

Black Power Is Self-image

Editor's Note: The following is a passage from a speech given recently to the Hoke County Civic Club by West Hoke teacher Ethelyn Baker. The speech ran in last week's News-Journal, however, because of a technical error, was omitted.

Question. What do you think of yourself?
 What do your children think of themselves?

Black power is a positive self-image.

Black can be power when it stands for Kinship.

Love for one another.
 As a people, as a race, we need to band together. We need to support one another.

One common denominator binds us together. We are of the same race.

We need to truly work for a cause rather than celebrate an event each year without a cause.

If we, as a group of people band together we would indeed have the Power.

The Power which is neither Black nor White.

We would have green power. Ladies and gentlemen, it is possible for us to have that power if we, deep in our hearts believe the poet, one of the greatest writers of all times, Langston Hughes:

I too sing America
 I am the darker brother,
 They send me to eat in the kitchen
 When company comes
 but I laugh and eat well and grow strong
 Tomorrow, I'll sit at the table
 When company comes
 No one'll dare say to me
 Eat in the kitchen, then
 But they'll see how beautiful
 I am and be afraid
 I too, sing AMERICA

Sunday School Lesson

It seems an incredible thing for Luke to say of the disciples. We can imagine that they might disbelieve out of depression or cynicism or tragic experience, but not "for joy."

And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, he said to them. "Have you anything here to eat?"

What Luke is saying is that the disciples found the possibility of Jesus' resurrection too good to be true, too wonderful to believe.

Of course their first reaction was not "joy." When the resurrected Christ first came and "stood among them," "they were startled and frightened, and supposed they saw a spirit" (a ghost). But when the risen Christ speaks to them, asking, "Why are you troubled and why do questionings rise in your hearts?", their surprise and fear begin to turn to an amazed joy. They want to believe but their hearts are afraid to make the leap of faith, for they do not want to be disappointed.

When we read the accounts of Jesus' resurrection appearances, we may find it incredible that the disciples should have disbelieved for any reason at all. From safety of our vantage point in time we wonder how they could have been so slow to believe. Yet, in all fairness to those disciples, it is likely that any of us would have been quicker to acknowledge the risen

Christ? I think not, for, like them, we would likely also find the risen Lord too good to be true.

What makes the resurrection seem that way is more than just the claim that a man died on a cross and then was brought back to life in his physical body. For in appearing as the risen Lord, Jesus was proclaiming once and for all that God has the final say, that love will eventually conquer sin, that neither human evil or mortal death can prevail in the long run. And all of that is almost too good to be true.

We all want to believe that life has some purpose, that good prevails over evil in the long run, that death is not the end of existence and that a loving God will ultimately set all things right. The resurrection of Christ is God's way of confirming all of those hopes and aspirations and legitimizing joy rather than despair as God's gift to his children. If the disciples "still disbelieved for joy" on that day Jesus' resurrection appearance, we can easily understand and share that joyous doubt.

But overcoming our disbelief is not the end of the matter. For once we have allowed ourselves to experience the risen Christ, we must take that joy in believing to others who also, like us, might find it too good to be true.

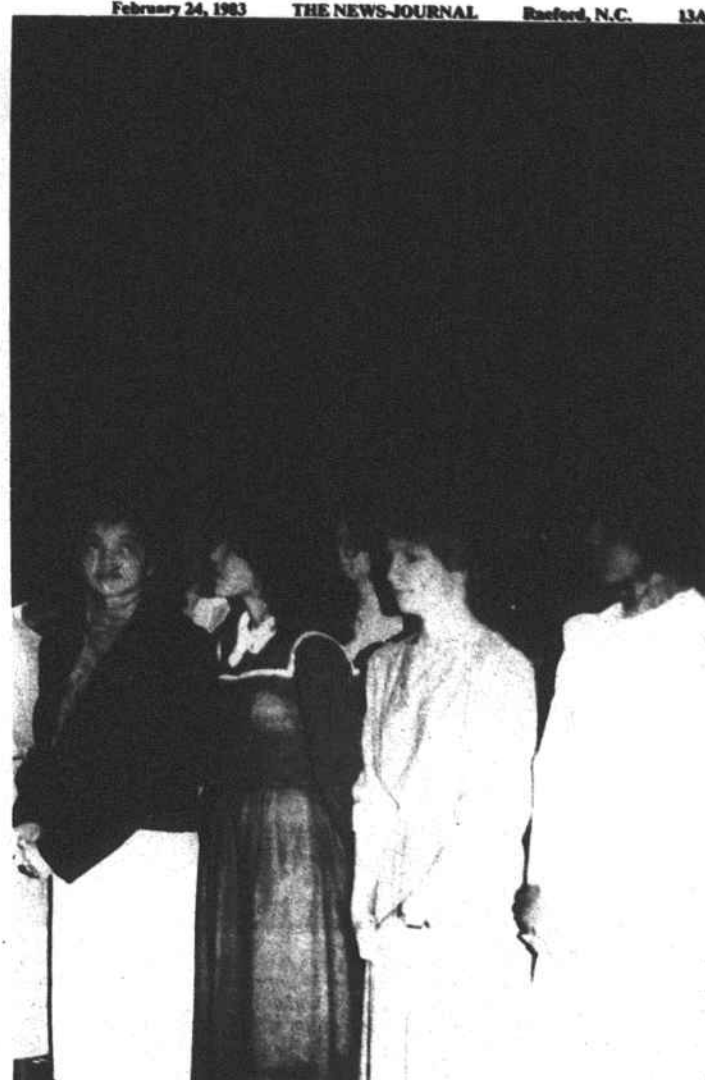
McLean Finishes Basic

Pvt. Angelia V. McLean, daughter of John H. and Elizabeth G. McLean of 608 N. Jackson St., Raeford, has completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C.

McLean is a 1982 graduate of Hoke County High School.



AWARD GIVEN--At last week's meeting of The North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE), Raz Autry was honored with a plaque by Darlene Clark, President of the NCAE.



ALMOST THERE--Students from the senior class of Hoke High's mock graduation ceremony held last Thursday. The ceremony honors those students who have passed all their courses up to this point.

Bacon Completes Basic Training

Army Pvt. Henry A. Bacon, son of Robert R. and Earline R. Bacon of 204 Ramsey Ave., Hopewell, Va., has completed basic training at Fort Knox, Ky.

During the training, students received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, first aid, and Army history and traditions.

Bacon's wife, Ethel, is the daughter of Vernon H. and Rosie L. Cooper of Route 1, Red Springs.

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George Wilson

Wilson Promoted To VP At BB&T

George H. Wilson has been promoted to vice president in the General Accounting Department by the Board of Directors at BB&T. He has been assigned to the Financial Management Division of the Home Office in Wilson.

Wilson was a corporate trust officer with Wachovia Bank and Trust Company, NA, from 1964 to 1973 and spent six years as a CPA in public accounting. He joined BB&T in 1981 as the officer in charge of tax planning and compliance.

He graduated from North Carolina State University with a degree in statistics and served in the U.S. Army Reserve. He is a director of the Wilson Kiwanis Club - All American and a member of First United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Wilson is the former Betsy Gatlin of Raeford and they have two children.



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