

# Confront nation's misdeeds

MELODY MICERE STEWART

In the spirit of Ma'at



At a time when Switzerland is confronting its money laundering role in the Jewish holocaust, England is returning Hong Kong to China and all South Africans are grappling with the God-awful truth of the death, abject cruelty and moral deprivation of apartheid via the hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, one wonders whether it will be this century or the next when the United States of America will acknowledge, formerly apologize and teach its children the truth of American enslavement. As the self-appointed moral leader (police?) of the world, commenting on what German, Japanese and Chinese history books report as "truth," Americans should consider public atonement for her historical sins (which are still perpetuated in the society).

Want examples? Witness Fuzzy Zoeller's derogatory (read: racist) comments about Tiger Woods. Reminiscent of the remarks made by Jimmy "the Greek" Snyder a decade ago, America's racist subconscious is predictably and uncontrollably revealed, as a black man utterly shatters one of the last - and most revered - bastions of white male dominance (a.k.a. white supremacy). As further proof of an old African American adage, "once black folks learn the rules, white folks change them," discussion to change the layout of the Augusta National golf course began almost immediately. While one could say that words don't hurt - and Zoeller, like Snyder, did apologize - can you image the psychological impact and damage inflicted by the sight of your church burning? Let us not forget that 100 largely black churches were victims of racial violence just two years ago.

Or, what about witnessing a burning cross? In 1997, you say? It happened during the first week of April in Charlotte. A group of black parents were standing in line at the Methodist Home Recreation Center, located in a middle-class neighborhood, waiting to register their children for summer camp. Two white men living in the house across the street, after yelling racial slurs at the unsuspecting group, decided to build and burn a cross on their front lawn. One witness noted incredulously, "I wondered what century am I in."

Charlotte, the city of the "new" South, where, incidentally, you can purchase a "Redneck" burger for lunch in a fine restaurant and bumper stickers of Confederate flags are common, also has a problem with police who are creating a "new" history of shooting unarmed black citizens - two in six months. Continuing the trend, the N.C. state government just appointed 37 white legislators to a panel to determine the state's financial affairs.

An African American Democratic legislator remarked that it reminded him of a "Klan meeting." This columnist couldn't agree more.

# Till death sparked national outrage



COURTESY GYASI A. FOLUKE

Emmett Till, left, with his mother Mamie Till Mobley, was murdered by whites who allegedly were offended when the boy whistled at a white woman. It took an all-white Mississippi jury less than two hours to return a not guilty verdict.

Continued from page 1A

For three days, Emmett's body lay in state in the window of a Chicago mortuary. Hundreds of thousands of people filed by to see him. Mobley released countless posthumous pictures of her son to newspapers across the country.

Lynchings were not uncommon in the South, but the murder of Emmett Till sparked furor among blacks and whites. The governor of Mississippi issued a statement that Mississippi could not "condone such conduct." The white editor of a local newspaper called the incident "nauseating" and "way, way beyond the bounds of human decency."

The trial that followed was a

mockery. Roy Bryant, the husband of the woman Emmett allegedly whistled at, and his half brother, John Milam, were accused of killing Emmett. Despite the fact that witnesses identified Bryant and Milam as the kidnapers and Milam's admission that he shot the boy, both men were found innocent by an all-white jury.

Mobley said she knew what the verdict would be from the beginning. The defense accused her of conspiring with the NAACP and staging Emmett's murder.

"I knew the outcome, but the evidence was so strong against these men," she said. "The fact that a young black man described how Milam washed the

blood off his hands and tried on one of Emmett's shoes. How he buried the shoe and other clothing near the pump...In view of all of this, I just wondered if they would come back with a verdict of not guilty. That would be blatant disregard for the law."

Mobley never heard the verdict. By the time the jury returned after less than two hours of deliberation, Mobley and her family were 45 miles from town.

"Out of respect for me, we left," Mobley said. "I knew what that crowd would be like. It was a dangerous situation there. Blacks knew that if they were caught in town the signal had been given to white men, 'do what you want to do, we're not going to punish you for it.'"

Forty-two years later, Mobley continues to crusade for Emmett. Now a retired Chicago educator, she heads the Emmett Till Foundation, a group that trains children to recite Martin Luther King's speeches and sermons. At 75, she is collaborating on her autobiography, co-written by Emmerge magazine editor George Curry.

Emmett's death was tragic, Mobley says. But she takes comfort in the fact that many people still remember. A Chicago street is named for him. Toni Morrison penned a play about the incident "Dreaming Emmett."

"People who had never dared stare a white man in the face did," Mobley said. "There was a lot of fear. But there were a lot of people who made up their minds that if we're going to live like

this, death is better than this kind of thing.

"That's my son's legacy."



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## Snoop show is a fake, police warn

By Winfred B. Cross  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Fliers advertising a weekend concert by rap artist Snoop Doggy Dogg at Grady Cole Center are bogus.

"What it looks like now is maybe a fraud of investors," said Keith Bridges, community education coordinator for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police. "We don't want people out there buying tickets off the street when there's not going to be a show."

The fliers list C&J Concert Productions as the concert's promoters. J. Howell, CEO of the company, told The Post in March he was national tour director for East-West Fresh Fest, a tour featuring the gangsta rapper. The tour was scheduled to stop in

Charlotte March 22, but was canceled when rapper Notorious B.I.G. was killed in Los Angeles. The tour was never rescheduled.

Howell could not be reached for comment.

Snoop Doggy Dogg performed at Blockbuster Pavilion June 28 as part of the national Lollapalooza tour.

Fraud investigator Mary Crowell said the case was still in the research stage.

"I'm still investigating so there isn't much I can say," she said. "I can say the concert was never a go at that location."

Crowell also said cases she investigates are usually felonies.

Bridges said police were alerted by Mecklenburg Park and Recreation (which operates

Grady Cole) staff members who noticed fliers promoting a concert July 5 at the center.

"They got nervous that a group of people might come down, not see a concert and start storming the doors," Bridges said.

The fliers also claimed tickets were available at Willies Records, Tapes and CDs and Repo Records. Bridges said none were delivered. He said police don't think any were ever sold.

"A guy came by and left some fliers on our counter," said Donovan Hunter, assistant manager for Willies North Tryon location. "Somebody called us from the Grady Cole Center yesterday and said the concert wasn't scheduled. We weren't involved in the promotion."

## Haitians see America up close

Continued from page 1A

Haitian Workers and president of Citizens for the Improvement of Cite Soleil; and Viviane Valerius, show host, Radio Haiti.

"Democracy plays a most crucial role in this society," said Valerius said. "Haiti is just emerging as a democracy. People are not well educated and do not know what democracy is all about."

Darguste grew a contrast between Haiti and the U.S. "American citizens are really involved in everything in their country," Darguste said. "They believe in their constitution and believe in the law."

Their goal is to learn more about civic journalism and use of media to educate citizens and provide a forum for democratic debate.

The Haitians' fragile democracy was restored with the help of the U.S. government, but the country has not developed the institutions necessary in a free society. The new government is trying to

stabilized the country's troubled economy and rebuild its tourist industry.

While some Haitians do not respect the law, the U.S. is a very orderly society, the visitors said, a stark contrast to the small, economically distressed Caribbean nation.

Their questions covered the gamut of how Minister Louis Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam fit into America's political arena to the level of coverage given unions and religious groups. The visitors asked if Jack Kemp, Bob Dole's 1996 running mate, would attract black voters, and about differences between Republicans and Democrats.

During the discussions, Post Publisher Gerald Johnson summed up American democracy - "Everything is political." Voters cast ballots based on party platforms and not the candidates, Johnson said, referring to potential Kemp problems despite general respect from black voters.

While voting is important,

those who influence large numbers of voters, like Farrakhan, can wield political power without ever running for office, Johnson said.

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**Dr. Donald Wright**  
Senior Pastor, Scripture Center Rocky Mount, N.C.

SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS & NIGHTLY SERVICES

Session I (9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.) • Session II (1:00 - 3:00 P.M.)  
Worship service begins nightly at 7:30 P.M.

Wednesday, July 9th		Thursday, July 10th	
Session I	Forgiveness Sister Janice Bowling	Session I	God's Truth Conquers the Devil's Lies Sister Janice Bowling
Session II	Prayer Is The Key - Faith Unlocks the Door Sister Elizabeth Young	Session II	Count It All Joy! Rev. Nancy Carree Wilson

Friday, July 11th

Session I	The Gates of Hell Shall Not Prevail - Pt. 1 Sister Harriet Porter-Jinwright, First Lady Salem Baptist Church
Session II	The Gates of Hell Shall Not Prevail - Pt. 2 Reverend Anthony L. Jinwright, Senior Pastor Salem Baptist Church

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