

Journalist Murder News: Black Muslims Hated, Hunted Chris Thompson

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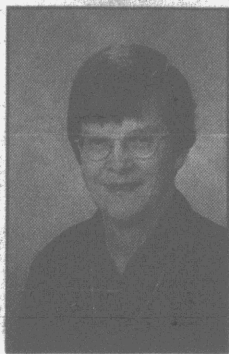
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August 2007 Issue

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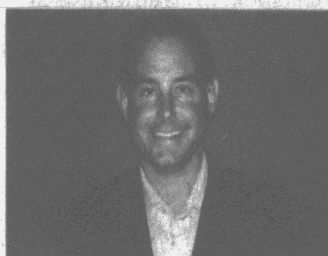
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Vol XXXII
August 2007

MINORITY VOICE

Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce

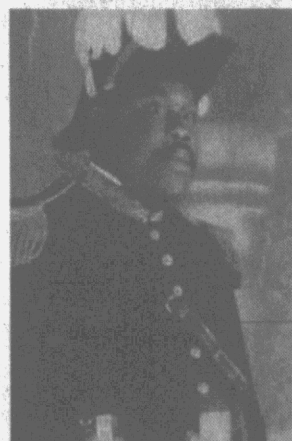


PAT DUNN FOR MAYOR
pg11



CHIP LITTLE FOR MAYOR
pg5

Marcus Mosiah Garvey, Jr., National Hero of Jamaica was born on August 17, 1887 and died June 10, 1940



NAACP FILES LAWSUIT ALLEGING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

NOT MY DOG !!!



pg9

READ THE M'VOICE



Black - Owned Construction Company The Choice Of Newly Renovated College Campuses

Greenville-Pitt C Chamber of Com

Submitted By Staff
Burney & Burney

On 8/24/06, Burney & Burney Construction Co., Inc. came out of the bidding office on ECU's campus as the lowest bidder for the ECU-North Recreational Complex project located on Highway 264 E. Burney & Burney accomplished two things that day: Being the lowest bidder & becoming one of the few black contractors to ever receive this size of an award from ECU. Burney & Burney has in the past performed work for ECU, but no where near this magnitude; however they are teaming on a project to construct a Coastal Studies Institute in Manteo, NC for ECU. Mr. Owen Burney, President of Burney & Burney stated, "This is not the first large job we bid through the UNC - System or at ECU." Burney & Burney's states blessings do not come from any system, it comes from our Lord Savior Jesus Christ! This maybe a record for ECU in awarding this size contract to a minority; however, by no means is this type of contract similar in Charlotte, NC. Mr. Burney comments, that this project has been in great opportunity to highlight Burney & Burney's management & organizational skills to bring together a successful team who will complete this project months ahead of the scheduled completion date & within budget.

ECU-North Recreational Complex project contains approximately 70 acres which will include a 6 acre lake to be used

for fishing, small craft boating, 4 rugby fields, 4 soccer fields, an artificial beach, a toilet facility, maintenance & storage facility, concession stand & more than 400 parking spaces. This is only Phase I of the project; the next phase will include another 60 acres to include 4 additional soccer fields, 4 baseball diamonds, 4 tennis courts, a golf course, a 3-story recreational building, a boat dock, volley ball area on the extended beach & a natural walking trail. Burney & Burney's project manager Dallas Peele and Superintendent, Michael Rodgers both agrees that "during the construction of this project, we have been proactive with planning and scheduling of all contracted work. We have had a good working relationship with ECU and the designer with 75% of work completed." Mr. Burney added that "We are blessed to have an opportunity to build this project in our community & to serve others like this one in our home town. We want other minorities to know — Yes, it's hard out here, but you've got to keep believing and shaking the bushes until something falls; when it falls (and it will fall if you are a true believer) please do not forget who made it possible — God!" Burney & Burney states "ECU will receive not only a completed project, but a project that was built with Quality from Start to finish!"



Organ Donor Drive A Success At WOOW

by Jamie Williams
The Daily Reflector

Thursday, August 02, 2007
Wednesday's Minority Organ Donor Drive met all of organizer Dwain Cooper's expectations.

Dwain Cooper talked with Sheik Abdulai about organ donation outside of the WOOW Radio Station on Evans Street on Wednesday. The downtown location helped draw people, organizer Dwain Cooper said. Cooper, the community relations director with Carolina Donor Services, said that close to 30 people registered to become organ donors at the event, held at WOOW Radio, 405 Evans St.

Many more people stopped by to ask questions, he said. The questions were answered on air. "I'd say it was a big success; we had pretty steady traffic coming in all day," Cooper said.

Cooper said it was important to get people's questions answered at the event.

The organ donor drive meant to increase the numbers of organ donors in the black and Hispanic populations. The location was perfect, said Cooper, because it drew in people who may have been going into other downtown businesses. Free ice cream also was provided to people who signed a donor card.



Donor Drive ... Dwain Cooper, (rear right) poses for a moment with fellow crew members of Carolina Organ Donor Services in front of radio station WOOW in Greenville staff photo

"We were getting people in from the other businesses around, they were shopping around and then stopped by," he said. "I think the ice cream truck must have helped."

Payday lenders fight back Town meetings set to educate DC residents on lending practices

Payday lenders fight back
Town meetings set to educate DC residents on lending practices

By: Valeneia Mohammad
AFRO Staff Writer

In July, the Council of the District of Columbia passed the first reading of the Payday Loan Consumer Protection Act of 2007 that modifies the payday loan interest rate. Originally, the legislation, co-introduced by DC Councilwoman Mary Cheh (D-Ward 3) and

Marion S. Barry (D - Ward 8) amended the Check Cashers Act of 1998 in order to restrict certain lending practices conducted by payday loan businesses. It included a cap on the interest applied to payday loans not to exceed 24%. However, Barry abstained from voting on the legislation, saying it needed additional provisions to protect all interested parties. "Payday lending is a serious issue for a growing number of consumers in the District of Columbia," said Cheh. A decade ago, these kinds of lenders were nonexistence. Today, there are more than 22,000 nationwide.

"There are more payday lending shops in this country than there are McDonald's," said Cheh. In the District, a 61 square mile has about 50 payday lending shops. According to research, payday lending exists because of a loophole in the check cashing statute, which exempts payday lenders from the APR caps that govern commercial loans. "When you take the fees the payday lenders charge consumers and look at them on an annualized basis, you find the consumers are being charged triple-digit interest rates. The District consumers pay an average of 340% APR on payday loans," said Cheh. Some payday lending critics said the interest rate charged

100 WOMEN IN RED



OPINION

Black People, Where Are Our Priorities? Dogfighting vs. 14 Counts of Child Porn

Editorial:

EDITORIAL: RACE MATTERS - Council, Glover Right To Highlight Report
The Daily Reflector Fri, August 10, 2007

Greenville Councilwomen Rose Glover and Mildred Council were correct at Monday's meeting when they said they are often accused of injecting race into the public discourse. In truth, they often see city issues through the prism of race, a perspective that is important to consider when appropriate. However, when employed without reason, that tactic can turn people away from issues that have a clear racial component and deserve widespread attention and concern. It can delay progress when it is most needed, which harms their constituents and the city. In a report released last month, the National Community Reinvestment Coalition used 2005 records to rank metropolitan areas for the frequency residents received high-cost, or subprime, loans. The group's findings are startling as they show that minorities in Greenville were 3.56 times more likely to receive a high-cost loan than whites, a figure that ranked the city third in the nation. The report further suggests that race is a determining factor, since the disparity between demographic groups widens even as income increases. At Monday's City Council meeting, Glover and Council expressed alarm at the findings and called for their colleagues to help them address their concerns. The two women are more than justified in their anger. They represent minority constituents, many of whom are the likely targets of this type of predatory lending. And there can be no better example of an important time to highlight the issue of race in a public debate. Now, four months after calling out their fellow council members as prejudiced and racist during a debate about honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., they expect those same members to leap into action. Make no mistake: This issue is a serious affront to dignity and reason. If the report is correct, black city residents are being bilked by bankers in this community purely on the basis of skin color. That offense demands action, by elected officials in the city as well as this community's delegations to Raleigh and Washington, D.C. But when Glover and Council employ race as a weapon without justification or label those who disagree with them as racists, they erect barriers to cooperation when it is most needed. It is unfair to those who serve this city in good conscience, and to those who participate in the public discourse but have honest disagreement with their viewpoints. Both women are capable and experienced public servants who bring an important perspective to the City Council, and they should continue to use their platforms to highlight injustice. This report is an excellent example, and they were right to sound the alarm. But they must

BY JASMYNE A. CANNICK

I have always believed that there are two kinds of people in this world, those who get it and those who don't.

I have carefully watched the media try to turn Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick's dogfighting woes into a racial issue by blaming hip-hop and inner-city violence. We just can't win in the hood. As if there aren't dogfights, cockfights, snake fights and more going on in trailer parks around the country that don't involve blacks. And while hip-hop can be blamed for many of our social issues, I don't think dogfighting is one of them. People were fighting dogs long before Snoop Doggy Dog and DMX came along.

Then there's the strange unwavering support for Vick from black organizations to the point that they've held press conferences condemning his treatment in the media and asking people not to be too quick to judge him because he is innocent until proven guilty.

Normally, I wouldn't have anything to say about their support of Vick. I am not in the camp of people who think that dogfighting deserves this much of our attention. Sure it's not pretty and for the most part is horrific, but it's not the worst thing Vick could be charged with, like perhaps 14 counts of child pornography and having sex with an underage minor.

Enter the black phenomenon, R&B singer R. Kelly. Set to begin his long overdue trial next month on 14 counts of possessing child pornography for allegedly videotaping himself having sex with a girl prosecutors have said could be as young as 13, you wouldn't know it the way his albums are still flying off shelves and black people are still bumping his music.

So what does R. Kelly have to do with Michael Vick?

While traditional black organizations have been quick

to jump to Vick's defense, for the most part they've said nothing on Kelly.

Last time I checked, a dog was not human, but a 13-year-old girl was. And regardless as to whether or not she willingly engaged in the act, she was the minor and he was the adult. That's really the bottom line. And most of us saw that video over the Internet or bought it on the street somewhere, so we can't act like that wasn't R. Kelly. Unless you support this type of behavior, you should be as shocked and appalled as I am at the silence from our organizations on it.

But tell me this: Would Black America still be looking the other way and steppin' from side-to-side to Kelly's beats and acting as if nothing happened had he been accused of sleeping with a 13-year-old boy? Would he still get nominations for Image Awards and sell out concerts from coast to coast? I think

not because while we're willing to look the other way when it comes to young girls (as if they don't matter at all), we get our panties in a bunch when it comes to anything gay and immediately try and distance ourselves from it.

Well, we can't be hollering one minute that black women are queens and are to be respected and protected and then turn around and cast a blind eye towards R. Kelly while jumping to the defense of people like Michael Vick and Barry Bonds. Well, you can't if you expect to be taken seriously.

As I said before, prosecuting dogfighters is not high on my list priorities. I mean if we're going to throw the book at Vick then we need to raid trailer parks from coast to coast where similar fights are staged and bet upon.

However, I am more interested in prosecuting grown ass men who get their rocks off on underage girls, regardless of whether or not they are music icons.

When we don't jump to the defense of young girls in these types of situations, we send a clear message that their lives aren't as important as others.

I have always believed that there are two kinds of people in this world, those who get it and those who don't. Which one are you?



Los Angeles-based Jasmyne Cannick, 29, is an award-winning nationally syndicated pop culture, race, and social critic/journalist, and she blogs too! She can be reached at jasmynecannick.com or myspace.com/jasmynecannick.

Swiss Chocolate, English Tea and Dutch Oil - HA, HA, HA!



By Harry C. Alford, NNPA
 The above is an oxymoron. More so, it is an indictment on August 10, 2007 Africa, the continent with the richest resources on earth. It is an historical pity that we can't get our minds together in the 21st century and harness vast amounts of resources so that nearly a billion children of Africa can enjoy a quality of life replete with healthcare and economic vitality.

There is not one cocoa plant growing in Europe let alone Switzerland. Cocoa is harvested in Western Africa and the raw product is shipped to Europe for processing. A citizen of Ghana or Cote D'Ivoire has to pay a precious price if he wants to buy chocolate from his corner store and it has the moniker "Swiss Chocolate". Swiss hell! The cocoa was grown down the road.

There is not one tea plant grown in Europe especially not in England. Yet, the British have

the monopoly on the finest tea. The "finest tea" - that would be the tea from the highlands of East Africa. Like coffee, the finest tea comes from the mountainous regions of East Africa. Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and a few other nations have been blessed with the earth, air and weather that blend together a product that cannot be produced as well in any other place on earth. Millions of tons of it are shipped to Europe and other places for processing and packaging and denied its birthright - Africa.

What is the Dutch Oil Co. AKA Shell Oil? There isn't one oil well in Amsterdam. Yet, boat loads of crude oil from Nigeria, Angola and other areas along the western shoreline of Africa go to Amsterdam for refining. A person in Lagos, Nigeria will pay about \$3.50 per gallon for gasoline even though it was generated down the road from the gas station. Conversely, a person in Venezuela pays about

20 cents for a gallon of gasoline because his nation has enough gumption to refine and control its own resources.

The above are just a few examples as to why Africa is poor and Europe is not. We can talk about diamonds, gold, coltran, platinum, flowers and hundreds of other items that are easily marketed in the Western nations that come from the earth of Africa. Here we are in 2007 and the matter should be simple Economics 101 and straight-out good government. Uh oh, that's a problem - straight-out good government.

There are over 40 nations on the African continent. That is way too many to manage and coordinate commerce. Many of these governments should be merged and common trade languages such as Swahili instituted for the sake of viable commerce. Ten super nations could make Africa a very manageable place for economic growth and stability.

Mexico got tired of foreign companies manipulating its oil industry so they nationalized it. Africa, after it consolidates its sovereignty structure, should consider the same for all of its major resources. This should happen for a distinct period of time while it organizes systems to process its resources and direct them to fair markets that will match the value with the price. As they fade away from nationalizing its industries, home-grown corporations can be formed and the entrepreneurial spirit can kick into gear and generate wealth to the savvy and jobs to the millions.

These new nations must have banks who can deal in "hard currency." Money that will not fluctuate in value on a daily basis and has the trust of the people. Right now, with the exception of South Africa, only western banks can offer hard currency in sub-Saharan Africa. Perhaps there could be a multi-nation standard like the Euro is used in Europe. The economy could also have one gigantic stock exchange to compete with the rest of the world.

There is enough African brain power living abroad to staff and assist in this major transformation. If all the educated Africans living in North America and Europe were to return home, the educational indicators of Africa would sky rocket. There would be a need for strong, consistent democracy amongst the new nations. With this, would come intolerance for corruption and a very strict judicial system to handle it.

Right now, China looks to Africa as its new farmland and direct resource for oil. The Chinese are leasing millions of acres for farming and are buying oil above the market rate - just to get it. The United States buys 10 percent of its oil from Africa and that will change to 25 percent within the next 10 years. Africa should do what Saudi Arabia has done. It took control of its resource, oil, and turned a poor desert nation into one of the richest nations in the world. Do it, Africa. Do it now!!

Harry Alford is the co-founder, President/CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce. Website: www.nationalbcc.org.

African American priorities survey - Polling Data

Your priorities shape our agenda. Here's what you had to say about what our priorities should be in the new century.

PASSING OUR WEALTH TO OUR CHILDREN IS THE NAME OF THE GAME.

EMPOWERING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR YOUTH

This study taken from Black Enterprise 2000 proved to be very important to us to convey to our readers. The results of the BLACK ENTERPRISE 2000 reader survey, which covered a wide range of economic, political, and social issues, indicate that we have once again put our fingers on the pulse of our community. We're doing this survey to help us better understand us.

Creating wealth for our community is not only a major concern but a necessary challenge if we are to our children a head start.

A mandatory first step toward creating wealth is to cultivate economic strength within our communities, within our churches, within our neighborhood centers, and among our leaders. Building an economic base allows us to shape the political and corporate agenda that allows us to solve our problems. We have to do it for the next generation.

It's important to reach back to our youth and teach them the basics of finance. To me, it revolves around trusting each other more. That's how we improve the quality of life, reduce crime, and build our wealth."

COMMUNITY NEWS



Mrs Beatrice Maye

Early morning workouts are best improved metabolism.
 Alternate your exercise routine.
 Do plenty of stretches to avoid injuries.
 A low fat, low cholesterol diet is an absolute must.
 Avoid fast foods at all costs.
 Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables.
 Drink plenty of water.

unequivocally, but also a protector, disciplinarian, and one who knows and serves God.
 How our homes, wives, and children are suffering today for the lack of manhood! Our jails are overflowing with males who have no men in the home. Poverty and illiteracy are surmounting. Male children, especially on Sunday mornings, are elsewhere except in Sunday school and church. Sunday school attendees are mostly adults in too many churches. How sad that too many of our young folks today in college stay in bed instead of attending church services.

We are aware that when standards and morals are exemplified in the home they continue when kids leave home. How many parents live by this principle: "In this house there are certain things we don't do." We don't cheat, lie, or steal. We respect each other. Kids study hard and do their homework, attend school regularly, and Christian behavior is adhered to in the family, community, and world.

Remember you are setting an example every day in all you do for the little boy who is waiting to grow up to be like you. The challenge to men today is the eternal challenge—that of being a Godly man!

Beatrice C. Maye

Who is Jesus?

Who is He?

In Chemistry, he turned water to wine. In biology, he was born without the normal conception; in physics, he disproved the law of gravity when he ascended into heaven; in economics, he disproved the law of diminishing return by feeding 5000 people with two fishes and 5 loaves of bread; in medicine, he cured the sick and the blind without administering a single dose of drugs, in history, he is the beginning and the end; in government, he said that he shall be called wonderful counselor, prince of peace; in religion, he said no one comes to the father except through him;

So. Who is he? He is Jesus !!!

Christlike Maturity

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Put off: | Put one: |
| Old self with its deceitful desires | New Self |
| Falsehood | New Attitudes |
| Harboring anger | Speak the truth |
| Unwholesome talk | Work |
| Grieving the Holy Spirit | Share with those in need |
| Bitterness | Speak what is helpful in building up others |
| Wrath (turbulent anger) | Kindness |
| Clamor (harsh speaking) | Compassion |
| Evil speaking (abusive speech) | Forgive one another |
| Malice (deep-seated ill will) | Imitate God |
| Sexual immorality | Live a life of love |
| Covetness | Give thanks |
| Obscenity | Be filled with the spirit |
| Foolish talk | Speak and sing to one another to build up in Christ |
| Coarse talking | Sing praises to God |
| Drunkness | |

To the Editor:

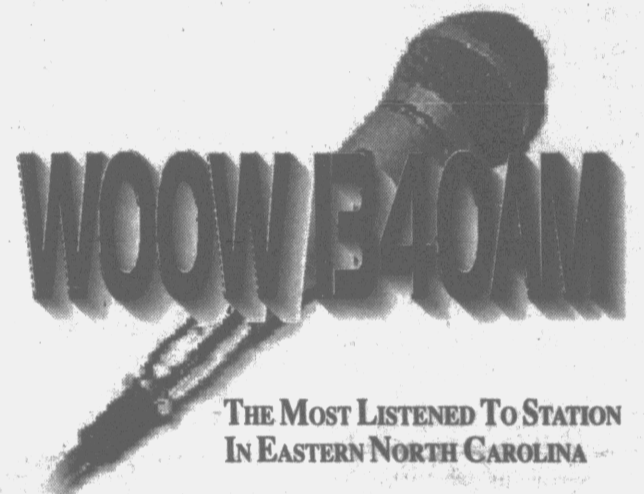
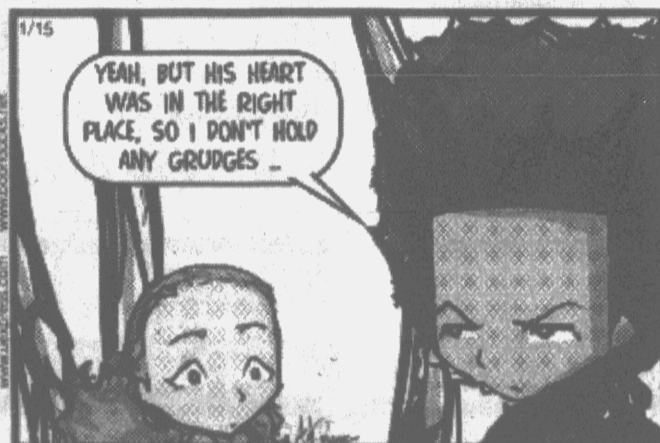
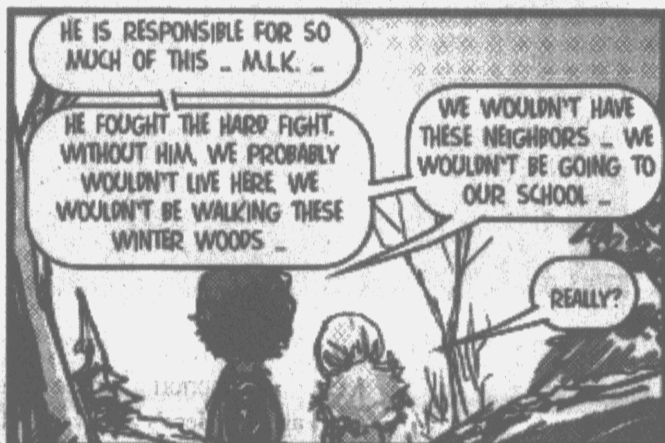
What are the three diseases that are classified as "the 3 Holy?" They are hypertension (high blood pressure), diabetes, and obesity. It is high time for all Americans of all ages to take charge of their diets and find time to exercise. These fitness guides are so familiar—yes, important.

Get a routine yearly physical exam, especially African Americans with a family history of cardiovascular diseases.

Abstain from smoking, heavy drinking and recreational drug use.

The Editor —

Who is a man? A man is not a man because he can sire a son/daughter, but there are specific attributes which are characteristics. Among these are a leader in the family



Suejette A. Jones

HISTORY OF THE IMPERIAL COURT, DAUGHTERS OF ISIS

"The last issue of the Minority Voice featured a front page article on York Memorial AME Zion Church teaming up with the Rofelt Pasha Court # 108. Daughters of Isis, to sponsor a Teenage Awareness Symposium several Daughters were pictured in their official regalia which prompted me to write the following history:"

HISTORY OF THE IMPERIAL COURT, DAUGHTERS OF ISIS

Formed in 1910

The Imperial Court, Daughters of Isis, is an auxiliary of female family members of Price Hall Shriners, and was formally organized at the annual session of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine held in Detroit, Michigan, on August 24, 1910.

The establishment of the Imperial Court was the result of a meeting held in 1909, when women representing the Daughters of Isis from Maryland, Rhode Island and Washington, DC met with a committee of Prince Hall Shriners and requested the formation and recognition of an organized them until the meeting in Detroit.

The purpose of the Imperial Court Daughters of Isis, is to unite the relatives of all

members of A.E.A.O.N.M.S. into one common bond of friendship, to practice charity and benevolence; and to inculcate honor and integrity as symbolized in the legend of the Egyptian Queen, the Goddess Isis.

The Daughters wear white with a white Fez, adopted from the City of Fez in Morocco, signifying great harmony. It represents a pyramid with a fat top standing for the uncompleted portion of the pyramid. The wearer's head represents the vault where the treasure of the Order are preserved and stored, housing wisdom.

Like its parent organization, the Imperial Court is a benevolent and charitable organization. The Daughters of Isis is annually contribute over \$200,000 to the UNCF, Health and Medical Research, Cancer, Lung, Mental Retardation, NAACP, National Foundation, Scholarships, Youth, Schools, Homeless and Community Involvements, plus contributing many service hours each year to worthwhile causes.

The Daughters of Isis focus stresses leadership development, networking with community organizations, recognizing the historic and current achievements of African American Women, exerting a role-model environment for young ladies, disseminating information for educational opportunities, career planning, and encouraging Voter

Education and mobilization with special emphasis on youth.

This organization, of 12 Courts at its inception can now boasts of more than 200 Courts, with a growing membership of more than 13,000 members in the continental United States, Europe, Canada, Bahamas, and the Far East.

On May 22, 2006, the Imperial Court, Daughters of Isis bestowed the Honorary Past Commandress degree upon Daughter Suejette A. Jones of Arabian Court No. 52 at the Arabian Shrine Temple No. 42, New Bern, NC. The degree was presented upon the 50th Anniversary of the song "O Isis Dear". Daughter Jones composed the song in 1956 and it was adopted as the official song, which is sung by Daughters all over the world in their monthly meetings for generations to come.

A DVD presentation of the history of Arabian Court No. 52 and the genesis of "O Isis Dear" will forever be preserved in the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University, Washington, DC.

Log on to google.com, type in suejette a. jones, click search, then scroll down to August 2006 Pyramid to read the article that was published in the Pyramid magazine, which is the official organ of the Prince Hall Shriners. The article title is: "Music to 'O Isis Dear' Shines 50 years Later."

Note: Daughters Jones is the only living charter member out of 21 who were created into the Isis in 1953 at the King Solomon Masonic Hall in New Bern, NC. This year, in August, the annual Imperial Session of Shriners and Daughters of Isis will convene in Charlotte, NC.

Paper or Plastic?

How many times have you been asked that question when you arrive at the checkout counter at the supermarkets and food stores? When I have a choice, I invariably say, "paper." For me, I have several reasons to give that choice. For one, the plastic handles are not substantial and if the contents are heavy and bulky, the handles can be cutting into your hands—if you have to carry them any distance. It has been shown that consistently carrying plastic bags with heavy cans and bulk may dislocate one's shoulder. Nothing agonizes me more than to go to the fresh vegetables and fruit bins and reach up to the dispenser roll to pull down those thin-folded plastic bags to open. Some are so stubborn to open until if I did not moisten my finger with saliva (not sanitary at all) it would take me 5 minutes to open it—what with my long acrylic nails.

It is now illegal for supermarkets in San Francisco

to use plastic grocery bags (petroleum-based bags) that linger indefinitely in the environment. Henceforth, only bags made of paper, cloth, or special biodegradable plastic can be used. Not only supermarkets are targeted—but also drug stores and other large retailers.

Americans throw away about 100 billion plastic bags every year, mountains of plastic bags that can last for 1,000 years, give or take a few centuries. And when they are not properly thrown away, they litter the countryside, killing birds or choking creatures like sea turtles. The used bags now flap from so many bushes and trees that some South Africans started calling them their national flower.

As the nation looks for ways to save energy, states, local governments should begin figuring out how to nudge customers toward those carryalls that can be recycled or used again. Getting into the habit of bringing your own shopping bag can slash this problem across the board. In the meantime, consumers need to ask themselves a few basic questions, such as: "How do I stop adding to the world's polyethylene mountain range, and why do I need a plastic bag when I buy a pack of gum?"

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TV NEWS IGNORES MURDER OF BLACK EDITOR

Runnin' Scared

The Killing of a Journalist
Voice reporter Chris Thompson recalls a fallen colleague and his own days on the run by Chris Thompson
August 7th, 2007 6:43 PM

Last week, a man in a ski mask confronted Oakland, California, journalist Chauncey Bailey as he was walking to the downtown offices of the Oakland Post.

The man raised a sawed-off shotgun and fired a round into Bailey's torso, then stood over him and fired a second round into his head.

The next day, more than 200 police officers raided two homes and a bakery in North Oakland, tossing stun grenades through the windows before dawn.

The bakery was the headquarters of the Yusuf Bey family, Oakland's most militant and allegedly violent black nationalist sect. Within hours, police say, a bakery employee confessed to murdering Bailey in retaliation for a series of stories he was preparing on the family's financial problems and alleged criminal history. The story made national headlines, in part because of the brazen murder of a reporter.

This isn't the first time Chauncey Bailey had run a foul of the Bey family.

A few years earlier, members of the sect threatened to kill him for running stories they didn't like. I know, because he told me so in 2002.

I interviewed Bailey while conducting my own investigation into the Bey family's history of alleged violence and fraud for the East Bay Express. I soon got a taste of what he was talking about.

For 30 years, Yusuf Bey and his followers built an empire of bakeries and security companies around the Bay Area, but an ominous air of menace and violence always surrounded them. In 2002, after family patriarch Yusuf Bey was arrested on charges that he raped a 13-year-old girl, my Express series reported that Bey family members had allegedly unleashed a wave of murder, rape, and fraud on Oakland, and the city's leaders praised them and gave them million-dollar loans in return. In one instance, Bey family members allegedly tortured a man for four hours, beating him with a police flashlight, burning his fingertips with hot knives, and trying to drown him in a toilet. For years, the Bey family allegedly beat and terrorized helpless black residents of low-income apartments they controlled, but the authorities never bothered to stop them. Yusuf Bey raped and sodomized at least four young girls, including his own foster

daughter. Officials with the county's Child Protective Services knew all about it, but did nothing.

The day after the last story ran, the payback started. A young man called and said he had more stories about Yusuf Bey's taste for rape. I told him I was moving onto other stories, but he wouldn't take no for an answer. He drove to the office and asked to see me, and I foolishly walked out to the lobby long enough for him to get a good look at my face. Feeling a little hinky about the strange grin he had on his face, I told my editor Steve Buel I was taking the day off, and he agreed to drive me home. While waiting for his car outside the office, I noticed a red minivan that looked out of place, but no one appeared to be behind the wheel. When I jumped in the car, the same man rose up from underneath the dashboard. He was trying to follow me home. Buel gunned the engine and trapped the car in place, told me to memorize the license-plate number, and swung back to the entrance. We jumped out and called the cops, and I spent the night at what you might call an undisclosed location.

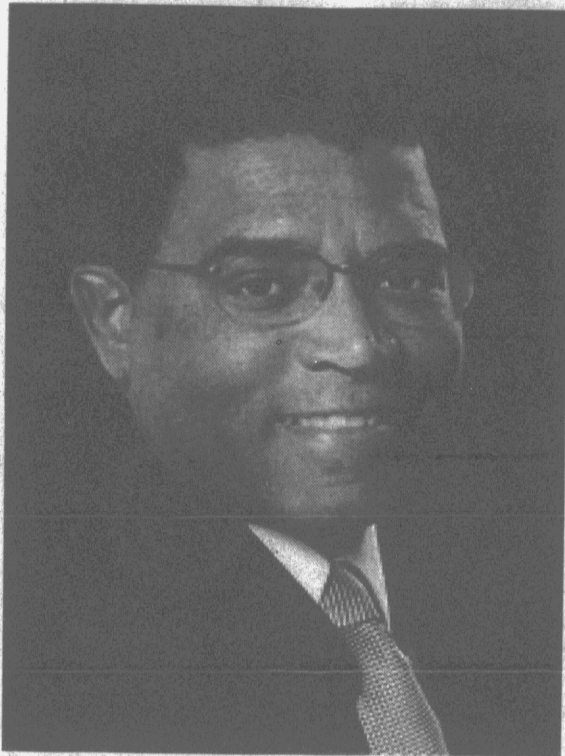
After that came the phone calls. "Mr. Thompson, I just want to say that your days are numbered," one man said. "You fucked up for the last time, and your time is up." A woman called my voice mail, screamed obscenities, and advised, "Maybe you want to take a trip." Another woman simply said, "Hello, Satan," and hung up. Someone played one of Yusuf Bey's more inflammatory sermons into my phone. A few weeks later, another man growled, "We haven't forgot about you."

Meanwhile, the Bey family was going through some changes. Yusuf Bey had died of complications from cancer, and his heirs—Yusuf had at least 42 children—started struggling for control of his business empire. In the spring of 2004, the badly decomposed body of Wajid Bey, the CEO of the family's security company, was found in a shallow grave in the Oakland hills. "It's not the death threats I mind," I joked with friends. "It's the credible death threats." Every week, I'd get the same creepy phone call. Someone would call me at precisely 5pm., when I would presumably leave work. As soon as I said hello, the caller hung up. I thought, "Are those f----- staking out the routes I take home?" My colleagues (including Rob Harvilla, now the Voice's music editor) would drive me from work, using cars I hoped the Bey family wouldn't recognize. Finally, they took to staking out the lobby and following me when I left work—at least, they

thought the guy they were following was me. Two goons fixated on an ad sales representative that bore a resemblance to me and chased him

leaders manage to successfully prosecute the Bey family, they'll have cut a big tumor out of the city's heart.

The Snitch has been linking to telling articles from East Bay Express-turned Village Voice writer Chris Thompson. Now Chris speaks about conversations with Chauncey. Via the Village Voice



AP / Oakland Tribune

A few years earlier, members of the sect threatened to kill him for running stories they didn't like. I know, because he told me so in 2002. I interviewed Bailey while conducting my own investigation into the Bey family's history of alleged violence and fraud for the East Bay Express.

Chris says he had to hide out in rural parts of the State and file his columns from hiding for weeks.

around town twice. On the second occasion, when they realized they had the wrong man, one of them pulled up to the car and said, "Where's Chris Thompson?" Whenever I talked to the Oakland police about my troubles, they all said the same thing: We hate those bastards, but there's nothing we can do until we pin something on them.

Needless to say, I'd had enough and headed for the tall grass. I spent several months out in the countryside of Northern California, reporting and writing my Metro column from an old hunting lodge. At night, I drank and played liars' dice at a bar with old cowboys and race-car mechanics, and tried to figure out what to do with my life.

Eventually, the goons got bored with hunting for me, and I slowly returned to the office full-time. Chauncey Bailey wasn't so lucky, but he fought the good fight against bad men. Despite the ongoing homicide epidemic, Oakland has slowly been emerging from its long, dark era of corruption, crime, ineptitude, and poverty. If city



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- Continue to support revitalization of West Greenville and Uptown Greenville
- Strive to increase partnerships with governmental and non-governmental agencies
- Encourage long range planning & support the Comprehensive Plan
- Promote working together of all our citizens

I have broad community service

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- Pitt County Council on Aging, Chair
- Pitt County Board of Elections, Chair
- Community Development Corporation—Philippi Church
- STRIVE Advisory Board, Chair (helps people get employed)
- Eastern NC Substance Abuse Council
- League of Women Voters of Pitt County, President
- LIFE (Lifestyle Innovations for Empowerment)
- ReLeaf (promotes tree planting; donate trees to city)
- Deacon and Sunday School Teacher

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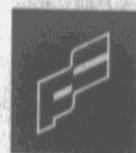
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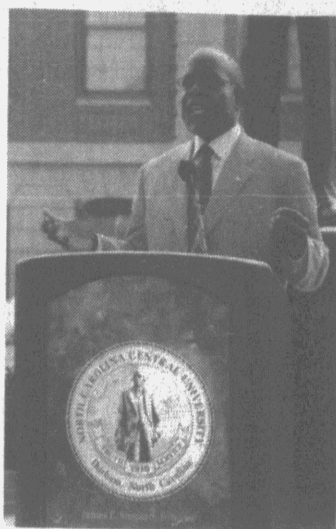
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CHANCELLOR**



DR. CHARLIE NELMS

DURHAM, N.C. – Today, North Carolina Central University (NCCU) Board of Trustees, faculty, staff and students welcomed its newest chancellor Dr. Charlie Nelms.

The crowd cheered as Chancellor Nelms and wife Jeanetta Nelms made their way to the platform in front of the statue of Dr. James E. Shepard, founder of the first state-supported liberal arts college for African-American students.

Among the platform guests were President Erskine Bowles, of the University of North Carolina System; Dr. Beverly W. Jones, provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs; Mayor Pro-Tem Cora Cole-McFadden who presented Nelms with the keys to the City of Durham; Atty. Cressie H. Thigpen, Jr., chair of the NCCU Board of Trustees; Frankie Perry, president of the NCCU Foundation, Inc., and Richard Smith, president of the National Alumni Association.

"I am excited to be in North Carolina and to be a part of the

North Carolina Central University family," said Nelms. "I did not come here to rest; I did not come here to retire; I came to work. I'm looking forward to being a productive and fully engaged member not only of the university community but the community at large."

Nelms served as chancellor of two very respected public universities, the University of Michigan at Flint and Indiana University at Richmond. Nelms expects to have a busy first few weeks spending time meeting and talking with people to gain a better sense of the aspirations that people have for the university and making sure that he is focusing on the appropriate priorities.

The ceremony ended with the traditional transfer of keys ceremony to Chancellor Nelms from Chairman Thigpen.

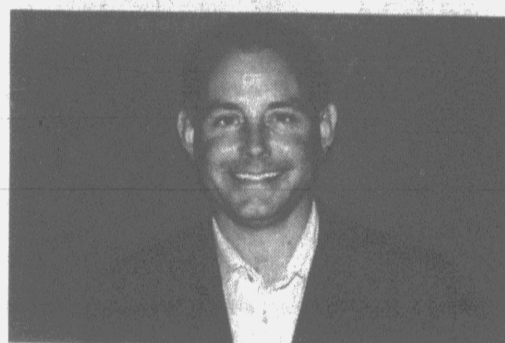


HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARCUS GARVEY

Marcus Mosiah Garvey, Jr., National Hero of Jamaica was born on August 17, 1887 and died June 10, 1940. He was a publisher, journalist, entrepreneur, Black nationalist, orator, black separatist, and founder of the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League (UNIA-ACL). Garvey was born in St. Ann's Bay, Saint Ann Parish, Jamaica to Marcus Mosiah Garvey, Sr., a mason, and Sarah Jane Richards, a domestic worker and farmer. Of his eleven siblings, only Garvey and his sister, Indiana, reached maturity. Garvey's father was known to have a large library, and it was from his father that he gained his love for reading.

Garvey is best remembered as an important proponent of the Back-to-Africa movement, which encouraged those of African descent to return to their ancestral homelands.

Lifelong Greenville Resident and Community Leader Joins Race



As a member of the city council for the past six years, representing District 5, Chip Little understands how growth will impact the quality of life for Greenville families and businesses. As a business owner, Little believes that understanding daily managerial and budgetary issues have helped him and other council members remain conscious of the city's budget. He is dedicated to Greenville's progress, but he also recognizes the importance of having quality infrastructure in place.

Little recently stated that one of the reasons he filed as a mayoral candidate was he wanted to continue the positive work that he feels the council has been doing for the past six years. He also wants to keep future infrastructure needs in the forefront. He believes that as "Greenville and Pitt County grow, the city is going to have to work in cooperation with other municipalities in the county to make sure the infrastructure needs, be it transportation, water, sewer, will all be in place when the growth arrives."

Little supports the West Greenville 45-Block Revitalization Program, which is an effort to revitalize depressed areas in and adjacent to the neighborhoods of Cherry View, Perkins Town, Biltmore, and Lincoln Park. Some of the items of emphasize included in this program are removal of slighted structures, rehabilitation of occupied homes, redevelopment of property, and creation of parks, open space and improved streetscapes. Little feels that a key component in this program is continuing to build good, quality housing that is affordable for low to moderate incomes.

Included in the revitalization program is the council's recent purchase of the old St. Gabriel's church. Little is very proud of the purchase that was made with both private and public funds to create the Lucille W. Gorham Intergenerational Community Center. This center will be used for educational classes, after-school programs, and other activities that will benefit the community. The center will be operated via a partnership between ECU and Pitt Community College. Little notes, "that the operation of the center is a great example of the value in working with other organizations to aide in the success of city initiatives."

Little has been a lifelong Greenville resident and community leader. He is graduate of JH Rose High School and East Carolina University. Little is a member of First Presbyterian Church, the Greenville Noon Rotary Club, the Pitt-Greenville Chamber of Commerce, as well as many other organizations. Little is married to Jennifer Little and has two sons: Trey and Johnson.

ATTENTION....

THERE WILL BE A REWARD PAID FOR A CAMERA STOLEN FROM THE CAR OF A REPORTER FOR THE M-VOICE NEWS AND WOOW RADIO WHILE ON ASSIGNMENT FOR THE PAPER. THE CAMERA INSIDE AN OLD CAMERA BAG WITH A LONG STRAP WAS TAKEN FROM HIS CAR ON WEDNESDAY, AFTENOON AUGUST 15TH WHILE PARKED ON CLARK STREET IN FRONT OF THE OLD HATTERAS HAMMOCKS BUILDING. THERE WILL BE A REWARD PAID FOR ANY INFORMATION LEADING TO THE RETURN OF OUR CAMERA. PLEASE CALL

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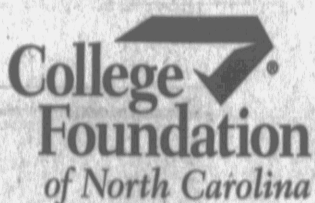
In its August 2007 issue, *Money* magazine recognizes North Carolina's National College Savings Program as a good choice for North Carolinians based on the tax break and reasonable expenses.

Tax Deduction and Savings – This year there's a tax deduction for every NC taxpayer making contributions to NC's 529 plan up to \$2,500 per individual or \$5,000 for a married couple filing jointly. And earnings on NC 529 accounts are free from federal and state income taxes when used for qualified higher education expenses.

Low Fees – NC's 529 plan requires no enrollment fee or sales charges and has very reasonable management fees and fund expenses.

Multiple Investment Options – Individual options from Vanguard, Wachovia/Evergreen, NCM Capital, MetLife and the North Carolina Treasurer, as well as age-based options from J. & W. Seligman and Vanguard, offer a variety of investment choices.

Flexibility – Your savings can be used to pay for qualified higher education expenses at virtually any college, anywhere in the country.



To learn more about North Carolina's 529 college savings plan, visit NC529.org.



The availability of tax benefits may be conditioned on meeting certain requirements. You should consult a tax advisor.

To learn about North Carolina's National College Savings Program, its investment objectives, risks, and costs, read the Program Description available from www.NC529.org or call 800-800-3453. Check with your or your beneficiary's home state about tax or other benefits associated with investing in that state's qualified tuition program.

North Carolina's National College Savings Program is a program of the State of North Carolina, established and maintained by the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (Authority) as a qualified tuition program under federal tax law, and administered by College Foundation, Inc. (CFI) with administration and record keeping services provided by Upromise Investments, Inc. and Upromise Investment Advisors, LLC (collectively, Upromise). Investment options are made available through NCM Capital Management Group, LLC; J. & W. Seligman & Co. Incorporated; Wachovia Bank, N.A. through its affiliate, Evergreen Investment Management Company, LLC; the State Treasurer of North Carolina; Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (MetLife); and The Vanguard Group, Inc.

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The NAACP Filed an Historic Lawsuit Against Mortgage Lenders Alleging Racial Discrimination

The Facts:

- Today (July 17, 2007) the NAACP filed a Federal class action lawsuit against fourteen of the country's largest subprime mortgage lenders.
- This lawsuit is designed to stop these lenders from engaging in systematic, institutionalized racism in making home mortgage loans.
- In a 2006 study, the Center for Responsible Lending found that when creditworthiness and credit risk were equal, African-Americans were still 31 percent to 34 percent more likely to receive higher rate, more expensive subprime loans than Caucasians.
- The National Community Reinvestment Coalition revealed that lenders on average made high-cost subprime loans to higher-qualified African-Americans 54% of the time, compared to 23% of the time for Caucasians, even when the Caucasian applicants were less qualified.
- These and other studies demonstrate that African-American homeowners are paying higher mortgage interest rates than their Caucasian counterparts.

The Lenders: Ameriquest, Wells Fargo, Fremont, Option One, WMC Mortgage, Long Beach Mortgage, CitiGroup, BNC Mortgage, Accredited Home Lenders, Encore, First Franklin, HSBC, Washington Mutual

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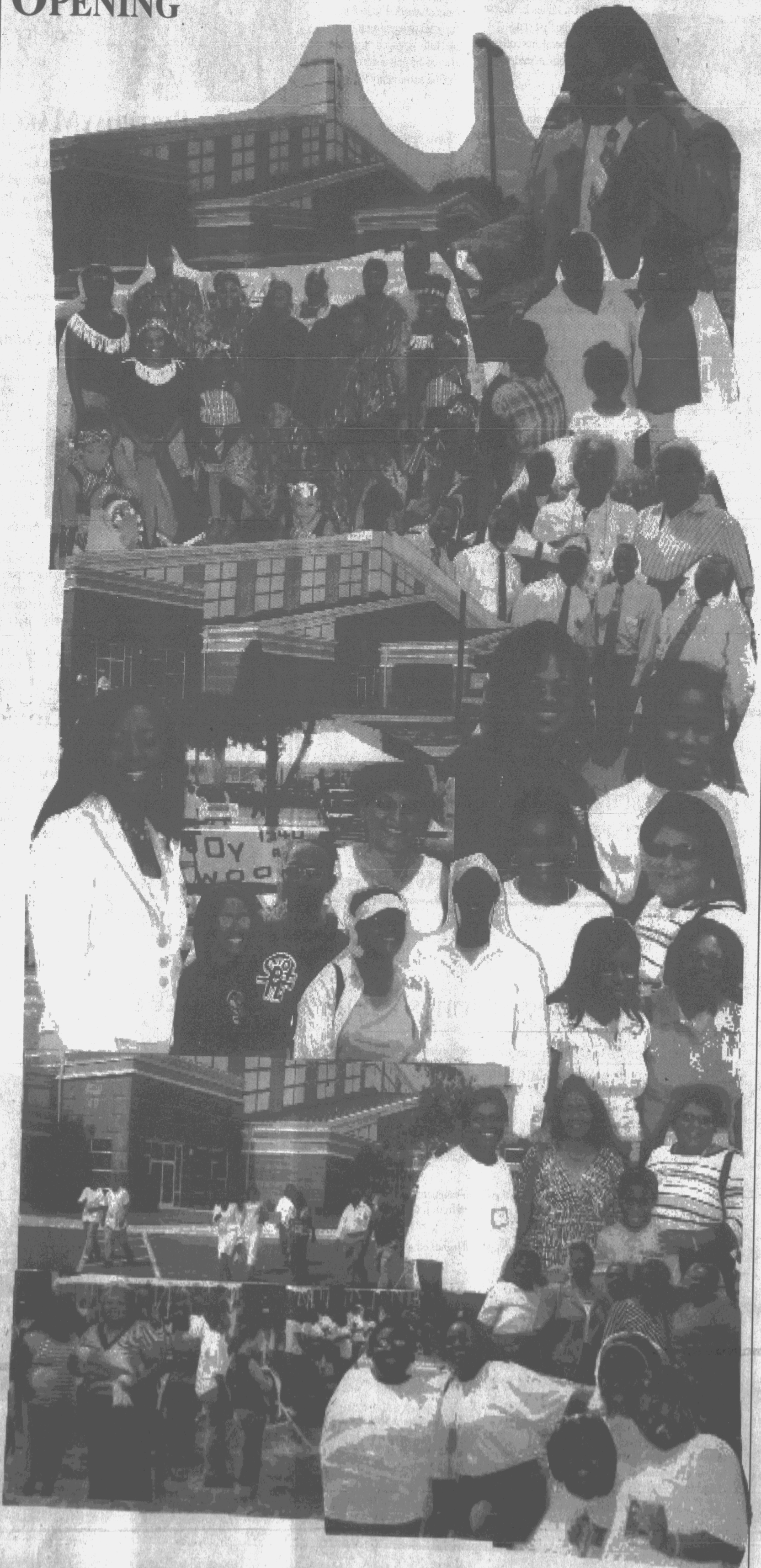
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Sow A Seed

By Joy R. Brown

Don't Answer To Every Call

Who am I? Who do men say I am? This question was presented to Jesus' disciples. The response was Elijah and Jeremiah. But Jesus wanted to know who do men say that I am? He was seeking a direct response from His disciples. Peter, whose name means, "rock" stated, "You are the Christ." Peter's response to Jesus proved a very interesting point. Peter knew who Jesus was by relationship and association.

Has it ever occurred to you how others see you? You work with people everyday in different capacities but if asked this same question about you, what would they say? When the disciples called out the names of other men, immediately one statement began to linger in my mind. The disciples called Jesus by a name they could identify with.

How many times have you been labeled as your older siblings' sister or brother, or maybe the troublemaker, crazy, lazy, or even stupid? Words have a powerful and lasting affect on those who are the receivers of such words. When you call someone by anything other than their name, you are insulting them. You are making a derogatory statement to the individual that you really don't know to whom you are speaking to... "Do you really know who I am?"

During our women's conference, one of the facilitators made a powerful statement. To summarize the statement, the facilitator emphasized the importance of not answering to every call. She said, "It's not what you are called but what you answer to." Jesus could not answer to the call of Elijah or Jeremiah because he was greater than that.

Don't respond to every call. Make sure you recognize the voice that calls you. Just like we screen our calls with caller ID for those we don't want to talk to at that particular time, do the same with the voices of those who call you out of your name. Ignore the call until the person recognizes who you are. Stop responding to statements such as, "You are just like your no good daddy, or You act just like your sorry mother, or You are bad, or You're terrible." Unless you are called by the name that has been

carefully positioned in your future, don't answer.

People are limited to their perception of you and may call you, as they perceive you. Greatness is your destiny but people will minimize you for various reasons. There are too many to even dwell upon. However, I want you to focus on who you are and begin to call yourself what God calls you. He calls you royal priesthood, more than a conqueror, and blessed.

In closing, recently, my four-year-old goddaughter, Alea, said, "Ms. Joy, Ms. Mixy called me bad." I told her, "Alea, the next time someone calls you bad, tell him or her that you are anointed and a child of the king." She responded by saying, "Yes ma'am."

I pray that I have sowed a seed into your spirit today to make you think about who's calling your name and greater than that, what they are calling you. Remember, it's not what people call you, but it's what you answer to.

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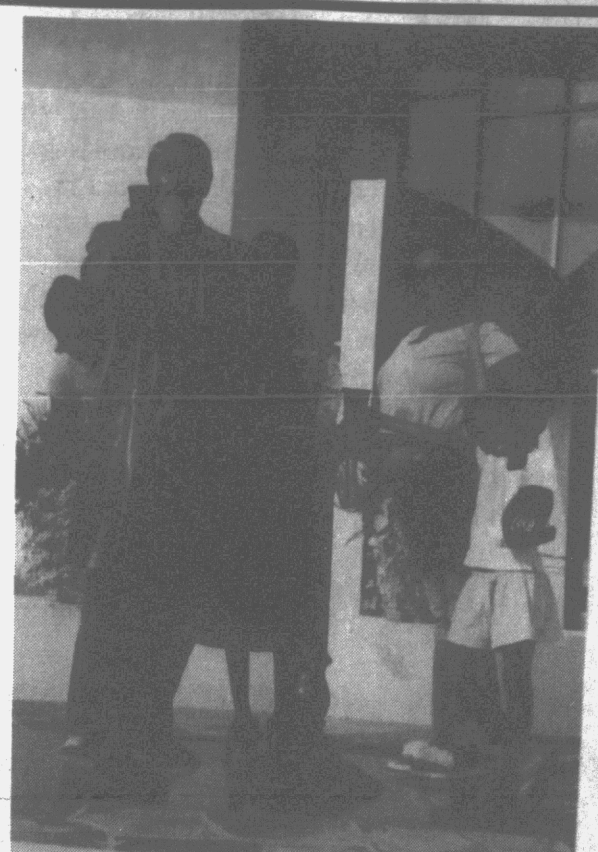
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A Savage Family Vacation....



Jeff and Angel Savage of Greenville,, along with three of their four children, Naima, Akeem and Iyanla recently enjoyed a week in Atlanta, Georgia on vacation. Their oldest son, Ryan, student of Fayetteville State University, was unable to go as exams were underway. They are in front of the Coca-Cola Store and Museum in Atlanta.

photo Jeff Savage

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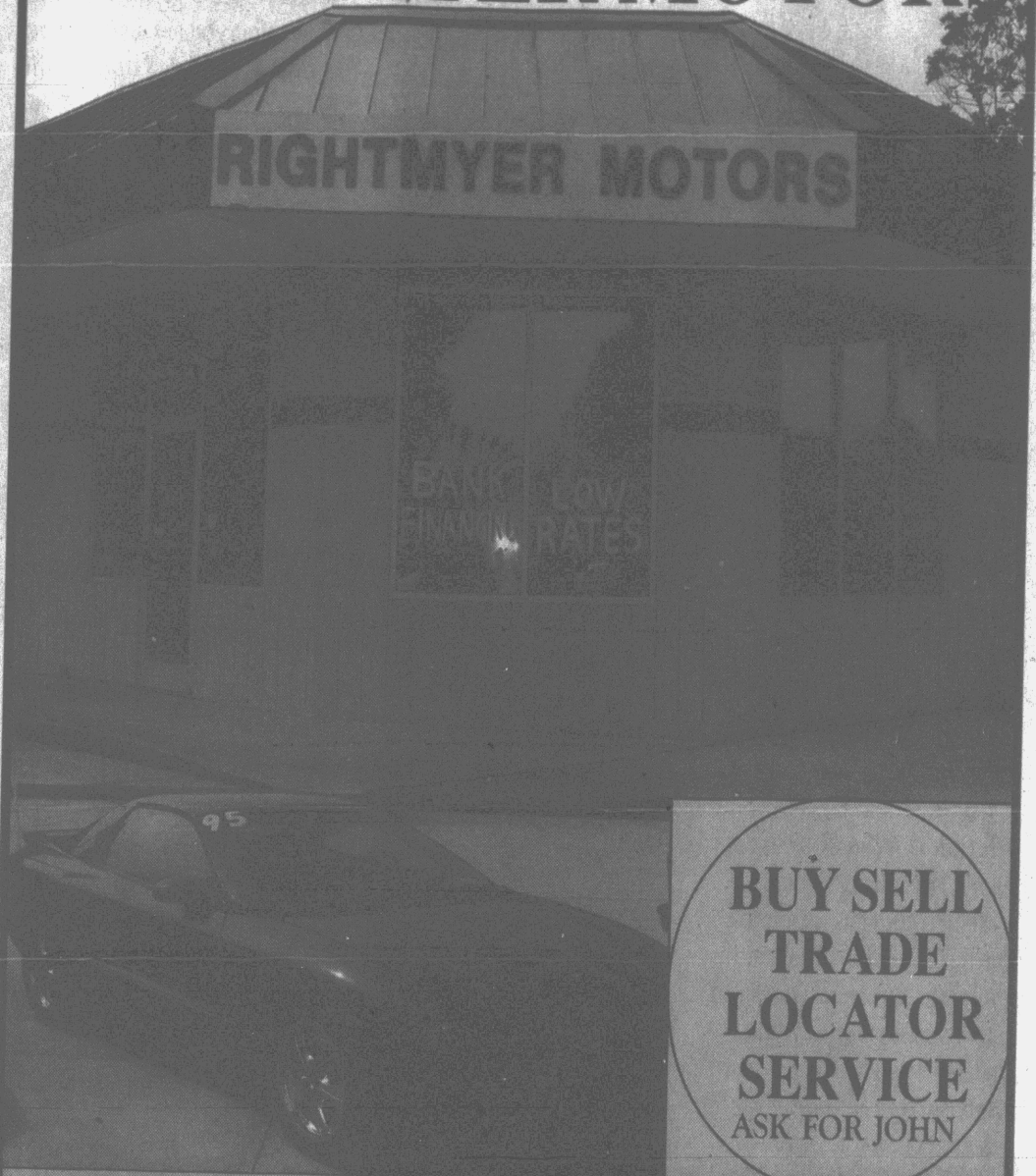
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A WOOW Station Break ...
 while visiting with her mother, Kitty Pope, (2nd fr left) stops by to show her mother the company and friends she worked with while living here. Kitty, who is now an accomplished author talked over old times with former employer, Jim Rouse, founder and publisher of the Minority Voice Newspaper, WOOW/WTOW Radio Stations and Journalist/Broadcaster, Guy Simms. Looking forward to seeing you soon Kitty. *photo M. Adams*

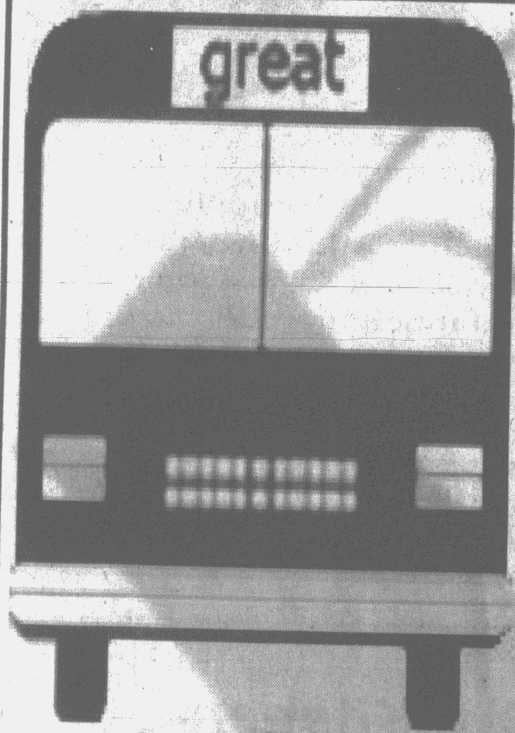


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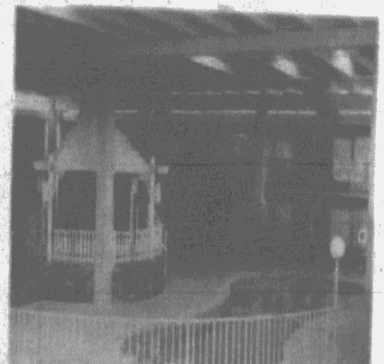
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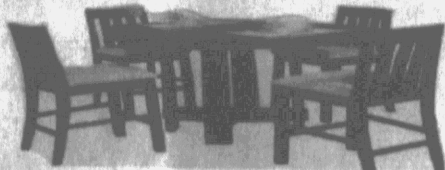
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SACRED HIP-HOP MUSIC ?

It's hard to understand how Ministers of the Gospel can keep a straight face while criticizing music such as Christian Rap or Gospel Hip-Hop. These are the same people who were silent during the past 20 years as traditional hymns were being pushed out of many churches. They heard the rock and roll rhythms with the funky beats infused with lyrics that talk about Jesus. When asked to justify this, the response was usually "the young people like it". Some preachers now admit that this trend has gone beyond what can honestly be called sacred music.

Perhaps you've heard of Elder G. Craig Lewis. He's an author and speaker whose major theme is "The Truth About Gospel Hip-Hop". In Elder Lewis' speeches, books and web-site, he endeavors to enlighten people of faith about the dangers of embracing popular music trends for the sake of filling the pews. His arguments are profound and credible and he is much sought after as a speaker. Recently he

spoke at Well's Chapel Church of God in Christ here in Greenville. In many cases he is saying things that host Pastors don't want to say themselves from their own pulpits.



**Minister of Music
Michael Garrett**

I once attended a church where the Pastor insisted that at least two hymns be a part of each Sunday morning service. Although some people didn't like it, they went along due to pastoral authority. My discussions with this Pastor revealed that he didn't want the

youth of his congregation to grow up in the church without an appreciation for the sacred music that had stood the test of time such as standard traditional hymns. Without a doubt, kids who aren't familiar with the standard music can't develop an appreciation for it and a void is naturally created. In churches where hymns aren't used, that void is filled by whatever is used in their places.

So, here we are, trying to be popular by doing exactly what the scriptures forbid; imitating the world for the sake of drawing a bigger crowd. Maybe that's why we now see mimes, praise dancing and comics in services. In other words, churches copying night club activities. By the way, mimes derived from burlesque and vaudeville which is as far from Christianity as fish from feathers.

In her song "Shake The Devil Off", singer Albertina Walker explains "if you let the devil ride, he'll want to drive". Church leaders have let him ride in on pop beats and rapping. So, in many of our music ministries, he's driving.

Dogs' role uncertain in death of LA man

Fri Aug 17, 8:51 PM ET

A man who died at the home of action star Ving Rhames most likely did not die from bites from Rhames' dogs, county coroner's officials said Friday.

Jacob Adams, 40, was living on Rhames' Brentwood property as a caretaker for the actor's dogs when he was bitten Aug. 3, police said.

The medical examiner who conducted Adams' autopsy Aug. 7 said the bite abrasions and lacerations on the man's body were most likely nonfatal, said Capt. Ed Winter of the Los Angeles County coroner's office.

"We're not saying the bites were definitely not the cause of death, though," Winter told The Associated Press.

An exact cause of death was still unknown pending a toxicology report to be released in about six weeks, he said.

According to a preliminary coroner's report, the dog bite marks on Adams' body — which police officers found on Rhames' front lawn — were around his arms and legs.

"When animals attack humans or other animals, the victims usually end up with bites around the head and neck. He had none," Winter said. "This leads us to believe he went down for some other medical reason."

An English bulldog and three bull mastiffs, including two weighing 200 pounds, were seized by animal services at the time.

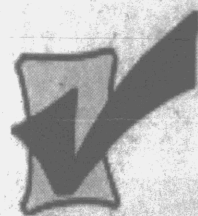
Rhames, 46, told People magazine this week that his dogs were back home.

In a statement dated Monday, issued by his publicist, Rhames said he was out of the country when the incident took place.

Rhames also mentioned he was "relieved to know that the coroner's report confirmed that my dogs were not the cause of his death — and that any wounds found on his body were superficial."

And, he added, "Jacob Adams was not just a devoted employee — he was also a dear friend. I want to offer my heartfelt condolences to his family."

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Retirement Honoree... Pastor (Msgt) Anthony Jackson stops for our camera during his recent retirement ceremony. Rev Jackson is the son of the late pastor Elmer Jackson of the Mt Calvary FWB Church Of Greenville Congratulations Pastor Jackson. *photo Jim Rouse.*

Public Service Announcement

Pay Your 2007 Taxes
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2007 Pitt County, City and Town property taxes are due **September 1, 2007** and must be paid no later than **Monday, January 7, 2008**. If you have not received a bill and would like to know how much your tax bill is, please visit our website at www.pittcountync.gov or contact our office at (252) 902-3425. Due to printing difficulties, you may experience a delay in receiving your tax bill. Please keep in mind that you can also visit our website at any time to view and pay your tax bill. If you pay your taxes by August 31, 2007, you will receive a 2% discount on your bill. This does not apply to motor vehicle taxes, which follow a separate billing schedule. All taxes not paid or postmarked by the U.S. Post Office on or before January 7th will be assessed a 2% interest charge on January 8th. Additionally, interest of 3/4 of 1% will be added monthly until taxes are paid in full, as required by N.C.G.S. tax laws. If you have a tax escrow account with your mortgage company, it is your responsibility to make sure your taxes are paid. If you have questions concerning taxes due or making a payment arrangement, the tax collections office is located at 111 S. Washington Street, Greenville or you may call (252) 902-3425. Payments remitted by check should be made payable to Pitt County Tax Collector, Post Office Box 875, Greenville, NC 27835.

Jeffery Niebauer, Pitt County Tax Collector



Contact Information

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Section 8 252-329-4008 | Public
Housing 252-329-4012

Maintenance 252-329-4021 |
Neighborhood Service 252-329-4065
| Crime Prevention 252-329-4073

Finance HR IT/IS 252-329-4000 |
University Towers 252-329-4017 |
TDD 252-329-4009

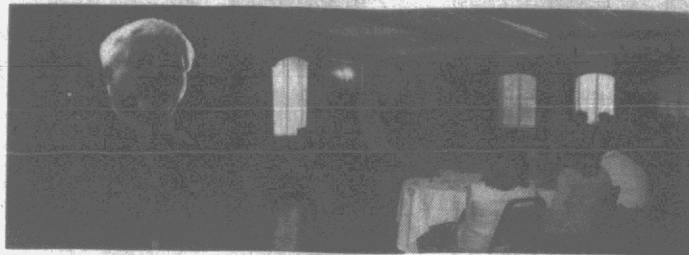
Central Office Fax 252-329-4026
EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS 252-
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Power Lunches are sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce

Minority Voice Staff Writer

The Third Tuesday Power 07 Luncheon featured Dr. Frederick (Rick) Niswander, Dean of ECU's College of Business and W. Howard Rooks Distinguished Professor as their speaker. The affair was sponsored by the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce and Embarq at the Brook Valley Country Club and was well attended by local business people, educators, city officials and a host of others. Niswander, using numerous graphs during a lecture which lasted almost 90 minutes, gave a detailed analysis of the state of the economy and linked it to what impact it may have on eastern North Carolina and Pitt County.



15% nationally. He said it was too early to determine which way the economy will go because of the amounts of possible default collectively can't be determined because currently economists are not quite sure just how much and in what sectors these funds are tied up in. He said it would be several more months before any kind of hard evidence would surface. This phenomenon is additionally compounded by over hanging housing. He indicated that the durable goods report which will be soon be released in a few weeks should indicate which way the economy will go. Elsewhere, Diswander expressed some concern that there was "blood in the streets" as far as Treasury Bonds were concern. These fluctuations were catching a lot of investors off guard.

Although Niswander painted a somewhat dismal picture for the housing and mortgage market saying that there is about three trillion dollars tied up in loans, especially in sub-prime lending nationally. Translation: if homes default at lesser prices then originally agreed upon when sold because they were purchased outside one's means, there could be problems - there could be lots of problems.

Currently, according to Niswander; the known delinquency rates now stand at

In greater Greenville, housing starts are up but much of that growth is tied up multi-dwelling units. Locally, manufacturing, Health care and social service emerged as Pitt County strongest economic sector, followed by retail, education and food

services in that order. However, what mystified Niswander was that retail spending per person has remained somewhat flat. Someone else mentioned that the "big spenders" might be shopping elsewhere. Farming, Niswander said that farming has fallen of the chart. The Outer Banks is showing growth in employment according to Niswander and that employment in Pitt County has remained pretty much the same over the last several years by comparison to the rest of the region and the rest of the state. More of what was discussed in regards to the economy can be perused in their E-Focus magazine which is published on their website at:

http://www.ecu.edu/cs-bus/upload/E_Focus_July_2007.pdf

These Power Lunches are sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and are extended their membership in which the Mvoice Newspaper and WOOW Radio actively attend.

Dr. Frederick (Rick) Niswander, Dean of ECU's College of Business (photo)

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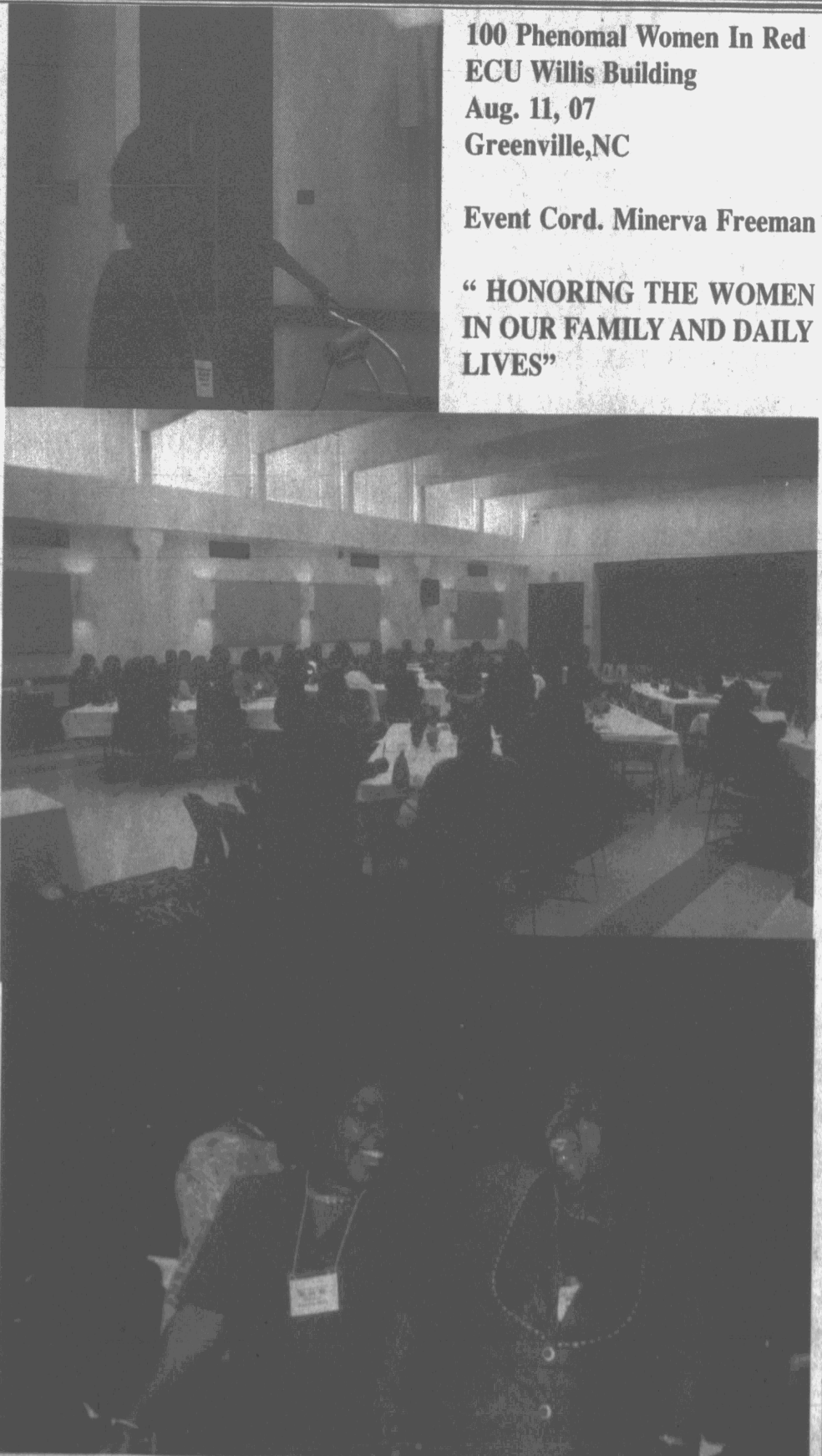
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Event Cord. Minerva Freeman

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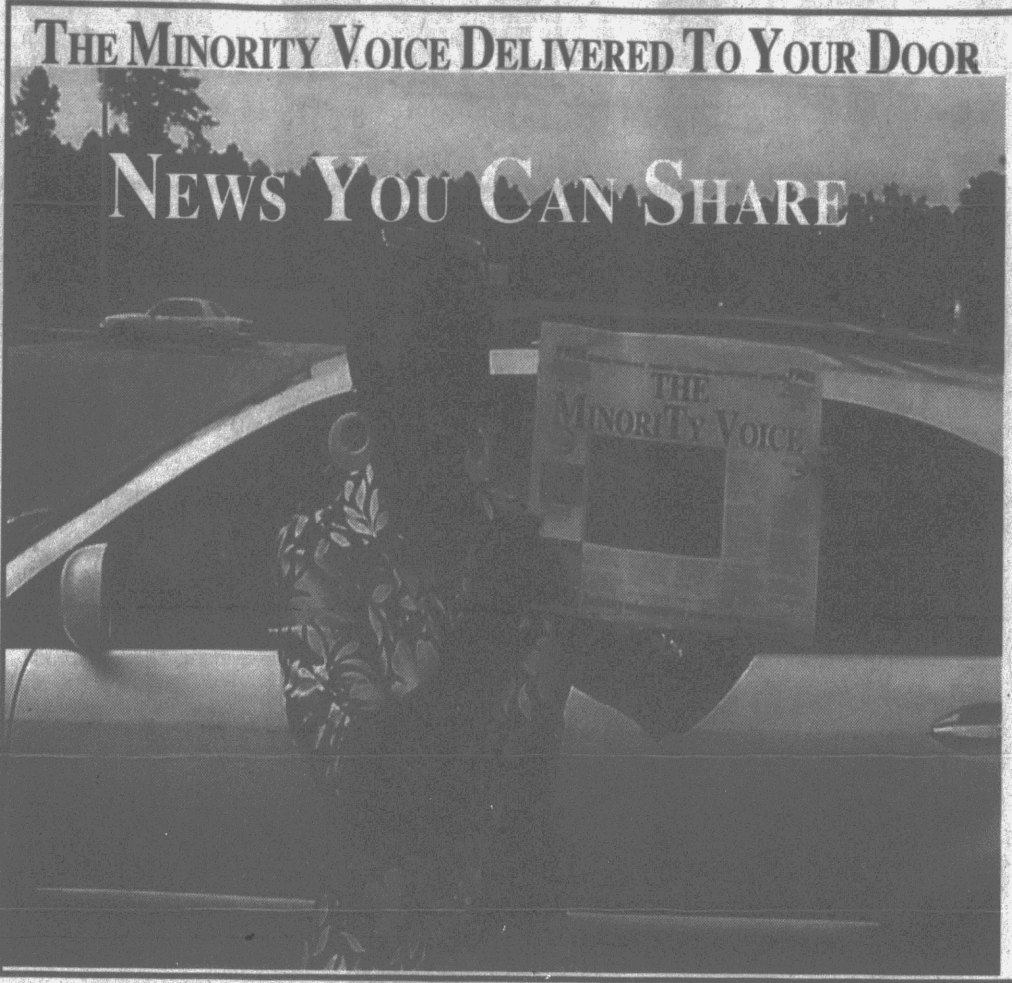
NORTH CAROLINA DRIVING SCHOOL, INC.
PITT COUNTY SCHOOLS DRIVER EDUCATION 2007-2008 SCHEDULE

Registration Dates	Instructor	Class Times
(Aug 27 - Aug 31)	Ayden-Grifton (Register with Tracey Williams)	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(Oct 22 - Oct 31)	September 5 - September 19, 2007	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(Jan 28 - Feb 6)	November 5 - November 20, 2007	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(March 31 - April 9)	February 11 - February 25, 2008	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
	April 14 - April 28, 2008	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(Aug 27 - Sept 5)	DH Conley (Register with Brian Bradshaw)	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(Oct 17 - Oct 26)	September 10 - September 25, 2007	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(Jan 14 - Jan 23)	November 1 - November 16, 2007	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(Feb 18 - Feb 27)	January 28 - February 11, 2008	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(April 14 - April 23)	March 5 - March 19, 2008	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
	April 30 - May 14, 2008	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(Aug 27 - Sept 5)	Farmville Central (Register with Mike Terrell)	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(Oct 16 - Oct 26)	September 10 - September 25, 2007	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(Jan 21 - Jan 31)	November 5 - November 20, 2007	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(Mar 17 - Mar 26)	February 5 - February 19, 2008	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
	April 1 - April 16, 2008	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(Aug 27 - Sept 5)	JH Rose (Register with Clinton Anderson)	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(Oct 8 - Oct 17)	September 10 - September 25, 2007	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(Nov 19 - Nov 28)	October 22 - November 7, 2007	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(Jan 21 - Jan 31)	December 3 - December 17, 2007	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(Mar 17 - March 26)	February 5 - February 19, 2008	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(April 21 - April 30)	April 1 - April 16, 2008	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
	May 5 - May 19, 2008	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(Sept 10 - Sept 19)	North Pitt (Register with Lisa Veale)	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(Nov 15 - Nov 28)	September 26 - Oct 10, 2007	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(Feb 11 - Feb 20)	December 4 - December 18, 2007	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(April 21 - April 30)	February 25 - March 11, 2008	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
	May 5 - May 19, 2008	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(Sept 10 - Sept 19)	South Central (Register with Betty Jo Manning)	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(Nov 12 - Nov 21)	September 24 - October 8, 2007	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(Feb 4 - Feb 15)	November 27 - December 11, 2007	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(March 17 - March 26)	February 18 - March 4, 2008	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(April 28 - May 7)	April 8 - April 22, 2008	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
	May 15 - May 30, 2008	3:45 pm - 6:45 pm
(Sept 10 - Sept 28)	A.G. Cox Middle School (Register at NCDS office 321-6700)	8:00 am - 2:30 pm
	October 6, 13, 20 27, Nov 3, 2007 (Sat. only class)	8:00 am - 2:30 pm
(Jan 14 - Jan 28)	C.M. Eddes Middle School (Register at NCDS office 321-6700)	8:00 am - 2:30 pm
(Feb 18 - March 14)	February 2, 9, 16, 23, March 1, 2008 (Sat. Only Class)	8:00 am - 2:30 pm
	March 24 - March 28, 2008 (Easter Break Class)	8:00 am - 2:30 pm

- > Students must be 14 1/2 years of age by the first day of class.
- > Students must bring a copy of their birth certificate on the first day of class.
- > Students are allowed one absence. (Students are allowed no absences during the Saturday and Easter class)
- > Questions should be directed to North Carolina Driving School at 252-321-6700.
- > Sign up dates are in parenthesis.

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Official: Election reform sees success

By Brock Letchworth
The Daily Reflector
Monday, August 13, 2007

Molly Beacham is ecstatic about the progress Democracy North Carolina has made over the past couple of years.

Beacham, director of development for the nonprofit election-reform group, has seen gains in its effort to curtail the power of special-interests money in campaign financing and increase voter turnout.

Beacham discussed progress as the guest speaker during the NAACP's Pitt County meeting Sunday at Mount Calvary Free Will Baptist Church.

"We want to control the amount of money in statewide campaigns, and the complement to that is getting more voters in so you have a democracy that really works where people are engaged and making decisions," Beacham said. "We're really excited this session to be able to report wins on both sides with big money out and more voters in."

To counter large campaign contributions from special interest groups, public campaign financing will be available to candidates in three of North Carolina's 10 council of state races in 2008, Beacham said. The General Assembly passed the legislation, which is a one-time test, earlier this month. It will include races for the state's commissioner of insurance, auditor and superintendent of public instruction.

Beacham says she also is hopeful that same-day voter registration will be cleared by the U.S. Justice Department in

time for the upcoming early election period which runs Oct. 18-Nov. 3. Same-day voter registration would allow individuals to register and vote simultaneously at early voting sites during the early-voting period. Beacham says Democracy North Carolina studies have shown that the change would increase voter participation, especially among younger voters.

"We are really looking at this as a way of engaging young people," Beacham said. "We've done research that shows if someone doesn't vote by their early 30s, they're never going to vote. So getting people voting at 18 and in their 20s is key to having vibrant and participatory campaigns. We're hopeful that same-day registration will be available by the November election, and this is a new option folks can take advantage of."

According to Beacham, voter turnout in North Carolina is among the bottom 20 percent in the country. The addition of public financing and same-day registration will help that, she said.

"We think of them as being complementary," Beacham said

of the reforms. "Now with money dominating so many of the statewide agencies, if you don't have wealth or any access to wealth, you can't be a viable candidate. So some voters feel there's no difference in voting for this rich candidate or that rich candidate. We think that the two branches of our reform will work well together, curtailing the power of special interest money and using a source of alternative public money for candidates who qualify, and at the same time working on another set of reforms that make it easier to vote."

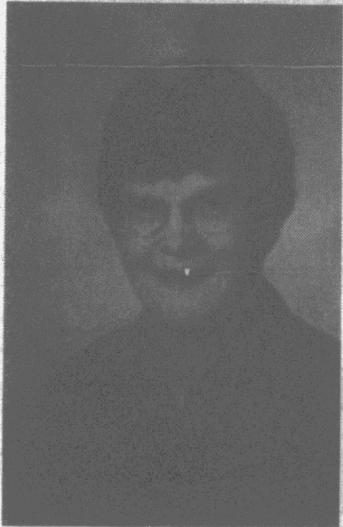
Beacham praised the NAACP for its backing of her group's reform efforts.

"Folks know that money and politics are a problem, but they don't know we have these solutions," Beacham said. "The more we can let people know, the more we can work toward fixing the problem."

DNC was formed in 2003 with the goal of fulfilling the promise of "one person, one vote." The organization is funded through national and community foundations as well as by individual donors.

For more information call (919) 286-6000.

PAT DUNN FOR MAYOR



** Strive to maintain/increase cooperative partnerships with ECU, PCC,

Pitt County Schools, Pitt County Commissioners, PCMH, neighboring

Cities/towns and the NC Department of Transportation.

** Encourage long range planning & support the Citizen's Comprehensive Plan

** Promote working together of all our citizens

** League of Women Voters of Pitt County, President

** ReLeaf (promotes tree planting; donate trees to city)

** Eastern NC Council on Substance Abuse

** Deacon and Sunday School Teacher

The people of this city are truly our greatest and richest resource. Working together we can meet the objectives that I pledge as mayor.

Sincerely,

Paid for by the Campaign For Pat Dunn

My Community Service (Past and Present)

** Habitat for Humanity of Pitt County, President

** Pitt County Council on Aging, Chair

** Pitt County Board of Elections, Chair

** STRIVE Advisory Board, Chair (organization that trains employees)


** Community Development Corporation—Philippi Church

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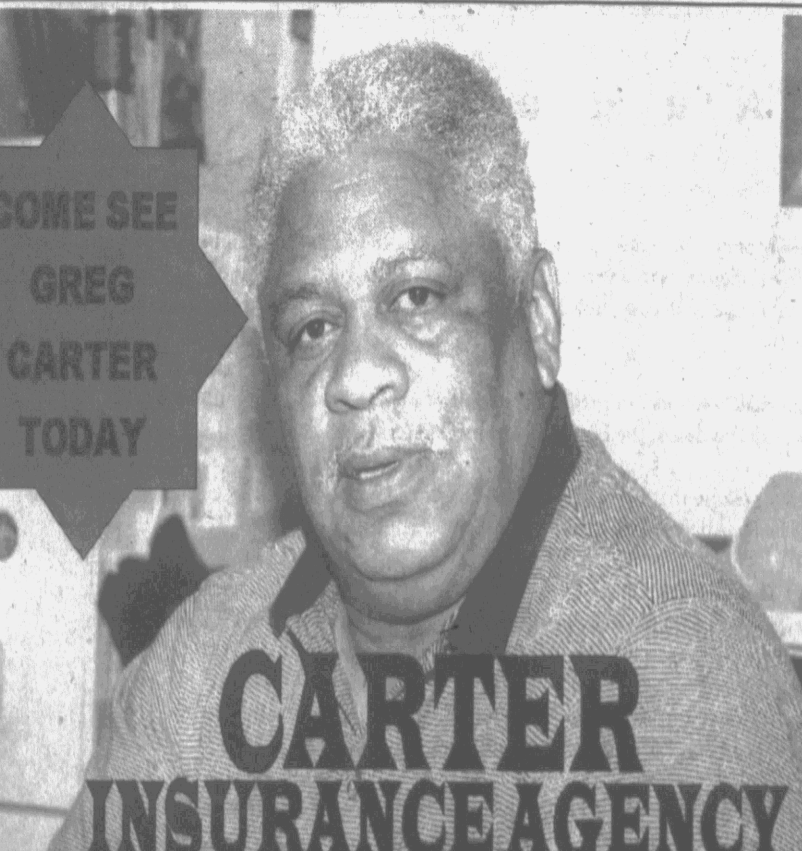
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