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The Seattle Medium

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a message from the people...to the people **$.25**

A SPECIAL NORTHSTAR INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

With Enough Black Murders To Fill A City, What Should We Do?

By Hazel Trice Edney
NNPA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – The number could fill a city the size of Orlando, Fla.; Little Rock, Ark.; Springfield, Ill. or Pasadena, Calif. It's larger than the population of Durham, N.C.; Jackson, Miss.; Hartford, Conn.; Augusta, Ga. or Chattanooga, Tenn.

This number is 195,757. And that's how many African-American males have been victims of homicide since the Federal Bureau of Investigation began keeping detailed statistics by race in 1976. That figure does not include the 56,776 murdered African-American females, which brings the total Black homicide count over the past 27 years to 252,533 – larger than the populations of Louisville, Ky.; Akron, Ohio; Rochester, N.Y. or Scottsdale, Arizona.

With a White homicide toll at 275,529 over that same time period, the Black rate is more than six times higher, about 20.5 to 3.3 per 100,000.

"Essentially, what you first see is a rather strong correlation between the city's homicide rate and the percentage of population that's Black," explains James Fox, a criminal justice expert at Northeastern University in Boston. "However, when you introduce into the analysis those other factors. particularly the children in broken homes and poverty, that's really what's underlying those homicide rates."

Fox says the booming economy in the 1990s contributed to the reduction in homicides because it

(Cont'd. On Page 2)

Sound Transit To Receive $75 Million For Light Rail

Sound Transit Board Chair and King County Executive Ron Sims announced that a conference committee made up of House and Senate lawmakers settled on a $75 million fiscal-year 2004 appropriation for Central Link light rail - the full amount requested by Sound Transit and the Bush Administration.

"Once again, Sen. Patty Murray has come through for the people of our congested region," said Sims. "Once again, she has demonstrated her ability to work across party lines and deliver results. She is our hero."

Sen. Murray, a member of the conference committee, played a key role in bridging the gap between the full $75 million proposed by the Senate and a lower appropriation of $15 million that was earlier proposed by the House.

Sen. Murray and other members of Washington's Congressional delegation joined Sound Transit in celebrating the beginning of light rail construction on Nov. 8. Among those on hand was Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Tacoma, a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee who also played a pivotal role in securing federal support for the project.

"The people of Washington are truly fortunate to have champions like Sen. Murray and Rep. Dicks," Sims said. "Time and again, their stature and influence translate into real benefits for all of us."

The conference agreement will go back to each house of Congress for approval before it goes to President Bush's desk for his signature. In February the President included the $75 million in his proposed 2004 fiscal budget.

The Federal Transit Administration on Oct. 24 executed a $500 million full funding grant agreement (FFGA) for Central Link following an extensive Congressional review and U.S. Department of Transportation Inspector General audit. The $75 million represents the 2004 installment of the FFGA, bringing the total federal contributions so far to $166 million. The remaining $334 million is scheduled to be provided in future years.

Central Link light rail has the highest rating possible from the federal government and is an ideal technology for moving people between their homes, jobs and other destinations amid the region's challenging geography of hills, valleys and water. Central Link's initial segment will move more than 42,000 people a day by 2020.

Military Reservist Economic Injury Loans Still Available

WASHINGTON - Small businesses with essential employees called to active duty may still apply for Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loans (MREIDL) from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

For the last two years, the MREIDL program has provided loans to eligible small businesses to cover operating costs that cannot be met due to the loss of a key employee called to active duty in the reserves or National Guard.

"Many small businesses have had to cope with the loss of know-how, and have been hurt financially by the absence of a key employee during the recent call ups," said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. "This loan program has helped many businesses survive, and the SBA will continue to support these dedicated men and women who have made such a great sacrifice in the course of serving their country."

Small businesses may apply for MREIDLs of up to $1.5 million if they have been financially impacted by the loss of an essential employee. These working capital loans may be used to pay necessary operating expenses that could have otherwise been covered. The loans cannot be used to refinance debt or expand the business. The current interest rate is 3.1 percent, with a maximum term of 30 years. The SBA determines the amount of economic injury, the term of each loan and the payment amount based on the borrower's financial circumstances.

The MREIDL filing period ends 90 days after the date the business owner or key employee is discharged from active duty.

To download an application, visit the Web site at www.sba.gov/disaster. Businesses can also contact the SBA disaster area offices to obtain an application. In Washington, Idaho and Oregon, call 1-800-488-5323.

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A Message From The People... To The People

Coalition Demands More Jobs And Contracts For Blacks And Low-Income On SHA Projects



Members of a community coalition hold up a banner in protest of the Seattle Housing Authority's distribution of contracts and jobs to African Americans and low-income residents in Seattle. (L-R): Michelle Bradford, Robert Collins, Eddie Rye, Jr., Pastor Ricky Willis, Verlene Wilder, Todd Hawkins, and Harold Wright. ***Staff Photo/Chris B. Bennett.***

By Chris B. Bennett
Publisher/Editor

Community and religious leaders came together to call on the Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) to adhere to federal guidelines and provide jobs and contracts to low-income residents, the homeless, and residents who live in or around the Hope VI Redevelopment projects of New Holly, Rainier Vista, High Point, and Yesler Terrace.

Under the Hope VI grants awarded to SHA, SHA is required to provide employment and training for low and very low-income persons. And according to Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Act of 1968 the following groups have a right to a job in rebuilding their communities: Residents of public and assisted housing, residents of the surrounding neighborhoods, youth enrolled in certain training programs, and homeless individuals, something that community activists and organizers say is not happening.

The community coalition, led by the A. Phillip Randolph Institute, is asking that fifty percent of all construction hours at New Holly and Rainier Vista be worked by unemployed and low-income workers from the community.

"We want a community that we can live in, that we can work in, and be afforded the same economic opportunities afforded to other communities, said Verlene Wilder, western regional director and Seattle chapter president of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute.

In addition, community organizers want SHA to designate one apprenticeship training position — to be filled by low-income youth, people of color and women — for every five jobs at Rainier Vista and New Holly; all non-construction jobs — receptionist, office assistant, expediter, etc. – to be filled by low-income workers from the community; the establishment of a racially and ethnically diverse community oversight committee to monitor the community hiring plan: and funding set-aside for childcare. clothing, tools, ESL classes and other services that will help members of the community succeed in these jobs.

"Our people make up thirty-seven percent of your residents, and we aren't even getting one-percent of the jobs," said Carl Livingston, associate pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist church, at SHA's commission meeting Monday night.

"People in our community are struggling to find a job, they are going to the food bank and everything else, and they shouldn't have to when there is all this money coming into our communities," said pastor Ricky Willis of True Vine Missionary Baptist Church.

SHA officials maintain that they are complying with federal guidelines, and are committed to going the extra-mile to assist low-income residents to compete successfully for jobs related to their current redevelopment projects.

"There is no question that we are in compliance with the federal law," said James Fearn, general counsel for SHA.

"The law is not the issue, the federal law does not require what you are suggesting," said Fearn as he addressed members of the community coalition.

SHA made available a 12-page document that outlined the employment history and guidelines associated with their Hope VI Redevelopment Projects, but community organizers said this document, while compelling, does not effectively respond to the concerns that they have.

"It doesn't matter how many pieces of paper they give us, because when we go by these sites we don't see any of our people working," said Wilder.

According to Wilder, there are more than enough qualified individuals from the community looking for work on these projects

(Cont'd. On Page 2)

Congressional Committee Earmarks More Than $100 Million For King County Transportation Improvements

A joint congressional conference committee has approved 15 transportation projects totaling $106 million for King County. As part of that package, King County's Department of Transportation will receive a $13.1 million appropriation to support transportation improvements such as the purchase of new King County Metro Transit hybrid electric buses, countywide signal synchronization projects and the replacement of the South Park Bridge.

"I would like to thank Senator Patty Murray and other members of our congressional delegation for their continued commitment to support these transportation improvements that are so vital to the future of our region," King County Executive Ron Sims said. "This funding is particularly important in light of the revenue losses we currently face in transportation. Any federal investment that enables this region to move ahead with some improvements is greatly appreciated, especially during these times."

The appropriation earmarks $5 million to help support the purchase of more than 200 new hybrid articulated buses beginning in 2004. Each bus will carry up to 60 passengers while emitting fewer pollutants than any comparable transit fleet anywhere in the world. In King County, it will mean the linking of cleaner air with efficient transit operations that will cost up to 50 percent less to run than the agency's current dual-mode fleet of buses. The clean air buses will also accommodate the operation of both buses and light rail in the downtown Seattle tunnel.

The measure also sets aside $1.5 million to synchronize signals in urban areas throughout King County. This work will improve traffic flow in key corridors clogged by local congestion. An additional $2 million will help keep replacement work moving on the South Park Bridge in the Duwamish industrial area.

An additional $3.6 million has been approved for the construction of a transit center/park-and-ride garage on Seattle's First Hill as part of Swedish Hospital's expansion of its Providence Campus. Another $1 million will provide partial funding for the continuation of passenger only service between Vashon Island and downtown Seattle.

This funding is part of a larger appropriations package totaling $106 million for projects in King County. Other projects receiving funding include money for Sound Transit light rail and corridor improvements on I-405.

The appropriation now goes to the full U.S. House and Senate for final passage, which is expected to occur within a few days. King County expects to begin receiving these transportation revenues early next year.

Washington State Patrol Discusses Racial Profiling In King County

The Washington State Patrol in King County would like to invite you to a Public Safety Forum on Nov. 20, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. The topic is "Traffic Stop Data Collection and Biased Policing-Racial Profiling." The purpose of this forum is to establish a dialogue about biased policing that will assist the WSP to continue to act with integrity, foster public trust and protect individual rights. The forum will be in the Parlor at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, which is located at 1634 - 19th Avenue in Seattle.

In June 2003, Washington State University (WSU) finalized the WSP Traffic Stop Analysis Report. This report studied and analyzed over two million WSP traffic stops. According to the report, "These findings are unequivocal and clearly demonstrated-the likelihood of being stopped by the WSP is not affected by the race or ethnicity of drivers on Washington's roads and highways." However, WSU researchers are also conducting a mail survey throughout Washington State on the overall impression the public has of the State Patrol.

When the question was asked, "Do you believe that troopers in the WSP engage in profiling when they decide to stop drivers?" the respondents had a much less favorable response. Over 70% of African-Americans, over 60% of Latinos, approximately 40% of Native-Americans and Asian, and 20% of Whites indicated that they believed the WSP is engaging in profiling. Addressing this, the WSU study found, "Despite the clear evidence that WSP officers are not engaged in biased policing with respect to the stopping of motor vehicles, much of the public believes biased policing is taking place-and this is particularly the case for minority residents in the state."

WSP Chief Ronal W. Serpas will introduce the study and survey findings then open the discussion on biased policing with the attendees. Representatives from the District Two State Patrol staff will be in attendance.

If you have any questions or would like additional information about this event, please contact Trooper Kelly Spangler at (425) 649-4651.

Cops Target Stores Selling Crack Paraphernalia

Special to the NNPA from the Carolina Peacemaker

GREENSBORO, N.C. (NNPA) — More than 30 people were arrested recently in a police roundup that targeted corner stores in Greensboro selling crack paraphernalia and otherwise facilitating the illegal drug trade in some of the city's high-crime areas.

In an operation that included more than 60 officers and lasted more than eight hours, undercover officers were sent to the ten locations to buy a "stem," slang for a crack pipe kit. After buying a crack pipe, the officer would scout the parking lot for crack dealers.

Arrest teams soon followed and arrested any drug dealer who sold to the officer. Teams of police officers then searched each store and arrested employees for selling crack pipes.

The operation stemmed from an investigation the Carolina Peacemaker began three months ago, prompted by a high number of complaints heard by both residents as well as city staff. The investigation uncovered the role corner stores play in high-crime areas.

The Peacemaker investigation found that "stems" would be the tool used to force the stores to become responsible for the crime around them. A stem is basically a crack pipe kit. A little glass pipe containing a plastic rose is partnered with a piece of scouring pad inside a bag, or an empty cigarette pack container.

Stores that sell crack pipes attract crack smokers. Crack smokers attract crack dealers. Crack dealers often attract violence.

"If the stores do not upgrade the community, we do not want them in our community," said Goldie Wells, a community leader in northeast Greensboro.

Capt. Rick Ball of the vice narcotics division as well as the violent crime task force reports that more than 80 percent of the violent crimes committed this year were drug- related, and many had crack cocaine undertones.

The Peacemaker investigated more than 20 stores in areas police call high-crime to see who was selling what. The majority of the stores visited had crack pipes ready and available. There also was a large presence of drug dealers and drug users in and around the stores that sold crack pipes.

The investigation found some stores that did not sell crack pipes, including the Crown stations investigated and the College Pantry on East Market Street. College Pantry owner Jim Warren said, "Since crack and other drugs have reached a high point, it is imperative that the business people take a look at the products considered drug paraphernalia and not sell them if they are not in the best interest of the community."

After the Peacemaker presented its findings to Ball, police picked what they called the worst 10 and began an investigation of their own. The investigation was led by the vice and narcotics division, specifically Sgt. G.M. Toomes. Detective M.L. Montalvo was the lead investigator.

Undercover officers went to each location and found that stems were easy to buy. Some undercover officers were also told where to buy crack and even given crack dealers' phone numbers. One clerk even showed an undercover officer how to make a crack pipe out of a bottle.

The police investigation then sent in a 15-year-old, who was able to buy crack pipe kits at six locations. Owners of those six locations will be charged with felonies and will likely lose their liquor licenses.

They were Andy's Handy Pantry on Grove Street (which was believed to also have been selling single bullets), Kenneth's Convenience Store on Gregory Street, the Gillespie Curb Market on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Kim's Store on Phillips Avenue, Lee's Store on Lee Street and Paul's Grocery on Benjamin Benson Street.

The other four stores raided for selling stems to adults were John's Convenience Store, the East Side Market and Food Rite Grocery on East Market Street, and the Fairway One Stop on Randleman Road.

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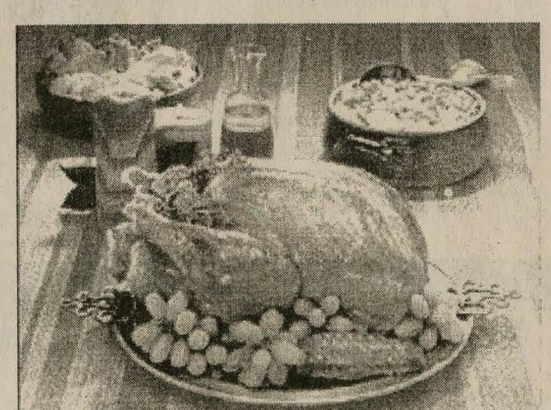
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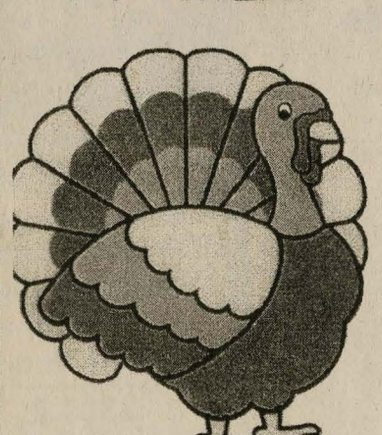
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United Way of King County Board Revises Community Safety Net Fund Allocations

Ten percent reductions necessary as outlined in July 2003 letter to agencies

United Way of King County's board of directors voted today to revise Community Safety Net Fund allocations by proceeding with a 10 percent reduction to partner agencies beginning Jan. 1, 2004.

United Way of King County informed agencies in a July 2003 letter about probable reductions based on a flat 2002-2003 Community Safety Net Fund campaign and the board's fiduciary responsibility to ensure the organization's health by maintaining satisfactory reserves. When the letter was sent, the board committed to continuing stable funding for six months to allow agencies time to prepare for the reduction. United Way of King County reduced its own budget prior to the notification.

United Way of King County is focusing efforts on increasing Community Safety Net Fund investments during the current fundraising campaign.

"This was not an easy decision to make," United Way of King County board chair Rick Fersch said. "We made reductions based on the fact that we raised less money for the Community Safety Net Fund than needed to maintain current allocations. The board continually looks to maintain the organization's long-term financial health. This decision will ultimately help make our community stronger in the long run by ensuring a strong, stable United Way of King County."

Some of the local community-based organizations that will be affected include: El Centro De La Raza, Atlantic Street Center, Bailey Boushay House, Central Area Motivation Program, Central Youth & Family Services, Southeast Youth & Family Services, Seattle Emergency Housing Service, Youth Advocates, Neighborhood House, Center For Career Alternatives, and the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle.

HUD Announces $2.2 Million In Rental Housing Vouchers To King County Housing Authority

Vouchers will help families with disabilities

U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Mel Martinez announced today that King County Housing Authority would receive $2,223,090 as part of a $50,983,616 million package of housing assistance vouchers. The $2,223,090 to King County Housing Authority will fund 50 vouchers. Nationwide, 1,336 housing agencies and non-profit organizations will receive funding. These rental assistance vouchers are given exclusively to households, who have family members with disabilities, to make leasing private housing affordable.

"When families have members who have special needs, finding suitable housing it is not easy," said Martinez. "These vouchers will give them the necessary financial assistance to find safe, affordable housing that meets their specific needs."

The Mainstream Program Vouchers enable recipients to rent housing units by paying generally no more than 30 percent of their income for rent with HUD paying the remainder.

Public housing agencies and non-profit organizations that administer HUD's Housing Choice Voucher program apply for Mainstream vouchers annually. Families who qualify for these specialized vouchers apply for them through local public housing agencies.

HUD is the nation's housing agency committed to increasing homeownership, particularly among minorities, creating affordable housing opportunities for low-income Americans, supporting the homeless, elderly, people with disabilities and people living with AIDS. The Department also promotes economic and community development as well as enforces the nation's fair housing laws. More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at www.hud.gov or espanol.hud.gov.

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ASK GWEN... My Ex-Wife Wants To Come Back To me, But That's Not GoingTo Happen!

By Gwendolyn Baines

Dear Gwendolyn:

We have never met, but I have been reading your column for quite awhile. Your column features a lot of couples with marital problems and problems even if they are just dating.

This is my problem: My ex-wife and I have two wonderful sons. When they were small, she left me for another man and took them away. I'm angry because she never explained to them what happened. They claim she never told them why she and their father were not together. Although they are grown now, I just want to let them know that I didn't desert them, but that their mother deserted me.

After being gone for more than 15 years, she wants to come back and the children think I should let her. I told them "no." I said, "Sorry, but that's not going to happen." The man she left me for recently died. When she left, our younger son was 10. To prove my love for her, she had two children before we met and I was father to them as much as to my own. After she left, I paid to her alimony and child support for all the children. I educated all of them. I told my children that I'm not trying to seek revenge. I just don't love her anymore.

When she was in the process of leaving, she confessed that she had never loved me. Those words really did hurt and I hurt to this very day.

Gwendolyn, I hope to be happy again in my life. I don't use drugs nor smoke. I am a church going man. I do hope I find Ms. Right so that I can go on with my life and be happy.

Paul

Oh, My Dear Paul:

I hope you are not just now looking for another relationship. Let me tell you this: Looking for Ms. Right could get to be another problem. You have spent 15 years grieving over the broken heart you received from your first wife. Therefore, to take more time looking for Ms. Right does not seem feasible to me. Enjoy your life Paul, with or without Ms. Right. When or if you find the woman you consider to be "Ms." Right, I hope you make her "Mrs." Right. Sometimes a bad marriage leaves a man not wanting to move forward to the point of loving again.

Allow me to say thanks for writing to me and to share with me your problems in hopes that they can be solved. I want you to tell your children to ask their mother what happened that brought about a divorce – and a separation of the family. I say this because a man should not make negative comments about his wife to his children. But do have them to ask so that hopefully she will explain that the fault was not in you, but in her. That way they can see the good side of you that apparently has been painted an ugly color through the years.

I agree. Do not take back your wife after being apart from her for over 15 years. Think about it. If the man she left you for had not died, she would probably still be with him. Your children will come to realize that when their mother left you, all she had to do was leave. But when she took the time to say, "I never loved you," then whatever love you had left that day. Although she is the mother of your children, do not have a sense of guilt. You did what many biological fathers don't do and that is provided for your stepchildren the same as your own. Fifteen years is a long span and no matter how much of a "love ball" she felt you once had for her, she now knows – that ball hasn't bounced in years.

Got a problem? Don't solve it alone. Write to Gwendolyn Baines at P. O. Box 78246, Nashville, Tenn. 37207-8246. To order books by Gwendolyn Baines, visit her website at www.gwendolyn-baines.com. Also, tune in to www.newblackcity.com each Monday at 6 p.m. Eastern/5 p.m. Central time and talk live as John Bordeaux brings Gwendolyn Baines to you. Call (877) 969-2003.

NOVEMBER 20 – 26

HOROSCOPE...By Soul Vibrations

ARIES

Your mate has a sweet surprise. Open up to receive it. Choose your words carefully around a sensitive pal. Listen for good news about a loan or financial matter. Soul Affirmation: I let others toot my horn this week.

TAURUS

Enjoy the great insights you have in the area of career objectives. Take a look at what's out there! An unanticipated financial matter may arise, find the good in it. Soul Affirmation: A cheerful soul should be wrapped in a cheerful package.

GEMINI

Be cautious and conservative with money. You are extremely witty this week. Allow others to enjoy your good humor. Your leadership skills are very high, and others will follow.

Soul Affirmation: Luck is my best friend this week.

CANCER

This is a good time for you to seek agreement on a plan that involves a relative. Take the time to remind your lover how much you care. Get a little sentimental if you have to. Don't be too critical of that softer side of your personality. Soul Affirmation: Self-confidence is the key to my success this week.

LEO

Push. Now is a good time to push. Your energy is higher than ever. Someone might get offended, but you can't please everyone. Hire a pro for something that you planned to do yourself, especially if expertise is involved. Soul Affirmation: Success is mine because I feel successful.

VIRGO

Review your "to do" list again. You may need to slow down to discover something that you didn't realize while you were in the flow of events. Your lover is going to be a little difficult to understand. Back off if an argument arises. You're probably the one who is too busy. Forgiving yourself is often harder than getting someone else to forgive you. Soul Affirmation: Two hats fit well on my big head.

LIBRA

Make a special effort to spend all week with your lover, husband or wife. Your sense of the importance of relationships is keen and this is a good time to strengthen your passionate partnership. Take your lover to a party. Devote attention. Soul Affirmation: Change is my middle name.

SCORPIO

The flock will come to you for direction. Give it gracefully. Know that your insights will help a lot if you deliver them in the right way. If you are a mother, guidance will be the best gift you can give others this week. Soul Affirmation: Knowing I can do it is the biggest preparation for getting it done.

SAGITTARIUS

Most people don't know how often dreams and reality blend into practical consciousness. Knowledge comes from a dream you've had lately. This week is a good week to get started making that dream a reality. Soul Affirmation: My spirit gives me limitless possibilities.

CAPRICORN

Cooperation is key this week in your relationship with your partner. Even if you know you're right, let your partner have his or her way in the early going. Your staying power will give you influence or control in the late rounds. Soul Affirmation: I let go and let the spirit run my life this week.

AQUARIUS

At home, projects flourish as family cooperates. They do love you and they are tired of being difficult. However, time spent by yourself leads to important insights. It's a favorable time for research and study.Soul Affirmation: I let my luck work for me.

PISCES

Lover, friends, relatives are in your corner. They just have a hard time verbalizing it. Their support gives you the boost you need if you'd swallow your pride and reach out for it. Their help may not come in the form you want it, but it is in the form you need. Soul Affirmation: I find joy in facing responsibility this week.

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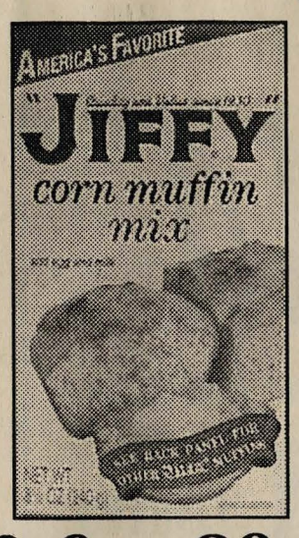
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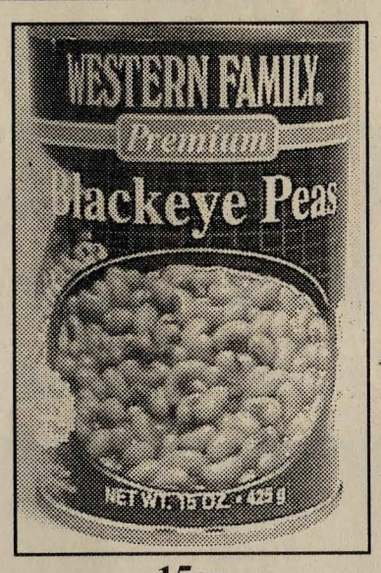
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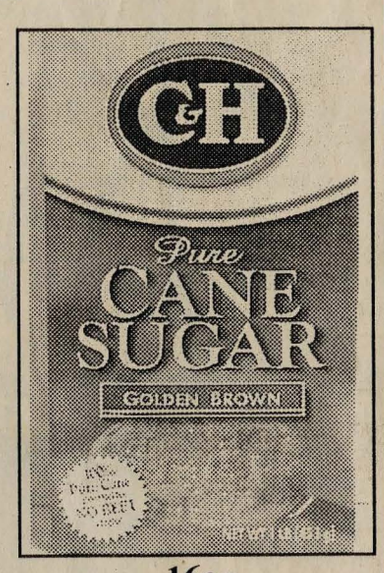
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Black Murders

Continued From Front Page

helped to provide money for programs to fight crime. But that's no longer the case.

"Right now, with the economy in a pretty rough shape, lots of cities are making major slashes, major cuts in their police forces, as well as in the very programs that were successful even at the federal level. There's a move to cut back on the after-school programming," Fox says. "Those were some of the best strategies that paid off in the 90s."

No one has to tell Carlesea Williams those strategies are no longer in place.

Her son, Nucommus Staya Williams, 20, was shot eight times almost four years ago as he stood in front of McKinley High School in northeast, Washington, D.C. An associate, Jesse Harrison, 24, was convicted and sentenced to 37 years to life in prison for the murder.

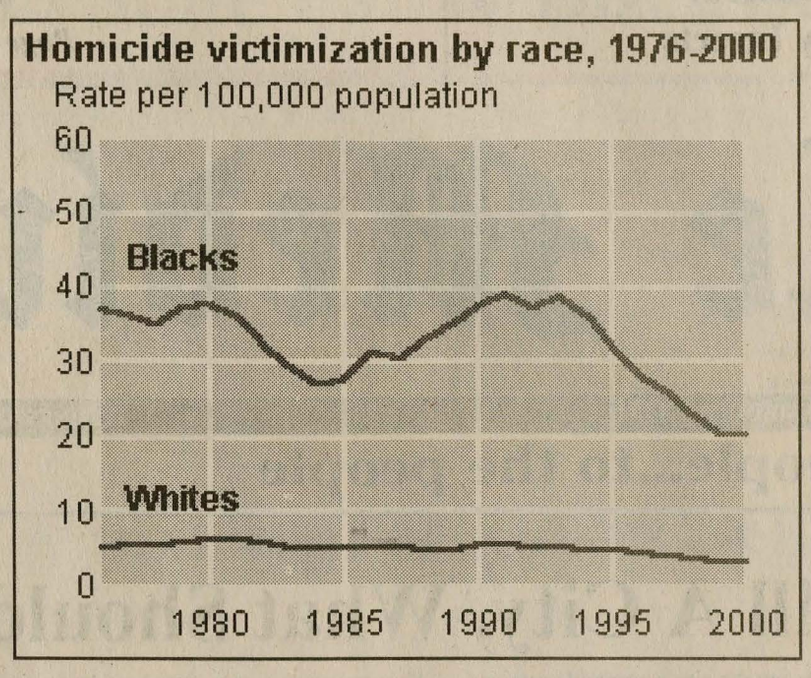
"His beef wasn't even with my son. It was with another guy that my son was seen talking to," she says.

At a recent memorial for homicide victims and a special service for their families in D.C., Carlesea wept and cradled a photograph of her son at the Holy Christian Missionary Baptist Church for All People.

"I have a shrine in my front room in his memory. Just things that belonged to him like his work shoes, his tennis shoes," says Williams, a counselor at the St. John's Community Center. " I miss him so much...I have a broken heart. I acknowledge it. I'm going to have it for the rest of my life."

And so will a lot of other parents in the nation's capital.

According to figures recently made public by the FBI, the District of Columbia led the nation last year with 264 homicides, an increase of 14 percent since 2001. With 45.8 homicides per 100,000 residents, Washington leads Detroit, which had 42 per 100,000 residents and Baltimore with 38.3.



Among modern industrialized countries, the U. S. ranks number one in homicides, according to a study by "The Home Office," the government department responsible for international affairs in England and Wales.

The agency's Web site shows the U. S. homicide rate per 100,000 at 6.2, well ahead of Scotland with 2.1, Sweden with 2.0, Belgium with 1.7, Greece at 1.6, England and Wales with 1.4, and Ireland at 1.3.

"I can't take another funeral! I cannot take another funeral as we sit back and just act as if we're helpless and watch our children just die and die and die!" said community activist Rahim Jenkins at the special service in D.C.

"The number one thing that happened to us is racism," declared Rev. Willie Wilson, pastor of the Union Temple Baptist Church and the keynote speaker at the D.C. church service. "Almost 40 percent of our people are living under the poverty line. Racism is alive and well."

Not everything can be attributed to racism, says U.S. Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-Ill.), who has helped organized a series of conferences to explore the plight of Black males, including one held last week in Washington.

"It's our belief that we must get to the core of what we call negative behavior," Davis says. "People commit homicides because it gives them a sense of power, the ability to do something. And so, if we can catch some of these feelings and negate some of these behaviors, then of course we can negate some of these homicides."

Dr. Carl C. Bell, chief executive officer of the Community Mental Health Council (CMHC) and professor of psychiatry and public health at the University of Illinois at Chicago, says, "There must be several comprehensive strategies. Each city has a different pattern and must look at each issue of violence."

Experts agree that much of the violence has been fueled by drugs.

More than 3.9 million people who need treatment to get off of drugs cannot receive treatment for lack of space in treatment centers, according to the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Expanding drug treatment programs is a key to reducing homicides, says Scott Steinhardt, spokesperson for the New York Division of Criminal Justice Services, an agency working to expand its "Road to Recovery Program," designed to prevent non-violent drugs offenders from returning to lives of crime.

"Programs like 'Road to Recovery' do reduce crimes. District attorneys and courts deserve to have powerful tools at their disposal and this new initiative makes that possible, " he says.

According to a report by the New York Division of Criminal Justice Services, people who go through drug rehabilitation are 687 percent less likely to return to prison two years after leaving the program than those who do not participate.

Houston Mayor Lee Brown has spent four decades in law enforcement, serving as police commissioner in Atlanta and New York City as well as director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy in the Clinton administration.

"We find that the twin evils – guns and drugs – continue to contribute to the problem in a large degree," Brown explains.

He says the answer is three-fold: More gun control laws, more anti-drug programs for children, and more drug treatment for those already addicted to drugs.

"No demand, no supply," Brown says. "But, there are no easy solutions. There's no silver bullet."

Hubert Williams, president of the Washington, D.C.–based Police Foundation, says law enforcement officers can play a role before there is a death.

"The police need to have ways to engage the community. They need to be more service-oriented. They need to work programs out for youth. They need to try and help women who have troubles, victims of crime. They need to have ways to engage the community that's not directly related to a criminal act as potential for producing a windfall of opportunities for the police department."

No solution will be successful without the involvement of the Black church, says Rev. Melvin Williams Jr., pastor of the Temple of Judah in Richmond, Va. So far, 83 people have been killed in Richmond this year, a 40 percent increase over last year.

Williams is organizing a "We Declare War" community-wide protest, the fifth anti-crime march he has organized in 15 years.

"Marches let the youth of today know that the church wants to be involved with them and the direction they're taking in life," explains Williams. "The church as a whole has really not been active in going to the streets to proclaim the Gospel as we should. God blesses us, we move out of the inner city to the suburbs, we don't look back and don't go back. Well, we declare war - war on poverty, war on drugs, war on unrighteousness."

If successful, such actions might reduce the number of parents grieving over the loss of a child, most often a son. However, that does nothing to ease the pain of Saundra Beverly, whose youngest son, Anthony, was shot 22 times last year in a church parking lot in northeast D.C. His body was riddled with bullets from 9-millimeter and 44 colt handguns.

Beverly acknowledges her son's involvement in street life. "I'm not saying my son was an angel," she says. "But, he was my baby." Police have made no arrest in his murder.

The driver of a school bus for handicapped children in the D.C. Public Schools, Beverly says. "I still scream out crying at night. I cry out sometimes in the day time."

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Joan Owens & Chris B. Bennett, Co-Publishers

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BONkids

young achievers



Lisa Lam

Arbor Heights Elementary

Age: 7

Favorite School Subject: Lisa likes to learn new words. Junie B. Jones is her favorite book.

Hobbies/Interests: She likes to read, clean up her room, and play tetherball.

Proudest Achievement: Her artwork.

Ambition: She would like to be a kindergarten teacher or an artist.

How She'll Get There: By working hard for good grades, and practicing to be an artist.

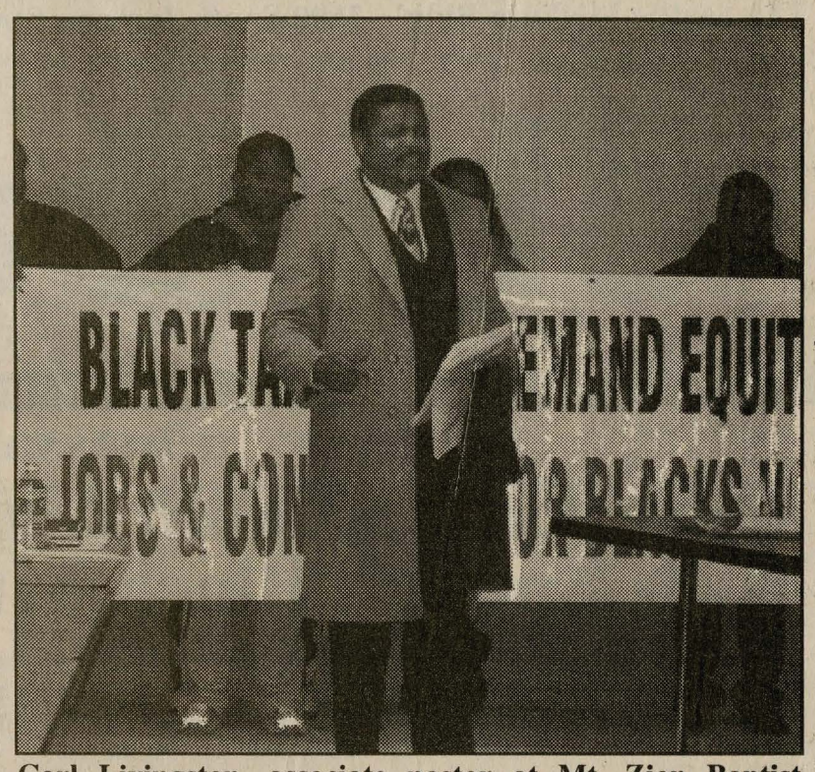
Young Achievers

is a roll call of students whose abilities, dreams and determination are leading the way toward a future full of promise.

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SHA

Continued From Front Page



Carl Livingston, associate pastor at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Seattle, addresses SHA's board of directors Monday night. ***Staff Photo/Chris B. Bennett.***

'who are consistently turned away instead of being hired.

Clarence Bennett, an unemployed African American carpenter who lives less than one-mile from New Holly, claims that he has repeatedly gone to the New Holly construction site week after week with tools in hand to inquire about work, but has never been hired. He even applied directly at the general contractor's office as well.

"I wonder why I'm not getting hired, when I see new workers coming onto this site," he said. "I even know all of the supervisors names now."

"The contractors are out of Portland, Oregon, the sub-contractors are out of Portland, Oregon, and they're getting all that money, and taking it back to Portland," said Frederick Simmons, an unemployed union electrician and board member of the Northwest Labor Employment Law Project (LELO).

Organizers are also concerned that not only are people not being employed, but they are also concerned that the homes being built are too expensive for many Seattle area residents to afford. And while the projects are increasing the overall number of housing units available in the area, there has been no increase in the number of units earmarked for low-income residents beyond what was already in place before the redevelopment projects began.

"Our estimates show that it costs about $100,000 to build each home, but they sell for $250,000," said Eddie Rye, Jr. "The land is already owned by the government, so there is no reason in the world to sell those houses for $250,000 other than to force Black folks and low-income residents out of the city."

According to SHA, 29 job placements have come out of the Rainier Vista Jobs Plus program. Of these 29 employees, 5 were African, 1 Arabic/Somali, 7 African Americans, 2 Native Americans, 2 Asians, one Hispanic, and one Caucasian. 19 out of the 29 employees were laid-off or terminated for a retention rate of thirty-five percent, the industry average is thirty-three percent.

The High Point Job Connection program has made 10 placements consisting of: 4 Africans, 3 African Americans, 2 Pacific Islanders, and one Asian.

The New Holly Career Development Center employed 53 people consisting of: 30 Asian/Pacific Islanders, 16 Africans, 2 African Americans, 4 Hispanic/Latinos, and one Caucasian. Of those employed, twenty-two resigned/quit, 10 were terminated by the employer, three no longer work as substitutes, and one was laid-off.

SHA also claims that they have a memorandum of understanding with LELO that will commit them to having 100 percent of new-hire jobs on HOPE VI projects filled by local, low-income residents; encourage residents to apply for apprentice-ships positions as they become available; and to provide resources and work readiness training for new resident workers.

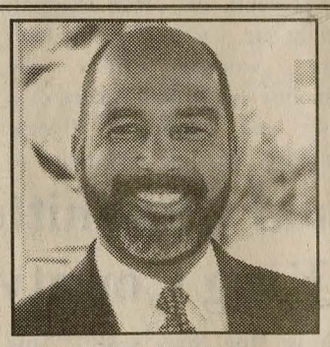
However, LELO maintains that they (SHA) have failed to reach an agreement with LELO's family wage jobs project after two months of negotiations. In August, LELO submitted a six-point hiring and retention plan to SHA calling for them to prioritize residents of public housing, unemployed and low-income workers from the surrounding communities and the homeless for livable wage jobs rebuilding The HOPE VI projects.

"We want the SHA board to make a real commitment to addressing the poverty and high unemployment among diverse low-income residents in Southeast and West Seattle by adopting this plan,"

"The best welfare program is a good job," said Livingston.

Jennifer Potter, chair of the SHA Board of Directors, stated that the Board will work with the coalition in an effort to help resolve their issues.

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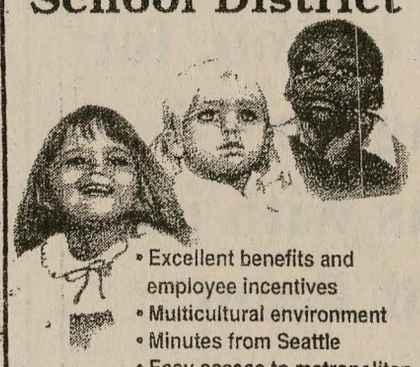
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University of Washington
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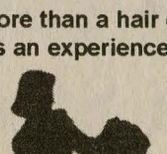
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EDITORIALS • COMMENTS •OPINIONS

A Checklist For Political Candidates

By Ron Walters

Sometimes I think that we forget that the game of presidential politics is about using Black political influence to connect the line between what people in our community say they want and need, to empower that someone who will govern with our public policy interests at heart. So, let me answer a question I am often asked about the issues I would propose to the presidential candidates. We need someone who:

1. Opposes the war, and would stop the economic hemorrhage paying for it that amounts to $1 billion per week?

2. Favors public schools and would not sacrifice funding in the Jesse James raid of charter or voucher schools.

3. Would fully fund "Leave No Child Behind."

4. Would roll back the tax cuts for the rich and stop the huge federal budget deficits, the state deficits and the wild increases in college tuition rates.

5. Has a plan to cut the Black unemployment rate of 13 percent with programs targeted to the Black, Hispanic or other poor communities.

6. Would replenish the job training funds in the Workforce Investment Act program that Bush cut by more than $500 million in a recession.

7. Would fund both regular and Summer Youth job training programs, the lack of which has contributed to youthful crime rates.

8. Opposes the expansion of the 40-hour work requirement for welfare recipients squeezed between children and no child care.

9. Supports programs to cut recidivism rates related to drug abuse that accounts for 80 percent of Black incarceration rates and the revival of voting rights for ex-felons.

10. Opposes the death penalty and supports a moratorium on executions.

11. Would fight to repeal "three strikes and you're out" laws and mandatory minimum sentences.

12. Would increase the opportunity for minority businesses to obtain contracts at the federal level.

13. Would champion significant direct investment funding in inner city areas rather than questionable tax incentive approaches.

14.Would implement laws such as the Community Reinvestment Act, to substantially increase the supply of affordable housing and home ownership.

15. Will work to close the health gaps between Backs and the rest of society.

16. Would increase he Development Fund for Africa by $300 million to build the infrastructure to fight HIV/AIDS and make trade and investment work.

17. Will work for true debt relief for Africa and trade opportunities for the Caribbean.

This is my short-hand list. Where is yours?

Ron Walters is the Distinguished Leadership Scholar, director of the African American Leadership Institute in the Academy of Leadership and professor of government and politics at the University of Maryland-College Park. His latest book is "White Nationalism, Black Interests" (Wayne State University Press).

Throw-Away People

By James Clingman

Blackonomics

There are two categories of leaders in our communities, especially when it comes to issues and activities related to economic empowerment. According to historian Carter G. Woodson, "Negroes ... sometimes choose their own leaders but unfortunately they are too often the wrong kind. Negroes do not readily follow persons with constructive programs. Almost any sort of exciting appeal or trivial matter presented to them may receive immediate attention ... and liberal support." That has never been more pronounced than it is today.

There are so-called Black leaders who, despite their unseemly tactics, their portrayals of themselves as "honest" brokers, and their shadowy deal-making and sellout prowess, seem to be exempt from exposure by our people. While Black folks have always had to deal with these scoundrels, we have been reluctant to call them out – to expose them for what they really are.

On the other hand, we have leaders among us who are totally dedicated to the collective economic advancement of African-Americans. These are the ones who are usually sacrificed by Black people – thrown out because they are a threat to the establishment or because they are "too Black." That frightens some people and, sadly, we play into that fear by participating in the demise of the very people who would help pull us out of our economic doldrums.

I have witnessed the "death" of brothers and sisters who go all out for their people, who don't take sell-out bribes, who don't back off when it comes to speaking up for Black people, and who are unafraid to be Black. These conscious brothers and sisters are virtually thrown-out, in many cases simply because someone from the establishment thought they were crossing the line and getting out of their place. They are let down by the very brothers and sisters they have helped. Through our acquiescence and apathy many of us turn our heads, afraid to speak up for the ones who speak out for us.

I have, on the other hand, seen certain folks stroll through our communities and be held up as paragons of Black liberation, all the while filling their pockets with the filthy lucre from their sell-out deals with the powers that be. They lurk in the shadows, afraid to come out in the open, and use lackeys to promote their causes. They have their hands in every deal, every program, every transaction, and every scenario that involves Black people, making certain that they will be the first in line to be paid. They rob the community and blame that same community for not moving forward. How can we move forward with crooks like these among us?

These are the ones we should throw away. These are the ones from whom we must run. These are the very ones who will continue to hold us back because they will sell us out for their individual benefit and acclaim. The saddest aspect of this reality is that we accept it. For years we have seen the same persons in our neighborhoods and our communities selfishly plot and scheme to fill their pockets and then make some shallow overture to their brothers and sisters who ignorantly hold them in high esteem.

We have seen these people move up, economically, while those they are suppose to be helping are pushed further away from the realization of their economic dreams. We have also seen the brothers and sisters in the opposite category fade into oblivion. And then, more times than not, we sit around and reminisce about not having listened to them and not having followed their prescriptions for collective economic success.

We must learn, as a people, to identify, respect, and follow our true leaders. Heed the words of Carter G. Woodson and do not be swayed and mesmerized by charisma and rhetorical ranting. Fake leaders are very good at the things that will not take Black people where we need to go, especially economically. They will not and cannot put the collective first because they are too wrapped up in themselves. It makes me wonder if they ever think about death, responsibility, legacy, and accountability. They may not have to account for their actions to us, but one day that accountability will come. Most of us would be fearful of that day. But these fake leaders not only have no consciousness, they have no conscience.

So what do we do about these people? The first thing to do is look at what they have done for our people – not what they have said, but what they have done. Look behind the deals they bring you; see who else is in support of them. Check them out completely before you place your confidence and trust in them. If they are using you to do their dirty work, afraid themselves to come out in the open and speak, be wary of them. They mean you no good.

If you see their fingerprints on everything that has money attached to it, none or very little of which is being used to truly empower our people, watch out. It's very likely they are getting theirs off the top (and probably off the bottom as well) leaving very little for you. Look for the common thread that always leads back to this person. After a while you will be able to discern the nuances and modus operandi of this person because he will do the same things, say the same things, plan the same things, and always have his hand out for his cut.

Let's begin to throw the scoundrels out, as they say in political circles. Those who are dedicated to serving rather than merely appointing themselves as leaders (or being appointed by White folks), are the "keepers." Follow them; protect them; revere them.

James E. Clingman, an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati's African-American Studies department, is former editor of the Cincinnati Herald Newspaper and founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce. He hosts the radio program, "Blackonomics," and is the author of the book, "Economic Empowerment or Economic Enslavement–We have a Choice." He can be reached at (513) 489-4132, or by e-mail at jclingman@blackonomics.com.

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The Truth About The War In Iraq

By George E. Curry

President Bush and his primary surrogates—Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of State Colin Powell, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and Vice President Dick Cheney—constantly complain about unfavorable news coverage of administration efforts in Iraq. Bush told one reporter recently, "There's a sense that people in America are not getting the truth."

If that's true, it's certainly not because the White House has been short on spin doctors or gullible journalists. A study by Fairness and Accuracy in the Media (FAIR) covering the first three weeks of the war showed that official government voices, past and present, accounted for 63 percent of all sources used by major news shows on ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, FOX and PBS.

"Nearly two thirds of all sources, 64 percent, were pro-war, while 71 percent of U.S. guests favored the war," FAIR discovered. "Anti-war voices were 10 percent of all sources, but just 6 percent of non-Iraqi sources and 3 percent of U.S. sources. Thus viewers were more than six times as likely to see a pro-war source as one who was anti-war, with U.S. guests alone, the ratio increases 25 to 1."

So, it's not so much that Bush can't get his version of the "truth" out. Rather, it's the quagmire itself that has caused support for the war to tumble.

On one of his carping sprees, Colin Powell told Wolf Blitzer on CNN that there was "no doubt whatsoever" that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction prior to the U.S. invasion in March. Yet, no weapons have been discovered and Powell still refuses to retract his charge.

On ABC's "This Week" two months ago, Secretary Powell asserted that the Clinton administration "conducted a four-day bombing campaign in late 1998 based on the intelligence that he had. That resulted in the weapons inspectors being thrown out." In its coverage of the Powell interview, "The New York Times" allowed that false assertion to go unchallenged.

Three years earlier, it had corrected a similar lapse. On Feb. 2, 2000, it acknowledged, "A front-page article yesterday...on Iraq misstated the circumstances under which international weapons inspectors left that country before American and British air strikes in December 1998. While Iraq had ceased cooperating with the inspectors, it did not expel them. The United Nations withdrew them before their air strikes began." The strikes began that night.

There were other pretexts for invading Iraq—such as the administration's bogus assertion that Iraq had purchased uranium from Niger—that were not a result of the Bush administration's failure to get its message out. They got that message out, but like so many other assertions, we've since discovered, it was untrue.

The truth is that this was an ill-conceived, ill-timed war that has produced disastrous consequences for Americans without any clear assurance that it will better protect us from terrorists. According to a recent analysis of military fatalities by Reuters News Service, the American death toll after eight months in Iraq has exceeded the number of U.S. soldiers killed during the first three years of the Vietnam War. With the soldiers in Saturday's midair helicopter crash in the northern city of Mosul, the Iraq death toll climbed to 417.

During the Vietnam War, which officially commenced on Dec. 11, 1961, there were 392 U.S. deaths in those first three months. The peak year was 1968, when 1,926 Americans died in Vietnam.

Rather than dealing forthrightly with this unacceptably high American death rate in Iraq, Bush prefers to concentrate on imagery that he hopes will make his administration look better. Thus, his decision not to attend any of the funerals for soldiers killed abroad as many of his predecessors have done. He also broke custom by enforcing a prohibition on journalists photographing or filming soldiers' caskets as they leave from or return to U.S. military bases.

With no thanks to Bush, Americans are learning the truth. For example, they are leaning that this administration is no friend of veterans. Bush's most recent budget would increase prescription drugs costs for vets earning more than $24,000 a year. Bush has done nothing to eliminate the backlog to see a doctor at VA hospitals, which can range from six months to two years. The Bush budget would reduce money that helps military children receive a quality education. Over the objection of veterans groups, the administration has announced a decision to close seven VA hospitals.

The problem for Bush is not that "people in America are not getting the truth." Rather, it's the truth itself.

George E. Curry is editor-in-chief of the NNPA News Service and BlackPressUSA.com. His most recent book is "The Best of Emerge Magazine," an anthology published by Ballantine Books. He can be reached through his Web site, georgecurry.com.

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SPORTS

Cougars Come Close To Complete Game

By JOHN K. WILEY
Associated Press Writer

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) - The starter took himself out to be replaced by a freshman with little playing time, yet for the first time in weeks, everything seemed to come together for Washington State.

For the first time since their 55-16 rout of Oregon Sept. 27, the Cougars put together a 34-19 victory over Arizona State on Saturday with contributions from the offense, defense and special teams, WSU coach Bill Doba said.

Despite the win, WSU remained at No. 8 in the AP poll. The Cougars hope the victory will move them up from No. 10 in Bowl Championship Series standings on Monday.

The Cougars (9-2, 6-1 Pac-10) play Washington next Saturday in Seattle for a chance at a third straight 10-win season and the possibility of a bid to either the Rose or Holiday bowls as Pac-10 co-champion.

The Cougars scored after recovering a blocked punt on the ASU 1; on a 39-yard interception return by backup linebacker Pat Bennett; on a 15-yard run by Jermaine Green; and a 22-yard TD pass from backup quarterback Josh Swogger to Devard Darling. With two field goals, kicker Drew Dunning broke Jason Hanson's school field goal record of 63.

``I thought we played pretty close to a complete game,'' Doba said. ``We played well on defense. I thought offensively, we ran the football well. All three phases scored. We had a blocked punt, Bennett's interception for a touchdown, and offensively, we were able to run and throw the football.''

Swogger, a freshman, came off the bench after starter Matt Kegel took himself out of the game with a sore shoulder that was injured for the second time last week against UCLA.

``I wasn't confident in myself. I think a quarterback needs to be confident in his arm and I wasn't,'' Kegel said. ``I came off the field and gave Josh a little wink and said, `Your time has come, babe.'''

Swogger, who took the majority of snaps last week in practice, responded by completing 14-of-20 for 207 yards and a touchdown, with no interceptions.

``I think you guys got introduced to the real Josh Swogger this week,'' Cougars defensive end Isaac Brown told reporters. ``He got a lot of reps and he was well prepared. He is probably the future quarterback at Washington State and the future of this program.''

ASU coach Dirk Koetter saw that, too.

``You could see how poised he was, he really didn't make any mistakes,'' Koetter said. ``He played very solid.''

Washington State rolled up 402 yards of offense, and held the Sun Devils (4-7, 1-6) to 60 yards rushing. Andrew Walter was sacked three times.

``There were four big plays; a blocked punt, interception returned for a touchdown, and two long passes over our head,'' Koetter said. ``When we had our chances, we just didn't capitalize.''

Walter threw a 25 yard scoring pass to Derek Hagan, who had seven catches for 109 yards, while Skyler Fulton hauled in five passes for 100 yards.

Bennett's interception and 39-yard scoring return of a pass intended for Moey Mutz late in the second quarter was ``a big momentum swing,'' Doba said.

``It boosted us,'' Bennett said. ``We have been looking to score on defense and the last couple of games, we didn't get it. This game, we actually got one. It gives us more room to work with on defense, and once we scored again, right before the half, we came out ready to go.''

Swogger threw his first collegiate TD pass when he hit Darling in the end zone for a 24-10 lead just before halftime. Darling had five catches for 108 yards.

WSU special teams got things rolling.

Erik Coleman blocked Tim Parker's punt and it was recovered on the Arizona State 1. Jonathan Smith ran it in on the next play to take a 7-0 lead.

Arizona State came back on the next possession with a 54-yard scoring drive as Cornell Canidate rushed from the WSU 1.

Jesse Ainsworth kicked a career-long 47 yard field goal to pull even at 10 in the second quarter. He had a 34-yarder in the fourth quarter.

The Cougars, who had 14 turnovers and three safeties in their last two home games, turned the ball over only once against ASU, when Chris McKenzie intercepted a pass from Kegel to Darling.

The next series, Swogger was under center Mike Shelford.

``I feel like when Swogger stepped in today, there wasn't too much lacking,'' Shelford said. ``Everything came together.''

Hedges Says Gilbertson's Future Unaffected By Blowout Loss To Cal

(AP) - Washington coach Keith Gilbertson will return for at least one more season despite a crushing loss to California, Huskies athletic director Barbara Hedges says.

Gilbertson signed a four-year contract with two years basically guaranteed when he was hired in late July after the firing of Rick Neuheisel.

``He stepped into a very difficult situation at a very late date,'' Hedges told The Seattle Times. ``Some things this season have not gone as expected, but he is an outstanding coach.''

Even if the Huskies (5-6) lose again to No. 8 Washington State (9-2) in the Apple Cup after their utter collapse in a 54-7 loss to the Bears last weekend, Gilbertson's job is safe, she said.

``All the coaches on this staff have my full 100 percent support,'' Hedges said. ``They are working as hard as they can work. That is all you can ask for. I think we are very fortunate to have Keith Gilbertson as the coach at the University of Washington.''

A loss Saturday would end the Huskies' streak of 26 years without a losing season, the fourth-longest active string behind Nebraska (42), Michigan (36) and Florida State (27).

Hedges, 66, criticized for a number of high-profile problems in the athletic program during her 13th year at Washington, confirmed last week that her own contract had been extended through June 30.

Neuheisel, accused of gambling in violation of NCAA rules and of being untruthful when first questioned about the matter, is suing the university on a claim of breach of contract and the NCAA on claims of defamation, conspiracy and wrongful interference with his job.

In a separate matter, state and federal authorities have begun a joint criminal investigation of a former team doctor who admitted improperly handing out thousands of doses of prescription drugs to Washington athletes.

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Albany St 27, Fort Valley 17
Alcorn St 20, Alab A&M 15
Benedict 23, Lane 18
Beth-Cook 21, Howard 7
Del. St 36, Norfolk St 25
E. Kentucky 43, Tenn. St 38
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FayettE. St 23, Va. Union 19
Grambling 33, Savan. St 17
Miles 32, Morehouse 28
Millersville 39, Cheney 0
N.C. A&T 38, Hampton 28
S.C. St 27, Florida A&M 15
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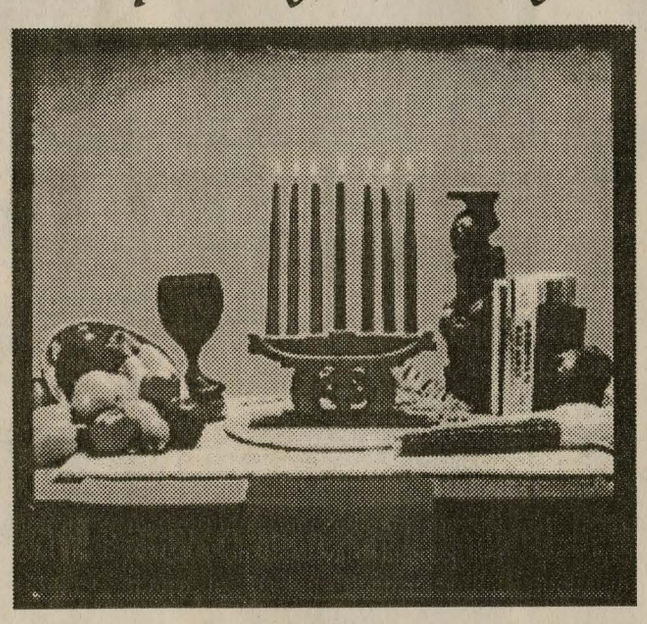
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Grieving Mother's Advice To Bush: 'Bring Our Boys Home'

By Hazel Trice Edney
NNPA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - The mother of an American soldier-killed in a recent missile attack on a CH-47 Chinook helicopter in Iraq has a message that she says President Bush needs to hear.

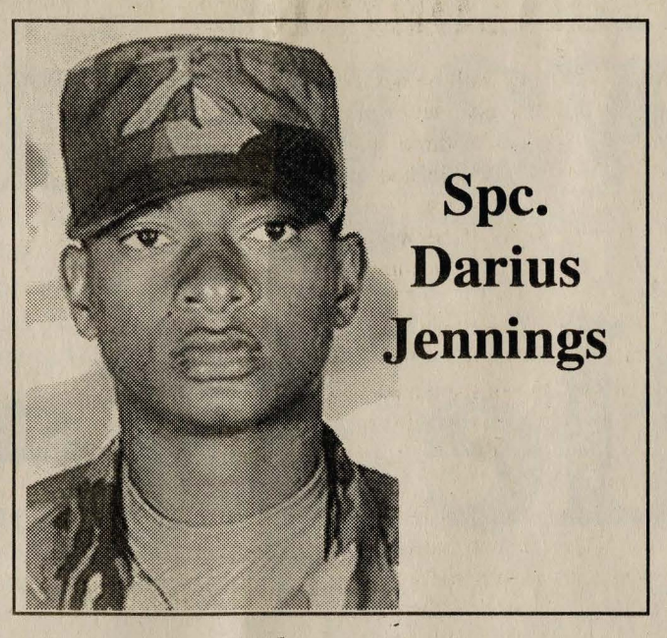
"If I could talk to the president myself, right now, I would tell him, 'Find a plan to bring our boys home,'" says Harriet Elaine Johnson of Cope, S. C., the mother of U. S. Army Specialist Darius T. Jennings. "They're telling us, 'We're going to kill your American soldiers,' and it doesn't seem like the American leaders are listening...Let us not use our babies at the expense of the country to try to prove some kind of power struggle."

Jennings was one of 16 U. S. Army soldiers killed when the helicopter was shot down Nov. 2 by a missile near Fallujah. His death came less than two weeks before his 23rd birthday. Ironically, last Saturday, the day of Jennings' funeral, two American Black Hawk helicopters collided in midair and crashed near Mosul, killing at least 17 American soldiers who were aboard.

"I feel quite sure if they had some kids over there, they would have already come up with a plan." Johnson says. "From my understanding, I think all of [Bush's] kids are living. So, he cannot feel what I'm feeling...He'll never be able to feel my sympathy until he walks in my shoes."

Pentagon Spokesman Maj. Steve Stover says the military understands the suffering of families of loved ones killed in the war.

"I know a lot of people ask us, 'Well, what do you think about being there?' Well, you know what? In those respects, we don't," he says. "We're soldiers. We go where we're told. If the president tells us to go, we go. We trust our elected leaders, not only the president, but our Congress, who makes those decisions. We don't second-guess them."



Spc. Darius Jennings

Not only has neither Bush nor many Congressional leaders not walked in Johnson's shoes, they didn't take the risk her deceased son took, either.

Rather than serve on active duty; Bush joined the Texas Air National Guard in 1968.

And he has denied widespread reports that he didn't report for drill duty from May 1972 to April 1973 while he lived in Alabama and worked on the U.S. Senate campaign of of former postmaster general Winton M. Blount. Bush says he fulfilled his guard service locally on weekends.

Vice President Dick Cheney used student and marriage deferments to avoid military service. None of the top Republican elected leaders served in the military. Neither Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, Senate Majority Whip Don Nickles, House Speaker Dennis Hastert, nor House Majority Whip Roy Blunt served in the Armed Forces.

On the Democratic side, Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle served three years as an intelligence officer in the U. S. Air Force Strategic Air Command, but neither House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi nor House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer served in the military.

Of the nine Democratic presidential candidates, only retired Gen. Wesley Clark and Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry served on active duty. Clark rose from an infantry officer in the army to company commander in Vietnam to four-star general and supreme allied commander of NATO forces in Europe. Kerry was the skipper of a Navy swift boat in the Mekong Delta of South Vietnam. Both Kerry and Clark received the Purple Heart after being wounded in combat and both were awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

Rep. Dick Gephardt of Missouri obtained an education deferment, graduated then joined the Missouri Air National Guard like Bush. Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman also got an education deferment, then got another deferment for becoming a father.

Both Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich and former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean were assigned draft lottery numbers, but were disqualified for medical reasons - Kucinich for a heart murmur and Dean for back problems. North Carolina Sen. John Edwards was also assigned a lottery number, but the draft ended in 1973 before he was called. New York activist Al Sharpton turned 18 just as the draft was winding down. As for former Illinois Sen. Carol Mosely Braun, women were exempt from the draft.

Spec. Jennings' mother says she had spoken to him by phone only five days before his death. "My son was tired of being over there," she says. "First of all, I didn't raise my son in violence. He joined the Army. He knew that maybe there would have been war, [but] my son, the things he was seeing over there, he was not accustomed to. And it was really getting to him and he asked me for guidance.

"I said, 'Son, go to your chaplain.' So, he went to the chaplain and he came back and said, 'Well Mommy, I'm just ready to come home. And every time we spoke and when he e-mailed me, it was the same thing, 'Mommy, I'm ready to come home. You don't know what I'm going through over here. You don't see the things I see Mommy.'"

Jennings and his wife, Ari, 20, an airman in the U. S. Air Force, observed their first wedding anniversary on Oct. 29. Now, there will not be a second.

"She's taking it day to day," says her father, Howard Young of Colorado Springs. "You know, it's a numbing experience."

The couple met while Jennings was stationed near Colorado Springs at Fort Carson, assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

"In the short time I've known him, he was a great individual, someone who was considerate as well as conscientious about servicing his country," recalls Young. "He was a very energetic and very respectful young man. And I was proud to have him as a son-in-law."

Jennings joined the Army three years after graduating from Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School. He had planned to enter college and become a photographer. Instead, he is among more than 400 Americans who have died in Iraq since the war began in March.

Johnson says she asked Sharpton to speak because of "personal reasons," but did not elaborate. Sharpton, who says he started preaching when he was four and was ordained five years later, temporarily set partisan politics aside Saturday to eulogize Johnson in Cordova, S.C., near Orangeburg. President Bush has sent letters to the families of those killed, but, unlike Sharpton, has yet to attend any funeral of U. S. service men and women killed in Iraq.

"It's important that the president mourn every loss of life. And to do so, is to talk about all the loss of life, and not to specifically look at one over the other," says White House Spokesman Dan Bartlett.

That provides no comfort for Jennings' parents.

"My inner strength is gone," says Harriet Johnson. "I'm getting strength from the Lord now. Just His strength is carrying me because mine was gone when I heard about my son's death."

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Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle's

4th Annual Breakfast

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Join us on: Friday, December 12th, 7:30 am - 9:00 am
(doors open at 7:00 am)

Location: Washington State Convention Center

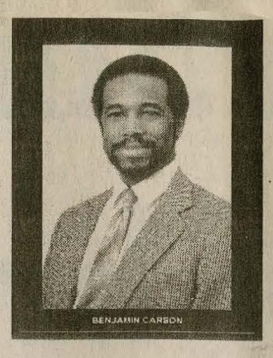
$60 per ticket / $600 per table of 10

To assure availability, Reserve your tickets today.

events@urbanleague.org
206-461-3792 x 3009
www.urbanleague.org

Tickets are tax deductible.

$5.00 parking for event attendees in Convention Center parking lots.



Keynote Speaker:
World Renowned
Neurosurgeon
Dr. Ben Carson

Please join us in celebrating the accomplishments of the Urban League this past year and learn about our current and upcoming activities.

The annual breakfast is our key fundraising event of the year.

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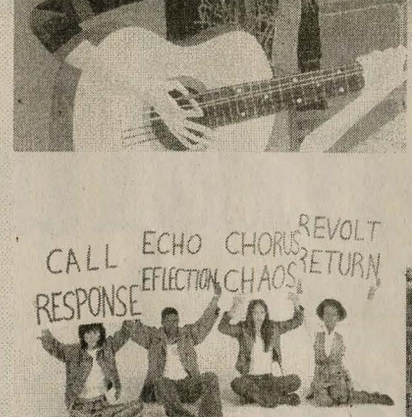
OCTOBER 9–JANUARY 4

This exhibition has been organized by the Seattle Art Museum; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego; Vancouver Art Gallery; and California College of the Arts/Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts. The exhibition tour has been generously supported by the Peter Norton Family Foundation and the Canadian Department of Foreign and International Trade. Generous support in Seattle provided by PONCHO (Patrons of Northwest Civic Cultural and Charitable Organizations), The Seattle Times, Microsoft, and the Seattle Art Museum Supporters (SAMS).

*left to right from top: Brian Calvin, **Nowhere Boogie**, 2000; Brian Jungen, **Prototype for New Understanding #3**, 1999, altered Nike running shoe, 13 3/4 x 11 x 12 in., Vancouver Art Gallery Acquisition Fund and purchased with the financial support of the Canada Council for the Arts Acquisition, Assistance Program, VAG 99.20.2; Sam Durant, **Return**, 2002; Glenn Rudolph, **Cherry Picker, Priest Rapids**, 2001; Tim Lee, **The Move, The Beastie Boys, 1998 (installation)**, 2001; Yvonne Venegas, Tijuana, **Bolsa de sabritas (Chips bag)**, 2002, from **The Most Beautiful Brides of Baja California**, C-print, 24 x 36 in., Courtesy of the artist*

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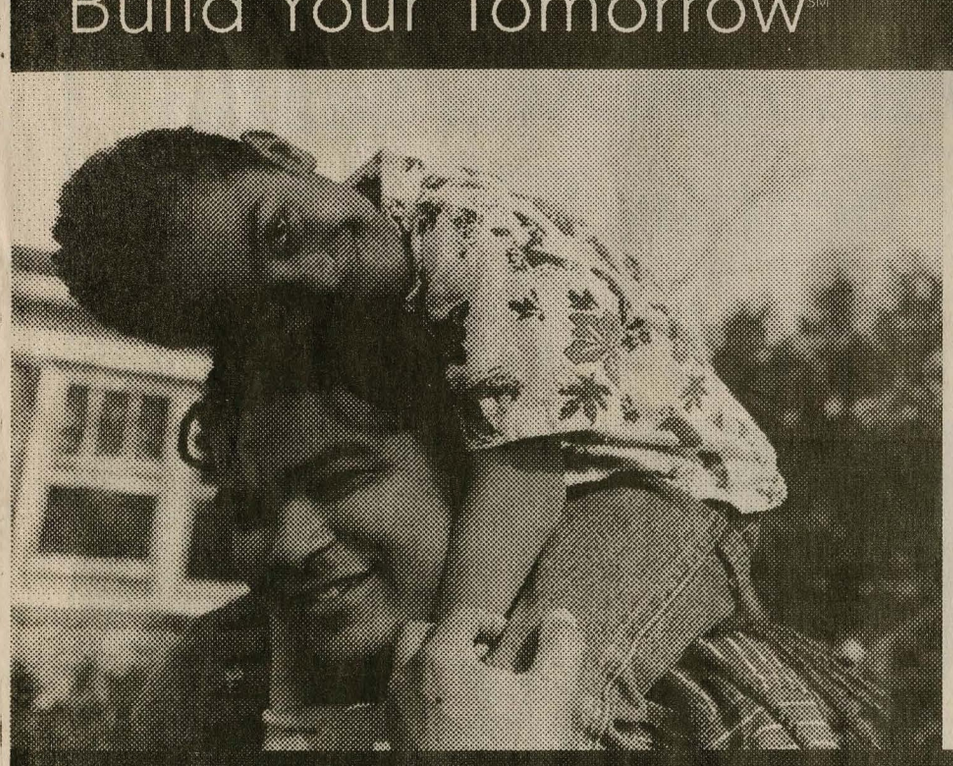








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CHURCH & SOCIETY NEWS

Church Calendar

Fourth Annual Jesus Is The Reason For The Season Revival

On The Brink of Blessing Fellowship Ministry and Rev. Dr. Naomi Peete invites you the the fourth annual "Jesus Is The Reason For The Season revival on Dec. 10 - 13 nightly at 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. The revival will be held at Beacon Hill Presbyterian Church located at 1625 So. Columbia Way. For more information call 253-941-5190.

Holy Ground Pentecostal Tabernacle
12th Celebrated Church Anniversary

Holly Ground Pentecostal Tabernacle will have their 12th celebrated church anniversary on Dec. 11 and 12 at 7 p.m.There will also be a banquet on Dec. 13 at 6:00 p.m. Specia guest speakers are Pastor Hudson of To God Be The Glory, Pastor Easter of Upper Room COGIC, and the banquet speaker is Elder Rudy Wells, pastor and community advocate.

Evangelist Dorothy Norwood To Perform For Program To Benefit Seattle Area Youth

Stellar award winner and 8 time grammy nominee Evangelist Dorothy Norwood will perform and deliver a keynote address for the Unity Church of God in Christ Education Department's 1st annual Evening of Excellence Scholastic Holiday Gala to benefit and provide scholarships for youth in our community. Evangelist Norwood is known as the world's greatest gospel story teller and has performed with gospel greats such as the late Mahalia Jackson and Rev. James Cleveland. She is a performer of stature in her own right with numerous gold albums to her acclaim and has toured the United States and abroad many times in her career. The Evening of Excellence Scholarship Gala will take place of Dec. 6 at 5 p.m. at the Seattle Mountaineers building located at 300 3rd Ave. West in downtown Seattle just east of the Space Needle overlooking Elliot Bay. For information about this event please call (206) 772-1062.

Seattle Community Choirs In Full Concert

On Sun., Dec. 28 Seattle Community Choirs will be in full concert at 7 p.m. at the St. Paul Ministries located at 504 So. 3rd street in Renton. This concert will feature all the different flavors of gospel music, from traditional to contemporary. For more information call (206) 723-3152.

Peoples Institutional Baptist Church Music Department Presents 'Take Me Back'

People Institutional Baptist Church music department presents a gospel music production entitled "*Take Me Back*" on Sun., Nov. 23 at 4 p.m. The church is located at 159 24th Ave. For more information call 206-329-4196. Amos Landry is pastor.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

The public is invited to join Walker Chapel A.M.E. Church on Thanksgiving Eve, Wed., Nov. 26 at 7 p.m. Rev. Shirley Heermance, pastor of Ebenezer AME Church in Bremerton, WA will be the preacher for this worship service. Music will be performed by Ebenezer's choir. Gwendolyn Phillips Coates is pastor. For more information call 206-325-8468.

Christmas Morning Worship

Walker Chapel AMC Church invites you to begin your Christmas celebration with them on Thurs., Dec. 25. Music will be by Rev. Pat Wright, Rev. Gwendolyn Phillips Coates and the choir from Primm Tabernacle AME. The morning preacher will be Rev. Catherine Crosby, newly appointed pastor of Primm Tabernacle AME Church. Gwendolyn Phillips Coates is pastor. For more information call the church office at 206-325-8468.

Greater Mount Baker Baptist Church Mission Two Auxiliary Annual 23rd Mission Thrust Services

The Rev. Oliver W. Billups, Jr. will be the guest evangelist for the Thrust Services that will be held on Nov. 24 - 26 at 7:00 p.m. and Thanksgiving morning Nov. 27 at 10:00 a.m. Rev. Billups is the pastor of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in Monroe, Louisiana.. Greater Mount Baker Baptist Church sister churches and the community is invited. Greater Mount Baker Baptist Church is located at 2425 So. Jackson St. For more information call 206-322-4914 or 206-325-8335. Kenneth J. Ransfer is pastor.

Preach The Word Ministry Presents Three-Day Ministers Revival At DayStar Baptist Church

Preach The Word Ministry presents a three-day ministers revival on Sun., Nov. 9 thru Sat., Nov. 15. The theme is entitled "Grace". Everyone is invited to come and fellowship at DayStar Baptist Church, 324 Smithers St. in Renton. For more information call 253-735-4009. Donald L. Ward, Sr. is pastor.

Greater Mount Baker Baptist Church Mission Two Auxiliary Annual 23rd Mission Thrust Services

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To God Be The Glory - A Place of Worship 5th Pastoral Appreciation Celebration

The members of To God Be The Glory - A Place of Worship extends an invitation for you to join them during their 5th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration. Services are scheduled to convene Wed., Nov. 19 through Sun., Nov. 23. Evening service will begin at 7:30 p.m., concluding Sunday at 4:00 p.m. All services will be held at 2700 Hanford St. Rev. Alice M. Hudson is pastor.

Ladies Ministry Of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church To Host Pajama Breakfast

The Ladies Ministry of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church will host a pajama breakfast on Sat., Dec. 6. The theme is "Women Moving Forward" Phil. 3:14. The guest speaker will be First Lady Laura Witherspoon of Mt. Calvary Christian Center. For more information call 206-329-9794. Dr. Robert L. Manaway, Sr. is pastor.

Pastor Herbert J. Carey And MLK Memorial Baptist Church Thanksgiving Revival

Reverends McKinney, Madison & McClendon will be the evangelists at the MLK Memorial Baptist Church Thanksgiving Revival.

The previously scheduled Rev. Jeremiah Wright was recently injured during an accident while out of the country and will not be able to travel as planned.

Reverend Samuel B. McKinney, Pastor Emeritus of the Mt. Zion Church of Seattle; Reverend Lee Arthur Madison, pastor of St. John Baptist Church of Tacoma and Reverend Dana McClendon, pastor of Greater New Bethel Baptist Church of Seattle will share in the revival services beginning Monday, Nov. 24 through Wed. Nov. 26 at 7 p.m. nightly.

These mighty men of God will be delivering the messages during the Thanksgiving Revival Services. Pastor Herbert J. Carey and the MLK Church family are inviting all to come and share in the three nights.Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Baptist Church is located 13611 S.E. 116th in the Renton Highlands.

For further information, contact the church at (425) 255-1446.

In Loving Memory



Emanuel Jones

January 7, 1918 - November 13, 2003

Funeral services for Emanuel Jones will be held Sat., Nov. 22 at 11:00 a.m at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church located at 124 - 21st Ave. Visitation will be held at Bonney-Watson Funeral Home on Thursday, Nov. 20 from 12 noon to 8 p.m. and Friday, Nov. 21 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Rev. Dana E. McClendon

'Let's Go Forward In Faith Together."

GREATER NEW BETHEL
Missionary Baptist Church
ORDER OF SERVICE
Sunday School....9:30am
Worship Service....11:30am
New Members Bible Study
Sunday, 9:30am
Prayer & Bible Study
Tues., 11am & 7pm
5279 Rainier Avenue South
PHONE: (206) 725-0490

Rose Of Sharon Pentecostal Church

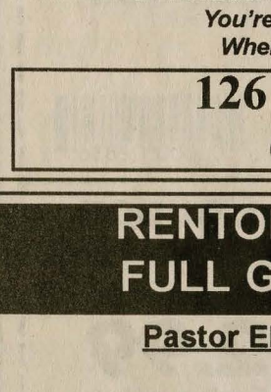


ORDER OF SERVICE
Church School...9:30am
Worship Hour...11:15am
Sunday Evening...7:00pm
Wednesday Evangelistic Service.....7:00 pm
Prayer Saturday at Noon
Office: (206) 722-4920
Foyer: (206) 722-9972
4130 Rainier Avenue South

Goodwill Missionary Baptist Church
Order Of Service
Sunday School.....9am - 10am
Baptist Training Union...10am - 11am
Worship Service.....11:15am
Prayer Service....7:30pm - 8pm(Wed.)
Bible Study.....8pm - 9pm (Wed.)
Broadcast Ministry: 4pm to 5pm
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Pastor Elder James S. Shaw, Jr.
1015 N. 29th St.
Renton, WA
ORDER OF SERVICE
Sunday School 9:30am
Sunday Morning Worship...11:00am
Tuesday Night Special Education Class For New Converts.....8:00pm
Friday Night Prayer.....6:30pm - 7:20pm Service...7:30pm
226-7411 or 722-2413

BISHOP A. L. HARDY ACADEMY

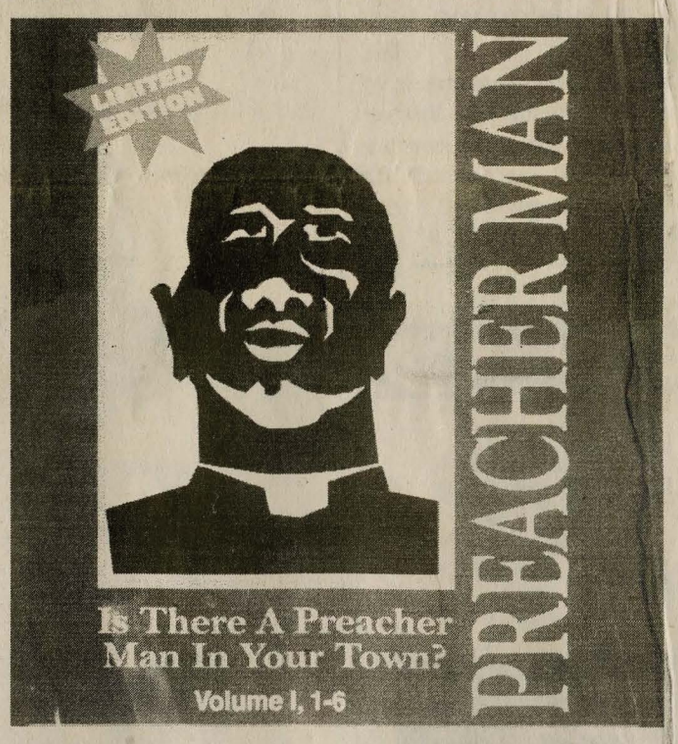


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invite you to join us on Saturday, November 22, 2003 for the 19th annual Holiday Food Drive.

Help the less fortunate in our community by bringing a non-perishable or can food to our collection sites:

• Seattle Medium/Z-Twins Offices
2600 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA
9am to 6pm

• Rainier Square Safeway
3820 Rainier Ave. South
Seattle, WA
9am to 4pm

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