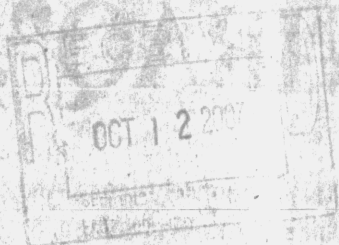




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# THE MINORITY VOICE

Greenville-Pitt County  
Chamber of Commerce

Greenville-Pitt County  
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**Jena 6**

## BLACK WOMAN ALLEGEDLY RAPED, TORTURED IN W. VA.

**BLACK WOMAN ALLEGEDLY RAPED, TORTURED IN W. VA. KIDNAPPING CASE, WEEK OF SEPT 13-19, 2007**  
by CASH MICHAELS  
*The Wilmington Journal*  
Originally posted 9/12/2007

But unlike the Duke case, where a black woman alleged being gang raped by three white lacrosse players – allegations that were later discredited – the evidence in the Big Creek case seems overwhelming.

of a toilet by her captors.

The complaints add that hot water was poured on the young woman, and at one point, she was choked with a cable cord.

Evidence indicates that she was allegedly forced to live in a shed during her weeklong

**STORY PAGE 10**



The arrestees are seen in the above mug shots. Pictured clockwise from the upper left are Frankie Brewster, 49; Bobby Brewster, 24; Danny Combs, 20; George Messer, 27; Alisha Burton, 22; and Karen Burton, 46.

With echoes of North Carolina's Duke alleged rape case still reverberating, authorities in the Big Creek community of Charleston, West Virginia are continuing to investigate the gruesome details surrounding the alleged weeklong racial kidnapping, rape and torture of a young black woman by six white suspects, three of whom are women.

And all of the suspects have been in serious trouble with the law before.

Criminal complaints filed in the case allege that beyond being repeatedly stabbed in the left leg and sexually abused by several people, the black female was called "nigger," made to eat rat and dog feces, lick up blood from the floor, and drink water out



PEACE RALLY



PEACE RALLY



JENA MARCH



JENA MARCH



**READ THE M'VOICE**



## "New Blood Brings New Ideas"

**Local Organization Pushes For More Members To Enhance Effectiveness**

**"New Blood Brings New Ideas" Local Organization Pushes For More Members To Enhance Effectiveness**

Story and Photo: Gaius "Guy" Sims, Sr.



From left to right James Chapman, President, Clinton Elbert, A.B. Smith, A.C. Smith and Les Cox, Secretary during a recent meeting held at the Golden Corral in Greenville, NC.

photo Guy Simms

GREENVILLE, NC - In a recent meeting the charter members of SERTOMA INTERNATIONAL met to continue their dialog on several important issues. Aside from their overall global mission to locally provide services to people with hearing, speech and language disorders, much of their discussions was focused on their secondary mission,

finding other ways in which to service the community locally, including ways to build their membership here which it appeared to be one of their primary concerns.

Significantly as one member put it, "building their membership would aid them in executing other projects they feel that earnestly need to be addressed among which include issues faced by "young black men face in our community." One member said that they need to build their organization large enough so they could spread themselves out among other issues facing our community.

Another objective is to enhance the presence of SERTOMA in the community. As one member put it, "in the

past they did things quietly because they did not want to appear to be "self aggrandizing." They now believe that an enhanced presence would be more beneficial in enabling them to more successfully engage and execute the plans they have on the drawing board.

Locally, broadening their membership base is key also. Up to this point locally, SERTOMA has been made up of strictly male members, but some of the membership has been tossing around the idea of inviting women to join them. As one member put it, adding woman to the membership could bring a more engaging set of dynamics to SERTOMA -

cont. pg 9

## NC NAACP CONVENTION TO WILMINGTON

OCTOBER 11-13, WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13-19, 2007  
by CASH MICHAELS  
*The Wilmington Journal*



Originally posted 9/25/2007

A national symposium of the 1898 Wilmington white supremacist massacre, and a legal commission that will examine the ramifications of the Duke lacrosse alleged rape case, will be just two of the many highlights for the upcoming 64th Annual State Convention of the NC Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The event, slated for the Hilton Riverside Hotel in downtown Wilmington Oct. 11-13, will be hosted by the New Hanover County NAACP.

Member representatives from branches across North Carolina's 100 counties will converge in the port city to address issues dealing with improving education, achieving economic equity for low wealth communities, and reforming the criminal justice system.

"Our theme is, 'The people, the power, the NAACP: fighting for our children, not just ourselves,'" NCNAACP Pres. Dr. William Barber told reporters Monday during a press conference here in Wilmington.

"We are a membership organization which invites people to join together in an effort to

utilize their collective power and strength to expect change in the area of racial disparity," Rev. Barber continued, adding, "History show that whenever the NAACP has taken a stand and stood up for justice and civil rights, it has made America better."

Rev. Barber noted that several representatives from the 78-member HK on J Coalition that marched on the state Legislature last March will be in attendance at the convention.

A legislative report card will be issued to determine how responsive state lawmakers have been to the 14-point HK on J agenda.

Leading legal and civil rights scholars will discuss supporting implementation of the recommendations, including reparations, from the 1898 Wilmington Race Riot Report.

And during the 2nd Annual Romalius Murphy Continuing Legal Education seminar, the current state of school integration in the aftermath of the recent US Supreme court decision striking down race-based assignments will also be discussed.

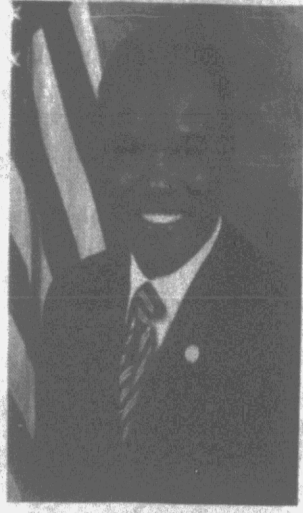
The current housing foreclosure crisis involving subprime mortgages is another hot topic.

"We are a civil rights organization, not a social service

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OPINION

“END THE MISGUIDED WAR IN IRAQ”



GUEST EDITORIAL, “END THE MISGUIDED WAR IN IRAQ”, WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20-26, 2007 by CONGRESSMAN DAVID SCOTT  
The Wilmington Journal  
Originally posted 9/25/2007

As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and the Vice Chairman of the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade as well as Co-Chair of the Democratic Study Group on National Security, I am particularly well positioned as a leader in Congress on the issue of the Global War on Terror and it's nexus with the Iraq War.

Let me state at the outset that I, the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus and Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives are committed to ending the war in Iraq as soon as possible and refocusing our nation's attention on fighting the real threats of terrorism around the world.

Our highest priority is to protect our nation from terrorists. But while our American troops and resources remain mired in Iraq, Al - Qaeda, who orchestrated the September 11th terrorists attacks...not Iraq, is regaining strength in Afghanistan and Pakistan and is stronger today than they were prior to their attack on our country six years ago.

Moreover, after losing the lives of 3,760 American soldiers and with over 27,000 more wounded, Osama bin Laden, the architect of 9/11 is still alive and at large and on video continuing to threaten the American People.

Meanwhile, our Army and

Marine Corps are at the breaking point. We have no Strategic Reserves. Many soldiers are on their third and fourth tours in Iraq and our military families are at the point of no return mentally, physically and in some cases even financially.

All of this is occurring while the Iraqi government remains incapable of stepping up to its responsibilities and achieving meaningful political reconciliation. This situation is unacceptable and illustrates why our current policy in Iraq constitutes our nation's biggest foreign policy blunder ever.

Only Iraqis can solve Iraq's problems. We must move our soldiers out of the cross hairs of Iraq's civil war immediately and move quickly to redeploy, reconstitute and refocus our military. Diplomacy and the critical political and economic reconciliation components of the rebuilding process in Iraq are truly lacking. Because of this, I and members of the Congressional Black Caucus are providing the leadership necessary to end the

occupation of Iraq.

America must only commit our young men and women into battle when all other means are exhausted and only against those who attack us or pose an immediate threat to the safety of our nation. Unfortunately, the Bush Administration has not honored this proven advice and we are paying a heavy price.

President Bush's policy appears to be to continue to advance the War on Iraq and then hand the war over to the next President to deal with.

This is absolutely wrong. And, this is ironically creating a system that is draining our resources, over-stretching our military powers and weakening the national borders of the United States.

The demand for our military forces is exceeding the capacity of our all-volunteer service. The political leadership at the Department of Defense has broken its pledge to not keep soldiers in Iraq for more than 12 months at a time and to give soldiers at least a full year at home before redeploying them again to Iraq. The National Guard, which is designed to be used to maintain and protect our homeland, has been pulled

from this important duty and deployed to Iraq, further weakening our borders and exposing the United States to serious immigration threats.

It is evident that by continuing with this war, America is not safer as asserted by General Petraeus himself in his recent testimony before Congress.

Instead we have been exposed to greater dangers in the future. We can, we must and we will do better. America deserves the best leadership in the fight against terror and we must begin by ending the misguided War in Iraq and putting America's vital interests first. *U. S. Rep. David Scott is a Democrat representing Georgia, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus and an NNPA special columnist.*



Politics 101-Part II: Do Republicans Really Hate Black People? 'Some Might Think That They Do'

by Hazel Trice Edney

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Only one of seven Republican candidates showed up for the NAACP presidential forum this summer. That one was Congressman Tom Tancredo (Colo.). All eight Democrats attended.

Not one Republican presidential candidate showed up at the National Urban League's summer conference. Four Democrats came.

All four top Republican candidates have declined to participate in the PBS-Tavis Smiley "All-American Presidential Forum" scheduled for Sept. 27 at historically Black Morgan State University. All eight Democrats attended the forum at Howard University.

Hate. It's an awfully strong word. Thesaurus.com describes it as being "to loathe", "to despise" or to "look down on contemptuously."

Yet, when considering Republican presidential candidates' apparent diversion to facing Black audiences and Black issues, even some of the most faithful Black Republicans say that "hate" - though strong - sometimes doesn't appear that far off.

"Hate is a strong word. But I can see how some might think that they do," says former U. S. Rep. J. C. Watts of Oklahoma. "I say this respectfully, but they're running very White voter demographic campaigns."

In an interview with the NNPA News Service, Watts, the former lone Black Republican in Congress, now a Republican strategist, did not tow the party line.

"Look who they are surrounding themselves with. Who are they listening to? Where are the African-Americans in their inner-circles?" he asks. "Where have the Republicans been on the Jena Six case?... Where are those same people that were crying fowl in the Duke rape case? Why have they not cried fowl in the Jena Six?"

This is not the first time that Watts has broken ranks with his overwhelmingly White counterparts.

As a member of Congress, he remained a supporter of affirmative action. Even now, he implies Republicans are hypocritical on affirmative action, a bread and butter issue in the Black community.

"How can Republicans say, 'We're opposed to affirmative action', but then we're tweaking the tax code to help some corporation? How can you say you're opposed to affirmative action but, you've got 27 percent of the United States Army who are Americans of African descent, but you have the defense industry who spend less than one percent of their money with Black firms?... Again, when Black people peel the onion and see all of this, you think, 'Woe, woe. Something is wrong with this picture.'"

On the other hand, Republican National Committee Chairman Mike Duncan signals that all is well between Republicans and African-Americans.

"Republicans campaign with African-Americans the same that they campaign with other Americans. They talk about their values," Duncan says. He lists "lower taxes, less government, individual responsibility and a strong

national defense" as Republican values.

Republican remedies are simply different, Duncan says.

He notes the wealth gap between the typical White family and the typical Black family. "We lower that gap through economic opportunity... Closing the economic gap is a big part of this," he says. He says loans from the Small Business Administration, a focus on education through No Child Left Behind, and increasing funding to historically Black colleges and universities are tackling these problems.

Bureau of Labor Statistics numbers give no evidence of a closing economic gap between Blacks and Whites. In the eight years of the Bush administration, the jobless rate for African-Americans has remained consistently double that of Whites.

Also, a majority of Republicans consistently receive nearly all Fs on the NAACP Congressional Report Cards on economic and education issues.

Duncan says he has no influence on whether Republican presidential candidates speak to Black audiences. But, he says the reason they haven't is largely due to conflicts in priorities, scheduling and strategies.

No excuse, says Tavis Smiley, host of the All-American Forums being aired live by PBS at historically Black universities. He said the absence of the top four Republican candidates at the forum next week will reveal how they really feel about

Black people.

Arizona Sen. John McCain, former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani, former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney and former Tennessee senator Fred Thompson have all declined to attend.

Smiley says he will highlight their absences by frequently focusing on the empty podiums.

"The message we should take from this is that we are not a priority for them. That's the only message I know," Smiley says. "I think it's a fundamental lack of appreciation for the role that we play in America. I believe that their disrespecting Black and Brown folk by not appearing at these debates... is going to become a watershed moment in this campaign."

He continues, "We live in the most multi-racial, multi-ethnic America ever. No one should be elected president in 2008 - Black, White or Brown, male or female, Republican or Democrat - if they're not going to speak to every community of color in America. You shouldn't even be considered seriously as a candidate if you are leaving Black and Brown folk out of the conversation."

Shannon Reeves, executive director of the RNC's African-American Leadership Council, says his job is to make sure that kind of conversation happens between Blacks and Republicans.

"I'm dealing with a five-year strategic plan to build relationships and to begin to

identify and to have an advocacy group of leaders within the Republican Party to advocate on behalf of the African-American community," he says.

Reeves, who was at the NUL convention where there were no Republican candidates, is making rounds among Black organizations. "Not preaching to people, but saying, 'How can the party be relevant in your life and in the lives of your organizations and your members,'" he says.

He says he is also working with state and local development for the RNC, helping Republican officials to learn "how to have relationships with communities like ones you've never lived in so that within the next 10 years the Republican Party landscape will look totally different than the way it looks today."

Watts is sharply critical of such advisory positions by Black Republicans.

"I really don't care to do those advisory committees anymore because I think they're hogwash. I think they're cosmetology. It took me eight years to realize that," he says.

In the past, the Republican Party has formed leadership and advisory councils to not only advise Republicans, but recruit them, especially young Blacks.

Ashley Etienne, 29, a media strategist and communications specialist with the Dewey Square Group, a consultant to several Democratic campaigns, says she has compared both parties.

"I was raised to be aware of the policies of both parties," says Etienne. "I think the Democratic Party is more concerned with the issues that are more important to our community. But, I think that

there needs to be more of a dialog between the Black community and the Democratic Party. I mean that's without a question."

Even some Blacks who became Republicans are now coming back to the Democrats.

Terone B. Green, 46, who has been an active and outspoken Virginia Republican for about 12 years, says he has finally had enough.

"I don't see the Republicans doing anything to develop and promote young African-Americans for positions or for appointments," he says. "It's not about hate, but it's clearly racism. People are just comfortable with people who look like them. You only see them reach out when they need other demographics to help them with their win."

Green says he is leaning toward Sen. Hillary Clinton after quitting the Republican Party two months ago after years of speaking out against perceived biases within the Party.

Love or hate, Republicans must wake up, says Watts.

"As much as we would love to have a color-blind society, we are very naive to think that we are," says Watts, an ordained minister.

"And I'll go another step further. We are very naive to think that we're ever going to get there. And I don't think that's a bad thing. God didn't mean for us to be a color blind society. God didn't mean for all of us to be White or to be Black. God is the author of another person's skin color. So, if diversity of color is okay for God, it ought to be okay for Republicans."

# COMMUNITY NEWS



Mrs Beatrice Maye

## Money Mistakes Black Women Make

Black women make money mistakes. Financial experts identified some of the top money mistakes Black women make:

1. Addiction to shoes and handbags.
2. Putting their financial lives on hold. They rent rather than purchase their own home. And tend not to save while looking forward to a future life with "Prince Charming." Too many women wait to get married before gaining control of their finances.
3. No financial plan. Many women do not think sacrificially about

their financial priorities long-term. It is always wise to pay yourself first; start making small investments and start saving for retirement early.

4. Getting divorced. After a divorce, a women's households income usually decreases by as much as 45%.

5. Lack of asset protection, losing a job, death of a spouse, a major illness or accident, or divorce. These life-altering events can affect you financially, but many Black women are not prepared. Acquire adequate life insurance, disability insurance, and long-term insurance for themselves and their spouses. A three-to-six month emergency fund is a must.

Financial experts recommend that women take the following steps: stop getting deeper in debt, develop a financial plan, and get help from a reputable financial planner, pay yourself first; protect your home and self with adequate

insurance plans, purchase used rather than new cars, calculate how much income you need after retirement, devise a plan and stick to it.

### Food for Thought

"Those who think they have not time for bodily exercise will sooner or later have to find time for illness." (Edward Stanley)

"Empowerment is all about letting go so that others can get along." (Kenneth Blanchard)

"A vacation is what you take when you can no longer take what you have been taking." (Earl Wilson)

"The dictionary is the only place where success comes before work." (Unknown)

"Those that say you can't take it with you — never saw a car packed for a FAMILY vacation trip." (Unknown)

"Vacation used to be a luxury, but in today's world it has become a necessity."

"A vacation is over when you begin to yearn for your work." (Morris Fishbein)

"The world is full of willing people, some willing to work, the rest willing to let them." (Robert Frost)

"Summertime is the BEST time for family FUNTIME."

"Beautiful people are accidents of nurture, but beautiful old people are works of art." (Unknown)

"To acquire knowledge, one must study; but to acquire wisdom, one must deserve." (Marilyn Savant)

"Be decisive — standing in the middle of the road is very dangerous; you get knocked down by traffic from both sides." (Margaret Thatcher)

"People began to be successful the minute they

decide to be." (Harvey Mackay)

"Don't be fooled — you are totally responsible for what is inside your locker."

"Knowledge is power."

"If you can't change your fate, change your attitude." (Amy Tan)

"Never be afraid to do something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark. Professionals built the Titanic." (Anonymous)

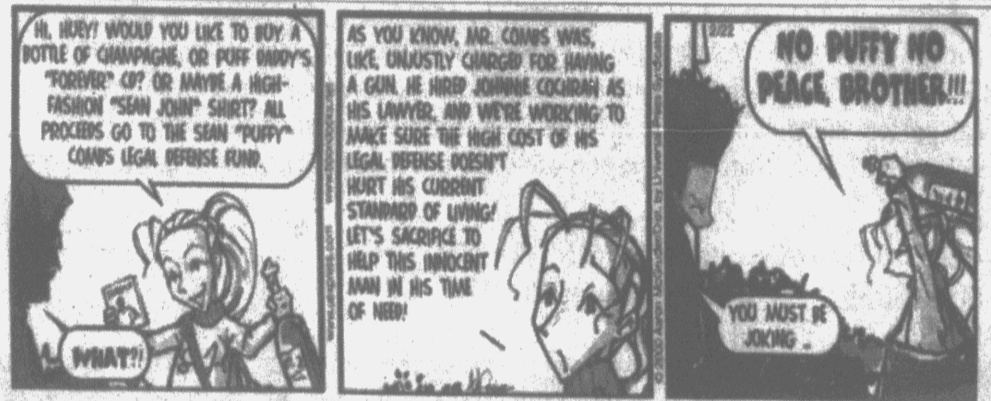
### Who is Michelle Obama?

A working sister, juggling three schedules daily — homework, piano and dance lessons and sports activities for their two young daughters, her own busy schedule as an executive at the University of Chicago Hospitals, and

just to keep things interesting the national schedule for her husband US Senator Barack Obama (D-Illinois), now presidential contender constitutes the life of Michelle Obama.

In May 2006, she was promoted to Vice-President for Community and External Affairs at the University of Chicago Hospitals, making her responsible for all programs and initiatives that involve the relationships between the hospitals and the community as well as management of the hospitals' business diversity program.

Michelle Obama, a "cum laude" graduate of Princeton University, met her husband at Harvard Law School. She and the Senator instill in their girls, Malia and Sasha, "to treat people like you expect to be treated. That is more important than how you look, what you know, or what you are wearing."



Suejette A. Jones

## The Sins of Driving

In a world where people do all kinds of crazy stuff in a car

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Jim Rouse  
Publisher/Founder

Michael Adams  
Editor

Staff Writers  
Beatrice Maye  
Suejette Jones

Contributing writer  
Gailus "Guy" Simms

Home Office  
405 Evans Street  
P.O. Box 8361  
Greenville, NC 27835  
Phone: (252) 757-0365  
Fax: (252) 757-1793

Email: mvoiceneeds@yahoo.com  
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besides driving, one observer has seen it all. She has witnessed a woman attempting to insert her contact lenses while speeding down an urban expressway. She watched a driver eat Chinese carryout from a carton — using chopsticks. And she saw a teenage boy changing his clothes while behind the wheel in moving traffic. How risky is such behavior?

After viewing videos and crunching numbers, researchers identified four specific behaviors that dramatically increase the odds of having a crash: speeding, drowsy driving, taking your eyes off the road for two seconds or longer and aggressive driving — a combination of tailgating, speeding, frequent lane changes, and other maneuvers that reveal a driver's impatience, anger or frustration. Researchers found that drowsiness

contributes to far more traffic crashes than anyone suspected.

### Speed:

Speeding nearly tripled the crash odds. By "speeding," researchers don't mean simply exceeding posted limits. They really mean driving faster than prevailing traffic or driving at a speed "appropriate" for conditions.

### Drowsiness:

Drowsiness proved as dangerous as speeding, also nearly tripling the crash odds. Researchers looked at videos of actual drivers in the minutes immediately preceding a crash or near crash, and they found lots of signs of sleepiness: yawning, slack facial muscles, and drooping eyelids. A lack of eye movement characterized drowsy drivers. They tended to stare fixedly, through partially closed eyes. Almost equally surprising,

most drowsy-driving episodes occurred during broad-daylight hours.

### Distractions:

Distractions requiring the drivers to look away from the road for two seconds or longer nearly doubled the chances of a crash. This included applying make-up, dialing a cell phone, searching for a CD, or reading behind the wheel — all non-driving-related activities. Adjusting climate controls, changing radio stations and other behaviors associated usually didn't take more than two seconds. The results show how quickly and unexpectedly traffic conditions can change, making distractions dangerous even when maintaining a "safe" driving distance.

The researchers noted that a lot of rear-end crashes occurred when the drivers kept a greater-than-two-second headway between their car and the car ahead

of them. Despite this safety cushion, they turned their attention away from the road, something happened that caused traffic to slow down or brake, and — bam! — they hit the vehicle ahead.

### Aggression:

Aggressive driving, like two-second distractions, also doubled the risk of a crash. Researchers defined "aggressive driving" as using the vehicle to menace another driver or pedestrian, and also as a combination of speeding, weaving in and out of traffic, running stop signs, and other actions.

### Future Studies:

Researchers will continue to examine crash risk associated with particular types of drivers or combinations of activities. Videos and black box readings will prove to be very useful instruments in developing collision avoidance systems.

# Reflections

## CHURCH NEWS

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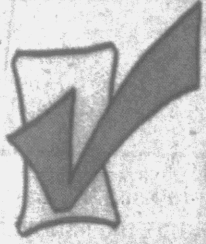
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## ASSISTANT DA REMOVED FROM THE JOHNSON CASE IN WILSON COUNTY

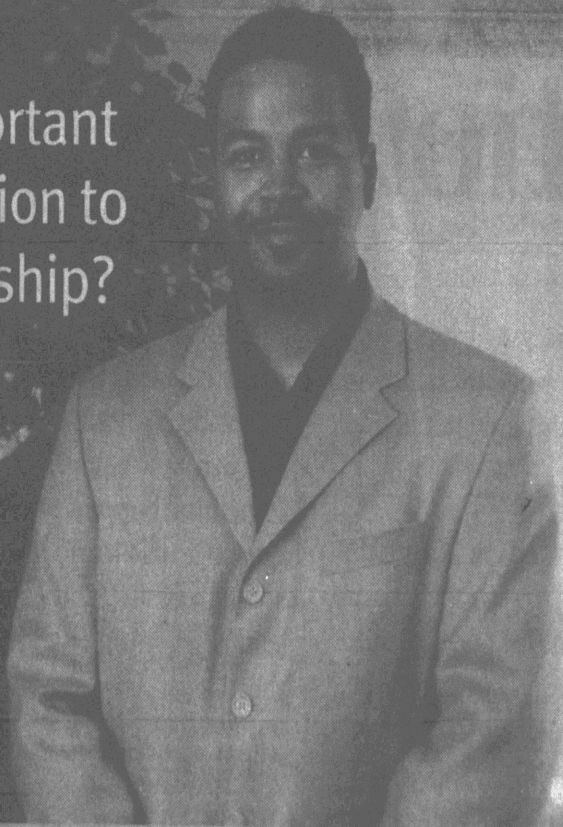
Durham - At 10AM this morning, (24 Sept. 07) it was announced that the Assistant DA, William Wolf has been removed from the James Johnson case in Wilson, NC. The matter has been turned over to the State Attorney General's office for review, with the assignment of a Special Prosecutor to the case. Johnson's bond has been reduced from \$1 million to \$60,000. NAACP State Conference President, Rev. William Barber is sitting in Wilson with Rev. Darryl Canady, and Rev. Elton Powell, waiting to walk Mr. Johnson out to greet his family after a three-year incarceration.

There will be a Press Conference at 5pm today at the Jackson Chapel First Baptist Church located at Pender and Nash Streets in Wilson with NAACP leaders, ministers, Johnson family members, attorneys and James.

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization whose mission is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination. For more information, call the State Office at 866-626-2227 or e-mail us at [ncnaacp@gmail.com](mailto:ncnaacp@gmail.com). ##

— Amina J Turner, Executive Director NC NAACP  
114 W Parrish St, Second Floor Durham, NC 27701  
919/682-4700 919/682-4711 (fax)

How important is dedication to a relationship?



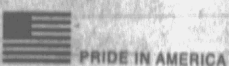
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## THE MARCH IN NC FOR JENA 6

Deondra and Shashanah, march organizers; pause after the march for our camera. Thank You Ladies photo M. Adams



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I didn't forget about the other young man. After he received Jesus into his heart, he went home and took every beer can and liquor bottle, placed them in a trash bag and threw the bag in the dumpster and said, "I am going to live."

confess with my mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in my heart that Jesus was raised from the dead, thou shalt be saved." I thank you, Lord for not giving up on me. I thank you for accepting me into your kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

The power of a spoken word can transform your life in a matter of moments. If you want to change the direction that you are traveling in life, simply pray this prayer:

If you sincerely prayed this prayer, Jesus came into your heart and has given you a new life. You can really begin living a life full of peace. If you are not a member of a local body, I do encourage you to find a ministry that teaches the Word of God. Make your confession daily. Salvation is a faith step. As you continue to grow in your relationship with the Lord, you can experience a transformed life because your mind has been renewed through the Word of God.

Be blessed and have a joyous life in Jesus.

Sowing a seed into your life.

## Sow A Seed

By Joy R. Brown

### Transforming Your Life Through The Word of God

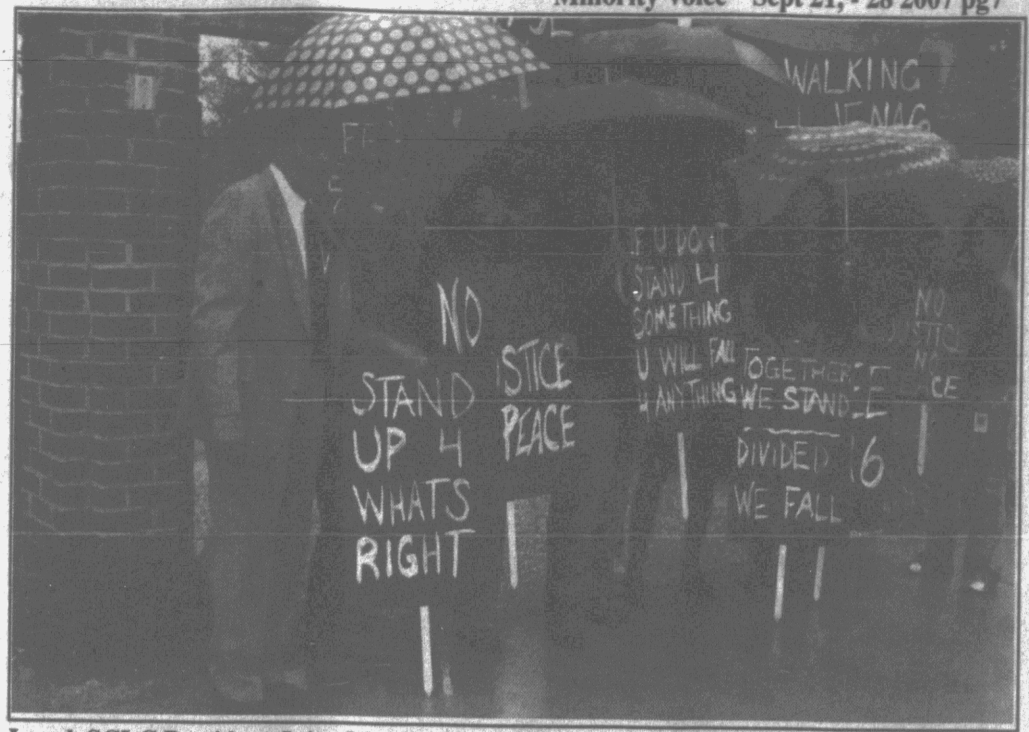
A transformed life is the result of a renewed mind. Before the life of an individual can be transformed, the Word of God must renew the mind. Sunday, September 23, 2007, a man by the name of "Uncle Jesse," discovered his life had been transformed within twenty-four hours.

My Pastor took the opportunity to minister to "Uncle Jesse" on a Wednesday night during Bible Study. As she ministered to him, he could feel a sense of hope. The members began to hug him and minister love to "Uncle Jesse." This love drew him back to service on Sunday. As the Word was going forth, "Uncle Jesse's" life was being transformed. After the service, an invitation to salvation was presented. "Uncle Jesse" raised his hand and began to walk to the front. He said, "I want to give my life to Jesus."

To give you a brief history about "Uncle Jesse," he is disabled and "was" homeless. When he accepted the Lord, his life began to change instantly. As he was ministered to, another young man walked to the altar and said he wanted to give his life to the Lord.

After accepting the Lord, the body of believers gathered together and found a place for "Uncle Jesse" to live, placed money in his hands, and gave him an assurance that everything was going to work out for him.

He began to cry and thank God for meeting his need. He needed a place to live, a place to rest and call home. Before he received the peace of God in the natural, he received it first in his heart. "Uncle Jesse" was excited about the manifestation of God within twenty-four hours.



Local SCLC President Joins March ... pictured above is the president of Greenville's branch of the SCLC, President Ruffis Hudgins. The local protest march of the Jena 6 Trial was preceded by a rally which took place on the campus of East Carolina University. These supporters plowed through the rain for 5 miles through the streets of Greenville. photo Michael Adams

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**CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE**

*It's time for Us, the Citizens, to take a Stand to make Greenville a Safer City.*

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

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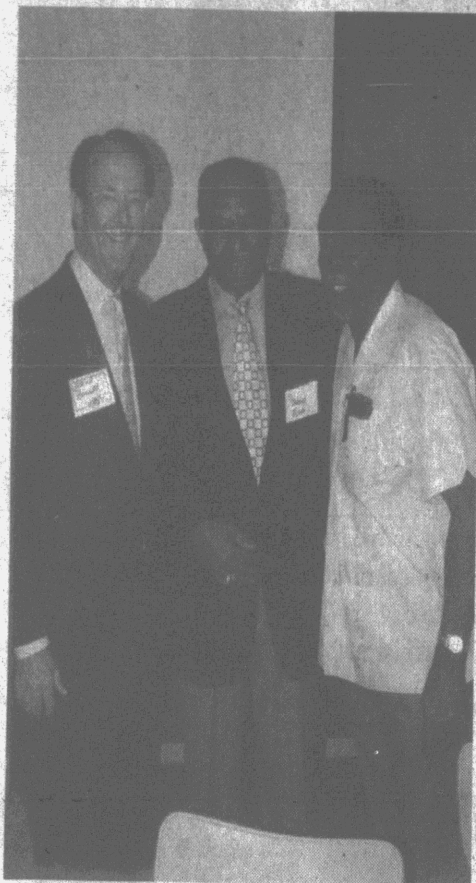
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# Your Universities Are Listening



UNC President Erskine Bowles, Board of Governors Chairman Jim Phillips and members of a statewide blue-ribbon commission visited East Carolina University and communities across North Carolina to hear from you how UNC campuses can best serve our state. On hand were council members Mildred Council, Rose Glover, Pat Dunn and other community leaders.

Erskine Bowles says the state's public universities "haven't been very good at listening." He intends to change that.

Bowles, was part of a statewide series of "listening forums" that made its debut on the East Carolina University campus Sept. 10.

About 200 people attended the event in the Murphy Center to give advice and input to the UNC Tomorrow Commission, which is conducting the forums.

Inset picture: Erskine Bowles, Dudley Flood and Don Insley photo Jim Rouse

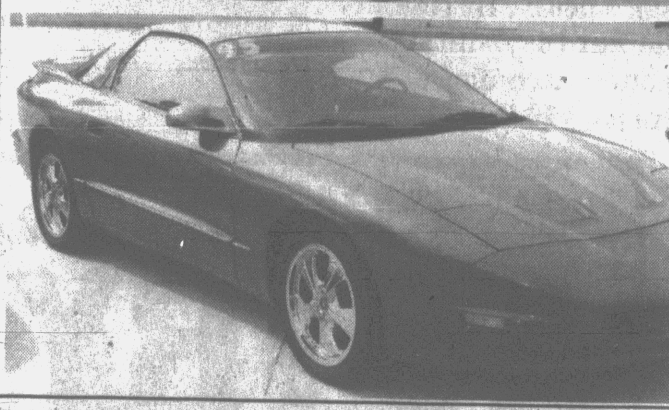
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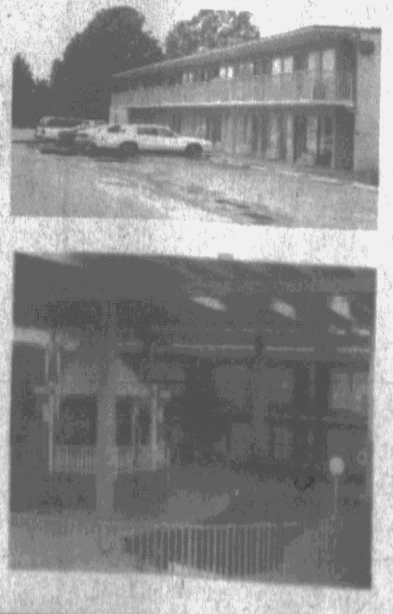
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**"New Blood Brings New Ideas" cont...**

Greenville. "New blood brings in new ideas," said Les Cox, the local secretary. In the past some of SERTOMA outstanding accomplishments included launching the concept of the Jackie Robinson Baseball League and sponsoring that league some 15 years ago because young black youth weren't actively in any numbers recruited to join the Babe Ruth League locally. SERTOMA continues to sponsor the Jackie Robinson League today.

Much more recently the University Esquires, an event that somewhat parallels debutante balls was created as a means of young black men to pursue higher learning. Since commencing these activities the have been 100% successful. Thus far all of their candidates have enter college.

SERTOMA INTERNATIONAL now a worldwide organization came into being in Raleigh in 1985 and a Greenville Chapter was setup 5 years later. SERTOMA INTERNATIONAL is a 501 (c)4 not for profit civic organization dedicated to service to mankind (SERTOMA), with 20,000 members in over 700 clubs

across Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the United States. Every year Sertoma clubs raise more than \$20 million for community needs.

In a statement released by SERTOMA INTERNATIONAL, and which was apparent by the warmth projected during their meeting, Sertomans feel that they can offer its membership a camaraderie of life-long friendships, leadership training and personal growth opportunities, networking and learning about your community and its priorities, and the opportunity to make a real difference - the ultimate "feel good" opportunity.

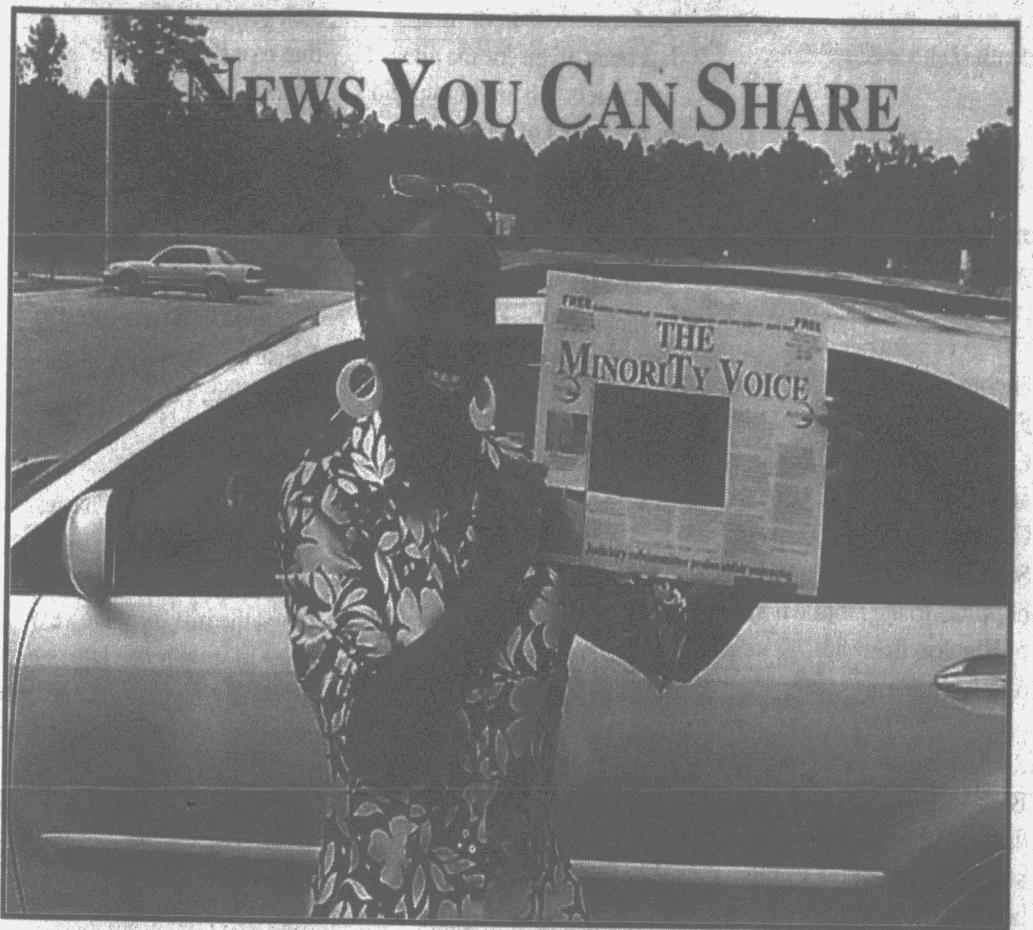
Globally, Sertoma's primary service project is assisting the more than 50 million people with speech, hearing and language disorders. Sertoma also sponsors community projects to promote freedom and democracy via civic involvement, youth causes and a variety of other local community needs, as selected and funded by individual clubs.

Sertomans are dedicated to service to mankind. As the third oldest service organization in the United States Sertomans

are bound together through a common thread of camaraderie and a sense of contributing to something much larger than oneself. Sertoma considers its membership is non-exclusive and not limited by boundaries, gender, socioeconomic class, race or religion. In order to provide diverse services to diverse communities, Sertoma is comprised of diverse individuals, including minorities and women of all ages, trades people, small business owners, educators, housewives and professionals.

Projects that have been funded by SERTOMA include summer camps for hard of hearing youth; Fantasy Sports Camps; speech or hearing related equipment and screening programs; projects that meet the needs of children or the elderly; school and fire equipment; computer software and hardware; wheelchairs, hearing aids and other communication devices; drug prevention programs; playground or athletic field development; historical preservation and beautification projects; guide dogs for the blind and more. Locally those people who may be interested in finding out more about SERTOMA can contact A.C. Smith at 252-752-9299. Guy Sims

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*Your Host: Woody J.*  
\*\*\* 7PM - UNTIL \*\*\*

**VOTE**  
**CHUCK AUTRY**  
**CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE**

I have six years of experience as a councilman. I was a liason for Greenville Utilities Commission, Planning & Zoning, chairperson for the Parking Authority and I have served on the Housing Authority. I was instrumental in obtaining food, clothing and shelter for many citizens displaced by Hurricane Floyd in 1999.

**A VOTE FOR CHUCK AUTRY WILL BE A VOTE FOR A BETTER GREENVILLE !!!**

Paid for the Committee to elect Chuck Autry.

# TORTURED IN W. VA.

captivity, and threatened with death if she tried to leave.

"I mean, I've been in law enforcement for over 30 years, and this is probably the most horrendous thing that I've ever seen or ever encountered," Logan County Sheriff Eddie Hunter told *The Charleston Gazette*. It was an anonymous tip to the Logan County Sheriff's Dept. Saturday that brought deputies to the mobile home of Frankie Brewster, 49, one of the female suspects.

As deputies were speaking to Brewster outside, the distressed black female victim staggered out of the trailer, holding out her arms, asking the deputies to help her.

She was badly injured, with her eyes black and blue from bruising.

Brewster had reportedly told deputies that she was home alone.

Arrested were Ms. Brewster, along with her son, Bobby Ray, 24; Karen Burton, 46; her daughter, Alisha, 23; George Messer, 27; and Danny Combs, 20.

All six have extensive criminal records - 108 criminal charges collectively since 1991 - according to *The Charleston Gazette*.

Frankie Brewster served five years in prison in 1996 for pleading a first-degree murder charge down to voluntary manslaughter and wanton endangerment with a firearm.

Her son Bobby Ray has been charged with domestic assault, domestic battery, brandishing a weapon and obstructing an officer.

Karen Burton was arrested in 2001 and charged with battery on a police officer, assault on a police officer, and disorderly conduct, among other charges.

Alisha Burton and George Messer were both indicted in January for burglary and first-degree robbery, but the charges were dismissed with the alleged victims would not cooperate with authorities.

All now face a plethora of charges related to the alleged Williams abduction, including kidnapping, sexual assault and malicious wounding.

According to *The Gazette*, Karen Burton "...pulled the victim's hair, choked the victim, cut her ankles and told her "that's what we do to niggers around here."

Danny Combs, according to the criminal complaint, "forced the victim to have sex with him at knife point."

So far, no reason or motive has been given for the alleged brutal acts. All are being held in jail in lieu of \$100,000 cash bail each. All six have been appointed public defenders.

Bobby Brewster is scheduled to make the first court appearance Monday.

On Wednesday, federal and state officials decided not to pursue hate crimes charges against the six at this time, saying that with the state penalty being up to life in prison alone, in addition to stiff state penalties for sexual assault and torture, it makes sense to go with the charges prosecutors believe they can be successful with.

"As a practical matter, sentenced to life, what else can be done?" U.S. Attorney Charles T. Miller told *The Associated Press*.

At press time, two more possible suspects who may have driven the alleged victim to the house were being sought by the Logan County Sheriff's Dept.

The horrendous story made national headlines this week, as the victim, a 20-year-old victim who reportedly suffers from mental illness, identified herself to the press as Megan Williams of Charleston.

Williams is currently in a Charleston area hospital recovering from her many injuries, which include deep stab wounds and a fractured arm. Her mother, Carmen Williams, says the family is very angry, and her daughter may be emotionally scarred by her experience for the rest of her life.

"I know the Lord will somehow bring us through this, but you know, it's just devastating," the mother told WOWK-TV13 News.

She did confirm to *The Charleston Gazette* that her daughter has "some mental issues." Another relative confirmed that young Williams had been attending special education classes at a local high school, but did not graduate.

Residents of the predominately white Logan County community are reportedly stunned, say the local media, that human beings could treat each other that way.

But amid the outrage are prayers for Ms. Williams and her family.

"To Megan & Carmen, Our prayers are with you both and may God strengthen you," posted someone named "Jayne" on the local WSAZ-TV viewer message board. "It is disgusting that there is such

sick people in this world and that 6 of the vilest are here in WV."

"God loves you both."

Authorities are trying to determine whether Ms. Williams had been lured to the house by a man she may have met online.

Krysti Sumpter, a 17-year-old neighbor, told *The Charleston Gazette* that a month ago, Ms. Williams was seen running down the hill from the very same mobile home late one night, saying that she had been threatened by a gun.

Sumpter drove Williams to the local State Police headquarters.

Sumpter told the paper that she was sure it was Williams because, "There aren't a lot of black people in the area."

Sumpter added that Williams told her she was dating someone at that house.

Logan County prosecutor Brian Abraham told reporters

Wednesday that Williams did have a "social relationship" with one of the male suspects, and had been at that mobile home before.

Published reports identify that person to be Bobby Brewster.

Carmen Williams did confirm to *The Gazette* that her

daughter, "...has a history of kinda drifting off every once in a while so I just thought she was running around town like she usually does."

Despite the fact that her daughter was legally of age to be responsible for herself, her mother says she's learned an important lesson.

"I want other parents and other mothers to realize that there are people out there like that. To keep a closer eye on their children," Carmen Williams told *The Gazette*. "You never think it'll happen to your child but obviously I never thought, but here we are."

## CATCH THE PIRATES

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### SMITHFIELD LEADERSHIP

#### PROFILES

##### MARVIN PRIOLEAU

HOME: Hope Mills, N.C.

AGE: 41

PROFESSION: Community Relations Liaison

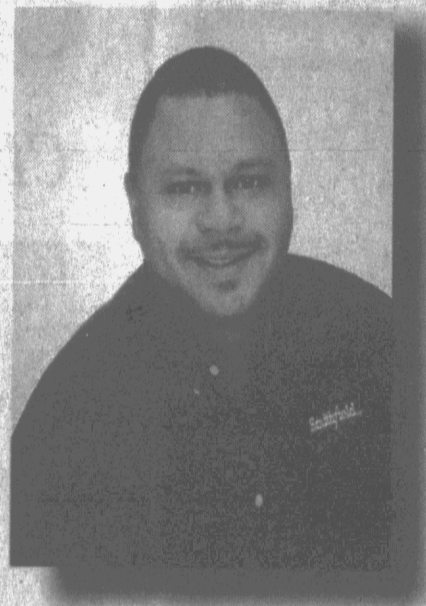
HOBBIES: Watching or attending College Football Games and attending Local Drag Racing Tracks.

LAST BOOK READ: "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" by Stephen Covey.

LAST ACCOMPLISHMENT: Bench Pressing 300lbs at Total Elite Fitness Center.

PROFILE: Married, father of two.

Earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Virginia State. Majored in Administration of Justice with minors in social work and military science. Dedicated community relations professional who looks for opportunities to satisfy the needs of the community through Smithfield's community outreach programs and scholarships. Volunteers as track and football coach for youth ages 6 to 18 and serves as a committee member with the Partnership for Children, Inc. of Cumberland County.



*"I love people and I love to give. If I can get the company to help an organization, a sports team, or a school, and put smiles on their faces, especially kids at a school—*

*That's what I like to do."*

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