



Pastoral retirement  
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## Racism not eradicated in the US

**MARIO SALAS**  
African-American News&Issues

Slavery emerged as a agricultural system of forced labor, justified on the unscientific concept of race, and designed to facilitate the production of staple crops. Depending on the geographic area and climatic conditions in the Western Hemisphere, these crops included sugar, coffee, tobacco, and cotton. In the South the most important staple crops were tobacco and cotton.

A racial doctrine based on skin color distinguished modern Western slavery from the slavery that existed in ancient times. In modern times, the vast majority of slaves consisted of Africans and their descendants, while the slave-owning class consisted of Europeans from England, France, Spain, Portugal, and other parts of Europe. Perhaps the greatest contribution of the 21st Century, in understanding why Europe has dominated world relations, is the work of UCLA Geography professor Jared Diamond.

According to Diamond, Europeans were "accidental conquerors." In Diamond's work, "Guns, Germs, and Steel," he explains that Europe has consistent climate variations because of the geographical East-West orientation of the continent. Consequently, the range of animals and crops expands the width of Europe's land mass and beyond, along a path of latitude in which climatic conditions are stable.

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## Tuskegee Airmen put exclamation point on history

**DARWIN CAMPBELL**  
African-American News&Issues

**DALLAS-** It was another kind of experiment, but today, the venture of the pioneer airmen at Tuskegee have rewritten the record books and proven to be a successful marriage between African Americans and aviation. Even though, only recently has American history given public acknowledgement of the service, professionalism and duty

bound courage of these great Black airmen who wrote their names in the heavens with every successful escort and flight sortie over enemy and hostile territory. With many now in the sunset years of life and after over a half century in the making, these Black heroes are finally getting the recognition, respect and honor they deserve, such as making public appearances and recently at a national gathering in Dallas.

Just last March, President George  
See TUSKEGEE page 3

# EDUCATION'S TROJAN HORSE

Desegregation politicized public schools

**BUD JOHNSON**  
African-American News&Issues

Since economy and politics go hand in hand, America's educational crisis is failing because it has become too politicized to do what's in the best interest of the children, even if it means putting America's economy, its national security and its leadership in the world, at risk. Sadly, public education is no longer about educating children. It no longer prepares them for success in college, the workforce and in life, with meaningful skills to meet the growing challenges of a highly competitive and technology-driven global economy.

Education has become a big business and a political football that wins votes. That is why politicians who have acknowledged the problem for the longest time have not taken any meaningful actions to solve the problem. Inasmuch as an estimated 53.8 million of the nation's children enrolled in ele-

mentary and high schools (grades K-12) this fall, the prefacing excerpt from The Parent Advocacy Group's mission statement is apropos to address the reversal of fortunes that made in America African's children are experiencing in classrooms.

Catch-22 notwithstanding, albeit *Brown v. Board* positively impacted the land of the free, there's no denying that evil in high places has surreptitiously used the landmark civil rights legislature as a Trojan horse (see **Editorial**) to circumvent the U. S. Constitution and politicize public education. Conversely, in order to enforce the ruling government, intervention was necessary. Consequently, a Trojan horse also entered. Even so, **African American News&Issues** is on a slippery slope to disparage a cherished civil rights victory.

Yet, that's what time it is in 2007 Black America. History records that the U. S. government has historically seized opportunities to override the Constitution's basic ideals (as See **EDUCATION** page 3



Black male teachers were once role models for boys. Now, education has become a big business and a political football.

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### Quote of the Week

"The power of the White world is threatened whenever a Black man refuses to accept the White world's definitions."  
James Baldwin

It's been almost a year since Joseph Edward Taylor made his transition from time into eternity, but his precious memories linger as a reminder of his long and wonderful life that was celebrated on Sept. 23, 2006 at Friendship Baptist Church, 1111 South LaSalle Street, Navasota, Texas. Bro. Henry Johnson rendered a solo during the order of service and Ronald Thompson, Shelton Lewis, Charles Nolan, Cornell Thompson, Terrance King and Pinkey Freeman were active pallbearers for Joseph Edward, one of two sons born to Joe and Edna Taylor on March 22, 1922 in Navasota, Texas. (FYI: Navasota is on a bend of the Navasota River at the intersection of State Highway 105 and Farm roads 3090 and 1227 in southeastern Grimes County.

The site was first named Hollandale for Francis Holland, who bought land in the area in 1822. In 1832, a Georgia planter named Daniel Arnold moved to the vicinity. The site was a natural crossroads, as it was located near the spot where the La Bahia Road

## JOSEPH E. TAYLOR



March 22, 1922 - September 17, 2006

crossed the Navasota River, and about halfway between Anderson and Washington-on-the-Brazos. By the mid-1850s, four stage lines had established stops in the vicinity. The settlement name was changed to Navasota {for the river} in 1854, when a post office was established there. After September 1859, when the Houston and Texas Central Railway built into the town, Navasota became even more important as a shipping and marketing center for the surround-

ing area. Cotton, gunpowder, and guns were stored there during the Civil War. By 1865, the population was about 2,700. The town, however, suffered a series of disasters in the mid-1860s that severely depleted its population. In 1865, a warehouse filled with cotton and gunpowder exploded after it was torched by disgruntled Confederate veterans; the blast killed a number of people and started a fire that destroyed or damaged many buildings, including the post office. During the late 1860s, the Ku Klux Klan spread into Navasota, and on one occasion a tense confrontation between federal soldiers and a crowd of local white citizens occurred there.

In October 1866, in the midst of these troubles, Navasota was incorporated; after the yellow fever epidemic, its economic fortunes revived. One of the first cottonseed oil mills in the state was built there before 1880. By 1884, about 2,500 people were living in Navasota, and in addition to the oil mill the town had five churches, two flour mills, sever-

al steam-powered cotton gins, a bank, an opera house that could seat 1,000, and a newspaper, the *Navasota Tablet*. -**Handbook of Texas Online**.)

Joseph, who confessed his love for Jesus the Christ and joined church at an early age, typified many African American men who were born during his era. When World War II broke out in 1942, he dutifully joined the U.S. Army at age 20 and served courageously before receiving his honorable discharge with the rank of Corporal. After leaving the Army, he was an entrepreneur.

Joseph leaves to cherish his memory, his son Joseph Edward Taylor Jr. and daughter-in-law, Ella L. Taylor; one granddaughter, Stephanie Thompson Taylor of Inglewood, California; two grandsons, Joseph Ed Taylor III of Nashville, Tennessee and Cornell Thompson of Los Angeles, California; two nephews and niece, Arthur and Doris Taylor; two great grandchildren, Ronald and Starr Thompson; and a host of other relatives and friends. ★