



the Nubian Message

serving N.C. State's African-American community

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University, State, Nation, Celebrate MLK Jr. Holiday

Adedayo A. Banwo
Editor

"I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered men have torn down, men other-centered can build up. I still believe that one day mankind will bow before the altars of God and be crowned triumphant over war and bloodshed, and nonviolent redemptive goodwill will proclaim the rule of the land."

Such words typified the philosophy of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., civil-rights activist and proponent of the non-violent stance that sought to expose the horrors of Jim Crow racism in the south. In the coming days communities across America will celebrate Dr. King's teachings and the principles he stood for. The 2001 MLK celebration will feature over 140 nationally registered events, including over 17 right here in the Raleigh-Durham area. This national holiday commemorating Dr. King is for reflection and discussion concerning King

Jr.

"Every year, I look back at the struggle and I thank God for Martin Luther King Jr.'s life when this holiday comes around," says Julie Eledah, senior in Food Science and Biology.

"All people, especially people of African descent, should be thankful for his sacrifices," Eledah added.

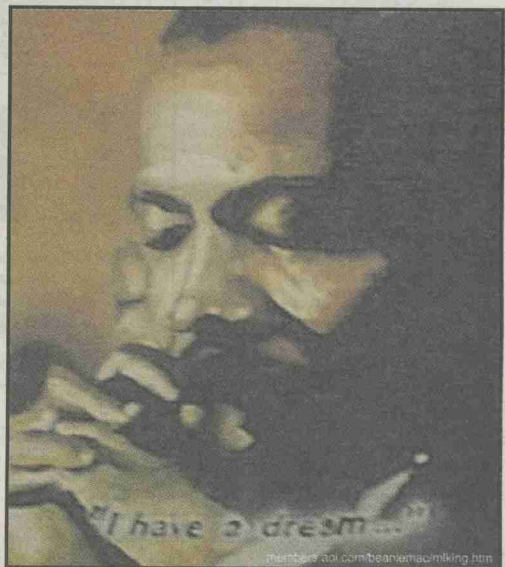
Among the local events surrounding MLK, North Carolina State University will host the 18th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Cultural Festival on January 20th, 2001 at 1pm. The event will feature an oratorical contest, conferences and art displays among other things. It will be hosted at the Jane S. McKimmon Center.

Probably one of the highlights of the 2001 MLK Celebration will be Annual Memorial March on January 15th at 11am. The event is free and marchers will depart from the State Capitol building. The march is in coordination with three days of celebrations organized by the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee here in Raleigh. This will kick off with the NC State

Employees Annual Martin Luther King Observance Day Program on January 13th and will conclude with the 2001 Martin Luther King Evening Musical Celebration on January 15th.

In addition to the many local and state events, there are thousands of more events being organized nationally. The Heritage Council in Austin, Texas has planned one of the biggest MLK celebration year after year. This year the group invites United Negro College Fund President William H. Gray, III for their keynote and will feature performances by Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee. The group also has marches, campaigns and a youth awards banquet scheduled as well. On January 12th, the 15th Annual National Martin Luther King Birthday Observance will take place at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. at 11am.

If you want any more information about the events taking place locally, visit www.king-raleigh.org for more information.



"Let us hope that the dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched communities and in some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all of their scintillating beauty."

— Letter from A Birmingham Jail, 1963

Slowed down economy

Chinwe Ekwuribe
Staff Writer

The slow down of the economy has sparked many concerns. It has had an adverse effect on everything, from the price of gas down to the clothes we buy. This Christmas season attested to that with expert saying it was the worst one in years. This is because people are not as free with their money. They can go without that new TV or new CD player because they now have to accommodate for the higher heating costs. But why has the economy slowed down? Is it because Bush has been elected president or is it

something deeper? And how does this affect you as a student here at N.C. State?

In an article issued by WRAL Online Website interviewed Dr. Mike Walden, an economist at here at N.C. State this last December. <<http://www.wral-tv.com/news/wral/2000/1216-gibson-report>>. In this interview, Walden states his opinion on the economy. He said the blame for the slowed economy can be put on the Federal Reserve.

He explains: "The Federal Reserve, or Fed, is able to impact the economy through its influence over short-term interest o r

see Economy, pg 2

Affirmative Action given new life in GA

Bobby Guthrie, II
News editor

In recent years, a wave of court decisions steadily eroded the use of affirmative action many Georgia state universities. White plaintiffs denied admission to a number of public universities won rulings heralded by opponents of affirmative action. Their legal victories led some colleges to abandon their racial preference programs altogether.

er.

But as the University of Georgia, Athens, commemorates the 40th anniversary of its desegregation today, legal challenges to its use of racial preferences in admissions have yet to be decided. UGA's case, or an appeal involving one of three other universities, ultimately could produce a landmark decision by U.S. Supreme Court that decides the issue once and for all.

see Universities, pg 2

General brings credibility

Bobby Guthrie, II
News editor

Colin Powell, a retired United States Army general, is no stranger to politics. He rose to become chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. And just recently, Powell was selected to be the Secretary of State. He would be just one of some minorities to make-up the cabinet of President-elect George W. Bush.

The appointment of Powell would bring more political credibility to Bush's cabinet. The appointment is also history in the making. Powell would be the country's first African-American Secretary of State. To those people that know Powell, his nomination is no surprise. In an interview before his death, one fellow officer of Powell's mentioned his capabilities.

"Powell would succeed even if he

were green," said the fellow officer.

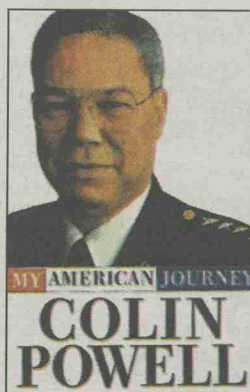
Eliot Cohen, a professor at Johns Hopkins University, and sometime critic, wrote about Powell in Powell's 1996 memoir, "My

cerned about his views of

America's role in the world and his reluctance to use or threaten the use of American military might. Also, some worry about Powell's disdain for what his book calls "slide-rule prodigies" and "deep thinkers" who, he believes, led the country astray in Vietnam and would do so again.

Because of his political clout, many career foreign-service officers find hope in Powell's leadership. The officers are looking to Powell to bring respect and resources to a State Department frequently given short shrift by Congress and the Pentagon.

The transition from soldier to diplomat should be easy for Powell. He is known for his charisma and skill at managing people. He served as a White House fellow, aide to former Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger and national security advisor as well as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Except for four brief command assignments, none larger than 15 months, Powell served in Washington, D.C. His careers stretches from 1969 to his retirement in 1993.



Powell shown here on the cover of his bestselling autobiography My American Journey is poised to become the highest ranking black to serve in the U.S. Government

American Journey."

"(Colin Powell is) the most politically adroit general the United States has ever seen since Dwight D. Eisenhower," wrote Cohen. But, Powell faces skeptics who are con-

"JAZZ" TV Series makes debut

Bobby Guthrie, II
News editor

Ken Burns' new PBS documentary "Jazz," is now on the air. The series has a total running time of 17 hours, but is totally filled from beginning to end. Legends like Satchmo, Duke, Bird and Lady Day are among the many musicians featured on the program.

"Jazz" is really about much more than the music. It's about Jim Crow and minstrel shows and the Harlem Renaissance and civil rights. "Jazz" is also about the history of race in 20th-century America, which in many ways is the history of 20th-century America.

"Our study of jazz offers the explosive hypothesis that those who have had the peculiar experience of being unfree in a free land might actually be at the center of our history," wrote Burns in the preface of the companion book.

"African-Americans in general, and black jazz musicians in particular, carry a complicated message to the rest of us, a reminder of our great promise and our great failing."

"The more we run from it the

more we run into it," said Wynton Marsalis, trumpeter and "Jazz" commentator, referring to race.

The music is the metaphor, but it's also just the music. Burns has the

respect to let it play. There are about 500 tunes in "Jazz," many of them snippets, but more than a few allowed to play in their entirety, while Burns shows old still photos, gliding his camera gracefully across them, making them come alive as he did in "The Civil War."



Duke Ellington, one of the Jazz Greats featured on Ken Burns' new PBS documentary, "Jazz". Burns says that "Jazz"

pbs.org

Many actors lend their vocal talents to this documentary, including Samuel L. Jackson, Adam Arkin and Joe Morton. There are the jazz critics Gary Giddins and Stanley Crouch, historian Gerald Early, musicians such as Dave Brubeck and Cassandra Wilson, and Marsalis, who is as close as "Jazz" comes to dominant.

The principal criticism of Burns' "Jazz" has come from what he dismisses as "the jazzers" - that he ignores most of what happened since 1960, compressing it into an hour of the final episode.

"I'm in the business of historical perspective," said Burns, in response to his critics.

"Jazz" is presently aired on PBS stations throughout the country. The program in ten parts with a total running time of 17 hours.

Office ceremony, "it is unconscionable that the 4th Circuit ... has never had an African-American appellate judge." He added, "it is long past time to right that wrong. Justice may be blind, but we all know that diversity in the courts, as in all aspects of society, sharpens our vision and makes us a stronger nation."

Gregory was the first person in his family to attend high school and college. Early in his career, he taught at Va. State University, where his mother once worked as a dormitory maid.

Gregory will serve temporarily for one year but will need to be re-nominated to remain in the seat

appointment.

The 4th Circuit, which serves South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia and covers more minorities than any other circuit, had no minority judges.

According to the Washington Post, the 4th U.S. Circuit was the first court in the country to strike down college scholarships reserved exclusively for minorities. The Post added that the 4th district court ruled that two counties, Arlington (Va.) and Montgomery (Md.), could not consider a student's race as a basis for admission to a particular school.

According to the Associated Press, Pres. Clinton stated in an Oval

4th Circuit integrated, finally

Ayren Jackson
Staff Writer

As the White House prepares itself for a new president, current President Bill Clinton continues in his efforts to diversity. His target: the federal branch of the White House.

Roger Gregory, a Richmond-based lawyer, was appointed by Pres. Clinton on Dec. 28. The appointment marked the first time a black judge has served with the all-white 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and the first time in 20 years that a president has filled a judicial opening with a recess

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The Nubian Message 2000

The Nubian Message is currently interviewing for the position of Circulations Manager. If you are interested please contact Head of Staff Brandon J. Buskey to schedule an appointment. We seek someone who will be a team player and work to better the Message. Contact Brandon to go over details at bjb@unity.ncsu.edu

Hunger is a world problem

Bobby Guthrie, II
News editor

This week, the United Nations reported that 830 million people suffer from hunger. The reasons vary from natural disasters to armed conflict to increased poverty. This report came from the U.N. World Food Program.

"From generation to generation, people don't have enough food to eat," said Catherine Bertini, the executive director of the food agency, said at a briefing.

Bertini showed maps locating "hot spots" where the hunger and malnutrition cases are the most severe. Sub-Sahara Africa and Asia where areas with the most hunger. In these places, tens of millions of people can't get enough to eat. Most of the hunger victims are women and children.

The World Food Program studies hunger and malnutrition very closely. The program defines hunger as a condition in which people fail to get enough food to provide the nutrients for active, healthy lives. If a person intakes 1,800 calories a day or less, he or she is considered undernourished.

Most of the world's malnourished citizens, live in developing countries. In fact, 791 million of the 830

million live in these countries. The food agency reported that 200 million were children under 5 years old. The children were underweight because of a lack of food.

Drought is the main reason of hunger for many people. In more than 20 countries, drought is why 100 million people go with little or nothing to eat.

The World Food Program concluded that 16 million people were affected by drought last year. Three million people were hit in 1996. Another reason for hunger is internal unrest in some nations. This made growing crops harder and difficult to get them to market.

"We've seen an alarming trend where the poorest nations are hit simultaneously by both natural and man-made emergencies, including Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Tajikistan," said Bertini. "Unfortunately, we see a potential for that to continue or even increase in 2001."

Hunger also affected many in Latin America and the Caribbean. Eleven percent, 53 million people, are undernourished. Haiti, Nicaragua, Bolivia, and

Honduras had the worst cases, the report said. The World Food Program reportedly fed 89 million people last year.

Universities, cont.

Last month, in the course of just 17 days, courts in San Francisco, Detroit, and New Orleans, gave affirmative action supporters renewed hope that the initiative's demise is not imminent.

The rulings held that colleges can use racial preferences in some circumstances to achieve diversity in the classroom. They came in response to challenges against affirmative action programs used by the universities of Washington, Michigan and Texas.

"The forces who are in opposition of affirmative action have been given reason to take pause," said Ted Shaw, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

"There's not a lot for them to be happy about. We're still very much in a dogfight right now."

In 1999, about 90 percent of UGA students were admitted solely on academic grades and test scores. The rest were evaluated under what

is called a Total Student Index, in which applicants get a boost if they meet any 12 criteria. One factor is whether they were non-Caucasian; others include whether they were a Georgia resident, excelled in extracurricular activities or had UGA alumni in their immediate family.

In late March, the 11th Circuit will hear the first of two appeals arising of the UGA litigation. In October (of 2000), UGA received support from the U.S. Justice Department. But the NAACP's Shaw expressed concern that the Justice Department under President-elect George W. Bush may withdraw that position.

"John Ashcroft has been no friend to affirmative action," said Shaw of Bush's nominee for U.S. attorney general. "I don't start with the expectation that they're going to be our friends in court. But I'd be pleased if they are."

economy cont.

rates and the growth of supplies of cash and credit. For the past 18 months, the Fed has been trying to put the brakes on borrowing and spending by increasing interest rates by almost two percentage points."

Walden goes on to that the Federal Reserve's reasons for doing this is because "The Fed has been concerned that our [economy] will get out of control and result in inflation."

Therefore, the Federal Reserve has good intentions for raising the interest rates; they do not want high inflation and they do not want a recession. But though they have

good intention it does not change the fact that the economy has slowed down and the fact that unemployment has gone up. The rise of unemployment is a very serious issue that should concern all students. If unemployment is high, that means that graduates will find it harder to get jobs and they can kiss signing bonuses goodbye.

Hopefully the country won't go into a serious recession and we can bounce back from this ongoing recession without too much trouble.

Wolfpack Women Look to Rebound

Keehsa Dover
Sports Editor

The Wolfpack women's basketball team was only a roll earlier in the season, only losing one game to Oregon until they seemed to hit a brick wall plummeting three straight games—all three of them were ACC games. Florida State, Virginia, and Clemson gave the Wolfpack a hard time as looked to get a win in the ACC. The Seminoles were the first victors of the three game losing streak. Tynesha lead the team with 19 points and just five more from her teammates or 5 less from the Florida State team would have given the Wolfpack the game. Carisse Moody followed close behind with 16. They fell to the Seminoles 74-70.

The next barricade was the Virginia Cavaliers. Virginia came into the game undefeated in the ACC having already beaten two other teams. N.C. State shot only 39 percent from the field but was 6-12 from the three-point line for 50 percent. They also managed 21 turnovers and only 4 steals in the game. Amy Simpson led the way

with 18 points in the losing effort.

The third game of the losing streak came against Clemson. The Tigers have given the Wolfpack trouble in the last few meetings and the Pack just weren't able to break their streak. Though the Tigers only shot 29.8 percent from the field, they still managed to hold of N.C. State for a 67-52 victory. The Wolfpack didn't shoot much better with 32.8 percent. Tynesha Lewis, who led the team with 12 points, was the only N.C. State player in double figures. N.C. State was down 33-20 at the end of the first half and they knew they had to do something different in the second half.

The Wolfpack just couldn't get the momentum going and never pulled to within more than 9 in the second half. At the 3-minute mark in the second half, N.C. State was down by 18 and things weren't looking good for the Pack. They fought the game out to the end but just couldn't manage to get the offensive run and defensive stop that they needed to beat this Clemson team.

The Clemson game was the end of the losing streak for the Pack, and they were able to rebound as a win-

ning team does, and come back to beat the Wake Forest Demon Deacons in the next game. This win was necessary for the Pack to regain some confidence so that they could get on to where they wanted to be. They came out fired up but didn't start to pull away in the game until well into the first half. By halftime, they had Wake Forest down 32-20. The second half is when N.C. State really took it to them. They held Wake to 28 for about 6 minutes and then held them to 35 for over five minutes.

Tynesha Lewis was the high scorer in this game with 19 points followed by Talisha Scates with 13 and Carisse Moody with 10. Seven out of eight of the rest of the team scored at least 2 points. Carisse Moody also added 7 rebounds and Tynesha Lewis and Daphne Hutcherson dished out 4 and 3 assists respectively.

N.C. State's next challenge will come against Temple tonight at 7:00. They will look to improve to a record of 11-4. They will then prepare to play to road games against UNC on January 14th and Duke on January 18th.

To Leave or Not to Leave?

Jennifer Bringle
Staff Writer

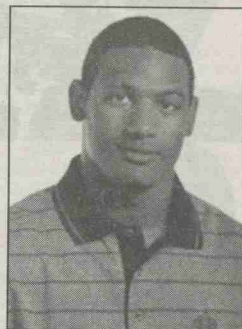
To leave or not to leave? In college sports today, that is the question. In recent years, it seems as though an epidemic of college athletes leaving school early for the professional level has erupted.

Just this past week, N.C. State football star Koren Robinson announced his plans to forego his final two years of college to enter the NFL draft. This decision, and that of many other college athletes brings about the debate: Is it better to stay and finish your education or leave and get paid?

What many people don't realize is it's not as simple as that. Leaving school early isn't necessarily about greed, but about opportunity.

In 1993, the UNC men's basketball team captured the national title led by a scrappy sophomore named Donald Williams. Williams was named the Final Four's Most Outstanding Player and was touted as a first-round NBA draft pick.

However, Williams decided to stay in school. At the start of his junior year, he partially separated his shoulder. A year later, he wasn't drafted to the NBA at the comple-



courtesy of gopack.com

Mr. Robinson is leaving the neighborhood for the NFL.

tion of his senior season.

It is stories like that of Williams that legitimize the choice of leaving school early for the pros. Many of these athletes feel that their window of opportunity to move on to the professional level successfully is very small.

Perhaps due to injury or other factors, very few athletes are consistently the "cream of the crop" every single year. This makes the decision to leave while you're still on top a crucial exercise in timing.

20 Questions with Damien Wilkins

By Shequeta L. Smith
Staff Writer

During the next couple of weeks, the sports section of the "Nubian Message" will do a spotlight on African-American men in the ACC. We often see these men on television and watch them move onto the next level without really getting to know who they were while they were here. This spotlight gives Nooby readers the chance to get to know some interesting facts about these brothers as well as give them an opportunity to speak out to the fans.

The first spotlight is one of N.C. State's own basketball players, Damien Wilkins. The reason that I picked Damien is because he is always so down to earth considering he is the son and nephew of two NBA greats, Gerald Wilkins and Dominique Wilkins. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Damien for granting me this interview and to tell him HAPPY 21st BIRTHDAY!

1. How old are you?
I will be 21 on Thursday.
2. What is your major?
Communications
3. Where are you from?
Washington, NC
4. What year are you?
Sophomore
5. Why did you come to N.C. State?
It was a good environment. And it

was close to my mom who still lives in Washington. And I thought it was the place for me.

6. What is it like to play in the ACC?

It's intense. Every game is like a big game. Fans are always into it, and guys are always taking it to the next level. There is no team that you can overlook. Any game is capable of winning on any given night.

7. Do you feel that although black basketball players dominate the ACC that racism occurs often?

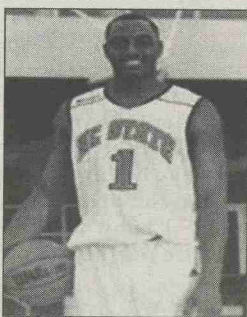
You really can't tell as far basketball goes. You can't really tell what a coach, referee or reporter may think about a player unless it is said out loud. Unfortunately, there is racism everywhere. But I really can't tell. I haven't experienced it as far as ACC and basketball goes.

8. Do you feel that more pressure is put on you when you are a student-athlete in contrast to just being a student?

I think so. I think there may be times that athletes get away with things students may not when at the same time students get away with things that athletes can't. Athletes make a lot of sacrifices that students don't, like only getting 1 or 2 days for Christmas break when a student may get a month out as well as a lot

of other things.

9. Do you feel that recently it has become harder for African-



courtesy of gopack.com

American males to make it into the ACC?

No, certainly not, because the league is dominated by African-American males, and almost every day you hear about somebody signing up with a school.

10. Do you feel that it is hard to be in a relationship and play ball since y'all tend to have a "LOT" of groupies?

I don't look at people who want to be friendly with me as groupies. Because it may be about who you are and what you do, but at the same time it could be because they want to get to know you. But those things come with the territory. I don't think

it is hard to have a relationship here because a lot of the guys have girlfriends back home. It depends on

what type of person you are. I think loving somebody breaks the distance barriers, cause if you love somebody it shouldn't matter.

11. So you know what the next question is right... do you have a girlfriend?

No, I don't have a girlfriend. I haven't found the right one yet. I'm still looking.

12. Do you feel that since you come from a NBA family that it will be hard to step out of your dad and uncles' shadow and establish your own name in the game?

No matter where I go or what I do its going always follow me. Those guys left pretty good legacies behind them. And the fact that I play the same sport makes it that way. But I feel that one day, people will stop referring to me as being Dominique Wilkins' nephew or Gerald Wilkins' son.

13. So do you plan on outdoing your uncle and dad?

I hope so. That will be pretty tough, but possible.

14. What do you think about early departure from school into the NBA?

I don't look at it as negatively as a lot of people do. A lot of basketball

players work to reach the goal of becoming a NBA player and when they get the opportunity to achieve that goal, they take it. A lot of guys feel that they are ready. I don't feel that it is a bad thing and a lot of them just want to go.

15. What do you think about the NBA?

The NBA is not what it used to be. You can't name 25 superstars like you could name 15 years ago.

16. Who is your favorite NBA player?

Kevin Garnett. I like his game, he is an all around basketball player and he plays hard.

17. What do you plan to do after graduation?

Follow my goals if I haven't already reached them.

18. What are your goals?

To play in the NBA one day.

19. What is your favorite NBA team?

I don't have a favorite NBA team.

20. Last but not least, what advice do you have for the "youngsters" trying to make it into the ACC or the brothers that are already there but are trying to reach your status?

No matter what happens and how things go, stay humble. And know that it's a marathon and not a sprint. And that sometimes people get impatient, but GOD has a plan for us and with hard work, good things will always happen.

Happy Birthday, Dr. King

You know it doesn't make much sense
 There ought to be a law against
 Anyone who takes offense
 At a day in your celebration
 'Cause we all know in our minds
 That there ought to be a time
 That we can set aside
 To show just how much we love you
 And I'm sure you would agree
 It couldn't fit more perfectly
 Than to have a world party on the day you came to be

I just never understood
 How a man who died for good
 Could not have a day that would
 Be set aside for his recognition
 Because it should never be
 Just because some cannot see
 The dream as clear as he
 that they should make it become an illusion
 And we know everything
 That he stood for time will bring
 For in peace our hearts will sing
 Thanks to Martin Luther King

Why has there never been a holiday
 Where peace is celebrated
 all through the world

The time is overdue
 For people like me and you
 Who know the way to truth
 Is love and unity to all God's children
 It should never be a great event
 And the whole day should be spent
 In full remembrance

Of those who lived and died for the oneness of all people
 So let us all begin
 We know that love can win
 Let it out don't hold it in
 Sing it loud as you can

We know the key to unify all people
 Is in the dream that you had so long ago
 That lives in all of the hearts of people
 That believe in unity
 We'll make the dream become reality
 I know we will
 Because our hearts tell us so

Happy Birthday to you
 Happy Birthday to you
 Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to you
 Happy Birthday to you
 Happy Birthday
 Ooh yeah

Lyrics by Stevie Wonder

Sometimes you should read a book

Rupert W. Nacoste, Ph.D.

Vice Provost for Diversity and African American Affairs, Alumni Distinguished, Undergraduate Professor of Psychology

Sometimes you should read a book just because it is well written. A book with carefully crafted sentences, with drama in its presentation, with poetry in its rhythm is a book that will take you on a trip you do not expect, to a destination you would not have chosen.

I have just read a book like that and I read it only because I thought it would be well written. I got that feeling about this book when I read the title: "Beethoven's Hair." I was intrigued. How could someone, I wondered, write a book about Beethoven's hair; how much could there be to write about? But now I was curious, so I did what I usually do when I am browsing in a bookstore and a book catches my attention. I read the first sentence.

It is my own habit. I read first sentences of books. I read first sentences because those sentences give me a feel for how the writer will handle the material, the story that they are about to tell. Fiction or nonfiction, the book is a story. Nowadays, the distinction between the best fiction and nonfiction piece is the material itself and not so much the style of presentation. Creative nonfiction is what people are calling nonfiction writing that uses the styl-

istic elements of writing that used to be typically found in fiction. Nonfiction writing like that given to us by Stephen L. Carter (Reflections of an Affirmative Action Baby), Robert Kanigel (The Man Who Knew Infinity), Barbara Brown Taylor (The Preaching Life), Sarah Lawrence Lightfoot (Balm In Gilead), are examples of this creative nonfiction writing. So I read the first sentence of a nonfiction piece the same way I read the first sentence of a fiction piece in order to get a sense of how the writer will handle the story; dryly, complexly, dramatically, poetically, with humor or with mystery. That's what I want to know about a book.

So I picked up "Beethoven's Hair" and read that first sentence. Then I bought the book and took it home, waiting for a time when I could sit and read this book that I believed would be well written about a topic in which I had no interest.

Simple curiosity and the writing are what kept me going at first. It was a curious beginning. At the scene was a Jewish real estate developer, a Mexican-American physician, a forensic anthropologist, a medical examiner, a medical photographer, a notary public, an American news team, a London based film crew, a lock of Ludwig Van Beethoven's hair and an air of mysterious expectancy. Intrigued by the title, enticed by that first sentence, I read and kept reading.

Just as I thought it would be, given the first sentence, the writing was smooth, clear, dramatic, and sometimes poetic. Throughout the

writer showed complete control of his craft; he showed care in the construction of the sentence, the building of the paragraph, the putting together of the story. Those things held me and kept me reading.

I was also helped along by my own interest in music of all types. Long ago in my high school education, down home in Louisiana where we black-Creoles created Zydeco music, I was introduced to different kinds of music through a determined music teacher. Despite the message of racial segregation that said we blacks did not need broad exposure to knowledge, my music teacher had us listen to all kinds of music. I can see Mrs. Ewell now; dark-skinned, thin, with large eyes, standing at the record player, telling us that we are about to listen to a part of some opera. I still remember that day in 9th grade music appreciation class when we listened to Mozart's Don Giovanni; yikes... I remember being taught by Mrs. Ewell and playing, for the annual band concert, a piece of music called "Lohengrin." I remembered that title because the music was so dramatic; bom, bom ba baaa bump pa rem pa, bom ba ra... ra. So when I read the part of "Beethoven's Hair" that made mention of Beethoven's friendship with Richard Wagner (pronounced, "Vagg Ner"), the mention of Wagner as the composer of "Lohengrin" caused me to smile and pulled me a little further into the story.

Yet that was only a small help. As I read, I was captured by a story about a lock of hair that was a witness to history; musical history,

European history, Jewish history, and scientific history. This lock of Beethoven's hair had moved into a family after being clipped and pulled on the day he died by a young protégé and admirer. It had become a relic of remembrance and motivation for a family in love with music, one member who had known Beethoven, had seen his last days, and had held on to his memory through the lock of hair. But two hundred years later that lock of hair had turned up in an auction catalog with an unclear path through history.

That was where the story became a mystery. Where had this lock of hair been before it arrived to be in the Sotheby's auction catalog? Trying to answer that question led to a global search by the Jewish American real estate agent and the Mexican American physician. This was a search that involved historical, investigative and scientific research. It was a search that took me (as the reader) to the Vienna of the 1700's, to a history of the growth of the hatred of Jews in Europe that grew over time to put Hitler in charge of Germany and then Europe. A history of heroism of Danish people; a history of the science of the biochemical analysis of hair; and a history of the numerous physical ailments that caused Beethoven to go deaf and that plagued him until he died.

Why was Beethoven so often sick in ways that no one has been able to pin down? Around this and other questions, Russell Martin weaves a story of admiration for Beethoven's work, the growth of a friendship between a Jewish and a

Mexican American, the development of a Beethoven collection at San Jose State University, and biochemistry. Even the scientific work done is told with clarity and still with dramatic flair. Surprising me as a psychologist, the history of the science used to analyze the lock of Beethoven's hair touched on behavioral psychology; the biochemistry of deviant behavior. This was a mix of elements that I would never have expected, nor necessarily gone looking for in my personal reading.

It was a reminder to me of an old lesson. If all of your reading is of books whose topics you already know something about, or that you already have interests in, then you are shortchanging yourself. Reading is about learning and growing; especially reading that is self-directed, not just reading for a class.

Not really knowing anything about the interests people have had in the source of Beethoven's illness, I found myself wanting to know. I became more and more interested in the question the more I read because the book is so well written and researched. I would not have discovered the answer or the history if I had not become curious about the book's title, and not investigated that first sentence. That wonderfully controlled sentence that reads,

"Beethoven's hair, sheltered for nearly two centuries inside a glass locket, was about to become the subject of rapt attention on a warm December morning in 1995."

Black achievement celebrated

Bobby Guthrie, II
News Editor

One needn't have been an honoree to relish Monday night's Trumpet Awards ceremony.

At one of the biggest social events of the year in Atlanta, a local college administrator got her chance to flirt shamelessly with jazz vocalist Al Jarreau, a performer at the gathering. An Atlanta businessman boasted that his holdings were due to swell this week, thanks to some legal work on his behalf by Johnnie Cochran, a presenter during the awards ceremony.

The awards program's creator, Xemona Clayton of Turner Broadcasting System, which sponsors the awards, proclaimed the night "fantastic!" And that was even before the wine was served.

"This is probably the most prestigious event I've attended...outside of the Grammys," said Dallas Austin, an Atlanta-based hip-hop producer. The baseball cap-clad Austin was the only gentleman in attendance without a tuxedo.

"I don't even own a suit," replied Austin, a young millionaire.

Attendance at the awards ceremony,

honoring African-American achievement, was by invitation only. But a taped broadcast of the event, hosted by actor Richard Roundtree, will air at 8 p.m. on Feb. 24. The TBS Superstation will broadcast the event.

The award winners included record company executive Clive Davis, the spians Geoffrey Holder and Carmen de Lavallade, baseball legend Willie Mays, singer-actress Leslie Uggams and rocket scientist Jacqueline L. Mims. Musician Ray Charles was the recipient of the Living Legend Award.

After several honorees said they'd take their awards to heaven, Charles quipped: "I guess I'll take mine down below."

Former Atlanta Mayor and U.S. Rep. Andrew Young said he attended out of respect for the six politicians given Tower of Power awards, especially Massachusetts Sen. Edward Brooke.

"Just about every bill we ever got passed got into congressional committee, (Brooke) helped us get it fixed up," said Young.

The event celebrated black success in America.

Young opposes flag

Bobby Guthrie, II
News editor

When Andrew Young issued a "media alert" last week that he would speak on the Georgia flag controversy, the speculation was that he wanted to make the issue a priority for the upcoming Legislature.

But Young insisted Sunday that's just what he doesn't want.

Speaking at the First Congregational Church in Atlanta, he said the flag furor pales in comparison to the more pressing concerns of education standards and election reforms to protect Georgia from a Florida-style vote count obstacle.

Moreover, the former Atlanta mayor known for diplomacy doesn't want a flag debate tearing the state apart, and therefore threatening agreement on other issues. So as the state Legislature prepares to meet next week, he urged those engaged in the flag debate to explore the

other side's view, search for common ground, and try to broker a solution that brings people together.

"This isn't something to be emotional over. It's something to be thoughtful about -- and to be thoughtful together," said Young.

As for himself, Young said he couldn't care less whether the flag stays or goes.

"I don't give a damn," said Young, after the speech.

But Ga. Rep. Tyrone Brooks (D-Atlanta) does -- and he is among those promising a fight.

"The flag is as offensive to us as the swastika is to Jews," said Brooks. "It stood for the annihilation of African-Americans. It stood for our enslavement, our being put back of the bus, our not being able to vote."

Young, for his part, acknowledged that he wrestles with the flag's meaning.

For many blacks, he said, "It symbolizes something of the past that

we think ought to be dead and gone."

"For me it's the cross of St. Andrew," said Young, citing the emblem's beginnings in Scotland. "It stands for the values of courage, truth, integrity. I buy into all those so-called Southern values of the Confederacy. Everything but slavery."

Ga. Gov. Roy Barnes, learning from that political scotching, has refused to engage in the debate. Instead, he's letting business and religious groups and civil rights activists fight it out.

The Confederate emblem was added to the flag in 1956. Heritage groups say it was a tribute to Southern soldiers, but historians call it an act of defiance against the federal government's order to desegregate schools.

But should the flag stay, Young wants a clear understanding established as to what banner means. And he stressed, "All things that

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This WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

January 8

Fannie M Jackson, educator and first Black woman college graduate in the US, born, 1836

Col Charles Young, first Black to achieve that rank in the US Army, dies in Lagos, Nigeria, 1922

January 9

Fisk University founded, 1866

Paul Laurence Dunbar, poet and novelist, dies, 1906

Phi Beta Sigma, fraternity, founded at Howard University, 1914

January 10

James Varicick, first AME Zion Bishop, born, 1768

George Washington Carver, scientist and discoverer of over 300 products from the peanut and sweet potato, may have been born (Carver was apparently born a slave, and we don't know even the year of his birth; however, it seems to have been between 1858 and 1865), 1864

January 11

Charles W Anderson becomes first Black member of the Kentucky Legislature, 1936

Lorraine Hansberry, author and dramatist, dies, 1965

January 12

Mordecai W Johnson, educator, born, 1890

Bass Reeves, US Marshall and first Black Deputy Marshall commissioned west of the Mississippi, dies, 1910

US Supreme Court decision gives Blacks the right to study law at state institutions, 1948

The Congressional Black Caucus organized, 1971

January 13

Convention of the Colored National Labor Union, the first Black labor convention, held, 1869

PBS Pinchback ends service as governor of Louisiana, 1873

Delta Sigma Theta, sorority, founded on the campus of Howard University, 1913

Don Barksdale becomes first Black person to play in an NBA All-Star Game, 1953

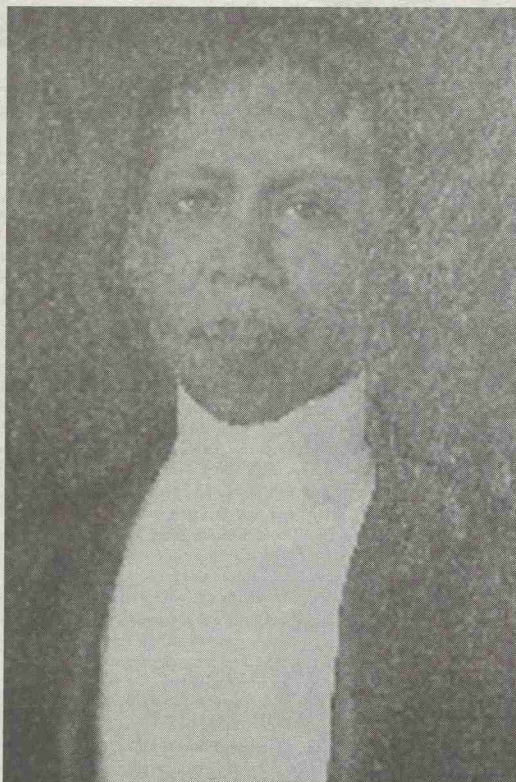
Sterling Brown, poet, dies, 1990

January 14

John Oliver Killens, novelist, born, 1916

Ernest E Just, biologist and pioneer of cell division, serves as V.P. of American Zoologists, 1930

Jacqueline Isbell, coolest mom in the whole wide world, born, 1946



Paul Laurence Dunbar

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Coming Soon

Nooby's Top Ten: Life Lessons for the New Year

The Nooby's 'Eyes and Ears' are very nicely relaxed after a drama-filled vacation at home with the family. My respite was much needed, but after 2 1/2 tortuous weeks with my pleasantly dysfunctional kin, I realized that I was approaching my final semester here at N.C. State. In a break from my usual nonchalant rants, I dedicate this edition of the Top Ten to my fellow N.C. State students. Never one to get too sentimental, I nevertheless began to reflect on my time here, particularly how much I have changed in these past four years. I don't really believe in resolutions because if I know I need to change something in my life, I should change it once that revelation hits me. Still, I'm not knocking all of you who participate in the yearly ritual. So for my fellow seniors, here's a sentimental look back on my lessons learned as well as some tips for the underclassmen.

10 . . . don't worry if you don't know what you want to do with your life when you get here. Don't even worry if you're not really sure about it as you head towards graduation because if you're patient and you volunteer your time in multiple disciplines, you'll find that what you do best is what you'll love to do.

9 . . . if you're honest with yourself, you'll discover that during your time here, the number of truly wonderful people that you consider to be your closest friends are substantially less than it was in high school.

8 . . . you will inevitably outgrow many of your friends as well as some of your family members. Don't be afraid to do so because you may have been placed in that position to pull them up with you. There is nothing wrong with growing together.

7 . . . be better than you are right at this moment.

6 . . . pray when things are going well because just like things can always be worse, they can also be better.

5 . . . if you stop looking so hard for love, it will more than likely find you first. The trick, you see, is to wait.

4 . . . speaking of love, love hard, but love smart. There's a difference.

3 . . . concentrate on getting yourself together spiritually, culturally, emotionally, mentally, and physically. All other things will inevitably fall into place.

2 . . . don't hesitate to be of service; nothing comes from nothing.

1 . . . serve God first because in the end, nothing else really matters.

QUESTION:

How are you going to celebrate the King Holiday?

ANSWER:

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

7:00 PM Wake Public School's MLK "Lights Of Hope" Program /w Rev. Bernice King
Raleigh Civic & Convention Center, Raleigh
7:00 PM Peace College 7th Annual Martin Luther King Celebration
Browne-McPherson Music Building, Peace College
15 Peace Street, Raleigh

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

12:00 PM NC State Employees Annual Martin Luther King Observance Day Program
First Baptist Church
101 South Wilmington Street, Raleigh
6:30 PM N.C. General Baptist Convention's Martin Luther King Banquet
Raleigh Civic & Convention Center
1500 Fayetteville Street Mall, Raleigh
6:30 PM North Carolina Association of Educators Martin Luther King Banquet
NCAE Headquarters
700 South Salisbury St, Raleigh

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

9:00 AM 2001 Martin Luther King Wreath Laying Ceremony.
Martin Luther King Memorial Gardens
Corner Rock Quarry Road & Martin Luther King Blvd., Raleigh
10:00 AM 2001 King Youth Personal Responsibility Summit
Raleigh Civic & Convention Center
1500 Fayetteville Street Mall, Raleigh
10:00 AM 2001 King Building Meaningful Race Relations Summit
Raleigh Entertainment & Sports Arena

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

4:00 PM 100 Men For Christ Annual Martin Luther King Program
Lincoln Park Holiness Church
13 Heath Street, Raleigh

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

8:00 AM 19th Annual Martin Luther King Triangle Interfaith Prayer Breakfast
Sheraton Imperial Hotel, RTP
1-40 Page Road, Research Triangle Park, Raleigh
10:00 AM Martin Luther King Annual Liberty Bell Ringing Ceremony
Bicentennial Plaza
Edenton Street, Raleigh
11:00 AM The 2001 Martin Luther King Annual Memorial March
Departs State Capitol Building (Edenton Street), Raleigh
12:00 PM The 2001 Martin Luther King Noon Ecumenical Observance
Raleigh Memorial Auditorium
2 East South Street, Raleigh
6:00 PM The 2001 Martin Luther King Evening Musical Celebration
Raleigh Memorial Auditorium
100 East South Street, Raleigh

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

1:00 PM 16th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Cultural Festival
Jane S. McKimmon Center
North Carolina State University, Raleigh

NO EXCUSES. ACKNOWLEDGE THE DREAM

Do not remain Silent

Adedayo A. Banwo

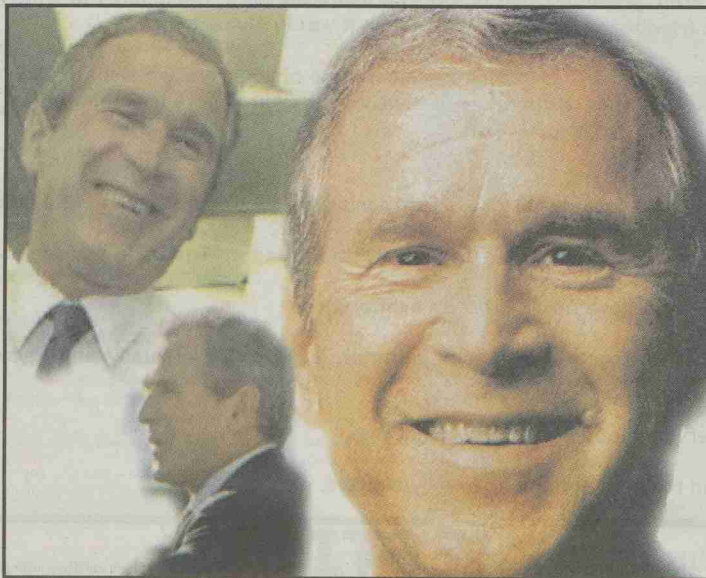
Editor

Do not remain silent. Do not allow the discomfort of others stop you from voicing your precious opinion. Many blacks around campus become mute when racially polarizing issues such as the recent elections surface. On a predominantly white campus it can be pretty scary to fall into that stereotype as the forever-complaining-black person. So instead of voicing ourselves around our white friends, co-workers and classmates, we silence ourselves, waiting until we get around each other to discuss politics and current events. Bottom line, too many of us are scared.

My mother has always told me that the quickest way for a black man to get fired is to get angry. Apparently, it seems that a lot of black males were taught the same thing by their mothers because walking around college campuses all across America are black men timidly hiding their frustration and anger so they will be accepted by whites. The silencing of our leadership must stop and black men, and women, must begin to challenge the racist stereotypes that seek to keep us humbly looking down and asking for permission.

What brought these issues to the surface of my thinking were the recent happenings in Florida and Congress. The tragedy of thousands of votes (black votes) being thrown away struck a cord with many black leaders who marched for the right to vote. A president-elect who would nominate justices to the Supreme Court that would strip rights away from women and minorities awaits inauguration even though he lost by a margin three times that in which Kennedy defeated Nixon in the popular vote. This man was put in office with thousands of black votes in Duval County alone sitting on the floor due to inadequate funding and precinct organization. Many educated

blacks like to say, "well if black people would just vote, than we would get more recognition." Ladies and Gentleman, in Florida, the black vote was nearly doubled for this election and instead of more recognition, all blacks got were humiliation, defiance and defeat along with tens of thousands of uncounted votes. No, not votes that were mis-



punched, we are talking about legitimate votes that were not counted due to faulty machines and lack of office supplies.

So the next time you are with your white friends and you see President Bush's face flash across the screen, do not remain silent. Do not sit and idly watch because you don't want to upset your group. Stand up and voice your opinion. "That is ludicrous!" Because it is, and if you don't think so, look down at your feet, twiddle your thumbs and ask somebody.

Minority vote cannot be denied

Natalie Duggins

Staff Columnist

Last Saturday, the nation's legislative body met in a joint session to hear and certify the Electoral

create an "inclusive" cabinet, led by Colin Powell as Secretary of State. But I am not yet convinced and I am certainly not content. More than two months since Election Day and I still can't convince myself that something didn't

receipt of Florida's 25 electoral votes.

"One person, one vote must be more than empty rhetoric," said Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif. "The right to vote is meaningless if every vote is not counted."

"It was the Supreme Court and not the people of the United States who decided this election," Lee added, over grumbling from Congressional Republicans.

Because the rules require that a member of Senate endorse any challenges, all objections were silenced by the Vice President. Though the protest proved to be merely symbolic in the end, it may have been the only real showing of democracy that we've seen throughout this whole process.

Rep. Alcee Hastings, D-Fla., said, "While the rules may prevent the hearing of my challenge, they do not relieve me of my responsibility to the voters in my constituency who stood in line to make their voices heard only to find that their voices had been muted by injustice." After each of the objections were presented and ruled out of order by the Vice President, the protesters marched out of the chambers before hearing the final results of the Electoral College votes. The representatives promised to continue their fight—as this is no longer "simply" a choice between Gore and Bush for the presidency; instead, this is a battle to secure our civil rights.

Two things will prominently figure into the representatives' continuing battles. There is, of course, the continued fight in Florida. Rev. Jesse Jackson, the NAACP and members of the Black Congressional Caucus have hours of testimony and signed affidavits that corroborate previous accusations of voter intimidation. Files regarding Election Day have already been subpoenaed from the offices of Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Secretary of State Harris.

College vote and, subsequently, finalize the results of the presidential race. For the first time since 1888, the winner of the popular vote failed to capture the White House.

The meeting, presided over by Vice President Al Gore, was nothing more than a formality, since Gore conceded the election last month. And perhaps I should be convinced to let the results of Election 2000 stand and strive to unite our politically divided nation. And perhaps I should find contentment in the fact that George W. Bush has sought to

Florida. Reports of voter intimidation, disappearing ballot boxes and mispunched ballots were never fully addressed and were, instead, pushed aside by the Supreme Court. I am not yet convinced that Dubya, his brother Jeb and Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris didn't cheat Gore out of what was rightfully his. For awhile, I thought I was the only Gore supporter still resisting the Republican regime. Last Saturday, I found out I wasn't. Sixteen representatives, most African American, stood up and objected to Bush's

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New Year's Resolution

Larry Houpe

Opinions Editor

The beginning of a new year always begins with most people making their new year's resolutions. One of the most popular resolutions is weight loss. This is evident in the substantial increase in gym attendance. You almost have to wait in line for the more popular machines. Shedding some of those holiday pounds can prove to be quite difficult. Usually by February, most people give up, and the gym is empty once again.

Another popular resolution is to be more conservative regarding finances. After spending so much money during the holidays for travel and presents, many people reserve the first few months of the year to replenish their bank accounts. However, as the summer rolls around the accounts start dwindling again due to vacations and other activities.

These resolutions are well and good, but this year I've decided to make a resolution that would benefit someone other than myself. There are many organizations around the triangle that are constantly looking for volunteers. The YMCA, the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences, the N.C. Museum of History, Raleigh homeless shelters and many other groups are looking for people to help out by donating a couple hours of their time.

There are many children who need a positive role model or someone to encourage them, whom better to do that than a college student who is proof that black people can succeed? So far, I have spent one week-end at North Carolina's Museum of Natural Sciences and there is no greater joy than seeing the excitement on a child's face from learning. So, I encourage everyone to make a resolution that will have far reaching effects. Volunteer a couple hours per month and it will make a difference in someone's life.

More great white hype

Adedayo A. Banwo

Editor

I have been getting a lot of flack in recent days about this white, black athlete thing and press coverage. No, let me be honest, I have been getting a ridiculous amount of flack about this white, black athlete thing and press coverage. It seems a lot of people took the article personal. Admittedly, the charts could've been explained further, but that is no reason to attack the conclusion just because YOU didn't understand the research.

I have to admit, a lot of the flack has P-ed me off. Whenever you discuss racism in this country, people feel as though you are accusing them of racism. Well, if you are so insensitive that you get offensive whenever racism is discussed than maybe you are racist. That's right,

I'm sick and tired and I'm not going to take it anymore.

A lot of people see me in person and are scared to voice their criticisms because they are scared of being called racist. So they discuss the article behind closed doors instead of starting a dialogue. I give the person who comes up to me and says "Hey Adedayo, I thought that 'White hype' article sucked" much respect. That's the reason I wrote it, to start a discussion and to get feedback. Its okay to disagree with the article, everything in the media does not have to be validated and confirmed as truth. Of course, most blacks in this country already know that, seeing how the media often portrays blacks and criminal and poor.

Moving on from that, the following is a brief explanation of the research used to produce the article.

The first chart was a graphic of the schema used by announcers when commenting about players.

Announcers only recognized a few players as great players. These players, black, white and no matter what type of play nearly always got a great comment. An example of this type of player was Randy Moss or Peyton Manning. A mediocre player was a player that would not ordinarily get great comments.

The next two charts broke down comments announcer by announcer. The charts had positive as opposed to negative comments, comments relating to a player's body and comments relating to on the field situations listed as percentages. The first chart was white players and the second was black. The purpose of the charts was to expose the tendencies of certain announcers to make certain types of comments.

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