



Goose Creek SC NAACP Branch #56A3 May 2008 Newsletter

Looking for the NAACP's next leader



James Weldon Johnson

Walter White

Roy Wilkins

The Rev. Nelson B. Rivers, III

I am at a loss to fathom the lack of wisdom being exercised in our pursuit of a President/CEO for our organization. The men listed as the three finalist under consideration are fine well educated men. However none of them bring NAACP leadership experience o the table. According to search committee sources, the finalists for NAACP president and CEO are: Benjamin Todd Jealous, 35, president of the Rosenberg Foundation; the Rev. Frederick D. Haynes III, 47, senior pastor of Friendship-West Baptist Church in Dallas; and Alvin Brown, 37, a former White House official now working on Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign.

Prior to Benjamin Hooks in 1977 the previous leaders were selected from within the ranks of the NAACP. Roy Wilkins was the last leader selected from in-house. Before Roy Wilkins, Walter White and James Weldon Johnson were chosen from within the ranks of the organization. These men were premier leaders of our organization. Most of us think the organization made some good choices with these stellar leaders. Let's do it again and promote The Reverend Nelson B. Rivers, III to the President/CEO position. The Reverend Rivers has represented our organization well at the branch, state, regional, and national level and has a powerful voice for civil rights. I don't see how we can imagine that we will find someone better suited than The Reverend Nelson B. Rivers, III.

John Matthews, Editor
NAACP Creek Connection

Can The GOP win the presidency without playing the race card?

By Gwen Richardson



Gwen Richardson

April 24, 2008 Houston, TX (BlackNews.com) - Several weeks ago, I wrote a widely publicized op-ed piece, raising

the issue of the 1995 Million Man March and whether or not all Black men who attended would now be barred from seeking higher office. I had no idea whether or not Sen. Barack Obama, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, had attended the march, but I understood the twisted mindset of Sean Hannity, Rush Limbaugh and other right-wing talk show hosts and their racist rants. It appears that my comments were prescient. Hannity of *FOX News*, apparently dissatisfied that the issue surrounding Rev. Jeremiah Wright did not successfully derail Obama's campaign, is now trying to link the Illi-

nois senator to Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan via the Million Man March. As it turns out, Obama attended the march, but did not play a prominent role.

The objective of the Million Man March was to make a positive statement that Black men were responsible, upstanding citizens who take care of their families and were not all criminals as portrayed in the media. It was completely peaceful and attracted one million-plus Black men from all socioeconomic and educational backgrounds.

See Playing Race Card Page 8



Andrea Glover
Branch President

Inside This Issue

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Looking for the next leader.... | 1 |
| GOP Playing Race Card..... | 1 |
| Announcements..... | 2 |
| Real Men Cook..... | 2 |
| Andrew Young Speaks..... | 3 |
| Three NAACP Finalists..... | 4 |
| Notes from April Meeting..... | 5 |
| School Board Rebuked..... | 6 |
| Second Chance..... | 6 |
| Hip Hop Anniversary Tour..... | 7 |
| Developing Healthy Habits..... | 9 |
| ACT-SO Competition Held... .. | 10 |
| Membership Campaign..... | 11 |
| Upcoming Events..... | 12 |



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GOOSE CREEK NAACP ANNUAL REAL MEN COOK

Mark Your Calendar and join us for our 3rd annual Real Men Cook!



DOOR PRIZES

ENTERTAINMENT

VOTER REGISTRATION



3:30 - 6:30 p.m.
 Saturday
 May 24, 2008

ACT-SO CONTESTANTS PERFORMING

at

Goose Creek High School Cafeteria

Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children

To register as a cook or for tickets contact Real Men Cook Committee: Thomas Lanier (Chairman) at 345-8561, Roscoe Singletary at 797-6903, Herbert Bodison at 324-2894, John Matthews at 442-1319, or Paul Staggers at 224-4962

BRANCH MEETINGS

Goose Creek NAACP meets the first Monday of the month

at
 Abraham Masonic Building
 206 Liberty Hall Rd
 Goose Creek, SC.

6:00 PM to 7:00 PM Executive Meeting

7:00 PM to 8:00 PM General Meeting

Monday May 5, 2008

Monday June 2, 2008

Monday July 7, 2008

Please attend and bring a friend

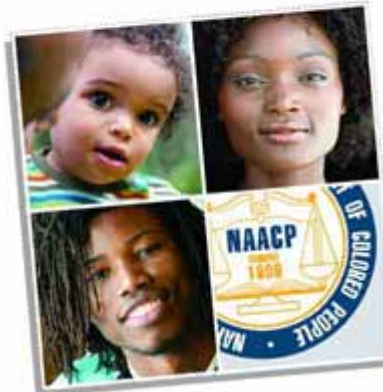


THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN THIS MOST IMPORTANT ELECTION IS YOU!

Register to Vote

1-866-MY-VOTE-1 (1-866-698-6831)

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR NAACP MEMBERSHIP!



Join today and become one of the thousands of NAACP Freedom Fighters in South Carolina! The work of the Association - equality and justice for all - depends on the support and participation of caring and progressive individuals like you. A stronger NAACP with a larger, more active membership is the best hope for protecting our freedom and advancing our rights. **Contact:**

Eddie Anderson
 Membership Chairman
 843-553-9648

The NAACP is Still Relevant and Needed!



"I know I wouldn't be any of the things that I have been if it hadn't been for the NAACP"

Ambassador Andrew Young 4/25/2008



Ambassador Andrew Young

Legendary civil rights leader Andrew Young was the keynote speaker at the Winston-Salem Branch of the NAACP's Freedom Fund Gala on Friday, April 25.

A native of New Orleans, Young was with Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis when King was killed in 1968. He is the former head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1977, President Jimmy Carter appointed Young ambassador to the United Nations. In the 1980s, Young served two terms as the mayor of Atlanta.

Young delivered a speech spanning his career as a civil rights leader and politician. He was a top aide to Martin Luther King, Jr., and was elected to three terms in the U.S. Congress before being appointed as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. He then served two terms as the Mayor of Atlanta and helped bring the Olympics to his city. He says he owes it all to the NAACP.

"I know I wouldn't be any of the things that I have been if it hadn't

been for the NAACP," said Young. "You talk about going to Wake Forest and the University of North Carolina and all these fancy schools, but somebody had to go to court to break down the barriers to help us get in."

He recalled seeing Thurgood Marshall argue in court for equal pay for teachers in New Orleans when he was just a child. He said later, during the Civil Rights Movement, even King himself would have never thought progress could've happened so fast. An African-American of their generation having the extensive political career Young has had was hard to fathom back then.

Good judges were instrumental in that, he said. Judges allowed civil rights activists to march and sped up the hearings for their cases in court. And, a good many of those judges were appointed by Republican President Dwight D. Eisenhower who consulted with black leadership on his appointments. Times have changed, he said. Affirmative Action is being threatened in court and politicians

are being convicted on suspicious grounds like Democratic Governor Don Siegelman of Alabama. He said Republican appointed judges can't be trusted as they once were.

"This is a fight for all that we believe in," said Young. "Regardless of who you like or don't like, the important thing is to focus on who is going to be appointing the judges that are going to be running our courts. And remember, Republicans did a good job way back then but, here lately, they haven't been doing so good."

Young criticized the Bush Administration's disaster response to Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. He said many have made the mistake of labeling it as a black problem. He said more white people than black were killed by Katrina.

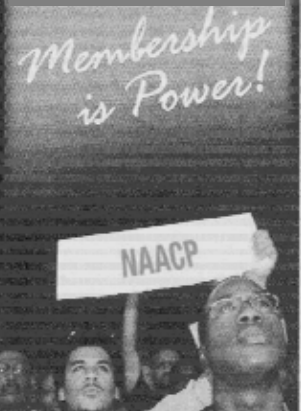
"We made a mistake by trying to label it as 'Bush does not care about black people,'" said Young. "They just didn't care."

Young also praised President Jimmy Carter, whom he served under as ambassador. He said Carter is a disciple of King who believes in peace. He praised the Carter Administration for listening to what countries all over the world wanted from the United States, so that when the time came to ask them for something, they complied. He contrasted that to the bullying and bad mouthing which occurs in the United States' more recent diplomatic relations. □

Mr. Stephen Hairston is President of Winston Salem NAACP Branch.

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Contact
Eddie Anderson
Membership Chairman
553-9648



The NAACP Needs You

The fight for freedom is not free! Membership in the NAACP is your opportunity to give back to the organization that has done more to change this country for the betterment of people of color, women, and the disenfranchised than any other in the nation's history.



Three NAACP Finalists - Pick Crucial To Group's Survival

By Bonnie V. Winston

RICHMOND, Va. (NNPA) - Three candidates have emerged as finalists for the national NAACP's top position, the Free Press has learned.

But an undercurrent of discontent over the choices of a special NAACP search committee may force the nation's oldest civil rights organization to find an alternative from within its own upper ranks.

According to highly placed sources, the three finalists for the job of president and chief executive officer are:

- **Benjamin Todd Jealous**, 35, a former executive director of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and now president of the Rosenberg Foundation in California.
- **The Rev. Frederick D. Haynes III**, 47, a Dallas megachurch leader.
- **Alvin Brown**, 37, a former White House senior advisor to President Bill Clinton and urban policy director for Sen. Hillary Clinton's campaign.

Contacted at the NAACP's Baltimore headquarters this week, Richard McIntire, a spokesperson for the national organization, would neither confirm nor deny the names.

However, he did say the first opportunity for the NAACP's 64-member board to take any action would be at its May 16 and 17 meeting in Baltimore.

Leaks have sprung from what was to be a highly guarded process because of the antipathy with which the three finalists are viewed by many insiders.

The three are said to be closer

to the mold of Bruce S. Gordon, the former Verizon Communications executive who was head of the national organization for just 19 months before resigning unexpectedly in early March 2007. Gordon, whose leadership style and corporate background put him out of sync with the board, reportedly clashed almost immediately with the very hands-on directors.

Because of his tension-filled tenure, several board members want the NAACP's next leader to be a person rooted in the civil rights struggle, perhaps even an insider.

The name most frequently mentioned is that of the Rev. Nelson B. Rivers, chief of field operations for the national NAACP. The South Carolina native has worked at every level within the organization, from branch president to state and regional director. Since Gordon's departure, the top leadership position has been filled on an interim basis by Dennis Courtland Hayes, the organization's former general counsel.

Even Salim Khalfani, executive director of the Virginia NAACP, expressed reservations about the three finalists.

"I'm really disappointed by the names that have come back as finalists," he said. "They might be well respected, but ... we need someone who has worked in the movement, is known in the movement."

He called the selection of a new leader "the most important decision" facing NAACP, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary next year.

"This is going to make or break the organization," he said.

Fueling the unfavorable feelings are indications that only the top candidate — and not all three

finalists — will be presented to the board for consideration. That person is reported to be Jealous, a Rhodes Scholar who served as managing editor of the Jackson Advocate, Mississippi's oldest Black newspaper. In that capacity, he was a strong civil rights advocate under hostile conditions. He later became executive director of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, an organization of more than 200 Black-owned newspapers that includes the Free Press.

Jealous left to work with Amnesty International, a highly respected human rights organization, where he led efforts to pass federal laws against prison rape and to build public consensus against racial profiling after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. He has been president of the California-based Rosenberg Foundation for three years. The private foundation financially backs advocacy efforts to improve the lives of California's working families and recent immigrants.

McIntire said several board members made it plain at a February meeting that they wanted the search committee to consider "elevating from within." He did not comment on the possibility of Rev. Rivers' candidacy. He said 200 applicants expressed interest in the job. The field was narrowed to 75, then to 25.

Despite Khalfani's doubts about the finalists, he said he's optimistic that the search may be reopened in the face of a backlash from the organization's rank and file.

Khalfani said Rev. Rivers would be "an excellent leader" because of his knowledge, history and advocacy within the organization and because he is well known and

respected by people across the country.

Three Virginians serve on the national organization's board. They are attorney James E. Ghee of Farmville, Rovenia Vaughan of Powhatan and Babette Colquitt of Alexandria.

Ghee and Julian Bond, chairman of the national board, did not immediately return phone calls seeking comment. □

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Special thanks to author Bonnie V. Winston and Raymond H. Boone Founder, Editor, and Publisher of The Richmond Free Press for permission to reprint this article in our newsletter. Mr. Boone is a Life Member of the NAACP. Article originally appeared in Richmond Free Press April 3-5, 2008 edition.



Highlights from April 7, 2008 Branch Meeting

TO COMMEMORATE THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF MLK's ASSASSINATION



Mr. Silas Adams a 5th grader gave a resounding rendition of one of Dr. Martin Luther King's speeches. It was awesome and received a standing ovation of applause. I predict when Mr. Adams reaches the 9th grade he will be an ACT-SO winner.

GOOSE CREEK POLICE CHIEF HARVEY BECKER

spoke to us about racial profiling



and answered several questions raised by those in attendance. He also passed out his business card to those present and encouraged us to contact him if we had other questions. He also indicated the Goose Creek police force is down 13 officers. He left 7 applications for us to pass out. If you know someone interested in joining the police force let me know and I will

give you an application for them. The chief stayed around until the end of the meeting and spoke with those present.

Other Guests: Martha Dunlap with (SFLC) & Diane Wilson with (SCAATCN) asked for our help to support a smoke free Goose Creek.



Diane Wilson (L) and Martha Dunlap (R)

Smoke Free Lowcountry Coalition (SFLC), Smoke-Free Action Network and the S.C. African American Tobacco Control Network (SCAATCN) are working to support a Smoke Free Goose Creek. They are asking for our support and I encourage you to get involved and let's help make Goose Creek Smoke Free.

A first reading of a Goose Creek smoke free indoor workplace and public place ordinance could occur as early as **Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at 7:00pm** at the Marguerite H. Brown Municipal Center, 519 North Goose Creek Blvd. Goose Creek City Council wants to know their constituent's views and hear from them by phone or in writing and to see them present at city council meetings. Make sure your opinion gets to the Mayor and the City Council.

Nationally smoking kills more

people each year than alcohol, AIDS, motor vehicle accidents, illegal drugs, murders and suicides COMBINED. In South Carolina:

- Tobacco accounts for more than 4000 deaths each year, with the majority deaths being from lung cancer, heart disease and strokes
- In South Carolina there are more than 50,000 middle and high school students who smoke and nearly 15,000 who use smokeless tobacco products
- 36% of high school students smoke and only 24.9% of adults smoke
- 240,000 children are exposed to second-hand smoke at home.
- 15 million packs of cigarettes are bought or smoked by our children each year.

REAL MEN COOK FUND



at Goose Creek High School Cafeteria

RAISER WILL BE SATURDAY MAY 24, 2008 from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Goose Creek High School. Members are asked to sell at least 5 tickets each and Executive Board members are required to sell 10 tickets each. Contact Mr. Singletary to get your tickets and to register as a cook.

5. ACT-SO - Allen and Sandra Barnhardt, Co-Chairmen of the ACT-SO introduced them selves and talked about their award winning ACT-SO involvement. □

Farewell to My ACT-SO Friends

From *Zakia L. Richburg*



Zakia L. Richburg

This note is just to inform you that tomorrow will be my last official day with the NAACP. I have been with the Association for over seven years and it is now time to move on and pursue other opportunities. I will forever remember this experience. The last three years with ACT-SO have definitely been the most enjoyable. I encourage each of you to keep up the good work. The investment that you are putting into our youth is commendable. I'm sure that I will still be involved with ACT-SO on some level in the future. Once you work with this program, you are definitely hooked. It has been a pleasure working with all of you.

Please feel free to contact Ms. E l a n a O m a r i at eomari@naacpnet.org for any questions or concerns that you have regarding the competition. I will be in Orlando so I look forward to meeting you there. Take care and God Bless!!□



NAACP Rebukes Charleston School Board Member's Comments that Suggest 'Sterilization' of Single Mothers

Charleston NAACP branch President Dot Scott said school board Vice Chairwoman Nancy Cook should undergo sensitivity training.



Dot Scott

"Ms. Cook's remarks show an arrogant and uncaring attitude toward single parents and their children that could easily have a

negative impact on the funding, staffing and equipping of their schools," NAACP branch President Dot Scott said during a press conference.

The NAACP National Office joins with the South Carolina State Conference NAACP and the Charleston Branch NAACP in denouncing the comments of county council candidate Nancy Cook, who also sits on the Charleston County School Board.

While being interviewed on WTMA-AM's morning show April 3, Cook suggested that teen mothers and unmarried women who have more than one child should either be sterilized or have subsequent children removed from their custody.

"Such comments are strikingly incendiary and offensive," said NAACP Field Operations Chief Rev. Nelson B. Rivers, III. "Her words are especially insulting com-



The Rev. Nelson Rivers, III

ing from a female in the American South, where poor women were once involuntarily sterilized and often labeled as 'unfit mothers' because of their color or economic class."

In response to criticism of her words, Cook has been defensive and lacking in sincere regret. She has stated that her remarks were not intended to be racist and were made as a private citizen and from her perspective as a professional counselor, not as school board vice chairwoman.

"An experienced politician and servant of the people should know better than to use such divisive words," said South Carolina State Conference, NAACP President Lonnie Randolph, Jr. "It is regrettable that a public official who derives her livelihood from fami-



Dr. Lonnie Randolph, Jr.

lies in transition, and is sworn to serve the highest interests of children and families should appear to hold such contempt for them. They deserve better. Every decent caring citizen must expect better."

The NAACP stresses the need for Cook to recant her remarks and seek sensitivity training where she can fully understand why they were egregious and hurtful. The NAACP also urges others on the school board to denounce such despicable speech and issue a reprimand of Cook for her hateful words.

Founded in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its more than half-million adult and youth members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities and monitors of equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.

State Sen. Robert Ford, D-Charleston, released a statement asking the county and state Republican parties to denounce Cook's candidacy. "The Republican Party should be embarrassed to have one of its candidates take such a posterous stand," he said. □

NAACP Commends President Bush for Signing Second Chance Act into Law

Prison re-entry law gives hundreds of thousands of Americans a new start in life & society

The NAACP commends President George W. Bush for signing the *Second Chance Act of 2007* into law. The new law provides essential resources to assist local communities to help decrease prisoner recidivism and ease offender re-entry obstacles throughout the country.

The NAACP was instrumental in working with the diverse, bipartisan coalition of elected officials and organizations responsible for facilitating passage of this historic legislation. The U.S. Senate passed the measure by a unanimous vote March 11, after the U.S. House of Representatives passed it last November by an overwhelming 347-62 vote.

The *Second Chance Act*, introduced by Congressman Danny Davis (IL) and Senators Joe Biden (DE), Sam Brownback (KS) and Patrick Leahy (VT) will provide state and local communities with \$165 million in federal assistance annually to establish offender re-entry projects with enhanced focus on job training, housing, substance abuse and mental health treatment, as well as programs to work with the children and families of offenders.

See Second Chance on page 7



Second Chance Continued

"The *Second Chance Act* will, each year, give the more than 650,000 men and women who have paid their debt to society a fresh start as they transition back into communities across the nation and strive to break the grip of recidivism," said NAACP Interim President & CEO Dennis Courtland Hayes. "Now Congress must stand behind its commitment by acting to fully finance and assure successful implementation of the law's intentions."

Studies have shown that the transition for most former inmates is difficult. Many struggle with substance abuse addiction or mental health problems and face employment and housing discrimination. Furthermore, many communities where prisoners go upon release already struggle with high poverty, unemployment, fragile families and a dearth of jobs.



Hilary Shelton

"The *Second Chance Act* encourages new community partnerships to help educate, train and employ those recently released who might otherwise return to a life of crime," said NAACP Washington Bureau Director Hilary O. Shelton. "It is only through this type of comprehensive reform, that our nation will be able to end the cycle of prison recidivism and help hundreds of thousands of Americans and their families each year as they work to re-enter our society and communities to become the constructive and contributing citizens, fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers that we need them to become." □

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

NAACP ACCEPTS AIMS OF HIP HOP ANNIVERSARY TOUR



April 10, 2008 - The NAACP applauds the profanity-free, family oriented nature of the *Hip Hop Anniversary Tour* as it ended the first leg in Europe in March. The anniversary tour showcases legendary artists and enormous talents that created the rap music genre in the USA starting in May. In the last 30 years, rap has steadily become a cultural phenomenon and its influence dominates as America's latest offering of pop culture to the world. The Tour is sponsored by Visit Florida (<http://visitflorida.com>) and aims to present 3 hours of non-stop Hip Hop without profanity.

In fact, they are urging the whole city to not use profanity for a whole day. A No Profanity Day!!!!

"The pioneers of this global art form are to be commended for setting the proper tone as they set out to play to adoring crowds around the world," said NAACP Interim President & CEO Dennis Courtland Hayes. "As their fame, popularity and string of awards demonstrate, you can be creative and sell without degrading women, being profane, violent, racist or sexist. We hope that more contemporary artists are paying attention."

"The music from the past was fun," rap industry legend Kurtis Blow said in announcing the series of U.S. and European shows with fellow rap icons:

- Grand Master Mele Mel
- Grand Wizard Theodore
- The Force MDs
- Big Daddy Kane - (selected shows)
- Whodini - (selected shows)
- KRS One - for selected shows
- Dana Dane
- Afrika Bambaataa and The Soul Sonic Force - for selected shows
- The Air Force Crew (BBoys)
- Rob Base - for selected shows

"The tour brings those beats and good feelings back with three hours of Hip Hop with no profanity and within the bounds of universal acceptance," said Kurtis.

Last year Kurtis, former 'gangsta' rapper Master P, his son Romeo, other entertainers and media corporations, signed on to the NAACP's STOP Campaign. Kurtis, now a minister, also participated in the NAACP's symbolic burial of the N-word at its annual convention in Detroit.

KRS One says this is a challenge for any real MC - one day of no violence, no crime, no murder, no hate and no profanity.

MAY

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 10 Pensacola, FL | 18 Washington, DC | 25 Philadelphia, PA |
| 11 Talahassee, FL | 21 Rochester/Bufalo, NY* | 28 Cleveland, OH |
| 14 Greenville, SC* | 22 Newark, NJ | 29 Indianapolis, IN* |
| 15 Columbia, SC* | 23 New York, NY | 30 Chicago, IL* |
| 16 Raleigh/Durham, NC | 24 Hartford, CT | 31 St Louis, MO* |
| 17 Richmond, VA | | |

* The *Hip Hop Anniversary Tour* is looking for promoters and radio stations to help promote the tour in the indicated cities. For a proposal please contact Krush Films at (917) 499-1232 or email kbrushgroove@aol.com. Learn more about the tour online at: www.hiphopanniversary.com





Playing Race Card from Page 1

Farrakhan was a catalyst for organizing the event, but the march's success was a result of a nationwide grassroots effort. Through a 1995 interview with a publication called the Chicago Reader, Obama had some very critical things to say about Farrakhan and his approach to issues, as well as a critique of the march.

But these facts are lost on Hannity and his right-wing cohorts because, in their world, facts don't matter. Their real objective is to make racial division the dominant wedge issue of the 2008 presidential campaign. That appears to be the only way Republicans have been able to win national elections because they have been unable to win on the issues.

Take a look at the last 40 years in presidential politics and every Republican victory has had the underlying theme of racial animus. Richard Nixon based his 1968 campaign on his "Southern strategy" of building a conservative majority by exploiting racial and class tensions between White and Black Democrats.

In 1980, Ronald Reagan ran against "Chicago welfare queens" (presumably Black) who were getting a free ride from the government. Reagan, proclaiming support for states' rights, launched his campaign in Philadelphia, Mississippi, the site of the 1964 murders of three civil rights workers, Andrew Goodman, James Chaney and Michael Schwerner, with an apparent olive branch to the descendants of those who condoned this horrendous deed.

And who could forget George H.W. Bush's 1988 campaign

against Michael Dukakis and the specter of Willie Horton. Horton was a Black man who, while on a prison furlough, raped a White woman while her husband was forced to watch, conjuring up images from the 1915 film *Birth of a Nation*.

During the presidential primaries in 2000, George W. Bush made a pilgrimage to Bob Jones University, an institution known for its objection to interracial dating among its students, to shore up his redneck bona fides. And 527s, independent political groups, ran an underground campaign during the South Carolina primary insinuating that John McCain had a Black love child when, in fact, he and his wife Cindy had adopted a dark-skinned girl from Bangladesh. In 2004, Bush won reelection based on the anxieties about gay marriage and a potential attack by brown-skinned radical Islamic terrorists.

It appears that, should Obama be the nominee, the GOP themes for 2008 will center around Rev. Jeremiah Wright, Louis Farrakhan, the Million Man March, 1960s radical William Ayres, and whether Obama, as a Black candidate, is sufficiently patriotic.

My personal experience with the GOP was eye-opening, to say the least. Raised in a Democratic household, in my late 20s I had soured on some of the Democrats' issue stances and the fact the party took the Black vote for granted. As someone who is pro-business and conservative on social issues, I decided to switch my party affiliation in the 1990s and became active in Republican politics. I believed then, and still believe, that Black voters would be better off being involved in both parties so neither could take us for granted.

However, I found that Republicans prefer that Black members

of their party be seen and not heard, and were expected to toe the party line at all times. My husband I tired of being one of the few Blacks in the room at most Republican events. If other Blacks were present, we were often mistaken for someone else since, of course, all Blacks look alike. There was also an unspoken mandate that Blacks in the Republican Party speak out in opposition of affirmative action programs, although Republicans exert zero energy to combat racial and gender discrimination that still exists.

Any hopes of bringing other Black voters into the party were thwarted by the Republicans' constant use of the race card, particularly in Senate, Congressional and presidential elections. After a few years of this abysmal treatment, my husband and I decided that the independent route was our best option.

Hopefully, McCain, as the Republican standard bearer, will not stoop to the tactic of fanning the flames of racial division, but other members of his party have already taken a giant leap in this direction. Right-wing talk radio has apparently decided that playing the race card is lucrative, good for ratings and serves as red meat for the more extreme elements of its audience. The 527s will be out in full force with video snippets of Rev. Wright, Farrakhan and anyone else they can use to smear Obama as a closet subversive, a potential mole for a radical Black faction, even though his life's work proves he is void of prejudice, open-minded and inclusive.

This week the North Carolina GOP will unveil a 30-second ad that attacks Democratic gubernatorial candidates Beverly Perdue and Richard Moore for their endorsements of Obama. The ad,

per the party, will reference "controversial figures from Barack Obama's past," presumably featuring Wright and Farrakhan, and raise the question of the candidates' "judgment" in supporting him.

After all, Republicans certainly cannot run on the crumbling U.S. economy, the falling dollar, sky-high gas prices, inadequate access to health care, and their disastrous military and foreign policy in the Middle East and around the globe. A campaign based on racial fears may be their only hope. Even conservative commentator Pat Buchanan said in a recent interview, "I think the only way Republicans can win is if they win ugly." In November, we'll get a chance to see if their tactic is successful once again. □

Gwen Richardson is an entrepreneur and author based in Houston, Texas. Her new book entitled Why African Americans Can't Get Ahead: And How We Can Solve It With Group Economics is an Essence magazine bestseller. Richardson is currently writing a book about the 2008 presidential election.

CONTACT: Gwen Richardson
grichardson@cushcity.com

Note: Ms Richardson is not a member of the NAACP but did say, "I appreciate much of the work the organization has done in the past." We thank Ms Richardson for sharing this article with us.



**GOOSE CREEK NAACP HEALTH COMMITTEE
NANCY JAMES, Chairperson**

The NAACP Health Committee goal is to develop health education initiatives; expand community outreach; and sponsor collaborative programs with other health organizations.

Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane -- Martin Luther King, Jr.



Developing Healthy Habits

The list of self-improvement options is endless, and though we all have good intentions it can be hard to follow through. Below are a few internet resources for help in reaching some of the more common goals. If your personal goal isn't listed here, do an internet search and see what comes up! You may also contact me and I will assist you in finding information to help you reach your personal goal for better health.

*Nancy James, Chairperson
Goose Creek Health Committee*

NAACP Goal: Reduce disparities in respiratory diseases.

Smoking Cessation

Nationally smoking kills more people each year than alcohol, AIDS, motor vehicle accidents, illegal drugs, murders and suicides COMBINED. Each year, approximately 45,000 African Americans die from a smoking-related disease that could have been prevented. In South Carolina: 240,000 children are exposed to second-hand smoke at home and 15 million packs of cigarettes are bought or smoked by our children each year. <http://www.tobaccofree.org/quitting.html> Provides tools to help smokers quit successfully and motivates young people to stay tobacco free. <http://www.nicotine-anonymous.org/> A 12-step program for getting and staying nicotine free. http://www.quit4good.com/free_quit_smoking.html A free guide to quitting smoking, but beware of the advertisements promoting quick-fix products that aren't free.

NAACP Goal: Reduce Obesity Disparities and related diseases--diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease

Healthy Eating

Research has shown that following a healthy eating plan can both reduce the risk of developing high blood pressure and lower an already elevated blood pressure. The use of a diet low in calories and in saturated fat (<10% of total calories) is an ideal strategy for preventing type II diabetes. <http://www.webmd.com/diet/tc/healthy-eatingoverview> Provides a basic explanation of what it means to eat healthily and links to additional information.

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/pyramids.html>

The "healthy eating" food pyramid, developed by the Harvard School of Public Health. Read about the research or just skip to the pictures.

Exercise

Physical activity can lower your blood glucose (sugar), blood pressure, and cholesterol. It also reduces your risk for heart disease and stroke, relieves stress, and strengthens your heart, muscles, and bones. In addition, regular activity helps insulin work better, improves your blood circulation, and keeps your joints flexible. If you're trying to lose weight, a combination of physical activity and wise food choices can help you reach your target weight and maintain it. All of these benefits can be yours even if you haven't been very active before. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exercise> A good overview of the types and benefits of exercise, myths, nutrition, and links to more information. http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/nutrition_fit/fitness/exercise.html Exercise for kids. (Or, in other words, fun games that you can play too.)

Diabetes

Diabetes is a disease in which your blood glucose, or sugar, levels are too high. Glucose comes from the foods you eat. Insulin is a hormone that helps the glucose get into your cells to give them energy With Type 1 diabetes, your body does not make insulin With Type 2 diabetes, the more common type, your body does not make or use insulin well. Without enough insulin, the glucose stays in your blood.

Over time, having too much glucose in your blood can cause serious problems. It can damage your eyes, kidneys, and Diabetes can also cause heart disease, stroke and even the need to remove a limb Pregnant women can also get diabetes, called gestation diabetes.

Symptoms of Type 2 diabetes may include fatigue, thirst, weight loss, blurred vision and frequent urination. Some people have no symptoms. A blood test can show if you have diabetes. Exercise, weight control and sticking to your meal plan can help control your diabetes. You should also monitor your glucose level and take medicine if prescribed.



ACT-SO



Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics

Goose Creek Branch First Annual ACT-SO Competition Held

By Andrea Glover

During the week of April 26 through May 2, 2008, The Goose Creek Branch NAACP (ACT SO) Afro-American, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics hosted "A week of Competitions" at local community sites. ACT-SO is a yearlong enrichment program designed to recruit, stimulate, improve and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African-American high school students. The ACT-SO program centers on the dedication and commitment of community volunteers and business leaders; to serve as mentors and coaches to promote academic and artistic

excellence among African-American students.

With so much attention paid to academic achievement gaps, lagging test scores and graduation rates, one might think all African-American students in the lowcountry were struggling. But that is far from accurate.

Goose Creek Branch NAACP has selected the high achieving, gifted and brilliant black students to participate in an academic competition on the national level representing the branch at ACT-SO competitions.

Students, selected are from high schools throughout the area: Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester County. High schools represented were Timberland, Goose Creek, West Ashley, Charleston School of the Arts, Military Magnet, Murray Hill Academy, Woodland and Summerville High School. Students competed in three areas: Performing Arts, Visual arts, and The Humanities. We had local judges, Emily Phillips, Marlene Lemon, Eyamba Williams, Barbara Blackwell, Ruth Jordan, and K a t h y H u g h e s .

Some of the students will advance to the national competition held in July in Orlando, Fla. Some will not. Only the best go on from here .

These students -- and this academic competition - help remind us all that there are high achieving black students in our midst -- despite the headlines we read nearly every day.

Famed ACT-SO alumni include musician Kanye West, actress Jada Pinkett-Smith, filmmaker John Singleton and actor-comedian Anthony Anderson. □

Goose Creek NAACP Branch
Andrea Glover, President
 Announces

NAACP ACT-SO

30th Anniversary

2008 NATIONAL COMPETITION AND AWARDS CEREMONY

JULY 30 - AUGUST 3, 2008
 WALT DISNEY WORLD RESORTS
 IN ORLANDO FLORIDA

Disney® Coronado Springs Resort & Convention Center

For more information contact Allen Barnhardt
 Co-Chair, Goose Creek NAACP ACT-SO
 Committee at 803-699-5136

Having info: You may contact Disney's Coronado Springs Resort & Convention Center at 407-936-9220
 If you are not a competitor, champion, co-champion or champion and wish to reserve hotel rooms, this block of rooms is available on a first come first serve basis.

NAACP ACT-SO

Today's Youth... Tomorrow's LEGENDS



Pre-Centennial Membership Campaign



This month the Goose Creek Branch of the NAACP will launch a special membership campaign. The residents of Goose Creek and the Lowcountry will have an opportunity to purchase a share in making the Lowcountry a better place to live.

Why The NAACP?

An historical occurrence is rapidly approaching in the life of the NAACP. We will witness, embrace, and celebrate 100 years of existence in 2009.

Today it would be nice to say that we have achieved a race neutral society, regrettably the news reports and other data we see nationally, statewide and

locally exposes and confirms that the problem of racism still exists.

The focus of the NAACP is not limited to just employment, housing or public accommodation discrimination: it includes *criminal justice, economic development, educational excellence, health and voter empowerment.*

This struggle for making the promises of America real is something we have seen will not come about in time. The realization or acceptance of the premise that "all men are created equal and endowed with certain inalienable rights by their creator" continues to elude far too many Americans.

The NAACP continues to fight to fulfill its vision for "a society in which all individuals have equal rights and there is no racial hatred or racial discrimination." Whether it is biased based policing, racial profiling, disparate charging decisions or sentencing in the courts, or if it is closing the learning achievement gaps, inequitable classrooms, or lack of access to post-secondary institutions. It could also be the over 44 million Americans who no longer have health care coverage or access to preventative treatment. It can be as simple as making sure every vote is counted.

Although there are those who dismiss the need for the

NAACP, sadly they also fail to offer any real solutions to the long-standing problems of racism and discrimination in America.

We need your Support

LEADERS MUST LEAD

Every NAACP Branch Officer and Executive Committee member should recruit five (5) members this week. Every officer and executive committee member should become a "Fully Paid" or "Subscribing Life Member."

"NAACP MEMBERSHIP - IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR"

The Family is the foundation of a great people. Solicit all members of your immediate and extended family to join the "The NAACP Family." □



Goose Creek, SC
Branch # 56A3

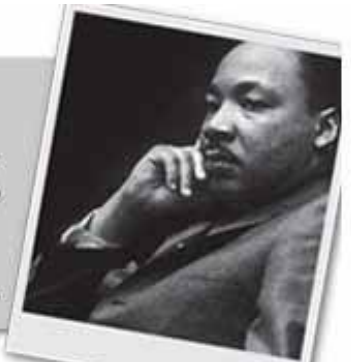
Upcoming Events

- May 5, 2008- Goose Creek NAACP Branch Mtg.
- May 24 2008 - Real Men Cook
- June 6, 2008 - SC State NAACP Freedom Fund
- June 14, 2008 - Ridgeville Branch NAACP 17TH
Freedom Fund Banquet
- July 12-17, 2008 - 99th NAACP Convention
Cincinnati, OH
- July 30 - August 3, 2008 - ACT-SO 30th
Anniversary Competition - Orlando, FL

Where Do We Go From Here?

"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.. Now is the time to make real the promise of democracy...."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

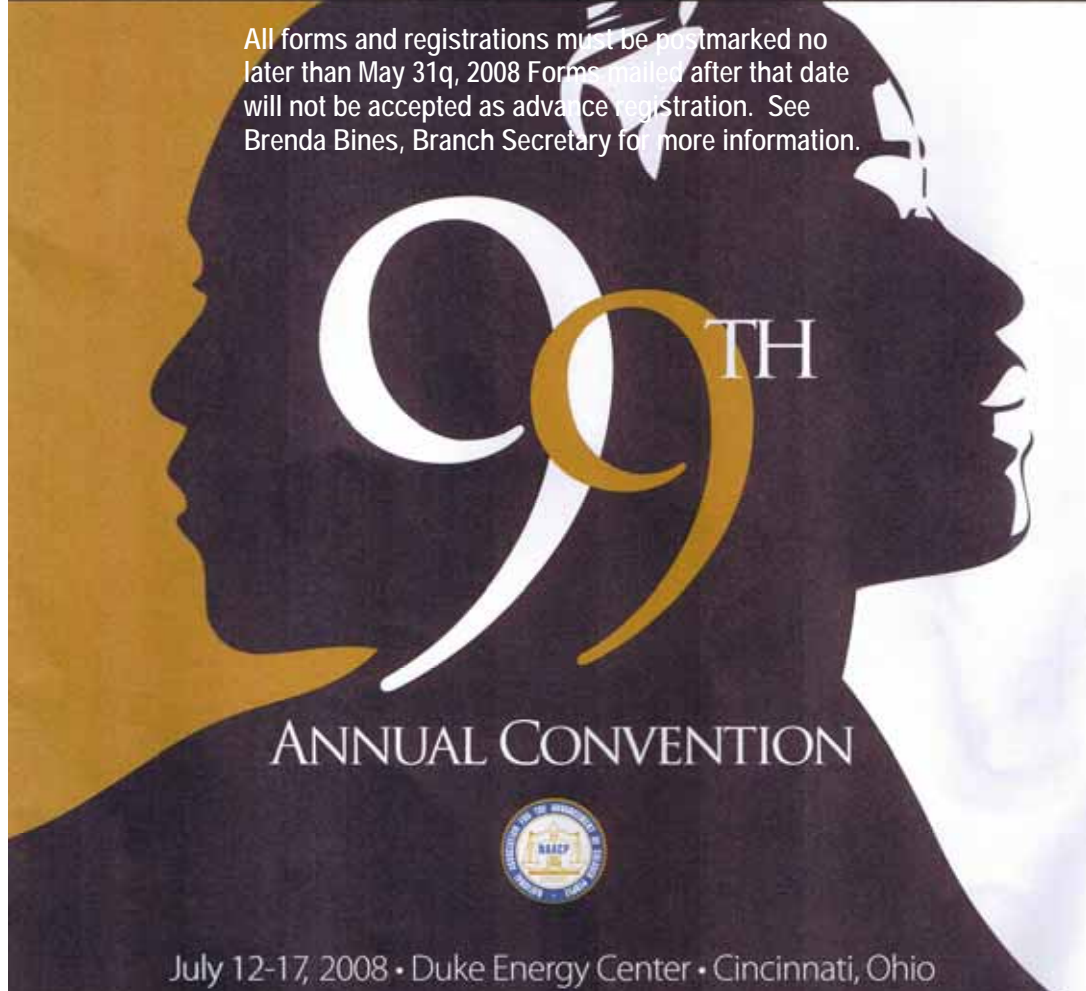


**KEEP THE IDEA OF FREEDOM
ALIVE
JOIN NAACP**

NAACP

NAACP: POWER, JUSTICE, FREEDOM, VOTE!

All forms and registrations must be postmarked no later than May 31q, 2008 Forms mailed after that date will not be accepted as advance registration. See Brenda Bines, Branch Secretary for more information.



July 12-17, 2008 • Duke Energy Center • Cincinnati, Ohio