

EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

OUR VIEW

Researched Monthly
by Tanya R. Wiley
Publisher



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And You Thought That There Was No Room In The INN

In the "good old days" Blacks travelling to New York City would make reservations at either *Marshall's Hotel* on West 53rd St., the *Hotel Press* on West 135th St., or perhaps the *Cliff House* on West 134th St. In Chicago, the place to stay was the *Hotel Washington* on Wabash Ave. When Pittsburgh visitors couldn't get into *Terrace Hall* located in the Upper Hill District, they booked into the *Ellis Hotel* located in the lower Hill District. Visitors to the Boardwalk in Atlantic City registered in fashionable places like the *Bay State Hotel* on Baltic Avenue.

They are - or shall I say, were - among the nation's once thriving black-owned and operated hotels. Today, most of those fortunate enough to escape urban renewal have become rooming houses or flophouses.

Like many black-owned businesses, they have fallen prey to integration. Before *Brown v. Board*, not only were these hotels the places to stay, they were more than likely, the only places where Blacks could stay, dine, hold a banquet, or gather in a group safely without getting arrested. Now, most blacks opt for the Ramadas, the Hiltons, and the Embassy Suites.

Two black-owned and operated hotels, however, rank among the most fashionable places to stay and dine anywhere along the East Coast, the *Howard Inn*

in Washington, D.C. and *McDonald's Inn* in Charlotte, NC.

HOWARD INN

Located on historic Georgia Avenue near Howard University, this hotel is just minutes from Washington's Convention Center, Amtrak's Union Station, Embassy Row, and the White House. National Airport is a 20-minute drive away, and van service is available upon request.

The accommodations are as good and as comfortable as anywhere, and each of the 146 rooms has cable service and AM/FM radio. Located on the first floor is a health club, a heated pool and sauna, a gift shop, beauty salon, laundry, travel agency, and fashion boutique. The Howard Inn has a complete floor of meeting rooms for business meetings and an on-staff convention coordinator. The hotel is also a teaching facility for Howard University's Hotel Management curriculum. Thus, a good number of students are on staff. There is also a restaurant on the second floor, which serves delicious food, and a lounge is available for those who are feeling sociable.

MCDONALD'S INN

Situated on Beatties Ford Road in West Charlotte, McDonald's Inn is conveniently located near Interstate 85. The Best Western-affiliated hotel has 140 rooms, complete with

all the modern facilities.

A short trip through the first-floor corridor, and guests step into the world-renowned McDonald's Cafeteria, where the smothered chicken, fish, barbecued ribs, macaroni and cheese, candied yams, peach cobbler and iced tea will make them want to 'slap their grandma!'

Located just minutes from downtown and Johnson C. Smith University, McDonald's is only a 15-minute drive from the airport.

McDonald's does a thriving weekend business, having become a popular headquarters for family reunions and other small convention-style gatherings.

Both the Howard Inn and McDonald's are fine

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