

Sacrifice a lost concept

Foreparents had it right; we don't quite comprehend

MELODY MICERE STEWART

In the spirit of Ma'at



Sacrifice.

A concept our foreparents practiced in hope for a brighter future for their children. From the Middle Passage to the Civil Rights Era, sacrifice was the staple in a diet of racism and its menu of subjugated dreams and aspirations. To give of one's self for the sake of another — sacrifice — was routine in black families, striving to provide a better life for black children. Whole communities sent the first African Americans to college; funds came from family, extended family, church family, neighborhood family. Miss Annie Mae would press a few wrinkled dollars, made from scrubbing white folks floors, in your hand and tell you, "Be a credit to your race. Make us proud."

Sacrifice. Today, because of the sacrifices recorded and unrecorded in our history, African Americans have more than our ancestors ever dreamt possible. We have more money, more education, more opportunity, skills, resources and access, but less will and less vision. Our tragic lack of will, critical thinking and analysis paralysis, as well as a severe case of vision deficiency has brought hard-won progress and its price of sacrifice nearly to a halt. Black people desperately need to learn the lessons of our history.

At the Million Woman March, I advocated rites of passage pro-

grams for our children, but adults need it, too. The reality is that our entire community must shake off the chains of mixed-education so that we might use our considerable wealth and resources to do what no others will do for us. Like the phoenix, we must rise from the burnt ashes of slavery, segregation and integration to create a new consciousness for liberation.

An African proverb states, "If you don't know where you came from, you can't know where you're going." We must do sankofa: look at the past to envision the future. To assist us in a new collective vision, many historical episodes must be studied and learned as a foundation to recreate ourselves. We must reconsider American values and ideals in light of our actual historical sojourn. I call it an exercise in self-knowledge.

For example, if we take the time to exercise critical thinking and analysis skills, we will reevaluate

the efficacy of individualism as an American ideal that works for us as a people. Looking at the historical example, if Harriet Tubman saw herself as an "individual," there would have been no need for her to return, walking, to the South some 19 times to free 300 of her fellow enslaved brethren. Harriet Tubman and the other "conductors" of the Underground Railroad lived lives of sacrifice to our people in far more difficult times than these. Bottom line: as "individuals," we could still be picking cotton today, but our collective agitation changed the course of history.

Clearly the lesson here is that we must reclaim our communal birthright and make the sacrifice of being our black brothers and sisters' keeper and, again, change the course of history.

MELODY MICERE STEWART's column runs every other week.



All Pro Contractors

General Construction & Renovations

TOTAL HOME IMPROVEMENTS

- Remodeling • Additions • Garages
- Vinyl Siding • Windows • Driveways, Etc.

100% FINANCING

BAD CREDIT • GOOD CREDIT
NO PROBLEM

Debt Consolidation • No Income Verification
No Equity • Self Employment

FREE ESTIMATES

(704) 556-8117

Don't Sweat It Forget It



Call *Georgia On Tryon* and order your

Thanksgiving Dinner



Succulent Roasted Turkey
(10-12lbs)

Savory Southern Style Dressing

2 Fresh Baked Sweet Potato Pies

Only \$45.00

ORDERS IN BY NOV. 24TH

Pick up on Thanksgiving Day between 10am-12pm
Other Items Available upon Request



COME WATCH THE CAROUSEL PARADE WITH US
Hot Dogs • Hot Chocolate • Hot Coffee • Cookies

601 N. Tryon St. • Charlotte, NC
334-1108





Harris Teeter
Your Neighborhood Food Market

Open Until
3:00 pm on
Thanksgiving Day

Last Week To Get Your Card Stamped!

Turkey Day Giveaway
Use Your VIC Card And Save

Tom Turkey
18-22 lb. Avg. Wt.

Hen Turkey
10-14 lb. Avg. Wt.

Limit 1

U.S.D.A. Grade A Frozen-Self Basting Harris Teeter Hen or Tom Turkey

59¢

Weekly Special

lb.



USDA Grade A Fresh Hen or Tom Perdue Turkey **89¢**

VIC SPECIAL
Save At Least **50¢** per lb.

Whole or Half Spiral Sliced **Hamilton Ham**

2.49

lb. With VIC Card

VIC SPECIAL
Save At Least **60¢**

Crisp California **Celery**

39¢

ea. With VIC Card

VIC SPECIAL
Save At Least **1.50**



Bakery Fresh 8" Pumpkin Pie

1.99

With VIC Card

VIC SPECIAL
Save At Least **41¢**



Hanover Blue Lake Cut Green Beans

38-39 oz.

88¢

With VIC Card

1/2 gallon Hunter All Natural Ice Cream

2.49

With VIC Card

8 oz. Cool Whip Whip Topping

79¢

With VIC Card

VIC SPECIAL
Save At Least **1.30**

Drink Feature



2 liter **Diet Coke Or Coca Cola**

89¢

VIC SPECIAL
Save At Least **70¢**

In The Bakery



In the bakery 12 Count Dinner Rolls

99¢

With VIC Card

Prices Effective Through November 25, 1997

Prices In This Ad Effective Wednesday, Nov. 19 Through Nov. 25, 1997 In Our Charleston Area Stores Only. We Reserve The Right To Limit Quantities. None Sold To Dealers. We Gladly Accept Federal Food Stamps.