

MELODY MICERE STEWART

In the
spirit of
Ma'at



Appeal to learn more

Need to discover ourselves

Dr. W.E.B. DuBois once wrote, "If the African American is to learn, he must teach himself."

The task of re-educating ourselves and our children toward self-empowerment is a formidable one, but not impossible. The journey into self-knowledge is, by necessity, a journey into history. The next several editions of "Ma'at" will provide a brief introduction to some of the history omitted from American history books.

From the beginning of America's entanglement with the institution of slavery, African men and women fought their bondage in all manner of word and deed. Lerone Bennett's book, "Before the Mayflower: A History of Black America," documents hundreds of individual and collective acts of resistance to enslavement. America's history books are woefully incomplete, deleting the heroic and courageous attempts for freedom in the acts of Gabriel Prosser and Denmark Vesey. Like the brave Nat Turner, both organized enslaved Africans to overthrow their bondage.

In between Prosser and Vesey, the demand for liberation burned in the mind and heart of one David Walker. David Walker (1785-1830) expressed the desires of the race to be free and self-sufficient in writing, while simultaneously insisting that our freedom was a God-given right that whites had grossly violated. Born free in Wilmington, N.C., David Walker's "Appeal To the Coloured Citizens of the World but in particular, and very expressly to those of the United States of America" utilized the Declaration of Independence and the Bible to argue for the human beingness of African people.

In that document, Walker made clear that blacks should use any means at their disposal to throw off the shackles of slavery and that God would extract vengeance upon white America for its cruelties. Yet Walker could still envision an America for "all" the people: "Treat us like men, and there is no danger but we will all live in peace and happiness together. For we are not like you, hard hearted, unmerciful and unforgiving. What a happy country this will be, if the whites will listen."

So powerful were Walker's self-published words that slaveholders and their governments in North Carolina, Georgia, Virginia and Louisiana responded fearfully, holding meetings and making plans to deal with the implications of his 80 page treatise. History notes that Walker died "under mysterious circumstances" a year after the publication and mass distribution of his "Appeal."

African Americans should read and be mindful of the many truths of his words, written nearly two centuries ago. Walker warns us to, "...remember, that it is the greatest desire and object of the greater part of the whites, to keep us ignorant, and make us work to support them and their families."

Trial brings back painful memories for families

Continued from page 1A

blocks from her apartment.

"The trial is like having her funeral all over again," Alphonso Slaughter said, looking up to the sky. "It's like I can see her casket right there."

Prosecutors won't talk about the case against Wallace, who has been held without bond since his arrest.

Public defender Isabel Day has not said if Wallace will testify, but jurors will likely hear his voice. Prosecutors are expected to play excerpts from more than 10 hours of taped statements he made to homicide investigators.

The tapes were played during a pretrial hearing last year. At one point during his lengthy statement, Wallace describes himself as an out-of-control crack addict.

"With the problem I have now with drug abuse, this probably would have lasted at the pace of the last few days," he told investigators in a calm voice. "The killing would have continued and I would have killed myself."

While the murders occurred

over 20 months, three of the victims including Debra Slaughter - were killed over a three-day period that ended with Wallace's arrest on March 12, 1994. The tapes were made by homicide investigators in the early morning hours of the next day.

Elsewhere in the tapes, Wallace showed an ability to control his emotions, describing how he took the time to carefully clean up crime scenes - sometimes bathing his victims and disguising evidence to lead police on a phony trail.

Asked why he set fire to victim Valencia Jumper's apartment after she was strangled, Wallace said the reason was obvious.

"I didn't want her murder scene to seem like the others," he said. "I didn't want to continue a chain."

Alphonso Slaughter said he forced himself to listen to the tapes. His wife, Lovie, was unable to do so, he said.

"He (Wallace) said on the tape that he only meant to rob Debra to buy dope," he said. "But she was very strong and she fought back. If he had

been a weakling she would have hurt him."

According to police, most of the victims were found strangled in their homes with no evidence of forced entry. Most had been strangled with a towel or their bras.

Wallace, described by police as bright and charming despite his severe crack cocaine habit, apparently was able to talk his way inside their homes.

Four of the victims, including Debra Slaughter, worked at one time or another at the same Bojangles restaurant on Central Avenue. Two others, including Shawna Hawk, worked with Wallace at a nearby Taco Bell.

Three attended Central Piedmont Community College. Hawk was studying there to become a paralegal when her mother found her strangled in her bathtub on Feb. 19, 1993.

Hawk's mother, Dee Sumpter, understands Alphonso Slaughter's anguish.

Sumpter has taken some measures to preserve her daughter's legacy. Her car's license plate reads SHAWNA. She keeps photos and mem-

tos of her murdered daughter in her home.

Sumpter founded Mothers of Murdered Offspring, a support group for families of murder victims. The group has about 75 members

who have lost children to violence.

"I cannot allow her life of 20

years and her rich and full legacy to go in vain," said

See WALLACE on page 3A



Hawk

SISTER MARGO



PAST • PRESENT • FUTURE
GUARANTEED TO READ
YOUR ENTIRE LIFE

Sister Margo will tell you what you want to know! Giving facts of business, love, health, marriage, and family affairs. When seeking advice and help, it always pays to consult the best. No matter what your problem may be, come to Sister Margo for advice and guidance.

Located At
2823 the Plaza
Charlotte, N.C. Phone 374-9160

KINGSPARK APARTMENTS

Clean, safe, quiet community conveniently located on busline. Affordable 2 bedroom garden and townhouses. Refrigerator, range, AC and water included in rent. Helpful resident manager and maintenance staff.

Call
333-2966
M-F 9:30-6:00

No audit for the NAACP

Continued from page 1A

according to personal and NAACP related contents.

The postmaster said he is awaiting a ruling from the Postal Service attorneys in Washington as to how to resolve the situation.

Alexander was suspended by the national board pending the outcome of an audit after newly elected state officers filed complaints about his cooperation with new treasurer Z. Ann Hoyle, including the use of checks pre-signed by the previous treasurer, James Florence of Fayetteville.

The auditors have focused on a money management account at Merrill Lynch in Charlotte, which Alexander said was used as a depository holding account into which about half of the state branch's funds were held.

Alston said Tuesday that auditors got some records from former treasurer James Florence of Fayetteville regarding the cash account at United Guaranty in Fayetteville, where funds were held until Hoyle, a Hickory city council member,

took over in March.

Funds are now kept at BB&T.

Alexander has said as much as half of the state chapter's funds were kept at Merrill Lynch.

Alston said the auditors do not have cancelled

checks, meeting minutes or other data to determine what happened to the money kept in that account.

The state chapter's annual budget ranges from \$200,000 to \$250,000, consisting of membership fees, fund raising drives and corporate donations.

If half of its funds were kept in the Merrill Lynch account, as much as \$100,000 per year would have been deposited in the account since it was set up in 1989, as much as \$700,000.

"They could not do an audit," Alston said when asked for an audit update Tuesday. "All the information is not there for an

audit. Books and records are not there. It wasn't in the office and Kelly has not given it to them and Mary (Peeler, former executive director) has not given it to them."

Alston said records such as minutes, bank statements and invoices, were missing from the NAACP's office in Greensboro. The missing records included hard copies and others kept on the organization's computer.

Peeler, who resigned as executive director after Alston became acting president in May, could not be reached for comment.

"Kelly says he turned over what he had, but according to the auditors it wasn't what they needed," Alston said.

Alston said he will not speculate on how the national board will react to the report.

"It is a serious situation," he said. "I just hope it will come out for the betterment of the state conference."

Registered voters on the increase locally

Continued from page 1A

side are they on."

"I'm not voting Republican either," she said. "They sure don't know what they are talking about."

Local voter registration workers have also run into the same concerns among the elderly.

In a recent voter registration drive by the League of Women Voters and the Mecklenburg Voter Coalition, representatives ran into opposition from seniors citizens who had never voted and didn't want to be registered.

"They just didn't think their vote would count - they didn't want to be part of the process," said Maxine Eaves of LWV. "They didn't know the system."

The two groups began the drives "to promote and inform citizens" in areas where people are not talking about the process, said Eaves.

"A lot of them," Eaves said, "did not want to register because they didn't want jury duty. It was an absolute no-no."

Still, many will be heading out to the polls to vote on Nov. 4 or to the nearest registration site to pick up a registration form before the Oct. 11 deadline.

Johnson and Eaves hope more will register.

"Most people don't know they can just pick up the form and fill them out anywhere," Johnson said. "Just mail it back in."

The bumper crop of registered voters can be credited to the presidential election, says Mecklenburg County Election Supervisor William Culp.

"It's a presidential year," he said. "Lots of people don't pay attention to elections until there is a presidential year."

Culp believes that the new regulations that allow registration forms to be distributed by private organizations has also helped increase the numbers.

"We distributed 75,000 registration forms last month," Culp said. "They are out there floating around at neighborhood events. It is more accessible than when they had to go to one specific place."

However, neighborhood distribution can lead to some problems.

"On election day, there will be a lot of people having long waits to vote," Culp said. "We have lots of incomplete addresses, which means cards didn't get to people. Our experience is that getting people registered is only half the battle. The other half is getting people out to vote."

Grier Heights Barber & Beauty Center

3239 Drenan Street • Charlotte, N.C. 28205

Marvin Price: Owner
Gary Anthony • Kenny Quiller • Ronald Crowder
Thelma Henry • Malaika Huntley
M-W-T-F 8AM - 7PM • Sat. 7AM - 6PM • Closed Tuesday

Specializing In All Type Haircuts
Barber & Beauty Products

MOYHE'S AFRICAN HAIR BRAIDING

Professional African Hair Designer and Stylist
from New York Is Now In Your Town

BOX BRAIDS • CORN ROWS
GODDESS BRAIDS
SENEGAL TWIST •
FLAT TWIST • INVISIBLE
BRAIDS • MICRO BRAIDS
SPAGHETTI BRAIDS
CORKSCREW • WEAVE
INTERLOCK • BOFRUTO,
SILKY DREAD and more.

MOYHE Owner

To Get Your Great Look And Make The Difference Call
(704)537-3976 Ask For Moyhe • 3109 Central Ave.

Specializing In Any Kind Of Braiding, Weaving,
Interlock And Any Kind of Short Hair



Live Your Dream.

You don't need a million bucks to buy a home of your own -- let Wachovia show you how.

Wachovia Advantage CUSTOM FIT MORTGAGES

mortgages are custom-built to make home ownership a reality for thousands of people who may not know they can

qualify, and our free seminars help prospective homeowners along the way. To find out more about Wachovia Advantage mortgages or the next seminar, call the number below, or stop by any Wachovia office.

Charlotte
556-5270.

Subject to credit approval.

WACHOVIA
Mortgage