

NATIONAL NEWS UPDATE

Arby's Announces First Hank Aaron Scholarship Recipients



Joseph Pinzon



Martresa Lynn Graves

ATLANTA — Arby's, Inc., in cooperation with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America (BB/BSA), has announced the winners of its first Arby's/Hank Aaron Scholarship award. The scholarships were presented recently in New York City to Joseph Pinzon of the Bronx, N.E., and Martresa Lynn Graves of Indianapolis.

The Arby's/Hank Aaron Scholarship program was established in 1987 by the Arby's Foundation, as part of the fast-food chain's continuing efforts toward recruitment assisting BB/BSA with national fund-raising and recruitment activities. The scholarships recognize young men and women who have benefited from BB/BSA and who have excelled in school and donated their time to community service.

Prinzon and Graves were chosen from among many candidates across the United States. They will receive \$5,000 per year, up to four years, toward their college educations. Presented annually, each scholarship is worth \$20,000.

"The Arby's/Hank Aaron Scholarship was created to assist in the development of young adults who are not only academically astute, but who have also shown

civic involvement and acted as companions and role models to younger Little Brothers and Sisters," said Leonard Roberts, Arby's president and chief executive officer.

The program was named after baseball legend Hank Aaron, who is the national spokesman for Arby's BB/BSA program. Aaron also serves as honorary chairman of the fund and is a Big Brother himself — to 9-year-old "Skeeter" Moore of Atlanta.

"It is indeed an honor to have a college scholarship given in my name," said Aaron. "Higher education is an important element for the future for some lucky Little Brothers and Sisters."

BB/BSA is the only national youth-serving organization that provides children from single-parent homes with an adult friend on a one-to-one basis. BB/BSA has 460 affiliated agencies in 49 states.

Headquartered in Atlanta, Arby's is the world's largest roast beef sandwich chain, with more than 1,850 restaurants in the United States, Canada, Japan and Asia. To date, Arby's and its franchisees have raised approximately \$1.5 million for BB/BSA.



Carrie Saxon Perry: Black Woman Mayor

Carrie Saxon Perry, Hartford, Connecticut's energetic new mayor, assumes the reigns of control as the first Black female chief executive of a major northeastern city.

As mayor, Perry, who is known for her extensive wardrobe of hats, has a much bigger hat to wear now, and a host of new challenges to meet as well. "The office is a terrific forum for ideas," she says. "And I have the authority and the responsibility to be the major spokesperson for the city."

With a population of 136,000,

Hartford, Perry's hometown, boasts the country's highest per capita income, and ranks as the insurance capital of the world. Her colleagues in city government, however, feel that having Perry on board as mayor is insurance enough. "Once she gives you her word," said one council member, you can go to sleep on it."

Perry, who studied political science and law at Howard University, initially planned to become a lawyer. After opting instead to become a wife and mother, she developed an interest in politics.

The Kerner Report: 20 Years Later

by Norman Hill

It's been 20 years since the Kerner Commission issued its report on the causes of the 1967 civil disorders that wracked black neighborhoods in many of this country's largest cities. The report concluded that the problem of blacks in America were caused primarily by white racism that was leading to the emergence of two societies.

The Commission also took great pains to distinguish between racist attitudes and racist behavior. In so doing, it was pointed out that the fundamental problems centered on racist behavior by American institutions, and the behavior of these institutions was influenced more by overt racist actions than by private attitudes.

The distinction was important. While racist behavior by institutions could be changed by laws and regulations, private attitudes could not. To cite an example, schools could be desegregated by decree, regardless of the private attitudes of parents, students or teachers. This analysis, while not ignoring the necessity of revising private beliefs, stressed the democratization of American institutions.

Much has changed since the report was issued two decades ago. Thanks to antidiscrimination legislation, regulations, and affirmative action, blacks have made substantial progress in such institutions as government, business, education, the public sector, and labor. Although overtly racist behavior continues to be a factor in black advancement, great strides have been made.

There are more black elected officials than at any time in this nation's history, and a black man is demonstrating that he can be a viable candidate for president. Blacks are steadily climbing the corporate ladder, although perhaps not at a rate warranted by our overall population. These same trends hold true in the

other institutions.

Private attitudes are more difficult to gauge. Ugly incidents such as Howard Beach, the harassment of a black FBI agent, and racist confrontations on several campuses are a dramatic reminder that racial intolerance is still with us. But it must be remembered that racism and bigotry are not a uniquely American phenomena. The relationship between the upper and lower castes in India is in some ways more brutal and systemic than the operation of racism in America. Tribal hatred is common all over Africa. The point is, that any multiracial society will always have ethnic tensions. But if that society and its institutions place a premium on social justice and human rights, then racism will, at least, be reduced to an irreducible minimum.

So is white racism still the primary impediment to black progress? While it clearly remains a factor, the focus has shifted in 20 years. The terrible problems plaguing the black underclass have more to do with rapid, systemic changes in the economy than racism or race. While the black middle-class has made great strides since the Kerner Commission report, the plight of the black urban poor have been exacerbated by such factors as the loss of millions of manufacturing jobs, the flight of companies to the suburbs, and reduced employment opportunities.

Our agenda for the 1990s must focus on the economic and class dimension contributing to the growing social isolation of the black poor. If we do not, then the Kerner prediction of two societies will be fulfilled, but the demarcation lines will be drawn primarily along class not racial lines. The black poor will have more in common with the white poor than their brothers and sisters in the black middle class.

Norman Hill is President of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute.

Principals of Leadership

Leadership is an intriguing quality. In some people, the ability to lead is almost second nature, while others gain such skills through years of experience.

One thing is certain, whether in business, government, athletics or education: leaders do rise to the top, usually bringing their teams or institutions along with them.

"Principals of Leadership" recognizes the outstanding men and women in our nation's schools who, through their effective leadership, promote safer, more productive and more positive learning climates on the campuses they administer.

Vision, persuasiveness and commitment to excellence are common threads in the profiles of the 10 principals honored this year. Each displays the ability to work toward tomorrow's dreams instead of putting off yesterday's "fires," to earn others' respect and trust, and to dedicate their efforts to providing all students with the best possible educational opportunities.

Since safe, quality schooling requires student, staff and community involvement, these principals' special programs and talents take on varied emphases. For example, programs that integrate school activities with local businesses to provide job training and student scholarships help reduce dropout rates. Staff and student recognition programs boost morale and reduce discipline problems. Special campus cleanup projects instill a "pride of ownership" among students for their campuses and reduce vandalism. And law-related curricula teach students about their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

These 10 education leaders and their achievements are positive examples for all leaders of children and adults alike.

The 1988 "Principals of Leadership" are (counterclockwise from top left): Yvonne Allen, Whiteville Elementary School, Whiteville, Tennessee; Robert Caccamo, Chandler High School, Chandler, Arizona; Gary A. Faber, West Bloomfield High School, West Bloomfield, Michigan; Minnie W. Floyd, Palms Junior High School, Los Angeles, California; Felton M. Johnson, Intermediate School 229, Bronx, New York; Karen R. Kundin, Kachina Elementary School, Glendale, Arizona; Shannon Reffett, Westville Correctional Center School, Westville, Indiana; Carroll A. "Butch" Thomas, Estacado High School, Lubbock, Texas; Vera M. White, Jefferson Junior High School, Washington, D.C.; and John R. Young, Schenley High School Teacher Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



The Day Dr. King Died: 20 Years Later

Atlanta mayor Andrew Young, nutritionist Dick Gregory, poet laureate Gwendolyn Brooks, filmmaker Spike Lee, actress Marla Gibbs and others recall what they were doing 20 years ago upon hearing of Dr. Martin Luther King's death, reports the April EBNY.

"There was a great shared fear, a gut-wrenching fear," said Mayor Jackson, former Mayor of Atlanta. "It was not related to any fear for our own well-being, but just a fear for the future. We talked about Dr. King's death being a summons to action," he adds.

"I was in San Francisco in a car driving to a lecture," said Dick Gregory, who frequently marched with King. "I pulled the car over and said to the person with me, 'I don't believe what he just said (on the radio). He was always loving, kind, peaceful and gently... one of the finest human beings who ever walked the planet.'"

Considered the principal architect of the civil rights movement, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was killed 20 years ago this month.

Southern California to Ship Clothing to Southern Africa

Officials from the city of Los Angeles Mayor's Office and BARAC (Black American Response to the African Community) announced a major ongoing shipment of clothing and medical supplies to Mozambique in a waterfront news conference, Wednesday, March 9th. The news conference took place at the Port of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Harbor, San Pedro, California.

50 tons of clothing and supplies collected from the southland was immediately prepared for shipment to war torn Mozambique in a joint relief project organized by BARAC and leading members of the clothing manufacturing industry.

The President of BARAC, Rev. Frank Wilson and officials from the Los Angeles Mayor's Office, together with Mr. Larry Carroll, the BARAC National Media Director, Dr. Paul Martin, President of the Inter-Denominational Ministerial Alliance, Mr. Fernando Lime, News Editor of the Mozambique Information Agency, and several members of the entertainment community, including singers Ray Parker Jr. and Phillip Bailey, issued a joint statement to kick off the project which will send 500 tons of supplies to the front line state.

Headquartered in Pasadena, California, BARAC is continuing its work in order to return hope to those left hopeless in Africa.

"Almost half of Mozambique's population of 14.36 million is now affected by the emergency situation. Twice the 3.5 million affect-

ed earlier this year. It includes some 3.2 million in rural areas and another 1 million in towns, in all providences. Roughly 1 million of those affected have become displaced due to the war and food shortages. Many are on the move searching for food, clothes, medicines, agricultural tools, and other essential items." (African Recovery/United Nations, December, 1987).

States Mayor Bradley, "Don't let this be a 'one time' effort — the need goes on. The deprivation will continue unless our efforts are ongoing. In this prosperous country of ours, most of us enjoy an abundance. Therefore, ours is a continuous commitment to help the unfortunate, here and abroad, and to assist organizations like BARAC who have already begun to help."

"Clothing, trucks and manpower are avenues in which one of us can lend a hand in one united effort of 'Meeting the Needs and Rebuilding a Family' in Southern Africa," says Los Angeles businessman, Mr. Charles Patrick, the Project Coordinator for the clothing drive.

BARAC is a coalition of clergy, entertainers, journalist, business people, health professionals, community leaders, and concerned citizens. Its headquarters are located at 261 E. Colorado Blvd., Suite 210, Pasadena, California 91101, telephone number (818) 584-0303. For further information, please contact Miss Natalie McCray, Press Conference Coordinator at the BARAC office.

THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL PROGRAM

American Heart Association in Oregon
1-800-452-9445

This space provided as a public service