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Fifty Cents

People In The News



Irma P. Hall, a veteran of more than 50 films and television shows, is starring locally in the DeSoto production of *A Raisin in the Sun*.

The 71-year-old actress has had featured roles in movies such as *Soul Food*, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, *Beloved* and *The Ladykillers*.

The production also features some of Dallas' leading stage performers, including M. Denise Lee and Regina Washington. Ms. Washington organized the show as a scholarship fundraiser for the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, of which both she and Ms. Hall are members.

Born in Beaumont but raised in Chicago, Ms. Hall was a 38-year-old Dallas teacher when actor Raymond St. Jacques cast her in the only film he directed, *Book of Numbers* (1973).

"I didn't know anything about acting. I never even wanted to be an actor - or a teacher, for that matter. I wanted to be a dancer," Ms. Hall says. "Everything I know, I've learned onstage or working on a movie."

A Raisin in the Sun runs through Feb. 17 at the Corner Theatre, DeSoto, call 972-274-0116 or visit www.swd.cadellatlas.org.

Collin County Community College District announced the recipient for the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Scholarship.



Chiloke Victor Okegbe, 25, was to be recognized for receiving the scholarship during the college's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Power Breakfast, but the event was cancelled due to inclement weather Jan. 15.

The Plano sophomore plans to finish his associate of science degree in nursing and eventually transfer to Texas Women's University or the University of North Texas.

"Dr. King's legacy means everything to me," Okegbe said, "with respect to resolving conflicts with a non-violent approach and the pursuit of one's goals."

Okegbe also noted that Dr. King's life message speaks volumes in the quest for people of all races to find common ground amidst conflict.

"First and foremost, I was awfully humbled by the scholarship," he said. "Secondly, having been honored, I have to strive and do my very best in what I love to do and give back to the community and assist those who need help."



Former Municipal Judge Dr. Vonceil Jones Hill has announced she is running for the District 5 seat on the Dallas City Council in the May 12 election with the support of several community leaders, including former Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk.

"I believe that I can make a positive difference for District 5. I look forward to the opportunity to serve my neighbors and friends on the Dallas City Council," said Dr. Hill.

Dr. Hill received her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Texas at Austin. A lawyer and ordained minister, she is also a graduate of Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University and holds an honorary doctorate from Paul Quinn College.

For 13 years, she served as associate pastor at St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church with Rev. Dr. Zan W. Holmes, Jr.

Kirk joins Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price, State Rep. Yvonne Davis, former Councilmember Donald W. Hicks, Sr., businessman Pete Schenkel and civic leaders DeMetris Sampson and Vivian Hill in endorsing Dr. Hill. Rev. Zan Holmes, Dr. Sharon Patterson, and Dr. S.C. Nash are among the more than 30 ministers that announced their support.

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Senator Barack Obama Announces Bid For Presidency



Sen. Barack Obama waves to the crowd Saturday after delivering the speech that officially launched his bid for the U.S. presidency. He made the announcement outside the Old State Capitol building in Springfield before thousands of supporters.

Sen. Barack Obama stood before a cheering crowd in his home state Saturday and announced he will seek the 2008 Democratic nomination for president.

Invoking the memory of fellow Illinoisan and the 16th president of the United States,

Abraham Lincoln, the first-term senator addressed thousands packed into the Springfield, Illinois, town square on a chilly day in America's heartland.

To chants of "Obama! Obama!," he told the crowd: "It was here, in Springfield, where North, South, East and West come together that I was reminded of the essential decency of the American people - where I came to believe that through this decency, we can build a more hopeful America."

If the 45-year-old Obama were elected, he would become the nation's first African-American president.

"And that is why, in the shadow of the Old State Capitol, where Lincoln once called on a

Barack Obama Page 8

U.S. Postal Service Celebrates Black History Month: With Dedication Of Ella Fitzgerald Postage Stamp

The "First Lady of Song," Ella Fitzgerald, is the 30th honoree in the popular Black Heritage commemorative stamp series. The Dallas District of the U.S. Postal Service cordially invites the public to join us as we dedicate the Ella Fitzgerald stamp on Sunday, February 25, 2007, beginning at 3:00 p.m. The event will take place at the Weisfeld Center, located at 1508 Cadiz Street in Dallas, TX 75201.

The keynote speaker for this event is local noted jazz musician and radio personality Roger Boykin. Also featured is renowned Dallas jazz vocalist Ms. Martha Burks, who will present a stage tribute to Ella Fitzgerald. Special guest speakers round out the festivities, capped with the official dedication, by Dallas District Manager Carl T. January, Jr., of the Ella Fitzgerald commemorative postage stamp.



Ella Fitzgerald Stamp Page 5

State Of The Black Union' Summit Draws Thousands To Virginia College



Tavis Smiley, host of The State of the Black Union Summit

AP Beneath an oak tree on the campus of what is now Hampton University, historians said, Virginia blacks heard a reading of the Emancipation Proclamation and began to dream of a better life.

On Saturday, more than 8,000 people returned to the historically black university to chart how far they have come. They gathered for the "State of the Black Union," an annual travelling town hall meeting that is considered a barometer for black America's ills.

This year's conference coincides with the 400th anniversary of the nation's first permanent English settlement in what is now the United States, Jamestown. Africans arriving in Virginia in the years following that milestone in U.S. history faced enslavement and entrenched racism.

Today's black Americans grapple with political apathy, limited business strength and a

lack of motivation, a panel of black leaders said Saturday.

"We need a big idea that unifies us all," said U.S. Representative Keith Ellison of Minnesota, the first Muslim congressman.

Ellison was on the panel that included Rev. Al Sharpton and former Virginia governor L. Douglas Wilder, the first elected black governor.

They spoke of a black America adrift. Black males are more common in prisons than on college campuses, they said. Black children, meanwhile, are increasingly born into single-parent homes.

"A lot of us have lost the dignity that our community has shown from Jamestown to now," said Sharpton.

Others pointed to a lack of personal responsibility among blacks who, they said, are too busy waiting for leadership to make change.

"I didn't have to wait for people to tell me it was my time to run for governor - it was my time," Wilder said,

Black Union Page 8

Quest For Success Honors African American Entrepreneurs



(Front Row L to R) Allen Madison, Belinda May, Cedric Anderson, Fritz Woods, Yvonne A. Crouch, Gunnar Jones, Gail Warrior-Lawrence and Dr. Darrell Thigpen. (Back Row L to R) Darrell Thornton, Ronald Hay, Valerie Roberts and Michelle Thomas.

The Dallas/Fort Worth business community recently honored outstanding African American entrepreneurs at the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce's 23rd Annual Quest For Success Awards Luncheon.

The event was held on Friday, February 9, 2007 at the Dallas Convention Center. The Dallas Morning News, CHASE and WFAX-TV Channel 8 sponsored the Quest For Success

Quest For Success Page 5

UNT To Host 10th Annual Equity And Diversity Conference Feb. 23

"The Pursuit of Equity: Liberty and Justice For All" is the theme of the 10th Annual and final Equity and Diversity Conference at the University of North Texas. UNT alumna Gyna Bivens, executive director of the North Texas BOLD Initiative, will deliver the keynote address.



Gyna Bivens, executive director of the North Texas BOLD Initiative

Bivens joined the BOLD Initiative in September, 2006. The non-profit organization assists companies whose leaders are committed to employing a diverse group of people, and making North Texas a place where people from all cultures can live, work and thrive. Prior to joining the BOLD Initiative, Bivens served as an area manager and corporate spokeswoman for TXU Electric Delivery, and a radio and television reporter in several Texas

The conference also features six sessions exploring the pursuit of equality as it relates to five groups: Asian-Americans, Latinos, the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender community,

UNT Conference Page 6

Collin County Black Chamber Of Commerce Will Honor Trailblazers At Inaugural Luncheon



Mr. Fred N. Moses

In observance of Black History Month, the Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce (CCBCC) will host its Inaugural Trailblazers Luncheon. This event is designed to create awareness and recognition of the

impact of the African American business pioneers amongst us. These two men of vision with perseverance, and a willingness to give back will be presented with a small token of appreciation for all of their sacrifices.

The inaugural honorees are Mr. Bruce Luster and Mr. Fred N. Moses; these men are two of hundreds of successful business pioneers who have paved the way for so many within the Collin County community. Mr. Moses serves on the MON-The Gazette Advisory Board.

The CCBCC invites community members to come and hear how these two gentlemen help to shape and lead the way for so many others.

Collin County Trailblazers Page 9

NAACP Garland's Winter Ball Features "First Ladies"

Photos By: Harry Manuel



African American Living Legends of Garland (Left to Right) Chief Charles Rose, First African American Assistant Police Chief City of Garland, Priscilla Wilson; First African American Human Resource Managing Director City of Garland, Honorable Linda Griffin; First African American GSD School Board Trustee, John Washington; First African American GSD Assistant Superintendent, Honorable Annie Dickson; First African American Female to serve on the Garland City Council Gradyne Brown; First African American Director of Human Resources for the GSD Carol Montgomery; First African American GSD Liaison.



Pastor S. E. and First Lady Lynda Holmes with B.J. Williams.



(Left to Right) Brenda Perrie, Gwen Daniels and Toni Ward.



Pastor Leach and First Lady Sharon with members of Mount Hebron Missionary Baptist Church.



*11 First Ladies Honored at the NAACP Garland Branch's 7th Annual Winter Ball
Row 1: (Left to Right) Sharon Leach - Mt. Hebron Baptist Church, Willie McDonald - El Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Wernette Seaton - Sims Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Lynda Holmes - Kaiser Street Baptist Church
Row 2: (Left to Right) Carrie Clemons - Pentecost Church of God in Christ, Brenda Yates - New Generation Holiness Church, Donna Jones - Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, Doretha Wilson - Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church
Row 3: (Left to Right) Loretta McCrary - Greater El Bethel Church of God in Christ, Linda Griffin - St. Mark Baptist Church, Ovelia Davis - New Mt. Hebron Baptist Church.*



Former Garland councilman Jim Dunn with wife Terri Dunn.



Pastor McDonald and First Lady Willie McDonald.



Mr. Timothy Clemons (First Lady's Brother-in-law) and First Lady Carrie Clemons with B.J. Williams.



Tamme Gaddis, Pastor Leonard O. Leach and First Lady Sharon Leach.



Pastor UK and First Lady Donna Jones with Connie Taylor.



Triple A Book Club is dedicated to reading books by African American authors. Meeting every 3rd Saturday of the month at the Lewisville Library.

Place: 1197 West Main Street
Lewisville, TX 75067
Times: 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Phone: 972.219.3570

February 2007 Selection:
"The Known World by Edward P. Jones"

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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.assistance-league-gcc.org.

"E.VOLVE," a social networking opportunity for women, meets from 7:30 to 9 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the northwest corner of Park Boulevard and Coit Road, 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, public programs@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, 1421 Internet Blvd., Suite 100. For more info, call 214-333-5777 or e-mail 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.theyundraeshow.com.

February 15, 2007
Commemorative Art From Garland, Texas and Surrounding Youth

Brooks Peoples Academy & Arts is seeking youth artists (grade K-12) and artwork representing a variety of media, and any subject of interest.

Academy & Arts 4222 Roschild Rd. Suite 8, Garland, TX from 7-9:00 p.m. Free entry. For more info, call 214-497-0824 or email: brookpeoples@yahoo.com.

Urban League Membership Drive from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Billy Gee's Club.

Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce will hold a board and membership meeting at 6:30 p.m. at 2838 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. For more info, call 214-421-5200 or visit www.dbcc.org.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will hold a public meeting to discuss and unveil digital flood hazard data and maps in Collin County. The meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. at the University Drive Courts Facility, 1800 N. Graves Drive in McKinney.

February 16, 2007
5th Annual Scholarship and Mardi Gras Gala at the Grand Hotel, 7815 LBJ Freeway from 7 p.m. until 1 a.m. The cost is \$40 per ticket. The guest speaker will be Tony B. of 105.7. For more info call 972-487-3077.

National Woman's Heart Day/Health Fair at Fair Park in Centennial Hall, 3929 Grand Avenue, Dallas from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Offers free screenings and advice. For Women. For more info, please visit www.womansheartday.org/Dallas or call 800-422-9567.

Black Cinematist at 8:00 p.m. Black Forest Theatre, 1920MLK Blvd., Dallas. Oisic Davis and Ruby Dee narrate. Sweet Honey In The Rock and Toshi Reagon perform original music. For more info call 214-426-1683. \$5.

February 17, 2007

Annual Planning Retreat

NAACP Garland Branch, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church, 1019 S. First Street,

Garland. Open to all Branch members and individuals interested in volunteering.

Jazz film and Discussion Series featuring artist Roy Ayers, Jean Carne, Wayne Henderson, and Lonnie Liston Smith, will be at 7:30 p.m. at the Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 South Griffin St. For more information, call 214-743-2444 or e-mail slank@airmail.net.

The Heart of Jazz Concert featuring Roy Ayers, Jean Carne, Wayne Henderson, Bobbi Humphrey, Jon Lucien and Lonnie Liston Smith. Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 S Griffin St., 7:30 p.m. Orchestra - \$30, Mezzanine - \$25. For more info call: 214-743-2442 or email: slank@airmail.net.

Jarvis Christian College-Ninth Annual Heritage Banquet at the Fairmont Hotel, 1717 North Akard Street. The event will begin with a Silent Auction at 6:00 p.m. followed by Banquet at 7:00 p.m. For more info call Ronald Hay at ALL TEMPS 1 Personnel 214-426-2700 or the Office of Dr. Sebeha Jenkins 903-763-5883.

Fisk Jubilee Singers to perform at Christian Chapel Temple of Faith, located at 14120 Noel Road in Dallas. For more info, contact Tobi Cox at 214-923-8380.

From Slavery to Freedom, allowing visitors to spend time with heroines as they share their stories on their journey down the freedom road. Central Library-Irving, 801 W. Irving Blvd. For more info, call 972-721-2458.

UT Arlington African-American Alumni Reception 18th Annual event will honor Outstanding African-American Alumni George W. Bedford '73 and Katrina M. Keyes '96, 300 W. First Street in Arlington from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. \$25.00. For more info call 817-272-2594 or email: uta_alumni@uta.edu.

Stories My Grandma Told Me Tales from Africa & the Caribbean 2 p.m.

Carrollton Public Library at Hebron & Josey, 4220 N. Josey Lane. For info, call 972-466-4800.

February 20, 2007
African Heritage Banquet guest speaker Chelle Marie Wilson UNT Multicultural Center, Silver Eagle Suite in the University Union, located one block west of Welch and West Prairie streets at 7 p.m. \$20. For more info call 940-369-7297 or email: AndreaR@dsu.admin.unt.edu.

February 21, 2007
Urban League Membership Drive from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Brooklyn's Restaurant and Club.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre: Annual Cultural Awareness Series Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm Street, 10 a.m. & 11:45 a.m. \$18. February 22nd thru the 24th. For info, call 214-880-0137.

February 22, 2007
Senior citizens job search seminar at The Senior Source, 1215 Skiles St. RSVP is required from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more info, call 214-823-5700.

Annual Cultural Awareness Series will be held at the Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm Street from 10:00 to 12:00. For more info, call 214880-0137 or visit www.dbdt.com.

Texas Democratic Women of Collin County Workshop Lone Star Crossing, 5800 Coit Road (at Spring Creek Pkwy), Plano from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Cost: \$5.00 for materials.

February 23, 2007
Urban League Annual Meeting and Luncheon at 11:45 a.m., Hilton Angulo Hotel.

Third Annual Black History Month Celebration Assembly at Barbara Bush Middle School Gymnasium, 10:15 a.m. Children's

book author Dr. Joyce Teal will be the guest speaker.

February 24, 2007

A Celebration of Faith, Hope, and Love Brunch Faith-Based community about the Amachi mentoring program for children who have an incarcerated parent. Ruth Jackson Center, 3113 S. Carrier Parkway in Grand Prairie, from 11:30-1:00 p.m. FREE. For more info call 817-265-4777 or email: scampbell@bbnt.org.

Black Heritage Day from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Urban League Headquarters, 4315 S. Lancaster Road. For more info contact Sheryl Roberts at 214-915-4607.

YES! (Youth Explore Sports) Expo at 10:30 a.m. at The Shops at Willowbrook, 6121 West Park Boulevard. For more info call 972-422-6830.

February 25
The History of Music in the Church at Sure Foundation Bible Church, 2946 Idaho Avenue at 5:30 p.m. 469- 939- 4940

February 26, 2007
Texas Democratic Women of Collin County Meeting at 6:45 p.m. at Lone Star Crossing 5800 Coit Rd South of Spring Creek Parkway in Plano.

February 27, 2007
SAS and other Drug & Alcohol personnel within Collin County are inviting all staff, parents and others to our Drug Forum on @ 7:00 p.m. Plano West Senior High Auditorium, 5601 W. Parker Road, Plano, Texas. For more info, call Jennifer Barker 469- 752-9726 or Jennifer.barker@psid.edu.

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**Paul
Hailey**

Something happened to me on Saturday I don't think I've ever experienced before. I sat on my couch and watched a television program (yes, I'm back to that again), which left me alarmed, informed and inspired.

While flicking through all of the available mindless cable programming Saturday, I stumbled across the "State of the Black Union" conference being broadcast live on CSPAN. An estimated 10,000 people attended the conference on the campus of Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia.

The conference coincided with the 400th anniversary of the nation's first permanent English settlement in Jamestown. The Jamestown anniversary also includes by definition, the anniversary of Africans being enslaved on this continent.

Hosted by Tavis Smiley, the conference panel discussions featured some of the most important black voices in virtually every political, social, scientific and cultural field. Discussion participants included Dr. Cornel West, Sonia Sanchez, Dr. Mae Jemison, Lerone Bennett, Marion Wright Edelman, Dr. Julian Hare, Congressman Bobby Scott, Chuck D, Reverend Al Sharpton, Bruce S. Gordon and former Virginia Governor Douglas Wilder. The topics of discussion ranged from voting, rap music, incarceration rates, education, Hurricane Katrina, Black poverty, and the digital divide.

I was alarmed at the things happening in this country to the detriment of Black folks; I was informed about things affecting Black folks that I didn't know about; and I was inspired to get up off

The State Of My Black Union

my...couch and DO something to further the cause of Black folks.

The first slap to the back of my head came from Bruce Gordon, President of the NAACP. Any of my friends will tell you that I have been highly critical of the NAACP for "not doing enough" and for being out of touch as an organization. I've gone as far as to blast the NAACP for not even attempting to reach out to my generation of African Americans.

"People come up to me all the time and ask me what is the NAACP doing?" Gordon said on Saturday. He continued as if he was talking directly to me and said, "I look them squarely in the eye and ask them what are you doing?" I was still trying to recover from the sting of that comment to my ego, when Mr. Gordon verbally punched me in my stomach.

"The NAACP is the oldest civil rights organization in this country. There are 400,000 dues paying members that pay \$30 a year to volunteer to serve the needs of the Black people in their community. Like you, they have other things they could be doing, but they have committed to donating their time and effort to serving you. Again, I ask, what are YOU doing?"

That was just the start. I found myself humbled by my own inactivity toward making a difference, not for myself-but for future generations of African Americans. I began thinking that the key was to reach out to Black youth. I mean, I don't have any children, so why shouldn't I help some misguided kids get on the right track. After all, the children are our future right?

Dr. Mae Jemison, the first Black woman astronaut promptly let me know that I had it all twisted.

"I hate to burst anybody's

bubble, but I don't think our problem is our children. James Baldwin said: 'Children rarely do what their parents say, but they all do what their parents do', she said. "We don't have a child problem, we have a role model problem. African American adults have to monitor their own behavior-children are simply a reflection of the adults they see."

One of my favorite personalities, Chuck D of the rap group Public Enemy continued the theme of making me squirm on my couch while examining myself.

"In our society, we have a problem of quantity trumping quality in art," he said. "There has been a 'dumbing down' and an embracing of 'anti-intellectualism' in African American art and culture. I'm tired of smart Black people acting stupid in order to fit in. I'm tired of Black folks looking at artists as role models. We fail to remember that the root of the word artist is artificial. Entertainment is not real life."

Again, the burden had been shifted back to personal responsibility.

These speakers all moved me to look at myself, to consider more than just the state of the Black union in this country. I began to consider the state of MY Black union. I believe ultimately, that is what is necessary to move us forward as a people. It is not about what our leaders are doing, not about what the government isn't doing; but what are we doing individually.

The civil rights movement and every significant achievement of Black people in this country has its seed in individual action and effort. At the end of the day, the real question for each of us is: what is the state of your Black union?

Paul Hailey can be reached at phailey@MonTheGazette.com

Can Obama Really Win?

By: Earl Ofari Hutchinson,
National Rifle Association
executive vice president Wayne LaPierre wasted no words when asked about presumptive Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama's strong support for a ban on semi-automatic assault weapons, and severe limits on handgun purchases during his tenure in the Illinois senate.

He called Obama's pro-gun control stance "bad politics." He thundered that the NRA would talk about Obama's gun control activism. LaPierre's admonition was an ominous warning that the powerful gun-lobbying group would oppose Obama if he ran for president, and so would millions of other passionate gun owners that take their cue from the NRA.

LaPierre's outspoken opposition to Obama is yet another sign that candidate Obama will have more to worry about than race, and getting knocked for his political inexperience, and a skimpy Senate track record.

He's an unabashed liberal Democrat whose votes and views during his days in the Illinois senate on taxes, abortion, civil liberties, civil rights, law enforcement and capital punishment have so far drawn little public attention. But if he hits the campaign trail, Republicans and conservative interest groups will surgically dissect his state senate votes and they will find much there to pound him.

The National Taxpayers Union will point a hard finger at Obama for voting to impose 300 new taxes and fees on businesses in his last year in the state senate. Though the tax hikes were deemed necessary to help close Illinois's crushing budget deficit, business and taxpayer interest groups screamed foul.

Obama's vote to raise taxes and his consistent pro-labor votes marked him as another tax and spend Democrat with them. This has been the dread label that Republicans have tagged Democratic contenders with in elections past. This always strikes

an angry chord with millions of voters that equate higher taxes with government waste, inefficiency and pork barrel favoritism. And even more insidiously, equate high taxes with special interest giveaways to minorities and the poor.

On the issue of abortion rights, Obama got a perfect rating from the Illinois Planned Parenthood Council. In 2001, he backed legislation that restricted medical support in certain types of abortions where the fetus survives. Pro-life groups interpreted that as a vote to strengthen abortion rights.

Abortion is more than a campaign wedge issue. It's a major litmus test for right to life groups nationally. They have sold millions of voters on the notion that pro-choice support is tantamount to baby killing, and that a candidate that supports choice is not morally fit to be president.

Obama's vote and views on choice will make him a prime target for pro-life groups. In fact, it already has. He got a zero rating from the National Right to Life Committee for voting for stem cell research, for funding abortions abroad, and against parental notification in the U.S. Senate.

The shocking revelation that Chicago police routinely beat and tortured black suspects in murder cases during the 1970s and 1980s made national news in 2006. The brutality drew renewed demands from black leaders and civil liberties groups for reforms in police interrogation procedures. But even before the scandal broke, Obama had rammed through legislation that required police to videotape all interrogations of murder suspects. He also took a leading role in overhauling the state's capital punishment system. The legislature took action on the death penalty after several death row inmates wrongly convicted were exonerated.

Obama also played a big role in authoring legislation that required police to keep racial stats on unwarranted traffic

stops. This was a measure to combat racial profiling. Police unions and the Fraternal Order of Police rail that these actions are undue restraints on police, and death penalty backers rail that politicians that back capital punishment reform are fuzzy headed soft on crime liberals. That tag sunk the presidential candidacy of Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis in 1988. And since then Democrats have done everything to out law and order Republicans.

Obama's pro-civil liberties votes and the 100 percent rating he got from the ACLU won't help him dodge the soft on crime label on the issue of crime and punishment. Illinois senate Republicans praised Obama as a flexible politician and consensus builder who listened to the views of his Republican opponents.

But the presidential campaign trail is a rough and tumble road. His Republican contender won't benignly praise his open-mindedness on the issues. He'll go for the political jugular and lambaste him as an anti-police, anti-business, pro abortion, pro labor, pro-gun control, tax and spend liberal Democrat.

Conservative interest groups will tar him as a liberal Democrat who will bend way over to pander to labor, minorities, and women. Obama's record on civil liberties, civil rights, abortion, and spending issues will endear him to millions of voters. But it will alienate millions more. And they vote in the crucial battleground states that are the key to the White House for a presidential candidate. That's a key candidate Obama won't hold.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is a political analyst and social issues commentator, and the author of the book, *The Emerging Black GOP Majority* (Middle Passage Press, September 2006), a hard-hitting look at Bush and the GOP's court of black voters.

Ford's Biggest Problem - Black Dealerships

By: Harry C. Alford -
NNPA Columnist
"Beyond The Rhetoric"
Who would have thought that Ford Motor Co., the legacy of that great American Henry Ford, would be heading deep "south" in the profit and loss arena of the automobile industry? Ford is almost synonymous with Americana especially Black Americana.

The founder, Henry Ford, was a great friend of Black scientist and entrepreneur George Washington Carver. He admired and supported George Washington Carver so much that when the entrepreneur died Ford had his childhood home moved to his Dearborn Museum. It stands there today. That friendship has led to very generous and continuous support of Tuskegee Institute by the Ford Foundation.

Ford Motor Company also led the way in Black employment among corporate America. Blacks in Detroit, Cleveland and other auto cities prospered through steady employment and opportunity. There are hundreds of thousands of Black middle-class families that can speak of Ford with pride and gratitude. That has translated into college education and opportunities that were totally elusive to Black masses before the rise of Ford Motor Co. and other entities of the same ilk.

Today, Ford is getting beat up badly from competition. While the automobile industry is healthy per se, American-born companies are missing the wants and needs of American consumers. Ford has done the worst in this area. It is selling fewer, closing plants, releasing employees and losing money at record numbers. This is terrible and will require Ford to become ever dependent on that steady cus-

tomers base it is used to - Black America. It is the Black dollar that is approaching nearly \$1 trillion annually that may determine whether Ford survives or not. The future of that legacy of partnership is at risk.

Ford during the last few decades has been less than a partner or friend to Black dealers. The complaints have been consistent and, in fact, growing more and more. It is time for this company to return to its roots and begin treating Black dealerships with a level playing field and compassion.

Mel Farr is a good example. Football legend and successful entrepreneur Mel Farr was on a roll with the Ford Motor Co. Many dealers had complained about disparate treatment of their customer base by Ford Motor Credit Corp. This credit company was the primary financier for purchased autos. If you can't get the majority of your customers approved by them you weren't going to close many deals. The adverse treatment of Black customers would have a devastating impact on the sales of a Black owned dealership. We lost a lot of Black dealerships because of this and there have been many discrimination claims because of this choke hold by auto credit companies. Mel had a brilliant idea. He went to Wall Street and formed his own auto financing entity to sell his cars. The alternative was successful - too successful for Ford. The relationship they had with Mel and his 11 auto dealerships soured to the point that Ford "pulled the rug from under him." Today, the nation's best known Black auto dealer is out of business. He is banned for life from owning a Ford dealership. In fact, and so cruelly, his two sons are banned for life also. That is how they treated their

"star." Think about the other Black dealers.

Ford has consistently put new Black dealers out into the "boonies." These rural and mostly White markets have less of a chance for success versus an urban market. The odds are stacked against the young Black entrepreneur from the beginning. The National Black Chamber of Commerce has formed a committee to look into this to determine how much of a racial pattern there is. We believe it is shocking and intentional.

We have also learned that Ford doesn't fully share its financial information before closing a deal with a prospective Black franchisee which is counter to FTC (Federal Trade Commission) regulation. They also block new franchisees from having their attorneys and accountants review the purchase contracts prior to investing in the dealership with Ford.

There are many other peculiar happenings that Ford has laid on Black dealers that amount to the lack of success. We are going to add all this up and come to a final conclusion. If that conclusion equates to what we initially perceive - discriminatory practices against Black entrepreneurs - we will demand change. Change will help level the playing field and increase the chance of success for upcoming Black dealers. It will also ensure that the long legacy of partnership with Ford and Black America is not spoiled and lost forever. In these troubled times Ford had best "recognize".

Harry C. Alford is the Co-Founder, President/CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce. Website: www.nationalbbc.org. Email: president@nationalbbc.org.

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MON The Gazette
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MON-The Gazette assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material and reserves the right to edit and make appropriate revisions.

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 viable of many area opportunities. As always, and true to tradition, MON-The Gazette will be there carrying a world of opportunity for those seeking to provide quality services. Should you date 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

Austin Or Bust: CCCCD Students Head South For Community Colleges

Collin County Community College District students will be a part of 1,500 statewide converging on the state capitol. On Thursday, Feb. 22, more than 1,500 community college students will show Texas lawmakers the importance of community colleges in the state in terms of education and economic development. Beginning at 9:30 a.m., leaders of the Texas Junior Government Student Association (TJCSGA) will be joined by state officials speaking from the steps of the Capitol.

The event marks the second time that community college students have organized statewide to visit lawmakers. Wearing ribbons with a slogan saying "Community Colleges are Essential," the students will stress that it is time for the state legislature to enter into a new compact with community colleges. Figures from the Texas Association of Community Colleges show that the 50 community college districts in Texas provide accessible, affordable, quality higher education to more than 70 percent of all first-time college students. Last year, Texas community colleges accounted for \$13.47 billion in all annual earnings—the equivalent of 351,530 jobs. The association wants to safeguard and support the educational opportunities that keep Texans and industries working.

Stephanie Hall, a 25-year-old sociology major at Collin, believes the event allows students to exercise their right to hold dialogue with their elected officials and assemble for a common cause. "I am very

excited about going to Austin with my fellow students. I hope to get a better understanding about lobbying and the relationship our elected leaders have with their constituents," Hall said. "We, as U.S. citizens, have a lot of power if we choose to exercise it. I think a lot of people don't realize how much potential power we have collectively and as individuals if we only get



involved. This class is about leadership growth, so I think it's fitting that we learn from our own leaders. I will most certainly pass on what I learn from this trip."

Collin student Chadi El-Khoury will attend the event. "As a student representative, it is crucial that I voice my opinion on the importance of community colleges in today's society. I want to ensure that my legislators understand the difference that institutions such as Collin County Community College have made on the 548,000 students that are currently enrolled in community colleges across our nation," he said. "I am also looking forward to observing the House and Senate in session, and networking with students

and professors from the numerous Texas community colleges that are expected to attend." El-Khoury, a 19-year-old communication studies major, added that staying abreast of current social and political movements, and civic engagement, in general, is important in the collegiate arena. "It is important for the younger generation to engage themselves in what is going on in their society," he said.

"This event unites students who are passionate about their education and makes it possible for them to meet others who share similar interests." The students will observe the House and Senate in session and visit their individual representatives and senators. The students and their legislative guests will continue their discussions at a lunch hosted by the Texas Association of Community Colleges. In addition to TJCSGA,

participants include students enrolled in community college honors programs around the state, members of the Texas Community College Teachers Association and the Texas Association of Community Colleges. The students will be asked to post their observations and comments about their day in Austin on their online forum at www.tjcsga.org. 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.

Plano Schools To Host Open Houses In Recognition Of Statewide Event

Plano ISD's nearly 70 schools will open their collective doors

Texas Public Schools Week.

"One Texas. One Vision. All Children." is the statewide theme for this celebration," noted Dr. Doug Otto, Superintendent of Schools. "We look forward to sharing Plano ISD's vision for providing an excellent education for all students during this annual event."



February 5, 6 and 8 and March 1 to welcome parents and other community members to school open houses in celebration of

Plano ISD Open House Dates:
• Monday, February 5, Senior High Schools (Grades 11-12)

Students Shadow Plano City Employees

On Thursday, Feb. 15, City of Plano officials will find themselves with new shadows – the shadows of the Williams High School Student Leadership Group. These students will be following the steps of a designated City employee as the day-to-day workings of the City unfold before their eyes.

This is the seventh year for the City to host a Shadow Day

Program. It allows students an up-close look at the world of work, providing them an opportunity to ask questions and discover career opportunities. The students are first assigned to research the position they have an interest and who they would like to shadow.

City Manager Tom Muehlenbeck said, "We enjoy interacting with the students

• Tuesday, February 6 – Middle Schools (Grades 6-8)
• Thursday, February 8 – Early Childhood Schools, Even Start Program & Head Start Program (PreK) and High Schools (Grades 9-10)
• Friday, February 16 – Chinese PreK at Harrington Elementary

• Thursday, March 1 – Elementary Schools (Grades K-5)

Open houses are generally held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.; however, each school sets specific times. Please contact schools for times.

and hope this experience helps them to learn more about their City government and how much our community needs their talents and skills."

Shadow Day is promoted through the City's Workplace Cares program, an ongoing program that allows City employees to reach out to the Plano community through volunteerism.

Free Financial Aid Workshop at Eastfield

College-bound students and their parents will meet with financial aid experts to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on Saturday February, 24 from 2 - 4 p.m. at Eastfield College in \$100. College Goal Sunday Texas and its partners will host FREE financial aid workshops at 36 locations across the state. Students will not only leave with a completed FAFSA, but will also leave with information about grants, scholarships, loans and other ways the federal and state government can help pay for college.

The free workshops are part of College Goal Sunday, a national program in which Texas began

participating last year. Margaret Allen-Romero, the coordinator for the statewide program stated, "last year College Goal Sunday Texas assisted 537 students at 29 locations. This year we expect to serve more than 1,000 students across the state."

"Each year the federal government awards more than \$80 billion in financial aid for higher education. According to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texans received \$4 billion in aid last year. With a strong College Goal Sunday turnout in 2007 we hope to remove financial need as a barrier to higher education.

Even though the event is

titled College Goal Sunday, the Texas program will be held on Saturday to make participation more convenient for students and their parents. As an added incentive, College Goal Sunday Texas is offering \$10,000 in scholarships to participants. The scholarships can be used at any accredited college, university or technical school in the United States. To double their odds of winning, students can pre-register online at <http://financialaid.tamu.edu/cgs>.

For more information contact Dana Mingo, Eastfield College's Director of Financial Aid, at 972-860-7332.



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Commercial Real Estate Women Kick-Off "CREW" Careers Project

Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) kicked off its CREW Careers project for 2007, designed to introduce the professions involved in marketing a real estate development. CREW and Girls Inc. participants culminated the week sessions with a site tour to Prestonwood Town Center (formerly Prestonwood Mall), which is a major re-development project on Beltline and Montfort. The site visit was sponsored by the Archon Group, which provided the center to use as a model in the first segment of 2007 CREW careers Multi-Week Programs. The retail team at Archon Group provided CREW and the young women of Girls Inc.

with information on the project, a site tour and lunch for the participants.

CREW Dallas is a nonprofit organization of commercial real estate professionals affiliated nationally through membership in the CREW Network, providing opportunities for networking, education, leadership development and civic/philanthropic involvement.

CREW Dallas promotes the highest standards of ethics and integrity and seeks to influence positively the direction of Dallas.

CREW Dallas contact info: Alison Amis, Managing Director, 8350 N. Central Exp., 15th Floor, Dallas, TX 75206. Call 214-890-6490 or visit www.crew-dallas.org.



Left to right: Prudence Lidbury, Director of Consulting Services, Archon Group; Katy Cleary, 2007 chair of CREW Careers and Senior Financial Analyst with Cushman & Wakefield; Monisha Randolph, Teen Director & Career Education Coordinator of Girls Inc. and Kendra Hinderland, Director of Retail Operations, Archon Group.



Top row - Left to right: Brenda Brantley, CREW committee member and Vice President of Goldman Sachs; Monisha Randolph, Teen Director & Career Education, Coordinator of Girls Inc. with CREW committee members for CREW Careers Loren Estess, Loan Officer for Legacy Texas Bank; and Jenny Gillaspay, Director of Finance for Coach Realty Services, Inc. Bottom row - Left to right: Selena Aguilar, Stephanie Urbana and Danielle Taylor, members of Girls Inc. participating in the CREW Careers Class of 2007.

Texas Is First In U.S. In Foreclosure Filings

For the second month in a row, Texas topped the list of states with the highest number of new foreclosure filings for January according to California-based RealtyTrac Inc.

In Texas, 14,728 new foreclosure filings were reported over the course of January — the highest number of new foreclosures posted by any state in the United States, according to RealtyTrac.

To date, Texas is averaging one foreclosure for every 547 households — making it the state with the sixth-highest foreclosure rate.

California was second with 14,430 foreclosure filings, followed by Florida with 11,709.

And while those 14,728 new foreclosure filings represent an increase from the number of fil-

ings posted in Texas in January 2006, that increase is less than 1



percent, RealtyTrac officials note.

Nationally, the month-end numbers are up as well. There were 130,511 new foreclosure fil-

ings were reported as of Jan. 31 — a jump of almost 25 percent compared with the end of January 2006.

That figure equates to an average of one new foreclosure for every 886 households in the United States.

The RealtyTrac report is based on data on more than 800,000 properties from nearly 2,500 counties across the United States — including databases of pre-foreclosure and foreclosed properties.

RealtyTrac is an online marketplace for foreclosure properties. The company's database includes more than 1 million properties across the country — including pre-foreclosure, foreclosure, for sale by owner, resale and new-construction properties.

Pro-Line To Close Plant, Move Work To Arkansas

Pro-Line International, a leading hair care products company, plans to close its Dallas plant and terminate 169 employees this year.

Production will be transferred to a larger plant in Jonesboro, Arkansas, in the

wake of a restructuring at Pro-Line's parent company, Alberto-Culver Co.

"Our decision was that we needed to build a bigger plant that could accommodate the production of the Dallas plant and other plants," said Dan Stone, a

spokesman for Alberto-Culver, based in Melrose Park, Illinois.

Pro-Line is the "second-largest producer in the world for the ethnic hair care market," according to Alberto-Culver. Pro-Line's brands include Motions and Soft & Beautiful.

Tollway Authority Exec To Step Down

The executive director of the North Texas Tollway Authority Allan Rutter is resigning effective Feb. 21, the NTTA said Wednesday.

The NTTA's board has named Jerry Hiebert acting executive director until a permanent replacement is hired. Hiebert previously served as NTTA's executive director from August 1998 through January 2005.

Hiebert is employed by HNTB Corp., a major consultant to the NTTA. He will resign from HNTB to serve in the interim position.

Rutter, who has been NTTA's executive director since April 2005, oversaw several initiatives during his tenure with the agency. They include the groundbreaking on phase III of the Dallas North Tollway, the opening of the super-connector on the President George Bush Turnpike months ahead of schedule and the completion of Interlocal agreements and advanced agreements with TxDOT to lead to right-of-way acquisition on the eastern extension of the President George Bush Turnpike to Interstate 30.

"I am fortunate to have had the privilege of heading an industry-leading team of exceptionally creative, dedicated and intelligent professionals at the NTTA who are delivering customer-focused services that add

value for North Texans, expanding mobility choices by building and planning much-needed infrastructure, and partnering with community leaders to support regionally-directed innovative project delivery and financing alternatives."

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Ella Fitzgerald Stamp Page 1
Dallas Postmaster Ms. Pat Williams will make special comments. A reception following the ceremony will feature refreshments and entertainment provided by Matt & Company.

Over the years, Fitzgerald won 13 Grammy Awards and many other honors, including the National Medal of Arts, presented to her in 1987 by President Ronald Reagan. She was one of five artists awarded Kennedy Center Honors in 1979. In 1989, the Society of Singers created an award for lifetime achievement, called it the "Ella," and made her its first recipient. In 2005, Jazz at Lincoln Center inducted

Fitzgerald into its Nesuhi Ertegun Jazz Hall of Fame.

Fitzgerald continued to perform up until a few years before her death, when failing health compelled her reluctant retirement. She died at her home in Beverly Hills, Calif., on June 15, 1996. Fans and colleagues alike mourned the passing of this beloved singer. Ira Gershwin once remarked, "I never knew how good our songs were until I heard Ella Fitzgerald sing them."

Fitzgerald (1917-1996) was widely known as "The First Lady of Song." Her extraordinary vocal range and flexibility, combined with her gift for pitch, rhythmic sense, and flawless diction, made her a favorite of fans, songwriters and other

singers.

Ella Jane Fitzgerald was born April 25, 1917, in Newport News, Va. She was still very young when she moved with her mother to Yonkers, N.Y. From an early age, she loved to sing and dance. Although charmed by her performances, people laughed when she told them she was going to be famous. In 1932, after her mother died, she went to live with her aunt in Harlem. By the time she was 16, she was on her own, dancing on the street for tips. In November 1934, Fitzgerald entered an amateur competition at the historic Apollo Theater to show off her dancing skills. At the last minute, she decided to sing instead, and was named the

winner. Not long after that, at the Harlem Opera House, she won another talent competition.

Her success as an amateur brought Fitzgerald to the attention of bandleader and drummer Chick Webb, who hired her to sing with his orchestra. In 1938, she and Webb scored a number-one hit record with "A-Tisket, A-Tasket," a novelty song Fitzgerald co-wrote with Van Alexander based on a child's rope-skipping rhyme. In this early phase of her career, Fitzgerald showed her mastery of swing music. After Webb's death in 1943, the band was billed as Ella Fitzgerald and Her Famous Orchestra until its members went their separate ways in 1942.

Channel 8 produced a video showcasing the Quest for Success recipients, which debuted at the luncheon. The station will also broadcast public service announcements featuring the recipients during the month of February.

Quest For Success Page 1
Awards event. The event was hosted by Channel 8 news anchor John Mca.

The 2007 Quest for Success award recipients were: Cedric W. Anderson, Second Chance Opportunity Source; Yvonne A. Crouch, Yvonne's Bridal Shop; Gunnar A. Jones, New World Industries, Inc.; Allen G. Madison, Evergreen Funeral Home and Floral Shop; Belinda May, Home care Management, Inc.; Dr. Darrell E. Thigpen, Darrell E. Thigpen, M.D., P.A.; Gail Warrior-Lawrence, The Warrior Group, Inc.; and Fritz G. Woods, PrimeSource Foodservice Equipment.

The awardees represent a variety of sizes and types of companies, but share characteristics of dedicated entrepreneurs who are also involved in volunteer service. Celebrating the accomplishments of these distinguished individuals promotes new business avenues for the winners and motivates aspiring entrepreneurs.

The Quest for Success is one of the largest business awards events in Texas and a premier networking opportunity for corporate executives, Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce members, community leaders and

Quest for Success alumni. It is also the largest Black History Month celebration of its kind in the Southwest.

"There have been 232 Quest for Success winners since its inception in 1985. Over 92% of these businesses are still viable, a

percentage much higher than the national average. The Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce is proud to assist entrepreneurs in achieving business success," said Ron Hay, Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce Chair.

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Cathy Hughes: Black Media Pioneer

Radio maven Cathy Hughes was born in Omaha, Nebraska in 1947. Beginning her career in radio in 1969, Hughes' first position was with KOWH, a black radio station in Omaha. Her successes there prompted the Howard University School of Communications to offer her a position as a lecturer and as Assistant to the Dean of Communications.

In 1973, Hughes was named general sales manager to WHUR-FM in Washington, D.C., and by 1975 was hired as the general manager of the station. Under her guidance, WHUR-FM, which had been struggling along with \$300,000 in annual sales revenues, increased its annual revenues to more than \$3.5 million. In 1978, Hughes left WHUR for WYCB Radio, where she served as the vice president and general manager of the station.

Hughes and her husband at the time, Dewey Hughes, decided they wanted to buy their own radio station in 1979, and after being rejected by thirty-two banks, they found a lender. With their loan, they purchased WOL, a small Washington, D.C. station and Radio One was born. While Hughes wanted a talk format for the station, the bank was pressing for music. A compromise was reached permitting Hughes to have a morning talk show

program that was followed by music programming throughout the day.

Hughes' marriage ended shortly after purchasing the station and she began her path as a single mother. She purchased her husband's share in the station, but hard times soon forced she and her son, Alfred, to give up their apartment and move into the station to make ends meet. Over time, however,



the station began turning a profit, largely due to the success of her talk show.

Hughes' dedication to minority communities, entrepreneurial spirit, and mentoring of women are manifested in every aspect of her work and life. As such, she was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Washington Area Broadcasters Association and The Seventh Congressional District Humanitarian Award. In 2001, she received the National Association of

Broadcasters' Distinguished Service Award, as well as the Advertising Club of Metropolitan Washington's Silver Medal Award. Most recently, Hughes was presented with the highly coveted Golden Mike Award from the Broadcasters' Foundation, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters and a 2002 Essence Magazine Award.

In May of 1999, Cathy Hughes and her son Alfred Liggins (President & CEO) took their company public. Hughes made history again by becoming the first African American woman with a company on the stock exchange. Radio One's value is currently in excess of \$2 billion dollars. In 2000, Black Enterprise named Radio One, "Company of the Year", Fortune rated it one of the "100 Best Companies to Work For", and Radio One was inducted into the Maryland Business Hall of Fame.

Since the early days of being a station owner, Hughes' rise has been remarkable. Today, Radio One owns 65 radio stations throughout every major market in the country, making the company the largest black-owned radio chain in the nation. In January of 2004, Hughes launched TV One, a cable television channel targeted at the African American community.

Frederick McKinley Jones: Inventor Extraordinaire

Frederick M. Jones was born in Covington, Kentucky near Cincinnati, Ohio on May 17, 1892. After returning from France after serving in World War I, Mr. Jones relocated to Minneapolis and worked as a garage mechanic. His mastery of electronic devices was largely self-taught, through work experience and the inventing process. With his experience as a mechanic he developed a self-starting gasoline motor. In 1913 Mr. Jones invented a sound system for theaters. However, he did not have this invention patented. In the late 1920s Frederick Jones designed a series of devices for the developing movie industry, which adapted silent movie projectors to

use talking movie stock. On June 27, 1939 he also developed an apparatus for the movie box-office



that delivers tickets and returns change to customers.

Mr. Jones was the first black inventor to be a member of the American Society of Refrigeration Engineers. He was also an

inductee to the Minnesota Inventors Hall of Fame in 1977.

Frederick M. Jones was granted more than 40 patents in the field of refrigeration. In 1935 he invented the first automatic refrigeration system for long-haul trucks. The system was, in turn, adapted to a variety of other common carriers, including ships and railway cars. The invention eliminated the problem of food spoilage during long shipping times. Frederick Jones also developed an air-conditioning unit for military field hospitals and a refrigerator for military field kitchens. Frederick Jones received a total of over 60 patents in his career.



Chicago, 1893: Black doctor performs first successful heart operation.
North Pole, 1909: A black man is on top of the world.
Harlem, 1920's: An American Renaissance.
Tuskegee, 1941: Africa grows heroes. Rite the color.
Brooklyn, 1947: Baseball star Jackie Robinson. All America for justice.
Montgomery, 1955: All America for justice.
DC, 1963: A black man is elected to the White House.
Celebrates Black History

UNT Conference Page 1

Native Americans, persons with disabilities, and African-Americans. Six distinguished speakers will address these topics:

Asian Americans Pursuit of Equality - Dr. Morris Wong

Wong is a professor of sociology at Texas Christian University. He has published articles and chapters in books on the Asian experience in the United States, examining such aspects as immigration trends, socioeconomic status and achievement, model student stereotypes, hate crimes and Asian Americans.

Latinos Pursuit of Equality - Dr. Jorge Valadez

Valadez was born in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico and immigrated to the United States at age of five. As a young man, he was a migrant farm worker. Valadez is the chair of the department of philosophy at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio. Author of the critically acclaimed book, "Deliberative Democracy, Political Legitimacy, and Self Determination in Multicultural Societies," Valadez is currently writing a book titled "Synoptic Theory of Justice."

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Persons Pursuit of Equality - Patti Fink

Fink currently serves as vice president of the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance (DGLA) and has been a community and political activist for many years. Patti has served on the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) national Board of Governors, the DFW HRC Steering Committee, and is a past co-chair of the HRC DFW National Coming Out Project. She has been active in Democratic politics for many years, as a precinct chair, election judge, campaign worker, organizer, and donor, and was a Texas delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Boston in 2004.

Native Americans Pursuit of Equality - Jonathan B. Hook

Hook is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah and director of the Office of Environmental Justice and

Tribal Affairs at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 in Dallas, Texas. He is responsible for ensuring that tribal communities in Region 6 receive fair and equitable treatment in environmental issues.

Persons with Disabilities Pursuit of Equality - Kathy Martinez

Blind since birth, Martinez is an internationally recognized disability rights leader specializing in employment, asset building, independent living, international development, diversity and gender issues. She is executive director of the World Institute on Disability, based in Oakland, California. In 2002 Martinez was appointed by President Bush as one of 15 members of the National Council on Disability, an independent federal agency responsible for advising the President and Congress on disability policy.

African Americans Pursuit of Equality - Casey E. Thomas, II

Thomas is the president of

the Dallas chapter of the NAACP. A Dallas native, he is also a UNT alumnus. While at UNT, he founded the Buddy System, a campus wide student mentoring program to increase the retention rate of students in general, and students of color in particular. Thomas is the Founder of the Young Men of Distinction, a male mentoring and leadership development program at A. Maceo Smith High School in Dallas. He is a history educator in the Dallas Independent School District, co-owner of CLT Consulting, and serves on the City of Dallas Community Development Commission and the DISD District 9 Advisory Committee.

The conference takes place in the Silver Eagle Suite of UNT's University Union, located one block west of Welch and West Prairie streets. Registration for the conference closes Feb. 19. For complete conference and registration information, visit <http://www.unt.edu/edo>. For questions about the conference, contact Minerva Correa, (940) 565-2456, or Correa@unt.edu.



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Blige Wins Big At Grammys

The Grammys traded iPods for record players on Sunday night as Mary J. Blige, the Dixie Chicks and the Red Hot Chili Peppers each won three trophies amid a slew of blast-from-the-past performances.

Blige, the overall nominations leader with eight, won best R&B album for "The Breakthrough," her double-platinum triumph, plus best female R&B performance and R&B song for "Be Without You."

A tearful Blige said her album "has not only shown that I am a musician and an artist and a writer, it also shows I am growing into a better human being."

"For so many years, I've been talked about negatively," said Blige, who during her 15-year career has often discussed her past substance and self-esteem problems. "But this time I've been talked about positively by so many people."

The Grammys, often derided as The Grammys, embraced its

baby boomer status as in its 49th year. Though the show featured a medley with some bright new stars, including John Mayer, John



Legend and Corinne Bailey Rae, it relied heavily on the classics. Nominee Lionel Richie sang his '80s hit "Hello" and Smokey Robinson sang the Motown classic "The Tracks of My Tears" in a tribute to R&B. The Police, Rock and Roll Hall of Famers who split in 1984, reunited to kick off the show with "Roxanne" — even though they weren't nominated for anything.

Soon afterward, Tony Bennett and Stevie Wonder, who dueted on a remake of Wonder's "For

Once In My Life," beat out two of the year's biggest songs, Nelly Furtado and Timbaland's "Promiscuous" and Shakira and Wyclef Jean's "Hips Don't Lie," for best pop vocal collaboration.

Even some of the more contemporary artists were relegated to singing songs that weren't their own — Christina Aguilera sang the late James Brown's "It's A Man's Man's World" instead of her own nominated songs, while

Carrie Underwood, the newcomer who had one of last year's most successful albums, crooned "Desperado" and "San Antonio Rose" — not her signature tune "Jesus, Take the Wheel," which was nominated for song of the year. For a while, it seemed as if VH1 Classics had taken over the production.

But new artists were celebrated, a bit. Chris Brown injected some hot-footed funk with his "Run It," while Underwood was celebrated as the best new artist.

Wachovia Presents 2007 Annual Cultural Awareness Series

Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) proudly announces Wachovia is the presenting sponsor for DBDT's 2007 Cultural Awareness Series to be held February 22-24, 2007, at the historic Majestic Theatre in downtown Dallas. The series consists

of two evening performances for the general public and three morning matinee programs for 5,000 DFW area school children grades K-12. Matinee performances are sold out. Public performances will be 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$18 and \$30.

"We are proud to be presenting sponsor for the Dallas Black Dance Theatre's 2007 Cultural Awareness Series," said Julia Wellborn, Wachovia's regional president for Dallas-Fort Worth. "This sponsorship, com-

bined with the talent and creativity of DBDT's artists and staff, will add a joyful, celebratory flair to Wachovia's company-wide celebration of Black History Month."

Don't Miss This Soul-Stirring Celebration! Feel the spirit like



None Other during this Black History Month celebration, featuring repertory classics including Elisa Monte's Absolute Rule. Be inspired by new works from international artist Neja Yatkina and

award-winning choreographer Dianne McIntyre's spiritual suite accompanied by the melodious voice of local artist John Archie Sanders. Ms. McIntyre's new work, A Boundless Journey, is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Tickets are on sale now at The Majestic Theatre Box Office, any Ticketmaster location, or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre season sponsors are The Dallas Morning News, WFAA-Channel 8, American Airlines, The Dallas Weekly, K104 FM, Downtown Business News and Elite News.

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

~ BET Celebrates Black History Month ~

BET takes a no-holds-barred approach to Black History Month this February by examining the people, artistic elements and events that shaped Black America and influenced popular culture.

Following is a look at more special programming for February's Black History Month schedule on BET:

- The Top 25 Events That (Mis)Shaped Black America - From high historic crimes such

as slavery and apartheid to misdeeds like the Jheri curl, this one hour special takes an intelligent yet irreverent look at black history thanks to commentary from top cultural critics, comedians and celebrities. Hosted by comedian Paul Mooney Tuesday, February 20 at 10:00 p.m. ET/PT

- One Night Only - Catch the inspiring finale of the reality docu-soap that follows a group of high school kids and their drama teacher in New Orleans as they



Comedian Paul Mooney

race to mount the Dreamgirls play. Within the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina, these kids are rebuilding their homes, school, and community while also trying to enjoy their teenage years. Can the cast pull it off? Watch and you shall see. Fame Comes and Goes, Stars Rise, but Dreams Live Forever! Tuesday, February 27 at 7:30 p.m. ET/PT

- Tupac Shakur: Thug Angel - Directed by Academy Award nominee Peter Spier (Rhyme and

Reason), "Thug Angel" takes you beyond the drama of Tupac's notoriety in the press through all-new interviews with friends, collaborators and scholars as they look back on Tupac and define his legacy today. Friday, February 23 at 8:00 p.m. ET/PT

- The MC: This Is Why We Do It - Documentary taking a look inside the world of Hip Hop and

MCs to explore the origins of MC'ing, as well as the environmental, spiritual and moral

aspects to this art form. MCs consider the past, present and future of their music, giving a unique insight into what drives these artists to continue spinning rhymes. Featuring 50 Cent, Common, Ghostface Killah, Talib Kweli, Method Man, Rakim, Twista, Kanye West and Mekhi Phifer Saturday, February 24 at 11:00 p.m. ET/PT

For more info about Black History Month on BET, please log on to www.BET.com.

Dallas Producer's Documentary On Interracial Dating To Debut On HBO

Is love really colorblind?

Interracial Dating In America Uncovered is set to air on HBO, starting February. This groundbreaking documentary provides a poignant, in-depth look at how our nation views mixed-race relationships. Still today, interracial couples turn heads. They are the hot topic of conversation and plenty of controversy. After watching the documentary, you'll see exactly why!

Co-producers, Chris Clay of Nusoul Film Works, and John Bordelon of Primetime Productions, are poised and ready to share their experiences, traveling from state to state capturing candid interviews. From the California Bay Area to the city known for brotherly love, this new documentary gives you unprecedented access to the attitudes and perceptions of interracial couples, their families, children, friends and casual observers. Grab a front row seat by booking your interview today!



Interracial Dating In America Uncovered... By word-of-mouth alone, more than 14,000 copies have already been pre-ordered. The new DVD will be released at Circuit City stores nationwide, Tuesday, February 13. Pre-orders are available now at: www.nusoulmediaworks.com.

Get a sneak peak now at this highly anticipated documentary at www.myspace.com/nusoulmediaworks.

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Learning From Black History

You are invited to see an exciting program for children called, Learning from Black History, to be presented on Monday, February 26, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. at Forman Elementary School in Plano. The seeds of understanding, reconciliation and cooperation must be sown in the

minds of children to insure a better tomorrow for the world -- and that's what Doc Gibbs' program does.

For more information contact Carolyn Rogers, Office Manager at Forman elementary School, 3600 Timberline, Plano TX 750174, telephone 469-752-1200

Additional programs will be held at Denton Creek Elementary School, 250 Natchez Trace, Coppell TX 75019 on Wednesday, February 21, 2007 at 1:45 p.m. For more information call 214-496-8100 and Indian Creek Elementary School, 2050 Arbor Creek, Carrollton TX

75019 on Wednesday, February 28, 2007 at 1:45 p.m. For more information call 469-713-5180.

Call the school first to confirm. Doc Gibbs programs are available for anytime of time year. Need a keynote or dinner speaker, live music for a dance or party, children's entertainment, seniors program, anniversary party? Just call.



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Black Union Page 1

encouraging other blacks to take similar personal initiative. "We can't stop here."

During the discussion, U.S. Senator Barack Obama announced his bid for the Democratic presidential nomination. The announcement drew mixed reactions

from the panelists, with some questioning why Obama has drawn such strong support from whites. Others said it was irrelevant to the conference's goals.

"Quite frankly, it's too early to talk about a presidential campaign," Wilder said.

"What we should be doing is

talking about what we do in our own home."

The auditorium was packed with people, many waving their arms and clapping as the speakers tackled tough topics.

Some, like Renita Seabrook, a professor at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore campus, considered the forum an

important planning session for addressing issues like education.

"So many of our black boys have been expelled" from schools, she said.

"We've got to get a handle on the reason why."

Jamichael Heathington, 17, of Chattanooga, Tenn., said he

wants to create a youth program to dissuade teens from the drugs and violence after he finishes college.

He came to the conference for some pointers, calling the event "a lifetime experience to gain perspective (and) to listen to some of the brightest leaders of America."

Barack Obama Page 1

divided house to stand together, where common hopes and common dreams still live, I stand before you today to announce my candidacy for president of the United States of America."

Obama told the crowd he would tackle problems like poor schools, economic hardships and oil dependence, saying a "failure of leadership" is to blame for not meeting the nation's challenges. He also implored the crowd to demand that there be "universal health care in America by the end of the president's first term."

He called the Iraq war a "tragic mistake" and said, "It's time to admit that no amount of American lives can resolve the political disagreement that lies at the heart of someone else's civil war. That's why I have a plan that will bring our combat troops home by March of 2008."

"Letting the Iraqis know that we will not be there forever is our last, best hope to pressure the Sunni and Shia to come to the table and find peace," he said.

He also lauded what he called the founding fathers' "genius" in creating a system of government that can be changed. He cited examples throughout history -- from the American Revolution to the Civil War to the Great Depression -- in which Americans have demanded, and effected, change.

"We've done this before. Each and every time, a new generation has risen up and done what's needed to be done. Today we are called once more, and it is time for our generation to answer that call," he said.

The absence of sound policy is not what's holding the country back, he said.

Rather, Obama said, "what's stopped us is the failure of leadership, the smallness of our pol-

itics -- the ease with which we're distracted by the petty and trivial, our chronic avoidance of tough decisions, our preference for scoring cheap political points instead of rolling up our sleeves and building a working consensus to tackle the big problems of America."

'Long enough' to know better The senator acknowledged that he hasn't been in Washington long, but said he is familiar enough with the city's political machinations to understand that change is in order.

"I recognize there is a certain presumption in this -- a certain audacity -- to this announcement," Obama said. "I know that I haven't spent a lot of time learning the ways of Washington, but I've been there long enough to know that the ways of Washington must change."

He added, "People who love their country can change it."

Admitting the tactic is typical of aspiring candidates, Obama promised to overhaul a political system he says is dominated by lobbyists and special interest groups "who've turned our government into a game only they can afford to play."

"They write the checks and you get stuck with the bills, they get the access while you get to write a letter, they think they own this government, but we're here today to take it back. The time for that kind of politics is over," he said. "It's time to turn the page right here and right now."

Obama, the son of a black Kenyan father and white American mother, then invoked Lincoln again.

"He had his doubts. He had his defeats. He had his setbacks, but through his will and his words, he moved a nation and helped free a people."

Despite his brief tenure in the Senate, Obama has quickly gained popularity as he pondered his bid to break the Oval

Office's color barrier.

According to a University of New Hampshire Survey Research Center conducted this month, Obama placed second, behind Sen. Hillary Clinton, among New Hampshire Democratic primary voters. Obama snared 21 percent of the vote in that popularity poll, trailing Clinton by 14 points.

Other Democrats seeking the office include Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware; Sen. Chris Dodd of Connecticut; former Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina; Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich; New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson; Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack and Sen. Clinton of New York.

While speculation abounds over whether a black presidential candidate can be viable, Obama -- whose first name comes from the Swahili word for "one who is

blessed" -- has not let the color of skin hinder his career.

He attended Harvard and Columbia universities and was the first black president of the Harvard Law Review. He entered politics in Illinois, where he practiced civil rights

law and taught at the University of Chicago Law School.

His first foray into politics came in 1997, when he took his seat in the state Senate, where he served until 2005. He was sworn in as a U.S. senator in 2005.

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Contract 2266-02-128 for GR. DR. AND STR. IN TARRANT County will be opened on March 08, 2007 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.
Contract 2266-02-130 for MILL AND HMA OVERLAY IN TARRANT County will be opened on March 09, 2007 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
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Church News



Sister Tarpley

Every February (this year, Sunday, February 25, 2007 @ 3 pm @ The Westfield Center in Dallas) the United States Postal Service (USPS) in conjunction with the City of Dallas and others celebrates the Annual Anniversary of the USPS issuance of a stamp honoring the life and legacy of an African American from all walks of life. The Unveiling and Reception are both **FREE** and **OPENED** to the public.

Using Black Heritage Stamps is one way of remembering Black Heritage and Legends.

Dallas District Manager Carl T. January, Jr. likes to say throughout his remarks during the ceremony is, "Buy The Stamps!" Not every Post Office carries the Black Heritage Stamps automatically, however, you can request that the post office nearest you "order" them; then buy and use the stamps on all of your mailings and discuss all of the individuals that are honored on the stamps; which could lead to discussions of other African Americans and their inventions and/or contributions.

The 2007 honoree is Ella Fitzgerald, "The First Lady of Song." It's the 30th stamp in the Black Heritage series issued by USPS.

Dr. Mark Dean, also known as (AKA) America's High Tech "Invisible Man" in the National Hall of Inventors. Dr. Dean is the "Architect of the Modern-

Saluting Black Heritage And Legends

Day Personal Computer. He holds three of the original nine patents on the computer that all PCs are based upon.

Dr. Benjamin Carson, Sr., a pioneer in "Brain Surgical Techniques" is best known for leading the first surgical team in 1984 that successfully separated a pair of seven-month-old Siamese twins, who were born, joined at the head. Born in 1951, Dr. Carson came from a poor family in Detroit. As a child he had a difficult time in school. Undeterred, he studied hard in high



Picture of The Week
Sister Tarpley and Dr. Harry Robinson, Jr., Founder, President & CEO of the African American Museum at the State Fair Park in Dallas.

school and won a scholarship to Yale University. He also studied at The University of Michigan's School and became the first African American accepted into the residency program at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. After one year in Australia, Dr. Carson was promoted to Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins in 1984; at 31 years old, he was the youngest doctor to hold such a position.

INVENTIONS: Every Texan should be happy about this, the **Air Conditioning Unit**; and the **Portable X-Ray Machine** was invented by **Frederick M. Jones**. The Automatic Fishing Device

was invented by **G. Cook** in 1899. The Gas Mask was invented in 1914; and the **Automated Three Way Traffic Light** in 1923 both by **Garrett Morgan**. **Cash Registers** were invented in the 1890's by **F.A. Hilyer**. The **Pillar's Mold** for Building Foundation was invented by **Elbert Robertson**. **Bullet Resistant Plexiglass** used in banks was developed by **Emanuel L. Logan**. The **Paper Bag Machine** was invented by **W.B. Purvis**. The **Exhaust Purification Device** for cars was invented by **Meredith Gourdine**. **Ozzie Williams** the first African American hired by Republic Aviation, Inc. developed the first **Airborne Radar Beacon** for locating crashed aircraft.

The First Totally Black Owned Search Engine - There is a dynamic young African-American Internet duo named **Rob and Rex Rucker** who have created a search engine and portal site called, "The BlackWebPortal." The site was designed with African-Americans in mind. They need to cross the hundreds of thousands barrier to have any real chance of keeping this site online at all. The **www.BlackWebPortal.com** is the only site that is 100% African-American owned.

Visit and see what they have to offer; and spread the news! Support good Black businesses.

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Let **MON-The Gazette** help your church accomplish the **Prayer of Taber**, "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."

11:30am. The cost is 15.00 per person, which includes a meal, soft drink and gratuity. (Cash and checks accepted at the door) If you are interested in attending this event please RSVP by calling 972-838-1316 or emailing cbcsecretary@yahoo.com seating is limited.

If you or someone you know is

interested in joining the Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce please attend our next meeting on March 8th at 6:30pm. The meeting is currently held at 1200 N Tennessee in McKinney. Meeting are held the 2nd Thursday of each month. Please contact the number or email above for further details.

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.

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A Division of DGIM, 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, live 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 Eromonsele

Executive Director

P.O. Box 165103

Irving, TX 75016-5103

972-602-3035

DENTON FULL GOSPEL HOLY TEMPLE CHURCH

March 4 - 9 @ 8 pm

Please join us for our Harvest

Time Crusade; there will be a great

move of God and you don't want

to miss this event. For more information, please call 940-484-0963.

Denton Full Gospel Holy

Temple Church,

Elder F. H. Daniels, III Pastor

529 Bolivar Street

Denton, TX 76202

940-484-0963

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN

February, 2007

FBCHA 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

February 17, 2007 @ 5 pm

You don't want to miss our First Annual Collin County Gospel Explosion @ the Allen Civic Center Auditorium, 300 N. Allen Drive, Allen, TX 75013. Tickets are only \$15 per person and will feature FBCHA Sanctuary Choir with special guests: Charles Luster, Mashondi Payne, Pastor Niya Adams, and Elder Daniel Davis.

For more info contact Sis. Gray @ 214-495-0544 or Sis. Bechum @ 972-809-3533.

Fellowship Baptist Church of Allen

Rev. W. L. Stafford, Sr., M. Div.

Senior Pastor

200 Belmont Drive

Allen, TX 75013

972-359-9956

FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS MINISTRIES, INC. (FBOBC)

February 16th @ 7:30 pm and

February 17th @ 10:30 am

You are invited to our "Hell in My

House, Heaven in My Heart" Marriage Conference 2007. Theme:

A match Made in Heaven @ Community Outreach Church, 526

Compton Road, Irving, TX 75061,

Pastor L. Tarpley, Overseer. For

more information contact Pastor

Deborah Jackson @ 214-476-8188.

Fellowship of Believers Ministries

Bishop Gregory Crawford

Founder and Senior Pastor

501 Wynnewood Village, #423

Dallas, TX 75224

214-372-3624

ST JAMES CME CHURCH, MCKINNEY

February 25th @ 4 pm

Please join us as we present a Fine

Arts Extravaganza with the world

renowned Dallas Black Dance

Theatre and Saxophonist Tom

Braxton. This will be "An Alluring and Enchanting Evening" through soul-stirring sounds, scenes, sophisticated moves @ the McKinney Performing Arts Center. Also featured will be the Holy Spirit inspired artwork of Artist Ted Ellis and the dramatic voice of Actress Naïma Imani Lett.

Tickets will be available through the McKinney Performing Arts Center or by calling 214-544-4630. Please contact Beth Bentley @ 214-498-3540 to learn more about sponsorship opportunities or additional information.

St. James CME Church

Rev. Thomas Jagours, Pastor

316 Watt Street @ Hwy 5

McKinney, TX 75069

972-529-2970

SANCTUARY OF PRAISE FELLOWSHIP OF ALLEN

February 24th @ 11 am to 3 pm

You are invited to our "Taste of

Soul" which will feature soul food

cuisine from New Orleans,

Virginia, North Carolina, Chicago,

Kansas City, Mississippi and Texas.

Tickets can be purchased at the

event. Arts and Crafts will be available as well as African America

Storytelling.

For more information contact

Pastor John Wilson, III @

469-853-2380

Sanctuary of Praise Fellowship of Allen

Rev. John Wilson, III, Pastor

1001 E. Mail Street

Allen, TX 75002

SIXTH AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

February 18th @ 3 pm

We will celebrate "Black History

Month" with special guest Pastor

Larry Polk, Sr. of Second Mission

Baptist Church in Corsicana, TX.

For more information about the

events call 903-874-4873

Sixth Avenue Baptist Church

Bishop K. D. Davis, Sr.

Overseer/Pastor

Rev. H. P. Williams,

Associate Pastor

125 South 5th Street

Corsicana, TX 75110

903-874-4873

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

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 @ 7:30 am on KRVN 970 AM Sunday Mornings
Emory Tenen, Associate Minister

www.avefchurchofchrist.org

Mt. Olive Church of Plano
740 Avenue F Plano, TX 75074 972-633-5511

WWW.MOCOR.ORG

Serving the Plano Community for 13 Years

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Wednesday Night 7:15 pm

Pastors Sam & Gloria Fenechery

Call Pastor Sam on:
"Vision & Truth Live"

Radio Broadcast: KWRD 100.7 FM Sundays 9pm - 10pm
HEAR PASTOR SAM DAILY ON: "TRUTH MADE SIMPLE"
KQGR 1040 AM MONDAY - FRIDAY @ 5:25pm - 5:30pm

Hill Chapel
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
1113 Ave. I, Plano, TX 75074 (972) 423-4990
Rev. Clarence J. Ford, Jr., Pastor

Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.
Sunday Worship Service: 11:30 A.M.
Wednesday Night: 7:30 P.M.
Community Bible Class:

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

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

Dr. Leslie W Smith,
Senior Pastor

1010-1020 South Sherman Street • Richardson, TX 75081
www.ndcbf.org

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
920 E. 14th Street Plano, TX

Pastor Isiah 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

Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church
1308 Wilcox Street, McKinney TX
Pastor Charles S. Wattley

Sunday
Education Ministries... 9:30 a.m.
Worship Celebration... 11:00 a.m.
- 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

Say No 2 Drugs Resource Center Presents The Fellowship – Music & Arts Conference

Say No 2 Drugs, Inc. would like to invite you, your Group and/or Choir to be part of our 18th Annual Fellowship – Music and Arts Conference. There will be a Worship and Praise Service and the National New Artist Showcase on Friday February 23, 2007. On Saturday February 24, 2007 there will be Enrichment Seminars and a Record Label Showcase Luncheon. The host hotel will be the Radisson Dallas Love Field Hotel in Dallas, TX. Conference attendees estimated at 1,500 to 2,000 from the gospel music industry; various media and radio representatives and independent record companies as well as fellow artists in and around the country.

Past artists who have donated their time in support of Say No 2 Drugs, Inc. Music and Arts Conference include: Dr. Bobby Jones, Bishop Sam Williams, Tommy Young-West, J. Eric Brown & Charity, Jackie Smith & Divinity, Lamont Jackson & New Beginning, Tracy Thomas & Showers of Blessings Choir, Min. Melvin Dawson, the late Rev. James Moore, Min. Leroy Williams and many others.

The Fellowship – Music & Arts Conference schedule and details are as follows:

- Friday February 23 - 7:15 pm - Worship Service
- Friday February 23 - 9:30 pm - National Artist Showcase

Saturday February 24 - 9:00 - 11:00 am - Enrichment Seminars

- What does Praise and Worship mean?



Victor McCray

- Gospel Music Business
 - Record Label Presentation
 - Why my music is not played on the radio
 - Hymns of the Church
- Saturday February 24 - 12:00

– 4:30 pm - Record Label Sponsored Showcase Luncheon
Saturday February 24 - 6:00 pm - Artist Showcase

Registration fee is \$20.00 per attendee (includes attendance pass to all showcases, workshop class and Record Label luncheon). All attendees, including performers are required to pay registration fee. Registration deadline is February 20, 2007. National Artist Showcase performance fee of \$50.00 is required per choir, group or soloist. For all record labels that want to be a sponsor, a fee of \$250.00 is required.

Event will be held at the Radisson Dallas Love Field Hotel, 1241 W. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas, TX 75247 (214) 630-7000. We have arranged a special room rate of \$69.00 per

night. You may reserve your room by calling the Reservations Department and requesting the group rate for the Music and Arts Showcase. In order to guarantee this rate, reservations need to be made prior to February 9, 2007. Check in time is 3:00 pm and check out time is 12:00 pm. Arrangements can be made for baggage storage with the front desk.

The Worship Service promises to be edifying and dedicated to praise and worship. The showcases are 10 minute slots designed for church choirs, recording artists and music artists to display their music ministry before record labels, radio personalities, and constituents in the media. This showcase has been a motivating

tool for upcoming new artists, choirs and groups that are looking for exposure in their ministry. The seminars are designed to motivate and enhance the musical talents and songwriting abilities for all music lovers.

We are excited about the future, and we feel you will agree that Say No 2 Drugs, Inc. is making a difference in these individuals by providing this much-needed program for the improvement and investment within our communities. All proceeds benefit Say No 2 Drugs Resource Center, Dallas, TX.

For additional info contact Victor McCray by telephone at (214) 405-1987 or by email at vsmaysayno2drugs@yahoo.com.

African Children's Choir Performs At First Baptist Church Of Hamilton Park



Dr. Gregory J. Foster, Sr. Pastor with members of the African Children's Choir at Sunday's concert.

Photos By: Larry Durham
First Baptist Church of Hamilton Park hosted the dynamic African Children's Choir on Sunday, February 11th.

The African Children's Choir stopped in Dallas as part of its current tour across the U.S., the tour began in Washington State in May, 2006.

The primary goal of the African Children's Choir is to raise awareness of the need of destitute and orphaned children in Africa and to raise funds for continued development and support of the Choir's relief and development programs. Once Choir members have completed a concert tour, they will return to their homelands

with the support, care and education necessary for bettering their future and that of their brothers and sisters.

The African Children's Choir features delightful African children ages 7 through 11. Many have lost one or both parents through the devastation of war, famine and disease. Their voices sing out on behalf of Africa's 12 million AIDS orphans. They represent the future of the entire continent, demonstrating



African Children's Choir performed a worship through dance for the audience.

the potential to become strong leaders for a better future in their homeland. In spite of the tragedy that has marred their young lives, these musically gifted children are radiant with hope and wonderfully entertaining. They have melted the hearts of audiences with their charming smiles and joyful African melodies and dance.

Traveling with the Choir are two adults who are former Choir members themselves. They have finished their education and have come back to work with the Choir as parental figures and role models.

For more information and donations to the African Children's Choir, visit www.africanchildrenschoir.com.



African Children's Choir in prayer

Concord Baptist Church Holds "I Promise" Marriage Conference



Kirk Whalum

Concord Church will hold a Marriage Conference led by Pastor and Sister Bryan L. Carter on February 16-18, 2007. The conference will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel, 800 N. Main Street, Duncanville, TX 75116.

"I Promise" is a retreat designed to unify, uplift and uphold the promises made to one another. Concord invites you to become renewed and empowered through many exciting and enriching workshops.

Featured workshops include: Making step-families work, marriage & money, being God's king

for the castle, communication 101, husbands: assembly required, peak performance, resolving conflict in marriage and rekindling the romance.

Attendees will also be treated to a romantic evening concert featuring international jazz great, Kirk Whalum!

The cost is \$350.00 per couple and includes a two-night stay at the Hilton Garden Inn, three sit-down meals, jazz concert featuring Kirk Whalum, on-site counseling and all conference workshops.

For more information contact Pastor Rod Stodghill at 214-331-8522 or fax: 214.333.3597.

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

Our Mission
To fulfill The Great Commission until Christ comes.
300 Phillips Street • Richardson, TX 75081 • 972.255.4235
www.fbcfp.org

The Evening Experience
Bill E. Cashman, Pastor
Richardson, TX 75081
Phone: 972.463.0462
Fax: 972.981.0201

Missionary Workshop: The Wednesday Bible Study - Free

Macedonia Ministries
702 S. Mill Street • Lewisville, TX 75057
972-436-2011

"We Choose Love to Nurish and Cherish One Another"
John 13:34 & Ephesians 5:28-29

www.macedoniaministries.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 pm
Wednesdays: Life In The Word Prayer and Bible Study 7:00 pm.

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. A. 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, 12:30pm
Monday School 7pm
Men's Fellowship Friday 7:00pm

Website: www.ibccjoy.org

Ben Washington Baptist Church, Inc.
3901 Frisco Avenue
Irving, TX 75061
Church 972-790-8421 Fax 972-986-6390

Email: church@ibccirving.org
Web: ibccirving.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

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"