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Community Resources, Programs

Black Family Surviving Amid Hard Times

BY W. MASON, JR.
Staff Writer

The African-American family is surviving.

Despite federal programs designed to keep African-American men and women apart and economic conditions that bury many families under a veil of poverty and despair, the strength of the African-American family is alive and intact.

The evidence of that is within the programs that grow each year to support the family, said Annette

Watson, spokesperson with Strengthening the Black Family, Inc., an agency which formed to support the family. The other evidence is within the number of families that seek the support of local agencies, she said.

Strengthening the Black Family, which draws its support from local, civic, fraternal and some service groups in Raleigh, each year has sponsored a program aimed at providing service, and support to black families who are trying to bring

order to an otherwise chaotic society.

Since the program began in 1981, groups such as Teens Against AIDS have grown to give young people a sense of struggle and direction. In addition, 13 sponsoring agencies have joined to support local families and to provide the service many of them need, she said.

"The organization makes people aware of the things that need to be done in promoting family life," Watson said.

Children in housing projects are

targeted with scholarships and academic contests. Families are selected to serve as role models to encourage other families, Watson said.

The results of the program are far reaching, said Carol Hunter, a public relations representative at Saint Augustine's College.

Each year, the program has drawn more families. The program has also sparked the creation of new programs in the community designed to aid families in the struggle.

Black families are in crisis, Watson said. As they move further into the 90s, African-American families will face more barriers to political, economic and social freedom.

The family and the Church have historically been the mainstay for most African-American families. But while the church has remained unchanged, the family structure for most Americans, particularly African-Americans, has changed dramatically due to living trends.

"This program is needed in our

community," Ms. Watson said. "Many of our families are struggling. This program helps them work through their struggle," she said.

The goal of this year's conference is to help families to remain strong through the utilization of community resources that impact on education, health, economic development and the value system.

The keynote speaker for this year's luncheon/breakfast session is the Rev. Harold Burris, program director of Impact D.C.

(See FAMILY, P. 2)

Challenges For Church In '90s Focus Of Panel

Dr. David T. Shannon, Dr. John W. Kinney, and Dr. E.D. McCreary will head the distinguished list of resource lecturers and preachers when the Shaw Divinity School sponsors its 17th annual Albert W. Peques Pastor's Conference on March 20-21 at the Shaw Divinity School Chapel, Shaw-Wiggins Campus, on Rush Street near Old Garner Road. A record crowd of ministers and Christian laity is expected to attend.

The theme for the 1990 conference is "The Church and Social Issues in the Decade of the '90s: Challenges for Pastoral and Lay Leadership."

Registration for the conference will begin at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 19, and the conference concludes around 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21.

Registration and all sessions of the conference will be held in the Shaw Divinity School Chapel. The cost of registration is \$50.

The 1990 Annual Pastor's Conference will be held in conjunction with the annual Shaw Divinity School Founder's Day and the annual meeting of the Shaw Divinity School Alumni Association.

Founder's Day and alumni activities will occur on Monday, March 19. The schedule of activities includes the Founder's Day convocation at 11 a.m., a Founder's Day luncheon at 1 p.m., and the annual meeting of the Shaw Divinity School National Alumni Association at 4 p.m.

The Alumni/Founder's Day banquet, under the auspices of the Shaw Alumni Association, will be held at 7 p.m. in the Student Union Building, on Monday, March 19.

The lecture series and services of the Pastor's Conference will begin on Tuesday, March 20, at 9:15 a.m.

(See CHALLENGES, P. 2)

Trooper Says Self-Defense

Ex-Mayor's Death Investigated

Bowen Shot Five Times Near Home

A grand jury is expected to hear evidence in the shooting death of a black ex-mayor from Columbus County by a white state trooper.

The jury will hear evidence in the death of Sidney Bowen, 42, who was shot to death outside of his home by Trooper Alfred E. Morris of the state highway patrol. Bowen was the first black mayor of Bolton.

Trooper Morris shot Bowen in his front yard in Bolton in Columbus County early this month during a drunken driving arrest. The state highway patrol said Morris fired his 9 mm semiautomatic weapon in self-defense after Bowen grabbed the officer's flashlight and beat him over the head with it.

Bowen's body has seven bullet wounds—two in the chest, two in the back, one in each side and one above and behind the right ear.

The highway patrol cleared Trooper Morris of the shooting within 24-hours after deciding he had acted in self-defense. An autopsy showed Bowen died of gunshot wounds to the head and chest and had been shot five times. The autopsy also showed that he apparently had been hit on the head with a blunt object.

The killing is being investigated by the state NAACP. State president Kelly M. Alexander is asking the Federal Bureau of Investigation and democratic U.S. Senate candidate Michael Easley to probe Bowen's death.

(See EX-MAYOR DEAD, P. 2)



JOINING MARCH—People from Eastern North Carolina, including the Triangle area, boarded a bus for the National March for Justice in Education held in Selma, Alabama last weekend. The march comes amid growing tension in the Selma School System which fired its black school superintendent, rehired him and finally refused to renew his contract. (Photo by Talib Sabir-Calloway)

Africans Trying To Bridge Gaps Between Blacks In U.S., Africa

BY DR. ALBERT JABS
Contributing Writer
An analysis

The Only Share You Have Is Africa. When Dr. Talbert Shaw came to Africa, some people asked the President whether his parents owned Shaw University. Another speaker said that Americans of Polish descent are known to help Poland, Americans of Jewish faith know how to help Israel, and that African-Americans

should learn how to assist their African brothers and sisters by making their education count in the global village of today.

One speaker stated students from Africa are ambassadors and that there should be more exchanges between Shaw University and schools in Africa. He also said (Ambassadors) that the Shaw students are "their children and that they are loved." Moreover, that the

"Battle of the Books" is important and the example of the American Jewish community of writing letters (being literate) if criticism of Israel is made, should be followed by the students when their interests are affected.

The speaker exhorted the students, "we don't have time to fool around." If the women or men come to Shaw to find a mate, they should get their mind on the books, too. African ambassadors gave this type of message.

Another speaker emphasized that the students should learn their geography and their history. He implied that there is life beyond Raleigh and that their roots in Africa and the British Empire/Colonialism should be understood. The future belongs to them. Africa is not a renegade land, but under colonial rule for 500 years, first under Portugal and now ending with South Africa. It is this history (according to the speaker) that caused Africa to be underdeveloped. This is history that should be understood.

(See AMBASSADORS, P. 2)

Existing Disparities

Schools: To 'Have' Or To 'Have-Not'

BY WILLIAM J. SAUNDERS
Executive Director
National Alliance of Black School Educators
An Analysis

Now, as the 1990s begin, a brief look back at the '80s is not unwarranted. The Reagan decade of defense spending and yuppies, the "me" decade as it has been coined, has been wonderful for many people, but for far more, the "me" decade has been the "them" decade, as a

growing disparity between rich and poor has entrenched itself.

Unfortunately, this disparity has also taken hold in my field—education. It has divided the education system into the "haves" and the "have-nots;" a split which, though not new to the '80s, has been exacerbated by them.

The "have-nots" are a large and diverse group. They are the parents, taxpayers and communities that are financially unable to bring large-

scale change and improvement to their schools. They pay lower salaries, attract fewer top teachers and have inferior facilities and equipment. And worse, they are the students and teachers who lack the equipment and the tools that bring life to both teaching and learning.

The "have-nots" are in urban areas where there is not enough money to repair ailing facilities or tackle lead paint and asbestos problems. They are in rural areas where schools are

small and cannot offer students a number of subjects such as foreign languages, chemistry and calculus. And, they are in blue-collar suburban neighborhoods where tight tax bases create weak school budgets which cannot cover educational innovations, such as computers or modern vocational equipment to train students for today's jobs.

The administrators of "have-not" schools must juggle a growing list of new social demands—with few offers of new funds—"teach more math and science," "institute early childhood classes," "hire more school guards," "test the teachers," "test the students," etc. And when new funds do come they compete with drug education, teen pregnancy and parenthood programs, and expanded vocational training.

As we move into the '90s, we hope, and know, that we can lessen the existing disparities. The federal government has not been eager to help the beleaguered education system and taxpayers without children in school are reluctant to pay more for educating others' children. Understanding the critical link between the success of our schools and the success of our economy, American business has come forward. The partnership between education and business is extremely important and both parties are coming to realize this.

One such business Whittle Communications, is making a significant offer to secondary schools across the United States—the Education Network. It is an offer that includes both the technology, and the educational programming, which can bring our schools not only into the 1990s, but on into the 21st century as well.

(See OUR SCHOOLS, P. 2)



FREE MARKET, FREE IDEAS—President and Mrs. Denis Sassou-Nguesso of the Congo are seen here with Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin Hooks, director of the NAACP during a visit to Washington, D.C. The Congolese leader delivered a

message earlier to President George Bush on economic development and growth of peace for all of Africa, promoting free market and free ideas.

Black Leader Plans Militia To Gain Power

MILWAUKEE, Wis. (AP)—Alderman Michael McGee says he will begin training a militia before the end of the year that would take up arms against "those who stand in our way" if there is no progress on issues affecting black people within the next five months.

McGee, who is black, made his remarks last Wednesday during a City Hall news conference that he billed as a State of the Inner City Address.

"I'm serious as a heart attack about this," he said.

The alderman said he, his sons and others would not be afraid to die fighting for "liberation and freedom for our community." He said the formation of the group was "for our own protection and our own security."

He said the "Black Panther Community Militia" would undergo weapons training, education and "survival programs" with recruitment being done among young gang members.

"They can fight and they already know how to shoot," he said. "I'm going to give them a cause to die for."

As a backdrop at his news conference, McGee had a poster with

(See BLACK LEADER, P. 2)

INSIDE AFRICA

Bringing a message of strengthened friendship and cooperation between the Congo and the United States, President Denis Sassou-Nguesso made a state visit to the United States recently, the first such visit by a Congolese president.

President George Bush, in remarks during the official arrival ceremony at the White House (which was broadcast live to Brazzaville via satellite), praised the efforts of the Congolese president as a peacemaker and an advocate of economic development. Bush urged President Sassou-Nguesso to use his "respected voice" to pursue peace and self-determination for the people of Angola. He saluted "the growing health of the free markets and free ideas" in the Congo. "Today it is my privilege, on behalf of the American

(See INSIDE AFRICA, P. 2)



AFFORDABLE HOUSING—John Carlton, Secretary of Downtown Housing Improvement Corporation, thanks Robert Ginter and Robert Williams, both of IBM, for the donation of a computer. Robert Williams, a member of the DHC Board of Directors, had submitted a donation application on behalf of the Corporation. The computer will be used in compiling applicant lists for DHC's affordable housing developments.