

Slavery

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father couples while 43 percent were black unmarried female-headed households, and 9 percent were unmarried male-headed households.

In comparison, 83 percent of white families were married male-female households (73 percent higher than black families); 13 percent of white females were unmarried female-headed households (70 percent less than blacks); and unmarried males headed only 5 percent of the white families (44 percent less than blacks).

Though economic differences between blacks and whites are drastic, the report cites researchers who show that low marriage rates among black fathers cannot be explained by income or unemployment.

“Even among high-earning young men, blacks are much less likely than whites to be married and living with their wives. Of the 27-29-year-old men with earnings over \$25,000, 53 percent of blacks were married, spouse present, versus 68 percent of whites (28 percent higher).”

“In a significant percentage of cases, black men and women simply don't get married,” the report said. “Some black women have a series of children, each fathered by a different man and raised in a female-headed household. High unemployment rates among black men and their limited access to well-paying jobs have had a corrosive effect on relationships between black couples.”

“Another powerful contributor to the erosion of meaningful long-term relationships between black men and women has been a lack of sexual fidelity, especially on the part of black men, resulting in embittered relations between black men and women, both married and unmarried.”

The report conceded that marriage rates among blacks may also be down because of the unavailability of marriageable black men because of incarceration, murder rates and other social ills. “Sociologist Daniel T. Lichter noted the severity of these sex ratios, observing that ‘for every three black unmarried women in their 20s, there is roughly one unmarried man with earnings above the poverty threshold,’” the report stated.

The key answer, the report said, is in the role of the black church, which the report described as “the absent voice.”

“The black church has been the leading institution among black people for most of their history in the United States. The church has played a very important role in the black community in many times of crisis. Its impact on the definitive changes wrought by the civil rights struggle is one powerful example,” the report said.

“But the church has been largely silent on the decline of the black family, in part because a number of church leaders have themselves not led an exemplary life in this regard,” the report said.

Public policies are among other answers, the report said, but even with new laws and programs, black church leaders must be involved. As an example, the report cited the Bush administration's efforts to promote marriage between unmarried parents.

“Officials need to hear black churches' recommendations on the most effective methods based on their experience serving these populations,” the report said. “The black church must seize this opportunity to encourage the administration and Congress to pursue family-friendly and father-friendly social policies.”

The Seymour Institute was founded in 1985 by Rivers and a group of black Christian intellectuals and activists at Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The new report is billed as being nonpartisan and based on meticulous statistical analysis, Seymour said. “Not since 1965 when the late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan authored an historic and controversial study entitled ‘The Negro Family: The Case for National Action’ has there been an analysis of the black family that transcends partisan politics – so thorough, insightful, penetrating, and so complete that it resonates with every faction of the black community.”



Rivers

Smiley, Rawls among those coming to UNCG

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Political commentator and talk show host Tavis Smiley will kick off the University of North Carolina at Greensboro's 2005-06 University Concert/Lecture Series in September.

Smiley will speak on Sept. 10 at the university. He is the host of “Tavis Smiley” on PBS and “The Tavis Smiley Show,” formerly on National Public Radio.

The topic of his address will be: “Advocacy: How to Fight for What You Believe and Make a Difference.”

Tickets are \$12, \$10 or \$8 for adults, and \$10, \$8 or \$6 for seniors, children or non-UNCG students.

University Concert/Lecture Series will also feature Lou Rawls. He is slated to appear at the school on Nov. 1. Rawls canceled a performance at UNCG scheduled for last season. Known as “The Voice” for his rich baritone, Rawls is among the most recognizable performers in contemporary music. He has three Grammy awards.

Rawls will perform the songs of Frank Sinatra at the concert, as well as several of his own hits.

Tickets are \$35, \$30 or \$25 for adults, and \$33, \$28 or \$23 for seniors, children or non-UNCG students.

Other events planned as part



Photo courtesy of UNCG

Crooner Lou Rawls will perform Frank Sinatra hits.

of the series include a performance of the Broadway smash “Mame” on Feb. 12, the Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana Spanish dance company on Feb. 24, and the MOMIX modern dance company on April 6.

All events will begin at 8 p.m. in Aycock Auditorium,

except “Mame,” which will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets will be available starting Aug. 15 through the UNCG University Box Office in Elliott University Center on campus or (336) 334-4849. Before that, purchase tickets by calling the Office of Student Life at (336) 334-5800.

Ammons honored for starting Early College at NCCU

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

N.C. Central University (NCCU) Chancellor James H. Ammons has received SECME's top award in education, the 2005 Bethune Carver Dewey Education Legacy Award, for his legacy in equity and excellence in higher education for establishing the Early College High School Program in Durham in collaboration with Durham Public Schools and the business and research community.

Ammons, who leads the first historically black college in establishing an Early College High School, was slated to be among the first recipients of the award at SECME's annual Global Messenger Award Ceremony on Monday in Greensboro.

Ammons said he supports the Early College High School program because it will help to transform middle and high school curriculums, teacher preparation, and provide students with rigorous instruction that is challenging and relevant to their career goals.

“This nation has a gap in the number of high-tech jobs and the people who are educated and trained to do these jobs,” he said. “I want to eliminate the gap and educate more African-Americans and Hispanics in areas critical to the nation's economy.”

SECME is also honoring Durham Public Schools Superintendent Ann Denlinger; Nicholas King, principal at the Josephine Clements Dobbs Early College High School on the campus of NCCU; and NCCU Dean of the School of Education Cecelia Steppe-Jones. Jointly, they will receive SECME's Bethune Carver Dewey Education Partnership Award.

The Early College High School planning began in 2002 with four middle schools and opened last August officially as the Josephine Clements Dobbs Early College High School on the campus of NCCU. It is a partnership among Durham Public Schools, N.C. Central University, and SECME Inc., the oldest pre-college alliance in the nation devoted to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for historically under-represented, geographically underserved and differently-abled students.

Funded in part by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Kellogg Foundation, NASA, and the ExxonMobile Foundation, the program focuses on science, technology and math and allows students to acquire up to two years of college credit while earning their high school diploma.



Ammons

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