

# OP/ED



**ERNEST H. PITT** Publisher/Co-Founder  
**ELAINE PITT** Business Manager  
**T. KEVIN WALKER** Managing Editor



## The Legislature's Numbers Game

It's sometimes hard to distinguish these days the difference between the governing body of the state of North Carolina and one of the mafia families of New York City. After all, North Carolina runs the liquor business and the numbers game. The only thing left for the state to qualify as a legitimate mob family's prostitution. We figure as soon as they lose the last vestiges of morality, prostitution will be added to the list of vices they control.

According to the Associated Press, the state Legislature is discussing forbidding people on food stamps from playing the lottery. It's hard to understand their rationale since most black people have been playing the numbers long before there ever was a NC Education Lottery. And, by the way, the so-called education lottery is finally being seen for the scam that it is.

What does the legislature hope to gain by this prohibition? Are they really concerned about the health and welfare of North Carolina's poor? Come on! A scam by any name is a scam! They are espousing a philosophy that poor blacks cannot manage what the "good folks" of this state are giving them. So, therefore the state needs to take that privilege or right away from them for their own sake.

The NC Education Lottery never was intended to boost revenue for education and our schools. It is being used as planned and that is to make cuts in education without going completely broke. We the people don't really know what they're doing with the money. All we know is that it is hard as hell to get a winning number and that's because North Carolina's game is set so tight that it becomes virtually impossible to pick the right number.

We have a lottery today basically because legislators saw North Carolinians going to Virginia and South Carolina to play the lottery and they wanted some of that money. Now they got it and don't know what to do with it. People were eager to go to Virginia and South Carolina because they stood a ghost of a chance of hitting the number. Not so here in North Carolina.

Let's be absolutely clear. The state could care less about its poor and indigent community. The vast majority of the money being made off the backs of the poor goes to the rich, privileged and families with wealth that goes back to the days of slavery. Shouldn't we do something about poor smokers and alcoholics? What about obese poor folk on food stamps? Can't leave them out of regulating the lives of the less fortunate, can we?

Watch out for what the legislature is really up to.

## Obama Slights Blacks



**Julianne Malveaux**  
Guest Columnist



President Obama takes the oath during a separate Jan. 20 White House service.

President Barack Obama has the opportunity, in this second term, to put his feet on history. He won an election that his opponent had essentially claimed, he has been firm about that which he would negotiate on, and he has offered a progressive inauguration speech that offers up a liberal agenda, embracing Social Security and Medicare, uplifting immigrants and gay rights, and embracing ways to address inequality.

One could not help but applaud the strong direction of President Obama's speech. But those of us in the African American community wonder why we could not get a shout out about high unemployment and poverty rates, inner city challenges, and income, economic and unemployment disparities. Failing to address the community that offered him 97 percent of their vote indicates that there is a reckless disregard of his strongest supporters.

I understand that President Obama is the president of the whole United States, not the president of Black America. At the same time, some of the evils that affect African Americans are issues that any president would address. To be sure, some of the gaps that are recorded and experienced have not changed since the 60s. Imagine the impact this president could have if he made a minor attempt in closing the gaps.

The inauguration speech spoke to all of us when it offered a progressive agenda. It spoke to

some when it called out other communities and offered advancement to some of them, but it spoke to none of us in the African American community unless we chose to parse the subtleties, the Bible, the references to Detroit, and the acknowledgement of inequalities.

Hundreds of thousands of people thronged to the site of the inauguration speech. Many of them were parents and grandparents who were determined that their children and grandchildren had the opportunity to witness history. A second term for President Obama is actually more exciting than a first term because now this president is freed from the shackles of reelection possibilities and free to do his thing.

Will this thing improve the lot of all of us, some of us, or none of us? In the African American community, many think we won't get a thing but an amazing and uplifting symbolism. There are still those who cheer simply because we have an African American president. Can we put our

cheer on for results?

In the next four years, President Obama has the opportunity to do whatever he wants to do. He can target resources and opportunities to any community he chooses to embrace his targets. For example, more than \$500 million was directed to a failed wind experiment in California. What about offering the same opportunity to inner cities?

The liberal agenda we heard during the president's inauguration suggested that all of us would have the opportunity to benefit from progressive economic plans. He called out some communities, which suggested that some of us would get special attention. His apparent failure to give a shout-out to the African American community suggests that none of us can count on special attention.

President Barack Obama can make a difference by targeting the African American community, either directly or subtly in his choices about public policy. While this president has a window of opportunity, who will gain? All of us, some of us, or none of us? Our president will leave a legacy when he decides that African Americans deserve the same focus that other communities do. We need our President to target disparate unemployment, unequal wages and wealth, and differential access to education and opportunity. Immigration and marriage equality addresses some of us. Why can't we address the inequality that faces all of us?

Julianne Malveaux is a Washington, D.C.-based economist and writer. She is President Emerita of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro.



NC NAACP Photo

A crowd of thousands takes part in last year's rally.

## Local bus headed to HKonJ

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Members of the Winston-Salem Branch of the NAACP and the Winston-Salem Voting Rights Coalition are sponsoring a bus trip to Raleigh for Historic Thousands on Jones Street (HKonJ), a N.C. NAACP-organized annual march and rally held at the General Assembly.

Members of several local churches, schools, Greek organizations, clubs and community organizations are expected to take part. The local bus will leave from the Food Lion in East Winston Shopping Center (near the corner of New Walkertown Road and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive) at 7 a.m. on Saturday,

Feb. 9. Activities begin in Raleigh at 9:30 a.m. The bus should be back in Winston-Salem by 4 p.m., according to organizers.

This year's HKonJ agenda items include protecting voting rights and pushing back against what the NAACP is calling the General Assembly's "far-right ideologues."

There is limited space on the bus. To reserve a free space, contact Linda Sutton at 870-2168 or ljsutton2000@hotmail.com or Wayne Patterson at 995-3072 or swaynelaw@yahoo.com by Feb. 2 to RSVP.

### Rawat

from page A6

research interests include colonial and postcolonial India, racism and social exclusion, subaltern histories and histories of democracy. His research has been supported by a three-year Mellon-funded postdoctoral teaching fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania, a Rockefeller Foundation

fellowship at the University of Washington, a Harry Frank Guggenheim dissertation fellowship, and a doctoral fellowship from the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam.

Rawat is currently working on a research project titled, "A New History of Democracy: Dalit Spaces, Printing and Practices in Modern North India." This project builds on his first book,

"Reconsidering Untouchability: Chamars and Dalit History in North India," which was awarded the Joseph W. Elder Prize in the Indian Social Sciences by the American Institute of Indian Studies.

Before joining the University of Delaware in 2010, Rawat taught in the Department of South Asia Studies at the University of Pennsylvania and in the History Department at the University of Notre Dame.

### TFA

from page A4

option—it was mandatory," Williams said. "I think Teach for America gives people who are passionate about education the chance to really help out. I also think there is nothing more triumphant than a product of these targeted communities returning in order to give back."

Satish will strive to give back as a social studies teacher in Miami. For this interdisciplinary studies major, the mission of TFA falls in line with her aspirations to become a global health ambassador.

"I think my real interest comes from my passion for social justice, which is at the heart of what Teach for America does. We're providing quality and adequate edu-

cation for students who are being hindered because of the way the system is set up. This isn't just a teaching job for me; it's ultimately about social justice," she added.

White is confident that TFA will enhance her future goals as well. A journalism and media studies major, she hopes to utilize her communication studies to enhance her own "entrepreneurial and social change venture."

"Education is a great start to use my skills and still have social impact. I am not putting my career goals on hold, but I am finding non-traditional ways to utilize my degree and skill set, and still simultaneously change lives and ultimately communities and the world for the betterment of all people," White said.

White will be stationed in Miami as well as an elementary education teacher.

### Gardens

from page A1

tion, which has more than doubled since Brennan came on the scene less than three years ago. Brennan said that food shortage in the area and First Lady Michelle Obama's focus on community gardening and promoting healthy eating have both aided the Extension in its efforts to promote the gardens, which are tended by volunteers and provide free, healthy food to volunteers, nearby residents and virtually anyone who needs it. But the gardens meet far more than just a physical need, Brennan said.

"One of the things that really excites me about community gardening is it really does cut across racial lines, across gender lines, across socio-economic lines," she remarked. "I think it's something that we really ought to promote and be proud of for our community and use it as a unifying thing. It's a way to come together and celebrate something really good."

Longtime city resident Virginia Cooper serves as a mentor for both the Bethania community garden and the community garden at her church, Lloyd Presbyterian. The retired Salem College registrar has been working with the Lloyd garden since its inception in 2009 and completed the mentoring program last year.

"I couldn't physically work in the garden anymore and I thought it was a way I could help," said the great-grandmother of two, who suffers from back problems. "... It's very satisfying. I get to meet a lot of people who are interested in gardening like I am."

The historic church sports 11 beds in its grassy backyard, which last year yielded nearly 40 pounds of vegetables, which were donated to Samaritan Ministries, Crisis Control and members of the surrounding community.

The garden at Lloyd has been tended by a parade of local volunteers, many of whom were residents at the church's homeless shelter, and Greensboro native Rachel Jackson, who has faithfully toiled at Cooper's side in the garden for the past four years. For Jackson, a retired library cataloguer, gardening is second nature.

"My dad was a railroad man, but he was the kind of person that always thought you ought to grow something," related



Photo by Layla Giamas

Virginia Cooper and Rachel Jackson prepare the beds for spring planting.

Jackson, the fourth of 10 children. "He would go to work and come back every evening in the spring and plant this wonderful garden and we (children) would all be a part of it. He really thought nobody should even think about eating without planting something."

Jackson's childhood garden yielded a wide variety of crops and there was always food to spare. The garden at Lloyd is a cheerful place, just as her father's garden was all those years ago, said the 74 year-old.

"It's kind of a little oasis," remarked the great-grandmother of one. "It's a nice, peaceful place back there."

Both Jackson and Cooper, a native of Memphis, Tenn., say the garden holds spiritual significance for them.

"I think the most important thing for me is to know that a human being can be a part of creation to the point where we can extend the reach of earth and sky and rain — we're a part of that. I think it's akin to being close to God himself," she declared. "I just hope people will realize how important it is that we stay in touch with our environment and our earth. I just think as long as we do that, we are recreating and giving some value to life, in more ways than one."

The Extension is currently recruiting for its upcoming daytime mentoring courses, which will be held February 6, 13 and 20 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Lunch is provided. For more information, contact Brennan at 336-703-2850 or brennamj@forsyth.cc. The Lloyd garden is in need of volunteers to help out during its spring growing season, which is slated to start in March. For more information, contact Rev. Laura Spangler at 336-784-1293.