

Herald Mailbag

Dear Editor:

Since moving back to Chowan County and taking over as the Director of the Edenton-Chowan County Planning & Inspections Department in 2001, I have read several of Mr. John Sams' letters to the editor. I have taken an interest in the letters that have made reference to the administration involving my department, particularly the one printed in the Feb. 20 edition of The Chowan Herald.

During and since the last Chowan County Commissioners' election, Mr. Sams has repeatedly suggested that information is not being provided on the web page. I would like to take this opportunity to clarify some things and to let your readers know just what is available on the Planning & Inspection Department's portion of the Chowan County Web Page.

As a clarification, the Chowan County Planning Board minutes are posted immediately after all meetings. The reason that the most recent minutes posted are dated October 15, 2002 is because that was the last time the Chowan County Planning Board had a meeting, not because of negligence in updating the information.

I take special exception to comments that concern the Planning Department and Planning Board activities. I have worked very hard to get information to the public on the web page. The county ordinances are now available (this is something that most small, rural municipal governments do not offer); the planning board minutes are posted 1-2 days after every meeting (last meeting was Oct. 02). In addition, I provide a bi-monthly report summarizing all town and county board actions, current and comprehensive plan updates, building inspections reports, and nuisance enforcement information. Also provided are administrative fees, natural gas hook-ups procedures, planning board meeting schedules, and other information concerning this department. You can view all this information and more on our web page <http://www.co.chowan.nc.us/planins.htm>.

In closing, if Mr. Sams or anyone from the public visits the web page or sees something published in the paper, or just has a general question pertaining to activities concerning my department, please feel free to contact me so that I can attempt to clarify or answer your questions, especially before writing a letter to the editor:

Chad D. Sary, Director
Planning & Inspections
Office
Edenton-Chowan County

Hood

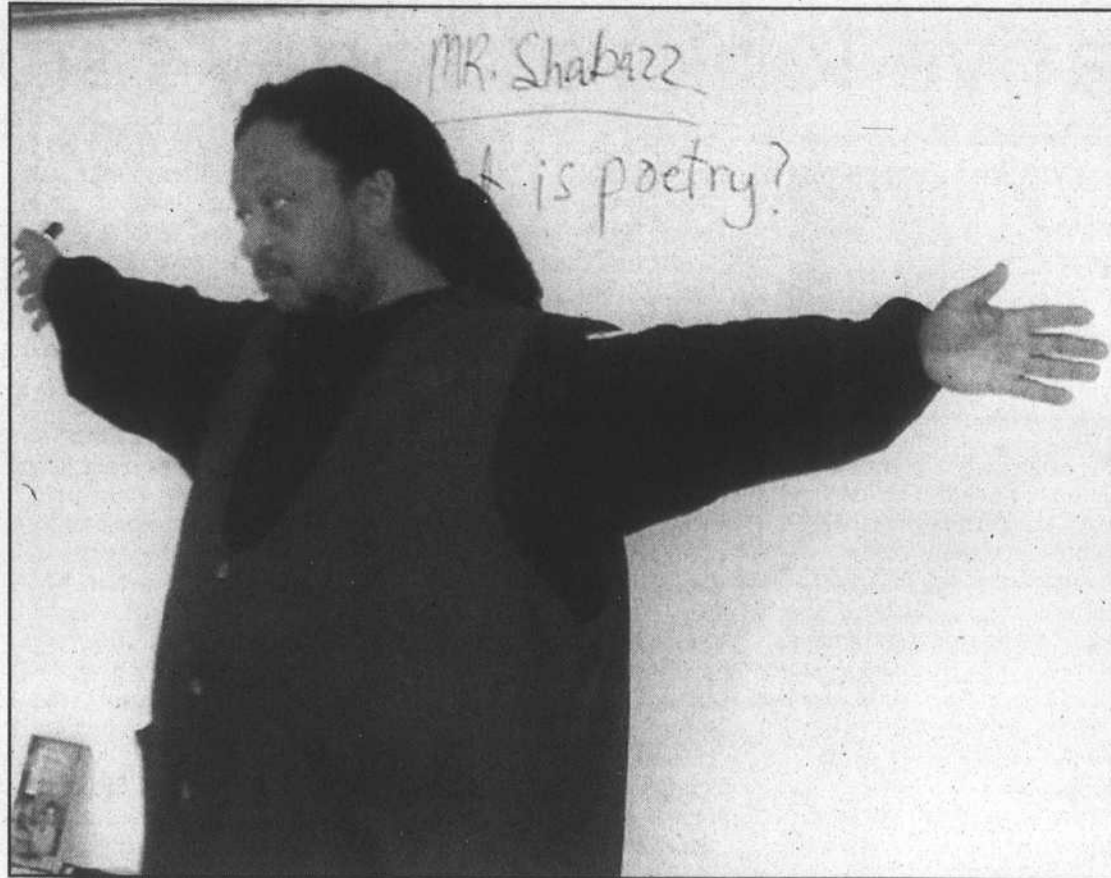
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without such connections.

These are serious issues by themselves. They involve the misuse of public dollars and the abuse of public trust. But the LEAF-related allegations get much worse.

Bill Horton is president of Raleigh-based DFI Group Inc., which has been trying to build an ethanol plant for 20 years. In interviews with Carolina Journal and a preliminary motion filed Feb. 10 in Wake Superior Court, Horton alleges that employees and political allies of Basnight used political pressure and the denial of environmental permitting to try to force him to sell his stake to them. Horton contends that right after he refused the offer, prominent North Carolina banks called loans or halted lines of credit.

Just as Teapot Dome forever tarnished the late president's reputation, the possibility that mismanaged slush funds and political favoritism have turned our state capitol into a Jackpot Dome is potentially devastating to the reputation of Basnight and other elected officials. North Carolina is no longer standing precariously at the edge of the political muck. It is already in up to its waist.



Poet Phillip Shabazz conducts a workshop for Chowan Middle School sixth grade students. (Photo by Glenda Jakubowski, Edenton-Chowan Schools)

Noted writer will offer library reading March 6

Residency at CMS is also slated

Phillip Shabazz, an African-American writer from Durham, NC is in Chowan County this week for a writing residency he will spend working with Chowan Middle School students.

He will offer a reading from his work at the Shepard-Pruden Library in Edenton on Thursday, March 6, at 6:30 p.m., together with a number of his students. The reading is free and open to the public. Writers from the community are also invited to read their work at an open mic session.

The Chowan Arts Council, funded in part by the North Carolina Arts Council, and the Edenton-Chowan Schools, will sponsor this evening event.

Chowan Arts Council Executive Director Sue Clark said it was a real plus for the community to have someone as talented as Phillip Shabazz to visit and work with students as well as inspire other writers.

"Phillip has a particular talent for empowering students, validating their poetic voice, and encouraging them to seek and believe in their own truth," Clark said. "Anyone

who enjoys poetry and values kids will find the evening to be a truly moving experience."

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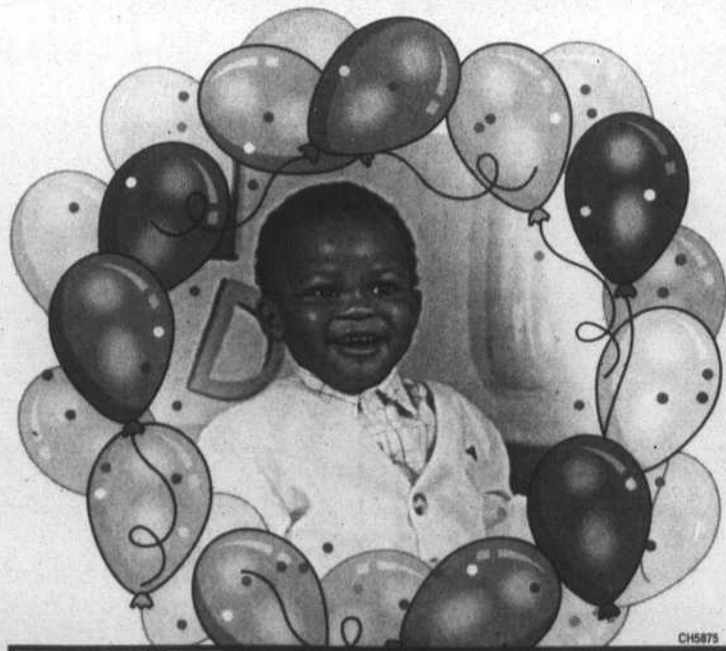
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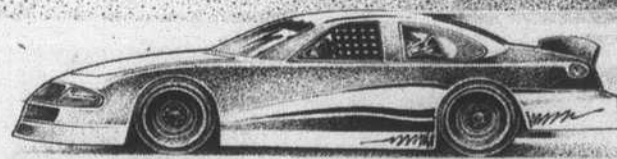
Obie Brown, III will celebrate his 4th birthday on Friday March 7th. Obie is the son of Obie Brown, Jr. and Linda Simpson Brown of Elizabeth City, NC. Grandparents include Ms. Shirley Brown of Elizabeth City and Mr. and Mrs. Willie A. Simpson of Edenton. Obie has one sister, Cornelia V. Brown and one special cousin Wuggie.

Love You,
from as you call me, Ms. Zenetter

Union Grove hosts service

"Women with a Message" will be presented at the Union Grove AME Zion Church on March 8 at 7 p.m. The Washington County

Male Chorus will provide the music. Everyone is welcome. The Rev. G.S. Robinson is the pastor at Union Grove.



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