



## IBOC Youth Oratorical Competition

Page 10



## Farrakhan Stresses Unity In Final Address

Page 4



## Whitaker And Hudson Pick Up Oscars

Page 7

A Division of



# The Gazette

Volume XVI, Number VIII

March 01 - March 07, 2007

Fifty Cents

SERVING PLANO, DALLAS, RICHARDSON, GARLAND, IRVING, MCKINNEY, MESQUITE, CARROLLTON, LEWISVILLE, FARMERS BRANCH, THE COLONY, FRISCO, DENTON, AND OTHER CITIES IN METROPLEX

~ Your Gateway to Dallas, North of Trinity River ~

www.MONTTheGazette.com

## People In The News



The Fort Worth Central Library - Downtown is featuring selected images from the Calvin Littlejohn Photographic Archive, on exhibit now thru March 31st, 2007. The library is located at 500 W. 3rd Street, Fort Worth, TX. 76102

Calvin Littlejohn (1909-1993) was one of Texas' leading African-American community photographers, from 1945 thru the early 1990's. Mr. Littlejohn was born to former slaves in Cotton Plant, Ark., in 1909, and moved to Texas, where he opened a photography studio in Fort Worth in 1934.

His collection is the most comprehensive documentation of life in Fort Worth's African-American community during post WW-II segregation. His photos captured the spirit of unity and self-reliance typical nationwide during this period. Highlights include doctors, lawyers, retailers, hotels, and the Fraternal Bank & Trust, high school activities; community and social events; church activities, and entertainers.

Mr. Littlejohn's photographed key leaders of the Civil Rights Movement as they visited Dallas and Fort Worth, (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Paul Robeson, A. Phillip Randolph). Mr. Littlejohn also photographed three black business icons - Earl Graves Sr. (Black Enterprise Magazine), John H. Johnson (Ebony Magazine), and Conner Cottrell (Pro-Line Corporation).

For more info call 817-871-7705.

R&B Hip hop artist and Dallas native Erykah Badu will host the "I Got Soul" Dallas Music Conference to be held by the Neo Soul Cafe on April 27-April 28. The conference will feature panel discussions, artist showcases and a concert and jam session hosted by Ms. Badu on Saturday night. The conference will be held at Badu's Black Forest Theater.

The Neo-Soul Cafe is a weekly program found on the Internet, and in selected markets, strictly for soul music aficionados. The concept for the show came after host Francis Jaye based in on the responses from record labels when she approached them about interviewing their artists on live radio.

Jaye has been working in the R&B radio circuit, based in Dallas, for years. She started as a novice dee jay at Dallas' 89.3 AM. Since, she's worked for KKNB 105.7 and K-104 FM, as the emcee for nostalgic R&B shows. For a time, she simultaneously worked for the prestigious ABC Radio Network, broadcasting an R&B show into 70 markets. It was there that she was inspired with idea of a show like Neo-Soul Cafe.

For more info on the Neo Soul Cafe's Dallas Music Conference, visit [www.neosoulcafe.com](http://www.neosoulcafe.com).



Celebrated author, psychiatrist, educator and respected social critic, Dr. Alvin P. Poussaint will be the keynote speaker at the St. Philip's School and Community Center's Seventh Annual Destiny Awards Luncheon.

The luncheon will be held at 11:30 am on Thursday, March 8, 2007 at the Belo Mansion, in downtown Dallas. Dr. Poussaint is a Professor of Psychiatry and Faculty Associate Dean for Student Affairs at Harvard Medical School. As a script consultant to "The Cosby Show," Dr. Poussaint was hired by Bill Cosby to review the scripts and provide consultation on psychological and educational issues in order to screen out inappropriate humor.

Destiny Award winners for 2007 are Linda P. Evans, Cingroup, The Holocaust Museum, and Anne Marie Weiss, WFAA Channel 8 news anchor, John McCas, will serve as emcee for the luncheon.

Funds raised by this event will support scholarships for the educational and outreach services provided by St. Philip's, which is an independent elementary school in southern Dallas serving over 240 African-American and Hispanic students.

For more info call 214-421-5221 or visit [www.stphilips1600.org](http://www.stphilips1600.org).

## INSIDE

People In The News	1
Community Spotlight	2
Community Calendar	2
Op-Ed	3
National	4
Business Service Directory	5
Education	6
Arts & Entertainment	7
Career Opportunities	8
Sister Tarpley	9
Church Happenings	9
Church Directory	9 & 10

## Civil Rights Walk Of Fame Gains 13 Honorees



Civil Rights Walk of Fame in Atlanta gains 13 new honorees

The footprints of a journalist, a boxer and a crooner were among those added Monday to the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame near the church where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. preached.

The 13 new honorees include actor Sidney Poitier, singer Tony Bennett, educator Marian Wright Edelman, editor and author Lerone Bennett Jr. and the late boxer Joe Louis.

"The rains will come and wash away the debris, and the winds will come and just blow away the trash, but your footprints and contributions will stand forever," walk creator Xernona Clayton told the inductees.

This is the fourth group to be inducted into the Walk of Fame in the plaza of the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site near downtown Atlanta. The walk, established in 2004, now includes 50 pairs of footprints, marked in granite, from people who organizers call the "foot soldiers" of the civil rights movement.

The walk is a partnership between the Trumpet Awards Foundation and the National

Civil Rights Walk Page 5

## Irving City Council Approves Redistricting Plan

The Irving City Council has approved a redistricting plan, based on the preexisting council district configuration, to bring the districts into population balance. This is required every 10 years as per the city charter, and the last changes to the residential districts occurred in 1996.

District lines were drawn and population equality was measured on the basis of census data and present population trends to avoid creating districts that are out of line with the actual 2006 population.

The primary area of African-American concentration remains in District 3 and the primary area of Hispanic concentration remains in District 1. District 3, which was very near the ideal population size, was not changed. District 2 was drawn slightly underpopulated based on



the 2000 census figures due to the large number of residences constructed and occupied in the district since 2000. District 5, which was under populated, received additional population to bring it in line with the other

Irving Redistricting Page 8

## "La Cultura Cura" The Culture Cures Celebrating The African-Latino Culture



Dulce Parker helping Parents with education at home

Making Connections, Inc. invites the community to a very special cultural education program on Saturday, March 10th, 17th, and 24th, 2007 from 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. "La Cultura Cura", the Culture Cures, Celebrating the African-Latino Culture is a series of cultural education workshops that take us on a cultural journey through different countries in Africa and the Americas (Mexico, Central, South America and the Caribbean Islands). The program will begin with a reception, "Honoring Africa" on Saturday, March 3, 2007, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Workshop presentations will highlight the influences of the African culture in Latin American music, dance, art, customs, traditions, and food. This event is free and will be conducted at the Latino Cultural Center,

2600 Live Oak, Dallas, Texas, 75204.

The goals of the program are to learn, share, increase understanding, and celebrate the rich African cultural heritage in Latin America. The program will bring the community together to highlight the cultural connections and bonds between the USA, Caribbean Islands and Latin America with the African culture. "La Cultura Cura" focuses on teaching families the importance of valuing their cultural heritage as a way to increase children's self-esteem, prevent becoming involved in high risk behaviors, and instill cultural pride.

Making Connections, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit cultural education organization founded in 2001 by Dulce Isalguez Parker, a parent/youth educator. During the last six years, Ms.

The Culture Cures Page 9

## Texas Talks Tough On Illegal Immigrants



Immigrants wade through the Rio Grande near Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. Texas is home to about 10% of the nation's illegal immigrants.

Lawmakers push some of the harshest immigration-related measures in the United States.

By: Miguel Bustillo, Times Staff Writer

The Lone Star State has long welcomed Latino immigrants, no matter how they got across the state's 1,200-mile border with Mexico.

But the atmosphere has changed markedly in Texas,

home to about 10% of the nation's illegal immigrants.

Now, a growing chorus of Republicans and some Democrats is pushing some of the harshest immigration-related measures in the United States — laws that would not only deny public services to illegal immigrants but strip their American-born children of benefits as well.

The proposal to deny services to American citizens, which is thought to be the first in the country, is part of a push to challenge the citizenship given automatically to children born in this country to illegal immigrants.

Illegal Immigrants Page 5

## Drexel Media Group Holds Annual Banquet



2007 Drexel Media Group Honorees (Left to Right) Francis Ray - Author, Don Hill - City Councilman, Salve Moore - GPSD Educator, CW Whitaker - Dallas park board member, Ashika Easle - Co-owner Black Images bookstore, Emma Rodgers - Owner Black Images bookstore, Dr. Sherron Patterson - Pastor, Freddie James - Retired DSD Coach, NOT PICTURED - Bob Ray Sanders (Fort Worth Star-Telegram)

Drexel Media Group a marketing and public relation firm in Dallas held it's fourth Annual Black History banquet at Pappadeaux restaurant in Duncannonville. Each year in celebration of black history month Drexel Media Group honor men and women who has made an

impact in the North Texas area. The awards are name after "trailblazers" who paved the way for African-Americans and is a reminder that their legacy isn't forgotten.

The banquet also recognized a male and female student from

Drexel Media Group Page 4

## Register Now For Free Texas Smartscape Seminar



Our long-term drought has been a lot harder on the gardeners than the garden! Those of us used to starting the day with a cup of coffee and the sounds of the sprinkler hitting the window have found local water conservation restrictions pretty unsettling. Will my roses shrivel? Will my trees drop their leaves? Will my beautiful

lawn turn into a brown mass of thatch? Having "survived" the first full summer of once weekly watering restrictions, it's pretty clear to most everybody that the answers to each question above is "no, no, and no." Plano trees are still standing, flowers and shrubs are preparing for a spectacular spring entrance and lawns that were lush greenscapes before winter will emerge in all their glory once again.

Our drought has taught many of us what savvy land-

Smartscape Seminar Page 8

# Plano African American Museum Academy Awards Gala

Photos By: LaQuisha Buchanan  
The Plano African American Museum held its Academy Award Gala on Sunday, February 25th at the Plano Studio Movie Grill.

The Gala began at 5:30 with the red carpet of patrons and was followed by a silent auction and dinner. Attendees were also treated to a special showing of the Academy Award nominated movie Dreamgirls.

The Gala Chair for the event was Willie Rivers, and committee members

included T.J. Johnson, Myrtle Hightower, Rev. Clarence Ford, Bobby Drake, Dollie Thomas, Mark Charles, Constance Carter, Hope Ford and JacQue Lyons.

Sponsors for the event included Capital One Bank, Millennium Motor Cars, Rev. Clarence & Mrs. Hope Ford and family, Hill Chapel CME Church, The Kravitz Group-Morgan Stanley, Plano Independent School District, St. Andrew United Methodist Church and Viewpoint Bank.

Proceeds all benefitted the Plano African American Museum (PAAM).



The Red Carpet Treatment.



Sign recognizing Gala sponsors.



City Councilman Harry LaRosiere address gala attendees.



Asst. Police Chief Ed Drain and Mrs. Ed Drain.



Mayor Pat Evans participates in the raffle.



Douglass Community Seniors enjoy an evening at the gala.



T.J. Johnson announces raffle winner.



Dr. Hightower and PISD official Karla Oliver enjoy the gala.

## Blue Cross Blue Shield Celebrates Black History With Program Theme "Paving The Way"



Cast members of the play 'Strength' written by Roy Billups Jr. David Butler, Veronica Starr, Chela Hubbard and Roy Billups Jr.

Photos By: Harry Manuel  
The program paid tribute to African American Ancestors who have paved the way for today's society.

The program included A PowerPoint presentation on Jim Crow, Business, Sports, Music, and Dance.

The festivities also included a play, "Strength" written by Roy Billups, Jr. The play demonstrated how pride can and has destroyed families in the African American Culture. The focal of the play was forgiveness through understanding, with an emphasis on family communication-which is the adhesive that keeps families together. The play demonstrated how it takes the reality of

humility to bring families together again.

Members of the cast included

David Butler, Veronica Starr, Chela Hubbard and Roy Billups Jr.



Blue Cross Diversified choir Tracy Robinson, Tashira Martin, Sue Lawson, Princess Wrightsail, Catina Price, Cedric Bell, Kelvin Harris, Kanisha Franklin, Timothy Robinson, D. Williams, Ayonna Hart, Lisa Marshall, Mickey Miller, Mano Galvez and Vi Hancock.

## \$69\* DIVORCE

### Criminal Defense

- DWI / Suspended License
- WARRANTS Removed\*
- 24 Hour Jail Release\*
- Occupational license, felonies
- Protective Order
- Misdemeanor/Felonies\*

### Family Cases

- Divorce / Annulment
- Child Support / Paternity
- Custody Modification
- Restraining Order
- Protective Order
- Name Change / Adoption
- Domestic Violence

Open On Weekends Easy Payment Plans  
Law Offices Of Vincent Ndukwue

**214-638-5930**  
**817-277-0196 (Metro)**

2730 N. Stemmons Frwy, Suite 409 • Dallas, TX 75207

Not Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization  
\* If you qualify. \* Fees quoted above are minimum down payment needed to begin processing your case.

## Around The Town

### Ongoing

**The Allen Public Library** will feature films with all black casts or have African-American themes will be featured each Tuesday night during February. On February 6th and 20th, guests will be treated to extremely rare viewing of "Beulah" a television program from the 1950's. For more info call Tom Keener at 214-509-4911.

**The Collin County Chapter of the American Business Women's Association** meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at Eldorado Country Club, 2604 Country Club Drive in McKinney.

**Free Tenant Legal Workshops** are at 6 p.m. Tuesdays at Douglass Community Center, 1111 Ave. H in Plano. Call 972-941-7174.

Alpha Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi a social service cultural sorority meets the second Monday of each month in members home in Frisco, McKinney, and the Plano area. Call 972-473-9089.

**Assistance League of Greater Collin County** meets the third Wednesday of each month. Visit [www.assistanceleague-gcc.org](http://www.assistanceleague-gcc.org).

**"REVOLVE,"** a social networking opportunity on Monday of each month in members home in Frisco, McKinney, and the Plano area. Call 972-473-9089.

Suite 202. Call 972-267-4452.

**A free legal clinic** is offered for residents who meet low-income guidelines, 6:00 p.m., second Thursday of each month, First United Methodist Church, 601 S. Greenville Ave. Applicants must be Collin County residents and income eligible. Call 1-800-906-3045.

**Free HIV Testing** offered by the LaSima Foundation from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. every Thursday at two different locations. For locations and more information, call 214-928-9303.

**The Frisco Housing Authority** is offering tenant-based rental assistance to 22 eligible families and individuals for rental housing in Frisco. Call 972-377-3031 for information.

**Kumaasi African Ensemble Dance Classes** from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. West African dance classes held every Saturday at the South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave. For more info call S-Ankh Rasa at 214-298-5858.

**Late Night at the Dallas Museum of Art** Join us on the third Friday of each month at 1717 N. Harwood. \$10 for adults, \$7 for senior citizens and \$5 for students with current school I.D. 214-922-1200, [publicprograms@DallasMuseumofArt.org](mailto:publicprograms@DallasMuseumofArt.org).

**Dallas Baptist University-North Leadership Empowerment Luncheon Series** is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month at Dallas Baptist University-North, 3211 Internet Blvd., Suite 100. For more info, call 214-333-5777 or e-mail [dbunorth@dbu.edu](mailto:dbunorth@dbu.edu).

**The Yundrae Show** the live television taping every Thursday. The doors open at 7pm and the show starts at 7:45pm. There are door prizes and giveaways each week. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Check it out at: [www.theyndraeshow.com](http://www.theyndraeshow.com).

### March 2, 2007

**African Village Night** will feature Kumaasi African ensemble with live African drumming, food and beverages available at the Sandage Market, 1325 Levee Street from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. For more info, call 214-298-5858.

### March 3, 2007

**Voices Of Poetry No. 5** at the Clarence Muse Cafe Theatre from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.. The hot spot where poets gather is still boiling with poetic words flowing from a fountain like rushing water down the Mississippi River. Come let your voice be heard at the Muse's Open Mic. For more info, visit [www.tbao.org](http://www.tbao.org).

**Southwest Writers** talented writers share a long history of creative writing and constructive discussion. Lakewood Branch Library, 6121 Worth Street, Dallas at 8:00 p.m. FREE. For more info, call 214-670-1376.

**Library Live!** African-American Experience exciting tales introduce history, cultural heritage, and citizenship through vivid folklore, legends, and contemporary stories. Central Library, 1515 Young Street. Children's Center, 2nd floor in Dallas at 2 p.m. FREE. For more info, call 214-670-1671.

**10th Annual Children's African Drum and Dance Recital and Banquet** event for

children and adults will be held at the Frederick Douglass Academy (formerly Friendship West Baptist Church), 616 W. Kiest Blvd. From 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more info call, 817-640-1716 or email [babakowskij@seemonline.com](mailto:babakowskij@seemonline.com).

**H. L. Smith Ministries Scholarship Benefit For Young Achievers**, 1001 W. Danielde Road, in DeSoto at 4 p.m. For more info, call 972-283-8131.

### March 4, 2007

**Divine Consign** continues thru March 6th, 2007. Children's, Juniors and Maternity Consignment Sale at Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Spring Creek & Jupiter Roads, Plano. For more info call, Tina Teutsch at 214-513-2838 or email [divineconsign@hotmail.com](mailto:divineconsign@hotmail.com) or visit [www.divineconsign.net](http://www.divineconsign.net).

### March 6, 2007

**Dallas Branch NAACP Meeting** at 7:00 p.m. Thurgood Marshall Recreation Center, 5159 Mark Trail Way, Dallas. FREE. For more info, call 800-734-3406 or email [secretary@naacpdallas.org](mailto:secretary@naacpdallas.org) or visit [www.naacpdallas.org](http://www.naacpdallas.org).

### March 7, 2007

**Novel Writing and Self-Publishing** presented by local author J.A. Joshi. For ages 17 and older. Preston Royal Branch Library, 5626 Royal Lane in Dallas from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. FREE. For more info, call 214-670-7128.

### March 10, 2007

**Savor Dallas - An International Experience of Wine, Food, Spirits and the Arts** experience dedicated to fabulous wine and food from 50 of

DFW's top chefs. For more info, call 866-277-7920 or email [info@savordallas.com](mailto:info@savordallas.com).

**The Jazz Swing Era** film and discussion sessions at Central Library's Fine Arts Division, 4th floor Dallas Public Library & Music Library and the Division of Jazz Studies at 2:30 p.m. For more info, email [tina.murdoch@dallaslibrary.org](mailto:tina.murdoch@dallaslibrary.org).

**Kick 4 College** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Plano Centre, 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway, Plano. National Karate League tournament series. For more info, call Kasey at 972-838-5425 or 214-352-5425 or visit [www.kick4college.com](http://www.kick4college.com).

**Personality Plus/Boundaries Seminar** from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Plano Centre, 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway, Plano. For more info, call Garry Mensch at 214-293-7215 or email [garry@gkseminars.com](mailto:garry@gkseminars.com) or visit [GKseminars.com](http://GKseminars.com).

### March 11, 2007

**Plano Bridal Show** at Plano Centre, 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway, Plano from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more info, call 972-713-9920, or visit [www.bridalshowscn.com](http://www.bridalshowscn.com).

### March 16, 2007

**4th Annual Weekend Festival of Black Dance** "Rhythm and Soul Of A People" at 8:00 p.m. Naomi Bruton Main Stage. For more info, call 214-743-2440.

### March 17, 2007

**Roundtable Writer's Breakfast** with award winning playwright P.J. Gibson from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Event will be held

the Black Academy of Arts & Letters in room T203.

**Dallas Wellness Lifestyle Expo** a two day event at Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano. 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For more info, call Adjutant Expos at 972-504-6358 or visit [www.dallaswellnessexpo.com](http://www.dallaswellnessexpo.com).

### March 20, 2007

**"My Sweet Potato Pie"** runs through Sunday, 25th. Naomi Bruton Main Stage. For more info, call 214-743-2400.

### March 24, 2007

**2007 Meatout Festival**, a free educational and health screening event featuring speakers, food sampling, and exhibits related to the vegetarian lifestyle, at the Center for Community Cooperation, 2900 Live Oak Street, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more info, call 214-331-2812 or 972-578-0370 or visit [www.bvstx.org](http://www.bvstx.org).

**5 Men On A Stool Concert** at 3 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. A blend of contemporary R & B, jazz and Spoken Word held at the Clarence Muse Cafe Theatre.

### April 28, 2007

**Senior Achievement Award Ceremony** at Dallas City Hall Plaza hosted by deputy Mayor Don Hill and Cleo-Glenn Johnson of Black United Funds of Texas. For more info, please call 214-650-7065 or e-mail [bkm104@yahoo.com](mailto:bkm104@yahoo.com).

Sponsored By:



at&t

Proud To Be An Active  
Partner In The Community





**Paul Hailey**

I've been blessed to have lived a few years on this planet. (I've got a birthday this month to prove it), and one of the things I inherited from my workaholic father was a strong sense of gratitude for having a roof over my head. Throughout my adult life, my friends and family have all been subjected to hearing my mantra: "there is a very fine line between making it and not making it in these United States".

What my statement means is that no matter your respective level of income, for most of us it wouldn't take much to find ourselves out on the streets (if you have any doubts ask virtually an victim of Hurricane Katrina).

So with all that in mind, on one hand, I'm not surprised there is a homeless problem in this country in 2007. On the other hand, the results of a new government study on homelessness released on Wednesday shocked and disturbed me.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development conducted its first study on the scope of the country's homeless problem in 23 years and no one was prepared for the magnitude of the issue.

On any given night 754,000 people in the United States are homeless. Nearly a million folks are documented as having no place to live and resort to bedding down in a shelter. Imagine having to sleep in a shelter every night and not having any place to go in the morning. Then imagine going to a shelter and finding out there's not a bed for you. Those 745,000 people? That's about 300,000 more people than available beds in shelters and transitional housing.

Among the HUD study concerning the homeless:

## The Thin Line Between Making It And Not Making It

- Nearly half were single adult men
- 16 percent are women
- 59 percent were members of minority groups.
- 25 percent had a disability, though experts said the percentage is probably much higher.
- Nearly one in five of the adult homeless are military veterans.
- 45 percent were black.
- 21 percent are children.

The last one is the one that got me. There are about 200,000 children in this country who are homeless. These kids, if in school at all, cannot possibly be adequately prepared for a school day, and it's a safe bet that their education suffers due to a lack of stability in their lives.

I understand that poor choices, drug addiction and mental illness play a major role in the plight of the adult homeless population, but who's looking out for the homeless children? "Understanding homelessness is a necessary step to ending it, especially for those persons living with a chronic condition such as mental illness, an addiction, or a physical disability," HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson wrote in the report.

I tend to disagree with Secretary Jackson. The necessary step to end homelessness is

to actually do something about it instead of talking about it. How can we say we are serious about reducing homelessness when we have only had one comprehensive study in the past 23 years?

Americans live with one of the highest standards of living in the world. In 2005, the annual median income in the U.S. was \$43,000; the median per household member was \$23,000. That means that the "middle" person in the United States has an income of \$23,000. Americans throw away more food in a week than most people around the world have to eat in a month. And just in case anyone forgot, we are STILL spending \$1 billion per week in Iraq.

The solution to the homeless problem, as complex as it has to be, is not a question of money. We have a way of raising money for whatever we deem necessary in this country. I wonder which presidential candidate next year is actually going to propose doing something about homelessness instead of just talking about it. Because when you think about it, there is a very fine line between making it and not making it in these United States.

Paul Hailey can be reached at phailey@MonTheGazette.com



## Virginia Apologizes For Slavery, Now Congress Should Too

By: Earl Ofari Hutchinson, BlackNews.com Columnist

When Ohio Congressman Tony Hall introduced two resolutions in 1997 and 2000 asking Congress to officially apologize for slavery, he was blasted from pillar to post. Irate whites called the resolution wasteful and racist. Many blacks ridiculed it as much too little and much too late. But the slavery issue refused to go away. Virginia is the latest to deal with it when both houses unanimously passed a resolution apologizing for slavery. The resolution was mild, innocuous, and ultimately toothless, but at least it acknowledged the monstrous wrong of slavery.

Now Congress should follow Virginia's lead and apologize for slavery. And it's not just a matter of doing the morally right thing. The U.S. government not just a handful of evil Southern planters encoded slavery in the Constitution, and protected and nourished it for a century. Traders, insurance companies, bankers, shippers, and landowners, made billions off of it. Their ill-gotten profits fueled America's industrial and agricultural might. For decades after slavery's end, white trade unions excluded blacks and confined them to the dirtiest, poorest paying jobs.

While it's true that many whites and non-white immigrants came to America after the Civil War they were not subjected to the decades of relentless racial terror and legal segregation, as were blacks. Through the decades of slavery and Jim Crow segregation, African-Americans were transformed into the poster group for racial deviancy. The image of blacks as lazy, crime and violence prone, irresponsible, and sexual predators has stoked white fears and hostility and served as the standard rationale for more than 4,000 documented lynchings, as well as the countless racial assaults, and acts of hate crime violence.

Though some blacks earn

more and live better than ever today, and have gotten boosts from welfare, social and education programs, civil rights legislation, and affirmative action programs, that does not mean that America has shaken the hideous legacy of slavery. The Urban League in its annual State of Black America reports yearly finds that young blacks are far likelier than whites to be imprisoned, serve longer terms, and are more likely to receive the death penalty even when their crimes are similar.

Blacks continue to have the highest rates of poverty, infant mortality, violence victimization rates, and health care disparities than any other group in America. They are still more likely to live in segregated neighborhoods, be refused business and home loans, their children attend failed public schools than any other group, and are more likely to be racially profiled on America's urban streets.

Also, there is nothing new about state and federal governments issuing apologies and payments for past wrongs committed against African-Americans. The U.S. government admitted it was legally liable in 1997 to pay the black survivors and family members of the two-decade long syphilis experiment begun in the 1930's by the U.S. Public Health Service that turned black patients into human guinea pigs. The survivors got \$10 million from the government and an apology from President Clinton. They were the victims of a blatant medical atrocity conducted with the full knowledge and approval of the U.S. government.

The state legislature in Florida in 1994 agreed to make payments to the survivors and relatives of those who lost their lives and property when a white mob destroyed the all-black town of Rosewood in 1923. This was a specific act of mob carnage that was tacitly condoned by some public officials and law enforcement officers. Florida was liable

for the violence and was duty bound to apologize and pay. The Oklahoma state legislature has agreed at least in principle that reparations and apology should be made to the survivors of the dozens of blacks killed, and the hundreds more that had their homes and businesses destroyed by white mobs with the complicity of law enforcement in the Tulsa massacre of 1921. There's even a bill by Michigan Congressman John Conyers that has kicked around Congress since 1989 would establish a commission to study the impact of slavery and the feasibility of paying reparations to blacks.

The ugly truth is that a mainstream of America's continuing racial divide is its harsh and continuing mistreatment of poor blacks. This can be directly traced to the persistent and pernicious legacy of slavery. Virginia took a light stab at confronting the state's hideous racial past. Congress should do even better by apologizing for slavery, and putting teeth behind the apology by passing the Conyers bill. If the commission deems that more needs to be done to help end discrimination and black poverty that's a byproduct of the legacy of slavery, it should do that too. Virginia did the right thing on this too. It created a scholarship fund for blacks whose schools were closed during the state's massive resistance campaign to integration from the mid 1950s to the mid 1960s. But it all starts with the apology. If Virginia can apologize so should Congress.

BlackNews.com columnist Earl Ofari Hutchinson is a political analyst and social issues commentator, and the author of *The Emerging Black GOP Majority* (Middle Passage Press, September 2006), a hard-hitting look at Bush and the GOP's court of black voters. For order information, see [www.blackgopbook.com](http://www.blackgopbook.com).

## Where Do You Want To Go Today?

**Publisher's Office:**  
Phone: (972) 516-2992  
Fax: (972) 509-9058  
Email: [publisher@monthegazette.com](mailto:publisher@monthegazette.com)

**Editorial Department:**  
Phone: (972) 516-2992  
Fax: (972) 516-4197  
Email: [editor@monthegazette.com](mailto:editor@monthegazette.com)

**Sales Department:**  
Phone: (972) 509-9049  
Fax: (972) 509-9058  
Email: [opportunity@monthegazette.com](mailto:opportunity@monthegazette.com)

**Entertainment Department:**  
Phone: (972) 509-9049  
Email: [entertainment@monthegazette.com](mailto:entertainment@monthegazette.com)  
**Website:** [www.MonTheGazette.com](http://www.MonTheGazette.com)

**MON The Gazette**  
1100 Summit, Suite 101 • Plano, Texas 75074

<p><b>Chairman Emeritus</b> Jim Bochum</p> <p><b>Published By</b> Minority Opportunity News, Inc.</p> <p><b>Assistant To Publisher</b> Rosie Roberts</p> <p><b>Office Manager</b> Cynthia Westley</p> <p><b>Production</b> Robert Booker</p> <p><b>Special Projects Manager</b> Edward Dwyer "Preacher Boy" Gibson, Jr.</p> <p><b>Account Executive</b> Shannon Gales Carolyn Lowe</p> <p><b>Religious/Marketing Editor</b> Shirley Dennis Tarpley</p>	<p><b>Editor</b> Paul Hailey</p> <p><b>Assignment Editor</b> Felicia Winfrey</p> <p><b>Publisher</b> Cheryl Jackson</p> <p><b>Contributing Writers</b> Justin Jones Ruth Ferguson LaKeshia Joe</p> <p><b>Columnist</b> Paul Hailey</p> <p><b>Photography</b> Patrick "PJ" Johnson Laquisha Hooley Ronald Coleman</p>	<p><b>Advisory Board:</b> John Dudley Willie Wainwright Myrtle Hightower Gay Rodriguez-Anderson B.J. Williams Fred Moses Denise Upchurch Annie Dickson Barbara Smithkins Cecil Starks ANTONIO BOARD SECRETARY</p> <p><b>Advisory Board Committees:</b> Public Relations Program Policy Planning and Implementation Development Cecil Starks, CHAIRPERSON Annie Dickson, CHAIRPERSON</p> <p><b>Business Growth</b> Myrtle Hightower, CHAIRPERSON John Dudley, CHAIRPERSON Gay Rodriguez</p> <p><b>Quality Assurance</b> Myrtle Hightower, CHAIRPERSON John Dudley, CHAIRPERSON Gay Rodriguez</p>
--	--	---

**Distribution:**  
Integrity Distribution Company

## Is the sky clearest on the day it is most blue?

While you ponder that thought we would like to announce that Minority Opportunity News, Inc., formerly a Dallas based renaissance community tabloid, founded in 1991, has relocated to Plano, Texas and changed our name to MON-The Gazette. In addition to moving our offices to Plano, our editorial coverage has also shifted to encompass Dallas' Northern Corridor. The Northern Corridor is clearly the fastest growing region in Texas, if not in America. MON-The Gazette believes that the engine to continue this growth is the airport expansion in McKinney, which is the largest and most visible of many area opportunities. As always, and true to tradition, MON-The Gazette will be there carving a world of opportunity for those seeking to provide quality services. Should you dare to expand your quest for economic parity outside the southern region or just want to know what is going on up north.

Think of MON-The Gazette as your paper of opportunity!

MON-The Gazette formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded July, 1991, by Jim Bochum and Thurman R. Jones



## A Cold Shoulder To Black History Month

By: James Clingman - NMPA Columnist

Carter G. Woodson began Negro History Week in 1926, designating it to take place during the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

That second week in February eventually became the entire month of February, and is now called Black History Month. We cannot discredit in any way the efforts of Woodson's initiative, Black consciousness, and resolve to strengthen our people through history and education. His effort to establish what is now an entire month of celebrations and remembrances of our people is laudable. But I have a bone to pick with Black History Month.

In 1926, things were very different. Personal transportation was scarce among Black people; very few Blacks even wanted to fly, and many could not afford the price of an airline ticket anyway. Blacks pretty much stayed in the areas of the country where they lived, especially during Negro History Week in February. They celebrated in their homes, churches, and schools for the most part. Besides, as it is now in 2007, it was flat-out cold in February 1926, and you know how much Black folks dislike cold weather.

Today, we celebrate Black History Month across the country, and we often travel to different cities to participate in celebrations as well. In addition, Black people organize events during Black History Month and invite out-of-towners to speak and to participate in other ways. This is a real problem in eastern and northern cities, and even in some of the near western cities like Denver, Kansas City, and Oklahoma City. Why? Because

it's cold, and most of the time it snows in February.

I recently read where Chicago had to cancel one of its events again this year because of the cold weather, and I am sure that happens in many other cities. Yes, this is personal with me because I love to drive to most places when I speak, and February driving is not my idea of a fun time.

"So what," you ask? Well, here is the plan. Let's cancel Black History Month from February to June. The obvious reason is the weather but we could also fold in our Juneteenth Celebrations with Black History Month activities and not have to worry about the cold, snow, and ice of February canceling our events or making it difficult for us to participate. Hey, we can pick up two more days in the process, too.

It may appear that I am joking around, but I am dead serious brothers and sisters. I understand the deference to Carter G. Woodson, and his reason for assigning Black History Week in February, and I am grateful to him for doing so. But we do not have to continue to conduct our celebration of what he started in what probably is the coldest month of the year. February is just not the month for that. As my man, Gil Scott-Heron said in his "vibration" on the Ghetto Code, "There is something wrong with February."

I would venture to guess that our ancestors didn't like February too much either. There were no leaves on the trees for cover at night and very little visible black and brown soil for camouflage; instead, in some cases, they had only a backdrop of white snow and a trail of footprints, which were not conducive for escaping. They endured bitter cold, day and night, with few

clothes to warm their bodies and thin blankets to warm their children. No, I don't imagine our ancestors liked February very much at all.

This year during Black History Month, I was honored to be invited to speak at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University, Youngstown (Ohio) State University, and the Northeast Church of Christ in Oklahoma City, all known for unpredictable winter weather in February. I am sure many of you had places to go during Black History Month as well; I pray you were not stranded or delayed because of the miserable weather we had during the first three weeks of February. I don't know about you, but I certainly enjoy traveling more in June than in February.

Yes, this may be a little selfish, but I think it's a reasonable task for us to undertake. We don't have to ask anyone; the corporations and mass media will go along with whatever we say in this case; so don't worry about your annual donations. They will adjust their sales and their commercials to whatever month we decide we want to celebrate OUR Black History. So before you get cold feet, just remember the real reason for our celebrating Black History, and remember who owns it. Black History is definitely a "Black Thing," y'all.

So, what do you think? Can we start a campaign right now, and change our month from February to June (or maybe you have a better month to suggest)? This time next year we can just sit at home, stay warm, and look forward to Black History Month in June, when the sun will refresh our bodies and remind us of the natural habitat of our ancestors.

# Farrakhan Stresses Unity In Final Address

**World at war because Christians, Muslims divided, fiery Muslim leader says**

Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan stressed religious unity Sunday during his final major speech, saying the world is at war because Christians, Muslims and people of other faiths are divided.

The 73-year-old Farrakhan told the tens of thousands at Detroit's Ford Field that Jesus Christ and the Prophet Muhammad would embrace each other with love if they were on the stage behind him.

"Our lips are full of praise, but our hearts are far removed from the prophets we all claim," he said. "That's why the world is in the shape that it's in."

The fiery orator spoke for the first time since ceding leadership of the movement last year because of illness. The speech at the home of the National Football League's Detroit Lions capped the Nation's three-day convention in the city

where it was founded in 1930. "My time is up," Farrakhan said in describing his exit from the leadership stage. "The Final Call can't last forever."

The leader of 1995's Million

men "leave one way and come back another."

The downtown venue was not filled to capacity, but seats on the field and in the lower levels were packed. There were



Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan closes his address to the Saviors' Day gathering in Detroit, on Sunday. Farrakhan stressed religious unity during his final major speech.

Man March said he is leaving at a time of great conflict in the world, citing the war in Iraq specifically, and that he believes God is angry with leaders who are putting politics and greed above serving their fellow man.

Harsh words for Bush. He said President Bush should be impeached or at least censured for his "wicked policies," and urged young people to avoid joining a military that will have

empty seats in the upper levels of the stadium.

Anita Baker performed two songs before Farrakhan took the stage and speakers from various religious groups welcomed him.

Nation founder Wallace D. Fard attracted black Detroiters on the margins of society with a message of self-improvement and separation from whites, who he said were inherently evil because of their enslavement of blacks.

The Nation of Islam, which promotes black empowerment and nationalism, was rebuilt by Farrakhan in the late 1970s after W.D. Mohammed, the son of longtime leader Elijah Mohammed, moved his followers toward mainstream Islam.

## History of controversy:

Farrakhan became notorious for calling Judaism a "gutter religion" and suggesting crack cocaine might have been a CIA plot to enslave blacks. He met with foreign leaders at odds with the United States — Moammar Gadhafi, Fidel Castro and Saddam Hussein — prompting the State Department in 1996 to accuse him of "cavorting with dictators."

Farrakhan, who embraced W.D. Mohammed on stage in 2000 after years of discord, has credited his steps toward reconciliation to what he called a "near death" experience related to prostate cancer, which he began battling in 1991.

"I think the minister delivers a very powerful message about self-determination," said Wayne Bryant of Chicago,

before Farrakhan spoke. "I really wanted to enjoy the moment, the magnetism the minister brings to me personally and the crowd."

Farrakhan recalled the story of the final message delivered

by the Prophet Muhammad, who was dying at the time. "Within 80 days, he expired," Farrakhan said.

"I don't see expiring for me," he said, "but I do see exaltation."



Refresh

## Drexel Media Group Page 1

South Oak Cliff High School who has excelled in the classroom and athletics. This year honors went to Fred Gipson Jr and Monique Miley. Fred is a three-year starter on the basketball team and as the opportunity to be a 3-time state champion depending on their advancement in the playoffs. Monique who is an all-district volleyball and basketball player and will be attending the University of Houston in the fall.

This year keynote speaker was General Superintendent Michael Hinojosa of the Dallas Independent School District. In 2002, he became Harris County's first Hispanic superintendent. He landed his current treasured post in 2005 by unan-

imous vote of Dallas' school board. Dallas was ripe for change. Hinojosa was only the 23rd superintendent in Dallas' history.

As the seventh superintendent in 10 years, however, Hinojosa exceeded the tenure of eight of his predecessors after just a year and a half of service. "A vision is a dream with a deadline," Hinojosa says.

Mr. Hinojosa spoke about the legacy that African-American has left in DISD with over 25 schools and athletics facilities are named after African-American men and women. He also spoke about the vision of the district is to be in compliance with attendance, grade point average and more qualified teachers by 2010. Listed below are the 2007 honorees and the trailblazers they were named

after of.

## Drexel Media Group 2007 honorees:

CAW Clark Religion Award - **Dr. Sherron Patterson** (pastor)  
Sam Lacy Award - **Bob Ray Sanders** (journalist)

Raymond E. Hollie Award - **Coach Freddie James** (retired coach)

A. Maceo Smith Award - **Donald W. Hill** (mayor pro-tem)  
John H. Patton Award - **Mrs. Sallye Moore** (educator)

Juanita Craft Award of Excellence - **CW Whitaker** (park board member)

CJ Clark Business Award - **Emma Rodgers & Ashira Toshiwe** (business owners)

Bebe Campbell Moore Literary Award - **Ms. Francis Ray** (author)



Michael Hinojosa, DSD Superintendent with Mark Crutcher President, Drexel Media Group

Introducing the new [www.DART.org](http://www.DART.org).

Cleaner, friendlier and easier to use.



# \$9 BILLION IN 9 YEARS TO TEXAS EDUCATION

TEXAS  
LOTTERY

Every time you play the Texas Lottery, you're supporting Texas schools. In the past nine years, Texas Lottery players have helped contribute more than nine billion dollars to Texas education. That means, no matter which game you play, there's always a winner. So, on behalf of the Texas Lottery, thanks for playing.

Thanks for playing!

Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a lottery ticket. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. © 2007 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.



# Wall Street Steadies After Global Market Turmoil

US shares rebounded Wednesday following a global stock rout which triggered the worst downturn on Wall Street since the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Analysts pointed out, however, that US shares had only clawed back a portion of the losses racked up a day earlier as they warned investors to brace for fresh volatility ahead.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up a notable 51.67 points (0.42 percent) at 12,677.91 at 1659 GMT, regaining ground after shedding a dramatic 416 points

(3.29 percent) Tuesday. The broad-market Standard and Poor's 500 index had meanwhile risen 7.60 points (0.54 percent) to 1,406.64. And the tech-laden Nasdaq composite was up 7.55 points (0.31 percent) at 2,415.41.

Marc Pado, an analyst at Cantor Fitzgerald, said Tuesday's losses had wiped out some 600 billion dollars in companies' market capitalization, but said investors should not despair.

"We shouldn't panic. Today, people are still uncomfortable rushing back in," Pado said, adding, however, that many

analysts had foreseen a so-called market correction fol-



lowing a months-long bull run. Tuesday's global sell-off, which was sparked by growth concerns in China, reverberated across the world, pitching

other Asian markets lower as well as bourses across Europe and the Americas.

US losses were exacerbated by worries about US economic growth and reports that former Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan had suggested the US economy could be fighting off a potential recession by the end of the year.

"The market could remain very choppy for a while, but the fundamentals have not changed," said Dick Green at the research firm

Briefing.com, saying the US economic backdrop is positive and stock valuations still reasonable.

"The renewed volatility is a very disconcerting development, but one which investors should ride out."

Wednesday's bounceback gained some traction after Fed chief Ben Bernanke said his economic outlook remained unchanged and that the financial markets were working "normally."

The Fed "has been closely monitoring the markets," Bernanke told a congressional panel, adding that "they seem

to be working well, normally."

The morning's economic news was lackluster to weak as separate government reports confirmed a moderation in fourth-quarter economic growth and revealed a sharp drop in new home sales.

Bond prices weakened as stocks climbed.

The yield on the 10-year US Treasury bond rose to 4.55 percent from 4.51 percent Tuesday and that on the 30-year bond spiked to 4.673 percent against 4.630 percent.

Bond yields and prices move in opposite directions.

## TXU Energy To Be Purchased By Private Investors

Electricity company TXU Corp. has agreed to be taken private in a buyout deal valued at \$45 billion, including debt.

The acquisition, led by private equity firms New York-based Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. and Fort Worth-based Texas Pacific Group and investment bank Goldman Sachs & Co., of New York, would be the largest leveraged buyout ever.

As part of the deal reached this weekend, the Dallas-based energy company will abandon its controversial plan to build

11 coal-fired power plants in Texas, said a TXU announce-



ment today. TXU is the largest

generator of electricity in Texas.

TXU shareholders will be offered \$69.25 per share at the closing of the deal, which represents a 25 percent premium to the average closing share price over the 20 days ending February 22, 2007, said TXU.

TXU's stock (NYSE: TXU) closed Friday at \$60.07 a share. It closed Monday up more than 13 percent, at \$67.93.

The newly privatized company said it will deliver

price cuts valued at more than \$300 million annually, price protection benefits to electric customers through 2008, strengthen environmental policies, make significant investments in alternative energy and institute corporate policies tied to climate stewardship.

The transaction has been endorsed by environmental activist groups who were previously harshly critical of TXU's plans for the new coal plants, Environmental Defense and Natural Resources Defense Council. TXU has reportedly

said it will trim the plan to three coal plants.

The future owners of the private TXU Corp. have selected an advisory board including James A. Baker III, former U.S. Secretary of State; William Reilly, chairman emeritus of the World Wildlife Fund and former administrator of the

Environmental Protection Agency; Donald L. Evans, former U.S. Secretary of

Commerce; James R. Hufines, chairman of the University of Texas Board of Regents; and Lyndon L. Olson Jr., former Texas State representative and former U.S. ambassador to Sweden.

## Apartment Association Opposes Farmers Branch Ordinance

The Apartment Association of Greater Dallas says the Farmers Branch ordinance unfairly penalizes Farmers Branch apartment communities.

The association is holding a voter education and awareness campaign beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Lakeview at Parkside Apartments, 3950 Spring Valley Road, in Farmers Branch.

The group said it wants to register new voters and inform apartment residents and other community members about

the negative economic and social impacts it says the ordinance will have.

Ordinance 2903 requires apartment owners and managers to collect proof of citizenship or proof of legal residence from people who want to rent apartments or renew their leases. Farmers Branch voters will vote on the ordinance on May 12.

"Along with unfairly penalizing apartment residents and holding them to a different

standard, Ordinance 2903 will eventually cost the business community millions of dollars in lost economic gains," said



Gerald Henigsmann, the association's executive vice president,

in a written statement. "The cost for apartments to comply with the ordinance, fewer apartment rentals, and the net effect of lower commercial tax revenues could be a devastating blow to the Farmers Branch economy."

The association represents more than 2,030 properties representing more than 425,000 units in an 11-county North Texas area. The group also represents 635 companies that provide services and products to property owners and management companies.

## New-Home Sales In U.S. Plunge 16.6%, Most Since 1994

New-home sales in the U.S. fell last month by the most in 13 years, pointing to more weakness in the real-estate market that limited economic growth last year.

The 16.6 percent decrease to an annual rate of 937,000 in January, a pace that was less than

any economist had forecast in a Bloomberg News survey, followed 1.123 million in December, Commerce Department figures showed today. The pace of sales was the slowest since February 2003. A measure of housing inventory rose to the highest in three

months.

The figures suggest residential construction will remain a drag on the economy and that lower home prices may be needed to stir buyer interest. The decrease in January was exaggerated in part by the return of colder weather after

warmer temperatures in the prior month.

"Some of this is weather-related, however having said that, this housing recession is going to go on at least for another six months or so," said Nariman Behravesh, chief economist at Global Insight Inc.

### Illegal Immigrants Page 1

Texas' shift toward a more incendiary brand of immigration politics comes at a time when many state lawmakers are frustrated that Washington has failed to stop illegal immigration. Few think President Bush's moderate proposals, which include a guest worker program and enhanced border security, will help much, even if they are approved by Congress.

State Rep. Leo Berman, the Republican legislator who wrote the bill to deny benefits to the children of illegal immigrants, admits that his goal is to set off a fight in the federal courts.

His legislation has been compared to Proposition 187, which was ruled unconstitutional after California voters approved it in 1994, but it goes further. It would deny citizens born to illegal immigrants numerous state services, including unemployment benefits and the ability to obtain professional licenses.

### Civil Rights Walk Page 1

One of this year's inductees, the Rev. Otis Moss Jr., who worked closely with King and his father, told the crowd about a photograph of the slain civil rights leader showing a hole worn through the bottom of his shoe.

"They were worn out marching for a better day," Moss said, standing in front of a glass case with pairs of shoes from each of his fellow hon-

"A pregnant illegal alien can wait at the border, check into a hospital in Texas, give birth without paying a penny, and be rewarded for her illegal behavior," Berman said. "That's outrageous."

Berman's bill is one of more than two dozen proposals targeting illegal immigration in Texas. Other measures would tax money that illegal immigrants wire abroad; require patients to prove they are in the country legally before receiving state medical services; eliminate in-state college tuition breaks for illegal immigrants; and require state agencies to do a thorough accounting of how much illegal immigration is costing the state. Texas is home to about 1 million to 2 million illegal immigrants.

"Why should illegal immigrants, who by virtue of being in the country have broken the law, be able to get the same state services as a citizen?" asked state Sen. Royce West, a Democrat from Dallas who is proposing one of several meas-

ures. The need to educate Edelman, founder of the Children's Defense Fund, reiterated what has become almost a mantra for her life's work: the need to educate low-income children.

"We've got to stop our black boys and girls from going to prison," she said. "We need to be sending them off to Morehouse (College) and Spelman (College), not prison." Tony Bennett, a supporter of

ures to tax remittances to Mexico. He said his legislation was one way to raise money for healthcare programs.

Texas politicians say that proposing such laws would have been unimaginable a decade ago. During his days as governor, Bush regularly praised the cultural and economic contributions Latino immigrants were making to the state. His political strategy paid off: He won 40% of the Latino vote in 1998, a number previously considered unreachable for a Republican.

Latino leaders say they are stunned by the Texas proposals to deny services to children. They promise retaliation at the ballot box.

"How could anyone be so mean-spirited?" said Rosa Rosales, president of the League of United Latin American Citizens, the nation's oldest Latino civil rights group, which originated in Texas. "We're just going to have to get the community out to show these representatives that we matter."

In Texas, Democratic state

Rep. Pete Gallego, head of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus in the House, said that though some of the new proposals were harsh, a few might have momentum, particularly the bills to tax wire transfers.

"People are appalled at how hard core some of these things are," Gallego said. "We will have a fight."

Texas Gov. Rick Perry, a conservative Republican who talked tough on illegal immigration during his reelection campaign last year, has tempered his rhetoric in recent weeks, and sounded a message of compassion and unity during his oath-of-office address last month. He has singled out Berman's proposal as divisive.

Berman counters that his bill may not make him the darling of Austin's lobbyists or the governor, but he is convinced his cause is popular.

"My mail is running 30 to 1 in favor of what I am trying to do," he said.

"This problem is costing Texas money. Texas has to act."

Sir Lynden Pindling, Atlanta physician Dr. Otis W. Smith, U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters, D-California, Richmond, Va., Mayor and former Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder and civil rights activist Jean Childs Young.

Past honorees include media mogul Ted Turner, former President Jimmy Carter, legendary baseball player Henry "Hank" Aaron, and performers Stevie Wonder, Harry Belafonte and Lena Horne.

## BURIAL PLOTS

### PRIME BURIAL LOTS FOR SALE

One, two or three lots for sale at Restland in North Dallas; located in the beautiful and peaceful Serenity Gardens Section (Southeast corner of Greenville Avenue & Restland Road.) Market value \$3450 each, but selling price negotiable. View plots by appointment only. Call 972-606-3878, 972-416-6109, or 469-235-5808.

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

### WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR TO-DO LIST, PUT YOUR FUTURE FIRST.



**Marcia Donaldson**  
Financial Advisor  
972-542-1530  
www.edwardjones.com  
Member SIPC

To find out how to get your financial goals on track, call today.

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

## INSURANCE



Aflac Independent Agents  
Clarence & Maye

**ASK YOURSELF THIS QUESTION:**  
"If I am unable to work for an extended period of time because I am • Hurt • Sick • Hospitalized or • Diagnosed with an illness (such as Cancer, Heart Disease or Stroke) would the loss of income create a financial challenge to me and my family?"

If YES, call Clarence or Maye for additional information about our Income Protection Plans (individual and group plans available). The Insurance Plan that actually pays you CASH! ...what you need, when you need it!

Office: 972-406-4800 • Clarence: 817-300-2378 • Maye: 817-797-5563  
Aflac

## MORTGAGE



**champion**  
MORTGAGE  
972.529.2371 • 866.338.1296  
**RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL**

- Purchase
- Refinances
- Cashouts
- Investment Properties
- 100% Financing
- FHA / VA

**COMPLIMENTARY SAME DAY APPROVALS**  
All Credit Types Welcome

119 W. Virginia St., Ste. 202 • www.championmortg.org

## OIL & GAS



### FAIR PRICE OFFER

For Oil and/or Gas Buying  
Small "NET" Revenue Interest  
Fax Information To: 972-881-1646

Call Voice Mail: 972-606-3891 (Leave Message)

## CCCD Monopoly® Madness Tops Previous College Scholarship Fundraisers

Monopoly® was the name, scholarships were the game this past weekend as community and business leaders con-



verged on The Shops at Willow Bend for the Collin College Foundation's Monopoly® Madness. This year's event proved to be the most successful fundraiser to date by raising more than \$200,000 for student scholarships and academic excellence.

Monopoly® Madness lived up to its reputation as the

"most unique fundraiser in Collin County" as Mr. Monopoly® led the march from The Mustang Cafe to the

Grand Court to a host of gaming tables where 350 attendees enjoyed music, food, refreshments and a lovely time along Park Place and Boardwalk.

For students who receive Collin scholarships, however, the purpose of the event is much more than just fun and games.

"Each year, thanks to the generosity of individuals and businesses in this community, we are able to provide much needed scholarships to deserving students," Dr. Bob Collins, founding

board member and chair of the Collin Board of Trustees, said. "We are thankful that today's business leaders and private citizens recognize the importance of higher education and willingly support the college's mission to make higher education not only available, but accessible. The Board of Trustees, the college president and college community, as well



as the students who will become the future professionals in this community, all

thank you for your generous support."

More than half of Collin's 17,000 credit students sought federal financial assistance or local scholarships this year. More than 2,000 of these requests for scholarships and financial aid had to be denied when the scholarship money ran out.

"With the rising cost of a college education affecting so many families, we worked harder to bring in the dollars that support a student's dream of attending college," said Cary Israel, Collin president. "Our goal is to have enough scholarship money so that no student is turned away."

At Collin, a \$1,000 scholarship can pay for tuition and

books for one student for one semester. A \$5,000 scholarship can purchase tuition and books for a student to earn a two-year associate's degree.

"More students than ever before need scholarships," said Larry Eagan, chair of the Collin College Foundation. "Every business and organization in Collin County benefits from an educated workforce. And every student that earns a college education helps sustain the vitality of our local economy and contributes to the growth and success of this remarkable county and state."

View the Monopoly® Madness web gallery for down-

loadable photos of the evening at [www.ccccd.edu/webgal-](http://www.ccccd.edu/webgal-)



series/monopoly. Collin County Community College District (Collin) serves more than 41,000 credit and continuing education students annually and offers more than 100 degree and certificate programs. The only public college in the county, Collin is a partner to business, government and industry, providing customized training and work force development.

## GAABSE 5th Annual Scholarship And Mardi Gras Ball



John Washington



Gradyne Brown, Director, Secondary Human Resources



Stephen C. Phipps, Master of Ceremony



GAABSE President, William Woods



(left to right) Niki Patton, teacher at Walnut Glen Academy; Shamekia Hopson, teacher at Garland High School; Robert Jones, teacher at Parson Pre-K; Sandra Johnson, teacher at Naaman Forest High School; John W. Washington, Assistant Superintendent at Garland ISD; Lauren McKinney, teacher at Sellers Middle School; Niki Hunter, assistant Principal at Garland High School



(left to right) Gradyne Brown, Director of Human Resources at Garland ISD; Committee Chairperson Sherrill Goodman, Counselor at Lakeview Centennial High School; Dr. Anita Perry, Guidance and Counseling Coordinator at Fort Worth ISD; Gaylon Garrison, Recruitment Coordinator at Garland ISD; Dr. Bonnie Barrett, Principal at Parsons Pre-K; Candice Coleman, Assistant Principal at Classical Academy @ Vial Elementary

The theme for this year's ball "Investing in our Future" If not Now, When! is a very profound statement which highlights the needs of African American Students in our nation. It is up to us to build a future for our children- Now! It is up to us to provide the necessary skills, tools, character traits and opportunities for success- Now! GAABSE has made investing in our youth a priority.

**GAABSE 2006 Scholarship Recipients:**

**Whitney Ervin** - North Garland High School  
**Brittany Gamble** - South Garland High School  
**Brittany Amber Hill** - Garland High School  
**Connie King** - Sachse High School  
**Kaci Whitby** - Lakeview Centennial

High School  
**Robert White Jr.** - Rowlett High School  
**Tamekia Willis** - Naaman Forest High School

### PUBLIC NOTICE

February 23, 2007

**HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF MCKINNEY ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Date: Friday, February 23, 2007 - Tuesday, April 10, 2007

Time: 9:00am - 3:00pm

Place: McKinney Housing Authority  
1200 N. Tennessee Street  
McKinney, Texas 75069

In accordance with Sec. 93.017 of the Code of Federal Regulation the McKinney Housing Authority Five-Year/Annual Plan to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will be available for public comment. A copy of the Plan will be available for review each weekday from 9:00am to 3:00pm at the main office at 1200 North Tennessee Street. Written comments can also be submitted to:

Housing Authority of the City of McKinney, Texas  
Attn: Director of Operations  
1200 North Tennessee Street  
McKinney, Texas 75069

The Public Hearing for adoption of the final Plan will be held on Tuesday, April 10, 2007, at 5:15pm.

For further information, please call the main office at 972-542-5641.

## University Of North Texas Recognized For Number Of Degrees Awarded To African-American Students

One of only five Texas universities recognized by "Diverse: Issues in Higher Education"

UNT has been recognized by the journal "Diverse: Issues in Higher Education" as a "Top 100 Degree Producer" in 2006. The list tracks the number of degrees awarded to African-Americans by traditionally Caucasian institutions in the United States. UNT finished 55th on the list.

Only five Texas universities made the list, and only the University of Houston-

University Park, ranked at 31, awarded more degrees to undergraduate African-American students than UNT.

In 2004-05, the academic

degrees. This is about 10 percent of the 4,360 undergraduate students who graduated that year.

For the 2006-2007 academic year, there are 3989 African-American students enrolled at UNT. During the 2004-05 year, UNT enrolled 3,336 African-American students and in 2005-06, there were 3,667 African-American students enrolled.

Cassandra Berry, associate vice president for equity and diversity at UNT says, "I am quite pleased, but not at all surprised UNT has received this most

notable recognition. It is the collaborative efforts of various academic and academic support offices across campus that have contributed to the growing number of African-American students graduating from the University of North Texas."

Troy Johnson, UNT's associate vice president for enroll-

ment management says, "This is really a testament to the university's commitment to diversity. It shows we are successful in both attracting and retaining a diverse student population. In fact, if you look at the numbers, the African-American freshmen retention rate into their second year of college is the highest among all ethnic groups."



## LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on April 2, 2007. You have until September 29, 2007, to redeem any tickets for these games:

Game #633 Bonus Cashword (\$3) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.20

Game #670 Cool Millions (\$20) Overall Odds are 1 in 2.45

Game #680 Luck of the Draw (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.71

Game #682 Two for \$1 (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.76

Game #687 \$50,000 Payday (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.41

Game #691 Star of Texas (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.21

Game #740 Wild Doubler (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.72



The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes. Lottery retailers are authorized to redeem prizes of up to and including \$500. Prizes of \$500 or more must be claimed in person at a Lottery Claim Center or by mail with a completed Texas Lottery claim form, however, annuity prizes or prizes over \$500,000 must be claimed in person at the Commission Headquarters in Austin. Call Customer Service at 1-800-575-LOTTO or visit the Lottery Web site at [www.lottery.state.tx.us](http://www.lottery.state.tx.us) for more information and location of nearest Claim Center. The Texas Lottery is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets, or for tickets sold in the mail. Tickets, transactions, prizes, and winners are subject to tax and players and winners agree to abide by all applicable laws. Commission rules, regulations, policies, directives, instructions, conditions, procedures, and final decisions of the Executive Director. A Scratch-Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Texas Lottery ticket. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. The Texas Lottery Supports Texas Education. © 2007 Texas Lottery Commission. All Rights Reserved.

## NonPremium.com



### Health Benefits

If you have Medicare part A and Part B or Medicare and Medicaid combined you qualify for Medicare Advantage Benefits at no additional cost.

Did you know you can receive a new pair of eye glasses each year, a good dental plan, a hearing aid if needed, and \$20.00 a month of non prescription items.

ALL AT NO ADDITIONAL MONTHLY PREMIUM!  
That's right you pay nothing!

CALL 972-517-1692 today to get started or register on line [www.nonpremium.com](http://www.nonpremium.com) or [medicareadvantagebenefits.com](http://medicareadvantagebenefits.com)

Visit Our Website At [www.MONTTheGazette.com](http://www.MONTTheGazette.com)



# Arts & Entertainment

Email Entertainment  
News And Events to  
Entertainment@MonTheGazette.com

## More Black History: Forest Whitaker And Jennifer Hudson Win Oscars

By: Christy Lennire - AP  
In real life, Forest Whitaker is a gentle giant of a man, soft-spoken and unassuming. But his intense, volatile performance as Idi Amin in "The Last King of Scotland" was so overpowering there was no choice but to give him the Academy Award for it.

Whitaker was named best actor for his portrayal of the Ugandan dictator, under whose reign hundreds of thousands of people were killed in the 1970s. The hulking 45-year-old actor channeled Amin's animated method of speaking and his imposing demeanor, but he also showed Amin's insecurity, paranoia and vulnerability.

"When I was a kid the only way I saw movies was from the back of my family's car," he said, taking several deep breaths. "It wasn't my reality to think I'd be acting in movies and receiving this honor tonight. It tells me it's possible

— it is possible — for a kid from East Texas who was raised in South Central L.A., in Carson, who believed in a dream, commits himself to them with his heart, to touch them and to have them happen."

Like most of the other actors winning awards Sunday night, Whitaker had been heavily



favorable. He'd already received a Golden Globe, a Screen Actors Guild Award, a Critics' Choice Award and kudos from film critics groups across the country.

Jennifer Hudson won the supporting-actress Academy Award on Sunday for "Dreamgirls," though her costar and fellow front-runner

Eddie Murphy lost the supporting-actor prize to Alan Arkin of "Little Miss Sunshine."

"More than anything, I'm deeply moved by the open-hearted appreciation our small film has received, which in these fragmented times speaks so openly of the possibility of innocence, growth and connection," said Arkin, who plays a foul-mouthed grandpa with a taste for heroin in the road comedy.

Hudson won an Oscar for her first movie, playing a powerhouse vocalist who falls on hard times after she is booted from a 1960s girl group. The role came barely two years after she shot to celebrity as an "American Idol" finalist.

"Oh my God, I have to just take this moment in. I cannot believe this. Look what God can do. I didn't think I was going to win," Hudson said through tears of joy. "If my grandmother was here to see me now. She was my biggest inspiration."

## Texas Instruments Supports Annual Cultural Awareness Series

Texas Instruments sponsored the Saturday evening performance (February 24) of Dallas Black Dance Theatre's (DBDT) Cultural Awareness series at the Majestic Theatre. Contributing \$15,000 as an evening sponsor, this marks the seventh consecutive season of TI's support for this series, where more than 100 TI associates were in attendance. DBDT is Dallas' only full-time professional dance company, and its Annual Cultural Awareness Series celebrates Black History Month. The series consisted of two performances for the general public and three sold-out morning matinee programs for 5,000 area school children grades K-12.

"Texas Instruments is a long-time partner with the Dallas Black Dance Theatre. It is an organization that consistently delivers excellent and innovative programs that help make Dallas a national center for high-quality arts and culture activities," states Gray Mayes, Director, State and Community Affairs for Texas Instruments Incorporated. "Organizations like the DBDT are building a vibrant future for

the North Texas community."

This series featured new works by international artist Neila Yatkina and award-winning choreographer, Dianne McIntyre. Reviews from The Dallas Morning News raved, "The two new works alone were worth the price of admission (Margaret Putnam)."

The orchestra-capacity audience cheered Nycole Ray's bold performance of Angelitos Negros, and the energy was electric when the dance company closed the show with Christopher Huggins' nationally acclaimed, Night Run.

Wachovia was the presenting sponsor of this series. Friday evening performance sponsor was American Airlines. Support for the student matinee series was provided by Idearc Media and Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of North Texas.

Tickets are available now for DBDT's Spring Celebration Series (May 18-19), an end-of-season celebration like none other. For tickets, call Ticketmaster (214) 631-ARTS, online at www.ticketmaster.com, or for group sales contact DBDT's Ticket Office (214) 871-2390.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre

season sponsors are The Dallas Morning News, WFAA-Channel 8, American Airlines, The Dallas Weekly, K104 FM, Downtown



Nycole Ray performing audience favorite, Night Run

Business News and Elite News. Community Promotional Partners are MON-The Gazette, Dallas Examiner, WRR-101.1 FM, Dallasblack.com, DCTV, Dallas Post Tribune, Eclipse Magazine and KERA.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre is supported, in part, by the City of Dallas/Office of Cultural Affairs, Texas Commission on the Arts, Mid-America Arts Alliance and the National Endowment for the Arts.

## Fantasia Announced As The Next 'Miss Celie'

After weeks of rumors, Fantasia Barrino used the "American Idol" platform that made her famous to announce



that she will take over the role of Miss Celie in Broadway's "The Color Purple."

Not only did she belt a re-orchestrated version of Celie's song "I'm Here" on Thursday's "Idol" results show, but the High Point, N.C. native also brought along one of the musical's producers, Quincy Jones, to help promote the new gig.

As previously reported, rumors of Fantasia's casting were in the air even as producers announced last weekend that Kenita R. Miller would take over the role originated by LaChanze and continued by Jeannette Bayardelle. Miller's run began on Feb. 19th,

and she'll continue to "shake her shimmy" until Fantasia is passed the baton on April 10.

Barrino, "Idol's" season-three champ, is also scheduled to appear Wednesday (Feb. 28) on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" to discuss her Broadway debut. Winfrey's presence as producer of "The Color Purple" has helped the show maintain a high profile ever since its Nov. 1, 2005 opening. It has also helped the musical recoup its \$11 million production costs in little more than a year.

## Ice Cube Trades 'Friday' For 'Sunday'

Ice Cube has signed on to star in the Screen Gems film "First Sunday," which marks the feature directing debut of successful playwright, David E. Talbert.

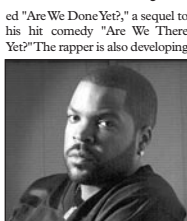
The actor-rapper plays one of two men who botches an attempt to rob a church. They wind up taking its parishioners hostage, and those churchgoers slowly convert the robbers to see the error of their ways.

Production is scheduled to begin May 14 in Los Angeles and Baltimore. Screen Gems plans to put the film in theaters

during the next Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend.

Following in the footsteps of fellow playwright-turned-filmmaker Tyler Perry, Talbert is currently weighing offers to adapt several of his plays for the big screen, reports Variety. Like Perry, Talbert has written dozens of gospel-themed productions that have generated tremendous box office for the past 15 years. His latest, "Nick of Time," is currently on tour with Morris Chestnut in the lead.

Cube returns to theaters this spring with the Steve Carr-direct-



"Welcome Back, Kotter" at the Weinstein Co.

## Jamie Foxx's Tour "Unpredictable" Makes Stop In Dallas

"Ray Charles told me, 'If you feel it, then you know it's right,'" says Jamie Foxx. "He taught me how to feel."

The release of Foxx's long-awaited J Records debut, *Unpredictable*, demonstrates the lessons the Oscar-winner learned at the feet of one of music's true giants. With a wide range of sounds and emotions, and a breathtaking list of guest stars adding to the mix, the one-time music student at San Diego's United States International University finally fulfills his true dream.

From the party-starting first single "Unpredictable" to the smoldering "Love Changes," *Unpredictable* reveals an artist ready to play in R & B's big leagues. Of course, Foxx's musical skills are no secret the album follows his appearance on Kanye West's #1 single "Gold Digger," which reprised the magic of their collaboration on last year's Grammy-nominated smash

"Slow Jamz." That hit was just one taste of Jamie Foxx's recent unprecedented accomplishments.

But Foxx, 37, is quick to point out that music isn't just a sideline to his history-making acting career. "I've been working on music for the last 15 years," he says. "I don't do nothing sideways. If I'm gonna get it, I'm gonna get it 100 percent."

True to the album's title, Foxx points to a few songs on *Unpredictable* as the most surprising, and thus the ones he's proudest of. "There's a song called 'I Wish You Were Here,' about my grandmother," he says. "It's a heavy, heavy song we put it at the end of the album, because I want people to bump and grind and enjoy themselves before they get to that. That's the one that measures your soul." The track "Til I Met Your Sister," he says,



presents a new perspective on a slippery situation. "It's about a guy having this infidelity with his girl's sister," says Foxx, "but nobody ever has sung about that in a way where it's not embarrassing, it's not jokey, it's really serious—like, we really did click and there's no way I can fight it."

Jamie Foxx will be performing at Nokia Live in Grand Prairie on March 10, tickets are available through Ticketmaster.

## "The Katrina Monologues: A Tribute To Hurricane Katrina Survivors"

The North Dallas Suburban Alumnae and Sigma Mu Chapters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. are proud to sponsor an encore production of "The Katrina Monologues: A Tribute to Hurricane Katrina Survivors." The production is scheduled for Friday, March 2, 2007 at 7:00 pm and will take place at the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD), Conference Center located in Richardson, Texas. The production serves as a tribute and

an opportunity to share stories of actual survivor experiences with a backdrop of the rich sounds of New Orleans and promises to be a memorable event.

The recollections of the stories have been recorded and transcribed by professor, playwright, storyteller, and actress Njoki McElroy, PhD. Dr. McElroy is a graduate of Xavier University located in New Orleans, Louisiana, and has also been honored as a "Living Legend" by

The Black Academy of Arts and Letters located in Dallas, Texas.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit Habitat for Humanity earmarked for homes for Katrina survivors. The donation will be presented to a representative of Habitat for Humanity at the conclusion of the production.

Admission is \$10.00 for the general public and \$8.00 with student ID.

**Disney ON ICE**  
PRODUCED BY FELD ENTERTAINMENT  
**PRINCESS WISHES**  
Special Guest Tinker Bell

**OPENING NIGHTS - TICKETS \$10!**  
(Includes Refreshments and VIP seats. No double bookings)  
Offer Courtesy of 94.9 KUTV

**MAR. 21 - 25** **MAR. 29 - APR. 1** **FORT WORTH CONVENTION CENTER**

For full show schedules and to buy tickets, visit [www.disneyonice.com](http://www.disneyonice.com),  
Ticketmaster Ticket Centers including Fiesta, Macy's, FYE, Tower Records and Warehouse Music,  
Arena Box Offices or call (214) 373-8000 Dallas or (972) 647-5700 Metro

Groups (214) 665-4269

# Half Of The States Have Produced All Black Members Of Congress

February was Black History Month, and CQPolitics.com yesterday asked readers to identify the state that has elected more African-Americans in its history. (The correct answer is Illinois, which has had 16 black members of Congress).

As a follow-up, CQPolitics.com today lists all 25 states — half the total in the country — that have elected at least one African-American to Congress. The information was derived from a 2005 report of the Congressional Research Service (CRS) and an analysis of the 2006 election results, which produced three new African-American House members.

One of them is New York Democrat Yvette Clarke (news, bio, voting record) of Brooklyn, who was elected in the black-majority 11th District left open by the retirement of another black Democrat, Major R. Owens. With Clarke's victory, New York has elected nine blacks to Congress in its history.

That is the same number as South Carolina, which at first glance appears an impressive feat for the much less populous Southern state.

But a closer look shows that eight of South Carolina's nine black representatives served between 1870 — when Republican officials administering the post-Civil War Reconstruction policies encouraged black political participation — and the

mid-1890s, when discriminatory "Jim Crow" laws took effect across the South and stifled black voting rights for generations.

George Washington Murray, a Republican who was the last black congressman of that era from South Carolina, left



Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson

office in 1897. The state would not elect its next black representative until Democrat James E. Clyburn won a recently created black-majority district in 1992.

Clyburn, who last year easily won an eighth House term, has made much of his opportunity, though: He is majority whip, making him the highest-ranking African-American in the history of Congress.

Freshman Rep. Keith Ellison (news, bio, voting record) was elected last November as the first African-American congressman in Minnesota's history. While there has been much attention paid by the national media to Ellison's status as the first Muslim to serve in Congress, what is notable about his victory from a racial perspective is that his strongly

Democratic district, the Minneapolis-based 5th, has a population that is just 13 percent black. That is by far the lowest black population percentage of any district presently represented by an African-American.

The third black freshman in the 110th Congress is Hank Johnson (news, bio, voting record) of Georgia's 4th District, who defeated a African-American McKinney in a primary runoff election last August. Johnson's win gives Georgia eight black House members in its history — including three other current incumbents, Democrats John Lewis (news, bio, voting record), David Scott (news, bio, voting record) and Sanford D. Bishop Jr. — tying it for fifth overall with North Carolina.

With four blacks currently in Congress, Georgia is tied with Illinois, California and New York. Illinois, though, may be able to claim the tie-breaker, as it is home to Democrat Barack Obama (news, bio, voting record), currently the only African-American senator and one of only three popularly elected black senators in the nation's history. The others were Democrat Carol Moseley-Braun (1993-1999), also of Illinois, and Republican

Edward W. Brooke of Massachusetts (1967-1979).

The following is a list that rank-orders the states by the number of black members they have had; each state's entry includes any current black lawmakers in its delegation. All of the current black members of Congress are



Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee

Democrats: The last black Republican in Congress was J.C. Watts of Oklahoma, who served in the House from 1995 until his retirement in 2003.

The list does not include African-Americans sent to Congress from the District of Columbia or other territories, whose delegates are not full voting members of the 435-member House.

African-Americans in Congress, by state

• Illinois: 16- Current members: Sen. Barack Obama and

Reps. Bobby L. Rush, Jesse L. Jackson Jr. and Danny K. Davis

• California: 10- Current members: Reps. Maxine Waters, Juanita Millender-McDonald, Barbara Lee, and Diane Watson.

• New York: 9- Current members: Reps. Charles B. Rangel, Edolphus, Gregory W. Meeks and Yvette D. Clarke

• South Carolina: 9- Current member: Rep. James E. Clyburn

• Georgia: 8- Current members: Reps. John Lewis, Sanford D. Bishop Jr., David Scott and Hank Johnson

• North Carolina: 8- Current members: Reps. Melvin Watt and G.K. Butterfield

• Texas: 6- Current members: Reps. Eddie Bernice Johnson, Sheila Jackson-Lee and Al Green

• Alabama: 5- Current member: Rep. Artur Davis

• Florida: 5- Current members: Reps. Alcee L. Hastings, Corrine Brown and Kendrick B. Meek

• Michigan: 5- Current members: Reps. John Conyers (Jr. and Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick

• Mississippi: 5- Current member: Rep. Bennie Thompson (news, bio, voting record)

• Maryland: 4- Current members: Reps. Albert R. Wynn and Elijah E. Cummings

• Missouri: 4- Current members: Reps. William Lacy Clay and Emanuel Cleaver

• Pennsylvania: 4- Current member: Rep. Chaka Fattah

• Louisiana: 3- Current member: Rep. William J. Jefferson

• Indiana: 2- Current member: Rep. Julia Carson

• Ohio: 2- Current member: Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones

• Tennessee: 2- Current member: Rep. Robert C. Scott

• Connecticut: 1- Current member: Rep. Keith Ellison

• New Jersey: 1- Current member: Rep. Donald M. Payne

• Oklahoma: 1- Current member: Rep. Gwen Moore

The 25 states that have never elected an African-American to Congress are: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming.

## SmartScape Seminar Page 1

scape and gardening experts have known for years — that over-watering is one of the prime sources for many of the problems we encounter with our plantings and turf today. Once-weekly watering is just one of the many ways we can establish strong root growth and avoid plant decay while conserving our most valued natural asset, water.

Plano's Free Texas SmartScape Lawn and Garden Seminar, March 17 and 18, 2007, will offer three opportunities for taking your landscape to new plateaus this coming year.

In the Landscape Design and Plants for North Texas seminars you'll learn the basics of good landscape design, which will reduce water usage, ease maintenance efforts and help prevent water pollution. Included in the presentation will be recommended native and adapted plants that are readily available in this area and provide pizzazz and punch to any landscape.

Local lawn and garden expert Bonnie Reese will be teaching the seminars, with all participants receiving a FREE copy of her book, "Common Sense Landscaping." Attendees will be eligible for some great door prizes, including a personal landscape consultation valued at \$175.

Three free sessions are

## Irving Redistricting Page 1

district sizes.

The revised redistricting plan has been submitted for review by the United States Department of Justice, as required by law. Under the city charter, five council positions require that the person elected to those positions reside in a geographic district. All elections, however, are conducted in the city at-large, so the change only affects the geographic area in which certain council candidates must reside. It does not affect their composition of the electorate for any position, as all voters in the city may vote in every council race. For more information, call the City Secretary's Office at (972) 721-2493.

offered, each held at Plano Municipal Center, Council Chamber, 1520 Avenue K: Saturday, March 17, 2007 Sunday, March 18, 2007 9:00am - 1:00pm 1:30pm - 5:30pm 2:00pm - 6:00pm Registration for the seminar is required to enable seating and complimentary book availability. Online registration is fast and easy just visit the website at [www.plano.gov/water](http://www.plano.gov/water).

**Career Opportunities** - Contact Marketing to advertise in our career opportunity section 972-606-7498 Fax or Email copy for quote: Fax: 972-509-9058; Email: [opportunity@monthegazette.com](mailto:opportunity@monthegazette.com)

**CITY OF PLANO, TEXAS**

**POLICE HOTLINE** (972) 941-7299

**FIRE HOTLINE** (972) 941-7402

**24 HOUR CAREER INFORMATION HOTLINE** (972) 941-7116

Home Page: [www.plano.gov](http://www.plano.gov)

FAX (972) 941-7239

**AA / EOE / ADA**

**McKinney INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Teacher Job Fair**

**Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00 a.m. to Noon**

**Pre-Registration is Required**

**Secondary and Athletic Applicants**

Scott Johnson Middle School  
3400 Community Drive  
McKinney, TX 75071

**Elementary and Special Education Applicants**

McKinney North High School  
2550 Wilmet Rd.  
McKinney, TX 75071

**We are seeking educators for the 2007-2008 school year.**

For more information call 469-742-4117

**You must pre-register on-line at [www.mckinneyisd.net](http://www.mckinneyisd.net)**

**Career Opportunities** - Contact Marketing to advertise in our career opportunity section 972-606-7498 Fax or Email copy for quote: Fax: 972-509-9058; Email: [opportunity@monthegazette.com](mailto:opportunity@monthegazette.com)

**\$10 - \$12 Per Hour**

**Seeking An Energetic, Telephone Advertising Sales Pro For Classified and Small Business Accounts.**

**Must have: Experience, Sales Skills, Good People Skills, the Ability to Close. Part-Time (approx. 20 hrs per week). Hourly pay + Commission + Bonuses**

**Call: 972-606-3891 voicemail**

**Fax resume to 469-366-7473 or Email: [publisher@monthegazette.com](mailto:publisher@monthegazette.com)**

**Trying to Get Your Foot in the Door?**

**Community Newspaper seeking Freelance Writers to cover Community Events. Familiarity with AP style a plus. Please send your resume along with a writing sample.**

**Attn: Publisher • Email: [publisher@monthegazette.com](mailto:publisher@monthegazette.com)**

**Phone: 972-606-3891 • Fax: 469-366-7473**

**EOE**

**Looking for a Fun Job?**

**We are currently looking for Photographers. If you have Photo Journalism experience or excellent photography skills, please email or fax your resume to:**

**Attn: Publisher**

**Email: [publisher@monthegazette.com](mailto:publisher@monthegazette.com)**

**Phone: 972-606-3891 • Fax: 469-366-7473**

**EOE**

**CARROLLTON CITY OF CARROLLTON TEXAS**

**Civil Engineer-Building Inspection**

**Concrete Crewmember--Concrete**

**Dispatcher III-Shift Supervisor**

**Detention Officer I**

**Equipment Operator II-Asphalt**

**Facility Service Worker**

**Marketing Specialist**

**Museum Interpreter/Special Events Attendant**

**Field Service Representative**

**Internal Auditor**

**Plans Examiner**

**Pool Manager**

**Public Safety Dispatcher I**

**Seasonal Maintenance Worker**

**School Crossing Guard**

**Vector Operator**

P.O. Box 110535 Carrollton, TX 75011-0535

FAX: (972) 466-4789 Email: [jobs4you@cityofcarrollton.com](mailto:jobs4you@cityofcarrollton.com)

Website: <http://www.cityofcarrollton.com> Job Hotline: (972) 466-3376

Human Resources 1945 E. Jackson Road

**Equal Opportunity Employer**

**INVITATION TO BID**

**EAGLE CONTRACTING L.P.;**

an Equal Opportunity Employer, is soliciting Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprises for Subcontract and Material Supply Bids for the following project:

**WATER UTILITIES DEPARTMENT**

**CITY OF DALLAS, TEXAS**

Junction Structure and 108-Inch Transmission Line

Lake Fork to Lake Tawakoni

Section Five

Contract No. 07-037

Bid Date:

March 15, 2007 @ 10:00 a.m.

Contact:

Roy Ewen

Metro: 817-379-1897 • Fax, Metro: 817-379-0610

Mail to:

Eagle Contracting L.P.

P.O. Box 1600, Keller, TX 76244

**IRVING**

**DO YOU WANT AN EXCITING AND REWARDING CAREER?**

**PURSUe A CAREER AS A POLICE OFFICER OR FIREFIGHTER!**

- Competitive wages
- Array of benefits
- Education incentive pay
- ... and more

**SIGN UP TO TAKE THE CITY OF IRVING'S NEXT CIVIL SERVICE ENTRANCE EXAM.**

**CALL (972) 721-2532 TO REGISTER.**

*The City of Irving does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, or disability in employment or the provision of services.*

[www.ci.irving.tx.us](http://www.ci.irving.tx.us)

**Southern Star Concrete, Inc. NOW HIRING**

**At Various Locations in DFW**

**MUST BE AT LEAST 25 YEARS OF AGE**

**MIN 2 YEARS COMMERCIAL EXPERIENCE REQUIRED**

*Credit for prior Mixer/Driving experience with current employer to determine pay rate.*

**Mixer Drivers - A or B CDL**

**Excellent Benefits • 401(k)**

**Annual Performance Bonus**

**Weekly Safe Load Bonus**

**Competitive Rates**

**Guaranteed Hours**

1968 Brumlow, Southlake, Texas 76092

**Ph: (817) 329-8206**

**Fax: (817) 329-8448**

**EOE**



## Church News

### Scriptures for March 2007



**Sister Tarpley**

From the monthly calendar of Full Gospel Holy Temple, Apostle Lobias Murray, Founder/Pastor:

A sure cure for our life is the 'praise cure.' Psalm 145:21 & 150:6. With God's strength behind you, you are more than sufficient for the task ahead of you. Isaiah 40:31. Sanctification is like riding a bicycle: You either keep moving or you fall down! 2 Peter 3:18; 1 Thessalonica 5:23.

God still speaks to those who take time to listen. Hebrews 12 & 1 Samuel 3:9. To get together is the beginning; to stay together is progress, but to work together is success! Psalm 133. The Holy Spirit who worked in the early church is still at work in the world today! Acts 2:41-43 & Mark 16:20. To know God's will is man's greatest treasure; to do His will is life's greatest privilege. Mark 3:35 & 1 John 2:15-17. A meal without God is like food without flavor! Ecclesiastes 6:7 & Proverbs 3:7. By silent prayer we not only worship God, we witness to men. Psalm 95:6. There is nothing so powerful in the world next to the love of God as a good mother. Proverb 31:10 & John 19:25.

God always gives His best to those who leave the choice with Him! 1 John 5:14 & 15. Prayer is profitable whenever it is practiced! James 5:16 & Acts 6:6. Admitting your sin is never a substitute for quitting your sin. Proverbs 28:13. What you do is an infallible commentary on what you are. Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:1 & James 4:17. Speaking without thinking is

like shooting without aiming. John 14:17. Suffering is like a magnet; it is sent to draw a soul closer to God. Romans 8:16-18. Pray as if everything depends on God; then move as if everything depends on you! Luke 11:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:17 & Psalm 55:1.



**Picture of The Week**  
Nannie Burroughs: Educator, school founder, civil rights activist, institution & organization-builder, hard worker and a dedicated leader.

Turn care into prayer- prayer and God will turn your midnight into music. 1 Peter 5:7 & Psalm 55:22. Too many people conduct their lives on the 'cafeteria plan'; 'self-service only!' Philippians 23-4. Patience means awaiting God's help without doubting God's love! Psalm 37:7. Rejoicing each day in the Lord enables His love to shine through us! Colossians 2:15-17. A good marriage means falling in love many times with the same person. Ephesians 5:23-33. Prices at the store may rise and fall but the price of sin remains the same! Romans 3:23 & Romans 6:23. Learn to be patient in the little

things and you will have sufficient strength for the big things! Galatians 5:22; James 1:3 & Luke 21:19. Worry is interest in trouble that may never come! Matthew 6:34. Our day will be brighter if we start with a song! Psalm 145:2 & Acts 16:25. True courage is like a kite, a contrary wind raises it higher. Joshua 1:9. A word of encouragement can change a person's life. 1 Samuel 30:6. Go to church to continue with God, not to criticize. Psalm 42:4. Who loves me, follows me. John 10:4 & 5. God has not promised to keep us from trials, but to be with us in them! John 14:23 & Matthew 28:10.

#### March is Women's History Month

Ms. Nannie Helen Burroughs (1879-1961): A major figure in the Black church & secular feminist movements; she was one of the best-known and well-respected Black leaders and intellectuals.

Her life and writings embodied and commented on many of the class, race, and gender tensions in the first half of the twentieth century. During the Depression, she established and managed a self-help venture called Cooperative Industrial, Inc. which provided free facilities for a medical clinic, a hairdressing salon and a variety store; its creed, the "Three B's": the Bible, Bath and the Broom; clean life, clean body, clean house."

Email: religion@montheGazette.com  
Office: 972-516-4191  
Voice Mail: 972-606-3878  
Fax: 972-516-4197

Let MON-The Gazette help your church accomplish the Prayer of Jabez, "Enlarge our territory to expand opportunities that may impact in such a way that we touch more lives for God's glory. Let us do more for Him."

Loans, Strategic Events & PR, Paul Quinn College, the Latino Cultural Center and supported by other community organizations.

For more information, please contact: Dulce Isguez Parker at 972 276-4972 or email Dulceip@aol.com or DParker@culturfamilia.org.

## Church Happenings

### COALITION OF CHURCHES IN PRISON MINISTRY

On-Going Mentor Program  
True Lee Baptist Church, 3907 Bertrand Avenue, Dallas, TX 75210, 214-421-9435, Rev. Donald Parish, Pastor, is working with a mentor program for children of parents that are incarcerated. Come or call to find out how to get involved.  
For more information, donations, and volunteering, please call Carolyn Johnson @ 972-235-6432.

**Coalition of Churches In Prison Ministry**  
Rev. Isaac Johnson, Coordinator  
P.O. Box 225863  
Dallas, TX 75222-5863  
972-235-6432 or 214-632-6519

### DIVINE GRACE FAMILY INSTITUTE

Every Saturday in 2007  
9 am - 11 am or 4 pm - 6 pm  
A Division of DGM, Inc. 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization; we are, "Helping to raise families that will hear God's voice and do His will." Teaching parenting and life skills, life debt free, repair or improve credit. Learn to make nutritional meals, marriage and love renewal classes. Newly wed classes; plan a marriage or a divorce? Make an appointment today at 972-602-3035

**Pastor Marshall Ermonselle**  
Executive Director  
P.O. Box 165103  
Irvine, TX 75016-5103  
972-602-3035

### DENTON FULL GOSPEL HOLY TEMPLE CHURCH

March 6 - 9 @ 8 pm  
Please join us for our Harvest Time Crusade 2007 @ the UNT Gateway Center, 801 North Texas Blvd. with guest speakers Supt. Corby Bush, Dr. Dorinda Clark-Cole, and Dr. Marvin Sapp. There will be a great move of God; you don't want to miss this event. For more information, please

call 940-484-0963.

**Denton Full Gospel Holy Temple Church**  
Elder E. H. Daniels, III Pastor  
529 Bolivar Street  
Denton, TX 76202  
940-484-0963

### FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN

March 2007  
FBCA Education Department is providing GED preparation including pre-testing and tutoring, this FREE service is provided every Wednesday @ 6 pm. If you or someone you know needs assistance, please contact the church @ 972-356-9956 for further details

#### March 23 @ 7 pm

Please join us as our Men Empowered by Christ presents "2007 Transformation Conference" with Pastor Eric Brown, The Living Revelation Center.

#### March 24 @ 8:30 am

Our Saturday's Seminar will feature Pastor A. A. Todd from Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church who will speak on "Men of God—Men of Purpose, Peace, Promise and Prosperity." Rev. Dwight Harris from FBCA will speak on "Transformation into the Likeness of Christ." Pastor Charles Malone from The Little Bethel Baptist Church will speak on "Transformation into a Better Husband and a Better Father." Pastor Perry from True Image Ministry will provide the "Ministry of Music."

#### March 25 @ 11 am

You don't want to miss Pastor Darrell Ferguson from Shiloh Baptist Church, Wilmington, NC as he speaks on "Ministry of the Word."

For more information and registration fees about the above 2007 Transformation Conference please call Deacon Michael Polk @ 469-667-3068.

Fellowship B. C. of Allen  
Rev. W. L. Stafford, Sr., M. Div.

Senior Pastor  
200 Belmont Drive  
Allen, TX 75013  
972-359-9956

### NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH OF ROWLETT

March 18th @ 4 pm  
Please join us as we are, "Getting Ready for the Abundant Harvest" in our 17th Church Celebration in 2007. Our dynamic and anointed speaker of the hour will be Pastor W. L. Stafford, Sr., M. Div., Senior Pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church of Allen, TX and his congregation. Come to this Spirit-filled event as we worship together and give praise to God for another year of ministry!  
For more information, please call New Life Fellowship Church @ 972-463-4964.

**New Life Fellowship Church of Rowlett**  
Bishop M.E. Johnson, Jr., Senior Pastor  
Pastor Bobby J. Hill, Jr., Co-Pastor  
7401 Miller Road  
Rowlett, TX 75088  
972-463-4964

### ZION CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH

March 4 @ 2 pm  
We will host the Juneteenth Committee of Ferris, TX; as they organize their First "Annual Alumni Day" for all those who attended and who graduated from Ferris Dunbar High School in Ferris, TX.

If you would like to help plan this great event, please contact Angela Berry-Ellison @ 972-842-2562 or 214-394-9176; Karen Gardner Decker Collins @ 214-374-3047; or Lois Anthony Gardner @ 972-846-3008.

**Zion Chappel Baptist Church**  
Rev. L. Gardner, Pastor  
401 North Denton Street  
Hutchins, TX  
972-225-8028

## Church Directory

**Temple of Faith Christian Chapel C.M.E. Church**  
"Where Jesus is the Main Attraction"  
Sunday Worship Experience - 8:00 am & 10:45 am  
Wednesday Bible Study - 12:00 Noon & 7:00 pm  
14120 Noel Road • Dallas, TX 75254  
972-239-1120 (Office) • 972-239-5925 (Fax)  
templeoffaith\_cmc@sbcglobal.net (Email)  
Healthy Beginnings Child Development Center - 972-404-1412

**Hill Chapel**  
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church  
1113 Ave. I, Plano, TX 75074 • 972-423-4090  
Rev. Clarence J. Ford, Jr., Pastor  
Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.  
Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 A.M.  
Wednesday Night-Community Bible Class: 7:30 P.M.

**NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**  
"A Spiritual Oasis for a Thirsty World" Isaiah 55:1  
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:  
8:00 AM • 9:30 AM • 11:30 AM  
972-437-3493  
1010-1020 South Sherman Street • Richardson, TX 75081  
www.ndcbf.org

**New Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Dallas**  
Sunday Service  
Morning Worship  
7:30 am & 10:30 am  
9:00 am Sunday School  
Wednesday Service  
Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm  
Brotherhood 7:00 pm  
Missions 7:00 pm  
Singles Group 7:00 pm  
Bible Study 7:45 pm  
Dr. Robert E. Price, Senior Pastor  
A Praying Church Family  
"Watchmen on the Walls"  
214-341-6459 (Phone) • 214-342-8403 (Fax)  
9550 Shepard Road  
Dallas, TX 75243  
www.nmzb.org (Website) • newmzb@aol.com (Email)

**Avenue F Church of Christ**  
1026 Avenue F • Plano, TX 75074 • 972-423-8833  
"Our Pilgrimage to Heaven in 2007" - Hebrews 11:13-16  
Sunday Bible Class ..... 9:45 am  
Sunday Morning Worship ..... 10:45 am  
Men Bible Class ..... 5:00 pm  
Women Bible Class ..... 5:00 pm  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Bible Class ..... 7:00 pm  
Radio Program @ 7:00 am on KHYN 970 AM Sunday Mornings  
www.avefchurchofchrist.org

**St. Luke A.M.E. Church (aka - SLAME)**  
"Where we slam dunk the devil and serve up Jesus"  
521 W. Avenue E Garland, TX 75040 972.487.9703  
Email: slamechurch@aol.com  
Sunday 8:45 a.m. Church School  
9:45 a.m. Praise & Worship  
10:15 a.m. Worship Experience  
Thursday 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal  
Tuesday 7:15 p.m. Bible Study  
Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Prayer Service  
7:00 p.m. Church School  
Reverend Charles E. Franklin, Pastor

**Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church**  
920 E. 14th Street Plano, TX  
Pastor Isaiah Joshua, Jr.  
FANNING THE FLAMES OF OUR FAITH  
Sunday Worship Services 8AM & 11AM  
Sunday 9:45AM Sunday School  
Monday 7PM Youth, Brotherhood, Mission & Young Adult Ministries  
Tuesday 7PM Bible Study & Men's Choir  
Wednesday 7PM Mid-Week Service  
Thursday 7PM Mass Choir  
For more information call (972) 423-6695  
www.shilohbaptistchurch.org

**Mt. Olive Church of Plano**  
740 Avenue F Plano, TX 75074 • 972-433-5511  
WWW.MOCORORG  
Serving the Plano Community for 13 Years  
Sunday Worship 10:00 am  
Wednesday Night 7:15 pm  
Pastors Sam & Gloria Fencyory  
Call Pastor Sam on:  
"Vision & Truth Live"  
Radio Broadcast: KWRD 100.7 FM Sundays 9pm - 10pm  
HEAR PASTOR SAM DAILY ON: "TRUTH MADE SIMPLE"  
KGGK 1040 AM MONDAY - FRIDAY @ 5:25pm - 5:30pm

**Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church**  
1308 Wilcox Street, McKinney TX  
Pastor Charles S. Wattlely  
Sunday  
Education Ministries... 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Celebration... 11:00 am  
- Nursery Facilities Available -  
Wednesday  
Family Ministries... 7:00 p.m.  
Friendly Fellowship with A Family Focus  
For More Information Call 972.542.6178  
www.saintmarkbc.com • stmarkmissionary@aol.com



## The Inspiring Body Of Christ Church Holds Oratorical Competition In Recognition Of African American Heritage Month

Photos By: Mark Hartfield  
The Inspiring Body of Christ Church (IBOC) recently held its inaugural youth Oratorical Competition in celebration of Black History Month. The Oratorical Competition theme was "Because He Still Lives".

The oratorical competition and its theme were both the brainchild of IBOC Pastor Rickie Rush. The competition included elementary, middle and high school participants who created and delivered three to five minute speeches.

Pastor Rush's own interest in oratory goes back to his own experience at Boude Storey Middle School. Possessing a gift of gab and always talking in class, Mr. Rush's principal, Mr. Kirkpatrick, took him to speak at an Optimist Club meeting.

The future pastor wrote a speech, recited it at the meeting, and has been speaking publicly ever since.

As a former DISD Theatre Arts teacher, Mr. Rush commanded his students to speak properly. Now, as "Pastor" Rush, he gives back by passing

on the similar encouragement and support Mr. Kirkpatrick gave to him. He expressed to the competition why speaking properly is an integral part of their success.

"What all young people need is just someone to care about them, to tell them they can be better than average and push them towards high expectations," he said.

"Many young people think that speaking correctly is not cool or not something they want to do. Speaking right is not a 'white' thing, it is the key to

your success. In order to be successful in life, you must know how to communicate and sell yourself."

The oratorical competition participants were judged on criteria which included, General Appearance, Organization of ideas, Believability, Speech, Enunciation and Voice Projection, Content, Facial Expression and Stage Presence.

After two nights of preliminary rounds of competition, five students with the highest scores out of 100 points shared their winning speeches to the IBOC 3rd service audience on February 24. The audience was moved and impressed by the presentations of the winning

orators.

Each of the 14 Oratorical speech participants received cash awards. From that group came the 1st place male and female, 2nd place male and female and the overall winner who received trophies and additional cash awards. There were two special recognition trophies given for Most Improved and an Overcomer Award.

Recognized winners from the contest are: Overall Winner, Amber Hurd; 1st place Male, Daniel Cokes; 1st Place Female, C'niphia Jones; 2nd Place Male, Brandon Morton; 2nd Place Female, Jazzi Black; Most Improved Award, Jazmine Fortenberry;

Overcomer Award, Ashley Dodd.

Congratulations are in order for the remaining participants Sammetria Stevenson, Avante Perkins, Antoine Robinson III, Ariel Stevenson, Damarious Crockett, Jeremy Jones, and Amber Johnson.

The oratorical competition was coordinated by IBOC members, Mr. Carlos Lynn and Ms. Julia Fuller, with assistance from Mrs. Michelle Coleman. Later this year, Pastor Rickie Rush is scheduling a second oratorical competition to provide a platform for even more young people in his ministry to cultivate their speaking gifts.



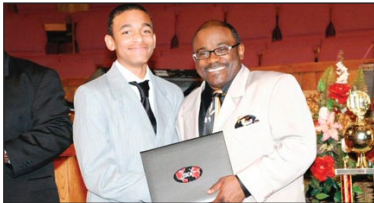
Amber Hurd, Overall Contest Winner receives her trophy and cash award.



Pastor Rush with contest coordinators Carlos Lynn and Julia Fuller.



Oratorical winners and participants (l-r) Avante Perkins, Jeremy Jones, Jazmine Fortenberry, Damarious Crockett, Brandon Morton, Daniel Cokes, Jazzi Black, Amber Hurd, Ariel Stevenson, C'niphia Jones.



Damarious Crockett, participant



Jazmine Fortenberry, Most Improved Award Winner



**Macedonia Ministries**  
702 S. Mill Street • Lewisville, TX 75057  
972-436-2011  
"We Choose Love to Nourish and Cherish One Another"  
John 13:34 & Ephesians 5:28-29  
www.macedoniainministries.com  
Saturday: Intercessory Prayer @ 7:00 am  
Sunday Services: Sunday School @ 9:30 am • Morning Worship @ 11:00 am  
Monday Services: Men's Group & Women's Group Bible Study @ 6:30 pm  
Wednesday Service: Family Bible Study @ 6:30 pm

**New Life Fellowship Church of Rowlett**  
Bishop Miller E. Johnson, Senior Pastor  
New Worship Home  
7401 Miller Road • Rowlett, TX 75088  
972-463-4964  
A Place of New Beginnings... II Corinthians 5:17  
Sunday Life Bible School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Life Celebration Worship Service ..... 10:45 a.m.  
First Sunday: Ingredients for Life ..... 4:00 p.m.  
Wednesdays: Life In The Word Prayer and Bible Study ..... 7:00 p.m.



1st Place Female Winner C'niphia Jones delivers a passionate speech.



Amber Hurd gives a heartfelt speech to church members.



Ashley Dodd, Overcomer Award Winner



High School student Daniel Cokes gives an informative speech on the benefits of salvation.



1st Place Female Winner C'niphia Jones delivers a passionate speech.

**Fellowship Baptist Church of Allen**  
200 Belmont • Allen, Texas • 75013  
Phone: 972-359-9956 Fax: 972-359-6048  
www.fbcfallen.org  
"A Kingdom Building Church"  
Pastor W.L. Stafford Sr., M.Div  
First Lady Tasha Stafford  
Sunday School ..... 9:45 am  
Sunday Morning Worship/Children's Church ..... 8:15 am & 11:00 am  
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study ..... 7:00 pm  
"Youth for Christ" - Every Monday ..... 7:00 pm  
Come experience the Worship Atmosphere at Fellowship, you will never be the same!  
If you need a ride to worship with us, please call the church.

**The Inspiring Body of Christ Church**  
7710 S. Westmoreland Rd.  
Dallas Texas 75237  
Phone: 972-572-4262 Fax: 972-709-3888  
Sunday Services: 7:30 am, 10:00 am, 12:30 pm.  
Monday School: 7:00 pm  
Men's Fellowship: Friday 7:00 pm  
Website: www.ibocjoy.org

**Ben Washington Baptist Church, Inc.**  
3901 Frisco Avenue  
Irving, TX 75061  
Church 972-790-8421 Fax 972-986-6590  
Email: church@bwbchirving.org  
Web: bwbchirving.org  
"THE CHURCH WITH AN OPEN BIBLE"  
Sunday Worship Services  
8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
6:00 p.m. Baptist Training Union  
Wednesday  
12:00 p.m. Bible Study  
7:00 p.m. Prayer Hour  
7:30 p.m. Bible Study

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK**  
Spiritual Direction  
"Each One, Reach One"  
Worship Services  
7:30 am and 10:30 am  
Sunday School - 9:30 am  
Wednesday Night Service  
8:00 pm  
Dr. Gregory Foster  
Senior Pastor  
Rev. Anthony Foster  
Pastor  
Our Mission  
To fulfill The Great Commission until Christ comes.  
300 Phillips Street • Richardson, TX 75081 • 972.235.4235  
www.fbcbp.org

**Friendship Baptist Church**  
Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor  
Schedule of Services:  
**Sunday**  
Early Morning Worship  
8:00 a.m.  
Sunday School Classes  
9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship  
11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship (1st Sunday) 6:00 p.m.  
**Tuesday**  
Early Bird Bible Study 6:00 p.m.  
**Wednesday**  
Morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m.  
Prayer Meeting and Evening Bible Study 7:30 p.m.  
4396 Main Street  
The Colony, Texas 75056  
(972) 625-8186  
website: www.fbc-online.net  
"The Church with a Vision"