legislature in Jan. 1837. See Vol. 1, p. 24 of Lincoln's Complete Works, Ed. by Nicolay and Hay, 1905)

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National Guard Call Ups Worries Some City Officials

By Hazel Trice Edney

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Lucenia Williams-Dunn, mayor of nearly all-Black Tuskegee, Ala., believes her city is among the most insecure in the nation. All 60 members of its local National Guard unit, the 214th Military Police Company, have been away for a year in Iraq. On top of that, Tuskegee sits between two military bases that she feels could become terrorist targets.

"There's tension because we live between some major military depots," says Williams-Dunn, whose city is 98 percent Black. "Terrorism becomes a reality when

you understand that Washington, D.C. has been putting out bulletins talking about Orange alert, Red alert and those kinds of things. I've also been preaching to my Congressman and other national leaders. They've got to begin to focus on the small rural towns because we are the least protected group of folk, the least protected jurisdiction."

Whether whole cities, rural and urban, families or individuals, people across the nation are being impacted by the record number of National Guard soldiers deployed to Iraq, currently more than 159,700 in Iraq and Kuwait alone. They account for at least 40 percent of the U.S.

military forces serving in those two adjoining countries.

Tuskegee is located between Maxwell-Gunter Air Force base in Montgomery and Fort Benning Army Base in Georgia.

"So, we're kind of in the middle of all of this," the mayor says. "That gives us a little scary feeling."

Alabama National Guard Spokesman Col. Robert Horton says the 60 Tuskegee Guard members, a part of the 130-member 214th, headquartered in Alexandria City, Ala., recently returned home after being on a mission to train the Iraqi police force and helping to establish

Iraq's first military police academy. In total, approximately 3,400, more than a third of Alabama's 11,600 National Guard troops, have been deployed to Iraq.

Williams-Dunn has reason to be concerned says Edwin Dorn, former under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness in the Clinton Administration, but not for the reason she thinks.

"Terrorists tend to go after soft targets and highly symbolic targets and a military base, which tends to be very spread out, would probably not produce the kind of affect that a terrorist organization wants to produce," says Dorn, now dean of the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Af-

fairs at the University of Texas at Austin. "But, she is on to something else, which is that because police and firemen make up a large percentage of the guard around the states, Tuskegee and a lot of other areas are less capable of dealing with any kind of disaster than they were before the Iraq invasion began."

Such circumstances get little empathy from the Guard itself.

"Quite obviously we know that any time the Guard is activated, it is a source of strife to a great many folks," says Maj. John M. Tonioli, spokesman for the National Guard Bureau Public Affairs in Arlington, Va. "It's not that we can look and necessarily go, 'Oh, we can't take people from there because it would hurt that whole town.' It's, 'We need this particular talent and people have a talent. They are experts in their jobs. Otherwise, they wouldn't be in the Guard.'"

Alabama National Guard spokesman Norman Arnold says Tuskegee is in no danger.

"It's been trying and demanding for families," he says. "We can respond across the state to any types of national emergencies as quickly and efficiently, I think, that we have in the past."

During the Vietnam era, men joined the National Guard to avoid going to war. The military draft was discontinued in 1973, easing the interest in joining the Guard.

Enlistees in the National Guard and all other military service are voluntary. Many signed up for various reasons, including patriotism, educational benefits or because they have certain skills training, not expecting that they would be called to active duty, certainly not in Iraq and Afghanistan.

But they guessed wrong. Many of those activated are people in their 40s, 50s, long past their prime fighting age. Consequently, family units are being effected when one of its members are called to service.

Sgt. First Class Daniel Hawkins, 42, of the 1297 Combat Support Battalion of the Maryland Army National Guard is one whose family is affected. He is preparing for deployment for the first time in his nearly 25-year military career. He will be leaving for Iraq on Sept. 9.

An accountant by trade, Hawkins, 42, has worked behind a desk on personnel issues and human resources management in the Guard for the past 15 years. He volunteered for deployment to Saudi Arabia in Operation Desert Storm, but was not picked because his administrative skills were needed in Maryland. He isn't as fortunate this time around.

"You couldn't have interviewed a more boring person because my career has been pretty much home state," says Hawkins. "Of course, we have no people killed in Maryland. So we have things to prepare ourselves for."

They must also prepare their families.

Though he is uncertain exactly where he will be stationed, Hawkins says he comforts his wife of 16 years, his daughter, 15; and son, 10, by assuring them that his duties are mainly administrative - not combat. "I say, 'I can't see it being that bad.'"

Of soldiers on active duty, 22 percent are Black. Twelve percent of African Americans are of military age. And it's not just the seasoned troops who're caught off guard.

Beauty queen, Miss Tuskegee University Margaret Tiffany Gunn, 23, graduated in May 2003 and found herself deployed to Iraq a year later. Queen of her middle school, high school and college, Gunn, a second lieutenant in the 501st Military Intelligence Battalion of the First Armored Division of the U.S. Army, was excited to go, according to her father, retired Army Reserve Col. William Gunn.

"It's all a part of duty, honor, country," says Gunn. He says his daughter served three months to replace rotating soldiers this summer before she returned to Germany, but she is slated to return to Iraq early next year for another 12 months, he says.

A recent college graduate, Gunn had not begun exploring the job market outside of her military career. Increasing numbers of National Guard and Reserve troops are reportedly complaining that their U.S. civilian employers have not reserved their jobs, benefits or promotions. A 1994 federal law guarantees active duty National Guard troops their old or equivalent jobs back upon arrival home.

Himself a military man, Gunn says he is aware that he, too, could be called to return to active duty under President Bush's new recall plan that is activating some retirees.

More than 45,000 individuals have been mobilized more than once between Sept. 11, 2001 and May 31 this year, according to the most recent Department of Defense stats.

Not as enthusiastic as he was about his daughter going to Iraq, Gunn was quick to respond with a chuckle about the prospects of his being called: "Let's hope not."

Hazel Trice Edney is an NNPA Washington correspondent.

500 Ready Reservists Seek Exemptions From Reactivation, Risk AWOL Status Former Soldiers Slow to Report

By Tom Squitieri, USA TODAY

Fewer than two-thirds of the former soldiers being reactivated for duty in Iraq and elsewhere have reported on time, prompting the Army to threaten some with punishment for desertion.

The former soldiers, part of what is known as the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR), are being recalled to fill shortages in skills needed for the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Of the 1,662 ready reservists ordered to report to Fort Jackson, S.C., by Sept. 22, only 1,038 had done so, the Army said Monday. About 500 of those who failed to report have requested exemptions on health or personal grounds.

"The numbers did not look good," said Lt. Col. Burton Masters, a spokesman for the Army's Human Resources Command. "We are tightening the system, reaching the people and bringing them in."

Masters said most of the requests for exemptions are likely to be denied: "To get an exemption, it has to be a very compelling case, such as a severe medical condition."

The figures are the first on the IRR call-up. They reflect the challenges the Pentagon faces in trying to find enough troops for ongoing operations and show resistance among some servicemembers who returned to civilian life.

The ready reserve is an infrequently used pool of former soldiers

who can be called to duty in a national emergency or war. On June 29, the Army announced it would call 5,674 members of its IRR back to active duty this year and next.

Several of those who received recall notices have already been declared AWOL (absent without official leave) and technically are considered deserters. "We are not in a rush to put someone in the AWOL category," Masters said. "We contact them and convince them it is in their best interests to show up. If you are a deserter, it can affect you the rest of your life."

Fourteen people were listed as AWOL last week; six subsequently told the Army they would report. Punishment for being AWOL is up to the unit

commander and can include prison time and dishonorable discharge, said Col. Joseph Curtin, an Army spokesman.

With a force that generals say is stretched thin, the Army is considering \$1,000-a-month bonuses to ex-soldiers who volunteer to return for overseas duty.

Ready reservists are soldiers who were honorably discharged after finishing their active-duty tours, usually four to six years, but remain part of the IRR for the rest of their original eight-year commitment. The IRR call-up is the first major one in 13 years, since 20,277 troops were ordered back for the Persian Gulf War.

Tom Squitieri writes for USA Today

China tells its army to be ready for war

BEIJING - On September 30th, Reuters News reported that the Chinese Communist Party chief and President Hu Jintao has urged the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to prepare for a military struggle, but stopped short of singling out rival Taiwan as the target.

Many security analysts see the Taiwan Strait as the most dangerous flashpoint in Asia. China claims sovereignty over Taiwan and has threatened to attack if the democratic island of 23 million people declares independence.

Hu, who assumed the role of military chief less than two weeks ago, told the 2.5-million-strong PLA to "seize the moment and do a good job of preparing for a military struggle", the People's Daily and the

Liberation Army Daily said on Thursday.



Hu did not say against whom the struggle might be fought. But on Wednesday, a spokesman for China's policymaking Taiwan Affairs Office accused Taiwan Premier Yu Shi-kun of clamouring for war with threats to fire missiles at Shang-

hai if the PLA attacked the self-ruled island.

Taiwan needed a counter-strike capability, Yu said in defence of plans to buy T\$610.8 billion (US\$18.2 billion) worth of weapons from the United States.

He made the remarks hours before thousands of people took to the streets of Taipei on Saturday to demand the government scrap the weapons package they said would trigger an arms race with China and squeeze social welfare and state spending on education.

Tension between China and Taiwan has been simmering since the re-election in March of the island's President Chen Shui-bian, who Beijing is convinced will push for statehood during his second

four-year term.

Beijing and Taipei have been rivals since their split at the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949, but trade, investment and tourism have blossomed since detente in the late 1980s.

Hu also urged the PLA, the world's biggest army, to "comprehensively revolutionise, modernise and standardise", newspapers said. No details were given.

Hu, 61, replaced Jiang Zemin, 78, as chairman of the Central Military Commission on Sept. 19, completing the most orderly leadership succession in the 55 years since the Communist Party took power.

The following day he promoted two senior officers in a move that was likely to help consolidate his position in the PLA.

Nigeria Troops Ready To Help Sudan

NEW YORK (AP) - The African Union can quickly mobilize up to 5,000 troops to help end the looting and killing in western Sudan, but it needs hundreds of millions of dollars to deploy the force and so far it's received just \$20 million, says Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo.

"The troops are ready," said Obasanjo, the current president of the 53-nation regional bloc. "The first pledge which we got was from Canada," which contributed \$20 million Wednesday, but the vastly expanded force now needed "hundreds of millions."

In an interview in his hotel suite on

Wednesday night, Obasanjo expressed hope that the United States will be more generous in helping Sudan's conflict-racked Darfur region than it was in last year's Liberia crisis when it offered \$200 million to help stabilize and rebuild the country.

On Saturday, the U.N. Security Council adopted a resolution strongly endorsing the deployment of a beefed-up African Union force with an expanded monitoring mission that would actively try to prevent attacks and mediate to stop the conflict from escalating. It threatens oil sanctions if the government doesn't move quickly to help stop the

attacks.

The resolution "will caution the government of Sudan to know that the world is not just folding its hands looking - and that the Sudanese government cannot do what it likes," Obasanjo said. "The internal affairs of every country today is the concern of the international community and more so, in Africa, the concern of the AU," he said.

The African Union currently has about 80 military observers in Darfur - a region about the size of France - protected by just over 300 soldiers, monitoring a rarely observed cease-fire signed in April by the government and rebels.

Deaths Rise In Darfu...

GENEVA (NNPA) - The high mortality rates documented by the World Health Organization in the past few weeks in camps of internally displaced people in the region of Darfur in western Sudan are comparable to those seen in Rwanda during the genocide of 1994, said an expert from the United Nations agency.

WHO does not describe what is occurring in Darfur as genocide, but it did not use that term to classify the mass kill-

ings of around 800,000 people in Rwanda either, said David Nabarro, WHO director general representative for Health Action General.

In some of the camps, the mortality rates registered by the teams of WHO and Sudanese Health Ministry staff were as high as 3.8 deaths per 10,000 people a day - several times the highest mortality rate in poor African communities not in crisis, which is 0.6 deaths per 10,000.

Nabarro said the threshold for an emergency situation is one death a day per 10,000 people.

"These mortality figures are a source of considerable concern for us and frankly a source of sadness," the U.N. official told reporters in Geneva Monday.

He said that after six months of humanitarian efforts in Darfur, "we would expect...to be seeing death rates of below one per 10,000 per day."

The results of the investigation carried out between Jun. 15 and Aug. 15 in three areas of Darfur indicate that mortality rates are higher than those registered during the crises in East Timor and the Balkans, and in Iraq during the first Gulf War in 1991, said Nabarro.

He said the conditions in Darfur were more difficult than the insurgency-racked Iraq, which is occupied by U.S.-led coalition forces that invaded the country in March 2003.

In North Darfur, where there are around 380,000 displaced people, the mortality rate stood at 1.5 per 10,000 people, and at 2.5 per 10,000 among children under five.

In western Darfur, the mortality rate was 2.9 per 10,000, and in the only camp that the teams of experts were able

to visit in the southern part of the region, Kalma Camp, the rate climbed to 3.8 deaths per 10,000.

Nabarro explained that the teams of WHO and Sudanese Health Ministry officials were unable to visit other camps in the south due to the violence and threats.

"We were unable to complete the survey as planned," said the official. "In some areas the settlements were inaccessible because there was fighting going on and because our survey team...was held up at gun point. The experience was sufficiently unsettling that we decided to suspend data collection for a period."

But Nabarro added that when the experts realised how high the death rates were, "we decided we have to report it, even if it is incomplete."

In all three regions of Darfur, the main cause of death was diarrhoea, while "injuries and violence" were responsible for perhaps 20 percent of the deaths, and fever and pneumonia were to blame for another large proportion, according to the study.

One-fourth of those interviewed in the camps said their main source of water was "unprotected wells", one-third said they had no access to latrines, 45 percent had no soap, and one-third had not received food rations in the past month.

However, Nabarro refused to define the mortality statistics as forming part of a broader context of "genocide", a term that political leaders in some countries have recently begun to use to describe what is occurring in Sudan.

"I cannot comment on that because in no way can our report be used to infer genocide or not," said the WHO official. "We cannot say that this is due to any kind of systematic violence."

Secretary of State Colin Powell told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last Thursday that he had reached the conclusion that what was occurring in Darfur amounted to genocide against the majority black population.

He said the government of Sudan and ethnic Arab militias known as Janjaweed - armed men on horseback -

Actress Fields Urges Aid for Caribbean



Kim Fields

NEW YORK (AP) - Actress Kim Fields, who recently learned that she has roots in the Caribbean, is enlisting other celebrities to help the region recover from the hurricanes.

Fields is producing public service announcements for television and radio in which actors such as Blair Underwood ask viewers to support an aid campaign sponsored by the Caribbean Tourism

Organization and its Web site, www.onecaribbean.org.

Fields, who starred in the TV shows "The Facts of Life" and "Living Single," also plans to organize a series of concerts to benefit those islands hit hardest by the storms.

"The Caribbean is a favorite vacation spot for many people, myself included," Underwood, whose latest show is NBC's "LAX," says in one of the ads. "Recent hurricanes have disrupted many Caribbean countries." He then asks viewers to "give generously" to the relief effort.

Fields announced the aid campaign at a news conference Wednesday in New York where she showed the ad featuring Underwood.

She added that "after prodding my 90-something-year-old grandmother, I recently discovered that my great-grandparents are from Jamaica." She also said she's vacationed and worked in the Caribbean "and enjoyed myself immensely."

Fields said other celebrities who have pledged to help out include actors Flex Alexander ("One on One"), Duane Martin ("All of Us") and Tisha Campbell-Martin ("My Wife and Kids"), and singers Anthony Hamilton and India.Arie.

The majority of Caribbean islands were untouched by the hurricanes, but the storms caused extensive damage on a handful of islands. Haiti, Grand Cayman, Grenada, Grand Bahama, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the Turks & Caicos islands and Cuba were the hardest hit.

India's economy grows 7.4 percent

India's economy expanded 7.4 percent in the April-June quarter, surpassing expectations and prompting some economists to revise their full-year growth forecasts.

The latest government data, released Thursday, showed that a pickup in new investments by Indian businesses and brisk growth in the services sector led the economy's expansion.

Domestic companies have been bullish on new projects since India's gross domestic product - the total value of goods and services produced by a country - expanded 8.2 percent in the last fiscal year, its highest growth rate in 15 years.

During the April-June period, this fiscal year's first quarter, manufacturing output increased 8 percent. On the services side, trade, hotels and transportation grew 11 percent, compared with the same period a year earlier, said the Central Statistical Organization. Agriculture grew 3.4 percent.

The stock market cheered the news and the benchmark index of the Bombay Stock Exchange, the Sensex, closed 56 points, or 1 percent, higher Thursday. In early trading Friday, the market was bullish.

Even though "agriculture output is below trend, it is heartening to see that the cyclical momentum (in industry and services) continues to be strong," Kishlaya Pathak, an economist with Standard Chartered Bank, told Dow Jones Newswires.

Several economists and research bodies earlier predicted that economic growth for the fiscal year ending March 2005 would be significantly lower than during last year, because of a drought in some parts of the country and high oil prices that have pushed up inflation.

The government has said it would be happy to see growth touch 6.5 percent this year.

But the first fiscal figures have raised hopes that stronger growth in manufacturing and services will more than offset the impact of a bad crop.

The industrial and services sectors account for 75 percent of India's GDP, while the farm sector - which employs nearly two-thirds of the country's work force - contributes a quarter of the national output.

"Services and manufacturing will be the key growth drivers," Pathak said, adding that he planned to revise upward his earlier full-year growth estimate of 6 percent.

Some analysts believe high oil prices and inflation will not harm growth as much as earlier feared.

"The impact of the monsoon and oil prices is overestimated," said Dominique Dwor-Frecaut, emerging market strategist at Barclays Capital in Singapore. "We haven't yet seen the impact of the weak monsoon season, but I think we will continue to be surprised on the upside."

Dwor-Frecaut expects India's economy to expand 7.5 percent this year.

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THE POWER OF THE BLACK VOTE IS USING IT... NOV. 2ND!!

Voice OP

Because whatever happens to America happens to Black America first....

Disparities in Public Policy Outcomes Show Need for Governor's Summit on Racial and Ethnic Disparities

By Mike McLaughlin

RALEIGH - North Carolina is no stranger to discussions about race relations. But recent research from the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research shows the need to change the focus of the discussion from the abstract to the concrete. What should North Carolina do about real numbers that show wide disparities in public policy outcomes by race and ethnicity across a broad-range of indicators - in education, economic well-being, housing, voter participation. Internet access, health, and criminal justice?

The Center for Public Policy Research believes this conversation should take place at the highest level of government. That's why we recommend after more than a year of study that the next Governor of North Carolina - whether it's the Democratic incumbent Gov. Mike Easley or the Republican challenger Patrick Ballentine - convene a Governor's

Summit on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in North Carolina. Such a gathering would allow the governor to chart a clear course for progress toward a North Carolina where all are progressing toward higher ground and no race or ethnicity is left behind.

The evidence for a gap in public policy outcomes by race and ethnicity is clear and compelling. Consider these facts:

In education, whites and Asians continue to score higher than other racial and ethnic groups on such indicators as performing at or above grade level on end-of-grade tests, enrolling in advanced placement classes and classes for gifted students, graduating from high school, scoring on Scholastic Achievement Tests required for college admission, and graduating from college. Meanwhile, African Americans are over-represented in special education classes where selection criteria are more subjective, such as classes for behaviorally or emotionally disabled

or mentally disabled. They also are over-represented among students suspended or expelled from school.

The gap in education outcomes feeds into a wide gap in economic well-being. White per capita income - that is annual income per person - averages \$23,237. This is more than Asians at \$19,815, more than African Americans at \$13,548, more than Native Americans at \$13,441, and more than Hispanics at \$11,097. This puts Hispanics at only 48 percent of whites' per capita income. Poverty rates show the disparity even more starkly. Only 8.1 percent of whites live in poverty in North Carolina - defined as \$12,490 in annual income for a family of two - compared to 21 percent of Native Americans, 23 percent of African Americans, and 25 percent of Hispanics. The bottom line: an African-American family is almost three times more likely to live in poverty than a white family, and an Hispanic family is more than three times as likely to live in pov-

erty.

Health outcomes represent yet another area where disparities emerge for minorities. African Americans and Native Americans have death rates higher than the white majority for almost every major cause of death, including heart disease, stroke, AIDS, and diabetes-related causes. Infant mortality also is elevated for African Americans and Native Americans. And, in terms of prevention, all minority groups are less likely to have health insurance than whites and are less likely to have seen a doctor in the past year.

The disparities extend to voter registration and voting as well. While 72 percent of voting-age whites are registered to vote, only 63 percent of African Americans and only 12 percent of Hispanics are registered to vote. An analysis by The Charlotte Observer of 82 counties in the 2000 election found that 58.9 percent of voting-age whites cast a ballot, but only 47.7 percent of African Americans and 8.4 percent of Hispanics

actually voted.

Perhaps the most striking disparity in public policy outcomes occurs in criminal justice. Minorities make up 67 percent of the state's prison population but only 29 percent of the state's overall population. And, among the findings in a study by two University of North Carolina law professors was that persons convicted of murder were almost twice as likely to get the death penalty if the victim were white than if the victim were minority.

The Center's research also found disparities across racial and ethnic groups in such areas as whether a home has a complete kitchen or indoor plumbing, whether a family could afford its monthly rent, and in Internet access and computer use.

State government has the power to address almost all of these areas of disparity, and the Center is not the only group to have pointed out the need to address them. A Governor's Summit on

Racial and Ethnic Disparities would provide a great opportunity to examine potential solutions to racial and ethnic disparities and put the power of the state's highest office behind eliminating these persistent differences in public policy outcomes. The Center urges the candidates for Governor to commit to calling such a summit and urges citizens to ask each candidate how they plan to act on these challenges.

Copies of the issue of North Carolina Insight containing the Center's research on race, ethnicity, and related public policy outcomes are available for \$20, which includes tax, postage, and handling. To order, write the Center at P.O. Box 430, Raleigh, NC 27602, call (919) 832-2839, fax (919) 832-2847, or order by email from tbromley@ncpppr.org. For more information, contact Mike McLaughlin, editor. North Carolina Insight, at the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research, (919) 832-2839.

Poor, Black and Left Behind

by Mike Davis

The evacuation of New Orleans in the face of Hurricane Ivan looked sinisterly like Strom Thurmond's version of the Rapture. Affluent white people fled the Big Easy in their SUVs, while the old and car-less - mainly Black - were left behind in their below-sea-level shotgun shacks and aging tenements to face the watery wrath.

New Orleans had spent decades preparing for inevitable submersion by the storm surge of a class-five hurricane. Civil defense officials conceded they had ten thousand body bags on hand to deal with the worst-case scenario. But no one seemed to have bothered to devise a plan to evacuate the city's poorest or most infirm residents. The day before the hurricane hit the Gulf Coast, New Orleans daily, the Times-Picayune, ran an alarming story about the "large group... mostly concentrated in poorer neighborhoods" who wanted to evacuate but couldn't.

Only at the last moment, with winds churning Lake Pontchartrain, did Mayor Ray Nagin reluctantly open the Louisiana Superdome and a few schools to desperate residents. He was reportedly worried that lower-class refugees might damage or graffit the Superdome.

In the event, Ivan spared New Orleans, but official callousness toward poor Black folk endures.

Over the last generation, City Hall and its entourage of powerful developers have relentlessly attempted to push the poorest segment of the population-blamed for the city's high crime rates - across the Mississippi river. Historic Black public-housing projects have been razed to make room for upper-income townhouses and a Wal-Mart. In other housing projects, residents are routinely evicted for offenses as trivial as their children's curfew violations. The ultimate goal seems to be a tourist theme-park New Orleans - one big Garden District - with chronic poverty hidden away in bayous, trailer parks and prisons outside

Wealth Without A Job

(NAPSA) - Today's economy has meant uncertainty for people working for large corporations as well as individuals running their own businesses. Many people who have been out of work because of downsizing have had to start their own businesses even though they may not have the skills to do so.

For these individuals, there's a book that shows how to make the emotional and psychological adjustments required to become successful as your own boss. "Wealth Without a Job: The Entrepreneur's Guide to Freedom and Security Beyond the 9 to 5 Lifestyle" (Wiley, \$24.95), by Phil Laut and Andy Fuehl, presents proven methods that teach people how to separate emotions that hinder their success in business ownership from the emotions that help them succeed.

The book shows how to choose a business that expresses your own values and calls forth your dormant passion. It also helps readers understand the fundamental changes in today's economic structure that virtually require self-actualizers to work for themselves.

"Wealth Without a Job" exposes the fallacies behind the once-reasonable expectation that working for someone else is your best route to financial security. It then goes on to reveal the three ingredients necessary for effective change-Awareness, Acceptance, Action-and proven steps for incorporating them into your life.

Wiley books are available at bookstores or by calling 1-800-225-5945.

He is an eloquent man who can treat humble subjects with delicacy, lofty things impressively and moderate things temperately.

Cicero

the city limits.

But New Orleans isn't the only case-study in what Nixonians once called "the politics of benign neglect." In Los Angeles, county supervisors have just announced the closure of the trauma center at Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital near Watts. The hospital, located in the epicenter of LA's gang wars, is one of the nation's busiest centers for the treatment of gunshot wounds. The loss of its ER, according to paramedics, could "add as much as 30 minutes in transport time to other facilities."

The result, almost certainly, will be a spate of avoidable deaths. But then again the victims will be Black or Brown and poor.

On the fiftieth anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the United States seems to have returned to degree zero of moral concern for the majority of descen-

dants of slavery and segregation. Whether the Black poor live or die seems to merit only haughty disinterest and indifference. Indeed, in terms of the life-and-death issues that matter most to African-Americans - structural unemployment, race-based super-incarceration, police brutality, disappearing affirmative action programs, and failing schools - the present presidential election might as well be taking place in the 1920s.

But not all the blame can be assigned to the current occupant of the former slave-owners' mansion at the end of Pennsylvania Avenue. The mayor of New Orleans, for example, is a Black Democrat, and Los Angeles County is a famously Democratic bastion. No, the political invisibility of people of color is a strictly bipartisan endeavor. On the Democratic side, it is the culmination of the long crusade waged by the Demo-

cratic Leadership Council (DLC) to exorcise the specter of the 1980s Rainbow Coalition.

The DLC, of course, has long yearned to bring white guys and fat cats back to a Nixonized Democratic Party. Arguing that race had fatally divided Democrats, the DLC has tried to bleach the Party by marginalizing civil rights agendas and Black leadership. African-Americans, it is cynically assumed, will remain loyal to the Democrats regardless of the treasons committed against them. They are, in effect, hostages.

Thus the sordid spectacle - portrayed in Fahrenheit 9/11 - of white Democratic senators refusing to raise a single hand in support of the Black Congressional Caucus's courageous challenge to the stolen election of November 2000.

The Kerry campaign, meanwhile, steers a straight DLC course toward oblivion. No Democratic presidential candidate since Eugene McCarthy's run in 1968 has shown such patrician dis-

dain for the Democrats' most loyal and fundamental social base. While Condoleezza Rice hovers, a tight-lipped and constant presence at Dubya's side, the highest ranking, self-proclaimed "African American" in the Kerry camp is Teresa Heinz (born and raised in white-colonial privilege).

This crude joke has been compounded by Kerry's semi-suicidal reluctance to mobilize Black voters. As Rainbow Coalition veterans like Ron Waters have bitterly pointed out, Kerry has been absolutely churlish about financing voter registration drives in African-American communities. Ralph Nader - I fear - was cruelly accurate when he warned recently that "the Democrats do not win when they do not have Jesse Jackson and African Americans in the core of the campaign."

In truth, Kerry, the erstwhile war hero, is running away as hard as he can from the sound of the cannons, whether in Iraq or in America's equally ravaged

inner cities. The urgent domestic issue, of course, is unspeakable socio-economic inequality, newly deepened by fiscal plunder and catastrophic plant closures. But inequality still has a predominant color, or, rather, colors: black and brown.

Kerry's apathetic and uncharismatic attitude toward people of color will not be repaired by last-minute speeches or campaign staff appointments. Nor will it be compensated for by his super-ardent efforts to woo Reagan Democrats and white males with war stories from the ancient Mekong Delta.

A party that in every real and figurative sense refuses to shelter the poor in a hurricane is unlikely to mobilize the moral passion necessary to overthrow George Bush, the most hated man on earth.

Mike Davis is the author of Dead Cities: And Other Tales as well as Ecology of Fear and co-author of Under the Perfect Sun: the San Diego Tourists Never See, among other books.

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U.S. Senate

REP. BOB ETHERIDGE
2nd District Congress

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BETH TROUTMAN
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U.S. Extends South Korea Troop Cut Until 2008

By Charles Aldinger and Paul Eckert, Reuters
WASHINGTON/SEOUL, (Oct. 6) - The United States agreed under pressure from South Korea on Wednesday to stretch out over an additional three years until 2008 the withdrawal of 12,500 U.S. troops from that country. U.S. troops patrol a military base Wednesday in South Korea.

The joint announcement came after Washington had signaled in June that it intended to remove the troops — a third of the 37,000-strong U.S. military presence in South Korea — by the end of next year.

Under the plan, announced after weeks of negotiations, 5,000 U.S. troops will leave South Korea this year, 3,000 next year, 2,000 in 2006 and the final 2,500 in 2007 and 2008.

South Korean officials had publicly agreed to the pullout based on assurances from the U.S. administration of continued strong military support but a quick withdrawal had raised worries in Seoul because of North Korea's continued nuclear and missile development programs.

"This decision was made fully taking into account the concerns of our citizens about a weakening of war deterrent capability against North Korea and a security vacuum," said Ahn Kwang-chan, South Korean Defense policy planning director.

The Pentagon, in a statement released early on Wednesday, stressed that the bilateral consultations had considered public security perceptions in South Korea, a close U.S. ally against the Communist North since the 1950-53 Korean War.

"We have worked together closely and there has been give and take," said one Pentagon official, who asked not to be identified. But the official said Washington stood firm on the total number of troops to be withdrawn as part of a global realignment of U.S. forces after the Cold War.

Ahn dismissed speculation in South Korea that Seoul had agreed to extend the deployment of its 3,000 troops in northern Iraq in exchange for the U.S. timetable concession.

REMOVAL IN THREE PHASES
 The first phase of the withdrawal will come this year when about 5,000 troops of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team will be returned to the United States.

During the second phase, the United States will redeploy 3,000 troops in 2005 and another 2,000 in 2006, the Pentagon said.

In the third and final phase during 2007 and 2008, the United States will bring home 2,500 troops consisting primarily of support units and personnel, the Pentagon announced.

"Throughout these consultations, the United States has made clear that it remains committed to the defense of the Republic of Korea, to the security and stability of the region and to a strengthened Republic of Korea-U.S. alliance," the Pentagon said.

"The future of the alliance is strong and will be adaptive to change and responsive to the needs of the Korean people."

The United States would maintain a multiple-launch rocket system battalion and associated counter-fire radars on the peninsula. It would also review prepositioned U.S. military equipment and make adjustments as appropriate," the United States said in the announcement.

South Korean officials had stressed that the rapid-fire rocket system was a major deterrent against North Korean artillery stationed just north of the demilitarized zone between the two Koreas that was capable of devastating targets in Seoul only 30 miles (50 km) from the border.

To assuage South Korean concerns, the United States has also earmarked \$11 billion to beef up defense installations and equipment in the South in the three years through 2006.

In July, the United States and South Korea finalized a long-delayed deal to move the American military headquarters and all U.S. troops out of the heart of the capital Seoul.

Under that plan, all 8,000 U.S. troops from the Seoul metropolitan zone will move to the Pyongtaek area, about 50 miles (80 km) south of the capital by December 2008.

Most of the U.S. Army's 2nd Infantry Division, now positioned just south of the border with communist North Korea, will also move to the center of South Korea, out of reach of most North Korean artillery fire.

N.Y. Times sues Ashcroft to protect sources...

NEW YORK (AP) — As September came to a close, The New York Times sued Attorney General John Ashcroft, seeking to block the Justice Department from obtaining records of telephone calls between two veteran journalists and their confidential sources.

The lawsuit said the Justice Department was "on the verge" of getting records as part of a probe aimed at learning the identity of government employees who may have provided information to the newspaper. It asked a judge to intervene.

The paper said the government intends to get the records, which reflect confidential communications between the journalists Philip Shenon and Judith Miller and their sources, from third parties unlikely to be interested in challenging its authority.

The lawsuit said the Justice Department has advised the Times that it plans to obtain records of all telephone calls by Shenon and Miller for 20 days in the months immediately following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The lawsuit said the scope of the government's demand for telephone records meant that the records would expose the identities of dozens of confidential sources used by the reporters for an array of articles about September 11, the government's handling of continued threats from al Qaeda and the war in Iraq.

A telephone message left with a government spokeswoman for comment was not immediately returned Tuesday.

George Freeman, a lawyer for the Times, said most of the sources had no connection to the government's probe.

"We are very troubled at this brazen intrusion into our relationship with our sources, which is unconstitutional and endangers our free press," he said.

Floyd Abrams, the attorney who filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, said it was "a very dangerous and unprecedented notion" for the Justice Department to seek telephone records from third parties rather than the Times.

"In this case, we're talking about the potential compromising of literally dozens of sources because telephone records relate to an enormous array of stories," he said. "It would threaten the ability of all journalists to promise confidentiality to their sources."

Shenon was one of two Times reporters sent into combat with U.S. troops during the 1991 Persian Gulf War. Since the fall of 2001, he has reported on homeland security, terrorism and the work of the September 11 commission.

Miller, who won a Pulitzer Prize for her January 2001 series on Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda, has reported extensively for the Times on national security issues, especially terrorism, the Middle East and weapons of mass destruction.

U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald, a Chicago special prosecutor appointed to investigate government leaks, asked the Times in August 2002 and again in July to produce Shenon and Miller for interviews and to produce records of their calls, the lawsuit said.

He threatened to obtain telephone records from third parties if the Times did not cooperate, the suit said. In a letter dated Friday, Deputy Attorney General James Comey said the Justice Department had decided it was "now obliged to proceed" to obtain the records, the lawsuit said.

The sender simply enters his or her address after sending the e-card to give credit to his or her city or town. PVA will track all greetings sent to veterans and troops and the community with the highest per-capita participation will be honored.

The e-cards can be sent to one or multiple recipients. E-card senders can also send their card to an anonymous hospitalized veteran, which will be delivered by PVA.

E-cards already sent have had an impact.

Blake Ortner, a lieutenant colonel in the Army National Guard deployed to Afghanistan, said, "I rely on e-mail and other technologies to stay in contact with my family and friends. Nevertheless, the e-cards from caring citizens remind me that the American people are keeping us in their thoughts."

To learn more about PVA, visit its Web site at www.pva.org.

Feds Probe for Clinton Campaign Violations

WASHINGTON - The Bush administration's Justice Department is trying to secure the cooperation of an indicted businessman as it pursues Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's 2000 Senate campaign for possible fund-raising violations, according to interviews and documents.

The FBI has told a U.S. magistrate in Los Angeles it has evidence the former first lady's campaign deliberately understated its fund-raising costs so it would have more money to spend on elections.

Prosecutors contend that businessman Peter Paul made donations because he wanted a pardon from Mrs. Clinton's husband.

Paul has denied he raised money for Mrs. Clinton in order to boost his chance for a pardon from President Clinton, and he asserted that campaign officials told him the contributions would be disclosed as required by law, his defense team said. He never received a pardon.

Noel Hillman, the Justice Department's top public corruption attorney and a career official, has met three times - most recently in May - with lawyers for Paul to discuss a plea deal. Justice wants to interview Paul to see whether he can substantiate his allegations that Clinton's campaign engaged in wrongdoing, the defense lawyers said.

Paul is a three-time convicted felon who hosted a Hollywood fund-raising event for Mrs. Clinton in 2000 and is currently facing stock fraud charges in New York. He alleges he underwrote most of the costs for the event. Prosecutors contend he did so in an effort to try to win a pardon from President Clinton.

Lawyers for Mrs. Clinton and the former chief fund-raiser for New York Senate 2000, David Rosen, say their clients have done nothing wrong. "New York Senate 2000 properly reported all donations in 2000," said David Kendall, Clinton's attorney.

The investigation, which has dragged on for more than three years, places the past fund-raising of one of the Democratic Party's rising stars in the direct sights of a Republican-run Justice Department.

Sen. Clinton is considered a possible presidential candidate in 2008 if Sen. John Kerry loses this year. But she first faces a re-election battle in 2006 - possibly against former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani or New York Gov. George Pataki.

Most allegations of campaign finance irregularities are handled administratively through the Federal Elections Commissions, although the Justice Department has investigated such matters in the past.

During the Democratic Clinton administration, when Attorney General Janet Reno ran the Justice Department, a department campaign finance task force charged more than two dozen individuals and two corporations with fund-raising abuses that occurred in the 1996 election cycle. Many of the abuses involved Democratic fund raising.

Documents obtained by The Associated Press show an FBI agent told the Los Angeles magistrate two years ago that the government believes Mrs. Clinton's campaign understated its costs for the Paul fund-raiser.

"The event's costs exceeded \$1 million, but the required forms filed by New York Senate 2000 ... months after the event incorrectly disclosed that the cost of the event was only \$523,000," said the 2002 FBI affidavit, which was unsealed in the summer. "It appears that the true cost of the event was deliberately understated in order to increase the amount of funds available to New York Senate 2000 for federal campaign activities."

The document also said a \$366,000 donation to the gala was incorrectly listed as coming from the company Paul co-founded, Stan Lee Media, when it really came from Paul personally.

Hillman, chief of the Public Integrity unit, has met with Paul's lawyers three times - last Oct. 30, Feb. 11 and May 25 - to discuss a possible arrangement but no deal has been reached, said Paul attorney Robert Sticht of Los Angeles. Sticht and lawyers for Judicial Watch, a conservative government watchdog group, comprise Paul's defense team.

"Hillman was anxious to get moving," Sticht said in an interview. Sticht said the public corruption prosecutor also told him, "If you think all of the evidence came from your client, let me assure you that it's not true."

Justice Department spokesman Mark Corallo said he had no comment.

The negotiations could help determine whether charges are brought against people involved with Mrs. Clinton's successful campaign for the Senate four years ago.

Rosen, the campaign's finance director, is a subject of the criminal investigation, said legal sources who could not be quoted by name because it is a grand jury matter. A subject is a person with relevant information, who later could face potential charges.

"From my review of all the facts, I am convinced that Mr. Rosen has done nothing improper. To the contrary, he has done everything right," said Paul Mark Sandler, Rosen's attorney.

Paul alleged to the FBI that hundreds of thousands of dollars contributed to Clinton's campaign went unreported, much of the money payments for the private Hollywood fund-raising event he hosted on Aug. 12, 2000, FBI documents show.

An FBI document written in 2001, based on an interview with Paul that year, said Rosen worked in Paul's office for one month putting together the Hollywood party. According to Paul, Rosen watched him write checks totaling about \$1.5 million to pay for the gala.

"Paul stated that none of the campaign reports list the names of the companies used by him to pay for the party," an FBI document said.

Another 2001 FBI document based on an interview with Paul said, "Paul advised that David Rosen sat in on every planning meeting (for) this event and met every supplier."

The indictment against Paul does not mention campaign contributions, but a prosecution memo by Assistant U.S. Attorney Catherine Youssef last July does make a link. Youssef, a prosecutor in New York, describes in the memo some evidence the government may produce at a trial.

She said that in August 2000, Paul borrowed approximately \$225,000 from business partner Stan Lee, telling Lee he needed the money for a party for Bill and Hillary Clinton.

In the summer of 2000, the memo said, Paul sought to bribe Bill Clinton in an attempt to win a pardon for his three felony convictions. Part of the alleged bribe was Paul's financing the bulk of fund-raising events for Mrs. Clinton's campaign, Youssef wrote.

A Nation Says Thanks

(NAPSA) - Thanks to the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), the nation now has an easier way to say thanks to its veterans and members of our active military. The group has launched a new Web site - www.thankyouveterans.org - where Americans from all walks of life can write to, or simply thank, either a veteran or

Community Contest." The sender simply enters his or her address after sending the e-card to give credit to his or her city or town. PVA will track all greetings sent to veterans and troops and the community with the highest per-capita participation will be honored.

The e-cards can be sent to one or multiple recipients. E-card senders can also send their card to an anonymous hospitalized veteran, which will be delivered by PVA.

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Blake Ortner, a lieutenant colonel in the Army National Guard deployed to Afghanistan, said, "I rely on e-mail and other technologies to stay in contact with my family and friends. Nevertheless, the e-cards from caring citizens remind me that the American people are keeping us in their thoughts."

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Community Voices

Reflections, Expressions & Reviews

with Guejette Jones



"Let's Review"

The High Price of Love

Having a mate keeps away the long, lonely nights. But constant companionship comes with a lot of rules attached. What can't you do because you are in a couple? Laura Kipnis in her book, "Against Love", lists these: You can't leave the house without saying where you are going. You

can't stay out past midnight or 11, or 10, or dinnertime, or not come right home after work. You can't go out when the other person feels like staying home. You can't go to parties alone. You can't make plans without consulting the other person, particularly not evenings and weekends, or make decisions about leisure time usage without a consultation. You can't accumulate things that you think you just might use someday, if the other person thinks you won't. You can't share responsibility for domestic decisions the other person has made that you've gone along with to be nice but don't really care about.

You can't not make the bed. You can't sleep apart; you can't fall asleep on the couch without being awakened to go to bed. You can't eat in bed. You can't get out of bed right away after sex. You can't have insomnia without being grilled about what's really bothering you. You can't turn the air conditioner up as high as you want. You can't sleep late if the other person has to get up early. You can't take naps when the other person is home because the mate feels leisure time should be shared. You can't work when you're supposed to be relaxing.

You can't spend too much time on the computer. And stay out of those chat rooms. You can't have e-mail flirtations, even if innocent.

Do tell Black women spill beans on their sex lives

By Mary Mitchell

CHICAGO - We do it but we don't like to talk about it. Sex, that is.

African-American women may be stereotyped as Lil' Kims in music videos, but for the most part, black women can be extremely prudish when it comes to discussing sex.

That's why the results of a landmark sex survey of black women appearing in the October issue of Ebony magazine is sure to raise a few eyebrows.

For starters, according to the survey of 8,000 women nationwide and abroad, brothers apparently aren't taking care of their business. When asked "How satisfied are you with your sex life?" 26.8 percent of respondents said they were "somewhat satisfied," 13.6 percent said they were "somewhat dissatisfied," and only 15.7 percent of the women said they were completely satisfied.

SISTERS SPEAK OUT

1. How satisfied are you with your sex life?

Completely satisfied:	15.77%	Not at all:	7.95%
Mostly satisfied:	25.42%	3. How often would you like to have sex?	
Somewhat satisfied:	26.85%	Daily:	32.01%
Somewhat dissatisfied:	13.62%	Once a week or more:	58.04%
Mostly dissatisfied:	9.09%	Once a month:	1.79%
Completely dissatisfied:	9.25%	Two or three times a month:	6.22%
2. How often do you engage in sexual intercourse?		Once or twice a year:	0.44%
Daily:	6.36%	Less than once a year:	0.18%
Once a week or more:	41.64%	Not at all:	1.32%
Once a month:	11.69%	4. How often do you experience orgasm?	
Two or three times a month:	23.31%	Very often:	22.07%
Once or twice a year:	9.05%	Often:	25.23%

Black Firefighters were Forgotten Heroes of 9/11

by Nayaba Arinde
Challenge Group

NEW YORK (NNPA) - In all of the celebrating on the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, Black heroes were strangely absent.

"Black firefighters who died in 9-11 didn't receive the recognition they deserved," Capt. Paul Washington said. "...Out of the 12 firefighters killed, six

were members of our Vulcan Society," said Washington.

He is the proud president of the Vulcan Society, but he is disgusted at the way that "Black firefighters who died in 9-11 didn't receive the recognition they deserved. When [then-mayor] Giuliani went on 'Saturday Night Live,' just after 9-11, and had those firefighters behind him - every last one of whom was White, the tone was set."

The captain said that he was not paralyzed by the grief of the day, "My thoughts go out to the families of those who lost someone. We have got to know some of the family members very well. Some are coping better than others. Some have been devastated by what happened, and are still trying to come to terms with it."

PBS aired a documentary "All Our Sons - Fallen Heroes of 9-11."

Washington added, "Retired lieutenant Craig Kelly was instrumental in getting this film done. It is a tribute to the Black firefighters who died, mainly seen through the eyes of their mothers. It is very good."

On Sept. 11, 2001, two hijacked planes were flown into the World Trade Center between 8:45 am and 9:20 A.M. Another plane, United Flight 93, crashed in Pittsburgh, 80 miles north of Somerset County Airport; and a short while later another plane was flown into the military

You can't play computer solitaire because the clicking drives the other person crazy. You can't talk on the phone when they're home working. You can't talk on the phone when they're in the room without them commenting on the conversation or trying to talk to you at the same time.

Your best friend can't call after 10. You can't read without them starting to talk, and you're not allowed to read when they're talking to you. You cannot pay attention to their presence. You can't make major purchases alone, or spend money on things the other person considers excesses. You can't

blow money just because you're in a really bad mood, and you can't be in a bad mood without being required to explain it. You can't have secrets about money or anything else. You can't drink without the other person counting your drinks. You can't leave a place before they're ready to go. You can't be late, even if you prefer being late. You can't forget things and then go back in the house for them once the door is closed. You can't drive too fast, or faster than the mate defines as fast. You can't honk. You may not criticize the other person's driving, signaling, or lane-changing habits. You can't

listen to talk radio in the car. You can't get angry when driving, or swear at other drivers. You can't say the wrong thing, even in situations where there's no right thing to say. You can't use the "wrong tone of voice." You can't repeat yourself, you can't be overly self-dramatic; you can't know things the other person doesn't know, or appear to parade your knowledge. You can't overly celebrate your own accomplishments, particularly if the mate is less successful. You can't say what you think about the mate's family. You also can't compare the mate to any of their family members, especially not the

same-sex parent. You can't call a handyman to repair something if they consider themselves to be "handy". You cannot be supportive, even when the mate does something insupportable. You can't make jokes about bald spots, ear shape, fat, or any other sensitivity, even if you didn't know until that moment that it was an area of sensitivity. You can't talk about past relationships. Or you talk about past relationships, and can't refuse to reveal all the long-forgotten details when asked.

THUS LOVE IS OBTAINED.

READING FUNDAMENTALS

Getting Your Children Interested In Reading



There are a number of things parents can do to get (and keep) children interested in reading.

(NAPSM)-When it comes to instilling a love of reading, it's up to parents to write the first chapter. That's because children can benefit from the

closeness and hearing their parents' voices, even when they're just six weeks old.

Here are 10 tips on reading with children from the Partnership for Reading (www.nifl.gov/partnershipforreading/index.html)—a collaboration between the National Institute for Literacy, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and the U.S. Department of Education:

1. Make reading a pleasure. Read to children in a comfortable place and show them that reading is fun and rewarding.
2. Show enthusiasm as you read. Read the story with expression and talk as the characters would, making

sound effects. When children enjoy being read to, they will grow to love books and be eager to learn to read them.

3. Read to your children often. Set aside special times for reading each day. Reading times can be brief—five to 10 minutes.

4. Read a lot of different kinds of books. Read poetry and other rhyming books to your children. Read magazines and newspapers together.

5. Talk with your children as you read together. Comment about what's happening in the story. Help your children make connections between print and pictures. Ask what will happen next in a story. Ask about favorite parts. Help your children relate the story to their own lives. Explain new ideas and words.

There are a number of things parents can do to get (and keep) children interested in reading.

6. Encourage children to explore books. Provide sturdy books to look at, touch and hold. As your children

Sometimes:	26.43%
Once in a while:	18.41%
Never:	7.86%
5. Have you ever cheated on your partner?	
Yes:	44.23%
No:	41.47%
Considered it, but did not:	14.29%

The survey included 8,000 black women, most of whom answered questions online. Some mailed responses to Ebony. The survey was conducted between March 8 and April 30, 2004.

Even more telling, while "cheating" is usually seen as a primarily male behav-

grow older, keep books where they can get them.

7. Read favorite books again and again. Hearing the same stories again helps children learn to read by hearing familiar words and seeing what they look like in print.

8. Build a book collection for your children. Look for books at bookstores, garage sales, used bookstores and library sales. Suggest books as gifts.

9. As you're reading, point out letters and have your children name them. Ask your children to listen for words that begin with the same sound and say them aloud. Point out words that have similar spellings.

10. Listen to your children read words and books from school. Let them know you are proud of what they are learning.

Reading is more than a skill. It helps children explore the world and learn how to make the most of their surroundings.

ior, the Ebony sex survey found that 44.2 percent of the women said they had cheated on their partners, while 41.4 percent said they had not strayed.

The 56-question survey asked about the kind of sex that most black women won't even discuss with their best friends, like what is your preferred position for sex and method of penetration. That black women tend to shy away from openly discussing their sexuality is understandable.

Mary Mitchell is a Afro-American columnist for The Chicago Sun-Times

wing of the Pentagon. The towers were both to collapse, and in the rubble of all the disaster zones, 3,000 people died.

Born and reared in Staten Island, N.Y., Washington now lives in Brooklyn, works as a captain in Queens, and has fought fires all over the city for 16 years.

He has been a captain for two and a half years, first working out of Manhattan. He graduated from Cheyney University in Pennsylvania in 1983 with degree in geology, and became a firefighter in 1988. His father, older

brother and other relatives have all been firefighters, he said.

"It was just something that appealed to me, the chance to do some positive things."

Reflecting on the loss of his colleagues, he said: "People should remember the loss that everyone suffered and the firefighters who died that day. Three thousand people died - that is 3,000 families who were affected. We should remember their loss."



CONGRATULATIONS!

OLD NORTH STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY is the National Medical Association's 2004 SOCIETY OF THE YEAR

The NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund is proud to support Old North State Medical Society and its award-winning efforts to prevent teen tobacco use among African American teens.

African Americans face significant health challenges in North Carolina. But our efforts are making a difference.

Old North State Medical Society is working hard to support African American communities statewide. And so is the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF):

- Of the \$14.6 million invested in HWTF's teen tobacco use prevention initiative, \$2.5 million has been granted directly to minority organizations (including Old North State and the General Baptist State Convention).
- Of the remaining \$12 million, 56% is invested in counties that have a disproportionately high number of minorities compared to the overall minority population of the state.
- Of the \$8.6 million invested in HWTF's obesity prevention initiative, Fit Together, 62% is invested in counties that have disproportionately high number of minorities.

OLD NORTH STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY and THE NC HEALTH AND WELLNESS TRUST FUND

Working together to create a healthier future for African American communities across our state.

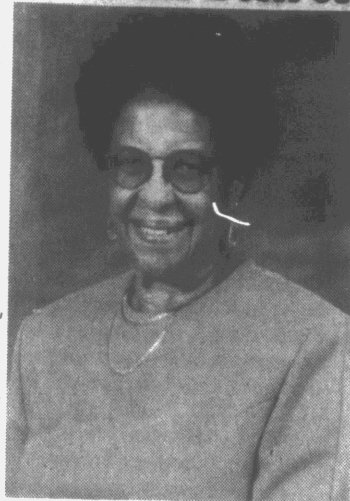
www.hwtf.org

Health Wellness TRUST FUND

OLD NORTH STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

Community Voices

From the Desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



do not love that do not show their love
William Shakespeare

How may we be examples of love? We can give our time to those in need; help out financially, teach and guide others, show concern; be helpful, supportive and kind, forgive, be responsive and responsible. WORDS - Your home environment - is it polluted with unkind words, thoughts and actions? For many children, living on the streets is seen as easier than living at home.

Words can hurt. Much of the pain and sorrow with which we all live come from words. Words used as a curse can destroy us.

Think of marriages that have been destroyed, the friendships shattered, the churches divided, because of careless words.

"For by your words, you will be justified, and by your words, you will be condemned". Matthew 12:37

DINNERTIME

Dinnertime is really a ritual time. Ritual means certain roles and expectations of each other. It offers safety, security, love. I like it when my family gets together. Sacrifice and be home for dinner. Spend 30 minutes at the table and once a week extend it up to one hour. Exception - small kids. Everybody sits together for the stability of the family. Sitting at barlike tables on stools doesn't make for warmth and comfortable togetherness for family meals. Do you agree? Some No's at the Dinner Table:

1. Don't turn on the TV, yinner meals are for conversation, not TV viewing.
2. Don't criticize or lecture.
3. No telephone calls or answering the telephone. Turn on the answering machine or take the telephone off the hook. This is family time.
4. Get home from work on time for dinner.

MAKE SOME MEMORIES

1. Have at least one meal a day where all members of the family sit down together to eat.
2. Encourage your children to enter into the conversation.
3. Don't be tempted to use mealtimes at the time to correct your children. Your family should look to pleasant, encouraging conversation at the dinner table, not lectures.
4. Children can also learn how you approach and handle problems by listening to your discussions about your day and asking questions.
5. At least once a week, set aside time to read to your children, even after they are older.
6. Know where your children are at all times. This is a part of the parents' responsibility.
7. Make some memories with your family. Many children who are out in the streets are the tragic results of neglect of our family responsibility. LOVE - They

ner. This lets all know your family is important. Note: There are some exceptions, we are aware of. Some Do's:

1. Teach to perform our service in the community.
2. Let's bring in a new word for dinner - each member.
3. Do invite friends or family guest occasionally.
4. Play games.
5. Bring something from antiques.
6. Bring in a song we used to sing.
7. Bring in a prayer.
8. Finding schedule for next day (at school), sign papers
9. Give some things up so you can have

time together to share a meal.
10. Eat together as a family - ALWAYS - New Year, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, July 4 (outing/cooking, picnic). Thanksgiving, Christmas. These are rituals or memories we should never forget. Note: Never eat in a separate room, to get away from family, or to view a football, basketball or any other game. Is the game more important than your family?
11. Do always tell the cook, mother or grandmother, how delicious the meal was: If you do it Dad, the kids will, too. Try it!
Breaking bread has been a tradition. Mealtimes traditions are special.

Sycamore Hill Baptist Church to hold Homecoming 2004...

The Story of Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church by Audreine Harvey-Tyson SHBC Secretary

GREENVILLE, NC - When the Civil War ended in April 9, 1865, the issues of freedom and equality for Black people had not been attained... As former slaves ran the streets, celebrating aloud songs of freedom in Pitt County U.S.A., 22 individuals gathered at a local home here in Greenville, North Carolina, where they began to worship God freely. These individuals called their religious organization The Colored Religious Society.

From 1867 to 1869 this church was called the African Baptist Church. The membership grew beyond the walls of that tiny home, and was greatly in need of a lot on which to build a church on.

On First and Greene Streets there was property that was purchased which bore the signature of a towering and cool shade of Sycamore Trees. This is the reason why our church bears the name to-

day of Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church.

The struggles and triumphs of Black people in the City of Greenville, a people whose Christian & Family Roots are embedded in the life's breath of Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church, which is now located at 1001 Hooker Road, Greenville, NC, where the Pastor is Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr.

This October 2004, of the 139th Homecomings Celebration, these events will take place.

The Fall Revival will begin Tuesday, October 19th, 2004 thru Thursday, October 21st, 2004 - 7 pm Nitely. The Revival Evangelist will be Reverend Richard E. Joyner, Pastor of the Conetoe Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Conetoe, NC. Special invited guests will be Bishop Randy B. Royal, Pastor & The Phillippi Church of Christ Family of Greenville, NC and Reverend A.C. Batchelor, Pastor and the Phillippi Missionary Baptist Church family of Simpson, NC

The 139th Year Homecoming Celebration

Worship Services will take place at Sycamore Hill Baptist Church on Sunday, October 24th, 2004 at 10:40 am.

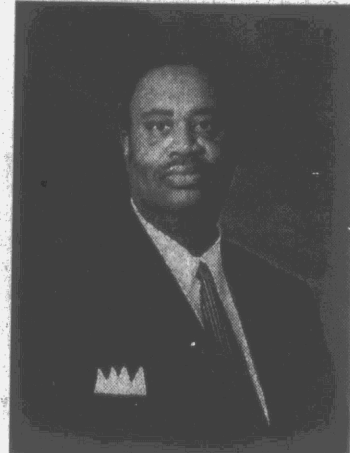
Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr., SHBC will be the officiating Pastor for the Homecoming Celebration Worship Services.

Everyone who remembers the freedom songs of their great-grandparents grandparents, parents and family members are invited to come backhome and lift up the Mighty Name of Jesus and give thanks to God for 139 Years of History.

Knowing that God's Word continues to stand true. As it says in Hebrews 13:5-6, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as y have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

These are the Family Members who Imparted Family History to Me'. Grand-Daughter of the Late Mr. George Francis

4. Because you are the only minority in a group you can't let it get the best of you.
5. Minorities are underrepresented in advanced and honor classes.
6. Show these students they are appreciated.
7. Too many students today own beepers but can't conjugate verbs.
8. They have gold teeth and nickel-plated brains.
9. They spend money to get their hair done but have nothing in their heads.
10. They think you have to be a dummy to be cool.



Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr. Pastor, Sycamore Baptist Church

& the Late Mamie May Garrett Daughter of the Late Ms. Mame Leigh Garrett Harvey Great-Niece of Mr. D.D. & Mrs. Clotea Garrett, Sr. Great-Niece of Mrs. Beatrice Maye & The Late John Walter Maye, Sr.

EDIFICATION OF A GENERATION



Violence and War: The Second Horseman

Do You Recognize The Signs? Many have been told that Jesus Christ could return at any moment—perhaps even tonight! Yet the Bible reveals something very different! Jesus told His disciples to watch because His second coming would be

preceded by a recognizable series of events. Jesus used symbols of Four Horsemen to picture major global events that would escalate out of control just before His return. Jesus said at the end of the age the Second Horseman—riding a fiery red horse and waving a great sword—would "take peace from the earth, and... people should kill one another" (Revelation 6:3-4). The sobering reality of modern world news indicates that end time prophecies—of increasing violence and wars—are coming alive

When Jesus was asked by His disciples, "what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:3), He responded, "you will hear of wars and rumors of wars... nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom... these are the beginning of sorrows" (Matthew 24:6-8; Mark 13:7-8; Luke 21:8-10). Wars have raged throughout history yet in the last century the scope and magnitude of destructive warfare reached unprecedented levels.

Jesus' prediction that "nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom" is an accurate description of what is happening today

The Apostle Paul warned that "in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud... unloving [callous], unforgiving [irreconcilable]... brutal" (2 Timothy 3:1-5). These

WITH FAITH MAY

words describe what we have seen in recent years on a global scale—tribesmen in Africa raping, mutilating and hacking neighboring tribes to death (including women and children); rape and gruesome ethnic killings in the Balkans; human bombers detonating themselves on crowded buses; airplanes carrying civilians blown up in mid-air or deliberately flown into office buildings! International terrorism came into its own with the dawning of the 21st century. Never before have a few individuals armed with high explosives or biological weapons been able to intimidate major powers. Weapons of mass destruction have become household words today.

Against this background of international terror and threats of nuclear blackmail from rogue states, once formidable nations are beginning to rearm. Japan is altering its constitution to permit Japanese forces to be deployed outside Japan. Germany has already begun to participate in military actions outside Germany. Europe—the site of numerous blood conflicts—is creating its own army. While these beefed-up forces are being organized for "peace-keeping duties, they will be capable of fighting wars! A disturbing parallel development is that modern nations are increasingly willing to intervene militarily in the af-

fairs of other nations under the label of "pre-emptive strikes."

Jesus made other predictions about condition that would prevail just before his return. While He cautioned that no one would know "the day or hour" of His coming, He warned that "as the day of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be" (Matthew 24:36-39). Scripture reveal that in the days of Noah, "the earth was filled with violence... all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth" (Genesis 6:9-13). Today our society is permeated with vio-

lence—in the media, in homes, in schools, in communities and on the world scene:

it is everywhere! Jesus explained that because of escalating violence, war and the erosion of godly values, "unless those days were shortened (by the return of Christ), no flesh would be saved". (Matthew 24:21-22). Jesus clearly foresaw the possibility of cosmicide, which became a real danger with the advent of the atomic bomb in the mid-20th century!

We are living in perilous times,

but the news is not all bad! Jesus concluded His prophecies of the end of the age on a positive note, saying that "when you see these things happening know, that the kingdom of God is near" (Luke 21:28-33). In the days of Noah, God intervened with a flood to put an end to human corruption and violence. This time, Jesus Christ will return to establish the kingdom God on this earth. The sobering prophecies about events will occur just before Christ's second coming are coming alive today! Do you recognize the signs? Will you be ready?

Facts and the Faith Community form unique partnership

By Faith May

What happens when FACTS and faith are mixed? In Farmville, it results in unique

educational opportunities for school children. Members of the faith community and FACTS (Farmville Area Coming Together for Our Schools) met for an informational exchange on Tuesday, September 21 at the H.B. Sugg Community Center.

"Church Sponsored Educational Initiatives for Children" was the topic of the meeting. Ed Joyner, a Farmville native and the Executive Director for School Development Program at Yale University will be the featured speaker.

Joyner has a master of arts degree in teaching and a doctorate in education in school administration and organization behavior from the University of Bridgeport. He has held a number of education-related jobs at every level, from teacher to principal.

The idea for FACTS emerged after Joyner visited Farmville in 2001 and spoke

to residents about how important it is for a community to get behind its schools in an active capacity. Local businessman



Pictured from left to right: Mr. Lionel Kato, Assistant Principal, FMS, Dr. Elward Joyner, Guest Speaker, Mr. Michael Dixon, Pitt Co. School Board Chairman, and Mr. Bill Dorey, Principal, FMS

Bynum Satterwhite and Farmville Mayor Robert Evans took the suggestion and created the FACTS organization, an innovative broad-based initiative that calls for

parents, residents, businesses, churches and other groups to be stakeholders in the educational process.

FACTS provides a forum that encourages dialogue, research and collaboration and empowers citizens to be catalysts for change in their schools. In addition to sponsoring free-on-site SAT preparation courses, FACTS coordinates a Reading Rescue program that places volunteer readers in kindergarten classes to help struggling readers.

In the two years since its inception, FACTS has received awards from the Pitt County Educational Foundation, Bank of America, Pitt County Board of Education, and the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce. The Informational Exchange will focus on ways that FACTS and the Faith Community can work together to provide after-school enrichment programs, summer school and classroom mentoring opportunities.

For more information, call Mayor Robert Evans, 753-6721 or Bynum Satterwhite, 753-6920.

DIGITAL CAREER EVENT

Coming to Greenville

Discovery Day, a multimedia show about opportunities in digital film, animation and audio careers is coming to the Hilton Greenville Hotel, 207 Greenville, on Saturday October 23, at 10:00AM. The free presentation is sponsored by the School of Communication Arts located in Raleigh, NC.

"With the explosive growth in digital imaging for film, advertising, computer gaming and the Internet, we receive many questions daily. To better inform those who are trying to catch hold of this dramatic change in entertainment and business communications, we decided to create a special presentation. Discovery Day looks at the direction in which computer graphics, computer animation and digital filmmaking is moving for today's job seekers," reports school director Debra Hooper. Those attending the event will learn how important it is to develop a combination of creative and technical know-how through a balanced educational program. Job descriptions and specific career opportunities will be detailed. Reservations and information for the event may be obtained by calling 800-288-7442 or checking online at www.higherdigital.com

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Universal Said to Consider Executive Post for Jay-Z

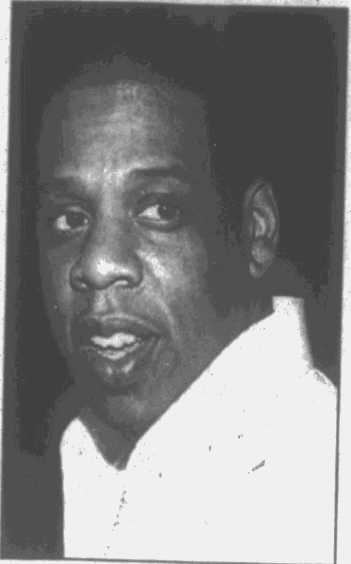
By Jeff Leeds and Lola Ogunnaiké

NEW YORK - Jay-Z arrives for a party in South Hampton, New York on July 3.

As the Universal Music Group nears a deal to buy out the rap star Jay-Z and his partners from their venture, Roc-A-Fella Records, the company has renewed an unconventional plan to bring the artist into its executive ranks by naming him president of the Def Jam Recordings label, according to people involved in the negotiations.

Universal Music, part of Vivendi, is set to pay about \$10 million to unravel the partnership in Roc-A-Fella, which has provided the label with a series of platinum-selling hits, most recently Kanye West's "College Dropout." While there is a chance the talks could unravel, these people said, they expect a deal would be made before the expiration of the venture agreement at the end of February.

One twist to the negotiations is the



future plans of Jay-Z, whose real name is Shawn Carter. He has said he is retiring from making albums, a proclamation he has made numerous times before. If he did record new music, he would be under contract to release it through Universal. But he is free to strike a deal for the creation of a new start-up label or take an executive post with any music company, and at the moment he is being hotly pursued by both Universal and a rival, Warner Music Group. (Executives from both companies have recently paid visits to Mr. Carter while he is on tour with the R&B star R. Kelly.)

Major record companies routinely reward or placate top recording artists by agreeing to finance their own small labels, like Madonna's Maverick Records (since bought out by Warner). Few, however, have turned out to be little more than vanity projects that are quickly forsaken.

In Mr. Carter's case, however, Universal would hand him the vacant position

as chief of one of its biggest divisions, with authority over everything from album production to marketing strategies, and an artist roster that includes acts like LL Cool J and Ludacris. (After taking full ownership of the Roc-A-Fella venture, the company would also probably provide Mr. Carter with a new mini-label, tentatively called S. Carter Records.)

Close associates of Mr. Carter said finding an executive role for him at Warner Music had been mentioned as a possibility, though it is unclear what that role would be.

For Universal and Def Jam, a decision to hire an artist for such a senior post could thrust the label into uncharted management territory, and it is unclear how other artists on the roster might respond. There are also some areas of apparent conflict. For example, Mr. Carter's own albums are distributed by Def Jam but he would still be overseen by Antonio Reid, the new chairman of the division that in-

cludes Def Jam.

Any deal would not be the first instance of a record company's turning to its own roster for executive talent. In 1999, another Universal unit, Interscope Records, appointed Fred Durst, the leader of the rap-rock band Limp Bizkit, as a senior vice president and talent scout for the label as part of an effort to dissuade him from accepting a similar deal from Def Jam. In that role, Mr. Durst has signed such acts as the rock band Puddle of Mudd.

As job candidates go, Mr. Carter would seem to have better instincts than most for sensing what sells. Since releasing the gritty "Reasonable Doubt" in 1996, the prolific rapper's albums have racked up sales of more than 21 million copies in the United States alone, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

Adding executive stripes, though, could afford Mr. Carter even more prestige as he seeks a new chapter for his career. And his relationship with one partner in Roc-A-Fella, the entrepreneur Damon Dash, has been under strain, people close

to both men have said.

As for Universal, signing Mr. Carter to an employment contract is seen as a move to safeguard the street credibility of the Def Jam label, which has been struggling to break through with new rap stars. Mr. Carter would essentially succeed Kevin Liles, who left the Def Jam label in August after clashing with Mr. Reid. Mr. Liles later took a job with the Warner Music Group, where his former boss at Def Jam, Lyor Cohen, now heads domestic operations.

Solidifying ties to Mr. Carter has also taken on added importance as Universal approaches the expiration of its deal with the Roc-A-Fella venture, which has brought Def Jam its biggest rap release this year, Mr. West's "College Dropout" album, which has sold more than two million copies. Universal had previously paid the partners, who include Mr. Carter, Mr. Dash and Kareem "Biggs" Burke, roughly \$20 million for a three-year extension that is due to end in February.

Representatives for Universal, Warner and Jay-Z declined to comment.

Congressional Black Caucus Celebrates CBC Weekend At the Library of Congress

A Jim Rouse Pictorial



For many veterans, the health consequences of serving in the armed forces far outlast their years of service. These consequences not only include physical injuries inflicted in battle, but health problems related to exposure to infectious diseases, contaminated food and water, and chemicals, as well as post-traumatic stress syndrome.

To help those whose health has been adversely affected by military duty, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Health Administration, provides numerous health benefits and services to veterans and, in some cases, to their family members. Some of these benefits and services require that the health problem be "service-connected," while others do not.

THE CURRENT CONFLICT IN IRAQ

Concerning the current conflict in Iraq, a VA brochure published in May 2003 notes: "Like all hazardous deployments abroad, some service members will return home with deployment-related health problems. In Iraq, troops are especially at risk for traumatic injuries and infectious diseases. As in all wars, some returning troops will suffer from psychological effects that result from surviving a life-threatening experience, and some will return with symptoms that are difficult to explain."

While protected through vaccination and other preventive health measures, US troops and peacekeepers remain at risk for several infectious diseases. These include: viral hepatitis A and E, typhoid fever and diarrheal diseases from consuming contaminated food and water, malaria, West from mosquito bites, tuberculosis from close person-to-person transmission, and rabies from animal contact.

Environmental health hazard problems include the effects of sand, wind and dust on skin, eyes, throat and lungs. The VA reports that the pesticides being used, including DEET, "have been widely used for many years in the United States without health problems." Concerns that exposure to a combination of pesticides and other compounds might cause health problems are the subject of ongoing federally funded research.

PERSIAN GULF SYNDROME

Veterans who served in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm in 1990-1991 have reported suffering from symptoms including fatigue, memory loss, difficulty concentrating, dizziness, rashes, muscle and joint pain, hair loss, sinus congestion, loose teeth, sore/bleeding gums and dizziness. Collectively, these symptoms are known as Persian Gulf Syndrome or Gulf War Syndrome.

No single diagnosis or group of diagnoses has been identified for these

symptoms. Possible causes being investigated by researchers include oil and smoke, sand flies, infections, inoculations against anthrax and botulism, chemical and biological warfare agents, and contaminated food and water.

VIETNAM AND AGENT ORANGE

"Approximately 20 million gallons of herbicides were used in Vietnam between 1962 and 1971 to remove unwanted plant life and leaves that otherwise provided cover for enemy forces during the Vietnam Conflict," according to the Veterans Health Administration. "Shortly following their military services in Vietnam, some veterans reported a variety of health problems and concerns, which some of them attributed to exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides." The VA program developed to respond to these medical problems and concerns includes healthcare services, disability compensation for veterans with service-connected illnesses, research and education.

The VA has recognized a number of diseases as "associated with [but not necessarily caused by] Agent Orange exposure." Conditions recognized by the VA for "service connection" include chloracne (a skin disorder), type 2 diabetes and sev-

eral types of cancer: non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, soft tissue sarcoma, Hodgkin's disease, multiple myeloma, prostate cancer, and respiratory cancers (including cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea and bronchus). The VA reports that it is also in the process of adding chronic lymphocytic leukemia to the list. In addition, Vietnam veterans' children with the birth defect spina bifida are eligible for certain benefits and services.

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

Post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD) is a psychiatric disorder that can occur when one experiences or witnesses life-threatening events. Such events include military combat, terrorist incidents,

natural disasters, serious accidents, violent personal assaults like rape, and sexual, physical or emotional abuse. People who have PTSD can relive the experience through nightmares and flashbacks, have difficulty sleeping, and feel detached or estranged. These symptoms can be severe enough and last long enough to seriously interfere with daily living.

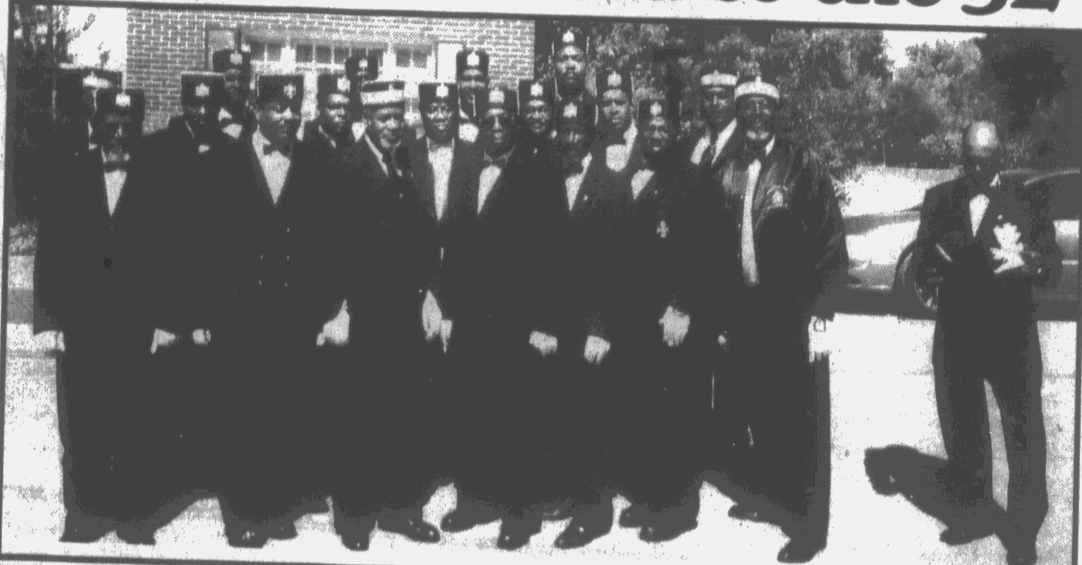
In 1988, the National Vietnam Readjustment Study estimated that the prevalence of PTSD among Vietnam veterans was 15.2% at that time and that 30% had experienced PTSD at some point since returning home from Vietnam. PTSD has since been observed in

all veteran population studies, including veterans from World War II, the Korean conflict and the Persian Gulf operations. Symptoms have also been observed in returning United Nations Peacekeeping forces.

DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE

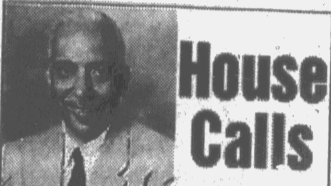
For additional information eligibility for benefits and services, contact the nearest VA medical center, call the Department of Veterans Affairs at (800) 827-1000, or visit the website www.va.gov. Another useful source of information is the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and its National Veterans Service at 202-543-2239.

Masons elevated to the 32^o



The United Supreme Council Ancient & Accepted Of Freemasonry Orient Of North Carolina Scottish Rite Coastal Plain Region elevated twelve Masons to the 32^o From Roanoke Consistory No. 248. (Marvin E. Whitehurst, Harold L. Personjames Baker, Jr., Kari Williams, David Carr, David Greenfield, Robert Parkerjesse, T Brewington, William Mennis, David Henderson, Jr. and Bro. Sean Fields.

HEALTH - When cancer strikes, you're not out!



House Calls

By Gerald W. Deas, M.D.

In the game of baseball, when one comes up to the plate, the rules say "three strikes and you're out." However, it does not mean that you are out of the game. You may come up to the plate several times before the game is over and possibly hit a homerun with bases loaded in the ninth inning, which is known as a "grand slam," and win the game.

Often, when folks hear the word "cancer" they think that they have struck out. I beg to differ with that belief. I have treated many patients who have undergone medical and surgical

THE POWER OF THE BLACK VOTE IS IN USING IT... NOV. 2ND!!

procedures for cancer and have hit a homerun and are ready for the next game of life. If you have cancer, you also can come up to the plate and knock that medical condition right out of the ball park with proper treatment.

To enhance whatever medical treatment that you receive, I would suggest the following. So, batter up, let's play ball:

- * Choose a physician who is not only good, but compassionate.
- * Join a survivors group.
- * Meditate and pray on a daily basis. This plays a major role in healing.
- * Eliminate alcohol, nicotine and caffeine. Avoid artificial colors.
- * Eliminate meat with excess fat and add fish (uncontaminated). Avoid luncheon meats which contain high concentrations of nitrites and never eat charcoal-cooked foods.
- * Drink only bottled or filtered water.
- * Eat plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables, making sure you wash them.
- * The addition of antioxidants, which prevent cancer, are found in foods such as broccoli, Brussels sprouts, spinach, cabbage, onions, garlic and mushrooms. A supplement of vitamins A/C and E will keep your body in an ace condition.

After following this list you will be able to mt a homerun in the health park and be able to run your home and your life!

Dr. Deas write regularly for the Amsterdam News - New York City

Women's Health

Women And HIV/AIDS

(NAPSA)-HIV/AIDS is a complex disease that affects every aspect of your life-your health, your relationships, your livelihood, and your future goals. If you have HIV, or know someone who has HIV, you are not alone. There are many women across the world who are coping with this disease.



WOMEN and HIV/AIDS

Although having HIV can have a devastating impact on your life, women with HIV are living longer and stronger lives filled with love and happiness. Whether you are at risk for getting HIV, living with HIV, or caring for a friend or family member, you may be looking for reliable information to help you each step of the way.

The National Women's Health Information Center (NWHIC) has launched a new section on their Web site that provides up-to-date, comprehensive information about women and HIV/AIDS. The section includes tips on prevention, as well as support for those living with the disease. There are personal stories, as well as the latest research statistics, and treatment news.

To learn more, visit the Web site at www.4woman.gov/HIV. Women now have a comprehensive online resource for information about HIV/AIDS.

Mother Precilla Brooks celebrates 100 birhtday



Recently, a birthday celebration was held for Mother Precilla Brooks who had reach 100 years of age. Ms. Brooks was born to the late Melissa Tillman and Junior Quinerly August 17, 1904. The spirited senior citizen was the second of five children. She grew up and attended school in and around the Grifton area and married Arthur Curly Strong and had ten children. After her husband passed she married John Brooks of Baltimore. Stemming her ten children, she has 47 grandchildren, 109 great-grandchildren and 36 great-great grandchildren. Her birthday party was held at the Hamilton Inn in Greenville, NC.



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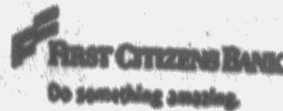
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Report Undercuts Bush's Rationale for Iraq War Inspector Says Saddam Wasn't Pursuing Weapons of Mass Destruction

Continues from Page 1

Bush administration, in justifying war, "created a worse-case scenario on virtually no evidence."

"There were no weapons of mass destruction," Durbin said. "At most, there was an intention or desire to create them."

The White House continued to maintain that the findings support the view that Saddam was a threat.

"We knew the dictator had a history of using weapons of mass destruction, a long record of aggression and hatred for America," President Bush said in a speech Wednesday in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. "There was a risk, a real risk, that Saddam Hussein would pass weapons or materials or information to terrorist networks. In the world after Sept. 11,

that was a risk we could not afford to take."

Saddam was importing banned materials, working on unmanned aerial vehicles in violation of U.N. agreements and maintaining industrial capability that could be converted to produce weapons, officials have said. Duelfer also describes Saddam's Iraq as having had limited research efforts into chemical and biological weapons.

Duelfer's report will come on a week that the White House has been put on the defensive in a number of Iraq issues.

Remarks this week by L. Paul Bremer, former U.S. administrator in occupied Iraq, suggested he argued for more troops in the immediate aftermath of the invasion, when looting was rampant. A spokesman for Bush's re-election

campaign said Bremer indeed differed with military commanders.

Bush's election rival, Democrat John Kerry, pounced on Bremer's statements that the United States "paid a big price" for having insufficient troop levels. On weapons, however, the Massachusetts senator has said he still would have voted to authorize the invasion even if he had known none would be found.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said the Duelfer report "will continue to show that he was a gathering threat that needed to be taken seriously, that it was a matter of time before he was going to begin pursuing those weapons of mass destruction."

Compare that to the words of Vice President Dick Cheney, in a speech on Aug. 26, 2002, 6 1/2 months before the invasion:

"Simply stated, there is no doubt that Saddam Hussein now has weapons of mass destruction," Cheney said then. "There is no doubt he is amassing them to use against our friends, against our allies and against us."

On Wednesday, the White House also continued to assert that there were clear ties between Saddam before the invasion and the al-Qaida linked terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. But a CIA report recently given to the White House found no conclusive evidence that Saddam harbored al-Zarqawi before the war, two U.S. government officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

They stressed, though, that the report did not make a final conclusion and the question of the al-Zarqawi-Saddam ties is still being pursued. One of the officials said it is clear that al-Zarqawi had

been planning terrorist attacks while operating out of Baghdad.

The CIA report was first revealed by Knight-Ridder.

During the Vice Presidential debate, Cheney said "there is still debate over this question." But he added: "At one point, some of Zarqawi's people were arrested. Saddam personally intervened to have them released."

In a speech on Oct. 7, 2002, Bush laid out what he described then as Iraq's threat:

"It possesses and produces chemical and biological weapons. It is seeking nuclear weapons."

"We've also discovered through intelligence that Iraq has a growing fleet of manned and unmanned aerial vehicles that could be used to disperse chemical or biological weapons across broad ar-

cas." — "Iraq possesses ballistic missiles with a likely range of hundreds of miles - far enough to strike Saudi Arabia, Israel, Turkey and other nations - in a region where more than 135,000 American civilians and service members live and work."

THE POWER OF THE BLACK VOTE IS IN USING IT... NOV. 2ND!!

Many Factors Blamed for Childhood Obesity

By Randolph E. Schmid WASHINGTON (AP) - A wide-ranging effort involving parents, schools, communities and government is needed to turn the tide of childhood obesity, the Institute of Medicine said Thursday.

"No single factor or sector of society bears all of the blame for the problem," and no sector alone can correct it, Dr. Jeffrey Koplan of Emory University in Atlanta, chairman of the committee that prepared the recommendations, said at a briefing.

Shiriki K. Kumanyika of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine likened the recommendations to other long-term public health efforts, such as reducing smoking and getting people to use seat belts.

"This is not something that can happen overnight," she said, though some things can be done quickly, such as making schools commercial-free zones.

Strong, coordinated leadership will be needed to make the effort succeed, said Russell R. Pate of the University of South Carolina, and "government at all levels should provide coordinated leadership."

The country has drifted into a situ-

ation where the number of obese youths has more than doubled over the last 30 years, Koplan said, "but we're not going to drift out of it."

Today, some 9 million children older than 6 are obese, the report said.

The report called for a wide-ranging effort that includes less time in front of television and computer screens, changes in food labeling and advertising, more school and community physical education programs, and education to help children make better choices.

"It is now critical to alter social norms and attitudes" so that healthy eating and physical activity become routine, said Koplan.

Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy G. Thompson noted that the Food and Drug Administration is examining how to revise food labels to ensure that parents understand how many calories they and their children are consuming.

"Accurate, helpful information will allow them to make wise food choices at home, at supermarkets and in restaurants," Thompson said.

Margo G. Wootan of the Center for Science in the Public Interest said the report recommends many sensible steps.

"But frankly," she added, "how many more of these reports do we need before the government actually starts adopting some of these policies? How many more kids will start on a lifetime of disease before the nation starts treating this epidemic like an epidemic? It's time for action."

Mary C. Sophos, senior vice president of the Grocery Manufacturers of America, said the food industry is reformulating products to reduce calories, fat and salt and is offering smaller package sizes.

"To achieve successful behavioral change, we will need to emphasize positive, motivational messages and tools across society, rather than relying on restrictions or negative messages," she said.

Robert Earl of the National Food Processors Association also noted changes being made by food manufacturers, and added: "The food industry also supports programs to promote physical activity among children. This report emphasizes the importance of including physical activity in any effort to address obesity - at school, at home, and in communities."

Dr. Thomas N. Robinson of Stanford University, a member of the committee that prepared the report, said

that many health care providers are worried about the future as obese children age and adult chronic diseases are beginning in the teen years and younger. "Everything is affected by overweight," he said.

The report from the IOM, an arm of the National Academy of Sciences, is the latest to focus on childhood obesity. Over the last 30 years the rate of childhood obesity has tripled among youngsters aged 6 to 11 and has doubled for those aged 2 to 5 and 12 to 19, the institute reported.

Obesity can lead to increased likelihood of developing diabetes, high blood pressure, sleep problems, high cholesterol, gallstones and other problems.

Specifically, the panel suggested that parents limit kids' TV hours, that schools provide healthier food, that restaurants offer nutrition information and that communities provide more recreation opportunities.

The IOM report calls for increased federal involvement, including creation of an interdepartmental task force to coordinate activities, developing nutrition standards for school food, setting guidelines for advertising and marketing to children and increases in research funding. On the Net: Institute of Medicine: <http://www.iom.edu>

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MONEY MAKING IDEAS

No Computer? No Time? No Problem: New Ways To Sell On The Internet

(NAPSA)-Most people have valuable things in their homes that they no longer need or use. Consignment shops or garage sales-traditionally the way people sell unwanted treasures-can be time-consuming and rarely let sellers secure true market value for their items.

Many people wish they could take advantage of the growing eBay community, with more than 105 mil-

lion registered users worldwide, as a way to ensure items have the best opportunity to sell for the best price. However, navigating the process of selling, which involves writing descriptions, taking photographs, estimating sale price and handling payment and shipping, takes time and experience.

Thanks to an explosion of drop-off services across the U.S., consumers can effortlessly jump on the eBay bandwagon and turn their goods into cash without lifting a finger or a mouse.

While drop-off services are in most metropolitan areas, the leader in both volume and customer satisfaction is AuctionDrop. With its relationship with The UPS Store, anyone in the U.S. can use the service simply by dropping things off-valued at over \$75 and weighing under 25 lbs.-at The UPS Store in their neighborhood.

There are no upfront costs. Customers need only to complete a simple form. The UPS Store ships the item to the AuctionDrop processing center, which sells it on eBay and then sends the consumer a check.

The service gets results because a team of experts-professional researchers, photographers and writers-take care of all the work so people don't have to try this time-consuming process themselves. For instance, when consumers list items for sale on eBay, the average success rate is only 43 percent. In contrast, 92 percent of AuctionDrop's listings sell within seven days. Plus, it has the industry's only dedicated customer service center to answer buyers' and sellers' questions.

Says longtime customer Carol Shaffer: "We just moved and I had a garage full of stuff that neither my husband or I wanted to unpack. I had a new job that was taking up all my

time and I wanted some place that would literally take it and sell all of it for me. AuctionDrop's fee is really worth the time that I saved."

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-James Lane Allen

Racial disparities in health

by George E. Curry



Within the past two months, I have given the keynote speech at a health disparities conference in Chattanooga, Tenn.,

sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Health, moderated a panel in D.C. on the same subject for the National Medical Association and moderated a panel at yet another conference in Virginia organized by Hampton University's Health Disparities Reduction Project.

At each event, the same point was made: Of the 15 leading causes of death in the United States, Blacks had higher death rates than whites in 11 areas: heart disease, cancer, stroke, accidents, diabetes, flu and pneumonia, kidney diseases, septicemia, homicide, cirrhosis of the liver and hypertension. African-Americans had lower death rates than whites as a result of respiratory diseases, Alzheimer's, suicide and aortic aneurysm.

Professor David R. Williams, a senior research scientist at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research, has done significant research in this area. He presented many of his findings to the audience at Hampton and has written about them in the National Urban League's "State of Back America 2004."

One of the most stunning points made by Williams was that although overall health has improved in the U.S. over the past 50 years, racial differences in health are unchanged or widened.

"The age-adjusted overall death rate for African-Americans was 20 percent higher than that of whites in 1950 but 30 percent higher in 2000," Williams says. "Similarly, a Black baby born in the U.S.A. was 1.6 times as likely to die before his/her birthday than a white infant in 1950, but is 2.5 times as likely in 2000."

To show the significance of the gap, in 1985 the Department of Health and Human Services began using the term "excess deaths," defined as the number of African-Americans who would not die each year if Blacks and whites had the same mortality rates. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, there were 66,900 excess Black deaths in 1940; 50,900 in 1960; 80,600 in 1980 and 96,800 in 1998. From 1940 to 1998, according to the center, 4.27 million African-Americans died prematurely.

Whites in the U.S. are hardly a model.

Williams says that when the infant mortality and life expectancy figures are calculated for whites alone, Caucasians fared poorly when measured against other industrialized nations. If whites made up their own country, they would rank 24th in infant mortality deaths. At 5.8 deaths per 1,000 births, whites would trail top-ranked Hong Kong (3.1), Japan (3.4), Sweden (3.4), Singapore (3.5), Finland (3.7) and seven other countries (Norway,

Denmark, France, Austria, Ireland, New Zealand and Portugal).

When looking at international life expectancy rates, white women, averaging 80 years, would rank 19th and white men (74.5 years) would rank 20th. Men in Hong Kong live an average of 77.4 years, longer than males anywhere else. They are followed by Japan (77.2), Sweden (76) and Switzerland (76.3). Women live longest in Japan (84 years), followed by Hong Kong (83 years).

As a country, Blacks would rank 36th in infant mortality deaths (14.6 per 1,000 births). In life expectancy, Black men would rank 34th if measured against other men in the world (67.6 years). Black women would rank 35th among females (74.8 years).

"The subjective experience of discrimination is a neglected but important source of stress," Williams points out. "Research indicates that acute and chronic experiences of discrimination are stressful incidents that are adversely related to physical and mental health."

He adds, "A small but growing body of research indicates the health of African-Americans is adversely affected when they buy into the larger society's negative characterization of Blacks."

Even with the clear health disparities, Williams argues that race is less of a health factor than education and economic status.

"The differences in life expectancy by education, within each race and gender group (with the exception of white women) are larger than the racial differences," he states.

However, that does not mean race can be ignored.

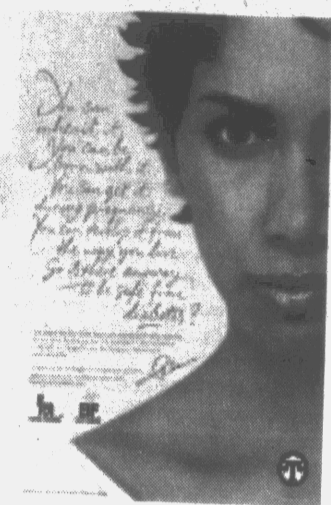
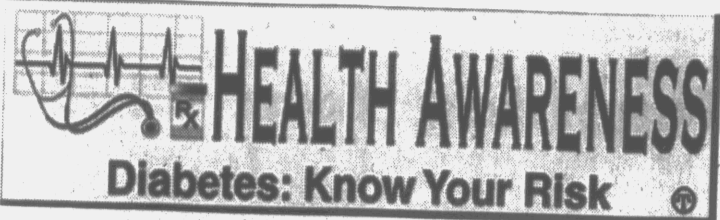
"The most disadvantaged white group (women who have not completed high school) has a lower infant mortality rate than the most advantaged Black group (college graduates)," he observed.

Because income, education and even where one lives help determine a person's life expectancy, Williams argues that in order to eliminate these disparities, efforts should be made to end housing discrimina-

tion, racism and unequal access to health care.

He said, "Investments to improve the social conditions and the health of African-Americans can improve the health of the entire U.S. population and have long-term positive consequences for non-Blacks as well."

(George E. Curry is editor-in-chief of the NNPA News Service and BlackPressUSA.com. He can be reached through his Web site, georgecurry.com.)



Diabetes is a disease in which the body does not produce or properly use insulin. Insulin is a hormone that is needed to convert sugar, starches and other food into energy needed for daily life. There are two types of diabetes:

• Type 1 affects people who cannot produce insulin, and most often strikes children and young adults. This form accounts for five to 10 percent of all cases of diabetes.

• Type 2, the most common form of diabetes (90 to 95 percent of cases), occurs when the body continues to produce insulin, but at a low rate. Lifestyle changes, such as diet, exercise, losing weight and taking oral medications can prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes.

For more information about diabetes, talk to your doctor and visit www.diabetesaware.com. Halle Berry encourages the public

• A simple Fasting Plasma Glucose (FPG) Test at your doctor's office is all it takes to determine whether or not you are living with diabetes; a fasting glucose level of 126 mg/dL or above (confirmed by a second test) means you have diabetes.

• Regular monitoring of blood glucose levels is critical to know if your diabetes is in control. Blood glucose levels consistently above 126 mg/dL are considered "out of control."

• Diabetes not treated properly can lead to serious and potentially fatal complications such as blindness, kidney damage, heart disease, amputations and stroke.

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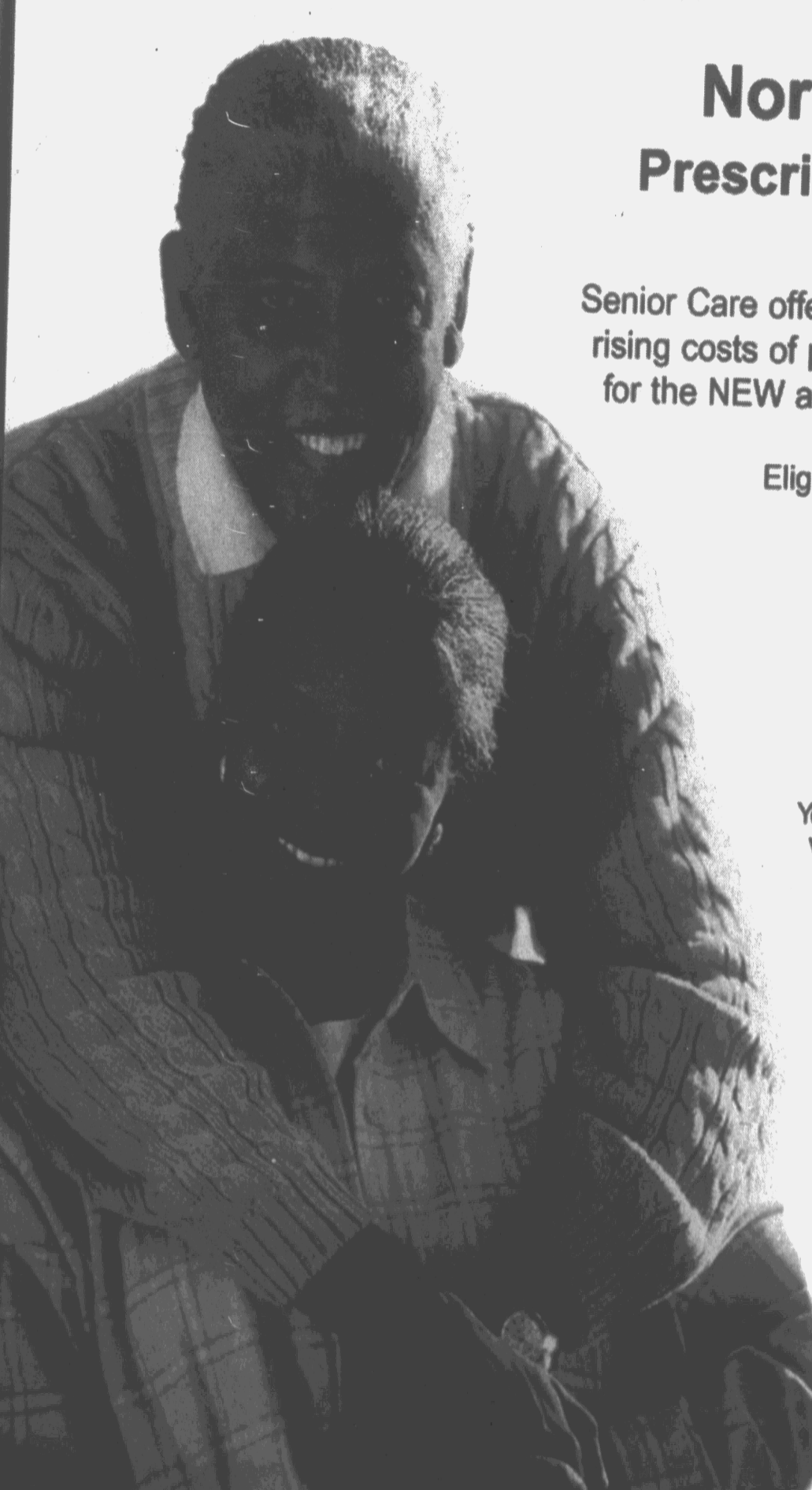
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Local business pledges it's support to The Philadelphia House

GREENVILLE - The Philadelphia House is a non-profit organization that provides housing and assistance for HIV/AIDS individuals and is sponsored by Philippi Church of Christ, pastored by Bishop Randy Royal. AcuityPlus, INC., a BIBLE based income tax and financial services business headquartered in Greenville, NC has been led to partner with the Philadelphia House and have them be the recipients of its ongoing charitable donations. This relation-

ship came about as a result of the leadership of AcuityPlus, iNC, following the instructions of God to return a portion of HIS blessings to the community from which it came, sowing seed from where the harvest was reaped. AcuityPlus' corporate slogan, "A part of your neighborhood" is more than just a slogan, it's a part of their mission. One dollar from each bank product generated in PITT County through the income tax preparation division of AcuityPlus will be do-

minated to the Philadelphia House. We encourage other local businesses to get onboard and help support this very worthy cause. The HIV/AIDS population is a part of our community as much as any other segment, and they need much more support than they've received over the years. AcuityPlus in association with Philippi Church of Christ intends to make a difference in the lives of those who need help the most. HIV/AIDS is a disease that has affected

so many unsuspecting individuals over the years, many of whom are our relatives and friends. If you or someone you know has not been affected by this epidemic, count your blessings. Statistically, someone is infected in this country every thirteen minutes. Over 40,000 new cases of HIV were reported last year. Any one of us could be in the next 40,000. Promiscuous men and women who don't get tested for HIV/AIDS and don't tell their mates to get tested for fear of rais-

ing suspicion go on to infect them thereby spreading the disease through generations. The rate of infection among the African American community is growing at an alarming rate because of a lack of information and support systems. The need for additional support continues to grow with each new case reported. We urge you make the choice today, as AcuityPlus has, to support the Philadelphia House or another worthy local charity. You or someone

you know may need their services next. AcuityPlus, iNC is hosting a FREE Christian Economic Empowerment & Kingdom Wealth Building Seminar on October 23rd at the Holiday Inn Express on Moye Blvd in Greenville, NC. Guest speakers include Dr. Robert H Waddell former Executive VP of Pitt Community College and local corporate attorney Mr. Phillip Dixon among others. There are two sessions scheduled, one at 9:00AM and another at 1:00PM. Registration is required. To register call 252-752-9485

Teaching Your Children About Diversity

Teaching Your Children About Diversity Teaching Your Children About Diversity (NAPSA)-The U.S. Bureau of Census estimates that by 2060, white Americans will no longer be the majority. Hispanic and Asian populations are expected to triple, increasing the country's racial and ethnic diversity.



"Respecting and appreciating diversity is essential in today's world," says Barbara Anderson, Ed.D., vice president of education for KinderCare Learning Centers, which operates more than 1,250 early childhood education and child care centers nationwide.

Anderson offers some suggestions for teaching children to honor diversity. "Parents should acknowledge that every-

one is different, that everyone has value," says Anderson. "The easiest way to do that is by example."

Home is where children first learn about tolerance. Raising children in an environment that accepts individual differences will allow parents to discuss the ways people are different. Remember that those differences may include age, gen-

der, skin color or even weight, as well as ethnicity.

Children learn by example. Demonstrate your tolerance with your words and actions. Talk to your child about tolerance. Expose your child to diversity by reading books about other cultures. Sing songs from other cultures and attend multicultural events in your community.

Talk about your own family's heri-

itage. Where did your ancestors live before coming to this country? Which of those customs does your family still celebrate?

Answer your child's questions about differences honestly, using simple, nonjudgmental language. Remind your child that we're all different and that it is those differences that make each of us special.

Photo Credit: KinderCare Learning Centers

New Overtime Rules Benefit Everyone

(NAPSA)-Karen is a single mother of two who worked hard to be promoted to assistant manager of a local department store. She got a raise to \$18,000 per year, but as a result, actually earned too much to qualify for overtime. Her brother, Steve, is a sergeant in his town's police department earning \$21,000. But the city says he can't put in for overtime because his job duties disqualify him for extra pay. Karen's best friend, Amy, makes \$23,000 working in a restaurant. Even though she puts in 10-hour days and has little time for her family, she's not sure if she's entitled to overtime either.

But under new overtime security reforms that are in effect now, workers like these now have a guarantee of overtime protection.

Under the old, outdated regulations, workers earning as little as \$8,060 could be denied overtime. The new overtime security rule nearly triples this salary threshold, so that millions of workers earning less than \$23,660 per year, workers like the composites represented above, are guaranteed overtime protection no matter what they do or what their job title is.

The new overtime security rules, for the first time, also offer explicit guarantees of overtime protection to many workers earning above the \$23,660 threshold, including:

- Blue collar workers like carpenters, electricians, mechanics, plumbers, iron workers, operating engineers, longshoremen, and laborers, as well as workers who receive overtime under a union contract.

- Licensed practical nurses and first

responders, such as police officers, firefighters and EMTs, also receive greater protection under the new regulations.

- Any worker paid on an hourly basis will continue to be guaranteed overtime pay no matter how much they earn, what job they perform, or what title they hold.

The new overtime security rules are far more clear than the old regulations, which means that workers will know their overtime rights, employers will know their obliga-

tions, and the Department of Labor will have an easier time enforcing the law. This will benefit everyone. Workers will no longer have to go to court to get the overtime they deserve and employers can devote money to building their businesses and paying workers, instead of worrying about lawsuits.

To find out more about the new overtime security reforms, visit the Department of Labor's Web site at www.dol.gov/fairpay.

The site includes information about workers' new overtime rights, as well as extensive compliance information for employers.

Now that the final overtime security

rules are at last in place, workers like those represented above will finally have the enhanced overtime protection they deserve.

www.dol.gov/fairpay

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Meeting Was Not First for Cheney, Edwards

By Liz Sidot, Associated Press Writer

CLEVELAND - Vice President Dick Cheney said Tuesday night that the debate with Democratic Sen. John Edwards (news - web sites) marked the first time they had met. In fact, the two had met at least three times previously.

Cheney made the remark while accusing Edwards of frequent absences from Senate votes.

"Now, in my capacity as vice president, I am the president of Senate, the presiding officer. I'm up in the Senate most Tuesdays when they're in session. The first time I ever met you was when you walked on the stage tonight," Cheney told Edwards during the debate.

On Feb. 1, 2001, the vice president thanked Edwards by name at a Senate prayer breakfast and sat beside him during the event.

On April 8, 2001, Cheney and Edwards shook hands when they met off-camera during a taping of NBC's "Meet the Press," moderator Tim Russert said Wednesday on "Today."

On Jan. 8, 2003, the two met when the first-term North Carolina senator accompanied Elizabeth Dole (news - web sites) to her swearing-in by Cheney as a North Carolina senator, Edwards aides also said.

Edwards didn't forget their prayer-breakfast meeting. The Democratic vice-presidential candidate noted the discrepancy at a post-debate rally in a Cleveland park, calling it an example of Cheney "still not being straight with the American people."

The vice president said that the first time he met Senator Edwards was tonight when we walked on the stage. I guess he forgot the time we sat next to each other for a couple hours about three years ago. I guess he forgot the time we met at the swearing in of another senator.

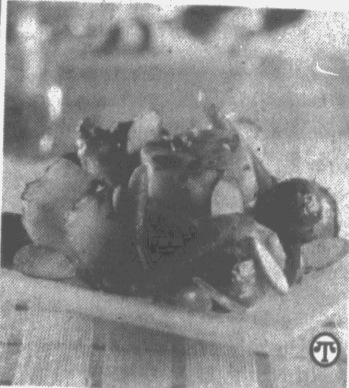
So, my wife Elizabeth reminded him on the stage," Edwards said as the crowd roared.

According to Edwards' staff, Cheney replied, "Oh, yeah."

"She reminded him about the truth," Edwards told the crowd, "and come November, we're going to remind him that the American people do not want four more years of George W. Bush."

NUTRITION NEWS

Add Taste-And Nutrition-With Sliced Almonds



choices that contribute to weight loss and good health.

Often, that can mean replacing high-saturated-fat, empty-calorie foods with healthier and tastier options.

For example, topping a salad with flavored sliced almonds in place of "bacon bits" not only decreases the amount of saturated fat in the dish, but it also adds a natural source of healthy monounsaturated fat.

When it comes to flavored sliced almonds, Sunkist Almond Accents are among the most popular. They are dry roasted with no added oil and have no cholesterol, no saturated fat and

just 1 g of carbohydrates per serving.

Plus, they're versatile and can be used to top salads, rice, vegetables, fish and many other dishes instead of fried, low-nutrient and high-saturated-fat food toppings-taking you one step closer to achieving or maintaining weight loss goals.

Almonds are said to be the most nutrient-dense nut, meaning that they offer a variety of nutrients per serving, including magnesium, protein, fiber, copper, riboflavin and calcium. In fact, almonds are higher in fiber and calcium than any other nut.

In addition, almonds are an excellent source of vitamin E, a powerful antioxidant thought to slow the aging process and protect against heart disease.

According to the American Heart Association (AHA), almonds can significantly lower bad cholesterol levels. The more almonds eaten in place of higher-saturated-fat foods, the greater the chance of lowering cholesterol.

For more information about Almond Accents, including additional recipe ideas similar to the one below, visit the Web site at www.almondaccents.com.

ROASTED VEGETABLES

2 lbs. winter vegetables (e.g., Brussels sprouts, potatoes, onions, turnips, carrots, etc.)

1/4 cup olive oil

1 clove garlic, minced Pinch of salt

1/2 cup red wine vinegar

1 Tbsp. Dijon-style mustard

1 cup olive oil

1/3 cup fresh basil or thyme, finely minced

1/3 cup Sunkist Almond Accents Original Oven Roasted or Italian Parmesan sliced almonds

Place vegetables in large roasting

pan. Drizzle with olive oil. Roast at 375 degrees for 30-40 minutes. In small jar, combine remaining ingredients, except sliced almonds. Mix well. Place vegetables on serving platter and drizzle with vinegar dressing. Just before serving, sprinkle with Almond Accents sliced almonds.

Makes 4 servings. Almonds are said to be the most nutrient-dense of all nuts.

U.N. Africa Condemned to Major Polio Epidemic

By Stephanie Nebhay, Reuters

GENEVA (Reuters) - A major polio epidemic in West and Central Africa is inevitable in coming months, but the disease could be eradicated worldwide next year by mass immunizations, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday.

Health officials and volunteers in Africa and Asia, where the paralyzing disease is still endemic in some countries, were setting out on foot, bicycle and even camel to vaccinate 250 million children under age five against the crippling virus.

Eighty million children in 23 West

and Central African countries and 170 million in India, Pakistan and Afghanistan are being targeted, according to the United Nations agency.

"We believe that if political commitment and technical activities reach the quality that they must reach in Africa and continue with high quality in Asia, the world will become polio free next year," David Heymann, head of WHO's polio eradication program, told a news briefing.

Campaigners had hoped to wipe out polio this year, but the virus has spread in the past 18 months from Nigeria to 12 African countries where it had been wiped out.

This was mainly due to the northern state of Kano banning vaccines a year ago, out of misplaced fear that it caused infertility and spread HIV, WHO officials said.

"There will be a major epidemic of polio, unfortunately, in Africa, because the vaccinations will not stop what is already going on... Africa will have an epidemic this year, they are having it right now," Heymann said.

597 CASES IN NIGERIA
Nigeria is home to 597 of the world's 786 polio cases so far in 2004, against a total of 784 global cases in all of 2003.

"We see at least 1,000 cases in Ni-

geria by year-end. It is possible that in a lot of countries the virus can be stopped, but it will depend on how well the campaigns go," WHO spokesman Oliver Rosenbauer told Reuters.

But political and Muslim religious leaders in Nigeria and throughout Africa are now united to fight back against a resurgence of the disease, according to Heymann.

In Kano, where immunization resumed in late July after a 10-month ban, 70 percent of children under age five have received at least one dose in recent months, Heymann said.

Rima Salah of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) said that mobilizing Muslim religious leaders was key.

"A religious leader and traditional chief can mobilize people more than a political leader. When he speaks out, they listen to him and will vaccinate their children," she said.

As for Asia, there have been 62 cases so far this year in India, 31 in Pakistan and three in Afghanistan, the WHO said.

"Asia, we believe, is in the last throes of polio eradication. India has gone for a week and a half now without a case of polio which is quite a long time in the high season of transmission," Heymann said.

Salah said that one million vaccinators being deployed in Africa were determined to reach "every child in every village."

"We're using helicopters in Liberia and Sierra Leone, camels in desert countries such as Mauritania, and boats for countries on Africa's coast," she added.

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THE GREENVILLE-EAST DISTRICT GREENVILLE, N.C.

North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company began its operation as a district office in Greenville in 1974. Since that time, the Greenville-East district has been one of the top districts in the company system. Founded in 1898, North Carolina Mutual has grown into one of the world's largest black managed businesses in the world.

The eastern part of North Carolina is proud of all the accomplishments that North Carolina Mutual has made down through the years. It has evolved from a home servicing company, (debit) where monies were collected door to door on a weekly basis, into an ordinary operation in which includes bank drafts and mail pay. Jerry Parker, who is the current district manager in Greenville, and oversees operations all over the Eastern part of North Carolina, has once again risen to another challenge. Over the past 28 years, the office has been in a very familiar place, located on 1209 W. 14th Street in Greenville. Jerry Parker has been with the North Carolina Mutual for almost 25 years understands the meaning of growth and development. As he continued to help develop new ways to market North Carolina Mutual products and how they would best serve the people in the Eastern part of North Carolina, changes had to come about. In order for them to better serve the present age, along with the future generation, he challenged the company to relocate the office in a new location. Mr. Parker and his staff were up for the challenge. Having a brief meeting with the Company President (James Speed) in New Orleans in June 2004, it was agreed upon to give him a new location. They are very grateful to everyone in the Home Office for allowing them the opportunity.

Their new location can be found at 202 Arlington Blvd., Suite F. Jerry encourages policy owners, friends and the entire community to stop in for a visit. We say thanks to the entire Eastern part of North Carolina for their continual support.

BLACK HISTORY SHORTS: Benjamin O. Davis, Sr. Is First Black to Attain Flag Officer Rank AND

by: Dr. Clint Wilson
OCTOBER 16, 1960 Capping a military career that he began as an enlisted man, U.S. Army officer Benjamin Oliver Davis, Sr. was appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to the rank of brigadier general, making him the first of his race to attain flag officer status in the armed forces.

Davis was born in Washington, D.C. and following graduation from high school he volunteered for service in the Spanish American War. After that war Davis decided to join the regular armed forces and passed a competitive examination to become an

officer. Noted for his tireless efforts to promote racial equality in the U.S. military, Davis spent 50 years as a soldier and lived to see most of the barriers he fought overcome and the dream of an integrated army realized. In a later era, General Colin Powell would pay tribute to the man who pioneered

Baseball Great Jackie Robinson Departs this Life in October 1972

the trail that led to his becoming chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Baseball Great Jackie Robinson Dies October 24, 1972 - Baseball fans and humanitarians everywhere were saddened by the death of one of the most significant personalities in American history. Jackie Robinson, the man who integrated major league baseball - and

by extension practically every other professional sport - was a proud symbol for Black Americans. Robinson not only played the game with a high degree of skill, but also with a dignified presence that earned the admiration of humanitarians and the wrath of bigots. Now, more than 50 years after he

broke the color barrier in baseball, Robinson is recognized as someone who contributed much to breaking such barriers in almost every aspect of American life. Sam Lacy, the black sports writer who covered Robinson's career and who had been in the forefront of urging baseball's integration, wrote about Jackie's funeral for readers of the Baltimore Afro-American.

Fewer black recruits joining the Armed Forces

Continues from Page 1
 Iraq war began, only 16% of black soldiers were in combat arms units. This gravitation toward support roles reflects what some potential black enlistees hope to receive from a career in the Army: stable employment with good benefits and the ability to develop skills that can be easily transferred to the civilian sector. Front-line positions, such as those in the infantry, don't provide much in the way of marketable job skills. But the war in Iraq has turned such distinctions on their head. Almost from the outset, enemy fighters concentrated their attacks on rear-guard soldiers, and soldiers in support functions make up many of the more than 1,000 Americans that have been killed there. "There's really no front line/rear echelon anymore," says Charlie Moskos, a Northwestern University sociologist who specializes in military organizations. "Obvi-

ously, the war is one major factor" in the sharp decline in black recruitment, he says.

In a recent discussion with reporters, Gen. Rochelle of the Army's recruiting command says that while a variety of conditions have an effect on enlistment — such as the economy — combat also can have a powerful influence on overall induction rates. "Obviously, there's a war going on and, for some of our prospects, that is a drawback and it will deter them," he says.

If the trend toward a lower share of black recruits continues, however, its effect could be wide-ranging. Black recruits generally deviate from their white counterparts by re-enlisting in greater numbers after their initial tour of duty is over. Though unable to provide current statistics, an Army spokesman says that early-career black soldiers routinely re-enlist at a higher rate than their white counterparts. In 1998, the re-enlistment rate for black male specialists was 82%; the corresponding rate for white specialists was 74%. One of the primary benefits of a volunteer force as opposed to a draft is that increased incentives encour-

age recruits to stick with the Army and make it a career.

Northwestern's Mr. Moskos says one of the main reasons that black recruits stick with the Army is the perception that African-Americans have of it as a relatively color-blind institution that allows minorities opportunities for advancement. Rare is the American institution, Mr. Moskos says, "where whites are routinely bossed around by blacks."

Some say, however, that the perception of the Army as an egalitarian institution may be eroding, again because of the Iraq war. David Segal, a University of Maryland sociology professor, says two recent events connected to the war may have resonated among potential black recruits in a way that wasn't reflected among white enlistees.

The first was a recent bill submitted by Rep. Charles Rangel, a black congressman from New York, which called for a resumption of a universal military draft. Though the bill was killed this week by Congress, it drew extensive attention, as did Mr. Rangel's justification for submitting it. Mr. Rangel says he wanted a draft, in part, because he

wanted to ensure that the offspring of wealthy citizens shared equally in the burden of war. And though Mr. Rangel couched his argument in terms of class, many black Americans equated it to race, Mr. Segal says.

A second event occurred at the beginning of the Iraq war, when Pvt. Jessica Lynch, a white female soldier in an Army maintenance company, was taken hostage by marauding Iraqis. The story of Pvt. Lynch and her eventual rescue by special-forces soldiers was extensively chronicled by the Pentagon and the U.S. media.

Less noticed was the story of Spc. Shoshona Johnson, a black woman, who was in the same maintenance unit as Pvt. Lynch and was also taken hostage and later rescued. Her story got far less attention, and Mr. Segal says he has heard anecdotally that this has fostered resentment in the black community.

Whether the Pentagon was fair in its treatment of the two women is beside the point, Mr. Segal says; the perception is all that matters. "The Department of Defense needed a hero, and it was nice

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"Family Serving Families"

ECU helps Coalition get \$100,000 grant to fight youth substance abuse

GREENVILLE - With the help of East Carolina University's Regional Development Services, a Greenville coalition will receive a \$100,000 grant from the federal government to fight substance abuse among local school-aged children. The Department of Health and Human Services announced the Pitt County Substance Abuse Coalition will receive the grant based on its application, which was coordinated by the ECU Outreach Network (ECUON). The network is a team of ECU faculty, staff and students who work with community organizations to find resources for programs that promote sustainable growth and development in eastern North Carolina. "We're excited to be a part of the process in this grant application," said Dr. Ronald Nowaczyk, associate vice chancellor for Regional Development Services at ECU. "This project is designed to do some great things, and the families in Pitt County will benefit directly from its success." Dr. Jan Tovey, coordinator of the ECU-ON, said the work on the application process showed how students can both get real-world experience and produce high-caliber work for clients. "The opportunity to work with community organizations provides the students with strategies for working in collaboration with others as well as writing grant applications," Tovey said. "The knowledge they gained from this experience will help them in other endeavors. I'm proud of the graduate students and their work for this organization," Tovey added. "They have contributed to their own education, to the university, and to the community." The City of Greenville also was a partner in the grant application. Marvin Davis, assistant city manager, said the grant will help raise the visibility of efforts to educate the community about ways to fight the growth of substance abuse. "It is great to have this partnership with ECU to address a drug problem facing not only our City but the entire country," Davis said. The Coalition, directed by Dr. David Ames, targets its efforts at the more than 25,000 school-aged children in Pitt County, working to build a community in which young people reject tobacco, alcohol and other drugs. The group plans to use the grant funds to enhance the public understanding of substance abuse problems through community events. The coalition plans to have televised discussions and public forums on youth substance abuse and ways to prevent it, information campaigns for the medical community and the public, and activities for youth in the area.

This project is the second large award the ECU-ON has helped to secure for North Carolina. In 2002, the group worked with a local nonprofit organization in Rocky Mount to secure a \$399,950 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Outreach Partnership Centers (COPC) Programs. One result of that work was the creation of the East Carolina University-Central Rocky Mount Partnership, which targeted development efforts in six deteriorating neighborhoods that were in the most urgent need of revitalization. Efforts continue to help these neighborhoods improve access to health care, provide outreach to elderly and Hispanic populations, develop crime prevention training programs and enhance homeownership opportunities. The ECU-ON has helped many communities in eastern North Carolina in a variety of projects, including:

- Census 2000 in Pitt County
- Restoring and preserving historic downtown Tarboro
- Enhancing park facilities and strategic planning for Weldon
- Remodeling an historic building in Belhaven
- Expanding job training and mentoring programs in Pitt County
- Creating a walking trail and water management program in Belhaven. The ECU-ON services are free of charge to eligible community organizations. To qualify for help, an organization must have:
- A project that addresses social, health, environmental or community-based needs
- Private, nonprofit, tax-exempt status
- Insufficient financial or personnel resources for program planning and development.

Decorating Trends

Remodeling Tips

(NAPSA)-It's important, the next time you remodel your kitchen or



bathroom, to protect your investment. These areas of your home are tough

on fixtures and appliances such as cabinets.

The steam of a bathroom and the heat of a kitchen are difficult environments for fixtures and appliances. Cabinet doors are prone to warping as well as scratches and other damage.

Home improvement experts suggest installing products made specifically to stand up to the hard wear and tear kitchens and baths get. For instance, you'll find many fixtures and appliances protected with a powder coated finish. This innovative finish is tough against corrosion and protects items against chipping, scratching and moisture deterioration, and comes in a variety of colors and finishes for a decorative touch.

For more information visit www.powdercoating.org. Make sure kitchen and bathroom cabinets are scratch-resistant.

HEALTH AWARENESS Treatment Offers New Hope For Millions With Alcohol Dependence

(NAPSA)-New medicines in development may offer hope to 18 million Americans who believe they are dependent on or abuse alcohol. For years, treatment options for alcoholism have been limited, but new medicines that curb cravings may help people reduce or stop drinking and regain control of their lives.

"Many people don't realize that alcoholism is a chronic disease much like diabetes or depression," said David Gastfriend, M.D., associate professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. "Like other people with a chronic disease, alcoholics get better when their disease is appropriately managed-in this case, with a combination of psychotherapy and medicine."

Alcoholism results in a broad range of health issues, including disease conditions such as liver problems, severe gastrointestinal disorders and pancreatitis; as well as public health consequences such as auto accidents, violence and a negative affect on family well-being. Symptoms of alcohol dependence include increased tolerance or needing to drink more frequently, withdrawal or ex-

periencing physical symptoms, being unable to reduce or control alcohol use even when you want to and spending time drinking instead of doing other important activities.

Each year, 2.3 million alcohol-dependent people seek treatment. The most common forms of treatment are self-help groups, cognitive therapy and the use of medicines to treat withdrawal symptoms, manage cravings and reduce alcohol's pleasurable effects. Combining medicine with therapy is now becoming more common in treating alcohol problems. New medicines for alcoholism with convenient once-monthly dosing are on the horizon. That may increase compliance with therapy.

National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month was created to recognize the successes of those in recovery and encourage those who are not in treatment to seek help. To read inspiring stories about recovery, learn more about treatment options or if you think you may be an alcoholic, visit www.recoverymonth.gov.



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Ballroom Dancing (Beginning) Level 1	10/4/04	11/8/04	M	6:30p-9:00p	Cherry Oaks	\$60 (AP)	12
Marine Captain's License Preparation (Six Pac)	10/4/04	12/16/04	M TH	6:30p-9:00p	Campus-TBA	\$65 (OE)	60
Aviation Ground School for Pilots	10/5/04	12/2/04	M TH	7p-9:00pm	MW 101	\$65 (OE)	32
PCC/CTA CDL Permit Training	09/13/04	09/24/04 (2 nd week)	M-F M-TH	8:00am-5:00pm 8:00am-7:00pm	GHL 126	\$65	80
MS Excel 2 Day Workshop	10/1/04	10/8/04	F	8am-1pm	RR 124	\$55	10
Creating Web Pages	10/4/04	11/3/04	M W	9-12noon	GHL 123	\$60	30
Creating A Home Network	10/5/04	11/4/04	T TH	9-12noon	RR 124	\$60	30
Microsoft FrontPage	10/12/04	11/1/04	T TH	9-12noon	GHL 123	\$60	30
Intermediate MS Word	10/18/04	11/8/04	M W	6-9pm	RR 124	\$60	21
MS Word 2 Day Workshop	10/22/04	10/29/04	F	8am-1pm	RR 124	\$55	10
Introduction to Digital Photography	10/26/04	11/30/04	T TH	6-9pm	RR 124	\$60	30
Introduction to Computers	11/2/04	12/7/04	T TH	6-9pm	RR 113	\$60	30
MS Publisher	11/3/04	12/8/04	M W	9-12noon	RR 113	\$60	30
MS PowerPoint 2 Day Workshop	11/5/04	11/12/04	F	8am-1pm	RR 124	\$55	10
Learn to Buy and Sell on eBay	11/9/04	12/14/04	T TH	9-12noon	RR 113	\$60	30
Introduction to Computers	11/10/04	12/13/04	M W	9-12noon	GHL 123	\$60	30
Basic Computer Maintenance, Repair and Upgrades	11/11/04	12/16/04	T TH	9-12noon	RR 124	\$60	30
Intermediate MS Excel	11/15/04	12/1/04	M W	6-9pm	RR 124	\$60	21
How to Use Windows XP	11/22/04	12/15/04	M W	9-12noon	RR 124	\$60	24

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