

Arts

'Dead Presidents' Precedent

*The Heist Is Only Half of the Story, Says the Man Who Pulled It Off*By Kim Masters
Washington Post Staff Writer

Early one December morning in 1969, three masked men accosted the driver of a mail truck that was standing at a loading dock of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board on Indiana Avenue NW. Their faces were smeared with ash, and one was dressed like a postal worker.

Forcing the driver into the rear of the truck, the men asked him where the money was. He pointed to a bag. Inside was \$382,000 of worn-out currency, en route to the Treasury Department where it was to be destroyed.

The men were armed, but they told the driver they weren't going to hurt him. One of the robbers said the money was "for needy black kids." He instructed the driver to tell the police that the robbers were white; then he reconsidered and told the driver to say "Some brothers robbed [me] and they all look alike."

Twenty-five years later, Ari Sesu Merretazon sat down at a Hollywood screening and watched the premiere of "Dead Presidents," the new movie from the Hughes brothers about a group of black Vietnam veterans who paint their faces white and steal worn-out federal currency. Merretazon is a minister who lives in Little Rock. But in 1969, he was an embittered Vietnam veteran named Haywood Kirkland, trying to readjust to civilian life in Washington. Back then, he used to hang out at the Africa Hut, near 14th and U streets NW, talking politics. That's when he hatched the idea of donning a postman's uniform and pulling the biggest heist this town had ever known.

The Hughes brothers—23-year-

See HEIST, G8, Col. 3



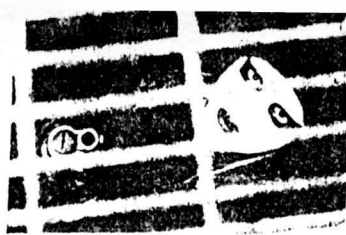
BY SPENCER THOMPSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Ari Sesu Merretazon, now a minister in Little Rock, pulled the Washington mail truck heist that inspired "Dead Presidents."



Freddy Rodriguez, above, and Larenz Tate, right, in the Hughes Brothers' "Dead Presidents."

'Dead Presidents': The Real Story



HEIST, From G1

old twins Albert and Allen, who had announced themselves with "Menace II Society"—bought Merretazon's story and hired him as a consultant when they made "Dead Presidents." He had visited the set, talked to actor Laurence Fishburne, tried to explain who he had been at 22. At the screening, the twins warned Merretazon that the movie was based only loosely on his life. And for 120 minutes, he watched a film that includes scenes as grim and blood-spattered as anything that Hollywood can deliver.

"I was expecting to see something I could recognize and say, 'That's me,'" says Merretazon, 48, from his home in Arkansas. But the tale on the screen wasn't familiar at all. "I never killed anybody," he says. "I never got into violence or anything like that."

The movie depicts horrific sequences of the Vietnam War. But it didn't show how Merretazon got radicalized there, how his decision to rob the truck was born of political rage. It didn't show how he became an inmate leader while serving time at the Lorton Correctional Facility, how he testified before Congress about the problems confronting incarcerated veterans, how President Carter invited him to the White House.

At the end of "Dead Presidents," the main character is headed for prison. "The movie ends," Merretazon says, "where my life begins."



Writer Wallace Terry—whose 1984 book "Bloods" inspired the film—at his leafy Virginia home.

A Book Takes Shape

Just as it took years of struggle for Haywood Kirkland to become Ari Merretazon, it took years for author Wallace Terry to write a book that told Merretazon's tale. "Bloods," Terry's book about the black experience in Vietnam, was finally published to critical acclaim in 1984. More than a decade passed before Merretazon's story made its way on to the big screen. But Hollywood has transformed it so much that the man who lived it doesn't recognize it. Neither does Terry.

The telling of the tale began in 1967, when Time magazine sent Terry, a former Washington Post reporter, to Vietnam. Terry had already written a cover story titled "The Negro Soldier in Vietnam"; now he was returning as a correspondent and gathering material for a book.

Terry, who was breaking ground as the first black war correspondent for the mainstream media, saw the role of blacks in Vietnam as "seminal in American history." Vietnam was America's first fully integrated war, and Terry thought the armed services could present an unprecedented opportunity to advance race relations. Terry saw black soldiers proving their valor but paying a disproportionate price: During the war, the percentage of black combat casualties exceeded African American representation in the armed forces.

Terry had been trained as a Baptist minister and was sometimes called upon to administer last rites. "Then you feel this tremendous pull telling you that this shouldn't be going on," he says. His experiences during the war would define his life.

In 1971, two years after leaving Vietnam, Terry finished his account of the war, pouring all the despair and redemption he had seen into 650 typewritten pages of nonfiction prose. "I thought I had the two most compelling subjects I could have picked . . . a combination of Vietnam and civil rights," says Terry, who lives in Reston. "[But] I had combined the two worst subjects I could have picked and the only thing more unpopular: black men with guns."

Over the next 11 years, publishers rejected Terry's book 120 times. "It was very painful in my house," he says. "My children were saying prayers: 'Please find Daddy a publisher because he's driving us nuts.'"

Finally, in 1982, an editor at Random House suggested that Terry recast the book as an oral history of the war. Terry started over, using tapes he had made in Vietnam and seeking veterans to interview. Meanwhile, he was teaching journalism at Howard University. A student who heard about his work-in-progress told him he should meet her husband. She introduced Terry to Haywood Kirkland, who by then had become Ari Merretazon. He was one of 20 veterans whose stories were told in "Bloods."

Home From the War

Kirkland grew up in D.C., an undistinguished student at Eastern High School but an accomplished pool player. He got drafted in 1966 and spent a year in Vietnam. He was never wounded though he nearly died of malaria.

When he got home, he took a job with the postal service but found that it reminded him too much of the military. He briefly studied computer programming. Classes were useless, he says; they taught him nothing.

"D.C. was on fire from the assassination of Dr.

Martin Luther King," he explains. And Kirkland was burning, too. He had begun a political awakening in Vietnam.

"A lot of black soldiers was talking about race relations," he says. "We would talk about how we were going to go home and fight our own war."

When he returned to the United States, he faced the rude reception that greeted many returning soldiers, both black and white. "Even my own people said, 'You was crazy for going over there in the first place,'" he remembers. "There was no readjustment period for me. I left Vietnam—22 hours later I was back."

At the post office, Kirkland had learned about worn-out money that was brought back from Army bases in Europe to be destroyed. He devised a plan for the robbery. "Our community was totally undeveloped," Merretazon explains. "I thought that with some resources, we could do some of the things that we thought was right to do—set up community medical centers and things of that nature."

In court, defense lawyers tried to portray Kirkland and an accomplice as "friendly bandits" who never really threatened the truck driver. And indeed, Kirkland had already given some of his money away to his neighbors. Still, the judge sentenced him to up to 30 years.

Once in jail, Kirkland became a prisoner's advocate specializing in the problems of incarcerated veterans. A quarter of the Lorton inmates had been in Vietnam. Kirkland took courses at the Antioch School of Law, appealed his conviction and taught others how to work the system. The judge reduced his sentence based on his efforts to help fellow inmates. He got out in 1975 after serving 5½ years.

Merretazon says the name he adopted while in prison means "guardian servant chosen to do the will of the creator" in an ancient Egyptian dialect. Once he was released, he continued to run an organization he had started in prison, the Incarcerated Veterans Assistance Organization, out of the basement of his house on Peabody Street NE. The Veterans Administration soon hired him as a counselor for incarcerated veterans in Little Rock.

Later, he worked as the editor of a black newspaper; he then earned a master's in community economic development from New Hampshire College's graduate school of business. (The school waived undergraduate requirements based on Merretazon's life experiences.) He embarked on a teaching career in Arkansas. But in 1990, his car was hit by an 18-wheeler. He was in a coma for five days, lost his memory for weeks; it ultimately took him nearly three years to recover.

Some might call it a near death experience, but Merretazon says it was a "near God experience." He started the interfaith Developing Times Ministry, training pastors and church leaders in community development. He sells air purification systems on the side.

Merretazon still remains on unsupervised parole. He was reminded of that when he tried to run for the Little Rock school board in 1993. His opponent sent a copy of "Bloods" to reporters and Merretazon learned that he would have to drop out of the race. "In D.C.," he points out, "I could still vote and run for political office."

Hollywood Knocks

As soon as "Bloods" was published to rave reviews, Hollywood started calling Wallace Terry. But Terry wasn't ready to let go. He wanted an epic—a film that would have meaning. "I went to plenty of meetings, but I never sold my material," he says. "I wanted to be part of producing it. I wouldn't give it up."

Finally he settled on a partnership with Quincy

Jones, who had coproduced "The Color Purple." While hoping to see a film version take shape, Terry developed a one-man show that was based on "Bloods" and performed at 250 colleges and museums across the country. He was on the road for six years. Meanwhile, there was no progress on the film. Determined to keep it alive, Terry began to look for another partner.

Then one day the Hughes brothers called. They wanted the rights to "Bloods." After some negotiation, it became clear they were really interested in one chapter: Merretazon's story.

"That was not going to hurt my project," Terry says. "My vision was entirely different from what they were going to do. . . . And since they were going to write me a check larger than anything I had ever seen in my life and it was 10 times larger than the advance I had received for 'Bloods,' it was hallelujah time."

Merretazon was happy, too, when he got the call from Hollywood. "I said, 'Great, man. I can't wait.'"

Now, he and Terry pick their words carefully when asked about their reactions to the film.

"I understood it was Hollywood," Merretazon says. He adds that he was touched that the Hughes brothers named two characters—Curtis and Sarah—for his parents. But did he like the movie? Merretazon doesn't like the question.

"I am not criticizing that movie," he says. "I didn't make the movie. I am not responsible for the movie. So it's all on the Hughes brothers. . . . Of course I would have liked to have a little more to do with the politics of the time, but that's just armchair quarterbacking right now. I want to support them. They are young, enterprising, talented filmmakers. They're 23 years old—you know? . . . They did a good job. The movie's successful, making money, and I'm proud of them."

Terry also is guarded. "They made it clear to me that they were going to tell their own story," he says. "It's definitely a Hughes brothers movie. It's not my vision. When I do my story, it will emphasize the leadership and heroism of black soldiers, which has been missing."

That story hasn't been told in any of the Vietnam movies Terry has seen. He was particularly upset with "Platoon" because he had spent time with the division portrayed in the film, which included the first two black officers ever awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Both received the honor posthumously. "You didn't see any evidence of that," he says. "The black guys in that movie are cowards, they're inept and they're drug users."

Terry also points out that the Hughes brothers are young filmmakers, "more visual artists than internal artists. . . . You don't see the character change. You see action."

The Hughes brothers did not respond to repeated calls from The Washington Post.

Terry chooses to regard "Dead Presidents" as a preamble to his movie, and says that comedian Sinbad is interested in helping him bring his epic vision of "Bloods" to the screen.

Merretazon says he, too, is hoping for a sequel that will tell the rest of his story.

"God carried me through some real troubling times to get me to where I am now," Merretazon says. "I learned something from the war and I learned something from prison. There's a real life-redemption value to my story. . . . I think they achieved their goals, but the true story of 'Bloods' and Vietnam veterans still should be told in our cinematic way."

6-1-89

To Whom it
Misty Concern:

Enclosed is a copy of my
final project presentation submitted
to my Advisor Chuck Turner.

Please file in appropriate
place for review by other students
who may want to know about
the Delta-CEC Studies Program.

Thanks,

ARI

ARI

ARI Morreben
Class of '89



DELTA
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STUDIES PROGRAM

P.O. BOX 164100, Little Rock, Arkansas 72216
(501) 375-3150

Ari S. Merretazon
Director

May 28, 1989

Chuck Turner
Center For Community Action
149 Roxbury St.
Roxbury, MA. 02119

Dear Chuck:

This is in answer to your letter of February 7, 1989. Your outline of this date has been my guide in planning and working the plan. The following information reflects the work I' doing in the field and addresses your questions. Thanks for the opportunity to remove the incomplete grade and receive a passing grade.

1. Designing an advisory board:

The advisory board, hereinafter referred to as the faculty, is coming along real well. As of 5/17/89 the following members and what they can or will contribute to the program:

Dr. John Fluker, director, Economic Research & Development Center, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff: He as committed his working assistance as liaison between the program and higher educational institutions. He his very active in this respect and has confirmed his commitment to the program by developing county profiles of the region and getting UAPB to accept the program's course aa Continuing Education Units under the Continuing Education Divison of the school. He is also instrumental in arranging the umbrella sponsorship with the Delta Community Development Corporation until we acquire our 501 (C) 3 status.

Dr. Michael Bennett, vice president, Southshore Bank, Chicago, Ill. : He is very interested in working in the Delta as the southernmost counties of Illinois is in the Delta region. He is working as the program's resource director. He is, even as we speak using his contacts in the financial and philanthropic sectors to develop full program funding. He visits Arkansas regular through the business relation of Southshore and the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation.

Freeman Mckindra, program officer, Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, Little Rock, Ar.: He has been, and, is invaluable, in assisting in understanding the actors in the field of development in the region. He is my "who's Who "

resource in Arkansas. He has provided me with administrative assistance and is providing the use of his "good offices" to assist us in receiving a development grant for our pilot course.

Bob Nash, president, Arkansas Development Finance Authority. He has served eight years as the chief economic Advisor to the Governor of Arkansas. He is thoroughly familiar with all economic development initiatives of the State. He has a strong commitment to CED in the area of Development Finance. He is the Governor's alternate on the Lower Mississippi River Delta Commission.

Calvin King, director, Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corp. He is the lead person in the State with efforts to save land and farms of African-American owners. He used me as consultant to write his annual report. He operates a demonstration farm on about 35 acres of land to show small farmers how to diversify their crops. He has long standing in the Delta counties. He has offered the program office space at his headquarters in Brinkley, Ar. He will provide political help.

B.J., McCoy, attorney, president of Arkansas Minority Contractors. He is an advocate of "minority capitalism", he has experience as a trainer in organizational development.

Clarence Wright, executive director, Mississippi Delta Save The Children Project. He is a key activist in the politics in the Delta and well respected.

Clevon Young, program coordinator, Arkansas Human Development Corp. He is involved with developing youth enterprises and public policy and has worked with the Rockefeller Foundation.

LT Simes, attorney, civil rights, politician. He is a candidate for state representative for the Delta counties. He owns a radio station and has offered assistance with getting the word out about the program. His station covers the Delta counties.

Michael Jackson, aide, U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers. His expertise is in the field of community relations. Very knowledgeable on state and federal resources. Senator Bumpers was one of the sponsors of the legislation establishing the Delta Commission.

Dr. Haywood Horton, demographer, University of Central Arkansas. A consultant for the Urban League of Arkansas for their annual report called "The State of Black Arkansas" Will help with analysing the demographics of the Delta.

Mary McGee, associate researcher, University of Arkansas at Little Rock. A contributor to the Urban League's "State of Black Arkansas. Have written and published regular research papers on the African-American Community in Arkansas in respect economic status.

Dr. Andrea Howard, sociology professor, UAPB. Has done a lot of work in impoverished communities regarding teenage pregnancies. She is part of a strong social service network in the state.

Earl Antheas, rural community organizer. Execellant resource person with strong creditability as an organizer and trainer.

Don Livingston, certified public account. His primary interest is instructing a course in non-profit accounting.

Mark Talley, program developer and researcher, UAPB/ERDC. He has experience in developing CDCs and business analysis.

Judith Faust, director of Non-profit Resources. She is a trainer in non-profit resources, management and development.

Charles Stewart, vice president, community and customer relations, First Commercaill Bank; president of Black Bankers Association. He will help with networking in the financial community and course on Banking and Finance.

Julia Vindasius, manager Good Faith Fund. Very interested in teaching a course on micr-enterprise development. She currently manages such a program for the Souhshore Bank's Good Faith Fund in Arkansas.

2. Choosing a Sponsor

I have acquired the sponsorship of the Delta Community Development Corporation. It is a newly established CDC. Dr. Fluker is a member of the Board and was instrumental in arranging the sponsorship. It is based in one of the poorest counties in the Delta. The DCDC will provide an umbrella for the program (approximately one year) until we receive our tax-exempt status.

The advantage of this organization is that it is newly formed and need programs it can sponsor to help establish its creditability. Secondly, there is an interlocking of boards between DCDC and our program: Fluker, King and Simes are board membes of the CDC. Thirdly, this organization has a similar purpose as our program; i.e., the development of the Delta region through community participation by local residents. (See sample memorandum of understanding).

Choosing a Sponsor (continued)

Additionally, the Continuing Education Division of UAPB has agreed to provide classroom space for the program and grant Continuing Education Units to students completing the program. (See letter attached)

UAPB was selected as the Higher Education Institution where the courses will be taught because of the strong relationship of the institutions work in the Delta; it's an historical black college, and, the head of the Continuing Education Division is Dr. Fluker's wife. Both of them want to see the program develop into a success.

3. Design syllabus for your initial course, an Introduction to CED.

Please see the Program and Course Description of the Delta Community Economic Development Studies Program enclosed with this memo.

4. Recruiting of Students

The target population are small town mayors, community activists, employees of city and state government working in the field of development, employees working with community service and social service organizations. We will attempt to balance the initial class of 25 students between white and African-American residents of the Delta, with an additional balance of men and women.

The outreach strategy to interest them in the class will include: direct contact and referrals from board members; presentation before groups interested in development; radio, television and newspapers. A direct mail brochure of the program will also be developed. I'm very confident that this strategy will work because it is a targeted strategy with emphasis on direct recruiting by board members and recommendations by groups already working in development.

5. EVALUATING THE RESULTS

Evaluations will be conducted at the end of each class and at the end of each course by students. Board members will evaluate the program on a monthly basis orally during regular meetings of the board and in writing during midterm and at the end of the course period. Evaluation forms to be used by students and faculty will be developed and forwarded to you.

Finally, I am still out of employment but it won't be long before the program is fully funded. I have enclosed a grant proposal for development money to meet the timeframe for starting our first class. There will be a CED-Studies Program in the Delta Region --- I assure you.

Thanks for your motivation and guidance.

MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

To: Delta Community Development Corporation (DCDC)

Fr: Ari S. Merretazon, Director, Delta Community Economic
Development Studies Program (DCED-Studies)

Re: Temporary Sponsorship of the Delta Community
Economic Development Studies Program

PARTIES:

This understanding is between Ari S. Merretazon, representing DCED-Studies, herein after referred to as Merretazon; and the Delta Community Development Corporation, herein after referred to as DCED.

UNDERSTANDING:

1. DCDC will sponsor the DCED-Studies Program under its non-profit 501 C 3 tax-exempt status for one year or until the DCED-Studies receive its tax-exempt status, whichever comes first.
2. DCED-Studies will compensate DCDC for administrative costs, the amount to be determined, after DCED-Studies receive grant funds.
3. DCDC will provide office space and secretarial services for DCED-Studies.
4. DCED-Studies will compensate DCDC for office space, utilities, and secretarial services, the amount to be determined, after it receives grant funds.
5. This understanding is for one year, after which, the parties agree to work together in their respective areas to improve the quality of life in the Delta.

SIGNATURES:

For DCED-Studies:

Ari S. Merretazon

For DCDC:

Calvin King

DATE

DATE



DELTA
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STUDIES PROGRAM

Ari S. Merretazon
Director

May 23, 1989

Freeman McKindra
Senior Program Officer
Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation
308 East Eighth Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202-3999

Dear Mr. McKindra:

With this cover letter is our proposal for a development grant under the Community Incentive Program (CIP) sponsored by the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation.

We are requesting a CIP grant in the amount of \$10,000 to help in developing our Community Economic Development Studies Program. The requested funds will be used for general operating support for the development of our course of training scheduled for September, 1989.

The DCED-Studies Program serves the disadvantage population of the Lower Mississippi River Delta, commonly called the Delta, which includes all seventy-five (75) counties of Arkansas. Our program is not a previous grantee of the Foundation.

If you have any questions regarding our grant request and/or the content of our proposal, I will be more than happy to visit with you in person or by telephone.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully,


Ari S. Merretazon
Director

cc: Dr. Michael Bennett
Dr. John Fluker

PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT GRANT

COMMUNITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

WINTHROP ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

SUBMITTED BY

DELTA COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STUDIES PROGRAM

ARI S. MERRETAZON
DIRECTOR

DR. MICHAEL BENNETT
RESOURCE DIRECTOR

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

Title: Delta Community Economic Development Studies Program

The purpose of the Delta Community Economic Development Studies (DCED Studies Program) is to help prepare residents of the Lower Mississippi River Valley Delta Region to participate in the development of their local communities; To serve as a regional community and economic capacity-building institution.

Additionally, the purpose of the DCED Studies Program is to create a credentialized corps of technically skilled, socially aware residents trained in the field of community economic development, and serve as a technical support center for its graduates, local community organizations, agencies and development practitioners in the region.

Problem: The Economic Health of the Lower Mississippi River Delta

The Lower Mississippi River Valley consists of the States of Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi, and also includes the counties of Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee that surrounds the Mississippi River. Commonly known as the Delta, this area, despite significant industrial and commercial development, is mired in abject poverty with the lowest disposable per capita income, highest unemployment rates, highest infant mortality and morbidity, and the lowest in almost every educational statistic, in comparison with other areas of the nation. The county profiles (attachment #1) verify this comparison. Examples of this poverty are:

INCOME: The region has the lowest disposable per capita income. Mississippi and Arkansas rank first and second in percentage of households with annual incomes below \$15,000.

UNEMPLOYMENT: The region has the highest percentage of unemployed youth in the nation. In some counties of the region unemployment is above 35 percent.

¹The Economic Health of the Lower Mississippi River Valley, by Jan E. Christopher, Congressional Research Service.

Program Narrative
Continued Page 2

EDUCATION: The region ranks lowest in almost every educational statistic. Since the 1900's the states in the region have ranked in the bottom ten.

HEALTH: The states in the region ranked in the lowest one-fifth of all states in infant mortality rates. Arkansas and Mississippi have the dubious distinction of ranking one and two in teen pregnancy rates. Several counties in the region are considered health manpower shortage areas; Phillips County, Arkansas, for example, is the most serious case with just one physician for every 5,000 residents.

The economic stagnation in the region has gone on an unconscionable length of time. An effort must be made to find and demonstrate local and regional solutions.

Research indicates that new approaches are needed to address the social and economic problems of the region. these well documented problems reflect, in the main, an absence of local and regional capacity-building institutions which help strengthen local economies, self-reliance, and produce more local ownership and control of community resources. the most critical need for realizing the human capital potential of the Delta is the availability of capacity building institutions on the community level providing comprehensive technical assistance and "hands-on training" to local residents, organizations and communities, and linking them to regional support systems. The DCED Studies Program is a capacity building strategy for helping local residents to address economic problems of the region.

Program Design: The Community Economic Development Studies Model

The starting premise for the DCED Studies Program is: Communities that are poor and underdeveloped remain in that condition because local residents lack control and/or ownership of the means of production, i.e., land, labor and capital. However, other factors of underdevelopment in poverty communities include capital market imperfections, dependent social-economic behavior (welfare), lack of confidence to engage in community economic development, and a lack of social equity in the development process locally and regionally.

Community Economic Development is a scientific and "hands-on" course of action directed at reducing welfare dependency; building confidence and capacity to engage in local and regional development; correcting market imperfections and encouraging and supporting self-reliance. Models for this type of capacity-building can be found in the "hands-on" approach of cooperative extension services of land grant colleges. While extension services have its roots in agriculture development, CED-Studies focus on total community and regional development. There are currently two credential giving CED-Studies programs in the United States.

In the Bay region of California, there is the CED-Studies Program at National University, in Oakland, directed by the National Economic Development and Law Center. It offers a Continuing Education Certificate for a 12 month course. In the New England region, there is the National Community Economic Development Program at New Hampshire College, in Manchester, directed by the Institute for Cooperative Community Development, offering a Masters degree for a 17-month (one week-end a month) course.

The DCED program is patterned after these two models and adapted to the rural and social and economic conditions of the Delta region and its people. Our program is targeted to working adults in the fields of development, health and human services, and to community-based organizations who want to be or are involved with the planned development of their communities, and/or residents who want to obtain an education as a career support for their experience in development. Residents throughout the Delta region will be eligible to apply and enrolled in the DCED-Studies Program.

A trained corps of skilled residents working in their local communities on CED projects will be the primary result. In turn, these graduates will become recruiters for the program and will participate on a board of advisors. In turn, this will create a community economic

Program Narrative
Continued Page 4

development network of practitioners in the region supported by technical assistance from the program faculty and resource people.

CED-Studies is focused on developing "human capital," and seeks to revitalize and develop the economy and communities of low and moderate citizens of the Delta. It utilizes classroom theory matched heavily with "hands-on" practice with local economic and community initiatives. CED-Studies start in the classroom with basic courses that gives local residents quality data about community economic development; legal structures; organizational management; financing community projects; marketing strategies; enterprise development. It requires residents/students to be engaged in "hands-on" work with a economic or community development project in their local communities. Specific skills that students will learn from each course is outlined in the Learning Units for the DCED-Studies Program. (See Attachment #2)

The DCED-Studies Program has four major components: Education and Training; Technical Assistance; Development Finance; and Networking:

1. Education and Training

This component encompasses the provision of basic skills theory, managerial expertise, planning skills, analyses, public relations marketing, organizing communities, service delivery, organizational development and legal structures. It awards a Continuing Education Certificate in CED-Studies substantial enough to initiate and sustain the development process. This structure serves to reinforce what students learn in class and allow students to put what they are learning immediately into practice. The curriculum is primarily "hands-on" balanced with classroom theory and course work and regular specialized seminars. Over the next seven years the Program will demonstrate its worth and demand by progressing into a degree granting program in conjunction with a higher education institution in the region.

2. Technical Assistance

This component involves the provision of support training services directly to student projects on an ongoing basis from planning, through start-up, to self-sufficiency. In addition to the direct provision of

Program Narrative

Continued Page 5

technical assistance, the program will broker assistance from other organizations for students. Services include: (a) information and research services, (b) direct assistance in business planning and development, and (c) community education, training and organizing assistance.

3. Development Finance

This component deals with helping community-based ventures meet financial needs in two ways: (a) helping projects access traditional financing by providing technical assistance and brokering the relationship between the project and the financial institution, and (b) researching, proposing and helping organize new financial intermediaries specially geared to the needs of community-based enterprises (businesses owned and operated by a local or regional community development corporation).

4. Networking

This component encompasses building regional and local mutual support systems among development efforts to strengthen their ability to survive and grow in the face of regional problems. The component works to build closer working relationships between community groups and the private and public sectors.

The DCED-Studies Program will instruct its courses as part of the Continuing Education Program at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, and is sponsored as a program of the Delta Community Development Corporation. (See Attachment #3) It will be a six-month course. The course of study will grant a Continuing Education Certificate in Community Economic Development. Classes will start in September 1989 with the final course in February 1990, and graduation in April. Classes will be once a week for two hours. The last week in each month during the course will be specialized training and/or a field trip to a model economic development project. Each student must work on an actual economic or community development project monitored by a faculty advisor.

The course will accommodate 20-25 students from the Delta region each program period. Approximately fifty (50) students will graduate from the program each year and continue working on their local community economic development projects with back-up support from the program. Students will evaluate the program and instructors

Program Narrative
Continued Page 6

on a weekly basis. Faculty will evaluate the program monthly. The number of people benefiting from the program is multiplied by the number of people participating in local projects initiated or worked on by the program's students. Another multiplier is the number of residents requesting technical assistance from the project and the number of people who will benefit from the program's assistance. While it is too early to determine the actual number of people who will benefit, it is reasonable to say, taking in the various multipliers, the program will benefit thousands of Delta residents over a five-year program period, and hundreds in the first year of operation.

Efforts will be made with the two CED-Studies programs mentioned above to network with their funding sources and development experts. Michael Swack, director, CED-Studies, New Hampshire College, and, Mtangulizi Sanyika, director, CED-Studies, National University, have given a commitment to visit the DCED-Studies Program to help with its evaluation and development.

The workplan with timetables for the achievement of the program's goal and objectives is outlined in attachment #4. The budget for the DCED-Studies Program is outlined in attachment #5.

Delta Region States and Counties: Statistics

To provide an overview of the key indicators that show depressed economic conditions in this region, appendix B lists the three Delta States, and the counties of the States partially bordering the Mississippi River. Per capita personal income and unemployment rates are given for the counties of the three major Delta States, and the counties of the contiguous Delta States.

DELTA STATES

TABLE 1. Arkansas, Per Capita Personal Income, and Selected Unemployment Rates

County Title	Per Capita Personal Income	Per Capita Income in 1984, Percent Below National Level <u>a/</u>	January 1985 Unemployment Rate	November 1987 Unemployment Rate
Arkansas	\$10,685	16.34%	11.9%	6.2%
Ashley	\$8,766	31.37%	10.9%	7.4%
Baxter	\$10,651	16.61%	12.4%	7.3%
Benton	\$11,313	11.42%	7.0%	3.6%
Boone	\$9,649	24.45%	8.0%	5.8%
Bradley	\$8,447	33.86%	11.6%	12.1%
Calhoun	\$7,328	42.62%	9.1%	4.8%
Carroll	\$9,772	23.49%	14.4%	5.6%
Chicot	\$6,730	47.31%	17.8%	12.8%
Clark	\$8,839	30.79%	11.0%	11.1%
Clay	\$8,497	33.47%	17.6%	9.7%
Cleburne	\$9,092	28.81%	12.3%	6.6%
Cleveland	\$8,147	36.21%	13.2%	12.9%
Columbia	\$9,984	21.83%	8.6%	7.7%
Conway	\$9,154	28.33%	22.6%	8.2%
Craighead	\$9,796	23.30%	9.4%	5.1%
Crawford	\$8,185	35.91%	10.5%	7.5%
Crittenden	\$8,430	34.00%	16.1%	9.2%
Cross	\$7,909	38.08%	13.2%	11.4%
Dallas	\$8,295	35.05%	12.9%	10.6%
Desha	\$7,940	37.83%	9.7%	19.4%
Drew	\$7,594	40.54%	9.8%	12.2%
✓Faulkner	\$10,000	21.70%	9.2%	9.1%
Franklin	\$8,589	32.75%	9.1%	10.5%
Fulton	\$5,903	53.78%	9.4%	14.4%

(continued)

a/ National per capita personal income in 1984 was \$12,772. Percent Below the National Level gives the percentage difference between the county per capita personal income and 1984 personal income levels of the United States. (A negative figure indicates county income was above National.)

TABLE 1. Arkansas, Per Capita Personal Income, and Selected Unemployment Rates -- continued

County Title	Per Capita Personal Income	Per Capita Income in 1984, Percent Below National Level <u>a/</u>	January 1985 Unemployment Rate	November 1987 Unemployment Rate
Garland	\$10,756	15.78%	9.6%	11.0%
Grant	\$9,240	27.65%	8.0%	10.2%
Greene	\$8,730	31.65%	10.3%	13.2%
Hempstead	\$9,132	28.50%	6.1%	8.5%
Hot Spring	\$9,465	25.89%	13.4%	14.7%
Howard	\$11,698	8.41%	6.6%	7.3%
Independence	\$9,228	27.75%	8.1%	10.5%
Izard	\$8,725	31.69%	6.6%	9.8%
Jackson	\$8,296	35.05%	13.6%	22.8%
Jefferson	\$9,550	25.23%	8.2%	10.9%
Johnson	\$8,498	33.46%	10.5%	11.0%
Lafayette	\$8,209	35.73%	9.6%	8.0%
Lawrence	\$8,828	30.88%	10.5%	13.2%
Lee	\$6,452	49.48%	15.7%	21.0%
Lincoln	\$6,834	46.49%	8.5%	20.3%
Little River	\$8,655	32.23%	9.2%	10.6%
Logan	\$8,146	36.22%	9.5%	12.2%
Lonokey	\$9,222	27.80%	7.0%	7.8%
Madison	\$8,400	34.23%	7.3%	14.0%
Marion	\$7,991	37.43%	5.2%	11.2%
Miller	\$9,301	27.18%	7.8%	8.6%
Mississippi	\$8,957	29.87%	11.7%	19.3%
Monroe	\$7,279	43.01%	11.2%	18.6%
Montgomery	\$7,962	37.66%	8.6%	15.9%
Nevada	\$8,475	33.64%	8.2%	8.5%
Newton	\$5,937	53.52%	8.5%	15.1%
Ouachita	\$9,226	27.76%	10.8%	8.9%
Perry	\$7,530	41.04%	13.9%	9.8%
Phillips	\$6,940	45.66%	20.0%	17.6%
Pike	\$8,555	33.02%	16.4%	9.1%
Poinsett	\$8,188	35.89%	16.3%	8.7%
Polk	\$7,924	37.96%	14.2%	6.4%
Pope	\$9,164	28.25%	8.4%	5.9%
Prairie	\$8,373	34.44%	13.1%	9.3%
Pulaski	\$12,630	1.11%	6.6%	6.2%
Randolph	\$7,488	41.37%	13.1%	9.9%
Saline	\$9,987	21.81%	9.9%	6.8%
Scott	\$8,649	32.28%	7.6%	4.0%

(continued)

a/ National per capita personal income in 1984 was \$12,772. Percent Below the National Level gives the percentage difference between the county per capita personal income and 1984 personal income levels of the United States. (A negative figure indicates county income was above National.)

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TABLE 1. Arkansas, Per Capita Personal Income, and Selected Unemployment Rates -- continued

County Title	Per Capita Personal Income	Per Capita Income in 1984, Percent Below National Level <u>a/</u>	January 1985 Unemploy- ment Rate	November 1987 Unemploy- ment Rate
Searcy	\$5,946	53.45%	15.1%	9.5%
Sebastian	\$11,190	12.39%	7.6%	6.1%
Sevier	\$9,180	28.12%	10.2%	6.8%
Sharp	\$7,948	37.77%	11.8%	7.6%
Stone	\$6,655	47.89%	16.7%	9.8%
St. Francis	\$7,874	38.35%	23.1%	19.5%
Union	\$11,767	7.87%	9.8%	8.0%
Van Buren	\$7,313	42.74%	15.8%	8.6%
Washington	\$10,085	21.04%	5.8%	3.9%
White	\$8,699	31.89%	14.0%	10.8%
Woodruff	\$8,884	30.44%	15.2%	18.0%
Yell	\$8,692	31.94%	7.7%	5.3%
Total, Arkansas	\$9,734	23.79%	10.6%	7.7%

a/ National per capita personal income in 1984 was \$12,772. Percent Below the National Level gives the percentage difference between the county per capita personal income and 1984 personal income levels of the United States. (A negative figure indicates county income was above National.)

CRS-8

TABLE 2. Louisiana, Per Capita Personal Income, and Selected Unemployment Rates

County Title	Per Capita Personal Income	Per Capita Income in 1984, Percent Below National Level <u>a/</u>	January 1985 Unemployment Rate	November 1987 Unemployment Rate
Acadia	\$8,807	31.04%	12.3%	13.8%
Allen	\$7,029	44.97%	15.5%	12.2%
Ascension	\$10,751	15.82%	16.1%	11.7%
Assumption	\$8,444	33.89%	23.8%	22.8%
Avoyelles	\$6,716	47.42%	18.1%	15.5%
Beauregard	\$8,104	36.55%	13.1%	10.4%
Bienville	\$8,992	29.60%	11.7%	10.4%
Bossier	\$10,324	19.17%	10.2%	10.1%
Caddo	\$12,053	5.63%	7.8%	10.1%
Calcasieu	\$10,794	15.49%	15.9%	12.1%
Caldwell	\$7,238	43.33%	12.7%	12.9%
Cameron	\$10,155	20.49%	8.5%	10.1%
Catahoula	\$7,211	43.54%	19.6%	17.7%
Claiborne	\$9,324	27.00%	8.8%	10.0%
Concordia	\$9,050	29.14%	16.8%	12.4%
DeSoto	\$9,004	29.50%	9.4%	10.3%
East Baton Rouge	\$12,580	1.50%	7.3%	7.7%
East Carroll	\$7,329	42.62%	23.2%	14.1%
East Feliciana	\$8,250	35.41%	11.3%	10.2%
Evangeline	\$7,373	42.27%	14.4%	12.4%
Franklin	\$6,792	46.82%	19.0%	14.5%
Grant	\$7,108	44.35%	12.5%	11.6%
Iberia	\$11,088	13.19%	14.5%	15.1%
Iberville	\$9,505	25.58%	16.7%	15.4%
Jackson	\$9,102	28.73%	9.1%	8.1%
Jefferson	\$13,153	-2.98%	8.9%	8.5%
Jefferson Davis	\$8,011	37.28%	13.6%	13.8%
Lafayette	\$13,853	-8.46%	7.5%	10.0%
Lafourche	\$10,376	18.76%	11.8%	12.4%
LaSalle	\$7,454	41.64%	9.1%	9.8%
Lincoln	\$9,162	28.26%	5.8%	5.3%
Livingston	\$9,100	28.75%	15.8%	13.2%
Madison	\$5,878	53.98%	16.3%	15.9%
Morehouse	\$7,988	37.46%	14.8%	13.4%
Natchitoches	\$7,838	38.63%	10.9%	9.1%
Orleans	\$11,846	7.25%	11.1%	9.5%
Ouachita	\$9,806	23.22%	9.7%	9.2%
Plaquemines	\$10,438	18.27%	10.7%	12.1%
Pointe Coupee	\$9,300	27.18%	18.1%	15.6%

(continued)

a/ National per capita personal income in 1984 was \$12,772. Percent Below the National Level gives the percentage difference between the county per capita personal income and 1984 personal income levels of the United States. (A negative figure indicates county income was above National.)

CRS-9

TABLE 2. Louisiana, Per Capita Personal Income, and Selected Unemployment Rates -- continued

County Title	Per Capita Personal Income	Per Capita Income in 1984, Percent Below National Level <u>a/</u>	January 1985 Unemployment Rate	November 1987 Unemployment Rate
Rapides	\$9,005	29.49%	10.2%	8.9%
Red River	\$7,350	42.45%	10.1%	10.5%
Richland	\$8,367	34.49%	16.4%	13.9%
Sabine	\$6,214	51.35%	9.1%	8.7%
St. Bernard	\$11,416	10.62%	14.2%	11.3%
St. Charles	\$12,371	3.14%	12.0%	10.2%
St. Helena	\$6,942	45.65%	12.7%	11.7%
St. James	\$10,889	14.74%	18.4%	15.3%
St. John	\$11,112	13.00%	13.8%	10.5%
St. Landry	\$7,999	37.37%	17.7%	15.6%
St. Martin	\$8,272	35.23%	12.5%	11.9%
St. Mary	\$11,120	12.93%	14.0%	17.3%
St. Tammany	\$12,813	-0.32%	10.1%	9.1%
Tangipahoa	\$7,747	39.34%	15.7%	12.5%
Tensas	\$8,535	33.17%	12.1%	12.1%
Terrebonne	\$10,580	17.16%	11.5%	12.2%
Union	\$8,687	31.98%	12.8%	11.4%
Vermillion	\$9,840	22.96%	13.8%	15.7%
Vernon	\$7,521	41.11%	9.4%	8.6%
Washington	\$8,158	36.13%	13.9%	11.1%
Webster	\$9,662	24.35%	11.5%	12.5%
West Baton Rouge	\$10,251	19.74%	12.3%	11.7%
West Carroll	\$6,597	48.35%	22.4%	18.8%
West Feliciana	\$6,844	46.41%	9.1%	7.9%
Winn	\$7,165	43.90%	9.8%	8.5%
Total, Louisiana	\$10,741	15.9%	11.2%	10.5%

a/ National per capita personal income in 1984 was \$12,772. Percent Below the National Level gives the percentage difference between the county per capita personal income and 1984 personal income levels of the United States. (A negative figure indicates county income was above National.)

TABLE 3. Mississippi, Per Capita Personal Income, and Selected Unemployment Rates

County Title	Per Capita Personal Income	Per Capita Income in 1984 Percent Below National Level <u>a/</u>	January 1985 Unemployment Rate	November 1987 Unemployment Rate
Adams	\$9,915	22.37%	13.2%	11.7%
Alcorn	\$9,024	29.35%	18.5%	13.9%
Amite	\$7,371	42.29%	11.2%	12.4%
Attala	\$7,057	44.75%	17.4%	11.5%
Benton	\$6,835	46.48%	14.5%	11.5%
Bolivar	\$6,875	46.17%	14.1%	11.7%
Calhoun	\$7,052	44.79%	13.5%	7.1%
Carroll	\$6,785	46.88%	9.9%	9.3%
Chickasaw	\$7,954	37.72%	9.7%	8.4%
Choctaw	\$7,294	42.89%	19.3%	12.1%
Claiborne	\$5,974	53.23%	14.4%	11.7%
Clarke	\$8,078	36.75%	11.6%	9.8%
Clay	\$7,846	38.57%	8.7%	7.4%
Coahoma	\$7,653	40.08%	17.1%	11.8%
Copiah	\$7,620	40.34%	10.7%	12.2%
Covington	\$7,743	39.38%	15.9%	10.8%
DeSoto	\$10,147	20.55%	7.4%	6.5%
Forrest	\$9,156	28.31%	9.2%	7.7%
Franklin	\$7,478	41.45%	11.8%	13.3%
George	\$7,627	40.28%	25.4%	19.1%
Greene	\$5,955	53.37%	28.6%	17.8%
Grenada	\$9,005	29.49%	14.3%	8.6%
Hancock	\$8,374	34.43%	8.4%	8.9%
Harrison	\$9,148	28.37%	8.7%	9.1%
Hinds	\$11,608	9.11%	7.1%	6.6%
Holmes	\$5,780	54.74%	23.4%	15.2%
Humphreys	\$6,666	47.81%	17.6%	14.2%
Issaquena	\$7,102	44.39%	9.3%	16.9%
Itawamba	\$8,243	35.46%	12.2%	6.5%
Jackson	\$9,154	28.33%	12.4%	12.4%
Jasper	\$7,627	40.28%	14.4%	14.1%
Jefferson	\$7,884	38.27%	17.4%	17.2%
Jefferson Davis	\$6,725	47.35%	12.2%	12.6%
Jones	\$9,405	26.36%	9.0%	9.7%
Kemper	\$5,972	53.24%	23.9%	14.8%
Lafayette	\$7,226	43.42%	9.1%	3.8%
Lamar	\$7,715	39.59%	6.6%	6.5%
Lauderdale	\$10,174	20.34%	8.4%	8.5%
Lawrence	\$6,684	47.67%	11.2%	10.4%
Leake	\$8,181	35.95%	12.4%	8.6%
Lee	\$10,239	19.83%	9.0%	7.2%

(continued)

a/ National per capita personal income in 1984 was \$12,772. Percent Below the National Level gives the percentage difference between the county per capita personal income and 1984 personal income levels of the United States. (A negative figure indicates county income was above National.)

TABLE 2. Families and Persons Below Poverty Level, 1970 and 1980

	Families		Persons	
	1970	1980	1970	1980
United States	10.7%	9.6%	13.7%	12.4%
<u>Delta States</u>				
Arkansas	22.8%	14.9%	27.8%	19.0%
Louisiana	21.5%	15.1%	26.3%	18.6%
Mississippi	28.9%	18.7%	35.4%	23.9%

Source: 1) U.S. Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. Poverty Status in 1969 of Families and Persons for Regions, Divisions, and States: 1970. Table 182. Characteristics of the Population. United States Summary. p. 545-548. 2) U.S. Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. Poverty Status in 1979 and 1969 of Families and Persons by Race: 1980 and 1970. Tables 97 and 245. General Social and Economic Characteristics. United States Summary. p. 63-66, 345-350.

The States in the Delta region have a higher percentage of families and persons below the poverty level as compared with national norms. Mississippi has the most families in poverty; 28.9 percent in 1970 and 18.7 percent in 1980. All Delta States have experienced a decline in poverty.

The state of Mississippi had the highest percentage of persons in poverty, with 35.4 percent in 1970, and 23.9 percent in 1980. The states of the Lower Mississippi River Valley region have a higher percentage of families, households and individuals in poverty than any other section of the United States despite major efforts to alleviate poverty.

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT PINE BLUFF
PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS 71601

May 15, 1989

Mr. Ari Merretazon
P.O. Box 164100
Little Rock, AR 72216

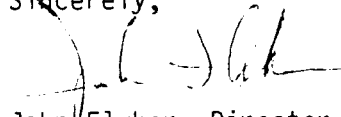
Dear Ari:

This is just a note in response to our telephone conversation last week. I have confirmed the support of UAPB's Continuing Education Division with respect to our leadership training project. They will award CEU's upon completion of the course. The Delta Community Development Corporation has agreed to cooperate with us in implementing this project.

At this point we should complete the proposal and submit it to Mr. McKindra for review. We need to submit rather quickly if we are looking for funding from WRF in order to implement the demonstration by September. You may possibly include some salary for your's and Michael's course preparation time (see Freeman about this).

Let me know if you need more from me.

Sincerely,



John Fluker, Director
Economic Research and Development Center

JF/rj

5.17

Development Work Plan
Delta Community Economic Development Studies Program

This development work plan covers the period of June-September, 1989 and consist of work to be done by Ari S. Merretazon, director and Dr. Michael Bennett, resource director:

<u>June</u>	<u>Work To Be Done</u>	<u>Who</u>
	Write agreement for instructors to include classroom responsibilities and course assignments.	Merretazon
	Identify and confirm instructors for the program.	Merretazon
	Write policies and procedures for faculty participation.	Merretazon
	Identify sources of financial support for full funding of the program and draft profiles of giving by each source.	Bennett
<u>July</u>		
	Develop course materials for each course.	Merretazon
	Market the program using direct contact with organizations, agencies and development practitioners.	Merretazon & Bennett
	Submit proposals for funding to applicable foundations, corporations, etc.	Bennett
	Draft enrollment requirements and application for students.	Merretazon
	Recruit students for first class.	Merretazon
<u>August</u>		
	Recruit students	Merretazon
	Develop program brochure for recruitment and marketing.	Merretazon & Bennett
<u>September</u>		
	Register first class of students and start first class.	Merretazon & Faculty

DEVELOPMENT BUDGET
Delta Community Economic Development Studies Program

Program Director	\$2,000
Resource Director	\$1,000
Course Materials	\$2,100
Instructors' Fees	\$2,200
Travel	\$1,550
Telephone	\$ 800
Postage	\$ 350

Total Development Budget	\$10,000

In Kind Contributions:

The Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation is providing office space, computer and secretarial services at its headquarters in Fargo, Arkansas.

The Continuing Education Division of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff is providing classroom space for the instruction of the course.

DELTA COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STUDIES PROGRAM

Faculty Board as of 5/17/89

Dr. John Fluker, Director
Economic Research & Development Center
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Ar.

Michael Bennett, Vice President
Southshore Bank
Chicago , Ill.

Bob Nash, President
Arkansas Development Finance Authority
Little Rock, Ar.

Freeman McKindra, Senior Program Officer
Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation
Little Rock, Ar.

Calvin King, Director
Arkansas Land and Farm
Development Corporation
Fargo, Ar.

B.J. McCoy, Attorney
Arkansas Minority Contractors
Little Rock, Ar.

Clarence Wright, Director
Save The Children
Forrest City, Ar.

Clevon Young, Program Developer
Arkansas Human Development Corporation
Little rock, Ar.

L.T. Simes, Attorney
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Michael Jackson, Aide
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Dr. Haywood Horton, Demographer
University of Central Arkansas
Coway, Ar.

Dr. Andrea Stewart
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
Pine Bluff, Ar.

Mary McGee, Associate Researcher
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Little Rock, Ar.

Mark Talley, Economic Developer
U.of A. at Pine Bluff
Pine Bluff, Ar.

Julia Vindasius, Manager
Good Faith Fund
Pine Bluff, Ar.

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