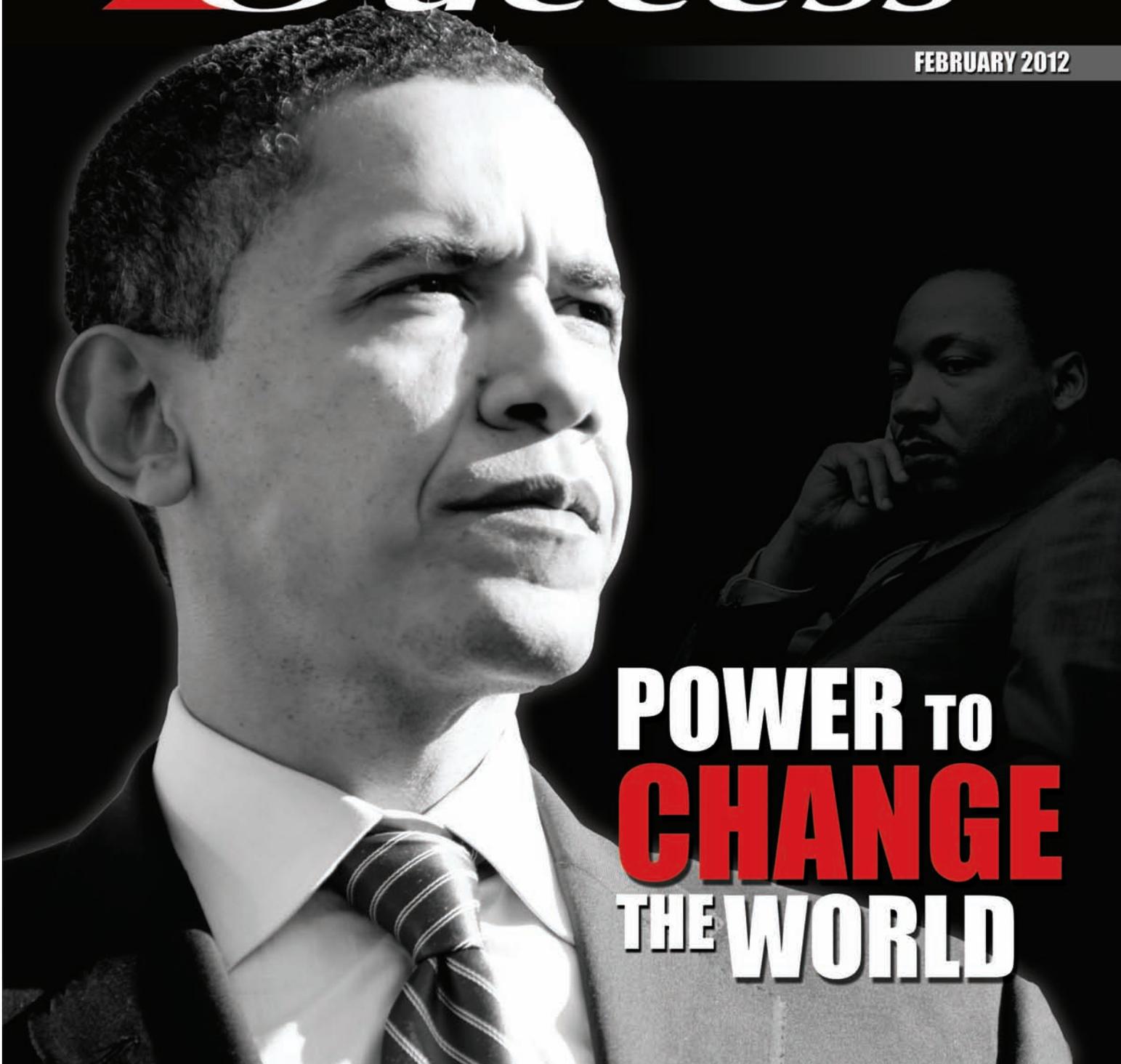


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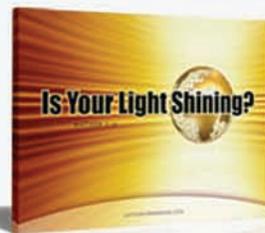
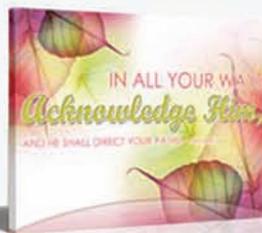
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- Leviticus 26:4
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CONGRESSWOMAN CORRINE BROWN THRILLED



CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL for Montford Point Marines BECOMES LAW

LtCol Joseph Carpenter USMC (Ret), Sgt Earl Evans USMC (Ret), Rep. Corrine Brown, SSgt Eugene Groves USMC (Ret), and GySgt Reuben McNair USMC (Ret)

Congresswoman Corrine Brown was elated that the bill to grant a Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines was signed into law by President Obama. “This is a great day for the Marines and for all Americans!” exclaimed the Congresswoman. “In a wonderful display of bipartisanship, this bipartisan bill to grant the Montford Point Marines a Congressional Gold Medal has now been officially signed into law by President Barack Obama! The bill passed under Unanimous Consent in the Senate, with 83 cosponsors, and with 308 cosponsors in the House, on a 422-0 vote, and serves as a perfect example of what can be achieved when both parties work together.”

General James F. Amos, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, a strong supporter of the Montford Point Marines, said that “this Resolution is of extreme importance to all Marines today. Their actions reflected the finest attributes of the ‘leatherneck’ fighting spirit and blazed the trail for generations of African-Americans in the Marine Corps.”

“Indeed,” continued Congresswoman Brown, “this Resolution recognizes the service and sacrifice of the Montford Point Marines, and clearly demonstrates that today’s United States Marine Corps is an excellent opportunity for advancement for persons of all races. Clearly, the original Montford Point Marines serve as a prime example of this, and set the bar very high for future Marines.

On June 25, 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802, opening the doors for the very first African Americans to enlist in the United States Marines,” said the Congresswoman. “From 1942 to 1949, 20,000 African Americans enlisted in the Marine Corps in a time of war when the military services were resistant to integration.

These African Americans, from all States, were not sent to the tra-

ditional boot camps in Parris Island, South Carolina and San Diego, California. Instead, African American Marines were segregated, and went through basic training at Camp Montford Point near the New River in Jacksonville, North Carolina. Years before Jackie Robinson and decades before Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr., these heroes joined the Marines to defend our country.

“As a key Member of the Congressional Black Caucus and House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, I am thrilled to see this piece of legislation has become law. On the House side, we worked extraordinarily hard with Financial Services Chairman Spencer Baucus (AL-6), Congressman Ander Crenshaw (FL-4), Congressman Allen West (FL-22), as well as Congressman Barney Frank (MA-4), and Congressman Sanford Bishop (GA-2) to obtain the necessary support of Members on both sides of the aisle to move this Resolution forward. On the Senate side, Senators Kay Hagan of North Carolina and Bill Nelson of Florida also did tremendous work to be able to get enough Senate cosponsors on the legislation pass the measure unanimously,” said the Congresswoman.

“Certainly,” continued Congresswoman Brown, “it is necessary to honor all of America’s war heroes’ selfless service and sacrifice, and in particular, those who served at Montford Point, who are about to be officially recognized as a rich legacy of our Marine Corps. They answered our nation’s call at a time when our society was deeply divided along racial lines. As such, many of their contributions went unrecognized and many times they were not given the respect and recognition they deserved as Marines, as Americans, and as patriots. To correct this past injustice, this Resolution was introduced on their behalf, and I wholeheartedly believe that it is necessary to confer the Congressional Gold Medal on the Montford Point Marines for their Service to the United States, from WWII to the Vietnam era. This is a proud victory for the Montford Point Marines, as this Gold Medal will forever anchor their role in the history of our nation’s great military.”

***B* IN THIS ISSUE:**



Page 1



Page 3



Page 9



Page 11



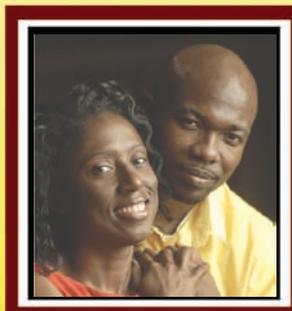
Page 17



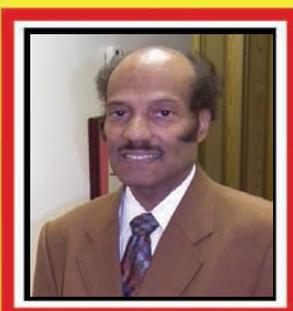
Page 25



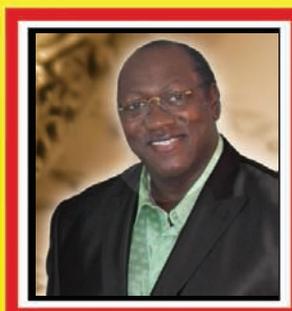
Page 27



Page 28



Page 37



Page 39

The Power To Change The World President Barack Obama	Page 1
Congressional Gold Medal Montford Point Marines Congresswoman Corrine Brown	Page 3
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday: A Day Meant for Service By Dominique D. Barrs	Page 5
Black History Month 2012 President Barack Obama	Page 7
Gabrielle Union Wants Education to be a Priority	Page 9
Florida's Black History Month Theme Incorporates Science and Technology By Lt. Governor Jennifer Carroll	Page 11
The 'End Times' Preachers By Pastor Leon Bing	Page 13
70% of Judges Selected by Pres. Obama Are Minorities or Women	Page 15
Duval Moments In Time By David Williams	Page 16
HARP Overhaul to Address the Needs Of Struggling Homeowners By Keith Loria	Page 17
Black Women Today By Dominique D. Barrs	Page 20
Bethune-Cookman University Pres. Trudie K. Reed to Retire	Page 25
Wealth Disparity for African-Americans By Alan Grayson	Page 27
Look For Mr. Right	Page 28
Top Twelve Reason Good Black Men Are Still Single By Eric Stevens	Page 33
Black History is also American History By Cassandra Walker	Page 35
Teething Babies By Dr. Charles E. Simmons	Page 37
Publisher's Editorial Darryl A. Barrs, Sr. Publisher / Managing Editor	Page 39





Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday: A Day Meant for Service

By Dominique D. Barrs
Staff Writer, Program Success

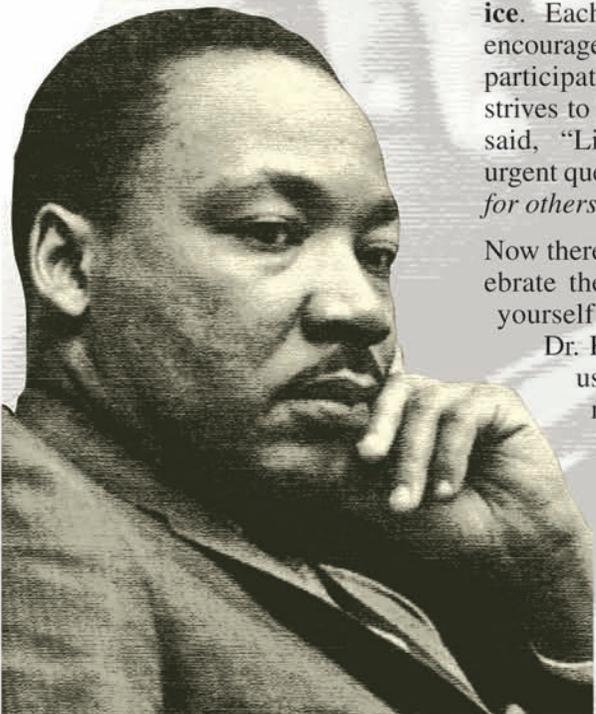
Every third Monday in January, it is meant for all Americans to celebrate the national holiday for Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., an activist, and civil rights leader. Schools are closed, Banks cease all business, and jobs around the country allow their employees to take a day of remembrance, and show their gratitude to a man, in however they deem fit.

So what exactly do people do on this day? When I was a child, I participated in a parade with my fellow band members, which ended at a local community center, where food and games were shared with the local community. You could hear, “I Have A Dream,” coming from loud speakers in the park, you could see t-shirts proudly boasting Dr. King’s image on the back in every color, you could even sit in at a banquet, where fellow freedom marchers share their memories of their fellow friend. As a child, this was a day to look forward to. This was around the year 1997, and the common goal was to show remembrance and gratitude.

It is now 2012, marking 26 years of this national holiday being observed - 26 years of parades, speeches, and community programs. This redundancy has led to some people being thankful for the day off from work, but not excited about celebrating the holiday. What more can adults learn about this leader that they haven’t already been taught as a child? Well, I have just learned that Dr. Martin Luther King Day is a “Day on - not a Day off.”

In 1994 Congress designated the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday as a National Day of Service. Its goal is to encourage all Americans to come out into the community to not only bridge barriers, but create solutions to social problems, all in hopes to bring us closer to Dr. King’s vision of a beloved community. The *Corporation for National and Community Service* has teamed up with President Obama’s *United We Serve Campaign*, which is the President’s National Call for Service initiative. Together they have created **The MLK Day of Service**. Each MLK Holiday you are encouraged to plan your own event or participate in an ongoing event that strives to help others. Dr. King once said, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is *What are you doing for others?*”

Now there is more to do than just celebrate the life of a great man. You yourself can give your time just as Dr. King gave his time to better us. You can search your local newspaper to see what activities are being held in your area, or visit the website www.mlkday.gov to see what National events are occurring in your vicinity.



Martin Luther King Holiday: Timeline on How It Came to Pass

April 4, 1968: Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated

April 8, 1968: Congressman John Conyers, a Democrat from Michigan, introduced to legislation, the concept to have a commemorative holiday, in Dr. King’s honor.

1973: Illinois is the first state to adopt Martin Luther King Day as a state holiday.

1983: Congress passes the bill, and President Ronald Reagan signs the legislature, creating Martin Luther King Day.

1986: Federal Holiday goes into effect for Martin Luther King Day.

1987: Boycotts begin after Arizona’s Governor Evan Mecham first act in office is to rescind the holiday in his state.

1989: Martin Luther King Holiday becomes a state holiday in 44 states.

1991: The 1993 Superbowl is no longer scheduled to be held in Phoenix, Arizona due to the MLK boycotts.

1992: Arizona citizens vote to enact Martin Luther King Day, allowing for the return of the Superbowl in Tempe, Arizona in 1996.

1993: All 50 states celebrate Martin Luther King Day, in some manner; some under different names, and not all paid-state holiday.

1999: New Hampshire is the last state to recognize MLK as a paid-state holiday, and replaced its former name of Civil Rights Day.

2000: Utah becomes the last state to replace its “Human Rights Day State Holiday” to Martin Luther King Day. South Carolina becomes the last state to make MLK Day a paid holiday for all state employees. Prior to this, employees could choose between celebrating it or one of the three Confederate-related holidays.

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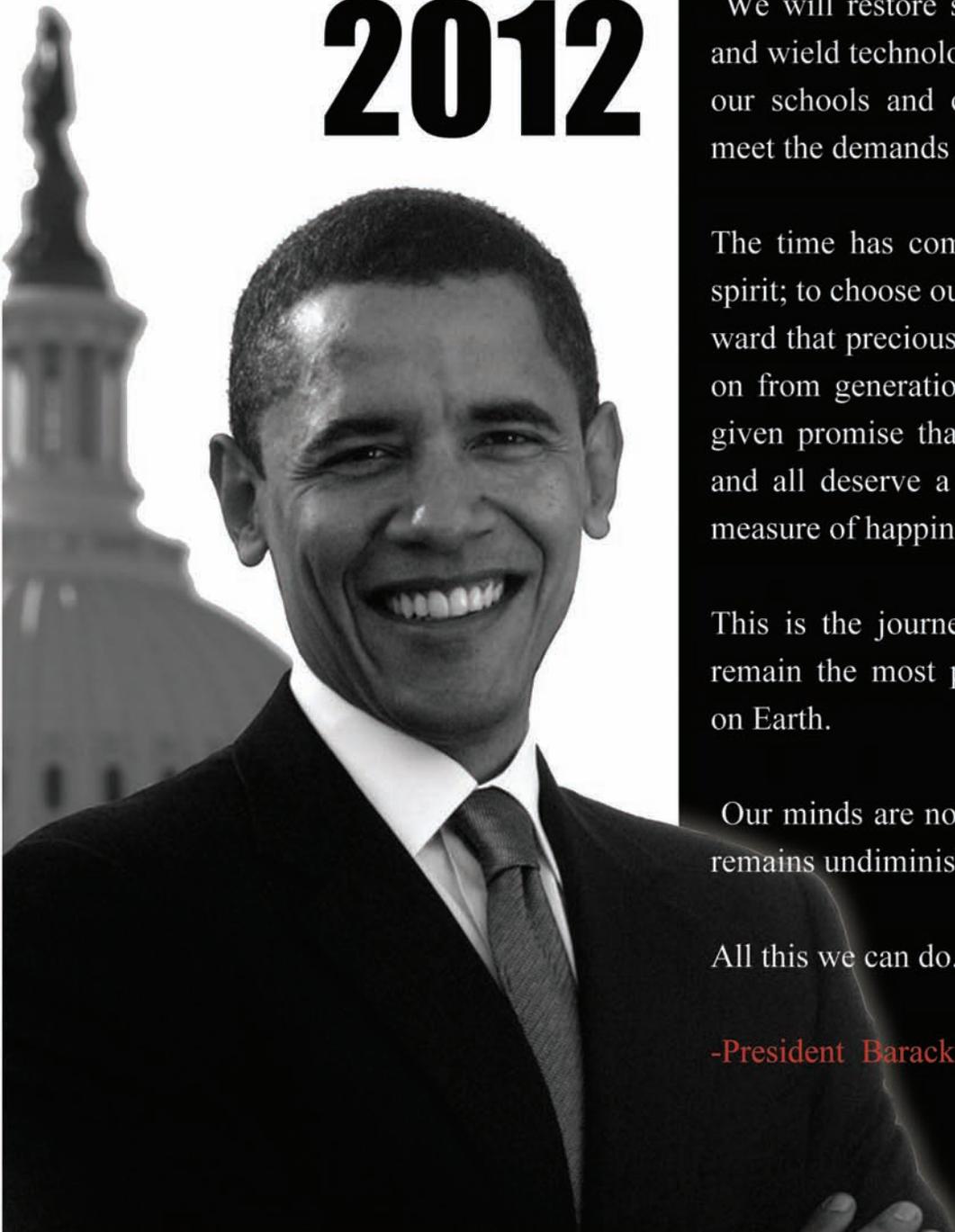
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-President Barack Obama

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Gabrielle UNION

Wants Education to be a Priority

By: Jenna Busch, Guest Columnist



GABRIELLE UNION, Actress/Model

Gabrielle Union believes education is far more important than fame. It's hardly surprising. Not only is she a fantastic actress, she earned a sociology degree from UCLA. She's taking some time to reach out to her Twitter followers to let them know how she feels about the subject.

"When a parent can tell me their child's favorite basketball player/rapper/actor but doesn't know the name of their kid's teacher, I feel rage," Union tweeted. "It's great your kid wants to model, but is she a model student? We've gotta get serious about education!" She responded to followers who asked her about her own education by saying, "Sociology degree from UCLA paid 4 w/ student loans & job at the book store :)"

In a world full of reality shows and people getting famous for their bad behavior, it's refreshing to read tweets like what Union said about teachers. "When a parent can tell me their child's fave basketball player/rapper/actor but doesn't know the name of their kids teacher #RAGE"

She's also been in the news lately for her apparently wonderful relationship with beau and Miami Heat star Dwyane Wade, making healthy jokes about marriage, and statements about waiting until you're ready. Now this is a real role model.

Gabrielle, we salute you!

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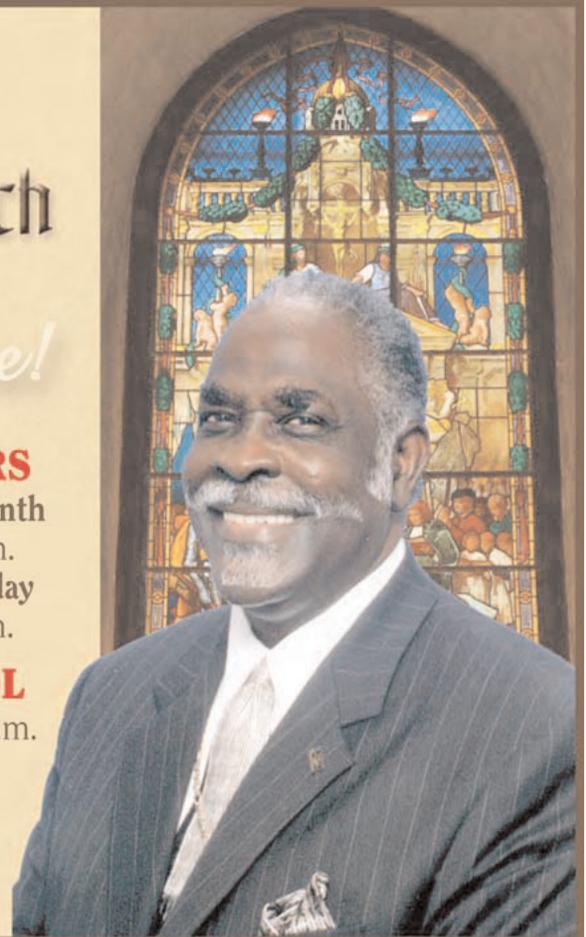
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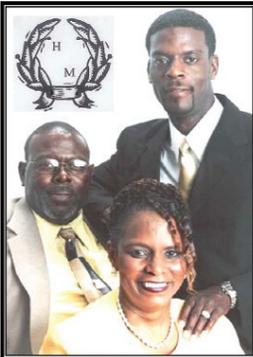
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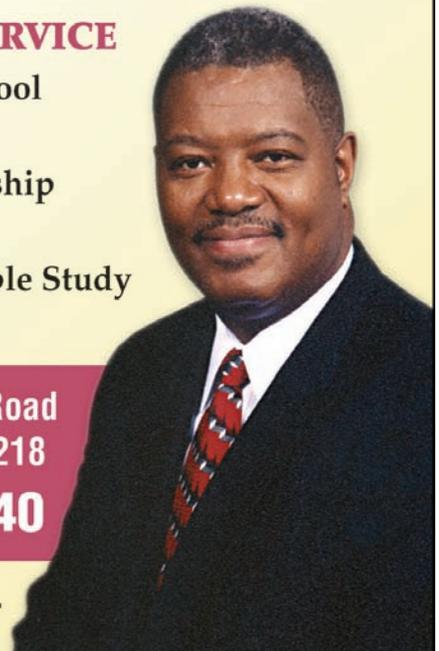
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Leon R. Bing, Pastor



Florida's Black History Month Theme incorporates Science and Technology

By: Jennifer Carroll, Lt. Governor of Florida

Every February, Americans celebrate Black History Month. In Florida we also celebrate and take special pride in our African and Caribbean cultures. Since taking office Governor Rick Scott hosts a Black History Month program which includes an art contest and a student essay contest celebration at the Governor's Mansion.

As the Lieutenant Governor and the first state-wide elected African-American in Florida history, Governor Scott has asked me to help him organize Florida's Black History Month activities. One of the activities I am really looking forward to seeing is the essay contest. This contest provides students from across Florida, regardless of race or background, the opportunity to research, write and express their feelings and knowledge about Black History. Because this contest should be a special and informative one for Florida's students, I put a great deal of thought into the theme.

As the Chair of Space Florida and a believer that Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) should be

major components in the education system, I used this platform to develop the 2012 Black History Month theme, "African-American Pioneers Who Advanced Science and Technology."

Florida historically has been a leader in science and technology and is the birthplace of manned space flight. From our shores we launched men to the moon and rovers to Mars. Just last year Florida won the NASA contract to manage the International Space Station National Laboratory. In Gainesville students will be building small satellites and in Orlando students will be engaged in advancing nanotechnology.

In order for Florida to remain the vanguard of science and technology, we must get our children interested, engaged and fascinated to study in these areas. This will lead to a vibrant and prepared future workforce. I want our young children, especially minorities, to have as much opportunities to access and advance

in science and technology as their international competitors. The opportunities are open and available to all in America, regardless of race, creed or color, and our children need to take advantage of them to prepare for a better future. This essay contest is one of those opportunities.

My purpose for choosing this year's Black History Month theme was to have children learn and appreciate black pioneers in science and technology who contributed so much when they had so little. Students who think and write about these pioneers will become familiar with stellar positive role models who have achieved greatness in the medical laboratory, in outer space, working with robotics, chemicals, and using their minds and hands as tools of progress to improve the world.

I hope you will take a moment to visit our Black History Month website www.floridablackhistory.com and read the winning students essays. I encourage parents and teachers to have their children and students read at least one selection from the suggested reading list also found on the website.

In closing, Governor Scott and I are working to make Florida a place where the American dream of economic prosperity is possible for everyone. African-American leaders of today and the past serve as role models to motivate Florida's children and young people to become tomorrow's leaders. Through an engaging quality education and quality paying job, the future can be very bright for many who have been left behind.

Part of making sure Florida has the best educated workforce is improving education in STEM. During the next few years, these fields of study will play an important role in preparing Florida's students for a better quality of life and attracting businesses to expand, grow or relocate to Florida.



GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT
AND
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
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(Artist rendition of Frederick Douglass hanging on the wall of the Lt Gov.'s office)



Florida's Black History Month Website:
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The 'End Times' Preachers

By Pastor Leon R. Bing

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There was a time, not long ago, that people did not study the Book of Revelations, or did not want to study the Book of Revelations. And there was a time not long ago, and in many cases even to today that Pastors did not teach the Book of Revelations or the End Times. But we are in a season whether we want to accept it or not, that the End Times are upon us. The sad thing is who is crying out from the mountain tops into the valleys that the return of Christ is near!

The church was in such a rush a few years back to see who could build the largest buildings, and now many can't keep them filled because the message is no longer that Christ is coming, get your affairs in order. No the message is more of how are we going to keep these building from being foreclosed on! My point is that there is more emphasis being placed on everything else instead of preparing for the return of the Bridegroom for His Bride.

This is very much possibly the last generation before the return of Christ. We who are in the five fold Ministry may be the last generation of preachers that this world will know! But what will we be known for? Who had the most buildings, the most stuff, (cars, houses, air planes)? Are will we be remember for preaching the Word of God to a people that were so consumed by the pleasures of this world that it really took some preaching and teaching to save many from heaven because of things? It may seem like a simple thing, but remember the first century preachers including the original 12 Apostles, had a different task than we have. While it was a battle to get the world as they knew it to come to Christ, we have just as hard a task to keep apostasy from consuming the church today.

We are telling a people today who trust in their many high paying jobs, fine automobiles, large homes, fine clothes, their jewelry, their technology, which soon it will all come to an end, that they must place their trust in Jesus. But they can believe that, so many of them if they don't get their ears tickled, or walking away from their churches. We are in a time where sound doctrine does not mean much to some people, so it will be incumbent for these "End Times" preachers to continue the task at hand, just as the first preachers of the church were steadfast.

There are a lot of events to take place before the Second Coming of Christ, but the rapture of the church can happen at anytime! Therefore we must be prepared as the 5 wise virgins were and not be as the foolish 5 virgins as Jesus warned us in Matthew 25, please read:

Matt 25:1-13

25:1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

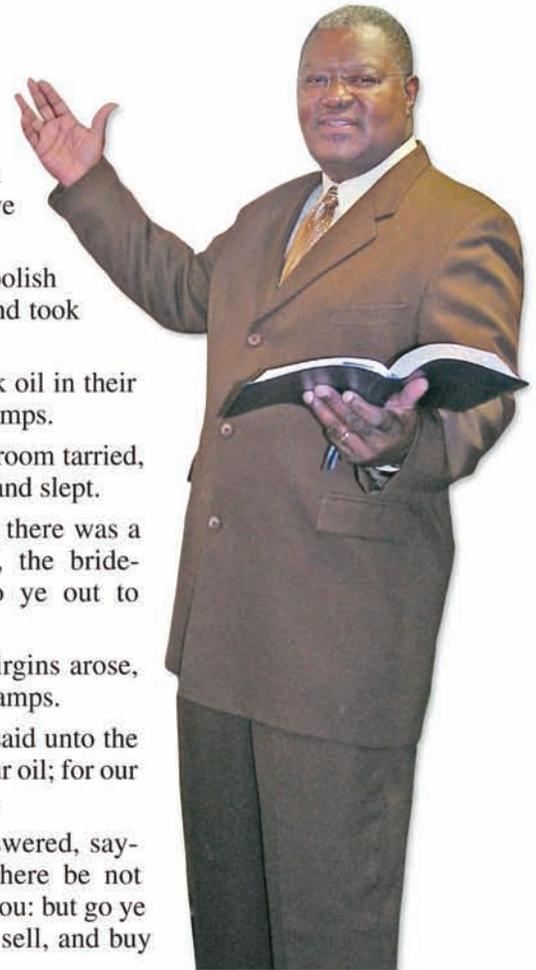
11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

KJV

This is but one of the many passages that warns us of the return of Christ for His church, but woe to them that are left behind! Therefore, to the preachers of this last generation, let's be faithful to the end! Now is not the time to be caught up in the foolish things of the past that kept us from our assignment from the Lord, let us work while it is still day, for when night comes, no man can work! God Bless you all, I love you!



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70% of Judges Selected By President Obama are Minorities or Women

Washington, DC — President Barack Obama is moving at a historic pace to try to diversify the nation's federal judiciary: Nearly three of every four people he has gotten confirmed to the federal bench are women or minorities. He is the first president who hasn't selected a majority of white males for lifetime judgeships.

More than 70 percent of Obama's confirmed judicial nominees during his first two years were "non-traditional," or nominees who were not white males. That far exceeds the percentages in the two-term administrations of Bill Clinton (48.1 percent) and George W. Bush (32.9 percent), according to Sheldon Goldman, author of the authoritative book "Picking Federal Judges."

"It is an absolutely remarkable diversity achievement," said Goldman, a political science professor at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, who is only counting judges once, even if they fit more than one category. The White House recently has been touting its efforts to diversify the federal bench during Obama's tenure, now approaching three years in office.

The president won Senate confirmation of the first Latina to the Supreme Court, Justice Sonia Sotomayor. And with the confirmation of Justice Elena Kagan, he increased the number of women on the high court to three for the first time. The Obama administration also nominated and won confirmation of the first openly gay man to a federal judgeship: former Clinton administration official J. Paul Oetken, to an opening in New York City.

"All of us can be proud of President Obama for taking this critical step to break down another barrier and increase diversity in the federal judiciary," Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said upon Oetken's confirmation. The first openly homosexual federal judge was Deborah A. Batts in New York City, a lesbian nominated by Clinton in 1994.

Of the 98 Obama nominees confirmed to date, the administration says 21 percent are African-American, 11 percent are Hispanic, 7 percent are Asian-American and almost half - 47 percent - are women. By comparison, of the 322 judges confirmed during George W. Bush's presidency, 18 percent were minorities and 22 percent were female. Of the 372 judges confirmed during Clinton's terms, 25 percent were minorities and 29 percent were women. In these figures, some judges fit into more than one category.

Last week, the Senate confirmed the first African-American woman to sit on the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati, Bernice Donald. Earlier, she was the first African-American woman elected as a judge in Tennessee, the first appointed as federal bankruptcy judge in the nation and first confirmed as a U.S. district judge in Tennessee.

Obama also has doubled the number of Asian-Americans sitting on the federal bench, including adding Denny Chin to the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York as the only active Asian federal appeals court judge. There currently are 14 Asian-American federal judges on the 810-judge roster.

"It's really amazing," said Carl Tobias, a law professor at the University of Richmond who wrote about the increasing diversity on the federal bench during Obama's administration in an article in the Washington University Law Review. "Obama has nominated as many as were sitting on the bench when he was inaugurated."

For more than 140 years, there were no females or minorities among the nation's federal judges. The first female federal appellate judge was Florence Allen, who gained her seat on the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in 1934.



President Obama and Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor

The first female U.S. District Court judge was Burnita Shelton Matthews, who took the bench in Washington, D.C., in 1950. William Henry Hastie Jr. was the first African-American U.S. District Court judge, sitting in the Virgin Islands in 1937 before being elevated to the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in 1949.

Reynaldo G. Garza became the first Hispanic federal judge when he was appointed to the U.S. District Court in Texas in 1961, and Herbert Choy became the first Asian-American federal judge when he was appointed to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in 1971.

Thurgood Marshall became the first African-American to serve on the Supreme Court in 1967, and Sandra Day O'Connor was the first woman to be elevated to the nation's highest court in 1981. I think it's always good to have diverse perspectives, whether it's gender, sexuality or ideology," Tobias said.

Those who track diversity on the federal bench are pleased with Obama's progress so far but want more voices from all of America's communities in the federal courts. Obama has nominated three other openly gay judicial nominees, as well as what would be the only active Native American on the federal bench, if Arvo Mikkanen is confirmed to a federal judgeship in Oklahoma.

"The more diverse the courts, the more confidence people have in our judicial system," said Nan Aron of the liberal Alliance for Justice. "Having a diverse judiciary also enriches the decision-making process." The makeup of the federal bench could be a major issue during the Senate, House and presidential elections in 2012.

Obama basically has until the end of this year to get as many of his judicial nominees confirmed as possible, because it is unlikely that a highly partisan Senate will confirm many judges with a presidential election looming in November 2012. According to the Federal Judicial Center, there are 94 vacancies in the federal courts, with 55 nominees awaiting Senate action.

"Once we get into an election year, things always slow down, both because people's attention is in other places and also because the party out of power thinks, 'If I can just keep this vacancy open for another year, maybe my president will fill it,'" said Curt Levey, head of the conservative Committee for Justice, in an interview on "PBS NewsHour."

With cases on Obama's health care plan, the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy and gay marriage expected to reach the Supreme Court in the future, judicial selection will be front and center for Obama and the eventual Republican nominee, Aron said. "The court will be a central issue," Aron said. "It will be in people's minds when they go into the ballot box."



DUVAL

- Moments In Time



This exceptionally beautiful, monumentally important book on Jacksonville's African Americans titled, "Moments in Time" is a rare gift book that can be given on any occasion. This book certainly should be selected for African Americans for its excellent photography collection. This is absolutely a fantastic book for inspiration and motivation, which shows how with persistence the rewards follow the effort.

"David Williams: DUVAL Moments in Time" is a photographic tour through three decades, 80's, 90's, and 00's, of Jacksonville's African American history, culture and lifestyle. Many of the best of these photographs are beautifully utilitarian works of art, images capture during the march on City Hall and

the electing of Nat Glover as the first African American Sheriff in the state of Florida.

Well-chosen African American coffee table books have long been, for many of us, prized possessions to give or receive.

It's time to order your copy of the coffee-table book, to buy those people you love this image-filled book, a treat they might not splurge on for themselves. The kind of book that'll resist the Kindle the way Wynton or Haywood resists playing the kazoo.

Here are unusual and expertly chosen photographs, of those racial tensions, civil rights march, Obama visit, and presenting the key to the city by Mayor Austin to Benjamin Hooks.

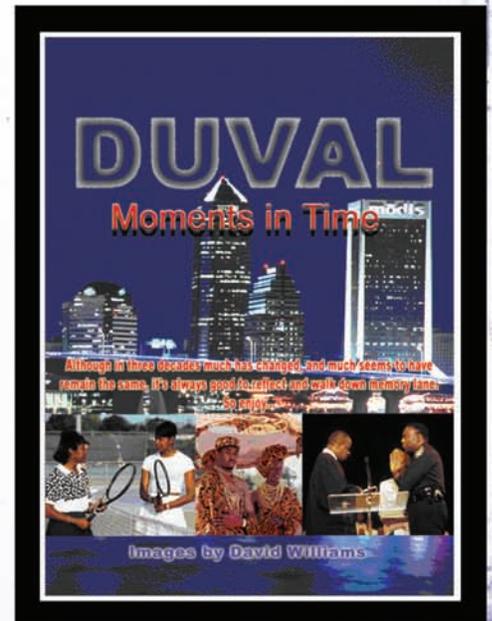
David Williams: "DUVAL - Moments in Time" contains a riveting assortment of vivid and compelling color and black-and-white photographs about Jacksonville's African Americans history, culture and lifestyle. Flipping through this book is like visiting a gallery - without going to the gallery.

SINCE

You'll love this book, and not merely for the uniformity excellent and often unexpected photographs. Mr. Williams has chosen to illustrate moments that has not only given Jacksonville its first African American Sheriff in the State, but also moments that lead to the electing the first African American mayor, Alvin Brown. And as quite as it's kept, many of these historical events have paved the ground work for Mayor Brown to be in the position he's in today.

One of the best things about David Williams' new memoir, "DUVAL - Moments in Time," is that many will see people they know, including their own family members. That's only part of the attraction. This book will grace the living rooms and professional offices of those who purchase it . . . begging to be shown to visitors, particularly if their family members are in the book, that alone is worth the price. Among its myriad virtues DUVAL Moments in Time will preserve Jacksonville's African American history.

This informative book is design to motivate, encourage, and preserve Jacksonville's African American history, so make sure you share it with your children, because the book will also preserve family's history.



HARP Overhaul to Address the Needs of Struggling Homeowners

By **Keith Loria**
Guest Columnist

President Barack Obama's administration recently launched a new plan designed to help struggling homeowners refinance underwater mortgage loans at today's historically low interest rates. On October 24, President Obama announced that the government's Home Affordable Refinance Program (HARP) was being modified to make refinancing at these current low interest rates easier for borrowers, in hopes of saving Americans thousands of dollars a year.

The real estate industry has had mixed reaction to the plan, with some praising the initiative while others say it doesn't go far enough. "Over the past two years, we've already taken some steps to help folks refinance their mortgages," Obama announced, listing a series of measures his administration had enacted. "But we can do more."

Obama's new plan calls for a sweeping overhaul of the 2-and-a-half-year-old HARP program, easing rules and reducing fees. The revisions include lifting a ceiling that barred participation by borrowers who owed more than 125% of the value of their homes, and using a controversial modeling method to replace costly appraisals that are among the fees that have kept some homeowners from refinancing.

The HARP program cuts red tape, gives banks an incentive to participate and lowers the usual fees paid for refinancing. It also encourages borrowers to switch from 30-year mortgages to those of shorter durations, which would reduce the overall risk for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac loans.

Currently, Americans hold about 11 million underwater mortgages, where the loan amount exceeds the home value. However, only a fraction of those will qualify for refinancing under the new plan. Those eligible include homeowners who have kept up their loan payments for at least six months, have loans guaranteed by the housing agencies and owe more than 125% of their home's value.

Many analysts are uncertain as to whether this will solve the problem since the program won't help the 3.5 million borrowers who are seriously delinquent on their loans or are already in default. "It's a step forward, but what we need is a leap forward," said John Taylor, president of the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, an association of organizations that promote access to affordable housing.

Terry Green, a broker with Allied Mortgage Corporation in Annandale, Va., and the President of the National Lenders Alliance is critical of the changes. "The housing market should seek its own bottom and it will repair itself," he said. "Every time the government gets involved and intervenes, all it does is delay the ultimate repair of the housing market. I think it's a bad move." Still, the plan could help one to two million people get significantly lower monthly payments in hopes of stabilizing the real estate market.

The President himself acknowledged that this latest proposal will not do all that's needed to get the housing market back on its feet, but he believes it will help. "These are important steps that will help more homeowners refinance at lower rates, enable consumers to save money and help get folks spending again," Obama said.

For more information about HARP, contact our office today.



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Elect Walter Fordham 2012 Volusia County School Board District 4

“I want to help ALL children in my hometown to grow, to develop, and reach their career choices with a quality public education.”

– *Walter Fordham*

Walter Fordham is a Daytona Beach native, leader, educator and community volunteer for 30 plus years, and has held many leadership positions and served with many groups over the three past decades. He has been a Community School Principal (4yrs), Substitute Teacher, Educational Consultant (10yrs), Dean of Education (8yrs), Assistant to the Executive Vice President (9 yrs), Full-Professor for Education and Kinesiology Education (8 yrs).

Walter Fordham completed grades K-12 in Volusia Schools and has the commitment, passion and zeal to strongly support a “Mission” for education improvements. He realizes that the relationship between students and their teachers is the Very Heart of the Volusia County School System.

Walter Fordham’s Academic Degrees serves him as a competent and experienced School Board Member: Bachelor’s Degree - Benedict College; Master’s Degree - Indiana University; Doctorate Degree in Administration, Supervision and Curriculum Development - Florida State University.



Dr. Fordham stated that his political aspirations are inclusive of citizen voter education, voter registration, and proactive grassroots participation for voter empowerment with a “Vision” to lead as a public service official. His professional leadership in Daytona Beach includes: Chair, Political Action for the Florida State Conference, Executive member of Daytona Beach Branch NAACP, Coordinator for Restoration of Rights for Felons; City of DAB Board of Adjustments; Past President, Community Development Advisory Board; Area Five (5) Director .

Active Membership includes: Democratic National Committee, YMCA Advisory Board, Life member NAACP and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, member of the Minorities Achievers Advisory Board, Benedict College President Advisory Board, NATTS Accrediting Commission, I.B.P.O.E. of W. Lodge # 649, Healthy Children Coalition, Chair; Hiring, Dismissal, & Faculty Evaluation, Trustee Committee for Personnel Policies, and Delta Kappa Pi Honorary Society.



Dr. Fordham is a member of Stewart Memorial United Methodist Church. He and his wife Gloria celebrated more than 30 years of marriage, and have three sons and 6 grandchildren.

Volusia County School Board needs a Member whose highest priority is to ensure a quality education for all students and all grade levels.

Walter Fordham's Leadership is supported with diverse educational and community experiences related to policy implementation, assessment and evaluation supported by constituents. His professional experiences will ensure equality, access to an appropriate education, a commitment and representation to student needs, and insist upon excellence at each school, holding the Superintendent accountable to the vision, mission, strategic plans and policies set for a better Volusia County School District.

It's Time For A New Vision.

Walter Fordham is dedicated and committed to make policy and ensure all children a successful opportunity with schooling.

Walter Fordham has been deeply involved in volunteer and community work over the years and has served on numerous charitable and not-for-profit boards including:

- Community Advisory Board, President
- Kappa Delta Pi, Member
- Black Achievers, Steering Committee
- Evaluator, NATTS Trade Schools
- YMCA Board of Directors
- Selection Committee, City Manager
- Steering Committee member, Strategic Planning
- Friends of Library, President
- Aquatic Coordinator, Parks/Recreation
- SACS Accreditation Team, Site Evaluator
- Member, Charter Review Committee
- Stewart Memorial United Methodist Church, Administration Board member

Values and Key Priorities

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Accountability – focus upon graduating High School Seniors on time, reduce dropout rates, and improve grade ratings to "A's"

Spending - Ensure prudent spending of state and local dollars for new programs

Technology - Increase the use of Technology for classroom instruction and learning strategies

Alternatives – Create Alternatives to High Stakes Testing to curriculum enhancement with integrated technology to "increase student knowledge" for FCAT Reading, Math, Science and Writing.

Real School Reform - Promote choice for high school students to learn technical skills/trades suitable for industrial or mechanical careers.

Secure Property - Build schools to comply with growth trends

Improve Collaborations - With teachers, parents, businesses, and institutions of higher learning for creative ideas and programs.

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Black Women Today

It's Not Who You See... But Who You Don't See



By Dominique D. Barrs
Staff Writer, Program Success

Has the image of the Black woman been tainted thanks to the media? Are we no longer viewed as the descendents of activists like Daisy Bates, writers like Gwendolyn Brooks, and college founders like Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune? Is it because we are no longer longing to be remembered in history for our talents and contributions to the world, but instead craving the bright lights and flash of fame and the cameras?

I was recently talking to a 12 year-old black female, and she was telling me about her day. She was so excited to get home and watch television. Trying to bond with the child, I asked her what show she was so eager to watch. She replied in delight “*Bad Girls Club.*” My jaw dropped. Still in shock, I asked her what she



**Raven Symone
the Billion Dollar
Black Actress
owning her own
clothing line,
dolls, albums,
shows and
movies.**

*We need positive role models
on television at every
generational level*

likes about the show, and she said, “Well, I am loud, I want to be an actress, and I can easily relate to those girls. Besides, I like to watch them fight.” I know some of you may say this is just one child - my child doesn’t watch that show. The truth is, even though your child may not have watched the show, the plot and the characters are still the topics of many middle school children.

I wanted to replace her urge to watch this show with another more positive show. Knowing she wanted to be an actress, I asked her if she watched Raven-Symone’ on Disney. I went on to enlighten her that she was a Billion dollar Black actress. She has her own clothing line, dolls, albums, shows, and movies. Although the interest of the child sparked, she quickly reminded me that she has no new shows on Disney. Out of sight - out of mind, I asked her if she watches the show *Reed Between the Lines*, a new sitcom on BET about a black couple, both doctors, and their children. She said the show was okay. I was getting somewhere. I asked her if she watched... well - I was stumped. What do you suggest a seventh grader to watch, that has Black actresses that could become her new role model?

Having no kids of my own, it is easy for me to indulge in a little messy reality television. Sure, who doesn’t enjoy seeing a little sisterly chaos on *The Braxton Family Values*, or seeing jealousy at its finest on *The Real Housewives of Atlanta*. Both shows show black women, successful in life, in an entertaining fashion. However, what is shown is not always positive. I too enjoy an expletive every now and then, and the bickering and arguing. Am I no smarter than a seventh grader? Shouldn’t I know better - I mean they say, “Trash in, Trash out?”

As a whole, has society accepted seeing Black women carry themselves as loud, abrasive, and full of conflict? We may all disguise it as our guilty pleasure, but are we allowing other nations to continue to stereotype us this way with good reason? Are we setting ourselves back? There was a time when we as Black women had to fight to be on television, now they are giving us our own shows, but at whose expense? How do men view us today? Do they think that no matter how educated or how wealthy Black women become, we will still have that stigma of being loud trouble makers?

Where are the shows that show us being a supportive wife, loving mothers, career women, and great supportive friends to one another? Is it by no coincidence that women like this, choose not to be on television? Is it that these women are too busy taking care of real life issues, and running successful businesses, to allow cameras into their

home to film their daily lives? Is it fair to assume, that what is on television, should be viewed strictly as entertaining, and nothing more?

However, do other cultures and races see this point?



We need positive role models on television at every generational level. Someone needs to be relevant in every decade. In the 60's America had Diahann Carroll. She was the first African American actress to star in her own television series titled, "Julia." Winning the Golden Globe Award for this series, in which she didn't portray a domestic worker, she became an iconic role model for aspiring Black actresses, and opened more doors for them in Hollywood.

In the 70's, a heroin surfaced in the form of *Foxy Brown*. Pam Grier, hit the scenes running, as she chased down criminals on the big screen. Even in the movie *Coffy*, Pam played a role that broadened the scope of what was expected of Black roles even more. Pam led us into the era that birthed the visual for upper-middle class Black homes.

In the 80's, Phylicia Rashad became the lawyer that no one wanted to mess with on the *Cosby Show*. Combining beauty, brains, and her motherly instinct, Claire Huxtable was one Black woman on television that all mothers in the country loved and admired, regardless of race. You were also allowed to witness her daughters grow, go off to college, marry, and start families of their own. This was a new sight to many, which showed that the Huxtables were no different than many other American households.



College Professor Vivian Banks dominated the 90's on *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*. Played by both Janet Whitten and Daphne Reid, television showed a Black woman that was not only educated herself, but was teaching other people's children on the collegiate level. She had a career, she helped raised her nephew, and supported enjoyed a lavish lifestyle.

So with all that scripted television has given us in the past, one would assume the continuance portrayal of prosperous Black women.

Instead of anyone in Hollywood producing quality shows, regardless of race, we are now in the times of Reality TV. Why write scripts and have actors memorize lines when you can pay non-actors money to do whatever and say whatever in front of the television? This has created reckless television. Television that makes people try to outdo the next cast mate in order to prove their worth. This leads to conflict, a false depiction of what they really have, a facade of happiness where sadness really lays, and a sense of fame that was brought on by popularity and not real talent.

Instead of showing scripted characters of the past to a 12 year-old that is too young to even care about a show called *Dynasty*, I decided to show her a list of relevant Black females of today, that are making lasting impacts in Hollywood.

**Suzanne De Passe,
CEO of
DePasse Entertainment**



A pioneer in the business, Suzanne De Passe gained her start with Motown Records. Moving to Los Angeles to branch into the Hollywood scene, De Passe is responsible for producing many of the biographical miniseries of our times. *The Jacksons: An American Dream* which was later turned into film format, along with *The Temptations*. Ever wondered who was responsible for *Showtime at the Apollo* on television? De Passe is responsible. *Sister Sister* and *Smart Guy* which starred Tia and Tamera Mowry, and younger brother Tahj are also under her tutelage. Having more than 30 series, shows, movies, and Motown concerts on television, this Black woman in responsible for entertainment. Suzanne De Passe is the CEO of DeDasse Entertainment and Leading Pioneer of Black Television Producers with more 30 shows including *The Jacksons: An American Dream*, *The Temptations*, and *Showtime At The Apollo*.



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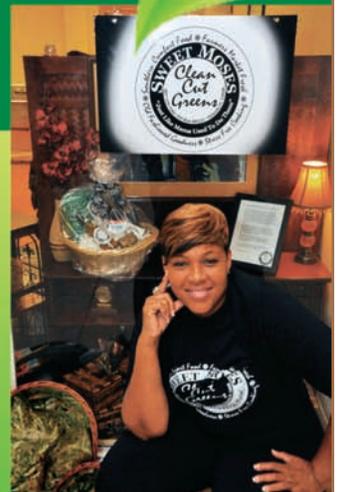
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Mara Brock Akil, Television Writer and Producer

Mara Brock Akil started off her career in the 90's by writing for the shows *South Central*, *The Jaime Foxx Show*, and *Moesha*. She received her claim to fame, when she became the

Executive Producer of the UPN show *Girlfriends*. Having that success, she created the UPN show *The Game* that was cancelled on that network, and years later, picked up by BET due to its recent success.



Shonda Rhimes, Screenwriter, Director, and Producer

Being in Hollywood, does not always involve being in front of the camera. Ever heard of the hit ABC show *Grey's Anatomy*? What about *Private Practice* that

follows *Grey's Anatomy* on prime time television? All credit should be given to Shonda Rhimes. In 2005, Shonda created *Grey's Anatomy* and is currently the executive producer and head writer of the show. In 2007, the spin-off show *Private Practice* followed in its success. She is also responsible for the film *Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement*.



Kellie R. Griffin, Writer and Producer

Having written for *The Parkers* and *House of Payne*, Kellie Griffin stepped out on her own on the new BET show *Reed Between the Lines*. In the show, you have a College

Professor with a Doctorate Degree as a father, and a mother whose occupation includes being a Psychiatrist. Showing a progressive Black family having two doctors, with the potential of being the modern day *Cosby Show*, Kellie managed to create a show that promotes unity and addresses a moral in every episode. Exactly what we need for our youth today, Griffin has showed a new look into the modern day home.



The cast of television series "Girlfriends" which depicts Black Women as positive professionals

There has to be a distinction of reality in the real world and what is reality according to television. There is a motive for everyone that participates in reality television, and the motive may not always be producing positive role models for our race and young people. The truth is that television as a whole produces shows that are for entertainment and not for sustenance. Actors and Actresses are paid to play a role written by someone else. We have seen in past decades the evolution and expansion of diverse roles for Black women that has created a platform for directors and creators to envision Blacks for parts in their work. However, now we see Black Women Producers who are creating works for television, writing for all walks of life, and creating diverse roles and many story lines. These Producers are getting paid for entertaining others, and they themselves are not negative entertainment nor despised in any by others.

Instead of telling this 12 year-old to be like an actor or character on television, I can tell her to aspire to be the Creator or Producer of positive television shows. I can explain to her that she is not loud - but an extrovert. She doesn't talk too much - she has a voice for the stage. She isn't hyper active - she is animated. She isn't different - she has character. We have to steer our youth in the direction of self awareness that is constructive. Educate them to seek individuals in society who are in positions they want to hold in the future; whether it is being a Veterinarian, a Member of Congress, Home Designer, or Actress. Television today is not designed to Educate but to Entertain and we have to stop looking to it as such. We have to rebuilding the image of the Black Woman to that position of prominence, determined, nurturing, and proficient - characteristics seldom seen on television.



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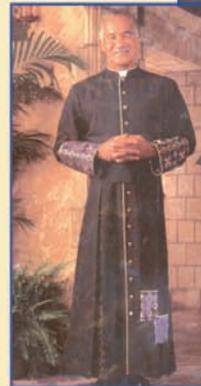
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Bethune-Cookman University President Trudie Kibbe Reed to Retire

Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed is stepping down from her role as president of Bethune-Cookman University. At the age of 64, Reed has made the decision to enter retirement after seven and a half years of service to the institution.

During her tenure, Bethune-Cookman achieved university status with the launch of its first master's degree program in transformative leadership, earned its highest enrollment in history, graduated its largest class on record, received an A bond rating and improved its physical plant by building several new buildings on campus, which were fully paid for without debt to the university. When Reed arrived at Bethune-Cookman, the endowment was \$28 million and has increased to \$43 million today.

Additionally, the university has received seven accreditations in approximately 18 months, including reaffirmation of accreditation with no recommendations for improvement from the the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

Reed will remain at the University during this transition until a departure date is determined by the B-CU board of trustees.



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Wealth Disparity for African-Americans

In America, whites have 20 times the wealth of African-Americans. Not 20% more, Not twice as much, Twenty times as much. Specifically, the median household wealth for whites in 2009 was \$113,149, and the median household wealth for African-Americans was \$5,677.

When I heard this a few months ago, it was not entirely news to me. When I was in Congress, I read the reports that the Federal Reserve sent to Members; to me, that was interesting reading. In the appendix to one of those Fed reports, from a survey of respondents selected in 2007, these numbers caught my eye:

White, non-Hispanic households - \$149,900

Hispanic and African-American households - \$23,300

So from \$149,900 down to \$113,149, and from \$23,300 (including Hispanics) down to \$5,677. These numbers confirm just how hard the Great Recession has whacked minority households.

But there is a deeper issue. Can someone please explain to me how, in a country where we are told again and again that we are “all created equal,” one group ends up with 20 times as much as another?

MLK’s dream was that his four young children would “one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.” What are we supposed to think – that one group has twenty times as much character as another?

In the face of incredible numbers like these, you will still find right-wingers who insist that America is now a color-blind society (except for the scourge of “reverse racism”). But the numbers tell a different story. They suggest that America is not a color-blind society, but rather a racism-blind society.

And ask yourself: when has any elected official, ANY elected official, ever discussed this inconvenient truth, and tried to discern what should be done about it? Why is there a veil of silence over such a salient, central fact about the country we all share?

I went to a wonderful parade celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday. And if there is one thing that we know in Central Florida, it’s how to put on a parade; we have several every day and we see smiling and happy faces.

It’s not my job to rain on anyone’s parade. That’s why I’m saying this as we celebrated Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday and Black History Month. Here we are, 49 years later, Dr. King’s “four young children” as old as I am, and one of them already gone from us. I have to say, about that dream of equality that he had - it’s still just a dream.

I am dedicated to making Dr. King’s dream a reality and I will fight for equality for all Americans.

Courage,

Alan Grayson

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LOOKING FOR MR. RIGHT? HE WILL FIND YOU!

First we must allow our Heavenly Father to do the picking. And second, the decision for a mate must be made on a spiritual and intellectual basis before it's made on an emotional one. "What about love? Shouldn't that be the third? You ask. No, and I'll tell you why. "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.

Who can understand it? (Jer. 17:9). The heart is willful and is driven by its own agenda.

It does not consider things rationally and intelligently - it just loves to love!

Therefore, you have to point it in the right directions: "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life" (Prov. 4:23). When-

ever you meet a man, you need to get clearance from God, check out his attributes, and then allow your heart to engage.

Dating exists not for mating; it exists for collecting data. I believe that the biblical design would be friendship, courtship, and then marriage. Friendship is two people walking together in agreement and accountability, learning and growing together.

Courtship follows the mutual agreement to commit to one another exclusively - it is the decisive turning toward the agreed-upon goal of the marriage altar. It is a period of laying a foundation and preparing your life together after marriage. But dating? Well, if you do date, use the time wisely to gather facts:

1. Check out the fabric. Is the person mate material? Does this man have an intimate relationship with the Father through Jesus Christ? Does he care what God thinks about his behavior? Is he accountable to God as well as another co-laborer in the faith? Accountability is an important factor. It is imperative to maintaining a committed relationship. Is your

potential spouse a member of the same family - the family of God? Scripture is clear on this: "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?" (2 Cor. 6:14). You need to have common interests and values and agree on the essentials of living day to day. You have a similar spiritual walk. You eat the same spiritual diet. You enjoy a lot of similar things. You have like interests, like goals in life, like opinions on basic life issues. You have had like experiences in your background.

Though there is some truth to the idiom that opposites attract, like-minded folks fare better together. Furthermore, does he want to get married? If you want to be married and your dreamboat isn't interested, don't waste your time.

Remember, women fall in love and get married. Men decide to get married and then look for a wife.

Note the difference in order. So if a guy says he's not looking for anything serious, take his words seriously. If he's not going in your direction, get off the bus and wait for the right one.

2. Does this man want you? Is he pursuing you? The man who is right for you will pursue you, and God's hand in the relationship will be clear. No guessing, no fleeces, no dead ends. Scripture says: "He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord" (Prov. 18:22). Note—who finds whom? **THE MAN FINDS THE WIFE.** From the beginning of time, God has transported men and women across the world in order to put them together. At the **RIGHT TIME**, He will bring that man on the scene and he will find you. In God's perfect design, the man is the one who recognizes his mate. Adam had no problem recognizing that Eve was his miss-



ing rib. You do not need to strategically place yourself anywhere. You don't have to help a guy out because he's shy!

Men will do whatever they have to do to get what they truly want.

The man in your life should recognize you as the pearl of great price in his life and be willing to do whatever he must in order to gain your hand. If he is passive about gaining your affections, take it as a sign that he is not interested. Many a woman's mother has suggested that it is a good idea to marry a man who loves you more than you love him. As cold as that sounds, it actually might be scriptural if you stop to think about it: "We love him because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19). Until then, take the ultimate chill pill.

You don't need a bunch of men in your life to make you feel all right about yourself. You need only one man - your man, the one God has selected to select you. And trust me; the right man at the wrong time can be just as awful as the wrong man at any time. So trust God's timing in this. He is the ultimate matchmaker. Relax, sit pretty and allow yourself to be found. Again, - WAIT until the man voices his intentions. He should take the lead in establishing the relationship. You may have inkling that he is the one, but God will use the man to set the tone of the relationship. Allow him the opportunity to woo you - this is your first act of submission. Jesus set the standard for all men to follow. They should love us first. And they should lead the relationship.

The man in your life should not desire to move into your house, only into your heart. A man who prepares for your future has made his intentions clear. A man who is husband material has the means to take care of a wife. He is a responsible human being who understands he needs to have something to offer. In short, a man should have the means to be a suitable lover for you.

Everyone knows birds of the same feather flock together, yet most women fail to see the connection between a man and his friends. A man's pals tell you a lot about the person that you haven't seen yet. They reveal things about the guy's character that might be hidden when he is on good behavior. Everyone knows how to put his best foot forward. Don't stay focused on the foot; check out the rest of the body!

5. Check out his relationship with his mother. How does he treat her? This is your preview of how he will



treat you. There are lots of men who, because of a negative relationship with their mothers, really don't like women, yet say they do. Unresolved issues between mother and son continue between husband and wife.

6. Remember that a man's family reveals the cloth from which he's cut. Take note and decide whether you want your future with the man in your life to look like his present family situation.

7. Check out the patterns of his life. Do you see repeated

cycles of drama in his personal kingdom? Broken relationships, problems in making commitments, including the job market, mood swings? Is a problem always someone else's fault? Does he embrace responsibility or shirk it? Does he keep his promises? Is he a man of good reputation? Remember all garments look wonderful hanging in the store, but with wear, some begin to unravel. Give yourself time and space to check out the man in your life. Time will always reveal whether or not he is made of the right stuff.

8. Does this man have a vision for his life? Is he running with that vision? Remember, God decided Adam needed help once Adam got busy DOING his assignment. As we saw Adam, a man doesn't need help until he is busy doing what he was created and called to do. Is the man in your life guided by sense of destiny and purpose, or does he just allow life to happen around him? A man who is not certain of his mission can be a most miserable person — and you'll be miserable too if you know where YOU want to go in life. A man who has vision is not intimidated by a woman whose mission statement is clear. He will be your best ally, cheerleader and assistant because he wants you both to make it! A man who cannot be supportive of your achievements because he is floundering in a sea of uncertainty over his own life is not a healthy partner to have and to hold forever.

Creating dependencies or feelings of obligation is not the way to get the best out of your man. Somewhere along the way, he will resent you and flee from the smothering burden of obligation he associates you with. You want a man who is firmly anchored in his identity in Christ. Remember, we are looking for a man who will be priest and leader in his home. His first instinct should be to want to cover you, redeem you, and provide for you. Your job is to decide if this is the man God has ordained for you to complement.

9. Complementarily. Do your talents and gifts complement his? Do his gifts complement yours? What about your temperaments? Do you see the two of you as an effective team capable of bringing blessings to the lives of those around you? Do your futures mesh? Can you coordinate your gifts in an attractive and effective way? This is why knowing your purpose is so important. Make sure your hearts beat for mutual causes. When I go shopping I always consider the fabric, the fit and what I already have in my closet. Will my next purchase be a complementary addition to what I already have? If I

Continued on page 31

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find that I am going to have to buy shoes and matching accessories to go with a new outfit, I leave it right on the rack. It is too expensive a proposition. If the man you meet makes you feel that you need to completely reinvent yourself, something is wrong. This is where I ask you to consider the relationship in terms of cost. Is this relationship expensive spiritually, emotionally, or physically? Does your longing for a mate make you willing to forfeit who you are in the process? Or does he see you as the gift that you are?

The man in your life should consider you as a rare find, a priceless jewel - because of you he is getting ready to get blessed big-time!

Any relationship that causes you to feel unworthy, unlovely, unacceptable, undesirable, or that you have to work for love, is too expensive! God has called the man to cover, protect, and provide not only materially for a woman, but emotionally and spiritually as well. You should be richer in mind, body and spirit for your union with the man of your dreams. The man in your life should make rich deposits into your heart and spirit, not withdrawals.

10. Does he have a healthy love & acceptance of himself? Make sure the man in your

life has taken time to heal from past relationships and has made peace with himself. How he cares for himself is how he will care for you. A man's relationship with God is crucial here. His love for himself will only be as strong as his love for God. This is not something that you can impart. You cannot be his savior or teacher. That is out of spiritual order. In his rightful place as your personal priest, he should be leading you to a richer relationship with Christ. If he is causing you to compromise your faith and destabilize your walk, if he is leading you into sexual sin or causing you to be distracted from your commitment to Christ, the relationship is too expensive. Offending the Lover of your soul, who promises you eternal love, is too high a fare to pay for a ride that has a limited run.

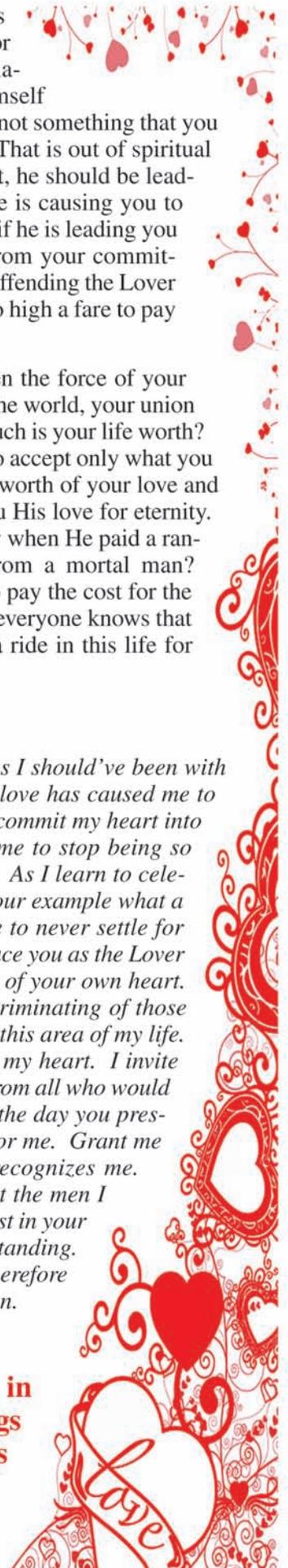
If you and your man can't soar in the Spirit, when the force of your love for another is tested by the pull or gravity of the world, your union will not be able to survive. So you decide. How much is your life worth? How much is your love worth? You will be able to accept only what you believe you deserve. God Himself calculated the worth of your love and decided it was worth His life. He now pledges you His love for eternity. Yes, Jesus sets the example for all others to follow when He paid a ransom for His bride. Should you expect less from a mortal man? Throughout the Biblical age, men were willing to pay the cost for the hand that they desired. The truth of the matter is, everyone knows that anything worth having, costs. And no one gets a ride in this life for free.

Our Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father,

I confess that I have not always been as careful as I should've been with my heart. From time to time, my desire for love has caused me to leave my heart in the wrong hands. I now commit my heart into your hands for safekeeping. Please help me to stop being so impulsive with what you deem so precious. As I learn to celebrate your love for me, let me learn from your example what a bridegroom should really be like. Help me to never settle for less than what you desire for me. As I embrace you as the Lover of my soul, keep my affections in the haven of your own heart. As I rest in your love, make me more discriminating of those who approach me. I ask that you take over this area of my life. Keep me from those you know would hurt my heart. I invite you to set a hedge around me and keep me from all who would draw me into unfruitful relationships until the day you present me to the mate that you have selected for me. Grant me the discernment to recognize him as he recognizes me. Cleanse me from the temptation to typecast the men I meet according to what I see. Help me to trust in your knowledge and lean not on my own understanding. I know that you know what is best for me; therefore I yield to your choice. In Jesus Name. Amen.

“Remember to put God first in your life, remove all negative things out of your life and positive things will begin to flow in”





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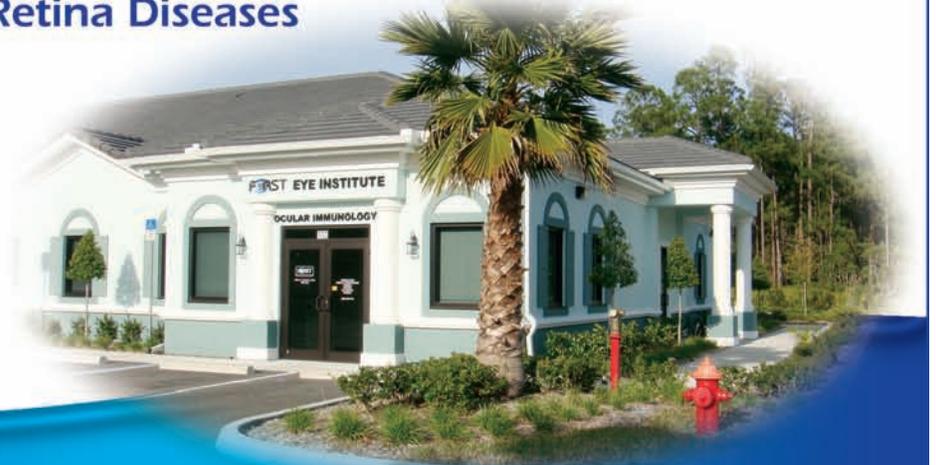
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THE TOP TWELVE REASONS WHY SO MANY GOOD BLACK MEN ARE STILL SINGLE

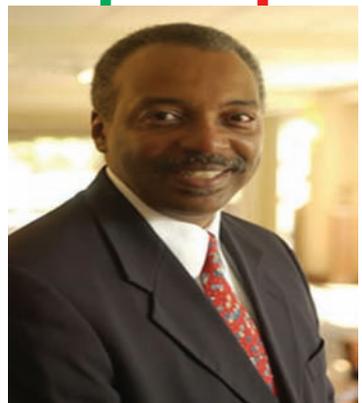
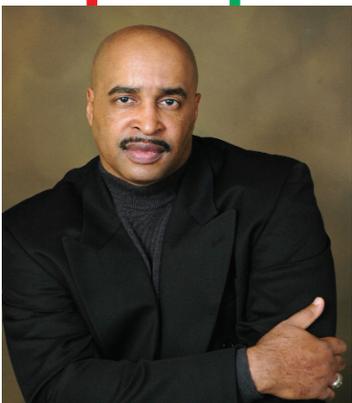
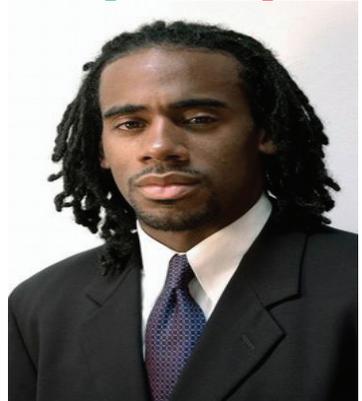
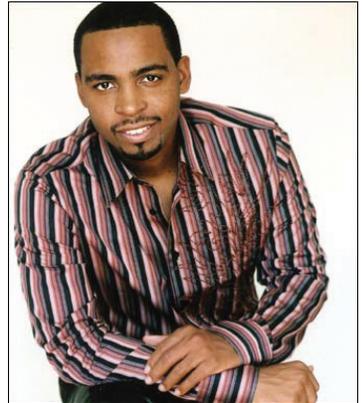
By Eric Stevens of the Victory Unlimited Show

Television, radio, and the Internet have been buzzing nonstop for years about the plight of single, black women looking for love, but what about all the single, black men? Nobody's been bold enough to take a stand and speak out on behalf of all the good, single black men out there looking for love too. However, now, that's all changed. The Victory Unlimited Show (www.victoryunlimitedshow.com) attacks this issue with the kind of guts, gusto, humor, and controversy that's rarely heard in the mainstream media.

Based on feedback from the show's fan base, the most recent broadcast entitled "The Top Twelve Reasons Why So Many Good Black Men Are Still Single" put forth the following list as the reasons why so many good black men are still unhappily single:

1. They keep meeting women with unrealistic expectations for what they want in a man.
2. They keep meeting women who put them in the wrong category by writing them off too quickly as not being "their type".
3. They're not wanted because they're not needed. Too many women have told them that they don't "need" a man.
4. They keep meeting black women who don't respect them just because they "are" black men.
5. They keep failing women's Girlfriend Approval Test. If the woman's friends don't like them, then that woman won't give them a chance either.
6. They keep meeting women who are not interested in them, but only in how much money they make.
7. They're nobody until somebody else loves them. Not enough women see them as a prize unless they see a lot of other women chasing after them first.
8. They meet too many women who don't really know what they want.
9. They meet too many women who believe that single, good black men are "too good to be true".
10. They're the right man at the wrong time.
11. They meet too many women who don't recognize a good man when they see one.
12. They don't promote all the great things about themselves boldly or consistently enough to enough women.

The Victory Unlimited Show is a "tongue-in-cheek", self-help show for men that's reminiscent of programs from the Golden Age of Radio. During each broadcast, the host codenamed "Victory Unlimited", answers dating, relationship, and general life questions by addressing them with a motivational, military-like zeal. "Before we can go on a mission to rescue black relationships, I think it's important that we take into account not only the women's perspective, but the men's as well," says the host. "Otherwise, we'll never advance from monologue to dialogue, which is where our hope for future success lies." For more details, visit www.victoryunlimitedshow.com



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Black History is also American History



Cassandra Walker

Black history month is February, but amazingly still so many people know little or nothing about African-American achievements. I must admit, when I was growing up I just never investigated to find out what African-Americans had really contributed in the way of technology or inventions.

I was told of Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and even Oprah Winfrey but my knowledge was limited. Frankly, as a child, I wasn't interested in finding out more on my own, which would mean more work. Then I was invited to attend a school play where the focus was on what contributions African-Americans had made to the United States and the world.

I was amazed at what I found out.

First, I would like to say that black history is really American history just as much as any other historic events that happened for other races in America. As African-Americans we have contributed significantly to the growth of this nation and its culture. Here are just a few examples:

Garrett A. Morgan invented the first electrical traffic sign in 1923.

Alexander Miles received a patent for the first electric elevator in 1887.

John Standard patented important improvements to existing refrigerator designs in 1891.

T.W. Stewart invented the mop in 1893.

B.F. Jackson invented the clothes dryer in 1889.

Madam C.J. Walker, entrepreneur, was the first female self-made millionaire in the 20th century.

Otis Boykin designed a burglarproof cash register in 1920.

Benjamin Banneker created the first clock crafted in America in 1753.

W.B. Purvis invented the fountain pen in 1890.

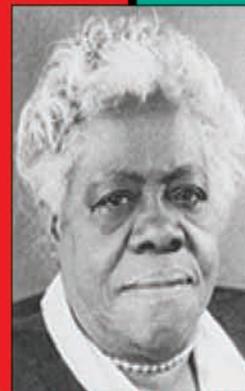
George Washington Carver made over 300 inventions with the peanut. Some of those inventions were flour, washing powder, soap peanut oil, printers ink and cleanser.

The list is endless of the many contributions African Americans have added to the success of this country and the world. If you want to know more, go to your local library or online and check it out for yourself.

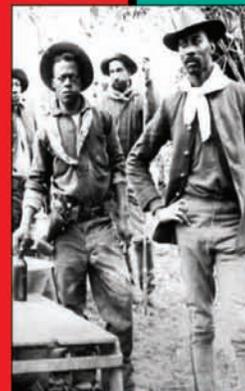
Don't wait until February to find out about what African-Americans have been doing all year long.

Thanks for sharing.

Cassandraism: Let's try to remember that it takes a world of people from different backgrounds to make a world of difference.



Mary McLeod Bethune
Page 3



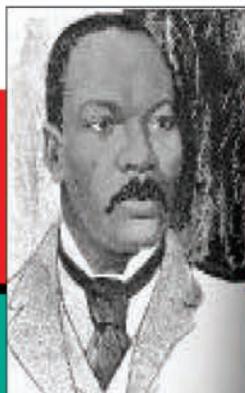
Buffalo Soldiers
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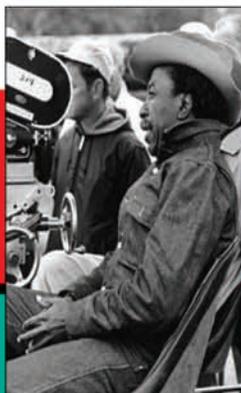
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Langston Hughes



Nat Turner



Gordon Parks



Harriet Tubman



Asa Philip Randolph



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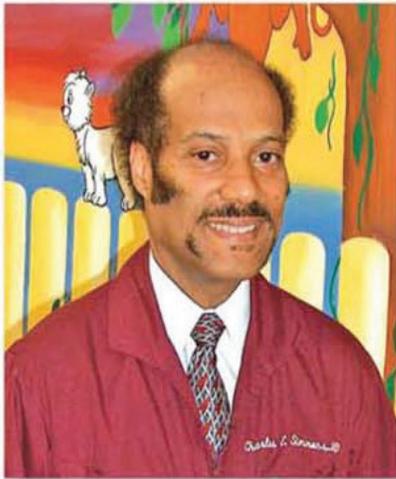


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Dr. Charles E. Simmons

TEETHING BABIES

By Dr. Charles E. Simmons
 Simmons Pediatrics, Jacksonville, FL
 Assisted By Dominique D. Barrs
 Medical Student



Has your baby been a little more irritable than usual? Find your shirt drenched in drool and dribble? Has your furniture even become the new chew toy? If you have answered yes to any of these questions, chances are your baby is teething.

Teeth are developed in the mother's womb, like most other physical features. However, it is not until the baby is between 6 and 9 months that they begin cutting teeth. Teeth break through their tooth buds, and begin appearing usually one at a time over a period of months. There is a common order that teeth appear, but like most things, there are the variations. Usually, the bottom two middle teeth appear first. Following their arrival, the top two middle teeth come in. Then the side and back teeth follow

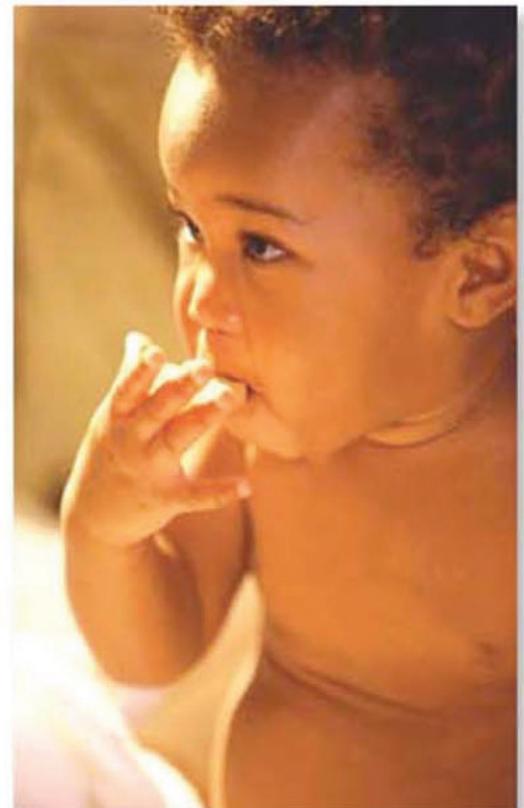


suit. Teeth may not come in straight, but over time, they tend to straighten and align themselves. Around the age of two, your baby's last teeth should be appearing. A child should have a full set of 20 baby teeth by their third birthday. These teeth will carry them until their permanent teeth are ready to come in a push the baby teeth out by age six.

A teething baby needs a lot of sympathy, care, and support. After all, there is nothing that we can do to speed up the process, and relieve all of the pain. The only thing that can be done is try to remove some of the discomfort, and let nature run its course. Restlessness and change of sleep patterns can occur as a result of teething, along with other common symp-

toms. Some symptoms are drooling; sore, red gums; loss of appetite; excessive chewing and biting; and a slight rise in temperature. To alleviate some of these discomforts, there are the traditional methods. Having something cold and easily accessible is great for babies. They want something to hit the right spot and at the right time. Teething rings are great toys for gnawing and massaging. Sometimes, they are hard to maneuver to the right location on the gums, but for the most part they do the trick. To alleviate some of the pain, Tylenol and Motrin are great. They can be given in their children dosage and it suppresses the pain for up to four hours. Another option would be any of the products designed to numb the gums of the child.

Teething is another factor in this game we call life. It brings discomfort to both the parent and the child. However, try to stay positive and help this transition pass by with little irritation. Invest in a lot of bibs and just wait for those little pegs to appear. For that memory alone is worth the pain. Say cheese!



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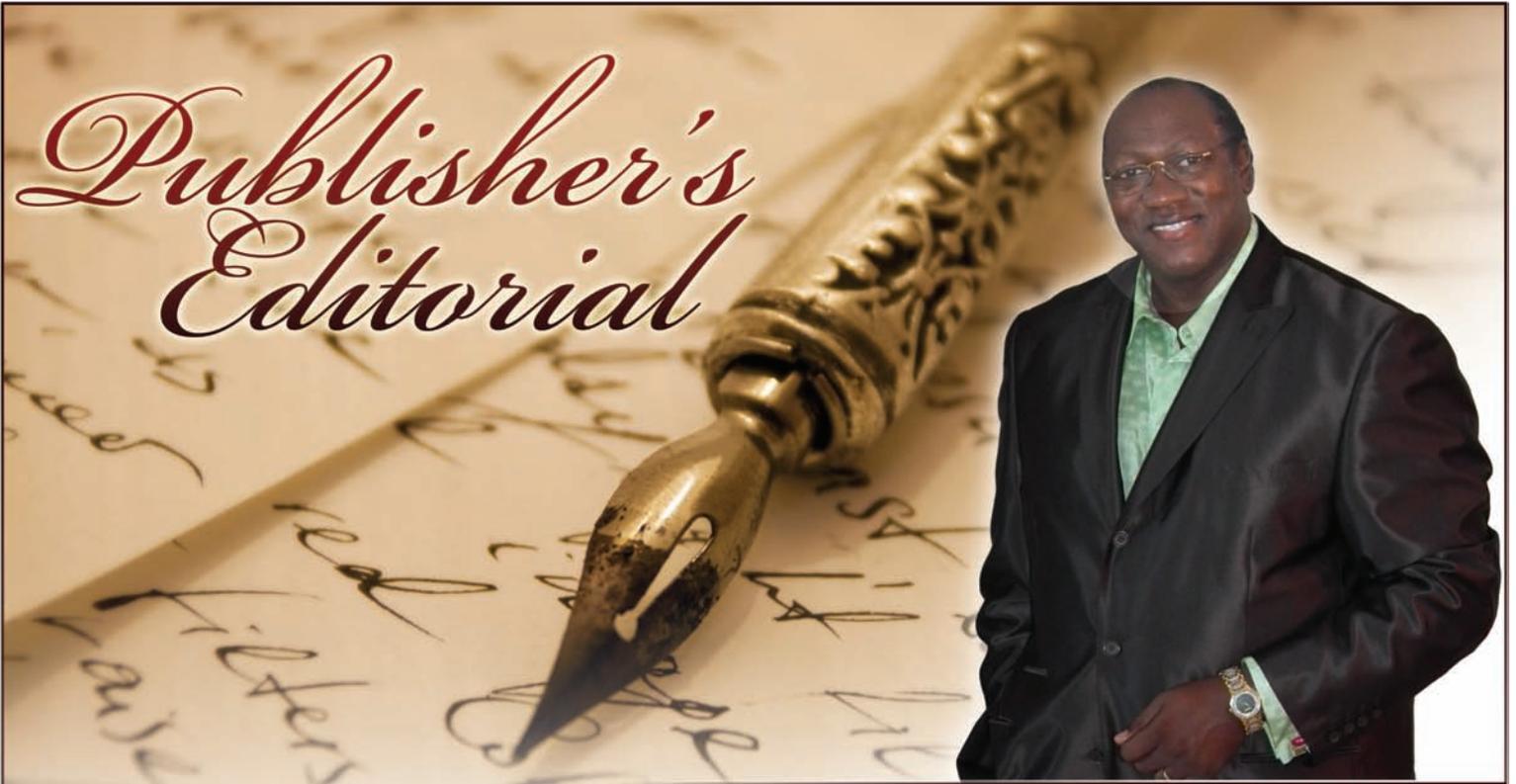
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Publisher's Editorial



Darryl A. Barrs, Sr., Publisher/Managing Editor

NOW is Your Place in Time

I remember growing up as a child that one of my greatest joys, strangely enough, was Kellogg's Variety Pack Cereal. This was a collection of the many different types of cereals Kellogg offered in miniature single serving boxes. What this meant to me growing up in a family of seven siblings was instead of the debate over what type of cereal to buy and the risk of coming to the table too late and the cereal is already eaten - I could chose my own type of cereal and it was mine, there waiting for me when I decided to eat. What a creation! It cost a little more than the standard box of cereal, but it was worth the extra cost.

Even more special about the Kellogg's Variety Pack Cereal was that the individual boxes were perforated on the back so you could cut the box open in a manner that allowed you to eat your cereal out of the box. You didn't have to use a bowl... you could pour your milk in the box and eat your cereal out of the box.

Some brilliant mind came up with this phenomenal ideal. What it did for me as a child was in the mist of perpetual collective bargaining, I became an individual with personal choice and the ability to develop my own personal taste. Too shame businesses are not as innovative as they were back in the day. Products were made not only to sell for a profit, but to also enhance the overall lives of its consumers. People used their minds for good and society was good for everyone.

This is not the case today. Very little wholesomeness is found in our foods and products. Even more shameful is how the marketing of these commodities on television, radio and the internet is done with the most paramount asinine behaviors, attacking the moral fiber of everything we hold of high value in society... in other words – commercials today are just downright foolishness. Trash in – trash out has become our culture.

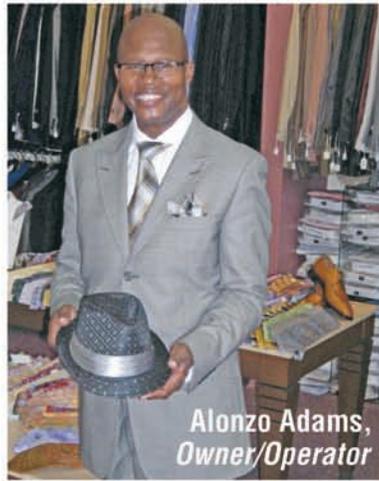
We need more brilliant minded people thinking to make this world a better place. Being intelligent stopped being fashionable many years ago. Replaced with the crackliest joke and ultimate insult, the smart kid became the target of ridicule and the American Media focused and invested in the silliest comic and most ridiculous sitcom. Thus began the downward slid to the dumbing of American and we wonder why our children don't graduated and wear their pants off their butts.

Hope came with the electing of an intelligent Black man as President of the United States of American. All people regardless of race or color for a moment sought to raise their intellectual propensity. However, that too has come to an end ruined the same way of old... the destruction of the smart guy with jokes, slanders, and ridicule, making the seat of intelligence a place of destitute that is detrimental for anyone to desire.

The world needs you to be brilliant. You were born with certain greatness only you can provide for the improvement of society. Ignore the nay-sayers and the critics; good always wins out in the end. You may feel time has past you by because of your delay in launching that product, ideal, and/or concept that lies within you, however, your life has been preserved and humanity still yearns.

Jessie Jackson is famous for saying "If your mind can Conceive It, and your heart can Believe It, then you can Achieve It." These were inspiration words to me in my developmental years. Words we need to share not only with our youth but also our adults who have shaded their lamps, buried their talents, and failed to place the seeds of their minds in good soil. What is in you is equal to or greater than the Kellogg's Variety Pack Cereal Box. What is in you can make all the different in the lives of people all over the world and for generations to come.

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