

# GEORGIA AVENUE DEFENDER

*"To inform and uplift the community"*

**FEBRUARY 2005**

## **The Founder of Black History Month**

Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, - Black author, editor, publisher, and historian (December 1875 - April 1950). Carter G. Woodson believed that Blacks should know their past in order to participate intelligently in the affairs in our country. He strongly believed that Black history - which others have tried so diligently to erase - is a firm foundation for young Black Americans to build on in order to become productive citizens of our society.

## **WOLF IN SHEEPS CLOTHING**

Roger Roman

Once again, our community is being used by those who do not care about us. A person who does not live in our community is trying to open a bar at 3634 Georgia avenue despite strong disapproval from long-time residents. Most disapprove the bar because it would be located between liquor stores on each corner. To make matters worse the potential owner is at-

tempting to pull the wool over the communities eyes. To avoid protest by community residents the potential owner stated that he would serve food, but when he was asked to apply for a restaurant license instead of a tavern license he refused. This shows that the potential owner is not fully committed to opening a sit down family restaurant but he is committed to opening yet another liquor establishment in our

community. The potential owner is trying to fool the community and hide his true intentions, and the way he is going about it is not only deceitful but it is also disrespectful. We can not let outsiders continually use our community for their own personal gain. We must take action you can stop this from happening by calling your councilmember or ANC Commissioner and voicing your concern.



**Managing Editors***Roger Roman**Bandon Swails***Published by :***The Lower Georgia Avenue  
Business Association**Sinclair Skinner, President***Special Thanks:***Maya Gilliam**Wesley Ellis***Message from the Editors**

Today is a day when each and every community of this country must secure its own destiny. Our community must be more determined today than we have ever been because the forces of the world are operating against uninformed and unorganized communities who are not ambitious enough to protect their own interest and identity.

These are the reasons that a publication the Georgia avenue Defender is published. We pledge to deliver truth to our community in an effort to inform protect and uplift. We will not continue to be victims of lies and misinformation. Monthly the Defender will seek to put out the information that is important to our community.

**Racism at United Neighborhood Coalition Meeting***Stephen Nichols*

The days of Jim Crow remind us a troubling time for the positive advancement of African Americans in our country. Dateline: 2005. Although the era has changed and the epithet has given way to a new "Generation X", these days were in an all too recent era for us to be comfortable enough to turn a blind eye to the ongoing struggle of being Black in America.

At a recent community meeting in Petworth, Washington, DC, words and tensions ran high as a very controversial subject was briefly (not by popular choice) discussed. The issue was the proposal of a new bar on Georgia Avenue. The proposed "Whisky", owned and operated by the Gallatin Company, is planned on a site

about seven blocks from the historic Howard University, roughly three blocks from an elementary school and only a block away from a residential neighborhood that is already burdened with limited parking, high traffic noise, and even recent gunfire.

The topic was introduced by the President and meeting facilitator. He opened discussion with this disclaimer, "If you don't live in our little neighborhood of Otis on the south, Quincy in the north, Georgia Avenue, and Park Place, that is if your not in that area, we are not the forum for your concerns....I will not entertain questions or comments from members outside our community".

His words bring little clarity on what is and what is not "our community". Andrew, a

conservatively dressed, white male seemingly in his late twenties, doesn't personify the majority of the citizens in the community he presides over.

Many concerned residents were present to voice their concerns. Mr. Sinclair Skinner, President of the Lower Georgia Avenue Business Development Corp. was aware of the chairman's request to keep discussion between UNC members only, but he raised his hand and began to speak. The chairman attempted to regain order with frustration, "This gentleman doesn't live in the neighborhood"! Mr. Skinner replied, "God Bless America"! This was said over a jeering and contentious crowd who shouted, "No!" and, "You're an outsider!"

The ostracizing scene led me to quietly repeat a familiar proverb to myself, "The more things change, the more they stay the same".



# America Mourns loss of Civil Rights Activist and Entertainment Pioneer

of Fame in 1994.

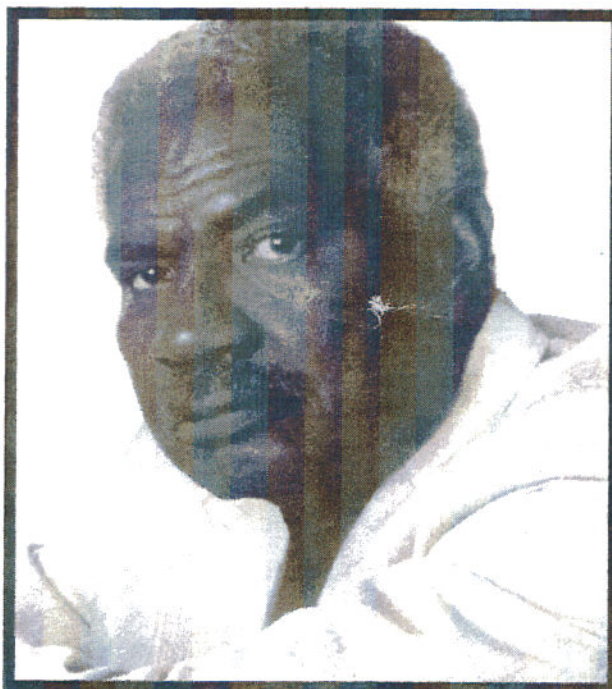
Writer, director, actor and producer Ossie Davis established a phenomenal career all while remaining a strong voice for his people.

Davis was born on December 18, 1917, in Cogdell, Georgia. After graduating in the top 5 percent of his class Davis had to earn money before venturing on to college. A year after graduation, with his savings in tow, Davis hitchhiked to Washington, D.C., to live with his aunts. There, he received a scholarship and enrolled at Howard University in the fall of 1935.

At Howard, Davis found a good environment to develop his talents. Ready to try his luck on the stage, Davis left for New York City.

Davis made his Broadway debut in 1946 in *Jeb*, where he met his wife and fellow actress, Ruby Dee. Davis went on to perform in many Broadway productions, including *Anna Lucasta*, *The Wisteria Trees*, *Green Pastures*, *Jamaica*, *Ballad for Bimshire*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Zulu and the Zayda*, and *I'm Not Rappaport*. In 1961, he wrote and starred in the critically acclaimed *Purlie Victorious*. Davis was inducted into the Theater Hall

Davis wrote and directed numerous films, including *Cotton Comes to Harlem* and *Countdown at Kusini*, the first American feature film shot entirely in Africa by black professionals. He most recently appeared in the films *Dr. Dolittle*, *Get on the Bus* and *I'm Not Rappaport*.



Davis was a leading activist in the civil rights era of the 1960s. He joined Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the crusade for jobs and freedom and to help raise money for the Freedom Riders. He eulogized both King and Malcolm X, at their funerals.

Davis received innumerable honors and citations throughout his life, including the Hall of Fame Award for Outstanding Artistic Achievement in 1989, the U.S. National Medal for the Arts in 1995, the New York Urban League Frederick Douglass Award, NAACP Image Award, and the Screen Actor's Guild Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001. He enjoyed a long and luminous career in entertainment along with his wife. They recently published a joint autobiography, *With Ossie and Ruby: In This Life Together*.

Davis passed away on February 4, 2005, at the age of 87.



## All Juvenile Murder Victims in 2004 Were Black

Washington DC's top cop is calling the number of juvenile homicides last year "stark" and "troubling."

D.C. Police Chief Charles Ramsey spoke Monday before a D.C. Council committee examining the 24 deaths. He says about one of every eight homicide victims was 17 years old or younger.

Ramsey says he's also troubled that all of the juvenile homicide victims were black. Nine of those killed were girls. He says youth violence often begins in neighborhoods, and spills into city schools.

To combat the problem, Ramsey says police are cracking down on curfew and truancy violators. He also says the city is adding more police officers to schools and is going after

gangs.

The mayor was also on-hand, talking about his goals for reducing juvenile homicides in the District. D.C. Mayor Tony Williams promises lower numbers in the coming year, and said the issue is a top priority.

He believes it can happen with the prevention, intervention and enforcement plan his administration is working on.

Williams says efforts will involve coordination among agencies to provide mental health, substance abuse, academic and economic assistance.

City officials also say it'll involve bringing those services into neighborhoods. Williams says agencies still need to get better at collecting, shar-

ing and analyzing information about the victims and young offenders.

### Among the statistics in the study of last year's 24 juvenile homicides:

- Nine girls were slain, up from two in 2003. Five were killed by a family member or caregiver.
- Half of the victims were 15 or younger. In the two previous years, about a third of slain youths were in that age group.
- All but one victim in the past three years was black, making the rate nearly the same as the percentage of adult homicide victims who are black.
- Ten of the 14 known suspects were adults.
- *Eighteen victims were killed by gunfire.*



BLACK BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

# Torrie's @ Wilson's

Specializing in down home "Low Country" cooking, Torrie's @ Wilson's combines the energy of Black America with the warmth and familiarity of home. Torrie's @ Wilson's opened in 1994 and was originally named Wilson's by the original owners the Wilson's who also own the Florida ave. Grill. In 1998 G.F.S. catering purchased the establishment. Seeking to honor his daughter and still uphold the traditions set by the original owners the

owner of G.F.S., Mr. John Goodwin added his daughters name to the title that same year.

Once inside a customer feels as if he is among friends. The walls are covered with pictures of successful African Americans and memorabilia that represents Black culture. What is even more comforting is the food. The menu is filled with southern soul cuisine. While there isn't a shortage of pork on the menu, Mr. Goodwin takes pride

in being able to offer food that is not cooked with pork. It is no secret why Torrie's @ Willson's is a favorite in the community, genuine people and food that's made to order.



BLACK BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

# Howard Deli

Being the oldest running business on Georgia Avenue is just one testament to the good food and service that is provided at The Howard Delicatessen.

The deli was opened in 1923 by an Italian family. It was originally located where the Howard University School of Business is, but moved across the street to its present location due to University expansion. Owners and brothers

Kenny Gilmore and Daryl Diaz purchased the business from the original owners who were also their God-parents. Being life-long residents of the community the brothers are very familiar with not only the people and culture of Georgia Avenue but the history as well, this is evident in the way they run their business.

The Howard Deli is a favorite among students from Banneker high school as well as Howard. This becomes clear

as soon as one walks in. Hanging up on the walls are pictures of customers, most of them being regulars.

Whether you are coming in to get a good sandwich or some "ghetto sweet" iced tea one thing is for sure you will be treated like a friend.





# GENTRIFICATION

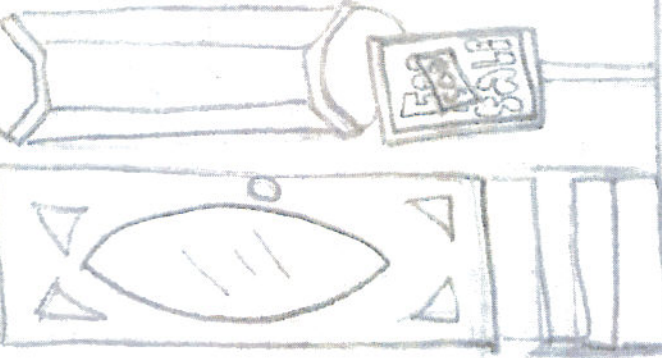
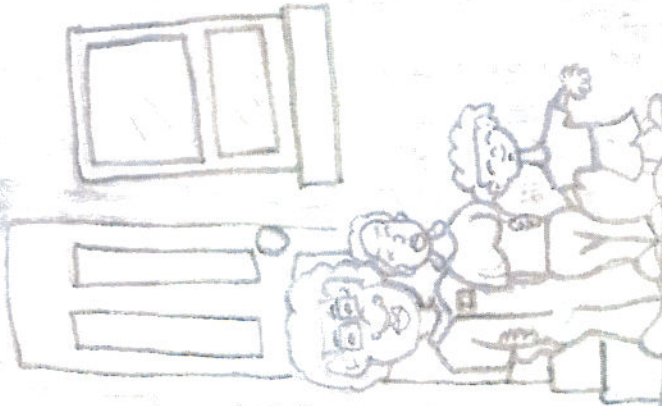
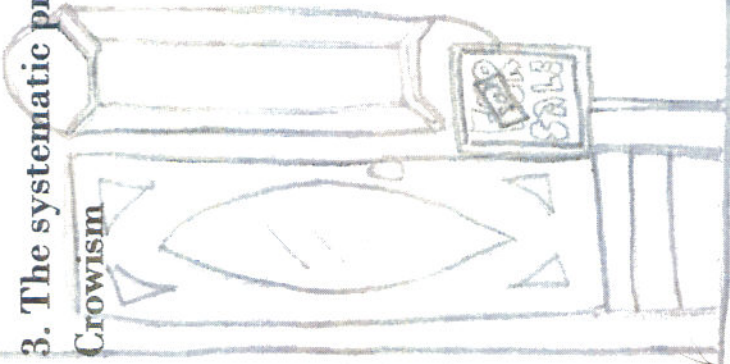
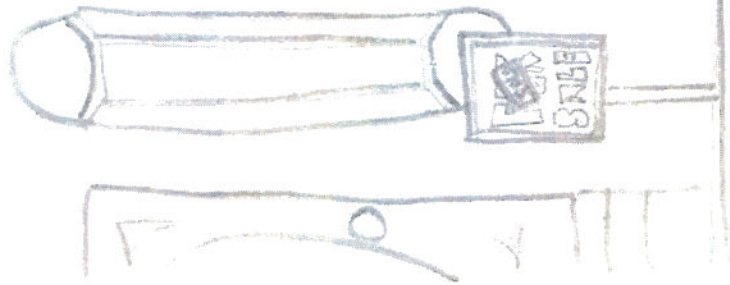
gen·tri·fi·ca·tion - (j ɛ n tr ɪ f ɪ k ə ' sh ə n) n.

1. The restoration and upgrading of urban property by middle-class or affluent people, often resulting in displacement of lower-income people.

2. An official policy of racism, involving political, legal, and economic discrimination against nonwhites.

3. The systematic practice of discriminating against Black people; Jim

Crowism



## Community Meetings

ANC 4C

Feb. 1, 2005 7:00 pm

MPD's Northern Regional Operation Command Center 801 Shepherd Street, NW

United Neighborhood Coalition

Feb. 2, 2005 7:00 pm

Parkview Rec Center Warder St. and Otis Place, NW

ANC 1B

Feb. 3, 2005 7:00 pm

True Reformer Building 1200 U Street, NW

Pleasant Plains Civic Association

Feb. 12, 2005 12:00 pm

ANC 1A

Feb. 9, 2005 7:00 pm

School Board

Feb. 13, 2005 7:00 pm

825 North Capitol Street, NE, in the 5th Floor Board Room

## Contact Information

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Jim Graham	DC council, Ward 1	(202) 724-8181
Carol Schwartz	DC council, At-Large	(202) 724-8105
Kwame Brown	DC council, At-Large	(202) 724-8174
Adrian Fenty	DC council, Ward 4	(202) 724-8052
Advisory Neighborhood Commission	1A	(202) 588-7278
Advisory Neighborhood Commission	1B	(202) 265-3871
Advisory Neighborhood Commission	4C	(202) 723-6670



# WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

BAR POSING AS  
RESTAURANT



**Don't Let Them Sell Our  
Neighborhood Out!!! No More  
Liquor Establishments!!!**

Call your Councilmember, ANC Commissioner, Civic Association, and Lower Georgia Avenue Business Association to stop this bar from opening.

Sponsored by Citizens for a Better Georgia Avenue