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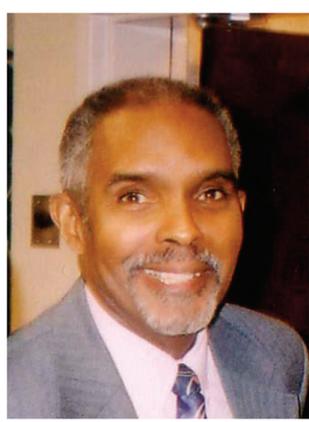
Ignorance Enslaves...But The TRUTH Will MAKE us FREE!!

# The PEOPLE'S Voice

VOL II No. 11      © 2005-2007 The People's Voice      P. O. BOX 514, ROANOKE, AL 36274      February 2, 2006 - February 9, 2007      \$.50 Cents

## ALABAMA SPOTLIGHT

**Jerome A. Gray—  
Will Go Down In  
Alabama History  
As "Voting Rights  
Powerhouse"**



**Jerome A Gray**  
Retired Field Director  
Alabama Democratic Conference  
(ADC)

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Montgomery, Alabama—  
*There are many blacks who  
have been neither civil rights  
activists nor voting rights  
activists — yet in Alabama, they  
have more than likely breezed  
through the political process  
and even been elected to public  
office — that wouldn't know  
Jerome Gray if he stared them  
squarely in the face. But, to  
him, they still owe a debt of  
gratitude for being one of the  
major players who made that  
opportunity available.*

Most ordinary citizens in Alabama may not realize what a jewel the black race has in Jerome A. Gray, but Alabama's largest and most widely circulated newspaper certainly does. In a lengthy article that appeared in the January 11 Birmingham News, staff writer, Tom Gordon hailed Jerome Gray as Alabama's "Voting Rights Powerhouse."

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Page 3

*"Congress shall make no law  
respecting an establishment of  
religion, or prohibiting the free  
exercise thereof; or abridging the  
freedom of speech, or of the press;  
or the right of the people peace-  
ably to assemble, and to petition  
the government for a redress of  
grievances."*

—The United States  
Constitution

## Roanoke City Schools' Application For Unitary Status In Question by Roanoke's Black Community



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Monday evening January 29, at Peace and Goodwill Baptist Church. The purpose of the meeting was for local black citizens and parents to meet and discuss the Roanoke City School System's pending application for Unitary Status currently before the

An interesting meeting was held on

United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama.

According to a public notice published by Roanoke City Schools, the school system is asking the Federal Court to declare that it has achieved Unitary Status and that court supervision is no longer necessary. The notice also includes a broad explanation of the background leading up to this proposed action. A hearing before Judge Myron Thompson, has been set for March 14, 2007 at the Andrews Federal Building and United States Courthouse in Opelika, Alabama.

The community meeting was attended by a diverse group of individuals from the community, including local pastors, black school board members, officers and members of the local ADC, NAACP, and black city councilpersons.

Monday night's meeting was opened with an update by Cotina Terry. Terry

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## LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

**BAILEY'S CELEBRATE  
10th Anniversary**



Relatives and friends of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bailey, Jr. got a chance to dress up and enjoy a formal evening out on the town, last Saturday evening after 5:00, when the Bailey's celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary at the Roanoke National Guard Building on LaFayette Highway. The celebration was festive from start to finish. The building was beautifully decorated for the occasion. Their program included words of encouragement from their pastor, and after an inspiring opening ceremony, lots of food, fun, and fellowship with family and friends.

The event included delicious food, dancing, and a wedding cake decorated in red and white. The honorees complemented each other in their white evening attire.

## Fire At Buddy's Restaurant



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Franklin, Georgia —  
Heard County Fire & Emergency Services responded to a fire at

Buddy's Restaurant on U.S. Highway 27 in Franklin, GA, around 1:30 a.m. on Monday, January 29, 2007. Emergency personnel were on the scene controlling the fire for more than 3 hours.

Buddy's was the restaurant that many of the local residents and business people often patronized for breakfast and lunch. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined.

## Winston Recognized as National Scholar by U.S. Achievement Academy



Joseph Andrew Winston, son of Joe Wayne and Veronica Winston Of Harvest, Alabama and the Grandson of Mrs. Annie Lois Winston of Five Points, Alabama and the late Mr. Joe Andrew Winston.

Joseph is a winner in the 2006 United States Achievement Academy's National Scholarship recognition program for exceptional students.

Story Appears on

## Apostle Sherman L. Young To Minister at New Life Worship Center, Third Sunday In February



See Details A14

## Birmingham Author, Moti- vational Speaker, A. Faye Boykins To Speak For Lanett-Valley AKA's 30th



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# Jerome A. Gray... "Voting Rights Powerhouse"

## B'ham News Gives "Gray" Front Page Tribute

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Gray, 68, who recently retired after a 27-year action-packed career as the State Field Director for the Alabama Democratic Conference, will certainly go down in Alabama's history as one black man who helped re-landscape the political mountains and valleys across the state, making the process much more accessible to blacks. He literally leveled the playing field, and the evidence is visible in practically every community across the state. Acknowledging that many people—including lawyers and grass-roots activists—had a hand in the enormous progress seen in black advancement in Alabama's political landscape, The Birmingham News article

credited Jerome Gray for being one of the two primary players in bringing about "political parity or equity in virtually every chamber of government." Gordon's article mentioned that Gray's friends and foes alike concede that there will never be another like him. Quoting Jim Blackshear, a Birmingham attorney, Gordon writes: "I don't think there's any one person who has had a bigger impact on the political landscape of Alabama than he has." Upon the advice and urgency of Gray, Blackshear filed voting rights lawsuits that boosted the ranks of black elected officials all over the state. Quoting Montgomery Attorney David Boyd, Gordon continues ... "If you went down the list of people who have made big contributions to ... (their) people, if you will, Jerome would be deserving of a heck of a lot more credit than he's ever gotten or ever will get," Montgomery lawyer David Boyd said. Boyd should know. He met with Gray to negotiate electoral district

plans that led to more blacks taking seats on city councils, school boards and county commissions across the state. In portraying Gray's life and contributions, Gordon paints an inspiring portrait of Jerome Gray as a student attending Conecuh County Training School, where his lifelong friend and colleague Dr. Joe Reed, ADC Founder and Chairman, both metriculated as youngsters. Back then, it was neither foreseen nor planned but rather divinely ordained that the two would later seize the opportunity to become partners in the struggle to tear down the walls that separated blacks from full participation in the political process in Alabama. Today, to their credit, "Alabama has 870 black elected officials at every level of government, more than in every state except neighboring Mississippi." And, according to statistics cited in Gordon's article the numbers of blacks in Alabama's state and local governing bodies generally mirror the percentage of blacks in the state and local populations. For blacks who joined and

supported the Alabama Democratic Conference (ADC), Gray was the face of the organization. He was the one who went into the various counties and met with the local ADC officers and members. When memberships fell off, Gray was the one who encouraged and motivated local ADC leaders to revive and revitalize their local chapters. It was Gray's office that prepared and distributed sample ballots and distributed them into every local ADC chapter, who in turn placed a ballot in the hand of every black voter. Under Gray's watch, one of the ADC's most outstanding and important initiatives was the case known as Dillard v. Crenshaw. This 1985 class-action lawsuit overturned at-large voting systems that limited the number of blacks on city councils, county commissions and elected school boards around the state. In all, 16 county commissions, 24 school boards and 141 city and town councils had to adopt new election methods, and most of them involved creating

single-member districts. Gray, Blackshear said, "was absolutely the engine behind the Dillard case." Then Gray and colleagues designed more than 100 of the local election systems the court order required, drawing district lines on paper maps and using calculators and felt-tip pens to highlight areas where black voters were concentrated. Once the new plan was done, Gray took it to negotiations with local governing bodies or their attorneys, including Boyd. "Between 1986 and 1988, it seems as though I was in federal court every week to testify at settlement fairness hearings," Gray said in a Justice Department speech marking the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. "He might as well have been a lawyer," Boyd said. "He knew more law than most lawyers." Gray, a graduate of Talladega College is a former educator, masterful writer, a multi-talented, multi-tasking, educated, grass-roots organizer, motivator, and civil rights worker, and as he often laughingly referred to himself, "cotton-field-

director." As the Birmingham News brings the "Gray" chronicle to a conclusion, Gordon's account of his interview with Gray's touches on ADC's one shortfall, which lies in it's unsuccessful effort to effectively boost the number of black judges in Alabama. Gray cites Alabama as having 263 State, District, Circuit, and Appellate Judges, with only 18 being black and none sitting on the Appellate Court. Citing the recent defeat of John England and Aubrey Ford, two black candidates who ran for appellate court, Gray re-affirmed his belief in the need for electoral district systems for judgeships and for the federal Voting Rights Act to protect them. In conclusion, Gordon posed the question to Gray: "Should that act be allowed to expire? "Poppycock," Gray said. "It seems to me that every time we push for gaining access and equity, that people sometime think we are asking for and demanding too much. We're not trying to take away from anybody else. We're trying to gain access."

## Community Meeting.....Continued From Front Page

gave a more in-depth explanation of the background of the proposed action, and also explained the procedures for filing objections. After her update, Ms. Terry opened the floor for questions and comments. During this period, there were several questions raised by various individuals in attendance. A major concern was that the school system had moved forward with its application for Unitary Status, without formally alerting the black community and allowing them an opportunity to meet-- an apparent promise that had been made as part of the agreement, at some time prior to filing for Unitary Status. The direction

of the discussions indicated that implications had been made by some individual or individuals that the (black) community was in fact ready to fully agree to this proposed action. Other concerns arising out of the discussions included discipline, attendance, school system personnel, prior incidents, student achievement, curriculum, awarding of contracts, and various other situations where inequities were thought to exist. In addition to the concerns and remaining challenges to achieving racial equity in Roanoke City Schools, the discussion also emphasized the many positive accomplishments that are

now evident within the school system, that were not previously evident prior to entering into the Consent Decree. The meeting concluded with the consensus of those attending, that the African American community as a whole is not in full and complete agreement with Roanoke City School's application for Unitary Status. There were strong feelings and concerns expressed the attorney for the Plaintiffs had apparently implied or expressed or given the impression that the private plaintiffs were in agreement with this action. The meeting concluded with

the decision to schedule a follow-up meeting. It was decided that the next meeting, scheduled for February 19, will also be held at Peace and Goodwill Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, and that efforts would be made to involve the Attorney for the Private Plaintiffs in the Lee vs Macon Consent Decree. However, it was agreed that the meeting would proceed whether the attorney is present or not. The Attorney of Record for the Private Plaintiffs is Mr. Stanley Gray of Gray, Langford, Sapp, McGowan, Gray, and Nathanson, in Tuskegee, Alabama.

## Lambda Zeta Omega Chapter Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority To Celebrate 30th Anniversary With Author and Motivational Speaker A. Faye Boykin

Lambda Zeta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority will celebrate it's 30th Anniversary on February 10th at St. John Baptist Church in Lanett at 5:00 o'clock E.S.T. The speaker for the occasion is A. Faye Boykin, a move-to-the edge of your seat national motivational speaker and Author from Birmingham, Alabama.

television magazine shows as: Insights with Carla Winfrey (first cousin to Oprah Winfrey), Positively Texas, Coffee Break in Baltimore with Frank Ski (now the #1 D. J. on Hot 103 in Atlanta, GA.), Good Day in Alabama - Montgomery, Alabama and Good Morning Alabama in Birmingham.

Born in Brewton, AL., A. Faye was born to the parentage of the late Arthur Lee Dale, Sr. and Zenobia Woodson-Dale. She graduated Salutatorian of the Southern Normal Class of 1978, thereafter, attending the world-renowned Tuskegee University where she graduated in social work with honors in 1981. A. Faye's message is one that clearly crosses color barriers, gender biases, and denominational lines.

She has garnered her share of acclaim, being named: 2003 Sojourner Truth Award by the National Association of Negro Business & Professional Women's Council, "Who's Who In The World 2001" by Marquis Publication, two times recipient Key to the City of Birmingham, Alabama, 1999 Proclamation to the City of Mesquite, Texas, 1983 Outstanding Young Women of America, 1981 Who's Who Among Colleges & Universities in America, and 1978 Who's Who Among American High School Students.

After spending almost 20 years in suburban Dallas, Texas, she deemed it necessary to return to her native Alabama to assist with the care taking of her debilitating Mother. A. Faye relentlessly proves it is not where you live, but what lives in you! Fleeing from a volatile marriage, she established herself as a feisty survivor. Her daily prayer entails thanking God for being a "Kept Woman!" Her real calling and success however, came as an inspirational writer and speaker; boosted into national prominence by appearances on such

This quintessential woman is a consultant, a social worker, an inspirational speaker, a publisher, and a best-selling author of one book, with three others to her credit:

Been Through The Fire But Didn't Get Burned 100%

1999 Bestseller No Testimony Without A Test (Got to go through it to get to it) In Due Season They That Wait Don't Wait Too Late!

Gold On Your Fingertips! Stop Sittin' On Your Assets

## PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY - BE AWARE OF MAGNETIC KEY CARDS

Ever wonder what is on your magnetic key card?  
a. Customer's name  
b. Customer's partial home address  
c. Hotel room number  
d. Check-in date and out date  
e. Customer's credit card number and expiration date!

of a room. They will not charge you for the card (it's illegal) and you'll be sure you are not leaving a lot of valuable personal information on it that could be easily lifted off with any simple scanning device card

reader. For the same reason, if you arrive at the airport and discover you still have the card key in your pocket, do not toss it in an airport trash basket. Take it home and destroy it by cutting it up, especially through the

electronic information strip! I personally have a small magnet and pass it across the magnetic strip several times, then try it in the door. It will not work. It erases everything on the card.

## A MAN FINALLY ANSWERS:

### WHAT REAL MEN TRULY DESIRE FOR VALENTINE'S DAY



Jay Clayton

Atlanta, GA (BlackNews) - Women, get inside the mind of a black man. Ask Jay Clayton, a unique relationship website, explains to women what men truly desire for Valentine's Day this year.

"Newsflash: men don't care about chocolates, flowers, or teddy bears!" says Clayton. "If a man were to simply have dinner at a sports bar and receive an autographed jersey from his favorite sports hero, he would feel the exact same way a woman would if she

were taken to a fancy restaurant and bestowed a diamond tennis bracelet."

In the article "What Men Really Want For Valentine's Day 2007" accessible via his website (www.askjayclayton.com), Jay Clayton thoroughly explains in a plain and very simple manner what men truly desire for Valentine's Day. Some example items are grills, power tools, and even a pool table. All of the gifts in the article are conveniently arranged by price level offering \$50, \$100, \$300, and \$500 categories.

"Ask Jay Clayton" was established in 2005 and uses the format of a blog to deal with relationship queries. Readers can submit questions online, and Clayton uses individual posts to answer questions and give advice. He also writes relationship themed columns for newspapers across the country, and serves as a regularly scheduled dating

expert to several radio stations.

Clayton, an educated young black professional based in Atlanta, draws upon his own dating experiences to provide his suggestions. As he says: "I have had good and bad relationships like everybody else. I do not consider myself to be bitter or scorned." Ask Jay Clayton is, therefore not a step-by-step solution to problems. It is rather a practical resource for women of color to consider a man's point of view before making a decision.

"I may not have doctoral degrees in psychology or sociology, but I'm honest and very aware of myself and the world around me. My thoughts are not necessarily right or wrong, but they are always real," says Clayton. "The purpose of this web site is to be positive and help women of color, by providing them with a male perspective."

-END-

The bottom line is.... Keep the cards, take them home with you, or destroy them. NEVER leave them behind in the room or room wastebasket, and NEVER turn them in to the front desk when you check out