

# The HEART & SOUL

Volume IV Issue IX

Compliments of WCLM Radio1450AM

September 2012

## Heart & Soul Editor endorses Reva Tramell for 8th District City Council Brown say's "I'm not looking at Black or White but who's right"

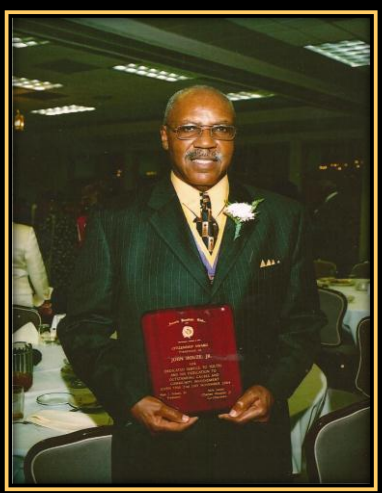


**Gospel Great Dorothy Norwood will be in Richmond Sept.15 for the Virginia Announcers Guild.**



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**Richmond Golfer receives U.S. Patent that will improve Golf Carts.**

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*live life with a purpose*

## **Weapons of Mass Distraction**



*This year's presidential campaign has been dubbed by some in the media as the campaign about nothing. With all of the issues in need of attention, many of them specific to the African American community, it appears that the safe road to the White House is to focus on negative ads and weapons of mass distraction in the nine key states.*

*Recent distractions have seen us debate Joe Biden and his talk of "putting us back in chains," Todd Akins theories of "legitimate and illegitimate rape" and a woman's ability to shut down an unwanted pregnancy. Mitt Romney's religion, tax returns, and views on abortion are all off limits and questioning President Obama's commitment to a Black agenda is a taboo worthy of banishment from the Democratic Party. Any talk of a third party is considered blasphemous and challenging our candidate or political party of choice is somehow unpatriotic. The cable news channels play the*

*distraction game 24/7 to gain access to candidates while subjecting us to whatever the party surrogates decide to serve up as their daily playlist of attack sound bites and innuendo. All the while, Super PACS, with their unlimited resources flood the airwaves with their fabricated versions of mass distraction.*

*If we fail to challenge our candidates to address issues of substance, we are destined to be no better off four years from now. We have an opportunity on a local and national level to force these politicians to truly earn our vote. We must no longer allow ourselves to feel guilty for lobbying on our own behalf. The old adage that when America catches a cold, African Americans get pneumonia is still true.*

*Will we demand a new tomorrow or will we sit idly by watching the weapons of mass distraction on TV for the next four years? Tune in!*

### **Live Life With A Purpose!**

*I invite you to join the conversation on the new Tanya Free and Friends Talk Show every Wednesday at 2:00 pm on the Heart and Soul of the City, WCLM 1450AM. Check out the fully interactive TanyaFree.com. Stay in touch, give me feedback, share your requests and concerns on my blog, respond to my question of the week on Mondays, and tell me what's on your mind for Wassup? Thursdays, stay in the know with Headline News from Reuters and listen to the Best of the Tanya Free Experience Destination Jazz and Tanya's Tips 24/7 at TanyaFree.com.*



### Why I say some of our Black leaders ain't shit!

Far too many Richmond Black leaders fail to respond to the needs of constituents and their performance goes un-scrutinized. Our Black leaders have failed to produce economic development for the Richmond African American community. They are quick to blame the white man when many blacks hold key positions. Where were our Richmond Black leaders when they stop the Armstrong/Walker Football Classic in 1978? I'll tell you, one was Mayor and 5 others were city council representatives. The Armstrong/Walker Football Classic lasted from 1938-1978 with over 25,000 attending its parades and games each year. After Curtis Holt stopped city council elections for seven years the first majority city council was elected November 1977. They took office January 1978 and that was the beginning of demolishing Richmond African American legacy. I'm going to take you back in history. In early 1893, a handful of men in Richmond, Virginia organized the Southern Aid and Insurance Company in an effort

both to furnish adequate and affordable insurance protection to African-Americans and to promote jobs for unemployed black youth.

**Chartered on February 25, 1893, Southern Aid and Insurance was the United States' first black owned and operated insurance company.** After nearly a decade of slow growth and moderate profits, company leaders acted to reverse the stagnant business trends and modest cash influx. They replaced the company president with businessman, A.D. Price. Under Price's leadership the Southern Aid and Insurance Company became the Southern Aid Society of Virginia, Inc., with a new president and a new name, the company eventually prospered and expanded with infant branches in other Virginia towns. By 1937 the company employed more than 300 black men and women in branches in Virginia and Washington, D.C. Despite its prominence as the first African-American insurance company, few have written about the Southern Aid Society of Virginia or its members after 1940. While some studies highlight the business' place in local Richmond history or its position as an entrepreneurial endeavor during the period of the beneficial societies and fraternal orders, no comprehensive study of the Southern Aid Society of Virginia exists. They closed their doors when we elected the first majority minority city council in 1977. Jackson Ward was once boasted as "Black Wall Street." In the early 20th century, the self-sustaining community included **5 black-owned banks, restaurants, theaters, the city's first black-owned jewelry store, barber shops, the nation's first black-owned insurance company, and medical practices.** Jackson Ward's social venues attracted performers like Ella Fitzgerald, Bill Robinson, and Duke Ellington. **Despite the ugliness of segregation all around them, the people of this neighborhood worked cooperatively to ensure their own self-sufficiency.** Despite much of the community being leveled by the construction of the Richmond-Petersburg Turnpike (now I-95), the example of Jackson Ward shows clearly the entrepreneurial and cooperative spirit that use to be an integral part of the African American legacy. By 1921, the city's black professional ranks included 24 doctors, 15 black nurses, 12 lawyers, seven dentists and 55 dressmakers. And black Richmonders owned four banks, three newspapers, 14 funeral homes, five theaters, nine insurance firms, 135 barber and beauty shops and 139 retail grocery stores, according to a 1996 book about black entrepreneurship in Richmond by Michael A. Plater. Jackson Ward was home to many such establishments. The 1940 Richmond City Directory listed 107 black retail or service-related businesses along First, Second, Third, Clay and Leigh streets alone. Blacks were prospering and successful.

Now the neighborhood stores are owned by people from other counties. Some of our Black leaders today put more effort in the Slave Trail Commission, Lumpkin's Slave Jail and the African Burial Ground, than the needs of the community. To this day, it is sickening and saddening that some of us are so mentally disturbed with the past that we can't see the economic lost we are in right now. This is the reason why there is trouble in our communities. Our young people want examples to look to that will give them strength, counsel and guidance. But all our young people see are weak Niggers, speaking on their behalf with no idea of what's going on in the community they represent. The schools and churches have failed in their stewardship of the minds of our young people and you can see it every day. Some of our African American communities are closed minded and stuck on keeping the same old leaders who are afraid to speak up. The African American community will never grow until those old leaders go. If you don't know it now you will learn it later that there are two Black Richmond. If you are not part of the "click" then you are in the other class and what you want just don't count.

## The Real Side of History.....



**In 1919, African-American advocate John Mitchell Jr.**, a banker and the “fighting editor” of the Richmond Planet weekly newspaper, purchased The Strand for \$113,000. Blacks could attend the theater, but they had to enter through a separate entrance and sit in the balcony. The Hippodrome, built in 1915 (and recently restored), catered to black audiences. Jake Wells’ \$8,000-a-year lease was set to run until 1922, but Mitchell persuaded him to make a special presentation of Mary Pickford’s Pollyanna for black children in April 1920. This was the first time in the Empire’s history that African-Americans entered through the front door. Whites were rankled by Mitchell’s acquisition of the grand, prominent building. A story circulated — maybe apocryphal — that white businessmen offered to purchase the theater from Mitchell, who refused. A 1927 fire in The Strand’s rafters closed the building for a time. The Strand reopened in 1934 as the Booker-T., and two years later, the adjacent Little was rechristened by contest as the Maggie Walker, for the

Jackson Ward community organizer and businesswoman. The Booker-T. hosted music and dance performances, but during the 1960s, the management, keen on inexpensive maintenance, removed the original façade embellishments. Thus the theater turned a blank face to its future. The Booker-T. closed in 1974.



Courtesy National Park Service,  
Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site

**In the fall of 1904 Maggie Walker directed the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank** to rent a building at 6 W. Broad Street in downtown Richmond to open a department store, The St. Luke Emporium. Geographically, this was a good location as Broad Street was the dividing line between white businesses on the south side and black businesses on the north side. Maggie, along with 21 other women, opened the Emporium in 1905 to provide further business opportunities for Richmond’s African American women. The goal of the store was to provide quality goods at affordable prices, as well as establishing a place where black women could earn an honest living and gain valuable business experience. The St. Luke Emporium employed 15 women as salesclerks, a significant number for white-collar and business class positions previously reserved only for whites. Until the opening of the Emporium, African Americans could not try on clothes, undergarments, shoes, or hats in predominately white deptmant stores or shops. They were forced to enter through a separate door in the back and purchase clothes off the rack. Sales made to black customers were made on a strictly no return policy as the merchandise was not considered able to resell once it was tried on by a black customer

The Emporium served to keep African American dollars in the black community, and to provide a retail experience where African American customers could enter through the front door, try on the latest fashions from places like New York and Atlanta, and be treated with respect. The Emporium was not as successful an enterprise for Maggie as she had hoped. Even before it opened, the Emporium was a source of controversy among the white business owners on Broad Street, who offered to buy the building Maggie had rented for the Emporium for a price high above market value. Shortly after the Emporium opened, the Retail Dealer’s Association was formed by a group of white business owners to prevent competition from black owned businesses. Wholesaler, both locally and as far away as New York City, were pressured by this group of competing white business owners on Broad Street who threatened to boycott any supplier who sold items to Maggie and the Emporium. They saw the Emporium and Maggie as a business threat, and eventually the wholesalers refused to do business with Maggie.

The Emporium closed in 1911, just 7 years after its doors opened. **Maggie saw this not as a defeat, but as an opportunity to sound the alarm for the need for more community support for black owned business and keep black earned dollars in her community.**

# Election update in the 8<sup>th</sup> District.....



## **Pastor takes on church member for 8<sup>th</sup> District School Board seat!**

**Pastor Derik Jones** who is a product of Richmond Public Schools say's "I want to be the norm and not the exception." Jones also says he is running because he believes in Richmond Public schools and he refuse to forfeit quality public education to Chesterfield and Henrico. He says he will work tirelessly as the people's voice on the school board to ensure that we offer world class education right here in the city of Richmond.

**Albertina Carter** a member of Pastor Jones church, a retired Richmond Police officer who was Richmond's first African American female promoted to Captain in the Richmond Police Department. Carter volunteers at the Richmond City Jail assisting adult women with reading literacy. She has directed activities for PAL Program and the School Resource Officer Program. "Unlike my opponent, Pastor Derik Jones, I have the proven leadership, competence and experience to get the job done!" say's Carter. I have been a faithful and active member of First Baptist Church for three years. Pastor Derik Jones is my pastor and Pastor Dwight Jones is my senior pastor. I informed Pastor Derik Jones of my plan to run for the 8th District School Board seat and asked for his support. At that time, Pastor Derik did not advise me that he would seek the 8th District School Board seat. After I began the process of obtaining signatures for my petitions, Pastor Derik announced that he would run for the 8th District School Board seat.



## **In the 8<sup>th</sup> District City Council race the fight has already begun.**

Over a year ago this paper announced Dawn Page would run for city council because of the street rumor that it was to many whites on city council. It is believed someone convinced Dawn Page she could get plenty of support and she could win in the majority black district seat. Democrat Reva Trammell has always maintained that she is a democrat but Dawn Page depends on who she's talking to claims to be running as a democrat then other times she is running as an independent. The Soul Poll survey picks Reva Trammell over Dawn Page. The Soul Poll also says it doesn't see any change or improvement that Dawn Page could bring to City Council and recent articles in the Richmond Times Dispatch questions whether she tells the truth.



## **This paper endorses Reva Trammell for the 8<sup>th</sup> District seat.**

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### **Has the Richmond Democratic Party taken the Richmond Black vote for granted?**

The Richmond Democratic Party has not aided local Richmond Black media companies in getting any of the million dollars the Democratic Party and Tim Kaine has just spent in August on TV and Radio, spending \$250,000 just with the Spanish Media. Has the Richmond Democratic Party taken the black vote for grant? **The only two African American stations in Richmond WFTH 1590AM & WCLM 1450AM**, has not received any ads. There are fewer than 65 days until voters throughout the country cast their votes for the next president of the United States of America as well as candidates for U.S. Senate, the House of Representatives, state legislatures and city councils. The campaign war chests for President Barack Obama and Mitt Romney total almost \$3 billion! However, almost no money has been spent in the Black Press. Once again the Black Press has been unfortunately set aside to an "last minute" campaign that features a single 1/2 page ad placed two weeks before the election in all Black newspapers totaling a shameful \$1.2 million dollars! That is only the money placed by the Obama for America Campaign (OFA). The Romney Campaign has zero dollars allocated! To put this all into perspective, we are once again in a position of being taken for granted. I am beginning to wonder who the advisors are for these campaigns. Do they not see little or no money being spent with minority companies? Are they not asking why are there no Black, radio ads, ad agencies, placement firms, printers, graphic designers, or other Black-owned businesses receiving some of the benefits of the \$3 billion being spent in this campaign season? What are the black businesses to do? Do they stand by and again get no business? Let's get real, why don't they see that black businesses get a share of the political money! Come on; House Democratic Caucus, Richmond Democratic Party President JJ Minor, Tim Kaine, Brian Moran, Mike Henry, Sen. Henry Marsh, Sen. Donald McEachin, Del. Delores McQuinn, Del. Jennifer McClellan, you are our voice and we look to you to represent our interest or **should we start telling Black Media supporters to only vote for Obama on Election Day to prove a point!**

## When Blacks made the shift from the Republican to the Democratic Party ...

**The original targets of the Ku Klux Klan were Republicans, both black and white**, according to a new television program and book, which describe how the Democrats started the KKK and for decades harassed the GOP with lynching's and threats. An estimated 3,446 blacks and 1,297 whites died at the end of KKK ropes from 1882 to 1964. The documentation has been assembled by David Barton who published in his book "Setting the Record Straight: American History in Black & White," which reveals that not only did the Democrats work hand-in-glove with the Ku Klux Klan for generations, they started the KKK and endorsed its mayhem.

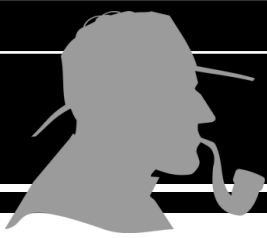
"Of all forms of violent intimidation, lynching were by far the most effective," Barton said in his book. "Republicans often led the efforts to pass federal anti-lynching laws and their platforms consistently called for a ban on lynching. Democrats successfully blocked those bills and their platforms never did condemn lynching." Further, the first grand wizard of the KKK was honored at the 1868 Democratic National Convention, no Democrats voted for the 14th Amendment to grant citizenship to former slaves and, to this day, the party website ignores those decades of racism, he said. "Although it is relatively unreported today, historical documents are unequivocal that the Klan was established by Democrats and that the Klan played a prominent role in the Democratic Party," Barton writes in his book. "In fact, a 13-volume set of congressional investigations from 1872 conclusively and irrefutably documents that fact. "The Klan terrorized black Americans through murders and public floggings; relief was granted only if individuals promised not to vote for Republican tickets, and violation of this oath was punishable by death," he said. "Since the Klan targeted Republicans in general, it did not limit its violence simply to black Republicans; white Republicans were also included."

Eisenhower signed the GOP's 1960 Civil Rights Act after it survived a five-day, five-hour filibuster by 18 Senate Democrats, and in 1964, Democrat President Lyndon Johnson signed the 1964 Civil Rights Act after former Klansman Robert Byrd's 14-hour filibuster, and the votes of 22 other Senate Democrats, including Tennessee's Al Gore Sr., failed to scuttle the plan.

By the admission of the Democrats themselves, on their website, it wasn't until Harry Truman was elected that "Democrats began the fight to bring down the final barriers of race and gender." "That is an accurate description," wrote Barton. "Starting with Harry Truman, Democrats began that is, they made their first serious efforts to fight against the barriers of race; yet Truman's efforts were largely unsuccessful because of his own Democratic Party." Until 1935, every black federal legislator was Republican, and it was Republicans who appointed the first black Air Force and Army four-star generals, established Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday as a national holiday, and named the first black national-security adviser, secretary of state, the research reveals. Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has said: "The first Republican I knew was my father, and he is still the Republican I most admire. He joined our party because the Democrats in Jim Crow Alabama of 1952 would not register him to vote. The Republicans did. My father has never forgotten that day, and neither have I." During the years surrounding the Civil War, "the most obvious difference between the Republican and Democrat parties was their stands on slavery," Barton said. Republicans called for its abolition, while Democrats declared: "All efforts of the abolitionists, or others, made to induce Congress to interfere with questions of slavery, or to take incipient [to initiate] steps in relation thereto, are calculated to lead to the most alarming and dangerous consequences, and all such efforts have the inevitable tendency to diminish the happiness of the people."

"In some places the Ku Klux Klan assaulted Republican officials in their houses or offices or upon the public roads; in others they attacked the meetings of Negroes and displaced them," Alden wrote. "It's ostensible purpose at first was to keep the blacks in order and prevent them from committing small depredations upon the property of whites, but its real motives were essentially political, the Negroes were invariable required to promise not to vote the Republican ticket, and threatened with death if they broke their promises."

Barton say's the most cohesive group of political supporters in American now is African-Americans. He said most consider their affiliation has always been with the Democratic Party.



# THE SHADOW KNOWS...

**Send your news to: The Shadow Knows**  
**3165 Hull Street Richmond, VA 23224**

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**The Shadow knows** an unhappy former client has filed a lawsuit against Senator Henry Marsh firm for Millions.....

**The Shadow knows** a complaint was filed against Sheriff C.T.Woody by former employee of Sheriff Office Yuvonka Lewis. The allegations include quid pro quo sexual harassment by male supervisors against subordination female employees and supervisors; denial of equal pay whereby male supervisors are paid more than female supervisors for comparable work; and, privileges and opportunities extended to male supervisors, which are not similarly offered to female supervisors.

**The Shadow knows** Virginia State University may be a historical black University but most of the teachers are White, or Foreigners.

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**The Shadow knows they are after King Salim Khalfani.** It is a strategy that utilizes process & bureaucracy to control organizational outcome, organizational boundaries and its members. Sometimes it is useful in developing a paper trail to manufacture grounds to fire a person or persons who refuse to follow the ground rules establish by the power brokers in that organization. Also, it is a useful technique to create internal conflict among the members to the point of finger pointing where people may become concern about losing their job and break ranks and reveal information to assist the organizations leaders to oust people. The organizational leaders may not be malicious but are sometimes victimized by powerful outside forces that may cause them to develop such a plan of implementation. If the plan fails the leadership may simply decide that a certain person or persons is no longer a good fit for the organization and simply tell him/her or them that the organization is moving in another direction and your services are no longer needed—bye.

That's why all of our black organizations have serious problems, Virginia NAACP one staff member, Baptist General Convention three unpaid leaders, the Urban League a shell. After over 50 years the once powerful Richmond Crusade for Voter only owns a post office box and a web site. In the last year they have move their meeting place 3 times and sold water melons to raise money.



**The Shadow knows** because Chief Norwood wouldn't become a flunky, they are watching him close hoping he will make a mistake so they can have a reason to get rid of him.

**The Shadows knows** the new baseball stadium in Shockoe Bottom may be a done deal and questions have been asked how the \$14 million for the Landmark is going to be spent.

**The Shadow knows** James Dyke Co-Chair of the Mayor's School Task Force would like to privatize most of the school services and he knows businesses that can take care of all those services.

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## Virginia NAACP Director speaks out! Ask City to do the right thing.



**Pemberton who did windows for a disgraceful \$40,666.00**

During the Procurement process surrounding the awarding of the contract to build the new "Justice Center" or City Jail, on various occasions I spoke during the Public Hearing sessions of City Council meetings about the violations of the process that had occurred. I wrote letters to our Mayor reflecting what had been discovered that made the process unfair. I had called into question the "vetting process" that the Administration used concerning the four proposers. In the City Auditor's review, it was determined that "no vetting had been done at all on the financials of the proposers. I shared with the Mayor that Tompkins/Turner had a dubious history of:

- Bidding very, very low on projects but making that up with "change orders."
- Tompkins/Turner had bid \$84-million on the Robinson/Merhige Federal Courthouse but were paid \$104-million, had 33-undocumented workers on the project, were 3-months late on completion and **had only ONE African American contractor participate on the project,**

After the Mayor recommendation to Council that Tompkins/Ballard be awarded the contract because of its "great low bid," City Council voted to award Tompkins/Ballard the contract. Tompkins originally promised 53%-minority participation that was lowered to 50+% by contract signing time. Some of the largest and oldest African American firms were to be a part of this effort. As was forewarned, most of them never received a "signed contract."

**Dwight Snead, Royal Construction, Bullock Painting, Cecil Nedrick, Brown Electrical** and others are alleged to all have met the same fate. They were asked to lower their prices, even after the scope of work changed and if not done, Tompkins/Turner negotiated with others for the same work at much lower prices. Snead was replaced by Shelton Federal Group after revamping itself after going bankrupt and failing to complete several projects. This has been the modus operandi for this company all over the country. It is never too late to right a wrong and ensure that fairness rules the day. As the City of Richmond is the owner of this development, the power resides with the Mayor!

The Dove Street development is suffering from the same "bait & switch" chicanery that the jail development suffers from. NorSouth is using the same tactics to defraud the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority. They used the credibility of local firms like Snead and Prestige Construction companies, gave some letters of intent but ended up not utilizing either. Snead Construction was allegedly negotiating in good faith with NorSouth on price, while NorSouth was shopping the contract around behind their backs. Guess what company was awarded the contract for the project that Snead was "negotiating for?" Shelton Federal Group, again. Again, there has not been a compliance component worth a hill of beans on the jail or Dove Street. Prestige Construction allegedly bid and re-bid at least 4-times and finally gave up because of the costs associated with so much bidding. Snead and Prestige are both involved in the Richmond Schools developments and have not been subjected to what they have faced with the jail and Dove Street.

Advocates and stakeholders have recommended along with **Councilman Douglas Conner** that the City establish a Procurement Commission to recommend a Richmond procurement policy based on VPPA and all other legislative laws in the Commonwealth of VA, that when a conflict arises, this Commission would investigate the contract and make a recommendation to Council for resolution. The audit reports on DMBD and Procurement Services indicate that we need a drastic paradigm shift to bring about fairness and a level playing field in the City of Richmond. **We are calling on you Mr. Mayor, the CAO, DMBD, Procurement Services and Richmond City Council** to act, and act with all deliberate speed. If we cannot attain a fair and equitable process here, we won't get it in the surrounding counties either.

**King Salim Khalfani**



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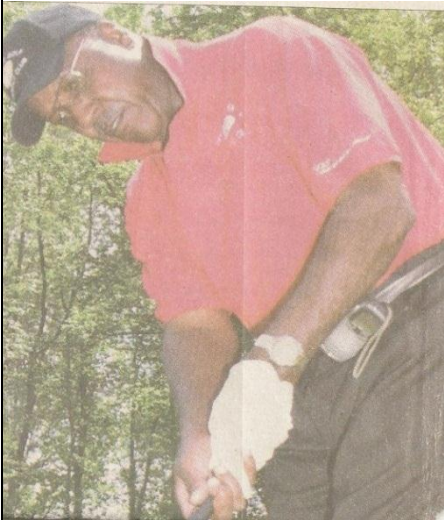
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## News you can use.....



**Community Activist John Houze Jr.** has received two U.S. Patents related to golfing products that will aid the golfing industry in low cost options for security and rear canopy assembly system. Houze the winner or more than 30 golf amateur tournaments throughout the southern United States as well as holding the amateur record of 6 “hole- in- one”.

A member of Third Street Bethel A.M.E., Houze was honored in 2002 by his church as “Business Man of the Year” along with “Entrepreneur of the Year” award from the Metropolitan Business League. He also served on the Board of Richmond Clean City Commission, as well a member of the Crusade for Voters, NAACP and the 533 Club.

Houze patent The Rear Canopy Assembly will provide rain and sun shield protection for the rear passengers. The system consists of a retractable waterproof canopy connected to two pairs of high impact guide wheels. The component will reside in a pair of lightweight metal channels which allows the canopy to extend over the rear passengers and lock into place via the spring loaded pins. In conclusion, the unit will always have the versatility to retract back into a state of storage and extend to

lock in position from the rain and sun by the fore mentioned pin locks. The rails will connect to the roof frame of the golf cart by the use of plastic knurled hand screws. All products will be made In the USA. The product adds delight to the golfing professional experience. The opportunity exists to capture the market because currently no other company nationally provides this product.

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### **Why is the Virginia NAACP Executive Committee trying to silence King Salim Khalfani?**

**King Salim Khalfani** has stood up, fought and brought attention to many issues that would have been sweep under the rug if he didn't step up. King should be given an award and a raise instead of being asked to wait until the executive board picks issues they want him to deal with. Recently King has put a lot of pressure on the Mayor; the City of Richmond procurement process, and The New City Jail project. Could there be pressure put on the NAACP Executive Committee to shut King Salim Khalfani down? King Salim Khalfani has the respect of many citizens in our community as well as business owners, TV and Radio stations. King Salim Khalfani is the only voice we have to speak up against injustice and the many other problems plaguing our community.

Mark Lomax President, Middlesex County NAACP and Area14 Chair have concerns about King dealing with issues that the Richmond NAACP should deal with prior to any Virginia State Conference NAACP actions. The Richmond NAACP Branch has been quiet on many issues, so if they don't take a stand why can't King?

If you would like to see King Salim Khalfani continue to speak up and out? E-mail or call and tell Mr. Mark P. Lomax to leave King Salim Khalfani alone. (757)-746-4211 lomaxm@hotmail.com



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# Believe it or not..... Somebody is lying!



## Is Rev William Owens a Liar?

**Rev. William Owens, the pastor who has lambasted President Obama's gay marriage** stance and warned that the president's endorsement could cost him black support, appears to have been lying about his involvement in the civil rights movement. Owens, who runs a group called the Coalition of African-American Pastors (CAAP), has claimed that he participated in protests and sit-ins in Nashville in the late 1950s. "I didn't march one inch, one foot, one yard, for a man to marry a man, and a woman to marry a woman," he said during a news conference at the National Press Club. But Adam Serwer of Mother Jones spoke to several prominent civil rights leaders who were involved in organizing the Nashville sit-ins and who said they have no recollection of Owens. A librarian at the Nashville Public Library, which maintains an extensive library on the sit-ins and protests, could find no mention of Owens either, outside of a 2004 interview that Owens himself gave with the library in which he said he was involved. James Lawson, who helped devise and implement the nonviolent tactics that the many civil rights activists employed, criticized Owens for the apparent misrepresentations of his

background. "If he was in Nashville during part of the time I was there, he was not paying attention to my teachings," Lawson said to Mother Jones. "My teachings were not about practicing social or cultural discrimination against anybody." Owens has long held ties to conservative organizations, the African American liaison for the National Organization of Marriage (NOM), a conservative group that backs laws to block same-sex marriage. Earlier this year, some of NOM's internal documents were made public that described its attempts at "driving a wedge between gays and blacks — two key Democratic constituencies. **But several polls have shown that black support for same-sex marriage has grown quickly after the president announced that he was in favor of it. Polls also show that his stance has done little to change people's opinions of him.**



"Any governor can claim a surplus at this point that is a total fabrication, and I guess, just hope to keep the lie alive until they get out of office, and it'll be somebody's else's problem," **Frank Keegan**, editor the nonprofit Sunshine Review's State Budget Solutions, told **Virginia Watchdog**.

For the third year in a row, Virginia finished its fiscal year with a "surplus" by raking in more revenue than expected and spending less than was budgeted — paper. And this year, state workers will get \$77 million of that \$450 million "as a reward for good stewardship," McDonnell said. The **General Assembly** last session said that's just fine, saying that if revenue was up and spending was down, state employees would get the bonus — about 3 percent of their salaries. "I think that is responsible fiscal management, and it is the Virginia way that we talk about up here so often," McDonnell said of the state's fiscal performance. But Republicans, Democrats and outside critics alike are calling out the governor for supposedly twisting figures and shallowly masking ugly fiscal realities. Keegan said no state has a true surplus when massive unfunded pension liabilities — recent estimates put the Virginia Retirement System at \$17.6 billion underfunded — and other long-term obligations aren't included in budget calculations.

The state's bond indebtedness is so nebulous, in fact, that the state's top auditor couldn't pull a definite number from across the various debt schedules. "There's not a consolidated schedule that just has it all in one place," **Walter Kucharski**, auditor of public accounts, told Virginia Watchdog. As of June 2011, the state carried more than \$36 billion in total debt, according to the most recently available report by the Commonwealth's Debt Capacity Advisory Committee, which reviews the state's debt and makes recommendations to the governor. That figure is up from a little less than \$34 billion a year earlier. State. That's nearly \$22,000 per private sector worker. Bond indebtedness alone rings up at more than \$32 billion to be paid out until 2041, according to the same DCAC report.

**Bob Williams**, president of State Budget Solutions, said lawmakers — Virginia's lawmakers included — are either ignorant or in denial of their bleak fiscal futures. "Legislators have no idea," said Williams. "They have no idea, for example in Virginia, what the unfunded

## Believe it or not.....part 2

retirees' health care obligation is, or even of the unfunded pension liability, because the way the states account for — the funny gimmicks they use in government accounting rules — greatly underestimates it.” In his run for governor, McDonnell vowed to keep budget transparency squeaky clean. “We’ll eliminate budget gimmicks,” he said in a September 2009 policy paper.

But critics have more reasons to second guess McDonnell’s budget surplus claim this year. In 2011, McDonnell claimed a budget surplus of \$311 million by postponing roughly \$600 million in payments due to the foundering Virginia Retirement System that now has to be coughed up over the next 10 years. State Sen. **Richard Saslaw**, D-Fairfax, said there wouldn’t be a surplus if the state hadn’t cut its obligations to things like primary and secondary education and the the Virginia Retirement System. “Yeah, if you don’t pay your bills, hell yeah, you can have a surplus,” Saslaw told reporters after McDonnell’s speech. Delegate **Ben Cline**, R-Amherst, chairman of the **Conservative Caucus** and a member of the **House Finance Committee**, offer another criticism. Taxpayers, he said, not state employees, should be the ones to benefit from any unspent tax dollars. “... Now that revenues are running ahead of projections, the best way to continue Virginia’s economic recovery is to continue to control spending levels and return the remaining surplus to the taxpayers,” Cline said in a news release. “After all, it’s their money. When the government overcharges the taxpayers, they should get a refund.” **Paul Logan**, spokesman for McDonnell, skirted the question of whether the governor agreed with Cline’s statement that taxpayers should benefit from the surplus directly. “Well ... if you look, there’s a system ... and I think if you look at the document that I sent you yesterday, it lays out the way that the surplus funds are then allocated,” Logan told **Virginia Watchdog**. “Part of it goes to the rainy day fund, part of it by legislation goes to that state employee bonus.” That breakdown document can be found here:  
<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/utility/docs/FY2012-Surplus.pdf>

Once the state pays its employees the \$77 million in bonuses, deposits the required money into its rainy day fund, and doles out dollars to other obligations, McDonnell still will have nearly \$42 million to spend as he pleases — and with no set-in-stone deadline to do so, said **Daniel Timberlake**, director of Virginia’s **Department of Planning and Budget**. “It’s not uncommon for

that not to be resolved until December when (the governor) releases his budget,” Timberlake told Virginia Watchdog. And since McDonnell “didn’t have enough money” leftover for discretionary reappropriations after paying for things like the 3-percent bonus, no money will go to categories like the **Transportation Trust Fund**, Timberlake said. That fund, created in 1987 to construct highways, public transit and ports, is lower on the priority totem pole. **Michael Thompson**, president of the **Thomas Jefferson Institute**, a nonprofit policy research group, said Virginia needs to go back to the drawing board and consider long-term budget priorities. “I guess part of an argument or part of a discussion at some point, should probably be, is it more important to spend whatever amount of money into bonuses, rather than going into fully funding the retirement system?” he said. *Story taken from Virginia Watchdog web page story by Katie Watson for more information contact [katie@olddominionwatchdog.org](mailto:katie@olddominionwatchdog.org).*

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# Be The Boss—Financial Missteps made by Married Women

By: Sonji Rollins Tucker “The Boss”



A recent survey found that over 60% of women feel they are better at handling money than men are.<sup>1</sup> However, married women sometimes find themselves in perplexing financial situations – conditions that might be avoided with a little planning and/or foresight. With vigilance, you can plan to steer clear of these mistakes.

**Not saving enough for retirement after marriage.** If your spouse earns a huge salary and has invested avidly, you may have less impetus to save for retirement yourself. Your IRA, 401(k) or 403(b) may start to seem more supplemental than primary. Yet what happens if the relationship ends someday and you personally end up with a retirement savings shortfall? *Keep contributing to your own retirement accounts.*

**Dipping into retirement savings once married.** If your spouse is really wealthy or has much greater net worth than you do, your retirement nest egg may seem minor in comparison. Your spouse may tell you that with all the investments and savings that you collectively possess, you taking a loan out of your 401(k) won't be that bad. Well, drawing down your own retirement savings could look like a very bad

move 20 or 30 years from now. Who knows what changes life could have in store? *Resist the temptation to siphon off your retirement savings.*

**Trusting a reckless spouse with your finances.** When you love someone who is cavalier with money, look out. Beware of ceding financial control or your financial say in such a situation. If you marry someone with severe debt problems, don't think that you will be financially immune from the effects of those problems. If your spouse is a wastrel or has a terrible credit rating, do not “hand over the keys” to the household finances. *Watch what goes on with the bank accounts, investment accounts and credit cards among you— keep communication open and encourage transparency.*

**Forfeiting some or all of your financial identity.** You may have taken your spouse's name, but that does not mean you need to give up your own credit card for a shared one, merge your personal checking account into a joint one, and so forth. If you don't use a credit card for several months or years, you won't have to pay a fee but it could show up as “inactive” on your credit report. The credit card issuer may move to close the account, and losing the credit history of that card could hurt your credit score. *Retain individual savings and investment accounts and individual credit cards.*<sup>2</sup>

**Divorcing with an “equal” rather than equitable financial settlement.** If a divorce happens, the impulse may be to amicably split things “50/50” ... or, the focus may be on keeping custody of your kids or keeping your home with your financial potential a distant second. However, you must keep your financial future in mind.

Quite often, a woman will be instrumental in building a business or professional practice with her spouse – but she may not be a part of that successful company or professional entity after a divorce. If you divorce and have helped your spouse build a business to greater or lesser degree, you may not only find yourself out of work but taking a job that pays less or having to learn new skills to compete in the job market. Your earnings potential and retirement savings potential may be affected. *If you should divorce, seek an equitable settlement that considers your future financial potential; this is even more important than retaining material wealth or real property from the marriage.*

**Losing touch with your career path.** If you have happily put a career aside to raise kids, keep in mind that you might find yourself returning to work sooner rather than later. Life events, economic necessity, personal desire and growing children may all be factors. Yet a long, total absence from the workplace can make it difficult to step back in – the technology or outlook of any given field can change radically across a few short years. *Try to keep a foot (or at least a toe) in your career via consulting or networking efforts.*

**The takeaway: look out for your financial well-being.** It is okay to emphasize (and plan for) your own financial destiny when you are married. In fact, it is both wise and appropriate to do so.

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## Citations.

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# Unsung Hero Community Spotlight



**Hasan Zarif** is a native of Richmond, Virginia. He had a strong religious upbringing. Though he dropped out of high school, he became a radio personality at only 16. He was nominated by Governor Linwood Holton and appointed by President Richard Nixon to the 1970-71 White House Conference on Youth.

At age 20, Hasan's life took a negative turn. He committed a crime and was incarcerated at the Virginia State Penitentiary. Sentenced to a term of life, he worked diligently while incarcerated and obtained both his GED and a Certification in Business Management from the Elizabeth Bryant School of Business Technology. He also successfully completed numerous biblical and religious studies courses. Hasan served nearly 17 years of his sentence, and then-based on extraordinary progress and commendations from Wardens and community leaders- he was paroled in 1989. He was successfully discharged from all parole obligations in 2001.

In 1992 Mr. Zarif began serving as a religious volunteer in the Virginia Department of Corrections. During the mid-1990's Mr. Zarif served as the Director of Prison Ministries for the Ephesus Seventh day Adventist Church in Richmond, VA. He was then elected to the position of Executive General Vice President of Prison Ministries for the Allegheny East Conference of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. He served in a number of positions in community organizations and received numerous awards and commendations for his work in the fields of prison ministry and public safety.

From 1998 to 2001, Mr. Zarif worked as a Case Manager for the Richmond Community Action Virginia Cares, Inc. program. In this capacity he assisted offenders with various re-entry needs (including housing, employment, treatment programs, etc.) He worked closely with state and local community corrections staff to ensure a smooth transition of offenders as they returned to their communities. He also began regularly speaking and teaching in various DOC prison's Productive Citizenship (life skills) programs. Due to his ongoing work as both an instructional and religious volunteer, the Department of Corrections in 2001 granted Mr. Zarif the status of Regional Volunteer, allowing him to expand his work into DOC prisons in both the Central and Eastern Regions. In 2001, Mr. Zarif joined the staff of Goodwill Industries of Central Virginia, Inc. as Program Manager of the Medical Adaptive Equipment Program. In this capacity, of day-to-day operation, one of his duties was to assist offenders discharging from the Department of Corrections who had a need for medical equipment. In January of 2007, Mr. Zarif was appointed as the Re-entry Coordinator for Goodwill Industries of Central Virginia, Inc. Through a new agreement between Goodwill Industries and Chaplain Service Mr. Zarif began serving as Special Projects Coordinator for Chaplain Service of the Churches of Virginia, Inc. In this role, he serves as a liaison between Richmond area churches and Chaplain Service. Mr. Zarif is passionate about getting churches and individuals more involved in ministry to offenders.

In 2007 he was licensed and ordained as a minister of the Gospel. That same year, history was made when he became the first person to serve as an interim Chaplain at a state prison where he was once incarcerated. In 2007, Governor Tim Kaine restored his civil rights, including his right to vote, hold public office, serve on a jury, and to become notary, in which he is.

**WCLM Radio, Heart & Soul Newspaper, and other Community leaders will honor Hasan Zarif Sunday September 9 at Ephesus Seventh Day Adventist Church 3700 Midlothian Turnpike program starts at 3pm.**

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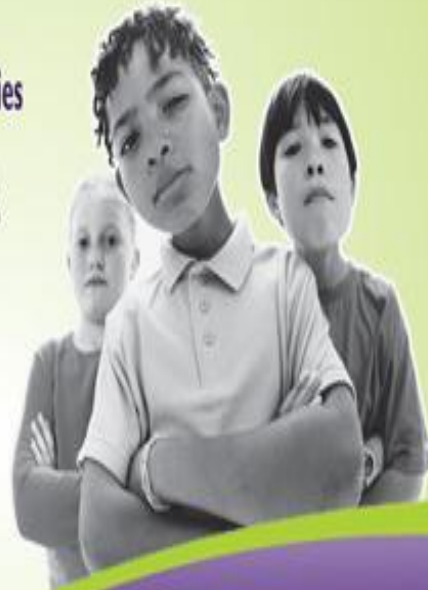
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Another part of the WCLM network is the Heart and Soul Newspaper. It is a monthly newspaper with a clear mission to empower its readers by contributing to the balance of local as well as national news reporting. The Heart and Soul Newspaper is offered in print and online, reaching thousands of homes. The newspaper is placed in select location as a way to get our loyal readers to walk through our selected locations doors. The locations are announced on WCLM Radio daily.

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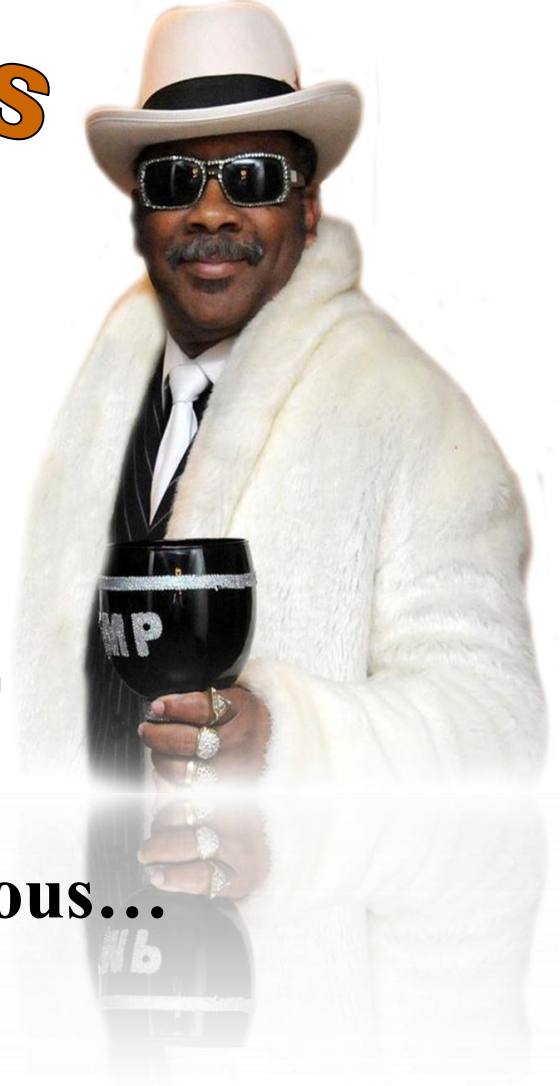
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<p><b>WEDNESDAY</b> SPEAKING FROM THE HEART at 6PM Author Gloria Taylor Edwards</p> 	<p><b>THURSDAY</b> LAW LINE at 3PM with Attorney H. Otis Brown</p> 	<p><b>THURSDAY</b> “What’s Going On” Dr. Leonard Edloe 7PM</p> 

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