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January 23 thru January 29, 1997

VOL. XXI, No. 4

An Independent Pictorial Newspaper for All People • Primarily Serving the Black Population of Lubbock County and the Surrounding Area • Black Press of America

NATIONAL NEWS

Nat'l Political Convention follows-up Million Man March

The three-day National Political Convention, a follow-up to last October's Million Man March, convened Sept. 27-29 at the America's Center TWA Dome in St. Louis, Mo. The convention, which is organized by Million Man March Inc. and the National African American Leadership Summit (NAALS), will address the issues impacting urban areas and the poor, say officials. The convention "signals a new day in Black politics. This is a move toward independent political participation. This is a move toward affirming that our politics is going to be God centered, not white male centered," said march convenor, the Rev. Ben Chavis, executive director of NAALS. For information call the NAALS at 202-726-5111.

National Council of Churches receive Strauss Foundation grant

The National Council of Churches is one of six social justice organizations which will receive a grant from Project Change, the anti-racism initiative of the Levi Strauss Foundation. Totaling approximately \$300,000 the grants were presented at the National Association of Black Journalists annual conference in Nashville. Other recipients are: The Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR); The Center for Democratic Renewal and Education (CDR); The Leadership Conference Education (LCEF); The National Conference and The Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Ali Program may mean new jobs in public housing

Former heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali was the guest of honor Aug. 21, at the "First Annual Muhammad Ali Community Service Award Dinner" in Chicago, reported the Chicago Defender. The dinner was held on behalf of the Muhammad Ali Community and Economic Development Corporation (MACEDC). A private, invitation-only event, it was attended by both Mayor Richard Daley and Henry Cisneros, secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The mission of MACEDC is to employ and train low-income, public-housing residents in the building trades in a partnership with the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA). Its purpose is "to empower public-housing residents to develop and implement community and economic enterprises within public housing," said Otis Monroe, director of public affairs for MACEDC. The program has been in existence since last September. Northern Trust and First National Bank of Evergreen Park are lending partners with MACEDC. For more information about the organization call 312-752-3726.

Local Officer Receives Promotion

Major Patrick B. Gaston is currently attending The Logistics Executive Development Course. His previous assignments include supply and service branch chief for the 7th Corps Support Group and Commander of The 240th Quartermaster Company (Direct Support) and 75th Supply Company (General Support) in Europe. He graduated from

The United States Military Academy at West Point, New York with a Bachelor of Science degree. His military training includes The Northern Warfare Course, Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, Quartermaster Officer Advanced Course, and Combined Arms and service staff school.



Ronald Gaston brother helped pin major bars on his brother Patrick. Patrick is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Sylvester Gaston of Lubbock. MG Robert K. Guest promoted Capt. Gaston to Major.

Despite Badgering O.J. Maintains Composure

By Cheryl Brown

Over objections of his attorneys, Simpson was persistently badgered and accused of killing Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman. O.J. maintained his composure under harsh direct examination by Fred Goldman's attorney Daniel Petrocelli. Michael Brewer, attorney for Sharon Rufo, Goldman's mother and John Q. Kelly, attorney for the estate of (Nicole) Simpson, while the predominantly white jury looked on.

Many times throughout the proceedings, Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki agreed with the defense's objections, and other times he let the assault continue. Sources inside the courtroom overheard Petrocelli during a break tell the Brown's he was going to make O.J. angry. It didn't work and hardened biased critics came away surprised at Simpson's positive demeanor. Even Bill Handle, a Los Angeles based talk show host on KFI, 640 radio station said, "I thought I'd hate him. He's good. I like him as a witness. He is believable." For the past two years Handle, who is also an attorney, has made fun of, and constantly referred to Simpson as a murderer.

His positive response to O.J.'s examination was echoed by a white woman who was chosen through the lottery system for one of the public seats in the courtroom. She

said, "O.J. is really making sense to me. I like him. I thought he'd be angry and mean. He's really nice," she told the NNPA. "A guilty man could not have held up like that," said a frequent court watcher.

O.J.'s impressive composure still amazed Petrocelli. He suggested that it was almost unnatural for O.J. to sign autographs at this trying time. But O.J. said, "it was easier to give them (the autograph) than (to) get into a fight about why I wouldn't give them." Petrocelli even mocked O.J. when he said O.J. took advice from a perfect stranger, referring to the attorney who was sitting next to O.J. on his return flight from Chicago after he was notified of Nicole's murder. O.J. was apparently told to secure a criminal attorney and have him waiting at Rockingham. O.J. said "he was an attorney and I took his advice."

O.J. Simpson is the only person in California, if not the United States, who has had this much scrutiny, said family friend Leo Terrell. "He is fighting a war on two fronts." During the civil trial he is also involved in a custody battle for his children. The custody trial is necessary because Simpson freely gave custody of his children, Sydney and Justin, to the Brown's while he was imprisoned and defending the criminal charges.

EVERGREEN ENTERTAINMENT TO RELEASE ON HOME VIDEO RUN FOR THE DREAM: THE GAIL DEVERS STORY IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The True Story Of How A Female Athlete's Faith & Courage Took Her From A Wheelchair To Olympic Gold

In celebration of Black History Month in February, Evergreen Entertainment will release Run For the Dream: The Gail Devers Story on home video, in stores across the nation on February 18th.

They said she would never walk again, but Gail Devers ran on to capture Olympic gold - and the world's heart - at the Barcelona games and again in Atlanta four years later. In a December 6th ceremony, she became the first woman to receive the "Jesse Owens Award" for most valuable athlete from the U.S. Track & Field association. Now the remarkable true story of this world champion track star's triumph over tragedy is recreated in an uplifting tribute

to the power of faith and the courage of champions.

"Classy performances make this a standout," said People magazine about Academy Award-winner Louis Gossett, Jr. (An Officer and A Gentleman, 1982) as world-class coach Bob Kersee and Charlayne Woodard (Buffalo Girls) as the Olympic contender whose future is shattered when she's diagnosed with a crippling disease, coming within just two days of having her feet amputated. How Gail regains her ability to walk, then run to become the "fastest woman on earth" just 18 months later is one of the greatest comeback stories in the history of sports and an extraordinary inspiration for anyone who has ever dared

to dream.

As a special added bonus, included on the cassette are personal interviews with Devers and Kersee.

Evergreen Entertainment was created to distribute a diverse selection of high-quality films to the home video market and is quickly establishing itself as a leading distributor of a broad range of entertainment on videocassette. Initial releases from the banner include The Perez Family, Search & Destroy and The Last Ride. The company will distribute over 25 titles to the rental market each year. Evergreen Entertainment is headquartered in Los Angeles, California.



Lubbock High Student Makes Perfect Scores on PSAT and SAT

Nathan Rogers, a junior at Lubbock High School, was notified in December that he had made a perfect score on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT). Last week, Rogers was notified that he also had made a perfect score on the actual Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), as well.

The magnitude of Nathan's achievement can be better appreciated when viewed from a national perspective. Of the approximately 2 million students nationwide who took the PSAT, only 171 of them made a perfect score. Of the approximately 2.2 million students nationwide who took the SAT, only 540 of them made a perfect score.

Sharon Mouser, magnet specialist at Lubbock High School, said "In my twenty-seven years, I've never seen a perfect score of 1600 on the SAT. I've seen perfect scores on certain sections of the test, and I've seen combined scores as high as 1590, but I've never seen a perfect score—until now."



Nathan Rogers

Dr. Henry J. Lyons: A New Leader With a New Vision

The National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., the nation's largest religious organization with over 8.5 million members, in 33,000 churches across the nation, convened its 116th annual session on Sept. 2 thru 6, 1996 in Orlando, FLA at the Orange County Convention Center.

The convention drew in excess of 80,000 delegates and guests.

Dr. Henry J. Lyons, president of the organization has emerged as a new leader for African Americans.

When the Black community suffers, as it has suffered over the past two decades because lack of leadership and covert racism, which recently turned its face, becoming more overt in its expression, and with every racial group in the country demanding to be heard and to have access to mainstream America, this new visionary leader has stepped forth to chart a new course for African Americans in this country. Dr. Lyons announced in his first annual address his WE (World Empowerment) program for African Americans which pointed out seven goals that Black America are to ascribe to, which will assure that they will take their rightful place in this society called America.

He stated, "As we begin our

meeting we are facing poverty, crime, violence, the unprecedented incarceration of our youth, sexually transmitted diseases, terrorism, church burnings, cutbacks in welfare the dismantling of affirmative, massive insensitivity to the poor, family disillusionment and a decline in morality and values. With these negatives, we are meeting to search for ways to 'raise the standard.'"

The convention drew America's most influential leaders, including the President of the United States. President Bill Clinton addressed the General Session on Friday, Sept 6 at 9 a.m. Noted attorney Johnnie Cochran was the guest speaker at the Educational banquet on Monday, Sept 2.

The highlight of the convention was on Thursday, Sept. 5 at 2 p.m. when Dr. Henry J. Lyons delivered his second annual address.



Dr. Henry J. Lyons

Big Event For Digest Coming Soon

The Digest has a major event planned for the near future. This will be a major project. Watch the Digest for more information.



Ruby Jay's Corner

The New Hope Baptist, the "Church Where The People Really Care," is located at 2002 Birch Avenue, and Rev. Billy R. Moton is the proud pastor.

Sunday School began last Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m., with all officers at their post of duty. Supt. High presided over the session. For thirty minutes, all classes received instructions from their various instructors. High points of the morning lesson were given by Sister Dorothy Kinner. What a wonderful job she did explaining the lesson.

Secretary's Report: Class no. 1 received the Attendance Banner and continues to hold it. Please don't give up classes as there is life. There is also hope. Class No. 4 received the Offering Banner from Class No. 2.

The morning devotional services were conducted by Deacon and Mrs. R.J. Givens.

The Senior Choir marched in the processional singing the favorite "We Got To Praise Him." After prayer was offered by Rev. Jeff Brown. A song, "Everthing Is Gonna Be Alright," was sung. The morning scripture text, 1 Corinthians 13:7, was read by Sister Joan Y. Ervin. Prayer was given by Sister Cooper. Another song, "He's That Kind of A Friend," was sung.

Responsive reading was led by Sister Michelle Jones. The morning hymn was "I'll Fly Away." Pastoral observations were given by Pastor Moton. Following the singing of another song, "That's Love", the hymn of preparation was "Pass Me Not."

Pastor Moton preached on the subject "See What The Lord Has Done." His scripture text was Genesis 45:1-15. Verse 7 was

his key verse. What a wonderful sermon. Services were wonderful last Sunday morning. As members of New Hope, we have no doubt about it, because Pastor Moton preaches from his heart, and is felt by all in attendance.

Let us continue to pray for our sick and shut in citizens. It appears as though the list gets larger and larger each week. Let's just keep praying.

Also, don't forget our bereaved families. Among those families include Sister Ora Lee Holiday who passed here last Thursday. Services are set for 2:00 p.m. today, Thursday, at the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Sister Dora Johnson lost a cousin. Services are pending at this report at Ossie Curry Funeral Home.

Among the visitors at New Hope Baptist Church last Sunday morning were Brother of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. They presented Pastor Moton a plaque for his continued services to the community of Lubbock. It's so nice to be thought of by your peers. May God continue to bless you, Pastor Moton. We're watching what you are doing. God has a better view on what you are doing. Keep doing what you are doing, Pastor Moton.

This writer, Ruby Jay, really enjoyed the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center Theatre last Sunday evening. The house was packed, and all who participated in the affair did a wonderful job, especially our children. May God continue to bless this effort. If you didn't make this presentation, you sure did miss a treat!



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**TEXAS
LOTTERY**

Christian Women Give Sellout Fund-raiser for O.J. Simpson

By Dennis Schatzman

Undaunted by threats of cancellation by Hollywood Park Casino administrators, criticism from talk show hosts like Gloria Allred and Geraldo Rivera, and a "virulent local mainstream mass media, the newly formed Christian Women for Justice sponsored a gala fundraising luncheon for O.J. Simpson.

"Our goal is to network and bring about changes in the legal system for the African American family, and to initiate social and cultural programs geared to motivate the African American community into solving problems," Erma Jean Bryant, the group's president, told the audience in the banquet room of the Hollywood Park.

"But at this moment," Bryant continued, while tearing up a prepared speech, "Orenthal James Simpson is the focal point. We have decided that enough is enough! We are strong Black women and we will see Mr. Simpson through. He was found innocent of all charges brought against him in the only system we have. It was a system that was put in place when we were still chained to a plow."

Simpson was acquitted of double murder charges filed against him for the June 13, 1994 murders of his estranged wife, Nicole Brown Simpson

and her friend, Ronald Lyle Goldman. Simpson is now facing a civil suit in Santa Monica, CA by both the Brown and Goldman families for the "wrongful death" of the two victims. He is also fighting the Brown family for the custody of his two youngest children 60 miles away in an Orange County court.

"We are not getting a fair shake in the criminal justice system," noted civil rights attorney Leo Terrell. "It is stacked against us."

"Here's a man," Terrell said while pointing at Simpson who was sitting next to the podium, "who played by the rules, did everything right. Thank God he had the resources that enabled him to create a level playing field and he was acquitted. O.J. Simpson is the only man in America who at the same time is fighting for his kids in Orange County and defending himself in a wrongful death suit in Santa Monica."

Terrell chastised the news media during his remarks. "The media has done everything to try to destroy this man. Some have done it while at the same time, profiting at his expense," he said. "I won't mention their names Gerald! (Charles) Grodin!"

Rivera and Grodin appear on daily talk show broadcast on the fledgling

CNBC cable television network. Since the June 1994 murders the two hosts have aired over 500 programs just on Simpson, compared to less than five on CIA/crack cocaine distribution in Black communities to raise funds for the Contras in Nicaragua.

As one of the invited speakers to the event, I informed the audience that I had received two death threats for agreeing to speak. I reminded the guests that the loss of freedom is not always physical, it is often mental. Some people aren't free because they are concerned about the names they call us. But if you're free, you live by that old African proverb: "It's not what you call me, it's what I answer to."

Vernoy Thompson, local business man and former president of the Compton NAACP brought the 300-plus crowd to its feet when he said, "The system has got to learn one thing, we stick by our own. No one tells us who to love. No one tells us who to support."

"A man came in my office the other day," Dr. Thompson continued, "and saw the flyers all over the place, and he said, 'You know, if you support O.J. these white folks will cut you off. I replied, 'But Uncle Tom...I support O.J. not yesterday, not today, but tomorrow and forever.'"

Teachers cite decline in family values

"Kids today don't respect authority, don't care about their families and don't care about doing well in school."

This was a common refrain in the 50s and 60s, when the Baby Boom generation was growing up. And it's equally true now of Boomers' children and grandchildren. At least that's what those who know today's elementary and high school students best—their teachers—say about them.

An unsettling portrait emerges from a recent study conducted by Horace Mann Educators Corporation, in which teachers born between 1946 and 1964 compared the attitudes of their peers when they were students with today's "Generation Y" students.

The study paints today's children and teens as pessimistic, cynical, materialistic, and competitive, and lacking in religious faith and persistence. But the news is not all bad. Teachers also said that today's youth are more tolerant and accepting of ethnic and cultural differences among people, exhibit less racial prejudice and are more likely to express their opinions than were Baby Boomers at a comparable age.

The teachers pointed to many key differences in the attitudes and behavior of Generation Y'ers and school-age Baby Boomers:

- Spending time with family members was viewed as important to 66% of Baby Boomers when teachers were in school but important to only 31% of today's students;
 - Strong religious faith was important to 59% of Baby Boom students compared to only 19% of students today; and
 - Performing well in school was important to 83% of Baby Boomers when they were students compared to only 37% of Generation Y'ers.
- The study also revealed that 41% of teachers feel that today's students are far less optimistic about their future compared to Baby Boom students. By comparison, only 21% of the teachers

feel that today's students are more optimistic. And though nearly half (47%) of the teachers who participated in the study said their students are more aware of political issues than were Baby Boomers as students, this awareness apparently does not translate into activism. Only 22% of the teachers said that being active in a social, political or other cause outside of school was important to Generation Y students.

The teachers also pointed to several positive attributes exhibited by Generation Y students, including:

- A strong majority of teachers (74%) feel that today's students are more accepting of ethnic and cultural differences among people than the teachers' peers were when they were in school;
 - A slight majority of all teachers (57%) believe that Generation Y students exhibit less racial prejudice compared to students when Baby Boomers were in school; and
 - Seventy-eight percent feel that Generation Y students are more likely to express their opinions and ask questions regarding what is taught in class compared to Baby Boomers when they were in school.
- Regarding perceptions of personal traits, a substantial portion of teachers cited materialism (76%), anger (51%) and competitiveness (48%) as traits that students exhibit to a greater degree compared to the teachers' peers when they were in school. Patriotism (27%), persistence (21%) and idealism (18%) were seen by the teachers as traits that today's students exhibit to a lesser degree than the earlier generation.
- The 1996 Horace Mann Survey of Educators was conducted by Hughes Research Corporation among a national sample of 702 K-12 classroom teachers, ages 32-50, with a confidence factor of +/-4%. Horace Mann provides retirement annuities and automobile, homeowners and life insurance to the nation's educators.

TEN ON THE RUN



Armed Robbery
Medina County, Texas

This man, David George, is wanted for participating in the October 6th aggravated robbery of two women at U.S. 211 at the San Geronimo Creek crossing. David George drove Carlos Plata, 18, and Rodney Reno Cooper, 18, to the scene of the crime, where they robbed the two women and shot them.

Description

David George is a Hispanic male, born on 6/18/78. He is approximately 140 pounds, 5'6", with a muscular build. He has brown hair and brown eyes. He should be considered armed and dangerous.

If you have any information about this suspect, please call the Medina County Sheriff's Department at 210-931-4020.



is a public service message brought to you by the Texas Highway Patrol Association 610 Brazos St., Fourth Floor Austin, Texas 78701-3244

BLACK POETRY

Time

It's silly the time wasted.
Somehow we're never able
to make it up,
To recapture for an instance the thought,
The want, or the deed
That should have been carried out;
And now it's forever too late.
And like so many times
We wished that we had.

-Leon Yohance

Inching towards a more sensitive budget in South Africa

(IPS) South Africa's women's budget initiative, an attempt to develop poverty programs targeting women, who represent the majority of the country's poorer, is progressing, albeit slowly reports IPS. Debbie Budlender, a member of the group that has completed work on a pilot project identifying ways of reallocating existing budgets to improve the status of women, says the problem with the current gender-blind budget is that departments are under no obligation to evaluate their performance in relation to gender and poverty. As a result, policies that

seem to work for the good of all actually disadvantage women. "We are saying if women are 53 percent of the population, the budget should reflect that," Nomtuse Mbere, a consultant at the Development Bank of South Africa, told IPS. First presented to the finance ministry in 1994, the South Africa initiative is modeled on one developed by Australia, but says Budlender, the team did not even look at the women's budget program in Australia let alone draw lessons from it.

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THIS N THAT

THE PLACE IS GETTING TOO SMALL FOR CELEBRATION!! THIS N THAT...observed the attendance of the annual...DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION...held each year at the...LUBBOCK MEMORIAL CIVIC CENTER THEATRE...and this year...for the first time...THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH ROOM...for those in attendance...This...no doubt...is a very good...OMEN...that citizens of...LUBBOCK AND SOUTH PLAINS OF TEXAS...are supporting this...ANNUAL EFFORT...This could be the...beginning of something else in this regard as we celebrate the...BIRTHDAY...of the late Dr. Martin Luther King...Could it be that we need some kind of an office...to be seen throughout...getting ready for the annual celebration? THIS N THAT...believes this is the case...as our young children...are doing a splendid job...and we need to continue working with them...THIS N THAT...would hope the leadership of the...DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMORATIVE COUNCIL, INC...would take note to what has taken place this year...It could be...SISTER JOAN ERVIN...who is president...there is something much bigger around the corner...We're not saying all of this needs to be done...next year...but we are advising...that if we are going to continue to...GROW IN THIS AREA...we need to consider some growth over the next few years...THIS N THAT...is only giving a...QUICK AND DIRTY ANALYSIS...of what is seen from the...EYES OF THIS N THAT...

REV. BROWN, YOU DID WELL!! THIS N THAT...would like to say...CONGRATS...to the speaker for the annual...DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION...last Sunday evening...of the...OUTSTANDING JOB...he did...The speaker...REV. WILLIE L. BROWN...pastor of the St. Luke African Methodist Episcopal Church...from Garland, Texas...He did well...and his message...should be one which should be remembered over the year...He had the right concept...when he talked about the...RED SEA IN OUR LIVES...He also reminded...ALL IN ATTENDANCE...of the fact that...NOBODY WILL DO

ANYTHING FOR YOU...you have to get up off your knees and do something for yourselves...PASTOR BROWN...you did well...hope you'll come back in the future...and do some more preaching on this same topic...

CONGRATS! THIS N THAT...would like to say...CONGRATS...to...DR. & MRS. HEENAN JOHNSON, III...in the birth of their first child...a son...who will wear the name of...HEENAN JOHNSON, IV...The grandparents...DR. & MRS. HEENAN JOHNSON, II...were showing the photos...last week...and we can see why...they were so excited...MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS...THE HEENAN JOHNSON FAMILY!!

D.C. KINNER THE BARBER SAYS: "The...SIZE OF A MAN...can be measured...by the size...of the...THING...that...MAKES HIM ANGRY..."

WISH YOU THE VERY BEST!! THIS N THAT...would like to take this opportunity to wish the...FIRST EVER WOMAN ELECTED AS MAYOR...WINDY SITTON...all the best when she is sworn as mayor this week...May God continue...to be with you and...BLESS YOU, WINDY SITTON...It will be a new experience for you...but just hold on!!

WHAT A WONDERFUL SIGHT!! THIS N THAT...observed the...ONE HUNDRED MEN...who sung last Sunday evening at the...LUBBOCK MEMORIAL CIVIC CENTER THEATRE...in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration...It was a...GREAT SIGHT...Don't we need to...SEE MORE OF THIS IN LUBBOCK?? You're right...And it can happen...if we would continue to encourage these men...who participated in this effort...

LISTEN TO SPEAK OUT LUBBOCK!! THIS N THAT...would like to encourage all of you to listen to...KLFB...1420 AM...each Saturday night...from 8:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. ...and hear some very good information...featuring local people...T.J. PATTERSON...is the host...Give him a call at...765-5016...You'll enjoy!!

IN CINQUE

by Renetta W. Howard



Another year, has arrived along with another chance for us to shed all of our baggage of 1996 and start a fresh new slate. This is a critical time in our lives and especially one of vulnerability for people of color. This is a time when we need to become involved in the daily activities of our communities and our government which affect our daily lives. This is the time when we need to stop leaving a gap in our moral activities for entities such as the Walmart/Sam's Wholesale Club to take an active role in our lives other than selling goods to us.

Walmart has requested that musicians and recording artists clean up their compact disc (CD) lyrics or they will not be sold in Walmart stores. Consequently, it is my knowledge that some artists have complied though their records of the same songs, raps, etc. have not been changed. Since Walmart is now the leading retailer in many cities and small towns, seemingly having caused retail giants like Sears and Wards

and in some places K-Mart, to move on to more lucrative locations, it appears that when "Sam" speaks, everyone takes notice.

On the other hand, not enough notice has been given to C. Delores Tucker in her effort to get Time-Warner to censor many of the rap lyrics that they produce which is commonly known as 'gangster rap.' Tupac and Ice-T are two artists so implicated. Of course, Tupac is reported to be dead, but not to the youngsters who continue to purchase and play his raps.

Since young children listen to these artists, parents need to know what the artists are saying and do their own censoring. This is the line of reasoning thrown at Walmart. As true as this might be, if left to many parents, we see where we have been and where we are going; nowhere. It is time that we get 'in cinque' and be the parents that we need to be in order to channel our children down the right path this new year. A change has got to come.

HARDLEFT Tavis Smiley

Hard Left: Straight Talk About the Wrongs of the Right shows how to correct America's swerve to the right, and get us moving forward again.

Written with the kind of honest, hard-hitting, take-no-prisoners approach that has become the staple of my radio and television commentary, I am adamant about the fact that America cannot move ahead by going backward.

Skewering what I like to call the "Contract on America," Hard Left champions the ideas and diversity of the Left and challenges the "half-Right" to quit playing the "politics of race and repeal," exploiting the fears and frustrations of Americans who feel squeezed by a tight economy.

We have seen book after book by leading conservatives - from William Bennett to Rush Limbaugh, from David Brock to Newt Gingrich - climb the bestseller charts. Now is the time for a powerful

countermanifesto from the Left, written with the same kind of brass firepower the Right always invokes. Indeed, I believe that time has come to take a Hard Left.

Many of your readers may already be familiar with me from numerous appearances on "Good Morning America," CNN, BET, CNBC as well as "Entertainment Tonight," "Day & Date," "Extra," and a host of daytime talk shows including "Geraldo" and "Montel."



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CHOIR HOLDS 3RD ANNUAL FOUNDERS DAY

The Visions of Light Gospel Choir of Texas Tech University will host its 3rd Annual Founder's Day Workshop and Concert, January 23-25 at the First Assembly of God Church, 1809 34th St (@ Ave Q). Rehearsals will be Thursday and Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 10:30 a.m.; the concert will be Saturday at 3 p.m.

The workshop will be conducted by Stellar Award nominee and gospel recording artist, Byron Cage, Minister of Music at the New Birth Baptist Church of Decatur, Georgia. The Voices of Praise Gospel Choir of Texas A&M University will also be featured. For more information, call 789-3277.

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"As We Move Along"

Eddie P. Richardson



We are moving into 1997. Let's make it a good year. We have had a lot of people that took offense to our last article. So be it.

We are not apologizing nor are we making excuses but we are doing one thing: let's open communications, and rid all of us of misunderstanding and racism from both sides. Let's be Americans. I have people that disagree with what I say or write about good things America's freedom but on the other hand look at what I say. America is still racist, white women made more gains from the civil rights movement and affirmative action than any other Americans. So what's the problem? I really would like to know? So let's face it. Johnnie Cochran is a master lawyer. He has made so many speeches, banquets, received honors. Let's face it and admit it he is probably America's best defense lawyer. The proof will be if he takes a white case?

As we go into the year of 1987 let's look around. BET has a magazine which is the magazine of black entertainment network. The section we are referring to is pulse. Home Training...for colored folks who didn't listen to mama enuf. The article goes like this: 'Tis the season of office parties, kwanzaa gatherings and other holiday throw-downs. To make sure you're invited back next year (and you protect your mother's good name), here are some words to the wise from Karen Grigsby Bates and Karen Elyse Hudson, authors of Basic Black: Home training for modern times, the etiquette book, new this month from Doubleday, covers everything from dating to cotillions. The two Karens, both of Los Angeles say "don't you dare":

- *Bring guest who haven't been invited.
- *Remove food from your teeth at the table.
- *Snap your fingers or whistle for a waiter.
- *Switch place cards at a seated dinner.
- *Tuck napkins into your shirt or waistband.
- *Wipe off tableware in anyone's home.
- *Dip finger food after taking a bite.
- *Put toothpicks back on the serving tray.
- *Suck your teeth, or cough over food.
- *Gripe about work or trash a co-worker during chit-chat with your boss.

As we move into a new year 1997 let's strive to be a better person in deeds, actions in every way. We must strive to be the best we can be in spite of the odds. We can if we want to.

Let's be and do better in 1997 than we did in 1996. Let's be more forgiving, sharing, and caring and be our brothers keeper. We would see an immediate positive change.

SOUTHWEST DIGEST

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EDITORS/PUBLISHERS

T.J. PATTERSON—EDDIE P. RICHARDSON

The Southwest Digest is an independent newspaper serving the Lubbock, West Texas, South Plains of Texas and Eastern New Mexico areas printing the news impartially supporting what it believes to be right without opposing what it believes to be wrong without regard to party politics.

Devoted to the Industrial, Educational, Social, Political, and Economical Advancement of African-American People.

We may be critical of some things that are written, but, at least you will have the satisfaction of knowing they are truthful and to the point.

People will react to that which is precise, and we will publish these articles as precisely and factually as is humanly possible. We will also give credit and respect to those who are doing good things for the Lubbock Area and the people. We will be critical of those who are not doing as they have said they would, and this, we think, is fair.

So, this is our resolution to you. Feel free at any time to call this office for information concerning this newspaper or any other matter that is of concern to you.

This is not a propaganda sheet made to chastise or vilify. This is a newspaper made to educate and not to agitate.

The opinions expressed by guest columns or editorials are not necessarily the opinions of the publishers/editors or those of the advertisers. Comments and pictures are welcome but the publishers are not responsible to return articles unless a self-addressed envelope is submitted. All notices must be paid in advance. Story deadline is 3:00 p.m. Friday. Advertisement deadline is 3:00 p.m. Friday or if camera ready, Monday at 12:00 noon. Member A.O.I.P.

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Texaco Settlement Doesn't Settle The Underlying Power Imbalance

By John William Templeton

Advocates of consumer and investor market actions against Texaco are correct not to be satisfied with the \$176 million tentative settlement of the class action suit by 1,400 of the company's African-American employees. Although it sounds like a lot of money, the settlement is roughly equal to a decent National Basketball Association long-term deal for just one player. This particular company's management structure has also been impervious to its previously stated diversity goals. One mid-level manager in Houston, when informed of a Black employee's discrimination complaint, replied, "I'd fire her Black ass." Informed that this was illegal, the manager sniffed, "I guess we treat niggers differently down here." That change was contained in an affidavit filed in federal court.

The strategies employed in the 1970s of hiring high-ranking African-American executives, diversity training, et al. aren't likely to make a dent either. The more than 100 executives interviewed in my book *Success Secrets of Black Executives* reported

that they faced even more discrimination, overt and covert, than lower ranking black employees.

At the heart of the problem is the presumption that a dozen or so men, leaders of the "Seven Sisters" of the oil industry, are uniquely qualified to determine the energy destiny of the world, and to a large extent, its economic and political outcomes.

Texaco is not alone in its racial discrimination problems. A similar class action suit against Royal Dutch Shell has been filed in San Francisco. Given the concern against employment and environment problems from the Niger Delta to Richmond, the focus should be expanded industry-wide.

The only long-term solution will be an insistence on a meaningful spin-off of refining and distribution assets to a new diverse management team. Organizers have implied that this is their goal, but I doubt that they realize what a fortuitous time it is for such a venture. Many of the majors are actually disappointed in the performance of their downstream operations and make most of their money in

exploration and drilling internationally.

The real opportunity for creating such a new company arises from the investment window of the upcoming privatization of Nigeria's massive state-run oil company and South Africa's government monopoly. Any company not already in the industry is unlikely to compete for these assets.

Harsh winter weather in the U.S. and tight oil supplies have boosted the profit outlook for the oil industry, making such a leveraged buyout attractive to lenders and investors. Experienced international traders like outgoing Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary and former U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young are available along with thousands of experienced managers at existing companies.

African-Americans have played a significant role in the oil industry since the beginning of the fossil fuels era. Early Tulsa, OK was called "Black Wall Street" because of the 40 Black millionaires created by the oil trade until a 1921 race riot devastated 36 square blocks of success.

The competition that should have existed in the industry was held back by such racism. This is an opportunity to create the kind of economic engine that can spur development around the world. A side benefit can also be a fairer deal for consumers. There are many who feel that the incestuous nature of the current management structure of the oil industry makes it very easy for orchestrated shortages and price run-ups to occur.

Facing the publicity about the tape of executives apparently colluding to destroy evidence, finally forced Texaco to settle although even more serious allegations had been contained in the suit for more than two years. It is a lesson that the company is much more likely to respond to market forces than legal action. It's time to have real competition in the oil industry.

John William Templeton is editor of *Griot*, the African-American, African and Caribbean business daily.

Selective Amnesia Prevalent in Simpson Trial Coverage

By Dennis Schatzman

The O.J. Simpson civil and child custody trials is being reported to the majority community by a biased and some say, "racist" news media. One would have to be severely mentally challenged not to see that these trials are being covered in an extremely one-sided way.

Take for example the Brown family and their quest to wrest custody of Justin and Sydney Simpson away from their father. You have not read, and you will not read, in the nation's mainstream media that the Browns, according to Jeffrey Toobin in his book, *Run For His Life*, are the same parents who raised to the best of their ability 3 daughters with serious flaws.

Nicole, (may she honestly and sincerely rest in peace) worked a total of two months at a restaurant and two weeks at a boutique where she sold not one stitch of clothing. According to her friend, Faye Resnick, Nicole popularized one of the latest craze in hip-scale West L.A., the "Brentwood hello;" that is, performing fellatio on unsuspecting strangers who fall asleep at parties. It is also alleged that Nicole carried on an affair with Kansas City chiefs running back Marcus Allen, one of O.J.'s best friends.

Her sister Denise is unceremoniously nicknamed, "Denise the Piece," by O.J.'s running buddies. Denise testified in the criminal trial that she was concerned for about her sister's welfare after she saw O.J. carry on a drunken tirade one night and throw everyone out of his house. Yet, she didn't tell the jury that she a few days later she borrowed \$5,000 from Simpson, who gave it to her under the condition that she not tell Nicole.

Younger sister Tanya, a paragon of virtue, sold several photos of

Sydney and Justin to a supermarket tabloid for a cool \$35,000. We are told that she did this without telling her parents, her sisters or then-family lawyer, Gloria Allred. As far as we know, none of the proceeds benefited the children.

You see, I don't have a problem with my memory but most reporters, with the notable exception of the San Francisco Chronicle's Harriett Chaing, apparently do. Petrocelli got rave reviews in the mainstream media when he pounced on Simpson about how the blood of his estranged wife and Ronald Lyle Goldman got in his Ford Bronco. Simpson said he didn't know. But Petrocelli knows, and so does *Newsweek* magazine.

A balanced reporting of the exchange would have revealed that Simpson's lawyer, Robert Baker, according to *Newsweek*, will be calling an LAPD officer to testify that he had played with the blood-soaked Akita dog and then later—without changing clothes—got in the Bronco.

Petrocelli was also elevated to deity by the mainstream media after he bore in on Simpson about his whereabouts on the night of the murders between 9:30 and 10:55 p.m. Simpson said he stayed around the house doing a number of things. Petrocelli, however, says Simpson was out and about killing two white people. The cheers were deafening.

But Petrocelli had no doubt read Donald Freed's blockbuster novel *Killing Time*. Freed, and his co-author, Raymond Briggs, used computer simulations to analyze an assortment of murder "time lines." According to these men, under no circumstance could Simpson have had time to kill two people, get home, shower and shave, then catch a plane to Chicago.

Rwandan street children help feed their families

(IPS) Few realize the role plastic bags. Some functionaries see the mayibobo in a different light. Officials of the Kigali Mayor's Office complain that they are often a source of crime. "Some of these children smoke marijuana and are involved in all kinds of thuggish acts," one official charged. The government said it is currently carrying out a project to help the mayibobo go to school and get them off the street. It is also planning a census of all street children, in conjunction with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), it said.

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Black Mayors Exercising Innovative Leadership

Atlanta, Georgia—Fifty-five mayors, all members of the National Conference of Black Mayors, Inc. (NCBM), convened in Orlando, Florida for the organization's 9th Annual Leadership Institute for Mayors (LIM96) on December 8-12, 1996 at the Disney Institute, focusing on the theme, "Innovative Development Strategies: Making Government Work," the Institute is the organization's premier training forum which is designed to sharpen the mayors' leadership skills. On Wednesday morning (12/11/96), NCBM President, Mayor Emanuel Cleaver of Kansas City, Missouri led a blue-ribbon panel discussion of member-mayors on "Avoiding Pitfalls" in order to share experiences in confronting problems and identifying solutions.

The LIM is an intensive training program designed to prepare newly-elected mayors for their role as chief executive officers of local governments, and to provide in-service training for sitting mayors. The program

gives the mayors an opportunity to network with each other and explore new approaches to the delivery of improved services to their constituents. The mayors were involved in ten training modules—some of which were presented in two tracks—and two special sessions throughout the four-day program.

Funding for the Institute was made possible by a grant from the Ford Foundation, and other corporations that have provided support to augment the program. Mayors completing the training received Continuing Education Units (CEUs) from Clark Atlanta University.

The National Conference of Black Mayors, Inc. is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that has provided technical and management assistance to its membership throughout the nation for more than twenty years. Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, NCBM's membership of mayors represent more than twenty million constituents.



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Exodus 20:3,5, GOD SAID, Thou shalt have no other gods BEFORE ME. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to THEM, NOR SERVE THEM: FOR I THE LORD THY GOD AM A JEALOUS GOD, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth GENERATION OF THEM THAT HATE ME.

When America started out; she WORSHIPPED AND PRAISED ONLY THE LORD, But as she increased WITH WISDOM AND RICHES; SHE BECAME HER OWN god.

Revelation 3:17, Jesus said, Because thou sayest, I AM RICH, AND INCREASED WITH GOODS, AND HAVE NEED OF NOTHING, and knowest not that thou art WRETCHED, AND MISERABLE, AND POOR, AND BLIND, AND NAKED.

America is in TROUBLE; EVEN A BLIND MAN CAN SEE, SHE RAN AWAY FROM GOD; THAT IS WHY SHE IS IN MISERIES.

Isaiah 56:10,11, THE LORD SAID, His watchman are blind; they are all dumb DOGS, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yea, they are GREEDY DOGS WHICH CAN NEVER HAVE ENOUGH, and they are shepherds (PREACHERS) THAT CANNOT UNDERSTAND: they all look to their OWN WAY, every one for HIS GAIN, FROM HIS QUARTER (ANNIVERSARY).

The whole country; IS IN TROUBLE; LIKE ADAM'S RIGHT TO EAT OF THE TREE, WE TOO; DIDN'T STAY WITH THE WORK OF GOD; MAN'S RIGHTS, HAS PUT US IN MISERIES.

(MAN'S RIGHTS ARE WRONG, Woman rights, Gay rights, No spanking rights, Run away rights, Abortion rights, KILL THE ABORTION DOCTOR RIGHTS, White rights, Black rights, KKK rights, No prayer in school rights, DRUGS IN THE SCHOOL RIGHTS, DRIVE BY SHOOTING RIGHTS, SHAKING RIGHTS, BOMB THE ABORTION CLINIC RIGHTS, CONDOMS OR RUBBERS IN KINDERGARTEN RIGHTS, KILL THE FAMILY RIGHTS, SUICIDE RIGHTS, BOMB THE FEDERAL BUILDING RIGHTS.)

*****WILL CIVIL RIGHTS ROB GOD???*****

America can do heart, ear, nose, kidney, and lung TRANSPLANTS: SHE IS WISE! BUT THAT'S WHAT THE BIBLE CALLS A FOOL; SHE'S GREAT IN HER OWN EYES.

Proverbs 12:15, The way of a FOOL IS RIGHT IN HIS OWN EYES; but he that hearkeneth unto COUNSEL IS WISE. GOD WANTS PEOPLE TO HAVE ONE RIGHT; AND THAT IS TO WORSHIPPED HIM! THAT IS WHY JESUS WENT TO THE CROSS; SO MAN'S SINS, COULD BE FORGIVEN THEM.

John 3:16, Jesus said, For GOD so loved the world, the HE gave his only begotten SON (JESUS), that whosoever (THAT'S YOU AND ME) BELIVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.

ONLY IN JESUS; CAN ONE FIND, PEACE, JOY, GRACE AND MERCY IN LOVE, MR CLINTON IS YET THE PRESIDENT; BUT THESE THINGS COME FROM UP ABOVE.

John 10:10a, JESUS SAID, I AM COME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE, AND THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY.

MR. CLINTON CAN'T SOLVE THE PROBLEMS; IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN MERE MAN, ONLY GOD CAN FIX IT; SO LETS PRAY; AND PUT THE TROUBLES IN HIS HANDS.

2 Chronicles 7:14, THE LORD SAID, IF MY PEOPLE (THE CHURCH), which are called by MY NAME (CHRISTIANS), SHALL HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND PRAY, and seek MY FACE, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will FORGIVE THEIR SIN, AND WILL HEAL THEIR LAND.

GOD is not through with US YET. So lets PRAY for one another ALWAYS.

Written By Evangelist Billy B.J. Morrison, III Your Brother IN CHRIST JESUS!!!



from the Desk of Parson D.A. Smith

"Looking On The Heart"

"And the Lord said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he" (1Samuel 16:12b).

Saul is one of the more tragic figures of the Old Testament. He entered his life work with great promise, but ended it with shame and dishonor.

Saul possessed a serious personality flaw. He was given to impulsive decisions while under pressure. In a battle with the Philistines, Saul son, Jonathan, ate honey, not knowing that his father had put a curse on anyone eating food during the battle. Saul faced a painful dilemma. If he ignored his son's act he would be guilty of negating his own command on the basis of favoritism. If he rigidly carried out his curse, he would have to kill his own son. It was a crisis of authority and on the face of it Saul seemed heroic in his willingness to put Jonathan to death. But the army objected and openly forced the king to back down from his position. The crisis of authority became a crisis of confidence and Saul lost.

Saul became less sure of himself and in the victory over Agag, the Amalekite, quickly gave in to the people's greed for loot. And when Samuel and God parted company with Saul, he never recovered from the shock of rejection, though he pursued reinstatement carefully with tears.

Saul simply did not measure up as the king Israel needed, and God could not use him. Samuel was sent to Jesse, the Bethlehemite, to anoint a new king. Jesse must have sent his son, 10 of them, before Samuel according to age. The human Samuel looked at Eliab and felt this oldest son must surely be God's choice—handsome and tall. In rejecting Eliab, the Lord told Samuel He looked on the heart, not on the outward appearance.

A beautiful snow may fall deep enough to cover a cemetery and every monument and tombstone. Regardless of the outward appearance of beauty, dig down and there will be decay and bones of dead people.

When Prince Charming took the glass slipper and went in search of a foot to fit the slipper, the wicked stepmother sent her own daughters to try on the slipper first. Finally Cinderella was called for, the slipper matched the one she had, and she married the prince.

After looking at seven fine sons of Jesse, Samuel had not gotten God's nod. "Are here ally thy children?" Jesse then sent for the least likely one, his youngest, who was keeping the sheep. This young, handsome son was God's choice and Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him.

People do judge us by looks, dress, and outward things. But we can be certain God judges the heart.

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The Outreach Prayer Breakfast

About the Holy Spirit

Who is the Holy Spirit?? The Holy Spirit is that person of God that comforts, guides all believers in Christ Jesus. He instructs, empowers, enlightens, as well as strengthens all believers in Christ.

When did the Holy Spirit make his presence known? On the day of Pentecost fifty days after Jesus resurrection when all of the disciples of Jesus and other believers were gathered in "the upper room" and became one accord. The Holy Spirit descended upon them like a strong wind causing them to speak in tongues and give vent and joy to His coming. Since then, the Holy Spirit has made Himself known to all believers in Jesus Christ in every generation.

Who may receive the Holy Spirit? To all believers who God wished to send Him upon and to those believers who wait for his coming.

Is the Holy Spirit separated from God and Jesus? No. He is a part of the God Head and is inseparable. He is a person and is everywhere present in the universe (Psalms 139:10), He is all Power (Luke 1:35), He has all knowledge (1 Cor 2:10), He is eternal (Heb 9:14) the Holy Spirit's deity is revealed in that his name is coupled in equality with the name of the Father and Son in baptism of the believer and the "Apostolic Benediction."

Christian Brothers and Sisters we need the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives today. This will be the only way to stand in these evil days. Without the Holy Spirit we are powerless vessels in a war without weapons.

Thoughts:

Real life is finding solutions to complex problems.

Are you sympathetic to faithless people, representing God?

True, we might not have money power, but we can have the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives and in our community and in our churches, and our homes.

Keep smiling and loving those enemies.

Write us if you feel the need. We will meet Feb 1st at 9:00 a.m. at 2407 E 9th. Meet us there. Write us at P.O. Box 1223, Lubbock, Tx 79408.

Dr. Hood - President

Christine Burleson - Vice President

Ernestine Frazier - Secretary

Beautiful service at the civic center on Sunday, may God bless this MLK committee.

I KNOW I'M SOMEBODY



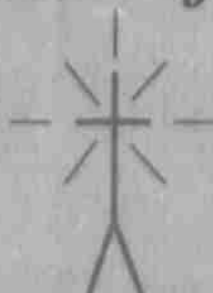
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CABINETMAKER - Construction, installation, and/or repair of millwork and related fixtures. 2-5 years experience in the cabinet-making field with a working knowledge for safe operation of all related power and hand tools. Valid Driver License and insurable. Post-offer physical to wear negative pressure respirator. Apply at Texas Tech University, Drane Hall, Room 143 or Physical Plant Room 105, by January 22, 1997. AA/EOE/ADA

PLUMBER - Performs skilled work in the installation, repair, and maintenance of plumbing systems including: potable water, natural gas, sanitary and storm sewage, and fixtures and related sub-systems. Minimum three years experience as journeymen plumber or related trade. Will need mobility to allow extensive walking, climbing, crawling, crouching, stooping, and ladder, stair, and scaffold-work. Pump Maintenance/repair experience helpful but not required. Post-offer physical required for selected applicant. Valid operator's license and insurable. Apply at Texas Tech University, Physical Plant, Room 105 or Drane Hall, Room 143 by January 22, 1997. AA/EOE/ADA

The South Plains Obedience Training Club of Lubbock will be hosting 2 American kennel Club All-Breed Dog Obedience Trials at the South Plains Fairgrounds Merchant's Building, February 15th and 16th.

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**USE YER HEAD
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The Liability of O.J. Simpson

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson

The moment the jury found O.J. Simpson "not guilty" of the murders of Nicole Brown and Ron Goldman, the Goldman and Brown families announced that they would quickly move ahead with their wrongful death suits against him. Many Americans, especially African Americans, were puzzled and confused then and they still are. They ask, How can O.J. be tried again? Doesn't this violate the due process and double jeopardy provisions of the Constitution? There are the compelling reasons why in Simpson's case the answer is no.

***Criminal Trial Acquittal:** When a defendant is acquitted in a criminal court, civil suits are rarely brought. The defendant has few assets for a victim of their family to recover and the time and the expense of a civil trial aren't worth it. But there are two glaring exceptions. The first is when the defendant is wealthy or a celebrity. In 1976, T. Cullen Davis, reputedly one of the world's richest men, was accused of shooting four people, two fatally, at his Fort Worth, Texas mansion. One of the victims was his estranged wife and one of the fatalities was his 12-year-old stepdaughter.

The prosecutors tried to prove that Davis tried to kill his wife to avoid a messy and costly divorce settlement. They didn't succeed: Davis was acquitted. A decade later his ex-wife sued him for the death of her daughter. The jury hung in her favor. Rather than risk another civil trial, a bankrupt Davis agreed to pay her a \$5 million settlement.

When social gadabout Claus Von Bulow was acquitted of the attempted murder of his wife, his two step children sued him. It never went to court. The suit was dropped when Von Bulow agreed to give up any claims to his wife's fortune.

The other exception in which a civil suit is filed against a defendant acquitted in criminal court is if it's a highly publicized case, and the acquittal sparks legal outrage. When Louisiana butcher Rodney Peairs was acquitted in the mistaken shooting of a Japanese exchange student Yoshihiro Gattori, his family sued and won a \$653,000 judgment against Peairs.

But with Simpson there are differences. There was no dispute that Peairs shot Gattori. If Simpson is found liable wrongful death suit this will be the first known case (at least to the general public) where a defendant was acquitted of murder in criminal court and found liable for the same crime in civil court.

***Double Jeopardy:** An individual cannot be criminally prosecuted twice for the same offense. The Supreme Court has ruled that double jeopardy applies to a defendant in a civil case ONLY if the lawsuit is being brought not for the purpose of compensating the victim or their family for their pain and suffering, but to punish the defendant. The civil sanction is so severe that in effect it becomes a criminal sanction against the defendant for the same offense. Simpson's attorneys may well argue this point if he's found liable and nailed with a massive punitive and

compensatory judgment.

***Litigious Nation:** America is the most litigious nation on the planet. In New York City more than a million lawsuits are filed annually for every imaginable type of criminal and civil misconduct. California leads the states in numbers of lawsuits. Tort reform has been a hot item in Congress and state legislatures, but the going has been slow. There's simply too much vested interest against it from the legal and medical establishment.

***Victim Empowerment:** Millions of angry Americans cheered Kim Goldman, Ron's sister, when she insisted that "we have only one goal and that is that Simpson be held responsible for what he did." For the Goldman's the civil suit against O.J. is not just for money. It's just as well. There's probably not much there to get anyway. Between attorney's bills, an IRS tax lien on his house, and zero opportunities for him to make money from commercial endorsement or deals, Simpson's assets almost certainly are close to nil. If he loses he'll probably declare bankruptcy.

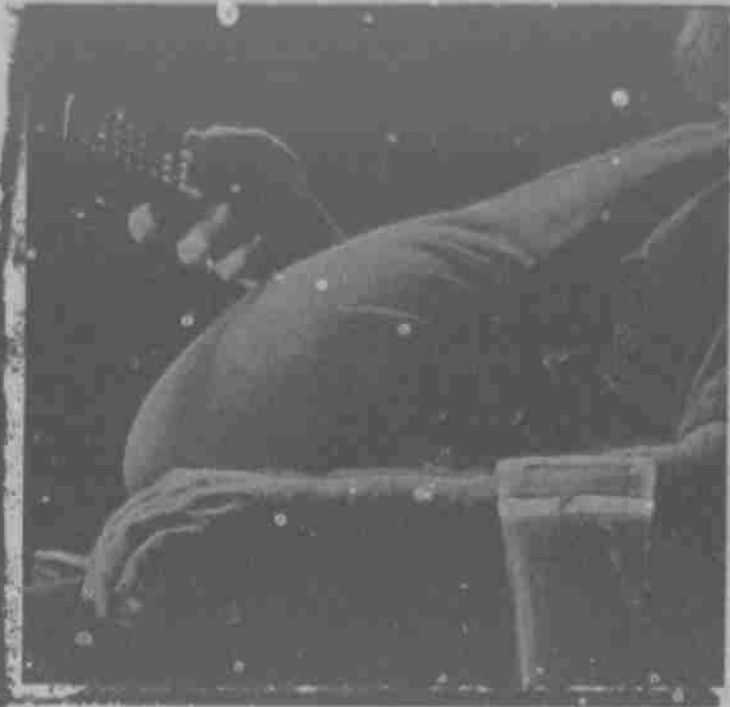
Yet more and more people are using civil courts to get a mix of justice, revenge, and recompense for the violent death or suffering of a loved one. According to the the National Victim Center, several thousand lawsuits are filed annually by the victims or their families against criminal defendants. This is a ten-fold increase over the last decade. Expect the O.J. case to propel even more victims or their families into the courts to get what they consider their just financial AND legal due.

***Public Rage:** Millions of Americans are convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that Simpson is a murderer. He's free only because Simpson had deep pockets, used his wealth and celebrity status to hire a "dream team" defense to get a predominantly Black jury, was able to manipulate the criminal justice system, mangle the physical evidence, twist the testimony, minimize the crisis issue of domestic violence and play the race card.

To outraged Americans, Simpson was acquitted in a court of law but stands convicted in the court of public opinion. They are praying that a liability verdict against him will make him a financial pauper, and a social pariah for life, and show that justice can and will be done.

The criminal trial of O.J. Simpson was a hard fought battle that raised social and legal issues that bitterly divided millions of Americans. The verdict in the criminal trial didn't resolve them. The civil trial of O.J. Simpson has carefully skirted many of those thorny social issues. But it has created a new set of doubts and confusion among many Americans, particularly African Americans, about the legal system. This is perhaps one of the biggest liabilities of all of the Simpson case.

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HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION

Ebonics: The Hidden Issue Is About Teacher Certification

By Dr. Keith Orlando Hilton

Let's put to rest the debate about Ebonics being a language, a dialect or slang. Empirical studies have been done to support the fact that it is indeed a functional language.

Bigger issues regarding Ebonics are: 1) teacher certification and 2) expanding the public education definition of bilingual education and/or ESL—English as a Second Language.

Approximately 90 percent of public school teachers are white (European American) and while many may grumble silently about faculty development and Ebonics, when it comes to employment and certification, many don't want to "talk the talk or walk the walk."

You see, if teachers are expected to study Ebonics as a part of getting a job, who do you think will resist? The many whites and other non-Black teachers who dominate the ranks.

So it is much easier to question Ebonics than discuss greater issues of human re-empowerment and resources for African children, parents and teachers.

Did you know that English is a borrowed language comprised of Arabic, Latin, French and African languages while Ebonics is as old as humankind?

We suspect that the issue of Ebonics will be discussed well into the 21st century. In fact, I have a 1986 article by Dr. Ernie X. Smith titled, "Ebonics and Standard English Barrier" that I periodically cite. This is a 10-year-old article!

Also, during the Christmas/Kwanzaa holiday I went into my personal library and came across two related books that I have had for over 20 years, "Black English" by J.L. Dillard (1972) and "Black American English" by Paul Stoller (1975).

Yes, this issue has been around for sometime and it has ramifications beyond Oakland, California.

Now, about Jesse Jackson and Maya Angelou! In some ways their immediate responses to Ebonics were similar to those of some critics of the Million Man March.

Remember how some in the white media quickly four African critics of the march such as Angela Davis, Julianne Malveaux and Manning Marable? And in some cases it didn't

take much looking.

Yes, critics are important to discourse and often provide invaluable insight to a topic, however, I am hard pressed to think of too many instances when the white media collectively endorses African re-empowerment issues.

Sometimes, however, it is just better to say, "I don't know or let me consult with some others with more direct knowledge or just let me have some time to reflect on the issue."

Jackson didn't do that initially and as a result some wondered if he flip flopped for some other "shakedown" reason instead of looking at the issues beneath the surface.

According to Dr. A.S. Diamond of the British Supreme Court, in his 1962 book, "The History and Origin of Language," "It might seem likely that we should find the clearest evidences of the origin of speech near the areas where man arose. To the present author the evidence seems to indicate as the birthplace of man the areas around the great lakes of East Africa."

Smith in his paper also takes the position that "archeological evidence is irrefutable that the original man is the Asiatic Black man. If true, the original man was the Asiatic Black man, the original language of man was made of Asiatic Black sounds."

Smith further notes that, "Black sounds then, (Ebonics) always were and always will be. Hence, in the deep structure of Black speakers, there is a cognitive process and deep phonology that is not the same as that of non-Blacks."

Dr. Aisha Blackshire-Belay, a linguist and chair of African Studies at Indiana State University also noted that "Ebonics represents the oral tradition of African people. We speak American English but we also have another language, which is our own language—Ebonics. It is indeed our first language."

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