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To: Staff

From: Gloria

Date: 2/8/93

The event was covered by
CNN + the New York Times. Attending
were Gov. Zell Miller, Senator Nunn,
and Senator Coverdale (R-GA).
We'll distribute once we've got
clips to ~~use~~ pass on as well.

**STATE OF GEORGIA**

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ATLANTA 30334

Zell Miller
GOVERNORChuck Reece
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS**FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET****Governor's Communications Office
State Capitol, Room 100
Atlanta, Georgia 30334**

DATE: February 5, 1993
TO: Gloria Johnson, The White House, (202) 456-2461
FROM: Chuck Reece, Director of Communications, Georgia Governor's Office
Office number: 651-7774
Fax number: 656-2612

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET): 3**NOTES:**

Please acknowledge receipt and call me with approval. If you would like to add any material that more closely associates this program with the President, please feel free.

Need your response by Monday, 8:30 a.m.

Thanks.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to Zell Miller, the Governor of Georgia.

Please call 651-7774 if you do not receive the number of pages indicated above.



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334

Zell Miller
GOVERNOR

Chuck Reece
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

DRAFT

PRESS ADVISORY

PRESS ADVISORY

For immediate release
February 8, 1993

Contact: Chuck Reece
(404) 651-7774

**Senator Nunn and Governor Miller Kick-off New
National Service Program**

ATLANTA -- Governor Zell Miller and U.S. Senator Sam Nunn today formally established the Georgia Peach Corps as 120 volunteers from two rural Georgia counties pledged to spend one year working full-time on projects critical to their communities. Supported by federal and state funds, the Georgia Peach Corps is a national demonstration program designed to show how a full-fledged national service program will work in a rural setting. As Sen. Nunn noted in his remarks, the Peach Corps is probably the largest full-time national service program in our country's history in terms of the ratio between participants and the total population served.

"In his inaugural address last month, President Clinton called on Americans to participate in a 'season of service.' Today, Georgia answers that call," Governor Miller said. U.S. Senators Sam Nunn and Paul Coverdell joined Governor Miller as he led the volunteers in their oath to "do my best to make a difference that improves my country, my state and my community."

During the swearing-in ceremony, a letter from President Clinton was read which hailed Georgia's demonstration program as a nationally significant test of full-time community service. President Clinton acknowledged Sen. Nunn's longstanding role as an advocate of the national service concept and praised Sen. Nunn and Governor Miller for helping design an outstanding program for Georgia.

Sen. Nunn authored the first full-scale legislative proposal for national service and was a co-sponsor of the 1989 National and Community Service Act, which authorized the demonstration program in which the Peach Corps is a leading project. Governor Miller said that Nunn "deserves special praise as the grand architect of national service, not just in Georgia but throughout

Peach Corps
add one

America." The Governor also expressed appreciation for Sen. Coverdell's efforts as Peace Corps director to draw volunteers returning from overseas into community service at home.

The Peach Corps is composed of 60 volunteers -- 50 young people between the ages of 17 and 25, plus 10 seniors over the age of 60 -- at each of the two sites.

In exchange for their service, the volunteers will be paid a subsistence wage roughly equivalent to minimum wage. When their year's service is over, the younger Corps members will be given a \$5,000 stipend they can use to pay for college or technical-school tuition, to pay off existing student loans or to enter a job training program. The project is funded by a \$2.3 million grant from the Commission on National and Community Service, with the state contributing half the cost of the post-service benefit. Similar demonstration programs have been funded in six other states.

The Georgia Peach Corps will be working on projects that leaders in McDuffie and Toombs counties identified through the All-Star Communities program as critical to the development of the area. The volunteers are all residents of the communities they serve.

In Thomson, for example, the volunteers may clean up the town cemetery, supply meals to the home-bound elderly and perform minor home repairs, and tutor elementary school students. In Vidalia, these volunteers may launch a new Habitat for Humanity project, run an after-school program for latch-key kids, and renovate an abandoned school.

Peach Corps members will spend four days of the week on service work, with the other day dedicated to their own training and education.

Never held, never loved, never touched.



Photo by Barbara Bishop

HOW TO BECOME A MENTOR

1. Pick up and fill out an application from the Counseling Center, Room 119 Gloster Hall.
2. Upon acceptance into the Program, complete a training program and go through a rite of passage. You will then be assigned a child or classroom.
3. Donate a small portion of your leisure time to your mentee.

The children are watching.



Photo by Barbara Bishop

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Morehouse Mentoring Program I would like to take this time to acknowledge all students who heard the call and responded. The Program, thanks to many of you, became one of the best kept secrets to many parents in the schools surrounding the College community.

I salute all of those who gave their time and efforts last year, but we've come too far to be complacent now! The future of the Program again shows only great things. We have decided to take community service and the general well being of our children into our own hands. We have expanded our executive board to include people whom we feel have made it known that they will no longer let our children be denied their right to a proper rearing and education. We as an organization must realize that the term "by any means necessary" is far deeper than anything that could ever be depicted on the front of a T-shirt. The Mentoring Program has adopted the philosophy that in the world of business, medicine, law and education, "We can never be what we ought to be until our children are what they ought to be."

We are asking that people hear our voices and make the commitment to educate and cultivate the precious minds of our youth. We must realize that only we as a people can alleviate the pressure that our children face in every day survival. We must take the necessary actions to do it now. For if not us, who? If not now, when. Educate to elevate. Kujichaugulia will set us free . . . Asante,

G. Russel Gray, President
Morehouse Mentoring Program

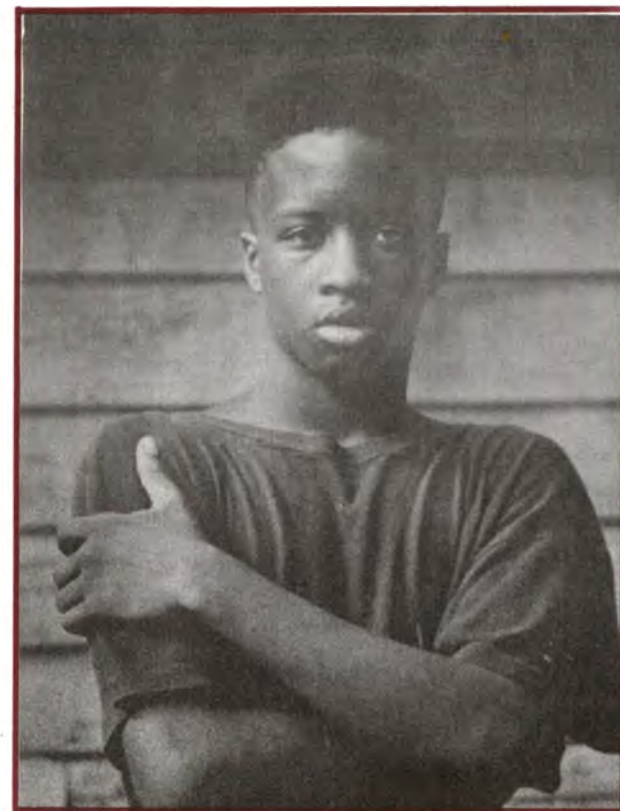


Photo by Barbara Bishop

**WHY WON'T
YOU LISTEN
TO ME?**

Morehouse College Mentoring Program
830 Westview Drive, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30314
(404) 681-2800, Ext. 2856 or 3204

KEEPING OUR EYES ON THE PRIZE

The Morehouse Mentoring Program is the largest and most popular community service project at the College. The Mentoring Program, which started five years ago, pairs the men of Morehouse with 1st-8th grade inner-city boys attending elementary schools in the community surrounding the College, one of which has the lowest standardized test scores of any school in the Atlanta Public School system. Students assist young males with their academic work and also teach a living skills curriculum. The program has received several community service awards from local, state, and national government.

We, the men of the Morehouse Mentoring Program believe that there is no such thing as a bad boy. We believe rather that there are "guided" and "misguided" boys. These young males desperately need our help. If children are our future, black men have some serious work to do.

When we try to understand why there is a declining rate of success in the African American community, the following statistics tell a disturbing story:

- 80% of juvenile cases tried in Fulton County involve African American males.
- One in every four black American males between ages 20-29 is behind bars, on parole, or on probation—an incarceration rate four times that of black males in South Africa.
- 67% of black male youths who live in the Atlanta public housing system live in single parent homes.
- Less than 20% of black males are currently enrolled in institutions of higher learning.
- The number of Black males graduating from high school is declining at the rate of 6% annually.

THE LIVING SKILLS CURRICULUM

1. Self-Esteem. This component of the program focuses on how children can examine their thought patterns in order to build and strengthen their self-image and self-esteem. Developing a positive attitude about African American people is an important step for African American children and essential for developing self-esteem.

2. Awareness Training. This component of the program focuses on helping children make friends with their minds and bodies. It also focuses on the cultivation of mental qualities like centeredness and the development of concentration. Finally, it helps them answer the basic questions of their existence: Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going?

3. Critical Thinking. This component of the program is designed to improve the children's ability to think and reason. Studies have indicated that while our children are learning the elementary skills that are sufficient for a lifetime of factory work, they are not learning the high-level thinking skills required for the information age.

4. Learned Optimism. This component of the program teaches positive motivation through learning how to have an optimistic outlook.

THE MENTORING PROGRAM MISSION

The Mentoring Program missions is to facilitate the building of a permanent community structure that allows all people of African descent to serve as positive role models, teachers and confidants. The teachers, mentors and confidants will aid our youth in redefining their self-images and will broaden our future generations' minds and consciousness.

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies recently reported in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* that nearly half of the nation's African American children live in poverty. These findings paint a deeply disturbing portrait of the risks and prospects confronting African American children growing up in America. The ongoing study of the economic conditions of African-American children over the past three decades indicates that currently 53% of all African American children in the United States live in homes classified under federal guidelines as poor. Atlanta was one of the few major southern cities with a rising poverty rate for African American children.

Sadly for many African American children in Atlanta, childhood, instead of being a time of wonder, hope, discovery, and innocence, is a time of suffering, hardship, and abandonment.

In school, these economically disadvantaged youth, especially the African American male children, lagged behind every other group in educational achievement. However, more disturbing than these facts is the estimate that 50% of these children will spend their entire lives exclusively under the guidance and control of females. Studies indicate that half of these children have never visited their fathers' homes. More than 40% do not see their fathers at all in a typical year and only one child in five slept in their fathers' homes in a given month. In short, more and more of these children simply do not know what it means to have a positive male influence in their lives. This is why you should take this special opportunity to help our children by joining the Morehouse Mentoring Program. **It is our sincere hope that you never forget that only the educated are free and that each one must truly teach one.**

Forward,

Thomas Prince
Faculty Advisor, Morehouse Mentoring Program



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**Georgia Peach Corps
Thomson/McDuffie County, Georgia
Schedule of Activities for Friday, April 9, 1993**

Public Works Crew:

- Jackson Street sidewalk cleanup: pulling grass and brush off the sidewalk in this residential and business area to make it once again accessible to pedestrian traffic
- County-wide: planting shrubs in front of dumpsters and general pick-up of trash in the vicinity of the dumpsters
- Wrightsboro Church: if weather permits, will begin painting this historic Quaker Church, which is on the Register of Historic Places. In prior weeks, the crew has scraped old paint and prepared it for painting and cleaned the grounds.

Human Services Crew:

- McDuffie County-Thomson Leisure Center: assisting Meals on Wheels to package meals and distribute to elderly. Corpsmembers will stay to read, visit, do light chores for several hours with seniors who have requested "home visits".
- Springfield Baptist Church: after school enrichment program, assisting with recreation, arts and crafts, and homework for "latch key" children
- Little Owls Day Care: assisting with infants, in the playground, and in the classrooms
- TASC (Training and Support in the Community): mentoring with mentally handicapped in this job training program at a local plant nursery

Education

- The schools in McDuffie County are all on Spring Break this week, so the normal schedule is not being followed. The Education Crew will be working at the Adult Learning Center on a project of their own, putting together a directory of volunteer services in the community.

Local Contact: David Moore, Site Coordinator, at 706-595-2185. David cannot be reached on Thursday, April 8.

For more information on that date, contact Bobby Carney at 404-656-3836

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**Atlanta, Georgia 30303****Fax Number (404) 656-9792****TO:** Tina Sanone**FROM:** Bobby Carney404 656 3836**DATE:** 4/8/93**Number of pages including cover sheet** 2**Special Instructions to Recipient:**

Please call when you
decide what to do - I'll
fax you directions at that
time, if necessary

file: GA

Volunteers Attempt to Hit Home on Immunization

Atlanta Project Kicks Off Door-to-Door Drive

By Barbara Vobejda
Washington Post Staff Writer

ATLANTA, April 17—Melanie Sumlin stood outside the door of a public housing unit today, waiting for the young mother she knew was inside to answer her knock. But there was no answer.

"Hey, baby, where's your mama?" Sumlin asked a young boy playing in front. "Go get your mama. It's about getting free Michael Jackson tickets if you take the babies to the clinic to get their shots. Tell her to please come to the door."

The boy went in to talk to his mother, but returned to say she would not come to the door. So Sumlin filled out the questionnaire the best way she could—sending the boy back and forth to his mother for information on her children's names, ages and whether they have been immunized.

Sumlin was among 6,600 volun-

teers who swept across neighborhoods here today in what organizers said was the nation's most ambitious effort to track down preschool children who have not been immunized.

The volunteers, brought together by a group associated with former president Jimmy Carter, planned to visit nearly 200,000 homes today and Sunday, create a computer registry of children under age 6 and urge their parents to bring them to any of nearly four dozen immunization sites that will be open in the Atlanta area next week.

As an incentive, families who come in for their shots will get a free ticket to see pop star Michael Jackson.

The effort comes as the Clinton administration launches its own sweeping immunization initiative. Organizers here said today's experience will serve as a model for the rest of the nation.

That experience underscores that the most daunting obstacle is not the cost of the vaccines. It is finding the children who need them, persuading parents to bring them in and encouraging public health clinics to make the process easier. Volunteers found some parents oblivious to the need for immunization, others too burdened to battle the public health system.

"We don't have parents beating down the door to bring these children in," said Diana Woods, a spokeswoman at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "We've come to finally realize that the traditional way of sitting there waiting for these people to come to us is not working that well. The system is not user-friendly."

Nationally, depending upon the community, the proportion of 2-year-old children who are fully immunized ranges from 37 percent to 56 percent, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported. But in some inner-city neighborhoods, as few as 10 percent of children have been fully immunized.

Such low rates—which contributed to a measles epidemic in the late 1980s—cannot be blamed solely on complacent parents, many experts say. Public health clinics,



Atlanta Project volunteers Wanda Truesdale and Rebecca Turbeville interview Regina Jackson and daughter TeErika Leaks, 4, as part of full-immunization program.

where vaccines are offered for free or at a low fee, are often difficult to get to and open only on weekdays, Woods said. In many cases, they require parents to make appointments and force patients to wait hours in line. When parents bring children in for other reasons, the clinics often fail to use that opportunity to update the child's immunizations.

"I hadn't been working, but now I have the money," said Sandra Willis, who told volunteers she would take her 3-year-old daughter, Teisa, to a clinic next week. "I'm sure she is behind... but I just didn't have it."

President Clinton has proposed a program that will cost \$1.5 billion in 1995 to purchase vaccines and make them available to inoculate all American children against nine diseases. The proposal also includes \$152 million to establish a national, computerized system that will track immunizations for each child, beginning at birth.

In the meantime, communities across the country, like Atlanta, are making innovative attempts to ensure that the millions of preschool children are fully immunized.

Those efforts include San Diego's use of immunization "express lanes" at public health clinics and the Phoenix area's use of mobile vans parked at public libraries.

In Philadelphia, officials successfully sought a broader legal interpretation allowing foster parents and other guardians—not just legal parents—to give their consent for children to be immunized.

And here in Fulton County, where in some areas fewer than half of children under age 2 are immunized, the effort sent volunteers into their own neighborhoods. At the downtown Grady Homes housing project, where Melanie Sumlin was working, volunteers wearing white T-shirts and holding shopping bags full of information could be seen everywhere, up and down the street and into the distance.

Children swarmed around Sumlin, a mother of four who lives in the project, and asked how they could get free concert tickets. Then she would send them to get their mothers.

The effort here was initiated by The Atlanta Project, a community organization begun two years ago by Carter that is aimed at improving social and economic conditions in 20 neighborhoods here.

While experts around the country praised the door-to-door campaign, they also cautioned that the problem will be solved only with sustained, long-term work.

"If you assume they reached every 2-month-old in Atlanta, and every one got shots, the problem is, two months from now, that same baby is going to need four more doses of immunization," said Joseph Liu, senior health associate at the Children's Defense Fund. "If you don't remind the family then, then every child could become vulnerable to those diseases again."

Robert Cosby, chief of human services for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, said similar, smaller-scale sweeps around the District have not brought significant improvement in immunization rates.

"You can't sustain these major blitz activities," he said.

Kenneth Bart, director of the national vaccine program office in the Department of Health and Human Services, said he sees the low immunization rates as a warning flag "for a system in disrepair."

"If we can't deliver something as simple, as cost-effective, such low-technology, what else can we deliver?" he said.

Bart said the president's proposed national tracking system could work much like car dealerships that keep computerized records of buyers so they can notify them of recalls or like dental offices that remind patients of appointments. "It's a national shame we haven't been able to do that."

CORRECTIONS

In some editions yesterday, a news service report incorrectly identified Donald C. Alexander as commissioner of internal revenue, a post he held from 1973 to 1977.

The gay rights march here will be next Sunday. The day was incorrect in a story yesterday.

A Style article yesterday incorrectly reported that General Motors pick-up trucks have been redesigned. Federal safety officials have asked GM to redesign the trucks, but the company is resisting such a step.

Story last Sunday Rebuild L.A., the Raphael J. Sonen-political scientist at State University, was misspelled.