

# Gray

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said he is often questioned about his own decision to become involved with the nation's economic policies. Gray said he replies by reminding them that money is not a black or white issue, but a green one.

"Many times people ask me why I chose to work on the Budget Committee," said Gray, who was elected to the House in 1979. "I am a preacher and I am faithful, but I don't know too many things that come ahead of money for most people. Money is green. It isn't black, white or yellow. It's green. Whoever can hold on to the money can direct the power."

Similarly, he said, blacks must make it a priority to gain liberation through participation in public policy. Noting that a public official's signature is required to verify that a person has been born and that that person has died, Gray said public policy is with you from birth to death. Challenging those at the dinner, he said, "Anything that says whether you are alive or dead (is something) you ought to be par-

ticipating in. If we are to reach our full potential, we have to participate in public policy."

In addition to economics and politics, Gray said blacks must look inward to nurture a commitment to excellence that will help carry them into the mainstream. Through self-liberation, he said, parents can prevent "babies from going out here having babies and can teach their sons that making a baby don't make you a man."

Achieving self-liberation, he said, requires that blacks not be discouraged by the obstacles they will face on the way. The true mettle of each generation, Gray said, will be determined by that generation's ability to rise above barriers.

"There are some things we must do for ourselves. We have got to instill in our people - young and old - a commitment to excellence," he said. "We must also instill a commitment to competence. Every generation faces roadblocks. I have never seen Dr. J. (Julius Erving) call time out and complain to the referee that there were five other

guys out there trying to block his shot. And I have never seen Walter Payton run to the sideline and complain to the official that there were 11 men on the field trying to tackle him. They know that's part of the game.

"Yes, there is still discrimination and prejudice, but we must not have attitudes that will allow us to sit on the sideline and take time out. We must develop attitudes that will help us learn to run faster and shoot straighter."

Glancing around the gymnasium of the Winston Lake Family YMCA, Gray commended the facility's executive director, Norman E. Joyner, on his efforts to provide the best possible facility for the community. Gray said the facility, celebrating its second year since relocating from Patterson Avenue, is one of the best examples of his belief in self-liberation.

"This YMCA is not simply a \$5 million facility, it's a place for self-liberation," Gray said. "I've never seen one as magnificent as this. All you've got to do is use it to train young minds."

Recalling the days he spent at a small Philadelphia YMCA as a teen-ager, Gray said many of his own values and principles were shaped by the things he learned at the YMCA. He also encouraged the audience to continue to support the facility, reminding them that "every now and again you need to stop and remember how you got over."

"I learned much from the time I spent at that old YMCA on Christian Avenue in Philadelphia," Gray said. "It's up to you whether this facility lives or dies. The YMCA didn't do a bad job on Bill Gray. Who would have believed that same little black boy on that gymnasium floor at Christian Avenue would be sitting in the nation's capital writing the country's budget?"

"There could be youngsters out here playing basketball on this very floor who will grow up to be a North Carolina senator or governor or even the president. That's what the YMCA is all about - providing liberation that will make it possible for them to have a chance to move forward."



## By the way...

By Joe Black

I know that many of you have heard the expression "everybody wants to go to heaven, but nobody wants to die." It depresses me to see that those words often reflect the attitude of too many Black Americans.

In the Black community, an individual is greeted with laudatory shouts of "right on" or "stay on the case" as long as he is elucidating about racism. But woe unto the Black person who dares to challenge or point out weaknesses that Black people can improve upon. Quickly the cheers change to jeers and "Tom," "Oreo," "Negro," or bourgeois, the vilifying names we now hear.

However, I remind those name-callers that we, as a race, are doomed to second-class status as long as we refuse to admit that we are not perfect. I am the first to admit that Black Americans have made great socioeconomic gains during the past 3 decades, but we cannot afford the luxury of living on our victories of yesteryear. The battle for equality of opportunity and justice is still being fought. We must strengthen our battle lines by making the family - father, mother, and children - strong and united. To achieve this goal, we must be willing to admit that many Black babies don't go to bed hungry because of racism. No, they lack food because a Black man has failed to fulfill his responsibilities as a father and a husband.

Think about it. Do we Blacks have the courage to reduce the number of single-parent homes in our community?

*Joe Black*  
Vice President  
The Greyhound Corporation

# King Drive

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McCloud said that the fraternity chose Claremont Avenue because it is located in East Winston. "It is probably one of the largest and best-known (streets), with some of the major businesses located in the black community," he said. "We felt that was very appropriate. Claremont was the best street because we didn't want a street off to the side; we wanted a street that was representative to the community."

Two of the fraternity's newest members are in charge of finishing the work that their brothers have started. Hymes, a plant controller at Stroh Brewery Co., and Norman E. Joyner, executive director of the Winston Lake Family YMCA, collected the signatures this summer.

Joyner said Winston-Salem should have a street named after King. "There are a number of cities that have named streets after the late Dr. King," he said. "We feel a city that has as much black heritage and tradition as any other city in the country should have such a street."

Renaming the street would recognize the work that King has done and the work being done after his death, Joyner said.

Claude McMahan, an assistant city planner, said that he received the letter and the petition in November. The processing was delayed until now because of other street name petitions that had to be taken care of, he said.

Having a street renamed is not that hard, unless there's opposition, McMahan said. "Anyone can rename a street," he said. "They can spearhead a petition that would require the majority of residents along the road to be in favor of the name," he said. "But in this particular case the petition did not have the majority, but we know what the intent would be."

McMahan said that the planning staff makes a recommendation about the request to the city manager, who brings the recommendation before the Board of Aldermen's Public Works Committee.

The committee votes and then makes a recommendation to the full board. The committee will meet Jan. 12.

Usually property owners along the street are notified by the staff before the committee meeting, but in this case there are about 13 blocks, McMahan said.

"Because of the magnitude of

just looking up individual property owners and sending letters, we notified the newspapers," he said. "Newspaper coverage is a better way of getting the information out."

Anyone who opposes the request can speak at the committee meeting, McMahan said.

Both Hymes and Joyner said that they ran across no opposition when they were collecting signatures. "Some people that we encountered were noncommittal, but no people opposed it," he said.

Hymes added that he feels pretty good about the request's chances. "As I understand it, our chances are very good," he said. McMahan agrees. "I don't believe that we're going to have any problem with this one," he said.

Some of the businesses on Claremont Avenue that signed the petition include McDonald's, 47th Pier Inc., Hi Fashion, Family Dollar, Revco, Great American Food Stores, Burger King and Mechanics and Farmers Bank.

Joanne Robinson, manager of Discount Beauty Supply, said she signed the petition because the street would be named after a

famous black person and is in a black neighborhood.

Claire Ferguson, manager of Pic 'N Pay Shoes, said that she sees renaming the street after King as a positive step.

"I think it's a good idea," she said. "I think it'll do a lot for the morale of the people and for their outlook."

# NAACP files \$880,000 lawsuit against Citadel

By The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C.-- An \$880,000 lawsuit accusing The Citadel of tolerating "overt racial bigotry" was filed by the NAACP on behalf of a black cadet who left the military college after harassment by five white cadets.

"This action is necessary to stop the tide of racial terrorism that is pervasive in this country," said NAACP general counsel Grover G. Hankins. "It's not only present here on this campus, but it is present on other campuses throughout the nation."

National and state officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People filed the suit last Thursday in U.S. District Court.

It seeks compensatory and punitive damages for the racial

hazing of Oct. 23, which inflicted "severe emotional distress, mental anguish and pain" on 17-year-old Kevin Nesmith, said NAACP spokesman James Williams.

The suit says the school's failure to expel the five cadets, who were named in the complaint along with the school, is evidence that The Citadel encourages students to "engage in racially discriminatory conduct."

The action claims that "overt racial bigotry" historically has been tolerated and sanctioned by officials at the 143-year-old state-supported school.

"We're basing that on statements and interviews that we've had with people who have attended The Citadel in the past," Hankins said.

Citadel spokesman Col. Ben

Legare said he had no comment because the school had not received official notice of the suit.

The suit was triggered by an incident at 2 a.m. Oct. 23 in which the five cadets entered Nesmith's room wearing sheets and towels, which Williams said was intended to make them resemble Ku Klux Klansmen. They chanted obscenities and burned a small paper cross, school officials said.



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