

Merry Christmas...  
Happy Kwanzaa and  
Happy New Year!

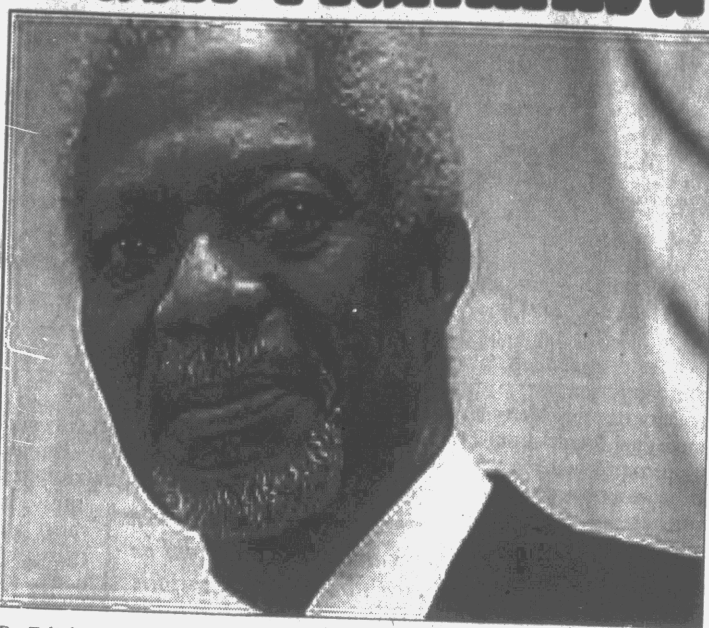
# The Minority

Serving Eastern North Carolina's Minority Communities Since 1988

# Voice

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## Bush Administration Reverses Stance on Annan



By Edith M Lederer  
UNITED NATIONS - Earlier this month, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan faced criticism from some U.S. lawmakers because of alleged corruption in the oil-for-food program for Iraq.

The United States expressed confidence in Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Thursday and said he should remain at the helm of the United Nations, an abrupt turnaround from its refusal to back him

last week after a U.S. senator called for his resignation.  
The unequivocal support from U.S. Ambassador John Danforth, who said he was speaking on behalf of the Bush administration, aligned the United States with the 190 other members of the United Nations who rallied to support the beleaguered Annan.  
"We are not suggesting or pushing for the resignation of the secretary-general," Danforth said. "We have worked well with him in the past and look forward to working with him for some time in the future."  
Sen. Norm Coleman's call last week for Annan's resignation amid allegations of corruption in the U.N. oil-for-food program in Iraq made headlines and led to an outpouring of support from nations around the world.  
The leaders of U.S. ally Britain, as well as France, Russia, Germany and other countries phoned the secretary-general to back him, and Annan got a rare standing ovation Wednesday from the U.N. General Assembly which includes all 191 U.N. member states.  
President Bush twice refused to

support the secretary-general last week, stressing that he wanted a "full and fair and open accounting of the oil-for-food program" so U.S. taxpayers "feel comfortable about supporting the United Nations."  
Some U.N. officials and diplomats saw this as a veiled threat that the United States might again stop paying its U.N. dues.  
"We have worked well with him in the past and look forward to working with him for some time in the future."  
-U.S. Ambassador John Danforth  
Danforth also called for a thorough investigation. But he said Tuesday he had "great confidence" in the secretary-general.  
On Wednesday, U.S. deputy ambassador Patrick Kennedy joined in the ovation at the end of Annan's presentation to the General Assembly of a report that called for the most sweeping reforms of the United Nations since its founding in 1945.  
Annan said Tuesday he would stay on as U.N. chief and focus on reform during his final two years.  
Danforth said U.S. support for a thorough oil-for-food investigation

had been misinterpreted as a lack of confidence in Annan and a desire for his resignation. He said he was asked to clarify that the United States supported the secretary-general and did not want him to step down.  
In his news conference Thursday, which was delayed for five hours, Danforth said the oil-for-food probe was essentially "a criminal investigation" and that the investigators must determine whether anyone is guilty of bribery, payoffs and corruption.  
"We are expressing confidence in the secretary-general and in his continuing in office. We are also saying that the investigation is critically important, that there is a cloud over the United Nations," Danforth said.  
"The only way to dispel the cloud is let the sunlight in. And that means a thorough investigation, an objective investigation," he said.  
Danforth was asked about recent revelations about Annan's son, Kojo, who worked in Africa for a Swiss-based company that had an oil-for-food contract. He said Kojo Annan was an adult and implied he has to answer for himself.

"There is no question as to the personal integrity of the secretary-general," Danforth said.  
Annan appointed former U.S. Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker to lead an independent inquiry of the oil-for-food program and turned over all U.N. documents. Coleman, who is leading one of five U.S. congressional investigations, has accused Annan of not helping his inquiry.  
The secretary-general said it's up to Volcker, who controls the U.N. material, and Volcker said he will only release documents with his reports. The first is due in January and a final report is expected in mid-2005.  
Danforth said the worst thing the United Nations could now do is not cooperate with the probe.  
In his remarks last week, Coleman, a Minnesota Republican, said Annan presided over the "greatest fraud and theft" in the history of the United Nations. Two weeks ago, the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations which he chairs said it had uncovered evidence that Saddam Hussein's government raised more than \$21.3 billion in illegal revenue by subverting U.N. sanctions and the oil-for-food program.

## Waging his own personal war on poverty with Subway Franchise and much more Buffalo Pastor follows growing phenomena to developing community self sufficiency



Although the church operates for additional businesses, Prigen (on the left) says, "that the Subway shop is not about making money. It's about missions." Most of the people employed by the subway franchise are not members of True Bethel Baptist Church and added that the church seeks to employ people right from the community it serves.

**BUFFALO, N.Y.** - If you've driven down the east side of the city of Buffalo recently, you've probably noticed the new Subway Sandwich shop that stands at 701 E. Ferry Street. The store, which opened in September, is a tribute to a community striving for spiritual, economical and physical transformation.  
At True Bethel Baptist Church, the Rev. Darius Pridgen is happy to serve the Word. He's also pretty quick to serve a SUBWAY sub.  
On any given day, the franchise serves people ranging from workers dropping by for a quick lunch or elderly people wanting a clean, safe place to eat and converse or young people needing somewhere to get a quick bite and hang out with friends or do homework. But the uniqueness of this store goes way beyond soup and sandwiches. The shop is owned and operated by True Bethel Baptist Church. In fact, the entrance for the Church's general offices is located inside the sandwich shop.

Mixing ministry and business, although not a new idea, is a growing phenomenon. Rev. Darius G. Pridgen, who has pastored True Bethel Baptist church for the past ten years, says the sandwich shop is really just an extension of the church and provides opportunities for "marketing" the gospel of Jesus Christ.  
"Each church has a specific calling and purpose. Churches must examine what they are doing to get new members (people who are not a part of another congregation). I use my business sense that says I need to market and I need to use what I learned as an entrepreneur," explains Pridgen. "The entrepreneurial model provides us with the opportunity to become more self-sufficient and also to be able to employ our own people."  
Pridgen believes that the gospel must be 'packaged' in a way that makes it attractive to people. He says, "You have to, first of all, offer a product, that is not necessarily what people want because the gospel message isn't about what people

want but about what they need. But you have to package it in a way so that they will come and get it. I've listened to pastors complain about attendance but never examine what they were offering. Jesus never forced anything down anybody's throat; he offered it."  
When Pridgen first accepted the position as pastor of the church they had gone through several church splits and were averaging about twenty-five people in attendance on any given Sunday. Today, they have more than three thousand people in combined attendance of their three Sunday morning services, making them one of the fastest growing churches in the Buffalo area. Pridgen says that his success has been partly because he is "foolish". "I don't care how many books you read or how many church models you study; no model is right for every church."  
Pridgen says he has learned to do whatever the Lord tells him to do, without fear or hesitation. "I begin every day by lying on my face before God. I read a text from the Scriptures, I write in my journal and then I'm flat on my face before the Lord saying 'God whatever you want to do today, I'm ready for a miracle. You show me and I'll go.' Then I get up and I go to work."  
The church started a work-skills program for young people two years ago but it fizzled without jobs for its graduates. That's when the church, which is housed inside a former supermarket and attracts about 2,000 people each week, opened its own businesses: a small bookstore, silkscreen company and cleaning company that contracts with an adjacent charter school.  
For Subway officials, the church location — its first — posed no problems. "If there's room and it fits within the zoning board requirements, we're happy," said Les Winograd, a spokesman for the Milford, Conn.-based chain. Of Subway's 22,000 locations, 3,500 shops are in "nontraditional" places, like convenience stores, schools, sports arenas, hospitals and military bases.  
The city provided about \$10,000

in small business grants, Common Council member Antoine Thompson said. While the church itself is tax-exempt, the portion dedicated to the restaurant is not, though it qualifies for exemptions under the state's Empire Zone economic development program, he said.  
Since opening in September, the franchise has placed consistently among the top performers of Subway's 80 stores in the region, at one point sending an embarrassed Pridgen begging at other Subways for bread to get through a crazy rush.  
"It's turned into a bigger operation than we ever imagined," he said.  
Darius Pridgen describes himself as a husband, a dad, a pastor, and an entrepreneur. But he says being a pastor was something he never wanted to do, but does out of obedience to the calling of God on his life. He further notes that he much prefers to be an assistant.  
Janice Goodell, the church administrator, has known Pridgen since they were children. She says he is the type of leader that genuinely cares about people.  
Loving people is what Darius Pridgen and True Bethel Church is all about. In fact, they continue to seek new and innovative ways to introduce people to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Pridgen notes how at one point he noticed that some of the young men did not want to come and sit in church for two hours so he employed methods like making them security guards or having them run the video cameras. "I found that this gave them buying and makes them a part of something," he explained. Pridgen says he tries to create opportunities that involve young people and by them being involved they receive the mentoring that is so lacking in the community.  
Pridgen says he refuses to have staff members who do not love people. "When I find I have that (someone who doesn't love people), I make changes quickly and honestly without lying to people or talking down to them". He explains that if people can't find love in the church then they will go into the streets and find it

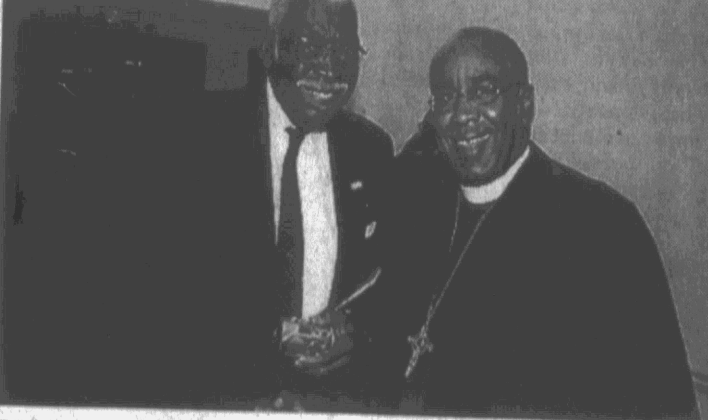
there.  
Church members say Pridgen is a transparent leader who is not afraid to admit his mistakes or tell you that he doesn't have the answer. It is these and other qualities that make them feel comfortable with him. He has a way of making them feel like they can talk to him about anything.  
For Darius Pridgen and True Bethel Baptist Church, the "business of ministry" is something that will continue well into the future. The church currently runs four businesses: the Subway franchise, a bookstore, a T-shirt company and a cleaning company. They plan to launch a fifth (an engraving company) soon.  
The Subway franchise idea was introduced to Pridgen by a local entrepreneur, Joe Parker. Parker, who at one time owned his own franchise in Tonawanda, mentioned the idea a few years back and asked Pridgen to come on board. The church set aside money for franchise development and when the time was right

they proceeded.  
"That Subway shop is not about making money. It's about missions," says Pridgen. He emphasizes that every bill at True Bethel is paid off and that the church is funded through the tithes and offering of its members. He further explains that the mission of the franchise is to train young people in customer service and work ethics.  
Most of the people employed by the subway franchise are not members of True Bethel Baptist Church. The church seeks to employ people right from the community it serves. And for some of the employees and patrons alike, it is the closest they have come to attending a church service in years.  
It is not unusual on any given afternoon to find Pastor Pridgen joking around with people in the store or pitching in to make sandwiches for patrons. He tries to never give the impression that he is too "big" to do the little things. And that's what people love about him.



NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS FOR THE LOCAL NAACP: Pictured from left to right is Evelyn Littles, Executive Committee-At-Large, Calvin Henderson, President Pitt County NAACP, Judge Wanda Bryant, NC Court of Appeals, Howard Conner, Treasurer, Bernard Haselig, Asst. Treasurers, Howard Conner and Les Cox. In the back row are William H. Worthington, 1st Vice President, Reginald Barrett, 2nd Vice President.

## Theme "Becoming A Healthy Church" sets agenda for AME Zion Conference



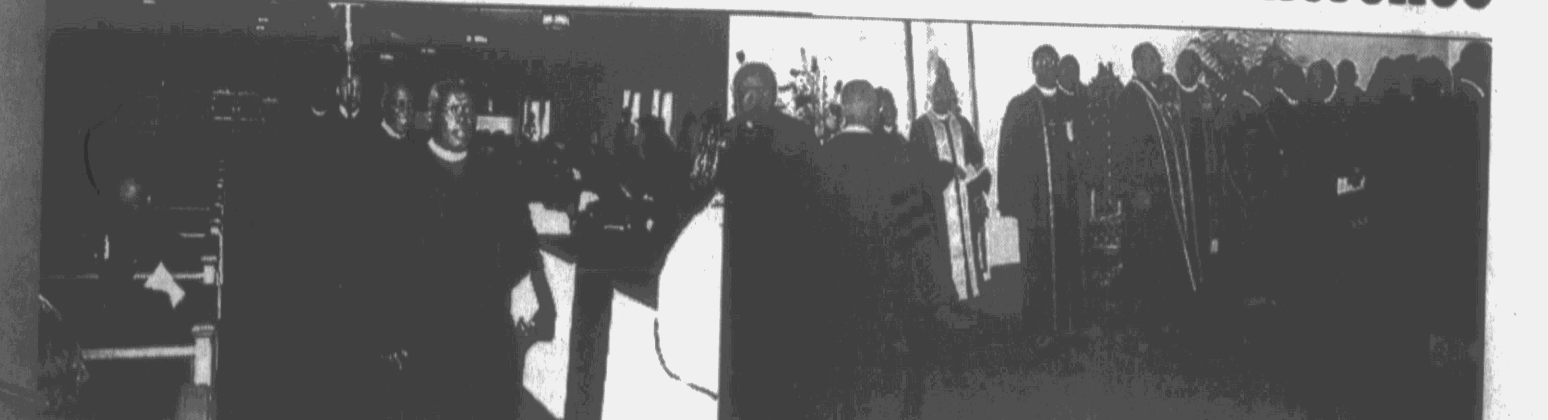
**GREENVILLE, N.C.** - During Thanksgiving week, the Eastern NC Episcopal District of The AME African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church held its 141st Annual Conference at St. Augustine's AME Zion Church located in Kinston where Rev. Julian Pridgen is the pastor.  
As the new AME Zion presiding Prelate, Bishop Richard K. Thompson replaced Bishop George E. Battle, Jr.  
The theme was "Becoming A Healthy Church" and their motto was "Build a Bridge - Get Over It."

During the conference, Bishop Thompson convened over the 3rd Episcopal District that makes up the NC Conference of the AME Zion Church. This area includes the eastern counties of Pitt, Beaufort, Craven, Onslow, Lenoir and Edgecomb Counties. This Thanksgiving Week Conference lasting six days, has been a long standing tradition among African Americans in the Eastern North Carolina area and concluded with new appointments with the Bishop appointing Pastors

to one years terms.  
Among those pastors of the NC Conference were a few notable transfers and appointments. Rev. Ronald P. McDougal from the Trinity AME Zion Church in New Bern was transferred to the New Jersey Conference and Rev. Charles Dillahart received a new assignment to St. Paul AME Zion Church in Pollackville, N.C.  
Spurred by long term delegates and conference attendees who expressed satisfaction with the developments achieved during this annual coming-together. Adjectives such as "fair" and "reasonable" were among those used in recalling the sessions that were officiated over by Bishop Thompson.  
Other notables who attended the conference were Mrs. Georgia M. Thompson, Missionary Supervisor, Presiding Elders Jeremiah Asbury, Clyde L. Murphy and William L. Wainwright. Other local pastors in attendance included Rev.

David Moore, Rev. Willie Johnson, Rev. Margaret Blackmon and Rev. Acolia Simon-Thomas.  
D.D. Garrett, Sr. of Greenville served as conference trustee and delegate. Garrett has also served on national AME Zion boards and committees.  
Other events and conferences that are currently schedule for the upcoming year are the South Africa Annual Conference which will take place December 9 through 12, 2004 at the Spottswood A.M.E.

Zion Church. The Christian Education Summit will take place on January 26 and 27, 2005 followed by the Eastern North Carolina Convocation & Ordination on January 27 and 29, 2005 at the Hilton Riverside in Wilmington, NC, and the Virgin Island Annual Conference will be held on March 16-20, 2005 at the Medford A.M.E. Zion Church, St. Croix, US Virgin Islands.  
The Host Pastor will be the Rev. Charles Bertram.



# Minority Voice OP

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

## Destruction of Social Security would harm Black communities... **BAMBOOZLED!**



Dr. Maya Rockey Moore

A big hoax is about to be pulled on the American people in the name of Social Security reform if President Bush and the Republican Congress get their way and send Social Security money to Wall Street. If this happens all Americans will likely receive the shortest end of the stick.

**Rationale for Social Security Privatization is Pulp Fiction**  
Social Security "reform," codeword for privatization, seeks to divert all or a portion of the funds currently supporting the Social Security program into 401K-type accounts that individuals can invest in the stock market. While this idea may seem innocuous on its face, the reality is that privatization is a duplicitous attempt to renege on our country's promise to provide reliable support to aging retirees, disabled workers, and orphaned dependents.

Supporters of individual account proposals seek to perpetuate the fiction that Social Security is facing a fiscal crisis

that can be solved only by privatizing the system. In reality, Social Security's "crisis" is thus: in the year 2052 the Social Security trust funds will be able to pay 80 cents on every \$1 in benefits promised. What privatizers don't want Americans to know is that this 20 cent gap per dollar of promised benefits is manageable and can be closed without radically altering the system. In fact, the tax cuts President Bush gave away to the wealthiest one percent of Americans could have covered the amount of the long-term Social Security shortfall and there would have still been money left over for other important priorities.

So, if Social Security's fiscal imbalance is manageable why is it that supporters of privatization are so intent on changing the system? Could it be that they seek cover in their attempts to justify the massive transfer of taxpayer dollars to the money managers on Wall Street - a move that will further benefit the rich at the expense of working and middle class families? Could it be that they seek to dismantle an efficient federal entitlement program that they have historically resented because all - including the wealthy - must contribute? Could it be that, (like corporations who move from defined benefit pension plans to defined contribution plans), they seek to make individuals more responsible for shouldering the financial burden of their own retirement? Or, could it be all of the above?

**Plans to Privatize Blow a Hole in Social Security and the Federal Budget**

**The poverty rate for elderly black would more than double -- from more than 24% to 65%-- if there was no social security**

However you assess their strategy, one thing is for certain: proponents do not promote privatization because their plans are affordable, effective, or efficient. Indeed, privatization plans like those put forth by President Bush's Social Security reform commission, are prohibitively expensive. Not only do they blow a big hole in the Social Security Trust Fund (thereby cutting benefits) by removing trillions of dollars in dedicated revenue, they also require massive transfers of money from the general budget in order to sustain the transition and administrative costs of individual accounts over the short, medium, and long term.

Since President Bush has already ruled out the possibility of raising taxes in order to finance these enormous costs, it is guaranteed that they will have to be paid for by further shrinking Social Security benefits and/or by piling more debt on top of our already steep federal budget deficits - creating a hole so deep it will take our economy almost 60 years to recover according to the 2004 Economic Report of the President.

### African Americans are Harmed by Privatization Plans

Privatization's likely impact on African American families provides a prime example of why these plans also fail the effectiveness test. Because of historical patterns of discrimination in the U.S. education system and labor market, African Americans are more likely to earn a modest living during the course of their working lives, more likely to have experienced spells of unemployment or un-

deremployment, and more likely to retire with less income from private pensions, assets or personal savings. To add insult to injury, African Americans' disproportionate lack of access to quality, affordable healthcare - also rooted in education, employment and income inequities - contributes to our higher rates of disability and early death.

A comprehensive community insurance plan, Social Security provides an equalizing effect in this perfect storm through the provision of a steady monthly check for retirees, for those who become disabled, and for the dependent children and spouse of a worker who has died in the prime of his or her life.

On the whole, Social Security Administration statistics show that African Americans benefit significantly from these benefits. The only source of retirement income for 40 percent of African American seniors, SSA estimates the

poverty rate for elderly blacks would be more than double - from 24 percent to 65 percent - without Social Security. Benefits for black seniors are boosted further by annual cost of living adjustments and a progressive benefit structure that replaces a larger percentage of pre-retirement earnings for lower-income earners. In addition, Social Security's disability and survivor benefits are also extremely important for black families. Although only 12 percent of the U.S. population, African Americans are almost 18 percent of those receiving disability benefits. In addition, black children represent 23 percent of all children receiving survivor benefits.

Given the various ways in which Social Security benefits black families, how would privatization proposals stack up? The short answer: they don't. By diverting trillions of dollars in revenue away from Social Security, privatization plans require drastic up-front cuts to Social Security thereby reducing the guaranteed amount received by African American seniors on modest, fixed-incomes. Since they are all factored into the same OASDI (Old Age, Survivor and Disability Insurance) formula, the diversion will also reduce and destabilize the

**African Americans, however, should be highly alarmed about privatization's implications for the economic stability of their families and community.**

*Continues on Page 7*



EVER THE TEAM PLAYER, COLIN POWELL ACCOMPLISH ONE LAST MISSION WITH CHARACTERISTIC APLOMB AND DIGNITY

AT LEAST HE LEAVES WITH HIS HEAD HIGH

## What Santa bought to town?



Susie Clemons

DUH?

I ask who would be threatened by this message intended to save and not destroy lives?

Better yet who in our community feared that closed eyes would be opened? No doubt our southern primness was further diminished when Mr. King shared that several area houses of worship refused to allow PICASO, Pitt County Aids Service Organization, the opportunity to speak to congregations on this deadly matter of infectious disease control - given that 72% of all new HIV cases national have occurred in Black women and 72 % to Black teenage girls.

Moreover, what we have missed in our judgmental states of bliss is that seniors - persons over 50 - are happily engaging in their pursuits. And as a result, a good many have fallen victim to the accursed HIV/AIDS. Talk about a SHOCK! No doubt theirs is a comfort zone that has inevitably lead to death and will surely lead to more less folks change their way of thinking.

Henceforth, I urge the utmost caution when talks of Noah and the Flood are in the air - remember he had to save himself and his family when others said that he was lying. No time for fatalistic talks of "pie in the sky" there's a war waging in our community of enormous proportions with the intent to wipe us out. Those of us who are not dead or dying from this disease: He that hath ears let em hear!

My sources share that area or local centers of worship with younger congregants are more receptive to this message of TRUTH intended to save lives - not cast anyone into the furnace of fire and brimstone. HELLO!!! Aids, the virus that causes HIV, is neither dressed in a mini-skirt nor wearing red lipstick, or a pair of denims worn too low beneath the belt line, but rests in polyester lined caskets made by the company Opportunity and Ignorance.

That anyone would want a community to remain in ignorance about such things as preposterous as it is downright evil!

That some chose to languish in baseless notions about how things ought to be done or said is beyond me, especially when it comes to saving the lives of the fellow man for whom they claim undying love before GOD.

Laughable at best when collective thoughts and actions are nonetheless made quite obvious by merely viewing the status of some of our communities, and by the duplicitous heart had by some in professing the need to flee from the wrath of sin on the one hand while allowing our future to be put asunder on the other.

Clearly I am as hood winked by such actions, as I am the state of quieted fear imposed upon Americans by the current Bush-Chaney leadership posse - descendants of Ma Barker and the train robbers Jesse James and Frank.

Let my memory fails me, did not our ancestors wage a tremendous war

for freedom? To think that we've had nearly forty years of freedom firmly in our hands - who's to blame for steering the ship into the waters of bondage now? Clearly slavery for us was as cruel a punishment as it gets.

Yet moving forward means not forgetting but using the same energy it took to bring our ancestors out of the valley to bring about a new day for ourselves, our children and their children.

Is the same energy and spirit had during the presidential election past, is the same energy needed now to overcome this veil of ignorance and death that seeks to kill off as many black women as is possible, leaving behind untold numbers of our children without mothers.

'Tis the season to be jolly and I should be out caroling, baking a pumpkin streusel pie, shopping or something. But December 2004 has

## Has Culture Supplanted Race in the American Social Landscape?

Over the years, much has been written about the American racial question and its impact on life in the United States. Conspicuously absent from the debate has been a recognition of how racism may now be but a convenient proxy for cultural marginalization. When racial minorities experience discrimination today, the cause is most likely rooted in differences of culture rather than differences in inherited physical characteristics. Perhaps the time has finally come to attribute American intergroup tensions to "culturism" as opposed to racism. The difference is far more than semantic and it could suggest that America has unknowingly turned the corner in regard to relations between racial groups.

It is well settled that race has historically been the predominant factor negatively impacting the lives of racial minorities. However, upon close examination of the current condition of let's say, blacks, it becomes increasingly clear that we are most likely to be discriminated against if and when we function

outside of what is considered the cultural mainstream. If this is indeed true, the implications would be profoundly positive. Race is an immutable characteristic that one cannot change; culture, however, is very changeable through familiarity and conditioning.

When whites discriminate against blacks today, it is likely that they do so because of negative perceptions of differing attitudes, behaviors and communication styles, whether real or imagined. It is rare today for whites to discriminate against blacks due solely to the physical traits associated with being black.

For example, there exists a sizable and growing class of affluent and successful blacks who have sufficiently adopted the practices and mores of mainstream society. Their adoptions of corporate language, etiquette, and values have equipped them to persevere in America's competitive environment despite their racial differences. In contrast, the most underachieving strata of blacks tend to function farthest from the cultural mainstream core. Does it follow that

a possible solution to the discrimination that blacks and others experience is mainstream acculturation?

Sadly, vehement and defiant resistance to mainstream acculturation remain the rule in many black communities. Years of continual exclusion from American mainstream life has given rise to a vibrant black sub-culture that, among other things, prides itself in rejecting vestiges of the cultural mainstream. That this rejection stifles upward mobility is seldom considered in some black communities. Therein dwells the new American dilemma. To expect these blacks to abandon their familiar culture in favor of a historically hostile mainstream would be truly ambitious. This difficulty notwithstanding, this should be increasingly acknowledged as a critical cultural goal to be pursued.

Some critics might consider this mainstream acculturation to be a form of denial of ethnic heritage. This need not be the case. Obtaining the ability to function in a different cultural milieu does not necessarily displace one's original cultural

disposition. For example, when foreign businessmen come to the United States, they quickly realize that they must adopt American corporate modes of dress, speech, behavior if they expect to make positive impressions in the business world. Are these foreign businessmen thereby rejecting the heritage from which they came? Surely, they are not.

Further, notable figures like Denzel Washington, Colin Powell and Michael Jordan are respected and admired by Americans across the demographic spectrum. Are they any less black by heritage and culture as a result? Again, this is not the case.

It would be disingenuous to suggest that racism no longer exists in American life. In some environments, it continues to be an everyday phenomenon. More often than not however, American racism now consists of slights and indignities rather than systemic measures used to subjugate people as in years past. This fact alone demonstrates just how far American society has come in lessening the relevance of race, per se, as a barrier.

## Black men under fire, fired, or fired up

by Herb Boyd

What do Tyrone Willingham, Tavis Smiley, Kofi Annan, Charles Ogletree and Kweisi Mfume have in common? Other than being prominent Black men in leadership capacities, they are either looking for or may soon be looking for new assignments.

Willingham, after three years struggling to build a dilapidated football program at Notre Dame, and with a winning record this season, was recently fired by the school's athletic director. Smiley, expressing exasperation at the National Public Radio's failure to reach out more aggressively to African-American listeners, has told the network that he will not be renewing his contract with them.

Annan, the UN's secretary general, is under fire to step down from this prestigious position. His detractors cite that his son, Kojo, accepted reimbursements for health insurance coverage from a Swiss company that is under investigation for alleged fraud and abuses of the oil-for-food program, where it served as a monitor of imports to Iraq. Mfume, the president

and CEO of the NAACP, the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization, said he will be resigning from his post on Jan. 1, 2005.

Mfume's resignation comes in the wake of an investigation by the IRS of the NAACP's tax-exempt status. At a press conference, Mfume said that his departure was not related to the IRS investigation. Julian Bond, the organization's chairman, believes the investigation was prompted by remarks he made that were critical of the Bush administration, after the president refused to address the group's annual convention last summer.

Then there are two cases from out of the South where two less prominent Black men are entangled in circumstances that are reminiscent of the struggles of the civil rights era. In Birmingham, Ala., Roderick Jackson, the coach of a girls high-school basketball team, claims he lost his coaching job and his termination was in violation of Title IX. Jackson had complained that the school gave preferential treatment to the boys team. He charges that his firing was the Birmingham School

Board's retaliation for his complaint. Jackson brought a lawsuit against the board, and now the case is before the Supreme Court.

Attorney Chokwe Lumumba is also fighting for his life and license in a Supreme Court, this one in the state of Mississippi. The militant lawyer, long affiliated with the Republic of New Afrika, has a date in court on Dec. 7 to determine a case in which he is charged with contempt. "When Chokwe observed a white judge in Mississippi railroading his client, as typically happens in the criminal justice system, he lodged a vigorous legal objection. He could have turned his head. Most lawyers would have heard nothing, seen nothing and said nothing," attorney Alton Maddox wrote in a weekly column.

Lumumba's resistance and adherence to the Code of Professional Responsibility, rather than to white supremacy, ticked off the judge, according to Maddox.

"Chokwe was summarily hauled off to the penitentiary. He was also fined. The trial judge had already de-

ecided that the punishment fit the crime. As O.J. Simpson discovered, the claim of double jeopardy does not apply to a descendant of enslaved Africans. The Mississippi Bar Association has taken the unprecedented step of seeking to suspend him from the practice of law for at least two years even though a judicial panel recommended only a reprimand. This recommendation has been appealed to the Mississippi Supreme Court.

"What's happening to these Black men should not come as a surprise, since in practically all the cases you are talking about power, authority and economics," said Kermit Eady, who said he speaks with personal experience on this issue. "Once a Black man is in a position of power with a sizable budget at his command, you can bet your bottom dollar that he will be in the crosshairs of destruction. What's happening to them is the same thing that happened to me."

Eady, the founder and former executive director/CEO of the Black United Fund of New York was targeted by the state's attorney general,

he has always charged, and subsequently removed from his position. "Nobody's is perfect, but Black men ought to know that they cannot do what white men do. A minor infraction by us is seen as a major violation by the powers that be," continued Eady, currently in the process of developing his Empowerment Institute.

And finally, there is the academic problem of Professor Charles Ogletree of Harvard University. The acclaimed teacher and attorney, charged with plagiarism, recently admitted that several paragraphs in his memoir "All Deliberate Speed" had been taken verbatim from another book. He said the error occurred during a rush to meet a deadline, "when a pair of research assistants inserted the material into a draft of his manuscript and accidentally dropped the quotation marks and attribution," reported a New York Times article.

While a date has been set for the departures of Mfume, Smiley and Willingham, we will have to wait to see what happens to Annan, Jackson, Lumumba and Ogletree.

Herb Boyd writes for the Amsterdam News - New York City

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# White Physicians Slower to Prescribe HIV Medications for Africans Americans

LOS ANGELES - A new UCLA study shows that African American HIV patients treated by white doctors receive life-saving HTV medication less than those who have an African American doctor.

"Does Racial Concordance Between HIV-Positive Patients and Their Physicians Affect the Time to Receipt of Protease Inhibitors?" is published in the November issue of the Journal of General Internal Medicine.

The clinical implications of the findings are that delay in effective treatment could result in more deaths for African American patients. The researchers conclude that policy changes boosting the number of African American physicians are "imperative."

"This is an important study because so many African American people have HIV infection and African Americans die more frequently from the disease than any other group," said Dr. William Cunningham, professor of medicine and public health and a study co-author. "We need to improve the relationship between African Americans with HIV and their (mostly white) doctors. We need to teach doctors to communicate effectively with patients of all races, particularly with African Americans who may feel they have reasons to mistrust doctors (most of whom are white). Better training would help doctors to follow published treatment guidelines for all patients. And ultimately, we need to increase the number of African American physicians who can treat African American patients with HIV."

In this study, the researchers found that African American patients treated by white doctors receive their HIV medications nearly four months later than African American patients being treated by African American doctors. Furthermore, the study confirms these startling differ-

ences are not because of patient's income levels, years of education, or insurance coverage. On the doctor's part, the knowledge, specialty, degree of training and years of experience did not affect the results. The fact remained that African American patients seen by African American doctors, received better care than African American patients seeing white doctors.

"Our findings are significant for several reasons," said Dr. William King, visiting associate physician in the department of infectious disease, UCLA Center for Clinical AIDS Research and Education (CAKE), and the study's lead investigator. "One, our study advances prior research in this field by demonstrating that patient-provider racial concordance can impact access to medical treatment. We are the first study to demonstrate this effect. Two, our study on patient-provider racial concordance provides an explanation as to why African Americans are the least likely to receive antiretrovirals compared to other racial and ethnic groups. Three, our study presents the importance of incorporating patient-provider racial concordance in analyses of patient-provider relationships, particularly analyses involving racial disparities."

The patients and doctors participating in this study were part of the only nationwide HIV study of its kind in the United States from 1996 to 1999. Participants were adults who made regular visits to their HIV doctors. The researchers studied a group of patients of which 61 percent were white with white doctors, 32 percent were African American with white doctors, 6 percent were African American with African American doctors, and less than 1 percent were white with African American doctors. Although the last group was very small, the patients of this group received the HTV medica-

tion over three months sooner than every other group.

The researchers found that African American patients received their HIV medications a median 439 days versus 277 for whites. They also found that African Americans received protease inhibitors later from white physicians (a median

461 days) than they did when their providers were also African American (342 days). They also received medications later compared with white patients who had white physicians (353 days).

There may be a number of explanations for the great differences, the researchers write. For example, verbal and non-

verbal communication may be better between a patient and doctor of the same race, and as a result the patient is more likely to report greater participation in decision-making, have longer visits and ultimately be more likely to trust the provider and accept the life-saving HIV medication. African American patients in racial-discordant patient/provider relationships may experience direct or indirect

discrimination by white physicians, which would impact their receipt of antiretrovirals. For example, prior studies have shown that most doctors delay treatment for patients they think are not likely to stick to their drug regimen—with several of those studies indicating that African Americans are among the patients often placed into that category by their doctors.

# NY Congressman Rangel calls for action in Emmett Till inquiry

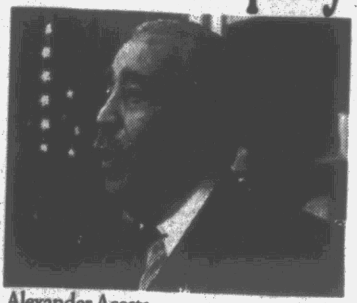
NYC, NY - Congressman Charles Rangel this week joined a bipartisan group of members of Congress in calling on the Justice Department and the state of Mis-

issippi to promptly begin a new investigation into the infamous murder of Emmett Till. The Department announced its intention to reopen the case

last May. "With its decision to reopen the investigation into the murder of Emmett Till, the Justice Department eased the pain of the Till family with the assurance that their son's killers would finally be brought to justice," Rangel said. "They had waited 50 years. Every day of delay in following through on that commitment makes it look more like an empty promise. The search for justice and closure must begin now."

Rangel's statement was released at a press conference at the U.S. Capitol announcing the introduction of a resolution in the House and Senate urging the Justice Department and the state of Mississippi to move expeditiously in reopening the case. The resolutions were introduced in the House by Democratic Congressmen Bobby Rush of Illinois and Rangel of New York, and in the Senate by Senators Charles Schumer, a Democrat from New York, and Jim Talent, a Missouri Republican.

The resolution reflects concerns in Congress, the civil rights community and other interested parties over the apparent lack of movement in the investigation and the Justice Department's refusal to respond to Congressional inquiries. The Department's decision to reopen the case was announced last May by Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights R.



Alexander Acosta.

The Justice Department's decision followed revelations by New York documentary film-maker Keith Beauchamp of the existence of new evidence in the case and the discovery of several surviving individuals who may have been involved in the murder.

Emmett Till was a 14-year old Black youth from Chicago who was abducted, beaten and murdered in Mississippi in 1955 after he supposedly whistled at a white female store clerk. Two white men were tried for the crime and found innocent by an all-white jury. The brutality of the murder of an innocent victim, which was widely publicized by the Black press, horrified the entire nation and helped to inspire the Civil Rights Movement. Editor's Note: Charles Rangel has served in the U.S. Congress for over three decades. He succeeded Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. in 1972.



Above is 14 year old Emmett Till with his mother shortly before his brutal slaying. In late May, the Justice Department re-opened an investigation into the 1955 murder of Till whose vicious murder laid bare the violent underpinnings of Southern segregation and helped launch the civil rights movement. His death and subsequent news coverage preceded Rosa Parks' dramatic stand on a Birmingham bus by two months and is cited as one of the incidents that dramatically ignited the Civil Rights Movement.

# Blacks are twice as likely to be hate crime targets

By Makebra M. Anderson WASHINGTON (NNPA) - African-Americans were more than twice as likely to be victims of race-based hate crimes last year than all other racial groups combined, the FBI reports.

According to the FBI, racial prejudice accounted for more than half of the 7,489 hate crimes reported in 2003, up slightly from 7,462 reported in 2002. Of the 3,844 incidents targeting race, 2,548 were directed against

African-Americans, 830 against Whites, 231 against Asians and Pacific Islanders and 76 percent against Native Americans and Alaskan Natives.

FBI data shows that hate crime reports have increased. In 1991 there were 4,558 hate crimes reported. It rose for two consecutive years, climbing to 7,587 in 1993. The number fell to 5,932 in 1994, but just one year later the number rose again and has continued to rise.

Although the number of hate crimes against Blacks showed a slight increase, the prosecution of civil rights violations has declined. In the last three years, the number of FBI referrals for prosecution in civil rights cases dropped by 514. In 2001, the FBI referred 2,060 cases and in 2003 only 1,546, according to an analysis of Justice Department data by the Transactional Records Clearinghouse, a data gathering, data research and data distribution organization.

In addition to the decrease in the number of referrals, the number of actual prosecutions from the referrals has also decreased. In 2001, 128 people

were prosecuted in civil rights cases; only 62 were prosecuted the following year.

The Department of Justice did not return repeated phone calls from the National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service seeking comment.

"We're extremely concerned about the decline in civil rights enforcement. We've had a number of talks and meetings with Congress and we're pushing them to do a better job of enforcing civil rights laws," said Hilary Shelton, director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Washington Bureau.

Although the enforcement of civil rights laws has dropped, the number of civil rights complaints remains steady at approximately 12,000 annually according to "the 2003 FBI Hate Crime Statistics Report."

A criminal civil rights violation involves the use or threat of force, and can occur with hate crimes, migrant worker exploitation, law enforcement misconduct, religious interference or property damage, health care access interference, such as phone threats or

bombing and slavery rings.

"The number of hate crimes has not decreased," says Shelton. "There really is no excuse. They've [FBI] chosen not to be vigilant in protecting human rights."

Of more than 7,000 hate crimes, racial bias represented 51.2 percent of reported incidents. Bias against religions represented 17.9 percent; sexual orientation bias represented 16.5 percent.

Ethnicity bias 13.7 percent and disability bias only represented 4 percent of reported incidents. Religious intolerance was the motivation behind 1,343 incidents. The majority of those were against Jews, 927, approximately the same as the year before. Reported attacks against Muslims fell from 155 in 2002 to 149 in 2003, according to the FBI. The number of attacks based on sexual orientation was 1,239 in 2003, slightly less than the 1,244 reported in 2002.

The report shows that the states with the highest number of reported hate crimes were California with 1,472 (19.7 percent of crimes), followed by New York with 602 incidents (8 percent of crimes), New Jersey close with 594 (7.6 percent of crimes), Michigan at 427 reports (5.7 percent of crimes) and Massachusetts reporting, 403 incidents (5.4 percent of crimes). Combined, these states account for 46.7 percent of all reported hate crimes in the United States.

"It appears that since September 11 the FBI certainly has not been as vigilant about protecting and enforcing those same civil rights laws that make up the body of the freedoms we call the U.S. of America," said Shelton. In many ways it would be sad to think that somehow the terrorist were actually successful in stripping away the most precious liberty - our freedom."

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# Ties that bind America and Britain May Be Fading

by Vincent Sherry W1

Weapons programs aside, the Iraq War affirmed one thing clearly: America's staunch ally is Britain. Nevertheless, despite the grandeur surrounding Prime Minister Tony Blair's recent White House visit, this might be changing, as he criticized for what many Britons deem an unholly alliance with President Bush—facing re-election next year and has already started signaling a change of course.

At the heart of the US-British partnership is Blair's controversial decision to abet America's Middle East war effort amid deafening dissent in his homeland from, among others, his own party. Understandably, Blair has witnessed his approval ratings and popularity diminishing. It seems, however, that the alliance

may have aided Bush far more in public relations, as the President has eagerly contended Britain dispelled allegations of a unilateral U.S. strategy. Second only to the U.S. itself, Britain has engaged some 8,000 troops in the said conflict.

Prematurely, Blair had even begun making overtures toward Senator John Kerry, who he thought would be president. This may reveal an eagerness among his advisors to escape what is seen as a liability. Blair chances to distance himself hardly appear finished, however, and were evident in his visit.

Across the Atlantic, it is widely held that America focuses too much on Iraq and not enough on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, whereon some decry America's un-wavering support for Israel. Blair's dis-

cession with Bush was based squarely on amplifying American action on behalf of Palestinians. Though slight, even this hint of criticism marks a change in tone toward America.

The leaders did agree on a few unclear, points concerning peace during Blair's trip, but President Bush still shirked media questions concerning his support for Israel's withdrawal from certain Palestinian territories.

Palestinian President Yassar Arafat's death has renewed hopes among some that the US will renew the vigor displayed in the Clinton administration in approaching the conflict. President Bush was resolutely loath to deal with Arafat, whom he considered a terrorist.

"What Today reflects is a commit-

ment. Now everyone will watch to see how you act on that commitment," said Dennis Ross, former special envoy to the Middle East, about Bush's comments.

Much of the call for greater exertion of influence on America derives from perceptions that the alliance has not yielded much for Britain.

This was furthered when the nation sought to share secret American military technology but was rejected. Symbolically, Britain joined the European Union's Galileo Project plan, an answer to America's Global Positioning Satellite system (GPS) used worldwide. Britain, like other nations, currently uses GPS for devices like cell phones, but it is now more important since America has incorporated it into military equipment.

One issue whereon the nations sharply diverge is the Kyoto Treaty, an accord meant to roll the most harmful air pollution emissions back below 1990 levels. Blair, his countrymen, and his fellow European leaders are staunchly for it, and parliamentary officials have begun rousing him to attempt forcing Bush's famously steadfast hand.

An irate environmental group urged Blair "to use his influence J with George Bush to ensure Kyoto "is properly implemented by the American government." Bush and the Republican congress resolutely opposed, however.

"President Bush strongly opposes any treaty or policy that would cause the loss of a single American job, let alone the nearly 5 million jobs Kyoto would have cost," said James Cannanought, chairman of Environmental Quality for the White House. The White House once criticized the effort due to European apathy

toward including China and India, respectively second and third in harmful emissions, in the treaty. "Recently, however, both nations have joined the accord.

While the US-British alliance appears damaged, others seem to be strengthening. Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew has recently stated his country might one day play a greater role in Iraq, and is wholly committed to assistance in Afghanistan. After the election, French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac called for a healing of the French-American alliance and said though his country would not send troops to Iraq, it desires participation in the re-building effort.

Spanish Luis Rodriguez Zalpatero, who removed his nations troops from Iraq upon his election, has been curiously unsuccessful in getting a congratulatory call to President Bush through, causing speculation that the US-Spanish rift is widening.

## STRAIGHT TALK: A Battle Worth Fighting



By Diane Weathers

I'm shaking things up this month to rally your support for a cause we at the magazine fervently believe in. It is the fight against HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Back in the days when

AIDS was seen mostly as a gay men's epidemic and the life-prolonging treatments we have today weren't available, I lost three wonderful men in my life to the disease: Don, Marcel and Jim. These days the spread of the virus affects us all, but it is affecting African-American women at disproportionate rates. Black women account for a shocking 72 percent of all new HIV/AIDS cases among women in the United States, and Black girls represent 76 percent of all new cases among female American teenagers. These alarming numbers have been reported in newspapers and in this magazine, so I was stunned to hear Vice-President Dick Cheney, during his campaign debate with vice-presidential nominee John Edwards, express surprise at this growing threat to African-American women. Questioned by moderator Gwen Ifill, he seemed to be hearing of the crisis for the first time.

When Phill Wilson, pictured with me here, approached us about working

together to raise awareness of the spread of HIV among Black women, we didn't need convincing. As the director of The Black AIDS Institute (BAI) in Los Angeles, Wilson is widely respected as a global warrior in the fight against the disease. Two years ago, his organization enlisted this magazine, along with hundreds of other Black media outlets, in the Drumbeat Project, in an effort to bring our audiences simultaneous coverage of the crisis. Earlier this year BAI partnered with the Ladies First concert tour featuring Alicia Keys, Beyoncé and Missy Elliott. Wilson's group held Town Hall meetings on HIV in 12 cities along the concert route, convincing 2,000 people to be tested for the virus.

Now Wilson wants to focus on the spread of the disease among African-American women. This is where you and I come in. We've devised a way to help him fight the good fight—and make your Christmas shopping more meaningful. From now until the end of De-

ember, we will pass on to BAI the net proceeds from every new Essence subscription ordered through essence.com/blackaids or (800) 526-4525, including every new gift subscription you buy for that special woman or man on your gift list. Spreading the word is the first step in raising consciousness and encouraging safe-sex practices, so a portion of your contributions will help fund a national summit next year.

Our favorite funny girl, actress and comedian Mo'Nique, has agreed to be our spokesperson for this fund-raising campaign. The sorors of Delta Sigma Theta have also agreed to partner with us in this special subscription drive. Our goal of \$250,000 is a relatively modest one, given the need. And we're confident we can reach it one subscription at a time. I'll be sure to let you know how we're doing. Meanwhile, I wish good health, happiness and love to you all.

Reprinted from the December 2004 issue of Essence Magazine

## OUR HISTORY



Virginia is for lovers of African-American history.

**A World To Explore** (NAPSA)-Family, faith, fellowship, freedom. These staples have been the backbone of the African-American community since the first Africans landed on American shores at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1619 as unenslaved persons. These values laid the foundation for an African-American focus on a strong sense of community. The educators, activists, musicians and entrepreneurs incorporated into Virginia's heritage trails reflect this sense of community.

The monumental Supreme Court decision Brown v. Board of Education

stems from the efforts of the 1951 student protest in the small, rural town of Farmville, now a part of the Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail throughout southern Virginia.

The Crooked Road, Virginia's Heritage Music Trail, tells the story of traditional music through family ties, faith and daily living from generation to generation, across racial barriers. From church hymns carrying hidden messages along the Underground Railroad to the mountain music of the families that settled the Appalachian Mountains and valleys, many ethnic groups, including African-Americans, have engendered growth in the fabric of Virginia's American heritage.

For a sobering journey down other trails, explore Virginia's Civil War Trails, www.civilwartraveler.com. The nation's unresolved issues in the colonial and pre-Civil War eras led to the Civil War; and these trails, including historic sites as well as battlefields, offer the opportunity to reflect on the men and women behind the racial and economic issues. Exposing more than slave stories, Virginia's sites interpret the daily lives of the women and townspeople who prayed for the safety of the troops, black and white, Union and Confederate.

Other sites of interest include the Fredericksburg Area Museum. Fredericksburg also offers two self-guided walking tours that include a slave auction block. George Washington's Mount Vernon estate and his sister's plantation, Kenmore, offer looks at slave and free African-American life. One of the slaves at Mount Vernon, West Ford, started a community for runaway slaves and freed blacks in Fairfax County in 1833; you can learn more about it at the Gum Springs Historical Society's Museum & Cultural Center.

For details on Virginia's African-American heritage and other heritage trails in Virginia, please visit www.virginia.org or call 1-800-VISIT-VA to request a Virginia Travel Guide.

## Predatory Black males are helping perpetuate poverty

A lot of focus is directed toward Black women who bring children into the world without the father being present in the household. Further, fingers are pointed at these women who in some instances aren't even sure just whom the father might be.

To be sure, the problems associated with children growing up without the influence of both male and female parents are numerous, not to mention the economic hardships the family is likely to face with only one parent in the household.

But there's an equally important factor in the single parent dilemma that is too often ignored. That factor exists in the phenomena of the predatory male who employs irresponsible sex with vulnerable women (young and poor as often as not) as a means of satisfying a variety of their personal cravings. Although this is not a characteristic that is peculiar to Black males, it is the Black socio-economic environment that can

least afford this infraction.

Many single Black women who are young and poor and who themselves often grow up in single parent households, are particularly vulnerable to the advances of men who prey upon their need for attention, affection, inclusion or, as often as not, financial assistance.

Many can recall living near public housing projects where the overwhelming number of residences were headed by poor, single mothers. During the daylight and early evening hours few automobiles could be observed along the streets and drives that wound through me development. As the evening progressed and moved toward the wee morning hours, however, virtual traffic jams were not uncommon. If you carried a paper route in the early morning hours, it was not at all unusual for you to see the male visitors leaving and hurriedly heading to their automobiles in efforts to get home before their wives and families awakened. Married men with good jobs

could be often heard bragging about how they had to "leave a couple of bucks on the dresser for milk and cereal for the children's lunch money."

Then there's the male predator who use his ability to provide transportation as a unstated tool of bribery for sexual favors from vulnerable woman. The young women has various need for transportation. If she already has children, there are periodoc visits to the pediatrician's office that must be made. When food stamp or welfare check day arrives there are necessities of getting to the grocery or supermarket or the furniture rent-a-center to be made.

The male who gets to "sleep" with this usually young woman at his convenience is usually more than happy to fulfill her transportation needs. Another area of vulnerability is the "cute young thing" who might be employed as a clerical in a downtown government office and has decided to move from her parents' home before she has attained the

necessary financial stability. In many instances the bulk of her income goes to pay her apartment rent, car note, clothing bill (she has to be sharp at work every day) and upkeep of her hair and nails. Put simply, she needs financial help particularly if she is a single parent! On Friday evenings she heads to happy hour in hopes of "catching" — enters the mate predator. His "smooth game" and demeanor overwhelms the young woman's judgement and her need for "Help" often allows him to have his with her" before me night is gone. The fact that this guy might be married often of little consequence. After all, the telephone and utility bills are past due!

Now, any young woman who believes these guys don't broadcast their vulnerability to their buddies is being very naive. What happens then is that the young woman unknowingly finds herself on the guys' "trick list." Once on that list, the intentions of almost every guy who "hits on her" is simply to "take her off."

## YOUR WEIGHT

5 Ways To Make Weight Loss Automatic

(NAPSA)-According to a recent survey by the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention, more than two thirds of Americans are considered overweight or obese. Many of them will welcome these five ways to make dieting automatic from "The Automatic Diet":

1. Don't be a Diet Hero—Clean your cupboards and throw away those tempting treats.

2. Discover Calorie Bargains—Great-tasting foods that are lower in calories than your current choices.

3. Plan for your Eating Alarm Times—Figure out when you overeat—prime-time TV, office afternoon munchies—and prepare in advance with Calorie Bargains.

4. Prepare for your Diet Busters—whether you're going to a party or out to dinner, think ahead about what you're going to eat so you can make the right choice.

5. Use a Life Preserver—imagine future events, and how happy you'll be when you've reached your goal and run into your ex, attend a class reunion, or go to the beach in a bikini.

Platkin is one of the country's leading nutrition advocates, whose syndicated health and fitness column, "The Diet Detective," appears in more than 165 newspapers nationwide. THE AUTOMATIC DIET is available wherever books are sold.

Proven 10-Step Process for Breaking Your Fat Pattern" (Hudson Street Press, \$24.95) by Charles Stuart Platkin.

1. Don't be a Diet Hero—Clean your cupboards and throw away those

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There are several passages in the Bible suggesting much is expected from those to whom much is given.

Keeping that in mind, there is no shortage of people claiming to hold leadership positions in the black community. Some have moderately reasonable arguments as to how they earned this moniker, but others seem self ordained. Some exhibit sincere motives, while others appear

to be no more than opportunists running confidence game. Regardless of how the arrived, they now have an obligation of stewardship.

Medicare was designed as a health care safety net for America's seniors. Launched in the mid 1960s, around the same time as America's space program, it filled a void in our society. Throughout most of human history, old age often was

synonymous with chronic illnesses. Until the advent of Medicare, many families were financially devastated by the bills that accompanied long hospitalizations and surgical procedures.

Like the space program back then, Medicare still offers hope. It protects millions from financial catastrophe.

Almost 40 years later the world has changed. Our obsession of putting a man

on the moon has become passe and great technological advances in pharmaceuticals have cut many hospital stays in half. Diabetes and hypertension, which once devastated the black community, are now fought with medications never imagined just 20 years ago.

Until now, Medicare strictly adhered to its original 1965 model — not offering prescription drug coverage or emphasis-

ing preventive care or disease prevention. Medicare has now realized that seniors can be kept healthier — and taxpayers can save money — if Medicare reflects the realities of 21st century health care.

However, few know about these monumental changes. Why are black "leaders" not telling everyone about the \$600 that Medicare has made available to seniors to pay for their prescription drugs? Why do few know of the authorized pre-

scription drug cards that provide additional discounts to seniors? Are these black leaders being good stewards?

Often, diabetes and hyper-tension go hand-in-hand in the black community. There are many in inner-cities across this country who are forced, for monetary reasons, to make the unimaginable choice between food or medicine or one medicine over another. There is something sinister when the so-called black leadership seems to be withholding useful information because knowledge of the source may benefit the wrong politicians.

Beginning in 2005, Medicare will offer early detection screenings for cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Medicare will also offer beneficiaries a wellness exam. This is in addition to additional prescription drug coverage that begins on January 1, 2006. These things will, hopefully, lead to black Americans not only living longer, but having healthier lives — and closing the current 12-year life expectancy gap between black males and white females.

These Medicare reforms have been in effect since June. Studies have shown Medicare beneficiaries are saving at least 20 percent on their prescription drug costs with the discount cards. Low-income seniors save even more thanks to the \$600 annual credit Congress included in the Medicare law. Those monitoring the program say prices have not increased as critics predicted. Rather, they have remained level, if not gone down.

Critics must realize that progress is inevitable as it is necessary. Modern medical technology is keeping people healthier longer and saving taxpayers money by covering the pharmaceuticals and preventive care that can reduce the need for emergency room trips and long hospitalizations.

As for the naysayers assertions of the reforms being too complex, over 10,000 seniors a week are signing up for discount cards on the Internet and calling Medicare's toll-free number. But there are still not enough signing up for this program. News of the prescription drug benefit must be delivered to more minority seniors. So-called leaders should assist in this effort.

The new Medicare bill is not the panacea that will cure all the ills of the American health care system, but — like man landing on the moon — it is one giant leap in the right direction.

Council Need II is a member of the black leadership network Project 21 and the executive director of the Alliance for Health Education and Development. Dr. Leslie O. Anderson is director of community, health and inner city ministries emeritus for the Northern California Conference of Seventh-Day-Adventists. Comments may be sent to Project! 1 @nationalcenter.org.

# Aggies End Season With Tough Loss To S.C. State

Aggies receiver Doug Brown sets team's single-game receiving yards mark in defeat  
CHARLOTTE, N.C. - November 20, 2004 - N.C. A&T head coach George

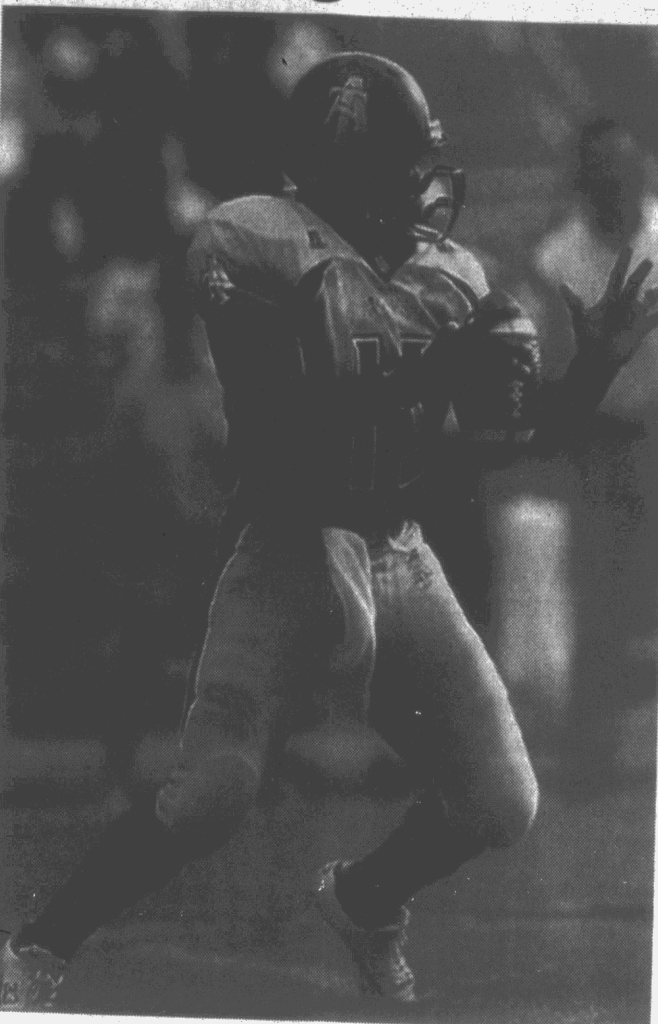
Small thought it best to sit Marshall Glenn in favor of fifth-year senior Adrian Moye just to change things up a bit in the Aggies season-finale, and because Move's hard

## Star Quarterback leaves North Carolina A&T with Liberal Arts Degree



back is all I had ever played before I came to A&T," Moye said. "It was tough playing another position, but I was going to play hard wherever they put me. I knew if I just stayed with it I could get back to playing quarterback. A new coaching staff came in and I'm glad they moved me back. This season has been a dream for me."

When spring practice started Moye was No. 4 on the depth chart. Randall Rankins did not return for the pre-season practice. Rankin's absence left the quarterback battle down to Marshall Glenn and Rico Watkins. Glenn won the job, but was supposed to platoon with Watkins. Over the first six quarters of the season, it is exactly what Glenn and Watkins did. But in the second quarter of a game at Alcorn State on Sept. 11, Watkins broke his foot, and Glenn twisted an ankle. Moye stepped in for a brief moment in the second quarter. Those few brief plays were foreshadowing. The next week at Wake Forest, Glenn separated his shoulder in the second quarter and did not return. Moye finished the game 9-for-18 for 79 yards. Glenn's injured shoulder forced him to miss the next game against Elon. It was truly official; Moye actually was the starting quarterback for the N.C. A&T Aggies. Instead of being a linebacker, Moye was now trying to avoid them. "I made it," Moye said. "I felt like I finally made it. It was a great lesson on not giving up." Moye won his first start as an Aggie as he threw for 168 yards and a touchdown.



Adrian Moye stands in the pocket looking for an open receiver against Norfolk State. Moye started twice this season and won 1-1.

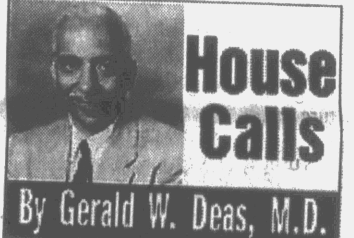
conference. The Aggies close out their season 3-8, 1-6 in the conference. "We've fought and fought and fought this season," Brown said. "Our guys have been fighting despite all that's happened to this team. The way we played tonight shows we still have a lot of heart and pride in what we do." The Aggies trailed 34-21 with five minutes remaining in the game. But on a 2nd-and-10 from the Aggies 37, Moye found Kenneth Perry on a post pattern for a 63-yard touchdown. The Aggies would force the Bulldogs into a three-and-out setting up a final drive to win the game. On 4th-and-16 from the Bulldogs 45, Moye connected with Brown for a 23-yard reception to the 22. The Aggies advanced as far as the Bulldogs 16, but a delay of game penalty on 3rd-and-4, an incomplete pass on 3rd-and-9 and a Pierre Johnson's sack of Moye on fourth down gave the Bulldogs the win. "I like all the MVP stuff and all the yards, but as senior I would trade it all end for a win," said Moye, who was named the Aggies MVP for the Rivalry Classic. "There were some mental mistakes I made that cost us in the end. It's a tough way to go out." Baker was named S.C. State's MVP. "We executed tonight on offense," Baker said. "Once we got into a rhythm it was hard for them to slow us down." The Bulldogs jumped out to a 27-7 lead thanks to a couple of touchdown passes by Brett Young, who finished the game with 264 yards passing (18-for-32). The Aggies would end the half on a positive as a 36-yard reception by Brown set up Ortiz Green for a two yard touchdown with 11 seconds remaining in the half. The Aggies continued their momentum in the second half with a 1-yard run from Moye. But Baker would score the game-clincher early in the fourth quarter. He appeared stopped on second-and-goal from the 3, but he bounced off several N.C. A&T tacklers and bounced his run to the outside and leaped into the end zone to avoid more Aggies tacklers. "All I could think about is being co-champions," Baker said. South Carolina State vs North Carolina A&T on Nov 20th.

Moye graduated from N.C. A&T in 2004 with a degree in liberal studies with a concentration in business economics administration. He played quarterback at Greenville Rose High School before coming to N.C. A&T. Once at N.C. A&T, then coach Bill Hayes decided to move Moye to safety. He played there a season before playing a season as linebacker. He also chipped in as a special teams player. His ambition when he signed with N.C. A&T was not to play defense. Moye wanted to call the signals behind center. When George Small's staff took over, they allowed Moye to do just that. "Quarter-

work during his N.C. A&T career put him in a deserving position to start. The change up and the well-deserved start almost resulted in an upset of S.C. State. But S.C. State running backs Cory Martin and DeShawn Baker saw to it that the Bulldogs keep their playoff hopes alive with a 34-28 win at Memorial Stadium in Charlotte. Martin finished the night with 160 yards and a touchdown on 16 carries, while Baker added 121 yards and two touchdowns on 27 carries. The Aggies weren't without their outstanding numbers. Moye, who was making his third start of the season, finished with 340 yards passing, two touchdowns and one interception on 15-for-31 passing as he came 35 yards short of surpassing Alan Hooker's single-game mark. Doug Brown did erase a team record. His 202 yards receiving (seven catches) broke Steve Shipp's 2000 record of 183 yards as Brown became the first Aggie receiver in history to exceed 200 yards receiving in a game. "They played

like they wanted it," Baker said. "We knew it wasn't going to come easy but we wanted this one." "Every time I stepped on the field all I could think about is getting a share of that conference championship." The Bulldogs finished the season 9-2 overall and 6-1 in the MEAC, but lost to Hampton who also finished 6-1 in the

## Eyes and nose is where the flu virus grows



When I was in Japan, I observed that folks greeted one another by placing their hands in a prayer position over their chest and bowing. In the U.S most folks will

stretch out their hands to shake another's. As one leaves church, they are instructed to take each others' hands as they sing and are dismissed. I would suggest that shaking and holding of hands should be limited during the flu season since the flu virus can be easily spread. Hands are very accessible to the flu virus on door knobs, poles and subway grips handrails, escalator rails, steering wheels, and even on playing cards. Any contaminated hand is capable of transferring the virus to another hand.

The other day, while walking down the hall where I would observed, in the distance, a person blowing his nose with a tissue coming to greet me with out stretched hands. Now, I didn't want to be impolite, but rather than grabbing his hand, I embraced his shoulder, thus avoiding that virus from finding a home on my hand.

How does the flu virus get into your body? It is usually transferred by a contaminated hand to the lower eyelid or the nose opening. When the virus finds its resting place, it multiplies by the millions and enters the blood stream to infect every part of the body. This the reason why

you have muscle pains, headaches, nausea and a wasteful feeling. The only defense you have against the virus is a healthy immune system. This system produces killer cells to destroy the virus, if it is healthy. It is therefore important to eat an ample amount of fruits and vegetables which contain vitamin C, beta carotene, vitamin E, selenium and a host of other nutritional factors.

During a flu season it is therefore important to avoid the contaminated hands of others and to keep your hands from your eyes and nose. It is also important to wash hands frequently when at work, traveling or at home. If a person is infected in your home, be sure that you do not handle their tissues; instead, give them a bag to dispose of them. Do not kiss the runny noses of children. If you choose to hold hands in church or elsewhere, be sure to wash them as soon as possible. And finally, keep your hands away from your eyes and nose because that is where the virus grows.

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**Music news & notes**  
**A Hip-Hop Crusade**  
(NAPSA)-MTV2 VJ Amanda Diva is on a crusade to use song and hip-hop to take poetry to another level. That's why she's released her first full-length mix tape, "It's Bigger Than Hip-hop Mixtape: Vol. 1,"  
Hip-hop poet Amanda Diva is creating a unique style of music for the masses.  
combining her mesmerizing style of spoken word poetry over popular, transfixing hip-hop beats.  
Amanda's poetry has been said to possess the spiritual and conscious yearnings of Donny Hathaway and Lauryn Hill coupled with Marvin Gaye's confessional blues and the feminist affirmations of Joni Mitchell and Audre Lorde (Gamba Adisa). Critics say it transcends race, time and genre while speaking directly to the hip-hop community and shedding light on materialism, sexism, racism, love and community.  
In addition to catching her rock the airwaves on Sirius Satellite Radio during primetime weekdays, go to www.amandadiva.com for information on her mix tape.

# Community Voices

## Reflections, Expressions & Reviews

with Sujette Jones



**"Let's Review"**  
**The Saga of Clarence Thomas**  
 by Sujette Jones  
 The Minority Voice Newspaper (Oct 16-21) carried an article, "Could Clarence Thomas Be the Next Chief

Justice Under Bush II?" Ken Foskett's book *Judging Thomas*, explores the life and times of Clarence Thomas, the nation's 106th Supreme Court Justice. Randall Kennedy has reviewed this book which he called a fascinating subject for a biography.

Born in 1948 into a broken home in Pin Point (outside Savannah), Georgia, Thomas suffered from racial slights and isolation in the early phases of desegregation, obtained a law degree from Yale (one year behind Bill and Hillary Clinton) and worked for a few years as an obscure lawyer-bureaucrat before shrewdly hitching himself to the Reagan Revolution. President Reagan appointed him to lead the Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Education and then chose him to head the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. In 1990, the first President Bush nominated him to a judgeship in the U.S. Court of Appeals and a year later nominated him to fill the seat on the Supreme Court vacated by the legendary Thurgood Marshall.

At precisely that point, however, Thomas encountered a reversal of for-

tune that almost destroyed his career. In televised confirmation hearings he was charged with incompetence, indifference to the plight of racial minorities and other vulnerable groups, pornography and sexual harassment. A former aide, Anita Hill, alleged that he had imposed upon her with lewd talk and that he had threatened to ruin her professionally if she ever revealed his misconduct. Thomas ultimately prevailed, but only after a brutal struggle in the Senate during which he obtained the required number of votes by the slimmest margin (52 to 48) of any Supreme Court nominee in American history.

In the decade that he has served as a justice, Thomas has voted to reverse *Roe v. Wade*, to uphold the constitutionality of a law that criminalized consensual sex between adult homosexuals, and to invalidate racial affirmative action at the workplace, in schools and in electoral politics. He has not only expressed conservative beliefs in judicial opinions; he has also done so in speeches, in the selection of his law clerks and in social affiliations that have led to such gestures as officiating at Rush Limbaugh's wedding. Armed with life tenure, Thomas is the most securely rooted African American in the highest circles of government. He obtained his position in no small measure because of the racial allegiance of blacks who yearned to see the elevation of "one of their own" even if they disagreed with

his policies.

Yet some who initially supported his confirmation have now renounced. Among professional blacks, especially lawyers, he is widely ostracized and routinely labeled as an "Uncle Tom". Those who

drew away from him have succeeded in making his very name a synonym for opportunism; for many blacks, to pull a Clarence Thomas means to sell out.

Note: Justice Thomas is married to a white woman (Barbara Bush's niece) in a

state that prohibited marriage across the race line until the Supreme Court barred it from doing so in the most titled case in all of American legal history—( *Loving v. Virginia*). Thomas's wife is also a lawyer.

## From the Chancellor's Desk

A monthly column by East Carolina University Chancellor Dr. Steve Ballard

With the ringing of holiday bells and the end of 2004 almost here, this is a good time to take a breath and consider what we've accomplished this year here at ECU.

On a personal note, this year was one of change and upheaval, as my family and I left our home in Kansas City to join you here in Greenville. It has been a time of learning and a time of growing. As I spend time with our faculty, students, staff and community members, I find an exciting and diverse population that comprises the ECU family.

Here at ECU, "family" is an important word. With the holidays upon us, thoughts of family are especially popular now. So it is with thoughts of family in mind that I would like to outline just a few of the accomplishments our ECU "family" has been working on in the last few months.

Despite the tough economic times that have prevailed over the past several years, our employees found the strength to dig a bit deeper and produced an astounding \$220,000 for the 2004 State Employee Combined Campaign. Compared to last year's totals of \$193,400, this year's total contributions surpassed them by \$29,000.

The Division of Health Sciences raised nearly \$109,000, up from \$101,000 in 2003, for an increase of 7 percent. In other divisions, the campaign raised more than \$113,000 in contributions, up from \$93,300 last year, or an increase of 21 percent.

Overall, our campus participation rate also increased to 32 percent, up from last year's rate of 30 percent.

This effort reflects the kind of caring, family attitude I'd like to instill as we create a "culture of giving" here at ECU. Not only will such a culture help the university in its efforts to serve others, but it also will help the communities we serve through outreach efforts, community endeavors and service learning projects.

Another key component in our "family" is healthy respect for and celebration of diversity and multiculturalism. November was celebrated as Diversity Week and International Education Week. This year's theme, "Diversity Across the Globe: Celebrating Local Flavor," presented a wide array of social, cultural, educational and community service programs that promoted cultural pluralism.

Some of the events included an

international film festival, a multicultural and international reading day, student discussions about different perspectives on ways to bridge the inter-racial gap on campus, and a community festival for children of all ages.

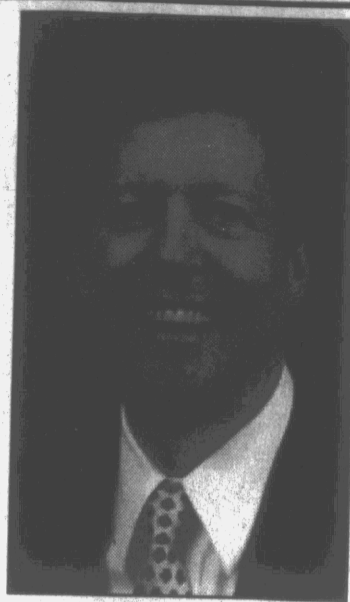
Understanding other cultures is a growing concern for all of us in this community. In fact, we currently have 201 students at ECU from countries other than the U.S., and we are fortunate they have chosen our school. Having students from other countries enhances the overall experience for everyone involved.

As global commerce continues to break down the barriers among countries, it is imperative that we broaden our understanding of the cultures and customs of other people so we can live peacefully and productively.

Another exciting development involves an element of timely significance: Christmas trees. Dr. Ronald Newton, a plant physiologist and chair of ECU's biology department, hopes to provide eastern North Carolina Christmas tree growers with a tree that will withstand heat, disease and drought.

For several years, Dr. Newton has been engineering the genes of certain trees to make them more suitable to the climate in this part of the state. His vision of this process involves recreating the attributes of a healthy tree and adding certain characteristics that will make the tree a good seller in this part of the state.

As Dr. Newton said, he doesn't expect this tree to compete with those traditionally grown in the western part of



the state. But it should be just another choice for consumers when it comes time to visit the local Christmas tree lot.

And that means some good news for ECU and those communities surrounding us.

In closing, on behalf of my family, the faculty, students and staff of ECU, we would like to extend our heartfelt wishes to everyone in eastern North Carolina for a safe and healthful holiday season, and a very prosperous new year.

We look forward to sharing a bright new beginning in January 2005.

## EDIFICATION OF A GENERATION



**Religious But Lost**  
 It is a sad and shocking fact that many religious people are in Hell. Remember that there are many religions besides the true religion of Jesus Christ. "Religion is no guarantee of salvation. The Pharisees were religious but they crucified Christ. They were wicked in their hearts though outwardly they appeared to men to be righteous. Remember that Cain was religious. He offered sacrifices, but God was not pleased with them. He prayed, but God did not hear favorably. So Christian Science, so-called, is a religion—a religion without confes-

sion of sin, a religion without blood atonement, a religion without the new birth. So Spiritualism is a religion—a false religion, putting people at the mercy of, often, evil spirits.

Clearly, one can be very religious, but be utterly lost. Those who say, "Lord, Lord, open unto us," will be very religious, but religion does not keep people out of Hell.

Saying prayers, going to church, giving money, being baptized, observing the Lord's supper—these are religious exercises but they do not save the soul.

You say, "But I was baptized." And what if you were? If you depended upon baptism, you went down into the water a dry sinner, and came up a wet sinner. The water does not change the heart. Water will not save—it takes blood! Perhaps you were sprinkled as a baby, and someone else took your vows for you. Do you believe that could change the nature of your heart with all its inherent taint of sin? As a baby you were kept safe by God's mercy, but when you became an accountable sinner, you were lost, and nothing but the blood of Christ can save you. It may be that some preacher or priest told you that your sins were

### WITH FAITH MAY

forgiven. But I tell you now earnestly and prayerfully that you need more than the word of any man for this. You need the absolute certainty of God's own Word and the sweet assurance of the Holy Spirit within.

"What must I do to be saved?" you ask. Here is God's answer given in Acts 16:31: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Many are deceived, yet they should not be. It is not hard to be saved if one sincerely wishes to come God's way. To do the will of the Father means simply to trust Jesus Christ His Son who died to save you. He paid for all your sins. God is satisfied with the price Jesus paid, and offers free pardon to all who depend upon the Lord Jesus Christ for mercy. All through the Bible that blessed truth is given. Read and claim these blessed promises for yourself today and on into the new year. (John 3:16, John 3:18, and John 5:24).

Have a Blessed and Happy Holiday!  
 Source: *Sword of the Lord Publishers Religious But Lost—John R. Rice*

## Are Black Pastors wimping out?

by the Rev. Barbera Reynolds  
 NNPA Columnist  
 Before Rev. Jesse Jackson preached at a certain African-American church, the pastor made a disclaimer, separating himself from the views of this Democratic cheerleader. "The pastor was shaking like a leaf," Jackson said at the Howard University School of Divinity shortly after President Bush's re-election.

His pathetic image presents a convenient metaphor of what is happening in Black Christendom. Is the threat of losing government funds, or political capital which might include a trip to the White House, turning the tradition of prophetic, cutting edge Black church leaders into irrelevant little wimps?

Why are most of our fancy megamouthed churches with magnificent edifices, huge congregations and entourages offering little leadership during one of the most crucial political dramas of this century?

Thousands of our young men and women could die in oil wars in foreign lands. Billions of dollars are being drained

from our treasury for good schools, safe streets, and better hospitals in Iraq rather than at home. And when Bush finishes packing the Supreme Court and federal judgeships with right-wingers, Blacks and women could be hindered for generations.

With so much at stake, we need prophetic voices like Esther and Amos, the risk makers and me-in-your-face trouble-makers. What we have are too many are too many disciples like those who slept as Christ agonized in the Garden of Gethsemane.

From both side of the of the political spectrum there is an absence of challenge, critique and criticism from so-called Black spiritual leaders. "Too many preachers are beholden to Republicans and Democrats and can't take independent moral positions," says Rev. Clarence James, a former dean at the Morehouse School of Religion. "Historically the black church placed morality above legality and righteousness above politics, but today we have flocks of Black spiritual leaders helping Black America go nowhere."

Rev. James, author of lost Genera-

tion? Or left Generation! Confronting the Youth Crisis in Black America, says Black ministers must take the lead on moral issues. In the past Whites followed radical Black spiritual leaderships because Black were on the cutting edge of major social issues, from slavery, segregation to anti war movements.

If democracy is to flourish in America Black Christians can't allow the spiritual mantle to be hogged by the wacky Rev Falwells of the world who are promoting a White-led evangelical movement.

Increasing numbers of Black Christians voted Republican fearing moral meltdown from gay marriages which affects less than 1 percent of the population? I can't argue with their faith wall but I can ask: Isn't the abominable killing of innocents in Iraq a moral issue? The same Bible that says adultery and homosexuality are sins says "Thou Shalt No Kill."

Conversely, progressively Black church leaders cannot ignore the senti-

Continues on Page 9

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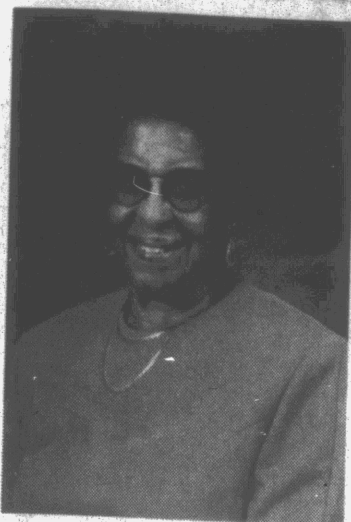
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# Community Voices

## From the Desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



- "You did a good job"*  
The four most important words...  
*"What is your opinion?"*  
The three most important words...  
*"If you please"*  
The two most important words...  
*"Thank you"*  
The most important word...  
*"We"*
- Traits of an ideal teacher: Tact, earnestness, adaptability, humility, endurance, and reliability.
  - Consider the words of Paul. "As the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive" (Col. 3:13)
  - People who have friendships live longer, happier, healthier lives. This is one of the reasons women outlive men; women have people to talk with who really listen to each other.
  - Can't is a first cousin to failure.
  - Reading is to the mind like exercise is to the body.
  - You listen to learn and learn to listen.
  - A good laugh is sunshine in a home.
  - A Prayer: "Lord, we all have our differences, but let us be respectful of one another, allowing us to love in peace and harmony. Amen"
  - A good woman inspires a man  
A brilliant woman interests him  
A beautiful woman fascinates him  
A sympathetic woman gets him"  
(Helen Rowland)
  - A cultured person has refined taste and behavioral expressions.  
**To: Black Girls in Particular**
    - God has given you only one temple; therefore, you are required to take care of it - the interior (your heart and spirit) as well as the exterior.
    - So, learn to do just that: To love, respect, honor, and take pride in your temple.
    - Turn that stuff from the media off (especially that raunchy music on TV

- and the radio) and get enough sleep.
- Learn to exercise your body.
- Learn how to keep a healthy and balanced diet.
- Drink lots of water.
- Keep your body clean.
- Keep your surroundings (like your room) neat and clean for your own sense of order and peace. (You need to think in there!)
- Learn how to properly care for and pamper your skin, hair, and nails.
- Be mindful of what you put in your body that harms it physically (including cigarettes, alcohol, drugs, and junk food).
- Rise early (yes, early) and appreciate the dawn of each and every day, first by thanking God in prayer and reading His Word.
- Praise God for thinking enough of you to choose (yes, choose) you to see another day, another week, another year.
- Breathe long and deeply the air that God has provided.
- Be quiet, attentive, and awake in your classes at school.
- Be respectful of authority, of your parents and your elders, and of your peers, for they have much to teach you.
- Practice self-respect and self-control.
- Take time for yourself to think and reflect about yourself, your world, and your place within it.
- Walk in the sun, run through the rain, and play in the snow.
- Rejoice and be thankful for God's goodness, grace, and mercy to you as you pull yourself up to the table that the Lord has provided.
- Thank God for the movement of your limbs and brain matter, for laughter and tears.
- Show care and concern for the things you put in your emotional, psychological, and spiritual temple by monitoring what you read, listen to, and absorb.

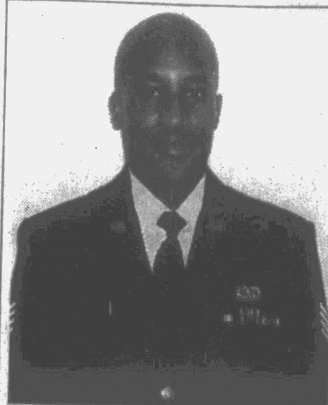
- Surround yourself with "what is true and good and right."
  - Think about things that are pure and lovely, and dwell on the fine, good things in others.
  - Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about (Philippians 4:8).
  - Avoid things that pollute your spirit (Matthew 15:19) (Galatians 5:19-21), as well as the people who bring such pollution into your personal space.
  - Go to the library and begin to read good books on African American history and literature.
  - Listen to all kinds of music.
  - When given the opportunity, go to recitals, concerts, the ballet, the opera, art galleries, and museums.
  - Take mental notes so that you learn to recognize good things (as well as garbage!) when you see and hear them.
  - Pay attention to how broad and sweeping God's creativity is in humans... how God's gifts and talents in us are not narrow and one-dimensional.
  - Ask God to show you your own creative talents, whether those be music, drawing, sewing, cooking (learn how to do that!), knitting, gardening, writing, acting - Whatever! God has given you those things. The Spirit will reveal them to you if you ask.
  - Value your talents and use them in service to others.
  - Develop pride and respect for your family. Thank God for them.
  - Talk to members of your extended family and try to track down your physical features through your family tree.
  - Choose to believe that God loves you and wants only the best for you.
  - Suggestion -
  - Read Luke 15. What does this passage teach you about youth? About wisdom? About repentance? About God's grace?
- An old Negro spiritual says,  
I'm workin' on a building,*

*It's a sure foundation  
I'm holding up the blood-stained  
banner for my Lord.  
As soon as I get through  
Workin' on the building,  
I'm going up to heaven to get my  
reward,  
Build sure. Build solid. Build joyfully.  
The Holy Family awaits occupancy.  
From: The Real Deal; A Spiritual  
Guide for Black Teen Girls by Billie  
Montgomery Cook  
Acknowledgement*



Congratulations to Mother Ida Pearl Williams for being elected the Mother of the Year during The Old Original Free Will Baptist Conference. Mother Williams was presented the award for outstanding leadership and volunteer work in the church and in the community. Mother Williams is the wife of Herbert Williams Jr. She is the mother of 5 children and the grandmother of 7. Mother Williams is a member of Selvia Chapel Free Will Baptist Church located at 400 Watagau Ave. Greenville, NC. Her pastor is Bishop A.H. Hartsfield. May God continue to give her a sweet, caring spirit.

## Our Military



Pictured above is Air Force Sargent Ray Barnes, Jr., the son of Greenville native, Ray Barnes, Sr. Recently Barnes, 21, who has been a member of the armed services for just under 4 years was recently promoted to the rank of Sargent. A jet engine mechanic, Ray is the father of two girls. He and his wife Delanna are stationed in Abilene, Tx.

### Ensign Moore Complete Officer Indoctrination Course

NORFOLK - Navy Ensign Tawanda M. Moore, daughter of Deloris A. Moore and Charles Moore of Farmville, N. C., recently completed the Officer Indoctrination Course. During the course at Officer Indoctrination School, Naval Education and Training Center, Newport, R. I., students are prepared for duty in the naval staff field corresponding to their civilian profession. The first five weeks of studies include naval history and traditions, personnel administration, military law, close-order drill, and other general military subjects. During the final week, studies concentrate on the application of civilian professions within the Navy. Moore joined the Navy in May 1994.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**  
*As the Year 2004 draws to the end, I want to thank you, the readers, who continue to support my articles, give words of encouragement, and let me know what you liked. You are the reason I do what I do.  
I hope you enjoy them as much as I enjoy writing them. Be blessed!!!  
Beatrice Maye*

### Worth Remembering

- Two good tips: Always say less than you think, and remember that how you say it often means more than you say.
  - Do more than talk, say something.
  - People who talk much say nothing.
  - Important Words
- The six most important words...  
*"I admit I made a mistake"*  
The five most important words...

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## BAMBOOZLED!

**Continues from Page 2**  
disability and survivor aspects of Social Security that are vital to African American families. Private accounts also eliminate the progressive aspects of the current system that provide more help for African American seniors (those privatizers who say they maintain progressivity by allowing low-income earners to contribute more to their individual accounts are only guaranteeing them more exposure to the risks of the stock market). And will African Americans be able to make up for these reductions through earnings from their individual accounts as privatizers claim? The answer ranges from maybe to no. First, is the obvious that the stock market's notorious fluctuations cannot guarantee the long-term growth of amounts contributed to individual accounts. But income inequalities would still be exacerbated for African American families under healthy stock market assumptions. This is true because, in the absence of a real progressive benefit structure, black families would only accrue

interest on their smaller wage-based contributions. And, because of higher unemployment rates, African Americans would be doubly vulnerable to having periods of zero earnings where no contributions at all are made to individual accounts. Unlike Social Security, individual accounts would not offset this labor market disadvantage. Finally, the higher administrative fees associated with these accounts are likely to wipe out a significant portion of any accumulated earnings. Thus, the unsteadiness of the market, smaller wage-based contributions, greater periods of unemployment, and high administrative fees make all African Americans, but especially low-income earners, vulnerable to the risk of having an inadequate level of retirement benefits under private individual accounts. The problems are even greater for disability and survivor benefits. While the President's Commission did not address what would happen to these benefits, it is widely understood that individual accounts cannot make up for their value because these benefits are often needed in the prime of a worker's life-long before accounts have had time to accumulate significant earned interest.

### Privatization Destroys Communities

Privatizers consistently argue that African Americans will experience a greater rate of return under a system of individual accounts. Their assertion, however, misses the point: it is misleading to measure Social Security benefits by rates of return. Unlike the private securities market, Social Security is an insurance system that re-distributes economic assistance to contributors and their families on an as needed basis at various points during their lives. The value of this assistance for working and middle class African Americans families, particularly in the event of unexpected occurrences like disability or death, is priceless when considering how expensive it would be if offered by the private insurance market. Overall, African Americans are likely to experience a negative rate of return. This is true particularly for younger generations who would have the triple burden of paying for current retirees, paying for their own individual accounts, and figuring out how to meet living costs in the face of diminished disability and survivor benefits. This state of affairs would be complicated by the fact that heavy borrowing will lead to the reduction or elimination of other social

programs important to African American communities.

There are 101 very good reasons why Americans of all backgrounds should rise up to defeat attempts to privatize the Social Security system. African Americans, however, should be highly alarmed about privatization's implications for the economic stability of their families and community. For it is a guaranteed formula for disaster when senior citizens, disabled workers, and children whose caregivers are deceased no longer have the ability to put food on their table or a roof over their heads. Dr. Maya Rockey Moore is currently Vice President of Research and Programs at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. Previously serving on the Social Security Subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means, she is the co-editor of *Strengthening Communities: Social Insurance in a Diverse America* and author of *The Political Action Handbook: A How To Guide for the Hip Hop Generation*. Dr. Rockey Moore completed her Ph.D. in Political Science and Public Policy at Purdue University in 2000 after earning her M.A. in Political Science from Purdue in 1996 and a B.A. in Political Science from Prairie View A&M University in 1993.

## Poor Pregnancy Outcome Linked with Reports of Racism

By Charnicia E. Huggins, Reuters  
NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - African American women who report experiences of discrimination based on their race or skin color appear to have an increased risk of poor pregnancy outcomes, according to the findings of two new studies.

In one study of black and white women, researchers found that a history of perceived racial discrimination was associated with premature delivery and low-birthweight babies among blacks. In the other study, investigators found that black women who reported experiencing racial discrimination were more likely to give birth prematurely than black women who did not report racial discrimination.

Previously published reports indicate that black women are more likely than white women to experience premature delivery and to have low-birthweight babies, but the reason for the discrepancy is not fully explained by factors such as prenatal care, genetics and socioeconomic factors. Increasing

evidence suggests that chronic stress from racial discrimination may play a role.

To examine this hypothesis, Dr. Sarah Mustillo, of Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, North Carolina, and her team examined information on 352 births that occurred between 1992 and 1995 among black and white women involved in a long-term study on heart disease. Their findings are published in this month's issue of the *American Journal of Public Health*.

Fifty percent of the black women and 5 percent of the white women who delivered their babies prematurely said they had, at some point in their lives, experienced discrimination in at least three situations, such as at school, on the street or while getting medical care, Mustillo and her team report. The same was true of 61 percent of blacks and 0 percent of whites with low-birthweight infants.

Overall, black women were about 2.5 times more likely than white women to experience premature delivery. When the black women's experiences of racial

discrimination, were taken into consideration, however, this value decreased to 1.88 and to 1.11 after factoring in tobacco and alcohol use, education, income and depression.

"Experiences of racial discrimination were associated with preterm delivery and low birthweight, and such experiences appear to contribute to black-white differences in these outcomes," Mustillo told Reuters Health.

She added that "racial discrimination may underlie racial/ethnic disparities in health rather than any biological notion of race."

Dr. James W. Collins Jr., of Northwestern University, Chicago, and his team also looked at the role of racial discrimination in pregnancy outcomes in 312 African American women. These women delivered either very low birthweight infants — less than 1,500 grams (3.3 pounds) or infants weighing more than 2,500 grams.

Study participants were asked if they ever experienced racism while at work or school, or while getting medical care, getting a job, or getting served at a restaurant or store.

Those who said they had been discriminated against on the basis of their race in at least one of those areas were almost twice as likely as their peers to have a very low birthweight infant, Collins and his team report. Women who said they had been discriminated against in three or more areas were 2.6 times more likely to have a very low birthweight infant.

The association between very low birthweight infants and racial discrimination was particularly strong among women who said they had been discriminated against at work or while finding a job, study findings indicate.

"Our study suggests that a mechanism by which institutional racism affects female reproductive health is likely to be found in the reported incidents of racial discrimination in the workplace," the researchers write.

"In conclusion," they add, "the reported lifelong accumulated experiences of interpersonal racial discrimination by African American women constitute an independent risk factor for infant very low birthweight."

SOURCE: *American Journal of Public Health*, December 2004.

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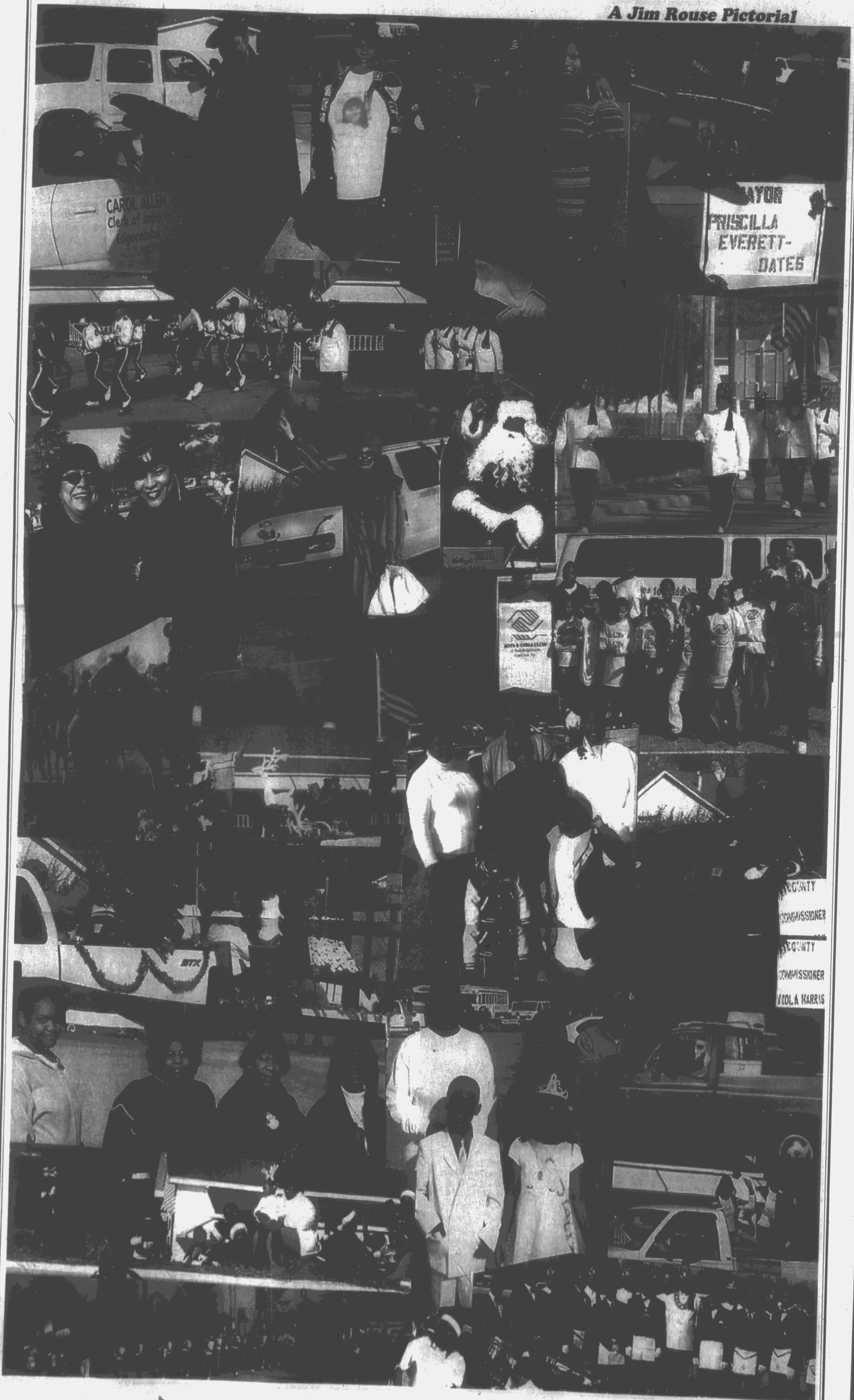
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# People, Places and Faces....

## "Good Times at the Princeville Parade"

A Jim Rouse Pictorial



**PREACHERS ...**  
Continues from Page 6  
ments of their parishioners over the perceived cultural rot surrounding homosexuality, pornography and lewdness

that the Democrats seem to embrace. Studies found that blacks are more hard-line on Gay Right issues than Whites. "Forty-six percent of African Americans oppose any legal recognition of homosexual relationships compared to 37 percent of

whites."  
I was born in Columbus, Ohio, the state that probably gave the recent election to Bush. I have friends who were lifelong Democrats until recently. For example, Ella Coleman, publisher of Pur-

pose Magazine, is a smart, progressive woman, but her understanding of morality and conscience is changing her politics. Homosexuality and same-sex marriages are abominations. You can't straddle the fence on that. That's the kind of thing

that the Bible. That's the kind of thing that will bring down the wrath of God on us. Morality is number one for me, not unemployment, not wars because there have always been wars. I am not a right winger. If Kerry would have addressed

morality, I would have voted for him.  
Battle is working on a plan to help the Black church redeem its position in the vanguard of social and political change through building a public policy and media infrastructure at ITC, which is composed of seven seminaries representing 20 million Christians. That is exactly what is needed. Polls found that 71 percent of voters had heard from the religious right while only 38 percent heard from the religious left.

With preachers within SCLC are more involved in fighting each other than the system and some conservative preachers just happy to be in the Big House, the black church must regain its voice, even if it may seem only for a season to only be crying out in a political wilderness.

The Rev. Barbara Reynolds, the religious columnist the NNPA, is an author of four books, including "Out of Hell and Living Well: Healing from the Inside Out." She is a graduate of the Howard School of Divinity and the Ufuted Theological Seminary, where she earned a doctorate degree in ministry. She can be reached at [www.reynoldsnews.com](http://www.reynoldsnews.com)

**Legal Aid of NC initiates Access to Justice campaign to help the poor**

**RALEIGH** - Legal Aid offices across North Carolina are reaching out to their communities for support during the annual "Access to Justice" campaign this winter. "The funds raised by our Access to Justice campaign enhance our capacity to provide free representation in civil matters to low-income families," said George Hausen, Legal Aid of NC's executive director. "The Access to Justice donations and pledges help us fill the gaps in our struggle for equal justice and demonstrate the strong support of our legal aid projects." Legal Aid of NC (LANC) is a statewide, nonprofit law firm that provides free legal services in civil matters (non-criminal) to low-income people in order to ensure equal access to justice and to remove legal barriers to economic opportunity. Operating 24 geographically located offices and five statewide projects, LANC provides legal services to eligible clients in all 100 counties of North Carolina. Hausen noted that for the poor and disadvantaged, access to the legal system can often be the single most important factor in determining the course of their lives. LANC helps children, families, individuals and migrant workers solve problems that affect their basic needs, such as health care benefits (Medicare or Medicaid), substance income (SSI or SSDI), consumer loan problems, environmental safety, protection from domestic violence and the right to decent and affordable housing. LANC's involvement and legal help also complement the efforts of local family shelters, children's organizations, community development groups and other nonprofits in North Carolina.

To be eligible for LANC's free legal services, clients must have incomes of 125% or less of the federally established poverty guidelines. For example, a family of four could have an annual gross income of no more than \$23,563. The annual "Access to Justice" campaigns have raised more than \$2 million statewide over the past 12 years to help provide free legal services for low-income people in North Carolina. Although contributions are requested throughout the communities of North Carolina, the Access to Justice campaign has primarily targeted attorneys and private law firms, both for financial donations and commitments for pro bono work. Expectations are high for support from the legal community. "Many law firms here in North Carolina respond well," said Hausen. "Some firms ask their attorneys to donate the equivalent of one billable hour per month to help our programs fill the gap for equal justice in our communities. Some firms are also willing to provide financial as well as pro bono support." During the campaign, local LANC advisory board members staff and approach law firms, businesses and individuals for support. The requests are made through mailings, telephone calls and presentations. "All donations made during the annual campaign can be designated," added Hausen. "This means that local donations and pledges can go toward support of legal aid within the local community, to one of our statewide projects or to the general fund of LANC." "The success of our Access to Justice campaign will be critical to our capacity to provide legal services this year," says Chris Marks, Legal Aid of NC's assistant director of finance & administration. "Inflationary costs continue to impact us, even at a time when we are making technological advances to increase our capacity, and foundations appear to have less dollars to give due to the downturn in the economy." In efforts to encourage donations in the rural, less populated areas of North Carolina, the NC State Bar's IOLTA (Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts) fund has traditionally provided "Rural Incentive Grants." These matching grants have provided additional incentives to those offices to achieve specified fundraising goals during the "Access to Justice" campaigns. The seven LANC offices that have been eligible for the IOLTA Rural Incentive Grants included: Ahoskie, Boone, New Bern/Greenville, Morganton, Pembroke, Sylva and Wilson. "IOLTA's support for these campaigns has been greatly appreciated," remarked Hausen, "and is another example of how strongly the legal community in North Carolina supports our work for equal justice."



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