

Minister Louis Farrakhan speaks for 'Holy Day of Atonement, Reconciliation, and Responsibility'

Local mosque sponsors viewing via satellite

By FELECIA P. MCMILLAN
Special to THE CHRONICLE

The local mosque of the Nation of Islam sponsored a satellite viewing of the "Holy Day of Atonement, Reconciliation and Responsibility" on Thursday, Oct. 16, at the Anderson Center on the campus of Winston-Salem State University. This Local Million Man March World Day of Atonement was sponsored by the Local Organizing Committee and the North Carolina Black Repertory Company.

Minister Mikal Muhammad recognized Minister Louis Farrakhan calling him "God's servant shaped for this hour." "As he gave Moses to the Israelites, Lot to Sodom and Gomorrah and Mohammed to the Arabs 1,400 years ago, so he has given Minister Farrakhan to the world," said Muhammad. He praised Farrakhan as a man who stands against the oppression of African-American people.

As Farrakhan spoke, he addressed the audience about having the faith to proceed into the future. He thanked God for giving the day of atonement as an opportunity to grow in the mind, will and spirit of God. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ" means that individuals can feed on the mind of God, possess the mind of God, according to Farrakhan. However, according to the minister, many people "set up a rival" against God's plan because of the lust of the flesh, refusing to obey God.

"It is time to atone. We are running out of time," he said.

He reminded the audience about the young Israelites who saw the promised land and the members of the old guard who died in the wilderness. Instead of seeing God as enough with them, many of the elders saw the men of the promised land as giants or "men walking as trees."

"God wants to make you giants in the land, but many of you are afraid to go in and inhabit the promised land," Farrakhan said.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had been to the mountain top, he said, had seen the promised land and noted that he may not arrive with the people. However, he believed that African Americans would make it to the promised land.

The Holy Day of Atonement commemorated the second anniversary of the Million Man March. In 1995, Farrakhan issued an unprecedented call for one million black men to gather in Washington to reconcile, to take responsibility and to atone for the family.

The Rev. Thomas F. Lee read a proclamation from the office of the mayor of Chicago. Following this, Minister Benjamin (Chavis) Muhammad started a chant "Long Live the spirit of the Million Man March!"

He enumerated the many success stories that resulted from the march. He pointed out that in October 1995, crime was at all-time high, but as a result of committee efforts, crime has been reduced. Also an increase in black voter participation is a plus.

In addition, he cited the more than 40,000 adoptions of African-American children that have resulted from the March. And economic development through black entrepreneurship has increased, he said. Muhammad recognized the Million Women March to be held on Oct. 25 in Philadelphia and reminded the audience that Oct. 16, 2000, Farrakhan plans to bring the men and women together.

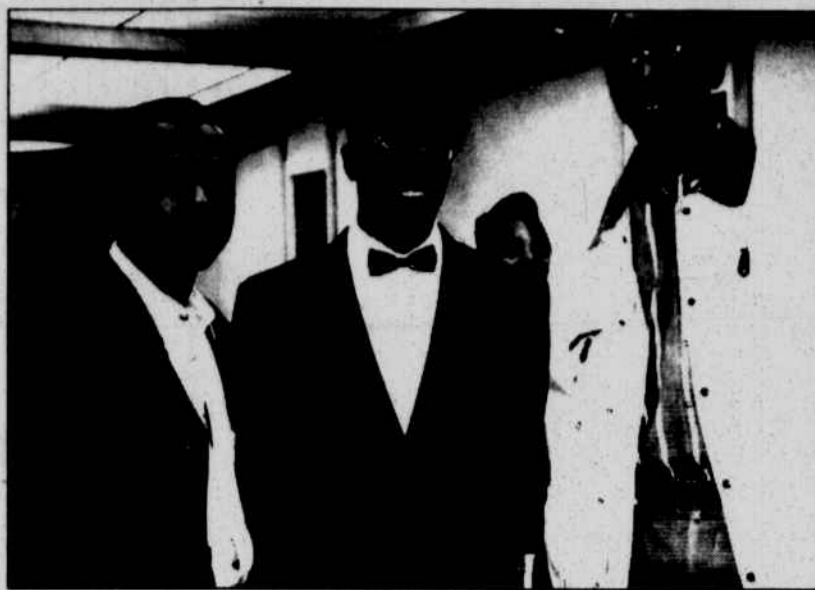
Several representatives of var-

ious churches from around the world came forward to praise the mission of the Day of Atonement.

Since the focus this year was on youth, Brother Ayinde and Sister Ayanna Muhammad came forward. Ayinde commented on the historical three-fifths of a person designation for African Americans. He saw the Million Man March as a "qualitative leap ... a struggle for the liberation of our people in America."

Sister Muhammad delivered a captivating poem, with a whistle caused by her missing front baby teeth. This young sister reminded African-American leaders to be careful how they lead the young. "For in me you are planting seeds," she said. She appealed to all to "accept God's warning." I may be just a little girl, but I'm atoning just the same," she said. Her words brought a standing ovation.

The theme for the day was "Young, Gifted and Atoning." Farrakhan emphasized atoning because it is an action that is always in process. More than 150



The Rev. Calvin Runnels of Emmanuel Baptist Church; Kermit Muhammad, third-year student at Bowman Gray School of Medicine; and Damian Covington, fourth-year student at Bowman Gray School of Medicine participated in the anniversary of the Day of Atonement.

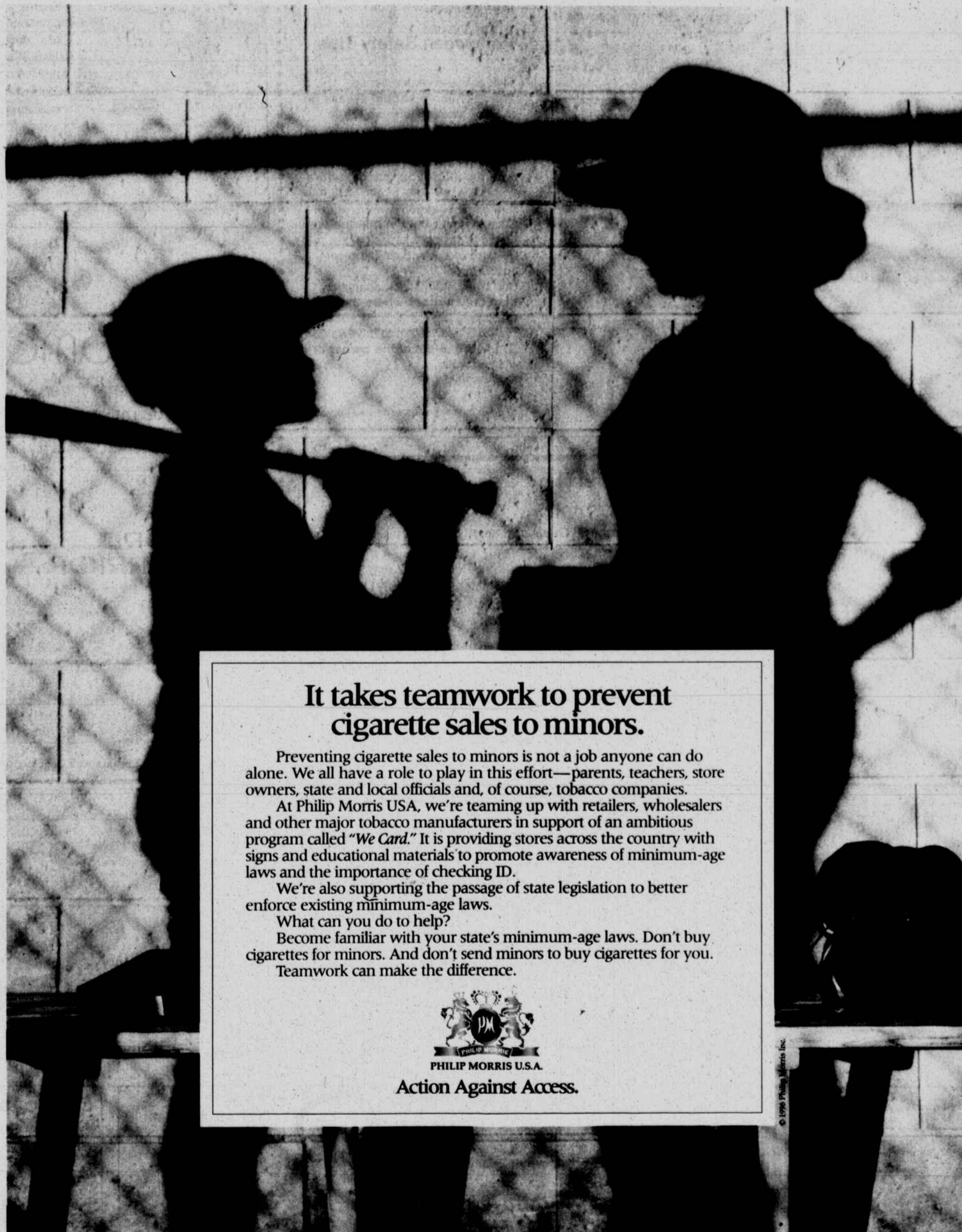


Rep. Larry Womble (center) completed a security check, as did all who entered the service. Ricco Muhammad (left) and Warren Muhammad assist him with the curtain as he exits.

attended the satellite viewing at WSSU. The Rev. Calvin Runnels from Emmanuel Baptist Church attended the 1995 March. When he was there, he saw "intense black brother fellowship." It helped bring the men into a greater knowledge of self, he said, and he saw the Holy Day of Atonement as another avenue for self searching.



Women who attended the service also participated in a check procedure. Lazella Patterson (center) exits as Ladonna Muhammad (left) and Edith Razzak assist her.



It takes teamwork to prevent cigarette sales to minors.

Preventing cigarette sales to minors is not a job anyone can do alone. We all have a role to play in this effort—parents, teachers, store owners, state and local officials and, of course, tobacco companies.

At Philip Morris USA, we're teaming up with retailers, wholesalers and other major tobacco manufacturers in support of an ambitious program called "We Card." It is providing stores across the country with signs and educational materials to promote awareness of minimum-age laws and the importance of checking ID.

We're also supporting the passage of state legislation to better enforce existing minimum-age laws.

What can you do to help?

Become familiar with your state's minimum-age laws. Don't buy cigarettes for minors. And don't send minors to buy cigarettes for you. Teamwork can make the difference.



PHILIP MORRIS U.S.A.

Action Against Access.