

Image is everything

MELODYE MICERE STEWART

In the spirit of Ma'at



Imagery. Pictures that tell a deeper story. In contemporary America, image is everything — it shapes our thoughts, views, ideas, consciousness. For African Americans, the reality of mass media imagery too often dictates what we believe about ourselves and what others believe about us and themselves. James Baldwin made it plain: "If I'm not who you say I am, then you're not who you think you are."

In particular, "mental" imagery — provided by print and audio as well as television and movies — are like mirrors which reflect. Much of the mirror imagery given to us by image makers utilizes trick mirrors: distortion rules. African American distorted images can be viewed on daily television fare, from news broadcasts to situation comedies to nightly television dramas. According to an article written by Jannette L. Dates and Camille O. Cosby, television imagery is partly responsible for "destructive self-esteem problems found among young African American viewers." In workshops, I ask young people and parents, "What does 'Martin' teach you about what it means to be African American?"

W.E.B. DuBois wrote about the reality of race-based imagery in his concept of the "veil," noting white control over the black psyche which "only lets him see himself through the revelation of the other world. It is a peculiar sensation this double consciousness, this sense of always looking at one's self through the eyes of others."

Whites "see" and promote us through a narrow, stereotypical, Eurocentric lens which serve their own purposes and contributes to our destruction. Whether its in the form of "gangsta" movies, e.g., "Dead Presidents," or gangsta rap, the image of violent black males (and now, Queen Latifah and the girls) fits with the version spouted by network news and does not serve our community well. On the flip side, the tragicomic minstrel tradition has been magnificently updated by the "Tom Joyner Show" and African Americans regularly consume and internalize negative race-consciousness.

We must cultivate a new race consciousness which integrates our deep spirituality with an actively pursued knowledge and understanding of our history. With a renewed sense of race-obligation and race-responsibility, this consciousness will dictate the righteous use and focus of our money, resources, and collective living.

39 counts await Espy

Continued from page 1A

travel to a National Football League playoff game in Dallas.

The indictment charges that Espy ordered the employee to delete references to Tyson, his girlfriend, and the football game when his travel itinerary for that day was requested by the USDA's inspector general.

That count alone carries a maximum 10-year prison term upon conviction. He is also accused of concocting a pretense for traveling to Dallas on official business by scheduling a meeting with a local USDA investigator "for the purpose of justifying his presence" in that city.

Espy's law office in Jackson, Miss., said Espy not immediately available for comment. Reid Weingarten, Espy's defense attorney in Washington, also was not immediately available for comment.

Espy resigned in December 1994, three months after an independent counsel began his investigation. A former Mississippi congressman, Espy has denied any criminal wrongdoing.

The indictment also charged that Espy lied to the White House when it investigated the allegations as part of an ethics review and failed to disclose the gifts on

his government financial disclosure report.

If convicted of all 39 charges and sentenced consecutively he could face a jail term of more than 100 years. The indictment includes charges of wire fraud, mail fraud and traveling in interstate commerce to commit crimes.

Among the sources of gifts was a lobbyist for Tyson Foods Inc., the Arkansas-based chicken processor. The company acknowledged in June it was a target of the investigation, but has professed its innocence of any wrongdoing. Tyson Foods general counsel James Blair said Wednesday that prosecutors would not be able to prove that Espy "took illegal favors from Tyson Foods."

"I don't believe that, because I don't believe it happened," Blair said.

In May, a federal judge fined Sun Diamond Growers of California, the largest grower of raisins, prunes and other dried fruits, \$1.5 million for giving Espy \$6,000 in illegal gratuities and for illegally donating \$4,000 to the failed congressional campaign of Espy's brother, Henry.

Sun Diamond lobbyist Richard Douglas is awaiting trial in San Francisco on charges of lavishing favors and gifts on Espy and his

girlfriend, Patricia Dempsey.

Smaltz was appointed to investigate whether Espy violated the law by accepting tickets to a Dallas Cowboys football playoff game and \$1,009 in air fare for himself and his girlfriend from Tyson lobbyist Jack L. Williams.

Williams was found guilty in March of lying about providing the football and airline tickets to Espy. But in June, a federal judge set aside Williams' conviction and ordered a new trial. Prosecutors had argued that Williams lied to hide his knowledge of giving gifts to Espy on behalf of Tyson.

Smaltz was also investigating why the Tyson Foundation gave a \$1,200 scholarship to Dempsey. Douglas is accused of giving Espy a \$2,427 set of luggage and a \$4,590 trip for him and his girlfriend to the 1993 U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York City. Douglas is also accused of lying to investigators about the source of two National Basketball Association playoff tickets that Espy received from the chief executive officer of Quaker Oats.

The indictment against Douglas charges that he told investigators he got the tickets from a friend who was an NBA player.

Decapitation suspect denied bail

By David Reed
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDEPENDENCE, Virginia — One of the two white men arrested in the death of a black man who was burned alive and decapitated will help prosecutors build their murder case against his codefendant, an attorney said Tuesday.

Federal officials are investigating whether the July 25 killing was a racially motivated hate crime.

Emmett Cressell Jr. appeared in court Tuesday and was denied bail on charges of first-degree murder and robbery. He could face up to life in prison.

His codefendant, Louis J. Ceparano, is charged with capital murder and robbery and could face the death penalty in the slaying of Garnett P. Johnson.

A witness, Hazel Louise Anderson, told The Associated Press she heard one of the men threaten to burn Johnson on a cross before he was killed. The men also pinned Johnson down and stripped him of his watch, she said.

Cressell's lawyer, Mark Claytor, said in after the hearing Tuesday that his client will cooperate with prosecutors in

making their case against Ceparano, who also is being held without bail.

Cressell, 36, and Johnson had been "drinking buddies for years," Claytor said.

"We want everyone to know his (Cressell's) involvement. I think people will be surprised," Claytor said in arguing that Cressell should be allowed to

post bail.

Claytor would not discuss Cressell's role in the killing, but denied that he is a racist.

"I don't know what Ceparano's motives were, but to call my man a racist because he was at a party when the crime occurred is unfair to him and the facts will bear it out," he said.

THE NEW HAMPTON
Presbyterian Family Life Center



- Reunions • Concerts • Receptions •
- Dramatic Plays • Meetings • Retreats •
- Sporting Activities •

COMMERCIAL KITCHEN
SEATING CAPACITY FOR 1000

For Information & Facility Tour
DEBRA DYE
(704)588-0609 or (704)547-0296
211 Hampton Church Rd. • Charlotte NC 28262

Coming Soon The '97 BLACK GUIDE

NEW SALON IN TOWN

DREW'S HAIR CARE SALON

Tuesday Specials Thru August

Relaxer, Cut, Condition & Style.....\$55.⁰⁰

Shampoo, Cut & Style.....\$35.⁰⁰

Stylist: *Drusillia Fulton & Shandra Moore*

5630-A Farm Pond • Charlotte, NC 28212
(704)569-0170 • Pager 423-0960

Wed. & Thur. 9AM-6PM • Fri. 9AM - 7PM
Sat. 7:30AM - 4PM



CAROLINA MONTESSORI ACADEMY

- Toddlers • Preschool • Elementary (grades 1-3) •
- Help your child develop his or her unique gifts
- Music • Foreign Language • Computers •

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE 1-3 GRADE

1524 Mt. Holly-Huntersville Rd. • Charlotte
391-9570

D.D.'s BEST PROFESSIONAL African Hair Braiding

10% OFF
To First
50 Callers



Specializing In:
Box Braids • Micro Braids • Corn Rows • Weave
Corkscrew • Silky Dread • Dread Lock
Invisible Braids • Goddess Braids
Senegalese Twist • Crochet Braids

"THE BEST IN TOWN"

and more... More... MORE...

FOR LESS

The Satisfaction of the customer is my priority!

Open 6 Days A Week at 9:00am For Appointment Call: 393-0396
5028 Timber Brook / Charlotte



Wholesale Computers, Inc.
New & Pre-owned Computers

BACK TO SCHOOL SAVINGS!

Large Selection Of New & Pre-Owned Computers

- DESKTOP SYSTEMS
- NOTEBOOKS
- MULTI-MEDIA SYSTEMS
- FULL LINE OF ACCESSORIES

FULL SERVICE DEPARTMENT



A+ Authorized Service Center

NEW HOURS
MON. - SAT.
10AM - 6PM

3633 E. Independence Blvd. (Behind Pizza Hut)
704-567-6555



Where are you?

Have you discovered that running your own business is more than a full-time job? Are you CEO, coffee maker, receptionist, CFO, and sales force? We are here. To make sure you have the tools you need to keep your focus on the business at hand. To help you customize those tools to the needs of your unique business. To make things like paying federal and some of your state taxes over the phone a convenient reality. If your board meetings take place around the kitchen table, give us a call. Because in our view, every business has a personality all its own.

We are here.

WACHOVIA

Let's get started.™

KINGSPARK APARTMENTS

Clean, safe, quiet community conveniently located on bus line. Affordable 2 bedroom garden and townhouses. Refrigerator, range, AC and water included in rent. Helpful resident manager and maintenance staff.

Call
333-2966
M-F 9:30-6:00

Labor Day BBQ?

We Have Everything You Need!

Plates • Napkins • Flags
Trays • Decorations

PAPERTOWN

4420 Monroe Rd. • 342-5815

1-800-994-9222
WWW.WACHOVIA.COM

©1997 Wachovia Corporation
Wachovia Bank is a member FDIC.