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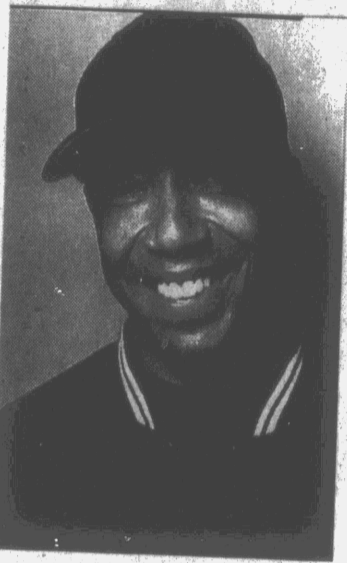


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 Vol. 17 Issue 13 - October 16 - 31, 2004

**Hip Hop's Father...**

**Russell Simmons keynotes Fall Cluster and get out the vote forum**

**DURHAM, N.C.** — Russell Simmons, the founder of Def Jam Records and an advocate for youth voting, is scheduled to visit North Carolina Central University Thursday, October 28, 2004, to talk with students about financial literacy and the importance of youth voting.



During the NCCU Business and Industry Cluster meeting, Simmons will serve as a panelist for a session on Student Financial Literacy and keynote the Cluster luncheon. Later in the day, Simmons will speak to students during a "Get Out to Vote" forum at 1:45 p.m. that will be open to the general public in McLendon-McDougal Gymnasium. The NCCU Lyceum Committee is sponsoring his visit.

Russell Simmons has been instrumental in bringing Hip-Hop to every facet of business and media since its inception in the late 1970s. In music, he developed the immensely successful Def Jam Recordings. In the film industry, he has had success with Simmons Lathan Media Group and in television, with HBO's "The Def Comedy Jam" and "Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry."

His success also extends to Broadway with the Tony Award winning stage production of "Russell Simmons Def Poetry Jam on Broadway" and in the fashion industry with the red-hot Phat Farm, Baby Phat, Run Athletics, and Def Jam University clothing lines. In the financial services industry, Simmons has created the RushCard and Baby Phat RushCard. He has a beverage business, Russell Simmons Beverage Company that promotes the Def Con 3 healthy energy drink; and the Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation and the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network.

The 47-year-old Russell Simmons is a native New Yorker who attended City College of New York. His interests extend far beyond the business world, and he spends a great deal of his time and considerable energy working for social, political, and philanthropic causes, and pushing hip-hop on to new plateaus of power and relevance. In 1995 he, along with his brothers Danny and Joseph Simmons (Rev. Run of Run DMC), founded Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation. The organization is dedicated to providing disadvantaged urban youth with significant exposure and access to the arts, as well as offering exhibition opportunities to underrepresented artists and artists of color.

Following the historic Hip-Hop Summit Russell organized in June 2001, he founded the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network (HSAN) to harness the cultural relevance of hip-hop music as a catalyst for education advocacy and other societal concerns fundamental to the well being of at-risk youth throughout the United States.

Among HSAN's major initiatives is Hip-Hop Team Vote, a 50-city grassroots force that worked throughout 2Q04 to register and mobilize young voters across the country. Russell and his ventures are driven by a personal and corporate belief that hip-hop is an enormously influential agent for social change, which must be responsibly and proactively utilized to fight the war on poverty and ignorance.

Russell and his wife Kimora Lee have two daughters, Ming Lee and Aoki Lee.

**Radio Personality Tom Joyner and artist Ernie Barnes to co-host NCCU Fundraiser See Page 7**

**NYC Judge keynote speaker will focus on domestic violence at DVUCRC**

**GREENVILLE, NC** - On October 30, 2004 the public is invited to come out to the grand opening celebration of the new Domestic Violence Unified Community Resource Center, Inc. of Eastern North Carolina located at 400 Watagua Avenue here in Greenville, NC, where the Honorable Elect Judge Evelyn J. LaPorte of New York City will be the keynote speaker. She will be talking on such issues as domestic violence in communities and in families.



**Judge-Elect Evelyn J. LaPorte**

Judge LaPorte was born and raised in Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico. In 1973, Evelyn came to New York City to pursue her legal career. In 1974, with limited skills in the English language, Evelyn enrolled in college to complete her education. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in 1979. In 1981, she received a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice from the same college. In 1986 Evelyn received a Juris Doctor Degree from the Antioch School of Law in Washington, D.C. and upon her graduation from Law School, Evelyn returned to New York City and began her many years of public service. Evelyn has worked in the New York City and State court systems. She has gained a wide range of experience working in civil court, by initiating civil lawsuits under the Nuisance Abatement Law of the New York City Administrative Code, obtaining permanent injunctions and civil penalties against owners and operators of premises using such premises, as storefronts for drug violations. In housing court handling residential non-payment holdover and licensee trials, and in family court

conducting hearings on neglected and abused children. Evelyn also has experience in handling administrative hearings for social security and medicare benefits. As an Assistant District Attorney for approximately twelve years, Evelyn has conducted numerous suppression hearings, grand jury presentations and has prosecuted high profile cases. Evelyn has prosecuted numerous felonies and misdemeanor cases in particular cases of sexual abuse and domestic violence. The prosecution of sex abuse and domestic violence cases do not involve the typical prosecution of criminal cases, because of the victim and perpetrator's relationship, the victims often do not wish to press charges. Evelyn has successfully prosecuted both types of cases where the victim has cooperated with the prosecution and based prosecution cases where the victim did not cooperate. Regularly, Evelyn speaks on domestic violence and sex abuse issues at police precincts, senior citizen centers, churches, hospitals, high schools, universities and community organizations, to mention only a few. She is also a frequent speaker at conferences, workshops and seminars. Evelyn participates in street fairs, health fairs, block parties and concerts educating the community on issues of domestic violence and child abuse. Additionally, she is involved in training law enforcement personnel and service providers on issues of domestic violence such as: what is domestic violence, prosecution of criminal cases, criminal court orders of protection, family court orders of protection, etc.

The opening celebration will commence with a breakfast feast from 8:30 to 10:30 at the Golden Corral Restaurant located at 504 SW Greenville Boulevard. Later, starting at 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. the Center will be sponsoring a delightful fun filled day in the parking lot of Selvia Chapel Church. Some of the activities planned for the day will be pony rides, face painting, performances by different step teams, and singing groups. There will also be vendors on location.

LaPorte has been a resident of Brooklyn-Fort Greene for the past 18 years and has worked in Brooklyn a great number of those years. Brooklyn, is Evelyn's home and she is very proud to be part of this great community. Evelyn is hard working, dedicated and committed to public service.

For a complete itinerary, refer to the ad on page 12.

**Seating up to 1,000 people Cornerstone Missionary's New Family Life Center Opens To The Public . . .**



**GREENVILLE, NC** - Recently the Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church dedicates \$3.5 million dollar Family Life and Community Center. The 33,000 square foot facility located at the corners of Stantonsburg and Allen Roads in Greenville is built to provide for the physical, mental and spiritual development of individual families and the broader community.

Pastor Sidney A. Locks, Jr. advises that non-profit organizations as well as for-profit organizations are invited to use the high-school sized gymnasium, which seats 1000 and converts into an auditorium. There are banquet facilities, small meeting room, a bookstore, commercial kitchen and an executive board room available for community use at most reasonable costs.

This facility is being booked for religious convocations, family reunions, large birthday parties, music concerts and other public and private gatherings.

**Iraq: Bush war policies spur rebel activity say 500 national security expert**

**WASHINGTON (IPS/GIN)** - The Bush administration's failure to accept advice on Iraq from its military and foreign service officers has led to policies that have fuelled the insurgency against U.S.-led forces in the occupied nation, says a letter signed by some 500 national security specialists.

Released Oct 12 by a group called Security Scholars for a Sensible Foreign Policy (S3FP), the letter calls the 2003 invasion and subsequent occupation of Iraq the United States, "most misguided" policy since the Vietnam War.

"The results of this policy have been overwhelmingly negative for U.S. interests," according to the group, which called for a "fundamental reassessment" in both the U.S. strategy in Iraq and its implementation. "We're advising the administration,

which is already in a deep hole, to stop digging," said Barry Posen, the Ford international professor of political science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), one of the organizers of S3FP, which includes some of the most eminent U.S. experts on national security policy and on the Middle East and the Arab world.

Among the signers are six of the last seven presidents of the American Political Science Association (APSA) and professors who teach in more than 150 colleges and universities in 40 states.

Besides Prof. Posen, the main organizers included Stanley Kaufman of the University of Delaware; Michael Brown, director of Security Studies at Georgetown University; Michael Desch, who holds the Robert M. Gates Chair in Intelligence and National Security Decision-Making at the Bush School of Government at Texas A&M University; and Jessica Stern, at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, who also served in a senior counter-terrorism post in the National Security Council during the former Clinton administration.

**Platoon Said 'No...'**

By Edgar Brookins  
 Shockwaves reverberated throughout Iraq when word filtered out that a platoon had refused orders to transport fuel to the battlefield.

It was reported on Oct. 13 that 19 soldiers from the 343rd Army Reserve Quartermaster Co., based in Rock Hill, S.C., refused to make a 7 a.m. formation to prepare for a convoy several hours later, according to a military statement. Their orders were to transport fuel to Taji, Iraq, but, according to published reports, the soldiers said they didn't want to "deliver tainted helicopter fuel in poorly maintained vehicles traveling a dangerous supply route without an armed escort."

The army has launched an investigation into the incident, which was first reported by the Clarion-Ledger newspaper in Jackson, Miss. Relatives of soldiers assigned to the fuel platoon received calls from the soldiers reporting that their refusal of the convoy assignment was based in part on the poor condition of their vehicles.

An Army spokesman said that the commanding general of the 13th Corps Support Command has appointed an officer to look into the incident. The spokesman said recommendations about the readiness/maintenance status of the vehicles would be made, and they would also determine if any acts of misconduct occurred on the part of the soldiers in their failure to comply with the assigned mission. If so, appropriate disciplinary action and proceedings would be initiated under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.) has submitted inquiries to the Department of Defense and the U.S. Army about the incident. Several soldiers from his congressional district are members of the fuel platoon, including Sgt. Larry McCook and Sgt. William Butler. In a press statement, Thompson said: "Of even a greater concern is the question whether the [Bush] administration is neglecting our servicemen and servicewomen serving overseas."

A full report of the investigation is expected in the coming weeks.

**US Wealth Gap Grows For Ethnic Minorities**

By Suzanne Goldenberg  
 Guardian Correspondent  
**WASHINGTON, DC** - The wealth gap between white households and Hispanic and African-American families in the US has widened significantly, with the last recession inflicting a heavy toll on minority households, a new study said yesterday.

An analysis of US census data by the Pew Hispanic Centre revealed that the 2001 economic downturn deepened a legacy of economic discrimination, with Hispanics and African-Americans harder hit and taking longer to recover.

By 2002, that produced a further deterioration of the economic divide, where minorities own only a fraction of the wealth enjoyed by whites. The median net worth of white households was \$88,651, or 11 times greater than Hispanic families (\$7,932) and 14 times greater than African-American families (\$5,988).

"We have always known about the wealth gap, but what is new and disturbing is that the gaps are increasing," said Roderick Harrison, a demographer at the Joint Centre for Political and Economic Studies. "What you are seeing here are the historic disadvantages of black and Hispanic populations from generations ago being carried over."

The Pew study focuses on the damage caused to Hispanic and African-American aspirations during an economic downturn. Between 1999 and 2001, rising unemployment reduced the net worth of Hispanics and African Americans by 27%. That left minority families without a financial cushion, and far more vulnerable to economic reversals than white households.

"Many of them are living on the edge and more than one quarter have zero or negative wealth," said Rakesh Kochhar, author of the report. "They don't have the cushion, and that makes recovery harder." Mr Harrison argues that minority families are also the last to benefit from times of economic expansion.

Employers are more likely to hire whites, and whites also move more quickly to take advantage of a buoyant stock market. That intensifies the effects of a 30% wage gap between white and minority workers, making it that much more difficult for Hispanics and African-Americans to overcome traditional disadvantage. Crucially, minority families are far less likely to own their own homes - in white households, ownership rates are 74%. Instead, a legacy of discrimination and other barriers have conspired to help keep African-American and Hispanic families as renters. Home ownership rates among both groups is at 47%. Some families cannot even aspire to home ownership; more than a quarter of black and Hispanic households own no assets beyond a car.

A young white couple might have the advantage of inheritance, their parents may give them a down payment for house, or the bank will look on them more kindly, but a young black family doesn't have that. It is just a little harder to enter the mainstream, and home ownership is the key," Mr Kochhar said. The Hispanic population has also been concentrated in areas with high housing costs, like New York City and Los Angeles, making it more difficult to get on the property ladder. But the report suggests the outlook for the Hispanic population could brighten, as the immigrant community puts down roots in America. A younger generation of Hispanics is becoming better educated and moving into better paying jobs; the community is also dispersing to other towns around the country, where housing is

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much of their critique echoes arguments voiced by Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry who, in recent weeks, has pounded away at alleged failures in the way Pres. Bush has prosecuted the "war on terrorism," particularly with respect to Iraq.

Their critique mirrors an unprecedented statement released by 27 retired (op-ranking foreign service and military officials in June, many of whom said they had voted for Pres. Bush in the 2000 election. The 27, called "Diplomats for Change," accused the administration of leading the country "into an ill-planned and costly war from which exit is uncertain." As their name suggested, they called for Pres. Bush to be defeated in 2004.

As a result, Iraqi popular dismay at the lack of security, jobs or reliable electric power fuels much of the violent opposition to the U.S. military presence, while the war itself has drawn in terrorists from outside Iraq. While Saddam Hussein's removal was "desirable," according to the scholars, the actual benefit to the United States was "small," particularly because Iraq posed far less of a threat to the United States or its allies than the administration had asserted.

# Minority Voice OP

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

## Jim Crow Revival

by Jesse Jackson

Aaron McGruder's Boondocks got it right. A recent cartoon strip showed Donald Rumsfeld talking about how an "election in only three-fourths or four-fifths of the reason" would be "better than not having an election at all." "And now," Rumsfeld says, "I'd like to switch gears and talk about Iraq."

In the United States, we are less than two weeks away from the election and already it is clear that strenuous efforts are being made to intimidate, impede and obstruct the vote of minorities, particularly African Americans. If the intimidators have their way, we'll have a vote in which as much as a fourth of the country's citizens will have to overcome barriers in order to vote. Iraq will have nothing on us.

Voter suppression has been a technique used by both parties. But today, the Republican Party, which built its majority by becoming a whites-only party across the South, has a particular stake in suppressing the minority vote. Republicans know that if African Americans and Latinos vote in large numbers, their race-bait politics becomes a liability, not strength. So they are unleashing the modern version of Jim Crow voter suppression techniques. Consider the following:

In Florida—yes Florida once more—Governor Jeb Bush and his partisan election commissioner tried to enforce a biased list of fel-

ons to exclude voters, including thousands of African Americans who weren't felons while having virtually no Cuban Americans on the list. (They tend to vote Republican). Bush has also insisted on using voting machines that have no paper record, and are easily manipulated. Former president Jimmy Carter said he could not serve as an election observer in Florida because the Governor's system failed to meet minimal international standards for free elections. The Civil Rights Commission reported that in 2000, Black voters in Florida were 10 times more likely than non-Black voters to have their ballots rejected and were often prevented from voting because their names were erroneously purged from registration lists.

In the rawing state of Michigan this summer, Republican state Rep. John Pappageorge was quoted in the Detroit Free Press as saying, "If we do not suppress the Detroit vote, we're going to have a tough time in this election." African Americans comprise 83 percent of Detroit's population.

In the critical state of Ohio, the Republican election official, facing a record wave of voter registration in minority communities, ruled that no registrations would be accepted if not printed 09 thick, 80-pound stock paper. Registrars now have a backlog of thousands in trying to mail new registration forms

to those already registered before the file deadline.

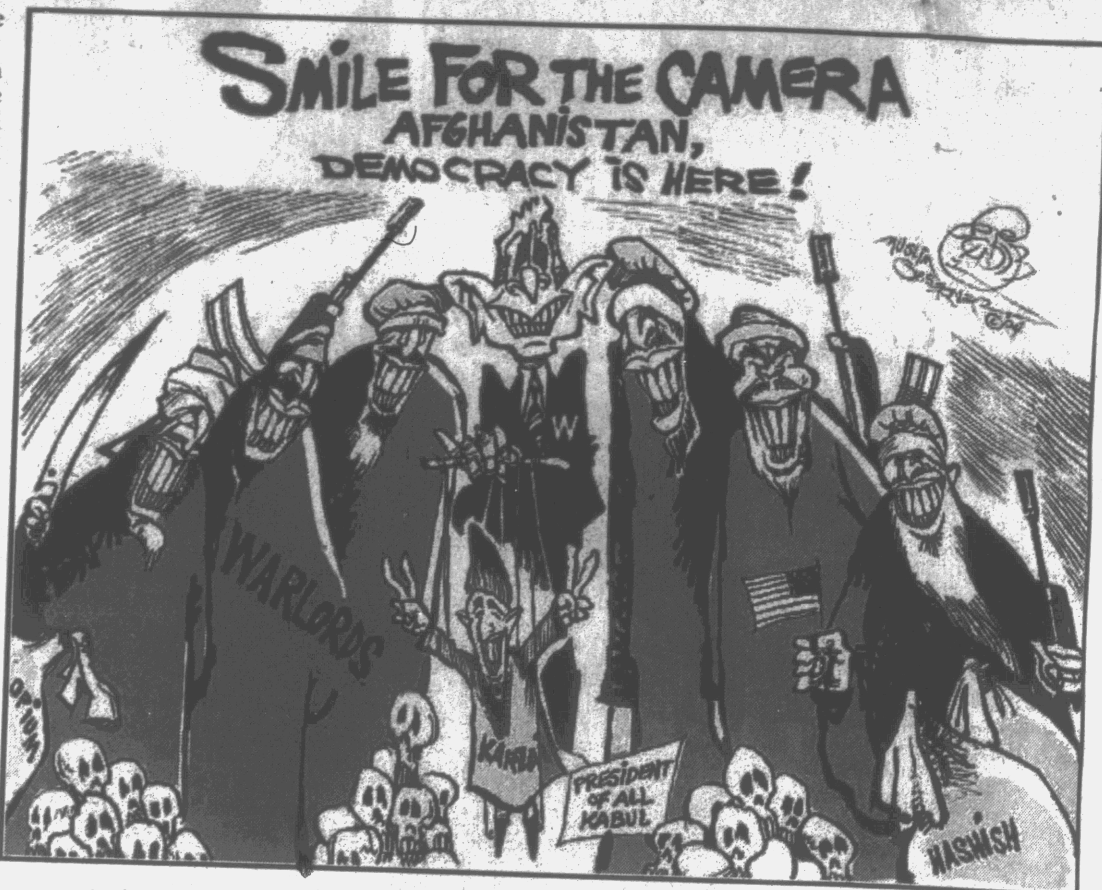
In hotly contested South Dakota's June 2004 primary, Native American voters were prevented from voting when they couldn't provide photo IDs, which they were not required to present under state or federal law.

In Kentucky this July, even Black Republican officials objected to their State GOP party chairman's plans to place "vote challengers" in African-American precincts during the cothing elections.

In 2003 in Philadelphia, voters in African American areas were systematically challenged by men carrying clipboards, driving a fleet of some 300 sedans with magnetic signs designed to look like law enforcement insignia.

In elections in Baltimore in 2002 and in Georgia last year, Black voters were sent fliers saying anyone who hadn't paid utility bills or had outstanding parking tickets or were behind on their rent would be arrested at polling stations.

In majority Black colleges across the South, students are too often told erroneously that they can't vote where they go to school. Registrars refuse to set up registration and voting booths on campus, hoping to discourage student turnout. Earlier this year in Waller County, Texas, a local district attorney told students at a majority Black college that they were not eligible to vote in the county where the school is located—the same county where 26 years earlier, a federal court order



was required to prevent discrimination against the students.

The Justice Department should be aggressively investigating these outrages under the Voting Rights Act. But Attorney General John Ashcroft is a rabid right-wing Republican partisan who is no stranger to voter suppression. As

Governor of Missouri, he vetoed two efforts to correct biased registration provisions between St. Louis County (then mostly white) and St. Louis City (half African American).

The Kerry campaign and outside groups are organizing voter protection efforts and batteries of lawyers to help those who have their

right to vote challenged. But Jim Crow tactics only get reversed when their victims organize and move together. We need a new movement for voting rights in this country. Those who seek to tamper with this basic right are unfit for office. SOURCE: The Los Angeles Sentinel

## Could Clarence Thomas Be the Next Chief Justice Under Bush II

It was a bold move even by Capitol Hill standards; the Republican led House of Representatives voted on October 5 to break up the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. In a 205-194 vote, the GOP orchestrated a vote to split the more progressive federal circuit as part of a larger measure to create 58 new federal judgeships. The bill calls for separating California and Hawaii into a separate circuit. The seven other states that make up the 9th Circuit would be split into two new jurisdictions: one to hear appeals from Arizona, Idaho, Montana and Nevada; and a second for cases coming out of Alaska, Oregon, and Washington.

The 9th Circuit has been a consistent target of conservatives, angered over the court's more liberal orientation. Most recently GOP activists were angered when the court declared the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional when recited in public schools due to the phrase "one nation under God." Many Republicans claimed the House bill was simply an effort to ease a growing court caseload due to the circuit's growing population. It was clear, however, that ideological differences was what was driving supporters of the bill.

Though the bill was opposed by California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and a majority of the sitting judges on the 9th Circuit, the simple fact that it was put up for a vote, and passed, demonstrated the degree to which control of the federal judiciary is a critical issue in the presidential election. The fact that such a blatantly political maneuver was orchestrated suggests that filling vacan-

cies on the federal bench will be an extremely contentious process in the 109th Congress under the next president. There are currently 28 vacancies and 21 nominations pending for seats on the federal bench.

Supreme Court and the Shadow of Florida

With the presidential election just about a week away, attention is once again turning toward the United States Supreme Court as its role in determining the outcome of the 2000 election is still in dispute. Judging by the number of states that are already confronting voting issues, the introduction of electronic voting in some states, and what appears to be another meltdown in Florida, the nine justices of the high Court may once again be at the center of determining the occupant of the next White House.

For Black voters in particular it is a potential outcome that would only further undermine confidence in the democratic process. While there is legitimate reason to hold the Gore campaign in contempt for its feeble defense of Black voting rights after the 2000 vote tally, the manner in which the Court intervened confirmed the suspicions of many Blacks that the federal judiciary had become hostile territory. That opinion is still held by many Blacks despite the Supreme Court's split ruling on affirmative action in the University of Michigan cases.

And while Florida casts a large shadow over the Court, the composition of the nation's highest court is at stake in the election. Presently, as con-

structed, the Supreme Court is precariously balanced by the unpredictable posture of Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. All but two of the sitting justices were appointed by Republican presidents; with Justice Ginsburg and Justice Breyer appointed by President Clinton. Three members of the Court, Chief Justice Rehnquist, Justice O'Connor and Justice John Paul Stevens could conceivably retire during the next presidential term. If O'Connor steps down the balance of the Court will be at stake. Should Chief Justice Rehnquist call it quits the next president will have the opportunity to appoint the next head of the Court. That could mean, if President Bush is elected, the elevation of either Justice Scalia or Justice Thomas, to the position of Chief Justice. The president has repeatedly pointed out the two judges, the Court's two most conservative jurists, as role models for the individuals he would prefer on the bench. Both men have been vociferous opponents of affirmative action.

The appointment of Thomas to head the court would be a masterstroke for President Bush in a second term. By neutralizing the issue of race in Thomas' initial appointment to the Court, Republicans set up the possibility for the Black conservative to eventually serve as Chief Justice. As the youngest member on the bench, Thomas presents conservative Republicans with the opportunity to put someone at the helm of the court who could conceivably be there for close to two decades. It would also allow Mr. Bush to gain credit for appointing a Black

to the ultimate judicial post while denying that race played a role in the selection. It would also put many Blacks in the awkward, albeit not altogether difficult, position of opposing the nomination of the first African American Chief Justice.

Issues at Stake: Affirmative Action, Civil Liberties, and Voting Rights

The Supreme Court term under a second Bush administration could pose some serious challenges to the maintenance of policies affording Blacks opportunity. The near-death experience of the University of Michigan affirmative action cases, suggests a reconstituted bench during a Bush second term might be more likely to put a nail in the coffin of programs designed to level the playing field. This scenario could particularly prove true if Justice O'Connor were to leave the bench and be replaced by a conservative jurist.

Equally of concern are cases involving abuses of civil liberties in the new anti-terrorism environment. President Bush's calls for the extension of the USA Patriot Act is raising concerns among civil rights advocates who fear certain provisions of the controversial law encroach upon the rights of Americans. The courts have given the administration some leeway in the implementation of the Patriot Act but concerns remain that its use far exceeds its stated purpose of combating terrorism, and ventures into creating a police state in the nation. Should Mr. Bush win, and he has the opportunity to further shape the federal judiciary, it could become more difficult to challenge

a Patriot Act II, if enacted by Congress.

Continued issues revolving around voting rights makes the composition of the judiciary under the next president critical. The Florida debacle in 2000, and in other states such as Illinois, revealed the vulnerability of the nation's election infrastructure. The disputed vote count exposed the many ways in which the ballot can be invalidated, and the degree to which Black and Latino voters are disfranchised. The onset of electronic voting in many states could send many elections to the courts for resolution. A more conservative judiciary might be less enthusiastic in the enforcement of the Voting Rights Act, in areas of voter protection and legislative redistricting.

The Appointments Process: Expect an All-Out Battle

The election of the next president is certainly critical to the issue of the composition of the federal judiciary but equally important is the question of the Senate majority in the 109th Congress. As the house of Congress that vets judicial appointments, the control of the Senate will drive the type of judges appointed to sit on the federal bench. Either political party is expected to have a paper-thin majority on the Court; should Republicans maintain control and President Bush is reelected, the appointment of so-called "strict constructionists" to the bench should be expected. These are judges who hold a very narrow and conservative view of the Constitution, and would most likely rule against cases that expand social opportunity—including voting rights, affirmative action, and gay rights—while restricting rights in

many instances.

The control of Congress will drive the composition of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the panel that approves presidential judicial appointments. In recent years the path of court nominees has more resembled a tawdry wrestling match, akin to the type on television featuring grown men in outlandish outfits, than a legislative process. This has particularly been the case when Republicans have controlled the White House and the sitting president put forth nominees to the right of the political spectrum. President Reagan's unsuccessful attempt to elevate Judge Robert Bork to the Supreme Court set off a nasty and divisive partisan battle on Capitol Hill that set the stage for the fight over Clarence Thomas under the current president's father.

If Democrats can capture the Senate they will have an opportunity to use the Judiciary Committee to prevent the most conservative judges from being approved. Should the GOP stay in control, conservative judicial nominations will probably make their way to the Senate floor and Democrats will be forced to use legislative maneuvers to prevent their approval. However, Democrats have their own internal struggle keeping "Blue Dog" conservative Democratic lawmakers, mainly from southern states, from jumping ship and voting with the Republican Party. That was the case with the vote on the appointment of Justice Clarence Thomas to the Court as Democratic senators cast favorable votes for President George H.W. Bush's appointee.

## Is NC State Government Vulnerable?

are excellent steps for dealing with an incident -AFTER the fact, but what are we doing to prevent an incident -BEFORE the fact?

NC Government has a vulnerability that is not being addressed. Because our state government, including Departments of Revenue, Motor Vehicles, Insurance, and Education, is centralized in Raleigh, we are wide-open for major problems should there be a terrorist "dirty bomb", a biological microbe release, or a nuclear incident at Sharon Harris Nuclear Plant. Many state offices would not be able to be staffed, due to casualties and fear of employees to report to work. In addition to the human toll of such an attack, there would be a long term, crippling disruption of government services and functions that include health, education, safety, and commerce. One answer: Disperse our government offices from the mountains to the coast. As a military commander would spread out his or her troops and equipment

to avoid massive injury, North Carolina should adopt a survival mentality in its planning. The 9/11 Commission report, released in early August, suggested the Number 1 problem was "lack of imagination" - not realizing that a terrorist attack was possible. We need to imagine BEFORE the attack, not AFTER.

The necessity of dispersing government can also be used to the state's advantage. How? DOT personnel who handle automobile titles could be located in two locations outside Raleigh, same for the treasury personnel, who handle tax returns. State personnel offices in every branch of state government, who are deemed vital to continuation of services, would be relocated in counties with high unemployment and low per capita income. Offices should be relocated in downtown areas in leased buildings. Reallocation of jobs would give depressed downtown areas economic activity and help the tax base of those poorer coun-

ties, thus increasing income revenues for education, etc., and decreasing the amounts of funds the state has to supplement.

An advantage for Raleigh? Yes, through property taxes, that the state does not currently pay, Raleigh could gain from private ownership of these properties. The state should be able to release itself of properties generating one time monies, and Raleigh would acquire revenue-productive properties.

The state would not have to appropriate some of the monies for maintenance properties, as dispersed government offices will be leased. Landlords will be responsible for the infrastructure of those buildings.

Would this course of action solve all problems? No - however, this plan seems to be prudent, which will help on many different levels by alleviating several problems at the same time. One or two thousand jobs in the right locations would make a huge dent in the poverty levels of many NC counties. Winston Churchill tried to warn the

British government in the 1930s of the potential danger of inaction in the face of a rising storm in Germany. It would be wise for NC government to consider the consequences of inaction now. It would be incumbent of citizens to ask their Chamber of Commerce, politicians (mayors, county and city commissioners, State Representative and Senators, and candidates) what is their position of decentralizing state government? Have you thought about consequences of no plan? In the realm of imagination, these are valid, serious, pertinent questions to ask, given the world we live in today. In this writer's opinion, the clock is ticking. Will North Carolina be ready if the fire bell rings? I hope so.

Jerry Williford  
Oxford, NC  
Mr Williford is a career Transportation Specialist and a recent candidate for the US House of Representative, District 8

"This was a very well known site. If you could have picked a few sites that you would have to secure then ... Al Qaeda would certainly be one of the main ones," the diplomat said.

U.S. national security adviser Condoleezza Rice was informed about the missing explosives only within the last month, the Times said, adding that it was unclear whether U.S. President George W. Bush was aware.

U.S. administration officials said on Sunday the Iraq Survey Group, the Central Intelligence Agency task force that searched for unconventional weapons, had been ordered to investigate the disappearance, the newspaper said.

Vienna diplomats said the IAEA had cautioned the United States about the danger of the explosives before the war, and after the invasion it specifically told U.S. officials about the need to keep them secured.



Dear Editor:  
Is North Carolina ready for a catastrophic event related to a terrorist attack upon state government? Lately, we have seen plans for medical evacuations for mass casualties and hospitals computerizing coordination of disease and clinical information (for possible biological attacks). These

## Tons of explosives missing from Iraq

By Louis Charbonneau  
VIENNA (Reuters) - Nearly 380 tons of explosives are missing from a site near Baghdad that was part of Saddam Hussein's dismantled atom bomb programme but was never secured by the U.S. military, the United Nations says.

The head of the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog, Mohamed ElBaradei, will immediately report the matter to the U.N. Security Council, a spokeswoman for the agency said on Monday.

The missing explosives could potentially be used to detonate a nuclear weapon or in conventional weapons, the agency said.

"ElBaradei has decided to inform the Security Council today," spokeswoman Melissa Fleming said.

The New York Times, which broke

the story on Monday, said U.S. weapons experts feared the explosives could be used in bombing attacks against U.S. or Iraqi forces, which have come under increasing fire ahead of Iraq's elections due in January.

The U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been barred from most of Iraq since the war and has watched from afar as its former nuclear sites have been systematically stripped by looters.

Fleming said ElBaradei informed Washington of the seriousness of the matter on October 15 after learning about the disappearance of the explosives on October 10.

One substance found in large quantities at the Al Qaeda facility was the explosive HMX, which Fleming said had a potential use in a nuclear explosive

device as a detonator.

Prior to the March 2003 invasion of Iraq, the HMX had been sealed and tagged with the IAEA emblem while being stored at Al Qaeda.

Iraq was permitted to keep some of its explosives for mining purposes after the IAEA completed its dismantling of Saddam's covert nuclear weapons programme after the 1991 Gulf war.

Fleming said HMX also had civilian and conventional military applications. In the months prior to the second Gulf war, the IAEA was certain that none of the dual-use materials were being used in a nuclear weapons programme.

Diplomats at the IAEA have warned that materials useable in nuclear weapons could easily be shipped out of Iraq and sold to countries like Iran or

terrorist groups believed to be interested in acquiring nuclear weapons.

U.S. FAILED TO SECURE KNOWN NUCLEAR SITE

The New York Times report cited White House and Pentagon officials — as well as at least one Iraqi minister — as acknowledging that the explosives vanished from the site shortly after the U.S.-led invasion amid widespread looting.

The minister of science and technology, Rashad M. Omar, confirmed the explosives were missing in an interview with The Times and CBS Television in Baghdad.

A Western diplomat close to the IAEA, who declined to be named, said it was difficult to understand why the U.S. military had failed to secure the facility despite knowing how sensitive the site was.

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Managing Editor  
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P.O. Box 8361  
Greenville, NC 27835  
Phone: (252) 757-0365  
Fax: (252) 757-1793

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# Minority Voice OP/ED

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

## COMMENTARY: Bush is Expected to Continue Rightward Drift

by George E. Curry and Hazel Trice Edney

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Having won re-election with little Black political support, President George W. Bush is expected to appoint three or four Right-wing judges to the Supreme Court, a move virtually guaranteed to eventually end the use of affirmative action programs in public institutions, and preside over a second term that will be characterized by cuts in domestic programs to offset the \$1.9 trillion tax cuts over the next decade and a \$422 billion deficit from his first term, political experts and activists predict.

"He won't have any reason to do anything for Black people," explains Ron Walters, a political scientist at the University of Maryland. "There was a massive Black vote against him. However, second terms are interesting because they (incumbents) don't face any competition. He doesn't really have to play games in order to get re-elected, so it's conceivable that he might, although I don't expect that we would, go as far as trying to make any common cause with any centrist parts of the Black community."

Former Democratic presidential candidate Al Sharpton doesn't think there is a remote likelihood of Bush moving beyond his tight circle of conservative advisers.

"Let's all head to the airport and get out of the country," Sharpton says, facetiously. "I think we are in for some serious times. He will appoint judges to the Supreme Court that I think will try to erode some of the gains we made under the Civil Rights Movement and he clearly will have economic policies that will reward the rich. If there ever was a time that we had to gear up activism and put pressure on Congress like we've never done before, now is the time."

In an all-night electoral vote cliffhanger, Bush edged Democratic challenger John Kerry in Ohio, gaining enough votes to clinch his re-election.

Despite a Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies poll purportedly

showing George Bush enjoying 18 percent support Among African-Americans and Republican Party Chairman Ed Gillespie's goal of getting 25 percent of the Black vote, exit polls showed that Bush received approximately 10 percent of the Black vote, up only 1 percent from four years ago.

If Bush's first term is any indication, with Republicans controlling every branch of government - executive, legislative and judicial - Bush will leave more of a conservative legacy than Ronald Reagan's eight years in the White House during the 1980s.

Nowhere will that be more evident than on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Bush is expected to fill three or four vacancies on the United States Supreme Court. Of the nine justices, only Clarence Thomas, 56, is younger than 65 years old. Speculation about possible retirements from the court has focused on Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, 80, who has been treated for thyroid cancer, and Justices John Paul Stevens, 84, and Sandra Day O'Connor, 74.

Seven of the nine justices were appointed by Republican presidents and most civil rights victories, such as last year's University of Michigan law school affirmative action case, have been decided by 5 to 4 votes, with Justice O'Connor usually being the swing vote. Bush has pledged to appoint judges in the mold of Clarence Thomas and Antonin Scalia, two of the most conservative members of a conservative court. Because federal judges are given life-long appointments, the court can rebuff progressive initiatives for another half-century.

"Expect more Right-wing hostility toward civil rights and social justice," warns Jesse Jackson, who ran for president twice in the 1980s. "Expect more attempts to buy our leadership. We must resist at every level attempts to stack the courts with Right-wing judges, when they seek to use FCC rulings to monopolize the media, when they seek to make court decisions against our inter-

ests. We must be more vigilant, more determined and more resistant than ever. This will be a difficult period, but we still have resourceful people. We have a lot to fight back with."

Progressives will need that and more. Although Bush complained about the Senate rejecting some of his conservative nominees for judges - including some considered too extreme by fellow conservatives on the bench - Bush got his nominees confirmed at a higher rate than Bill Clinton. And there is no doubt that by the time he leaves office, the Supreme Court and every federal circuit in the nation will be dominated by Republican-appointed judges likely to be less sensitive to protecting civil and human rights.

Bush demonstrated during his first term that he doesn't mind talking like a "compassionate conservative" while firmly opposing even mild affirmative action programs, such as the one practiced by the University of Michigan Law School. Before it was upheld by a conservative Supreme Court, Bush sent his solicitor general into court to oppose Michigan's undergraduate and law school programs.

The Court, on a 5-4 vote, upheld the law school's admissions process and rejected the undergraduate program. In a statement issued after the rulings, Bush praised the Supreme Court for upholding the concept of diversity, even though his administration had argued against the program approved by the court.

Instead of favoring affirmative action, Bush will continue to back what he calls race-neutral approaches to diversity.

He told a group of journalists on August 6, "...in terms of admissions policy, race-neutral admissions policies ought to be tried. If they don't work, to achieve an objective which is diversification, race ought to be a factor." Bush has made it clear throughout his presidency that he believes race-neutral approaches have been effective.

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However, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and other groups have conducted studies showing that the so-called race-neutral approach used by public universities in Texas and California, for example, are not as effective as race- and gender-conscious remedies.

At the University of Michigan, which now operates an affirmative action undergraduate admissions program less rigid than last year's, Black student enrollment has declined in the wake of the court decisions. This year's freshmen class, the first admitted after the Supreme Court forced Michigan to change its un-

dergraduate admissions policy, fell by 14 percent, from 410 in 2003 (7.4 percent of the enrollment) to 350 this year (5.8 percent).

Because of last year's ruling, some universities are eliminating or radically altering programs designed to increase Black enrollment.

Unless he makes a radical change, Bush will continue to circumvent legitimate African-American leaders, relying on Blacks with conservative credentials but no recognized standing in the larger Black community.

"Expect four more years of benign

neglect," says Donna Brazile, manager of Al Gore's 2000 presidential campaign. "Expect four more years of a hostile relationship, four more years of not having anybody inside the White House to talk to. The White House has made it abundantly clear that if you're not with the president, you're against him, whether it's terrorists or Democrats in Washington. That's a sad position."

"We're not looking for any changes with George Bush because George Bush has made it clear that he doesn't want

CONTINUE ON PAGE 6

## A Black veteran speaks out

by Monique Code

Of all people, me? Speak out against joining the military? Yes, indeed! Miracles do happen, right? Well, I wasn't always this way. I ask myself constantly what took me so long, because so many people ask me what was it like, why did I do it, and why speak out now? Well, in these perilous times, it's time for all of us to come clean and address the behind-the-scenes of this hidden world that no civilian knows about unless they sign their name on the dotted line.

I served in the military for eight years. I went into, of all branches, the Navy. You figure, after the last boat ride African people were forced to take, what in the world would possess me to join the Navy? Well, I had a better chance at travel and I hate DIRT! Yeah, the Navy has planes like the Air Force. I still don't like planes.

I need to make a few things very clear:

When you take the oath once all

your physicals are done, the SECOND TIME you take the oath is when it counts. NOT the first time. For those of you in high school, when you sign up, you have at least two or three opportunities to come out of there. Seize the time!

Secondly, the Montgomery GI bill does NOT pay for all of your college education. It does help you, but it doesn't cover the entire bill. You are still coming out of your pockets and living on other scholarships and loans in order to pay for your education.

ROTC is the only way your education is paid for in full. In return for that, you must give back time. In other words, after four years of education, you must commit to at least four to six years of active service time.

If you do not complete school, you must pay all of that money back. Yes, all of it! If you fail a class, you have to pay that money back as well. For those of you who want an education through the military, do your research!

Thirdly, the military tells you that you can be all that you can be. Not true! You will be all THE GOVERNMENT wants you to do. What do they want you to be, you ask? They want you to be dependent and complacent. They want you to remain quiet about issues that affect you. In English, protesting is OUT! It took the Armed Forces until 1994 to allow Black women to wear braids! Yes, 1994!

It's not just a job; it's an adventure, huh? It's a job to manipulate you into thinking that civilian life is worthless. In exchange for three meals a day and free room and board (depending on where you are stationed), you get free clothing too. Damn, sounds like jail, right?

The recruiters have to fulfill a quota each month in order for the military to thrive. They tell you anything to get you in. They will say anything to you to keep you in. If you're a young, naive high school kid thinking this is the way to go because school can get paid for,

think again. When you go to boot camp, the best mind games are played there. They break you down into what you were and mold you into somebody else. Profanity is almost normal language in the military. That's a fact!

Most importantly, to all you veterans out there: if you are not aged 55 and over, you served in the military, and you have a necessary skill that they might need in this war, get this quick! The potential to call you is still there! I just found this out from a non-profit organization called Black Veterans for Social Justice. I can verify this information, too!

Am I proud that I served in the military? Am I bragging about being a veteran? The answer is a unanimous NO to both of those questions. I am informing you of this so that you are better informed about this hidden world that no one wants to discuss openly.

Keep this in mind: most military personnel, once they are in the service full-time, really do not know what's really

going on out here. When I left for Desert Storm in 1990, they fed us the pro-American BS that goes with being a service person. They also did not involve themselves in the real politics of what was happening. They told us: "You are here to serve your country fighting this war." They never talked to us about chemical warfare or none of the things that are of concern with this upcoming rich man's war.

Interestingly enough, I was watching a press conference with that puppet Colin Powell. If he is not a puppet, I have no idea what he is. He spoke and claimed that the purpose of the war was to rid Iraq of oppression and fear in the lives of Iraqi people. Um, excuse me, Mr. Powell, what about the war on your own people right here in Amerikkka? Any solutions how to stop the oppression here? Maybe he should ask Massa Bush so he can pull some more strings to make him dance some more.

As an Afrikan woman, I don't applaud the decision for anyone to go in. I really had a hard time fighting their mentality because I didn't know any better. Once I began to rebuild what I had lost

and become conscious, I became a threat to them and dangerous in the process. I was almost dismissed off a vessel because I was waking up the lost minds of my brothers and sistas who wanted to wake up like me. I couldn't see the politics, but I was able to relate it to our history and all the trials and tribulations we endured as a people.

Today, I can shout what Chairman Fred Hampton said: "Everything is political." I thank so much those who politicized me to where I can have the strength to talk about this on an open platform. It took a lot of discussion and venting to get this out, but I don't want to see anyone of you make the mistake that I did and think that Amerikkka has such a fine military. It doesn't.

I challenge all my Black veterans out there to speak out. We must save our people by any means necessary. You want to join an Army? Join the People's Army and help fight the war and terrorism on Afrikan people on a daily basis! UHURU! Power to the People!

Email Monique at moniquecode@hotmail.com

## The Black Top 10: Black Myths

By Darryl James

One of the most glaring problems facing African Americans is the media's love affair with Blacks, especially Black men. They love having us on the news, but the coverage is largely relegated to perpetual poverty, crime and other "bad" behavior. While we are neither the dominant nor the majority population, the negative media coverage is disproportionately high when it comes to us.

Many of our other difficulties stem from that poor media coverage, which leads many to believe that there are more of us doing bad things than there really are. It also leads many to the belief that, accordingly, there are less of us doing good and positive things, except for those laughing Negroes on UPN.

It is no secret that African Americans have an image problem. It is also no secret that the media misrepresents African Americans. What is ostensibly a secret is that many of the most egregious things being said about Black people are being perpetuated by Black people.

In another Black Top Ten list, I'd like to dispel some of those myths. Accordingly, these are the top ten things that Black people should stop saying about Black people:

The Top Ten Black Myths

1. There are more Black men in prison than in college.

False. The numbers that people quote are ALL of the Black men in prison, versus ONLY the free young Black men of college age, which spans the late teens to the early twenties. If a comparison of age range to age range is conducted, there are actually more Black men in col-

lege of college age, than in prison, and of course, there are more Black men out of prison than in prison.

The misleading "evidence" comes from studies such as the one conducted in 2000 by the Justice Policy Institute (JPI), a Washington-based research group. JPI found that there were 791,600 Black men in jail or prison and "only" 603,032 of them in colleges or universities. They also presented the findings as "evidence" as that there were more Black men in prison than in college.

Any of us can do the math: Out of the 33.7 million African Americans that the 2000 census found, less than one million are in jail or prison (.792 million).

The reality is that while there are too many of us in prison and more of us in there than others, there are NOT more of us on the inside than on the outside.

2. Black people, particularly Black men are lazy.

False. How can a people who built this nation and did it for free suddenly become the laziest people in the nation?

According to the US Census Bureau, 68.1% of all Black men over the age of 16 are in the civilian labor force, compared to 73% of white men. With racial discrimination and other challenges, more of us are still working than sitting at home.

Here's something else that's interesting. According to the same stats from the US Census, 62.3% of Black women over the age of 16 are working, while only 59.9% of white women are.

While the majority of poor people in America are Black, the majority of Black people are NOT poor. Of the 33.7 million Blacks in this nation, 8.1 million have incomes below the poverty line.

Now, what we do with our money is another story...

3. Black people abuse the Welfare system and are swelling it beyond capacity.

False. First, the actual number of Black families on Welfare has been decreasing since the early 1970's, when 46% of the recipients were Black. By the

end of the 20th century, that number was down to 39%, as compared to 38% whites who were non-Hispanic. If the comparison were strictly based on race without ethnic identification, whites clearly outnumber Blacks on the Welfare rolls.

In addition, 40% of the families on Welfare have only one child, while the number having five or more is only 4%. And, by the last decade of the 20th century, Welfare accounted for just over 2% of the Federal Budget, while defense accounted for 24%.

Benefit programs for farmers and big businesses far outweigh the Welfare program. For example, US Airways was recently given permission to tap into a \$718 million federally guaranteed loan package to fund daily operations while in bankruptcy proceedings. Who is abusing welfare?

4. Most Black men are married to white women.

False. As of 1998, interracial marriages composed of a white person and a Black person accounted for only .6% of all marriages in the nation. Of all interracial marriages, only 16% are Black male to white female.

5. Affirmative Action unfairly provides opportunities for Blacks.

False. First, Affirmative Action is inappropriately used to define Black preferential treatment and "quotas" but it was actually designed to benefit a number of groups who have been discriminated against, creating parity in the workplace. Since the 1970's, Affirmative Action has benefited white women more than any other group. Secondly, no one who perpetuates this myth ever talks about other types of Affirmative Action, which benefit other races. For example, the Japanese descendants in America, who were each rewarded \$20,000 in 1988 as reparations for internment during WWII, or the legacy programs which benefit people such as the current dimwit in the white house.

6. Let's kill two ignorant rumors with the pursuit of truth: Poor Blacks would be better off if they stopped us-

ing drugs and took better care of their communities; and, Blacks need to stop pushing drugs to their own people.

False. This one always confuses me, because Blacks can't even distribute their own movies or music, yet still get blamed for importing and distributing ILLEGAL drugs. If a Black man can't drive down the street without being racially profiled and stopped, what makes anyone think that he could fly a planeload of drugs into the nation and distribute them from state to state and city to city? The drug dealers in the hood make a lot of money, but nowhere near the cash generated by the true drug lords who import it and distribute it to inner cities across the nation.

7. Blacks suffer from Black on Black crime.

True, but misleading. Whites also suffer from white on white crime. Many crimes, including murder, rape and robbery are crimes of location, not color. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, 85% of African Americans report another Black person as the perpetrator of the crime and 80% of white murders were committed by other whites. However, when race does play a role in crime, the victims of violent crimes are more likely to be Black, while the perpetrators, are more likely to be white.

8. Blacks commit more crimes than whites.

False. Neo-Conservative Whites and self-hating Blacks notwithstanding, the reality of racism in the justice system has to be understood in order to get into the reasons for the high number of Blacks in prison.

In an assessment of the impact of crime on minority communities, the National Minority Advisory Council on Criminal Justice concluded that "America is a classic example of heavy-handed use of state and private power to control minorities and suppress their continuing opposition to the hegemony of white racist ideology."

Further, according to "The Real War on Crime," a report by the National Criminal Justice Commission, "African-

American arrest rates for drugs during the height of the 'drug war' in 1989 were five times higher than arrest rates for whites even though whites and African-Americans were using drugs at the same rate."

Finally, by 1990, according to the Federal Judicial Center, the average sentences for African Americans for weapons and drug charges were 49% longer than for whites who had been convicted of the same crimes.

The simple truth is, more of "us" may be in court, but more of "them" are actually committing crimes.

9. Women outnumbering men in college is a Black phenomenon.

False. According to the US Department of Education, male undergraduates account for 44 percent of student population, while female undergraduates account for 56 percent. This is not race specific. There are some real reasons for it and I will deal with it in an upcoming column.

10. Black people are incapable of sustaining businesses in their own communities.

False. We had great success before integration. In fact, by 1900, the number of African-American businesses nationally, totaled 40,000, including the Greenfield Bus Body Company, which manufactured automobiles, and a hotel in New York City valued at \$75,000. By 1908, we had 55 privately owned banks. By 1912, there were two millionaires, Madam C.J. Walker (hair care) and R.R. Church (real estate).

By 1923, Tulsa, Oklahoma was home to The Black Wall Street, an African American community of 11,000. Which featured nine hotels, nineteen restaurants and thirty-one grocery stores and meat markets, ten medical doctors, six lawyers, and five real estate and loan insurance agencies, complete with five private planes.

Okay, now there are the myths and the real stats to dispel them. Use them to stop the spread of ignorance, even if it has been spewing out of your very own mouth.

Darryl Jones columns appear regularly in the Los Angeles Sentinel.

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**Jim Rouse Publisher/ Founder**

**Managing Editor**  
**Gaius O. Sims, Sr.**

**Home Office**  
**405 Evans Sr.**  
**P.O. Box 8361**  
**Greenville, NC 27835**

**Phone: (252) 757-0365**  
**Fax: (252) 757-1793**

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# Minority Voice OP/EDs

## The Plight of the Withering Black Community



Susie Clemons

One could ask, who is Mr. Jeff Savage, former Pitt County Commissioner, to boldly proclaim on the WOOW morning call in show - on two occasions and in as many weeks - "President Bush ain't done nothing to the Black community equivalent to the Black Church, with whom 1,000,000's (millions) of dollars have disappeared without charge of accountability - WHERE THE MONEY AT?" I thought to myself, "Now that's a hard one to swallow, he's talking about Black folks one last remaining symbolic presence of Righteousness." Goodness this was major, Huge, BIG, son-e-kind of UGLY and worthy of additional explanation, facts, figures or something. With my mind racing to and fro at alarming speeds, I surmised that our former county commissioner had to be talking about the gentrification of West Greenville, and similar communities like it across the United States, right? I was still waiting on Mr. Savage to announce some numbers or something when the trucker behind me began to blow his horn and shout obscenities. Advancing into the traffic pattern I made a mental note to look up the definition of Gentrification for greater understanding and clarity as I often confuse it with the plight of the Negro share cropper - I mean community cropper. I most definitely wanted to know if Savage's "WHERE THE MONEY AT?" statement held water. I was still waiting for Mr. Savage to give additional details, numbers, facts or something to evidence his remarks, when I heard a sizzling radio signal followed by Mr. William's announcement that the morning show was over - on to gospel programming. Not much later, with reference book in hand, I had located the definition for gentrification. According to the Concise Columbia Encyclopedia:

Gentrification: the rehabilitation and settlement of decaying urban area by middle- and high-income people. Increasingly in the 1970's and 80's, higher-income professionals drawn by low cost housing and easy access to downtown business areas, began to renovate deteriorating city buildings. This

led to the rebirth of many neighborhoods and a rise in property values, but it also caused (es) displacement problems among the area's poor residents, many of them elderly and unable to afford higher rents and property taxes.

If that ain't share cropping with a new name community cropping then what is it? Then it all made sense, for I have on too many occasions observed folks riding through West Greenville mentally locating spots for later excursions to be called renovated bungalows and. These are faces and cars very much absent from the normal dwellers on such streets as Bancroft or Vanderbilt Lane [save those regulars riding through the "hood" pimpin' or picking up those diseased looking streetwalkers who in full regalia add to the eyesores of the properties held by slumlords]. Bungalow living at its planned best can be found in, 5 Points, a quaint and historic section of Raleigh, NC, and no less perfectly located in the middle of Glenwood Avenue and close to downtown. In that area older bungalows are purchased and renovated or torn down and rebuilt because the lots are generally nicely sized. Selling prices before renovation or tear down is often no less than 100,000 and that's on a bad day. No doubt land is at a premium everywhere and the average bungalow sits on enough property for increased land value and increased house value when both work for and not against the property owner, unlike West Greenville. In the middle of Raleigh's 5 Points neighborhood are the cutest lil' coffee shops and like businesses - not any thing remotely similar to what we find littered up and down - what we fought to have named MLK Dr. here in Greenville. So what would we rather have in West Greenville slumlords and raggedy prostitutes, or quaint lil' bungalows valued far more than are at present with a Starbucks (with outdoor seating) in the middle of the neighborhood? But why do we have to sacrifice our homes, our families, our friends, our history and our collective selves to have a piece of Greenville's future? Must we always suffer such a tragedy to move us as group from one place to another? The oddity of it all is that gentrification very much like share cropping is characteristic of what occurs in larger northern Ghettos. Yet it was somehow summoned to west Greenville and stayed till the job was done - no matter the police sub stations, roving patrol cars and the churches seemingly scattered from block to block. No doubt it's about to pick up its spirit and move on to its next target. Thus the Plight of the Withering Negro Community just as Mr. Savage said calls for an explanation about the whereabouts or disappearance of collected community charitable dollars. Is it safe to say a spiritual battle of principalities and authorities in high places was waged within this 45-block area of West Greenville, for which our community was ill prepared? I just as you have heard much talk about Sunday morning being one of the most

segregated mornings in America, is this true of West Greenville? Can one therefore assume that the disproportionate number of churches located within its borders was all the invitation the spirit of Gentrification needed.

Historically the question of how the Black church is organized or prioritizes its collections is nothing new. Which means that Mr. Savage or others like him were not the first ones to put it out there, W.E.B. Dubois was! Did you know that in 1899 a young and internationally educated sociologist named

William E. B. Dubois having already made quite a name for himself added yet another accomplishment to his vita (resume), the publication of "The Philadelphia Negro." This body of work detailed the quality of life for a group of Negro citizens living in Philadelphia's seventh ward in 1896. What unfolds between its 520 pages is a fascinating portrayal detailing Negro attitudes towards work, family life, the church, crime, education, health and environment or living conditions - at such time the Negro Church was in its infancy and growing strong. Dubois, without the help of a team of research assistants, gathered information by walking the neighborhood and talking to Black folk directly. The result of his extensive research revealed, with accuracy, our patterns, habits, current circumstances and foretold or predicted future events; a body of published findings that modern sociologists are quoted as saying, are being made today. (New York, 1996).

Of the many external bearings on Negro life in the late 1890's, Dubois wanted to know if the institution of the church was doing all that it could to raise the standard of Black life, in as much as his research revealed that it held itself as the center of which. However, before disclosing specific information on the role of the Negro Church, as called during that era (including examples on membership, collection drives and other data) the following quote is taken from the chapter entitled, The Organized Life of Negroes

"Among most people the primitive sociological group was the family or at least the clan. Not so among American Negroes; such vestiges of primitive organization among the American Negro slaves were destroyed by the slave ship. In this country the first distinct voluntary organization of Negroes was the Negro Church. The Negro church came before the Negro home, it antedates their social life and in every respect it stands to-day as the fullest, broadest expression of organized Negro life. The Negro Church is not simply an organism for the propagation of religion; it is the center of social, intellectual and religious life of an organized group of individuals. It provides social intercourse, amusements of various kinds, it serves as a newspaper and intelligence bureau, it supplants the theatre; it directs the picnics (shopping, gambling, vacation and other excursions). It furnishes the music, it intro-

duces the stranger to the community, it serves as a library and lecture bureau; it is in all of its parts the central organ of the organized life of the American Negro." (New York, 1899)

But what if anything does Dubois's research on Negro life in 1896 have to with West Greenville in 2004 and the former county commissioner asking the church for a show of the money? Well, Dubois's work allows some degree of measurement in terms of dollars and membership growth between the 1890's and 2004. To be sure the Negro Church has been having regularly Sunday meetings two years shy of one hundred years come 2006. Most recently the teams of Lincoln and Mamiya have published a ground breaking work which follows in the path of Dubois's The Philadelphia Negro, entitled The Black Church in the African American Experience, only Dubois's work provides the historical framework needed to begin to answer Savage's question...

Dubois, collected responses from 10,000 Negroes - whom he asked the question, "Where do you get your entertainment?" To which, seventy-five percent or 7500 answered, "The church." To further evidence this large response for conclusive accuracy (engaging similar questions to smaller populations to see if the response will change), he asked 257 colored domestic workers where 206 were women and 51 were men the question, "how is your leisure time spent?" They responded:

(a) 69 women and 4 men reported leisure time spent between church, church entertainment and home.

(b) 22 women and 11 men reported leisure time spent at church and visits to friends.

(c) 15 women and 4 men women reported leisure time spent at church and home (New York, 1899)

On the question of "church affiliation or membership" Dubois drew responses from 548 persons 400 women and 148 men, to which they responded as follows:

Methodist: 42% men, 46% women  
Baptist: 35.1% men, 40% women  
Episcopal: 9.4% men, 6.0% women  
Presbyterian: 3.4% men, 1.7% women  
Catholic: 6.8% men, 4.5% women  
Attending all churches: 1.4% men, 1.5% women  
Attending no church: 1.3% men, 0.3% women (New York, 1899)

### On Church Growth and Collections:

In the Negro community of Philadelphia, the (A.M.E.) church grew by leaps and large measure during the 1890's. Its roots began with regular meetings in the blacksmith shop of Richard Allen, later to become Bishop Richard Allen. In 1890 the national growth of A.M.E.'s resulted in 452,725 members, 2,481 churches and \$6,468,280 million dollars worth of

property. It is also documented in this chapter the acknowledgment that collected tithes and others funds collected during these times did not reach the poor and destitute leaving them alone with their sorrows and troubles. As for the Black Baptist organizations, "there were in 1896 seventeen Baptist churches in Philadelphia, holding property valued at more than \$300,000, having six thousand members, and an annual income of, probably, \$30,000 to \$35,000. One of the largest churches has in the last five years raised between \$17,000 and \$18,000." Dubois's research further noted that, "the Episcopal churches receive more outside help than others and also do more general mission and rescue work. They hold \$150,000 worth of property; have 900-1000 members and an annual income of \$7000 to \$8000... they represent all grades of the colored population." On the subject of monetary contributions after the tithe and collection plate is passed Dubois made the following observation, "voluntary contributions by members, roughly gauged according to ability, are expected, and a strong public opinion usually compels payment. Another large source of revenue is the collection after the sermons on Sunday, when, amid the reading of notices and a subdued hum of social intercourse, a stream of givers walk to the pulpit and place in the hands of the trustee or steward in charge a contribution, varying from a cent to a dollar or more. To this must be added the steady revenue from entertainments, suppers, socials, fairs, and the like. In this way the Negro churches of Philadelphia raise nearly \$100,000 a year. They hold in real estate \$900,000 worth of property, and are thus no insignificant element in the economics of the city." (New York, 1899)

Today, the collective body "Negro church" membership has since become recognized as the "Black Church." It is the case that I was presented with minor delays while gathering current on our institutions. Such data is often difficult to locate as the statistical information concerning our centers of worship is not readily shared today as it once was. In fact, at the American Religion Data Archive website the churches' reporting of these data begins to show a lack of participation around the year 1990. I was able to find, however, in my efforts the following which does allow one to gain some insight into our present membership numbers and monetary donations. In 2004 census estimates that there are an estimated 36.0 million blacks living in America, the majority of us live in the south. Nationally 8.1 million of us live in poverty, 17.4 have a four year college degree, 82% of all Black are church members, a good number of whom are no doubt tithers - donating 10% - more or less - of their income to the good of the church. In North Carolina, according to 1990 estimates from the ARDA or the American Religion Data Archive, they were approximately

10,722 worshipping Black Baptist living in Pitt County alone, and that was 14 years ago; the number of A.M.E. members, the same year and also in Pitt County, 843. The last I read the median salary for Blacks in North Carolina is suppose to be around 27,000. (Median means that half the population has a salary higher than the 27,000 and half below it. Nationally the average salary ways be the largest number of drop-outs?) Where are our families (with all this church going on's, how can we as men and women not be GETTING ALONG, but increasing our down low activity)? Where have communities gone (are we still share cropping)? Where are our children (hungry, poor, no insurance, toting guns, killing each other)? Who's minding home (where's the mama and where's daddy... grandma got to be tired)?

Perhaps Dubois, the county commissioner and other trail blazers expect and want too much, more perhaps, than entitled. After all, having such passion for his people - the plight of the Negro - led to his disillusionment with Negro life in America. In the end Dubois left behind his people in America settling for life in Ghana instead, where he died in 1963. His death occurred just as our nation of people came together for the March on Washington. While Dubois left behind a published legacy of cultural history from which all men could benefit, I do wonder if he'd be happy with our progress were he still alive today. Dubois believed and stated in his equally monumental work The Souls of Black Folks "the problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line..." Well, I on the other hand, am moved to say that the problem of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries was neither then nor is it now one of color but of how we refuse to examine our traditions, in the absence of slavery, for validity, strategy, meaning, accountability and worth. Was it that King, Harriet Tubman, Fannie Lou Hamer, Malcolm X, and so many others went through so much "hell" that a question of "where is the money" aimed at the Black Church dare exist in our minds today? I remain Yours in the struggle, Susie Clemons

E-mail: Let\_em\_talk@yahoo.com

John 14

15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Ms. Clemons, a Freelance writer; has a BS Degree in Sociology from East Carolina University and works as a Job Developer for NCOA

## Black Wealth in a White Nation: Sinking Deeper in the Hole

Forget the hoopla and ballyhoo celebrating Black faces in high places. The median net worth of an African American household is about \$6,000, while white households wield 14 times as much wealth: more than \$88,000. The disastrous details are contained in a report on wealth disparities by the Pew Hispanic Center, "The Wealth of Hispanic Households: 1996 to 2002," but the worst news is for Blacks, one-third of whom have no assets or a negative net worth.

The bottom fell out of Black wealth accumulation in the deep recession of 2000 - 2001, a downturn that hurt all ethnic groups, but from which whites and Hispanics rapidly rebounded. Whites recouped their losses from the recession and fattened their holdings by 17 percent between 1996 and 2002. Hispanics boosted their meager household wealth to about \$7,900 during that period - still only one eleventh of white households, but almost fully recovering the 27 percent loss they suffered at the turn of the 21st century. Blacks also lost 27 percent of their net worth in 2000 - 2001, but got back only 5 percent in 2002. These African American losses appear near-permanent, the result of the deindustrialization of the United States' - the destruction of the Black blue-collar workforce.

Hispanics, clustered in the low wage service sector, suffered less lasting effects. However, for African Americans, the worst news just keeps on coming, the legacy of slavery and Jim Crow discrimination. As Roderick Harrison, a researcher at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, told the Associated Press: "Wealth is a measure of cumulative advantage or disadvantage. The fact that black and His-

panic wealth is a fraction of white wealth also reflects a history of discrimination."

It is a "reflection" in the American mirror that whites don't want to see, believing in the vast majority that their privilege and wealth has been earned - and at no one else's expense. In truth, as Harvard social demographer Dr. Michael A. Dawson puts it, "The racial structures in the United States continue to this day to produce wealth disparities." Today, these structures are working feverishly to dislodge Blacks from their precarious perches in the middle class. Yet whites remain implacably opposed to engaging in even a discussion of reparations, while continuing to profit from "the inherited gift that keeps on giving" (see , May 8, 2002). Surfing through the recession with their assets largely intact, white America pretends that some malady of "culture" - rather than the crimes of a nation - is what holds African Americans back. And some Black fools believe them.

### Tomfoolery in high places

There were several members of the Congressional Black Caucus who took the position that the racial wealth disparity was due to the misbehavior of Black folks," says Dr. William "Sandy" Darity, recalling events at the 2003 Black Caucus Week, in Washington. Several silly Black lawmakers theorized that wealth disparities could be eliminated if only African Americans would engage in less impulse buying and save more money, said Darity, a Professor of Public Policy Studies, African and African American Studies and Economics at Duke University. He continued: "In fact, if you control for income, the Black savings rate is at least as high as the white savings rate. There is some evidence to

suggest that it might be higher."

By Darity's calculations, African Americans would have to go without food, shelter, clothing and all other expenses en masse "for well over a decade" to save enough to achieve wealth parity with whites. "So I would say, there is no way that you can catch up by systemic and careful savings. If African Americans saved all of their income - that is, if we didn't eat, pay any bills, but saved every cent of income - we could not close the wealth gap," said the professor, who also teaches economics at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

In economics, the past is present; it is the cushion on which some folks arrive in this world. In the United States, those white cushions were likely embroidered by no- and low-wage Black folks whose descendants are today being slammed to the pavement with no buffer of any kind.

African American households earn less than 60 percent of median white income. At the pace of catch-up since 1968, according to a report issued earlier this year by United for a Fair Economy (UFE), "it would take 581 years" to achieve income parity with whites. But wages are not wealth. For most Americans, home ownership is the major asset. Seventy-five percent of whites own their homes, while more than half of Blacks rent. At the rate of "progress" recorded since 1970, UFE estimates "it would take 1,664 years to close the ownership gap - 55 generations."

The roots of this unbridgeable gap - unbridgeable, that is, by the conventional mechanisms of capitalism - are much nearer. Duke University's Dr. Darity follows the path the mule never took to examine the value of the 40 acres most ex-

slaves never got. "We were supposed to get 40 million acres, we managed to accumulate 15 million by dint of our own efforts, and now we're down to about one million acres," said the professor. "I think people tend to de-emphasize the importance of land as wealth. The areas designated by Union General William Sherman's [1865] field order are now some of the most valuable land in America." He is referring to the coastal regions of South Carolina and Georgia, now home and playground of the rich.

Of the 15 million acres of land accumulated by Blacks throughout the South in the aftermath of the Civil War, most "was fairly systematically taken away through terror, taxes and fraud. There were instances of the wholesale destruction of Black deeds by arson," said Darity. The African American real estate patrimony was all but wiped out through white private and public lawlessness - crimes that led directly to today's racial wealth disparities.

Had the post-Civil War federal government honored and expanded upon Gen. Sherman's 1865 promise, or passed Congressman Thaddeus Stevens' 1867 Reparations Bill for the African Slaves in the United States, which would have allotted 40 acres "to each [formerly enslaved] male person who is the head of a family," African Americans might actually have gotten an economic leg up on the waves of European immigrants that poured into the country during the latter decades of the 1800s.

### Trillions lost

What would an 1865 plot of 40 acres be worth to Black America today? According to economist Darity's numbers, about \$1.6 million dollars to every African American - not counting the mule. "That should be the anchor for reparations," he said.

And what of free and devalued Black labor? In a 2000 paper, Professor Joe R. Feagin, of the University of Florida, at Gainesville, reviewed a number of labor reparations calculations. He concluded: "Clearly, the sum total of the worth of all the black labor stolen by whites through the means of slavery, segregation, and contemporary discrimination is staggering - many trillions of dollars. The worth of all that labor, taking into account lost interest over time and putting it in today's dollars, is perhaps in the range of \$5 to \$24 trillion."

Feagin also tackled the land issue, to demonstrate that historical federal largess

to whites dwarfs current Black reparations claims.

"Passed under the Abraham Lincoln administration, the Homestead Act provided access to productive land and wealth, mostly for white families, from the 1860s to the 1930s. Some 246 million acres were provided by the federal government, at minimal cost, for some 1.5 homesteads. Research by Trina Williams... estimates that - depending on calculations of multiple ownership, mortality, marriage, and childbearing patterns - somewhere between 20 and 93 million Americans are now the beneficiaries of this large wealth-generating program over several generations. Williams (2000) suggests that the most likely figure is in the middle range, perhaps 46 million, a figure equal to about one quarter of the current population. Almost all of these beneficiaries have been white, as only 4,000 African Americans made entries under the Homestead Act."

Thus, white folks, many of them immigrants, received multiples of the acreage promised to Blacks - 246 million vs. 40 million - yet their descendants laugh out loud when African Americans bring up "40 acres and a mule."

### Not one cash dollar

Reparations supporters may tally the bill by any number of formulas, but white America isn't hearing any of it. Data from a study of racial divisions under the George W. Bush administration, conducted over the past four years by Harvard University Professors Michael C. Dawson and Lawrence Bobo, reveal no support among whites for cash payments to compensate Blacks for slavery and Jim Crow. "None, no support, not any," Dawson emphasized. "It's a different world, in terms of how different groups see reality. There's also a different moral universe."

Within that morally challenged universe, only 4 percent of whites favored reparations for Black slavery in surveys conducted in 2000 and 2003. Two-thirds of Black respondents favored reparations for slavery.

This year, Dawson and Bobo, both professors of African and African American Studies, sought to clarify Black and white attitudes toward three reparations proposals: cash payments to African Americans as individuals; scholarship funds for disadvantaged African American youth; or the establishment of a Community Trust, to be used to rebuild Black schools and community infrastructure and foster

small business.

Whites unanimously rejected the idea of cash payments to Blacks. When asked to assume that reparations were necessary, and to choose some form of compensation, whites favored a Community Trust over scholarships. African Americans favor both cash payments and the Community Trust idea, but are more likely to support the Community Trust framework. All three proposals enjoy some degree of support among African Americans.

A question from the Dawson-Bobo 2003 survey may provide the best measure of general white moral obtuseness on issues of race. When asked if reparations should be paid to the survivors of the white destruction of the Black communities of Tulsa, Oklahoma (1921) and Rosewood, Florida (1923), 84 percent of Blacks said "yes." Only 11 percent of whites agreed, an indication that widespread white feelings of guilt over racial oppression is a myth.

Professor Dawson noted that "even when presented with a demonstrable survivor of a contemporary event, whites oppose any reparations to the Black victims." That's because most whites consider themselves to be, somehow, victims of African Americans, just as they feel set upon and victimized for no good reason by dark Islamic forces in the world, and for the same reasons that they constructed a national mythology of victimization at the hands of "savage" Indians. The Dawson-Bobo statistics tell a tale of racism in the raw.

So deep is the collective psychosis, that the current and historical reality of enforced Black economic instability, as detailed in the Pew wealth disparity study, seems to affirm many whites in their delusions of superiority. Against all facts and reason, white America rejects redress of Black grievances, because it refuses to recognize its own bloody legacy, as described by University of Florida Professor Joe Feagin:

"White privilege is ubiquitous and imbedded even where most whites cannot see it: it is the foundation of this society. It began in early white gains from slavery and has persisted under legal segregation and contemporary racism. Acceptance of this system of white privileges and black disadvantages as 'normal' has conferred advantages for whites now across some fifteen generations."

There will be a reckoning.

## NC Black Leadership Caucus PAC Endorsements

by Peter Grear

WINSTON-SALEM, NC - The NC Black Leadership Caucus PAC endorsed the following candidates in the upcoming November 2nd general elections. Ralph Campbell for North Carolina State Auditor, Wanda G. Bryant for the North Carolina Court of Appeals and James A. Wynn, Jr. for the North Carolina Supreme Court.

Special attention must be given to the mechanics of voting. A voter must vote separately for the president, the other candidates in either party and for

the judicial candidates. THIS IS AT LEAST A THREE STEP PROCESS. Special attention must be given to the judicial candidates to ensure that Wanda G. Bryant and James A. Wynn, Jr. are not overlooked.

In the judicial races the Republican Party has endorsed a slate of Republican judicial candidates. Although many of us think that the Democratic Party should have endorsed a slate of Democratic judicial candidates, with James A. Wynn, Jr. endorsed for the Supreme Court, that was not done. This puts the entire slate of Democratic judicial candidates at risk

because the competition for Supreme Court negates a unity campaign and creates the unfortunate probability of "Single Shot" voting by the democratic supporters and voting a slate by republican voters. THEREFORE, it is imperative that everyone makes sure that they support Wanda G. Bryant & James A. Wynn, Jr. in the judicial contests. Sample Ballots are essential for this election, if we're to succeed at the polls.

Peter Grear, Chairman  
NC Black Leadership Caucus PAC  
1/800-222-8009

# P. Diddy takes voter drive to swing states

By Chaka Ferguson  
Assoc Press

**NEW YORK** — (AP) Hip-hop mogul Sean "P. Diddy" Combs is following the lead of President Bush and Sen. John Kerry by taking his get-out-the-vote campaign to the swing states.

"If you are going to play the game, you need to play it all the way," Combs said in a telephone interview Saturday. "And if you are talking about flexing your power, and you ain't flexing in the swing states, then you ain't flexing your power."

Combs' Citizen Change initiative will launch a three-day get-out-the-vote drive starting Tuesday in Milwaukee and Detroit, followed by rallies in Cleveland, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Miami. Combs said he will be joined by other celebrities, including actor Leonardo DiCaprio and singer Mary J. Blige.

P. Diddy started his nonprofit, nonpartisan initiative earlier this year, saying he wanted to use unconventional means to register thousands of young, minority and urban voters he says are overlooked by politicians.

The Citizen Change campaign has gone to college campuses, urban radio stations, bars, nightclubs - "anywhere this community of voters are," Combs said.

Combs' drive - with its "Vote or Die" slogan - has recorded phone messages for 435,000 new voters across the country.

The initiative also is deploying street teams to mobilize voters, distributing literature and providing troubleshooting for voters before the Nov. 2 election.

Neither Bush nor Kerry have addressed young and urban voters on issues such as

jobs, health care and education, Combs said.

"To see one day when (the candidates) talk about the needs and concerns of young people, we have to make sure that we also put the pressure on them in the swing states to recognize that these are the people that are going to put them into office," he said.

There are some 40 million eligible voters between ages 18 and 35, Combs said, a potent bloc that he says has been undercounted in polls and could be the deciding factor in a close race.

"The sleeping giant has awoken and the forgotten ones, this group of 40 million voters, are going to be the deciding factor, because their votes have not been counted," he said.



# Leaders of Nation's Black Farmers' Groups Endorse Senator John Kerry for President

**BASERVILLE, PA** — The leaders of many of the nation's black farmers' organizations today announced their endorsement of Senator John Kerry for President of the United States. For more than a decade these groups, representing thousands of black farm families and millions of other Americans, have been fighting to preserve the oldest black profession in America, farming, and for justice in the case of discrimination by the U.S. Department of Agriculture against black farmers. NC Farmers from Warrenton, Oxford, Manson, and Raleigh Join Endorsement

"I am very pleased to have the support of our country's black farmers," said John Kerry. "I am committed to correcting the civil rights problems that have languished under this Bush Administration and working to help African American farmers compete and succeed."

John Kerry and John Edwards understand that owning land is a critical part of building wealth and providing an inheritance for future generations. They will make sure that African American farmers have full and fair access to USDA programs. In addition to working directly with African American farmers, John Kerry and John Edwards will work closely with those who help African American farmers and communities such as historically black colleges and universities and community organizations that provide important outreach and technical assistance.

"I feel strongly that a Kerry-Edwards Administration will provide the leadership needed to preserve our nation's black farmers by supporting efforts to rebuild our rich heritage of working the land through supporting minority farm aid programs and by removing obstacles to settlement payments to thousands of black farm families across the nation," said John W. Boyd, president of the National Black Farmers Association (NBFA) and a long-time civil rights activist. "I believe John Kerry is committed to fixing the problems at

USDA beginning from day one."

The stakes in this election for black farmers are enormous. The failures of the last four years have set back the cause of justice for black farmers. The current Administration has obstructed justice by spending millions of dollars on lawyers charged with blocking payments to black farmers that were already agreed to by USDA in arbitration.

Black farmers need leadership in the White House that will provide full access to USDA programs and a strong civil rights program to enforce program delivery at USDA. A recent study shows that of the 94,000 black farmers in the class action lawsuit against the USDA, litigants have received less than 10% of the settlement due them. Today, after years of discrimination and the failure of superficial support programs, black farmers are less than 1% of our nation's farmers.

USDA leadership under the Bush Administration has done little to address these issues while black-owned farms continue to collapse. Every month a black-owned farm is foreclosed upon even as its owners await payments from the USDA.

The organizations, leaders and individuals endorsed Kerry/Edwards were: Land Loss Prevention Project National Black Farmers Association Operation Spring Plant United Farmers USA John W. Boyd, President, National Black Farmers Association, Baskerville, Virginia Tom Burrell, Black Farmers and Agriculturalist Association, Covington, Tennessee Earl Davis, President, Oklahoma Black Farmers, Choctaw, OK Philip Haynie, Vice Pres., National Black Farmers Association, Heathsville, Virginia

Will Scott, President, African American Farmers in California, Fresno, California Sherbert Williams, Chairman, Kentucky Black Farmers, Hopkinsville, Kentucky Judith Alsto, farmer, Warrenton, North Carolina

Shonnetta Ammons, farmer, Raleigh, North Carolina Phillip Barker, farmer, Oxford, North Carolina Thomas Bullock, farmer, Manson, North Carolina

Bert Burkett, farmer, Petal, Mississippi James D. Davis, farmer, Brinkley, Arkansas Rodalton Hart, farmer, Lexington, Mississippi George Heldebrandt, farmer,

Leavenworth, Kansas Eddie Kennedy, farmer, Oak Grove, Louisiana Henry W. King Jr., farmer, Manning, South Carolina Marilyn Singletary, farmer, Lake City, South Carolina Robert Williams, farmer, Roscoe, Texas.

# Butterfield Continues Fight on OLF

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** - Congressman G. K. Butterfield is urging a newly appointed Conference Committee to eliminate funding for the proposed Outlying Landing Field in Washington and Beaufort Counties until the legal issues are settled.

"The issues could tie up the process for some time to come," Butterfield said. "Given the many immediate needs the country is facing right now, it only makes sense to hold off funding until the issues surrounding the OLF are resolved."

Butterfield said the House yesterday appointed 30 members to join their Senate counterparts in a Conference Committee which will resolve differences between the respective versions of the National Defense Authorization legislation. The House eliminated funding for the OLF while the Senate included \$95.7 million in its version of the bill.

Butterfield said that he's written to the Conference Committee members to urge them to support eliminating the funding specific to Washington and Beaufort Counties.

Butterfield yesterday met with Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Facilities Wayne Army, who is overseeing the process for the Navy, to discuss the Navy's plans and voice the concerns of the community. On Monday, Butterfield was in Washington County and met with Plymouth Mayor Brian Roth, Roper Mayor Bunny Sanders and Washington County Commissioner Billy Corey to hear their concerns about the proposed OLF.



Once again we need to remind everyone that not only is it your right to vote, but it's your duty to vote as well. This coming Tuesday on Election Day, November 2nd, all African Americans are urged to go vote in record numbers. One of our elected officials Congress G.K. Butterfield was in Williamston last standing with some of his supporters. From left to right flanking Butterfield, is the wife of Beaufort County SCLC President, Mrs. Boston, Walt Morehead and his wife, DD Morehead and a friend of the Bostons. This year the Presidential is a heated. Make your voice. PHOTO EDITORIAL - Jim Rouse.

mouth Mayor Brian Roth, Roper Mayor Bunny Sanders and Washington County Commissioner Billy Corey to hear their concerns about the proposed OLF.

"I share the of community's concerns about the potential long-term impacts the OLF could have on Washington and Beaufort Counties," Butterfield said.

Specifically, Butterfield said that he is concerned that the OLF would dis-

place 74 property owners, take 30,000 acres off the local property tax rolls, and could have a negative impact on the quality of life. Butterfield said he is also concerned that the project could reduce the potential for tourism and economic development.

Butterfield said that Army told him that the OLF process and Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process are "absolutely independent," and that the community's opposition to the OLF has

no bearing on whether North Carolina military bases are closed or relocated. Butterfield said that fully Army answered all of his questions and said that Army offered to provide any information that may be needed throughout the process.

The OLF proposal includes an 8,000-foot runway aligned with the prevailing wind direction and ancillary facilities, including an air traffic control tower, airfield lighting and navigational and communications aids. An OLF would be used as a support facility for Navy and Marine Corps aircraft conducting operations, such as Field Carrier Landing Practice (FCLP) and other practice approaches, away from the homebase airfields.

Washington and Beaufort Counties, along with environmental groups, are in litigation to avoid the OLF development. They were successful and the federal courts have ordered the Navy to cease all OLF development activity, pending the outcome of legal challenges to the Washington County site. More recently, the federal district court rejected a plea by the Navy to reverse or narrow the scope of the injunction.

The Washington County OLF site is strongly opposed by many elected officials, citizens groups and by major North Carolina agricultural, property rights and conservation organizations.

Refuge and its significant and unique bird population.

# Man Arrested on Chemical Weapons Charges...

**JACKSON, Tenn (AP)** — A man who authorities say hated the federal government was charged with attempting to acquire chemical weapons, explosives and weapons of mass destruction with the intent to attack official buildings.

Demetrius "Van" Crocker, 39, was characterized by U.S. Attorney Terrell Harris as having "hatred for the government, and anti-Semitic and racist views." Crocker is accused of attempting to obtain sarin nerve gas and C-4 explosives, according to a federal complaint filed Monday.

Crocker was arrested Monday after an undercover federal agent met him to deliver fake explosives and what Crocker believed were ingredients for sarin, considered one of the world's deadliest chemical agents.

His arrest ended a seven-month investigation.

Crocker was charged with attempting to obtain chemical weapons, attempting to receive explosives in interstate commerce with the intent to damage and destroy a building and real property, and receiving stolen explosives. He faces more than 20 years in prison if convicted on all charges, and fines totaling \$750,000.

# Letter To The Editor

SAFE PARTYING FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Halloween is the third most popular adult party occasion, just behind New Year's Eve and the Super Bowl. If you're hosting a party, remember these key tips to help make it safe and enjoyable. When serving alcohol beverages, serve food, and remember to have non-alcohol beverages on hand, too, for the designated drivers. Serve each guest one drink at a time and encourage them to space their drinks throughout the party. Stop serving alcohol at least one hour before your party ends. And most importantly, help your friends get home safely, either with a designated driver, call them a cab or ask them to spend the night. And what's the best costume this year? Going as the designated driver! More than 122 million American adults "do the ride thing" by either being a designated driver or getting a safe ride home with one. Remember, responsibility matters, and we urge all adults to do their part to keep Halloween safe, as well as fun. Sincerely, Leigh Jeffreys Vice President R.A. Jeffreys Distributing Co., LLC Greenville, NC

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

## It's Time For Americans To Come Together And Take Back Our Government By Using The Power Of Our Vote

You Don't Have To Wait Until November 2nd To Cast Your Vote

### YOU CAN VOTE EARLY FROM OCTOBER 14th - 30th

**We voted for a Democratic President four years ago. But George W. Bush and his team of lawyers and allies on the Supreme Court took it from us.**

**We can't let them do it again.**

**The stakes are just too high. More than 12.7% of African-Americans are out of a job here in North Carolina. More than 20% of us don't have any health insurance. Millions more attend overcrowded, crumbling schools.**

**It's up to us to make change happen this November. We need to act as one to vote for change in overwhelming numbers so there's no doubt about the result this time around.**

**We've got the power — now we've just got to use it.**

**Let's Come Together Vote To Change America By Electing These Democrats On November 2nd:**

<p><b>ERSKINE BOWLES</b> U.S. Senate</p> <p><b>REP. BOB ETHERIDGE</b> 2nd District Congress</p> <p><b>REP. DAVID PRICE</b> 4th District Congress</p> <p><b>REP. MIKE MCINTYRE</b> 7th District Congress</p> <p><b>BETH TROUTMAN</b> 8th District Congress</p> <p><b>PATSY KEEVER</b> 11th District Congress</p> <p><b>REP. BRAD MILLER</b> 13th District Congress</p>	<p><b>GOV. MIKE EASLEY</b> Governor</p> <p><b>BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE</b> Lieutenant Governor</p> <p><b>ROY COOPER</b> Attorney General</p> <p><b>BRITT COBB</b> Commissioner Of Agriculture and Consumer Services</p> <p><b>JIM LONG</b> Commissioner of Insurance</p> <p><b>WAYNE GOODWIN</b> Commissioner of Labor</p> <p><b>ELANE F. MARSHALL</b> Secretary of State</p> <p><b>RICHARD H. MOORE</b> Treasurer</p>
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**KERRY/EDWARDS**  
President / Vice President

**RALPH CAMPBELL**  
State Auditor

**REP. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**  
1st District Congress

**REP. MEL WATT**  
12th District Congress

**VOLE** For more information on early vote locations in your area, please call your County Board of Elections or the North Carolina Democratic Party toll-free at 1-800-544-1992 UN 1-800-755-2404

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# Erskine Bowles

will be there for **you**  
in Washington...



## Erskine Bowles has a plan to put North Carolina first again —

- ✓ Stop companies from sending good American jobs overseas.
- ✓ Combat unemployment by creating good paying jobs here in North Carolina.
- ✓ Cheaper prescription drugs.
- ✓ Affordable and accessible health insurance.
- ✓ Smaller class sizes, better-equipped schools and well-trained teachers.
- ✓ Promote and expand our community college job training programs.
- ✓ Help for towns and communities torn apart by bad trade deals.

**“It’s time to put politics aside and start putting North Carolinians first again.”**

— Erskine Bowles



**Voting is power. It’s time to use it.**  
On November 2, come together to elect Erskine Bowles to the U.S. Senate.  
If you need a ride to the polls, call 919-834-7080 or toll free at 866-549-9992.

Paid for by Erskine Bowles for U.S. Senate

# Survival Is At Stake For Blacks

## A 2004 Election Issue Brief HIV/AIDS and STD's

One of the most telling responses during the debate between Vice President Dick Cheney and Sen. John Edwards was the vice president's revelation that he was not aware of the AIDS crisis among Black women. It was a sobering acknowledgment of the neglect of the African-American community by federal policy makers in regard to the AIDS epidemic. According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), African Americans make up 12% of our nation's population but represent more than half of all new HIV infections in the U.S. each year and just about half of all new AIDS cases. The degree to which the disease has decimated the Black community can best be understood when taking into account that as of 2000 HIV is the number one cause of death for African-Americans between the ages of 25 and 44, and more Blacks are living with the disease than any other racial/ethnic group in the country.

So the notion that the vice president of the United States is unaware of a public health crisis of this magnitude raises serious questions regarding the degree to which public policy does not reflect reality. Mr. Cheney's ignorance regarding the threat of HIV/AIDS to Black women is that much more troubling when reviewing statistics detailing the impact on gender from the disease. In 1991 Black women were 22% of new AIDS cases among all African-Americans; ten years later they represented 34% or one-third of all new cases. In contrast, white women represented 15% of new

AIDS cases reported among whites in 2001.

The statistics provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding HIV/AIDS points to the need for public policy that confronts issues of education and prevention:

African-Americans account for 39%, more than 347,000, of the more than 886,000 estimated cases of AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic.

African-Americans have the poorest survival rates of all racial and ethnic groups, with 55% surviving after 9 years compared to 61% of whites.

In 2000 HIV/AIDS was among the top three causes of death for African-Americans men ages 25-44 and women ages 35-44.

African-Americans are almost 11 times more likely to be diagnosed with HIV/AIDS than whites.

The leading cause of HIV infection among African-American men is sexual contact with other men, followed by injection drug use, and heterosexual contact.

The leading cause of HIV infection among African-American women is heterosexual contact, followed by injection drug use.

Compounding the HIV/AIDS crisis is the general health care crisis in America. Blacks generally do not have access to the same quality of health care as whites; the result of many factors including lack of health insurance, poverty, and lack of primary care providers in Black communities. The outcome is a much higher risk of infection and death given the failure to exercise preventive measures. And HIV/AIDS is but one of several sexually transmitted diseases that

are wreaking havoc on the Black community.

Recently, Men's Health Magazine issued a National Report Card on sexually transmitted diseases (STD's) and ranked the nation's cities. The report examined the rates of gonorrhea, syphilis, and chlamydia, and HIV mortality rates according to CDC data. The top ten cities, where the magazine suggested you "might as well get your shots now", were Detroit, Newark, Baltimore, Atlanta, Washington D.C., Philadelphia, Memphis, New Orleans, Richmond, and Chicago. All of these cities are major Black population centers.

All of these statistics point to the need for a concerted effort at the federal level to provide the necessary funding and resources to initiatives at the national, state, and local level to combat the HIV/AIDS and STD crisis in the Black community. While demands for greater personal responsibility have merit, clearly the prolonged indifference to the needs of those currently afflicted with the disease will have dire consequences on our nation's fragile health care system and Black mortality rates.

The next presidential administration will inherit a public health crisis that will only worsen unless immediate attention is given to possible remedies to stave off the spread of HIV/AIDS in African-American communities. A major consideration will be reform of the nation's health care system, improved access to quality primary care for many Blacks, enhanced public education initiatives, and non-traditional approaches such as needle exchanges for intravenous drug users.

Prepared by The NorthStar News Staff

## African-American Heads Up SCORE

As the newly elected board chairman of the Service Corps Of Retired Executives, James W. Pyles is expected to expand the organization's service to entrepreneurs, recruit more volunteers and improve the quality of services currently rendered.

He is the first African-American to lead the organization in its 40-year history.

SCORE is a non-profit, non-religious, non-partisan, non-union funded program dedicated to helping small business succeed.

Pyles, originally from Elkhart, Ind., has more than three decades of experience, including a position as manager of consumer promotion with the Bayer Corp.

"I believe in the American dream of owning a small business and SCORE helps small business owners successfully grow their dreams," said

Pyles.

He joined SCORE in 1996 and has remained active in his chapter of the organization. His last position within the chapter was board vice chair.

Pyles has his work cut out for him in expanding on SCORE's impressive national network of 10,500 volunteers and over 350-thousand aspiring business owners.

## 20 years of leadership with results...

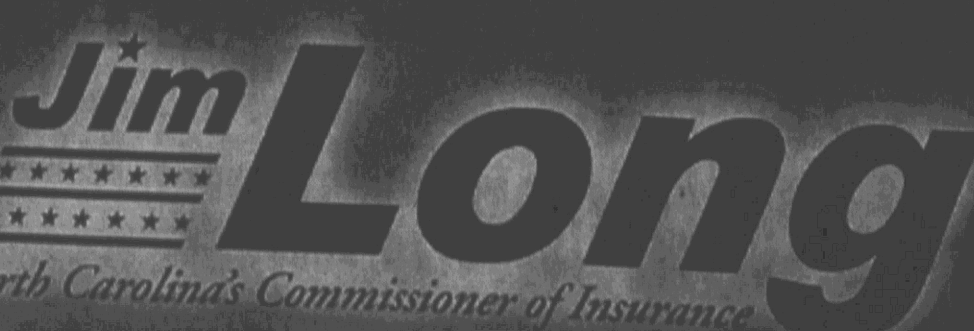
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# Community Voices

## Reflections, Expressions & Reviews

with Sujette Jones



### "Let's Review"

#### Bedmates Who Snore

A Dallas woman was so distraught by her partner's roaring snoring she took out a gun and shot him five times as he slept. Anyone who has been denied deep, comforting sleep, night-after night can understand the woman's wild-eyed frus-

tration, if not her homicidal solution. Doctors now know that snoring can take an extraordinary toll on those who snore—and on those who lie awake listening to them. Texans are not, of course, the only ones who snort, rumble and rattle the windows through the night.

A study of a cross-section of Americans ages 30-60 found that 45 percent of the men and 25 percent of the women snore. When the doors are

closed, the lights are out and a man and a woman are in bed together, then, "there is a 70 percent chance someone is snoring," says one professor of medicine.

After age 60 the figure is even higher, especially among women. Snoring is one of the most significant sleep disorders, affecting health and quality of life. As science links heavy snoring to serious medical conditions such as heart disease and stroke, new and improved procedures are helping combat the problem. But getting snorers to the doctor can be a struggle, because they can't hear themselves snore and famously deny they do anything of the kind. Doctors say spouses often bring in recordings of

the snorer, and when they're really angry, a video.

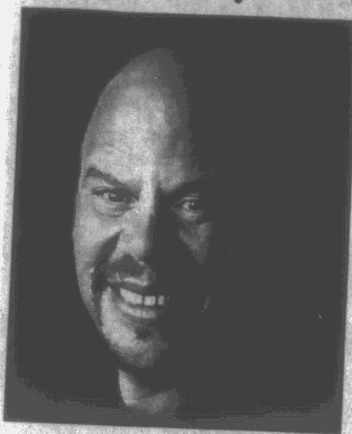
The denial rate among snorers is spectacular. Some of these men are clueless. They say, "I don't snore" or "She's the one with the problem—she's overly sensitive." Snoring, whether faint or ear-splitting, occurs when airflow through the passages at the back of the mouth and nose is obstructed. Several

conditions can trigger it—excess tissue in the throat, or allergy problems or alcohol and sedatives, which can relax the tongue or throat muscles enough to block the airway. This is no laughing matter. Significant others have moved across the hall, down the stairs and into the basement to escape a really annoying snorer, so it makes sense that sleep experts tend to measure the magnitude of the snore by how far away it can be heard. One professor of medicine says, "If you can hear the snoring from another room with the door closed, as a rule of thumb, that is enough to warrant some medical attention."

Extrated from: Your Health

**This is no laughing matter. Significant others have moved across the hall, down the stairs and into the basement to escape a really annoying snorer**

### Radio personality Tom Joyner and artist Ernie Barnes to co-host NCCU Fundraiser



Tom Joyner

DURHAM, N.C. — Tom Joyner, nationally syndicated radio personality and philanthropist, will co-host a major fundraising event with renowned artist and distinguished North Carolina Central University (NCCU) alumnus Ernie Barnes. This event will be The First Annual Legacy Gala, to be held October 29, 2004 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel located in Durham's Research Triangle Park at 7 p.m.

The Gala will be a black-tie event

### Cosby Pledges \$1 Million for Slavery Museum

FREDERICKSBURG, Va. - Comedian and actor Bill Cosby pledged at least \$1 million for a planned U.S. National Slavery Museum.

Cosby announced Friday he would donate proceeds from 10 concerts to the museum effort, or between \$1 million and \$1.5 million, museum officials estimate. Cosby sits on the museum's board.

celebrating the history and advancement of NCCU, the outstanding achievements of its alumni and significant contributions from individuals, corporate and philanthropic benefactors. This star-studded event is being sponsored by the Kellogg Corporate Citizens Fund, and is a part of a \$200,000 commitment from Kellogg to support Tom Joyner Enterprises and Historically Black Colleges and Universities and their efforts to enhance educational opportunities at these institutions. The event is being endorsed by NCCU alumni, business, community leaders, and elected officials who will be in attendance.

"Our objective is to establish the Legacy Gala on an annual basis as NCCU's signature event," said Chancellor James H. Ammons. "We view the Gala as an effective means to raise critically needed scholarship funds and publicly recognize the achievements, sacrifices and contributions of those who continue to play a vital role in our rapid growth and development."

"Historically Black Colleges and Universities are just a part of my DNA," said Joyner, whose Tom Joyner Morning Show is aired in 120 markets and reaches more than seven million listeners. "We're

"We need history," Cosby told an audience in Fredericksburg, where the museum is planned to open in 2007. "We need proof for our children... to see the strength of their ancestors."

The museum plans fund-raising activities in conjunction with each concert and hopes to raise \$20 million, said Ed Wegel, chairman of the museum's capital campaign

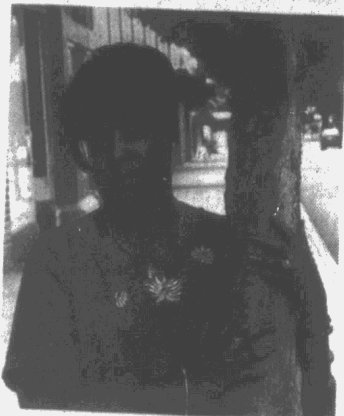


Ernie Barnes

doing what we're supposed to do to save our schools and help produce productive citizens... it's our way of investing in America's future."

For more information regarding the purchase of corporate tables, individual tickets or donations to North Carolina Central University, please contact Susan Hester at (919) 530-7400. For media inquiries and scheduling interviews of the participants, please contact Sharon Saunders at (919) 530-6295.

## EDIFICATION OF A GENERATION



on the rock eternal. They based it on their faith in God and Jesus Christ, our Savior. The question is:

Do we have the same built-in strength that our forefathers had? I believe we do.

Finally, and more than all else, we give thanks for our Savior named Jesus Christ.

There are plenty of people who could bear witness to how Jesus has helped them in their lifetimes, and what

### WITH FAITH MAY

life would have been had they never found Him. This country is still basically a religious country because the majority of people know that in the harsh difficulties of life, it is Jesus who supplies the strength and the power. This is our greatest heritage for which we are profoundly thankful on this Thanksgiving Day.

### What Thanksgiving Mean

There are so many things we, as Americans, can be thankful for. And we should never become so sophisticated or indifferent that we stop being thankful for who and what we are, and for the land in which we live.

Not all but most Americans are not only big in their minds, they are also big in their souls. We embrace all humanity; and open the doors of this country to the poor and oppressed. And so, people flow to these shores from every country in the world. Because of this we have a population different from any to be found anywhere under the sun.

When the President of the United States talks about the violation of human rights, we become concerned and indignant because we believe that no one, anywhere in the world, should be mistreated as a human being and as a child of God. This is a country which, when insulted, heeds the admonition to practice great restraint, and even pray in love for the misguided.

As a black race, we have come a long way, however we still have a long way to go in some areas. Our forefathers weren't weak people; they were strong. They had a lot of faith in the great, good God, and they knew that with His help they could handle their problems. They didn't whine and whimper and crawl through life on their hands and knees. They stood up on their feet, handled their problems, and built the greatest economy and the greatest civilization in the history of mankind. They built

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Sara Lynn James:  
**Hero**

Pitt County, NC

## Even Heroes Need Heroes

Like other girls her age, Sara Lynn plays volleyball, loves music and likes to hang out with friends. Sara Lynn also has Type 1 Juvenile Diabetes. Unlike her friends, she must check her blood sugar six times a day and live with an insulin pump surgically attached to her belly. The insulin keeps her going, but it's not a cure. With your support, researchers may find the answers to juvenile diabetes within her lifetime.

You can be a hero to Sara Lynn and others in eastern Carolina. It's easy. Just join her at this year's JDRF Walk To Find A Cure on October 23 at the Pitt County Fairgrounds. Sign up or make your donation online at [www.jdrf.org](http://www.jdrf.org); or call us at (800) 377-0476.

**WALK TO CURE DIABETES**

**JDRF** Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International  
dedicated to finding a cure

JDRF sponsorship provided by Pitt County Memorial Hospital and the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University.

Pitt Memorial Hospital Foundation

Pitt Memorial Hospital Foundation is sponsoring a free diabetes screening for children under 18 during walk registration.

OCTOBER 23, 2004 / PITT COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS / 8:30 - 10:30 AM

# Community Voices

From the Desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



## Tips on Making Meetings Run Smoothly

Does the job get done at meetings, or has going to meetings turned into a job? Meetings are supposed to be a forum for information gathering, problem solving and decision-making. Some suggestions for leading and participating in meetings:

1. Have a goal in mind before you call a meeting.
2. Many meetings could be avoided by using the telephone.
3. Prepare an agenda. Do not let the meeting get sidetracked.
4. Set a time limit. Most things can get done in half an hour.
5. Invite the right people.
6. Follow through. A memo that outlines what transpired and who's assigned to what help to keep business on track.
7. Meetings fall apart because the leader loses control. These suggestions are from Stephanie Winston, a time-management consultant and author.

### Some facts:

1. Build up a support system of family and friends.
2. People who have a close-knit network of intimate personal ties avoid disease, maintain higher levels of health, and, in general, deal more successfully with life's difficulties than people who don't.
3. Keep your relationships with whiners and pessimists to a minimum; seek out those who like to laugh and know how to enjoy life.

4. Let worries go and make the most of life's moments. You can't be lazy and have a good life. You must work at life - at marriage, at friendship, at parenting, the works.
5. Negative emotions - fear, hate and rage weaken the body to the point where it can bring your defenses down and make you more susceptible to disease... Love, hope, faith, laughter and creativity are essential parts of staying well.
6. Listen to your body. It tells you when it's being pushed to the wall. Your aching back or head urges you to slow down.
7. A small change. A change is as good as a rest. Variety is the spice of life. Take small, frequent breaks. In the long run they're as beneficial as lengthy vacations - maybe more beneficial.
8. Menopause - Hot flashes - They are harmless.
9. The crepe myrtle is the city of Greenville's flower.
10. You get old fast if you just stay at home.
11. To look and feel young at 40+, eat no meat but plenty of fish, beans, lentil soup and some cheese.
12. Plenty of hugs, kisses and love really keep one happy and alive" inside.

### Diet - What You Can Do Right Now

1. Say no to soda. A twelve-ounce can of soda can pack 120 calories. Go with



Lillie M. Robbins

the motto of "I'd rather eat my calories" and you'll find yourself sipping on water and diet sodas, both of which have no calories.

2. Skip the chips. Having an attack of the crunchies? Instead of reaching for the potato chips, especially from the ninety-nine cent bag, which adds at least five hundred calories and seventeen grams of fat mostly to your thighs, reach for pretzels which have little to

no fat.

3. Eat your citrus don't slurp it. Downing a glass of orange juice is quick way to load up on calories. Instead, eat an orange and save sixty calories per day, and it will keep you feeling fuller longer.

4. Substitute condiments. Substitutions that won't assault your taste buds and have few to no calories: mustard instead of mayonnaise on turkey sandwiches, salsa or hot sauce on a baked potato instead of butter. If you must dip into the breadbasket, go Italian and ask for olive oil instead of butter.

### Lillie M. Robbins Endowed Scholarship Fund

Lillie, Supervisory Team Leader, U.S. Department of Education, Atlanta Office, Southern Divisions, Office of Civil Rights, presented a check for \$25,000, along with a Deed of Trust form which outlined criteria that students from Pitt County, North Carolina and the Atlanta area must meet in order to receive help in attending A&T. Because of matching Title III funds, the University will actually have the benefits of \$50,000 for scholarships.

Lillie, the daughter of the late McKinley and Ella Robbins, is one of 15 children who graduated valedictorian from the now deleted Robinson Union School, Winterville, and N.C.

She stated that education was highly valued in her home and with the help of a combination of a small scholarship from a Pitt County organization, Federal grants, money from family members, work study jobs, lots of hard work, and teachers who cared, enabled me to graduate with honor from A&T in 1966 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology. My record at A&T enabled me to earn a Presidential scholarship to matriculate at Atlanta University, earning a Master of Arts, with honor.

Lillie's experiences and achievements are numerous; among them the National A&T Alumni President (1997 - 1999); Civil Rights Investigator for more than 30 years and an active member of Cascade United Methodist Church since 1978.

Lillie states, "I have come to know that when you try to do the right thing and put forth your best efforts, God will open doors to make it happen." What a blessing for a little girl born and reared on a tobacco farm in Pitt County. You never know where your life will take you if you're willing to say yes to the ride. The path of "giving back" from early childhood was by the example of my parents. Congratulations Lillie!

# Alex Rivera Exhibition on picturing Durham coming to Art Museum

DURHAM, N.C. — An exhibition of the works of Alexander "Alex" Rivera, Jr., nationally acclaimed photojournalist, will be on display October 17 through November 3, 2004 at the North Carolina Central University Art Museum.

The exhibition, "Alexander 'Alex' Rivera: Picturing Black America" includes photographs taken during the civil rights movement and photographs of celebrities who visited Durham including tennis great Arthur Ashe, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, Singer Marion Anderson and the Emperor of Abyssinia Halle Selassie. A reception

is scheduled for Rivera at the museum on Friday, October 29, 2004 at 2:30 p.m.

Rivera, the oldest child of two born to Alexander M. Rivera, Sr. and Daisy Irene Dillard, grew up in Greensboro, N.C. His father, a practicing dentist, was deeply involved with leaders of the NAACP and their crusade against injustice and segregation.

During his childhood and teenage years, Rivera was exposed to the struggles for justice and equality for African Americans. He attended Greensboro public schools and graduated from Washington Street High School. He enrolled in Howard University and during his freshman year he worked part-time for the Washington Tribune, the largest black owned printing business in Washington, D.C.

In 1939, Dr. James E. Shepard offered the young fledgling journalist an unusual invitation. The founder and first president, of what is now North Carolina Central University, invited Rivera to organize the institution's first news bureau, while working toward his baccalaureate degree. After graduating from North Carolina College in 1941, Rivera took a position with the Journal and Guide in Norfolk.

Rivera completed World War II military service in Naval Intelligence

from 1941 to 1945. After his military service he returned to the journalism profession as a reporter for the Norfolk Journal and Guide and the Pittsburgh Courier.

During the heightened racial conflicts of the 40's and 50's, Rivera overcame substantial obstacles and threats in his pursuit of the truth. In 1947, he investigated the last lynching in South Carolina and in 1948 he investigated the last lynching in Georgia.

Rivera as a reporter also covered a number of lawsuits that ultimately led to the Brown v. The Topeka Board of Education decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1954, striking down the concept of "separate but equal"

facilities for the races. He was with Attorney and later Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall in the Clarendon County South Carolina case from beginning to the end. In 1955, Rivera received the Global Syndicate Award for his coverage of the progress of public school desegregation following the Brown decision.

He was the first black journalist to participate regularly in North Carolina Governors' press conferences. Vice President Richard M. Nixon, in 1957, invited Rivera to accompany him on an historic trip to the continent of Africa. This trip was extended to Europe and included an audience with the Pope.

He has been director of public relations for five NCCU Chancellors: Dr. Albert N. Whiting, Dr. Leroy T. Walker, Dr. Tyrone R. Richmond, Dr. Donna J. Benson, and briefly, Dr. Julius L. Chambers. Upon his retirement in 1993, Governor James B. Hunt, Jr., conferred on Rivera the State of North Carolina's most prestigious award. The Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

### "Mother and Child" OUTLINE:

This photograph taken by Alexander Rivera shows a mother and child in Montgomery, Ala. during the Jim Crow era. An exhibition, "Alexander 'Alex' Rivera: Picturing Black America," will be on display October 17 through November 3, 2004 at the North Carolina Central University Art Museum.

### "First Voters" OUTLINE:

This photograph taken by Alexander Rivera shows African Americans voting in Columbia, South Carolina for the first time since Reconstruction. An exhibition, "Alexander 'Alex' Rivera: Picturing Black America," will be on display October 17 through November 3, 2004 at the North Carolina Central University Art Museum.

## Good News Department

### Helping Children Out Of Poverty

(NAPSA)—With a little help, more mothers will be able to watch their children grow and thrive. This is more difficult than you might imagine in some developing countries where poverty and disease unravel fragile economies. In some places, women must pro-



By lending women the money to start businesses, one Christian relief organization strives to save children from poverty.

stitute themselves or their children to buy food and medical care. World Vision, a Christian relief and development organization, is helping such women to transform their lives through the WILFund (Women's International Loan Fund). The fund provides micro-loans to women in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. Loans are issued to women starting or expanding businesses. When the business is up and running, the woman repays the loan with interest. To learn more, visit [www.wilfund.org](http://www.wilfund.org).



Photo: Alex Rivera, Jr.



Photo: Alex Rivera, Jr.



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# The hidden hand in American politics

by Alton H. Maddox, Jr.

By 2050 at the latest, the minorities in the United States will become the new majority. Reconstruction is not only occurring in Iraq but also in the United States. This is the Second Reconstruction for Blacks after Florida created a second political debacle in 2000.

The hardest hit population will again be descendants of enslaved Africans simply because it is the only ethnic group in this country which has demonstrated a capability to sustain an assault on white supremacy until recently, but we have also failed to learn from the lessons of history.

Cong. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., in his "My Black Position Paper," notes, "The Black masses must demand and refuse to accept nothing less than that proportionate share of political jobs and appointments which are equal to their proportion in the electorate."

For example, there should at least be ten Blacks in the U.S. Senate and a similar number representing Latinos, Asians and Indians. In more than a century, only two Blacks have been elected to the Senate. Carol Moseley Braun was seated in 1993 from Illinois. Edward Brooke was seated in 1967 from Massachusetts.

Excluding the two Native Hawaiians in the Senate, there will be no minorities in the Senate with this year's resignation of Ben Nighthorse Campbell, who was also seated in 1993. He is the only Indian in the Senate.

Although Black leaders have failed to demand an affirmative action program for the Senate, the political establishment has conducted a pre-emptive strike by continuing tokenism through the selection of Barack Obama as the next junior senator from Illinois.

Congress is bicameral. The upper chamber was established for rich white men while the lower chamber was established for common white men. While the lower chamber is subject to "one man, one vote," the upper chamber is not. The upper chamber has veto power over the lower chamber and members of the upper chamber serve for six years while members of the lower chamber only serve for two years.

For some years, Congress has been passing repressive laws with a view towards complete racial and social control by 2050. The Patriot Act, for example, ensnares historically opposed groups. Under the guise of implementing the 9/11 Commission's report, Congress intends to eliminate its sunset provisions

and expand its scope under Patriot Act II. Some of the "milder" provisions of the act are set to expire at the end of 2005.

On the opening day of the High Court, on October 4, 2004, it heard oral arguments in U.S. v. Booker and U.S. v. Fanfan. Finally, Sixth Amendment questions have arisen under the Federal Sentencing Guideline and have been ripened for Supreme Court review. These guidelines empower hanging judges. Consequently, the prison population has exploded.

In short, serious policy decisions, with long range consequences, are being made in this country by whites only with Blacks et al. serving as window dressing, tokens or rubber stamps. Rules rule. Joel Kotkin in "Tribes" observes that Great Britain continues to influence the British Empire through rules it promulgated when it was the premiere military power. Congress is using the same approach to rule the new majority by 2050.

The interpretation of the law will be crucial to keeping the new majority in check. The best strategy is to put a Black face in a high place. Similarly, President Andrew Jackson nominated Roger Taney as chief justice. Taney was the first

Roman Catholic on the Supreme Court bench and Jackson's opponents described Taney as a "political hack." Taney proceeded to author Dred Scott v. Sandford.

According to Ken Foskett in "Judging Thomas," Bush is interested in nominating Justice Clarence Thomas to replace a possibly retiring Chief Justice William Rehnquist. Bush obviously believes that Thomas can get away with fratricide and sororicide through a right wing construction of the Constitution.

Although the chief justice enjoys several powers, his greatest impact on decision-making is in devising the "discuss list," which is comprised of cases that the chief justice believes should be heard by the court. The chief justice presides at any conference and sets its tone. The chief justice also decides who writes the majority opinion, thereby giving the legal rule a certain flavor or twist.

If Sen. John Kerry wins the presidential sweepstakes, he is not expected to nominate a jurist who will openly upset the applecart in either direction. Kerry's problem may be overcoming religious bigotry. While it is true that the country may be ready for another Roman Catholic, it is uncertain if the country is ready for a person with a Jewish

background.

Sen. Joseph Lieberman's religious faith, for example, may have prompted Bush v. Gore. To be sure, the Supreme Court engaged in illegal and ultra vires conduct by substituting federalism for states' rights. When a crime is committed, you should look for motive.

Kerry's grandfather was Jewish and his brother, Cameron Kerry, is also Jewish and a partner in a Boston law firm whose practice is primarily in assisting Israeli companies. He recently traveled to Israel reportedly under the auspices of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

In Israel, he met with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and former Prime Ministers Ehud Barak, Benjamin Netanyahu and Shimon Peres purportedly to convince Israel that it would have a friend in a Kerry administration. Reportedly, Israeli officials had an interest in meeting Sen. Kerry's brother.

When I was a child in the 1950's, I

remember adults talking about signs in Florida reading, "No N—rs, Jews or Dogs." Excluding dogs, the same sign could be hung at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. in D.C. today. The deed to the White House is still subject to a restrictive covenant.

According to a recent poll, most persons view Kerry as more intelligent than Bush, but Bush, a military coward, is viewed as a stronger leader. Obviously, strong and brave are not synonyms. Biases are still on the horizon and bigotry is alive and kicking.

If Obama is sent to Washington, anything is possible, including sending Kerry to the White House. In the final analysis, the hidden or true owners of America will decide who secures the lease to the White House. Colin Powell, if he had done a Democratic flip-flop, probably had a fair shot at uprooting Shelley v. Kramer at the White House.

See Courts at [www.reinstatealtonmaddox.com](http://www.reinstatealtonmaddox.com).

## Avoid The Flu... Without The Shot

Even though annual vaccinations are the most effective way to avoid getting influenza each year, those who were not able to be immunized this year - the majority of the US population - should not despair or panic. There are other ways to avoid getting the flu and other contagious diseases, and most of them are convenient and free.

The Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) has compiled the following recommendations from publications of the New York State Department of Health (NYS-DOH), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Following this advice should help people avoid getting and spreading the flu.

\* Wash your hands, often: This is the primary advice for killing germs and avoiding all communicable diseases. Wash with soap and hot or warm water for 15-20 seconds, the amount of time it takes to sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice. Then, if possible, dry hands with a paper towel and throw it in the trash. Hand washing is particularly important after using the bathroom, before eating and after preparing food. Have alcohol-based hand wipes on hand for situations where you cannot access soap and warm water.

\* Do not touch your face with your hands: Because primary points of entry for the flu virus to the body are the eyes, nose and mouth, hands that may have the virus on them should not touch the face.

\* Avoid close contact: Stay away from people who are - or may be - sick.

\* Cover your nose and mouth when coughing and/or sneezing: To avoid airborne spread of the flu and all germs, cough and sneeze into a tissue and then immediately throw the tissue into the trash. If no tissue is available, turn away from other people and sneeze or cough into your upper sleeve.

\* Clean surfaces frequently: Because the flu virus may have landed on surfaces that people touch, clean all surfaces frequently - especially door knobs, water faucets, refrigerator handles and telephones.

\* Get plenty of sleep and relax: Sleep and relaxation boost the immune system.

\* Get plenty of exercise: Exercise also boosts the immune system.

\* Eat properly: Proper nutrition is yet another way to boost the immune system.

\* Call your doctor if you have been exposed to someone with the flu and/or get the flu: For certain patients under

particular circumstances, a physician may be able to prescribe medications that can prevent influenza if medication commences within 48 hours of exposure. For some who get the flu anyway, a physician may be able to prescribe medication that can ease the symptoms and speed recovery.

\* Stay home if you get the flu: If none of the above recommendations help you avoid the flu, stay home until you are no longer contagious, and make sure that friends and family members do the same.

The objective is to prevent the spread of the flu virus as much as possible. You are not helping your employer or school if you heroically show up to work or study and make other people sick; ditto for shopping and other errands.



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People at high risk of suffering complications of the flu, such as children 23 months and younger and adults 65 and older, could even die from the flu. For the sake of the public good, stay home until your physician gives assurance that you are no longer a health risk to others. If everyone strictly adheres to the above recommendations, the spread of flu could be reduced this year in spite of the flu vaccine shortage. To help those who are at most risk of suffering complications if they do get the flu, anyone who has the unlikely opportunity to be immunized but is not at high risk to defer the vaccine to those who need it most. To find out who should be given priority for the limited supply of flu vaccine and to obtain more information about the flu, go to the CDC's web page at [www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/whoshouldget.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/whoshouldget.htm).

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# Globalization Not New: Look at the slave trade

WASHINGTON, DC - The following is a keynote speech delivered by famed computer scientist Philip Emeagwali on September 18, 2004, at the Pan-African Conference on Globalization, Washington DC.

Globalization - or the ability of many people, ideas and technology to move from country to country - is not new. In Africa, it was initiated by the slave trade and given impetus by colonialism and Christian missionaries.

The early missionaries saw African culture and religion as a deadly adversary and as an evil that had to be eliminated. In 1876, a 27-year-old missionary named Mary Slessor emigrated from Scotland to spend the rest of her life in Nigeria. For her efforts in trying to convert the people of Nigeria, Mary Slessor's photograph appears on Scotland's ten pound note, and her name can be found on schools, hospitals and roads in Nigeria.

The introduction to Mary Slessor's biography, titled: "White Queen of the Cannibals" is revealing:

"On the west coast of Africa is the country of Nigeria. The chief city is Calabar," said Mother Slessor. "It is a dark country because the light of the Gospel is not shining brightly there. Black people live there. Many of these are cannibals who eat other people."

"They're bad people, aren't they, Mother?" asked little Susan.

"Yes, they are bad, because no one has told them about Jesus, the Saviour from sin, or showed them what is right and what is wrong."

These opening words clearly show that Mary Slessor came to Africa on a mission to indoctrinate us with Christian theology. She told us we worshipped an inferior god and that we belonged to an inferior race. She worked to expel what she described as "savagism" from our culture and heritage and to encourage European "civilization" to take root in Africa.

We accepted the mission schools which were established to enlighten us, without questioning the unforeseen costs of our so-called education. These mission schools plundered our children's self-esteem by teaching them that, as Africans they were inherently "bad people." Our children grew up not wanting to be citizens of Africa. Instead, their education fostered the colonial ideal that they would be better off becoming citizens of the colonizing nations.

I speak of the price Africans have paid for their education and "enlightenment" from personal experience. I was born "Chukwurah," but my missionary schoolteachers insisted I drop my "heathen" name. The prefix "Chukwu" in my name is the Igbo word for "God." Yet, somehow, the missionaries insisted that "Chukwurah" was a name befitting a godless pagan. The Catholic Church renamed me "Philip," and Saint Philip became my patron and protector, replacing God, after whom I was named.

I have to argue that something more than a name has been lost. Something central to my heritage has been stripped

away. This denial of our past is the very antithesis of a good education. Our names represent not only our heritage, but connect us to our parents and past. As parents, the names we choose for our children reflect our dreams for their future and our perceptions of the treasures they represent to us.

My indoctrination went far deeper than just a name. The missionary school tried to teach me that saints make better role models than scientists. I was taught to write in a new language. As a result, I became literate in English but remain illiterate in Igbo - my native tongue. I learned Latin - a dead language I would never use in the modern world - because it was the official language of the Catholic Church, which owned the schools I attended.

Today, there are more French speakers in Africa than there are in France. There are more English speakers in Nigeria than there are in the United Kingdom. There are more Portuguese speakers in Mozambique than there are in Portugal.

The Organization of African Unity never approved an African language as one of its official languages. We won the battle of decolonizing our continent, but we lost the war on decolonizing our minds.

Many acknowledge that globalization shapes the future, but few acknowledge that it shaped history, or at least the world's perception of it. Fewer acknowledge that globalization is a two-way street.

Africa was a colony, but it is also a key contributor to many other cultures, and the cornerstone of today's society. The world's views tend to overshadow and dismiss the value and aspirations of colonized people. Again, I must impart my own experiences to illustrate this point.

I grew up serving as an altar boy to an Irish priest. I wanted to become a priest, but ended up becoming a scientist. Religion is based on faith, while science is based on fact and reason - and science is neutral to race. Unfortunately, scientists are not neutral to race.

Take, for example, the origin of AIDS, an international disease. According to scientific records, the first person to die from AIDS was a 25-year-old sailor named David Carr, of Manchester, England. Carr died on August 31, 1959, and because the disease that killed him was then unknown, his tissue samples were saved for future analysis.

The "unknown disease" that killed David Carr was reported in The Lancet on October 29, 1960. On July 7, 1990, The Lancet retested those old tissue samples taken from David Carr and reconfirmed that he had died of AIDS. Based upon scientific reason, researchers should have deduced that AIDS originated in England, and that David Carr sailed to Africa where he spread the AIDS virus. Instead, the white scientific community condemned the British authors of those revealing articles for daring to propose that an Englishman was

the first known AIDS patient. If these scientists were neutral to race, their data should have led them to the conclusion that Patient Zero lived in England. If these scientists were neutral to race, they should have concluded that AIDS had spread from England to Africa, to Asia, and to America. Instead, they proposed the theory that AIDS originated in Africa.

Even history has degraded our African roots. We come to the United States and learn a history filtered through the eyes of white historians. And we learn history filtered through the eyes of Hollywood movie producers.

Some of us complained that Hollywood is sending its distorted message around this globalized world. Some of us complained that Hollywood is a cultural propaganda machine used to advance white supremacy.

George Bush understood Hollywood was a propaganda machine that could be used in his war against terrorism. Shortly after the 9/11 bombing of New York City, Bush invited Hollywood moguls to the White House and solicited their support in his war against terrorism.

Some will even argue that schools play a significant role as federal indoctrination centers used to convince children during their formative years that whites are superior to other races. Fela Kuti, who detested indoctrination, titled one of his musical albums: "Teacher Don't Teach Me Nonsense."

It scares me that an entire generation of African children is growing up brainwashed by Hollywood's interpretation and promotion of American heroes. Our children are growing up idolizing American heroes with whom they cannot personally identify.

We need to tell our children our own stories from our own perspective. We need to decolonize our thinking and examine the underlying truths in more than just movies. We need to apply the same principles to history and science, as depicted in textbooks.

Look at African science stories that were retold by European historians; they were re-centered around Europe. The earliest pioneers of science lived in Africa, but European historians relocated them to Greece.

Science and technology are gifts ancient Africa gave to our modern world. Yet, our history and science textbooks, for example, have ignored the contributions of Imhotep, the father of medicine and designer of one of the ancient pyramids.

The word "science" is derived from the Latin word "scientia" or "possession of knowledge." We know, however, that knowledge is not the exclusive preserve of one race, but of all races. By definition, knowledge is the totality of what is known to humanity. Knowledge is a body of information and truth, and the set of principles acquired by mankind over the ages.

Knowledge is akin to a quilt, the latter consisting of several layers held together by stitched designs and comprising patches of many colors. The oldest

patch on the quilt of science belongs to the African named Imhotep. He was the world's first recorded scientist, according to the prolific American science writer Isaac Asimov.

The oldest patch on the quilt of mathematics belongs to another African named Ahmes. Isaac Asimov also credited Ahmes as being the world's first author of a mathematics textbook. Therefore, a study of history of science is an effort to stitch together a quilt that has life, texture and color. African historians must insert the patches of information omitted from books written by European historians.

There are many examples of the mark Africans have made on world history. Americans are surprised when I tell them Africans built both Washington's White House and Capitol. According to the US Treasury Department, 450 of the 650 workers who built the White House and the Capitol were African slaves. Because the White House and Capitol are the two most visible symbols of American democracy, it is important to inform all schoolchildren in our globalized world that these institutions are the results of the sweat and toil of mostly African workers. This must also be an acknowledgement of the debt America owes Africa.

Similarly, discussions of globalization should credit those Africans who left the continent and helped build other nations throughout the world - most nations on Earth. Africans who have made contributions in Australia, in Russia, and in Europe must be acknowledged so our children can have heroes with African roots - so they can know their own roots and be proud of them.

The enormous contributions of Africans to the development and progress of other nations has gone unacknowledged. We have yet to acknowledge, for example, that St. Augustine, who wrote the greatest spiritual autobiography of all time, called "Confessions of St. Augustine," was an African; that three Africans became pope; that Africans have lived in Europe since the time of the Roman Empire; that Septimius Severus, an Emperor of Rome, was an African; and that the reason Beethoven was called "The Black Spaniard" was because he was a mulatto of African descent.

Why are we reluctant to acknowledge the contributions and legacies of our African ancestors? We cannot inspire our children to look toward the future without first reminding them of their ancestors' contributions.

Look at the long struggle of African Australians, who recently became citizens with rights on their native continent. Africans have been living in Australia for 50,000 years. Yet, African Australians were granted Australian citizenship just 37 years ago, in 1967. According to CNN, African Australians were not recognized as human beings prior to 1967. They "were governed under flora and fauna laws." African Australians were, in essence, governed by plant and animal laws. For many years, African Australians were described as the "invisible people." In fact, the first whites



Philip Emeagwali, Internet and supercomputer pioneer. Born in 1954, in Nigeria, Africa. President Bill Clinton called him "one of the great minds of the Information Age" and CNN called him "A Father of the Internet." Invented an international network that was similar to, but predated that, of the Internet. Won the 1989 Gordon Bell Prize, computation's Nobel prize, for inventing a formula that lets computers perform the fastest computations, work that led to the reinvention of supercomputers.

The massively parallel supercomputer, shown in the background, contains 65,536 processors that are networked together as a twelve-dimensional hypercube. The supercomputer contains 4096 nodes with each node consisting of 16 processors. It is used for nuclear simulations, extracting oil and gas, and studies of the atmosphere. In the 1980s, it was widely believed that it will be impossible to program thousands of processors to outperform conventional supercomputers. In 1988, Emeagwali proved the skeptics wrong by programming all 65,536 processors to perform the world's fastest computation of 3.1 billion calculations per second.

to settle in Australia named it the "land empty of people."

The contributions of Africans to Russia must be reclaimed. Russia's most celebrated author, A.S. (Aleksandr Sergeyevich) Pushkin, told us he was of African descent. Pushkin's great-grandfather was brought to Russia as a slave.

Russians proclaim Pushkin as their "national poet," the "patriarch of Russian literature" and the "Father of the Russian language." In essence, Pushkin is to Russia what Shakespeare is to Britain. Yet Africans who have read the complete works of Shakespeare are not likely to have read a single book by Pushkin.

I was asked to share today the story behind my supercomputer discovery. It would require several books to tell the whole story, but I will share a short one that I have never told anyone.

The journey of discovery to my supercomputer was a titanic, one-man struggle. It was like climbing Mount Everest. On many occasions I felt like giving up. Because I was traumatized by the racism I had encountered in science, I maintained a self-imposed silence on the supercomputer discovery that is my claim to fame.

I will share with you a supercomputing insight that even the experts in my field did not know then and do not know now. In the 1980s, supercomputers could perform only millions of calculations per second and, therefore, their timers were designed to measure only millions of calculations per second. But I was performing billions of calculations per second and unknowingly attempting to time it with a supercomputer timer, which was designed to measure millions of calculations per second.

I assumed my timer could measure one-billionth of a second. It took me two years to realize my timer was off a thousandfold. I was operating beyond a supercomputer's limitations, but I did not know it. The supercomputer designers did not expect their timers to be used to measure calculations at that rate. I almost gave up because I could not time and reproduce my calculations which, in turn, meant I could not share them, two years earlier, with the world.

After years of research, my supercomputer's timer was the only

thing stopping me from getting the recognition I deserved. I realized the timer was wrong, but I could not explain why. I spent two years mulling over why the timer was wrong.

It took two long and lonely years to discover why I could not time my calculations. My 3.1 billion calculations per second, which were then the world's fastest, were simply too fast for the supercomputer's timer. What I learned from that experience was not to quit when faced with an insurmountable obstacle - and that believing in yourself makes all the difference.

I learned to take a step backward and evaluate the options: Should I go through, above, under, or around the obstacle? Quitting, I decided, was not an option. Indeed, the old saying is true: When the going gets tough, the tough get going. Looking back, I learned that most limitations in life are self-imposed. You have to make things happen, not just watch things happen.

To succeed, you must constantly reject complacency. I learned I could set high objectives and goals and achieve them. The secret to my success is that I am constantly striving for continuous improvements in my life and that I am never satisfied with my achievements.

The myth that a genius must have above-average intelligence is just that, a myth. Geniuses are people who learn to create their own positive reinforcements when their experiments yield negative results. Perseverance is the key. My goal was to go beyond the known, to a territory no one had ever reached.

I learned that if you want success badly enough and believe in yourself, then you can attain your goals and become anything you want in life. The greatest challenge in your life is to look deep within yourself to see the greatness that is inside you, and those around you.

The history books may deprive African children of the heroes with whom they can identify, but in striving for your own goals, you can become that hero for them - and your own hero, too.

I once believed my supercomputer discovery was more important than the journey that got me there. I now understand the journey to discovery is more important than the discovery itself; that the journey also requires a belief in your own abilities.

I learned that no matter how often you fall down, or how hard you fall down, what is most important is that you rise up and continue until you reach your goal.

It's true, some heroes are never recognized, but what's important is that they recognize themselves. It is that belief in yourself, that focus, and that inner conviction that you are on the right path, that will get you through life's obstacles.

If we can give our children pride in their past, then we can show them what they can be and give them the self-respect that will make them succeed.

Emeagwali helped give birth to the supercomputer - the technology that spawned the Internet. He won the 1989 Gordon Bell Prize, which has been dubbed the "Nobel Prize of Supercomputing."

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# Scientists Estimate 100,000 Iraqi Deaths

By EMMA ROSS  
AP Medical Writer

LONDON — A survey of deaths in Iraqi households estimates that as many as 100,000 more people may have died throughout the country in the 18 months after the U.S. invasion than would be expected based on the death rate before the war.

There is no official figure for the number of Iraqis killed since the conflict began, but some non-governmental estimates range from 10,000 to 30,000. As of Wednesday, 1,081 U.S. servicemen had been killed, according to the U.S. Defense Department.

The researchers of The Lancet report

## The Mortgage Tax Deception

by Damon Carr

Recently received mortgage solicitations in the mail from two different companies that were super-hyper in selling the idea of the mortgage tax deduction. They expounded on the idea that by utilizing your home to finance various goals, you will reduce your tax bill. I later came across an article written by a financial advisor who was illustrating the benefit of making minimum payments on mortgages, while investing all that you can in various investment vehicles. This financial consultant reasoned that, since interest rates on mortgages were averaging six percent and long-term investment vehicles were averaging 12 percent, you are, in effect, netting a six percent return.

To some degree, the concept of the mortgage tax deduction and the concept of investing versus paying off the mortgage have some merit. However, is it the most simple, efficient, risk-tolerant way to manage your money?

While it is true that by paying mortgage interest you reap a tax deduction, it is important to note that NO tax incentive will equal to, or be greater than, the interest expense that is paid. More importantly, there are two types of deductions that exist—a standard deduction and an itemized deduction. When filing your taxes, you have to choose one or the other. Naturally, you would want to choose the deduction type that yields a greater benefit.

The standard deduction is a specified amount (indexed annually for inflation) that may be claimed by taxpayers that do not itemize their deductions. The only time you will claim itemized deductions is when your itemized deductions exceed your standard deduction. The amount of the taxpayer's deduction is based on filing status.

For a married filing jointly taxpayer, the standard deduction in 2004 is \$9,700. Most deductions must have a profit motive associated with it, such as an investment or business. So, other than deductions allowed for property taxes, mortgage interest deduction will be the only other eligible deduction available for the average person. Let's assume you're married, filing jointly and that other than mortgage interest, you have no other itemized deductions. You are in the 25 percent marginal tax bracket and win have to pay interest above \$9,700 (amount needed to exceed standard deduction) before the itemized deduction will begin to benefit you.

Assuming you paid \$12,000 in interest for the year, you may reason that you reaped a \$3,000 tax deduction (\$12,000 x 25 percent tax rate = \$3,000). The reality in this scenario is you would have gotten a \$9,700 deduction whether or not you paid interest. Therefore, the benefit should be calculated on \$12,000 - \$9,700, which is \$2,300. The actual tax saving in this example paying \$12,000 in interest is a whopping \$575 (\$2,300 x 25 percent tax rate = \$575).

If I lost you in the financial jargon, simply ask yourself does it make sense to pay \$12,000 in interest to get a \$575 tax savings? I hear a resounding NO.

You can earn a greater return paying off debt than you can earn in the stock market. "No investment is as secure as a paid off debt." Whenever you're forecasting stock returns, you're talking about potential after-tax returns. Whenever you're forecasting paying off debt, you're talking about a guaranteed tax-free return. So often people rationalize it makes more sense to invest whatever extra money they could come up with and earn a 15 percent return, versus paying off a mortgage with a lower interest rate.

Let's assume that the Jones family has "HIS" a household income of \$52,740 per year or \$4,395 per month. Conventional wisdom suggests that they save and invest 10 percent of their income, which is \$440 monthly.

Instead, the Jones family decided to leverage this money to get completely out of debt. Their current monthly debt payments is \$1,597 per month, with a total debt balance of \$118,000. By following a systematic debt elimination plan, using the extra \$440 to accelerate the payoff process by paying off one debt at a time and using a snowball effect to eventually payoff all debts, they can be debt-free in seven years. They will save tens of thousands of dollars in interest expenses—not to mention the immeasurable return on investment called "peace of mind."

More importantly, it will free up their old monthly obligation of \$1,597 per month. That's like having a nest egg of \$191,640 earning 10 percent per year.

To build a nest egg of \$191,640 investing \$440 per month over seven years, you will need to yield a rate of 43.68 percent per year. I don't know of many stocks yielding that type of return.

(Damon Carr is the owner of ACE Financial. He can be reached at (412) 856-1183 or visit his website at [www.allcreditexperts.com](http://www.allcreditexperts.com).)

concede that the data they based their projections on were of "limited precision," because the quality of the information depends on the accuracy of the household interviews used for the study. The interviewees were Iraqi, most of them doctors.

The study, conducted by researchers at Johns Hopkins University, Columbia University and the Al-Mustansiriyah University in Baghdad, is being published Thursday on the Web site of The Lancet medical journal.

The survey indicated violence accounted for most of the extra deaths seen since the invasion, and air strikes from coalition forces caused most of the violent deaths, the researchers wrote in the British-based journal.

"Most individuals reportedly killed by coalition forces were women and children," they said.

The report was released just days before the U.S. presidential election. The Lancet routinely publishes papers on the Web before they appear in print, particularly if it considers the findings of urgent public health interest.

Those reports then appear later in the print issue of the journal. The journal's

## Professional Grade Equipment Takes Tailgaters to the Next Level

(NAPSA)-The pre-game tailgate party has evolved through the years from a cooler of cold ones and a hibachi grill in the back of a pickup to feature more elaborate spreads and high-powered accessories. As tailgating takes off, the vehicle remains at the center of the party with its gate open to welcome all to the celebration.

According to Joe Cahn, tailgating.com's Commissioner of Tailgating and a man who puts more than 30,000 miles on his vehicle each year attending upwards of 50 parking lot parties, tailgating has doubled in the last 10 years and each season fans take it to a new level.

"It's amazing how much money is spent on things like grills, gas-powered blenders and folding chairs with fancy footrests and cup-holders," said Cahn. "Many sporting good stores now even have complete tailgating sections full of gear that the year-in, year-out tailgater can add to his or her arsenal over time."

Tailgating today is about more than burgers and beer, as the average tailgater spends three to four hours of preparation time and more than \$500 a season updating their gear. To cater to this trend, vehicle manufacturers are creating light trucks and SUVs that offer specific features for fall football tailgating.

"GMC trucks are built in football country-by football fans, for football fans-so we have a deep understanding of what features will enhance a tailgate party," said Steve Rosenblum, GMC marketing director. "Professional grade tailgaters demand a truck that's been engineered to offer functionality and versatility in the parking lot and in their everyday driving."

The list of high-tech must haves for the 2004 tailgating season includes:

• GMC Envoy XUV (Retail cost \$31,925)-Billed as the sport utility with more utility, it hosts easy-to-use, innovative features like a power sliding rear roof for easy access and open-air tailgating, and an all-weather cargo area with a quickdrain system for ice and beverage storage.

• GMC Sierra Hybrid (Retail cost approximately \$30,000)-This gasoline/electric hybrid is approximately 10

spokesmen said they were uncertain which print issue the Iraqi report would appear in and said it was too late to make Friday's issue, and possibly too late for the Nov. 5 edition.

An editor was not immediately available to comment on whether the early release of the survey was timed to stimulate last-minute debate before the election.

Richard Peto, an expert on study methods who was not involved with the research, said the approach the scientists took is a reasonable one to investigate the Iraq death toll.

However, it's possible that they may have zoned in on hotspots that might not be representative of the death toll across Iraq, said Peto, a professor of medical statistics at Oxford University in England.

To conduct the survey, investigators visited 33 neighborhoods spread evenly across the country in September, randomly selecting clusters of 30 households to sample. Of the 988 households visited, 808, consisting of 7,868 people, agreed to participate in the survey. At each one they asked how many people lived in the home and how many births and deaths there had been since January 2002.

The scientists then compared death

rates in the 15 months before the invasion with those that occurred during the 18 months after the attack and adjusted those numbers to account for the different time periods.

Even though the sample size appears small, this type of survey is considered accurate and acceptable by scientists and was used to calculate war deaths in Kosovo in the late 1990s.

The investigators worked in teams of three. Five of the six Iraqi interviewees were doctors and all six were fluent in English and Arabic.

In the households reporting deaths, the person who died had to be living there at the time of the death and for more than two months before to be counted. In an attempt at firmer confirmation, the interviewees asked for death certificates in 78 households and were provided them 63 times.

There were 46 deaths in the surveyed households before the war. After the invasion, there were 142 deaths. That is an increase from 5 deaths per 1,000 people per year to 12.3 per 1,000 people per year—more than double.

However, more than a third of the

post-invasion deaths were reported in one cluster of households in the city Falluja, where fighting has been most intense recently. Because the fighting was so severe there, the numbers from that location may have exaggerated the overall picture.

When the researchers recalculated the effect of the war without the statistics from Falluja, the deaths end up at 7.9 per 1,000 people per year—still 1.5 times higher than before the war.

Even with Falluja factored out, the survey "indicates that the death toll associated with the invasion and occupation of Iraq is more likely than not about 100,000 people, and may be much higher," the report said.

The most common causes of death before the invasion of Iraq were heart attacks, strokes and other chronic diseases. However, after the invasion, violence was recorded as the primary cause of death and was mainly attributed to coalition forces—with about 95 percent of those deaths caused by bombs or fire from helicopter gunships.

Violent deaths—defined as those brought about by the intentional act of others—were reported in 15 of the 33 clusters. The chances of a violent death were 58 times higher after the invasion than before it, the researchers said.

Twelve of the 73 violent deaths were not attributed to coalition forces. The researchers said 28 children were killed by coalition forces in the survey households. Infant mortality rose from 29 deaths per 1,000 live births before the war to 57 deaths per 1,000 afterward.

The researchers estimated the nationwide death toll due to the conflict by subtracting the preinvasion death rate from the post-invasion death rate and multiplying that number by the estimated population of Iraq—24.4 million at the start of the war. Then that number was converted to a total number of deaths by dividing by 1,000 and adjusting for the 18 months since the invasion.

"We estimate that there were 98,000 extra deaths during the postwar period in the 97 percent of Iraq represented by all the clusters except Falluja," the researchers said in the journal.

They called for further confirmation by an independent body such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, or the World Health Organization.

The study was funded by the Center for International Emergency Disaster and Refugee Studies at Johns Hopkins University and by the Small Arms Survey in Geneva, Switzerland, a research project based at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva.



NFL Hall of Fame running back Eric Dickerson kicked off the Professional Grade tailgating season at the Indianapolis Colts vs. New England Patriots game in Foxboro, Mass.

## Joint Center poll: 22 percent of Blacks for Bush

WASHINGTON, DC - In a surprising contradiction, more African Americans say they are willing to vote for President George W. Bush on Nov. 2, even though his favorable rating is lower now than it was four years ago, according to a new poll released on Oct. 19 by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

In the Joint Center's 2004 National Opinion Poll - Politics, 18 percent of African Americans say they would vote for Bush, doubling the 9 percent that said they would support him in the Joint Center's pre-election 2000 poll.

However, Sen. John Kerry still beats Bush among African-American voters, 69 to 18 percent.

"This poll is show a certain amount of Black ambivalence in terms of election year issues that resonate within the community, and their relationship with Sen. Kerry," said Eddie N. Williams, president of the Joint Center. "They are holding conservative positions on some wedge issues, like same-sex marriage and civil union."

Only 22 percent of African Americans give Bush high job ratings, 67 percent of them view him unfavorably, and almost three quarters of them disapprove of the president's handling of Iraq.

On one of the key social issues in this year's debate, African Americans show greater opposition to both marriage and civil unions for same-sex couples than the general population, 49 to 37 percent.

"This is the first time we have asked

about gay and lesbian issues, so we cannot tell whether African Americans' position on this issue has hardened because of the ongoing debate," said David A. Bositis, the Joint Center's senior research associate and author of the study.

Among the findings: \* Most African Americans (63 percent) and almost half the general population (48 percent) are concerned that their vote might not be counted.

\* Only 23 percent of African Americans and 32 percent of the general population give the No Child Left Behind Act education program high marks.

\* Among African Americans, 32 percent of seniors think the Medicare drug bill is bad, compared with 39 percent of the general population.

\* Fewer African Americans 50 years of age and older (60 percent) identified themselves as Democrats in 2004 than in 2002 (72.2 percent). In contrast, more African Americans 35 years old and younger (66.3 percent) are self-identified Democrats in 2004 than in 2002 (55.2 percent). The overall percentage (63 percent) remains unchanged from 2002.

The survey was conducted between Sept. 15 and Oct. 10 among 1,642 adults nationwide. There were two component samples: 850 African Americans and 850 members of the general population, including 58 African Americans. There is a statistical margin of error of 3.5 percent. This is the Joint Center's 13th national poll since 1984.

to 12 percent more fuel efficient than the standard gasoline version. It features 120-volt AC power made available through four outlets. The Sierra Hybrid is the only truck that will give hardcore tailgaters the advantage of powering heaters, refrigerators and several big screen TVs on a built in generating station.

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# Under the radar

# U.S. to double troop presence in Columbia

by Bill Weinberg

Colombia makes few headlines in the United States these days. But Washington's involvement in the Western Hemisphere's longest, bloodiest war is rapidly escalating, as the world's attention is elsewhere. The latest signal of increased U.S. embroilment comes just as a vocal civil movement is emerging in Colombia to demand an end to the war.

The U.S. Congress recently approved a doubling of the Pentagon's troop presence in Colombia, where a wave of protest has erupted, as some 1.4 million public-sector workers walked off their jobs and took to the streets for a one-day strike. Organized by major trade unions, as well as civil organizations, the Oct. 12 strike demanded an end both to President Alvaro Uribe's push to join President George Bush's Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), and to the rights abuses and atrocities associated with the government's counter-guerrilla war—which the United States has funded to the tune of \$3.3 billion since Plan Colombia was passed in 2000.

The vote in Washington, two days

earlier, doubled the cap on U.S. military advisors in Colombia to 800, and raised the cap on the number of U.S. civilian contract agents—pilots, intelligence analysts, security personnel—from 400 to 600. The measure came as a little noticed part of the 2005 Defense Department authorization act, and was a defeat for human rights groups that were pushing for a lower cap. The new 800/600 cap is exactly what the White House asked for. An earlier House version would have set a 500 cap for military personnel and kept the cap for civilian contractors at 400, but this was rejected in joint committee. A proposal establishing these caps in the Senate—known as the Byrd amendment for Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W.V.)—was defeated in June by a vote of 58 to 40. Among the two senators who abstained was John Kerry.

The authorization measure is ostensibly aimed at helping the Colombian government fight against narcotics trafficking and against activities by organizations designated as terrorists, naming the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Co-

lombia (FARC), the National Liberation Army (ELN) and the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC). But rights groups point to a long record of close collaboration between Colombia's armed forces and the AUC, a rightist paramilitary group. And while U.S. troops are officially barred from actual combat missions in Colombia, many fear that Washington is on a "slippery slope."

"This amounts to authorization of increased involvement by U.S. troops in an internal armed conflict in Colombia," says Kimberly Stanton, deputy director of the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA). "And it was passed without significant public debate. We are sliding into a protracted civil war in Colombia."

Strikes and protests numbers in hundreds of thousands.

In the general strike, hundreds of thousands of workers, joined by peasants and students, shut down cities throughout the country. Bogota's central square, Bolivar Plaza, was filled with some 300,000 people—Colombia's largest

protest in recent memory. Business was also paralyzed in Medellin, Cali, Barranquilla, Bucaramanga and Cartagena, and traffic was blocked on the Pan-American Highway in addition to protesting the war and FTAA plans, the strikers also opposed President Uribe's scheme to alter the constitution to allow himself to seek another term in office.

The hardline Uribe, President Bush's closest ally in South America, has refused to negotiate with the FARC, Colombia's biggest guerrilla army. A negotiated settlement to the conflict was among the strikers' demands.

An Oct. 11 New York Times story on the troop cap authorization claimed that "Under Mr. Uribe's administration, violence has ebbed in Colombia." But Colombia human rights groups say that atrocities have more than doubled since Pres. Uribe took office in 2002.

The Congressional vote also coincided with the release of a new Am-

nesty International report, "Colombia: Violence Against Women," which finds that rape and other sexual crimes—including genital mutilation—are frequently used by both the paramilitaries and the official security forces against communities accused of collaborating with the guerrillas. The report says the guerrillas, in turn, have used similar brutal tactics against those thought to be collaborating with the army or paramilitaries.

"Women and girls are raped, sexually abused and even killed, because they behave in ways deemed as unacceptable to the combatants, or because women may have challenged the authority of armed groups or simply because women are viewed as a useful target on which to inflict humiliation on the enemy," said Susan Lee, director of Amnesty's Americas program.

The vote also came days after yet another peasant leader was assassinated. On Oct. 6, the body of Pedro Jaime Mosquera Cosme, an Afro-Columbian leader of the Campesino Association of Arauca, was found near the Venezuelan border, with

what the group called "clear signs of torture." Arauca is one of the most violent of Colombia's departments, where numerous campesino leaders have been killed by paramilitaries and the army in recent years.

Rights advocates fear that, in next year's Defense Department authorization act. Congressional hardliners will again push to get the cap on U.S. troop levels raised—or done away with altogether, as proposed by Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA).

WOLA's Stanton says the lack of media coverage of the vote—and Colombia generally—is a bad sign.

"The American people are not aware that we are increasingly involved," she says, "with all attention focused on Iraq." (Pacific News Service contributor Bill Weinberg, author of "Homage to Chiapas: The New Indigenous Struggles in Mexico" and editor of the online World War 3 Report, is working on a book on Plan Colombia.

# Gay Rights, Civil Rights

by Margaret Kimberley, aka Freedom Rider

Everyone wants to use our story. Everyone with a beef, advocacy issue or pet project, invokes the image of black oppression in order to legitimize their case. In the second presidential debate President Bush compared the plight of the "unborn" to Dred Scott's attempt to escape from slavery. He isn't the only guilty party. Animal rights activists compare the lot of the lab rat with that of lynching victims.

There is a tacit admission that black people have suffered the worst human rights abuses in America. Yet no one else really wants any connection with us. It would be nice if those who use us for their own purposes would occasionally advocate on our behalf.

The issue has emerged again because of efforts to legalize gay marriage. The question of whether same sex marriage should become legal can be a deeply emotional one. Homosexuality

is contrary to the teachings of most religions and many see it as an affront to deeply held spiritual beliefs. Others who are not so religious are still uneasy at the prospect of such a tremendous change in the definition of marriage. The combination of religious belief and the anger caused by opportune comparisons to racial oppression makes for a combustible mix, but that should not prevent black people from discussing the rights issues of other groups.

Opposition to gay marriage in the black community tends to follow the narrative that discrimination against gays is trivial or even acceptable. Therefore, gay marriage cannot be a civil rights issue. It is true that the demand for civil rights for gays is not the same as the demands for civil rights for black people. Gay people were not enslaved, segregated, or forced to live under the threat of death from mob rule. None of which means they haven't faced discrimination. Gays were subject to job discrimination, anti-

sodomy laws that mandated prison terms, and forced treatment in psychiatric hospitals.

These risks were avoided by staying in the closet. Anyone passing for straight could live a comfortable life. A Faustian bargain is not the equivalent of slavery, but it is difficult to claim that it doesn't create discrimination.

The very public coming out of New Jersey governor Jim McGreevey is a case in point. He believed that he could run for public office only if he had a wife and kids by his side. If he hadn't lived a lie, he would never have been elected. McGreevey achieved his career goal but at a very high price.

It is imperative to discuss rights issues without comparing the suffering of one group against that of others. Otherwise the foolishness occurring in the black community because of the gay marriage debate will only worsen.

Too few black preachers appear to be interested in making their voices heard about the occupation of Iraq, the beginnings of an American police state, or rates of incarceration and unemploy-

ment that render the idea of black family life moot. The same people who are silent on these issues have no problem finding a microphone to denounce gay people.

The sleaziest among them even endorse George W. Bush because he is right on what they see as a moral issue, having defined immorality purely by sexual activity. Waging war or kidnapping an elected head of state are apparently not worthy of mention when morality is discussed. One particularly foolish reverend, Gregory Daniels of Chicago, made this unforgettable statement: "If the KKK would oppose gay marriage I would ride with them."

Just as anti-abortion activists designate fetuses as the Harriet Tubmans of the 21st century, the right wing have been allowed to appropriate the history of black oppression to fight against gay rights. Their misuse of black history is no less offensive than anyone else's and should not be accepted, least of all by the clergy.

The recent decision by a Massachusetts court legalizing gay marriage

set off a frenzy of calls for a constitutional amendment and for state laws banning gay marriage. Without these laws, the rest of the 49 states would have to recognize gay marriages performed in Massachusetts.

As these efforts move through the states the black clergy are immediately targeted and too often succumb to the temptation to act out. They are able to do so because there is no consensus in the black community in favor of gay marriage, and because too many gay black people stay closeted, in church and out. What do they think when they sit in church and hear themselves called sinners, if the pastor is generous, or demon possessed, if he isn't?

The other danger inherent in this narrow debate is the assumption that gay doesn't mean black. That is obviously untrue, but speaking of gay and civil rights as separate issues allows the deception to continue. There are many McGreeveys in the black community too.

Gay people have not suffered the same degree of oppression as black

people, but their desire to marry whom ever they want is a genuine rights issue. Besides, if their ability to stay married is no better than that of straight people a large number of them won't stay together anyway. If gay marriage opponents want to discourage homosexuality they might want to rethink their position.

Margaret Kimberley's Freedom Rider column appears weekly in Ms. Kimberley is a freelance writer living in New York City. She can be reached via e-Mail at [margaretkimberley@blackcommentator.com](mailto:margaretkimberley@blackcommentator.com). You can read more of Ms. Kimberley's writings at <http://freedomrider.blogspot.com/>

## MANAGING YOUR MONEY

### A New Law Changes The Way Checks Clear



Experts say a new law will reduce fraud and paperwork by speeding the check-clearing process.

(NAPSA)—Check it out. A new law is changing the way banks clear checks.

The legislation—known as the Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act, or Check 21—will benefit consumers through faster check clearing, decreased fraud, less paper and increased security. The law makes it possible for banks to send and accept for clearing purpose digital images of checks electronically. This eliminates the need to physically transport checks between banks.

As an added benefit, Check 21 will reduce uncontrollable delays in transporting checks caused by weather or natural disasters.

According to the American Bankers Association, the law does not eliminate paper checks, nor does it change the way consumers write checks. It simply requires banks and customers to accept paper copies of original checks, called "substitute checks."

A "substitute check" is a paper copy of the original check, including the front, back and all endorsements.

Supporters of this law say that consumers will benefit. Here's why:

- They'll have earlier access to their funds and more convenient access to information online about the status of their checks.

- Check fraud will be reduced because faster processing will mean faster detection and faster resolution of problems.

- Consumers receive special receding rights if a problem arises due to a "substitute check."

One caution: with faster processing, consumers must ensure they have enough money in their account to cover their checks.

In addition to the changes brought on by Check 21, a growing number of retailers are now converting paper checks into electronic automated clearinghouse (ACH) payments on the spot. This means that if a consumer has written a check for a purchase, the check is returned immediately at the point of purchase, after it is converted into an ACH payment.

Regular billers, such as utilities or credit card providers, are also converting checks to ACH payments. Once the check is converted, a consumer will not receive a copy of the original. However, the check will be reflected in the consumer's bank statement, which will

\*\*\*  
Do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of.  
-Benjamin Franklin  
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**Shortening Your Path To A College Degree In An Uncertain Economy**

(NAPSA)—It's the higher education equivalent of the "perfect storm"—students of all ages are seeking more education to help them weather the rocky economy at the same time tight state budgets are forcing colleges to increase tuition and cut back on financial aid. But help is available, according to the College Board, through CLEP, the College-Level Examination Program that saves students both time and money.

CLEP provides thousands of students of all ages with a unique opportunity to demonstrate academic achievement through a program of rigorous exams in introductory college-level subjects. The 35 CLEP exams range in subject from English Composition to U.S. History, and include Biology and Spanish, among others. The exams are 90 minutes and are made up primarily of multiple choice questions.

James Ownby, 34, is a victim of the high-tech bust who used CLEP to advance himself. For years, Ownby enjoyed a successful career with a Fortune 500 company even though he had never earned an undergraduate degree. But when tough times hit, his employer cited his lack of a degree as the reason he was chosen for termination. "Time was of the essence in getting a degree because in the computer industry, it's crucial that you don't stay away for any length of time so your skills don't become outdated." Ownby earned 35 credits and estimates he saved \$16,000 through CLEP. As a result of CLEP, he was able to finish a four-year degree program in 18 months. "The CLEP exams are rigorous and challenging, but I recommend them to other professionals who may find themselves in my situation."

CLEP exams are offered at 1,300 college and university test centers at universities throughout the United States. Because the exams are computer-based, students obtain instant score reports upon completion of the exam. The exams cost \$55 each and test centers usually charge a small test administration fee. Passing a CLEP exam can save students hundreds or thousands of dollars on college tuition and fees.

CLEP gave 27-year-old Jackie Kim the boost she needed to graduate from college. Kim recently returned to school because she felt her job chances were being hurt by her lack of an undergraduate degree. "My goals were to get a degree as quickly and economically as possible and CLEP helped me do that. I earned 44 credit hours and saved \$33,000 in tuition costs through CLEP. Because I finished early, I was able to start my job search that much sooner."

CLEP also appeals to students who are beginning second careers. Olga Karlatos Rankin was a Broadway actor when she decided, at age 55, to return to the classroom for her bachelor's degree. She passed five CLEP exams that she says saved her nearly \$25,000 in tuition costs. "I always wanted to return to school but never had the chance. CLEP gave me the opportunity to earn credit for all the things I had learned throughout my life so I could spend time concentrating on the essentials I needed from higher education."

There are 2,900 colleges that grant credit for CLEP exams. A student considering taking a CLEP exam should first check with the college to learn more about its CLEP policy and how much credit a student can earn through CLEP. However, it is not necessary to be enrolled in college in order to take a CLEP test.

CLEP is administered by the College Board, a not-for-profit membership organization whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity with a commitment to excellence and equity in education.

For more information about CLEP, including exam descriptions and the colleges and universities that accept and/or administer CLEP exams, visit the College Board's Web site which is located at [www.collegeboard.com/clep](http://www.collegeboard.com/clep).

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# Small Relatives May Add Layer to Human History

Detailing "a new and surprising twig" on the human family tree, scientists report Thursday they've discovered the remains of a clan of tiny human relatives, standing about 30 inches tall, that lived on an isolated island in eastern Indonesia as recently as 18,000 years ago.

Bones from seven individuals of the new species have been recovered from a 130-foot-deep cave called Liang Bua on the island of Flores, a tropical island already renowned for being home to many animal species found nowhere else in the world.

Dubbed Homo Floresiensis, or Flores Man, by the team of Australian and Indonesian researchers who found them, the diminutive humans seem to have had the island to themselves for at least 100,000 years before they became extinct, possibly victims of a volcanic eruption around 12,000 years ago or perhaps done in by the arrival of modern humans.

Evidence from the cave shows Flores Man walked upright, made stone tools, built fires and worked together to hunt large game, yet sported a grapefruit-sized brain about a quarter the size of the brains of modern humans. Its brain capacity and stature are more in line with a pre-human species that lived in Africa more than 3 million years ago, but other features, like large eye sockets and small front teeth, put the creature in the more modern Homo family.

Archaeological evidence shows modern humans have been living practically next door in New Guinea for at least 50,000 years, but scientists also know that full-sized archaic humans, Homo erectus, continued to live along the Solo River in nearby Java until at least 50,000 years ago.

Peter Brown, a professor of archaeology and paleontology at the University of New England in Australia and lead author of one of two papers describing Flores Man published in the journal Nature, says the discovery suggests that the human family has been a lot more varied and adaptable than has been recognized.

"People of this body size were supposed to be extinct three million years ago. Yet we missed them by so little in time. This begs the question of what else are we going to find?" said Brown.

Already, he and his colleagues plan to look for signs of similar clans in other caves around the region.

But other anthropologists who reviewed the papers before they were published are so puzzled by the jumble of features, some more ape-like than human, that they think it's wrong to include the creatures in the recent human family tree at all.

The existence of Flores Man, along with recent evidence that clusters of Neanderthals survived in Europe until about 30,000 years ago, suggests the

human family album is becoming more crowded. For most of the roughly 160,000 years that modern humans have been around, our species "seems to have shared the planet with other bipedal and cultural beings — our global dominance may be far more recent than we thought," observe British evolutionary experts Marta Mirazon Lahr and Robert Foley, in a Nature analysis of the research.

## Redefining Rights: The Civil Rights Record of the Bush Administration

**NYC Schools Underfunded**

NorthStar Network contributor David R. Jones, president of the Community Service Society examines the issue of underfunded schools and overcrowded classrooms in New York City. It is a timely subject as the New York Court of Appeals has ruled that the state must change its school funding formula so that city schools can finally receive their fair share. The court's ruling is the result of a lawsuit by the Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE). More...

2004 Issue: The Federal Judiciary

## Send Euros Cuba Does Away With US Currency

Cuba announced that dollars will no longer be accepted in stores and businesses, saying it is trying to regain control of its economy as Washington cracks down on the flow of the U.S. currency to Cuba. A convertible peso will be put in circulation.

President Fidel Castro asks Cubans to tell relatives abroad to send them euros, British sterling or Swiss francs instead of dollars.

The dollar has long shored up Cuba's communist economy. Castro legalized the currency in 1993 to cope with the loss of Soviet aid and trade.

## Timeline on Missing Explosives in Iraq

1991: The International Atomic Energy Agency placed a seal over storage bunkers holding conventional explosives known as HMX and RDX at the Al-Qaqa facility south of Baghdad as part of U.N. sanctions that ordered the dismantlement of Iraq's nuclear program after the Gulf War. HMX is a "dual use" substance powerful enough to ignite the fissile material in an atomic bomb and set off a nuclear chain reaction.

\* January 2003: IAEA inspectors viewed the explosives at Al-Qaqa for the last time. The inspectors took an inventory and again placed storage bunkers at Al-Qaqa under agency seal.

\* February 2003: IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei told the United Nations that Iraq had declared that "HMX previously under IAEA seal had been transferred for use in the production of industrial explosives." This apparently did not include the

"The Flores fossils add a new and surprising twig to the hominin (human) family tree," they said.

Brown and his colleagues believe that Flores Man evolved from larger archaic humans who may have reached the island on bamboo rafts from other islands as far back as 800,000 years ago, based on the age of stone tools found elsewhere on Flores.

Flores, a former Portuguese colony,

even today is off the beaten path. The last time the island made news was in 1992 when a series of tsunamis struck the north shore, wiping out several villages and killing more than 1,700 people.

The scientists argue that the small size of the species came about over time because natural selection favored dwarfing on an island where the selection of animals for food was limited to birds, reptiles and one large mammal.

Such adaptations are common among many animals on islands, including Flores, which featured a miniature elephant, the Stegodon, that Flores Man hunted and cooked, charred bones found in the cave confirm.

While modern humans are known to have been in the area for tens of thousands of years before Flores Man disappeared, there's no evidence of interaction.

Bones from deer, pigs and porcupine were also found in the soil of the cave — but only in layers above where the dwarf human skeletons were found — suggesting that the new species arrived with modern humans.

Lying just below those bones on the cave floor is a thin layer of material laid down 12,000 years ago by volcanic eruption that marked the demise of both the Stegodons and Flores Man.

On the Net: www.nature.com

If there is one issue that should drive Black voters to the polls on November 2 it is the fate of the federal judiciary under the next president. There is a strong possibility that at least two, and as many as three, of the current justices on the U.S. Supreme Court may retire during the next presidential term. These vacancies would give the next president the opportunity to put his ideological stamp on the high Court for decades to come. Should Associate Justice Sandra O'Connor step down, the justice that currently most often is the swing vote

on issues, and President Bush win, the Supreme Court will most likely take on a very conservative appearance. There are currently 28 vacancies and 21 nominations pending for seats on the federal bench.

2004 Issue: HIV/AIDS and STD's

Vice President Dick Cheney claimed he was unaware of the HIV/AIDS crisis plaguing Black women, in response to a question from moderator Gwen Ifill during the vice presidential debate. The vice president's ignorance on such an important public health issue raises the stakes for

Black voters as they head to the polls on November 2. African-Americans now account for over half of the new HIV cases in the United States. Black women comprise one-third of all new cases.

2004 Joint Center National Opinion Poll

The Washington D.C. based Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies has released its 2004 National Opinion Poll, the most comprehensive survey of Black political thought in the nation. The annual poll provides an interesting snapshot of

Black preferences heading into the November 2 election.

2004 Issue: DC Statehood

DC Statehood is an issue that should remain high on the list of priorities for Black Americans. District residents, including hundreds of thousands of Blacks, are denied their full citizenship rights because their representative in the House of Representatives, currently Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, is not afforded the same rights and privileges in representing her constituents as her colleagues in Congress.

HMX that remained under seal at Al-Qaqa.

\* March 2003: Nuclear agency inspectors visited Al-Qaqa for the last time but did not examine the explosives because the seals were not broken. The inspectors then pulled out of the country.

\* March 2003: The U.S.-led coalition invaded Iraq.

\* After the invasion: The Penta-

gon said Monday that "coalition forces were present in the vicinity at various times during and after major combat operations. The forces searched 32 bunkers and 87 other buildings at the facility, but found no indicators of WMD (weapons of mass destruction). While some explosive material was discovered, none of it carried IAEA seals."

\* Oct. 10, 2004: Iraq's Ministry of Science and Technology told the

nuclear agency that 377 tons of explosives had disappeared from the Al-Qaqa facility. The Iraqis said the materials were stolen and looted because of a lack of security.

\* Oct. 15, 2004: The IAEA informed the U.S. mission in Vienna about the disappearance. National security adviser Condoleezza Rice was

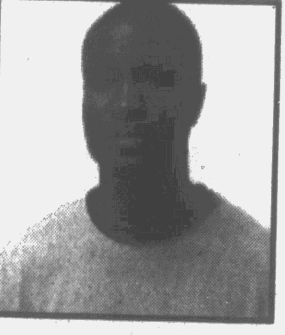
informed days later, and she informed President Bush, according to White House press secretary Scott McClellan.

\* Oct. 23-24, 2004: The Pentagon ordered the U.S. military command in Baghdad and the Iraq Survey Group to investigate the IAEA report, the Pentagon official said, adding it was not clear how or by whom the explosives

\*\*\*\*\* ADVERTISEMENT \*\*\*\*\*

### WILL'S MOBILE HAIRCUT SERVICES

Will Carroll is a graduate of Mitchell's Hairstyling Academy. He has 13 yrs of experience, "I've been into hair since the age of 17." Growing up without a lot of money wasn't always easy so he could not always afford to go to the barber shop and get a professional haircut. "So he taught himself how to cut hair and like the saying goes 'the rest is history'": really enjoy making people look good because I feel that if a person looks good outwardly then they will feel better about themselves inwardly. Now he has created a totally new way for people to get their haircut. He calls it WILL'S MOBILE HAIRCUT SERVICES. Carroll says, "no longer will you have to sit and wait in long line at the barber shop. Neither will you have to pay high prices for a haircut." Carroll has to do is pick up your phone make an appointment and he will either come to your place of business or to your home. He added that his main objective is making life easier for people and feels. "Let's face it, living in such a fast pace society getting a haircut can be an adventure." I feel that everybody will be able to benefit from this type of service, because, now in this day and age it is all about saving time and money. "I don't know anybody that does not want to save time and money." Ages 13 and up haircuts will only be \$8.00 that includes facial hair also, ages 12 and under haircuts will only be \$7.00 He specializes in cutting all hair types and hairstyles. Another one of his objective for this service is to brake all racial barriers, to him it does not matter what color you are he lives by this saying "HAIR IS HAIR" he says the only color he can see is the color green(money). So give Will a call and start making life a little bit easier for yourself. His business hours are Monday-Friday from 10a.m.-7p.m.



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## health hints

### Get Five A Day

(NAPSA)-By including a mix of fruits and vegetables in a low-fat diet, you can help maintain a healthy heart, memory function, vision health, strong bones and teeth and even lower your risk of some cancers.

Experts suggest eating five to nine servings of fruits and vegetables each day. Serving sizes are probably smaller and easier to fit in than you think. The Alliance for Affordable Services, an association dedicated to helping members live better and save more, offers these examples of fruit and veggie serving sizes:

- 1 medium-size fruit
- 3/4 cup (6 oz.) of 100 percent fruit/vegetable juice
- 1/2 cup of fresh, frozen or canned fruit (in 100 percent juice) or vegetables
- 1 cup of raw leafy vegetables
- 1/2 cup cooked dry peas or beans
- 1/4 cup dried fruit.

The Alliance uses its group buying power to attack soaring health care costs through wellness programs, information, legislative advocacy and incentives to control medical costs. For more details, visit www.affordableservices.org or call 800-733-2242.

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