

# Leaving 'Baggage' Behind And Moving On In '92

1991 - a year of crossroads and cruel ironies for the nation and for individual lives.

Nationally, it began with news of a full-blown recession and a declaration of a war to rid Iraq of the murderous Saddam Hussein. While many things changed in peoples' lives as a result of both events during the following months, the end of the year had actually come full circle - the recession was still with us and so was Hussein.

As a journalist, 1991 was the year when I had the opportunity to make the single announcement that is every newswriter's dream: "Stop the presses!" That's what happened January 16 last year as I worked with Rudy Anderson, then managing editor of the *Winston-Salem Chronicle*, putting the Thursday edition "to bed."

It was an awesome happening for someone born during World War II, in grade school during the Korean War, and uninvolved in Vietnam. All media networks went on the alert as then White House Press Secretary, Marlin Fitzwater, announced the end of "Operation Desert Shield" and the start of "Operation Desert Storm."

Panic in the newsroom! Rudy rearranged the front page, moving the lead story on the Urban League's board membership rotation off and

fecting businesses and people's personal lives.

For many, last year was their first time not knowing where their next

resume' are important in the decision-making process. But, the first thing you have to do is get rid of your "excess baggage" - negatives that can interfere with a clear assessment of where you're going and what it takes to get there. You may have been the next best thing to sliced bread in your previous job, but there is a bigger pond out there where you're just one more little fish, unless you have some special talent or can market yourself better than the next person.

Honestly assessing who you are, what you have to offer an employer, and what may get in the way is vital. Up-to-date skills and knowledge, habits, attitudes, lifestyle, personality, grooming, hygiene, personal needs, and life goals are on any checklist of "excess baggage" that may need to be considered, discarded, or at least fine-tuned before moving on to that next phase in your career or work experience.

Leaving something you love is seldom easy, but there is life afterwards. Of course, it is much easier if the transition is to something that is either comparable, compatible, or

Continued on Page 26

## Crossroads

by Patricia Smith-Deering  
Phoenix Managing Editor



the war on. Meanwhile, I was dialing for dollars, getting reactions from notables around town to put a news story together. The nation was at a crossroad and, as Edward R. Murrow used to say, "You are there."

Desert Storm changed lives. But, the irony was that, while U.S. military forces, including local residents stationed around the states and reservists called away from their jobs and professions, were fighting the Iraqi troops, back home we were fighting the recession. It grew to be a monstrous battle, taking its toll with layoffs and other employee/employer juggling acts, af-

dollar was coming from, and some have yet to weather their own storm. They stood at a career crossroads that would, in effect, change their lifestyles and their lives. 1992 will see more of the same.

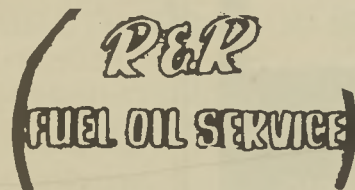
Whether you make the decision to leave a job that you love or the decision is made for you, the impact is the same. What are you going to do now, faced with an economy that saw the end-of-year unemployment - nationwide - at its highest in five years? How can you reconcile the need for income with career or job satisfaction?

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