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## Inside Jobs Convict Rehab or Corporate Slavery?

**Chris Levister  
Black Voice News**

If you think prison inmates only make license plates, you're behind the times.

As a child Ayana Cole dreamed of becoming a world class fashion designer. Today she is among hundreds of inmates crowded in an Oregon prison factory cranking out designer jeans. For her labor she is paid 45 cents an hour. At a chic Beverly Hills boutique some of the beaded creations carry a \$350 price tag. In fact the jeans labeled "Prison Blues" proved so popular last year that prison factories couldn't keep up with demand.

At a San Diego private-run prison factory Donovan Thomas earns 21 cents an hour manufacturing office equipment used in some of LA's plushiest office towers. In Chino Gary's prison sewn T-shirts are a fashion hit.

Hundreds of prison generated products end up attached to trendy and nationally known labels like No Fear, Lee Jeans, Trinidad Tees, and other well known U.S. companies. After deductions, many prisoners like Cole and Thomas earn about \$60 for an entire month of nine-hour days. In short, hiring out prisoners has become big business. And it's booming.

At CMT Blues housed at the Maximum Security Richard J. Donovan State Correctional Facility outside San Diego, the highly prized jobs pay minimum wage. Less than half goes into the inmates' pockets. The rest is siphoned off to reimburse the state for the cost of their incarceration and to a victim restitution fund.

The California Department of Corrections and CMT Blues owner Pierre Sleiman say they are providing inmates with job skills, a work ethic and income. In addition, he says prisoners offer the ultimate in a flexible and dependable work force. "If I lay them off for a week," said Sleiman, referring to his workers, "I don't have to worry about someone else coming and saying, 'Come work for me.'"

For the tycoons who have invested in the prison industry, it has been like finding a pot of gold. They don't have to worry about strikes or paying

unemployment, health or worker's comp insurance, vacation or comp time. All of their workers are full time, and never arrive late or are absent because of family problems; moreover, if prisoners refuse to work, they are moved to disciplinary housing and lose canteen privileges. Most importantly, they lose "good time" credit that reduces their sentence.

Today, there are over 2 million people incarcerated in the US, more than any other industrialized country. They are disproportionately African-American and Latino. The nation's prison industry now employs nearly three quarters of a million people, more than any Fortune 500 corporation, other than General Motors. Mushrooming construction has turned the industry into the main employer in scores of depressed cities and towns. A host of firms are profiting from private prisons, prison labor and services like transportation, farming and manufacturing.

Critics argue that inmate labor is both a potential human rights abuse and a threat to workers outside prison walls claiming, inmates have no bargaining power, are easily exploited and once released are frequently barred from gainful employment because of a felony conviction.

In one California lawsuit, for example, two prisoners have sued both their employer and the prison, saying they were put in solitary confinement after refusing to labor in unsafe working conditions. In a nutshell John Fleckner of Operation Prison Reform labels the growing trend "capitalist punishment - slavery re-envisioned."

The prison industry is not a new phenomenon, writes Fleckner. He says mixing the profit motive with punishment only invites abuse reminiscent of one of the ugliest chapters in US history. "Under a regime where more bodies equal more profits prisons take one big step closer to their historical ancestor, the slave pen."

In fact, prison labor has its roots in slavery. Following reconstruction, former Confederate Democrats instituted "convict leasing." Black inmates, mostly freed

slaves convicted of petty theft, were rented out to do everything from picking cotton to building railroads. In Mississippi, a huge farm, resembling a slave plantation replaced convict leasing. The infamous Parchman Farm was not closed until 1972, when inmates brought suit against the abusive conditions in federal court.

Prison analysts say contract prison labor is poised to become one of America's most important growth industries. Many of these prisoners are serving time for non-violent crimes. With the use of tough-on-crime mandatory sentencing laws, the prison population is bursting at the seams. Some experts believe that the number of people locked up in the US could double in the next 10 years. According to Prison Watch, the expansion of the number of prisoners will not only increase the pool of prison labor available for commercial profit, but also will help pay the costs of incarceration.

"The main goal of prison work programs is to provide "a positive outlet to help inmates productively use their time and energies. Another goal is to instill good work habits, including appropriate job behavior and time management, according to the Joint Venture Program of the California Department of Corrections. The program is responsible for contracting out convict labor to governments, businesses and non-profit organizations.

Federal law prohibits domestic commerce in prison-made goods unless inmates are paid "prevailing wages" but because the law doesn't apply to exports, prison officials routinely market to foreign customers.

In California the prisons themselves are their own best customers. The California Department of Corrections purchases about half of what the prisons make, choosing from an online Prison Industry Authority catalog.

Prisoners now manufacture everything from blue jeans, to auto parts, to electronics and furniture. Honda has paid inmates \$2 an hour for doing the same work an auto worker would get paid \$20 to \$30 an hour to do. Konica has used prisoners to repair copiers for

less than 50 cents an hour. Toys 'R' Us once used prisoners to restock shelves, and Microsoft to pack and ship software. Clothing made in California and Oregon prisons competes so successfully with apparel made in Latin America and Asia that it is exported to other countries.

In most states prisoners receive little of the money they earn working either for state-run or private sector corrections firms such as the Corrections Corporations of America (CCA) and

Wackenhut. The labor prisoners perform is often considerably cheaper than in the outside world. Case in point, Texas-based Lockhart Technologies closed its Austin plant and fired some 150 workers who constructed circuit boards because it could relocate those jobs to a Wackenhut-run prison where detainees did the work for minimum wage.

But even with the low pay and potential for abuse, the labor programs are popular with prisoners, says California Prison Watch,

which monitors the state's prisons. "Prisoner idle time is less, they earn spending money, and they can pick up a skill."

Tony Matos, 45 convicted of robbing a Rialto liquor store says, "When we step through the gates and into the shop, it's another world. This is a company. This isn't prison. Guards still keep watch, the capitalists still profit - the critics and supporters still debate. But in the end, I get a skill, a few coins and a ray of hope and dignity."

## We Salute The Jackie Robinson Baseball League



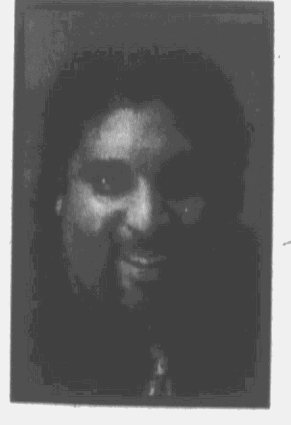
## NC NAACP ADDRESSES STATE BOARD OF ED

The Wilmington Journal

Today, Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II, State Conference President will formally address the North Carolina State Board of Education regarding the state of public education -- resegregation, Leandro and student inequities throughout North Carolina. His comments will focus upon four key areas of concern for NAACP:

- Fighting resegregation and demanding resource equity;
- Ensuring high quality teachers for every student in each classroom;
- Assuring and strengthening access to high level Math and Science instruction; and
- Increasing parental and community involvement and enhancing civic engagement

Following a tour of Goldsboro High School, the State Board of Education will be meeting today at 10:30 a.m. in the Wayne County Public Schools Central Office Building, 2001 East Royall Avenue, Goldsboro, NC.



# OPINION



GEORGE E. CURRY

Although most U.S. workers were off on Labor Day, we enjoy fewer government holidays and vacations than employees in Western Europe. Still, we remain staunchly devoted to work, even as we grow increasingly worried about job security.

"Americans believe that workers in this country are worse off now than a generation ago - toiling longer and harder for less wages and benefits, for employers who aren't as loyal as they once were, in jobs that aren't as secure, and in a global economy that might very well send their work overseas," according to a new study by the Pew Research Center.

Even with those general worries, the report states, on an individual level, the attitudes of U.S. workers toward their jobs have remained remarkably

## "WORKING MORE, ENJOYING IT LESS",

consistent over the years.

"Most people still have positive feelings about their own jobs, and even though many are troubled by the way the forces of modernizations are affecting the American workplace, the level of public concern today is not substantially greater than it had been a decade or two ago," the study says. Those findings were contained in a special Labor Day report titled: "Public Says American Work Life is Worsening, But Most Workers Remain Satisfied with Their Jobs."

Those surveyed were asked about eight different aspects of the world of work and most said all eight areas had gotten worse. Yet, 89 percent said they were either satisfied or completely satisfied with their own job.

Employees were asked whether five trends affecting the workforce - immigration, offshoring, automation, modern communication and technology and declining unionization - had helped or hurt American workers.

"The offshoring of jobs drew the most negative assessments, with the public

saying by a margin of more than 5-1 that this has hurt rather than helped American workers," the Pew study said. "The public says the same thing about the increasing number of immigrants working in America, but they do so by a more modest margin of 2-1.

They also say the decline in union membership has hurt rather than helped, but the margin on this question is more narrow, 3-2."

The public is almost evenly split on the question of automation and is most positive about technology, with 69 percent saying the use of e-mail and other new ways of communicating has been helpful.

In 1997, 41 percent of workers felt benefits were better than they had been a generation before. By this year, however, 45 percent say worker benefits aren't as good as they were a generation ago.

U.S. employees work harder than their European counterparts, including the Japanese. It is often said that Americans live to work while Europeans work to live.

Because workaholics are held

in high esteem in the U.S., Americans, on average, have more money, larger houses, bigger cars and other items considered status symbols.

But Professor Mauro Guillen of the University of Pennsylvania Wharton's School explains: "It is a sign of social status in Europe to take a long vacation away from home. Money is not everything in Europe, status is not only conferred by money. Having fun, or being able to have fun, also is a sign of success and a source of social esteem."

Guillens comments are part of an interesting article on cultural differences between Europe and the U.S. on the [http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/ Web site](http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/Web site).

Because most jobs in Europe are covered by collective bargaining agreements, workers have been able to negotiate longer vacations there. Workers in France and Spain, for example, get a mandatory 25 paid vacation days per year. By contrast, the U.S. is the only industrialized nation that does not require companies to provide a minimum number of paid vacation days.

Consequently, a third of all women in the U.S. and one-fourth of all men do not receive paid vacations.

Disturbingly, more companies are pressing to reduce the number of vacation days an employee receives. When employees do receive vacation days, they tend not to take all of them. Time taken off in Western European countries exceed the allotted vacation days. In France and Spain, workers take off 30 days a year; in Sweden they take off 35 days; in Italy, 25 and in Britain, 25. In the U.S., workers take 10.2 vacation days each year.

"There a tendency to really relax in Europe, to disengage from work," says Christian

Schneider, manager of the Wharton Center for Human Resources. "When an American finally does take those few days of vacation per year, they are most likely to be in constant contact with the office."

That can be chalked up to the growing number of cell phones, hand-held devices, laptops and old-fashioned workaholicism. I know about this first-hand - I wrote this column in Johnson City, Tenn. over the Labor Day weekend. *George E. Curry is editor-in-chief of the NNPA News Service and BlackPressUSA.com. To contact Curry or to book him for a speaking engagement, go to his Web site, [www.georgecurry.com](http://www.georgecurry.com).*

## The Black Hair Care Tragicomedy



The Eagle Flies on Friday by James Clingman NNPA Columnist

This familiar line should be the mantra of Black people when it comes to recycling our dollars among ourselves.

Why? Well, we always talk about recycling our dollars and spending our money in our neighborhoods, with our own business, to the extent they are available, and considering the fact that the eagle does indeed fly on Friday, we should employ a related economic strategy. Maybe we should use the theme Brother Ashiki Taylor, of Atlanta, Ga. uses: "Freedom Friday."

Ironically, the term, "The Eagle Flies on Friday" comes from a familiar song, "Stormy Monday," which goes on to say, "...and Saturday I go out to play... Sunday I go to church, and I kneel down on my knees and pray: Lord have

mercy, have mercy on me." I say it's ironic because this is exactly what many Black people do on the weekend.

We get paid, and the eagle starts to fly; and sadly, it flies away rather than around. Our money leaves us so fast that even a real eagle couldn't keep up with it. Then on Saturday we go out to play; it seems that's the top priority for us these days - playing or watching someone else play. If it's not games, it's parties, all night long.

Nothing wrong with a little entertainment every now and then, but let's not be lulled to sleep by it.

After the party is over, yes we have to get our "praise on," as some call it.

We "go" to church (forgetting of course that we are the church) and start praying and asking God to have mercy on us. We spent all our money and must face a stormy Monday all over gain, trying to regain the money we threw away over the weekend, and we want God to have mercy. He's probably saying, "Give me a break!"

I can imagine all the groups with which we spend our money saying, "Thank you, Lord, for Black consumers." Their eagle will fly around their communities many times before leaving, if it ever leaves at all, and they look forward to Mondays because.

they are far from stormy.

Have you ever considered that our Mondays are stormy because our eagle flies on Friday? If we approach our spending with that in mind, our Sundays would be filled with more "Thank you's" rather than "Have mercies." I pray we will get this through our heads some day soon and stop this economic death spiral we continue to follow by allowing our eagles to fly away rather than around, making stops at several of our own businesses instead of everyone else's.

So what will it be, Black folks? How about a Freedom Friday? Do you think we could designate every Friday, just one day per week, as the day we make a conscious effort to buy something from a brother or sister? At the same time, do you think we could cut back on spending our dollars at the businesses owned by others? I know it will be hard; but you only have to do it on Fridays.

Freedom Fridays could prove to be the genesis of an economic revolution for Black people in this country. C'mon, y'all. A little self-discipline is all it takes; it would certainly be well worth it. We cannot have anything of substance without sacrifice. Start your personal Freedom Friday Campaign this week, and let others know what you are doing. Let them know that you are raising your

consciousness by taking more control of your dollars and making sure that you spend more with your people.

If we fail to implement economic strategies of some kind, both personal and collective, we are literally doomed in this country. And as the song goes, Tuesdays will be just as bad, Wednesdays will be worse, and Thursdays will be oh so sad. I suggest Freedom Fridays, but you can call it whatever you want; it's the action that counts.

We can come up with all sorts of cute sayings and slogans, but if we don't put the appropriate action behind them, we will have accomplished nothing.

We can turn that song into a joyous refrain if our eagles start flying around our neighborhoods, in and out of Black-owned businesses, into the pockets of Black employees who work for those businesses, and even making a few stops at Black investment funds.

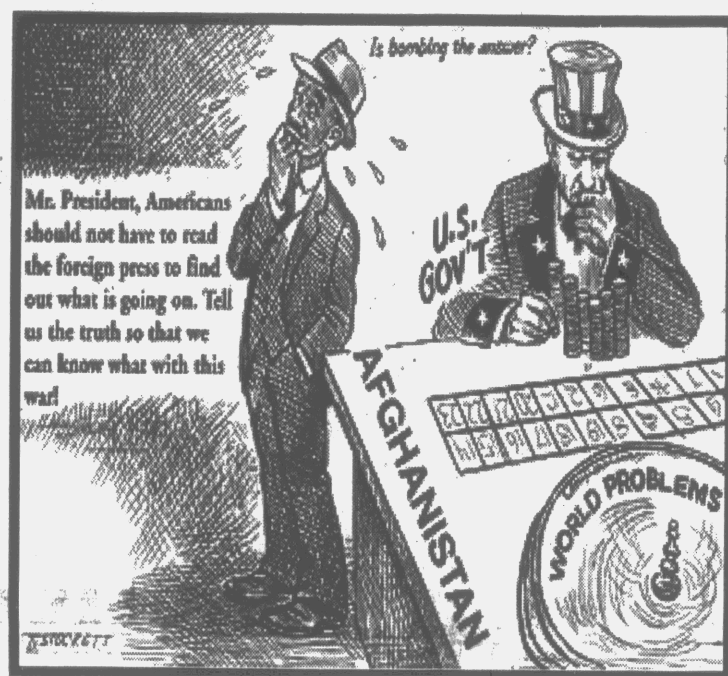
I travel across this country speaking at conferences, doing workshops, and lecturing students and church members; I have been writing this column for more than 12 years now; I am on radio talk shows all over this country; and I have come in contact with thousands of brothers and sisters who say they want

to do something about our economic situation. They call talk shows decrying our economic position and the lack of ownership and control of resources where they live and the fact that someone else owns all the stores, the gas stations, the restaurants, the grocery stores, and other vital retail outlets in their neighborhoods.

After all I have said, written, and, more importantly, demonstrated by personal action and commitment to the principle of economic empowerment for Black people, I truly wonder if it is a lost cause. I wonder if we really want to be free, if we are serious about our consciousness, the same kind of consciousness and nationalistic thinking employed by the very groups about which we complain.

Despite my deep frustration, I will continue to write, speak, initiate and participate in economic strategies that will move our people forward because it is part of my purpose, my mission, my work. I am very concerned about our eagles flying, but I am more concerned about our eagles dying.

James E. Clingman, an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati's African American Studies department, is former editor of the Cincinnati Herald



newspaper and founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce. He hosts the radio program, "Blackonomics," and has written several books, including Black-o-Knowledge-Stuff. To book Clingman for a speech or purchase his books, go to his Web site, [www.blackonomics.com](http://www.blackonomics.com) or call him at 513/489-4132.

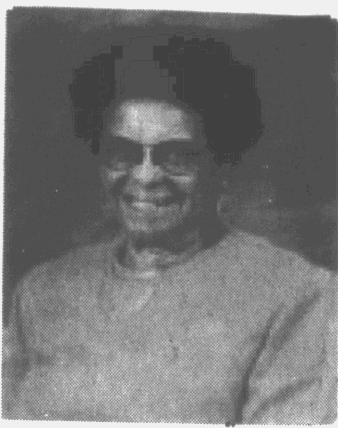
### NAACP Retains Tax Exempt Status

by Leonard Sparks  
Special to the NNPA from Afro Newspapers

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - The Internal Revenue Service, ending a two-year investigation into whether a 2004 election-year speech by NAACP Chairman Julian Bond violated rules prohibiting tax-exempt organizations from endorsing or opposing political candidates, has concluded that the civil rights organization can keep its tax-exempt status.

We reserve the right to edit any news or information received according to our editorial needs. We will not edit anything in such a way as to be misleading or that would fundamentally alter the accuracy or intent of the original information.  
The Minority Voice

# COMMUNITY NEWS



Mrs Beatrice Maye

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR WIDOWS.....

1. Yes, there's life after what's-his-name. You don't have to jump into the grave after your husband. You can be a full person on your own.
2. Never settle for a man simply because he's still breathing. You can demand the best in all of your relationships.
3. Don't let the world take advantage of you because you're alone. Beware of scams. If it sounds too good to be true, it's too good to be true.
4. Your children are separate people. Don't make them your life and don't let them make you theirs.
5. You can be beautiful; the face you wake up with in the morning is not necessarily the one you're stuck with for the rest of the day.

6. You can find out again just how much fun life can be as a "merry widow" in the world.
7. When one door closed, another one opens, and new opportunities are knocking all the time.
8. You can love living alone, and discover the delicious pleasures of a single life.
9. Your senior years can be golden, not brass. You're getting older, but you're also getting better.
10. You never have to feel ashamed to be alone in the world. A table for one can be a grand adventure.

These are your 10 new rules for living. I learned to believe in them, and you can too.

Virginia

Graham (Modern Living) What To Tell Your Child About Prejudice and Discrimination

The Center for Immigration Studies reports that by the year 2000, one-third off all US citizens will be people of color. Today, one-third of the children in public schools are from what have traditionally been called "minority groups." Schools are increasingly challenged to educate children who come from a wide range of backgrounds, abilities, and

experiences. So-called "minorities" have become the numerical majority in 50 cities. The workforce of the near future will be composed of a majority of women and people of color. While today's changing demographics are compelling, historically the United States has always been challenged to find effective ways for its diverse populations to live and work well together. To ensure their potential for success, we must prepare our children to live and work harmoniously and productively alongside others who represent various and many racial and cultural backgrounds and abilities in our society. One of the greatest obstacles to creating such a future is prejudice. While many of us would like to believe that prejudice is a problem of the past, this is not the case. Incidents of prejudice and discrimination occur every day. For example, on a daily basis: - some people are called hurtful names or are excluded from participation in events; - some people are unfairly excluded from jobs, neighborhoods, bank loans, educational opportunities, social events, and clubs; - some people are attacked and beaten; - some people

homes, places of worship, or cemeteries are vandalized; and - some people are unfairly paid less than others for doing equal work.

Such instances of discrimination are far from rare. If we are to have a just society, it is up to each of us to take a stand against such unfair practices and attitudes. We must teach our children that there is no place for prejudice or discrimination in our communities, homes, schools, or places to work. From —

Anti-Defamation League, NY

Beatrice Maye

## MITCHELL WILLIAMS

President and CEO of Debonairre Menswear Group, Inc., of East Orange, NJ and President of the (CABID) Central Avenue Business Improvement District and has been in business for over 26 years.

Mitchell is the son of James and Mildred Williams, 1212 Davenport Street, Greenville, NC.



## Reflections



Suetje A. Jones

## Christianity and Money

From the Apostle's Paul's warning that "love of money is a root of all kinds of evil" to churches' critical

response to the spending excesses of American televangelists. Christians have tended to view money with a suspicious eye. There is a general feeling among experienced church people that the way churches have handled money needs some work. One professor of church administration says, "It is not simply a questions about raising money. The way churches have thought about money needs to be theologised. And at the same time it needs to be subjected to greater responsibility and general accounting practices." One particular church lost its building as payment for back taxes and penalties. The federal government charged the church with failing to withhold income taxes of employees from 1987 to 1993. The church maintained the payments were gifts, not wages, and therefore not subject to taxes. A federal court sided with the government, and the church now has no home. Such disputes could be avoided, if only churches would embrace a more businesslike mindset and apply basic money management strategies to their operations. Year after year, many churches fail to pay their property taxes when due and consequently have to be advertised year after year. Such is a classic example of poor money management

strategies. One fallacy found in churches is that they trust one person to handle the financial affairs. Churches need checks and balances so there is not one person who is in the position of being able to take money with no one else knowing. There should be a division of financial responsibility among the minister, a treasurer, and deacons or other elected church leaders. Also, a fact sheet of collections and disbursements should be distributed periodically among the church members. It is the duty of the church to let the members know how their contributions are managed. Some clergy and churches do not see money and budgets and auditing as having any religious or spiritual content. And that is a bad theology. Whatever problems do exist, it's likely that churches won't deal with them effectively until they can learn to talk about money and let their members know where and how their money is being spent. And right now, even that appears to be significant hurdle. There is a widespread reluctance on the part of the church leaders to talk about money. Money seems to be the last taboo. From: Religion News Service

(Respectfully submitted by: Mother Suetje Jones)

## Caffeinated beverages can be counted as part of daily fluid intake

By Kathy Kolasa  
Special to The Daily Reflector

Q A friend of mine told me he heard you say in a class he took that you could count caffeinated drinks as part of your daily intake. That's not what I learned in school. Did he hear you right? — P.K., Greenville

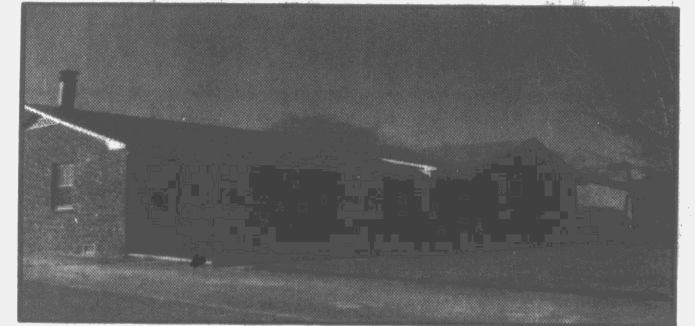
A Yes, I did say caffeinated beverages count in your total daily fluid intake, if you are young, healthy and routinely drink caffeinated beverages. Brian Dobby, a third-year medical student working on a rotation in Family Medicine was curious about this subject. Here is what he learned after studying recent research reports: Caffeine, in addition to its effect as a stimulant, affects a hormone in your body known as Anti Diuretic Hormone (ADH). This hormone is one of the body's built-in mechanisms to regulate fluid and electrolyte balance. When your body senses that it needs to retain water in order to keep your fluid and electrolyte levels in balance, ADH increases to do this. This process ensures that in the absence of water, your body will make less urine thereby preventing you from losing even more water. On the other hand, if your body is adequately hydrated and you

continue to drink water, ADH levels will decrease and allow you to get rid of the extra water that your body is taking on.

For many years it's been taught that because caffeine is a diuretic, caffeinated beverages should not be counted as part of the recommended daily fluid intake. It's also been routinely recommended that caffeine be avoided around periods of activity and exertion to avoid dehydration. But multiple studies have found otherwise. Researchers looked at the effect of caffeine intake during exercise and between exercise sessions over multiple days. Each study, conducted on healthy young adults without kidney disease, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, diabetes, obesity or other chronic disease, found that caffeine has no significant effect on the hydration status. Of course, if you are older, taking medications, or have chronic disease, these results may not apply to you and you should discuss your fluid needs with your physician.

Professor Kathy Kolasa, a registered dietitian and Ph.D., works with the Family Medicine Center, Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. She may be contacted at [kolasaka@ecu.edu](mailto:kolasaka@ecu.edu), or in care of The Daily Reflector, P.O. Box 1967, Greenville, NC 27835.

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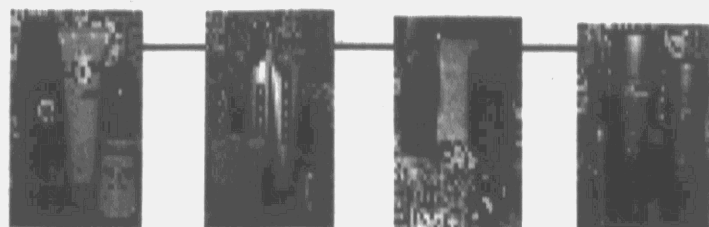
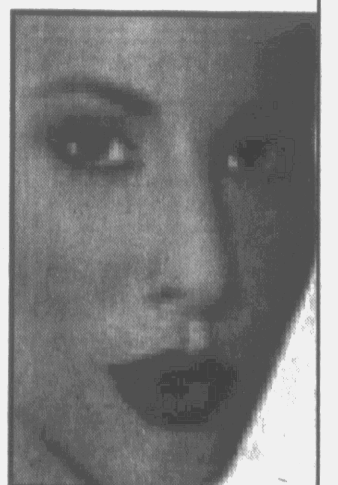
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# 25th Labor Day Event Brings Joy

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We Can Alter the Spice According to your Taste

You Can Ask for Our Regular Menu During Lunch Hours

### SPECIAL LUNCH

Monday Thru Saturday : 11:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Served w. Pork or Chicken Fried Rice & Egg Roll or Wonton Soup or Egg Drop Soup

雞或蝦炒麵 L 1.	Chow Mein (Chicken or Shrimp) .....	4.25
青蝦牛或雞 L 2.	Pepper Steak or Chicken .....	4.25
芥蘭牛 L 3.	Beef with Broccoli .....	4.25
芥蘭雞 L 4.	Chicken with Broccoli .....	4.25
芥蘭叉燒 L 5.	Roast Pork with Broccoli .....	4.25
魚香蝦 L 6.	Shrimp with Garlic Sauce .....	4.25
芥蘭蝦 L 7.	Shrimp with Broccoli .....	4.25
叉燒香蛋 L 8.	Roast Pork Egg Foo Young .....	4.25
蘑菇雞片 L 9.	Moo Goo Gai Pan .....	4.25
蝦或牛腩麵 L10.	Shrimp or Beef Lo Mein .....	4.25
叉燒或雞腩麵 L11.	Roast Pork or Chicken Lo Mein .....	4.25
蝦雞麵 L12.	Shrimp with Lobster Sauce .....	4.25
魚香雞 L13.	Chicken with Garlic Sauce .....	4.25
魚香牛 L14.	Beef with Garlic Sauce .....	4.25
左宗雞 L15.	General Tso's Chicken .....	4.25
芝麻雞 L16.	Sesame Chicken .....	4.25
腰果雞 L17.	Chicken with Cashew Nuts .....	4.25
甜酸肉或雞 L18.	Sweet & Sour Pork or Chicken .....	4.25
炒什菜 L19.	Mixed Vegetables .....	4.25
白菜蝦 L20.	Shrimp with Chinese Vegetables .....	4.25
白菜牛 L21.	Beef with Chinese Vegetables .....	4.25
雪豆牛 L22.	Beef with Snow Peas .....	4.25
魚香芥蘭 L23.	Broccoli with Garlic Sauce .....	4.25
湖南或四川牛 L24.	Hunan or Szechuan Beef .....	4.25
咖喱雞 L25.	Curry Chicken .....	4.25
宮保雞 L26.	Kung Po Chicken .....	4.25
本樓特選 L27.	House Special Lo Mein .....	4.25

**HOT & SPICY**  
We Can Alter the Spice According to Your Taste!  
You Can Ask for Our Regular Menu During Lunch Hours!



**Martin Luther King or Fifth St. . .** During the debate over the naming of a street in honor of the Rev Dr. Martin Luther King ; Ozie Hall, Councilwoman Rose Glover and Mr Bennie Roundtree(who marched with Dr. King )voiced thier opinions on *"Your Staton"*WOOW1340 AM  
photo by Jim Rouse

**Street Fight . .** A proposal to rebrand King Road after Martin Luther King Jr. has sparked a debate in east San Jose, where mistrust of City Hall runs high

By Allie Gottlieb  
A LAS VEGAS couple's proposal to rename San Jose's King Road after civil rights leader Martin Luther King has begun to stir up a ruckus in the East Side neighborhood, which has large Latino and Asian populations, and a handful of blacks. The emerging controversy has struck a nerve because of what some community members see as city hall's cavalier attitude towards residents and businesses on the neglected street, coming, as it is, on the heels of the city's efforts to redevelop the Tropicana Shopping Center over the objections of the center's owners and tenants. Compounding the issue is the perceived slight of east San Jose's own homegrown national hero, the late Cesar Chavez. Though no city streets are named after him, (though a downtown park is), the Mexican rights and farm labor organizer once lived a few blocks from King Road. He organized meetings and rallies on the street, and for many Latino residents, King Road and Chavez share cultural and historical significance. For them, to rename King Road would disrespect Chavez. Unless, of course, the new name were Cesar Chavez Road. Of course, the issue doesn't divide neatly along ethnic lines and is unlikely to spark a race war. It's not about people

being for or against Martin Luther King Jr. That became clear during discussions with people in the neighborhood—regular folks, not activists—who would be directly affected were the name to change. Most hardly knew about the proposal. Some Latinos were for it; some African Americans were against it; a young Vietnamese-American woman couldn't care less. In

conversations in stores and parking lots, no one came forward to strongly champion the rebranding and there was no sign of community consensus during a short journalistic swing through the neighborhood. "It's a beautiful name," said Salvador Rodriguez, who came from Guanajuato, Mexico. "You've already got one up in Oakland," one Vietnamese man said.



**CITY OF GREENVILLE**  
GET INVOLVED IN CITY GOVERNMENT

**Volunteer Opportunities**

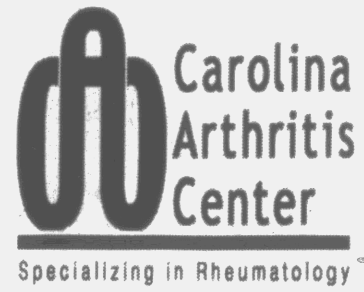
The City of Greenville is accepting applications from volunteers to serve on the following boards and commissions:

- > Affordable Housing Loan Committee
- > Board of Adjustment
- > Citizens Advisory Commission on Cable TV
- > Community Appearance Commission
- > Environmental Advisory Commission
- > Firemen's Relief Fund
- > Greenville Utilities Commission
- > Historic Preservation Commission
- > Housing Authority
- > Human Relations Council
- > Investment Advisory Committee
- > Pitt-Greenville Airport Authority
- > Pitt-Greenville Convention & Visitors Authority
- > Planning & Zoning Commission
- > Police Community Relations Committee
- > Public Transportation & Parking Commission
- > Recreation & Parks Commission
- > Redevelopment Commission
- > Sheppard Memorial Library Board.

If you live inside the city limits of Greenville and would like to be considered for an appointment, please call 329-4423 to obtain a talent bank form to indicate your interest or access a talent bank form on the web at <http://www.greenvillenc.gov>.



**Dr. Kyle Harner**



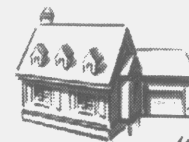
Dr. Helen Harmon and Dr. Betty Harmon welcome Dr. Kyle Harner to Carolina Arthritis Center. **Kyle Harner, MD** received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Duke University in 1993. In 1997, he received his Doctorate of Medicine from the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond. In 2000, Dr. Harner completed his Internal Medicine Residency at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC. He completed his Rheumatology Fellowship in 2004 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He is board certified in Rheumatology and Internal Medicine. Carolina Arthritis Center is located in Greenville, NC. Please call 252-321-8474 for an appointment.

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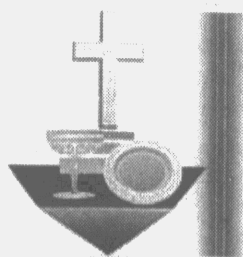
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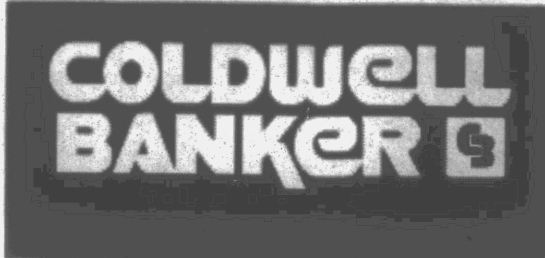
**Offer expires September 29, 2006.**

**From the Greenville, NC area:** Take US-13 to Snow Hill into Goldsboro — Merge right onto US-70W — Take the NC-111N/Williams Street ramp toward US-117BYP N/Wilson — Turn left onto East Hooks River Road — Cross over four-lane highway — Building will be on the right



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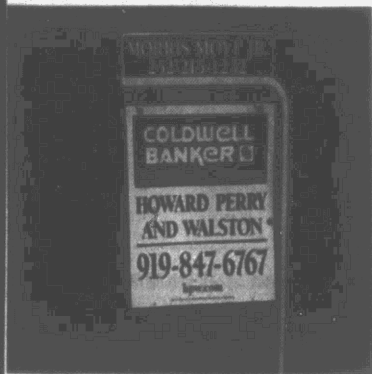
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**New Listing:** 916 Chance Street, Greenville, NC Nice 3 BR/ 2 FB, in Eastwood Sub. large front yard, fenced in backyard detached 2 car garage. \$59, 900. Call Morris or Staci for more info.



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**Ron Isley Gets 3 Years for Tax Evasion**

By Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Ronald Isley has been sentenced to three years and one month in prison for tax evasion. The 65-year-old R&B singer was also ordered to pay \$3.1 million in back taxes to the Internal Revenue Service, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Conte. Isley was convicted last year of five counts of tax evasion and one count of willful failure to file a tax return. During Friday's hearing, defense attorney Anthony Alexander argued that Isley should receive probation instead of prison time because of complications from a stroke and a recent bout with kidney cancer. Alexander also pleaded for

leniency because Isley had been attempting to pay down his IRS debt.

"He's been liquidating assets, he's been doing the things that he can," Alexander said. But U.S. District Judge Dean Pregerson declined to sentence Isley to less time than called for under federal guidelines.

"The term serial tax avoider has been used. I think that's appropriate," Pregerson said. During the trial, prosecutors said Isley, lead singer of The Isley Brothers, avoided paying taxes numerous times in the past three decades and declared bankruptcy after the IRS seized his yacht, cars and other property in 1997. He was discharged from bankruptcy four years later, but then did not file tax returns for the years 1997 to 2001 and in 2002 did not sign his return and failed to pay all taxes due. Alexander argued during the

trial that "unfortunate circumstances" such as the deaths of two of Isley's accountants made him unable to get records together and pay taxes during the years that led to the criminal charges. Isley's recent albums include a 2003 collaboration with Burt Bacharach titled, "Here I Am," and The Isley Brothers album "Body Kiss." He was expected to be sent to a Bureau of Prisons hospital facility.



(AP) photo

**More Great News about North Carolina's National College Savings Program**

**A State Income Tax Deduction.**

Beginning in 2006, qualified taxpayers may deduct a portion of their contributions to North Carolina's 529 plan. In 2007, the deduction allowed will more than double.

**Tax-Free Earnings Continue.**

Congress has made a short-term tax benefit for 529 plans permanent. Your account earnings used for qualified college expenses will remain free from federal income taxes (and state too).



For details on North Carolina's 529 plan, visit [CFNC.org/Savings](http://CFNC.org/Savings) or call 800-600-3453.



To learn more about North Carolina's National College Savings Program, its investment objectives, risks, and costs, read the Program Description available from CFNC.org. The availability of tax benefits may be conditioned on meeting certain requirements. If you are not a North Carolina taxpayer, consider before investing whether your or the beneficiary's home state offers any state tax or other benefits associated with investing in that state's qualified tuition program.

# Birthday Bash At Philippi Missionary Baptist Church



# Apartheid-Era Minister Washes Feet of Black Church Leader

Apartheid-Era Minister Washes Feet of Black Church Leader  
Special to the NNPA from GIN

In an extraordinary act of contrition, an apartheid-era cabinet minister has washed the feet of a Black church leader he allegedly tried to have murdered.

One-time law and order minister Adriaan Vlok, in an act evoking Jesus Christ who washed the feet of his guests after the Last Supper, performed the humbling gesture on the Rev. Frank Chikane, a senior official in the South African presidency.

The unusual act occurred last month in a private meeting between the two but was disclosed over the weekend by Rev. Chikane.

Chikane, who came close to death when his clothes were dipped in poison in the late 1980s, said Vlok arrived at his office and handed him a Bible with the message "I have sinned against the Lord

and against you, please forgive me (John 13:15)" on its cover. It immediately reignited debate in South Africa over whether South African whites have gone far enough to show repentance for the abuses of apartheid.

Eddie Makue, general secretary of the South African Church Council, commended Vlok, but said he and his former government colleagues still owed the South African people a full confession.

"Many high-ranking members of the former government failed to participate unreservedly in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process. As a result, we are left with many unanswered questions concerning responsibility for gross human rights violations during the apartheid years."

Vlok and "others with knowledge of these crimes" must demonstrate their repentance by identifying those responsible and apologizing to the victims,

Makue said.

Meanwhile the African Christian Democratic Party's Rev. Kenneth Meshoe said it took a "real man of courage to say 'I am sorry'". He saluted Chikane for allowing Vlok to wash his feet and for accepting the apology.

"He showed how those who have been wronged should respond to those who caused them pain. It is not every person that has the guts and humility to ask for forgiveness when they have done wrong. There are husbands who would rather see their marriages end in divorce than ask their wives for forgiveness when they have erred," he said.

Vlok, the police commissioner and nine police officers were granted amnesty from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for their role in a series of bomb scares at local theaters in July 1988, designed to prevent the film "Cry Freedom" about Steve Biko from being screened.

# 25th Annual Labor Day Family Reunion



**Real Reunion . . .** This years Gospel Reunion was moving to all and it wouldn't have been a reunion without the everfaithful Edward Sisters. The Edward Sisters gave glory to God as they sang from their latest release. We can always count on them to bring in the Holy Spirit in song while some groups only sing for the dollar.

photo Michael Adams

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## Physicians East welcomes Joanne Matthews, MD

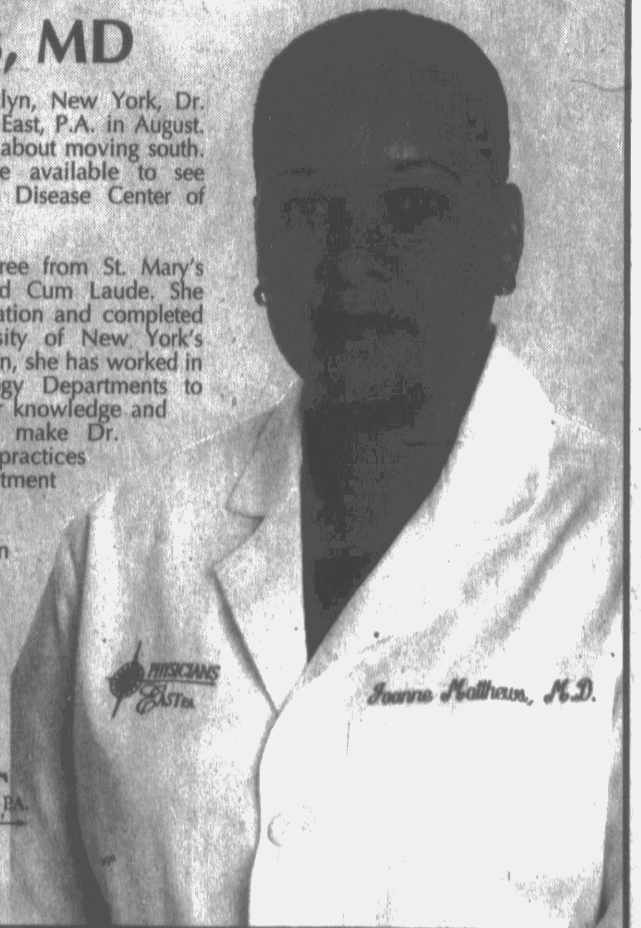
After spending the last ten years in Brooklyn, New York, Dr. Joanne Matthews will be joining Physicians East, P.A. in August. With family in NC, Dr. Matthews is excited about moving south. Starting August 1, Dr. Matthews will be available to see Gastroenterology patients in the Digestive Disease Center of Physicians East on Arlington Blvd.

Dr. Matthews received her Bachelor's degree from St. Mary's University in Canada where she graduated Cum Laude. She returned to the States to continue her education and completed her medical degree at The State University of New York's Downstate Medical Center in 1999. Since then, she has worked in the Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology Departments to complete her residency and fellowships. Her knowledge and experience working in the medical field make Dr. Matthews an excellent addition to the private practices of Physicians East. To schedule a GI appointment with Dr. Matthews, please call 252-413-6260.

With offices in Greenville, Farmville, Grifton and Winterville, Physicians East, P.A., is the area's premier private, multi-specialty health care practice. For over 40 years, our physicians and staff have built a reputation for excellence in patient care. For more information, please visit our website at www.physicianseast.com.

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Minority Voice Sept. 8 - 23 p8  
**Scholarship Winner.....**



Joshua Fox recently won the Richard B. Johnson Scholarship Award by Pitt County North Carolina A & T

State University Alumni Chapter. The Scholarship is given in honor of Richard B. Johnson who served as President of the Pitt County Chapter for nine years. He was an educator and citizen of Bethel. He was also the late husband of Mrs. Juanita Johnson, a member of the Pitt County A & T Chapter. Joshua maintained about a B+ average at the Ayden-Grifton High School, graduating in the class of 2006. He has been accepted at NC A & T State University, in Greensboro, NC.

**Cathy Hughes**

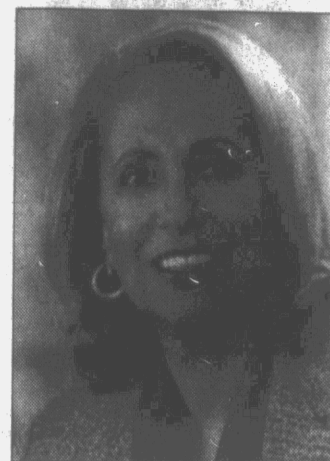
**“The First Black Woman of Communications”**

She is who she is, did what she did, knows who she is and what she wants— and usually gets it — she is Cathy L. Hughes, the founder and the force behind Radio One and TV One. And even though TV One is a relative newcomer to the world of television, the name “One” signifies the first, the pioneer and the trailblazer who leads the way so that others may follow. Hughes’ “stick-to-

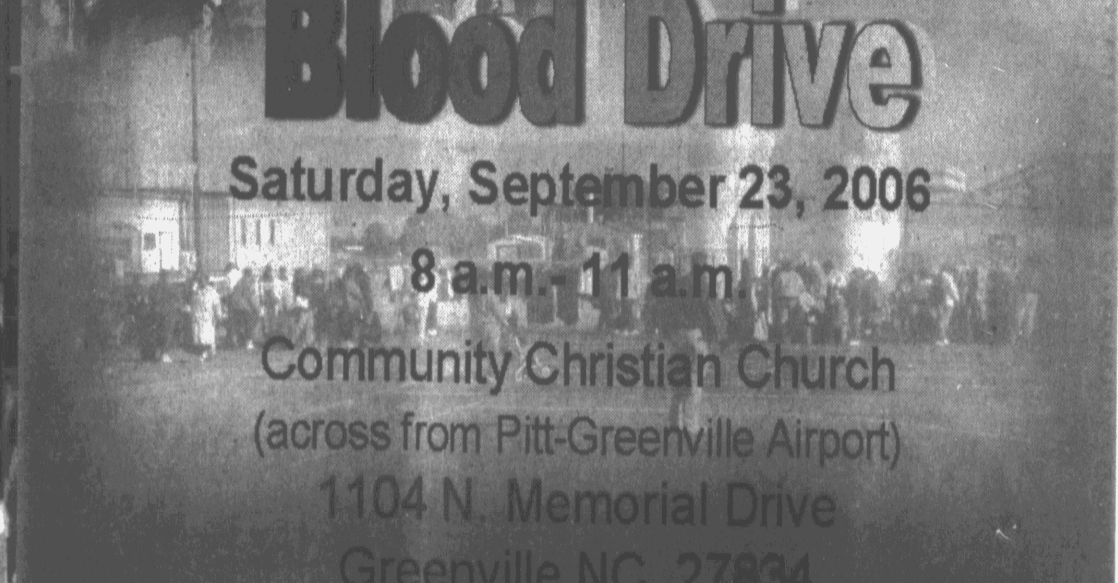
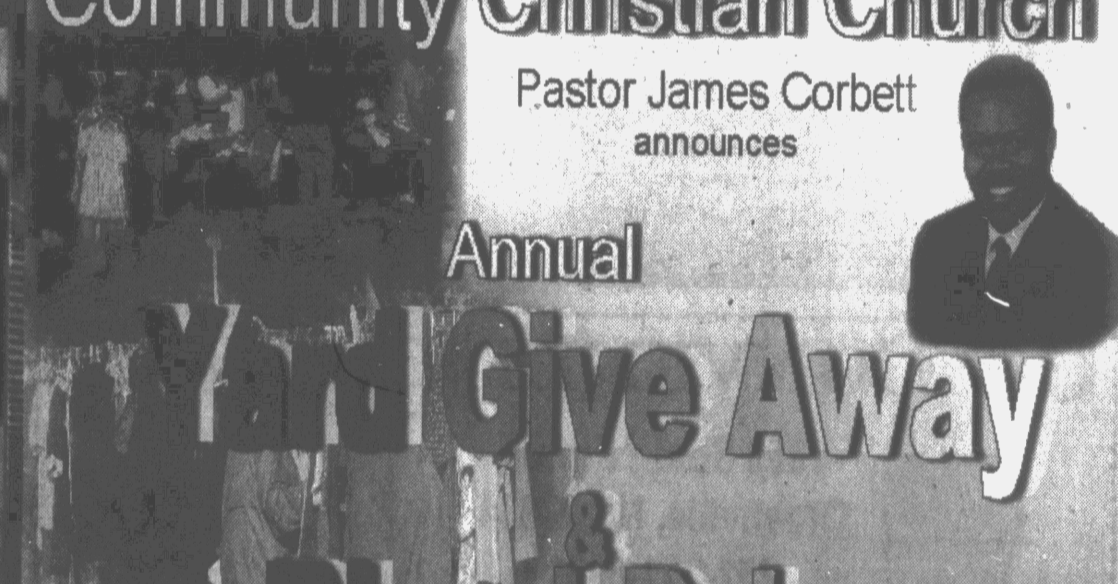
it-tive-ness,” determination and drive in apparent. She was reportedly denied by 32 banks when seeking a loan to purchase her first radio station, WOL-AM, in 1980. Now she owns over 60 radio stations and has moved into cable televisions as TV One, a channel, aimed primarily at African Americans. Hughes is the chairwoman of Radio One and her son,

Alfred Liggins is the president and CEO. She is the first African American woman to head a company on the New York stock exchange. Her Initial Public Offering (IPO), in May 1999, represented the largest black-owned broadcast corporation, and the 16th largest media company in the United States. Hughes’ WOL-AM, is the most listened to talk radio in the nation’s capital.

It pioneered the innovative format—“24 hour Talk from a Black Perspective.”



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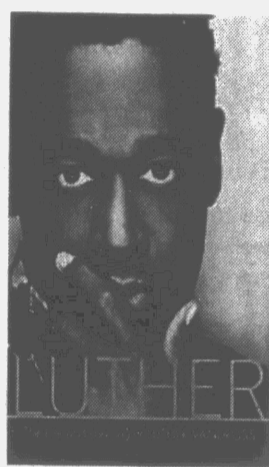
# 25th Annual Labor Day - Gospel Family Reunion



## Luther's life was a fascinating one

By Tim Butler

The Ultimate Luther Vandross, a CD package that is the first-ever collection of the singer's hits on J and Epic Records, is out in stores now. The package contains 18 tracks and includes two previously unreleased cuts, Shine and Got You Home. In case this is not enough for die-hard Luther fans, the book Luther: The Life and Longing of Luther Vandross may help satisfy the craving...



### GET INVOLVED IN CITY GOVERNMENT!

The City of Greenville is accepting applications from volunteers to serve on the following boards and commissions: Affordable Housing Loan Committee, Board of Adjustment, Citizens Advisory Commission on Cable TV, Community Appearance Commission, Environmental Advisory Commission, Firemen's Relief Fund, Greenville Utilities Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, Housing Authority, Human Relations Council, Investment Advisory Committee, Pitt-Greenville Airport Authority, Pitt-Greenville Convention & Visitors Authority, Planning & Zoning Commission, Police Community Relations Committee, Public Transportation & Parking Commission, Recreation & Parks Commission, Redevelopment Commission and Sheppard Memorial Library Board.

If you live inside the city limits of Greenville and would like to be considered for an appointment, please call 329-4423 to obtain a talent bank form to indicate your interest or access a talent bank form on the web at <http://www.greenvillenc.gov>.

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There are two great ways to play, a \$1 Powerball ticket or a \$2 Powerball ticket with Power Play™. The Power Play feature allows you the chance to MULTIPLY your non-jackpot winnings up to 5 times, depending on the Power Play number selected for that night's draw. (This includes all prizes except the Jackpot.)

**Selecting Your Numbers**  
Once you've chosen Powerball or Power Play, picking your numbers is easy; you can play your favorite numbers or ask the retailer for "Quick Pick" and have the computer select your numbers for you!

Be sure to check your numbers and verify your ticket cost prior to purchase. A Powerball ticket CANNOT be cancelled by the retailer after it is generated.

**How do I Find Out the Winning Numbers?**  
Watch the drawings every Wednesday and Saturday night on the official lottery drawing stations.

For questions or additional information on Powerball, including how to claim your winnings, contact PLAYER SERVICES at 877-962-7529 or visit our web site.

For location of your nearest retailer:  
[nc-educationlottery.org](http://nc-educationlottery.org)



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	Jackpot*	1 in 146,107,962
	\$200,000**	1 in 3,563,609
	\$10,000**	1 in 584,432
	\$100**	1 in 14,254
	\$100**	1 in 11,927
	\$7**	1 in 291
	\$7**	1 in 745
	\$4**	1 in 127
	\$3**	1 in 69

### Power Play™ Prizes and Odds

Multiplier of 2 (2x)	Multiplier of 3 (3x)	Multiplier of 4 (4x)	Multiplier of 5 (5x)
\$400,000	\$600,000	\$800,000	\$1,000,000
\$20,000	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$50,000
\$200	\$300	\$400	\$500
\$200	\$300	\$400	\$500
\$14	\$21	\$28	\$35
\$14	\$21	\$28	\$35
\$8	\$12	\$16	\$20
\$6	\$9	\$12	\$15

The approximate overall odds of winning a prize are 1 in 36.6.

\* The jackpot prize is estimated and will be divided equally among all winning tickets for that prize level. The jackpot can be paid out either as a lump sum payment or an annuity payout over 29 years (or 30 payments).

\*\* Some or all of the prizes may become pari-mutuel under certain circumstances as defined in the game rules.

### Playslip Instructions

Mark "Yes" here for Power Play™ to multiply your non-Jackpot prize.

You can choose to play up to 52 consecutive drawings by selecting the number of draws here.

Select five numbers from this top area. (1-55)

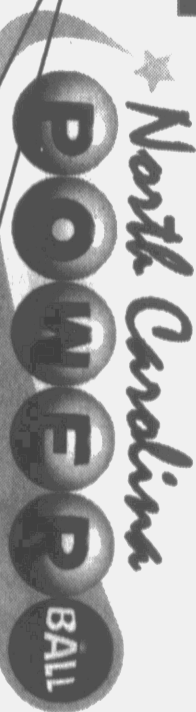
Select one POWERBALL number (1-42) from this lower area.

Mark this box in each panel to VOID the numbers selected.

Mark either or both of these QP boxes if you want the computer terminal to randomly choose your numbers for you.

POWERBALL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7					
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- > Greenville Utilities Commission
- > Historic Preservation Commission
- > Housing Authority
- > Human Relations Council
- > Investment Advisory Committee
- > Pitt-Greenville Airport Authority
- > Pitt-Greenville Convention & Visitors Authority
- > Planning & Zoning Commission
- > Police Community Relations Committee
- > Public Transportation & Parking Commission
- > Recreation & Parks Commission
- > Redevelopment Commission
- > Sheppard Memorial Library Board.

If you live inside the city limits of Greenville and would like to be considered for an appointment, please call 329-4423 to obtain a talent bank form to indicate your interest or access a talent bank form on the web at <http://www.greenvillenc.gov>.



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Attorney At Law

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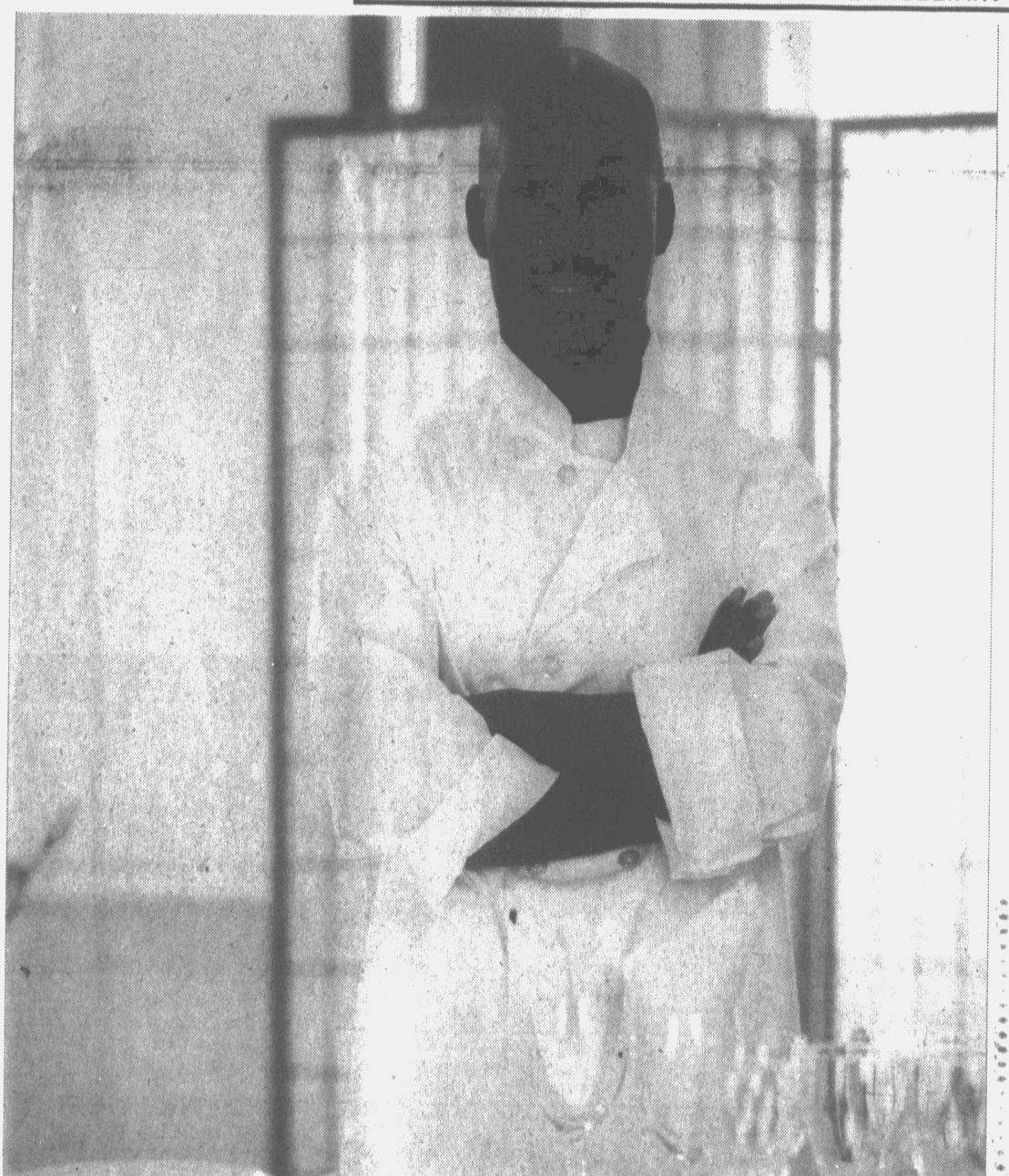
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# The NAACP Corner

The delegates from the recent 97th Annual National Association for Advancement of Colored People National Convention from Pitt County returned motivated, fired up and ready to run with the Torch burning bright in the continuous struggle for Freedom and Equality for all people. Our newly elected CEO Bruce S. Gordon reminded all present that African Americans have made great strides in this country, but there are still civil rights battles to be fought. The attempt by some members of Congress to stall a vote on extending the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is one example of why the NAACP must continue to exist and to prosper.

On the state and local level of the NAACP we are excited about our upcoming NAACP State Convention which will be held in Goldsboro, NC, October 12-14 at the Goldsboro-Raleigh District Assembly, 211 West Hooks River Road. We invite all our members and Non-members to join us at this convention.

Yes, this is an Election Year and our local Branch is actively involved in voter registration and voter Education. Voter Registration is our #1 priority over the next sixty or more days left before election day. We must all work unselfishly to increase voter registration utilizing every tool at our disposal.

This have been another busy year for the Pitt County Branch. We congratulate all our youth who are returning to school and the recipients of this year's NAACP Scholarships. There were scholarships awarded to seniors from every high school in Pitt County. Our youth under the leadership of Walter and Mildred Council also had a very active and busy summer participating in various leaderships and training programs. We also welcome Ms. Ann Huggins who was recently elected to head our "WIN" program, that stands for "Women in the NAACP". Ms Huggins will be reaching out in order to build women involvement in the NAACP

and sending out a special plea to all women.

We are looking forward for an exciting year with our youth and college branch which is located on the campus of ECU, under the direction and leadership of Dr. Reginald Watson.

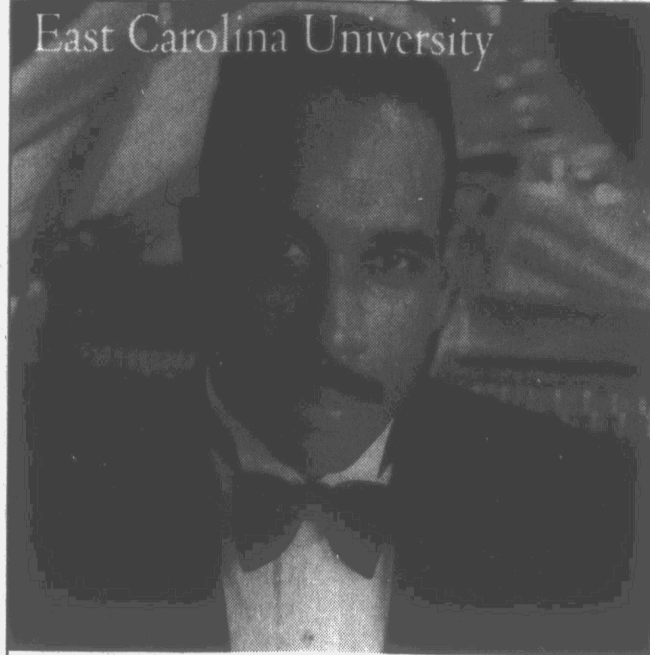
We welcome all our new members and those who helped us at our booth at the recent Labor Day celebration presented by Mr. Jim Rouse and WOOW. We send a special thanks out to our youth who worked very hard and faithful.

Pitt County Branch NAACP will be hosting the District Meeting of District #14 of NAACP on October 21, 2006 at 9:45 am. The District Chairman is Mr. D.D. Garrett. It will be held at West Greenville Resource Center, Nash Street.

We encourage you to join the fight for freedom and join your local branch of NAACP  
**President**  
**Calvin Henderson**

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### Reflections on Brown v. Board of Education

A lecture and concert

Sunday, September 17

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Leon Bates is an internationally acclaimed pianist, noted for his Ellington and Gershwin programs. His remarks about Brown v. Board of Education are offered from an historical perspective, peppered with personal knowledge of the case. He reviews the past as well as the sweeping and long-term benefit to minorities, especially African Americans, whose lives and careers were profoundly altered when the Supreme Court declared that "separate but equal" is not permitted under the constitution.



Individuals with disabilities who require accommodation under ADA should contact the Department for Disability Support Services at 252-328-4802 (voice/TTY) at least forty-eight hours prior to the start of the program.

## Blacks Looking to Represent White Districts Create Mixed Feelings

by Hazel Trice Edney  
NNPA Washington Correspondent

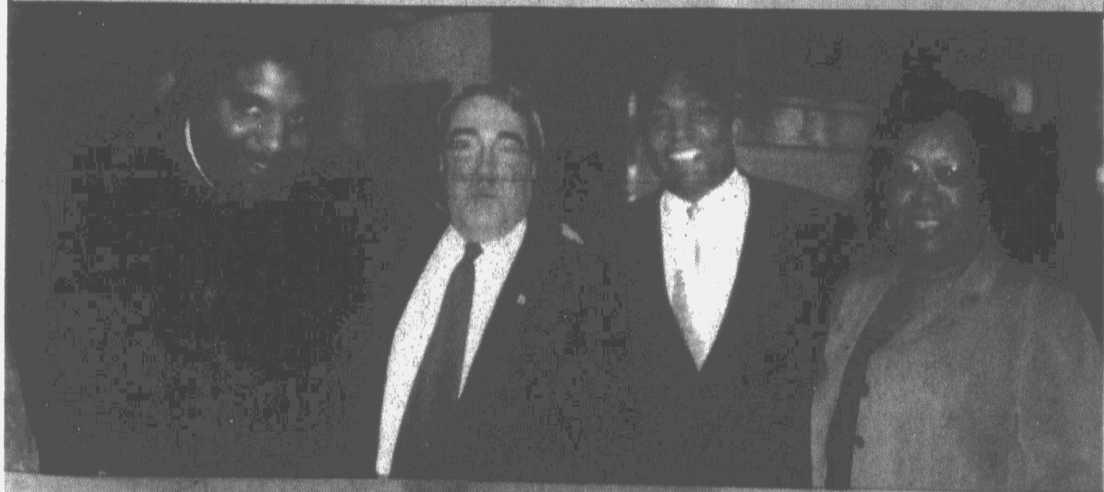
WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Having gained control over most predominantly Black political districts, an increasing number of African-Americans are campaigning to represent majority Whites districts.

While some view that trend as progress, others worry that the Black community may lose clout in the process.

"As districts begin to reflect a broader, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic orientation, the leadership, in order to get elected, begins to reflect both political realities. And there are consequences," says U. S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-III.).

"The consequences include less emphasis on programs that directly or proportionately affect African-Americans. We start talking about programs that affect all Americans. I'm not saying that's necessarily a bad idea because it requires leadership to talk about issues that reflect all Americans. But Black folk have got some real needs out here that need to be addressed."

# NAACP State Convention



## 63rd Annual NC NAACP State Convention

Civil Rights 101 - Back to the BASICS



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## VALUING OUR VOTES

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Go online [www.naacpnc.org](http://www.naacpnc.org)

Amina J. Turner, Executive Director

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, State President

# North Carolina Mutual To Celebrate Life Insurance Awareness Month

Hosting events at its Durham headquarters and throughout the region  
Durham, NC

North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company will sponsor a number of community-related activities in the state and region during September, which is Life Insurance Awareness Month. A highlight will be the opening of a historical exhibition at its headquarters focusing on women at North Carolina Mutual, titled *Poise and Perseverance: A Celebration of Mutual Women*. That event will be held at 3:00 p.m., Saturday, September 30. North Carolina Mutual has partnered with the Life and Health Insurance Foundation for Education (LIFE) to sponsor the unveiling and reception. The public is invited.

"We have to do much more to stress the importance of financial planning and wealth building in the African-American community and protecting our families when they lose loved ones," said James H. Speed, Jr., President and CEO of North Carolina Mutual. "Recent statistics released by LIMRA International, a respected insurance industry research organization, show that one in four men and one in three

women have no life insurance coverage," he said. "In addition, 48 million U.S. households either don't own life insurance and believe they should, or own life insurance and believe that they need more."

North Carolina will be a sponsor of the AME Zion Church conference in Charlotte, September 12-15. Tuesday, September 19, at 6:00 p.m., North Carolina Mutual will offer another program in its Financial Literacy Series, *Conversations with the President: James Speed talks about economic empowerment*, at its corporate headquarters in Durham. The public is invited. North Carolina Mutual will sponsor *Breakfast in the Park*, a monthly breakfast roundtable hosted by Business Leader Magazine, at the Radisson Governors Inn, RTP, on Thursday, September 21 at 7:30 a.m. September 21-24, North Carolina Mutual will be a sponsor at the Tennessee NAACP State Convention in Memphis. Tuesday, September 26, at 5:30 p.m. North Carolina Mutual will host an open house for its Memphis region policyholders and other partners at 2650 Thousand Oaks Business Park in Memphis. The company will also host a number of faith-

related events in North Carolina and Tennessee during September. North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company offers a wide variety of insurance products, including life, accident and health, dental and disability through group plans for both large and small organizations and through individual policies. Since its founding 108 years ago in Durham, North Carolina Mutual has built a reputation for financial stability and the personalized service it provides its policyholders. It has policyholders in 24 states and the District of Columbia and more than \$12 billion of insurance in force. North Carolina Mutual insures almost 2.5 million people through its individual life line and employee group plans. Its headquarters is at 411 West Chapel Hill Street in Durham. The Life and Health Insurance Foundation for Education (LIFE) was founded in 1994 in response to the public's growing need for information and education on life, health, disability and long-term care insurance. LIFE also reminds people of the important role insurance professionals perform in helping families, businesses and individuals find the insurance products that best fit their needs.

## Famous Firsts by Hispanic Americans

U.S. Treasurer: Romana Acosta Bañuelos, 1971-1974.  
U.S. cabinet member: Lauro F. Cavazos, 1988-1990, Secretary of Education. U.S. Surgeon General: Antonia Coello Novello, 1990-1993. She was also the first woman ever to hold the position. U.S. Secretary of Transportation

The Time To Think About Insurance Is Before You Need It

## Barbara Dail Adams

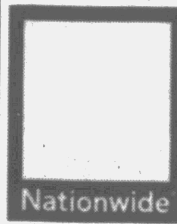
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## MINORITIES AND THE POOR MOST AFFECTED BY HEALTH CARE FRAUD

By Rev. Ozie Lee Hall, Jr.



Over 46 million Americans do not have health insurance coverage. The vast majority of these individuals are ethnic minorities. Many Doctors blame rising health care cost on medical malpractice lawsuits, but health care fraud committed by Doctors may be the real cause of rising health care cost. The U.S. Congress has debated placing caps on the amount of money that victims of medical malpractice can recover from Doctors in lawsuits. It is argued that rising medical malpractice insurance cost are responsible for the increase in health insurance premiums. Many are led to believe that the working poor are priced out of the health care market due to these lawsuits. Study after study has shown that there is no significant increase in the number of people recovering large sums of money in medical malpractice lawsuits. Medical malpractice insurance companies are earning record profits.

It has been estimated that the health care industry loses up to \$100 billion per year as a result of health care fraud. Health care fraud occurs when Doctors overcharge insurance companies by up coding services or from billing for services they did not perform. Some Doctors have organized kick-back schemes with laboratories, home health organizations or other business entities in which they have a financial interest. They refer patients for services the patient does not really need. The Doctor sends them because the Doctor earns money by making the referral. There are many forms of health care fraud. Some argue that health care fraud is a victimless crime. That is not true. When health insurance companies are defrauded the cost is passed on to the consumer and results in higher health insurance premiums. Due to the higher cost many families cannot afford health insurance and many children go uncovered.

Often the elderly are the victims of health care fraud. In fact, anyone can be targeted by unscrupulous Doctors for health care fraud. Does your Doctor get you to sign a charge slip before you receive services? Does your Doctor give you a copy of the charge slip to take home? Does your Doctor bill your insurance for services you don't remember receiving? Does your Doctor get you to make frequent appointment for things that could be done in one visit?

The money lost in one year due to health care fraud could make a significant impact on reducing the number of Americans that lack health insurance coverage. As citizens we should learn about health care fraud and take the time to report it. When a juvenile shoplifts at the mall we all pay higher prices. Shoplifters are targeted by law enforcement agencies and stores. They often go to jail.

Health care fraud is sometimes difficult to detect and even more difficult and costly to prosecute. Many Doctors and health care facilities, including Hospitals, take advantage of the fact that health care fraud is least likely to be investigated and even less likely to be prosecuted. Unless the community becomes aware of health care fraud and works together to put an end to it Doctors will continue to steal an estimate \$100 billion dollars per year and leave the working poor without means to meet their health care needs.

The health care billing system is in need of major reforms. Doctors submit diagnosis codes and services codes to insurance companies and insurance companies send them payments. It is estimated that only about one percent of health insurance payment claims are audited each year. Most Doctors know that it is very unlikely that anyone will ever check behind them to see if they really performed the services they claimed when they submitted the bill to the insurance company.

Most Doctors are probably honest people dedicated to helping people. But consider that many Doctors graduate from school after many years of sacrifice and hard work sometime owing hundreds of thousands of dollars in student loans. When confronted with the opportunities to earn money by billing for patient services and the realization that no one is watching some Doctors just get overwhelmed. This small percentage of Doctors who engage in health care fraud hurts us all and must be stopped.

The Office of Inspector of General for Medicare and Medicaid has proposed that Doctors offices develop or contract Compliance Programs to detect irregularities. These Compliance Programs help protect the public and insurance companies and they also help Doctors run more efficient practices and better manage resources. Does your Doctors office have a voluntary Compliance Program?

Let's stop health care fraud and leave Americans with the right to recover damages from Doctors who injure them through committing medical malpractice.

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## Old, new moves mix in Idlewild

By Tim Butler

What's up with the dance craze of late? It seems every time you turn around, there's a new movie or television show competition wrapped around the concept of dancing. Dancing has become the big thing in Hollywood...

Old, new moves mix in Idlewild

Idlewild

What's up with the dance craze of late? It seems every time you turn around, there's a new movie or television show competition wrapped around the concept of dancing. Dancing has become the big thing in Hollywood.

Jumping on that bandwagon, but taking the idea to a whole other level is the new movie Idlewild, starring Big Boi and Andre 3000 of the multi-platinum-selling music group OutKast. An all-star cast, including Terrence Howard (Hustle & Flow), join the duo in bringing this original musical experience to the big screen. Unique about this effort, is that the story is set in the 1930s, with music that has a feel of the olden days but also more than a touch of today's hip hop appeal. It's totally different from anything you would expect.

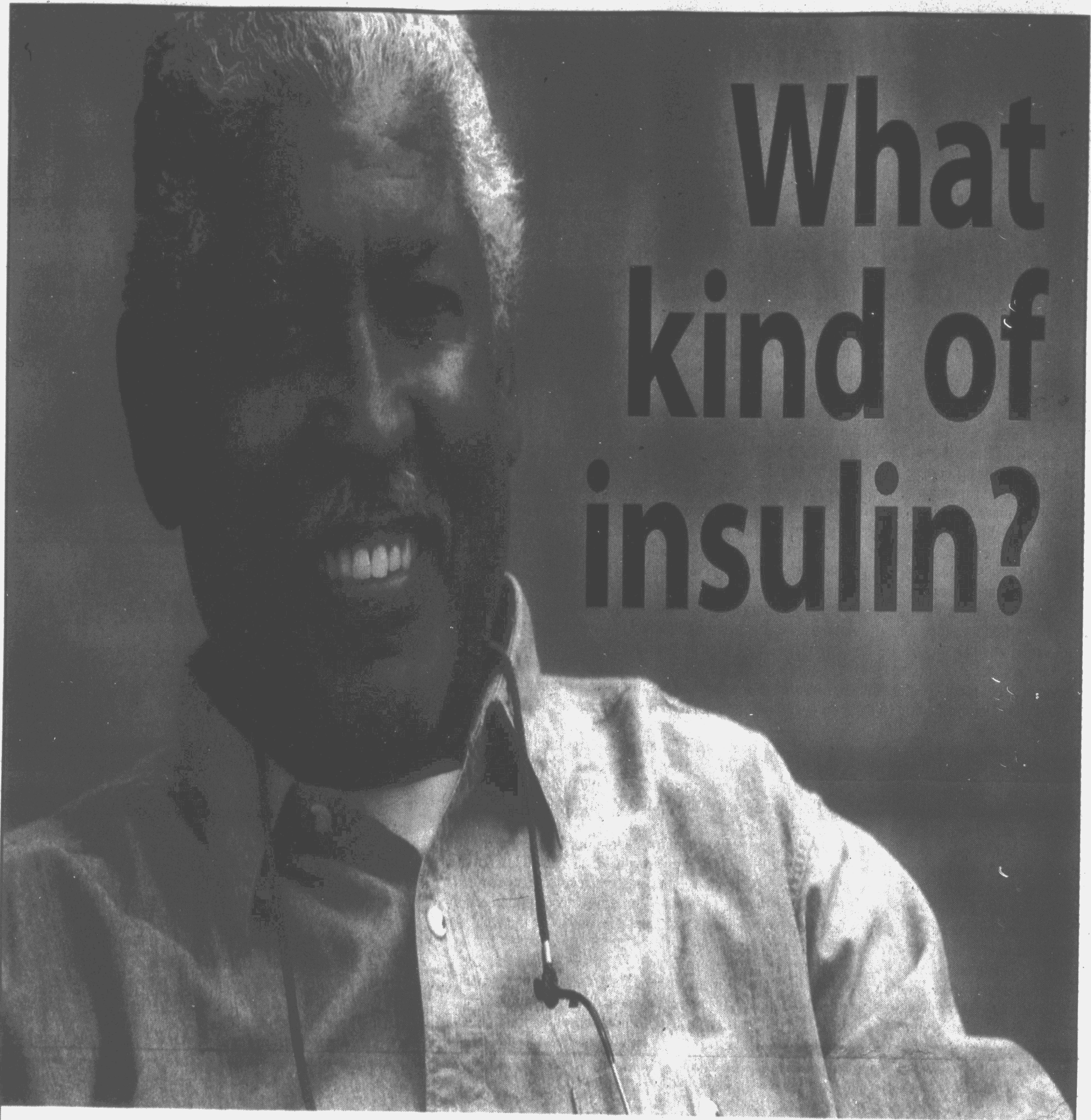
Andre 3000 has been quoted as saying, "The movie is pretty much every genre. It has drama, action, music, comedy, a love story and gangsters. On top of that, we are styling. It takes place in the 30s, so we are impeccably dressed." Much of his wardrobe for the movie came courtesy of Giorgio Armani.

Much of the action in Idlewild centers around a nightclub where anything goes: there's plenty of hustling, drinking, and partying. It's a fun place, until something goes wrong.

Highlighting the film's dramatic action are lavish dance numbers choreographed by three-time Tony winner Hinton Battle. Unique with Battle, is that he manages to combine old styles of dance with moves of today.

Among those making appearances in the film are Macy Gray, Patti LaBelle, Faizon Love, Ving Rhames, Paula Jai Parker, and Cicely Tyson.

Idlewild is playing at theaters everywhere.



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