

Black Women Empowered "The Movement"



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In March of 2011 Jacqueline submitted for and was granted by the Federal Government her 5013C certificate in which Black Women Empowered Safe Haven was formed. This Non-Profit Organization will provide housing and services for homeless female Veterans and their children. Upon researching this matter, Jacqueline found that the needs of women are very different from the men so it is not feasible to place them in coed dormitories. BWE Safe Haven currently has several projects in the works in Cheraw, SC that will meet the needs of these homeless Veteran women.

In December of 2012 BWE launched its online Christian Women's journal that can be found at www.blackwomen-empoweredjournal.com BWE recently launched a Radio Blog show, featuring topics that empower, encourage, enlighten and educate their listening audience. You can listen live every Tuesday evening at 9:00 pm eastern standard time at: www.blogtalkradio.com/bwewomen-empowermentradiio

In less than three years BWE has accomplished the following:

- Two annual food drives
- Domestic Violence Workshop
- Self Defense class for Women
- Two Back to School Drives
- Two Vending Extravaganzas
- Several outreach activities feeding Disabled Veterans
- Holiday gifts for Veterans

Black Women Empowered Incorporated supports women starting new businesses and growing current businesses. We accomplish this through workshops, webinars, seminars and pre-negotiated discounted services and products.

You can join our online Christian Women's group at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Blackwomenempowered/> (women only)

Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it.

~ Maya Angelou ~

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In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure.

~ Bill Cosby ~

The Family That Prays Together— Stays Together.

I Have Never Been A Journalist

By Malcolm Pharr

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Account Executive, Staff writer, Editor, Photographer, Lay-out Artist and Circulation person, those shoes hit a lot of pavement. I can remember the times when I would not get to a shoe repairman fast enough to keep holes from forming, and water eventually soaking my feet. It was truly a testament to my fortitude and a true focus on the art of cool to continue stepping high and confidently with holes in my shoes. It almost sounds like many of those walking to school stories your dad, granddad or some old dude in the barbershop talked about during their experiences from a deprived childhood. This one is true too.

If I could go back those thirty years I would retrace each step. Those steps made me who I am today. I am a middle school administrator who also hears stories from other educators, parents, students and people going in every direction one could imagine. Some of the same strategies I used with the AC Phoenix I use in my daily experiences in school. I listen...I speak and I write. The experiences in school are to be told at another time and another venue.

In looking back through copies of the AC Phoenix I can see that the writers had their fingers on the pulse of the local community and the heart of the nation. Although the foundation of the paper was sports, the paper evolved into a voice that the community needed. Oh sure Ernie Pitt had a powerful voice that the community needed with The Winston Salem Chronicle, but the AC Phoenix had a voice in the community that seemed to have fewer boundaries and more autonomy. That is simply one man's opinion...mine.

During the late 80's to early 90's Dennis Schatzman and Patricia Smith-Deering (Both deceased) talked about issues that are still relevant to black people and the nation as a whole.

In 1989 Ms. Smith-Deering, who was the Managing-Editor at the time, wrote about Planned Parenthood and giving women choices. We are still talking about this today. She wrote another article entitled In Memory for Those Who Kept Us Free. In this educational/article she gave us a history lesson about black men, dating back to the 1500's who fought in wars for this country. In a time where America is always in the conversation where war is concerned, black men were to be called upon to fight. We still fight here...and abroad.

Dennis Schatzman wrote for the AC Phoenix and various publications during this same period. Dennis, like Pat Smith-Deering, was an excellent writer with strong beliefs and opinions. He never steered away from controversy. He appeared to look at writing about these issues as a mission.

Dennis was a true soldier for "The Buy Freedom Campaign". Buying Freedom was all about supporting those businesses that support you. There were both a seal and a pledge that went along with the campaign. In the late 80's and early 90's this was truly "good stuff". Spending at least 50% with Black businesses was truly ambitious. If many had done this from that time until now...just perhaps more jobs would be in existence in the area.

Dennis also wrote about True Freedom of Blacks Tied to Economics. Mind you...this is still late 80's early 90's. He talked about the criminal justice system and the disproportionate numbers in black and white. He blasted black consumers about spending \$ 1 Billion or 93% of that money was going to businesses not owned by people of color.

Dennis and Pat Deering should rest in peace. Their memories live in the words of The AC Phoenix and in the heart of a story-teller.

During this same period that Dennis and Pat wrote thought-provoking articles, a young man named Charles Davis wrote about something he should know about. This former Wake Forest University All-ACC basketball performer and former professional athlete wrote an article entitled Should Amateurs Take \$\$\$? Having written the article in 1984, Davis said, "A stipend of \$150-\$200 per month would be adequate for most college students to live on". Twenty-nine years later it is still a debate. I am sure now the stipend might be a little higher (\$450 to \$500) considering what each game makes for each university in television revenue.

Everything I learned about sports, and particularly about Winston-Salem State University Athletics, I owe to my father, the late Arthur J. Pharr, he was a second generation Ram and attended W.S.S.U in the mid-to-late 50's. Maybe not a stellar football player, but word has it that he could knock the cover off a baseball. Having played for coach "Big House" Gaines in football, but is remembered more for baseball. During my senior year in high school I was asked to come to the Gaines Complex to play with the current team. I did not think much of it because I had no desire to go to W.S.S.U. at the time. After playing I overheard Coach Gaines tell my father that, "His mother must be a hell of an athlete". A few weeks later I was approached by friends in Charlotte who told me that they saw where I had signed to play at W.S.S.U... According to the 1978 Homecoming program. I was one of three recruits that he signed to play the upcoming year. I never signed. I never played. Coach Gaines stopped his white Cadillac near the library one afternoon and called me over. He asked me was I coming out for the team or was I going back to Charlotte to stand on the block and make babies. I responded, "No sir, I am going to graduate". As I passed through the graduation line in May of 83' I gave Coach Gaines a wink and a nod. Years later while writing/editing the AC Phoenix, Coach Gaines would see me and always ask

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