



The Minority Voice

Serving Eastern North Carolina's Minority Communities Since 1980

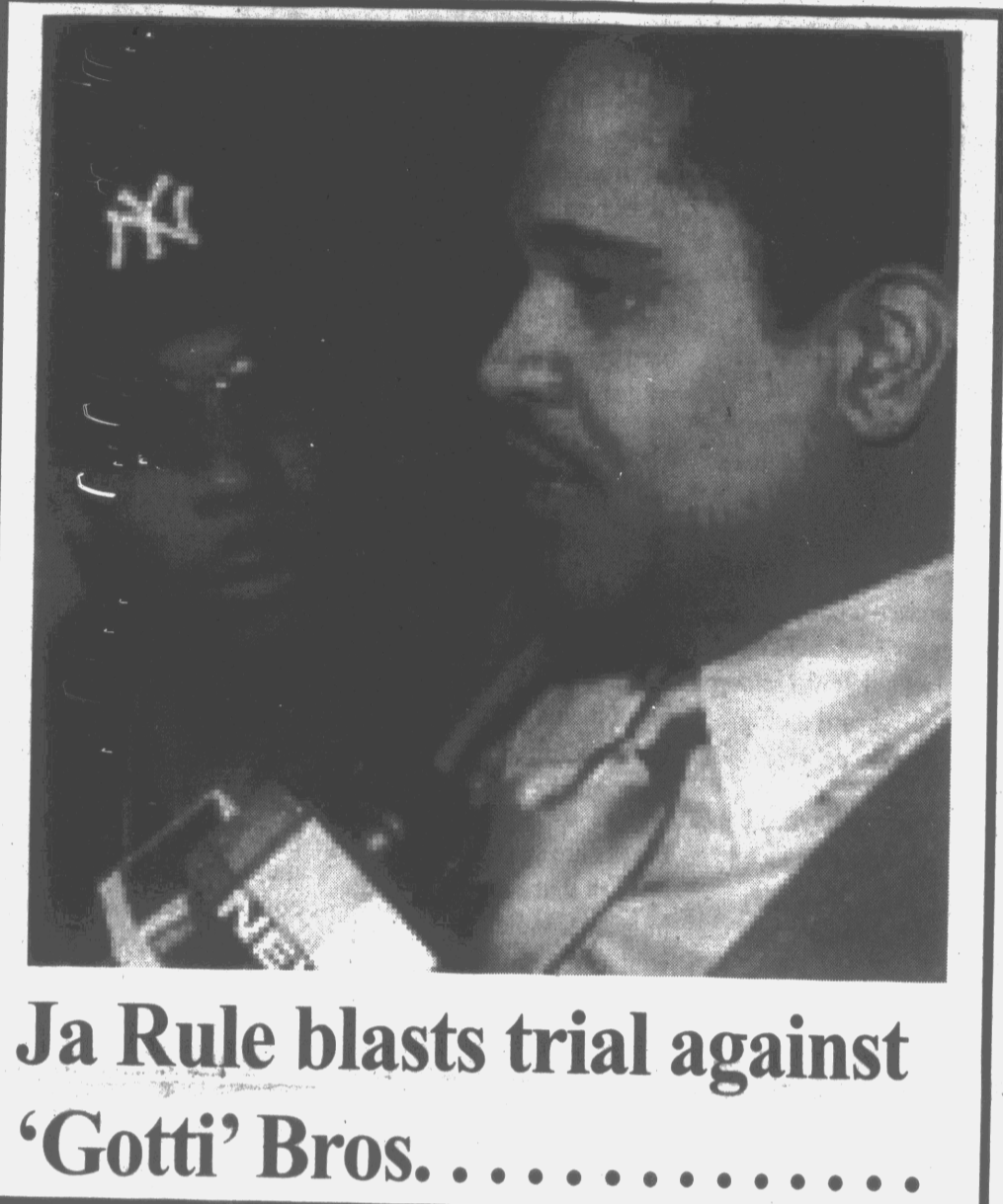
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Vol. XVIII Dec Issue

CAROLINA GROUP
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Happy Holidays

RAP WAR WITH NO END IN SIGHT.....



Ja Rule blasts trial against 'Gotti' Bros.....



Antonelli NEWS



Antonelli NEWS



Antonelli NEWS

Hip-hop star Ja Rule (in glasses in photo below) and music mogul Christopher (Chris Gotti) Lorenzo outside Brooklyn Federal Court yesterday for trial of Lorenzo and his brother Irving (Irv Gotti) Lorenzo (above). The Lorenzos are charged with laundering drug baron's fortune to start music empire. (right photo) Ja Rule, came to court with Ashanti to support the Lorenzos

Hip Hop Star Ja Rule and Murder Inc.'s Irv Gotti outside the Brooklyn courthouse where Irv Gotti and his brother Christopher are on trial

By John Marzulli
Daily News StaffWriter

Hip Hop Superstars Ja Rule and Ashanti showed their props to music moguls Irving (Irv Gotti) and Christopher (Chris Gotti) Lorenzo who went on trial Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2005 are being charged with building their hip-hop empire on drug money stuffed in shopping bags.

"It's a war on hip hop," Ja Rule declared outside a Brooklyn Federal Court. Ashanti, his sexy co-star from the Lorenzo brother's ominously named Murder, Inc., music label, also was on hand for the trial's explosive opening.

crack kingpin Kenneth (Supreme) McGriff — laundering his dirty money to bankroll their businesses and using him for protection.

Prosecutors told jurors the Queens brothers forged an unholy alliance with cutthroat

"This case is about how the defendants helped the drug dealer masquerade as a big shot executive in the entertainment industry."

... continued pg7

Criminalization of children : How did we get here?

By: Marian Wright Edelman

The increasing criminalization of children has become a major crisis. Children are being suspended and expelled from school and incarcerated in the juvenile and adult justice system at alarming rates, and at younger and younger ages. This increased incarceration is not due to an increase in serious delinquent or violent criminal behavior by young people.

began adopting these policies in the late 1980s, taking the term from the war on drugs. Amidst debate in Congress over "super-predators" and predictions of a coming and dramatic surge in juvenile crime that never materialized, these policies hit the national level when former president Bill Clinton signed the Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994, requiring a one-calendar year expulsion for possession of a firearm and referral of law-violating students to the juvenile or criminal justice systems. Most states and local school districts responded to the new law by broadening the mandate of zero tolerance beyond the federal mandate of weapons to include drugs, alcohol, fighting, threats, or swearing.

While zero tolerance once applied to serious offenses involving safety, it is now an overarching and catchall disciplinary approach for real, perceived and imaginary weapons and "misbehavior" that is defined by highly subjective terms like "disruption" and "disrespect." Aspirin, Certs, and Midol are considered drugs. Paper clips, nail files, scissors, and spitballs are considered weapons. Punishment through exclusion is the overwhelming response. From 1974 to 2000, the number of students suspended out of school increased from 1.7 to 3.1 million. While zero tolerance has a place as a response to truly dangerous behavior, it has become a danger to children and a potential way to exclude any student who may need individualized help. Children should not be put out of school for any reason other than posing a real threat to themselves or others. Child behaviors that used to be

Many schools boards continue to toughen their policies, experimenting with permanent expulsion for certain offenses. Others have begun to apply school suspensions and expulsions to behavior that occurs outside of school.

Juvenile arrests for violent crimes grew rapidly in the late 1980s and peaked in 1994, but then began falling. Between 1994 and 2003, the juvenile arrest rate for Violent Crime Index offenses — murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault — fell 48% to its lowest level since 1980. So, if actual crime is not the cause for the rise in incarceration rates, what is?

One piece of the puzzle is the rise of "zero tolerance" policies in schools. Schools

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC. MAKES CONTRIBUTION TO KATRINA EVACUEES

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., an international service organization, reached out to survivors of Hurricane Katrina all over the United States. Iota Kappa Omega, the local chapter, committed to providing relief to evacuees in the Pitt County area. The evacuees were identified through Pitt County Schools where several students enrolled following the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina. While

some students have left the area, two families remain. The chapter presented Wal-Mart gift cards to each family.

The Milanos have two children, Shelby and Tristan. They are enrolled in Grifton Elementary School. Mr. & Mrs. Milano have been successful in finding housing and employment.

One of the evacuees remaining in Pitt County is Shelton D. Northern, a 6th grader at E.B. Aycock. Shelton came to Greenville from Mississippi to live with his father and stepmother who reside in Greenville. The Milano family also evacuated from Mississippi to live with Mr. Milano's sister in Grifton.

Both families expressed sincere appreciation to the chapter for the response to their many needs.



The Milano Family
1st Row L-R Shelby Milano, Tristan Milano 2nd Row L-R Gloria Hines, Mrs Milano, Helen Harrell, Disaster Relief Chairman



Taking Christ out of Christmas

By George E. Curry

This is the season to be jolly, but you'd never know it, considering all the attacks on Christmas. In a well-intended but misguided effort to be more inclusive of other religions, some government units, businesses and civic groups are urging everyone to stop saying, "Merry Christmas" and replace it with a bland, and presumably more acceptable, "Happy Holidays."

This is where I part company with many of my liberal friends. The purpose of Christmas - the commercialization issue notwithstanding - is to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, which is recounted in the first chapter of Matthew, beginning with verse 18.

As a Christian, I make no apologies for celebrating my faith. There is no getting around it: Christmas is about the birth of Christ. Period. It would be the ultimate insult to relegate Jesus to the background in an effort not to offend non-Christians. We can celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ while wishing our Jewish friends, for example, a Happy Hanukkah. The two are not mutually exclusive.

Like it or not, the reality is that this nation was founded by Christians and established, at least in principle, on Judeo-Christian values. The Founding Fathers, most of whom owned slaves, did not always exhibit the Christian spirit but they at least held it up as an ideal. So much so that our currency still reads, "IN GOD WE TRUST." At Christmas, the last people that should be offended are Christians. But that is exactly what's been happening in recent years.

A controversy erupted in Boston recently over what to call their city's 48-foot spruce

tree in a December 1 ceremony. The city's Web site called it a "holiday tree" instead of a Christmas tree and that touched off an angry backlash, especially among Christian conservatives. Evangelist Jerry Falwell told Fox television, "There has been a concerted effort to steal Christmas."

City officials finally relented. Boston Mayor Thomas Menino told reporters that he would keep calling the spruce a "Christmas tree." He explained, "I grew up with a Christmas tree, I'm going to stay with a Christmas tree."

Some of the back-and-forth over what to call the trees, has taken place with less fanfare.

Until the late 1990s, the lighted, decorated tree on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol was called a Christmas tree. Someone came up with, shall we say, the bright idea of referring to it as the Holiday Tree. Now, House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) has instructed federal officials to return to the old name - the Capitol Christmas Tree.

Last year, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger reversed a decision by his predecessor, former Gov. Gray Davis, and began referring to the state's Christmas tree, not a Holiday Tree.

It's astounding how far some have gone in recent years to be politically correct - or incorrect, depending on your point of view.

Last year, the Plano, Texas Independent School District banned students from wearing red and green at their winter break parties because they were considered Christmas colors. Students were forbidden from exchanging gifts with religious messages on them, apparently fearing "Merry Christmas" and reindeers might offend others.

While that was happening in Texas, the Maplewood and

South Orange, N.J. combined school system was banning Christmas carols, even those about Santa Claus. Christmas without "Silent Night" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing?" I can't even imagine it and I have a pretty lucid imagination. I suppose that would be tantamount to trying to have an Easter egg hunt without eggs. Ooops, I guess if we're not suppose to make references to the birth of Christ, then celebrating his resurrection is really off-limits. My bad.

Speaking of bad, things got so bad that a public school in Wisconsin told students to change religious words in Christmas carols for an upcoming concert. In Jackson County, Ga., they reportedly banned certain jewelry, which would presumably include pins that read, "Jesus is the Reason for the Season."

Finally, let me address the political aspects of this controversy. Make no mistake about it: the driving force behind reclaiming Christmas is conservatives, through such organizations as the Alliance Defense Fund and Liberty Counsel, both affiliated with Jerry Falwell. The televangelist and others at the forefront of this movement also actively oppose affirmative action and other social programs that I support.

But as a free thinker, I don't take positions only if right-wingers don't take them. They are not part of my thought process. We should take positions because they are right and not oppose a view simply because it is supported by the Right. And if we get confused, we can always fall back on: What Would Jesus Do?

Merry Christmas!

George E. Curry is editor-in-chief of the NNPA News Service and BlackPressUSA.com. He appears on National Public Radio (NPR) three times a week as part of "News and Notes with Ed Gordon." To contact Curry or to book him for a speaking engagement, go to his Web site, www.georgecurry.com

Why Many Blacks Oppose Tookie's Clemency

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson, Pacific News Service

The small crowd of clergy, community activists and death penalty opponents that gathered in front of the Los Angeles courthouse recently was no different than other groups that for weeks have kept up the drum beat for California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to grant Stanley "Tookie" Williams clemency.

There was one very loud exception. A young African-American man shouted that Williams was a thug and a murderer and should die. He was not an agitator or a crank. He represented a body of pro-death penalty sentiment among blacks that has seldom been publicly heard during the great Tookie debate.

I was not surprised when I heard this young man's words, for there are many blacks like him who want Williams dead. The instant I went to bat in my columns for clemency for Williams and against the death penalty in general, the e-mails and comments I got flew hot and heavy. Black critics bitterly reviled me for advocating clemency. They were adamant that Williams must pay for his crimes, and for the murder and mayhem the Crips gang, which he helped found, has unleashed on impoverished black communities.

Their hardened attitude toward Williams flew in the face of conventional wisdom that says that blacks are passionate opponents of the death penalty. They aren't.

During the past decade, even as more whites have said they are deeply ambivalent about the death penalty or oppose it, many blacks continue to say that murderers, even black ones, must pay with their lives. A Harris Interactive poll in August 2001 found that nearly half of black respondents supported capital punishment. Three years later, a Gallup Poll found that black

support for the death penalty still hovered at close to 50 percent.

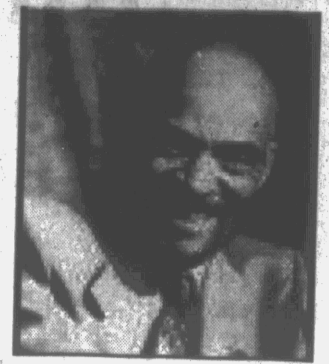
The death penalty debate can no longer be neatly pigeonholed into a black verses white racial divide issue, and with good reason. Whites generally are not at risk from black criminals. Other blacks are. They are more likely to be victims of violent crime or to have friends or relatives who have been crime victims than whites.

The Justice Department's annual crime victim surveys have consistently found that blacks are nearly twice as likely to be victims of murder than whites. The leading cause of death among young black males under age 24 is homicide. In nearly all cases, other blacks will kill them.

Blacks are scared stiff and fed up with that continuing surge in murder violence that tears at black communities. A hint of that came in June 1999. A Justice Department survey that year found that blacks in a dozen cities generally applauded the police. This confounded some black leaders who, like many others, assumed that blacks are inveterate cop haters. They aren't. They are against racist and abusive police officers, and expect and demand efficient, fair policing in their communities.

In Los Angeles, New York, Chicago and other cities, community activists have staged anti-murder marches, held vigils and have lobbied city and state officials for tougher gun laws. They have also taken a step that once would have been considered racial treason: They have repeatedly demanded that blacks break their code of silence toward the police and help them identify the young shooters.

Then there's the myth of the "soft" black juror. It goes like this: Black jurors are so hateful of white authority that



they will gleefully nullify the law and let a black lawbreaker waltz out of court a free man or woman, even if that person is a killer. This is nonsense. In most big cities, blacks make up a majority or a significant percent of those who sit on juries, and they routinely convict other blacks of crimes, including murder, every day. It's true that in past years, blacks were the staunchest opponents of capital punishment.

They had good cause to be. The death penalty was a blatantly racist weapon wielded by prosecutors, particularly in the South, against blacks convicted of rape and murder on the flimsiest of evidence, as long as their alleged victims were white. The death penalty is still used and handed down in a racist fashion. However, crime fears and rampaging murder rates in many black communities have partially trumped that, and made more blacks than ever regard capital punishment not as a weapon to hammer blacks, but to hammer violent criminals.

Tookie certainly no longer fits the label of the violent predator. He has tirelessly worked to redeem his life, and those of countless other angry, violence-prone youths. But many blacks have lost friends and loved ones to those gun-toting youths. They are unforgiving and unsparing in their rage at them, and they blame Williams for helping to spawn them.

It's unfair to blame one man for the sins of some in the youth generation. But when the body count rises, people look to place blame on someone, and Williams is that someone. It's only a short step from there for them to loudly say that Tookie must die.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is an author and political analyst. He is the author of 'The Crisis in Black and Black' (Middle Passage Press).

A Day to Celebrate — December 06: The ratification of The Thirteenth Amendment



Special Commentary by Judge James A. Wynn, Jr.

December 06 marks the most significant date in African-American history—the 140th anniversary of the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, the historic

proviso that officially ended slavery in America.

On that date in 1865, the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment accomplished something that neither the Emancipation Proclamation nor Juneteenth Day could do; it declared the nonexistence of slavery in the United States as the "sovereign will of the people." Indeed, Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of Jan. 01, 1863 was no more than a Presidential Proclamation which purported to free only "some" of the slaves - those in states that rebelled against the Union. And, in at least one of those states, Texas, the slaves did not learn of their 1863 granted freedom until the Union Army arrived there on June 19, 1865 - thus, setting

off what is now celebrated as Juneteenth Day.

The constitutional prohibition of slavery in America did not come about until Congress began the ratification-by-the-states process with a bill passed in January 1865. With Georgia's approval on December 6, 1865 (North Carolina ratified it on December 04, 1865), two-thirds of the states had ratified this bill, which became the Thirteenth Amendment to the US Constitution with the following text:

Sec. 01: Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, nor any place subject to their jurisdiction.



The Minority Voice Newspaper
 is Published by
The Minority Voice, Inc.
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 The Minority Voice is
 Owned & Operated by
 Jim Rouse Communications,
 also dba
 WOOW Radio Greenville NC.
 Wm. Clark Gen. Mgr. and
 WTOW Radio, Washington, NC.
 Our Subscription Rates Are A
 Model 500/year or
 \$20/Half Year

Community Voices

From the Desk of Mrs. Beatrice Mays



Mrs. Beatrice Mays

How are you?

"Your day goes the way the corners of your mouth turn." — Unknown

When someone asks how you are? What do you say? Your answers are usually no more than a few words. And yet, that short response tells a lot about you and your attitude.

Let's examine these three categories and some common responses under each one.

Negative Responses:

Lousy, terrible, I'm tired, It's not my day; Thank God it's Friday; A day older and a dollar broken, and Don't ask.

Hanging in there, and fine.

Do you want to spend a lot of time with someone who thinks that life is not too bad? Is that the person you want to do business with?

Positive Responses:

These are the enthusiastic people who say:

Terrific, Fantastic, Great, Excellent, Super, I'm on top of the world, and It doesn't get any better.

Those who use positive words like these have a bounce in their step and you feel a little better just by being around them. Be honest. How did you feel as you read the positive list?

"Say you are well, or all is well with you, and God shall hear your words and make them come true." (Ella Wheeler Wilcox)

Ten of the Worst Foods for Children

1. Soda or pop
2. Whole milk (over two years of age)
3. Hamburgers
4. American cheese

5. Hot dogs
6. French fries and tater tots
7. Ice cream
8. Bologna
9. Pizza loaded with cheese & meat
10. Chocolate bars

Ten of the Best Foods for Children

1. Fresh fruits and vegetables (especially carrot sticks, cantaloupe, and Strawberries.
2. Chicken breasts and drumsticks w/o skin or breading.
3. Cheerios, wheaties, or other whole-grain, low sugar cereals.
4. Extra lean ground beef, or vegetarian burgers (Garden Burgers or Green Grant Harvest Burgers).
5. Skim or 2% milk
6. Low fat hot dogs (Yves Veggie Cuisines, fat free wieners or Nightlife Fat free Smart dogs.)
7. Nonfat ice cream or frozen yogurt.
8. Seasoned air-popped popcorn.
9. Whole-wheat crackers or Small World Animal Crackers.

The Survey says:

Because fairness is our goal, here, according to our surveys of parents, are 40 Rude Things Teenagers Say to parents:

1. "Leave me alone."
2. "Mind your own business."
3. "Get out of my face."
4. "Get out of my life."
5. "Stay out of my room."

6. "Shut up."
7. "@\$#!%&! You."
8. "You're the worlds worst parents."
9. "I wish you weren't my mother/father."
10. "I wish I was never born."
11. "I wish you were dead."
12. "I hate being part of this family."
13. "I don't need one."
14. "You don't have to."
15. "I don't have to."
16. "I don't care."
17. "You can't tell me what to do."
18. "What about you?"
19. "You do it."
20. "Forget you."
21. "I'll do what I want."
22. "I'll do it when I feel like doing it."
23. "I don't need your help."
24. "You never do anything for me."
25. "You're so unfair."
26. "You're a nag."
27. "You're too old to understand."
28. "I don't want to be seen with you in public."
29. "Don't buy me clothes. You have horrible tastes."
30. "Give me money."
31. "It's my life."
32. "So?"
33. "Who says?"
34. "Fine!"
35. "Yeah, right."
36. "Big deal."
37. "Do I have to eat that?"
38. "This dinner is gross."
39. "I hate you."
40. "You don't care about me at all."

Community Voices

Reflections, Expressions & Reviews

with Suetette Jones



Suetette Jones

Licking the Whites—Only Christmas Stamp

As Black Santa Clauses make special appearances at inner city elementary schools, supermarkets, neighborhoods and parades, the United States Postal Service has been distributing a white-only line of Santa postage customers, received in your mail the opportunity to order stamps through the local postmaster. I, too, get this offer from time to time.

Recently, the offer to order your Christmas stamps featured various scenes. There were scenes of several types of snowmen, the Madonna, the Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. Among other scenes was the white Santa Claus ornament stamp that was issued last year and again this year —



Faith May

At one o'clock in the morning, five days before Christmas last December, Jennifer Sneed was jolted awake by full-blown labor pains. Her due date was still three weeks away, but the contractions were already coming two minutes apart.

There was no time to spare. The hospital was in Greenville, North Carolina, 20 miles from home. And it was snowing. As Jennifer scrambled to get ready, her husband, Jerry, called to her with further bad news: The snow was coming down hard. "I just looked out the window. There's already four inches on the ground."

It barely ever snowed in eastern North Carolina. But here was an eerie reminder of another freak snowstorm, almost exactly a year earlier. Two inches had covered the ground when the Sneeds buried their blond, blue-eyed five-year-old son Derek, following a horrific car crash.

Late New Year's Eve morning, while the family was returning from grocery shopping, a car careened across the center line on U.S. 264 and slammed head-on in to their Ford Explorer. The car struck with such force that the SUV's passenger side wheels ended up on the curb.

The entire family was rushed to the hospital. Jennifer suffered multiple injuries eight broken ribs, a broken sternum, a bruised kidney),

Subsequently stirring much objection and controversy among the African American world.

White-only images can damage the self-esteem of black children, says a psychologist. "Too many



children already believe that there is a white Jesus and white angels — anything that we hold in high esteem." She says. "These children are later going to grow out of the Santa Claus phase, but after they grow out of it and they've only seen a white Santa Claus, they internalize that. It would not have hurt the post office if they were going to put out a Santa Claus stamp to put both out or not to put out at all. We do know that a white Santa Claus would be scared to go into the 'hood' where most of these kids are anyway. He wouldn't get caught there."

Asians reject culturally insensitive images of Santa. In most Chinatowns, the Asians have quietly put nothing in there but Asian Santa Claus. By doing that, they're subtly teaching the children. One spokesperson asserts that Saint Nicholas, on whom the character, Santa Claus is based, was of Northern European descent, but was not intended to slight anyone. Many people every day petition the Citizen Stamp Advisory Committee. They are the deciding body as to which stamp do get issued. She says she believes the Postal Service's White Santa images are offset by African-American stamp images sold throughout the year and Black History Month stamp. She says the public can influence what stamps are created and the stamp subjects must be submitted at least three years in advance of the expected issuance — according to guidelines publicized by the Postal Service. Perhaps more petitions should be submitted for a Black Santa Claus for the sake of the image: the black child (captioned for Suetette Jones)

Real-Life Miracles

by Faith May

and Jerry fractured his right arm, jaw and eye socket. Eighteen-month-old Kayla, who was snugly belted into her car seat, emerged with only a scratch. But Derek called DJ, suffered a severe brain stem injury. He was put on life support and died six days later. The Sneeds were devastated.

In the months that followed, Jennifer, a kindergarten teacher, had nearly swallowed up by grief. "DJ had started kindergarten that year and his room was down the hall from mine at school," she says. "Every day, I would look at all the little boys his age and I couldn't help but ask: 'Why DJ?' His father had called him Monkey because he was such a sunny, giggling little boy. The Sneeds thought they would never recover. Then, in the spring, came some good news: Jennifer was pregnant again.

Now the baby was coming. As the Sneeds piled into their Ford Expedition at 1:15 a.m., visibility was approaching zero. "It was a total whiteout," says Jennifer. "You couldn't see five feet." When they got to U.S. 264—the same highway where they had tragically lost their son—theirs was the only car on the road.

"The snow was coming down, and the wind was blowing," Jerry recalls. "I had the fog lights on and my head right up to the steering wheel, trying to peer out." Next to him Jennifer was screaming. The pains were coming faster. Finally, without being sure where he even was, Jerry stopped in the middle of the highway and called 911 on his cell phone. The operator

urged him to keep driving until he reached the light at Greenville Blvd. "NO!" shrieked Jennifer, when he told her. "There's no time! The baby's coming!"

Dropping the phone, Jerry raced around to the passenger side. Reaching down, he could feel the baby's head. "O'kay, push!" he urged Jennifer. Two pushes later, he was able to get his hands around his daughter's tiny neck. "On the third push, I pulled her out," he says. Then things got scarier. The baby was not moving but not crying, "She looked white and purple, sort of," Jerry remembers. "The umbilical cord was wrapped around her neck." Gently untangling it—he'd seen the doctor do it when DJ was born—he took his pinkie and swiped her throat to remove any obstruction. When his daughter cried, he laid her on her mother's chest and covered them with his coat. Both doors were open and snow was fast covering the car. It was 1:42 a.m.

When Jerry picked up his discarded cell phone, the 911 operator was still on the line. Like many operators, she had been through medical protocols training. She told him to tie off the cord with a shoelace. He was reaching down to untie his sneaker when, in the distance, he heard a glorious sound: an ambulance siren.

"Ordinarily it would have taken a good half-hour," says Jennifer, "but they were out on a call that had been canceled and were only three minutes away. There were a lot of miracles that night—and I felt that DJ, looking down, had a hand in them all."

Jennifer and Jerry took their 6-pound, 12-ounce daughter,

Neighborhood schools not an option

Letter: Neighborhood schools not an option

During the 1970s, I had an opportunity to serve as a member and chairman of the Greenville City Board of Education. The projected racial student population was extremely accurate and it was reflected that the student racial population would become increasingly black. It was known at that time where the greatest growth would take place in Greenville and Pitt County, and that the racial population would be very close to what it actually is.

In spite of the availability of this valuable planning information,

the Pitt County Board of Education continuously failed to use this information to initiate long-range plans to build schools in areas equally accessible by black and white students in the various school districts. The preponderance of schools has been built in the south and southeast areas of Pitt County. No public schools have been built in or adjacent to black neighborhoods since the racial integration of our schools in the late 1960s. Naturally, such overt discrimination has placed the preponderance of busing on those black students and those white students who live in areas remotely located from the schools being constructed.

Neighborhood schools in Pitt County mean segregated schools in Pitt County. I am a product of segregated schools in eastern North Carolina. No one will ever be able to imagine what it is like to have to walk miles to school while white students rode in nice heated buses and shouted vulgarities at us. No one could imagine what it is like to have to wait for used books from white schools in order to have books to use. No, no one should ever have to stay in school all day without having anything to eat or drink. To have a school facility with no indoor toilets, drinking water, etc. No, neighborhood schools should never be an option. ED CARTER Greenville



THE MINORITY VOICE HONORS THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR ANDREW BEST

Dr Andrew Best answers a question presented to him on the advice he would give to a young person who would pursue a medical career.

Dr. Best: I would speak in terms of the realities of medical service, of producing medical service, giving medical, the realities as it is today, not the realities like when I came through because in the day of all these sophisticated tests and the computers and all the other things that go along with it, my advice would be to get a good, well-grounded and well-founded education in medicine; keep your focus on the delivery of quality care; don't be afraid to call for consultant help; and above all, be sure that you are in the branch of medicine or in the specialty of medicine that you yourself enjoy. If you enjoy people than the practice of internal medicine with all of its aspects-sometimes you will find some internists who will go off in cardiology and some confine themselves to a certain narrow branch of what the internists used to see but be true to yourself. If for example, if you like research, if you like the technicalities of finding out why this or that in the other and you hate being bothered with people, don't go in to enter the primary care specialties, pediatrics, internal medicine or family practice. If you want to be in medicine and you hate people, get yourself a job somewhere like in pathology or somewhere in research or something. That would be my basic advice and to be true to yourself and lie to somebody else if you have to but don't tell yourself a lie. If you are not going to be happy in doing what you are doing and feeling a sense of satisfaction from the results you get then you are in the wrong place.

As an aside, I hope I have answered that part of the question. I don't know if I had a son or a daughter who wanted to go into medicine right now or today. I would also advise them that if you are looking for millions right now, retiring at thirty-five as a millionaire, don't go into medicine. Don't go into medicine for that reason, find yourself another job whatever it may be, one that you are happy in and enjoy. Expect to live for the lives of the people that you serve and it is in that way when you die a pauper like I am you will die happy.

Prominent Greenville physician dies at 89

By Corey G Johnson, The Daily Reflector

Friday, December 09, 2005

A local physician who advocated social fairness and played a key role in the creation of ECU's medical school died Wednesday at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, friends and family said.

Dr. Andrew A. Best, 89, was a Kinston native. He received the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for his service in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Hull Road Free Will Baptist Church in Kinston. Officiating will be the Rev. Arnold Coley of Jericho AME Zion Church in Kinston. Delivering the eulogy will be the Rev. George E. Battle Jr., presiding Prelate of the Northeast Episcopal District. A

scenes to advance racial justice will be sorely missed, said Calvin Henderson, president of the Pitt County chapter of the NAACP.

"Dr. Best delivered my only child in 1960 and was a dear family friend," Henderson said. "He was one of the greatest men to have ever worked in this community."

Best served as a member of a number of organizations. He was past president of the Pitt County Interracial Committee and past chairman of the Human Relations Council.

Best also was known for securing scholarships to help scores of minority students attend college.

He was appointed to the University of North Carolina Board of Governors in 1971.

It was during Best's tenure on the Board of Governors that then chancellor Leo Jenkins,



wake will be held from 6-8 p.m. Monday at Jericho AME Zion Church.

Best established his medical practice in Greenville in 1954, serving several generations of patients until his retirement in 2004.

The Greenville Human Relations Council established a yearly banquet in 1990 - the Best-Irons Humanitarian Awards - in honor of the joint efforts of Best and Dr. Malene G. Irons to desegregate Pitt County Memorial Hospital in the 1960s.

Irons, a white woman, and Best, who was the hospital's only black physician at the time, persuaded officials to integrate the hospital dining and nursery areas and to address minority patients with the same titles as white patients.

"They really were a good team and loved each other very much," Ben Irons, the 56-year-old son of Malene Irons, said. "Our family was very close to Dr. Best and will miss him dearly."

Best earned his medical degree in 1951 from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn.

His willingness to deliver much-needed health care to the poor and work behind the

and others lobbied the state legislature for the creation of a medical school at East Carolina University.

Best is credited for being vital in persuading six minority members on the medical education subcommittee to vote in favor of the school. The close vote created momentum for school's eventual approval.

"There was a significant minority contribution to the creation of the School of Medicine at ECU," Best told interviewer Marion Blackburn in September 2000.

Best at the time he was pleased the interview would record the work minorities put toward the medical school.

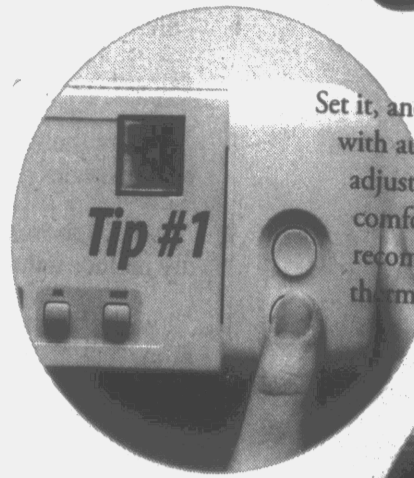
"... Without us, it would not have been, I am telling you," he said.

Pitt County Commissioner Dave Hammond said Best, who was godfather to his three children, will be especially mourned in his home.

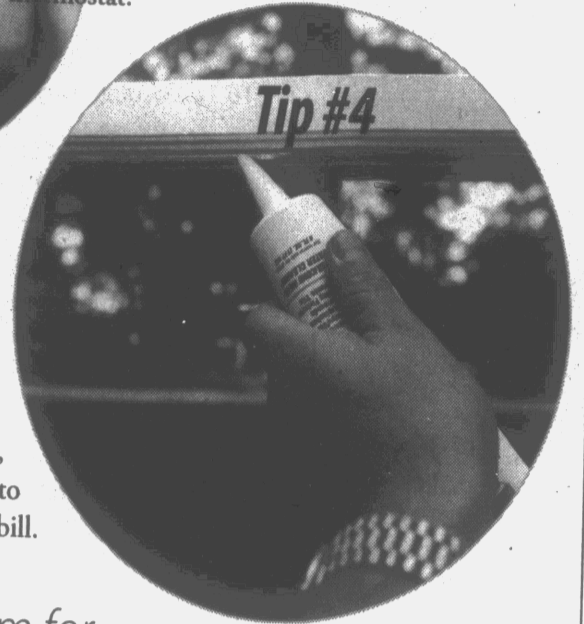
"History will record him to be one of the greatest local leaders ever known," he said.

Corey G. Johnson can be reached at cjohnson@coxnc.com or 329-9565.

Greenville Utilities' EnergyWise Money Saving Tips



Set it, and forget it. If your home has a heat pump with auxiliary electric heat "strips", do not adjust the thermostat daily. Set it at the lowest comfortable setting (The Department of Energy recommends 68 degrees), and don't adjust the thermostat.



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Progress Energy enfatiza aspectos de seguridad en la instalación de luces navideñas

RALEIGH, Carolina del Norte (30 de noviembre de 2005) Para muchos de nosotros, las fiestas navideñas se relacionan con adornar con luces el árbol de Navidad y nuestros hogares. Sin embargo, los meses de invierno son las épocas con mayor incidencia de eventos mortales en cuanto a incendios en los EE. UU. Progress Energy alienta a los clientes a tomar las siguientes precauciones de seguridad cuando instalan las luces navideñas.

Seguridad en interiores

- Elija un árbol verde fresco, sin ramas secas ni marrones. Manténgalo en un soporte lleno de agua para que el árbol no se seque tan rápidamente.
- Coloque el árbol lejos de chimeneas, radiadores y otras fuentes de calor.
- Si utiliza un árbol artificial, elija uno que haya sido probado (homologado) y etiquetado como resistente al fuego. Los árboles artificiales con sistemas eléctricos incorporados deberían tener la etiqueta Underwriters Laboratory (UL).
- Siga las instrucciones que vienen con el juego de luces para determinar cuántos juegos se pueden enchufar al mismo tiempo.
- Solo utilice juegos de luces de una sola marca en su árbol para asegurar que no tiene problemas eléctricos, y no enchufe juegos de luces con distinta cantidad de bombillas (focos) (por ejemplo, una tira de 100 luces con una de 50) porque tienen diferentes exigencias eléctricas.
- Revise los cables de cada juego de luces para ver si están desgastados o rotos, y enchufe el juego de luces para determinar si tiene bombillos (focos) quemados antes de poner las luces en el árbol.
- Reemplace los bombillos quemados de inmediato para evitar recarga en los restantes.
- En interiores, solo utilice luces para interior (y, en exteriores, solo luces para exterior). Asegúrese de que tiene la etiqueta UL. Revise las luces para detectar enchufes rotos o agrietados, cables desgastados o pelados, o conexiones sueltas. En caso de duda, reemplace las extensiones eléctricas.
- Para no sobrecargar los circuitos, utilice una barra con protector de picos con varias salidas y un cortacircuitos.
- Cuando utilice extensiones eléctricas, asegúrese de que el amperaje actual (en amperios o "A") del aparato que está enchufando no exceda el del cable de extensión. Si el amperaje actual del producto es superior al del cable de la extensión, el cable podría recalentarse.
- No agrupe los mini-bombillos — el excesivo calor podría quemar los aislantes y exponer los cables. Los adornos navideños de metal también pueden resultar peligrosos si hacen contacto con el cableado desgastado.
- Apague todas las luces de los árboles y adornos cuando vaya a dormir o cuando salga de la casa.

Seguridad en exteriores

- Solo utilice luces que estén específicamente diseñadas para uso en exteriores.
- Cuando coloque las luces, tenga cuidado con los cables eléctricos que cuelgan, en especial si utiliza una escalera.
- En exteriores, utilice cables de extensión para uso exclusivo en exteriores. Asegúrese de que el amperaje actual (en amperios o "A") del aparato que está enchufando no exceda del que tiene el cable de extensión. Si el amperaje actual del producto es superior al del cable de la extensión, el cable podría recalentarse.
- Revise todas las extensiones para ver si tienen partes desgastadas, quebraduras o conexiones sueltas. En caso de duda, reemplace las extensiones viejas.

Progress Energy (NYSE: PGN), con casa matriz en Raleigh, Carolina del Norte, es una compañía diversificada de energía, listada en Fortune 250, con capacidad de generación de más de 24.000 megavatios y US\$9.000 millones en ingresos anuales. Las propiedades de la compañía incluyen dos empresas de servicios públicos de electricidad que atienden a más de 2,9 millones de clientes en Carolina del Norte, Carolina del Sur y Florida. Progress Energy también incluye operaciones no reguladas que cubren producción competitiva, comercialización de energía y exploración de gas natural. Para más información sobre Progress Energy, visite el sitio Web de la compañía en <http://www.progress-energy.com>.



Rice Chides Europeans on Detention Center Complaints

said that the United States and the European states share a common concern about terrorism.

By **JOEL BRINKLEY**
WASHINGTON, Dec. 5 - Secretary of State

Condoleezza Rice chastised Europe leaders today, saying that before they complain about secret jails for terror suspects in European nations, they should realize that interrogations of these suspects have produced information that helped "save European lives."

In her remarks, the Bush Administration's official response to the reports of a network of secret detention centers, Ms. Rice repeatedly emphasized that the United States does not countenance the torture of terrorism suspects, at the hands of either American or foreign captors.

She offered her remarks to reporters early this morning, in a departure lounge at Andrews Air Force Base, just before setting off for a trip to Europe, where she was certain to be asked about the growing controversy over the secret Central Intelligence Agency prisons believed to be located in at least eight European nations. Her statement is also to serve as the basis for the government's response to an official inquiry from the European Union over the secret prisons.

Noting that half-a-dozen international investigations are underway, Ms. Rice did not explicitly confirm the existence of the detentions center. But that was implicit in her remarks.

"We must bring terrorists to justice wherever possible," she said. "But there have been many cases where the local government cannot detain or prosecute a suspect, and traditional extradition is not a good option."

"In those cases," she added, "the local government can make the sovereign choice to cooperate in the transfer of a suspect to a third country, which is known as a rendition."

"Sometimes, these efforts are misunderstood," she said.

News reports starting early last month said the Central Intelligence Agency began holding dozens of terror suspects in secret prisons in as many as eight European nations shortly after Sept. 11. The Administration has not confirmed the reports but has repeatedly maintained that it is abiding by American law and international agreements. Officials have also repeatedly

"The terror threatens all of us," Stephen Hadley, the National Security Advisor, said on CNN on Sunday. "You had seen terror attacks in Britain, in Spain, in Italy, in Turkey, in Russia, in Egypt, in Jordan, in Saudi Arabia. This is a threat, really, to the civilized world. We need to cooperate together to deal with this terror threat that threatens all of us. We are cooperating with a number of countries."

The administration's secret detention policy has come under attack from the United Nations, the European Union and Democrats in Washington. Jack Straw, the British foreign secretary, wrote Ms. Rice the letter from the European Union last Tuesday, demanding an explanation.

In Congress, Democrats are calling for an investigation of the prisons and the treatment of suspects held there, while Republicans are pushing for an investigation to determine who in the government leaked the information to the news media.

The Bush Administration began drafting Ms. Rice's statement last week. Consultations between agencies including the White House, the State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency continued through the weekend and culminated with a conference call Sunday night.

Ms. Rice insisted that the United States had done nothing wrong.

Many of the imprisoned suspects "are effectively stateless," she maintained, "owing allegiance only to the extremist cause of transnational terrorism. Many are extremely dangerous."

She made an effort to frame the debate as one over the effectiveness of terror enforcement and not over the propriety of holding suspects indefinitely in secret prisons.

"We consider the captured members of Al Qaeda and its allies to be unlawful combatants who may be held, in accordance with the law of war, to keep them from killing innocents," she said. "We must bring terrorists to justice wherever possible."

The European nations must decide, she added, whether they "wish to work with us to prevent terrorist attacks against their own country or other countries."

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Nigeria Plane Crash Kills 103; Most Were Children

By **LYDIA POLGREEN**

Published: December 11, 2005

ELMINA, Ghana, Dec. 10 - A plane carrying 110 passengers and crew members crashed Saturday in Nigeria's main oil city, Port Harcourt, killing all but 7 of them. It was the second deadly airline crash in Nigeria in less than two months.

Most of the passengers were schoolchildren on their way home for the Christmas holiday, according to family members at the airport interviewed on African Independent Television, a private television network in Nigeria.

"All of them are gone," one distraught woman waiting at the Port Harcourt airport screamed before the television cameras.

Femi Fani-Kayode, a spokesman for Nigeria's president, **Olusegun Obasanjo**, said, "It is a day of mourning for us."

"There are a few survivors," Mr. Fani-Kayode added.

Bereaved relatives awaiting the arrival of the flight, operated by Sosoliso Airlines and coming from the Nigerian capital, Abuja, told The Associated Press that 75 of the 110 passengers on board were students at a Jesuit school on their way home.

Mr. Fani-Kayode said he had not seen the passenger manifest and could not say who was on the flight.



Merry Christmas . . . pictured above is Charlie Barrett, Jr. Warden of Mt Calvary 669 James Atkinson, Commander in Chief, Roanoke Consistory and Kimble Williams, Worshipful Master, Mt Hermon Lodge 35 Greenville honorable servants of the people overseeing the donations given to the Red Cross to help those in need in this season of giving.

The Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority spokesman, Sam Adurogboye, said the plane crashed at 2:08 p.m. while in the course of landing, hitting the ground about 1,300 yards from the runway. He said the seven survivors had been taken to the hospital for treatment, but he did not specify their condition.

Earlier, Mr. Adurogboye had told The Associated Press that the weather in Port Harcourt at the time of the crash had been stormy, and that witnesses reported seeing lightning flashes as the plane approached the runway.

The crash on Saturday comes less than two months after the crash of a jet in October while it was headed from Lagos, the commercial capital, to Abuja. That crash involved a plane operated by Bellview Airlines and killed 117 people, including several high-ranking government officials. It caused both consternation and embarrassment as the authorities scrambled to locate the wreckage.

One state governor had told reporters that the wreckage from that crash had been far to the north, close to Abuja, and that nearly half the passengers had survived. He had also issued a frantic call for a huge rescue operation. But the wreckage was later found in a village near Lagos, and all the passengers were dead. The black boxes for the plane were never found.

The episode prompted Mr. Obasanjo to say that he would push for reform of the aviation industry and the government agencies responsible for air safety.

Mr. Fani-Kayode said that several steps had been taken in the wake of the Bellview crash, but he acknowledged that yet another crash could undermine confidence in Nigeria's aviation safety record.

"We will do everything in our power to ensure it stops happening," he said. "It is critical people feel safe."

With its long-neglected, battered roads, Nigeria's economy is highly dependent on air travel to move people between Abuja, the political capital, Lagos, the commercial capital, and Port Harcourt, the center of the oil industry that makes Nigeria the second-largest economy in sub-Saharan Africa.

The flights linking the three major cities are often packed with politicians and businessmen. Driving between any of the three cities could take a day or more. By air the journey is less than an hour.

To respond to the huge demand, half a dozen airlines have sprung up in the past decade. Most of them use second-hand planes that are two decades old or older, and runways are frequently in disrepair.

Tony Iyare contributed reporting from Lagos, Nigeria, for this article.

team player

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Surprise Surprise . . . pictured above in front of the studio of WOOV Radio Staon and The Minority Voice newspaper is Brenda Rouse along with her Mother Elsie as they surprised Bro Rouse ,CEO of Jim Rouse Communications on his birthday. Staff and management wish you many more Bro Rouse

photo by Bro Adams

CEREMONIES AT NCCU ACKNOWLEDGE THE PAST

NCCU honored photo journalist Alex Rivera with the naming of the Alex M. Rivera Athletic Hall of Fame housed in the McLendon-McDougald Gymnasium on campus. Next, the assembled crowd moved to the historic Alexander-Dunn Building to take part in celebrating the completion of renovations totaling \$1.69 million.

In 1939, Founder Dr. James E. Shepard brought Rivera from Howard University where he was a student and from the Washington Tribune where he was a part time photo journalist to NCCU to establish the news bureau for the university.

Later, as a journalist for the *Pittsburgh Courier*, Rivera became famous for his coverage of the last lynchings in South Carolina and Alabama, the legal challenges to school segregation, and the aftermath of the landmark *Brown v. The Topeka Board of Education* decision that garnered him a Global Syndicate Award in 1955.

"In our memories we hold a number of remarkable photographs that captured the truth in the victories and tragedies of our modern history and culture," said Chancellor James H. Ammons. "The men and women who recorded those moments, sometimes at risk their own lives, are unseen and largely forgotten.

Naming the hall in honor of Alex Rivera seems a natural choice."

Rivera's passion was athletics and at NCCU, he photographed some of the world's greatest men in sport including basketball coach John B. McLendon whose mentor had been none other than the architect of basketball, Dr. James Naismith. McLendon had a winning collegiate coaching record of 523 wins to 165 losses and invented the full court press, the zone press, the open center offense including the "four corners," the rotating pivot, and the double-pivot.

Thanks to Rivera, images of McLendon with his players, including five-time NBA All-Star Sam Jones, have been preserved for the historical record. Similarly, Rivera captured former United States Olympic Committee President and NCCU Coach and Chancellor, Dr. LeRoy T. Walker with his gold medal-winning hurdler, Lee Calhoun.

"What good is it to have the fastest hurdler in the world if no one knows about it or can see that Lee Calhoun was a black man?" asked Ammons. "The publicizing of the accomplishments of African-American should be considered as important as the victories themselves in making the case for equality."

Rivera was instrumental in establishing the Athletic Hall of Fame at NCCU and managed the annual induction ceremony for 15 years. It is housed in the upper corridor of McLendon-McDougald Gymnasium and offers an impressive display of large-scale photographs from NCCU's athletic history that are predominantly the work of Rivera himself.

Surprised and visibly moved at the sight of his name cut in steel, Rivera was magnanimous in his acceptance saying, "If you ever see a turtle on top of a post, you know that he didn't get there all by himself. He had help."

From the Gymnasium, the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees moved to the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Harold W. Alexander/Wayne M. Dunn Building. Built in 1930, it is on the National Registry of Historic Places and presents the eastern face of the oldest quadrangle on campus. It is named in honor of Alexander and Dunn, for their services and contributions to the Academic Skills Center, a tutorial program for students whose academic preparation was insufficient for college level work. So it is fitting that the building, which was originally a cafeteria, will now house a range of academic support service programs. The migration of these students services to this facility makes it a center for student activity.

"These men were known for their vision that will never die," said Chancellor Ammons.

The ribbon cutting celebrated the most extensive renovation to date. All interior spaces and infrastructure were renewed as the 17,716 square foot building received new offices and a conference room, window and roof repairs, a fire suppression and notification system and upgraded heating and cooling systems. The upper and lower floors have separate entrances with the addition of a chair lift to meet accessibility standards.

"The \$1.69 million project came in on time and under budget," said project manager, Duane Johnson.

Ma blames Kid in Tot's death.....

BY NANCIE L. KATZ, TONY SCLAFANI and ADAM LISBERG

DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITERS

A Brooklyn mother who left her two young sons alone in a bathtub in the dark blamed the older boy after the other drowned, it was revealed Tuesday, Nov. 08, that she was ordered held without bail.

"It's the baby's fault!! It's the baby's fault!!" Tracina (Tracy) Vaughn, 25, blubbered after her 16-month-old son, Dahquay Gillians, died in her filthy Bedford-Stuyvesant apartment Sunday night, sources said.

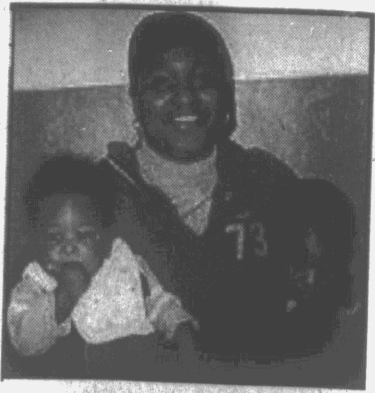
The "baby" she blamed was her 3-year old son, Tramel Vaughn, ho was badly burned in a tub scalding last year. Vaughn was held without bail and put on suicide watch yesterday as prosecutors said they expect to charge her with murder for ignoring the boys for up to 20 minutes as Dahquay slipped underwater. The lights didn't work in the bathroom

of Vaughn's basement apartment, sources said.

But that didn't stop her from plopping Tramel and Dahquay in the tub — telling the older boy to bathe his little brother and walking away, the sources said.

As Dahquay struggled to breathe, Vaughn got sanitary pads for herself and even changed the CD on the stereo, prosecutors said. And when her boyfriend came back from getting her a soda, she told him the children were safe.

The unidentified boyfriend even looked in the bathroom — but when he only saw Tramel, he assumed Dahquay was hidden by a shower curtain, prosecutors said. "He went out again, " saying he would get a diaper but instead came back with beer, said Prosecutor Wilfredo Cotto.



Tracina Vaughn with sons Dahquay Gillians and Tramel Vaughn.

Eventually, Cotto said, Vaughn "went in. The 1-year old was face-down in the water." Vaughn called 911, but EMTs who tried to resuscitate the helpless boy found his lungs full of water.

She was hit with felony reckless endangerment and endangering the welfare of a child raps, but Cotto expects those charges will be upgraded to murder when the medical examiner's final report is finished. "What can I possibly say that would do any good for her?" her defense attorney, Larry Rothstein, said outside court. "There's already one dead kid."

MISTAKES ADAM AND EVE MADE IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN:

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- b) They ate the forbidden fruit.
- c) They mistook poison ivy for fig leaves.

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North Carolina Central University's former Director of Public Relations Alex M. Rivera and Chancellor James H. Ammons at the naming of the Alex M. Rivera Athletic Hall of Fame.



NCCU's Chair of the Board of Trustees, Attorney Cressie H. Thigpen, Jr., Provost Beverly Washington Jones, and Chancellor James H. Ammons cut the ribbon at the newly renovated and historic Alexander-Dunn Building on campus.

...War On Hip Hop continued from front page

Assistant US Attorney Sean Haran said in his opening statement. "All of it was a fraud."

Haran contended that in the mid 1990s, before Irving Lorenzo founded Murder Inc. records, he hitched his star to McGriff, who was powerful and cash rich after wreaking crack havoc in South Queens for years.

Philip (Dahlu) Banks - a former member of McGriff's so-called Supreme Team - testified that on two occasions around 1994, he delivered bags full of cash to Irving Lorenzo on the drug lord's orders. The first bag contained \$9,000, all in singles, and the second was a \$10,000 roll of various denominations, he said. Asked if it was drug money, Banks replied, "That's the only kind of money we had."

Banks, 43, identified other Supreme Team members employed as bodyguards or drivers at Murder, Inc. He also claimed the Lorenzos gave him expensive new threads when he was released from Attica last year.

But under cross examination, Banks conceded he would lie about Irving Lorenzo if he thought it would help his own cause. The admission reinforced the Lorenzos' contention that overzealous prosecutors will go to any length to "dirty" their reputations.

Irving Lorenzo's lawyer Gerald Lefcourt, evoking the words of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., said federal agents had their "eyes on the prize": A young man from a hard-scrabble Queens neighborhood who had achieved "sort of an American dream".

At one point, the courtroom erupted in laughter when Chris Lorenzo's lawyer, Gerald Shargel, scribbled "Says Who?" on a poster and asked the jurors to remember those words when they hear the claims the Lorenzos' accepted drug money.

The defense lawyers said that their was nothing illegal about the Lorenzos' relationship with McGriff - nor nothing wrong with the gangster Gotti monikers the brothers adopted.

Ja Rule, who came to court with Ashanti to support the Lorenzos, said afterward that the government "doesn't like to see young black men help others who have criminal records."

If convicted, 34-year old Irving and 38-year old Chris Lorenzo face up to 20 years in prison and the forfeiture of millions.

ECU Community recalls

Rosa Parks' legacy

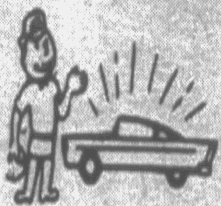


Getting the right people on the bus State President of the SCLC, Mr Bennie Rountree (2nd from the right); was on hand to give first hand accounts of the struggle for African Americans here in Pitt County on campus which took place on a bus.

Dr Lathan Turner, director of ECU's Ledonia Wright Cultural Center, stated "What would she think, if she knew how we can sit by each other, and speak to each other, and walk with each other, almost 50 years after she made that historic decision not to get up from that seat," Turner said. "We hope she would be proud of our accomplishments, in as much as we are proud of the contribution she has made to this nation."

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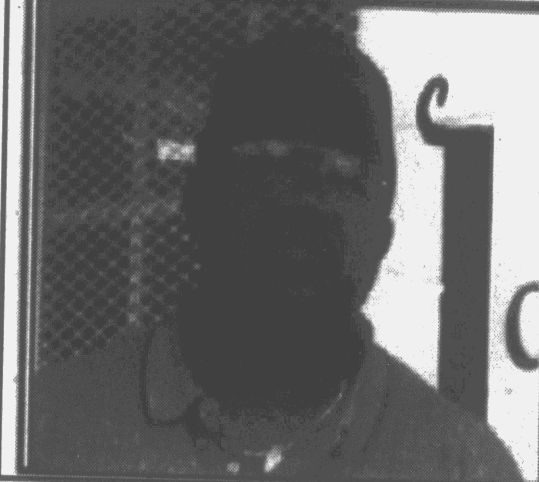
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** Consult your tax advisor regarding the deductibility of interest.

ESCAPE

Michelle Crandall Little has been married for 15 years to a wonderful man named Randy. She lives in Greenville, NC. They have 6 children and 1 grandson and a daughter-in-law they think

the world of.

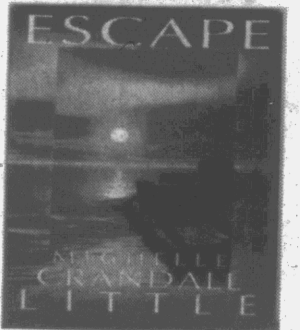
Michelle's purpose for writing poetry is a form of healing and release from all emotions. Her main goal is to have her words reach millions and say what they would want to say but couldn't find the words. Through it all, she wants you to be blessed.

Excerpt: Thank You

I am the one you let go But how can I blame you, you didn't know. That love and pride have many faces And they rear their heads in different places.

Though now I look back, I've come to realize The decision you made was very wise.

I've since moved on, and I have found That you were the one who had me bound. But thank you my friend, for setting me free



Michelle Crandall Little

Court rejects suit against Philip Morris

The Supreme Court of Illinois threw out a \$10 billion class-action lawsuit Thursday that had accused Philip Morris USA of fraudulently misstating the amount of tar and nicotine in "light" cigarettes. Because the labeling of the cigarettes was specifically authorized by U.S. federal regulators, the court ruled, the claim against Philip Morris could not stand. The 4-to-2 decision overturns a lower court ruling made in 2003, which found Philip Morris liable for \$10.1 billion.

Carey's Comeback Comes Full Circle at Grammy Nominations

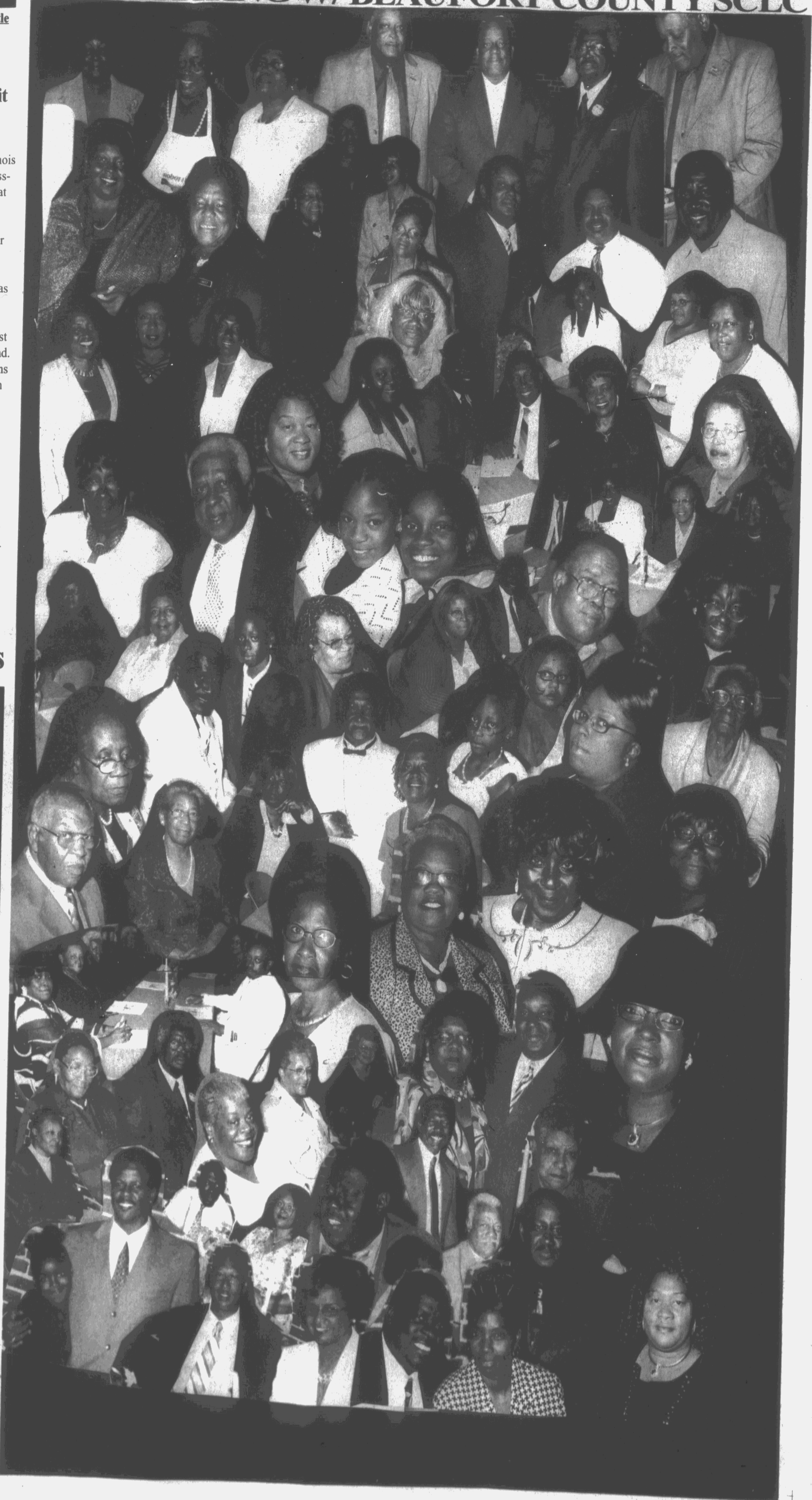


Mariah Carey

NEW YORK — Mariah Carey's comeback came full circle Thursday as she was nominated for eight Grammys, including album of the year for "The Emancipation of Mimi" and song and record of the year for her torch ballad "We Belong Together."

Carey's eight nominations tied John Legend and Kanye West. Soul crooner Legend's nominations included best new artist, while his mentor West is up for album of the year for "Late Registration" and song of the year for "Gold Digger." Other multiple nominees included 50 Cent, Gwen Stefani, U2 and Bruce Springsteen.

CELEBRATING W/ BEAUFORT COUNTY SCLC



National News: Hampton University students punished for protesting war

DECEMBER 1 - 16, 2005 page 9

By Bravetta Hassell

While many Hampton University students were still asleep or getting ready for an early morning class, about 40 others gathered on Dec. 2 to support seven students who faced disciplinary charges after distributing unapproved fliers last month that advertised an anti-war protest. Some wore strips of dandelion-yellow cloth tied around their arms, wrists, legs or, for one young woman, her neck.

That evening, the seven students received the verdicts: For at least five, it was performing 20 hours of community service, said two of the accused students, Iyabo Ali and John Robinson. Ms. Ali said she received only a warning.

The students learned their fate after being called into the office of the Dean of Women to pick up letters revealing the university's decision.

However, one of the women students chose not to come for her letter, Mr. Robinson said, though he assumed she was asked to do community service as well.

Mr. Robinson said that any punishment was unreasonable, but that they didn't have a problem doing it. "What we did was community service in the first place," he said.

The seven were part of an anti-war protest on Nov. 2 at the Virginia school.

The hearing before the board of administrators garnered national attention. An online petition by the World Can't Wait, an organization that sponsored the nationwide anti-war protest, drew more than 1,000 signatures, many from university professors, and from such well-known writers as Michael Eric Dyson, Jill Nelson and Howard Zinn.

Three students from Howard University in Washington, D.C., came to support the students. Mr. Robinson said the group had received words of support from

as far away as Spain. Bryan Ogilvie, another accused student, appeared on Pacifica Radio's "Democracy Now!"

In that forum and others, interviewers referred to the administration's 2003 seizure of the student newspaper, *The Hampton Script*, after it did not publish an administration statement on the front page.

On Nov. 18, Mr. Robinson, Brandon King and Aaron Ray, a sophomore History Education major from Columbia, Md., received a summons from the university to attend a hearing over what was called their possible expulsion, because they had not followed proper protest protocol as outlined in the university's student handbook.

Mr. Ogilvie, a sophomore from Long Island, N.Y., called it ridiculous for the administration to attack the students over rules in a handbook that is regularly updated, but given out only to freshmen.

Like other students, he said he did not understand why it was acceptable to hand out fliers with half-naked women that advertised parties, but not for students to distribute fliers encouraging activism.

"It's inconsistent as far as the application of the rules," he said.

The hearing was originally scheduled for Nov. 21, but that date gave the accused students little time to seek legal representation. It was moved to Dec. 2 after administrative officials were pounded with phone calls from outraged students and organization representatives.

Four more students faced similar charges. University officials maintained that the students were "cajoling" and "proselytizing," as well as posting fliers unapproved by university officials.

The hearing, closed to the public and news media, began shortly

after 9 a.m. The seven students, along with parents and lawyers, a few faculty members and a representative of the American Civil Liberties Union, sat straight-faced before the panel of administrators.

Outside, students waited, discussing the case and handing out yellow strips in support. Inside the glass-enclosed room, the panel explained the rules and regulations before releasing the students and calling them back separately for individual hearings.

"The process looks flawed, but we're going to stick with it," said Folabi Olagbaj, director of the Mid-Atlantic regional field office of Amnesty International. "The students are not fully aware of what they are being charged with."

The hearing involved a lot of fact-finding, said Mr. Olabaju, who informed that he did not see a police report of the incident or alleged videotape footage showing some of the students posting unapproved fliers in a university building.

"Nobody asked for approval during the Civil Rights Movement," said Arthur Ray, Aaron Ray's father, who had arrived in Hampton Dec. 1.

A lot of parents objected to the students' not being able to question panel members or serve as witnesses for each other, said Mr. King, a senior Sociology major who talked with students as he waited his turn to be called inside. The students were allowed only to read their prepared statements.

The university issued a statement saying, "The matter was simply an issue of compliance with University policies and procedures. The University certainly permits peaceful protests; however, all policies and procedures must be adhered to by students as

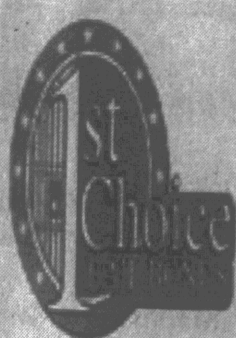
stated in the Hampton University Official Student Handbook (2004 Edition). ...


"No students were disciplined for their beliefs. ... Hampton University has always and continues to be a champion of free speech and free expression. Hampton University believes in the free flow and sharing of ideas among our faculty, staff and students."

Mr. Robinson, a senior Sociology



L-R): Brandon King, John Robinson and Aaron Ray wait for their disciplinary hearings at Hampton University. Mr. King said students were not able to question panel members or serve as witnesses for each other. Photo: Bravetta Hassell






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Richard Pryor, Stand-Up Comic Who Focused on Race, Dies at 65

Dec. 10 (Bloomberg) — Richard Pryor, the first major black stand-up comic to address race in his act and creator of a new brand of raunchy, expletive-laden comedy in the 1970s and early 1980s, died today. He was 65.

Pryor died of a heart attack this morning at a hospital near his home in Encino, California, spokeswoman Karen Finch said in a statement.

He found comedic material in the often-harsh realities of African-American life, when black comedians like Bill Cosby avoided race and politics to appeal to white audiences. He became known for his rubbery facial expressions, scathing humor, and quick, bombastic delivery. In his routines, Pryor recounted vivid, often hilarious tales where pimps, deadbeats and drunks evoked sympathy and ridicule.

"He created a biting, scatological comedy defined by the linguistic and stylistic patterns of poor and working-class black folks," wrote Salon's Jill Nelson in 1998. "He was often raunchy, sometimes bitter, frequently political and always honest, sometimes painfully so."

Off stage, Pryor's personal problems with women, the Internal Revenue Service and drugs — he burned half his body while freebasing cocaine — added to his notoriety.

Influenced Eddie Murphy

Pryor released more than 20 comedy records, appeared in more than 40 films, performed on numerous TV shows and made several concert films, including the

critically acclaimed 1979 "Richard Pryor Live in Concert."

He won Grammys, Emmys and an Academy Award nomination. Pryor influenced a generation of black and white comedians, including Eddie Murphy, Chris Rock, Whoopi Goldberg, Robin Williams and Arsenio Hall.

Cosby once said, "For Richard, the line between comedy and tragedy is as fine as you can paint it." Pryor became almost as famous for his six divorces and violent incidents surrounding cocaine addiction as his comedy. He worked his illnesses, addictions and setbacks into his act.

Pryor was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1986.

Childhood in Brothel

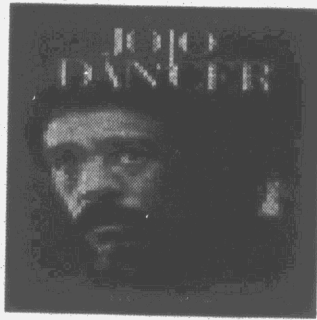
Richard Franklin Lennox Thomas Pryor was born in Peoria, Illinois, on Dec. 1, 1940, to an unwed mother. He claimed to have been raised in his grandmother's brothel, where his mother was a prostitute and married the madam's son. At age 11, Juliette Whittaker, a teacher, cast Pryor in a community theater production to channel his manic comic skills. He later gave her the 1974 Emmy he won for writing a Lily Tomlin special.

He was expelled from high school and fathered his daughter, Renee, out of wedlock at age 17. Pryor worked in a meat-packing plant before joining the Army in 1958. After his 1960 discharge, he married his first wife, Patricia Price, and his second child, Richard Pryor Jr., was born.

Pryor began performing

stand-up comedy at a popular black nightclub in Peoria and was regularly appearing on the "Blackbelt" Midwest circuit by the early 1960s. He moved to New York in 1963 and debuted on TV the next year, doing stand-up on "The Ed Sullivan Show" and "The Merv Griffin Show." Pryor emulated Cosby and Dick Gregory in his wholesome, inoffensive routine.

He relocated to Los Angeles in the mid-1960s and won bit parts in films. He dropped his tame, Cosby-influenced act and developed a more raw, outrageous act infused with racial humor and four-letter words.



Won Oscar Nomination

Pryor honed his new stage persona in Las Vegas and attracted a following by the late 1960s, releasing his first comedy album in 1969. He developed a cocaine addiction and was accused of fighting with managers and landlords in Las Vegas.

A wife accused him of battery and the Internal Revenue Service audited him for not paying taxes from 1967 to 1970. Pryor fled to the Berkeley, California, counterculture for several years.

In 1972, he introduced a

new stand-up act and won an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actor as the junkie Piano Man in "The Lady Sings the Blues," a film biography of Billie Holiday starring Diana Ross. He continued to perform comedy on "The Tonight Show" and hosted "Saturday Night Live" — on five-second tape delay — and the Oscars.

Pryor wrote for situation comedies and variety shows and won an American Writers Guild Award in 1974 for co-writing "Blazing Saddles" with Mel Brooks.

'Silver Streak'

In 1976, Pryor wrote and appeared in "Car Wash" and "The Bingo Long Traveling All-Stars." He received favorable reviews for his first dramatic lead in "Greased Lightning," (1977), about the first black racecar champion. In 1978, "Blue Collar," about Detroit autoworkers was a hit, while the musical "The Wiz" flopped.

He began an on-screen partnership with Gene Wilder in the 1976 comedy-suspense "Silver Streak," which grossed \$30 million. Pryor and Wilder would also team up in 1980's "Stir Crazy," 1989's "See No Evil, Hear No Evil" and 1991's "Another You."

Pryor released a 1974 record that went platinum, selling over 1 million copies, and won the Grammy for Best Comedy Album. Two Grammy-winning albums soon followed. Critics praised his 1979 concert film, "Richard Pryor Live in Concert," which also earned \$30 million.

Addiction

Health and drug addiction soon derailed his career. Pryor suffered a heart attack in 1978. He shot bullets into his wife's car on New Year's

Eve that year as they engaged in a messy divorce. On June 9, 1980, Pryor accidentally burned half his body while freebasing cocaine, or heating it with ether. He later entered drug rehabilitation.

He returned to comedy parodying his drug use and accident in the 1982 concert movie "Richard Pryor Live on Sunset Strip."

Pryor received \$4 million to play a comic villain in 1983's "Superman III," a record salary at the time for a black actor.

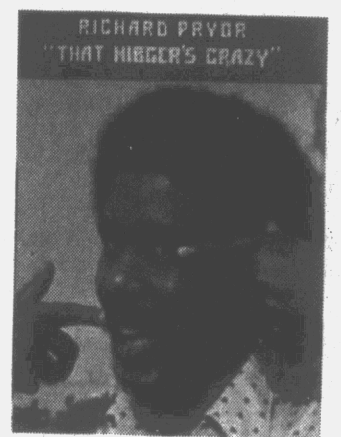
In 1986, Pryor wrote, directed and starred in the autobiographical "Jo Jo Dancer, Your Life is Calling." Other films included "Bustin Loose" (1981), "Critical Condition" (1987) and "Harlem Nights," (1989), co-starring Murphy.

Pryor's film and stand-up career ended due to multiple sclerosis by the early 1990s. He suffered two more heart attacks in 1990 and 1991, when he underwent a quadruple bypass.



Pryor eventually needed a motorized scooter and spoke in a whisper.

He published his autobiography, "Pryor Convictions and Other Life Sentences," in 1995. Pryor won



the Kennedy Center's Mark Twain Prize in 1998 for his uniquely American humor. Ill health prevented him from attending the ceremony.

He remarried fourth wife Jennifer Lee in 2001. In



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UNDER FIRE, SHARPTON DELAYS COMMERCIAL TV SPOTS

By Hazel Trice Edney NNPA
Washington Correspondent

UNDER FIRE, SHARPTON DELAYS COMMERCIAL TV SPOTS

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — In the face of mounting criticism over a plan to do television commercials for a car title company that charges interest rates of 300 percent, Al Sharpton says he has now placed his plans on hold until he can obtain more financial data from the firm.

"We're putting everything on hold in terms of this national tour and advertising and marketing. We put it off until he gets me this data," Sharpton says in an interview, referring to an agreement he has been doing for LoanMax. "Out of respect to him, I'm giving him time to show me. But, if he doesn't have it, then I'm definitely going to tell the world that he had time and he didn't come through with nothing... If he's got the facts, then I will make the suspension permanent."

Keith Corbett, senior vice president of the Durham, N.C.-based Center for Responsible Lending, a non-profit think tank, told Sharpton in a letter that his commercial airing during prime-time morning news shows in the Washington, D.C., Virginia and Maryland areas was deeply disappointing.

"Over the last few years you have been instrumental in the fight to end predatory lending. Specifically, you lent your voice to stopping predatory lending in North Carolina by urging our Black Caucus leaders to work to put an end to these abusive practices within our state." Corbett writes, "Therefore, I was surprised to hear that you are a spokesperson for car title loans... Car title loans are just as abusive as payday loans in that they charge triple digit interest rates and trap them in a cycle of debt. Moreover, title lenders structure their loans to evade state usury or small loan rate caps, and they are over-secured."

Corbett continues, "Today we have access to credit, but the 'terms' are abusive and discriminatory. Like we rallied with Rosa Parks, all Black people need to come together to end these practices."

In the commercial, Sharpton stands on a stage by a podium and a United States flag, as if he's still running for president.

"Finally, there's someone in Virginia who will loan money to people the big guys won't loan to!" he declares boisterously as if doing a campaign speech. The commercial was set to spread around the country during the Christmas season.

Corbett said in an interview that in response to his overtures, Sharpton invited him to teleconference on the issue.

"They take advantage of poor people who are desperate," Corbett says. "They charge triple digit interest rates just like pay day lenders. In fact, it's worse because the people's mode of transportation is at risk and their most valuable assets."

After the teleconference, Sharpton said he decided to wait for even more specific information from Corbett, but retains doubts about LoanMax.

"You cannot have a country where only people with credit can go to banks. I've got businessmen that can't get a bank loan and they have lucrative businesses," Sharpton says. "That's exactly my point. Now, if this company is the wrong company, we can debate that and I will not go forward. But, I'm not going to back down at all if the banks have driven people with alternative lending services out of business. That disproportionately hurts our community. We have found nothing on the record against it, nothing to this moment."

Rod Aycox, president of LoanMax, based in Alpharetta, Ga., says he makes loans to a half-million people a year at 200 stores in 21 states.

"My product highly competes with every product out there. It's a very competitive price and we deal with hundreds of thousands of customers every year who are very satisfied," he says.

"Someone has to have a title to a car, so we really don't loan to poor people... They have to have a title that they have paid in full for."

Aycox says his interest rates are from 22 cents to 30 cents a month. For example, the average \$400 loan would cost \$88 for one month, he says. If a person kept the money for only two weeks, it would cost them \$44, he says. However, that same \$400 loan becomes a \$1600 debt, 300 percent, in just one year if the person is unable to pay it back.

Aycox says he does not have stats on how many customers do not pay back their loans on time, but he says it's a very small number. He says the actual

percentage of cars that have been repossessed is only 5 percent. The average loan is repaid in less than 3 months, he says.

"The thing about title loan companies is that they don't take many cars," Corbett says. "And the reasons why is because they get the people trapped into debt. And they just continue to roll them over."

Aycox says customers who find themselves unable to repay a loan always have an out. "If a customer is, by chance, not able to pay back their loan, all they have to do is take their car down, sell it, pay me off and keep the difference," he says.

Even before his presidential race, Sharpton had long advocated against unfair lending practices. In a 1999 panel

statement during a Federal Reserve board meeting in Boston, Sharpton said, "We want fairness; we want equity; we want parity. (Applause) We want to see loans to those that seek mortgages and business loans that are not at rates that are unbearable and not set up with clauses that are unachievable."

Aycox declined comment on Sharpton's decision to end the commercials while awaiting more information.

"I hate not to give you any information on that, but if you would, just call Mr. Sharpton on all of those questions," he says. "I would welcome Mr. Corbett to give [Sharpton] any information. I would welcome Mr. Corbett to call me any time and discuss my product."

Sharpton says he has never met Aycox. He says he was recruited to do the commercial by a fellow activist and a personal friend of Aycox', Lamell

McMorris, a former executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference under the administration of Martin Luther King, III.

"I know his track record of working the movement with me and quote-unquote, 'the little guy,'" says McMorris. "I knew that he would understand the concept of people with bad credit and needing access to cash. I know a great deal about LoanMax because the owner of the company is my best friend. LoanMax is not a predatory lending institution. As far as I'm concerned, they're greenlining a redlined America."

"Corbett says the use of Black spokespersons for predatory lenders is a part of their strategy.

"If they can divide Black people on this issue, they can win over Democrats who

are desympathetic to ruling against them," he says.

Sharpton's proposal to withdraw the commercials brings to mind last September when he withdrew awards from Tyson Foods and WalMart, both beleaguered with discrimination lawsuits, after he was criticized by activists.

He says he is not surprised that the commercial is controversial.

"I hoped it would be because I think that it is an outright disgrace that people that own things like cars and homes with no credit cannot get bank loans and there's nothing that anybody is doing about it," he says.

Sharpton says he is also concerned about fairness to LoanMax.

"You've got banks that repossess thousands of cars. So who decides who's a predator? A student loan can accumulate to 500%. I know people 20 years later paying student loans. That's not predatory," he says. Much of it is wrong, says Corbett. "These are the Jim Crow laws of today — that you charge poor and disenfranchised people triple digit interest rates. These are the Jim Crow laws of the 90's and 2000."

He says, "Somebody needs to figure out a way that our community has alternative lending. That's my point."

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