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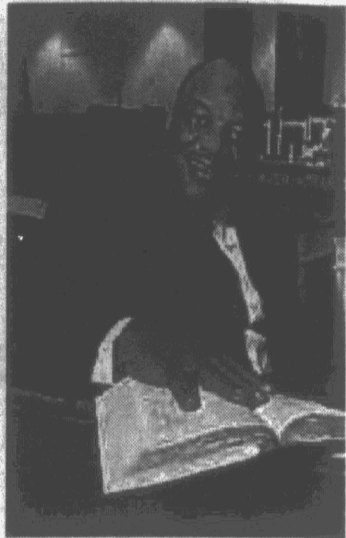
# Voting Rights Act Petition Drive Launched



Rev. Jesse Jackson (file photo)

**BALTIMORE (NNPA)** - During the first week of April representatives from several national organizations announced the goal of collecting 1 million signatures in a petition drive to encourage Congressional reauthorization of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

At a press conference convened in the nation's capital, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, president of the Rainbow Push Coalition, discussed the petition as one of several strategies to ensure the reauthorization of the Act. "There will be three critical parts of the Voting Rights Act to expire in



Rev. Major L. Jemison (file photo)

2007 unless reauthorized by Congress," said Jackson. "We must be ever vigilant to protect our right to vote and not be swayed by media campaigns highlighting events that divert our attention (from) our mission."

Jackson was joined by, among others: Major L. Jemison, president, Progressive National Baptist Convention Inc.; Barbara R. Arnwine, executive director, Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; Laura W. Murphy, legislative director, American Civil Liberties Union;

Stephanie Jones of the National Urban League; Richard Womack, AFL-CIO; T.J. Michaels, Service Employees International Union; Brenda Girton-Mitchell, National Council of Churches; Julie Fernandes, senior policy analyst, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; Olga Vivies, vice president, National Organization for Women; Merwyn Scott, government relations, National Education Association; and Tanya M. Clay, deputy director, People For the American Way.

"The coming together of these major civil and justice organizations shows we are not being passive on this issue. This is a great moment. The result will be preservation of the Voting Rights Act," said Jemison.

Jemison is leader of one of the four major Baptist denominations that came together in a joint meeting in January to signal to the nation their common cause and launch a call for action. Commitment to ensuring the 1965 Voting Rights Act was overwhelmingly accepted by the meeting's 14,000 participants.

Under the current Voting Rights Act provisions, Section 2 prohibits practices that deny or abridge the right to vote. It allows the attorney general or private plaintiffs to challenge dis-

crimatory practices in areas of the country not covered by Section 5 of the act. Additionally, it is the only statutory recourse to challenge discriminatory voting practices that were enacted in "covered" (Section 5) jurisdictions prior to 1965.

Section 5 is an administrative or court procedure barring practices that have the purpose or effect of denying or abridging the right to vote. Section 5 has limited geographical coverage and does not cover practices in these "covered" areas that were enacted prior to November 1, 1964.

Under Section 203 of the act, a community of one of the four covered language minority groups will qualify for bilingual voting assistance if more than five percent of the voting-age citizen population in a jurisdiction belong to a single-language minority community and have limited English proficiency. A community also qualifies where more than 10,000 voting-age citizens in a jurisdiction belong

to a single-language minority community and are limited English proficient, and the illiteracy rate of the citizens in the language minority group is higher than the national illiteracy rate.

Attendees at the press conference made a call to defenders of civil and human rights. "Unless we want to go back to the old days when we were not allowed to vote because of our gender, race, culture and spoken language, this law must stay intact," said Murphy.

Not only does the coalition plan to kick off the petition drive through the media, network interviews and college campuses, other plans have been set. They are organizing a massive march and rally on August 6 in Atlanta, Ga., to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the VRA and mobilize for its extension.

The coalition plans to engage students at the college level to become more vigilant about protecting their civil and human

rights now and for the future. "We were elated at the activism among college students and other youth groups in the 40th anniversary commemorating (the) March on Selma, Ala. We intend to develop that same spirit among our youth to engage them in this most vital process to ensure that our voting rights are protected," said Clay. Others agreed.

"We have launched a nationwide campaign to educate the general public, policymakers and the media on the importance of the Voting Rights Act to help them understand its current resonance, why it is meaningful today and why it is important that we preserve it in the future," said Fernandes.

"We hope to activate the people on and off campuses. We want to engage fraternities, sororities, HBCUs, people at the beauty salons and barbershops in this effort," said Fernandes.

This story comes special to NNPA from the Baltimore Afro.

## Florida mother vows to sue after her 5-year-old daughter is arrested

by Clover Hope  
 The family of a 5-year-old Florida

girl, Inga Alkins, showed the girl ripping papers off a bulletin



St. Petersburg police officers who handcuffed an unruly 5-year-old girl after she acted up in her kindergarten class. A video camera, which was rolling March 14 as part of a classroom self-improvement exercise, captured images of the girl tearing papers off a bulletin board, climbing on a table and punching an assistant principal before police were called to Fairmount Park Elementary. The girl appeared to calm down before three officers approached and pinned her arms behind her back and put handcuffs on as she screamed.

girl who was forcibly handcuffed by police officers at her St. Petersburg elementary school last month after misbehaving is seeking legal action against the officers, a Florida lawyer announced last week.

The videotaped incident of Ja'eisha Scott being placed into handcuffs by three uniformed police on March 14 occurred after she allegedly acted unruly in her kindergarten class and hit a school official. A 30-minute videotape released by John Trevena, the attorney for

board and punching an assistant principal, among other violent acts.

On the tape, Ja'eisha is seen settling down before the three officers, who were called to Fairmount Park Elementary to handle the situation, pinned her arms behind her back and placed her in handcuffs as she screamed "No!" according to Trevena. The tape cuts off shortly after Ja'eisha starts screaming. Trevena said Ja'eisha began her temper tantrum after her jelly beans were taken away during a counting exercise.

Civil rights activists have questioned whether the forceful use of handcuffs for the girl was necessary and whether police were out of line.

"It was a horrific example of police over-kill," said NAACP Chairman Julian Bond. "Had she been older, who knows what might have happened."

Ja'eisha's reaction and subsequent handcuffing was caught on a camera that was rolling as part of a classroom self-improvement evaluation at the school, according to Trevena, who supplied the tape he said he obtained from police to the media.

"I'm sure that the incident has permanently scarred this 5-year-old child in terms of her sense about what police can and should do with children," said Harvard Law School Professor Charles Ogletree, who was in Florida at the time of the incident. "There is no justification whatsoever for handcuffing a child at that tender age when there's no real threat of bodily harm or injury to anyone."

Trevena said the incident caused Ja'eisha noticeable trauma and that the image of the scene would be "seared into people's minds."

No charges have been filed against Ja'eisha, who now attends a different school, according to Trevena.

"They treated her as if she were not even human," said Ogletree. "There will hopefully be legal and political consequences for actions like that—to treat a 5-year-old as a monster."

Police spokesman Bill Proffitt said an investigation into the matter is currently pending and should be complete in about two weeks, when the findings will be made public.

## Black Caucus Losing Cohesion

It's Time to Draw Some 'Bright' Lines

by Glen Ford  
 and Peter Gamble

The corporate Right has succeeded in establishing a coalition of the willing within the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), as shown by last week's votes on bankruptcy and estate tax legislation. The defection of ten of 41 voting CBC members to the Republicans on bankruptcy, and eight on repeal of the estate tax signals that corporate-controlled membership in the CBC has reached critical mass, encouraging members who are not part of the Caucus's conservative core group to betray their constituencies, as well.

"The G.O.P. is practicing Robin Hood in reverse," said Rep. John Conyers Jr. (MI), after last week's lopsided Democratic defeats. "Last night they repealed the estate tax, a gift to the wealthiest individuals in our society. Today they pushed through the special-interest bankruptcy bill, punishing the very poorest members of society." But Conyers' critique should

apply with doubly damning effect to fellow Caucus members, including three who are also members of the Progressive Congressional Caucus but voted with Republicans on one or the other measure.

The growing rot in the CBC must be viewed in the context of massive corporate intervention in Black electoral politics, conceived in rightwing think tanks in the mid-90s and emerging full-blown in the 2002 election cycle, when Denise Majette (GA), David Scott (GA), and Artur Davis (AL) won congressional seats. That's also the year when rightwing apprentice Cory Booker nearly captured City Hall in Newark, New Jersey. Although public attention has focused on the Bush administration's faith-based bribes to woo Black preachers to the GOP, the far more dangerous prong of the offensive aims to subvert Black Democrats from within. Corporate funding and media support have been placed at the

disposal of Black Democrats who 'leave the reservation,' so to speak—i.e., those who reject, at least selectively, the historical Black Political Consensus. Barely three years after the corporate intervention was launched (see April 5, 2002), it is bearing strange, mutant fruit in the heartland of the Black polity. The looming dissolution of the Congressional Black Caucus as a cohesive political force seems well underway.

Voting with the enemy  
 The ten Black lawmakers who helped the credit card companies feel positively 'giddy,' as the New York Times put it, include the Hard Core Four: Blue Dog Harold Ford, Jr. (TN) and Artur Davis (AL), who, along with Gregory Meeks (NY) carried the bankruptcy banner for the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC); Blue Dog Sanford Bishop (GA); and the absolutely Worst Black Congressperson (see March 31, 2005) Blue Dog-DLCer

See Black Caucus - Page 9



President Johnson signed the resulting legislation into law on August 6, 1965. Section 2 of the Act, which closely followed the language of the 15th amendment, applied a nationwide prohibition against the denial or abridgment of the right to vote on the literacy tests on a nationwide basis. Among its other provisions, the Act contained special enforcement provisions targeted at those areas of the country where Congress believed the potential for discrimination to be the greatest. Under Section 5, jurisdictions covered by these special provisions could not implement any change affecting voting until the Attorney General or the United States District Court for the District of Columbia determined that the change did not have a discriminatory purpose and would not have a discriminatory effect. In addition, the Attorney General could designate a county covered by these special provisions for the appointment of a federal examiner to review the qualifications of persons who wanted to register to vote. Further, in those counties where a federal examiner was serving, the Attorney General could request that federal observers monitor activities within the county's polling place.

## OPEN FOR BUSINESS!



Photos - Jim Rouse

**GREENVILLE** - The nonprofit Center for Community Self-Help and its financing affiliates, Self-Help Credit Union and Self-Help Ventures Fund, comprise one of the nation's leading community development financial institutions (CDFI). In a statement recently released to the press, Self-Help stated that their mission is to create ownership and economic opportunities for minorities, women, rural residents, and low-wealth families.

Since 1980, Self-Help has provided over \$3.9 billion in financing to 43,000 small businesses, nonprofits, and homebuyers. In many cases, their lending and advocacy efforts have benefited people and communities both in North Carolina and nationwide. Self-Help operates from regional offices in Asheville, Charlotte, Durham, Greensboro, Greenville, Wilmington and Washington D.C.

Self-Help's work is based on the belief that ownership allows people to improve their economic position. Owning assets, such as a home, can enable a family to send a child to college, start a business, or weather a financial crisis and that ownership provides communities with a solid foundation on which to grow and prosper. A lack of assets limits choice and opportunity. In addition to direct lending, Self-Help acts as a laboratory for economic development—experimenting to find out what works and advocating for change in the public and private sectors.

"Self-Help is the epitome of cleared-eyed, smart and innovative activism," remarked one official. "Our impact has been felt across the nation. As a widely recognized model for community development finance, we share our knowledge and experience with fellow community development organizations, legislators, government agencies, and others."

Recently, Self-Help celebrated their move into their completely restored and renovated office building (seen in the above photo) in uptown Greenville.

# Voice OP

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

## Bush and the Two Black Americas

by Earl Ofari Hutchinson  
Democratic National Committee chair Howard Dean recently lambasted



Hutchinson

President Bush for fiddling while black joblessness continues to soar. The double-digit unemployment figure for blacks is appalling. Blacks now are more than twice as likely than whites to be out of work. The unemployment rate for young black males in some urban areas is fast approaching the 1930's Great Depression levels. More blacks than ever are in jail, attend miserably failing segregated inner-city schools, and live in gang and crime ridden neighborhoods. Bush's skewed tax cuts for the rich, domestic spending slashes, and assault on affirmative action programs have aided and abetted the poverty crisis among many blacks. But Bush has also aided and abetted the continued expansion of the black middle class. There's been a big jump in black businesses, and homeownership, and selected black church groups have grabbed millions in Bush's faith based initiative dollars. Black Entertainment Television founder, Ben Johnson owns an NBA team, and Arizona businessman Reggie Fowler recently bid for ownership of the Minnesota Vikings. Oprah

Winfrey continues to climb higher in the billionaire's club, and Condeleezza Rice replaced Colin Powell as the much-touted point man for the Bush administration's foreign policy. Black executives hold the top spots at some of America's giants, and there are legions of multi-millionaire black superstar athletes, celebrities, and professionals, and increasingly Academy Award winners. More blacks than Dean and the Democrats care to admit now flirt with the GOP. They hammer the Democrats for their "plantation" politics.

The class rift between the black haves and the have-nots is hardly new. According to Census figures, between 1975 and 1995, the number of black professionals, technicians, administrators and managers nearly tripled, and the number of black college graduates doubled. By 2000, more than fifteen percent of black households earned more than \$50,000 annually. The top one fifth of black families earned nearly half of all black income. Black wealth, like white wealth, was now concentrated in fewer hands.

In the 1950s, Sociologist E. Franklin Frazier warned that many blacks were becoming what he scornfully branded a black bourgeoisie that controlled the wealth and power within the black community and that had turned their backs on their own people. Many members of Frazier's black bourgeoisie had begun to ape the values, standards and ideal of the white 'middle class, and to distance themselves from the black poor.

In the 1960's, federal entitlement programs, civil rights legislation, equal opportunity statutes and

affirmative action programs initiated during Lyndon Johnson's administration broke the last barriers of legal segregation. The path to universities and corporations for some blacks was now wide open. More blacks than ever did what their parents only dreamed of: They fled big city blighted inner-city areas in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, Detroit, and Atlanta in droves. By the end of the 1980's, an estimated one in ten blacks was affluent enough to move to the suburbs. The expansion of tract homes, condos and apartments made their move easier. In the 1990s, the stampede of black business and professionals from these areas accelerated. During the same time, civil rights organizations and black politicians did a sharp turnaround. They defined the black agenda in increasingly narrow terms: affirmative action, economic parity, professional advancement and busing replaced battling poverty, reducing unemployment, securing quality education, promoting self-help and gaining greater political empowerment as the goals of all African-Americans. This left the one out of four blacks that chronically wallow below the poverty line in even greater dire straits. Lacking education, competitive skills and training, the black have-nots were further hurled to the outer fringes of society.

Economic Downturns will dump some black middle class back into crumbling neighborhoods

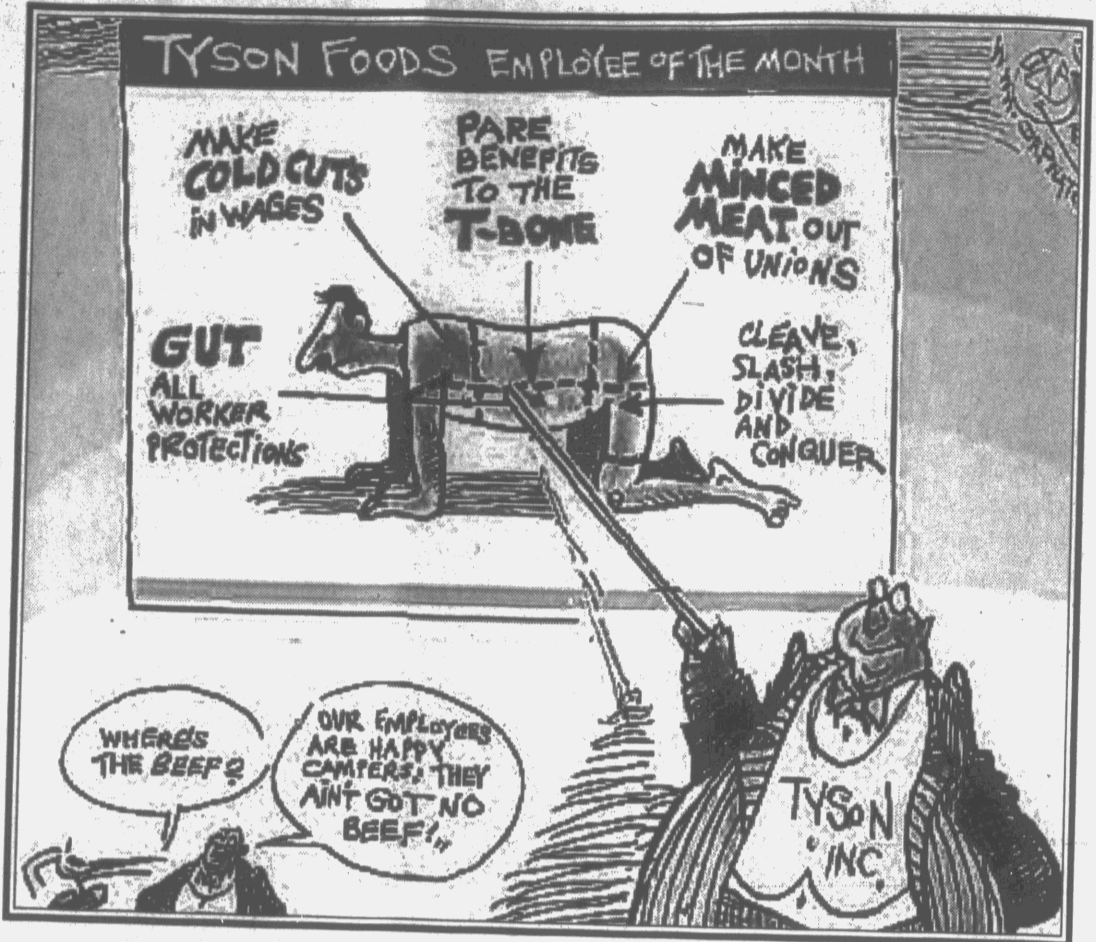
Even though black professionals, politicians, and celebrities may be light years apart from poor blacks

in their wealth and status, color is hardly a relic of the past. They fume in anger as taxicabs speed past and blithely ignore them. They can be stopped, and shaken down and spread eagled by police. They are subjected to poor or no service in restaurants. They file countless EEOC complaints and lawsuits against cor-

porations for stacking them at the low end in management positions. A sharp economic downturn could dump more than a few of them back in the same crumbling neighborhoods they worked long and hard to get out of. Dean and Bush got it partly right. It's the worst of times for many in black America, and Bush's policies helped make it that way for them. But it's also the best of times for many in black America,

and Bush's policies helped make it that way for them too. The tale of two black Americas is a cautionary tale of race and class pushing and pulling blacks together and apart.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is a columnist for BlackNews.com, an author and political analyst. He is the author of the forthcoming: Beyond Michael Jackson: The Clash of Celebrity, Sex and Race (Author House Press, April 2905).



## What Exactly is a "Baby Mama?" It Depends on How You Define Yourself

By Gregory Kane  
Lordy, Lordy, it's worse than I thought. When I wrote the my column on Fantasia's "Baby Mama" monstrosity two weeks ago, I expected to hear from her fans. I expected to hear from folks who disagreed. Boy, did I ever.



Kane

But I didn't expect to hear from folks who claimed I didn't know what a "baby mama" is. My definition was a woman who got pregnant by some loser who couldn't or wouldn't marry her. Believe me, I was much too kind. Peruse these definitions from UrbanDictionary.com: "The mother of your child(ren), whom you did not marry and with whom you are not currently involved."

"Basically a woman you had a child or children with who you didn't marry and are no longer involved with. Usually associated with hoodrats and trailer park b\*\*\*\*hes."

"Like herpes, it won't go away!!!!" Clearly the guys who thought of these definitions don't think of the term "baby mama" as a compliment. They consider it a slur, as derogatory a term for women as 'ho, the B-word and chickenhead. And no, you don't want to know UrbanDictionary.com's definition of chickenhead. But I'm sure

a song extolling the glory of being one is on some singer or rapper's must-do list.

It sounds suspiciously like the guys who gave us the term "baby mama" are the same ones running around with their pants down over their butts. They're the ones who elevated the "gangsta," "pimp" and "thug" to near-hero status in black America. They're the ones running around using bad English and engaging in worse conduct.

These are guys cut from the same cloth as the "brother" who broke into Rosa Parks' Detroit home. When our living civil rights heroine and legend asked the "brother" if he knew who she was, he answered that he didn't know, and he didn't care.

These are the guys of the same ilk as the ones who firebombed the house of Edna McAber, a Baltimore black woman who demanded they stop dealing drugs in her neighborhood.

What woman in her right mind would call herself by a term thought of by these cretins?

There are, indeed, "baby mamas" out there. Some of the women who reacted to my Fantasia column described themselves as such. They're mistaken.

If you're divorced and have children, you're a divorced mother. If you're a widow and have children, you're a widowed mother. If you're single and have children, but the fa-

ther isn't part of the miscreant horde described above, you're a single mother.

And if you did have a child by one of these characters, you are indeed a "baby mama."

It's all about how we define ourselves. Lately in black America, we've been doing a poor job of it. After going through the pain and angst about what to properly call ourselves — I've been colored, Negro, black and African-American in a single lifetime — we now want to describe ourselves as gangstas, thugs, pimps and baby mamas. These aren't terms that come from the best among us. These are terms that come from black America's sewer. Some of us reject them. Some of us embrace them.

The fact that so many of us embrace them shows the cultural shift that has occurred among black Americans. You wouldn't have heard black radio stations playing a song like "Baby Mama" 50 years ago. Black folks wouldn't have tolerated it.

In fact, it was almost exactly 50 years ago that a black female refused to give up her seat to a white person on a bus in Montgomery, Ala. No, it wasn't Parks. Her act of defiance didn't come until December of that year.

It was a 15-year-old girl named Claudette Colvin. But the NAACP didn't think it was wise to make her the symbol of the fight to desegregate buses. When police arrested her, Colvin used language black onlook-

ers thought unbecoming.

And she was a couple of months pregnant.

The purpose of this anecdote is not to pass judgment on Colvin or

any single mothers living today. It's to show the shift in values that has occurred in black America. Are we better for that shift, or worse? Did we aid and abet our own deg-

radation more then? Or now?

Gregory Kane is an award-winning columnist for the Baltimore Sun. In 1997 he was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for his reporting on slavery in the Sudan. That work won him the 1997 Overseas Press Club

## THE COOPER COLUMN We Need To Say "NO" To The Sales Tax

By Keith W. Cooper  
GREENVILLE - Oftentimes, Democrats and Republicans are criticized when they deviate from their respective party's ideological positions on core political issues. So, why would a group of local Republicans run away from



Cooper

The Daily Reflector's Ginger Livingston's recent piece, "Pitt Republicans express concern about proposed tax increase," bespeaks hypocrisy dripping (like chicken grease) down the lips of some Republicans. For example, Pitt County commissioner Jimmy Garris was quoted as saying, "I probably dis-

like taxes as much as anyone in here, but I feel, when you made me commissioner. I believe this sales tax is necessary to support the schools of Pitt County."

If Garris detests taxes so much, how could he philosophically support a one percent sales tax increase in violation of his party's principles against tax increases?

Livingston continued, "Coulson and Garris took turns explaining why they and other commissioners think a sales tax is the appropriate funding mechanism, and education construction is so urgently needed." When did these Republicans learn that education construction is important? This realization should have been part of effective planning strategies long before now.

When commissioners and school board members lack a vision as to how to accommodate a rapidly growing student population, many are apt to embrace tax hikes. Instead, they should explore innovative approaches to boost revenue and simultaneously trim the fat from an over-

grown hog.

I laughed at Bob Ramey's statement, "I'm against taxes, but a sales tax is fairest of any." Why would anyone oppose what he sees as fair? This is a ludicrous assertion.

Finally, Pitt County Republican Party Chairman Javier Castillo said that he would support the tax if "you look and can't find the cuts that are needed through regular budgetary process." This gobbledygook is vague and overlooks the need for responsible planning in preparation for urgent future needs.

Countless citizens are already overburdened with taxes. We need tax relief, not tax increases. Wake up folks and smell the hot chocolate. Say "no" to a tax increase.

Keith W. Cooper  
In the previous issue (Minority Voice XVIII-III), I erroneously referred to Keith W. Cooper the writer of the article "CITY ON EDGE" found on the front page as Ralph Cooper, who is the Sports Editor for MusicTalk Radio KCOH-AM in Houston, TX. I apologize for the error — Editor

## Cigars Not a Safe Alternative To Cigarettes

by Makebra M. Anderson  
NNPA National Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - With the glamorization of cigar smoking among public figures such as actors Morgan Freeman and Bill Cosby, basketball great Michael Jordan, and singer 50 Cent, many youth believe cigars are a healthier alternative to cigarettes.

The American Cancer Society says: "Many people perceive cigar smoking as being more civilized and less dangerous than cigarette smoking. Yet, a single large cigar can contain as much tobacco as an entire pack of cigarettes."

Youth that smoke cigarettes are more likely to use other tobacco products.

The most common replacement for cigarettes is cigars. Popular in the music and movie industry, some cigars - Philly's, Dutch Masters, Backwoods and Garcia Vegas - are blunted (the cigar is cut down the middle and the tobacco is removed) and used to smoke marijuana and other substances, while others like Black & Mild (Blacks) are smoked as an alternative to cigarettes.

"When you look at the advertising and the marketing particularly in the realm of hip-hop, cigars are very much part of every advertisement and every video. That attention has popularized cigar use in a big way because young people want to emulate some of the images they see—which make it a trendy thing to do." Sherri Watson-Hyde, executive director of the National African American Tobacco Prevention Network (NAATPN), said.

Donald St. Claire, a student at the

Howard University School of Medicine, doesn't think that Hip-Hop is the main promoter of cigar use.

"It's obvious for those that listen to and live hip-hop that images of blunts and cigars are prominent, but what many fail to understand is most people make choices independent of what they see on television and hear in songs," he explains. "The sad part about tobacco is that regardless of why you started smoking, once you take that first hit, you are more likely than not going to become addicted. Even if people become aware of the risk associated with smoking, usually they have already developed an addiction that is not easy to overcome."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 45,000 Blacks die each year from smoking-related illnesses. Moreover, 1.6 million Blacks under the age of 18 will become regular smokers and about one-third of those—500,000—will die prematurely from a tobacco-related disease such as cancer, heart disease and pulmonary disorders.

Cigars vary in size. Small cigars are called cigarillos. These are most popular among young people because they are inexpensive and come in a variety of flavors including strawberry, peach, green apple and watermelon.

"Most of my friends smoke Blacks because they taste a lot better than cigarettes," said Matthew Lewis, a Howard University student. "Unlike cigarettes, Blacks come in different flavors and don't leave the nasty aftertaste that cigarettes do."

Watson-Hyde is concerned that the added flavor may mean added harm.

"We still don't know exactly the

impact of all these combinations of flavors. You already have the chemicals that actually go into the product itself and then you add all those flavors—we've yet to see what the impact could be on overall health," she said.

The American Cancer Society has studied flavored cigarettes and has found that like cigars, they are also potentially more dangerous than traditional cigarettes.

"Bidis are flavored cigarettes imported mainly from India. Their popularity has grown in recent years in part because they come in a variety of candy-like flavors such as strawberry, vanilla, and grape, they are usually less expensive than regular cigarettes, and they often give the smoker an immediate buzz," according to the American Cancer Society. "Even though Bidis contain less tobacco than regular cigarettes...they have higher levels of nicotine and other harmful substances such as tar and carbon monoxide. They are also unfiltered. Bidis appear to have all of the same health risks of regular cigarettes, if not more."

Many cigar smokers lack specific knowledge about the health risks associated with cigar use and think they are less harmful because of their low cost, sweet flavors and nice aroma.

"I don't consider cigars to be more dangerous than cigarettes. I actually think they are safer because they don't have all of the additional chemicals in them that cigarettes have like rat poison. Cigars are just tobacco," Lewis said.

Lisa Thomas, an Alexandria, Va. Resident, smokes a pack of Black & Mild cigarillos per day agrees.

"Blacks are much better than cigarettes. They don't produce as much

smoke, the smell doesn't get in your clothes, they last longer and they are more natural than cigarettes," she said.

Both Lewis and Thomas are wrong.

Using cigars can be more hazardous.

They are just as, if not more addictive than cigarettes because of the large amount of tobacco, used in each one. Cigar smoking increases the risk of death from several cancers such as lung, lip, tongue, mouth, throat, esophagus and larynx.

Inhaling cigar smoke can be linked to pancreas and bladder cancer as well, reports the American Cancer Society.

Last year, the American Legacy Foundation awarded a \$4.5 million, three-year grant to a coalition of six national African-American organizations - the National Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation, the NAACP, the National Urban League, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, the National Conference of Black Mayors and the National Association of Neighborhoods - to help curb tobacco use among African-Americans.

The American Legacy Foundation report, Beyond Cigarettes: The Use of Other Tobacco Products, shows that more than 36 percent of high school students who smoke cigarettes also smoke cigars.

In 2000, 22 percent of males smoked cigars compared to 7.3 percent of females between 14 and 18. Among Blacks, 15.3 percent reported using cigars, 15.1 percent among Whites, 13.6 percent among Hispanics and 7.4 percent among Asians. Cigar use is higher among men

than women and among Blacks compared to other races, nonetheless, use is decreasing.

In 2002, high school males were still almost three times more likely than females to smoke cigars. Among males, 16.9 percent reported using cigars, compared to 6.2 percent of females. Among African-Americans, 12 percent reported cigar use, 11.8 among Whites, 10.8 percent among Hispanics and 5.4 percent among Asians.

Some attribute the popularity of cigars to the tobacco industries attempt to glamorize the product.

According to Donna Vallone, assistant vice president of research at the American Legacy Foundation, an organization designed to give young people the knowledge and tools to reject tobacco, anti-tobacco advocates have a reason for not focusing on cigar use.

"It's a relatively small percentage of kids using cigars relative to cigarettes and the prevalence of cigar use among use is significantly lower than cigarettes and the prevalence of cigar use had remained particularly stable between 2002 and 2004," she said. "The lack of anti-cigar campaigns is related to the prevalence trends. So many more kids are smoking cigarettes, which is why the prevention campaigns target cigarettes."

Cigarettes smoking accounts for the majority of tobacco use among young people, but neglecting the use of other tobacco products like cigars, and creating a glamorous aura around such a deadly product is dangerous, says Watson-Hyde.

"If we think we've won the battle we have not and there are a couple ways that show we haven't. One, there is still a tremendous amount

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Jim Rouse  
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Galus O. Sims, Sr.  
Operations Manager/Editor  
Home Office  
405 Evans St.  
P.O. Box 8361  
Greenville, NC 27835  
Phone: (252) 757-0365  
Fax: (252) 757-1793  
EMAIL:  
mvoicepaper@aol.com

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# BET To End Nightly Newscast

by Hazel Trice Edney  
NNPA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — Black Entertainment Television has axed its only remaining public affairs program, BET's Nightly News, landing another blow to the nation's Black news and information sources.

"People had been hopeful that there would be some shred of information relevant to the Black community left on BET," says Ron Daniels, executive director of the New York-based



**Hazel Trice Edney**  
Executive Director of the New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights.

"But clearly there is more of an emphasis on entertainment than education. This is a tragic loss and not a very hopeful sign."

BET President and Chief Operating Officer Debra L. Lee announced the programming change last week, saying the network will revert to hourly news updates throughout the day instead of one set program in the evening.

"Strategically, this new approach strengthens our news product by responding directly to the changing needs and preferences of BET viewers," says Lee in a press statement. "When combined with plans to ex-

pand our news specials, we'll have news programming that's fast, flexible, accessible and timely. There are other news coverage options at our disposal which we're also considering, including the possibility of a weekend news magazine or analysis show."

BET Founder and CEO Robert L. Johnson, who has undergone much criticism after the cutting of other news-oriented programming, was quick to explain the new program format.

"News and Public Affairs have always been historically important parts of the BET lineup, and have earned numerous awards over the years. But it's now time to enhance our delivery of that product in a way that's more engaging," he said in a statement. "By no means is this a lessening of our news commitment, but instead an improvement of our overall news offering."

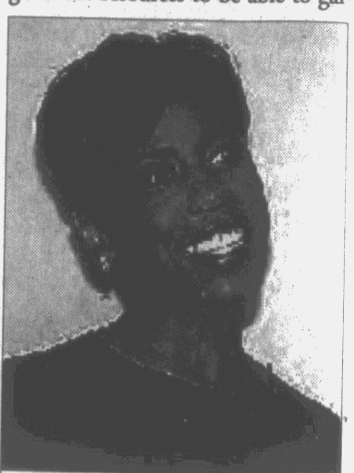
What BET officials are calling a "new approach" is actually an old one that BET used in the 1990.

BET viewers see the new format, set to start this summer, as a continued dismantling of substantive programs for Black viewers that started with the cutting of "Lead Story," "BET Tonight" and "Teen Summit," all in late 2002. BET Nightly News was the last major news source to leave the station since BET was purchased by Viacom, one of the largest global media empires, in 2000.

However, Johnson and Lee have repeatedly stated that program decisions have been made by them, not Viacom.

"I wasn't surprised," says Ed Gordon, former host of BET's "Lead Story" and now host of "News and Notes with Ed Gordon," aired each weekday on National Public Radio. "I think that the news show had been diluted over the years and the show that they produce now, while all of the people were very hard-working and well-intentioned at putting out a good show, I don't think that they were given the wherewithal to do the kind of news show that really was servicing Black

America as it should have, but they did the best that they could do. It was never given the resources to be able to gar-



**Jacquie Reed**  
BET News Anchor

ner stories from across the country. Our fight was always to try to get more money and the news was a very costly venture."

Despite the planned periodic updates, whenever a major news program is lost, it leaves a void, Gordon says.

"It was an important vehicle, much like Jet Magazine. There are stories that if you don't pick up Jet or if you don't tune into BET Nightly News that you just wouldn't see anywhere else. And I'm not sure you're going to see that vehicle again for a while."

The answer is to push for more Black-owned and controlled media, says Gordon.

"Black America has to be realistic about where we are and stop being satisfied with one," he says. "We were satisfied that BET Nightly News was there, yet we weren't demanding more of a Black perspective from anywhere else. So, what happens is when that one goes away, then you're left with nothing."

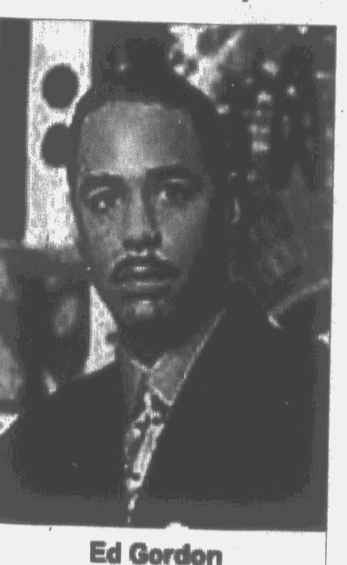
Donna Brazile, a political strategist and regular commentator on CNN, says the news aspect of BET is important, but sees the cut as an opportunity for other Black community

new sources to be marketed and used.

"It's a sad commentary to see BET's Nightly News Show bite the dust. I hope they find time in their entertainment line-up to inform their audience of what's happening in the news... It's a major loss for those of us who view BET as speaking with an authentic voice," Brazile says.

A subsidiary of Viacom, Inc. BET markets itself as "the nation's leading television network providing quality entertainment, music, news and public affairs programming for the African-American audience."

It reaches more than 80 million households according to Nielsen media research. However, some have also viewed the reduction of the news and public service content as more of an emphasis on its musical entertainment, which often features near public nu-



**Ed Gordon**

erty, programming pitched to youth.

"It seems that the drive, which is an understandable drive, to be profitable, supercedes the need for information," Daniels says. "This is a part of the larger problem of the conglomeratization of media and the homogenization of media," he says. "You have such huge monopolies that it's hard for Black people to break into television, period. There are big interests that control the electronic media."

# State of Florida To Allow Use Of Force

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (AP) — Gov. Jeb Bush said Tuesday he intends to sign a bill that would allow people who feel threatened — even on the street or at a baseball game — to "meet force with force" and defend themselves without fear of prosecution.

The measure, the top priority of the National Rifle Association in Florida this year, passed the House 94-20 on Tuesday. It had already passed the Senate.

Bush, who has championed tougher penalties for people convicted of using guns in crimes, said the bill is about self-defense and called it "a good, common sense, anti-crime issue."

The measure essentially extends a right Floridians already have in their home or car.

Under present law, however, people attacked anywhere else are supposed to do what they can to avoid escalating the situation and can use deadly force only after they've tried to retreat.

# Nazi Arms Supplier's Heir Pays Reparations

By Associated Press  
BERLIN — The billionaire grandson of a Nazi arms supplier has paid \$6.5 million into a fund for former slave laborers after years of pressure, a move that a senior German Jewish official said Tuesday was long overdue.

Friedrich Christian Flick had maintained that as an individual he was not obligated to pay into the fund set up by the government and industry — a stance that prompted intense criticism from Jewish groups and others. The \$6.6 billion fund started payments in 2001.

However, the foundation that runs the fund said last week that Flick had made a contribution that will allow it to "provide extra humanitarian payments to needy surviving slave laborers."

Flick had been criticized for not putting money into a fund set up by German companies and the government to pay reparations to victims of Nazi-era slave labor, instead choosing to set up his own fund meant to fight racism and neo-Nazism in eastern Germany.

"This change of heart should have come much earlier," Michael Fuerst, the head of the Jewish community in the state of Lower Saxony,

told German online newspaper the Netzeitung in comments published Tuesday. "With his earlier refusal, he has caused severe damage to the German culture of remembrance."

Flick's grandfather, Friedrich Flick, lost his fortune after the war when he was sentenced to seven years in prison for crimes that included the use of slave labor in his factories and the confiscation of Jewish property.

Released early in 1950, he rebuilt his business in West Germany before his 1972 death.

The younger Flick — a regular in European celebrity magazines, with an accompanying playboy image — sold his shares in the family conglomerate for \$60 million after his grandfather's death and then built up his riches through investments. The Flick group was later sold to Deutsche Bank for \$2.5 billion.

The controversy over payments was revived last year when an exhibit of Flick's contemporary art collection went on display in Berlin, leading to criticism that the heir was trying to whitewash his family name.

The Flick exhibit — including works by Bruce Nauman and Nam June Paik — drew crowds to the Hamburger Bahnhof art museum in Berlin.

# Canada to Double Spending in Africa

The 2005 Federal Budget calls for an additional \$3.4 billion (Sh261.8 billion) increase in Canada's international assistance over the next five years, with the goal of doubling the aid from its 2003-04 level by 2008-09 fiscal year.

Canadian Finance Minister Ralph Goodale said the increase confirmed his country's continued support to help Africa overcome the overwhelming challenges of poverty, debt and disease.

"By almost any measure, Africa is a continent in crisis," said Goodale recently. "More than 260,000 people die in Africa of AIDS and malaria — the equivalent of a tsunami — every single month."

The international events in recent months remind us not only that we are all connected, but that we also have responsibilities in this world."

The 2005 budget targets several Africa support programs, notably health, debt relief, immunisation, private sector reforms, peace and security.

Canada has so far cancelled debts to four African countries and to date, close to \$600 million has been forgiven.

Goodale said the debt relief program forms a key part of Canada's commitment to Africa and ensuring that poor countries "free up financial resources to spend on the future of their citizens and not the debt payment of the past."

Other programs covered by the budget include \$100 million to treat three million people suffering from HIV/AIDS with antiretroviral drugs, \$105 million targeting women and young girls affected by AIDS, \$42 million to eradicate polio and \$160 million for global alliance for vaccines and immunisation.

The fight against malaria and tuberculosis will benefit from \$140 million funding, while \$100 million will be allocated annually to peace and security initiatives.

"The measures announced in the budget are a further sign of Canada's commitment to work with people of Africa as they build a better future."

# U.S. Prison population soars

New York Beacon

NEW YORK CITY - 12.6% of all black men in their late 20s are in jails or prisons.

Growing at a rate of about 900 inmates each week between mid-2003 and mid-2004, the nation's prisons and jails held 2.1 million people, or one in every 138 U.S. residents, the government reported Sunday.

By last June 30, there were 48,000 more inmates, or 2.3%, more than the year before, according to the latest figures from the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

The total inmate population has hovered around 2 million for the past few years, reaching 2.1 million on June 30, 2002, and just below that mark a year later.

While the crime rate has fallen over the past decade, the number of people in prison and jail is outpacing the number of inmates released, said the report's co-author, Paige Harrison. For example, the number of admissions to federal prisons in 2004 exceeded releases by more than 8,000, the study found.

Harrison said the increase can be attributed largely to get-tough policies enacted in the 1980s and 1990s. Among them are mandatory drug sentences, "three-strikes-and-you're-out" laws for repeat offenders, and "truth-in-sentencing" laws that restrict early releases.

"As a whole most of these policies remain in place," she said. "These policies were a reaction to the rise in crime in the '80s and early '90s."

Added Malcolm Young, executive director of the Sentencing Project, which promotes alternatives to prison: "We're working under the burden of laws and practices that have developed over 30 years that have focused on

punishment and prison as our primary response to crime."

He said many of those incarcerated are not serious or violent offenders, but are low-level drug offenders. Young said one way to help lower the number is to introduce drug treatment programs that offer effective ways of changing behavior and to provide appropriate assistance for the mentally ill.

According to the Justice Policy Institute, which advocates a more lenient system of punishment, the United States has a higher rate of incarceration than any other country, followed by Britain, China, France, Japan and Nigeria.

There were 726 inmates for every 100,000 U.S. residents by June 30, 2004, compared with 716 a year earlier, according to the report by the Justice Department agency. In 2004, one in every 138 U.S. residents was in prison or jail; the previous year it was one in every 140.

In 2004, 61% of prison and jail inmates were of racial or ethnic minorities, the government said. An estimated 12.6% of all black men in their late 20s were in jails or prisons, as were 3.6% of Hispanic men and 1.7% of white men in that age group, the report said.

Other findings include:

- State prisons held about 2,500 youths under 18 in 2004. That compares with a peak, in 1995, of about 5,300. Local jails held about 7,000 youths, down from 7,800 in 1995.

- In the year ending last June 30, 13 states reported an increase of at least 5% in the federal system, led by Minnesota, at about 13%; Montana at 10.5%; Arkansas at 9%.

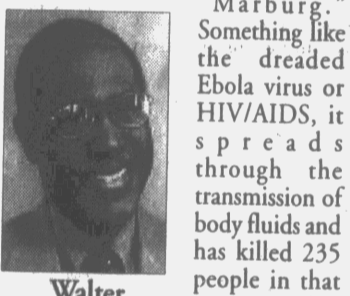
- Among the 12 states that reported a decline in the inmate population were Alabama, 7%; Connecticut, 2.5%; and Ohio, 2%.

# M(V) Voice OP/EDs

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

# The Scourge of Black Poverty

Until recently, I had never heard of the latest disease now ravaging Angola in West Africa, called "Marburg."



**Walter**

Something like the dreaded Ebola virus or HIV/AIDS, it spreads through the transmission of body fluids and has killed 235 people in that country. That

his why international health officials have raced into Angola to attempt to cut it off from spreading, since the virus builds and builds in the body even after killing the person. It has been called a virtual "time-bomb."

The more you hear about these disease that appear to have the capacity to wipe out large sectors of the African population, it seems that they all have one basic root - they breed in areas where there is little modern education and where gut-wrenching poverty is the way of life. Yet, it does not appear that reducing global poverty has the same urgency in this country as making war.

For example, it was recently reported that the world's richest nations, the G-8, failed to reach an agreement on how to erase \$40 bil-

lion of so-called "debt" from the world's poorest nations. I say so-called because the very idea of there being an African debt to the United States or Europe is a laughable proposition: Black people sitting in America have not been paid for the hundreds of year of slavery they endured, and African countries have not been reimbursed for the theft of natural and human resources that European took from that Continent.

In any case, while Britain has proposed doubling economic assistance to Africa and has begun to pay off 10% of the debt of 22 of the poorest countries, the United States has put forth a very different plan opposed by the European countries and the World Bank. The U.S. proposed reducing the debt, while at the same time reducing the money available for low interest loans to poor countries. In other words, it doesn't want to come out a net loser in the deal, so it pays for reducing the debt of poor countries with the money it contributes for the development.

The Bush administration just doesn't get it. It is difficult to make real progress with respect to a number of social problems unless you are able to deal effectively with poverty. In this country, for example, we expect excellent educational performance in areas that are racked by poverty, really expecting the school

- a community institution - to perform in ways different from the environment in which it exists. While some schools do, they are the exception. The same thought exists with respect to HIV/AIDS, originally a problem of homosexual males that has become heterosexually transmitted in the context of poor, drug-infested communities.

So far, there has been a great deal of game-playing in the field of poverty elimination with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, demanding that poor countries arrange their economies to qualify for the latest program that promises to impact on their economic condition. For most countries, if they could qualify for foreign assistance according to the rules laid down by the World Bank - have "transparency" and good management in government, have effective monetary arrangements and legislation to utilize foreign assistance, have trained money managers, and etc. - they would probably not need it.

In his most recent book, *The End of Poverty*, Professor Jeffrey Sachs of Columbia has written that essentially poor people need direct financial investment in their societies to build economic infrastructure, to pay for urgent health issues, to construct universal education, to

perfect their governmental systems and the like. Then, he says, they will be able to more successfully deal with their own poverty by their connection to the international economic system.

We know that he is right because it has taken 50 years to cut the official Black poverty rate in half in the Black community in America and we live in the most economically dynamic society in the world. What I wonder is how many Black people have to die while the leading countries in the world and the major international institutions come to terms with how to really deal with poverty. And while many of them may be misguided, there exists in the United States a real resentment about dealing with such problems right now, even a feeling that the poor have made these problems themselves so they have to fix them.

Poverty is a drain on the ability of countries in the global system to construct "democracy," to stop fighting and killing each other, in short, to stop calling on the resources in states and institutions to deal with the results of poverty. Why does this strategy make sense?

*Dr. Ron Walters is the Distinguished Leadership Scholar, Director of the African American Leadership Institute and Professor of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland College Park. His latest book is: White Nationalism, Black Interests, by Wayne State University Press.*

# The Alarming Cost of Gasoline

by Bill Fletcher Jr.

As fuel prices rise at the pump, quite predictably the news media has begun to ask questions about why this is taking place and what, if anything, can be done about it. There are some hard truths that we have to face, and some of this has a direct impact on the foreign policy pursued by this country.

Most objective observers of the oil industry will admit that we are fast approaching the point where the amount of oil in the ground will begin to decline until it ultimately vanishes. In other words, oil was never limitless, though we in the U.S.A. especially acted, and were trained to act, as if it were. So, by the mid-21st century there will likely be a severe oil crunch.

What is obscene about this situation is that experts have known this fact—regarding the inevitable disappearance of oil—for years, yet the oil industry and their political allies have largely hidden or dismissed such notions as alarmist. Well, the alarm is now beginning to ring.

The second fact is that growing numbers of countries are demanding oil for their own internal needs. This may sound self-evident, but the U.S. government often acts as if oil is being extracted for the

benefit of the U.S.—and perhaps Western Europe—alone. As countries such as China, India and South Africa expand their economies, there is the unfortunate reliance on fossil fuels, oil especially. Thus, in a period where oil will be thinning out, there will be greater numbers of competitors seeking the oil.

The third fact is that oil-producing nations want greater control over who gets their oil and at what prices. One can see this playing out right now in the hostility of the Bush administration toward Venezuela. The government of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has asserted that as a sovereign country they have the right to sell oil to whom they wish in order to benefit the long-term growth of Venezuela. Is this outrageous? Apparently the Bush administration thinks so, and regularly takes the opportunity to threaten or taunt the Venezuelan government. Venezuela, however, is not by itself in wanting to use oil to help to advance their specific national objectives.

Recently former United Nations weapons inspector Hans Blix noted that he now believed that the U.S. invasion of Iraq had a great deal to do with oil. He said that he had not

originally believed this to be the case, but he was now convinced. Join the club, Hans. It seems fairly evident that oil was at least a piece of the equation.

Yet Iraq is not the only site for U.S. interest in oil. As mentioned in earlier columns, greater Bush administration attention has gone to African oil producers, particularly in the Gulf of Guinea (such as Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, and Equatorial Guinea), Angola and southern Sudan. This interest has taken various forms. In the Sudan, the Bush administration played a relatively constructive role (I know; don't fall out of your chair) in negotiating the peace settlement between the Khartoum government and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army; in West Africa the Bush administration is seriously contemplating the redeployment of US troops for purposes of "security"; in the case of Libya, with the repudiation of nuclear weapons by President Qaddafi, the Bush administration is treating the Libyans as long-lost cousins; and, in almost all cases, an oil producing country is immune from Bush administration criticism for any action so long as that country is prepared to play a subordinate

role to the U.S.A. In effect, this means that should governments come to power in oil producing Africa that are consistently in favor of self-determined political and economic development and may choose to disagree with the Bush administration over matters of foreign policy or the manner in which the Bush administration and their oil allies deal with their respective countries, those countries face the prospect of increased tensions, perhaps up to and including the dreaded regime change.

This is all to say that the oil crisis is chronic and it is about much more than the cost at our fuel pumps. It could very well be about the contexts of major conflicts as we get deeper into the 21st century and deeper into the void left by disappearing oil.

Bill Fletcher Jr. is president of TransAfrica Forum, a Washington, D.C.-based non-profit educational and organizing center formed to raise awareness in the United States about issues facing the nations and peoples of Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America. He also is co-chair of the anti-war coalition, United for Peace and Justice (www.unitedforpeace.org).

He can be reached at bfletcher@transafricaforum.org.

# OUR HERITAGE BLACK CONFEDERATES

By Scott Williams

Black Confederates Why haven't we heard more about them? National Park Service historian, Ed Bearss, stated, "I don't want to call it a conspiracy to ignore the role of Blacks both above and below the Mason-Dixon line, but it was definitely a tendency that began around 1910" Historian, Erwin L. Jordan, Jr., calls it a "cover-



up" which started back in 1865. He writes, "During my research, I came across instances where Black men stated they were soldiers, but you can plainly see where 'soldier' is crossed out and 'body servant' inserted, or 'teamster' on pension applications." Another black historian, Roland Young, says he is not surprised that blacks fought. He explains that "some, if not most, Black southerners would support their country" and that by doing so they were "demonstrating it's possible to hate the system of slavery and love one's country." This is the very same reaction that most African Americans showed during the American Revolution, where they fought for the colonies, even though the British offered them freedom if they fought for them.

It has been estimated that over 65,000 Southern blacks were in the Confederate ranks. Over 13,000 of these, "saw the elephant" also known as meeting the enemy in combat. These Black Confederates included both slave and free. The Confederate Congress did not approve blacks to be officially enlisted as soldiers (except as musicians), until late in the war. But in the ranks it was a different story. Many Confederate officers did not obey the mandates of politicians, they frequently enlisted blacks with the simple criteria, "Will you fight?" Historian Ervin Jordan, explains that "biracial units" were frequently organized "by local Confederate and State militia Commanders in response to immediate threats in the form of Union raids". Dr. Leonard Haynes, an African-American professor at Southern University, stated, "When you eliminate the black Confederate soldier, you've eliminated the history of the South."

As the war came to an end, the Confederacy took progressive measures to build back up its army. The creation of the Confederate States Colored Troops, copied after the segregated northern colored troops, came too late to be successful. Had the Confederacy been successful, it would have created the world's largest armies (at the time) consisting of black soldiers, even larger than that of the North. This would have given the future of the Confederacy a vastly different appearance than what modern day racist or anti-Confederate liberals conjecture. Not only did Jefferson Davis envision black Confederate veterans receiving bounty lands for their service, there would have been no future for slavery after the goal of 300,000 armed black CSA veterans came

home after the war.

1. The "Richmond Howitzers" were partially manned by black militiamen. They saw action at 1st Manassas (or 1st Battle of Bull Run) where they operated battery no. 2. In addition two black "regiments", one free and one slave, participated in the battle on behalf of the South. "Many colored people were killed in the action", recorded John Parker, a former slave.

2. At least one Black Confederate was a non-commissioned officer James Washington, Co. D 35th Texas Cavalry, Confederate States Army, became its 3rd Sergeant. Higher ranking black commissioned officers served in militia units, but this was on the State militia level (Louisiana) and not in the regular C.S. Army.

3. Free black musicians, cooks, soldiers and teamsters earned the same pay as white confederate privates. This was not the case in the Union army where blacks did not receive equal pay. At the Confederate Buffalo Forge in Rockbridge County, Virginia, skilled black workers earned on average three times the wages of white Confederate soldiers and more than most Confederate army officers (\$350- \$600 a year).

4. Dr. Lewis Steiner, Chief Inspector of the United States Sanitary Commission while observing Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson's occupation of Frederick, Maryland, in 1862: "Over 3,000 Negroes must be included in this number [Confederate troops]. These were clad in all kinds of uniforms, not only in cast-off or captured United States uniforms, but in coats with Southern buttons, State buttons, etc. These were shabby, but not shabbier or seedier than those worn by white men in the rebel ranks. Most of the Negroes had arms, rifles, muskets, sabers, bowie-knives, dirks, etc....and were manifestly an integral portion of the Southern Confederate Army."

Continues on page 9



The Chandler Boys

Enlisting in the Palo Alto Confederates in 1861 from his home in Palo Alto, Mississippi, at age 15 Andrew Martin Chandler was mustered into Co. F of Blythe's Mississippi Infantry, 44th Mississippi Infantry. He participated in several campaigns with his childhood playmate, friend and former slave, 17 year-old Silas Chandler.

Andrew was captured at Shiloh and was held prisoner in Ohio while Silas made repeated trips home to Mississippi to bring Andrew needed goods. Andrew was exchanged and he and Silas returned to their unit. Andrew was later wounded at Chickamauga. Army surgeons prepared to amputate his leg, but Silas used a piece of gold given to him by Andrew's mother to buy whiskey to bribe the surgeons to release him. He carried Andrew on his back for several miles and loaded him onto a boxcar heading to Atlanta - once there Andrew was taken to a hospital, where Silas cared for him until the family could join them - his leg, and possibly his life, were saved by Silas' attention and efforts.

The following is from a 1950 typed transcript of handwritten notes from an interview with Andrew Martin Chandler conducted in 1912:

"He served in the Confederate Army, and even in 1912, was still true to the cause. He told me much about his service in the army, even though he considered his contribution as rather slight, being that of less importance than any soldier in the ranks."

Source: <http://37thtexas.org/html/thewargallery.html>

**McDonald Law Offices, P.C.**  
[dmcdonald@earthlink.net](mailto:dmcdonald@earthlink.net)  
**Demyra R. McDonald**  
 Attorney & Counselor At Law  
 930 S. Evans St., Suite C  
 Greenville, NC 27834  
 (252) 355-9695  
 Fax (252) 830-9606  
 Toll Free: 1-866-355-9696  
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# Black Caucus Losing Cohesion (see front page)

David Scott (GA). Also among the Republican fellow-travelers were William Jefferson (LA), who is not a member of the DLC or Blue Dogs, but often votes like it, and DLer Albert Wynn (MD). (Wynn, along with Ford, Bishop and Jefferson, were among the Four Eunuchs of the Caucus that voted to give George Bush his Iraq War Powers, in October, 2002.)

Florida's Kendrick Meek, who flirts with the Right on occasion, made common cause with conservatives on bankruptcy, as did freshman Houston Congressman Al Green. Emanuel Cleaver, a first term congressman and former mayor of Kansas City, was one of only two members of the Progressive Caucus - and the only Black - to vote for the bankruptcy bill. Eighteen African Ameri-

can lawmakers also belong to the 50-plus member Progressive Congressional Caucus. Each of the Hard Core Four most consistent Black sell-outs on Capitol Hill - Davis (AL), Ford (TN), Bishop (GA) and Scott (GA) - hails from among the ten states that are hardest hit by bankruptcy. But every Black lawmaker that voted for the Republican measure has, in fact, sided with the

predatory lenders that besiege African American neighborhoods. According to a study by the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC), about 29 percent of African Americans resort to high-cost loans when buying or refinancing their homes - vastly increasing their future risk of bankruptcy. Map overlays provided by the journal Southern Studies show that concentrations of predatory lending facilities hug closely to the contours of Black neighborhoods in Atlanta and

Charlotte, for example. On the most fundamental level, the cleavage in the Black Caucus shows the power of corporate money to erode notions of fairness - a rejection of privilege - that are central to the historical Black Political Consensus. "The essential philosophical and political divide over the bankruptcy bill boils down to whether you see filing for bankruptcy as a right or a privilege," John D.

McMickle, a former the bankruptcy lawyer for the Senate Judiciary Committee told the Washington Post. "The new law makes bankruptcy a privilege reserved only for people who can prove they can't repay their debts." If nothing else, African Americans expect that their representatives will stand against the privileges of wealth - which, in the United States, are nearly inseparable from white privilege. Instead, ten members of the Congressional Black Caucus sided with finance capital, and against fairness for their constituents and stability for their neighborhoods.

**Congressional Delinquents**  
Even more than the treatment of people facing bankruptcy, the estate tax is a bedrock issue that separates those who seek social justice from the forces that would reinforce rigid social stratification.

Eight Black Caucus members joined the Walton family, owners of Wal-Mart, in favor of projecting family wealth and class privilege into the far horizons. Depressingly, two additional lawmakers who share Black and Progressive Caucus membership voted to repeal the estate tax: William 'Lacy' Clay (MO) and Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX).

They were joined by CBC members Edolphus Towns (NY), freshman G.K. Butterfield (NC), and four of the lawmakers who also voted for the bankruptcy bill:

Jefferson (LA), Bishop (GA), Scott (GA) and Wynn (MD) - last week's grand-slam betrayers.

Oddly enough, two of the Caucus's Hard Core Four - Tennessee's Harold Ford, Jr. and Alabama's Artur Davis - voted against estate tax repeal, as did bankruptcy bill supporters Gregory Meeks (NY), Kendrick Meek (FL), Al Green (TX) and Emanuel Cleaver (MO).

However, it must be noted that less than a decade ago, only one Caucus member would have been expected to help insulate the power of inherited wealth: Rev. Floyd Flake, who represented a Queens, New York district for six terms (1986-1997). Flake stuck out like a sore thumb as the CBC's most conservative member. He is now a key player in the national Right network, a school privatization profiteer with the title of Senior Fellow at the Manhattan Institute. As such, Flake is a full-time operative in the corporate machine that is driving the rightward tilt among Black politicians - not to be confused with the political leanings of the Black electorate, who remain substantially supportive of the historical Black Political Consensus on issues of social justice, racial progress, the obligations of state and federal government, and peace.

In a dizzyingly short span of time, we have seen the Congressional Black Caucus's near-unanimity on fundamental issues held dear by the vast majority of African Americans, crumble. This crisis in Black leadership is the result of a sea-change on the Right which - steeped historically in reflexive racism - only about a decade ago finally came to the realization that an alternative Black Democratic leadership might be created through the power of money. The awful crack in the Caucus is proof that the Right's strategy is working - they are cutting through the CBC like butter, and that is only the most dramatic manifestation of the all-out assault on the Black Political Consensus.

It is not due to the charismatic force of their personalities that three of the Hard Core Four (Ford, Davis and Scott) are second, third and fourth, respectively, in corporate contributions (see Techpolitics.org), followed by Louisiana's William Jefferson, supporter of the bankruptcy bill, estate tax repeal, and Bush's Iraq War Powers.

'Bright lines' must be drawn delineating acceptable political behavior in Black America. Locating the boundaries of such behavior is not difficult: the Black Political Consensus is based on shared history and experience, and it is only in the last few years that corporate America has moved decisively to induce Black politicians to violate the basic tenets of the Consensus. However, it must be recognized that we live in a brand new Black political environment, recently imposed by corporate capital. There will never again be near-unanimity within the Congressional Black Caucus on issues fundamental to a progressive agenda, unless and until mechanisms are forged that punish betrayal and reward the righteous. That means, among many other things, money - and certainly not funding from the likes of BET's Bob Johnson, George Bush's Black point man on repeal of the estate tax and Social Security privatization.

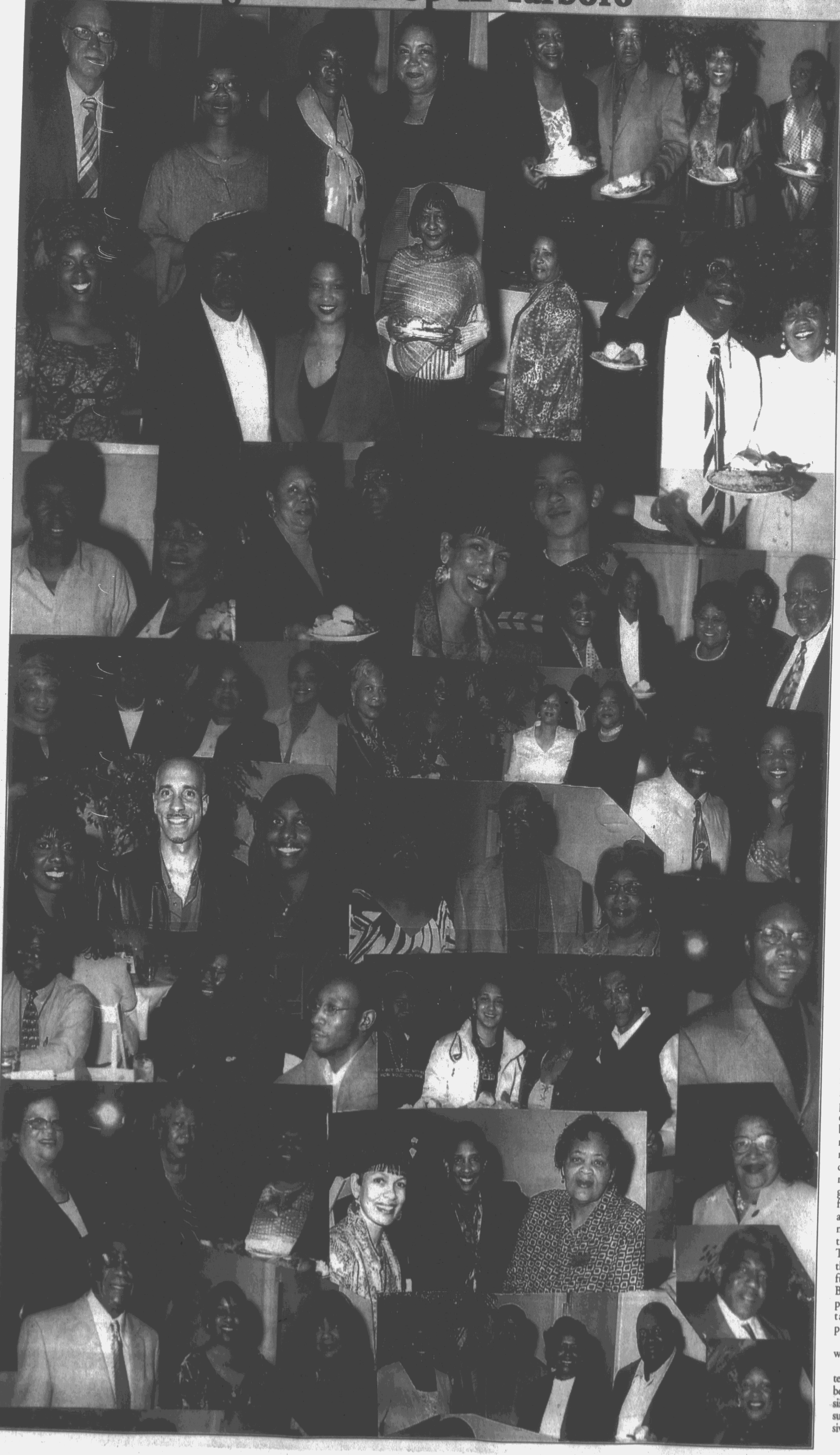
There is a generation's worth of work ahead.

Co-Publishers Glen Ford and Peter Gamble are working on a book to be titled, Barack Obama and the Crisis of Black Leadership. In future issues, they will explore Black progressive empowerment strategies.

## A Jim Rouse Pictorial

# Places & Faces....

## Black College Round-Up in Tarboro



# Community Voices

Reflections, Expressions & Reviews  
with Sujetta Jones



## "Reflections"

**Teenagers: Whatever Happened To Dating**  
The Internet has profoundly changed American courtship rituals, remarked one writer. When I

was a teen, you couldn't date a girl until you got past her father. My 16th-grade heartthrob's "fearsome" Dad vetted her phone calls, grilled me thoroughly whenever I stopped by, and otherwise "made clear how upset he'd be if I disappointed him." Today, thanks to the combined miracles of e-mail, cell phones, and instant messaging, adolescents have "at last succeeded in shielding their social lives from their parents' prying eyes. Any teenage boy looking to 'hook up' with a girl—or girl looking to 'hook up' with a boy—can easily "outflank" both of their families, and covertly arrange a meeting to get down to the business at hand. It's true—dating is dead. From coast to coast, kids as young as 13 are now hooking up for a night of kissing, fondling, and other sexual encounters. These hoot-ups may stem from chance meetings in online chat rooms or from friends hanging out in groups. The only common thread is an utter lack of personal attach-

ment. One 16-year-old says, "Being in a real relationship just complicates everything." A high school senior says, "I have my friends for my emotional needs, so I don't need that from the guy I'm being intimate with." In this impersonal atmosphere, young people are learning to view each other as interchangeable sex objects. How can they ever be developmentally ready for real-life relationships?

"It's not quite that dire, one commentator remarked. Young people may claim to be beyond romance, but for all of their posturing, many of today's adolescents are less sexually jaded than you might think. In a 1991 survey, the federal Centers for Disease Control found that 54 percent of high school students were sexually active. Last year, the figure dropped to 47 percent. Some analysts say we're witnessing a backlash to the sexploision of popular culture." I'm so used to it, it makes me sick," one 16-year-old said of the sexualized messages. I'm way over it. In interviews, many teens said that while they and their friends liked to brag about their sexual exploits, most of it was just talk. Some things, it seems, never change. From: Talking Points

## The Links, Inc. Sponsors Youth Diabetes Workshop



Link Members Front Row (L-R): Brenda Edge, Diana Myers, Marian Farmer, Josie Davis, Sylvia Myers, Ruby Bethel Second Row (L-R): Gloria Hines, Lillie Powell, Shirley Woodard, Jessie Jones, Ruthie Strayhom, Doris Cummings PHOTO: Jim Rouse

**WILSON** - The Wilson-Rocky Mount-Tarboro Chapter of The Links, Incorporated sponsored a Diabetes Education Project recently. A workshop was held in the Cornerstone Baptist Church Family Life Center for participants in the Cornerstone Save our Sons, Save our Sisters program; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority 2004 Fashionista contestants; and participants in The Delta Academy program. Approximately thirty students from elementary, junior high and high school attended the workshop. Lydia Best, a Diabetes

Care Specialist, was the presenter. Mrs. Best addressed the group on the importance of exercise, nutrition and maintaining appropriate body weight. She shared information about diabetes in youth and offered tips on preventing and controlling diabetes. Mrs. Best challenged the audience to share information and handouts with family and friends. The W-R-T Chapter has planned several projects to address the impact of diabetes and obesity on African-American youth. The chapter will sponsor three students to the Camp

Needles in the Pines during the summer. This 6-day overnight camp will be held at Camp Bonner for children with diabetes. The chapter members will also participate in the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) "Walk to Cure Diabetes" Walk-a-Thon which is scheduled for the fall. The Wilson-Rocky Mount-Tarboro Chapter of The Links, Inc., includes Greenville Area members: Helen P. Harrell, Project Chairperson, Ruby Bethel, Jennifer Congleton, Gloria Hines, Edith Leathers and Lillie Powell.

## Industry Expert Offers Simple Steps To Organize A Successful Family Reunion



Encouraging all generations from your family to participate is important for a successful reunion.

**OAKLAND, CA** (BlackNews.com) - All across America, the summer months are a perfect time to reconnect with your family. A family reunion offers families a chance to celebrate the past and create a future together. However, the thought of actually planning the event often deters people from what seems like an overwhelming task. That's why Deanna Roberts, Founder and CEO of D.R. Roberts Events Management Inc. developed five simple steps to organize a successful family reunion.

"Family reunions are for all generations. Getting the younger and older generations involved in family activities will ensure a successful and memorable reunion," comments Roberts.

Roberts Offers Five Steps to Organize a Successful Family Reunion

1. In order to make educated decisions, gather as much information up front. To begin, contact the host city Convention & Visitors Bureau or hire an event planner, comments Roberts. They will assist you with all of the local hotels, dining facilities, caterers entertainment, parks for family outings, attractions etc.

2. Form a reunion committee within your family, ideally with a representative from each generation present. Designate one person as the chair of the committee then

contract negotiations, deadlines, timelines, invitations and reports on your progress, alleviating yourself of a lot of stress and time.

4. Communication is key! Use regular mail and the internet to spread the word. Ask a younger family member to create a website keeping your family informed of the weekend itinerary. "Send out a reunion newsletter for those family members without internet access," suggests Roberts. "Encourage the entire family to help promote the event to each other!"

5. Honor the elders. Create proclamations or plaques to the longest surviving family members. Create a family tree and encourage family members to complete it. Make a tradition of hold regular family reunions. "The benefits of a close knit family will outweigh all the preparation needed," states Roberts.

About Deanna Roberts: Roberts brings over 10 years of experience as a professional event planner. Currently she runs D.R. Roberts Event Management Inc. and works with a wide variety of clients from the Oakland Raiders, 100 Black Men of the Bay Area, Alameda Alliance for Health, Allan Houston Celebrity Golf Tournament, National Association of NBA Wives, Black Sports Agents Association, Bring in the Noise, "Bring in the Funk" Broadway Performance, Budweiser, City of Oakland, Gatorade and the Literacy Classic Football Game. [www.RobertsEvents.com](http://www.RobertsEvents.com)

## Coming... African American Family Day

The 7th Annual African American Family Day Celebration Saturday, July 9th 2 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Warren Street Park located on Walnut Street in Wilson between Bruton & Daniel Streets

For more information, to volunteer, and get Vendor, Exhibitor, and Talent Registration Forms, contact Darryl Smith, Chair, African American Family Day Planning Committee at 252-246-0002

## Segregation Persists In Housing, Study Says

**WASHINGTON** - Racial segregation and discrimination in housing remain persistent problems in the United States, according to the National Fair Housing Alliance, an advocacy group. The alliance said yesterday that minority homeowners continue to be steered to minority-dominated neighborhoods where real estate does not appreciate as quickly as in majority white neighborhoods.

Housing discrimination complaints to state, federal and nonprofit agencies rose 8.6 percent in the past year, climbing to 27,319 in 2004 from 25,148 in 2003, according to the group. By Kirstin Downey Washington Post

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That watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of your ministry. II Tim. 4:5

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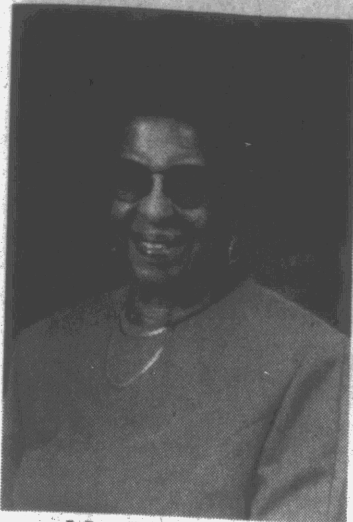
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Mrs. Beatrice Maye

## Our Youth: Our Responsibility

An elderly woman said, "For those of you who are quick to criticize the younger generation, just don't forget who raised them" - or better yet, who did not raise them. In the animal kingdom, adults take care of their young. Cats take care of kittens, chickens take care of chicks, bears take care of cubs, and dogs take care of puppies. But many of us humans walk away from our responsibility as adults.

The pride and treasure of our nation is our youth. Any nation that neglects the teaching and the upbringing of the youth is a nation on the decline. But if we are honest, then we must confess that we

as a nation have lost control of our young people. Too many of our most cherished possessions are wandering aimlessly through life, with little thought about tomorrow.

Our nation prides itself on being one of the strongest, if not the strongest and most progressive nations on the face of the earth. But how can we be when our children are bloodying our streets and slaughtering innocent? How can we be when we are more preoccupied with making a living than with making a life? How can we be when we think that our solution is building bigger and more secure jails to lock up our youth? This is merely a cover-up of our failure as adults to deal with the difficulties of raising children in this violent climate.

Whenever young people get caught up in drug addiction, sexual promiscuity, or misdirected violence, they are merely responding to the self-hatred that has been instilled in them. For you see, people who have no self-respect have no problem carrying a gun to school. People who have no self-respect have no problem cursing out their elders and lying to get what they want.

Our children are smart. They listen not only to what we say, they watch what we do, and sometimes what we do speaks so loud that they cannot hear what we say. They see the contradictions, the hypocrisy, and the inconsistencies in our lives,

in our talk as well as in our walk.

Today, in many households, it is nuclear who is in charge. It seems in some cases that the children are raising the parents rather than the parents raising the children. In some cases that the children are raising the parents rather than the parents raising the children.

Where are we going as a people? How important are our children to us? Raising our children must become a top priority in our lives. Cultivating their minds, strengthening their bodies, and elevating their spirits ought to be uppermost on our agenda.

We must teach our young people to: Take time to work - it is the price of success Take time to think - it is the source of power Take time to pray - it is the secret of perpetual youth Take time to read - it is the foundation of wisdom Take time to worship - it is the highway to reverence Take time to dream - it is hitching one's wagon Take time for friendship - it is a source of happiness Take time for God - it is life's only lasting investment.

Now is the time to take time. Now is the time to put up or shut up. Now is the time. From: Hard Questions, Heart Answers, Speeches and Sermons by the Reverend Bernice A. King (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s daughter)

## Church Leadership

Let's take a lesson from ants. "Ants pull together". Ants also share burdens that are too large for anyone or two ants to carry.

Most churches face the problems of having a few leaders and a handful of people do most of the work necessary to keep a congregation thriving. The more people who can become involved in a church program, the more successful it is likely to be.

Are we guilty of doing more than we need to do because we don't want to share responsibility? After all, "It's my job."

Jethro, father-in-law of Moses, suggested that Moses

select able men, competent men, possessing good judgment and leadership qualities and men who feared God, recognizing their accountability to Him in dealing with the Israelites.

What steps can a church take to overcome the lack of leadership? Here are some suggestions:

1. The congregation should seek out able people from their midst today we should consider an able person, one who is intelligent, reasonably well educated, and who possesses those qualities of personality that cause others to recognize him as a leader.

2. The people need to be challenged. It is easy for members in a church to get into a rut with the same people doing the same things in the same old way.

3. The people must be trained. Many would be willing to serve if they renew what to do. A congregation ought to have regular educational programs that not only teach the Bible but also prepare its members to be teachers, youth leaders, deacons, elders, and others types of leaders needed by every church.

4. Care must be taken not to overwork the leaders.

5. Current methods and programs should be analyzed. It may help to have a person from the outside take a look at the programs we have in our local church. We must have the humility to listen and the willingness to change.

There is a need for mentors and the need for qualified leaders. Why doesn't the church have more and better leaders? Who was or is the mentor in your life? How can your church - our church - help people become effective leaders?

Pity the church leader who adopts an I-will-do-it-all philosophy of ministry and fails to delegate.

Thought to Remember: "Many hands make a light work".

## Free Breast Cancer Screening

Pitt County Health Department and Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center will hold a free breast cancer screening Thursday, May 12, 2005 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Pitt County Health Department. The Pitt County Health Department is located at 201 Government Circle, just north of the Tar River. All screening participants will receive educational information about breast cancer, a clinical breast exam, instructions on performing monthly self-breast exams and more. Arrangements for a free mammogram will be made for those who meet eligibility criteria. An appointment is required. For more information or to make an appointment, contact Laura Hawkins-Am at 902-2421.

## African Americans Find World Of Opportunity

(NAPSM)—A number of African Americans have found ways to get more out of their jobs than a paycheck—they've gained invaluable and exciting experience as well.

For instance, Raymond Maxwell is an African American who grew up in Greensboro, North Carolina. Since leaving home, he has lived in Guinea-Bissau, London, Angola, Ghana and Washington, D.C. Maxwell traveled as part of his job as a specialist with the United States Foreign Service.

"My mother wanted me to be a lawyer and my father wanted me to be a Methodist minister," says Maxwell—but after serving as a naval officer on a guided missile destroyer for four years, he says the Foreign Service became an obvious choice.

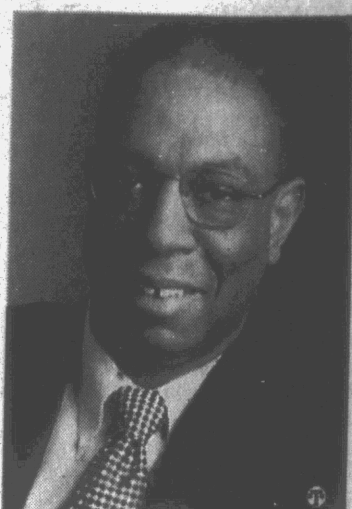
Maxwell first encountered the Foreign Service working with the American Consulate in Marseilles, France to bail some of his ship-mates out of jail for disorderly conduct. He remembers asking how he could get into this kind of work and they told him to take the Foreign Service exam.

He says he is most proud of his time and work in war-torn Sudan—a place where he says his African-American heritage played a critical role in his relief efforts.

"When you have to work through foreign bureaucratic structures on matters of critical importance such as drought-relief and poverty in Africa, having the trust of the foreign countries' citizens is critical," he explains.

Maxwell also served in the Bureau of African Affairs. His job required diplomatic skills as well as common sense and when a job was completed well, Maxwell says it was "extremely satisfying and fulfilling."

Maxwell's parents passed away when he was young and he was raised by his aunt. "Until my aunt's dying day, I don't think she really, clearly was



At age 36, Maxwell joined the Foreign Service; since then he has served around the world.

able to distinguish the fact that I was no longer in the military and I was in the State Department," he says. His aunt isn't alone. According to the State Department, many African Americans are unaware of the Foreign Service and the opportunities it offers its members. However, this career option is starting to catch on, as evidenced by the fact that the number of African Americans who took and passed the Foreign Service written exam has increased by 86 percent since 2003.

Specialists in the Foreign Service provide important technical support or administrative services at one of 250 posts overseas or in the U.S. Specialists do not need a military background. They receive paid housing or a housing allowance, health and medical coverage, federal retirement benefits, paid K-12 education for dependent children and paid leave.

For more information or to learn how to apply for a Foreign Service position, visit the Web site [www.careers.state.gov](http://www.careers.state.gov).

## JOBS THAT HELP OTHERS

(NAPSA)NAs public interest focuses on health and wellness, professions that help people help themselves are gaining popularity. One fast-growing profession is occupational therapy. Occupational therapists help people of all ages overcome disabilities, injuries, and other conditions so they can participate in the normal activities of daily life. Sometimes people need help to

learn, or relearn how to do seemingly simple things, like get dressed, eat, be productive at school or work, or even socialize. This is the work of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants. Occupational therapy focuses on participation at every age. Occupational therapy explains why it has become so important to the growing senior population,

## Youth participate in Keeping the Environment Safe...

Philippi Church Youth Department is participating in a community service project to save the environment and raise money for the Youth Division. They have elected to collect and recycle all types of printer cartridges. Ask your friends, families, employers, and others to begin collecting cartridges instead of throwing them away—and keep our community safe from hazardous waste. We have two drop off points:

Philippi Church of Christ  
1610 Farmville Boulevard  
(252) 752-7205  
WOOW Radio  
405 South Evans Street  
(252) 757-0365

Pickup of your old printer cartridges is available. You can assist us by asking your employer to become a supporter for this project. If you would like to participate in this campaign to assist the youth please feel to call us at (252) 347-5916.



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and why therapists work in settings ranging from schools, to rehab and mental health clinics, to hospitals. As occupational science continues to find new ways to help people lead active, healthier lives, demand for the broad range of occupational therapy services continues to grow at a rate of more than 20 percent. Learn more. Visit the American Occupational Therapy Association Web site, [www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org).

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# OUR HERITAGE BLACK CONFEDERATES

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 4

5. Frederick Douglas reported, "There are at the present moment many Colored men in the Confederate Army doing duty not only as cooks, servants and laborers, but real soldiers, having musket on their shoulders, and bullets in their pockets, ready to shoot down any loyal troops and do all that soldiers may do to destroy the Federal government and build up that of the rebels."

6. Black and white militiamen returned heavy fire on Union troops at the Battle of Griswoldville (near Macon, GA). Approximately 600 boys and elderly men were killed in this skirmish.

7. In 1864, President Jefferson Davis approved a plan that proposed the emancipation of slaves, in return for the official recognition of the Confederacy by Britain and France. France showed interest but Britain refused.

8. The Jackson Battalion included two companies of black soldiers. They saw combat at Petersburg under Col. Shipp. "My men acted with utmost promptness and goodwill... Allow me to state sir that they behaved in an extraordinary acceptable manner."

9. Recently the National Park Service, with a recent discovery, recognized that blacks were asked to help defend the city of Petersburg, Virginia and were offered their freedom if they did so. Regardless of their official classification, black Americans performed support functions that in today's army many would be classified as official military service. The successes of white Confederate troops in battle, could only have been achieved with the support these loyal black Southerners.

10. Confederate General John B. Gordon (Army of Northern Virginia) reported that all of his troops were in favor of Colored troops and that it's adoption would have "greatly encouraged the army." Gen. Lee was anxious to receive regiments of black soldiers. The Richmond Sentinel reported on 24 Mar 1864, "None will deny that our servants are more worthy of respect than the motley hordes which come against us." "Bad faith [to black Confederates] must be avoided as an indelible dishonor."

11. In March 1865, Judah P. Benjamin, Confederate Secretary Of State, promised freedom for blacks who served from the State of Virginia. Authority for this was finally received from the State of Virginia and on April 1st 1865, \$100 bounties were offered to black soldiers. Benjamin exclaimed, "Let us say to every Negro who wants to go into the ranks, go and fight, and you are free Fight for your masters and you shall have your freedom." Confederate Officers were ordered to treat them humanely and protect them from "injustice and oppression".

12. A quota was set for 300,000 black soldiers for the Confederate States Colored Troops. 83% of Richmond's male slave population volunteered for duty. A special ball was held in Richmond to raise money for uniforms for these men. Before Richmond fell, black Confederates in gray uniforms drilled in the streets. Due to the war ending, it is believed only companies or squads of these troops ever saw any action. Many more black soldiers fought for the North, but that difference was simply a difference because the North instituted this progressive policy more sooner than the more conservative South. Black soldiers from both sides received discrimination from whites who opposed the concept.

13. Union General U.S. Grant in Feb 1865, ordered the capture of "all the Negro men before the enemy can put them in their ranks." Frederick Douglass warned Lincoln that unless slaves were guaranteed freedom (those in Union controlled areas were still slaves) and land bounties, "they would take up arms for the rebels".

14. On April 4, 1865 (Amelia County, VA), a Confederate supply train was exclusively manned and guarded by black Infantry. When attacked by Federal Cavalry, they stood their ground and fought off the charge, but on the second charge they were overwhelmed. These soldiers are believed to be from "Major Turner's" Confederate command.

15. A Black Confederate, George \_\_\_\_\_, when captured by Federals was bribed to desert to the other side. He defiantly spoke, "Sir, you want me to desert, and I ain't no deserter. Down South, deserters disgrace their families and I am never going to do that."

16. Former slave, Horace King, accumulated great wealth as a contractor to the Confederate Navy. He was also an expert engineer and became known as the "Bridge builder of the Confederacy." One of his bridges was burned in a Yankee raid. His home was pillaged by Union troops, as his wife pleaded for mercy.

17. As of Feb. 1865 1,150 black seamen served in the Confederate Navy. One of these was among the last Confederates to surrender, aboard the CSS Shenandoah, six months after the war ended. This surrender took place in England.

18. Nearly 180,000 Black Southerners, from Virginia alone, provided logistical support for the Confederate military. Many were highly skilled workers. These included a wide range of jobs: nurses, military engineers, teamsters, ordnance department workers, brakemen, firemen, harness makers, blacksmiths, wagonmakers, boatmen, mechanics, wheelwrights, etc. In the 1920's Confederate pensions were finally allowed to some of those workers that were still living. Many thou-

sands more served in other Confederate States.

19. During the early 1900's, many members of the United Confederate Veterans (UCV) advocated awarding former slaves rural acreage and a home. There was hope that justice could be given those slaves that were once promised "forty acres and a mule" but never received any. In the 1913 Confederate Veteran magazine published by the UCV, it was printed that this plan "If not Democratic, it is [the] Confederate" thing to do. There was much gratitude toward former slaves, which "thousands were loyal, to the last degree", now living with total poverty of the big cities. Unfortunately, their proposal fell on deaf ears on Capitol Hill.

20. During the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg in 1913, arrangements were made for a joint reunion of Union and Confederate veterans. The commission in charge of the event made sure they had enough accommodations for the black Union veterans, but were completely surprised when unexpected black Confederates arrived. The white Confederates immediately welcomed their old comrades, gave them one of their tents, and "saw to their every need". Nearly every Confederate reunion including those blacks that served with them, wearing the gray.

21. The first military monument in the US Capitol that honors an African-American soldier is the Confederate monument at Arlington National cemetery. The monument was designed 1914 by Moses Ezekiel, a Jewish Confederate. Who wanted to correctly portray the "racial makeup" in the Confederate Army. A black Confederate soldier is depicted marching in step with white Confederate soldiers. Also shown is one "white soldier giving his child to a black woman for protection". - source: Edward Smith, African American professor at the American University, Washington DC.

22. Black Confederate heritage is beginning to receive the attention it deserves. For instance, Terri Williams, a black journalist for the Suffolk "Virginia Pilot" newspaper, writes: "I've had to re-examine my feelings toward the [Confederate] flag started when I read a newspaper article about an elderly black man whose ancestor worked with the Confederate forces. The man



GREENVILLE - The Domestic Violence Unified Community Resource Centre Inc. (DUCRC) kicked off their first annual fundraiser play called "I Rise," which was held on March 24th, 2005 at the ECU Willis Building. The featured pictures were taken by the WOOW staff.

- The Professional group
1. The Professional group. Left to Right—Sister Brenda Rouse, CEO/founder of DVUCRC and Dr. Larry Hines along with Judy Baker from ECU, Play Writer Miltonj Sutton, and Barry Dixon.
  2. Our Supporters that stopped by—Bishop Henry Brown Sr. and Pastor Ethel Brian from Washington, NC.
  3. Mother Rouse and Alicia Mincey. The play "I Rise" was written as a survival kit for Domestic Violence. Cast Members
  4. Shown below is the cast of this marvelous skit.
- Also to moderate the evening our young person, soloist Jazmine Larkin age 15 sung the featured song by Yolonda Adams entitled "I Rise." Our welcomed guest included non other than Fabian. The play was very successful and we extend our Thank You to all participants and donors for all of their help. We welcome walk-ins and interested volunteers to our center.

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## Little Willie Center Honored

GREENVILLE - The Little Willie Center, 807 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive had their annual banquet APRIL 16th, Saturday night at the City Bistro Hotel. It was a stellar affair.

On that following Wednesday, the Social Work practice class at East Carolina University with professor Dr. Yolanda Burwell, presented Renee Arrington, Director of The Little Willie Center a check for \$1910.00.

They learned about the Little Willie Center and worked to raise funds for the center and the students volunteered to help the students there. They really wanted to serve and help a local community agency and chose this center.

The group of 16 students raised the money by asking businesses to help and then gave out gifts to the students after the presentation and also supplied donations of products and services from area businesses.

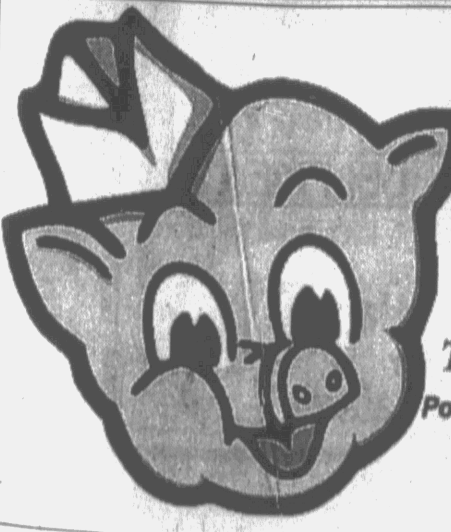
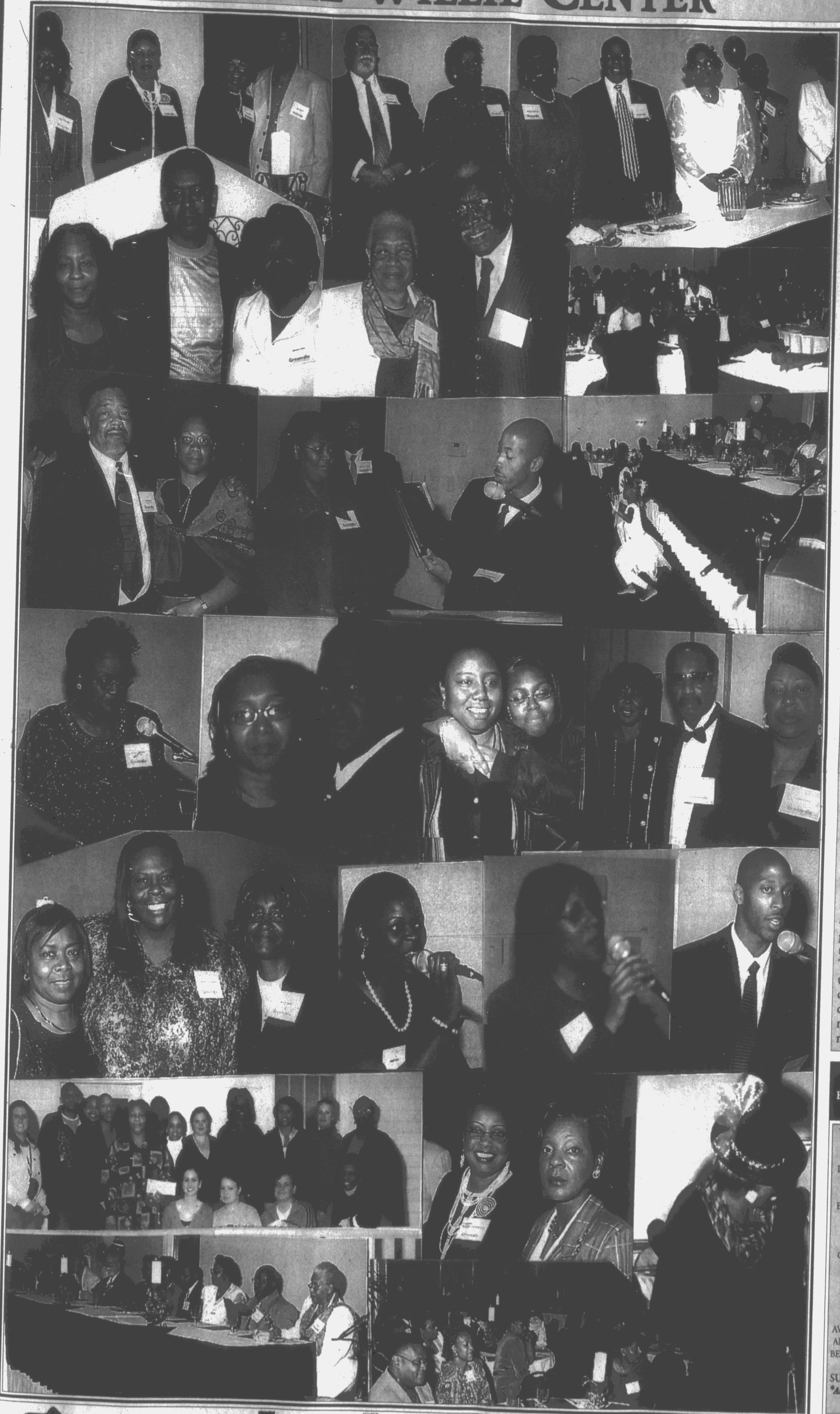
The Little Willie Center is a "latch key" center where students come after school, instead of going home alone. They do their homework, eat a meal and then go outside to the playground that is in need of games and playground equipment and things for the children to play with.

This is a great program in West Greenville so that children will not be alone after school. It is opened for children from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

There have been three churches that have agreed to support the center on a monthly basis. There are also individuals and businesses that have become patrons of the center. We need more churches and organisations, groups and individuals to help the center on a monthly basis. There is always a need for volunteers. Please come by the center to visit and see what you can do to help. The center need you and the children need you. Become a partner.

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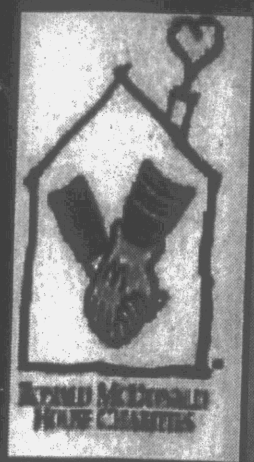
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