

COBB NEWS

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KENNESAW VILLAGE TENANTS MEET; WANT HOUSING CONDITIONS IMPROVED!

Mrs. Gloria Weems, resident in the Kennesaw Village Apartments just off the Fourland Highway and Allgood Road, is again trying to make life better for herself, her neighbors and the surrounding area. She has begun to wage a struggle to improve housing conditions in the apartment complex. The problems appear to be legion.

A few days ago Mrs. Weems took it upon herself to draw up a handbill and pass it around to tenants in the complex. The handbill read:

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF K.V.T.A. IF YOU PAY RENT TO GREATER ATLANTIC AGENCY (Greater Atlantic Agency is the Agency handling the Kennesaw Village Apartments and KVTA stands for the Kennesaw Village Tenant Association).

DO—your walls need painting?

DOES—water leak in your front, back and basement doors?

ARE—your screens torn and missing?

ARE—bugs and roaches taking over where you pay rent and expect extermination?

ARE—you tired of littered streets?

DOES—your grass need cutting in front and replacing?

DO—your windows, mailboxes, shutters and screens need repairs?

DO—you have a play area other than the streets for your children to play?

Another handbill said:

"Fight for clean up force to

keep up your community. Support KVTA Help Us! Help Us!"

In an interview with Mrs. Weems, it was brought out that efforts in the past to get things done have been met with a response to individual attention, while wholesale neglect of the complex continued. Mrs. Weems, of course, is not concerned with getting personal attention for herself, she wants something done to enhance and improve living conditions in her neighborhood.

She spoke of her little girl wanting to go out and play, but with no place to go. The streets are filled with cars, some running and some abandoned. Grass in the back is up to an adult's waist. When Mrs. Weems complained about the grass, an effort was made to cut a space in back. But this apparently was not exactly satisfactory for Mrs. Weems, who also spoke of no general street cleaning service, due to the failure of the complex to dedicate the street to the City of Marietta, not enough garbage pick-up, no scenery, poor lighting, lack of flowers. Pointing to a sofa in her living room, Mrs. Weems showed the ceiling that let water pour in to ruin it, with no compensation from management.

Tenants are made to pay a \$5.00 late payment fee which does not contribute to the upkeep or wellbeing of the complex. A number of tenants have not been able to receive their rent deposits, even one



Mrs. Gloria Weems points to the backyard play ground for Kennesaw Village Apartments. Her kids want to play.

tenant who moved from one apartment to another in the same complex and had to pay another deposit to do so.

The Kennesaw Village Apartments appears characteristic of a number of apartment units that were shabbily put together during the apartment boom in the Metro-Atlanta area, cheap materials, poor workmanship, no landscaping, no recreational facilities, play areas, or programs for children or adult tenants. During heavy rains the living room areas are flooded, carpets ruined and indoors smelly for long periods of time; doors are hung with cracks, facilities won't work and plumbing is faulty.

What is to be done? Mrs. Weems feels that the time has come for the organization of a Kennesaw Village Tenants Association that will begin to address the many problems plaguing tenants in Kennesaw Village, and, quite possibly, organize all tenants in the Marietta area to focus on housing problems that are presently critical and getting worst.

For beginners, Mrs. Weems has put some ideas in motion about how a tenant's organization will take form. She sees it as having at least three broad committees, that will in fact be the task forces to get things done. Those committees would be: (1) NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - This committee would have the respons-

ibility for providing recreational facilities and a program of recreation for children and adults. It would take responsibility for getting children to school in the area who are now having to stay home because their parents cannot afford to pay transportation fees to get them in school. Mrs. Weems was very upset about children needing to get an education and not being able to do so because of a private bus service fee. At this point she even suggested forming carpools to get kids to school. Under this committee flood lights would be installed to make the streets safe at night, the regulation against pets would be enforced if there is such a regulation, and work with the Marietta Police Department to establish a curfew for youngsters to be off the street in the apartment complex.

(2) OPERATION: BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE - This committee would be primarily concerned with securing additional garbage cans, clean-up campaigns, planting flowers, shrubbery, contacting civic groups and garden clubs for help, planting dogwoods and azaleas, and investigating into programs in the area already underway.

(3) COMMUNITY ACTIVITY COMMITTEE - This committee would be primarily concerned with neighborhood activities such as street dances, charity collections such as for

Continued on Page 3

News

In Brief

It seems that a number of all-white agencies, businesses and companies - and governmental bodies - are making some effort, albeit undercover, to hire blacks in Cobb County since it has been made known that they are out of order and will be soon out of money unless they drop the discriminatory line and deal with people on a fair basis.

ANNEXATION

Annexation looms large in the eyes of many, while decentralization seems appropriate in the eyes of others. With the slow death of intercity everywhere USA as a result of an eroding tax base, the logical answer seems to be annexation. According to the laws of science matter can neither be created nor destroyed. Meaning: we as a people have only to rearrange our resources to meet our needs. There is no such reality as "it was here yesterday but gone today. Everything is still here. How things are being used have changed.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

It is about time that the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce involve black people in its program. For all of its life in the Cobb County community not one black has been hired in its office or program. Jerry Graham, let's get it together. . .like gentlemen ought to.

SCHOOL KIDS & BUS FEES

A considerable number of poor mothers and fathers are concerned that the Marietta Board of Education has done nothing to make sure that their children have adequate transportation to and from school without prohibitive costs involved. Some children are in fact staying home from school because they cannot pay bus fare!



Mrs. Weem's daughter and a next door neighbor in their play area.

SPECIAL:

ATLANTA BLACK LEADERSHIP IN CRISIS - PAGE 6

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

"The Real Welfare Mess"



by Isaac Richmond

Suddenly, and without warning, we are swamped with statistics and figures that tell us the Welfare Department is in a sordid mess. Little do many Americans know that the welfare mess has been a mess for some time. What too few of us still do not know is that the era of the Welfare State has grown in direct proportion to the "advancement" of our economic system. The real trap of welfare has yet to be explained.

Some passionately believe that people on welfare are seekers of hand-outs. No doubt some are. Some are also lazy. There are others, just as passionate, who believe that welfare should be dignified and elevated to the status of a "right." It is my contention that both views are short of the mark. No form of welfare is dignified. Welfare and dignity do not go together. Dignity comes from self-help, self-respect, and self-awareness. One cannot acquire such traits living under a welfare system. On the other hand, in an economic system where men, women and teenagers are thrown out of the labor market, regardless of their skills, training, education or experience, somebody besides the individual victim must share the blame. Neither logic nor intelligence will allow us to conclude that the 10% of unemployed Americans are lazy, shiftless, no-good and will not work. Thousands of willing workers have turned out in droves when jobs are announced. So, it must be said that emotional opinions devoid of facts will get us no where fast in the "welfare mess." Viewing welfare from a systemic point of view we see something often missed - in the pro and con groups, who seem to be bent on making it one thing or the other in spite of the facts.

Our free enterprise system is supposed to adjust itself

through the so-called economic laws of supply and demand. And, a very good case, all things being equal, can be made for these laws functioning. But laws in the economic sphere are not like scientific laws of the universe. Man has a tendency to tamper with the economic system. When he does he throws it out of order.

Ideally, when there are too many goods on the market the price will automatically go down; and, when there is a scarcity of goods on the market it sends the price up. Anybody trying to get one dollar per pound for tomatoes when tomatoes can be bought all around for thirty cents will have to bring down the price of have a lot of tomatoes on hand. That is the ideal. But when there is a case where a few men have all the tomatoes and will only sell them for one dollar per pound, it make little whether they have one tomato or one million tomatoes, anybody wanting tomatoes will have to pay one dollar per pound.

In line with pricing is the whole matter of employment. Ideally, a person in business may hire and fire as he deems it necessary and expedient. This is as it should be. Thus, when production is down a company will naturally have to lay-off or suffer loss from paying people who have nothing to do. But is was discovered during the Great Depression that unless millions of people hungry and out of work were cared for they would become desperate and violent - creating social chaos and confusion. At the time it was surmised by those who had that they had better do something for those who had not. More and more welfare followed. A conclusion: the welfare system was born not to help the poor but to prevent the poor from becoming hungry enough to take the basic necessities of life from the rich. And like any other system, the welfare system feeds on itself.

With a bureaucratic official for every six welfare recipients, it takes little mathematical ingenuity to determine where most welfare funds go - into the pockets of those who are the real welfare system: the big salary, expense account welfare employees.

Having become a bureaucracy in its own right, the welfare system is its own lobby. It speaks for itself. The welfare system will grow not because recipients will receive more and better benefits, the contrary is often the case, but because powerful welfare employees want their jobs. Out of a natural self-interest alliance with recipients a powerful coalition has been formed. Welfare recipients are organized. They vote. They can and do determine elections in major cities. Politicians fear votes that may be against

them in an election. Politicians also fear the wealthy who put them in power to further their (the rich) own interest. Consequently, the politician only concerned with getting elected is between the devil and the deep blue sea. Sandwiched between the very rich with the money and the very poor with the votes, elected officials are unable to come to grips with either for the benefit of the nation. The welfare "mess" indicates that the nation's economic situation is out of order - woefully out of order.

In every national on the globe where economic dislocation has divided the people into rich and poor classes, the welfare system exists.

At present, sad to say, there is no national alternative to welfare except full-employment. And unemployment cannot be full until production is in full bloom. Production will not be in full bloom until producers have more money to invest. But there will be no money to invest until somebody buys what has already been produced. But nobody can buy what has already been produced because nobody has any money. The circle, unless broken, becomes vicious and unending, downwardly. No amount of bold and alarming headlines can change that fact. What, then, is to be done?

Political spokesmen for the wealthy contend that the government cannot afford to take care of those "too lazy to work." That the government cannot afford to subsidize housing, medicine, education, insurance and day care. What they do not say is that the same government is made to subsidize the airlines, railroads, oil tycoons and multinational corporations without getting the benefit of their fair share of taxes. It is my feeling that if the national purpose of America was full-employment much of the so-called welfare and subsidizing would not be necessary.

The life of a welfare recipient is hopeless. Nobody can aspire toward being on the welfare roll. Additionally, the welfare roll is the surest way to group genocide. Providing for another adult for too long a period drains the instinct to survive. The will to live is zapped.

I am of the opinion that this nation needs to go to work. Too many people are on vacation while the national life of the country deteriorates. Several families with interlocking marriages controlling all the wealth of a nation guarantees social and economic dislocation, regardless of how it comes about. Example, should I make a fortune through hook or crook, or let us say, very honestly, and pass it on to my sons, would my sons be getting an equal change in life or would they in fact be ahead of all the

Continued on Page 3

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Concerned tenants in Kennesaw Village Apartments want to know who is supposed to dump the garbage and clean the streets.

KENNESAW VILLAGE TENANTS MEET
Continued from Front

seasonal days, clothing, food, and other emergencies that may plague tenants in the complex.

Mrs. Weems, it must be pointed out, is not just complaining. She has done her homework. Her contacts include Mr. Crain, City Manager for Marietta city government (424-8711); Mrs. Schramm, of the Marietta Housing Authority; Col. Steve Ham, Greater Atlantic Agency, P.O. Box 583, New Port, Virginia 23607, Phone (804) 245-5211. Mr. Jack Griffin, Housing Inspector, P.O. Box 609, Marietta, Ga., is being contacted for building inspection. Certified letters are being sent to HUD requesting an inspection, also Marietta Housing Authority is being requested to inspect the complex as measured by approved housing code laws.

In a meeting slated for Tuesday night, May 27, 1975, in the conference room of the Kennesaw Village Apartments, the KVTA has invited city officials, the NAACP, regional officials from HUD, the news media and interested citizens. The meeting will highlight the problems that tenants face, and will be open for recommendations and suggestions for redress.

The Kennesaw Village Apartments were once an all-

white complex, it is now mixed with a majority of tenants being black. A number

white, are concerned that management and landlord get a move on to get things going in the complex. The resident manager is Mrs. Betty Grogan, wife of Mr. Hugh Grogan. They live in the complex. Mrs. Grogan, residents manager, will be presented with the demands and/or recommendations whenever same are finalized for action.



Several Kennesaw Village tenants "lounging" in their recreational facility.

THE REAL WELFARE MESS
Continued from Page 2

other little boys whose fathers did not make fortunes? This in no way reflects on the fortune-makers, but it does say a great deal about the wealth of a nation. And when we speak of recessions, inflation, depressions and unemployment we speak of the wealth of a nation and how that wealth is being used. A simple syllogism says it even more emphatically:

If in year X 200 million people - 200 billion dollars
And in year Y 2 million people - 198 billion dollars
By the year Z 200 million people - 0 billion dollars

Considering that everybody will still have to live, what is to be done about the money. Unravel the question and you unravel welfare.

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Mrs. Weems has already been in touch with Mrs. Grogan regarding some of the personal problems she experiences as a tenant, and her desire to see something done for tenants in Kennesaw Village in general.

Cobb News Reps Plan D.C. Trip

Representatives from the Cobb County News Bureau will go to Washington, D.C. on Thursday, June 4, for a two-day conference with the Georgia delegation in Congress. Proposals for programs to establish a community service center, drug treatment center, job skills bank, referral service project and a minority business development planning program will be presented to agencies, elected officials and others having to do with the implementation of such programs in the local community. The Community Development arm of the Cobb County News Bureau is also carrying

on negotiations with local Cobb County officials in an effort to establish a coalition of concerned businessmen, industrial leaders, churchmen and elected officials to focus on the plight of the poor and minorities in Cobb County.

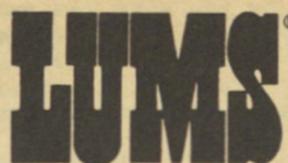
A community-wide mass meeting to outline plans and raise transportation for the trip is slated for Monday night, June 2, 1975, at 8:00 P.M. Everybody interested in the development of the slum areas and wasted lives in the Cobb County area are urged to come out and contribute to the expenses of the trip.

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By Myrian Richmond

The Myth and The Reality

MYRIAN RICHMOND is Editorial Writer and Director of Community Affairs at Radio Station WAOK-Atlanta

In order to continue the struggle for the rights of women to be equal in a male-dominated society, the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor make known information that should be of interest to all who concern themselves with shedding myths for reality. For too long, things regarding a woman have been assumed, things that often have no basis in reality. Check out the myths as they are squared with reality and see how off you have been in your assumptions about women:

The Myth: A woman's place is in the home.

The Reality: Homemaking in itself is no longer a full-time job for most people. Goods and services formerly produced in the home are now commercially available; labor-saving devices have lightened or eliminated much work around the home.

Today more than half of all women between 18 and 64 years of age are in the labor force, where they are making a substantial contribution to the nation's economy. Studies show that 9 out of 10 girls will work outside the home at some time in their lives.

The Myth: Women aren't seriously attached to the labor force; they work only for extra pocket money.

The Reality: Of the nearly 34 million women in the labor force in March 1973, nearly half were working because of pressing economic need. They

were either single, widowed, divorced, or separated or had husbands whose incomes were less than \$3,000 a year. Another 4.7 million had husbands with incomes between \$3,000 and \$7,000.

The Myth: Women are out ill more than male workers; they cost the company more.

The Reality: A recent public health service study shows little difference in the absentee rate due to illness or injury; 5.6 days a year for women compared with 5.2 for men.

The Myth: Women don't work as long or as regularly as their male co-workers; their training is costly - and largely wasted.

The Reality: A declining number of women leave work for marriage and children. But even among those who do leave, a majority return when their children are in school. Even with a break in employment, the average woman worker has a worklife expectancy of 25 years as compared with 43 years in the labor force.

Studies on labor turnover indicate that net differences for men and women are generally small. In manufacturing industries the 1968 rates of accessions per 100 employees were 4.4 for men and 5.3 for women; the respective separation rates were 4.4 and 5.2.

The Myth: Married women take jobs away from men; in fact, they ought to quit those

jobs they now hold.

The Reality: There were 19.8 million married women (husbands present) in the labor force in March 1973; the number of unemployed men was 2.5 million. If all the married women stayed home and unemployed men were placed in their jobs, there would be 17.3 million unfilled jobs.

Moreover, most unemployed men do not have the education or the skill to qualify for many of the jobs held by women, such as secretaries, teachers, and nurses.

The Myth: Women should stick to women's jobs and should not compete for men's jobs.

The Reality: Job requirements, with extremely rare exceptions, are unrelated to sex. Tradition rather than job content has led to labeling certain jobs as women's and others as men's. In measuring 22 inherent aptitudes and knowledge areas, a research laboratory found that there is

no sex difference in 14, women excel in 6 and men excel in 2.

The Myth: Women do not want responsibility on the job; they do not want promotions or job changes which add to their load.

The Reality: Relatively few women have been offered positions of responsibility. But when given these opportunities, women, like men, do cope with job responsibilities in addition to personal or family responsibilities. In 1973, 4.7 million women held professional and technical jobs, another 1.6 million worked as nonfarm managers and administrators. Many others held supervisory jobs at all levels in offices and factories.

The Myth: The employment of mothers lead to juvenile delinquency.

The Reality: Studies show that many factors must be considered when seeking the causes of juvenile delinquency. Whether or not a mother is employed does not appear to be a determining factor. These

studies indicate that it is the quality of a mother's care rather than the time consumed in such care which is of major significance.

The Myth: Men do not like to work for women supervisors.

The Reality: Men who complain about women supervisors have never worked for a woman. In one study where at least three-fourths of both male and female respondents (all executives) had worked with women managers, their evaluation of women in management was favorable. On the other hand, the study showed a traditional/cultural bias among those who reacted unfavorably to women as managers. In another survey in which 41 percent of the reporting firms indicated that they hired women executives, none rated their performance as unsatisfactory; 50% rated them adequate; 42% rated them as their predecessors; and 8% rated them better than their predecessors.

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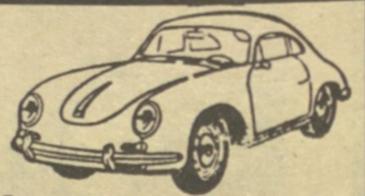
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**From this
point of view**

By Rev. H. "Ken" Kenner

While listening to a conversation between some friends a few days ago, I was reminded of a story heard by me in previous years. I recall it thusly: 'A jeweler opened up his store one morning, upon entering, he heard voices which sounded very much like an argument. He thought at first that someone was in the store. After looking around he saw no one. He checked his radio and TV. they were both turned off, so he soon forgot about it. Very shortly he heard the voices again, this time they were louder than before. He proceeded in the direction it came from. There, in a showcase, a diamond and a pearl were in an argument.

The diamond said: "I am the best and most expensive jewel there is; I can absorb sunlight and shed it abroad in the darkness." The pearl said: "I am the most expensive. Look at my symmetry, my perfect and flawless color." The jeweler stood there a few minutes as they chattered back and forth. Finally, he spoke up and said to them, "You both should be ashamed of yourselves, for I am responsible for each of you being where you are today. You, Mr. Diamond, I dug you up out of the bosom of the earth, I cut away the undesired nodules, ground and polished you, and placed you here that you might bring joy and happiness to someone. You, my pearl, I found you in the jaw of an oyster on the bottom of the bay where the salt and the fresh water meet, where the silt, dregs and waste from the rivers and creeks have settled. From this, I lifted you, that you may take your place among other jewels that are priceless. Now, both you listen to me, for had it not been for me, you would still be in darkness, not known of men, without a future or anything to look forward to.

For this point of view, the minister is one of the Lord's jewels and when he would boast of his achievements, his length of service, or station in life, let him remember that he was dug up, ground, waxed and polished for a life of glory to God.

**BLACK HERITAGE
and the
American Centennial Celebration**

By Lemuel Haynes

"In the Revolutionary War the American black was a participant and a symbol. He was active on the battlefronts and behind the lines; in his expectations and in the gains he registered during the war, he personified the goal of that freedom in whose name the struggle was waged." Thus historian Benjamin Quarles opens his 1961 book, *The Negro In the American Revolution*.

It is estimated that of the three hundred thousand soldiers who served in the American Army of the Revolutionary War, five thousand were blacks. Yet, this was not the first military service rendered by black men in America; they were employed as soldiers by both the northern and southern colonies in the French and Indian War, 1754-63, and also served in earlier struggles.

One of the black participants in the American Revolution, Lemuel Haynes, who was destined to be famous as a theologian, enlisted before the war. He was born July 18, 1753, at West Hartford, Connecticut. Abandoned by his parents in early infancy, he was bonded out as a servant to a deacon in Granville, Massachusetts, until he was twenty-one years of age.

Lemuel Haynes enlisted as a minuteman in 1774 and was required to spend one day a week in manual exercises, and to hold himself in readiness for actual hostilities. He received his call to arms on April 19, 1775, and marched in company with his white fellow citizen-soldiers to Lexington and Concord and into immortality.

Other black Minutemen responding to the alarm on that historic day included Cuff Whittemore and Cato Wood of Arlington; Caesar Ferrit and his son John, of Natick; Samuel Craft of Newton; Peter Salem of Framingham; Pomp Blackman of points unspecified; Cato Stedman and Cato Bordman of Cambridge. One of the fifty-one casualties on the American side was Prince Estabrook, a black from West Lexington.

The next significant military engagement took place in upstate New York near Vermont. Fort Ticonderoga, the key to the passage of Lakes George and Champlain to Canada, was surprised and taken on May 10, 1775, by Colonel Ethen Allen and his Green Mountain Boys. The capture yielded a valuable supply of cannon which was employed in the siege of Boston. In that important battle were Lemuel Haynes and two native Vermont black members of the Green Mountain Boys, Primas Black and Epheram Blackman.

After the northern campaigns Haynes returned to his agricultural pursuits. In 1778 he married Elizabeth Babbit. Three of the nine children

born to them became farmers, physician, and lawyer, respectively.

PHILLIS WHEATLEY

The first black destined to win literary renown in America were Phillis Wheatley, Jupiter Hammond, and Gustavus Vassa. Phillis Wheatley was the most gifted and the most famous of the three. Every history of black America praises her talent and accomplishment.

At the age of seven, in 1761, Phillis Wheatley was kidnapped and brought from Senegal in a slave ship to Boston, where she was lucky enough to be purchased by John Wheatley, a prosperous tailor who trained her as personal servant for his wife. As a result, Phillis quickly learned the English language and acquired the fundamentals of a classical education.

While still a child, she began writing remarkable verse. In an age in which few women - or men - read books, Phillis Wheatley wrote her first one when she was twenty years old. It was published in England, where she had been taken by her master's son because of her weak health. The book, *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*, was the first published volume by a black woman and the second by an American woman.

When George Washington was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, she celebrated the event in heroic couplets. Washington wrote her a letter dated February 28, 1776, in which he said, "Thank you for your polite notice of me. . . however undeserving I may be. . . I would have published the poem, had I not been apprehensive that, while I only meant to give the world this new instance of your genius, I might have incurred the imputation of vanity". She subsequently visited General Washington and his staff and was warmly welcomed.

The anti-slavery societies published and sold the *Memoirs and Poems of Phillis Wheatley*, which they used to illustrate the intellectual capacities of blacks.

During her stay in London, Phillis was internationally acclaimed; but on her return to Boston, her fortunes began to decline. Following the death of her patroness, Susannah Wheatley, she was married to John Peters, a handsome black grocer. The couple drifted from place to place, taking their two children with them. Phillis was finally reduced to earning her keep as a drudge in a cheap boarding house. Her two children died, and she was separated from her husband before their third child was born.

Continued on Page 7



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Zion Hill Baptist Church
Acworth, Ga.
Rev. J.O. Montford, Minister

Mt. Zion Baptist Church
Smyrna, Ga.
Rev. L.C. Malone, Minister

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church
Marietta, Ga.
Rev. Dorsey, Minister

Friendship Baptist Church
Marietta, Ga.
Rev. Brown, Minister

Wright St. Baptist Church
Marietta, Ga.
Rev. Booker, Minister

Triumph Church of God in Christ
Marietta, Ga.
Rev. Johnson, Minister

Sardis Baptist Church
Kennesaw, Ga.
Rev. Bostick, Minister

Old Friendship Baptist Church
Marietta, Ga.
Rev. Hensley, Minister

Union Chapel
United Methodist Church
Rev. Wayne Williams, Minister

Sop Creek Baptist Church
Rev. J.W. Dargan, Minister

Allen Temple Baptist Church
Marietta, Ga.
Rev. Rogers, Minister

Galilee Baptist Church
Marietta, Ga.
Rev. Reeves, Minister

Big Bethel Baptist Church
Marietta, Ga.
Rev. Ham, Minister

Hinsley Chapel Church of God
In Christ - Marietta, Ga.
Bishop J.D. Husband, Minister

Bethel AME Church
Acworth, Ga.
Minister, Rev. L.L. Kelley

Cole St. Baptist Church
Marietta, Ga.
Rev. C. Bullock, Minister

Mt. Sinia Baptist Church
Marietta, Ga.
Rev. Brantley, Minister

Pilgrim Baptist Church
Marietta, Ga.
Rev. G.D. Dodd, Minister

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
Marietta, Ga.
Rev. Battle, Minister

Noon Day Baptist Church
Marietta, Ga.
Rev. Ham, Minister

Back To The Bible
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COBB NEWS WELCOMES RELIGIOUS NEWS AND ARTICLES OF SPECIAL INTEREST.

SPECIAL: BLACK ATLANTA LEADERSHIP CRISIS!

Atlanta, the city too busy to hate, is, apparently, also the city too caught up in greed, avarice and conceitedness, on the part of its so-called leadership to do anything else. With all of its public fame and glamor reflected from the outside, its insides represent the seething cesspool of poverty, joblessness, futility and despair. For while it is one thing to hold up the black here and there who manages to make "good," it is quite another thing altogether to reflect on the majority of blacks, and other poor in the city, who must eke out a living, attend poor schools, stand in welfare lines, spend too much time awaiting trails, and live in fear of becoming a drug-addict victim's statistic. Thus the time has come to give some analysis to why Atlanta, with all of its so-called black leadership, still fails to make any real difference in the lives of every day Atlantans.

One of the political realities that the poor have not been exposed to is the fact that when blacks come to power they usually act the same way most other people do when they come to power: they accumulate the power and money for themselves, and pay lip-service to the problems of the poor and forgotten, who are only thought of when their vote is crucial to an election.

Another reality is that black power, in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the United States, is dedicated to the power-syndrome that only the "few like us in power deserve to ever be in charge." Power, then, tends to feed on itself, and it never yields without a contending force capable of inflicting a tension conducive to a new synthesis.

And, while Atlanta's leadership problems may be in need of an ideological direction and a philosophical posture, I will not attend to that matter at this time. Since I contend that being determines consciousness, let us move to being in the Atlanta community at this crucial time in the history of the black community.

In the absence of any viable

leadership organization in the black community of Atlanta, several post-dated protest cliques, using Civil Rights slogans and symbols of an age gone by, and masquerading as defenders of the poor, are in the forefront. These groups, under the leadership of those who have made a mockery of the Christian ministry, are in business for themselves. They have proved, by not having any impact on the lives of the poor and wretched, that they are not out to help black, brown, yellow or white. They only help themselves to every collection plate and mass rally where funds are taken up and not accounted for. They are usually on top of the right issues but for the wrong reasons. Consequently, most people cannot justify criticizing them, as it seems they are "trying to do something." What most people are too quick to forget is that every hooker in the history of the world came in the name of doing good for the poor and oppressed. And, while I am not about to say that all efforts to help the poor are led by those with corrupt intentions, certain elements in the Atlanta community are identifiable, cannot be overlooked, must be pointed out, and must be dealt with before any progress can be made for black people.

NATIONAL SCLS: What is your program? What you y'll done since the death of Dr. Martin Luther King. The answer is nothing. The business of making statements about every incident between blacks and whites, and claiming credit for everything done, is a little disgusting to digest for a black community of the intelligence and astuteness of Atlanta. Even the poor know the joke has been played out. If the National SCLC has degenerated to the voice of brother Tyrone Brooks, honest as he may be, it needs to revamp its program. For if certain black radio stations would scrutinize its news coverage more closely, many of these "issue bugs" would be out of business.

Then there is the Atlanta

Chapter of the SCLC. One feels surrounded by SCLS's. Yet the poor are getting poorer and those who are hungry are starving to death. Now common judgment would dictate that all the SCLC splits and Chapters constitute ploys to divide up the territory at the demise of the leader. It is the same thing that Alexander the Great's generals did when he died: split the empire and lost it in record time. History does, in fact, repeat itself, it seems.

Then we have the **Metro-Summit Leadership Conference** and a retinue of "leaders," apparently going no where fast. And wherever they are going not many other people are going with them - and that is no accident. Those who have learned to play the game of "help the poor" have no intentions of the poor being anything but poor. For if the poor wakes up their game is over.

An added demonic dimension to this conglomeration of inept curd is that all of it is under ministerial leadership. As Iceberg Slim says, "They are worst than the con artist or the strong arm stick-up man who at least risks his life and takes from those who are trying to get something for nothing." But this depraved and damnable preacher shoots fish in a barrel. He is so lame and devoid of any ingenuity that he uses God as a crutch, as he fleeces the poor, old, sick, infirm, lame and superstitious. His fate should be worst than a thousand hells.

Over the past few years almost every preacher in the Atlanta area has been accused for various "hustler" offenses and got off the hook. And it should be remembered that getting off for a black preacher has nothing to do with him being innocent. The system lets all the suckers off so that they can continue to bleed and exploit the discontented - but console them in the process.

In the State Legislature black leadership repeats itself. A young and personable State Senator spends 90% of his time out of Atlanta and

Georgia, yet proposes to be representing the district where the poor resides. Running for president to stay in the lime-light, and avoiding any local controversial issues, he is also taking advantage of the people who unthinkingly go to the pools as they go to popularity contests. Unfortunately they get what they vote for. If blacks can understand that even a man like Richard Nixon was controlled by satanic forces in order to be president, they will understand that he who strives for the presidency on the same terms also strives for the same forces. Period.

No one will deny that running for the presidency of the United States is a cute publicity stunt, especially for one already in the public eye, but black people do not need publicity stunts. The black community is in need of education, training, organizing and leadership. It seems to me that money spent for such things would be more worthwhile investments for black people. Besides, in America, presidents are figureheads like the Queen in England. But, again, black Atlantans like symbols rather than substance; fiction rather than form; and signs rather than sincerity.

Representative Ben Brown is another slick cat that could stand another greasing. Being paraded off by the press as a power in the black community, I find the conclusion misleading to say the very least. Heading a Black Caucus that has not given thought to the black community since its inception, he also rides on the diminishing wave of the civil rights era. But the wave is coming in to shore, and he too needs to be left on the bank.

Yet another in the State Legislature started out doing all kinds of things for the black community and suddenly he found out "how it is done." Now he speaks out on being in favor of capital punishment, obviously without looking at the capital punishment statistics; he wore a noose on his lapel indifferent to the fact that his kind lived under lynch law until just recently! Now that the farmers in the state legislature have begun to call him "sir" the people can kiss him good-bye too. Let me attempt to be more explicit.

One could say that blacks in office should represent all the people. On the face of it that is a noble and democratic posture. But the fact of the matter is: that statement is an impossibility and anybody making it is telling a lie - and I can prove it anytime one making it wants to question the veracity of my conclusion. **BLACKS CANNOT REPRESENT ALL THE PEOPLE.** For the very simple reason that blacks in the Atlanta community and all over America have particular problems. And, while many of the problems that blacks face are common problems, most of them are not.

What is usually avoided in the political arena is that blacks are part of an

oppressed social group and cannot afford the luxury of playing politics the way they are played by those who play politics strictly for personal prestige, power and position. Those who are free as a group can afford to play politics for the individual; those who are unfree as a group cannot afford to play the game of politics for the individual. The unfree must play politics and economics for the group. For it is the freedom of the group that allows the privilege of playing politics for the individual. Which means that whether Lester Maddox, Jimmy Carter or George Busbee is governor of the State of Georgia, whites will get good jobs, promotions, get out of jail, get short sentences for longer crimes and get all preferences for goods, services, protection and cultural reinforcement. Such is not a fact in the black community, regardless of how much public relations work is done. Facts are facts; reality is reality. Failing to acknowledge reality tends not to alter it. Frederick Douglass is still correct: it is the person unfree who must strike the first blow for freedom. George Wallace does not have the responsibility for my freedom as a black man. That is my responsibility; Lester Maddox does not have to have a moral conscience about freeing blacks. Blacks must have a moral conscience about freeing themselves. People with racist views should not be expected to be humane. Those who desire the human community must stand up. Masters have never freed slaves. But where there are no slaves there are no masters. Thus we get rid of all masters by getting rid of all slaves. And the worst masters of the world are those who are masters over their own people.

A case in point is the Atlanta University Center. While erupting in academic circles in reaction to theories of inferiority by Schockly and others, and holding indignation meetings after a police killing of a black, a penetrating silence is maintained in political theory and practice, economic development, and educational innovation. If there ever was a theory of inferiority based on a people not doing anything to help themselves, the Atlanta University Center would substantiate it. With a sprawling educational complex like no other in the world, what is wrong that nothing from its students or faculty communicates to the larger surrounding community. There is no faculty leadership and no student organization. No educational ideology. And, in spite of the so-called "genius" of our religious heritage, the facade of an interdenominational theological center has yet to defend Man, let alone God!

The question comes up again: What is to be done? I am suggesting that the black community begin to deal with clarifying internal contradict-

Continued on Page 7

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BLACK LEADERSHIP

Continued from Page 6

ions; identify weaknesses from within and thus fortify itself from external hostilities, pressures and exploitation. But a weak internal structure is helpless from outside force. We must take another look at a board of education with a lot of black faces but no solution to educational problems of its 90% constituency; we must address the causes of a city stagnating when blacks have the reins of political power; and we must condemn those who use the Lord's name in vain, and in turn serve as examples for our children and young people who are made to "look up" to them and "respect" them as models and significant others. We are going to have to bear down on the open crime, prostitution,

drugs and dope in our communities and on our streets. That, all of that is not really the responsibility of the white community. Those are our problems...the sooner we face them as a people and stop making excuses for ourselves the better off we will be. Political scoundrels, religious

hustlers, educational game-players and economic con artists must be driven from the black community. They must be exposed for what they are, explained to the people, and placed in proper perspective. In the black community we have satisfied ourselves to call crooks "Uncle Toms" and "Con Men." In some places in the world they shoot them!



Caffie "Chubby" Caldwell being congratulated by Circulation Manager, Harold Adams for a one-day sale of papers numbering 30! Chubby set his goal at 30 papers his first day on the job, and exceeded that by selling 37 papers! The Cobb News Bureau congratulates Chubby for a job well done. Chubby sells papers in the Louisville area, Johnny Walker Homes area, along with Melvin Hill, Harold Adams, Willie Brown, Cris Hill, Mark Hall and Richard Adams, under the supervision of Mrs. Annie Jean Hall who is District Manager of the Johnny Walker Homes area.

BLACK HERITAGE

Continued from Page 5

Although she had been considered a prodigy in her time, she died penniless in December, 1784, within a few hours of her third child.

Her reputation was kept alive by anti-slavery writers and publicists of succeeding decades, who well knew the symbolic value of an unmixed black slave girl from Africa who had displayed such literary talent, and who had been officially received and admired by no less a personage than General George Washington. YOU OUGHT TO GET TO KNOW HER TOO!!!!!!

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Should your town or community wish to become a part of our community news service program, write or call the office NOW! We will work with your community, train personnel and help with setting up the news service organization that will be run by people in your own community.



Willie Brown, Harold Adams, Mark Hall and Richard Adams moving along with Cobb News.

COBB NEWS MAKES THE NEWS

The Cobb County News Bureau is making every effort to find jobs and provide job opportunities for boys and girls who will be out of school on the streets this summer. We feel that we have a responsibility to our community to work to develop our young people. Our examples will be their realities. But we cannot do all the things that need to be done unless full community support is forthcoming.

We of the Cobb County News Bureau do not want a crime-filled summer; we do not want to see young people in juvenile courts and jails instead of in school; we are doing something about it. What are you doing?

Too long have we been satisfied to just sit around and complain about what is wrong. What we need to do is get out of the false comforts of our homes and become a part of our communities - before we come out and find that we in fact do not have a community but a crime-riddled, drug-ridden asphalt jungle where killing, stealing, gambling, and disrespect for other humans has become a way of life.

Get involved and get your children involved in something worthwhile this summer. Take some time out to provide an

example for the young. They only do what they have seen done before them. Remember:

if you are not part of the solution you are part of the problem.



Mrs. Annie J. Hall explains Cobb News Routes to paper boys in her area.

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Atlanta Area Bestline Co-Op Sponsors "Honor Night" Cobb Citizens on VIP Guest List

The Atlanta Bestline Co-op will hold its annual "Honor Night" Tuesday night, June 3 at the Marriott Hotel. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvre will be served from 7:15 until 8:00. The program begins at 8:00 p.m. Mrs. Myrian Richmond will MC the program

and Rev. E. H. Dorsey will open with the invocation.

Special guests will include Mayor Maynard Jackson, Mayor of Atlanta, Atlanta Chapter NAACP Secretary, Mrs. Johndell Johnson, Mr. Erskine Hawkins, West Lake

Manpower Center, Ms. Lee Woods, Director of the Metropolitan Girls Club, Rev. Jones from Operation Uplift, Rev. Bryant Long, Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Social Change, and Rev. Isaac Richmond, Editor, Cobb County News Bureau. Music will be

furnished by Mr. Floyd Ruffin, Music Director at Morris Brown College.

An added attraction of Honor Night will be the presence of Mr. Willie Larkin, Vice-President of Bestline, and top man in the U.S.A. Mayor

Maynard Jackson has declared the week of Bestline's Honor Night "free enterprise week".

The Cobb News Bureau Staff and ten special guests have been invited to participate in the "Honor Night" program and activities.

Summer Of '75 Youth Opportunity Program

\$50,000 GOAL For A Minority Job Placement Program

Our Summer of Youth Opportunity Program's financial goal is \$50,000.00. The project and fund drive launched this week will culminate at the beginning of the 1975-76 school year. We call upon all businesses, industry, organizations and individuals to help provide jobs for young people and support the development of our community.

"THE CONCERNED CITIZENS OF COBB COUNTY seek your participation in and support of our **SUMMER OF '75 YOUTH OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM.**" A program designed to involve young people of Cobb County in employment opportunities and wholesome interaction throughout our community.

The program is sponsored through Bestline Products.

Many of our youth will be approaching you and asking that you support them by purchasing your home care products through them. As you know, summer employment opportunities are limited and many of our young people feel rejected and are prone to juvenile behavior when idle for an entire summer. We must keep them busy with a meaningful involvement. An involvement

from which they can realize benefits. You can help.

Young people working with the program will be provided both training and responsible supervision. We want their summer filled with opportunity . . . excitement . . . and fun!

Thanks in advance for your support.



Mrs. Lillie Garrett
Project Coordinator

Shirley Bradley
Area Coordinator

SPECIAL BULLETIN ON THE KENNESAW VILLAGE TENANTS MEETING

Tenants of the Kennesaw Village Apartments met Tuesday night, May 27 at the Kennesaw Village Conference Room. The turnout was overwhelming and all showed concern for the many problems surrounding the complex. While the tenants met to discuss problems and possible solutions, other problems sur-

faced.

It was brought out in the meeting that instead of the \$5.00 late fee, that is one of the complaints brought to the meeting, a \$10.00 late charge is to be imposed. No one knows what is done with the late charge which adds up to quite a sum as many of the

tenants have to pay the rent on or after paydays which are often a few days after the rent is due from one month to the next. Tenants feel that this is their money, and, since being late takes nothing out of the landlord's pocket, it should be used for the upkeep of the complex or some other worthy cause in the apartments.

Plans have been made to call Action Line to focus on the complex; elected officials are being contacted; Hud has been asked to be present in a meeting next Wednesday night, June 4, at the complex conference room. At which time the owner, Colonel Steve Ham of New Port, Virginia, will be present to answer

questions and complaints.

Mrs. Weems insisted that unless the complaints are properly addressed - and in a hurry - a rent strike will be called in the Kennesaw Village Apartments. Even as this story is being written (Wednesday morning) Mrs. Weems and tenants are meeting and mapping strategy for action.

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