

# OPINION

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BY U.S. REP. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

## Economic Woes Not Getting Better

### Trickle down policies hurting all Americans

I am encouraged by the news that the nation's payrolls made moderate strides during the last

month. However, I am very concerned that despite the jobs created over the last few months, the nation's unemployment rate has not shown a significant decline since December 2003.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, each month since December 2003, the nation's unemployment rate has been either 5.6 percent or 5.7 percent. In May, 8.2 million Americans found themselves out of work. That is the same number of individuals who were unemployed for the month of April. Moreover, that number does not reflect those workers who have given up looking for

work.

The employment picture gets worse if you are African-American. In May, African American unemployment rose by .2 percent to 9.9 percent. Furthermore, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office

White Americans dropped by 47 percent.

What these numbers really tell us is that the Bush Administration's trickle down economic policies are hurting all America's workers.

Although the economy is show-

ers entering the marketplace each month.

Additionally, while business productivity is up, worker wages are down. That means that our economy is creating a permanent class of working poor. Increasingly,

employed population, are making \$18,800 or less and many are working at least two jobs to make ends meet.

President Bush and his Administration have made it clear they are unwilling to change their economic approach of fiscal mismanagement and deficit spending. In order for our economic picture to change, we must have new leadership in Congress and a new Administration committed to economic policies that uplift all Americans.

*U.S. Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, D-Md. is chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.*

Since President Bush assumed office in January 2001, African Americans have lost up to 88 percent of their earning potential.

- U.S. Rep. Elijah E. Cummings

recently reported that since President Bush assumed office in January 2001, African Americans have lost up to 88 percent of their earning potential. In comparison, wages for

ing faint signs of growth, job creation and worker investment is at a virtual standstill, and the economy is barely creating enough jobs to keep pace with the number of work-

workers are clocking more hours, but bringing home less and less at the end of the day. One May issue of Business Week reported that 1 in 4 workers, or 25 percent of the em-

## College Should Welcome NAACP

Decision to block chapter is arbitrary and racist

BY KWEISI MFUME

Catholic University of America's decision to ban students from organizing a NAACP college chapter on their Washington, D.C. campus is blatant discrimination in its most naked form. We believe that it is an embarrassment not only to the good men and women of the Catholic faith but to fair minded Americans everywhere who believe that discrimination of any type is wrong. This is not the nature of democracy as we know it, and this is not the nature of the Catholicism that others and I grew to know and respect.

NAACP college chapters are on four other Catholic universities with no problem. They include Georgetown University, Trinity College (Washington, D.C.), St. John's University and Fordham University.

Our student chapters and our members are of all races. The students at Catholic

University who want to organize are not Nazis, they are not thugs, they are not skinheads and they are not terrorists.

The hypocrisy rooted in the university's decision to ban this student chapter and then to hide behind such an indefensible position is a biblical fig leaf that grows smaller by the moment.

The NAACP will consider legal steps to have the University allow students to organize the college chapter. We are prepared to bring litigation against Catholic University for violating what we believe is the right of all students in America to free

association and equal protection under the law.

*Kweisi Mfume is president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization.*



Kweisi Mfume

## Fueling Hate Crimes Worldwide

Racial attacks continue at home and abroad

BY JUDGE GREG MATHIS

In our ideal world, people would be treated equally and without regard to skin color.

In our current world, however, people continue to be treated unequally and sometimes, killed - based on skin color.

Throughout the world, white supremacists continue to attack people of color. For the most part, the attacks occur in countries that are majority Caucasian, with the victims being members of an ethnic minority group.

In the United States, racial attacks continue in the form of violent killings, as well as racially motivated police brutality. Similarly, in Australia, police brutalize the darker Aborigine ethnic group, who are the native inhabitants. Russia

appears to be most hostile to ethnic minorities with a series of attacks that have prompted a hate crimes law.

Indeed, Russia appears to be the country with the most racial attacks in recent

years. The beatings and killings of ethnic minorities and dark-skinned foreigners occur so often it is rarely even covered in the media...

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has been set up to keep a log of them. The reasons for these attacks are many. In addition to subscribing to a flawed belief in white supremacy, racial attackers are usually poor, ignorant, uneducated and looking to blame their problems on a minority group. Combining these factors with an environment of extreme nationalism and patriotism, confused supremacists go on the attack to relieve their frustration with their own situation.

What is occurring in Russia and elsewhere should be a lesson to countries throughout the world. The flawed ideology of white supremacy must be confronted and defeated.

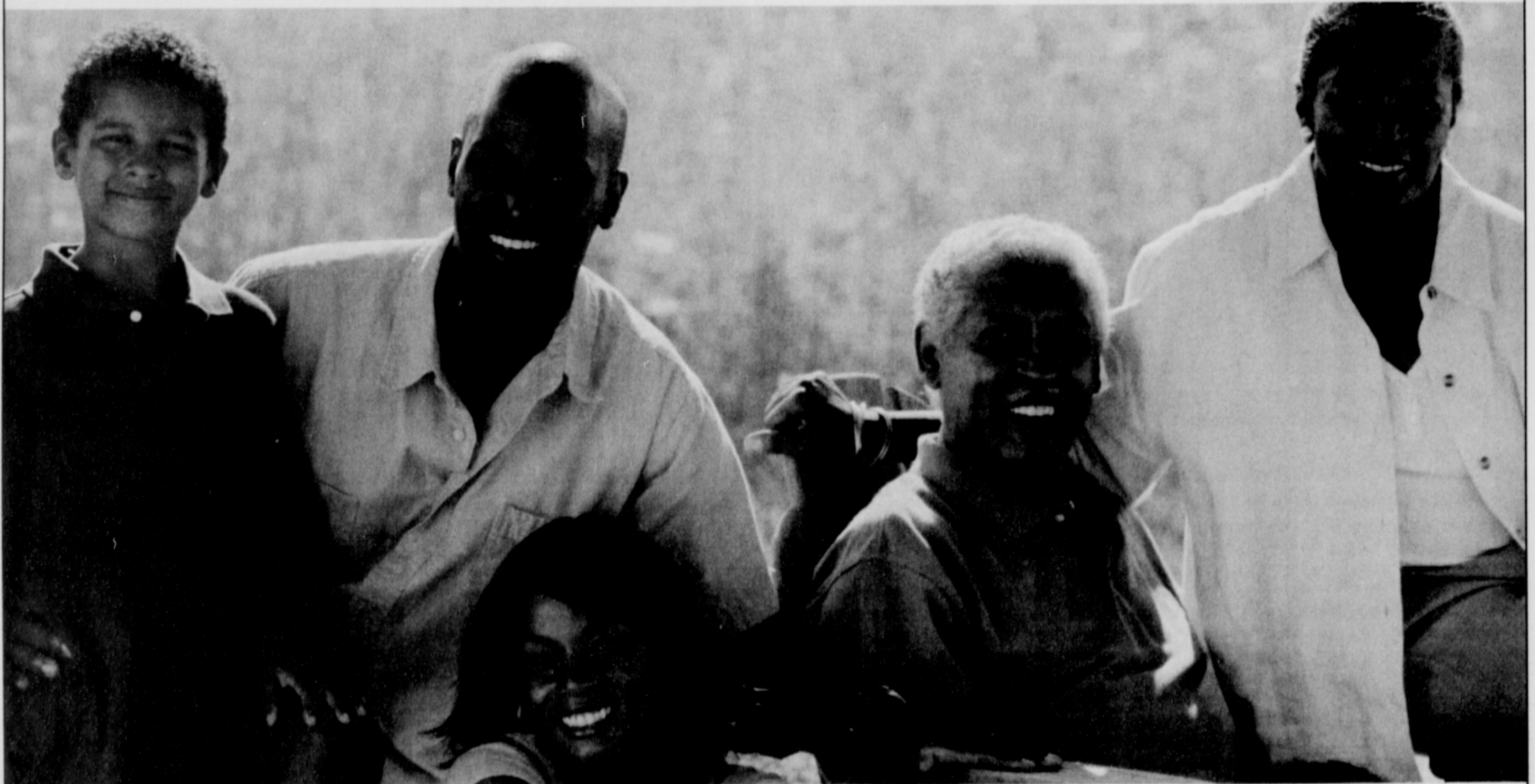
Our government and business leaders must invest in uplifting its citizens out of poverty and ignorance and must set a patriotic tone of equality and justice for all.

*Judge Greg Mathis is chairman of the Rainbow PUSH-Excel Board and a national board member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.*

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