

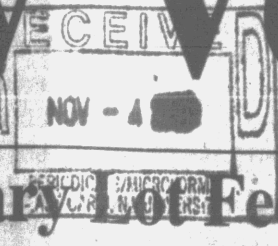
Remember To Vote Nov. 3rd

The Minority Voice

Free!

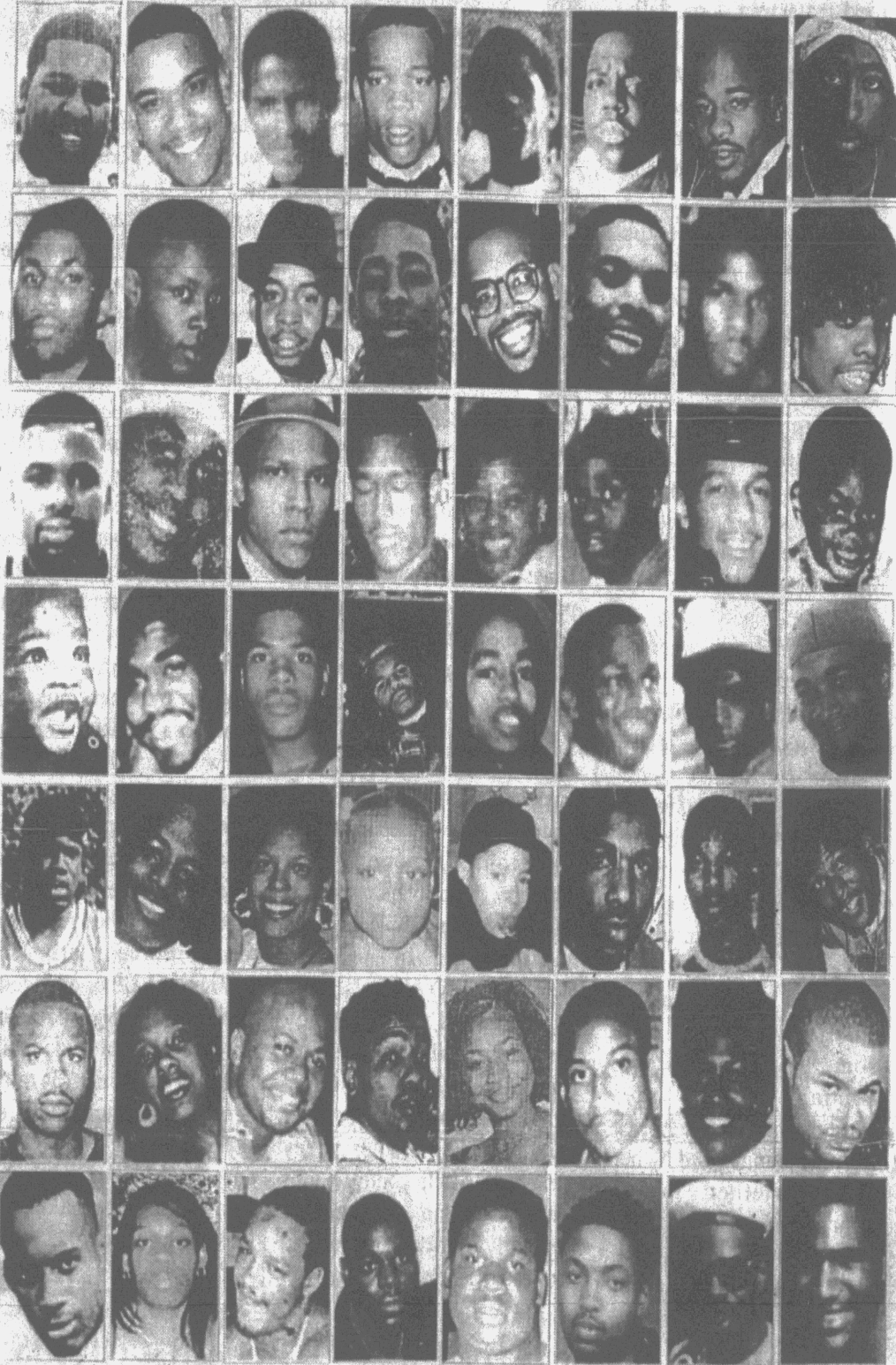
October Issue 2009

Free!



MURDERED!

Cemetery Lot Fees Going Up!



Joiner Library
 Carolina Group, ECU
 Greenville, N.C.
 27834

Images of 56 murdered youth spark calls to end senseless violence

By NAYABA ARINDE
Amsterdam News Editor

This week's AmNews front page is meant to be jarring. And heart-wrenching. Does it make you catch your breath? It is supposed to. "Ninety-nine percent of those people on the poster are from South Jamaica Queens. The only ones who aren't are Biggie from Bed-Stuy and Tupac [claimed somewhat by Brooklyn], and I knew all of them," said activist Erica Ford, CEO and founder of Life Camp Inc. "Most of these children were victims of gun violence, and the age range is 3 to 25." These children were the victims of drive-bys, targeted hits and stray bullets. "All of it is senseless violence," said Ford. "These people are the reason why I am doing

what I am doing now. Their deaths moved me. This youth violence has made me dedicate my life to building a better future for the children. That was why I formed Life Camp, which is a community-based nonprofit organization that wants to provide young people with the means, resources, tools, hope and vision to make the right choices and develop social skills to navigate problems and obstacles that they may face. "Unless and until we address the undiagnosed depression in our community, we will continue to see acts of violence," said Terrie Williams, founder of the Stay Strong Foundation and author of "Black Pain—It Just Looks Like We're Not Hurting." "The answer is clear," continued the Healing Starts With Us mental health advocate, "but no one is understanding the reason for the violence. Every time I hear of these horrors, I also hear people asking, 'What's wrong with

these kids?' They are a reflection of us. We as adults are separate from our own pain and are not getting help, and we pass it on directly to our children. "All of us, through learned silence, learn to absorb shock and never speak of it. And so we self-medicate through violence, through drugs, alcohol, work, anything to not sit with the pain. We act out, we lash out. We want to blame the kids, but the answer is us: We all need help." An unnamed high-ranking source in the police department spoke with the AmNews about the shooting of yet another young Black male on Tuesday in Harlem by Marcus Garvey Park. As the youth is expected to survive his injuries, the law enforcement official opined, "My heart bleeds as I make a plea for you to remain safe and alert through this gun

Continued page 2...

By: W. Terry Smith
Editor

The Daily Southerner

Reduction in cemetery lot fees will have to wait at least another month after a motion to return to the original \$ 500 fee failed to get enough votes Monday night during the Tarboro Town Council meeting. Councilman Jim Alford and Dr. Steve Hoard were absent. Mayor Donald Morris said Alford was under a doctor's care for back pain and Hoard was out of town. Councilman Roy Gray's motion to go back to the original \$ 500 fee for town residents received five votes, but six were needed, Town Attorney Mike Blough

said. Councilman Melvin Muhammad voted nay and later made a motion to reduce the fee to \$ 250 in honor of the town's upcoming 250 birthday next year. His motion died for lack of a second. Muhammad made lengthy remarks why the \$ 750 fee should be reduced drastically. Several times the mayor slammed his gavel down, but Muhammad said, "I'll calm down, but I will be heard!" All of this was after council voted unanimously in June to raise the plot fees to \$ 750 for town residents, and \$ 1500 for out of town residents. After being called upon for the invocation, Gray suggested going straight to the review of the cemetery lot fees later on

the agenda. Admitting, "I wasn't paying attention," Muhammad last month requested that council revisit the cemetery lot fees. After Gray's vote failed—it will be on the Nov. 9 agenda when a simple majority will be needed to pass—two residents stood up during the citizen comments period and suggested council rescind the increase and return to the \$ 500 level.

"I applaud the hard work the town's employees do to keep Eastlawn Cemetery in pristine condition, said Taro Knight of 1118 Edmondson Ave. "What I can't applaud is the 50% increase (from \$ 500 to \$750).

Greenville Mayor Race Heats Up!



Pictured above is incumbent Mayor Patt Dunn and Minnie Johnson Anderson, both hoping to seal the 2009 Greenville Mayor election. Although both women hold great capability to carry out their duties as Mayor efficiently and with the best interest of Greenville citizens at heart, if elected Minnie Johnson Anderson will be the 1st African American Female to have ever occupied the office. Good luck to you both the M Voice Newspaper proudly salutes you.

'What Has Happened to Black Marriages?'

by Rochelle Boykin Bey

Special to the NNPA from the Howard University News Service

WASHINGTON (NNPA)- Men and women must learn

to love themselves first and be more open-minded if they want to get married and stay married. This was the conclusion of experts during a forum on relationships at the annual Congressional Black Caucus

Annual Legislative weekend in Washington. "Love thyself" is the first commandment of love, author and family therapist Audrey Chapman told the audience at the forum. "Single continued page 2.....

Greenville's Hair Show



Pictured To the left.....

Marvin Arrington posing for the Mvoice Camera at the Greenville Hair Show, held at the Greenville convention center Marvin is debuting his newest clothing line and we at the M Voice Newspaper would like to wish him much success with his latest venture and are sure it will do well. Photo by Mike Adams.

Editorials

Murder continued.....

C violence. Please speak to your family and friends and have them spread the message that our community needs a fair chance to live decently without fear plaguing us every time we walk the streets or turn on our televisions and radios. Please stress to them the fact that it is important to stand up for your rights." The NYPD official stated that people should not live in fear and speak up when necessary. Ford suggested, "We need to implement a code of honor, an unwritten but clearly understood set of rules that we live by in the streets. The code that we live by is still in play and it means that we respect the laws by the people in the community. There has to be a body of people who young people can go to with beefs and contradictions that they can't handle themselves." The Bury the Beef campaign focuses on a lot of beefs that get out of control and end up in these killings—like that of 13-year-old Kevin Miller. Said Ford, "These kids need someone who they can talk to. These kids have to know that they don't have to or cannot shoot up the entire community because you are angry with one person or have an issue." Fresh off an anti-violence rally in Queens last Saturday, which called for an abandoned building to be turned into a youth center, Ford said, "Bury the Beef is national and is supported by T.I.'s King Foundation in Atlanta and the Black Star Project in Chicago. "In Queens, Kings of Kings and Man Up Inc. in Brooklyn got \$500,000 each to focus on this issue of stopping this mindless violence. The money came from the SNUG state project and was put into the Kevin Miller Anti-Violence Fund. The monies from the state must go to organizations directly connected to the brothers and sisters working with these kids on the streets. "The gun fire in New York City is crazy, and the organizations on the frontline are the ones who need to be supported. Russell Simmons has come on to support us and has reached out to artists to come up with the anthem for the movement to help bring attention and resources to the street." For more information, contact www.burythebeef.com or call (917) 361-4376.

Black Marriage Continued

Women. Unmarried Men: What Has Happened to Marriage in the Black Community" was sponsored by Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-Washington. So many relationships are failing because no one is perfecting their relationship within," said Chapman, host of "The Audrey Chapman Show" on WHUR-FM. African-Americans will never move forward until they heal baggage of the past, she added. In a room filled with more than 200 people sitting and standing, Norton, who is divorced, shared her journey as a married woman and how she has observed the decline of African-American marriages throughout the past 30 years. Norton noted that during

NATIONAL Black Community May Face More Serious Cases of H1N1

by Danyel Jones

Special to the NNPA from the Afro-American Newspapers

WASHINGTON (NNPA)

Government officials warn that the H1N1 flu virus is spreading rapidly and that the Black community may have a higher rate of existing health conditions that could make the illness a serious threat. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Dr. Anne Schuchat of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention detailed the launch of a vaccine program for the flu and the White House Administration's outreach efforts within the African-American community in a conference call with reporters that serve Black markets. "Oct. 4 officially began the flu season," Sebelius said, "We do know that H1N1 is different than other flus. Already we've had as much flu activity as we had at the height of past flu seasons and 98 percent of current cases are H1N1." While Blacks are no more susceptible to H1N1 than the rest of the population, they do have a higher rate of existing health conditions that may make the flu a more serious threat. "We have an independent advisory committee on immunization that looks at the flu every year and figure out who should get vaccinated first," said Sebelius. "[Their decision is] mostly based on who is likely to get seriously ill from the flu, so folks with underlying health conditions are definitely a group of priority. And communities of color have higher rates of chronic illness such as asthma, heart disease and diabetes." The secretary

said authorities expect a long flu season this year, and do not anticipate it dying down anytime soon. H1N1 is widespread in 27 states, and has reached regional status as an illness, said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's chief health officer for the flu outbreak, Dr. Anne Schuchat. "We are taking this very seriously... about 36,000 people die each year from the seasonal flu," she said. "Three areas have been very important to us in planning this immunization effort; safety of the vaccine is a top priority and no short-cuts have been taken, access is another area and that's why we've provided resources to states and cities to be able to offer the vaccine. The last is cost, we don't want finances to be a barrier for anyone wanting to be vaccinated." Schuchat said the flu poses a risk on many college campuses this fall, both at predominately White schools as well as Historically Black Colleges and Universities. "As a flu expert, I would think this virus is going to be common on many campuses if it isn't already common," Schuchat said. "There's nothing about risk of disease that differs, or about behaviors that I think would be greatly different [between the two types of schools]. We really hope that the vaccine will be available to all communities serving our college campuses. We know that younger people across campuses are at higher risk of getting the flu, fortunately they are also at a much lower rate of being hospitalized than middle-aged people." For more information on H1N1 symptoms and prevention, visit www.flu.gov.

slavery, 80 percent of African-American children were raised in households with married parents; now 70 percent are raised in single-parent homes. There were often more questions than answers. "What happened to the knight in shining armor?" asked Chapman, who displayed a graph showing that African-American and Latino men and women have the highest unmarried populations. Chapman also noted a growing gap between African-American women, who are more educated and successful, and African-American men, who are going to college less frequently, but are regular inhabitants in the prison system. The more educated the woman is, the less likely she will be able to find a mate of the same status, making it harder for her to marry. There are many good African-American men out there, Chapman said, but women just have to look beyond the eye's view. If a woman cannot find the right fit, she should look outside the box, she suggested, offering "the rainbow coalition" as an alternative. Dating outside the race gives more options to African-American women, but requires courage, she explained. African-American women are the only group of women who are devoted to a group of men who are not devoted to them. Shane Perrault, Ph.D.,

psychologist, coach and founder of African-American Counseling Services in Silver Spring, Md. Perrault opened by asking the women in the audience to describe African-American men. The women yelled out "dogs," "unfaithful," "inconsistent," "uneducated," "no class," "gay" and "lazy" among other terms. Perrault then flipped the script and asked the men to describe African-American women. Men described women as being "gold diggers," "harsh," "nagging" and "belittling." Dr. Perrault asked the men if they think African-American women have too much attitude. The men agreed that this statement is absolutely true. If a woman is too strong and unapproachable, of course the man is going to seem lazy, said Dr. Perrault. A woman should look beyond what a man has at the moment, Perrault said. Instead, she should investigate and take notice of his goals and envision his growth over time. Perrault gives the example of First Lady Michelle Obama. The Obamas have been married for 10 years. When Barack picked up Michelle up for their first date, she could see a hole through the bottom of his car. She didn't look at his status at that time; she looked past it to his drive and determination for the future. continued next issue.....

NATIONAL Youth Unemployment Hits All Time High

by Jesse Muhammad

Special to the NNPA from the Final Call

HOUSTON, Texas (NNPA)

The pay is not much, but 17-year-old Crystal Washington is happy to still be working at a local fast food restaurant. Especially since recent statistics by the U.S. Labor Department shows staggering unemployment rates hitting her peers the hardest during the recession. "I was honestly embarrassed to flip burgers and prepare fries, but there are so many young people out of work. So I am grateful," says Washington, who has started her senior year in high school. According to the Labor Dept., the number of young Americans presently without employment rose to a post-World War II high at 53.4 percent. Specifically, the employment rate amongst non-students from 16-to-24 year olds is taking the greatest nose dive. Nationally, nearly seven million Americans have lost jobs with young workers becoming the last hired and the first fired. "Don't get me wrong, I don't plan to flip burgers my entire life because I am going to college. But at least I have some money of my own coming in," says Washington. She has three siblings being raised by her single mother in an apartment complex in Northeast Houston. Washington and her

generation were not born when this series of statistics started being compiled by the government dating back to 1948. The youth unemployment rate has never exceeded 50 percent, but today's picture is dismal with so many personal obstacles coupled with a struggling economy. "It's hard on my mother, so I have to help out. Many of my peers are out selling drugs, stealing, and doing other things to survive. If young people are not employed or in school, we get into trouble," says Washington, a future education major. "It was hard to keep applying and not getting any responses," says Tony Brown, 19, who chose not to go to college right after high school. During July, young men led the pack with the highest unemployment rate at 19.7 percent compared to 17.3 percent for women. By race, Blacks and Hispanic led at 31.2 percent identical at 16.4 percent and 16.3 percent. "We have witnessed that many young applicants even lack the basic reading and writing skills to complete a job application", says Carla Lane, the CEO of a staffing agency based in Dallas, Houston, Beaumont and Orlando. "Lack of employment pushes young people towards participating in negative activities", says Mavis Jackson, a licensed dependency counselor who works with juveniles. The Obama administration allocated over \$1.2 billion in stimulus money during the summer months. The federally funded programs had an enrollment of 297,169

youths but with competing adults flooding the job market, one-quarter of those youth did not obtain a job. The Labor Dept. however sees it as an overall success. Unemployment among youth increased by 1.1 million between April and July 2009. An estimated 1.6 million people ages 16-19 were unemployed in August and more than a quarter of teenagers were unable to find work, according to Labor statistics. Lane agency, Lane Staffing, is stepping up by developing a program that trains young people in trades that will make them employable, marketable and in some cases self-sufficient. Over the summer, Lane employed her 10-year-old daughter, Darian, along with other youth from her church. "The economic times are tough but we can not stop empowering the community. We have to show the younger generation how to work for something and don't wait for a hand out. Without employment or purpose in life, it can lead to the wrong choices," she said. Jackson's 27-year-old son, Victor Jackson, knows first hand the dead end that a string of wrong choices can lead to. After doing a four year stint in the Air Force, nearly facing serious jail time, and getting mixed up in the gang life, he is now working to gain stability. "I am proud of him. He told me he won't let me down", says Jackson, who helped her son enroll at the Art Institute of Houston to pursue a degree in music production.

Cancer Grows Among African-Americans

by Makebra M. Anderson

NNPA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - As he sits in a well-cushioned, Lazy Boy recliner, Lyle Henderson prepares to get comfortable. He kicks his feet up and makes sure the remote control is near. For eight hours straight, he watches television and movies, while drifting in and out of sleep. Henderson is not a couch potato. He's receiving his weekly dose of chemotherapy. "I was born with a disease called hemangiomatous sarcoma, which is cancer of the blood vessels and muscle tissue. So far, it has only been in my left leg and foot. I've had close to 65 operations now," Henderson explains. "My first operation was when I was 1 year old. I've been on and off chemotherapy all my life. I've also had radiation therapy, but that didn't work too well in my body." Henderson, is not alone in his fight with cancer. African-Americans bear a disproportionate burden of cancer and Blacks have the highest mortality rate of any racial and ethnic group. He believes that sub par treatment of Black patients by White doctors may be the reason. "It has been my experience that when you go to a doctor that is not of color—a White doctor—they tend to be a little dismissive and unfortunately they don't take the time to speak with you about all of the conditions and issue relating to your disease and/or regiment and/or treatment. That's when you have to stop them in their tracks," Henderson says. "It has been my experience that with my African-American doctors they've been more obliging, more relationship-building. They have more genuine concern about what's going on with me and my body and more importantly how this is affecting my life and my lifestyle." Durado Brooks, director of prostate and colorectal cancers for the American Cancer Society, agrees that the quality of healthcare can have a direct impact on survival. "There is definitely some evidence that minority patients get a different standard of care. A number of studies have shown that African-American women diagnosed with the same stage of cancer as White women are less likely to receive state of the art care for breast cancer and there are similar sorts of findings for lung cancer among African-American men. There is some data suggesting that in colorectal cancer they [African-Americans] may not receive as aggressive therapy, which may contribute to the excess death rate," he says. The American Cancer Society (ACS) reports that of the 1.4 million cases of cancer that will be diagnosed in 2005, Blacks will account for a large number of them. ACS says that an estimated 137,910 new cancer cases are expected to be diagnosed in African-Americans in 2005. Between 1996 and 2000, there were approximately 696,800 Black men with cancer, 561,200 White men and 419,300 Hispanic men. Among women, 406,300 Black women had cancer, 444,400 White women and 212,200 Hispanic women, according to the ACS. Brooks says there are a number of cultural issues related to diet, activity level, cigarettes and alcohol that contribute to the increased cancer burden in the African-American community. "Obesity is a risk factor that we have more recently identified and there are many cancers that are associated with being obese. Particularly, African-American women are more likely to be obese than their White counterparts," Brooks explains. "Exercise has shown to be preventive in some cancers. It may be related to weight control, it may be other factors that play, but again African-Americans have relatively high levels of inactivity or lower levels of regular physical exercise than many other populations in the U.S. Those sorts of cultural factors do play a role." "Economics plays a huge role in your risk of dying from cancer in this country. There is a linear relationship between your income and your risk of dying from cancer." Continued Next issue.....

New Drug Used By Police To Calm Agitated Citizens



Become too agitated on the streets of Nashville, Tenn., and police and paramedics may inject you with a drug that not only calms you but could make you forget the incident. Police can and should seek nonlethal ways to deal with agitated and mentally ill individuals; however, injecting individuals with the powerful sedative Midazolam, which is also known as Versed, is simply a bad idea. I'd file this under the "lawsuit-waiting-to-happen" or "abuses-in-the-making category." This practice makes even less sense considering that Nashville police recently banned the use of another popular nonlethal weapon: Tasers. Last year in New York City, the improper use of a nonlethal Taser on a mentally disturbed man led to his death. Police violated departmental policy when they Tased the man, who was standing 10 feet above the street on a security gate, without having something in place to break his fall. Experts say they've never heard of using Midazolam in this way: "I've talked to my colleagues around the country, and none of the people, from the South to the

have ever heard about this kind of program, this kind of use where they basically force an injection upon an individual knowing nothing about his or her medical condition," ACLU Director Hedy Weinberg told WSMV-TV Nashville. That is the main problem with this program. Although paramedics administer the injection, they have no way of getting a medical history from the individual. If police can restrain a person enough for paramedics to give an injection, then that person can be taken to the hospital, where a full complement of medical personnel is available to deal with any side effects. Midazolam can also have negative effects on pregnant women. In Nashville, three women of child-bearing age were given the injection without their consent. Second, those injected with the drug may not remember what happened afterward. How can individuals help in their own defense if police charge them with a crime? One man, Dameon Beasley, who was injected with the drug after erratic and potentially dangerous behavior, said he remembers waking up and police telling him to sign a paper before becoming unconscious again. "If they would've said I'd done anything after that shot, hey, I couldn't have argued that fact. I don't remember," Beasley said. Finally, given the instances of racial

Teen Killed By Police



can we ensure that African American, Latinos, women and the poor are not subjected to this drug more often than others? Studies show that African American men face harsher treatment and penalties in the criminal justice system. How many minorities have been killed when police said they thought they saw a weapon and none was found? Is the threshold for injection the same for everyone? Police should be encouraged to seek nonlethal methods of dealing with mentally disturbed individuals. That should include better training that doesn't necessarily emphasize force or drugs as the first and only answer.

This is a crying shame, these police officers are way the fu*k out of hand:

CHAMPAIGN - Members of the black community mourned one boy's death and called for another 15-year-old to be released from juvenile detention Monday. Kiwane Carrington died Friday afternoon after being shot in a scuffle with police. Another youth,

still being detained and will have a juvenile court appearance today. Such appearances are not open to the public. Laura Manning, the mother of the boy still in custody, said at a Monday press conference that her son is a slight youth who has not reached his full height. She said he was not a threat to a police officer who, along with Police Chief R.T. Finney, confronted him and Mr. Carrington at about 1:20 p.m. Friday after a neighbor called 911 to report a possible burglary at 906 W. Vine St., C. The boys had been let out early from READY school and went to a house where Mr. Carrington had stayed last summer, and was a frequent visitor. At a press conference Monday at the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center, Debra Thomas,

who lives at the Vine Street house, said the teen was a good boy and was welcome at her home. A 911 caller had said the two boys were trying to get into the house through doors and windows, and officers responded. When the boys did not do as ordered by the police, a scuffle ensued, and the unidentified officer's handgun went off, according to police. He was placed on paid administrative leave, Deputy Chief Troy Daniels said on Friday. Police were not commenting on the accusation Monday. "When the facts are in, the city plans to be fully open and transparent about what happened," Mayor Jerry Schweighart said Monday in a prepared statement. He said the investigation, led by the Illinois

State Police, could take several weeks." This has been tough on our community, and our sympathy goes out to everyone involved," the mayor added. Kenesha Williams, Mr. Carrington's sister and guardian, was at the press conference. Family members said he was a good kid who had been troubled in the last year, after his mother died of pancreatic cancer. Thomas also praised the young man, and asked, "How was it burglary when he was welcome there?" She said a Champaign County NAACP President Jerome Chambers. "How do we stop our black boys from dying where the authorities are the ones in question?"

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Call for Letters of Intent

The Pitt Memorial Hospital Foundation is accepting letters of intent for grants or funding to support projects in the program's focus areas:

- Diabetes
- Access to Care
- Minority Health
- Senior Services
- Nutrition/Physical Activity

The grants will be awarded as part of the Foundation's 2010-2011 Community Benefits and Health Initiatives grants program.

Grant funding for 2010-2011, is restricted to Pitt County and will not be awarded for medical research. Only government entities or non-profit organizations with 501 (c) (3) status are eligible for funding.

The grant period is for July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011.

Letters of intent should include the following:

- Brief organizational history
- Project description; include target population
- Explanation of how the project addresses the program's focus areas (listed above)
- Dollar amount being requested and how funds would be used
- IRS Letter of Determination

Letters of intent must be received by November 6, 2009.
Submit letters to the address below.

Pitt Memorial Hospital Foundation
Community Benefits Grants Program
P.O. Box 8489, Greenville, NC 27835-8489

Black Youth Faces Growing Threat Of Violence From Peers

by Kristin Gray

Special to the NNPA from the Afro-American Newspapers

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - For soft-spoken honors student Derrion Albert, death came at the hands and feet of a savage mob of his peers. Albert, 16, of Chicago, was brutally beaten as he walked home from school Sept. 26. The culprits, four angry Black boys between the ages of 16 and 19, were videotaped bludgeoning Albert with a railroad tie plank and pummeling him in an unprovoked fit of rage. The church-going teen's death has brought to light the ongoing war Black youth wage against one another. Even President Obama, whose former Chicago residence is less than an hour away from the site of Albert's death, has called the grainy, two-minute cell phone video "chilling." Obama will deploy Attorney General Eric Holder and Education Secretary Arne Duncan, the former head of Chicago schools, to the Windy City next week to "talk about the issues of school violence and youth violence." White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs said Oct. 1. While youth violence has decreased nationally since 2004, Black children represent an overwhelming majority of crime victims and crime perpetrators. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) statistics released in 2008, the homicide rate among Black males ages 10 to 24 is more than double that of Hispanic and White males in the same age group, even though African-Americans are a minority population in the U.S. The CDC also found that nearly 36 percent of students in grades 9 through 12 had been in physical fights in 2007, while 16.3 percent of male students surveyed said they had fought on school property. But statistics do little to explain why so many Black children are robbing each other of the opportunity to become adults. Some believe the breakdown of the Black family has created a generation of children lacking support at home and positive images of Black men. Others point to social Web sites like Facebook and YouTube as the new hangout for schoolyard bullies and promoters of teen-on-teen violence. But Nemi Iya Ogunronke, executive director of the Baltimore-based OYO Traditions Cultural Arts Institute, believes many violent Black children lack outlets to positively express their anger, and instead resort to guns and gangs as a refuge. OYO Traditions promotes the arts as an escape from the stress of inner-city living. On Oct. 10 the institute will host "Remember Me," a community-wide program exploring a recent rash of premature deaths in Baltimore's Druid Hill neighborhood. According to Ogunronke, many Black teens have become trapped in a culture of violence and have

few resources to improve their lot. "For youth actively engaged in violence, there may be a level of acceptance, since they have incorporated violence as part of their lifestyle," Ogunronke said. "For youth that are not engaged, it is more that they don't know what to do about it, which is different than accepting the violence." Homicide was the leading cause of death among Baltimore residents ages 15 to 34, according to the Baltimore City Health Department's 2008 Status Report. OYO Traditions attempts to soothe the anger Black teens experience through programs like "The Enlightened Warrior," a conference providing positive examples of Black manhood, and "Drums Not Guns," which introduced young adults to African drumming. Maryland officials are also aware of the perils faced by inner-city youth. Tammy Brown, chief of staff for the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, said state officials and her department assist children who are victims of crimes, and prevent them from becoming offenders themselves. "Public safety is one of the top priorities of Governor Martin O'Malley's administration," Brown said. "Reducing the number of juvenile homicides and non-fatal shootings of youth under [our department's] supervision is one of the goals that Secretary Donald DeVore has established for the department." The state department has created the Violence Prevention Initiative, which provides increased monitoring and services to youth who are most at risk of committing or

being victims of violent crimes. The program currently serves approximately 400 youth with various levels of monitoring including GPS tracking and house arrest. While certain cities understand first-hand the danger many Black youths face in their own communities, the nation remains largely unaware of homicides and brutality among Black teens, said Angela Conyers Johnese, the director of juvenile justice for the Baltimore-based Advocates for Children and Youth. Social Web sites like YouTube, where the video of Albert's murder surfaced soon after his death, and Facebook have served as vehicles for the broadcast of schoolyard bullying and vicious altercations. But Conyers Johnese believes these sites are actually helping the situation. "Cities like Chicago, Baltimore, New Orleans, these cities have been dealing with violent crimes among young people for years," she said. "Now we have YouTube, Facebook and MySpace and young people with their cell phone cameras and camcorders, and they're able to record instantly what is happening in places where the world can see it. So, it's not that it's making [violence] happen, but it's making it more visible. It's the attention that puts the people in action mode. They feel more impacted. It draws more people to want to do something and eliminate the problem." But that visibility can be a double-edged sword. Last week, video surfaced on Facebook of two Black girls beating their classmate, a fellow African-American and the cheerleading squad captain, during a football game at John F. Kennedy High School in Silver Spring, Md. With their fists raised in fury and chants of approval erupting from the crowd, the scene looked more like a pro-boxing match.

Kandie Smith

City Council District 1

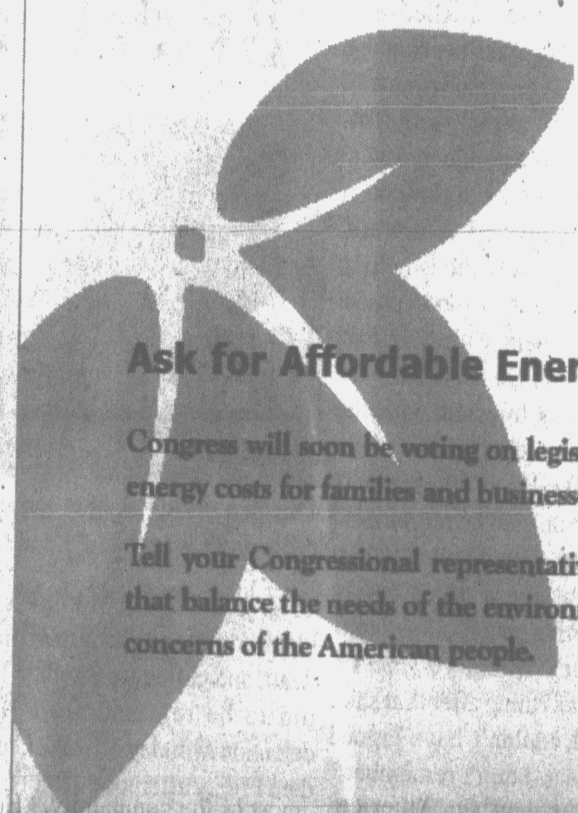
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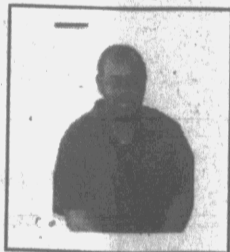
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White House Starts Newsletter Targeting Blacks

Date: Friday, October 16, 2009, 5:15 am

By: Michael H. Cottman, BlackAmericaWeb.com

The Obama administration, perhaps the most media-savvy White House in history, is now in the publishing business - and exclusively for black audiences. The first edition of "The White House Wire: News for the African American Community," an occasional newsletter that is designed specifically for black Americans, was released this week to mixed reviews. The first installment of the newsletter featured a mix of news releases and links to the White House Web site including, Obama's passage of a Senate committee health care bill, a Navy ship named for a civil rights activist, U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice's speech at Howard University; Obama's affordable housing program and Obama's Thursday visit to New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. Corey Ealons, a spokesman for the White House, told BlackAmericaWeb.com the newsletter has no original content but is "one-stop shopping information for what is happening at the White House and agencies throughout the administration." The new online newsletter - believed to be the first of its kind at the White House - has been praised in some quarters, but has also generated criticism from several black journalists who view the "wire" as a strategic move by the Obama administration to manage the news without answering the hard questions. "We're being snookered," DeWayne

The "Old South" Rises-again Louisiana Justice of the Peace Denies Interracial Couple

"I'm not a racist....They come to my house....they use my bathroom..."

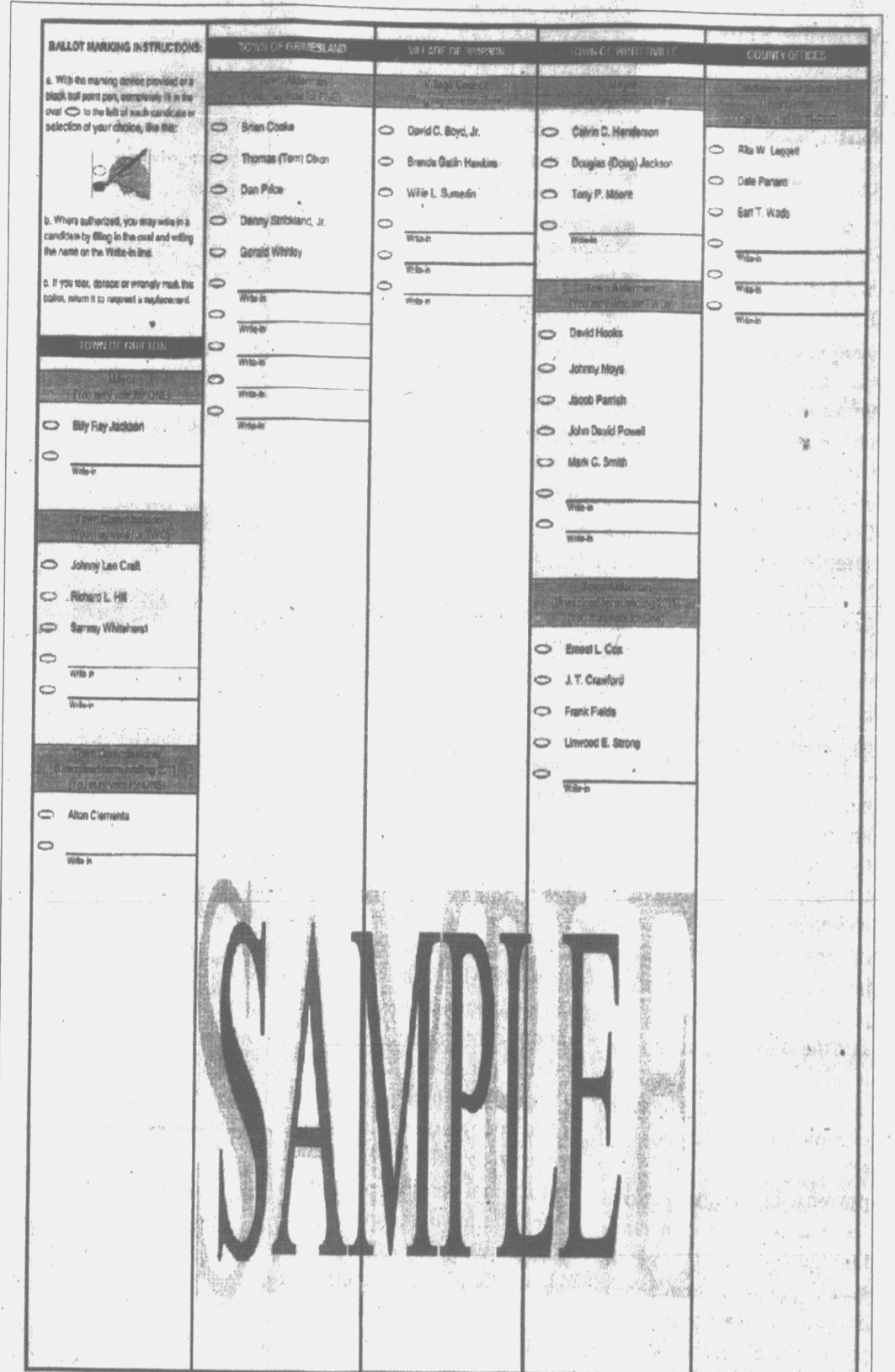
By AFRO Staff

(October 18, 2009) - A Louisiana couple is outraged at a local official's decision to deny them a marriage license because their relationship is interracial. Hammond, La. residents Beth Humphrey, a White woman, and her fiancé Terence McKay, a Black man, were denied a marriage license

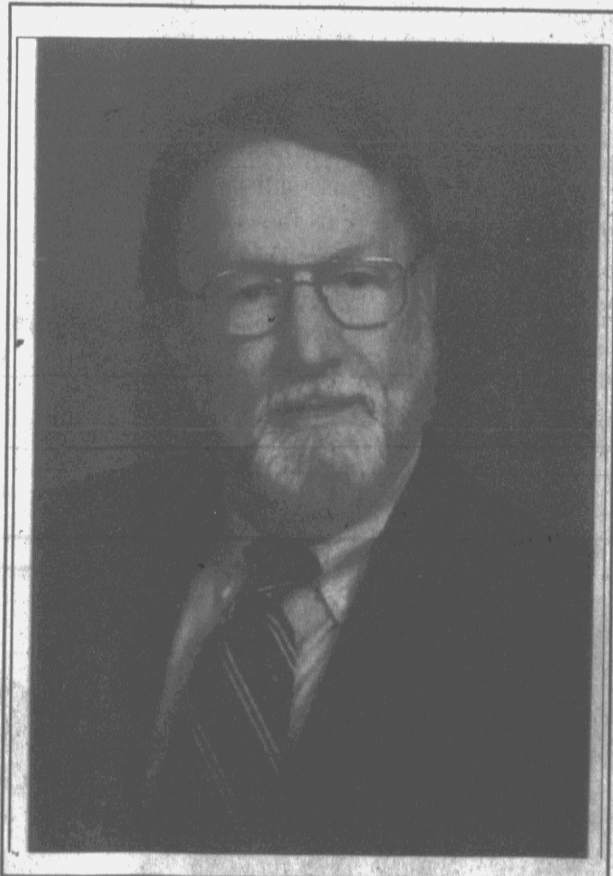
Wickham, a columnist with *USA Today* and a former president of The National Association of Black Journalists, told BlackAmericaWeb.com. "It's part of a pattern," said Wickham, who writes often about politics and race. "They used black journalists for their needs during the campaign, and when they were able to move beyond Rev. Wright and move beyond race, they didn't need us anymore." Wickham, an outspoken journalist who has both criticized and praised Obama over the past eight months, said Obama promised to meet with black columnists at the Democratic National Convention last year, but it never happened. "They devalue black journalists who have a reputation of raising issues of importance to the black community," Wickham said. Several other black journalists said they prefer to adopt a wait-and-see position, explaining that they want to observe how the newsletter evolves before passing judgment. But Wickham said the White House needs less spin control of its message and more straight talk from Obama on issues that impact blacks - and he said black journalists cannot give Obama a pass simply because he's black. Wickham said Obama has not specifically addressed closing the achievement gap between black and white students, closing the black unemployment gap - that has now skyrocketed to 15 percent - or talked to reporters in detail about his plan to overhaul urban America. "There's a fear they will have to answer these questions," Wickham said. "They run from those kinds of issues." The White House had no official comment on Wickham's remarks, but one Capitol Hill staffer pointed out that the White House did invite a group of black journalists to meet with Obama on Air Force One this summer and said Obama has granted interviews to *Ebony* and *BET*. Meanwhile, Ealons explained that the "White House Wire" is simply an opportunity for the Obama administration to share news of interest to African Americans - important news, he said, that black Americans need to know.

by local justice of the peace Keith Bardwell in early October. Bardwell said his decision was based on concern for the welfare of children the couple may have. After learning of Bardwell's decision, Humphrey contacted local and national media. "We are used to the closet racism, but we're not going to tolerate that overt racism from an elected official," she told CNN. Bardwell is a justice of peace for Tangipahoa Parish's 8th Ward and has served in the position for 34 years. His is scheduled to hold the office until 2014. "There is a problem with both groups accepting a child from such a marriage," Bardwell said. "I think those children suffer, and I won't help put them

through it." "I'm not a racist. I just don't believe in mixing the races that way," Bardwell told AP. "I have piles and piles of black friends. They come to my home, I marry them, they use my bathroom. I treat them just like everyone else." U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu (D-La.) said Bardwell's practices and comments were deeply disturbing. "Not only does his decision directly contradict Supreme Court rulings, it is an example of the ugly bigotry that divided our country for too long," Landrieu said. According to The New York Times, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal has joined civil rights groups and others in calling for Bardwell's resignation. Tangipahoa Parish President Gordon Burgess said in a statement that Bardwell's views were not consistent with his or those of the local government. But as an elected official, Bardwell was not under the supervision of the parish government, The Associated Press reported. "However, I am certainly very disappointed that anyone representing the people of Tangipahoa Parish, particularly an elected official, would take such a divisive stand," Burgess said in an e-mail. "I would hope that Mr. Bardwell would consider offering his resignation if he is unable to serve all of the people of his district and our parish." Although the couple is distraught by Bardwell's decision, they said they realize that his views are not shared by most of the community. "He's not representing all the people that he is supposed to be representing," Humphrey told CNN. "He's only representing the people with his same opinions." Humphrey and McKay were later married by another justice of the peace in the same parish. Humphrey said she believes the incident occurred for a reason. "I just think that God puts you in the right positions at the right time in order to stand up to people who choose to live their lives with hate," she said. According to CNN, Bardwell told a local Louisiana newspaper that in his experience, most interracial marriages don't last. He said he always asks if a couple is interracial and, if they are, refers them to another justice of the peace. Bardwell said no one had complained in the past. The number of interracial marriages has skyrocketed nationwide, nearly quadrupling between 1970 and 2005, the most recent year for which there is U.S. Census data. As of 2005, nearly 8.5 million Americans are living in "mixed marriages," according to CNN. According to the AP, a spokeswoman for the Louisiana Judiciary Commission said investigations of the incident are confidential for now. However, if the commission recommends action to the Louisiana Supreme Court, that information would become public.



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CBC Takes A Look At Our Nations Proverty

CBC Confab Opens With Eyes on America's Poverty

by Pharoah Martin

NNPA National Correspondent

Originally posted 9/29/2009

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Besides health care, the economy is at the forefront of the national discussion and with more and more families falling behind financially, the Congressional Black Caucus' 39th Annual Legislative Conference kicked off with a summit addressing poverty. NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Jealous said there are connections between poverty and incarceration. He said the biggest issue outside of jobs is to address the nation's ridiculous incarceration rates because of the devastating affect it has on families and on the surrounding community. "It makes no sense that the United States has 5 percent of the world's population but holds 25 percent of its prison population," Jealous said. He said the amount of money that it takes to lock up people is astronomical, especially when compared to the cost of educating a person, which has proven to be a crime deterrent. "In California, for instance, families fight to try to get the state to pay more than \$8,000 dollars toward their child's public education and then you have to turn around and fight to get the state to pay less than \$250,000 per child to keep a child in a California Youth Authority that leads to prison," he said. "We are in the best place than we have ever been in the last 40 years to try and decrease incarceration rates." Jealous sat on a panel that also included National Urban League CEO Marc Morial, Dr. Ronald Walters of the African Leadership Center and Malaak Compton-Rock, wife of comedian Chris Rock, among others. The panel was moderated by Congressional Black Caucus chairwoman Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Ca.). The

panel addressed issues that lead to underclass communities that have a high concentration of unemployable felons and impoverished families. Issues such as unfair drug sentencing laws, employment barriers for formally incarcerated people and poverty in rural areas of the country dominated the panel conversation. "Opportunities for All-Pathways Out of Poverty" opened with the entire Democratic congressional leadership welcoming conference attendees. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-Ca.), Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), House of Representatives Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.), Rep. Barbara Lee and Congressional Black Caucus Foundation chairman Rep. Kendrick Meek (D-Fla.), chair of the CBC Foundation, were on stage as the welcoming committee for ALC. The summit, held at the congressional auditorium in the Capitol Visitors Center, was the first official event scheduled during the ALC. The more than four hour summit hosted three panels that ranged from at federal programs under the Obama Administration that aimed at aggressively tackling poverty to attacking other factors that lead to poverty. "We had a tough decade," said Morial. "We need to refocus on public policy." Morial pointed out that poverty rates have risen as high as 25 percent for Blacks and Latinos while Whites have fared better at 11 percent. Hilda Solis, the first Latina Labor Secretary, had expounded on that point on an earlier panel. She had sat on a panel with secretaries of other federal agencies including the Department of Commerce, the Department of Education, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Housing and Urban Development in order to discuss anti-poverty programs that the federal government is initiating. "As people of color, we are bearing the brunt of this recession," Solis said. "Thirteen percent of Latino and 15 percent Blacks are unemployed, and so is 25 percent of our youth."

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King Family Lawsuit Settled



By ERRIN HAINES, Associated Press Writer Errin Haines, Associated Press Writer - Tue Oct 13, 6:36 am ET

ATLANTA—After more than 14 hours of discussion, the heirs of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. reached a settlement late Monday that will keep the family from a public jury trial. Martin Luther King III, Bernice King and Dexter King had aired their grievances in open court for more than a year. The siblings began negotiations Monday morning as the threat loomed of a civil trial that was expected to reveal personal and financial details about King Inc. Dexter King's brother and sister sued him in July 2008, accusing him of acting improperly as head of the their father's estate, which the three of them control as a private corporation. In the lawsuit, they claimed he shut them out of decisions involving King Inc. and refused to hold a shareholders meeting since 2004. The three have been largely estranged for months as Martin Luther King III and Bernice King said their brother continued to make decisions on behalf of King Inc. without their input or knowledge. Monday's agreement signals the end of a legal feud among the siblings and could clear the way for private relations to thaw. According to the settlement agreement, Fulton County Superior Court Judge Ural D. Glanville has declared the siblings "deadlocked" as shareholders and will appoint a temporary custodian who will run King Inc. and work with them to determine the future of the corporation. The temporary custodian is also meant to add credibility to the troubled estate and allow the siblings a chance to focus on healing their personal relationships. All three siblings said they looked forward to mending the rifts of recent months and that significant progress had been made with Monday's resolution. "It was a tiring day, but I would say a very triumphant day," Dexter King said after the hearing. "This allows us to begin the healing process. I'm looking forward to the future. The most important thing is that we can advance the legacy of our parents." Dexter King, who is recovering from a car accident that left his leg badly injured, walked on crutches during the day and left the courthouse in a wheelchair without his siblings. Still, Martin Luther King III and Bernice King called the settlement a positive one. "We have always loved one another," said the elder King brother. "After all, we are all we have." Bernice King said reconciliation with Dexter King would be a process. "Love compels you to take a higher road," she said. "We love our brother and the legacy of our parents. At the end of the day, we're still a family." Both parties must submit three names of proposed custodians within 14 days of the settlement. Under the terms of the agreement, the candidates "must be qualified to manage a business but must also be sensitive to the nature of the legacy to be managed." The court must interview at least one choice from both sides, and will name the custodian within 30 days of receiving the proposed list of candidates. Once approved, the custodian will report regularly to the court on King Inc.'s progress.

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President Barack Obama Wins Nobel Peace Prize!



WASHINGTON — U.S. President Barack Obama was awarded the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for his "extraordinary efforts" to revive international diplomacy, an honour that sparked immediate controversy and one the recipient himself appeared shocked to receive. Crediting Obama for creating a "new climate in international politics," the five-member Norwegian Nobel committee said the first-year president had restored America's global leadership by taking a leading role in advancing issues ranging from climate change to nuclear disarmament. "Only very rarely has a person to the same extent as Obama captured the world's attention and given its people hope for a better future," the Oslo-based committee said in its citation. Obama was awakened by aides shortly before 6 a.m. and told of the Nobel committee's decision. At a Rose Garden news conference, Obama said he was "deeply humbled" by the award and felt undeserving of the honour. "Let me be clear, I do not view it as a recognition of my own accomplishments, but rather as an affirmation of American leadership on behalf of aspirations held by people in all nations," Obama said. "To be honest, I do not feel I deserve to be in the company of so many of the transformative figures who have been honoured by this prize." The White House said Obama would travel to Oslo for the Dec. 10 award ceremony and planned to donate the \$1.4-million U.S. in prize money to charity. He becomes the fourth U.S. president to win the peace prize, following Jimmy Carter, Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson. Former U.S. vice-president Al Gore won the award in 2007 for his work to raise awareness of global warming. Just 48 years old, Obama now stands alongside some of the world's most distinguished statesmen and humanitarians — including Mother Teresa, former Canadian prime minister Lester Pearson, Burmese human rights activist Aung San Suu Kyi, Mikhail Gorbachev, Nelson Mandela, the Dalai Lama and Martin Luther King Jr. — as a fellow Nobel winner. Another past winner, Polish labour leader Lech Walesa, was taken aback of word of Obama's award. "Who, Obama? So fast? Too fast. He hasn't had the time to do anything yet," Walesa said. In Ottawa, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said he was "very happy" for Obama and believes "such a prize augments

his capacity and reputation around the world, and that will help us accomplish things for all of humanity." The award was a reminder of Obama's standing on the world stage, particularly in Europe. But critics in the U.S. expressed astonishment that the Nobel committee had bestowed the honour on a president who has not yet been on the job nine months, and whose foreign policy record — on the Middle East peace, Iran, North Korea and two foreign wars — is still being written. U.S. Republicans, who in the 2008 presidential campaign ran ads touting Obama as the world's biggest celebrity, said that Obama was honoured more for his inspirational oratory than for any substantial accomplishments. "The real question Americans are asking is, 'What has President Obama actually accomplished?'" said Republican National Committee chairman Michael Steele. "It is unfortunate that the president's star power has outshined tireless advocates who have made real achievements working towards peace and human rights." Other conservatives said the Nobel committee had proven its left-wing bias, noting that nominations for this year's award closed on Feb. 1, 2009, 12 days after Obama was sworn into office. Arizona Senator John McCain, Obama's 2008 presidential opponent, said he believed part of the Nobel committee's "decision-making was (based on) expectations" that Obama's foreign policy efforts would yield results. Thorbjorn Jagland, chairman of the Norwegian Nobel committee, acknowledged as much. "We are hoping this may contribute a little bit for what he is trying to do," he said. "Some people say, and I understand it, 'Isn't it premature? Too early?' Well, I'd say then that it could be too late to respond three years from now." Since taking office last January, Obama has sought to revive peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians, recently arranging a face-to-face meeting between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Mahmoud Abbas. He has spearheaded efforts to pass climate-change measures in the U.S., although an anti-global-warming bill is stalled in the Senate. Last month, he chaired a special session of the United Nations Security Council on nuclear non-proliferation. He also approved the first direct U.S. negotiations with Iran in three decades, and delivered a speech to the Muslim world in Cairo. Obama said he would "accept this award as a call to action — a call for all nations to confront the common challenges of the 21st century." As prestigious as the Nobel Peace Prize remains, it may bring domestic political complications for a president who is facing near-record unemployment while also weighing a dramatic escalation of the war in Afghanistan. Larry Sabato, director of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia, said Americans may view the award as "the equivalent of someone receiving a gold watch in his first months on the job" rather than at the end of a distinguished career. "Even to Obama supporters, the award seems ridiculously premature," said Sabato. "We've come to think of the Nobel Peace Prize as a career-capper, or a reward for significant, tangible accomplishments rather than simple promise of what might be." Obama's victory was so unexpected that the White House said it had not known the president was nominated. Journalists attending the announcement ceremony in Oslo gasped when the president's name was announced. "I know that throughout history, the Nobel Peace Prize has not just been used to honour specific achievement; it's also been used as a means to give momentum to a set of causes," Obama said in his remarks. "These challenges can't be met by any one leader or any one nation."

TEXT OF THE NOBEL COMMITTEE'S PEACE PRIZE CITATION:

"The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided that the Nobel Peace Prize for 2009 is to be awarded to President Barack Obama for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and co-operation between peoples. The committee has attached special importance to Obama's vision of and work for a world without nuclear weapons.

Obama has, as president, created a new climate in international politics. Multilateral diplomacy has regained a central position, with emphasis on the role that the United Nations and other international institutions can play. Dialogue and negotiations are preferred as instruments for resolving even the most difficult international conflicts. The vision of a world free from nuclear arms has powerfully stimulated disarmament and arms control negotiations. Thanks to Obama's initiative, the U.S.A. is now playing a more constructive role in meeting the great climatic challenges the world is confronting. Democracy and human rights are to be strengthened.

Only very rarely has a person to the same extent as Obama captured the world's attention and given its people hope for a better future. His diplomacy is founded in the concept that those who are to lead the world must do so on the basis of values and attitudes that are shared by the majority of the world's population.

For 108 years, the Norwegian Nobel Committee has sought to stimulate precisely that international policy and those attitudes for which Obama is now the world's leading spokesman. The committee endorses Obama's appeal that "Now is the time for all of us to take our share of responsibility for a global response to global challenges."

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Revs Give Rush a Run for NFL AP

Revs. Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson are attempting to stop right-wing radio personality Rush Limbaugh from purchasing the St. Louis Rams. They argue that Limbaugh has been "anti-NFL" and has had a career of "appealing to the fears of whites," making his bid for the team defenseless. [Chicago Tribune] Later it was noted that Rush Limbaugh had removed his name from the group of people who were making the bid for the purchase. Just goes to show you that when the African American powers that be pull together anything can be accomplished the Minority Voice proudly salutes these dynamic men for their never ending effort to for empowering the Black Community

Strive Gala

Nation Faces A Lack Of Black Teachers

By KATHY MATHESON (AP)



A Benefit Dinner & Gala in celebration of N.C. STRIVE's 9th Anniversary was held on Thursday, **September 17, 2009, 6:30 P.M.**, at the Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church Family Life Center. Guest Speaker was the Honorable Regina R. Parker, North Carolina District Court Judge, 2nd Judicial District. North Carolina is one of the fortunate states to have a STRIVE affiliate within its boundaries. The N.C. STRIVE, headquartered in Greenville, North Carolina, has successfully been operating for nine (9) years in several Eastern North Carolina counties. STRIVE has a proven track record in training and job placement of the traditionally hard-to-employ populations. Nationally, STRIVE has placed more than 25,000 hard-to-employ individuals in jobs, compiling a 75% success rate in placing STRIVE graduates, with over 70% of graduates remaining employed after two years. Locally, the N. C. STRIVE has trained more than 1,000 participants and placed more than 750 participants in gainful employment. The program was founded in East Harlem in 1985 to help people who face significant barriers to employment achieve economic independence through work. It combines training the "soft" skills needed to achieve success in the workplace (attitude, cooperation, and personal responsibility) and the "hard" skills required to find and keep a job, including job search techniques and long-term planning. STRIVE has expanded to include 19 affiliates across the country, each locally grounded and responsive to the unique needs of its local populations. The N. C. STRIVE office is located at 1710 West 6th Street, Greenville, NC 27834. Serving as executive director of the organization is Joyce Jones.

CHEYNEY, Pa. — Lenny Macklin made it to 10th grade before having a teacher who looked like him — an African-American male. Gregory Georges graduated from high school without ever being taught by a black man. Only about 2 percent of teachers nationwide are African-American men. But experts say that needs to change if educators expect to reduce minority achievement gaps and dropout rates. Macklin, now an 18-year-old college student, said he understands the circle that keeps many of his peers out of the classroom professionally. "A lot of males, they don't like being in school because they can't relate to their teacher," said Macklin, of Pittsburgh. "So why would you want to work there?" American teachers are overwhelmingly white (87 percent) and female (77 percent), despite minority student populations of about 44 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. It's a job men generally avoid because of gender stereotypes, fear of abuse accusations and low pay, said Bryan Nelson, founder of the Minneapolis-based nonprofit organization MenTeach. The average U.S. teacher salary was about \$51,000 in 2006-07. Yet increasing the number of minority teachers is important because of "the role model factor," said Greg Johnson, a policy analyst for the National Education Association. "These students need to see successful adults of color in front of them," Johnson said. Macklin and Georges, both sophomores at historically black Cheyney University near Philadelphia, are trying to fulfill that need through the Call Me MISTER teaching program. MISTER is both an acronym — Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models — and a reference to the 1967 film "In the Heat of the Night," in which Sidney Poitier's character demands respect with the line, "They call me MISTER Tibbs!" Designed to put more minority men at the head of the classroom, the initiative offers scholarships in exchange for teaching in public schools. "If we can recruit linebackers, point guards and track stars, we can recruit third-grade teachers," said Roy Jones, the program's national executive director. "It is a matter of priority." Jones directs the program from Clemson University in South Carolina, where it began in 2000 after researchers found that fewer than 1 percent of the state's elementary school teachers were black men; the overall K-12 student population at the time was 42 percent black. Nearly six years after the first MISTER cohort graduated in 2004, there has been some progress, though Jones concedes not nearly enough. About 50 program graduates are teaching in South Carolina schools, representing a 25 percent increase in the number of black male instructors statewide, Jones said. Another 250 future teachers are in the MISTER pipeline, scattered across 28 colleges in seven states. To improve the national percentage of black male teachers to even 3 percent, another 45,000 would need to enroll. One hurdle may be that the program is found mostly at historically black colleges and universities, which have lower graduation rates than colleges overall, according to an Associated Press analysis. Men at those schools have a paltry 29 percent graduation rate within six years, in part due to lack of money and poor academic preparation, the AP found.

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Photos
 Jim Rouse/ Reggie Price
Writers
 Beatrice Maye

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Dear Citizens of Greenville

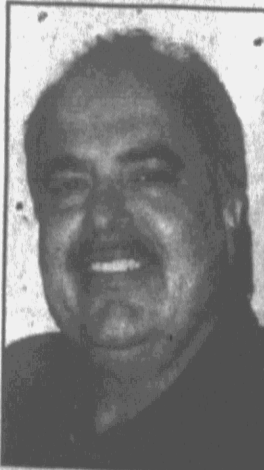
Thank you for allowing me to serve you for 22 years. I have never taken my service for granted and I will continue to be your **champion on issues** I ask for your **PRAYERS, your VOTE and SUPPORT** during one-stop voting early voting October 15-31 or on Election-Day Tuesday November 3 2009

Thanks Mildred Atkinson-Council, City council Member, District 1



Paid for by the committee to Re-elect Mildred Atkinson Council

★ **ELECT** ★ 



"Rick" Gagliano

★ ★ **MAYOR** ★ ★

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