

# Vibes art • personalities • music

## New Book Explodes Slavery Myths

**CHARLOTTE** - Despite a white viewpoint that black slaves were helpless and child-like, the author of a new book on slavery contends that they were an oppressed people coping with their situation as best they could.

Dr. Paul Escott, assistant professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, concludes in *Slavery Remembered*, (The University of North Carolina Press) that the slaves were not crushed and achieved as much as they did in a tribute to them as well as a source of encouragement to all who ponder man's future in a troubled world.

The ability of the slaves to defend their humanity under pressure, he asserted, "does not suggest that slavery was less than cruel, but it does remind us that the cruelty of bondage consisted of the denial of physical comforts and rewards, the pain of beatings and overwork, and the anguish of subjection to another rather than of mental debasement or destruction."

To try to escape biased white reporting about the nature of slavery, Dr. Escott turned to what slaves themselves said about the institution of slavery. He used

the Federal Writers' Project slave narratives. Through these first-person accounts, he let the slaves tell their own stories.

Dr. Escott exploded some myths about slavery. One of the myths he said was that the slaves celebrated and rejoiced when the Yankee soldiers came. "The narratives suggested that more often there was an attitude of suspicion and concern about their damage and rape as the Yankees approached," Dr. Escott said. However, one of the things Dr. Escott found was that the slave documents verified some of the things written by white historians. Many white historians noted that the blacks did not run off to join the Union soldiers, he indicated.

The slave narratives indicated that some masters tried to keep people in slavery after emancipation by various subterfuges. The author found verification of this in other sources.

The slave interviews took place in the late twenties and early thirties and therefore some recollections are collapsed through the perspective of the years.

In those depression days, did those former slaves foresee that conditions would later improve for members of their race? Dr. Escott said that the strain is repeated that "We have been a race and one day we will be free."

On the point of mental control of slaves by masters, Dr. Escott takes issue with Eugene Genovese, the author of "Roll, Jordan, Roll." Dr. Escott said that Genovese did not agree that paternalism was important in slavery but did accept the idea that the master had so much influence he could determine the slave's mentality and that the plantation world was so close the slave and master shared a common mind set.

"I argue that the slaves saw themselves as a separate oppressed people," Dr. Escott said in an interview. "They had a different pattern of thinking."

"The narratives show us that in a sense there have always been two communities - black and white," Dr. Escott said.

The professor also gained some insights as to what slaves thought about non-slave owning whites. Traditional thinking was that the slaves considered whites without slaves as white trash of a lower status than they.

"Actually," Dr. Escott said, "The comments about the poor whites are generally favorable." He said there is some indication during the Civil War of class fraternization, of slaves helping poor white draft dodgers.

Now that this book is published, Dr. Escott will continue his studies of Southern culture.

He has been awarded a Rockefeller Foundation grant to study "Race, Class and the Formation of the Southern Social Order: North Carolina from Old South to New South." He will go on leave July 1 for a year to prepare a new book.



How many can you identify?



These are a few of the very important decision-makers who will play a decisive role in the NAACP's 70th Annual Convention, in Louisville, Ky., June 25-30, where over 10,000 participants are expected.

Left to right: Hon. C. DeLores Tucker, Hon. Julian Bond, Mrs. Margaret Bush Wilson, Roy Wilkins, Vice President Walter Mondale, Hon. Mary Berry, Clarence Mitchell, Benjamin L. Hooks, Dick Gregory

## NAACP Confab to be Aired

UNC-TV will carry highlights from this year's convention of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) on channels 4, 26, Tuesday through Friday, June 26 to 29, at 11:30 p.m. UNC-TV will also broadcast a 90 minute special wrap-up of the convention on Monday, July 2 at 10:00 p.m.

Held in Louisville, Ky., the convention will focus on national issues such as energy, employment, inflation, economic development, the Weber decision, desegregation and preferential treatment, the criminal justice system, housing, health care and politics.

Featured speakers include NAACP chairperson Margaret Bush Wilson, Vice President Walter Mondale, actor and cinematographer Terry Carter, social activist Dick Gregory, and NAACP executive director Benjamin L. Hooks. The convention will begin on Saturday, June 23 and half a million members.

Technological Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) competition and end on Friday, June 29 with the Freedom Fund Dinner Banquet. The NAACP has given 70 years of leadership to the area of civil and human rights and has 1,700 branches and half a million members.

## LUTHER By Brumsic Brandon, Jr.



## Sounds Joey Daniels

"They Did It Again" I Am Earth, Wind & Fire

As my telephone began to ring (two weeks ago) informing me of the release of this new masterpiece, tension and wonder began to build as to what Maurice White was going to do next. "They did it again" was the comment most of the persons I talked to made. Well... they have. The first cut, "In the Stone," opens (much like Star Wars Theme) with a large orchestral fanfare and is off into the NEW. "Can't Let Go" (2nd up-tempo tune) contains that same drive and airiness Maurice is so widely known for.

"After the Love is Gone" is a luscious ballad (sung by Mr. White) that seems to touch a very special portion of the heart as do the majority (if not all) of his ballads do. The end fades out holding onto a saxophone solo and fades in as "Let Your Feelings Show." This tune has glimpses of some Quincy Jones orchestrations in the brass section. It also is unique that the String-Brass periodically do a question-answer session in Stereo that is utterly amazing.

Bailey. "Wait," following on the heels of "Star" is sung by Maurice and is followed by "Rock That." It clearly is written for the FM radio rock fans. With the many crossover tendencies it houses, I have no doubt that it will get its share of FM air-play.

As always, the last tune is a ballad. Entitled, "You & I," it has some brushes of the String-Brass choir effects in the earlier mentioned "Let Your Feelings Show," and is more of a slow Disco tune than a ballad.

All vocal tracks were done and dubbed by Maurice and Philip. Writing collaborations (with Maurice) were the case in all but one song. The members of EWF are themselves producers of many popular bands and are building (under Kalimba Productions) a massive line of stars.

The arrangements in this LP show that the genius Maurice White is definitely planning to make a clean sweep and break ALL musical barriers with his musical message. They truly have, "Done it Again..."

## Twin - City Miniature Golf

"In-Door Putting Course" Mon.-Sat. 9:00 a.m.-until Sun.-12:00 noon-until

008 N. Cherry St. [Downtown] Good Clean Family Fun

## STARSCOPE by Clare Annsell

WEEK OF JUNE 21st, 1979

**AQUARIUS - January 21 - February 19**  
Trial and error are the week's themes, but humor is included as well. Excellent time for giving home a bright new appearance. Lengthy negotiations come to satisfying conclusion.

**PISCES - February 20 - March 20**  
You could reach a crossroad during this week, and it may be time to think about making an important career or domestic decision. Romance is on the upswing.

**ARIES - March 21 - April 20**  
A long-awaited opportunity finally arrives, but now you may not be in a situation to take advantage of it. The reason you're so busy has a lot to do with love, so don't be too upset.

**TAURUS - April 21 - May 22**  
Machines aren't cooperating too much and delays further slow you down. But with romance everything seems to be in good working order. Intuition is potent Monday - Wednesday.

**GEMINI - May 23 - June 21**  
Week starts off in a humdrum way and ideas backfire. Make perseverance and consistency your keywords and you'll be surprised by productivity. Spontaneous outings are the most delightful kind.

**CANCER - June 22 - July 22**  
A week of delays, rearranged schedules and unexpected work and guests. The surprise news is that it turns out to be an exciting time - despite, or because of, the complications.

**LEO - July 23 - August 22**  
Recent uncertainties clear up by the weekend. You'll be called on to show resourcefulness now. Beware of anyone coming on too aggressively - especially regarding finances.

**VIRGO - August 23 - September 22**  
Gemini and Aries people play key roles in your affairs. Emphasis is on communications - make overdue calls, write short stories, call a family conference.

**LIBRA - September 23 - October 22**  
You can be unrealistic now, so you're bound to have a couple of disappointments. Socializing on Sunday - Monday can be marvelous, especially if you happen to be the host.

**SCORPIO - October 23 - November 21**  
You're in an artistic frame of mind, and there's also a financial theme to the week. Perhaps the answer is to frame some pictures or submit a manuscript for publication.

**SAGITTARIUS - November 22 - December 22**  
Health and recreation are the themes of the week. You may consider yourself a little straightlaced for a new sport, but you can enjoy yourself beyond all expectations.

**CAPRICORN - December 23 - January 20**  
Good time to make a start. Money begins to flow, but don't make a public statement about your successes. Good news regarding a friend arrives after the weekend.

**BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK**  
Sensitive, emotional and very chatty. People criticize you for being an eternal child - but that can be one of your most endearing qualities. Fall is your important season, and politics and administration are both accented. Be less secretive - especially with loved ones.

**BORN THIS WEEK**  
June 21st, philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre; 22nd, singer Kris Kristofferson; 23rd, baseball great Don Drysdale; 24th, prizefighter Jack Dempsey; 25th, playwright George Abbott; 26th, painter George Morland; 27th, educator Helen Keller.

## WORDS & MEANINGS

By Dorothea Josephine Coates  
Unmix the letters in the boxes to form a word. Then circle A, B or C for the correct meaning (or definition).  
Score yourself as follows:  
4 Correct-Excellent 2 Correct-Fair  
3 Correct-Good 1-0 Correct-Poor

- M I D**  
A BORING B PALE C GLOWING
- T O R E**  
A WHEEL B MITE C SYSTEM
- C H A R P**  
A DRY B CURVE C WRINKLE
- F A B L E F**  
A PUNCH B BAT C MYSTIFY

Answers: 1. MID 2. TORE 3. CHARP 4. FABLEF  
Build your vocabulary. Learn the word and use it in a sentence.

## FINDIT!

Find 12 insects. Words run across, down, or diagonally in any direction. Word list below.

F H O R N E T D  
C I D R G F T A  
R W R I L N N E  
I A G E H O A L  
C S A T F P N T  
K P O F L L A E  
E M T I C K Y E  
T S U C O L Y B

Word list: Ant, aphid, beetle, cricket, firefly, flea, gnat, hornet, locust, moth, tick, wasp. Leftover letters make one more insect.

Cory