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The People's VOICE

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WEEKLY NEWS

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Historic Places Come Down



Mrs. Beatrice Rowland shares her memories of the old "East Roanoke Funeral Home" building



The site where the East Roanoke Funeral Home was located on Government Street, was demolished earlier this week, marking the end of a historic era for the neighborhood.

demolished.

T-P-V Staff Reports
Roanoke, Alabama —

"I'm so glad it's gone. I don't know what to do," said Beatrice Rowland, who lives on Government Street, in Roanoke. "It looks good, and I sure am glad it's gone."

Earlier this week, the place many black citizens remember as East Roanoke Funeral Home and later Aaron Jones Grocery, was

For many, the demolition of this old structure marked the end of an era, characterized by high visibility, economic activity and progress in the historic "East Roanoke" district.

"It woke me up Monday morning," Rowland said. "It was so much noise. I said, Good Lord, what's the matter with that trash truck this morning?"

Other members of the Rowland family say that it took about two days to take down the old building.

81-year-old Beatrice Rowland raised 12 children in the home where she resides on Government Street. In all the nearly 70 years since her marriage to the late Calvin Rowland in the 1940s, she resided on Government Street directly across the street from the old structure. Although her

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BLACK VOICES Then and Now



The Late Mary Hines Johnson



The Late Wilkie Clark
Roanoke, Alabama

Frank Cox 79 years Of Living History



Frank Cox, LaGrange

T-P-V Staff Reports
LaGrange, Georgia —
If you want to know anything about black history in LaGrange, you can find out by talking to one of LaGrange's foremost black citizens, Frank Cox.

Cox literally represents 79 years of "living black history." The LaGrange native attended East Depot High School. Before graduating, he left school and served in the Army during World War II, returning to get his high school diploma under the GI Bill at Lanier High School.

"I stayed in LaGrange because there were

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Heard Countians Stage Historic Parade and Banquet



Heard County NAACP Parades downtown Franklin, Georgia

Heard County Citizens Celebrate Black History with Parade and Banquet

T-P-V Staff Reports
Franklin, Heard County, Georgia

Last Saturday, Black citizens in Heard County, Georgia made history on two counts, beginning Saturday morning with a Black History Parade through downtown Franklin, Georgia, sponsored by the NAACP, and later that evening with a banquet sponsored by the Heard



Sarah Almond accepts resolution passed in the Georgia General Assembly, presented by State Representative Tyrone Brooks

Wesley United Methodist Church.

NAACP Parades Through Franklin

The Heard County Branch of the NAACP put on the first Black History Parade ever held in Franklin. The event, headed by Horace Turman, was successful, according to Sarah Almond, Heard County Bureau, who was also a participant in the Parade.

Horace Turman, President of the Heard County NAACP said, "Most people say it



An overflow crowd gathers at Heard High School Cafeteria to honor the Late Mary Hines Johnson

was the best parade they had ever seen in Franklin, Georgia."

The Black History parade stepped off at 10:30 am, led by Councilman Willie Almond, who served as Grand Marshall.

Participating in the Black History Parade were: Canaan Baptist Church, LaGrange, Georgia; Heard County Housing Authority; Pauline Bonner, and Ruby Nell Almond who were in charge of building the

Mary Johnson Float; "The Mane Event," owned by Josephine Dallas of LaGrange, a graduate of Mary Johnson High School who also sponsored a float for the Mary Johnson High School graduating class of 1965; Greenville High School Band; Hollis Strong Motorcycle Club, LaGrange; The Wild Game Four-Wheelers of Newnan, Georgia; and another group of four-wheelers; The Elim Praise Dancers; Friendship Baptist Church of Heard County, Georgia; The Heard High School Girls Basketball

Team; West Georgia Mortuary, LaGrange; Heard Wesley United Methodist Church; Ebenezer Baptist Church, who built a float; two groups of horses; The Carroll County NAACP; a float sponsored by Rutledge Café; Mount Carrie Baptist Church; Magnum Cars and the Heard County Fire Department. In addition, several youth marched in the parade, carrying banners that read "Past, Present and Future."

Security was provided by Franklin Police Department and the Heard County Sheriff's Department.

Turman said he wanted to express his appreciation to the Franklin Police & Sheriff Departments for their support. Also special thanks to Debra Turman Boykins who served as coordinator of the parade, Ann Lovelace of LaGrange, Pauline Pearson of

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Reverend Cornelius Reese
LaFayette, Alabama

Historic Places Come Down

(continued from front page)



The Home Of the late Mr. and Mrs. J.C. and Johnnie Jackson, a well-known educator at Randolph County Training School, and Handley High School, is demolished this week. For many years, The Jackson's also owned a Cafe called "Jackson's Nick Nack Nook" which was located right next to their home.

memory is fading, she says she knows the place was there when she first married. Rowland, who has adult children in their 60s says the place was there when they were children.

She first recalls the site as the home of her uncle (by marriage) George and Vassie Wright. It wasn't a business at that time. But, later, the structure housed the East Roanoke Funeral Home, operated by the late Reverend J.L. Brown, a respected Methodist Preacher, undertaker, and farmer.

For many 50 and up who grew up here, there are fond memories of going to "Brown's Store" in the 50s and 60s to buy penny candy, suckers, and soda pop.

It was here that Reverend J. L. Brown operated East Roanoke Funeral Home for many years. The building housed not only sleeping quarters for Brown, but also on the east end of the building, the funeral home, and on the west side, a small "convenience" store, where all kinds of items could be purchased, including canned goods, washing power, and household goods. Bea-

trice Rowland's husband, the late Calvin Rowland, often minded the store and caught the telephone for Reverend Brown. There was a long wooden bench on the front porch of East Roanoke Funeral Home, where men often congregated, and "shot the bull."

Those who grew up in East Roanoke have fond childhood memories of the East Roanoke Funeral Home. You could walk right by the place and see the bodies laid out through a screen door. Kids, who's minds were easily swayed by superstitions and fears about the dead, would always run past the funeral home to keep from seeing the bodies. As you walked by, you could only catch a glimpse of the foot panel of the casket, but for most, that was all they needed to see, to shift gears from a slow stroll, to a lively trot. Often, boys and girls would wager over who was brave enough to go in and see the body.

Rowland recalls "They would leave the bootlegger's house, and come sit right there on that bench. There was a lot of cussin' and loud talking. I wasn't brought up in that kind of environment. So, I bought me a

curtain, and hung on my porch, and me and the children would sit on the porch on the swing, behind that curtain. They'd congregate on the bench, and yell out, "You Rowlands come out from behind that curtain!" I wasn't against 'em, but if you don't have nothing to do, stay at home!"

Later the building housed the late Aaron Jones' Grocery, and Wrecker Service. Many remember Mr. Jones' Big Wrecker with the words "Help Is Coming!" screen printed across the front. Mr. Jones' tragic and untimely death remains one of Roanoke's unsolved mysteries.

In the years after Jones' death, others ran a game-room and neighborhood store in the building.

Rowland said there were two shoot-outs over there, and she had even had shots fired into her home. "They got to shooting over there, and me and these children were on the porch, and I got to throwing children into the house as fast as I could, so I could get in the house, and close the door behind me. We ran all the way to the back of the house! We called the law, but we don't know today, who did it."

After the property lay barren for many years, Rowland says, "It was like living out in the country." As time took its toll on the building, the roof caved in and in the summer time, kudzu would spring up in and around the building, gradually overtaking the surrounding properties.

This week, after the building was leveled, the site was cleared and graded. Now, all that's left are the memories of days gone by.

Many of Roanoke's seniors can now be seen cruising by to admire the old site, including Texanna Royston and Countess Chapman, who exclaimed "Doesn't it look good!"

Rowland said, "I was so glad they tore it down, I could'a shouted. It looks good, and I'm glad of it."



Southern Union Fine Arts Department Plans Black History Month Celebration

Wadley, Alabama
February 14, 2008

In Celebration of Black History Month the fine arts department at Southern Union State Community College will present "Expressions: Pieces by or for Black Artists" on February 25 and 26 in the Renaissance Theater on Southern Union's Wadley Campus. Show times are 7 p.m. nightly.

The show will feature Southern

Union fine arts students performing various music, dance, drama and poetry composed by African-American composers or artists.

"We hope the public will support these performances," commented Susan Pitts, assistant dean of instruction and chair of the fine arts division at Southern Union. "It will be an entertaining and educational show."

The program is coordinated by

Steve Ray, director of theatre, Sonja Fincher, director of dance and Ann Caldwell, director of music. Excerpts from award-winning pieces from each genre will be showcased.

Doors will open at 6 p.m., and admission into the event is \$5. Tickets are available at the door. Southern Union invites and encourages all community members to take part in this celebration of Black History Month.

Heard Countians Stage Historic Parade and Banquet (continued from front page)

Franklin, and so many others who pitched in to make the first black history parade a successful event. Turman expressed appreciation to all the Heard County people for their support.

Black History Banquet Honors Mary Johnson

The Heard Wesley United Methodist Church, Franklin chose to celebrate Black History by honoring the late Mary Hines Johnson, with a formal banquet event. The Heard Wesley United Methodist Church hosted an estimated crowd of four to five hundred persons in attendance that evening. Johnson was a black educator, who founded what was formerly known as Mary Johnson High School, which operated in Franklin, Georgia from 1948 until 1968. As a teacher serving black children housed at the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Johnson envisioned a new school to educate black children of the community, and was so dedicated to her vision that she went beyond the call of duty by donating her teaching salary to help fund this project. To support the project, she raised money, by cooking and sponsoring "suppers" throughout the community, and enlisting volunteers to help build the first school. The School was ultimately renamed Heard Elementary School. (Mrs. Johnson's efforts are detailed elsewhere in this issue of The People's Voice).

The church chose a fitting theme for the occasion, "Remembering The Past...Shaping The Future."

The program was opened with

warm words of welcome from Pastor and First Lady Ralph and Teresa Thompson. Jody Davis served as the Emcee for the program. Inspirational musical selections were presented by Mr. Kenneth Redding of LaGrange High School, Mrs. Chantrice Swint, The Ebenezer and Heard Wesley Choirs, Saleem Shaheed and Gloria Simmons.

Perhaps the highest honor to the late Mrs. Johnson came in the form of a Resolution, presented by State Representative Tyrone Brooks. The Resolution, co-sponsored by Senator Mitch Seabaugh, Representative Lynn Smith, Tyrone Books, and Randy Nix, is entered in the Georgia State Archives in the Georgia General Assembly. Other Proclamations /Declarations honoring Mary Johnson, were presented by The City of Franklin, the Heard County Commission, and Assistant Superintendent Jan Rayfield of the Heard County School System.

A moving poem entitled "If You Can Make A Black Woman Smile" was recited by Harry Dunson.

During the program, Johnson was remembered with a slide-show presentation that ran throughout the program, and words of endearment by relatives, friends and former co-workers. Some of those who presented reflections included Monica Johnson-Bell, great granddaughter of Mary Johnson, Winnie Philpot-Anderson, Robert Canady, Ida T. Jones, George Moore, and Esther Stutts.

Members of the Heard Wesley United Methodist Church prepared and served a delicious baked chick-

en dinner, accommodating everyone present at the affair.

During the dinner, entertainment was presented by the God's Grace Dancers of St. Mary's United Methodist Church, Hogansville, and Generation Now Dancers of Josiah Vision Ministries, Atlanta, Georgia.

The Keynote Speaker for the event was Charlotte A. Clark-Frieson, of Roanoke, Alabama, a civil rights activist, educator, former elected official, and founder/publisher of The People's Voice Weekly News. Clark-Frieson titled her address "Who Benefits - When Nobody Cares." In her remarks, she spoke of black history as a 389-year story of people who cared. Clark-Frieson pointed out that those who cared went beyond the call of duty, by acting. She identified many individuals spanning 1619 to the present, who cared, and dramatized their concern by acting, in the quest for full and complete citizenship for blacks who were brought

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

PROJECT NO. 06-197(B)

ADDITIONS TO HANDLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THE ROANOKE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION, ROANOKE, ALABAMA

Separate sealed proposals as described below will be received for material and sub-contractor bids for the above referenced project by Mr. Chuck Marcum, Superintendent, at the office of the Roanoke City Board of Education, Roanoke, Alabama until 2:00 PM, Thursday, February 28, 2008, then opened and read aloud. Plans, Specifications and Contract Documents are open to public inspection at the office of the Architect and Owner.

Package "A": To furnish and install all electrical work as shown and specified from the slab rough-in.

Package "B": To furnish and install all mechanical work as shown and specified from the slab rough-in.

Package "C": To furnish and install all plumbing fixture's as shown and specified from the slab rough-in.

Package "D": To furnish and install membrane water proofing, interior and exterior CMU and brick masonry walls, wall reinforcement, filling of all CMU cells with concrete, final tooling of all joints at CMU walls, exterior windows, roofing, metal fascia, flashing, metal soffits, and roof structure.

Package "E": To furnish and install all interior and exterior painting as shown and specified.

Package "F": To furnish and install all acoustical ceilings, suspension grid and drywall walls and ceilings, as shown and specified.

Package "G": To furnish and install all interior and exterior hollow metal doors and frames as shown and specified. Hardware to be furnished and installed by "Others".

Package "H": To furnish and install all VCT and rubber base as shown and specified.

Package "I": To furnish and install all ceramic floor, base and wall tile as shown and specified.

Package "J": To furnish and install all specialty work (ie: toilet partitions, toilet accessories, lockers, signage, fire extinguishers, window treatments, markable boards and tackboards) as shown and specified.

All Contractors or vendors bidding the work stated above shall have general liability and workman's compensation insurance, and shall state on proposal the scope of work and materials being bid.

If the Bid amount is under \$50,000.00 dollars, a Contractors license is not required, nor Bid, Performance, Statutory Labor and Material Payment Bonds. Bids will be submitted on the Vendors/Company letterhead. Bid may be hand delivered, faxed or mailed to the Owner. Material purchased by the Roanoke City Board of Education shall be tax exempt, and material purchased by the vendor shall not be tax exempt.

If the Bid amount exceeds \$50,000.00 dollars, the Contractor must be a licensed Contractor by the State of Alabama under the provisions of Title 34, Chapter 8, Code of Alabama, 1975, and a certified check or Bid Bond payable to the Roanoke City Board of Education in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid, but in no event more than \$10,000.00 must accompany the bidder's proposal. Performance and statutory labor and material payment bonds will be required at the signing of the Contract. Bidder shall show such evidence by clearly displaying his current license number on the outside of the sealed envelope in which the proposal is delivered. Bids must be submitted on proposal forms furnished by the Architect or copies thereof. Material purchased by the Roanoke City Board of Education shall be tax exempt.

No proposal may be withdrawn after scheduled closing for receipt of proposal for a period of sixty (60) days. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive technical errors if, in the Owners judgment, the best interests of the Owner will thereby be promoted.

Contractors and Vendors requesting Contract Documents may obtain up to two (2) sets by submitting to the Architects a deposit of \$75.00 per set. The Plan Deposit is refundable less shipping charges, provided the Plans and Specifications are returned to the Architect, in good condition, within 10 calendar days after date of bid opening.

Completion Time: As per the schedule furnished by the Owner.

OWNER: Mr. Chuck Marcum, Superintendent | Roanoke City Board of Education
557 Main Street | Roanoke, Alabama 36274 | Phone: (334) 863-2628

ARCHITECT: McKee and Associates, Architecture and Interior Design
631 South Hull Street | Montgomery, Alabama 36104 | Phone: (334) 834-9933

Contact: Walter T. McKee, Jr.

to a country against their will, and forced into slavery. Her message both profound and compelling, was sprinkled with stories from the brutal and violent history of those who fought for freedom beginning with William Lloyd Garrison, Harriet Tubman, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Abraham Lincoln, Booker T. Washington, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, W.E.B. Dubois, Marcus Garvey, Carter G. Woodson, ending with the saga of the brutal confrontation in Selma, Alabama on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, known as "Bloody Sunday." The culmination of her address was a call for others to care in this day, about the many issues stemming from our past condition of enslavement that continue to haunt black communities.

Reverend Ralph L. Thompson, Jr., serves as pastor of the Heard Wesley United Methodist Church.

The People's VOICE

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Advertisement For Bids

THE ROANOKE CITY SCHOOL BOARD IS TAKING SEALED BIDS FOR WORK TO BE DONE AT KNIGHT ENLOE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOCATED AT 430 PARK AVENUE, ROANOKE, ALABAMA.

SCOPE OF WORK:

1. Provide and install Approximately 300 Feet of 72-Inch Diameter Pipe. The pipe is to be coated corrugated 14-gauge pipe. Provide concrete connections where necessary. Provide Three (3) drainage grates for surface water to enter the piping. Connect Existing drainage pipe to the one to be installed.
2. Provide and spread dirt to cover Pipe and level the field suitable for a playground. Fertilize seed and mulch the entire area.

Bids will be accepted for either part of the project (1 or 2) and bids will be accepted for the entire project.

For Additional Information Contact: Mrs. Chris Martin at the Superintendent's Office at 334-863-2628.

Bids will be opened at the Board of Education Office at 557 Main Street, on Thursday, February 28, 2008 at 11:00 am.

The Deadline for submitting items intended for publication in The People's Voice is Wednesday, by close of business. Please get your news items in ON TIME

WE OFFER INSTANT MONEY AND NEXT DAY RALS

995 Main Street
Roanoke, Alabama 36274

Bookkeeping and Year Round Tax Service
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A support group for grandparents and relatives who are raising their grandchildren or relatives will be held monthly. The meeting is open to any grandparents, parents, or relatives who are involved in the full-time caregiving of their grandchildren or kin. There is an attorney to answer any question you may have concerning issues and challenges you may be facing. If you are interested in establishing a GRAND RAPP support group or caregiving Training Program for your county, community, or church please contact your county Cooperative Extension office or call: Debra Ward-FCD-Regional Extension Educator (334) 750-1253 cell #, office (334)864-9373. You may send a fax to (334)864-9376 or email dward@auburn.edu with your request or interest.

The People's VOICE

Historical Perspective

Frank Cox ...

79 years Of Living History

Continued from Front Page

great people here. I went to school with Judge Horace Ward, and he and I were good friends. We were boy scouts together at Warren Temple United Methodist Church, and I later became scout master... Even then, there was promise in the city of LaGrange."

"I've been called a lot of names - trouble-maker, radical, fighter, but I became known to the white community as "a lover of my people...I love myself some black folks."

Cox's life represents more than 50 years of working to improve race relations and the economic status of black people in LaGrange, Georgia.

To his credit as a historical figure in the City of LaGrange, Frank Cox started the first black adult club in LaGrange, served as the leader of one of the largest civil rights protests in the area, was involved in publishing the first two black newspapers in the area, started the "Feed The Hungry" campaign, he was the second black to be elected to the LaGrange City Council, and finally, was instrumental in opening up the lines of communication resulting in improved race relations in the City of LaGrange.

"The Cotton Club," Entertainment for Blacks in Troup County

Named after the famous "Cotton Club" in Harlem, New York, one of LaGrange's first black adult clubs was the brainchild of Cox, who recalls, "There was no place for black people to gather... they had to go to "shot houses" where they had to drink up all they bought, and naturally, this led to violence and arrests. I believed if they had somewhere to go like white folks had, there would be less of this." Cox said, "The whites had the Elks Club, the Am Vets Club, the Moose Club, and the American Legion. We saw how they were doing, so we patterned after them. Their concept was to "brown bag" (meaning bring your own booze) or become a member which covered your drinks."

Jake Sessions, then a young man growing up in LaGrange, considered Frank Cox a role model. Jake attended Fort Valley State College. Sessions wanted to do the same thing for youth in LaGrange, so following Cox's example, Sessions started the "Cats Back Club."

Cox said LaGrange was a dry town at that time; so, he talked to the Police Chief. "I told him what I was trying to do... He wanted to know how I was going to manage without violence." Cox told him, everybody would be searched at the door. "We had entertainers from around the five-county areas, including Roanoke, Chambers County, and all around Troup County, who came in and entertained ...

Cox said, "About a third of the dirt floor was never completed, but, we tried to make it as near to what white people had down town as we could, including the table cloths on the table."

Cox later moved his "Cotton Club" to a three-story building on Whitesville Road vacated by the Am Vets Club. "It was there, we had the pleasure of having James Brown's band perform. They spend a whole week with us. While at this location, the "Cotton Club" came to be called "Tanglewood." Following his example, Jake Sessions, who was operating "The Cats Back Club" on Revis Street, moved into Cox's former location.

The club operated for a number of years. "We never had an arrest; the police never came in to the club; never had any trouble at "The Cotton Club... Jake never had any serious problems there either."

The Protest To Save the Ethel Kight High School

In the late 60's, members of the Junior and Senior class were sent to Cox, to help organize an effort to save the name of Ethel Kight School, and if possible, keep it open, so the graduating class could graduate. "That was the first time I met Reverend Edmondson. He was one of the members of that group that came to see me. At that time, I became known as one of the leaders of what evolved into



a march from Ethel W. Kight High School to downtown LaGrange, to save the school."

By this time, Cox had become involved with the NAACP, and the Troup County Coalition, an organization that dealt with civil rights issues that the NAACP couldn't deal with. At that time, Donald Gilham (who now serves on the West Point City Council) was President of the Troup County Coalition, which was instrumental in getting districting for Troup County, that resulted in the election of County Commissioner Richard English.



Richard English

"It became the largest civil rights protest ever staged in this area. This protest ultimately led to a sit-in at one of the local drug stores Holmes Drug Store in LaGrange," said Cox.

"This march opened dialog between city officials and the black community, which led to changes hiring practices in the city. The meetings were held at the Union Street Library which was then known as The Negro Library..."

I believe this was the beginning of improved race relations in the City of LaGrange."

The LaGrange "People's Voice"

Cox published the second black newspaper in LaGrange, called "The Voice." Cox said the paper lasted a couple of years. This newspaper is where J.B. Smith, Editor and Owner of the Atlanta Enquirer, got his first taste of journalism.

Then, Cox started a second newspaper called the "LaGrange People's Voice." The reason behind the LaGrange People's Voice was that that you got out of the Police Report, or negative things. There was nothing about all the good things that were happening in our community. So, I wanted to bring that into focus. Cox said, "The paper didn't do well. I asked some people to come in and help me. They killed it. They changed the name of the paper, and they changed the concept."

"That's how Jake and I ended up in communications. Jake started the radio program. I joined in with him and we worked together, and at times, with separate radio stations. Then we combined it into "Up All Night With Jake" Program.

"Feed The Hungry"

Cox also initiated a "Feed The Hungry" campaign held annually throughout the LaGrange/Troup County area. "Jake joined in with me, and since he had an audience that he had built, being the longest running black news outlet, it evolved into "Jake's Feed The Hungry".

Town Hall Meetings

We started having Town-Halls Meetings. We did those for 24 years. And most of the time, we

had the same 12 to 15 people. But, after I became City Councilman, we ended up with a good crowd. We changed the name of it several times, but it ended up being "Eggs and Issues." The idea of that was to try to keep our people informed about what was going on in the community, so they could be aware and benefit from it.

Both of us have kind of come to the conclusion that a lot of the problems that we have in our community are due to the lack of knowledge.

Redistricting LaGrange/Troup County

Working with a coalition of organizations including local branch of the NAACP along with the Troup County Coalition, and ACLU, Cox was at the heart of the effort to get the city of LaGrange re-districted so representation from black communities could be elected. "This turned out to be a 4- to 5-year struggle, ending in a law-suit against the city of LaGrange.

Reverend Gilbert, Mr. Cofield, and Cox, served as plaintiffs in the lawsuit. After a protracted litigation which took another two years, the lawsuit was settled. "That's how we became districted."

After winning the lawsuit, black leaders in LaGrange searched for somebody to run for the offices that were created by districting. Cox was chosen to run.

"Before districting, we had one black city councilman, Glenn Robertson, for about 10 or 11 years; but he didn't have the full support of the black community, and he couldn't get anything done by himself. He did the best he could under the circumstances."

After the suit, another city councilman was appointed. Later, another was appointed. Mr. Robertson stepped down.

The City Of Lagrange has three black city councilpersons, three from the black district; three from the white districts. Cox served on the LaGrange City Council for two terms.

Cox says as a potential contender for city councilman, he was perceived as a "radical" person. "Both the white and the black community thought that once I became a City Councilman, that I would always be against everything. But as it turned out, on the advice of local black leaders like the late Frank Hall and Donald Gilham, who had served as councilmen in West Point, I learned how to get things done, that we wanted in our community."

"Actually, we found out that there were a lot of things that the black community needed and wanted but the white community didn't know about, and the people they relied on were self-serving people, who were only interested in things that affected them."

"One of the things that I found was

that to get some of the things done that needed to get done. Try to do it without a fight. I found it was easier that way. The community never knew about it, but it was done."

Councilman Frank Cox

Frank Cox feels that as a member of the LaGrange City Council, he was instrumental in accomplishing many improvements in the black district.

"I was the only councilman (black or white) who took one day a month, for eight years, riding through District 2 (the black district) making notes of things that needed to be done. As it turned out, they were things that could be done without a fight. So, there was no need for the soap box. It was just a matter of saying what needed to be done, and it was done..."

We missed some of the things in the beginning, because once we started the process of getting the city districted, we missed the fact that it was 90 streets in the black district that were unpaved. Because of the lawsuit, all of the streets were paved. Before Cox left the LaGrange City council, he made sure that the last two of those 90 were paved...

During this monthly ride with staff members, we noted things that needed to be done, one of the most obvious being all the run-down houses in the black community... housing that was not up to code. Eventually, we got over 90% of these houses torn down. And the ones that weren't torn down were brought up to code...

People were living there because of what THEY THOUGHT was low rent. As it turned out, their rent was low; but their utilities and their medical bills were high because of the poor living conditions, let alone the effect it had on their children and their self-esteem...

Then we moved to the LaGrange Housing Authority, on Whitesville Street, which was poorly maintained. We had a hard time, getting the big old trees down, so the place could be made more attractive. But, we were able to accomplish a lot by working with the staff, and the Housing Authority.

"Paint The Town"

When Cox was asked "What do you consider one of the most important or outstanding thing you've done in LaGrange/Troup County?"

"Paint The Town" was my pride and joy. This was my baby...

In my travels, we noticed there were several houses, that looked like they were structurally sound, but just didn't look good. After a closer look, we determined that all they needed was a nice paint job. I knew the home-owners were too old, or disabled, to do this...

I tried to get the city to paint the

folks houses, but the law would not allow us to do it.

But, we were able to go to Dash, a non-profit organization. They agreed to do it. And with the help of Dash of LaGrange, who volunteered to help do the project, between 600-900 volunteers painted 70 black homes in the second district. This was an interracial, inter-denominational project, involving both young and old, who volunteered to "Paint The Town."

I was the only City Councilman to ever organize "Eggs & Issues Forum" and the only one to organize Eggs & Issues Forum at all three High Schools in LaGrange, where we had the Mayor, and most of the City Councilmen, attend."

Remaining Goals

It was my desire to work to make the city of LaGrange one city, rather than a divided city. Cox says LaGrange is still a city divided along racial and economic lines. Because there are also whites that live in the 2nd District, which was the most run-down, most un-kept part of the City of LaGrange. That was one of the reasons for the lighting of the Christmas tree on Thanksgiving day at the Union Street Park...

I thought if I could get people from all over the city to participate in lighting the Christmas Tree, and some of the activities coming across the track into the 2nd District, it would help unite the City, but it didn't work mostly because the black people didn't participate...

I was previously one of those city councilmen who criticized Glenn Robertson, because until I became a City Councilman, I never realized that he didn't have the full cooperation of the black community. We never really talked to Mr. Robertson. We talked at him, and we talked about him, but we never talked to him...

When I was on City Council, the black community never talked to me. You would not believe that the only things that were really asked of me as a city councilman were things that were related to the Police Department. The only major requests that I had as a City Councilman, was to put up four stop signs. There was one citizen who was concerned about things at his church. He wanted to get rid of the apartments on the corner of McGregor Street and Brown Street, next to the day care. Occasionally somebody would mention the cost of utilities.

Shamefully, Cox observes that "after all this effort, black people in LaGrange don't hardly vote."

Bill Clinton Says Choice Between His Wife and a Black Man for President is a Dilemma

By MATTHEW BARAKAT Associated Press Writer

BOWIE, Md. (AP) — Former President Clinton said Sunday that having to choose between his wife and Sen. Barack Obama for the Democratic presidential nomination is a God-given dilemma.

Clinton, who visited black churches in the District of Columbia and Maryland, said he understands black people's desire to finally elect one of their own as president. But he urged them also to consider Hillary Rodham Clinton's experience and policy initiatives in housing, education, health care and her support voting representation in Congress for residents of the nation's capital.

He said New York Sen. Clinton is "the best qualified person to be president I've had an opportunity to vote for."

"All my life I have wanted to vote for a woman for president," Clinton told 800 parishioners at the Temple of Praise congregation in Washington. "All my life I have wanted to vote for an African-American for president. ... I wonder why God gave us this dilemma."

At a later service at Greater Mount Nebo AME Church in Bowie, Clinton asked several hundred parishioners to think and pray about their choice.

Hillary Clinton will face off Tuesday against Illinois Sen. Obama in primaries in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Asked outside church what he thought of Saturday's results, in which Obama swept contests in Louisiana, Nebraska, Washington state and the Virgin Islands, Clinton seemed unfazed.

"I lost Washington state in 1992 also," he said.

At the Maryland church, parishioner Michael Gaddy said Clinton made a good speech, but nevertheless he supports Obama.

"It's not a dilemma for me," Gaddy said. "I think Obama's the better man for the job. If for some reason he doesn't get the nomination, I think we'd all be behind Hillary."

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The People's VOICE

Letters

As America Leans toward the Left, Change is Now Inevitable!

To the Editor:

With the unexpected withdrawal of Mitt Romney from the Presidential race, and the recent results from Super Tuesday, it is clear America's next President will be riding a wave on a sail with winds blowing it strongly to the left. McCain, Clinton, and Obama have all brought a vision to the American people to bring about change from the current Presidential administration.

McCain, although he has been trying to prove his conservative values, is probably one of the most liberal Republicans in the GOP. He voted against Bush's tax cuts in 2001 and 2003, opposes a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage, favored relaxing restrictions on financing embryonic stem cell research, and has said he will

make combating global warming a priority.

Senators Clinton and Obama share many of the same views, however, they differ on Universal Healthcare, and Obama continues to question Clinton's initial support of President Bush's invasion of Iraq. Clinton has been mainly running her campaign as the candidate with the most experience. Clinton was elected to the Senate in 2000, and Obama was elected to the Illinois State Senate in 1997 and the US Senate in 2004. This actually gives him 3 more years of experience as an elected official. This brings me to the question: "Does being ones spouse automatically give you experience in a certain profession or field just because you have been exposed to it?" I'm sure the husband of my dentist is very supportive of

his wife's career, but I sure wouldn't let him any where near my mouth.

Clinton does offer a sense of stability and familiarity, whereas Obama is still introducing himself to most of America. He does however; seem to have a more crossover appeal than Clinton, and this may have a lot to do with him being the first biracial candidate, thus relating him to both white and black America.

It is still too soon to know who will be in the office next year, but it is clear that whoever occupies the White House, will be riding a monolithic wave of change.

Thanks,

Jason Winston,
Atlanta, Georgia
(formerly of West Point).

The Late Wilkie Clark, A Champion For Oppressed People in Randolph County



toric organization for more than 40 years, earning the "Distinguished Service Award" for his many years of service to the NAACP, and recognition in the NAACP National Archives. However, aside from merely holding the title of NAACP President, he actively dramatized his deep concern for the conditions of blacks in his immediate community and beyond, be becoming an action-oriented warrior for justice. He was a personable, christian man characterized by a deep sense of servanthood, and proved himself to be an effective black leader and confidant throughout Randolph County.

In addition to being a dedicated supporter of the NAACP, he served as the first President of the Alabama Democratic Conference (A.D.C.) Alabama's black political caucus, when it was first established in Randolph County.

Clark was directly involved with such local efforts as challenging the street and sanitation conditions (unpaved streets, and lack of sewerage in black neighborhoods), getting qualified black working on the polls on election day throughout Randolph County, getting the first two qualified black men hired as law enforcement officers in the City Of Roanoke, Alabama, challenging the racist practices within the Randolph County and Roanoke City School Systems, challenging the racist hiring practices in local government.

His final act on behalf of disenfranchised blacks in Randolph County was to serve as co-plaintiff in a class-action litigation against Randolph County, Alabama, to change its method of elections from "at-large," to "single-member districts," facilitating the election of Randolph County's first black county commissioner, Bishop Lathonia J. Wright, who still holds that position. Because of his concern over unfair, uneven discipline practices frequently directed toward black school children in integrated schools, he was the first black to run for a seat on the Randolph County Board of Education. Though defeated, he fought for district voting, which thus enabled

his daughter, Charlotte A. Clark-Frieson to be elected to the Randolph County Board of Education in 1988. She served as an elected member of the Board of Education for 18 years.

Today, in his memory and honor, his only offspring, Charlotte A. Clark-Frieson, her two children, Wilkie Sherard Frieson, and Je'Lynn Mikele Frieson continue to operate the Clark Funeral Home, under the name Clark Memorial Funeral Service.

In 2005, Charlotte A. Clark-Frieson, detailed the life and works of Wilkie Clark by publishing his biography entitled "Chief Cook & Bottle-Washer, The Unconquerable Soul Of Wilkie Clark."

In his honor, in 2005, Clark-Frieson established the Wilkie Clark Memorial Foundation, which established and now publishes The People's Voice Weekly News, East Central Alabama's first black owned and operated Newspaper Publication. The goal of the Wilkie Clark Memorial Foundation is to continue the efforts of the late Wilkie Clark, to raise the social and economic status of black citizens throughout Randolph County, expanding its outreach across all the communities of East Central Alabama and West Central Georgia.

Individuals interested in joining the Wilkie Clark Memorial Foundation may contact Charlotte A. Clark-Frieson through The People's Voice Weekly News at 334-375-7160.

Feed Your Mind For Just .50 Cents/ Per Serving THE PEOPLE'S VOICE

Perhaps one of the most visible, vocal and beloved citizens of the latter century was non other than the late Wilkie Clark, of Roanoke, Alabama. He was married to the late Mrs. Hattie Lee (Peters) Clark, a long-time educator, who's education career spanned nearly 40 years in both the Randolph County and Roanoke City School System.

Clark, a licensed funeral director and embalmer, established Clark Funeral Home, Roanoke, with his family in the late 1960s. Professionally, he provided funeral services to families all over the area until his tragic death in 1989.

But aside from being as astute entrepreneur, Clark was equally well known as the NAACP President in Randolph County, which gave him the platform through which to forcefully and consistently vocalize the concerns of oppressed blacks all over the area and beyond.

He served as President of this his-



TROUP COUNTY, GEORGIA (706) 812-1000

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Justice Reports

FEBRUARY 14, 2008

A resident of Semmes Street, Alexander City, was arrested for Probation Violation and transported to the Tallapoosa County Jail.

A resident of South Dogwood Drive, Alexander City, was arrested for FTA Child Support and transported to the Tallapoosa County Jail.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2008

1) A resident of Lowe Road, Tallas-

see, filed a report for Theft.

2) A resident of Ashurst Bar Road, Tallassee, was arrested for Domestic Violence and transported to the Tallapoosa County Jail.

3) A resident of Spring Road, Ashland, was arrested on Grand Jury Warrant and transported to the Tallapoosa County Jail.

4) A resident of Royston Street, Dadeville, was arrested for FTP driving without insurance while incarcerated in the Tallapoosa County Jail.

5) A resident of Winchester Drive, Dadeville, was arrested for FTA receiving stolen property while incarcerated in the Tallapoosa County Jail.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2008

A resident of Highway 49 South, Dadeville, filed a report for theft.

A resident of Houser Street, Montgomery, was arrested at the Montgomery County Jail on Three Failure to Appear Warrants, and transported to the Tallapoosa county jail without incident.

ONE 1 voice

Children of the Future

Imagine if you will, a five-year old child alone at home. There's no running water. No electricity. No food to eat. Windows are boarded up where the glass has been broken and the restroom is down the hall, third bucket to the left. This child is waiting for its parent to come home from work or wherever so that it can finally eat. Instead of being greeted and fed, the child is beaten with whatever is in sight because it forgot to go a few houses down to fill up two one gallon jugs with water or because the parent had a bad day and needs to vent. Picture this five-year old being told throughout its childhood that it should have died at birth and that it will never amount to anything in life. Imagine this child growing up having to survive the best way it can because no one seems to care. Imagine it running away every chance it gets because the mental and physical abuse is too much to bear only to be found and beaten until its flesh is ripe. Picture this person being afraid to look its parent in the eye thinking that it will only upset them. And imagine this child wishing that someone would come to the rescue but it never happens.

brighter future. Perhaps it is too late for that child or those children. But it is not too late for the children of today.

We have often heard it said that the children are the future. If this nation truly wants to unite this country, be an example to the rest of the world when it comes to human rights then it must start today. It must start with our youth through prevention, awareness of its needs, education and caring. Today's youth will one day be the leaders of this nation: doctors, lawyers or residents of death row if nothing is done to prevent it. Our children are our future.

Omar D.

Omar D. is on death row at Holman Prison, and a member of Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty. Holman Unit 3700, Atmore, AL 36503

He writes under the name of Omar D.

King's Distinction Rendered Meaningless To Youngsters Without Proper Historical Context

Ever since I was a teenager in high school, I have been somewhat confused about the concept of Black History Month.

Throughout my elementary, junior high and high school years, American history was presented with a conspicuous lack of color.

Even when the calendar pages turned to February, and the photos of Martin went up in the school hallways, it always seemed a gratuitous attempt of acknowledgement that did very little to mitigate the other eleven months of African American absence.

The vital statistics of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. are almost meaningless unless you show the younger generations that his ability to lead and inspire social and political change could not have happened without the benefit of his education and intellect.

Richard McCulloch

Thank you for Subscribing To And Reading The People's Voice

"The 50 Cents Curriculum"

Was it hard to imagine that? Have you ever met such a person? I am speaking of that poor child—a child of the future. Do you wonder what became of that child? Perhaps it committed suicide or flirted with the idea? Perhaps it resides in a mental institution? Perhaps it is strung out on drugs? Perhaps it is a bad parent today? Perhaps it resides on death row? Do you care to guess? Whatever your answer is, if you at least made a guess, then you have shown some degree of caring and that's all that child ever wanted: someone to care. If you do not like the possible outcome for that child then I have given you the reason why the millions of dollars spent on capital punishment should rather be spent in poor communities, whether on awareness, education, health care and support services.

See that child grew up in a poor community and it does not matter whether it was a boy or a girl. Had the millions, which were wasted on capital punishment been invested in that community and others like it, at least the child would have had a recreation center or Boys' and Girls' Club to run to as a means of escape even if only for a few hours every day. At least that child would have been exposed to positive influences and guidance so that it could have had a chance and hope for a

The People's VOICE
There's Something In It For You!

While The People's Voice is committed to presenting diverse points of view, every viewpoint expressed in any article is the expressed opinion of its author and is not necessarily the viewpoint of the publishers or staff at The People's Voice.

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We welcome letters to our editors and STRONGLY ENCOURAGE OUR READERS TO WRITE TO US.

Your letter may address the editor-in-chief, any of the associate editors, or the general public.

HERE ARE SOME HELPFUL GUIDELINES

1. Letters must be signed and provide your mailing address and telephone number for verification purposes.
2. Please be brief. This is not a matter of not wanting your voice to be heard, the issue is one of space, and the cost involved in providing you space to comment.
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6. U.S. Mail: The People's Voice | P.O. Box 514 | Roanoke, Alabama 36274
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Wedowee Arrest Report For Week of January 12 - January 17, 2008
Race-Gender Composition

CHARGE	BLACK Male	BLACK Female	WHITE Male	WHITE Female	OTHER
Criminal Trespass III	0	0	1	0	0
Harassing Communications	0	0	1	0	0
Speeding	0	0	2	1	0
TOTALS	0	0	4	1	0

Insights & Opinions

L.C.'s COMMENTARY



L.C. Thornton

In with ten Out with ten

In with ten, out with ten
What is in it for me?
I recently spoke to one of my sisters about the criminal justice system that ensnares entirely too many black men. An unending debate over whether their involvement in all cases is warranted. Justified or not, there is entirely too many of them caught up in the system. Her concern was, those who are caught up in the system and eventually spend time in prison are no better off when they are released back into society. She said that if an individual goes into prison wearing cheap clothes with ten dollars in his pocket, he would be wearing cheap clothes with ten dollars in his pocket when released. She spoke at length about those returning to society almost immediately seeking those who they were involved with when introduced to the criminal justice system.

What criminals expect when incarcerated and what the penal system gives is at odds in many areas. Some penal systems feel their only obligation is to get the criminal off the streets. Other systems make efforts to get the criminal off the street and provide him with tools necessary to become an asset rather than a liability when released. Is there a way to prevent this revolving door phenomenon in our criminal justice system? Preventative measures are the best way. Non-involvement in criminal activities is the best preventative measure. It makes little sense to commit a crime and become concerned about the consequences only after incarceration. Those who commit crime should stop for a moment and take a real good look at the total impact of their actions. Not only are the criminals involved, victims of crimes, parents, and the criminal justice system, including police, courts, lawyers, offsprings, siblings and an assortment of other folks are impacted. Often times, people are injured and medical assistance required. When one looks at the totality of criminal activity, and its impact on society, it is easy to see why it is cheaper to devise ways to dissuade those who are inclined to commit crime than to incarcerate them once a crime is committed. Is there an easy answer to the question of why so many black men are in our criminal justice system? The answer is an emphatic no. The problem has been around for such a long time and has been allowed to fester and grow. We must become more proactive and get in front of this situation and stop following and trying to clean it up afterwards with prisons. We must devise a way keep our children out of prison. They must be made to understand that a life of crime and quick dollars is not the way to success in life. Society must offer them clear alternatives to the life style entirely too many of them are pursuing. Someone said these prophetic words "It is easier to train a boy than to rescue a man." Bible prophecies talks about bringing up the child in the way it should go. It emphasizes the importance of instilling in a child in its early years, the proper

way to behave. It is imperative that parents and communities instill in children the importance of adhering to expected behavioral and societal norms. If we cannot make our children behave as children should behave, how can we insist that men behave as men? Many men, like little boys will behave in the manner that they think they can get away with. If one is unaware of what behavior is expected and consequences of not acting accordingly, deviations will certainly follow with disastrous consequences. As an outsider, I cannot see anything in the prison system that beckons me.

L.C. Thornton is a native of Randolph County, Alabama who now hails from Stone Mountain, Georgia and a regular contributor to The People's Voice Weekly News. To read previous columns visit his blog at lctornton@wordpress.com. email L.C. at mrzeke0@aol.com

GRIFFIN SPEAKS

Tribute To Fred Frank Bell, II



Gregg Griffin

(The following tribute was given on February 9, 2008 Saturday at 1p.m. during the Home Going Celebration for Fred Frank Bell II)

GIVING HONOR TO GOD, THE BELL FAMILY AND ALL WHO ARE PRESENT: MY NAME IS GREG GRIFFIN.

WE ARE HERE TODAY TO SAY GOODBYE TO FRED FRANK BELL II WHO I AFFECTIONATELY CALLED "LITTLE FRED" TO LOSE "LITTLE FRED" SO SUDDENLY AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE, AS OTHERS HAVE EXPERIENCED IS INDESCRIBABLY SHOCKING AND SAD. BUT WHAT IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT TO US NOW, AND INTO THE FUTURE, IS THAT WE REMEMBER FRED AS HE WOULD HAVE WISHED TO BE REMEMBERED AS HE WAS: AN EAGLE SCOUT, FULL OF LIFE, DOWN TO EARTH, AND A MAN OF GREAT AND REMARKABLE CHARACTER. IN 1978 I WAS STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT AT MOREHOUSE COLLEGE. I FREQUENTLY MET WITH THE LATE DR. BENJAMIN MAYS, PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF MOREHOUSE COLLEGE. ON ONE OCCASION UPON RETURNING TO CAMPUS AFTER HAVING LUNCH AT PASCHAL HOTEL WITH DR. MAYS AND DR. WENDELL WHALUM, I SPOKE WITH DR. MAYS ABOUT THE EULOGY THAT HE DELIVERED AT DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR'S FUNERAL. I REMEMBER THE OCCASION AS IF IT HAPPENED YESTERDAY. I WAS STANDING NEXT TO DR. MAYS ON MOREHOUSE COLLEGE CAMPUS AS HE STOOD LOOKING OUT THE SIDE WINDOW



THE GANGLINE Mike Ramey

Girls Night What!?

The unanticipated side effect? Older women declared by action and deed that they no longer 'had' to teach girls how to be girls. A 'hardening' of the attitudes of what constituted a quality young woman began to take root in society. Even in the church, women felt 'bound' by Proverbs 31 or the Books of Ephesians or Titus. They 'freed' themselves (mentally) to 'do their own thing' by the spirit of the age.

DLS (dirty little secret) is that teen females KNOW that the courts won't hold them as accountable as their male counterparts. All they have to do upon arriving in court is dress nice, mention their self-esteem issues and the press and public seem to 'wish away' the fact that one girl 'shanked' another girl for talking to 'her 15 year old man' in the hallway of the local middle school.

But wait, there IS more!

The late 1980s saw girl gangs growing with their own rules and reputations. By the 1990s, girl gangs were entrenched in major cities, and moving to the second-tier cities. By the end of the 1990s, more and more young women were heading to prison for more violent offenses. Our new millennium has seen the rise of more sexually aggressive female teachers; teen girls calling teen boys at all hours of the day/night for dates, and more and more teen girls staging in school gladiator fights to show who is the 'baddest chick on the hall'.

This next section is not for the faint at heart.

RACISM ABOUNDS AMONG WHITE FEMINISTS:

Not to shock anyone, but the 'first' generation of young women after modern feminism have not experienced the 'liberation' that their older female counterparts proclaimed. Young Black and Hispanic women are not seen as 'equals' by their white female counterparts. There are more and more young women of color heading to juvenile hall, jail and prison, and fewer and fewer programs developed by women to reach them! Of course, there are dozens of programs being compiled and run by women AND men for wayward boys, complete with grants and equipment. Thus young women are not only angry; they have taken to the very behaviors that feminists 'claimed' not to like in men and boys 'just' to get some overdue attention from their mothers or other older women in positions of authority. Amidst the anger is some 'street wisdom'. The

Let's be honest here. The chief reason WHY we have girls in gangs RESTS with the women in their lives, and the lack of spiritual training. In my home city, girl bangers arrived in several CARLOADS, with OLDER females--INCLUDING mothers and aunts--to 'settle' a score, and 'handle some business' with one or two local teen girls from school. During the early fall of 2007, a few girls showed up on the doorstep of two female rivals. Their brother and mother tried to stop a fight. Shots were fired by the visiting teen female terrors. The brother died at the scene, and the mother--who was pregnant--was hospitalized, in serious condition.

A MATTER OF ORDER:

As a pastor myself, I know how easy it is for society to point the finger of blame at the church. Frankly, the modern church HAS been guilty of being more interested in pizza parties and bringing kids and teens to Sunday Schools, rather than encouraging their parent or parents in becoming Christians, and having THEM bring their OWN children to church.

Today's churches KNOW they need a better dynamic. When I talk with fellow pastors and find out what they are NOT doing to strengthen the homes in their communities, it sickens me.

The TRUE source of spiritual training DOES rest with the HOME! Marriage was the first institution ordained by God, followed by the family. The New Testament maintains that parents/guardians have the primary responsibility in training family members as to their spiritual and moral duties. AFTER that, older men of the church are to

be training younger men, and older women training younger women.

When a girl can jack a car, break down a 'nine' or roll a joint better than she can cook, clean, and work on her lessons, there is a problem at HOME. Any solution in breaking teen girls out of their gang mentality RESTS with encouragement and teaching to rebuild the authority of the home. Whosoever wins the White House--or Congress--will never have as much impact upon children than parents.

My closing words this month are aimed at older women in the home, church, and corporate America. Shame on you for abandoning your younger sisters in pursuit of your own ambitions, thrills and chills. Twenty years ago, you were quick to 'tell' men what they weren't doing when they were trying to get teen boys to pulling their pants and attitudes up. Ten years ago, some of you picked up the mantra: "Well, I don't NEED a Man". But you had help getting pregnant by someone. Presently, we now are seeing young women--some of them your daughters--partially angry at you for not having enough time to spend with them.

This is not my message, but the message some of your younger female counterparts have been spilling across desktops while they have been on probation, or, parole. The real struggle over the next decade will be re-training young women to be MORE than gang members. There is no sin in learning to cook, clean and sew or getting married before having children. These are the traits of home builders.

One of the worst messages a mother can get from her daughter is the following: "If only my mother..." in the midst of a court hearing on a major criminal charge.

See you next month.

MIKE RAMEY is a Street Gang Specialist, consultant, trainer and Lead Instructor of THE GANG LINE, based in Indianapolis, Indiana. This column appears in black newspapers and on fine websites around the world. If you have questions, comments, or would like to have him speak OR train your group, ministry or agency on how to spot/stop gang activity, email RameysGangLine@yahoo.com ©2008 Mike Ramey/Barnstorm Communications International.

Tip From The Old School: A Single Parent CAN be JUST as effective as Two Parents in the supervision of children IF they choose to become pro-active vs. re-active. However, marriage is God's BEST model for parenting success with children!

When I had left the substitute teaching ranks back in the late 90s, school administrators were beginning to see a rise in girl on girl disruptions and disputes. Now--nearly ten years later--we have teachers breaking up even MORE fights between 13 through 17 year old female students on a DAILY basis.

During my time as an Intensive--and later as a School Based Probation Officer with a juvenile court, the number of teen females who arrived on my caseload for violent and/or major offenses increased. Not only this, but more and more teen females of school age ARE getting involved in the gang scene.

In larger cities girl gangs have been in place for a long time. As I write this particular column, there are FIVE identified female MSGs (Modern Street Gangs) in my city. Word on the street is that in rural areas, there are girls who are starting their own gangs.

Unfortunately, the criminal justice system refuses to believe that Sharon and/or Shanniqua--aided in some cases by their mothers and/or older, female relatives--are putting their own spin on street violence--girl style. Interestingly enough, many feminists, social workers and education leaders--most of them female--have remained quiet about or are blissfully ignorant of this 'new trend'.

FROM ACCESSORIES

TO PREDATORS:

Time for a history lesson. From the 1950s to the mid-1970s juvenile females were seen (and used) as accessories by many street gangs. They were placed in such 'lofty' posts as look out, drop zone, or get away driver.

Girls were viewed by boys--and the system--as coat holders and initiation helpers.

That is--until the feminist movement kicked into gear.

OF DUBOIS HALL. DR. MAYS SAID AS HE LOOKED OUT THE WINDOW, "BUILDINGS STAY AND PEOPLE GO! BUILDINGS STAY AND PEOPLE GO! REALIZING THAT DR. MAYS WAS TALKING ABOUT DEATH AND ALL OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAD PASSED ON DURING HIS AFFILIATION WITH MOREHOUSE COLLEGE, I SAID TO HIM, "IT MUST HAVE BEEN A GREAT HONOR WHEN THE EYES OF THE WORLD

WERE UPON YOU TO HAVE SPOKEN AT MOREHOUSE COLLEGE'S MOST DISTINGUISHED AND FAMOUS ALUMNUS, DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR'S FUNERAL." DR. MAYS 80, YEARS OLD AT THE TIME, HIS HAIR AS WHITE AS SNOW

Continued on Page A7

To Submit News To The People's Voice

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Politics and Government



INSIDE THE STATEHOUSE

By Steve Flowers

Mike Huckabee's victory in Alabama was no surprise. If the primary had been held two months earlier he would have won by a larger margin. Polling had him leading by twelve points as late as January 1st. Ever since the evangelical vote crystallized around the Baptist minister in Iowa, the word spread throughout the nation that this is our guy. In a crowded field, where the GOP vote is splintered among several candidates, the evangelical bloc vote becomes insurmountable. Huckabee did well here in the Bible belt, but did not fare as well in the Northeast and the West.

Huckabee is an affable candidate with a populist platform and message which should propel him past just a religious market. However, he has not been able to transcend the perception that he is just a religious right candidate. At age 52 he is young enough to be very interested in the vice-presidential slot. Huckabee seemed to warm to the race and really enjoys the

presidential chase. He has done extremely well considering he has had very little financial support and has lagged badly behind his GOP rivals in fundraising.

I wish one of the Huckabee handlers would pull him aside and make him shave more than once a day. Some men have a problem with a heavy beard. It is known as a 5 o'clock shadow. Politicians are constantly photographed and caught by the TV camera and this 5 o'clock shadow makes someone appear sinister.

Richard Nixon suffered from a 5 o'clock shadow. In fact, it is believed by many political gurus and historians to have cost him the 1960 Presidential Election. The legendary 1960 battle, between Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard Nixon, was one of the closest races in American history. It is said that the presidential debates of that year were the deciding factor. Television was a new medium but not all people in the country had televi-

sion. The folks who listened to the debates via radio when polled afterwards overwhelmingly said that Nixon had easily won the debates. Those who viewed the debates on television said Kennedy won. Kennedy was much more photogenic than the rigid and serious Nixon. Plus, if you look at the clips today you see Nixon with an obvious 5 o'clock shadow who you want to pull aside and say, "Fellow you really need a shave."

Kennedy barely won the election. In fact, most pundits believe he really did not win the election. The race was so close that it boiled down to the pivotal swing state of Illinois. The early results indicated that the rural southern part of the state had voted more heavily than the Democratic enclaves of Chicago. However, the country underestimated the power and corruption of the Democratic machine of Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago.

Daley was the last omnipotent big city political boss. The Chicago mayor held out his vote count to determine how many votes they needed to win. Daley knew there was a lot at stake considering the entire presidential election hinged on the outcome of the Chicago precincts. Therefore, as legend has it Daley put a call in to Kennedy's father, Joe Kennedy, who was the money behind the campaign. Daley told him what it would cost to deliver enough votes to put his son over the top. Reportedly the old man said I will pay for a win,

but not for a landslide. After a days wait the Chicago votes came in and Kennedy won Illinois and thus the White House.

The prevailing word or theme pervasively expressed throughout this election year is "change." This does not bode well for the Republican Party because change means they want someone besides George W. Bush. The Iraq War debacle and the plunging economy point towards a Democratic victory in November. This is borne out further by the fact that the number of people voting in this year's Democratic primaries has been double what the Republicans have had when usually it is even. Furthermore, both Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama have each raised more money than all of the GOP candidates combined.

This portends for a win for the Democratic presidential candidate. However, do not count on Alabama going Democratic. We will probably go Republican like we always do no matter who the GOP nominee is in November. In political nomenclature we are a really red state.

See you next week.

Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist. His column appears weekly in 70 Alabama newspapers. Steve served 16 years in the State Legislature. He may be reached at www.stevelflowers.us.

Five Points News



The Honorable Mayor Geneva Bledsoe

Thoughts On Black History Month

February is "Black History Month," a time when we honor the significant contributions that African Americans have made to the American Culture and way of life.

We reflect and pay special tribute to the courageous men and woman who through their actions and steadfastness opened doors paving the way for future generations.

Black History is American History and should be celebrated today and every day that we as Americans enjoy the freedoms and the liberties that make us who we are.

"A Few Noted Black Alabamians"

- Hank Aaron, baseball great, Mobile
- Ralph Abernathy, Civil Rights Activist, Leeds
- Nell Carter, Actress/Singer, Birmingham
- Nat King Cole, Vocalist and Icon, Montgomery
- W.C. Handy, "Father Of The Blues" Florence
- Evander Holyfield, boxer, Atmore
- Coretta Scott King, Civil Rights Advocate
- Joe Louis, Famous Boxer, LaFayette, Alabama
- Joseph Lowery, Minister/Civil Rights Leader, Huntsville
- Willie Mays, Baseball Legend, Westfield
- Vivian Malone, Civil Rights Figure, Mobile
- Jesse Owens, Athlete/Baseball Player, Mobile
- Rosa Parks, Civil Rights Legend, Tuskegee
- Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State, Birmingham
- Lionel Richie, Singer, Tuskegee
- Percy Sledge, "Former American Idol" Birmingham
- Coleman Young, Former Mayor of Detroit, Tuscaloosa

"Overpower The Negative"

No matter how menacing the problems may be, you can always find a positive desire that is even stronger. Never forget that those things holding you back are limited and fi-

nite, while the dreams that pull you forward have no limits.

As the trouble becomes more troubling, your best response is not to pull back. Your best response is to reach even higher. As the challenging, that's not the time to run from them, it's the time to reaffirm your commitment to moving forward. Make your dreams and goals bigger than your difficulties. Overpower the negative aggravations and frustrations in your life with positive possibilities.

Connect yourself with a purpose that will energize and inspire you to the core, and suddenly even the messiest most complicated challenges will seem trivial by comparison.

East Alabama Union District Baptist Association Pre-Valentine Luncheon

Enthusiasm and motivation was in the air as guests gathered Saturday, February 9, 2007 at the Rehobe Baptist Church, where Dr. H. L. Jones is Senior Pastor.

The occasion was the Annual Pre-Valentine Luncheon sponsored by the East Alabama Union District Convention and Association.

Theme: "What the World Needs Now Is Love Sweet Love."

Presiding was Sister Mary Sanders, member of the Canaan Baptist Church, Welch, Alabama. The Mass Choir of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Lanett, offered a variety of hymns and spirituals that set the atmosphere for an exciting service.

Sister Doris Trammell read the scripture while Sister Jimmie Thomas prayed the prayer.

Sister Sarah Carlisle extended a spiritual welcome to everyone.

Reverend Joe Cofield said the grace.

A delicious meal was served to approximately one hundred guests. Deacon Leon Hill presented the speaker, his wife, Sister Gurtie Hill. Her message was most inspiring, motivational and spiritually sound. Truly this service was a blessing to everyone who attended.

Remarks were extended by Moderator Melvin Owens, president, Sister Nell Finley, Sister Mary Lett, Sister Mable Holley, and Pastor Jones. The evening was filled with love, laughter, and fellowship.

Bishop Coming to Columbus on Monday

Washington, D.C. Monday, Congressman Sanford Bishop (D-GA) and Congressman James Clyburn (D-SC) will be in Columbus

to attend the 22nd Annual Black History Observance Breakfast at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center. Congressman Bishop, whose district includes most of South Columbus, will introduce Congressman Clyburn, the event's keynote speaker. Congressman Clyburn, who is the Majority Whip of the U.S. House of Representatives, is the first South Carolinian and the second African-American to serve in the post.

Each President's Day since 1986, the organizing committee of the Annual Black History Breakfast, in partnership with the local Congressional delegation, has invited local students, interested citizens, community leaders, and business leaders to observe Black History Month by coming together and listening to a notable speaker. In recent years, speakers have included Senator Barack Obama of Illinois and Georgia Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond.

The Columbus Convention and Trade Center is located at 801 Front Avenue in downtown Columbus. The breakfast is slated to begin at 7:30am

Undecided Voters

3 out of 4 undecided voters are newspaper readers.

Half of all voters experience some indecision in the final week before Election Day. And 3 out of 4 of these potentially undecided voters are regular newspaper readers. That means in any given election, almost 40% of the electorate is up for grabs in the final days of the campaign – and they're reading newspapers.*

That's why more and more winning candidates are making newspapers a part of their campaign team.

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*The Cromer Group/Moore Information national survey, August 2003

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Tide LAUNDRY DETERGENT .79¢ 18-19 oz.	Excel Perfect Trim Small Fresh PORK SPARE RIBS \$1.79 lb.
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Banquet TV DINNERS .89¢ 6-11 Oz.	U.S. #1 Colorado Russet POTATOES \$1.39 lb

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Red Gold Tomatoes	14 -15 oz. .78¢	
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Food Club Sodas	12 PK. 2/\$5.00	
Food Club Apple Juice	64 oz \$1.68	
Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix	8 oz 2 /.88¢	
Skinner Spaghetti, Vermicelli Or Elbow Macaroni	24 oz .98¢	
Merico Butter Me Not Biscuits	10 ct. .68¢	
Ore Ida Potatoes	4-5 lb. \$3.99	
USDA Choice Gain Fed Family Pak Ground Beef	\$1.59 per lb	
Tennessee Pride Country Sausage	1lb. \$1.99 ea	
Cook's Hickory Smoked Lo Sodium Center Cut Ham Steaks	\$2.99 per lb	
Frosty Morn Weiners	12 oz. .99¢ ea	
Frosty Morn Sliced Bologna	12 oz. .99¢ ea	
Frosty Morn Sliced Bacon	12 oz \$1.89 ea	
Frosty Morn Corn Dogs	1 lb \$1.59 ea	
Frosty Morn Big Club Bologna	2 lb \$2.99 ea	
Sea Best Flounder Fillets	2 lb \$4.59 ea	
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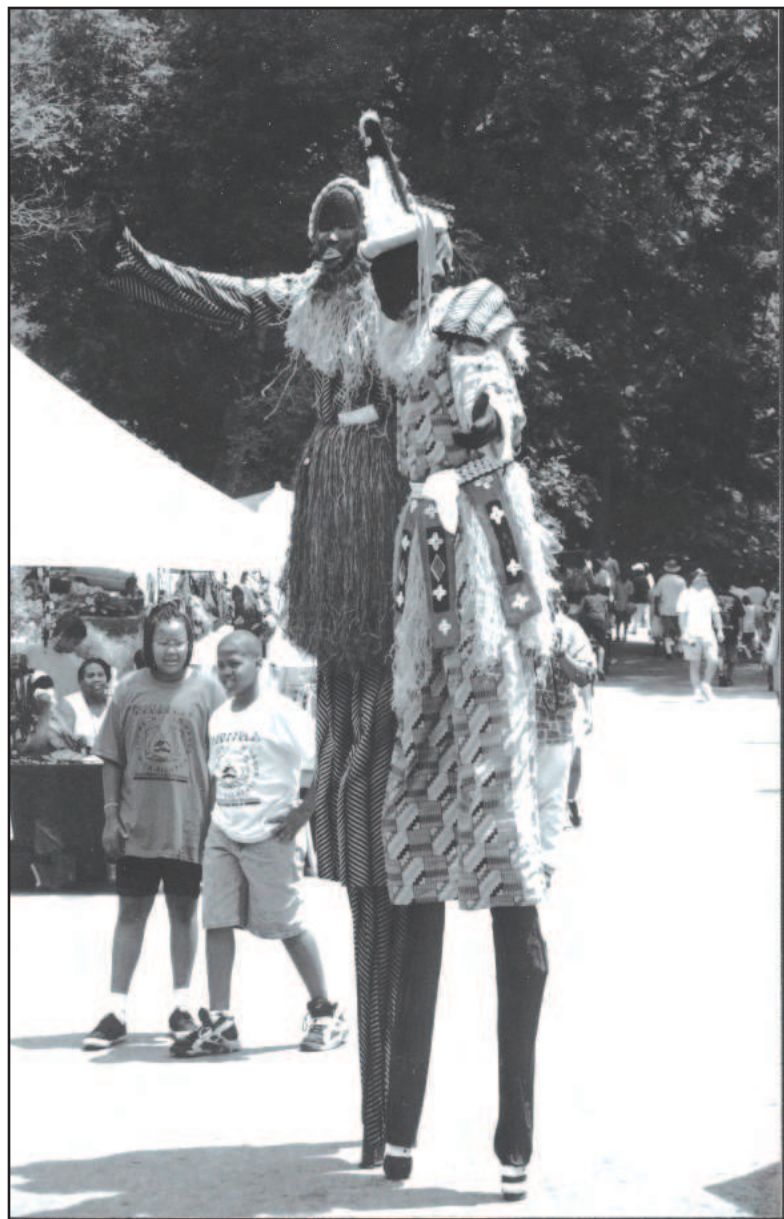
Serving The Funeral Industry of East Central Alabama and West Central Georgia

Mr. Whitlow meets with Gabriel Carr, of Clark Memorial Funeral Service, one of his many Funeral Director clients, to ensure his services meet the expectations of those being served by the area Funeral Homes he contracts with.



Photo Of The Week

High Stepping Stilt Walkers



Two African stilt walkers tower over their surroundings at an African American festival in Dover, Delaware in 1999. Stilt walkers are normally accompanied by drummers during their acrobatic dance movements as they entertain onlookers.

Mocko Jumbie is the art of stilt walking which originated in West Ghana, Africa. The words Mocko Jumbie means "Good God" or "Good Spirit". The art form came about according to one myth when some of the native tribe had to build their homes (huts) on stilts high above the ground due to flooding during certain times of the year; and to get to their homes they developed the art of stilt walking. Another myth says that the art was developed by a tribe who felt since they buried their ancestors underground, that they would be walking on their ancestors if they walked on the ground.

Photo credit Gene Thornton, TPV

Randolph/Clay County Farm Service Agency Announces Deadline to Apply for NAP Coverage

Wedowee, Alabama

February 28 -- Deadline to Apply for NAP Coverage

Thomas C. Fincher, County Executive Director of the Randolph/Clay County Farm Service Agency, recently announced that February 28, 2008, is the final date for producers to request Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for many NAP and insurable crops. Affected crops include, but are not limited to, spring seeded crops—several species of grass, fruits and many vegetables. Producers should apply for NAP coverage at their local USDA Farm Service Agency Office.

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to eligible producers affected by natural disasters. The program provides crop loss protection for growers of many crops for which Federal crop insurance is not available. It covers noninsurable crop losses and prevented plantings caused by disasters.

Eligible producers must pay a service fee of \$100 per crop, per county, not to exceed \$300 per county, or \$900 per producer, for NAP coverage. Producers must apply for coverage and pay the applicable service fees by the application closing dates established by the FSA State Committee. Limited resource producers may request a

waiver of service fees.

The coverage period and sales closing dates for NAP crops vary depending on whether the crop is an annual, perennial, or value loss crop. Therefore, producers should contact the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office to determine coverage periods and sales closing dates.

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Tribute To Fred Frank Bell, II (continued from page A5)

GAVE ME A "BUCK BENNY" LOOK AND SAID: "YOUNG MAN IT IS AN HONOR TO SPEAK AT THE FUNERAL OF ANY MOREHOUSE MAN." "IF THE REQUEST IS EVER MADE OF YOU, RISE TO THE OCCASION. TODAY, THIRTY YEARS AFTER THAT CONVERSATION WITH DR. BENJAMIN MAYS, I RISE TO THE OCCASION AND I AM TRULY HONORED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY A FEW WORDS AT THIS HOME-GOING CELEBRATION FOR THAT MOREHOUSE MAN AND MY MOREHOUSE BROTHER, FRED FRANK BELL II.

I HAVE KNOWN THE BELL FAMILY FOR MANY YEARS. I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF WATCHING FRED II. CHRISTOPHER AND COURTNEY GROW UP. THIS WAS ALL MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE THEIR FATHER IS MY MENTOR. I MET "BIG FRED" IN 1987 WHEN I STARTED PRACTICING LAW AT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE. WE BECAME FAST FRIENDS. "BIG FRED" BECAME MY MENTOR AFTER I WENT TO BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA WITH HIM TO TRY A CASE IN FEDERAL COURT. WHEN "BIG FRED" WALKED IN THE FEDERAL COURTROOM AND BEGAN TO TRY HIS CASE I WAS AMAZED AT HIS COURTROOM SKILLS. I WAS AMAZED AT HIS ABILITY TO MASTER THE JURY. I WAS AMAZED AT HOW VERY WELL HE REPRESENTED HIS CLIENT. I KNEW AT THAT MOMENT I HAD TO HITCH MY WAGON UP TO "BIG FRED" AS A RESULT OF HAVING "BIG FRED" AS MY MENTOR I WAS AFFORDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO KNOW AND LOVE HIS FAMILY. IN 1995 I NOMINATED THE BELL FAMILY FOR THE FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER FAMILY OF THE YEAR AWARD. THE BELL FAMILY WAS SELECTED. I REMEMBER WHEN WE ATTENDED THE

AWARDS CEREMONY "LITTLE FRED" GAVE A WONDERFUL ACCEPTANCE SPEECH. IT WAS A SPEECH I WILL REMEMBER FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE. I HAVE THREE SHORT MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES THAT I HAD WITH "LITTLE FRED THAT I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU AND THEN I WILL SIT DOWN. I WAS VERY THRILLED WHEN I LEARNED THAT "LITTLE FRED WOULD BE ATTENDING MY ALMA MATER MOREHOUSE COLLEGE. WHENEVER I WAS IN ATLANTA GEORGIA I WOULD DROP BY THE CAMPUS TO SEE LITTLE FRED. ON ONE OCCASION, MY SON, GREG JR. AND I WENT TO "LITTLE FRED'S" DORM ROOM IN GRAVES HALL. I TOLD "LITTLE FRED AND GREG JR. THAT I WANTED TO SHOW THEM SOMETHING. WE WALKED A FEW STEPS DOWN THE HALL ON THE THIRD FLOOR TO ROOM 313. I KNOCKED ON THE DOOR AND THE YOUNG STUDENT WHO LIVED IN THE ROOM CAME TO THE DOOR. I TOLD THE STUDENT WHO I WAS AND HE INVITED US INTO HIS ROOM. I WALKED TO THE YOUNG MAN'S CLOSET AND ASKED HIM AND "LITTLE FRED" AND "GREG JR." TO LOOK ON THE INSIDE OF THE CLOSET AT THE WRITINGS ON THE TOP OF THE WALL. THE WORDS WRITTEN ON THE WALL WERE WRITTEN BY MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. YOU SEE, ROOM 313 WAS DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR'S DORMITORY ROOM HIS FRESHMAN YEAR AT MOREHOUSE. JUST A FEW DOORS DOWN FROM WHERE "LITTLE FRED" NOW LIVED. "LITTLE FRED" LOOKED AT ME WITH THOSE EYES FULL OF WONDER AND SAID "MR. GRIFFIN, HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT THOSE WRITINGS WERE ON THE INSIDE OF THAT CLOSET?" I LOOKED AT "LITTLE FRED" AND I SAID, ROOM 313 WAS ALSO MY ROOM WHEN I WAS A FRESHMAN AT MORE-

The Deadline for submitting items intended for publication in The People's Voice is Wednesday, by close of business. Please get your news items in ON TIME

HOUSE COLLEGE IN 1976. ON A SECOND OCCASION I VISITED "LITTLE FRED" BECAUSE ONE OF MY BEST FRIEND'S A FELLOW MOREHOUSE CLASSMATE, JEH CHARLES JOHNSON, FORMER GENERAL COUNSEL TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AND FIRST BLACK LAW PARTNER WITH THE NEW YORK LAW FIRM PAUL WEISS CALLED ME AND ASKED IF I COULD ARRANGE FOR HIS FIRST COUSIN JOSEPH EDELIN TO MEET "LITTLE FRED". JOSEPH'S DAD, DR. KENNETH EDELIN WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE OB/GYN DEPARTMENT AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE. HE WANTED VERY MUCH FOR HIS SON TO GRADUATE FROM MOREHOUSE COLLEGE. I HAD BEEN BRAGGING TO JEH ABOUT "LITTLE FRED" JEH KNEW THAT "LITTLE FRED LIKED MOREHOUSE. JEH'S COUSIN, JOSEPH EDELIN WAS NOT HAPPY AT MOREHOUSE AND WAS READY TO GO HOME. I ARRANGED FOR US TO HAVE BREAKFAST AT PASCHALS HO

Continued On Page A9

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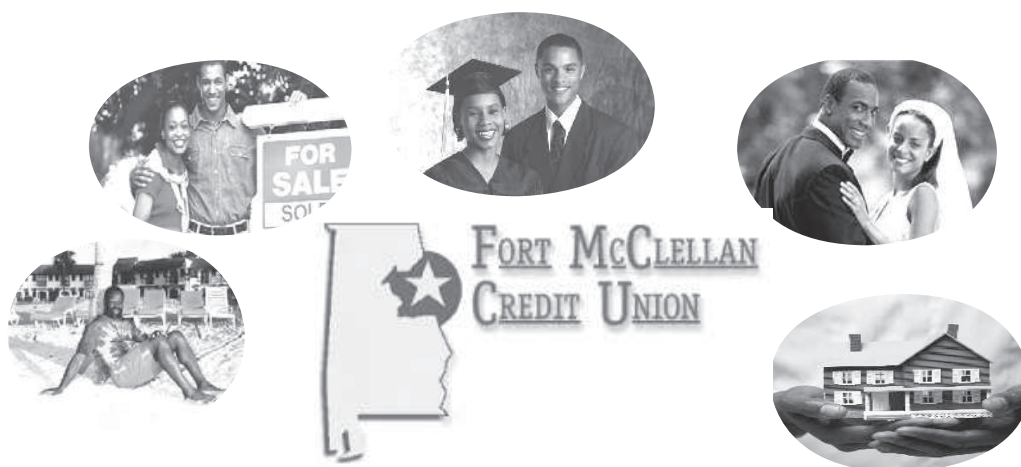
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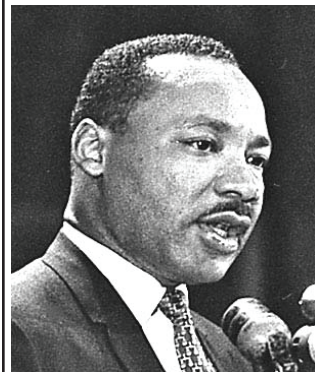


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PEOPLE'S VOICE CRYPTOGRAM
Can you solve the cryptogram below, and identify this famous Black Civil Rights Icon?

"PVZIKM PVYPJK, MLT XETPMOCT UTUOXPMTU ZQIEOMJ LPK ZPUT MLT YIEVU RTMMTE."

— UE. ZPEMOQ VBMLTE SQD, FE.

Plain: ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
Cipher: PRXUTNDLOFSVZQIGWEKMBCYAJM

ANSWER FOUND ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE OF THE PEOPLE'S VOICE

Obituaries

BROOKS

Funeral Services for Mrs. Annie Lee Brooks, of Alexander City, Alabama were held on Wednesday, February 13, 2008 at 1:00pm from Great Bethel Baptist Church, Alexander City, Alabama. Burial followed in the Armour's Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Funeral Services for the late Mrs. Brooks are being provided by Armour's Memorial Funeral Home, 1465 North Central Avenue, Alexander City, Alabama. Phone: 256-234-2776.

ROSS

Funeral Services for Mrs. Rochelle Russell Ross, of Cleveland, Ohio, formerly of Alexander City, are being conducted on Saturday, February 16, 2008 at Miracle Missionary Baptist Church Alexander City, Alabama with burial in Bethlehem Church Cemetery, Daviston, Alabama.

Funeral Services for the late Mrs. Ross are being provided by Armour's Memorial Funeral Home, 1465 North Central Avenue, Alexander City, Alabama. Phone: 256-234-2776.

WILLIAMS

Mrs. Pearl Williams, 80 of Jacksons Gap died Thursday, February 7, 2008 at the University of Alabama Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama. Funeral Services were held at Sardis Baptist Church, Dadeville, Alabama on Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at 12:00pm (C.S.T) with Reverend William Perry Officiating. Interment followed at Dadeville City Cemetery.

Mrs. Williams is survived by four daughters: Mildred Price and Geneva Heard both of Dadeville; Annie Pearl (Eli) Crayton and Carolyn Russell both of Jacksons Gap; two sons: Lonnie White, Waterloo, Iowa, and Fred White, Jacksons Gap; one god-daughter, Dorothy Hollie, Dudleyville, 19 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren; 5 great great grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Funeral Services for the late Mrs. Williams were provided by Vines Funeral Home, 500 "B" Street, LaFayette, Alabama 36274. Phone: 334-864-7128

CARTER

Deacon Freeman Carter, Jr., 79, a resident of Lanett, Alabama passed away February 10, 2008 at George H. Lanier Memorial Hospital. Funeral services for Mr. Carter are being conducted on Saturday, February 16, 2008 from Saint John Baptist Church, Lanett, Alabama, at 2:00pm with Reverend Walter L. Darden, Reverend Thomas Stafford, Reverend Frank Kennedy, Jr., Reverend Harold Ferguson, and Reverend Eugene Cooks, officiating. Burial will follow in St. John Church Cemetery. The remains will lie in state at the church on Saturday, February 16, 2008 from 1:00pm until the funeral hour.

Deacon Freeman Carter currently serving and has served for over 40 years as Clerk/Secretary of the St. John Baptist Church. He served as an Adult Sunday School Teacher, Trustee and on many committees. He also was serving as Assistant Secretary for the Bowen East District Association. Mr. Carter received his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Education from Alabama State University. He retired from the Lanett City School System after teaching for 36 years and 6 months. He was an active member of the Chambers County Retired Teachers Association. Mr. Carter was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He was the son of the late Freeman Carter, Sr., and Annie M. Walton Carter. A sister, Eunice C. Price, preceded him in death.

Survivors include: a loving and devoted wife of 50 years, Geneva B. Carter, Lanett, Alabama; two brothers, Attorney Clinton Carter and Andrean Carter, Detroit, Michigan; nephew he helped rear, Quentin A. Reed, Lanett, Alabama; sister-in-law, Mattie F. Johnson, Lanett, Alabama; seven nieces and nephews, Wendell (Theresa) Price, Phenix City, Alabama; LaFayette (Connie) Price, Sabrina Carter, Jeanette Carter, Ronald Carter, Cheryl Carter, and Andy Carter, all of Detroit, Michigan; and an array of cousins other relatives and friends.

Funeral Services for the late Mr. Carter are being conducted by M.W. Lee Mortuary, 1304 East 10th Street, West Point, Georgia. Phone: 706-643-3222

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Fourth Annual A.G. Gaston Conference Features Rev. Floyd Harold Flake and Business Mogul Michael Roberts in 2008



Michael Roberts

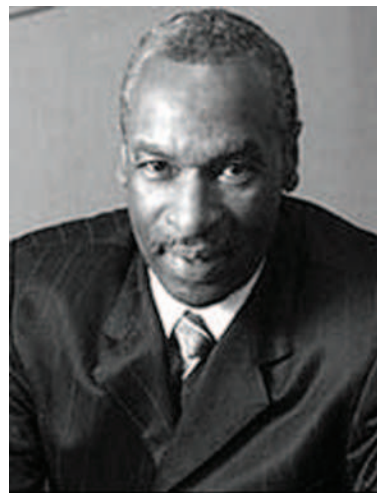
the return of the 21st Century business mogul, Michael Roberts of St. Louis.

"Building on the success of the 2007 conference, this year we want to focus on what can happen when an inner-city retail and housing entrepreneur like Michael Roberts meets with representatives of the faith community like Rev. Floyd Flake, to generate business development opportunities," says Bob Dickerson, one of the conference organizers.

Dickerson, Executive Director of the Birmingham Business Resource Center, says this year's conference -- Economic Empowerment Through Community Collaboration -- will bring these two powerhouse speakers whose experiences are setting the standards for economic development in under-served communities. "What we hope will come out of this conference are examples of the kinds of collaborative efforts African Americans should take to empower ourselves through business ownership and cooperation across various sectors of our community," he said.

The 2007 conference saw greater inclusion of the faith community, a

Continued on Page All



Dr. Floyd Flake

Newest "State of Black Business in Birmingham" Reports on Community Collaboration for Economic Empowerment

Birmingham, AL (BlackNews.com) - The 2008 Annual A.G. Gaston Conference is set for February 19 and 20 in Birmingham, featuring renowned community leader, the Rev. Floyd Flake of New York, and

Attention Grandparents! Are You Raising Your Grandchildren?

If so you are not alone! The Alabama Cooperative Extension System will be conducting a workshop called GRAND RAPP to address some of the key issues facing grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. Call to join our GRAND RAPP support group and have the opportunity to learn how to deal with common concerns reported by grandparents in this role as well as take home a host of information and education.

GRANDRAPP will be held monthly. If you are interested in starting a support group in your community, please give me a call or drop me an email. For more information please contact Debra Ward, Regional Extension Agent in Family & Child Development at (334)750-1253 cell# or email dward@auburn.edu

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Solution to last week's puzzle (2-8-08)

1	S	P	A	S	M	6	A	I	D	E	9	10	B	A	N	E
14	C	U	L	P	A	15	D	R	A	Y	16	A	G	E	D	
17	A	R	M	O	R	18	D	I	R	E	19	R	A	G	A	
20	B	E	S	T	I	21	S	E	L	E	22	N	I	U	M	
27	P	E	C	C	A	V	I	25	S	I	26	R	E	N	S	
32	I	D	E	A	L	33	C	I	T	E	S	34	S	E	E	
39	T	E	N	T	40	S	E	N	O	R	41	S	T	A	R	
42	A	N	T	43	V	A	R	N	A	44	R	O	A	R	S	
45	H	E	L	46	D	R	I	B	B	L	E					
48	A	D	U	L	T	S	50	Y	A	P						
52	S	W	I	N	D	L	E	R	53	P	E	T	A	L	S	
58	H	A	A	G	60	I	D	E	S	61	N	A	T	A	L	
63	E	R	N	E	64	C	A	N	E	65	E	M	O	T	E	
66	D	E	A	R	67	K	N	O	T	68	D	O	M	E	D	

CRYPTOGRAM SOLUTION

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— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Sudoku 2008

1	5			8				
		1			4	7		
3	7				5	8		
			6		3	9		
9		2	3	4				6
	8	3		9				
	2	6					1	8
	3	1		6				
			5		7	3		

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Friday Feb 16

Sudoku
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, every 3 x 3 box contains the digits 1 through 9

Level: Medium



Kakuro

Kakuro, also known as Cross Sums, is a challenging number puzzle, solved in a crossword grid. The rules are easy to learn: A number above the diagonal line in a black square is the sum of the white squares to the right of it. A number below the diagonal line is the sum of the white squares in the sequence below it. You may only use the digits 1 to 9, and a digit can only be used once in any sequence.

Crossword

Across

- Skin marking, often due to injury
- Small drum
- Cheerful
- Arrived
- Rob, old-style
- Lazy, inactive
- Greek god of war
- Rich tapestry
- Work up lather
- Knee
- Items of costume
- Dashboard abbr.
- Biblical high priest
- Undated
- Verity
- Primate with a short tail or no tail
- Seaport in the Crimea
- Made a mistake
- Tailless amphibian
- Big cats
- Sweetheart
- Shaft shot from a bow
- All, musically
- This was produced by Van Gogh, for example;
- Greek goddess of fortune;
- Small box for holding tea leaves
- Unit of energy
- Swindle;
- Governor of a castle
- Friends
- "Give that ___ cigar!"
- Silk cotton
- Heroic
- River which flows through Stratford in England
- Captivated (by)
- On the ocean
- Unit of force
- Refine metal
- Gave temporarily, holy period of 40 days;

Down

- Heroin, slangy
- Feel concern
- "So be it"
- Continue
- Pertaining to the trachea
- Dynamic beginning
- Obstructs
- Egg-shaped
- Outcome
- Increase in height or number
- Smell or fragrance
- Kill
- "Sure thing"
- Bog
- Wield
- Statistics, collection of facts
- To the left, at sea
- Weeping
- Split
- Corpulent
- Metro area
- Walk
- Listened
- Get in a hand
- Obligation
- ER VIP
- Stale from standing
- Sharpen
- Very cold
- Builds
- Plea
- Beam of light
- Guinea pig
- Soon
- Having a sound mind
- Similar
- The third man;
- Church recess
- Mortgage
- Move off hastily
- Deranged

Black History: An Opportunity to Educate Black Youth

Conceive... Believe... Achieve It!



William Luchi

Several days ago, I accompanied a friend to a sports bar and restaurant. I found the atmosphere very nice, but loud. I really enjoyed the people there. My friend kept me in stitches. I have never laughed so much and I really enjoyed myself there that night. There were several cultures, color and nationalities there. For a while, I thought I was in my hometown, New York City. Everyone there was enjoying themselves a lot. There was harmony and the goal was to enjoy one's self in a humane and civil way. Let me share with you a man that found his call for this life and his purpose for living.

Bruce Klunber was a minister who believed his life must be his sermon. He was living out his faith when he laid his body down in the mud behind a bulldozer that was breaking ground for a segregated school. Mr. Klunber's intention was not simply to protest segregation, but to prevent it. Instead, he was crushed to death. Although his death was in one, sense an accident. It was an expression and purpose to which he had committed his life.

In 1955, when blacks in Montgomery stopped riding buses to protest segregation laws, Klunber was an 18-year-old college student in Oregon, far removed from the realities of racism. The bus boycott awakened him to the inequities between blacks and whites in America. Klunber raised money to help support the Montgomery boycotters and began discussing civil rights issues with his fellow YMCA Student Council officers. His mission had begun.

After completing Divinity School at Yale, Bruce and his wife Joanne move to Cleveland where he took a job with the student Christian Union and immediately immersed himself in civil rights issues. He and Joanne took a group

Sharing Love for Humanity

of students on a field trip through the south to expose them to the effects of segregation, and they became founding members of the Cleveland chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality [CORE]. Klunber was among the CORE members who demonstrated at the state legislature for a fair housing bill. Whenever there was a protest against injustice in housing and education, Klunber was there.

For Bruce Klunber, this work was not just a matter of conscience. His hope was not simply to improve black lives, but to make his own life an expression of God's love. Before he was killed, Joanne remembered they talked about moving their family into the ghetto "so that our children would grow up knowing the meaning of caring for others."

I do not know about some of you reading this, but I am tired of this hate situation, just because someone is different or different in your eyes. We, humans, need to get a clue, that the Father created us all, and stop being so damn religious. By the way, racism is taught and learned; one just is not born with it. Bruce was a man that had no limits to his love and concerns for what is right and wrong. I can tell what kind of person an individual is, just by the company and friends he claims to have, interesting, would you say?

Bruce Klunber articulated his belief in a 1963 sermon in which he told the white congregation that it was not enough for Christians to bring fairness and equality into their personal relationships; they must also work to reform the institutions of society... even if it meant taking personal risk. "Our central affirmation is that through Jesus Christ we all are one... We must...each in his own way... Suffer with and for those who are oppressed by those structures of injustice... We must LEARN to feel their pain as our own and ...be willing to bear personally some of the cost of that pain's removal."

One of the institutional injustices that blacks suffered all over the country was inadequate education. In Cleveland, black schools were so old and over crowded that students had attend classes in shifts. White schools were lavish in comparison, with an abundance of

teachers and books.

The secret in reading my articles is that you must put what you are reading in the right perspective. These things happened years ago, and unbelievably, in some areas of this country it is still going on, but in stealth. Those of you, who are Afro American and mixed such as myself, cannot hold hate in your heart, and then claim you are a child of God. Give me a break... You just have a religion, that caters to those who you can identify with. You need to get a clue. If they do not believe what you believe, then you failed to associate with them. By the way, that is one of the characteristics of all religions.

When civil right leaders in Cleveland protested the over crowded conditions in black schools, the school board agreed to send a number of black students to white schools. However, white parents objected that they did not want their children going to integrated schools. Bowing to white pressure, the school board agreed to build more schools for black children, so white schools would not have to be integrated. Local ministers and civil right leaders were outraged that schools officials would go to such lengths to preserve segregation. People are somewhat like crayons, we come in all colors. I would have said shape, but I have not seen fat crayons yet. LOL

Bruce Klunber and other were determined to stop the construction of the black schools. When legal roadblocks failed, they stage picket lines at the site if the first school. When police began to arrest demonstrators, some of the protesters decided to place their own bodies in the way of construction equipment. "We will not stop short of having the school board revise its plans," said Bruce Klunber.

On April 7, Bruce Klunber and several others went to the construction site where the bulldozer was preparing ground for the black school, then three protesters through themselves to the ground in front of the bulldozer. Bruce Klunber however, went to the back of the vehicle and laid down on the ground. When the bulldozer operator reversed directions to move

away from the protesters in front, the huge machine ran over Bruce Klunber, crushing him to death.

Police ruled his death an accident. Some blacks in the community reacted with raged and were on the brink of rioting, when Joanne Klunber made a plea for calm. The violence was sporadic and short-lived.

In the aftermath of Bruce Klunber's death, school halted construction on the segregated school. Once tension eased, however, the work was resumed and the school was completed.

Joanne Klunber wrote later after her husband's death shoo whites and blacks out of a sense of complacency about racial injustice. "There now is feeling of "Yes, we can do something about it... And we must."

She continued, "I pray that by the time the children grow up, their father's death will have been redeemed, and they will be able to see the effect of what his dying did for the conscience of at least a few people... at least a few."

At this time of the year, we are in the process of voting for a new President. Moreover, for the first time in history, it seems like we might have a first woman President or the first African-American President. Well, the issue should be, whether individual who gets in to office, has in his or her heart a genuine concern for the people of this country. Now, if you think whoever gets in office does not have their personal agenda, you really need to get a clue. It is about, what in their Heart, Mind and their Foundation, meaning, what they really believe. In addition, in most cases and situations, you will not know what they truly believe, until they get in office. Regardless what gender, color or nationality they are...

Please note: Even after the Supreme Court outlawed segregated schools, cities all over the country sought ways to preserve Jim Crow facilities. In most cases, school integration came only after civil rights activists insisted on equal rights for black children.

Contact Information:

Conceive, Believe, Achieve It, Inc. P.O. Box 675

THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

February 15, 1961 - U.N. sessions are disrupted by U.S. and African nationalists over assassination of Congo Premier Patrice Lumumba.

February 16, 1874 - Frederick Douglass elected president of Freedman's Bank and Trust.

February 17, 1902 - Marion Anderson, internationally acclaimed opera star, born.

February 18, 1931 - Toni Morrison, winner of 1988 Pulitzer Prize for fiction, born.

February 19, 1923 - In Moore vs. Dempsey decision, U.S. Supreme Court guarantee due process of law to Blacks in state courts.

February 20, 1934 - Four Saints in Three Acts, by Virgil Thompson and Gertrude Stein, premieres as the first Black-performed opera on Broadway.

February 21, 1965 - Malcolm X is assassinated in New York.

February 22, 1989 - Col. Frederick Gregory was the first African

CHURCH TODAY. "LITTLE FRED WAS VERY HUMBLE. HE NEVER WALKED AROUND WITH HIS RIGHT HIP ON HIS SHOULDER. HE NEVER BRAGGED ABOUT THE POLITICAL INFLUENCE THAT HIS UNCLE DOUG MOORE HAS EXERCISED BOTH STATEWIDE AND NATIONALLY FOR THE LAST THIRTY YEARS. HE NEVER BRAGGED ABOUT THE BEAUTIFUL SINGING VOICE THAT HIS MOTHER POSSESSED. HE JUST ENJOYED LISTENING TO HER SING.

ON MONDAY MORNING FEBRUARY 4, 2007 WE LOOKED FOR LITTLE FRED AND HE WAS GONE. HE WENT TO A PLACE WHERE HE HAS NOTHING TO DO BUT JUST WALK AROUND HEAVEN ALL DAY LONG. WHEN LITTLE FRED GOT TO HEAVEN HE BEGAN TO SING AND SHOUT, NOBODY COULD PUT HIM OUT! LITTLE FRED'S GRANDMOTHERS AND GRANDFATHERS AND OTHER LOVED ONES TOO WERE WAITING FOR HIM WITH

OPEN ARMS. THEY ALL JOINED HANDS WHEN THE LORD TOLD LITTLE FRED, JOB WELL DONE, YOUR RACE HAS BEEN WON, THAT'S WHEN THEY ALL WALKED AROUND HEAVEN ALL DAY LONG.

Greg Griffin is a free lance writer. You can read his previous articles by visiting his web page at www.greggriffin.com or write to him at P.O. Box 250194 Montgomery, Alabama 36125-0194.

The Deadline for submitting items intended for publication in The People's Voice is Wednesday, by close of business. Please get your news items in ON TIME

Tribute To Fred Frank Bell, II (continued from page A7)

TEL. JEH FLEW IN FROM NEW YORK

CITY AND I DROVE IN FROM MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA. I PICKED UP "LITTLE FRED AND WE MET JEH CHARLES JOHNSON (WHO ALSO HAPPENS TO BE ONE OF BARRACK OBAMA'S BEST FRIENDS) AND JEH'S FIRST COUSIN, JOSEPH EDELIN AT PASCHALS FOR BREAKFAST. TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT, "LITTLE FRED" CONVINCED JOSEPH EDELIN TO HANG IN THERE AND NOT GO HOME. JOSEPH EDELIN ENDED UP GRADUATING FROM MOREHOUSE COLLEGE WITH A PERFECT 4.0 AVERAGE AND IS CURRENTLY DOING WELL THANKS IN PART TO "LITTLE FRED". BY NOW YOU MUST BE SAYING, I KNOW LITTLE FRED GOT TIRED OF SEEING YOU!

WELL THE TRUTH IS EVERY TIME I SAW LITTLE FRED I LEFT HIM WITH AS THE OLD PEOPLE SAY "A PIECE OF MONEY". I WOULD SAY "DON'T TELL YOUR DADDY THAT I GAVE YOU THIS MONEY, "LITTLE FRED WOULD SAY, "DON'T WORRY I WON'T!" ON THE THIRD OCCASION THAT I VISITED "LITTLE FRED" HE TOOK ME ON "THE YARD" (THAT'S THE NICKNAME FOR SPELMAN COLLEGE.) WHEN WE GOT ON SPELMAN'S CAMPUS IT SEEMED LIKE EVERY GIRL THAT PASSED BY US KNEW "LITTLE FRED" THEY WERE ALL GOING "HELLO Fred Bell" HELLO FRED, HELLO FRED, THEN ONE BEAUTIFUL GIRL COMING TOWARDS US STOPPED DEAD IN HER TRACKS AND SAID HELLO FRED FRED FRED FRED BELL!!!!!! I SAID LORD HAVE MERCY! WHEN I

RETURNED HOME I TOLD MY WIFE DEBRA ABOUT HOW THE LADIES WERE ABOUT TO EAT LITTLE FRED UP! I TOLD HER THAT "LITTLE FRED BELL" HAD BEEN DOING A LOT OF "RINGING" ON SPELMAN'S CAMPUS. DEBRA WASN'T SURPRISED SHE SAID HE GOT THAT HONESTLY, HER AUNT EUDORA HAD TOLD DEBRA THAT, "MR BELL", BEFORE HE MET HIS LOVELY WIFE VIRGINIA, HAD DONE

A LOT OF "RINGING" AT ALABAMA STATE." MY WIFE STILL CALLS "BIG FRED" MR. BELL BECAUSE "BIG FRED WAS HER 7TH GRADE ENGLISH TEACHER.

IN CLOSING WHAT DO YOU SAY TO LITTLE FRED'S FOUR LITTLE CHILDREN: I ASKED MY DAD AND HE SAID "TELL "LITTLE FRED'S" FOUR LITTLE

CHILDREN THAT THEY COME FROM "THE BEST OF GENES!" YOU KNOW HE WAS RIGHT. EVERYBODY SITTING OR STANDING IN THIS CHURCH TODAY WHO KNOW "LITTLE FRED'S", MOTHER VIRGINIA'S FAMILY, KNOW THAT EVERYBODY IN THE MOORE FAMILY IS AS SMART AS ROCKET SCIENTISTS. EVERYBODY SITTING OR STANDING IN THIS CHURCH TODAY WHO KNOW THE

BELL FAMILY KNOW THAT EVERYBODY IN THE BELL FAMILY IS AS SMART AS BRAIN SURGEONS, IN FACT "LITTLE FRED'S" GRANDMOTHER PRACTICED MEDICINE IN LOWNDNES COUNTY FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS AND NEVER STEPPED FOOT IN A MEDICAL SCHOOL CLASSROOM. IN FACT SHE PROBABLY DELIVERED MANY OF YOU SITTING OR STANDING IN THIS

By Minerva

HOROSCOPES

For The Week Of Sunday, Feb 18 - Feb 25

Aries (MAR 21 - APR 20)

You seem to be carrying more stress than usual. There's no way around this but it won't last forever. If you can accept the intensity and work with it, it'll be easier to ride this out without feeling too sorry for yourself.

Tarus (APR 21 - MAY 20)

You'd be wise to look at why it is that you take on other people's stuff. Worrying about how someone else is doing and trying to handle it for them isn't your job. Assuming that they are helpless only weakens the both of you.

Gemini (MAY 21 - JUN 20)

The next few months will require a lot of hard work. Those closest to you are oblivious to the pressure you're under, so don't look to them for support. At a time when you're on overload their needs are bound to become one more burden.

Cancer (JUN 21 - JUL 20)

Others are doing their best to make the most of your generosity. You can ignore this or you can confront them and find out why they keep taking instead of giving. It may be time to remind them that life is a two-way trail.

Leo (JUL 21 - AUG 20)

You might as well have a degree in therapy with all the counseling you're doing. Your friends have become too dependent on your support. You've had it but you're too kind to shut them off. If you keep this up you'll go nuts!

Virgo (AUG 21 - SEP 20)

Your sense of duty is competing with the urge to go out and get a life. The two forces aren't incompatible. If you can figure out how to fulfill your obligations creatively it will soon be clear that you can have your cake and eat it too.

Libra (SEP 21 - OCT 20)

Love and fulfillment don't mean much when older patterns make it difficult to recognize those things. If you had the capacity to appreciate all the goodness that has come your way you wouldn't complain about what you're missing.

Scorpio (OCT 21-NOV 20)

You have very good reasons for not feeling safe in this situation. Your sense of safety will strengthen once you restore your inner connection. Get right with yourself. You can't do anything to improve this until you go within.

Sagittarius (NOV 21 - DEC 20)

You're too self-absorbed to see that you're in the middle of a train wreck. Wanting your freedom is fine but when you have to step on too many toes to get it, it's not good. Think about that, and rethink your choices while you're at it.

Capricorn (DEC 21 - JAN 20)

Someone is acting out and their issues have caused you to rearrange your life. If you can let this go, do it. Don't postpone the inevitable by trying to fix it. Let them hit bottom if they have to. It's the only way some people learn.

Aquarius (JAN 21 - FEB 20)

Your perfect world has been shaken up. It would be easy to take all of this personally but it's more about fate and politics than it is about you. Everything happens for a reason. Chin up. Something good will come out of this mess.

Pisces (FEB 21 - MAR 20)

None of this would be happening if you weren't so naive. There's nothing wrong with having faith in people, but it has to be balanced with equal parts of realism. Now that you know what others are made of, save your trust for those who deserve it.

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A Synopsis of the Winter Quarter (February) Sunday School Lessons for 2008.

Unit 3: February Responding to God's Call

The final unit of lessons for this quarter focuses on God's personal call to each believer.

Lesson 10 (February 3 **Called to Labor**, Luke 10:1-12, 17-20) introduces us to Jesus' commission to His 70 disciples. This introduction brings us to consider how Jesus' call to labor for Him applies to us as well.

Now as then, Jesus calls us to struggle for a purpose greater than ourselves. When Jesus appointed 70 disciples to prepare His way, they obeyed despite the probability of hardship and rejection.

Those who engage in missions and evangelism in the twenty-first century will also be subject to hardship and rejection. But we have the strength of God as did the first-century disciples. God will not let His church fail.

Lesson 11 (February 10 **Called to Repent** Luke 13:1-9) stresses an issue that is crucial for everyone: the need for ongoing repentance. As we look at our lives honestly, we will see things that we should admit and change. But how do we go about changing in order to become a holy, godly people?

That change starts with repentance. Repentance allows us to ask for and receive God's help in becoming holy. Jesus' call to life-changing repentance is always with us.

Lesson 12 (February 17 **Called to Be Humble** Luke 14:1, 7-14) examines another aspect of Jesus' call on our lives: the call to humility. Modern culture values and rewards people who put themselves forward to be first. That is nothing new. Ancient cultures did it too, as this lesson shows us.

But a life of humility is better. In this lesson Jesus will teach us that true recognition and exaltation come from God, not from our own attempts at seeking glory and honor.

The quarter ends, fittingly, with a sweeping call of Jesus in Lesson 13 (February 24 **Called to Be a Disciple** Luke 14:25-33) to be His disciples throughout our lives. People look for causes that they can support passionately. What or who is worth supporting so passionately that one may even give up everything for? Jesus!

Being a follower of Jesus has great benefits, but His call also comes with many demands. If we are to be true disciples, we must heed the many aspects of our Savior's call. This lesson will help us come to grips with His call on our lives.

God's Call, Then and Now
God calls the community of Christian faith (the church) to live out the purpose for which we were created. That purpose has not changed. That purpose is summed up in the Great Commission: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19, 20).

The "whatsoever I have commanded you" includes the lessons that God's Word teaches us this quarter. Nothing good can happen without faith, willingness, love, repentance, prayer, and humility.

NATIONAL BLACK PROGRAMMING CONSORTIUM TO ANNOUNCE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS AND HOST A PRE-VIEW SCREENING FROM THE AFROPOP TV SERIES AT THE 2008 HBCU NATIONAL MEDIA CONFERENCE

New York, NY (BlackNews.com) - The National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC) will announce its student fellowship opportunities for 2008 at a luncheon hosted in conjunction with Black College Wire and Black Collegian maga-

Emmett Johnson, Wedowee, AL

May I Have A Word With You? In Search Of Bible Truth

Where did Christmas originate? From the Bible or paganism? What is the real origin of Santa Claus—mistletoe—Christmas trees—holly wreaths—and the custom of exchanging gifts? Many are concerned about putting "Christ back into Christmas." Was He ever there? Here are the stunning answers!

BY DAVID C. PACK

The Druids and Human Sacrifice

Many people have heard of the Druids. Few know who and what they were. We will refer to them later and tie them to other well-known Christmas practices. We must first establish their historic role in human sacrifice.

Julius Caesar is the best-known source of information about the Druids. This comes from the Encyclopedia Britannica. This quote, under "Druids," clearly explains who they were: "Druids, the learned class among the ancient Celts, whose name means Knowing (or Finding) the Oak Tree. They seem to have frequented Oak forests and acted as priests, teachers and judges. The earliest known records of the Druids come from the 3rd century [B.C.]... Druids took charge of public and private sacrifices, and many young men went to them for instruction. They judged all public and private quarrels and decreed the penalty...The Druids principle doctrine was that the soul was immortal...(they) offered human victims for those who were gravely sick or in danger of death in battle. Huge dickerwork images were filled with living men and then burned; although the Druids chose criminals by preference, they sacrificed innocent victims if necessary."

The Old Testament is filled with God's condemnation of Israel for practicing the customs of the nations around them—and we are gathering important facts revealing a shocking picture.

The Role of Cannibalism

Another truth about the origin of Christmas springs from the modern word cannibal. This practice has its roots in a prime function of all priests of Baal. Keep in mind that the Hebrew word for priest is Cahn. Consider the following quote from The Two Babylons, by Alexander Hislop, page 232: "And it was a principle of the Mosaic law, a principle no doubt derived from the patriarchal faith, that the priest must partake of whatever was offered as a sin-offering (Numbers xviii. 9, 10). Hence, the priests of Nimrod or Baal were necessarily required to eat of the human sacrifices; and thus it has come to pass that 'Cahna Bal,' the 'Priest of Baal,' is the established word in our own tongue for a devourer of human flesh."

The reality of this can be lost on no one! It is also true that most civilizations have a tradition that has involved cannibalism. Notice this statement from The New York Times,

zine at the HBCU National Media Conference in Baltimore, MD. The luncheon will be held on Friday, February 15 at 12:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel located at 300 South Charles Street .Baltimore, Maryland 21201. Since 2006, NBPC has provided more than \$100,000 in fellowship dollars and resources to students attending historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) interested in learning new media technology.

In addition to the luncheon, NBPC will sponsor a special screening of Ten Days In Africa from the public television series, AFROPOP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange. The special screening will take place on Thursday, February 14, 2008 at the Morgan State University Student Center. A Q&A with the award-winning filmmaker, Regi Allen, will follow the screening.

AFROPOP is the highly anticipated television series hosted by the actor Idris Elba (The Wire, Sometimes In April) that looks at contemporary life and pop culture throughout the African Diaspora. The stories are intelligent and thought provoking. AFROPOP provides a perspective of the African Diaspora that is rarely seen. The series is scheduled for national broadcast on public television beginning June 2008.

The National HBCU Newspaper Conference brings together focused and dedicated attendees from historically black colleges and universities across the United States. Each year, hundreds of member colleges and their representatives come together to share four days of training workshops, professional growth, networking and fun.

"What Is the Meaning of Cannibalism?" by Erik Eckholm: "Cannibalism has once fascinated and repelled virtually every known society, including those said to have practiced it." This same article went on to show that most civilizations also attached divine significance to its practice.

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What About the Santa Myth?

Have you considered that you could also be burning, even sacrificing, your children today (though in a different way) in your practice of Christmas, while you may be trying to sincerely "focus on Christ"?

Parents reason that they owe the whole Christmas myth to their children! Christmas traditions are focused primarily on kids, and they are certainly the center of most of what happens. I know because I kept seventeen Christmases. My older sister and younger brother and I were the recipients of much and the givers of very little on that day—and it all started with the Santa Claus lie.

Some years ago, a priest in New Jersey told his Sunday school class that Santa was a myth. The outrage from parents and his supervisors was swift. He had "killed Santa!" He had "destroyed family tradition!" He had "usurped family authority," the article continued. He was officially censured by his superiors for being "overzealous and insensitive." His crime? He told the truth! According to Langer's Encyclopedia of World History, (article "Santa"), "Santa" was a common name for Nimrod throughout Asia Minor. This was also

Since 1979, The National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC) has been a leading provider on American public television of quality, intelligent and compelling programming that celebrates the cultural heritage of African Americans and the African Diaspora.

To learn more about NBPC and the AFROPOP television series, visit www.nbpc.tv. For more information on the HBCU National Media Conference visit www.blackcollegewire.org

AFROPOP is a production of NBPC and distributed by American Public Television. Major funding is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

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The People's VOICE

Soul & Spirit Cultural Wars



Melvin Brown, LaGrange, GA

With the upcoming election, a change is about to happen. Could it be, we are no longer the tail, but the head? Never in the history of the U.S.A. has there been a cultural war surrounding an election, in terms of Black versus white for the Democratic Presidential nomination.

Yes, we live in a land of democracy, yet we are still divided.

The demise lies in our ethnicity, because we must realize that culture is part of God's multiplicity. So, if power is in the hand of the powerful one -- no matter what -- cultural wars exist because there is resistance pertaining to human rights.

Could this be Bible prophecy, or an irate statement? Let's study culture for a moment, and examine some key facts. Abraham brought on the first cultural changes by leaving his relatives to be a blessing for all nations.

After the flood, Noah's three sons, Shem, Ham, Japheth, each one produced every culture then and now. Culture has always been a problem, because it's a people problem, not God.

To understand this, it stems from Ham, who was supposedly cursed by God, for his impiety toward Noah, his father. First of all God did no such thing. Noah cursed Canaan, Ham's son. Let me be realistic (and this does not relate to all blacks and their culture): Much of this is speculation and misuse, which some called the Hamic curse, meaning "a failing people." Not so.

Now we hear and see people say, it's not about religion. Wrong. Religion tends to point us in the

the same fire god who came down the chimneys of the ancient pagans and the Same fire god to whom infants were burned and eaten in human sacrifice among those who were once God's people.

Today Santa Claus comes from "Saint Nicholas." Washington Irving, in 1809, is responsible for remaking the original old, stern bishop of this same name into the new "jolly St. Nick" in his Knickerbocker History of New York. (Most of the rest of America's Christmas traditions are even more recent than this.) "Old Nick" has long been recognized as a term for the devil.

In Revelation 2:6 and 15, we read about a "doctrine of the Nicolaitanes," which Christ twice tells His Church "[He] hates." Let's analyze the word Nicolaitane. It means "follower of Nicholas." Nikos means "conqueror, destroyer." Laos means, "people." Nicolaitanes, then, are people who follow the conqueror or destroyer—Nimrod. If you have believed that following Christmas is an innocent Christian custom, let this truth sink in!

direction of culture in this election -- creating war against each nominee knowing it is about race.

Cultural wars cause division in families, and birthrights, such as inheritances. The black depository in the United States is a cultural war, between two rivalries, blacks and whites, but we have to contend with everyone. If not the same thing. We've had other black men run for president before...not this close of a race. If he establish this principle, it's not about him, I believe God's glory will fall making a change for all time. Racial barriers like crossing the lines of politics and religion have always brought on cultural wars. Will this save or destroy our nation? No. But this political issue is as advanced as we are. Even though, culturally, we (blacks) have seldom enjoyed the status of independent political power, we all know where the dominance lies.

It's our time now, and we will not continue to live a life of servitude. There are a number of stories in the bible about political victories. A change in thinking, removing enigma as a conflict of interest. Simply, the destiny of God prevailing.

These people had no prominence: David, Daniel, Joseph, Esther, and Peter. Only God. It wasn't about being political, but change with God's agape love.

We must respond on this impending question for a breakthrough.

Carefully, examining every aspect of this election, seek God, folks. This is critical. Yes, I have hope, whatever the outcome is. I stand on these words of King David. "I once was young, and now I'm old; but I've never seen the righteous forsaken or his seed begging for bread." You see, this is my equilibrium, not a premonition, knowing God is my source. Not under stress but peace within.

As we see, the prelude to end this cultural war is a holy conversion by God's intervention.

Vote, the choice is yours to make! May God help you choose wisely and rightly.

Read Deuteronomy 28:13; Psalm 37:25; Genesis 9:23-27

Love, Melvin Brown

The Deadline for submitting items intended for publication in The People's Voice is Wednesday, by close of business. Please get your news items in ON TIME

Canaan Missionary Baptist Church



Pastor Mario F. McDaniel

Canaan Missionary Baptist Church, Roanoke (Welch) Alabama Invites You To Consider Canaan....

Itinerary For February, 2008

Saturday, February 9, 2008
10:00 am Operation Jerusalem
12:00 Noon...Senior Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, February 16, 2008

Minister's Meeting (Cancelled)
9:00 am Deacon's Meeting
12:00 Noon Youth Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, February 23, 2008

10:00 am Gospel Choir Rehearsal

12:00 noon: We would like to invite children of all ages (adults, too) to our Civil Rights Cinema at 12:00 Noon. Come join in the fellowship and fun. Looking at movies and eating snack treats.

Sunday, February 24

We invite you to our Annual Women's Day Program. The afternoon guests is New Hope Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Alabama, Reverend Jeffery Leonard, Pastor. Dinner will be served following morning worship and we are asking members to bring desserts. (Sister Robin Bell, Chairperson).

New Converts/New Members will meet with the Pastor's regular Sunday school class every Sunday morning.

Please keep these and all other announcements in mind.

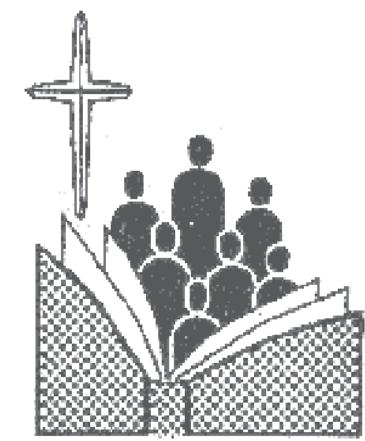


**Sister Lisa Henderson
Brother Gregory Sanders
Brother Keimon Sanders
Sister Shakeira Smith
Sister Kiesha Tigner
Brother Daryl Sanders-Weitzel**

Contact Canaan:
Rev. Mario F. McDaniel, Pastor
Home Phone: 256-782-0710
Cell Phone: 256-453-4285
Office Number: 334-885-6348
Pastor McDaniel's Office Hours: Wednesday, from 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm (please make an appointment)
Email Address: pastor_McDaniel@yahoo.com
Church Address: 7485 County Road #278, Roanoke (Welch), Alabama
Mailing Address: Post Office Box 1015, Roanoke, Alabama 36274
Church Phone: 334-885-6297
Fax: 334-885-6943

Church Website: www.canaanbaptist.us

Event Calendar



Wedowee, Alabama Lake Wedowee Interdenominational Community Church Of Christ Minister of Music

Lake Wedowee Interdenominational Community Church Of Christ is seeking a Minister of Music to compliment the growing needs of our ministry. The Minister of Music will be required to conduct rehearsal with praise and worship team, establish choir, and be able to read and arrange sheet music to fit the needs and capacity of the church. The Minister of Music must be able to play a keyboard or piano and be an effective leader in church activities. A degree in Music is not required. If you are interested in this position, please attach a resume and cover letter and send it to: Lake Wedowee Interdenominational Community Church Of Christ, 1919 County Road 1, Wedowee, AL 36278. Attn: Pastor Deric Minnefield or e-mail it at: Pastorminnefield@cablone.net.

The People's VOICE
There's Something In It For You!

The Illustrious History Of The Mary Johnson High School



Franklin, Georgia

The Late Mary Hines Johnson was the central figure honored at a Banquet held at the Heard High School Cafeteria. What did she do, to earn the remembrance and respect of Heard Countians? What made her such a distinguished and note-worthy figure? From the article below, you can glean that she was no ordinary woman.

Sr., as Principal. Mr. Minnifield succeeded Mr. Ransby as Principal in 1965.

Mr. Ransby, Principal during the early fifties, relates that there were double sessions held during that time to allow the farms time for gathering of crops. The first graduating class of Mary Johnson School was in 1952. The finishing grade was eleven. The graduates were Glema Jones, Cathryn Brown, Rufus Jones, Gladys Ransby and Nellie Jones.

The Board of Education approved the buying of the Veal place from W.H. Millar and ten acres of land adjoining the Veal place from Mr. W. R. Jones, with the understanding that the site would be used for the new "Negro" school. This school was composed of grades 1-12. This eliminated the use of community schools such as Stateline, Davis and Union Grove. The new Mary Johnson School as completed in 1954. Below is historical information regarding the Mary Johnson School, found in the Heard County History Book, Page 90-91, as recorded by Thomas Miller.

The Mary Johnson School which housed all the minority students of the county was changed to Heard Elementary at the completion of integration. Before that time the Mary Johnson School with 505 Students and 21 teachers was run completely separate from the Heard County high school across the river. The last principal of Mary Johnson School, Mr. Warren Minnifield, as moved into an office across the hall from the new principal Stanley Stanfield and given the title of Title I & Federal Programs Coordinator for both the elementary and high school programs.

After Mr. Stanfield resigned, Mr. Roy Brazeal from Temple, Georgia became principal. After several years at Heard Elementary Mr. Brazeal was transferred to Heard High and Mr. Mason Alford became principal and remained at Heard Elementary until the children, it has a Kindergarten Complex; a 1989 addition for the upper grades and a 1983 Media, Music, and Arts addition.

Since Heard Elementary opened as the county elementary school

it served students 1st - 6th grades. Kindergarten was added along with several Special Education programs which by the completion of 1989-1990 school year was serving students kindergarten to 6th grade.

In an official action taken by the Board of Education in the spring of 1990, it was decided that Heard Elementary be changed to a K-5 school with the 6th grade being moved to a new addition constructed on the high school campus.

The Mary Johnson (Negro) High School operated from 1948-1968. HISTORICAL INFORMATION Taken from page 87 of the Heard County History Book

The colored school enrollment in Heard County in 1939-40 was 921, reduced to 660 in 1948-49. The twenty schools in 1939-40 were: Arcadia, Bethel, Canaan, Concord, Cooksville, Davis, Ebenezer, Five Points, Freindship, Harmonia, Mount Calvary, Mount Pleasant, Mount Olive, Mount Zion, New Hope, Pleasant Hill, Rock Springs, State Line, Union Grove and Wesley Chapel. By 1948-49 here were seven colored schools: Canaan went under the operation of Troup County; Friendship consolidated with Davis; Arcadia, Bethel, Concord, Cooksville, Five Points, Ebenezer, Harmonia, Mount Pleasant, Mount Olive, Mt. Olive, Mt. Zion, New Hope, Pleasant Hill, Wesley Chapel and Midway (organized in 1940-41) consolidated to become Ebenezer; Corinth (newly formed in 1945), Mount Calvary, Rock Springs, State Line and Union Grove were the other five schools in 1949-49.

Other 1948-49 statistics revealed there were 51 teachers in the white schools and 18 in the colored schools. 14 teachers in the white schools and 2 in the colored schools had 4 years of college. There were 26 school buses. 13 of which were county-owned. The total expenditures of the Heard County Board of Education in 1948-49 was \$209,724.59 (including salaries). Centralhatchee and Heard County High (Franklin) were the only high schools in the county from 1939-1949. Ebenezer School offered some high school work in the 1948-49 school year.

A.M.E. Church Bridge Crossing Reenactment Bridge Crossing Speakers Voting Rights Museum Hall of Fame Inductions

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2008 Slow Ride from Selma-to-Montgomery & Montgomery Reenactment Rally

Other Special Invited Guests: Barack Obama, Jesse Jackson, Martin Luther King, III, John Lewis, Charles Steele, SNCC Freedom Singers, Will & Jada Pinkett Smith, Russell Simmons, Sean "P Diddy" Combs, Al Sharpton, Maxine Waters, Julian Bond, and many more.

For ticket sales and info, visit us at thebridgecrossingjubilee.org Or call us at (334) 418-0800 Many Events are FREE

Fourth Annual A.G. Gaston Conference

Continued From A8

theme that continues in 2008 with the Rev. Flake, senior pastor of the 23,000 member Greater Allen African Methodist Episcopal Cathedral in Jamaica, Queens, New York. Under his 21-year pastorate, Allen A.M.E.'s annual non-profit operating budget has reached nearly \$24 million.

Flake and his congregation are nationally renowned for expansive commercial and residential developments, its 500-student private school, and its various commercial and social service enterprises. Its community-building efforts have made Allen A.M.E. among the nation's most productive religious and urban development institutions. If the church were a for-profit entity, it would be one of the nation's 100 largest African American-owned enterprises.

Dickerson says Flake and his church started with buying and renovating old buildings and apartments; then they ended up with retail shopping centers. "These sorts of developments drive a sense of community and set the groundwork for property appreciation, which upgrades depressed communities," he says.

He calls Roberts the 21st Century version of A.G. Gaston who, like his predecessor, found a need and filled it. Roberts and his brother worked to breathe new life into old retail outlets and build new housing in inner-city St. Louis, MO., communities where many bankers were not willing to invest money. The Roberts brothers' business acumen turned those investments into bigger deals that today include commercial and residential real estate holdings, hotels, radio stations and communications towers.

"Together, Flake and Roberts represent what can happen when well-educated, smart and business-savvy entrepreneurs - through faith-based organizations, families and other groups - put their collaborative energies back into improving their own communities," Dickerson says.

The A.G. Gaston Conference continues to shine a light on the plight of Black-owned businesses and its implications for the broader community. Blacks are 30 percent of the Birmingham region's population, which should mean that they own a proportionate number of businesses that generate a proportionate percent of the revenue in this \$100-billion-plus market. "Unfortunately, the world is so far from perfect that black businesses in Birmingham generate only one half of one percent of the total market," Dickerson says. Statistics are similarly skewed in other cities across the U.S.

In 2007, the conference's third annual "The State of Black Business in Birmingham" white paper found that, if Blacks owned businesses at the same rate as whites, there would be 18,000 more businesses, with payrolls generating \$720 million more than what they do now. That kind of money flowing through the Black community would have a significant positive social impact and boost the entire region's economy, the paper concluded.

The Rev. Gerald Austin, founder and CEO of The Center for Urban Missions, will author the conference's 2008 white paper entitled, The Role of the Church in Community Economic Development.

The Fourth Annual A.G. Gaston Conference will also honor local small businesses and feature several general sessions with the keynote speakers as well as other special announcements.

The conference was founded by Dickerson and Gaynelle Adams Jackson of Advanced Planning Services.

For More Information about the Conference: Registration for the two-day conference is \$75 for early-bird registrants, and \$125 after Feb. 8, 2008. To register for the conference and get more detailed information about the schedule and speakers, visit the conference website www.aggaston-expo.com. For any questions, contact the Birmingham Business Resource Center at (205) 250-6380, or e-mail INFO@bbrc.biz.

About Dr. A.G. Gaston Dubbed "Entrepreneur of the Century" by Black Enterprise Magazine, Dr. A.G. Gaston (1892-1996), for whom the conference was named, was one of the richest black men in America. He overcame poverty and the lack of educational opportunities to become a virtual giant in the world of business and commerce. "Gaston made these phenomenal accomplishments during a period when abject and overt racial discrimination was the way of life in Birmingham," Dickerson says. The conference holds up Gaston's time-honored principles and practices as encouragement for other blacks who must overcome barriers as they strive to succeed.

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Historic Bridge-Crossing Jubilee Reenactment To Be Held In Selma, March 6-10

The National Voting Rights Museum & Institute and SCLC presents the

15th Annual Bridge Crossing Jubilee Commemorating & Celebrating the Selma to Montgomery March, Bloody Sunday, & The Voting Rights Act.

One Vote, One Mic One Movement From Selma to Jena and Beyond

March 6 - 10, 2008, Selma, Alabama

Highlighted Events Will Include:

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2008 Mass Meeting, Tabernacle Baptist Church

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008 Invisible Giants Conference A Public Conversation From

Selma to Jena & Beyond Special Guest: Dr. Cornel West

"Stomp Out To Vote" Jubilee Step Show

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2008 Foot Soldiers Breakfast Jubilee Parade/Battle of the Bands Jubilee Festival (Gospel, Hip Hop & R & B, Blues Stages) Civil Rights & Hip Hop Summit, One Vote, One Mic, One Movement

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2008 MLK, Jr. & Coretta Scott King Unity Breakfast Special Invited Guests: Senator Hillary Clinton Sunday, Morning Services: Various Movement Speakers Pre-March Rally, Brown Chapel

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Ask Deanna! Real People. Real Advice !!



Ask Deanna! Is an advice column known for its fearless approach to reality-based subjects!

Dear Deanna!
I have a roommate in college that disrespects the fact that I have allergies. I'm sensitive to air fresheners, perfume, cigarette smoke and a lot of other stuff. I'm on the waiting list to move but she's beginning to do things on purpose like using sprays, powders and things that make me sick. She does these things and pretends she didn't know. Meanwhile, my eyes are watery, I'm sick and missing class because of allergy attacks. How do I get her to stop this behavior?
Allergic and Sad, Tampa, FL

Dear Allergic:
You should take your roommate to lunch and have a sincere conversation with her and give her further insight into your allergies. Let her know that you're entitled to peace in your living space because you pay to be there. You need to let her know that her actions are abusive and if she doesn't stop, you'll take action with the housing office. If it's too bad while you're waiting for the system to work, see if you can change rooms on a temporary basis and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!
I've been in a relationship with a guy I met at the club. When I first started dating him, I thought he was the man of my dreams. He turned out to be a smooth talker and a user and now I'm in debt, my bank account is empty and I have a broken heart. He's moved in with me and now he can't move out because he doesn't have any money and nowhere to go. I'm a prisoner in my own home and I don't know how to get rid of this man. Any suggestions?
Embarrassed, Lanham, MD

Dear Embar-rassed:
You gave yourself three strikes in a row by looking for love in the club, being fooled by a smooth operator and then bringing him into your house. You asked him to move in with you and you can also ask him to move out. It's not your problem if he's broke and homeless. If you keep messing around with this guy, you'll be just like him. You can handle this problem by breaking your lease and moving somewhere else or simply ask him to move and mean it.

Dear Deanna!
My new girlfriend is moving too fast. I met her mother as a courtesy and now she wants to commit me to dinner every week and she acts as if I'm going to marry her. At first it was cute and I could go along with a few things but now it's creepy. She's started buying wedding books and I have to draw the line. I need to get out of this relationship because I'm turned off completely. How do I get out of this before it's too late?
Mark T., On-Line Reader

Dear Mark:
There is something you did, or something you said to this girl to give her the idea that your relationship is more than it is. You made it worse by playing along and now it's become too much for you. You need to man up and be honest and tell your girlfriend how you really feel, how her actions are affecting you personally and the overall relationship. If you choose not to be with her you need to at least respect her and end the relationship in a cordial manner.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Deanna M, 264 S. La Cienega, Suite 1283, Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Contact: (310) 600-9729 Website: www.askdeanna.com

By Shawn Johnson,
BDO Staff Writer
12-Feb-2008
(BlackDoctor.org) --

How often do you hug? Do you like to sit close and hold each other's hands? Recent research shows it's good for your health. Between loving partners, between parents and children, or even between close friends, physical af-

Keep Love Alive And Live LONGER!

fection can help the brain, the heart and other body systems you might never have imagined.

For centuries, artists have examined love through poetry, painting, music and countless other arts. In the past few years, scientists supported by NIH have begun to understand the chemistry and biology of love.

At the center of how our bodies respond to love and affection is a hormone called oxytocin. Most of our oxytocin is made in the area of the brain called the hypothalamus. Some is released into our bloodstream, but much of its effect is thought to reside in the brain.

Oxytocin makes us feel good when we're close to family and other loved ones, including pets. It does this by acting through what scientists call the dopamine reward system. Dopamine is a brain chemical that plays a crucial part in how we perceive pleasure. Many drugs of abuse act through this system. Problems with the system can lead to serious depression and other mental illness.

For pain and perhaps even speeding how fast wounds heal. It also seems to play an important role in our relationships. It's been linked, for example, to how much we trust others.

Dr. Kathleen C. Light of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill studies oxytocin in married couples and those permanently living together. She and her colleagues invite couples into the laboratory and ask them to spend at least 10 minutes holding hands and talking together about a happy memory, usually about how they met and fell in love.

"What we're trying to do in a lab situation," Light explains, "is recreate some of the experiences in real life where they felt close."

The couples then get their blood drawn and fill out a questionnaire

Oxytocin does more than make us feel good. It lowers the levels of stress hormones in the body, reducing blood pressure, improving mood, increasing tolerance

Health & Beauty

about the quality of their relationship. When the researchers compared their responses to the levels of oxytocin in their blood, they found that people who have a more positive relationship with their partner have higher levels of oxytocin.

Light and her colleagues are now trying to understand how conflict and other factors in relationships affect a couple's oxytocin levels. The results of those studies aren't yet in.

One thing researchers can say with certainty is that physical contact affects oxytocin levels. Light says that the people who get lots of hugs and other warm contact at home tend to have the highest levels of oxytocin in the laboratory. She believes that frequent warm contact may somehow prime the oxytocin system and make it quicker to turn on whenever there's warm contact, even in a laboratory.

The same holds true for mothers and infants: they both produce higher levels of oxytocin when they have lots of warm contact with each other. "Those women who hold their babies more at home have higher responses when they hold their baby in the lab," Light says.

Much of what we know about oxytocin has come from research in animals. Mother rats, for instance, can stimulate oxytocin in their pups by licking and grooming them. This loving care has long-term effects.

Dr. C. Sue Carter, co-director of the Brain Body Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago, has been studying oxytocin in prairie voles, which form strong bonds with their mates. When the researchers block oxytocin, the voles don't form such bonds. Oxytocin is especially important for females to form bonds with their mates. In males, a related hormone called vasopressin also plays a role.

Oxytocin and vasopressin aren't miracle compounds, however. Giving these hormones to other animals—even other types of voles that don't normally form social bonds—doesn't suddenly cause them to form loving bonds. Animals must have the proper genes to respond to these hormones in the first place.

"Most of us are genetically programmed to form social bonds," Carter explains, relating the results back to people. But the ability to form close bonds, she says, is shaped by early experiences. In the end, a complex interaction of genes and experience makes some people form social bonds more easily than others.

We may not yet fully understand how love and affection develop between people—or how love affects our health—but research is giving us some guidance. Give those you love all the affection you can. It can't hurt, and it may bring a bounty of health benefits.

§ "Doing things for people that you don't do for everyone else"

§ "A strong feeling that you have for another person"

§ "Wanting to spend a lot of time with the person"

§ "The feeling you get before you reach orgasm during sex"

§ "The butterflies I get when I am around the person"

§ "The peace I feel when I think about spending time with my husband"

Like the couples who I see in my practice, the participants in the workshop spent a great deal of time talking about how love is received and manifested and how it is a product of our families, cultures, and personalities. We discussed how the people around us (i.e. parents, friends, co-workers, etc.) help shape our beliefs and attitudes about what love is, how we love ourselves, and how we love others.

From my professional experience in meeting with couples, families, and individuals, I have found that love involves intimacy, passion, commitment, and patience.

Intimacy is how we relate, communicate, and express ourselves physically, emotionally, intellectually, spiritually, and sexually to our partners. Taking time to get to know our individual needs and desires and then sharing our concerns and issues with our partners gives the relationship an opportunity to grow in a healthy way. Intimacy refers to how a person demonstrates "closeness" when he/she is with his or her partner. For my couples, I will typically ask them to do an exercise where they are asked to clarify and articulate their own values about touching/affection, communication styles (i.e. talk/not talk; use of body language and gestures), assertiveness, initiation, and sexual expression. As the couples reveal their likes/dislikes, challenges/strengths, and values about the ways they are intimate with one another, they discover that many of their issues have gone unresolved because they (1) didn't take the time to find out their partner's beliefs/attitudes and/or (2) they didn't have the "tools" (i.e. use of reflective listening, empathy, acknowledgement of differences, etc.) to effectively express themselves to one another.

Intimacy comes from holding a partner's hand, giving each other bubble baths, caressing each other's hair, watching television together, walking in the park together, eating together, reading a favorite book and sharing ideas, going shopping together, sitting quietly together in the living room, attending a church together, etc. Quality time (QT) is a term that many people use in order to signify the amount of time and intimacy that is present in a relationship. Using QT to get to know our partners on an intimate level is needed for a loving relationship.

Passion is the driving force or motivation experienced by individuals to initiate, sustain, change, or sever a relationship. It's the excitement, enthusiasm, and zeal that we feel when we are with our partners. When passion has waned or no longer exists, the relationship becomes strained—unless the passion is rediscovered or reshaped into a new and meaningful option. In many relationships, passion usually starts out very strong

because we are very interested in learning about our partners and spending time with them. We often may feel the "butterflies" or do things that we may not normally do (i.e. drive across town to see each other, send flowers, write poetry, etc.) in order to feel closer to that special someone. I once counseled a man who indicated that he felt so passionate about a former lover that after spending several hours on the phone with her, he got into his car at 2 a.m. and drove 400 miles to bring her the morning paper and breakfast in bed.

Commitment is the type of bond that we have with someone else. How close or distant we feel to a person is another way to identify this component of love. Commitment can be explicit (i.e. expressing to one another that you feel a strong connection that is physical, emotional, spiritual, and/or sexual) or implicit (i.e. you assume there is an agreement that you are attached physically, emotionally, spiritually and/or sexually). In my practice, I have found that couples with strong commitment or attachment bonds usually communicate with one another either verbally or non-verbally about their level of commitment. Those couples experiencing difficulty typically don't identify to their partners the level or the type of commitment that they have. Loving someone is identifying how you feel about the different forms of commitment and then articulating these feelings to your partner. A person can be physically committed (abstaining from kissing or having sex with a nyone else), but feel emotionally unattached to his or her primary partner. On the other hand, one could feel emotionally attached to a primary partner but be sexually connected to someone else. If the relationship is important to you, take time out to figure out how you feel about YOU being in a relationship and then take time to find out how your partner feels.

Patience is the final component of love. Loving ourselves requires us to be patient with learning about ourselves through life experiences. Similarly, loving our partners requires us to be patient with them as they learn life's lessons by experience. Being patient with our partners may be difficult if we are not patient with ourselves. For example, I have spent time with many couples who have been unwilling to give their partners time to figure out how they feel about the relationship, about living in their parents' house, having children, getting a new job, moving, etc. They pressure themselves and their partners to make uninformed or hasty decisions that typically end up straining their relationships. It is important to keep in mind that people process different ideas at different rates and we need to afford them and ourselves the latitude to make good decisions.

Healthy, loving relationships involve intimacy, passion, commitment, and patience. "True" love begins when we take the time to figure out how we feel physically, spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, and sexually about our individual selves and our partners. Love can encompass all those things mentioned before and it is important that we understand what love means to us as well as what it means to our partners.

What Is Love?

By Dr. James,
BDO Health Expert
14-Feb-2008

(BlackDoctor.org) -- As a marriage, family, and sexuality therapist, I have had the opportunity to interact with couples, families, and individuals from all walks of life who maintain various beliefs about relationships. Perhaps the most frequent and compelling conversation that emerges in my private practice and work in the community is how people define what love is and what it means to them. Oftentimes in couple's therapy, one of the individuals will pause and look around as if gathering his or her thoughts about how to define a concept previously taken for granted. Eventually, one of the two individuals will shout out a phrase and their partner will chime in with their thoughts about what they believe love REALLY is.

Along the same lines, I recently conducted a workshop at a local university about the dynamics that exist in a loving relationship. The participants in the workshop came up with myriad ways to define "love" and the types of relationships that they wanted to have with their partners. Here are some of their responses about what love is:

§ "A commitment to someone"

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When researchers separate pups from their mothers for 10-15 minutes a day and then reunite them, many mothers are so glad to see their pups that they lick and groom them intensively. If the separation lasts for several hours, however, it can have the opposite effect: the mother won't lick and groom her pups. Some mothers just never lick and groom their pups when they come back.

Pups that are groomed a lot when they're reunited with their mothers become more comfortable exploring new environments. The ignored ones develop more anxiety disorders, produce higher levels of stress hormones and have higher blood pressure.

Research from other animals, including monkeys, confirms that the quality of care a mother gives her offspring can have long-term effects on their personality characteristics and mental health as well as physical problems like heart disease.

Animal research is also shedding light on oxytocin's role in other social bonds. Mice that lack oxytocin can't recognize other mice, even after repeated encounters. When they're given oxytocin, however, they can recognize other mice again.

Solutions To Sudoku & Kakuro Puzzles

Sudoku

1	9	5	4	7	8	6	3	2
2	6	8	1	5	3	4	7	9
3	7	4	6	2	9	5	8	1
4	5	2	8	6	1	3	9	7
9	1	7	2	3	4	8	5	6
6	8	3	7	9	5	1	2	4
5	2	6	3	4	7	9	1	8
7	3	1	9	8	6	2	4	5
8	4	9	5	1	2	7	6	3

Kakuro

			26	16		22	4	
8	9	2	7		6	5	1	
23	6	8	9		11	8	3	
9	2	7		16	7	9	16	16
	19	9	2	8		9	2	7
		16	7	9		13	4	9
			7		4	2	1	
					17	8	9	

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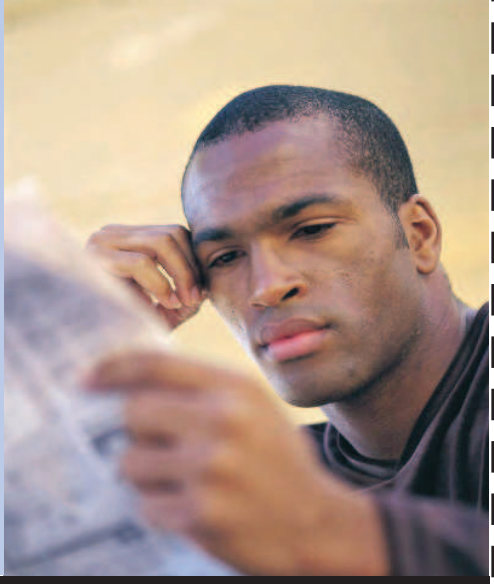
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