Say No To Fingerprinting of Welfare Recipients
Every month is Black History Month!!

The Frederick Douglass Voice is published by the Frederick Douglass Voice Publishing Company P.O. Box 14033 Rochester, New York 14608

Letters to the VOICE

Dear Joan,
Thank you for your support and encouragement. The article is magnificent and makes me want to meet you!

Love, Almeta Whitin

Ed. Note: See VOICE December '93 for feature story on Rochester's own Ms. Almeta Whittn, nationally known storyteller.

Dear Friend,
The Council for Civil Rights is about to expand our fairly new and unique program on our agenda called- Ex-Offenders Against Violence and Crime, you can be part of it. Crime and Violence in our neighborhoods constitute a serious problem today and a growing public awareness and social concern has led us to develop a variety of prevention strategies to be presented by Ex-Offenders with an interest in changing their former life-style. Increasing knowledge of the consequence of violence, crime and changing attitudes, teaching values, discussion making skills and developing self-esteem is our theme.

One of our objectives is to focus ex-offenders to a productive life-style, and to create a lecture series network to visit schools, churches, groups and organizations against violence and crime. You can help by referring any ex-offender to our meetings which are held every Saturday from 2-5 P.M. at The Council for Civil Rights office, 400 W. Main Street.

For more information call The Council at (716) 328-7145.

The views expressed in material appearing in The Frederick Douglass VOICE do not necessarily reflect the views or opinion of the paper or its staff.

The Frederick Douglass Voice wants you!

If you want to help inform and highlight the positive events taking place in our community, we need your help. Please call us today at (716) 234-5844.

If not now, when?
If not you, then who?
If you're not part of the solution - you're part of the problem.

Wear this authentic African Kente Ribbon as your pledge of anti-violence.

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Available at: All Day Sunday, Kitabu Kingdom, or call the Voice Hotline at (716) 234-5844. Also available for organizations as a fundraising item.

If you want to help,

Please call the Frederick Douglass Voice Publishing Company at 234-5844.

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Dear Friend,

Her name was Pearlene (Pearl) Virgin. She lived on Leopold Street and was active in the Eastern Star organization during the '50's. Anyone with information that could assist Mr. Hill, please contact the VOICE. Hot-line at 234-5844.

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Save Our Children
by Lisa Anne Johnson

To all of our children from the Motherland to this great land, God has the ultimate plan for all in the kingdom. As blacks of today must strive to save our children in every way, we must plan for the future so when it bits "Black" it benefits...

We must protect our children from the negative things we’ve seen and reinforce that the African dream...We must supply the necessary tools To survive this declining nation. And reinforce the importance of obtaining A quality education. We must equip our children with true Black knowledge. So they, too, will have an opportunity to attend A Black college...

In order to save our children from being poor, We must guide them through this world of ours...

We must acknowledge the fact this is pain. And blacks take tenacity from all to make a change. Save our black children from death and dare, Save our children from being slaves...

Save our black children from going the wrong way. Save our Black children from going self-destruction.

Save our Black children from paralyzing in America’s corruption. Save our children from the pits of hell...

Save our black children from laying away a prison cell.

Save our children from chasing white people’s dream.

Save our black children from the beartache of not being drafted to the All-American....

Save our children from falling in seedy school...

We must save our Black children teach them moral, race and insti- tute fundamental rules. Who will be here to assist our children after we are gone? Who will be here to carry on? Whomever it may be, Save our Black children and let them be free.

Some Things To Look Forward To

19th Annual Fashion "Steppin’ N Style" Show

The fashions will be provided by J.C. Penny Co. when the Sisters for a Better Black Community hold their 19th annual fashion show on March 12.

The noon buffet luncheon and show will be held at Burgundy Banlo Inn, March Rd., Pflsfor to benefit the scholarship pro-
gram. Reservations required. For info: (716) 231-1777 or (716) 332-7300.

Leiston, New York—The 1994 Artpark Jazz Festival Line-Up is sure to be one of the best ever. Betty Carter, J.J. Johnson Quintet, Pharaoh Sanders Quartet, Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band and the Clark Terry Quintet are a few of the artists on line for the two-day Jazz festival at New York’s Village Vanguard. His trio includes the great Ben Riley (Thelonious Monk, Sphere) on drums. Watch for a new release "Other Places" in early March.

May 21-23. Recently, Kenny did an historic three-week engagement at New York’s Village Vanguard. His trio included the great Ben Riley (Thelonious Monk, Sphere) on drums. Watch for a new release "Other Places" in early March.

The F.D. Voice wants you to help inform and highlight the positive events taking place in our community, we need your help. Call 234-5644.
Business & Pleasure Mix Well

Snuffy’s Birdland was host of a reception held in honor of our new Mayor, Bill Johnson, on Sunday, February 13, 1994. Close to 200 minority business people turned out for a fun filled day. Networking was the theme of the day, and network they did.

Deals were made, old relationships were renewed. Business was done in a friendly, informal atmosphere.

Mayor Johnson’s message to the business people was one of caring and concern. He stressed that he has been extremely busy these first few weeks in office but he fully intends to address the interests of the minority business community.

The special dinner presented by Snuffy and Marie included yams, greens and cornbread, as well as the chicken, ribs and sauce we’ve enjoyed for so many years.

A complimentary directory listing the names of almost 500 minority businesses was distributed to the attendees.

Many requests were made for a repeat performance so keep your eyes and ears open and if you missed this one, be sure to catch the next one.
From a historical perspective, William A. Johnson assured himself a permanent place in Rochester's history when he became its first Black mayor.

The unprecedented event took place on January 1, 1994 when he took the oath of office before a packed house at the Riverside Convention Center.

Mr. Johnson was sworn in by the honorable Robert Tignor, a Washington D.C. Superior Court Associate Judge who was a former classmate of his at Howard University. Prior to becoming this city's 64th Mayor, Mr. Johnson was President of the Urban League's Rochester chapter for the past 21 years.

As Mr. Johnson assumes the duties of his new office, he will be confronted with the arduous task of combating inherent problems such as increasing crime rates that have reached record proportions, academic deterioration in our public schools, and a faltering economy characterized by high rates of unemployment.

Although Mr. Johnson's foray into the political arena is his first, he handled his day of celebration with all the poise, humility and confidence of a seasoned veteran.

This was particularly evident when he made his inaugural acceptance speech. Mr. Johnson made it abundantly clear that while he did not envision himself as a miracle worker, he did have a plan of action that would ameliorate, to a great extent, those social, economic and educational ills which plague our immediate society.

Mr. Johnson informed his very attentive audience that the course of action which holds the greatest promise with respect to revitalizing Rochester is community solidarity. To that end Mr. Johnson made a commitment to work in a collaborative spirit with Monroe County Executive Robert L. King, other county and state officials and the good citizens of our fair city.

During his entire tenure as Urban League President, Mr. Johnson has exhibited a healthy candor in articulating those socioeconomic trends that he felt placed the individual and family at risk. Hopefully Mayor Johnson's "Blueprint for (positive) Change" will shape Rochester's destiny in its quest to become a better place to live. Now, THAT'S TOTALLY ACCEPTABLE.

At times the historical and gala event took on a Mardi Gras type of atmosphere. To the delight of the 2200 people in attendance, entertainment was provided by various multicultural groups such as the Black Seeds, the Bolan School of Traditional Irish Dancing, the Polonaise Dance Group and the Borinquen Dance Theater juniors.

Monroe County Executive, Robert L. King, Assemblyman David Gantt and other dignitaries sang the praises of Mr. Johnson during his day in the sun.

Without a doubt, the most touching moment of the day occurred when Mrs. Roberta Johnson, mother of the new mayor, held the Bible while the oath of office was administered to her son.

Mr. Johnson's proud father was also present for the ceremony and festivities.
Mayor William A. Johnson, Jr.'s Inaugural Ball

On Saturday, January 22, 1994, approximately 700 people filed into Rochester's Riverside Convention Center to attend an Inaugural Ball held in honor of William A. Johnson, Jr., this city's first Black Mayor.

Unlike many ceremonies of its kind, which usually cater to high-ranking city officials and VIP's, the enthusiastic crowd closely resembled the diversified contingency which voted Mr. Johnson into office.

Prior to sitting down for dinner, people milled around sipping cocktails and exchanging pleasantries. During the course of the evening, Mrs. Connie Mitchell, the highly respected matriarch of Black politics in this area, delivered a short, but very timely message, regarding the historical significance of the event. She also spoke of the strategic planning and the many sacrifices on the part of those who helped the community reach this milestone.

During the evening, Mr. Johnson was presented with a painting of his likeness by renowned local artist, Jose Flores. Deeply touched by the offering, the Mayor took time to reminisce about his long association with Mr. Flores and assured him that his painting would be placed in City Hall.

Despite the large crowd, there was a certain intimacy and relaxed atmosphere which permeated the proceedings from start to finish. The Mayor spent the entire evening mingling with the crowd and posing for pictures with anyone who requested the favor.

The guests were entertained with some lively but unobtrusive music which included a mix of jazz, blues, disco and a little rock. When people vacated the building that evening, they not only carried with them the memories of a good time, but a commemorative mug as a lasting memento of the history made that night.

Let it be known that the Mayor also enjoyed himself immensely. He was present for the first and last dance of the evening.

It would be remiss not to mention the tireless efforts of Bridget Burch, Jerry Capers, and the countless numbers of volunteers who made this event possible.

Story and Photos by Jim Allen
At Kodak
We Develop
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We develop minds. Through contributions to minority educational institutions, we help support our belief that every American is entitled to a quality education.

We develop futures. Our community involvement helps fund housing, employment and social service programs.

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"FOR MORE INFORMATION WRITE: Manager, Minority Economic Development Programs, Eastman Kodak Company, 343 State Street, Rochester, NY 14650"
African-American Hypertension Fact Sheet

>38% of the nation's African-American population suffer from hypertension.

>High blood pressure is one of the leading risk factors for cardiovascular disease. In turn, cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in African-American males.

The winning players got sized for their Superbowl rings, while the losers tried to "get busy" doing other things. Endorsers were knocking down the winners doors, while the losers were left down on the Georgia Dome floor.

Superbowl XXVII has come and gone, but we won't have long to green for "wait till next year" we'll be fine at Superbowl XXVIII.

No horse gets anywhere till he is harnessed. No team or gas ever drives anything until it is confined. No Niagara in ever turned into light and power until it is tunneled. No life ever grows great until it is focused, dedicated, disciplined.

—Harry Emerson Fosdick

Allen's Sports
by Jim Allen

Tony Dorsett Goes To College Hall of Fame

During his football career as a running back at the University of Pittsburgh, Tony Dorsett rushed for a total of 6,082 yards, an NCAA Division I record which still stands.

The former Heisman trophy winner was enshrined in the College Football Hall of Fame along with Vince Dooley who led Georgia to a national title in 1980 and 12 other players who received All American recognition during their college days.

Of course Dorsett went on to win even greater fame with America's team, the Dallas Cowboys of the National Football League.

Lawrence Taylor Retires

Lawrence Taylor has retired from the game after 13 thrall-packed years with the New York Giants.

The 34 year old Taylor, who rebounded from a ruptured Achilles tendon suffered during midseason last year, lamented, "I think it's time to pretty well quit."

The defensive stalwart further added, "I've been to the Super Bowl. I've been to the play.

noff. I've earned the respect of players and people around the country."

The perennial all star, who revolutionized defense in the NFL with his outside linebacker play, set a precedent when he was selected as a Pro Bowl starter in each of his first 10 seasons in the league.

Equally impressive, Taylor, in 1986 became only the second defensive player in the history of the league to win the Most Valuable Player Award. Taylor was quite adept at reaching the opposing Quarterback, as evidenced by his career total of 132 1/2 sacks.

It is interesting to note that 20 1/2 of those sacks were recorded during his MVP season of 1986.

During Taylor's tenure with the Giants, the team made the playoffs seven times and walked away with two Super Bowl victories.

There are several young players in the league who have fashioned their style of play after Taylor's with the hope of someday emulating his formula for success. But there is only one L.T. (as Taylor is affectionately known to his fans and peers).

However, if future football players can exhibit the same desire, commitment and unflagging zeal that L.T. has during his playing days, they too will taste success.


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$2.00 Splits of Cordon Negro Brut Champagne
(noon-2 a.m. daily)
$3.50 Remy Martin
$.50 Off all Drinks (except Champagne & Small Beer)
when you use Mastercard or Visa (4-9 p.m. Mon-Thurs.)

Thursdays
Ladies Night 6 - 10 p.m. - Ladies Receive TWO FOR ONE

Fridays
Happy Hour 4-8 p.m. - $50 off all Liquor - Free Hors d'oeuvres

Sundays
"Golden Oldies" Night 6 p.m. - 2 a.m.
Critic’s Chair — FDV at the Movies

by Janice Kelso Langhans

Philadelphia (Tom Hanks, Denzel Washington) 3 1/2
Rated PG-13

Hanks plays a razor sharp litigator who is unfairly fired from a prestigious Philadelphia law firm after it is learned that he has contracted HIV. He is defended by Washington, who makes a very human scene from fear to friendship. Both stars give believable performances. Take heed — society’s often cruel treatment of PWAs and the stigma HIV creates are here. So is the proper response. As movies reflect our real lives, it is more than time that this legal drama came to the screen.

The Plano (Holly Hunter, Harvey Keitel, Sam Nill, Anna Paquin) 3 1/2
Rated R

Gregorio: Director Jane Campion holds the lives of these unusual people like a master chef. The final result is delicious. Cinematically, the color scenes are beautiful, the black and white dramatic. Scriptwise, the humor is surprising, the shock repulsive yet fascinating. Hunter plays a mute who uses the piano to voice her feelings. She is flawless in this challenging role. Keitel is passionate. Neill, well, just when you’re ready to sympathize with him, he... but that would be giving it away. Hunter Trivia: she really plays the piano.

Are Ventura-Pet Detective (Jim Carrey) 3 1/2
Rated PG-13

This light-hearted spoof highlights Carrey’s move from prime-time (The Living Color) to big-time. His Star Trek and Mission Impossible caricatures are great. You’ll laugh from start to finish and pray for a sequel!

On Deadly Ground (Steven Seagal) 3 1/2
Rated R

Okay, they had bad Segal fans, talk about cutt following, this one’s for you. “I’m the law,” he says. From there on, Segal goes up against an insatiable on spilling (I mean shipping) company and there’s no nice way to say it — kicks butt! And goodness gracious, he looks so great doing it in that shiny fringed leather jacket.

Schindler’s List ( Liam Neeson, Ben Kingsley) 5
Rated R Not for the faint of heart.

This _light_ hearted epic based on a true story. To describe the experience, for it is that, and more would be to belittle it, is to call forth every emotion, bowels and all. Ronalans: every adjective, large and small. Shot in black and white, it is an extreme documentary of death, a prayer of penitence, a salute to salvation. It is evil incarnate, the power of the part, the cruelty of war, the faith of a nation tried.

What’s the plot, you say? It’s _essential_. Could you be essential to the war effort that was killing you? If so, you might count the right to survive. Imagine the horror: hiding... watching... listening... waiting... knowing. It’s Germany, 1939. And what does it mean to be everything in his path. Frank Schindler, a poor Nazi industrialist with style and a knack for presentation. His one avoidable aim in life is to make more money than he can spend on his fortune. In the final scene, Schindler helps his war outlawed Jews from exterminating. Schindler convinces a number of Jewish, wealthy, former businessmen to invest in his ‘pots and pans factory,’ making him rich.

The good Nazi industrialist protects his Jewish investment, rescuing from the camp, by the way, is not the camp _per se_, but the effects of its creation. Workers— who number 1,200men, women and children— evade the SS shot in black and white, Listisan extreme documentary. A personal statement for the other side of life. Schindler’s new boss, Damon Marshall (Roy Forester), plays the handsome but convincing, slicker who lures away from his marriage. He knows the seeds of discontent and Rachel, overcome with lust, leaves her family.

Rachel’s best friend has her own story to tell. Stepping in and out of the main story, Carolyn Mac Langley (Victoria Holland) visits the Jones household; her story line centers on the absence of self-love. Overweight, sloven and poorly mannered, Carolyn Mac is devoted to her peaceful, with beating, drunkard husband Bruce (Marcus Cunningham). By the end of the play, however, Carolyn Mac is transformed. She regains her love of self and with it, her self respect.

Several cast members hail from Detroit. Whitmore is a second cousin of the Wynans whose gift of song runs through the family tree. I urge families to see this play the next time it comes near you.

Key to Ratings: 1. Don’t bother 2. Rent the video 3. Good choice 4. Excellent!!

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What's The Deal?
by Gloria E. Winston

Somewhere in the State Department of Motor Vehicles the manual there must be some tips that apply to driving in the snow.

We have a record number of drivers who either don't read the tips or not read that tip. I moved to Rochester, wait until it snows to drive their vehicle, or they just don't care. In light of the above, I propose the following be considered by our legislators as potential law. (It might deter potential violence on our streets and highways.)

During a snow storm, vehicles should not tailgate and should distance their respective vehicles more than a foot from the bumper of the car in front of them.

Separate roads should be used by truck drivers, the parents of those without cars, to drive, who become King of the Road when it snows. (Now this may require some construction, but will help get people back to work also.)

Trucks should not be allowed on the expressway.

Anyone passing a disabled, stranded motorists should be sentenced to life imprisonment. (Also arrest.)

Pedestrians who are afraid of getting their feet wet (or anything else, possibly, something constructible for their use), should have to pay for all damages to the vehicle that's forced to go around them and hit another car, something or someone else.

All snow plowers should be fined for piling snow in front of someone's private driveway, or plowing where they can see they are intentioned at blocking a vehicle in. Particularly when this action forces a senior citizen to deal with removing the snow.

No vans or trucks should be allowed to park on street corners.

Anyone caught on the road or attempting to go up a hill with bald tires should be fine.

Any motorist who cleans their windows, but leaves the four foot snow drift on top of their vehicle, enabling it to fly off and blind the driver behind them, should be fined and forced to attend a school, demonstrating the proper way to clean snow off their vehicle.

Any motorist in a hurry in inclement weather, should stay off the road and catch a plane.

Anyone walking with small toddlers in the street should be reported to child protective service, especially when the child has no shoes on or gloves, and the adult is dressed for the ski slopes.

Anyone neighbor coughing the snow off around their vehicle and piling it in front of their neighbor should be taken possession of by the individual person or group.

When we talk about crime and its cure and prevention, we first need to look at how you think about time. Thinking about time, relative to self and society.

I reject the politician's sloganeering about "You do the crime, you do the time." Three times you're out, three times you're in. "Don't do the crime if you don't want to do the time." Simple enough for the "criminal-minded?"

I don't buy it. Simplistic slogans and slang lacking instruction, substance, or even common sense won't change the complex criminal mind, or anybody's mind, set on committing crime.

I reject the politician's sloganizing about "service." I reject the idea that there is an important relationship between time on earth and crime.

There is something in the interplay of time, taken possession of by the individual person without choice or control, the product of the course of life, that has threat potential for reducing, but also still, preserving something.

Think about it. Think about your own life lived in obedience to the law (you are not now driven, nor have you ever done to any penal institution--why?)

Think about how you think about time and service. Do you think of time and service in the way the politician does, in the negative? As punishment ("You do the crime, you do the time")? As something done to you, something done for you, or "doing" time is really wasting time. A convict's home, a memorial to America's hero, a place of honor where visitors can reflect on the kind of thinking that rectifies, on the human spirit, the essence of what people entered into, to, used without consent or against their wills--what results is not the gift of service to America. It is not "doing" time.

Politicians only not distort and misuse the meaning of time, they distort the idea of "service." Politicians' notion of "service" as a slave.

Slaves don't "serve!" Not in he way I'm talking about. Neither do prisoners. Nor do we have any character limitations in "service" that could be used to the good. I am neither against prisoners nor the imprisoning of criminals. But I believe in telling the truth, as far as I can see it; and I believe in thinking deeply, not superficially, about things worth thinking deeply about.

Any bus driver who passes up someone waiting for a bus, after giving them direct eye contact should lose their job.

Any bus driver who has to pass bus stops on their way to the bus barn, should at least be allowed to pick up passengers, particularly when they are headed downtown anyway!

Any attempts to ride a bicycle in the snow and ice. Should be mandated to a state mental institution for evaluation.

These are just a few recommendations that should become law.

If any of you readers have any to add to the list, I would love to hear from you.

Please send your comments and suggestions to my attention, c/o The Frederick Douglass Voice.