# It's far better to light candles for truth, justice

"I am sick and tired of being sick and tired." Famile Lou Hamer The past few weeks have been fraught with frustrations and angst for those of us viewed as leaders or spokesper-sons for African American people. Oh yes, it has been an extremely daunting task to reside in Charlotte-Mecklenburg and dread having to remove the plastic bag from the daily morn-ing name



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tered." I am hard-pressed to accept as fact that James Weldom Johnson, author of what many now call the Black National Anthem, could ever believe his reference to "tears and blod" would cease to imply the hard earned victories fought in the arena of Civil and Human Rights but would shamelessly come to personify a Travis Davis and Ms. Sherry Hampton who both died at the hands of what appears to have been black male assailants. There are indeed innumerable challenges and controversies in black communities and what may on the surface appear to be signs of defeat; but there also exists developmental oppor-tunities.

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from having read and discussed literature related to white privilege, one of the last remnants of racism/white supremacy. Suffice it to say I left the Food for Thought Luncheon with hope and a heartfelt belief that there were now three additional whites who will hopefully ask what they can do to begin exploring ways of repairing the dam-age and addressing the injustices stemming from the many manifestations of white privilege. Three more whites on the path to becoming allies for change. I agree with Dante, that the hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, during a period of moral crisis, maintain their neutrality. Charlotte, like America, is undergoing a moral crisis. Many of whom I have met over the past few weeks have confirmed my belief that rather than continue to curse the dark, it is far more prudent to light a candle.

light a candle. Community activist AHMAD DANIELS lives in Charlotte

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## Please, don't vote



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were loyal to the Republican Party 75 years ago; what have they delivered to us? Now that you have a long list of what not to vote for, your check-list of what to vote for should be short enough to make your voting decisions much easier. Of course you have to do some work, be informed, do some research, and watch the count on election night (they cheat, you know). But if you are not willing to think inde-pendently and put in a little work before and after you exercise your precious franchise, "Please, don't vote." *JAMES E. CUINGMAN, a professor at the University of Cincinnai, is for-mer editor of the Cincinnati Herald newspaper and founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce.* 

#### THE IN BOX

### Activist's words not offensive

Re: "Crossing border of ethnic sensitivity (Oct.5)." No surprise here and I'm not offended at all.

here and I'm not offended at all. The greatest chasm of racial understanding will always exist between whites and blacks. My concern is that black folk contin-ue to seek favor with others. I don't care if whites favor any race. We should focus our anger and passion to our own causes and issues and stop wasting time trying to appease whites. We need realistic, savvy representation in influential sectors of our society, not race-card players. We need activists who can "play the game." That means building bridges, capital and political clout which does not necessarily equate to 'selling out'. However, we can only achieve success if we act and think as a group, not individuals. Furthermore, black individuals and institutions with influence should assume a greator role in improving our communities. It's 2006, not 1906. We can do better.

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### Should N.C. claim Andrew Jackson?

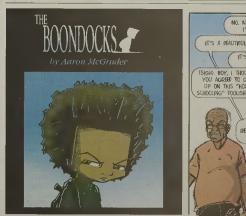


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West. To show how popular Jackson was during his times, Brands counted the number of places in America named after each of the early presidents. Washington and Jefferson are presidential names that are attached to many localities. But Jackson has more places named after him than any other president, indicating the great affection his contemporaries had for him

indicating the great affection his contemporaries had for him. There were good reasons to remember Jackson with gratitude, according to Brands. The "Jacksonian Era" was responsible for bringing the common man into the American democratic experiment. Until Jackson's election as president, the United States was only "half way" to a democracy based on the will of the masses as opposed to one based on the will of a limited group of the wealthy and the educated. He saved the union, twice.

based on the will of a limited group of the wealthy and the educated. He saved the union, twice. First, in 1815 during the War of 1812, General Andrew Jackson's victory over the British at New Orleans kept the British from grabbing control of the Mississippi River and jamming the United States back against the Eastern Seaboard. To those who say the battle was a waste since the peace treaty had already been signed, Brands says neither country had ratified the treaty. If the British had won the Battle of New Orleans, Britain might never have rat-fied the treaty and could have retained control of the Mississippi. Secondly, when in 1832 South Carolina passed an ordinance of nullification and threat to use armed forces to enforce the law and put down rebellion "saved the union" and established the precedent used by president Lincoln 30 years later to call for troops to put down South Carolina's second experiment with succession. People can argue about where Andrew Jackson was been and whether or not he should be honored for his performance as national leader. But one thing is certain, Brand's account of the orphan boy from the Carolina frontier country who becomes a national hero is a compelling story. D.G. MARTIN is the host of UNC-TV's North Carolina Bookwatch, which airs Fridays at 9:30 p.m. and Sundays at 5 pm.



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