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Fifty Cents

People In The News



Sister Tarpley, Religious Editor for MON-The Gazette, will be the Keynote Speaker at the Hype and Humble Ladies 1st Empowerment Breakfast this weekend, Saturday 24, 2007 from 7:30 am to 10:30 am @ The Melrose Hotel, 3015 Oak Lawn Avenue, Dallas, TX 75219

Hype and Humble is a Non-Profit Organization that assists individuals in crisis situations to get back on their feet. They also host a day of pampering for women in homeless domestic violence shelters (this was a shared dream of ladies at the shelters.) They have Celebrity auctions, makeovers and job training, as well as having a resource and referral program.

Ms. Candace Watson is the Founder/Director. All women are invited to be enriched by a hearty breakfast and the food of knowledge. Participants can hear an uplifting message of empowerment and get motivated for 2007, while finding the elusive answer to questions they have been struggling with. There will be door prizes, giveaways and complimentary parking. Registration is only \$25. RSVP today @ 214-732-1746, seats are limited. Or Email Candace at icefor2006@aol.com.

Valencia Nash is one of ten outstanding individuals to be recognized at the 32nd Annual Elite News Awards Night in honor of Black History Month. William Blair Jr., Founder and Senior Publisher of the Elite News, started the Elite News Awards night in 1975 by recognizing men and women who had a positive impact on their community. This year the event will be held on Friday, February 23, 7pm-10 at Mount Tabor Baptist Church, 3700 Simpson Street Road, Dallas.



Valencia Nash is a Dallas attorney who is active in her community. She volunteers her time and service through the Legal Aid Clinics of Northwest Texas at the West Dallas and South Dallas Legal Clinics. She takes cases on a pro bono basis through the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program.

Ms. Nash is an active member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the National Council of Negro Women, and the League of Women Voters. She is also a member of the Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. where she is the co-chairperson of the social action committee.

The Collin County Republican Party has announced the Honorable Alphonso Jackson, US Secretary of Housing and Urban Development has been designated as the keynote speaker for their 39th Annual Lincoln Day Dinner on March 10th.

Alphonso Jackson first joined the Bush Administration in June of 2001 as HUD's Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer. As Deputy Secretary, Jackson managed the day-to-day operations of the \$32 billion agency and instilled a new commitment to ethics and accountability within HUD's programs and among its workforce and grant partners.

From January 1989 until July 1996, Secretary Jackson was President and CEO of the Housing Authority of the City of Dallas, Texas, which consistently ranked as one of the best-managed large-city housing agencies in the country during his tenure.

Secretary Jackson holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in education administration from Truman State University. He received his law degree from Washington University School of Law.

Table and ticket forms for the Lincoln Day Dinner can be downloaded from www.collincountygop.com. Checks and attendees names can be forwarded to Republican Headquarters at 2520 Avenue K, Suite 280, Plano, Texas 75074.

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Is Black History Month Getting Diluted?



Observance Inspires Celebration, But Does Cultural Saturation Mean Success?

By: Erin Teixeira - AP
Black History Month: Come February, the now-familiar observance seems to inspire ever more - and ever more random - celebrations.

The players are both big and small. Multinational corporations mount billboard campaigns, while community centers hold fashion shows and tourist spots highlight their connection to black history.

But does saturation equal success?

While the concept of Black History Month has been widely embraced in pop culture, it means some of the nation's most bitter history

also is getting watered down into cliches or irrelevance. Some events have no historical tie-in at all - they're merely topics of interest to African-Americans. And, perhaps unsurprisingly, black history is used as a kind of commercial brand, which can feel off-key.

"It has become very mainstream," said Sheri Parks, a professor of American Studies at the University of Maryland. "I do think it's been diluted. Some of this seems like an excuse to put things on sale."

At Drexel University in Philadelphia, February events range from panel discussions about affirmative action and self-segregation on campus to a black art sale and an African American Down-Home Soul Food Dinner.

In Maryland's Prince George's County, there's Black

Black History Month Page 6

Collin County Black Chamber Of Commerce (CCBCC)



(Left to Right) Jamal Murray, Sr., Co-Founder of CCBCC; Rev. Charles Watley, Senior Pastor of Saint Mark Baptist Church in McKinney; and Kevin Dalley, Co-Founder of CCBCC

There is now a new organization offering support for black businesses in Collin County. The Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce (CCBCC) is targeting its efforts toward businesses that desire an efficient source for their business, a place to network, and an organization that represents and reflect diverse populations in their business area. The CCBCC is also interested in providing black youth with successful role models in the field of business, and showing them other ways to be productive members of society.

CCBCC Page 5

Parr Library Presents Internet Health Information

In conjunction with the Texas Library Association's program 65 Ways to Love Your Library, Plano Public Library System will present "Don't Just Google Your Health: The Best Health Web sites for You and Your Family" at Parr Library, 6200 Windhaven Parkway, on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 2 to 4 p.m. This free health information program targets adults, seniors and caregivers.



Participants will receive instruction about websites covering: - Doctors and hospitals, drugs and side effects, surgeries and procedures, diseases and syndromes, and local support organizations.

Because of the Internet, we have access

to more health information than ever before. But where can we find information and

Parr Library Page 9

2007: The Year Of Living Green In Plano



Mayor Pat Evans declares "The Year of Living Green" to The Plano City Council

It was grey outside but green inside as Mayor Pat Evans took to the podium recently to declare 2007 "The Year of Living Green" in Plano.

Speaking at a noon-time kickoff in the Plano City Council Chamber Mayor Evans challenged both businesses and residents to make Plano the "greenest city in North Texas in 2007."

"Research shows most of us are recycling something every two weeks," said Mayor Evans. "But 64 percent of us think we can recycle more - and the numbers back it up. Only 27 percent of our total waste gets recycled in Plano. We can and must do better."

While many environmental programs conjure

images of radical environmentalists living in underground houses, wearing only hemp products and subsiding solely on organic vegetables, "green living" is the exception. Green living is filled with just everyday ordinary people who occasionally will toss an aluminum can into the trash, luxuriate in a 30-minute hot shower and possibly buy the gas guzzling SUV over the more efficient model because it's "super cool looking and holds more kids." Most of these folks are already taking part is some form of "living green," and have a knowledge of most of the environmental issues, such as global warming and landfill reduction, in the news today.

The City of Plano has long been a national leader in championing the environment, leading the region in the use of hybrid vehicles and being one of the first cities in the state to convert to automated refuse collection, automated curbside recycling, development and

Living Green In Plano Page 5

Michelle Obama: The Woman Behind Barack

By: Rosalind Rossi

Backstage, behind the floodlights, moments before he gave the 2004 Democratic convention keynote address that would launch his career into the national stratosphere, Barack Obama made a confession to his wife, Michelle.



His stomach was a bit queasy.

Michelle responded by hugging her husband tight and looking him straight in the eye, Obama recalls in his book, *The Audacity of Hope*.

"Just don't screw it up, Buddy!" Michelle said, transforming the tense moment into one of shared laughter.

"But every high-flying kite needs somebody with their feet on the ground. And that's Michelle."

In the nearly 2 1/2 years since

her husband grounded, who keeps him real.

"He is the senator. His profile is soaring," said consultant and friend Avis LaVelle, national press secretary to Bill Clinton during his successful 1992 presidential campaign.

"Michelle Obama Page 8

Black Farmers Association Meets To Demand End To Racist Discrimination



More than 400 African American farmers attend February 10 conference in Dallas.

By: Jacquie Henderson and Karl Butts

Most of 400 small farmers attended a February 8-10 conference here to discuss their fight for land and against racist discrimination by the U.S. govern-

ment, banks, and big business. Most of the participants came from Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas. The event was organized by the National Black Farmers

Black Farmers Page 8

World Renowned Fisk Jubilee Singers Perform In Dallas

Photos By: PJ Johnson
The Fisk University Jubilee Singers performed in Dallas on Saturday, February 17 at the Christian Chapel Temple of

Faith. Dr. Jerome E. McNeil Jr. is the pastor of Christian Chapel Temple of Faith Church. The emcee for the event was Fox 4 News anchor Clarice Tinsley. The

concert, chaired by Barbara Lord Watkins, benefited the Fisk University scholarship fund. For more pics visit our website @ www.MonTheGazette.com



(L to R) Paul T. Kwami (Fisk Jubilee Musical Director), Dr. Hazel R. O'Leary (President Fisk University), Billie McNeil (First Lady Christian Chapel Temple of Faith), Dr. Jerome E. McNeil Jr. (Pastor Christian Chapel Temple of Faith).



Clarice Tinsley (Fox 4 News) greets and welcomes the audience.



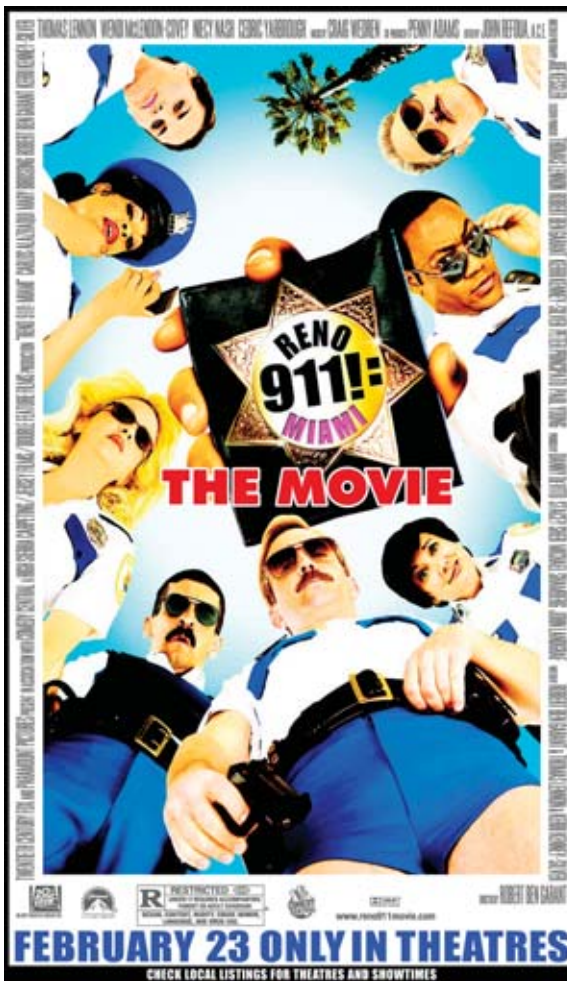
Paul T. Kwami (Fisk Jubilee Musical Director) introduces the Fisk Jubilee Singers.



Fisk Jubilee Singers performance.



Fisk Jubilee Singers perform to a full house.



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 1950s. 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.

"EVOLVE," a social networking opportunity for women, meets from 7:30 to 9 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays 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.

Kuamaasi 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-Ankhi Rassa 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, 3211 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

Urban League Annual Meeting and Luncheon at 11:45 a.m., Hilton Anatole 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.

Community Blood Drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Denton Good Samaritan Village, 2500 Hinkle Drive, Denton, TX 76201, for more info call, Katrina McPherson at 940-383-2651, ext. 6309. Free T-shirts and other surprise incentives.

The Pursuit of Equality: Liberty and Justice for All from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the University of North Texas, third floor of the University Union Building. For more info, call 940-565-2456.

Cultural Awareness Dance Concert at 7:30 p.m. Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm Street. For more info, call 214-871-2390 or visit www.livethemajestic.com.

Third Annual Black History Month Celebration Assembly at Barbara Bush Middle School Gymnasium, in Carrollton 10:15 a.m. Children's book author Dr. Joyce Teal will be the guest speaker.

Newman Smith High School Coffee House and Silent Auction 2335 North Josey Lane, Carrollton, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The Newman Smith Choirs will host this evening of entertainment coffee and dessert. For more info, contact Sheri Groves at 972-306-4242.

February 24, 2007
A Celebration of Faith, Hope, and Love Brunch a Faith-Based community about the Amachi mentoring program for children who have an incarcerated parent. Ruthie 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@bbbsst.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 con-

tact Shereyn Roberts at 214-915-4607.

YES! (Youth Explore Sports) Expo at 10:32 a.m. at The Shops at Willowbend, 6121 West Park Boulevard, Plano. For more info call 972-422-6830.

Looking At: Jazz, America's Art Form at 2:30 p.m. FREE. The series explores the history of jazz with a concert by a UNT Jazz band, film and discussion sessions. J. Erik Jonsson Center Library, 1515 Young Street. For more info call, 214-670-1643.

African-American Read-In at 3:00 PM Barnes & Noble Bookseller Irving Mall, 3634 Irving Mall, Irving. For more info, call 972-257-8320 (bookstore) or 214-492-0152

Free! Special guests will perform dramatic readings from famous African American Writers.

From Garvey to Parks at 3:00 p.m. Naomi Bruton Main Stage, 650 S Griffin St., Dallas. For more info, call 214-743-2440.

African American History Month Family Day African American Museum 3536 Grand Ave., Dallas from 10:00a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Family day activities include preservation workshop, FREE children's Adinkra print making workshop, sports book fair and a sanfoja journey. For more info, call 214-565-9026 ext. 310.

Black History Month Program at the Douglass Community Center, 1111 Avenue H, Plano, Texas from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. There will be an exciting array of entertainment, contests and refreshments. Winning essays written by area youth will be read during the program. For more info, call 972-941-7174.

The History of Our Drum Creeksview High School's Auditorium, Carrollton at 7:00 p.m. Advance tickets: \$5.00, at the door: \$7.00; T-shirts: \$10.00. For more

info, call Mia Street at 972-939-4949.

Mesquite NAACP Youth Council Teen Summit at Horn High School, 3300 E. Cartwright Road, Mesquite from 10:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. Topics include: Relationship Abuse (Date Rape, Sexual and Physical Abuse).

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

Academy Awards Gala sponsored by the Plano African American Museum. Studio Movie Grill, 4521 Park at Preston, Plano. Red carpet welcome begins at 5:30 p.m. For more info, call 972-423-7809.

Fine Arts Extravaganza 4:00 p.m. at McKinney Performing Arts Center at the Historic Collin County Courthouse, 111 N. Tennessee St., McKinney. For more info, call 214-544-4630 or visit the web site at www.mckinneyperformingartscenter.org.

3rd Annual Grand Prairie African American Author Showcase from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Ruthie Jackson Center, 3113 S. Carrier Pkwy in Grand Prairie. FREE. The Showcase(s) will feature local and regional authors who will discuss and sign copies of their works. For more info, call 214-868-2016 or visit www.authorshowcaseevents.org.

February 26, 2007
Texas Democratic Women of Collin County Meeting at 6:45 p.m. Double 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 Drug Forum at 7:00 p.m. Plano West Senior High Auditorium, 5601 W. Parker Road, Plano. For more info, call Jennifer Barker 469-752-9726 or email Jennifer.barker@cpipd.edu

NAACP Garland Branch Monthly Meeting featuring "A Salute To Black History In The Americas." Event will be held at the Women's Activity Center, 713 Austin Street @ Glenbrook at 7:30 p.m.

February 28, 2007
S.T.O.P.P.E.D. Security, Training, Offering, Procedure, Protection, Education and Direction Conference hosted by The Pottery House. Three-day event is aimed at churches, U.S. Militaries, engineers, executives and federal state government organizations from around the world. The Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center. For more info, visit <http://www.thestopped.com>

March 1, 2007
A Beka Book Home School from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano. This is a home school curriculum and textbook sale. FREE. For more info, call Mickey Pierce at 877-223-5226.

Top Funder's Workshop will help you identify new funding sources and learn more about your current donors. From 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano. FREE.

YPP Professional Development Seminar at SMU-in-Legacy campus at 6:00 p.m. Find out what your communications style is and how that relates to other people. For more info, visit <http://www.planochamber.org/youngpro/events.asp>.

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Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community



Paul Hailey

I took an HIV test on Sunday.

I took it at my church between services. The test was free, and administered by courteous health professionals who swabbed the inside of my mouth and then gave me my results 15 minutes later. I was amazed at how simple the whole process was, especially when compared to the first HIV test I took over 10 years ago.

As usual, it's the simple things that get me thinking. I asked a few people around the church if they had taken the test. The answers I received ranged from "I took one at a doctor's office," to a shoulder shrug and some unintelligible mumbling. I realized that I never hear anyone of color go around announcing they had just got tested for HIV.

With more than half of all new HIV infections occurring among black people, why are we hesitant to get tested and so reluctant to even discuss our sexual health?

I believe the answer to that question has a lot to do with the way the black community views HIV and AIDS; particularly its origins. Blacks continue to view HIV and AIDS as a "gay disease" that doesn't affect them, so they are not sensitive to the devastation the disease causes.

I also believe the reason black folks feel that way is because we are some of the biggest homophobes on the planet.

Perhaps in part because we are a spiritual people whose roots in the church run deep, Black people have a big problem with homosexuality. I'm not talking about accepting the condition as normal or morally acceptable, but in merely acknowledging that

Why Haven't You Been Tested?

gay people exist right next to us. That homophobia plays directly into how we process AIDS as a disease.

Julian Bond, Chairman of the Board of the NAACP expressed the same opinion in a recent interview. "Homophobia is one of the major obstacles to Black America coming to grips with this disease (AIDS) in the ways that we should," he said.

If that's not enough, consider the recent comments of former NBA player Tim Hardaway when asked about retired NBA player John Amaechi admitting in his memoirs that he is gay.

"First of all I wouldn't want him on my team. And second of all, if he was on my team, you know, I would really distance myself from him because, uh, I don't think that's right. I don't think that he should be in the locker room while we are in the locker room, and it's just a whole lot of other things and I wouldn't even be a part of that."

Not so bad if Hardaway would have stopped there, just an expression of his opinion, right? But he took it to the next level with the rest of his comments:

"You know, I hate gay people, so I let it be known. I don't like gay people and I don't like to be around gay people. I am homophobic. I don't like it. It shouldn't be in the world or in the United States."

Wow. All of this from a black man who, when he wasn't rich or famous, undoubtedly had to deal with that same kind of hatred in racial terms.

Hardaway apologized, (what else could he do with his broadcasting career on the line); the NBA banned him from attending any of its All-Star weekend activities, and millions of sports fans, black and white, came out of the woodwork to support Hardaway's comments.

Aside from the general ignorance of Hardaway's comments, as a Christian, my heart

hurts on two different levels. Firstly, whenever anyone on television says something so blatantly vile, it gives credibility to those comments. People harboring the same hatred suddenly feel justified in their view.

More importantly, Hardaway's comments perpetuate homophobia and the ostracism of gay people as if they exist in some alternate universe. Gay people are here, and we can either deal with them or put our heads in the sand. That's a problem I have with a lot of churches in the black community—they condemn both the homosexuality and the homosexual. According to the bible I read, Jesus hung out with all of the so-called undesirables of his time. He rubbed off on them; they didn't rub off on him. To me, that's true Christianity.

Homophobia is no different than racism against blacks and Hispanics or religious prejudice against Muslims. Homophobia short-circuits discussions about HIV and AIDS. Instead of talking about the disease and ways to encourage people to test for it, we spend time talking about homosexuality and hatred for homosexuals.

As with most issues, the only way to make a difference is individually, one person at a time. Attitudes and prejudices only change over time, no change in this country is immediate. The change I am advocating has less to do with sexual attitudes as it has to do with sexual health. We get tested for high blood pressure and sickle cell anemia—we get our cholesterol and hearts checked. Why neglect your sexual health? I encourage every African American reading these words to go somewhere and get tested for HIV. Not getting tested can kill you.

By the way, my test result was negative—what was yours?

Paul Hailey can be reached at phaley@MonTheGazette.com

Obama Drama – Another Political Sleeping Pill For Black People

By: James Clingman -

NBA Columnist

Here we go again. Will the euphoria sweeping through our ranks over the possibility of a Black President eventually dominate our collective psyche? Will it overwhelm us with notions of "equality" and "victory," and ostensibly cause us to subordinate our primary interests and abandon the pressing issues that negatively impact Black life in America? With more than 21 months to go before we vote and one year before the first primaries and caucuses, Black folks are spending a great deal of time and resources following each episode of the Obama Drama. Been there, done that.

We were excited when Jesse Jackson ran; more so when it seemed White folks liked him too and even said they would vote for him. But when Jesse made his infamous faux pas and Jewish folks came out against him, the proverbial fat lady started tuning up, "cause it was all over but the shouting."

The next potential Black Prez was Jesse Junior. He was "articulate," they would say, just like George W. Bush recently labeled Obama. Jesse Junior was "likeable," young, a new breed of politician, and many said they would vote for him for president. That honeymoon didn't last to long, either.

And then Harold Ford comes along, the second coming of JFK. He said all the right things on both sides of the aisle, at least for a moment, until he started alienating some of his CBC members by siding with George W. and the GOP more and more. Well, you saw what they did to him in Tennessee with a simple, "Hey Harold, call me."

On the opposite side of the political spectrum there were Colin Powell, Ken Blackwell and Michael Steele, who were not treated very well by their party, either. I know this doesn't mean Obama will be subjected to the same treatment, but you have to admit, it's very likely, especially if he fails to parrot the "politically corporate" line of a "colorblind society." The right-wing fanatics are already lobbing verbal grenades at him. And since we are all so afraid of the Jewish people, heaven forbid they start

a campaign against his middle name, as some of the right have already begun doing. It's really over then, folks.

Unlike Whites in this country, millions of who will benefit no matter who is president, Black people do not have the luxury of devoting the majority of our time and resources to yet another "most important election of our time," especially at this early stage of the game. Besides, it's money time right now, and Obama needs to raise some serious "jack" to compete in this game. So if you're not sending a check, you're not on the radar screen anyway.

We must not allow the Obama Drama to divert our attention from the important things Black people need to do for ourselves, now, prior to November 2008. Besides, as far as money is concerned, I am sure Oprah will be handling that for the Senator. With all the money she has to support her statement of doing whatever it takes to get him elected, Obama will be in "high cotton." So the rest of us should pool our money and try to free our people, because Oprah ain't gonna help us with that.

In October 2004, I wrote an article titled, "Vote for me and I'll set you free," in which I said, "Barack Obama, the Tiger Woods of politics, the new fair-haired child, has recently been designated as the probable first Black president. Some people say Obama "transcends race" because he is not the "stereotypical Black man." One White commentator said, "...he is not black in the usual way." What in the world does that mean? Does it mean that he is light-skinned and doesn't seem to be biracial?"

The article went on to say, "Obama is certainly an excellent candidate for the Senate, but let's not fall for the game, brothers and sisters. If he is deemed 'safe' by white folks, then what label have they hung on the rest of our Black politicians? Besides, even Obama, [even if he does win] will not set us free. That's our job."

Yes, I would like to see a President Obama, but for reasons other than euphoria and emotionalism, his senatorial voting record notwithstanding.

What Should Define 'African American'

By: Alex P. Kellogg

Though my mother is white American and my father Ethiopian, some of my earliest memories are of being considered African American. Once, when I was 5, my mother and I were checking out groceries, and an attendant asked if we were together. Her assumption was so striking I'll remember it forever.

Because she saw I was black, she thought I might be wandering alone, neglected or abandoned. With no one else in sight, the only person I could have been with was my mother. People might see our strong resemblance if they could look past skin color.

A lot of hot air is being blown over whether presidential hopeful Barack Obama is African American. As Obama's father was Kenyan and his mother white American, he is literally African American. Yet activists and commentators have questioned his black bona fides since he's not the descendant of slaves.

Like Obama, I started to identify as African American as an adolescent — years after the decision had already been made for me by the rest of the world.

When I left Michigan, a state known for its de facto segregation, for Harvard College, I worried that being mixed race would lead African-American

I would like to see the "possibility" of finally having a president that would speak out as a Black man and actually do something that directly benefits Black people, the people to whom this country owes a tremendous debt. (Hey, I can dream, can't I?)

Of course it doesn't really matter to the corporate "hidden hands" if the winner is Black, White, male, or female; politics is about self-interest, and their interests will be met. My interest is in Black people finally getting something more than rhetoric and a good feeling of seeing a Black-skinned person in political office. That's played out for me; Blackness on the outside does not necessarily mean Black on the inside; and in politics, unfortunately, we only find out what politicians will do after they win office — too late.

The "audacity of hope," is not enough for Black people to make the progress necessary to secure a bright future for our children. We must have the audacity of collective work, sacrifice, courage, strength, under-girded by the audacity of a Black consciousness, the state of mind that will manifest itself in true freedom for our people.

Don't go for the smile and firm handshake — from any politician. Read, research, and be informed. Then make up your mind about who can and will do something positive for Black people as president — or in any other political position. Don't get side-tracked by the Obama Drama; it's a sleeping pill. We must stay awake; there is work to do right now; so take No-Doz instead.

James E. Clingman, an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati's African American Studies department, is former editor of the Cincinnati Herald newspaper and founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce. He hosts the radio program, "Blackonomics," and has written several books, including Black-o-Knowledge-Stuff. To book Clingman for a speech or purchase his books, go to his Web site, www.blackonomics.com or call him at 513/489-4132.

her I was not black.

In December, I founded a scholarship in the name of two African-American college classmates who died in a car crash after our sophomore year. When dozens of black friends made donations, they could have told me I wasn't African American enough to lead the effort.

Last month, four cops cornered me in a parking lot during rush hour for a routine traffic violation in a suburb I actually cover. When they told me to keep my hands visible even after I handed them my business card, I could have told them I'm sure the level of aggression was due to me being half-white, right?

Thankfully the embrace I've received from African Americans, and the spirit of resistance, redemption and achievement I learned from their history, has kept me grounded. For it was that unique embrace that really decided the issue long before I made a conscious choice.

Our nation gets more racially complex each day. Our children won't face such questions nearly as much. A generation from now, we'll have Barack Obama and trailblazers like him to thank for it.

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

While you ponder that thought we would like to announce that Minority Opportunity News, Inc., formerly a Dallas based renaissance community tabloid, founded in 1991, has relocated to Plano, Texas and changed our name to MON-The Gazette. In addition to moving our offices to Plano, our editorial coverage has also shifted to encompass Dallas' Northern Corridor. The Northern Corridor is clearly the fastest growing region in Texas, if not in America. MON-The Gazette believes that the engine to continue this growth is the airport expansion in McKinney, which is the largest and most visible of many area opportunities. As always, and true to tradition, MON-The Gazette will be there 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 formally Minority Opportunity News, was founded July, 1991, by Jim Bochum and Thurman R. Jones

United Negro College Fund's 8th Annual Gala To Benefit UNCF Schools

Fundraiser headlines popular 80's R&B Funk Artists Midnight Star

The United Negro College Fund's (UNCF) premiere black-tie gala kicks off this year with live entertainment, silent and live auctions, dinner and dancing. The "Red Hot & Snazzy" benefit gala will be held on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 6:00 p.m. at the Fairmont Dallas. This year's event will feature entertainment by R&B/Funk band Midnight Star.

Each year, the "Red, Hot & Snazzy" Benefit Gala raises funds that support UNCF's 39

chairs Paula Sullivan, vice president for community relations at Citibank, and Michael Sullivan senior regional sales manager at Reliant Energy. Honorary chairs are Sheryl Adkins-Green, general manager of Pro-Line International, and Geoff Green, vice president of new products at Citi Assurance Services. Emceeding the gala is WFAA-TV's Good Morning Texas co-host Brenda Teale.

"Being asked to serve as co-chairs for this UNCF event is certainly an honor," said gala co-chairs Paula and Michael Sullivan. "We are proud to join with UNCF as they continue to

success of this important fundraiser. Net proceeds from this event will help UNCF continue to play a critical role in the future of our local and national communities by preparing stu-



WFAA-TV's Good Morning Texas co-host Brenda Teale.

dents with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in today's economy."

For more information, or to purchase a table and/or individual tickets, contact the Dallas office of UNCF at 972-234-1007 or metro 972-263-4114 or visit www.uncf.org/northtexas.

Texas supports five UNCF schools: Huston-Tillotson University in Austin; Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins; Paul Quinn College in Dallas; Texas College in Tyler and Wiley College in Marshall.



R&B/Funk band Midnight Star.

member institutions, as well as scholarships and programs for 65,000 undergraduate and graduate students annually, which includes the 4,577 Texas students attending UNCF member schools. UNCF is proud to announce gala co-

open the pathway to education for so many young people."

Honorary Co-Chairs Sheryl and Geoff Green agreed with the distinction. "We are grateful for the opportunity to serve as honorary co-chairs of this year's event benefiting UNCF. We are delighted to be a part of this most worthy and important cause."

"UNCF salutes the many corporations and individuals who are contributing to our 'Red Hot & Snazzy' gala," said Diane Stephenson, UNCF's area development director of north Texas. "Their generous donations are helping to ensure the

Top Ladies Of Distinction, Inc. & Top Teens Of America Convene 36th Annual Leadership Conference In Plano

On Thursday, March 1st thru Sunday, March 4th, Dallas Chapter Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. (TLOD) and Top Teens of America (TTA) will convene in Plano, Texas at the Plano Marriott Hotel.

The Top Teens, boys and girls 13 - 19 years old will convene during the same time at the Dallas/Plano Marriott. The National Area One Director, Alice Felix Ramsey of Beaumont, Texas, host, presides over the states of Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma & New Mexico and has selected the conference theme: "Navigating to Unfold the Intellect of a Global Society" to serve as a backdrop of all the activities scheduled during the 4 day Leadership Conference.

On Friday, March 2nd at 1:00PM, Cynthia Lewis Foreman, former wife of George Foreman, will perform a riveting one woman show that chronicles her life in a play entitled, "Bruised, But Not Broken". Both the Dallas and Plano Mayors have been invited to greet the ladies, along with other city officials, such as: Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, Senator Royce West, Commissioner John Wiley Price, City Councilwoman Dr. Maxine

Thornton Reese, Mayor Pro Tem Don Hicks, District Attorney Craig Watkins, and Justice of the Peace, Valencia Nash.

Also on Friday, March 2nd from 5:30PM to 7:00PM Representatives from the Top Teens Chapters will participate in an oratorical speaking contest, performing arts, essay and scholarship competition.



Cynthia Foreman

Beginning at 9:00PM the Teens will participate in a Black History Bowl game to encourage the teens to fulfill one of their seven major purposes "to enrich their cultural heritage". During this 4 day Leadership Conference, other national organizations that will have representatives on site are March of Dimes, Ronald McDonald House, National Council of Negro Women, NAACP, Sickle Cell Awareness

Association, United Negro College Fund, Sisters Network, Inc., and Teen Graffiti.

On Saturday, March 3rd from 1:00PM to 2:00PM the teen boys will host a "Brother to Brother" workshop where Positive African American Role Models, current and former athletes, business professionals, and entrepreneurs have been invited to interact with them. Simultaneously, a "Sister to Sister" workshop will be held for the young girls. Cheryl Smith, Editor of the Dallas Weekly, will facilitate the workshop entitled, "A Message To Our Young Girls" and discuss unhealthy diets, tobacco, drugs, alcohol, respecting your body, and just being a lady.

Richmond Punch, recent graduate of Julliard School of Music and Yale University will perform.

On Saturday evening March 3rd at 5:45PM the Ladies, Teens, Lords (husbands of the Ladies), friends and guest will come together for the Blue & Silver Navigating Awards Banquet/Ball. National Vocalist Bernard James of Hamilton Park First Baptist Church will perform.

There is a \$10.00 fee for admission to see Cynthia Foreman. For ticket information and for the Mentoring Breakfast and Blue & Silver Banquet, call 972-230-8379.

Trustee Focuses On Leadership

Richardson ISD trustee David Tyson Jr. met with a special group of 35 school board members February 15-17 to hear expert speakers and tour school facilities during the third session of Leadership TASB. Participants gathered in Corpus Christi as part of class activities in the year-long education leadership study program sponsored by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB). The session's theme was "Taking Steps Into the Unknown: Leading Today Means Preparing for Tomorrow."

Keynote speakers included Jamie Vollmer, an articulate champion of America's public schools who has worked with districts across the nation to improve student success. He helped the class create a community-based plan to develop human capital within schools that gives all students the opportunity to unfold their true potential. In his view, public trust is both public education's most precious resource and the foundation for continuous improvement.

"The Fine Art of Small Talk" was the focus of nationally recognized speaker, author, and trainer Debra Fine. She shared tips for

technically oriented professionals on conversation skills and techniques that help develop business friendships, build rapport, and enhance networking opportunities. Fine regularly appears on the Today Show, CNN, The Early Show, and National Public Radio's Morning Edition.

Rounding out presenters was Steve Murdock, official state

Another session highlight was a site visit to Aransas County ISD, located in a small Texas coastal community. Participants viewed innovative programs, discussed the challenges of school operations in a predominantly tourist/retiree community, and learned more about emergency planning. Not all districts face the threat of hurricanes and district-wide evacuations, but the experience helped the class understand board responsibility for emergency preparedness in the face of a natural disaster.

The Leadership TASB class of 2007 represents Texas school districts of all sizes and property wealth. Participants who complete required elements of the study program earn master trustee status, the highest designation recognized by TASB. Program sponsors include AT&T, H-E-B, Wal-Mart, and Lineberger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP.

TASB is a nonprofit association established in 1949 to serve local Texas school districts. School board members are the largest group of publicly elected officials in the state.



Richardson ISD trustee David Tyson Jr.

Spring Job Fair At Eastfield College

Eastfield College's Career Services Office will co-sponsor and host its Spring Job Fair (in conjunction with Career Week) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 8 in the Gym (P Building). The event is free and open to students of Eastfield College and the general public. Sponsors include Eastfield College Career Services, Eastfield College Student Programs & Resources, and the US Department of Education's Job Location and Development Program. Special employer sponsors include Adecco, Annexus Personnel and Business Services, Blockbuster, Children's Medical Center, Dallas Plumbers & Pipefitters, Employment News, ICI Paints, Lennox International, Napa Auto Parts, The Southern Cross, UPS, U. S. Army Recruiting, Vector Marketing Corporation and Volt.

More than 40 area companies will have representatives on hand to talk to prospective employees. Attendees should bring plenty of resumes and be dressed to interview. The following companies will be represented at the Job Fair:

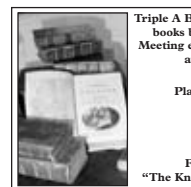
Children's Medical Center
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Dallas County Juvenile Department
Dallas Fire-Rescue
Dallas Plumbers & Pipefitters
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Employment News
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Harley-Davidson Financial Services
ICI Paints
Irving Police Department
Klimpton Hotels &

For more information, contact Ron Rollinson 972-860-8310. For an updated list of employers and available positions visit www.eastfieldcollege.com/ssi/EFCjobfair.htm. Eastfield College, one of the seven Dallas County Community Colleges, is located at 3737 Motley Drive in Mesquite, just north of I-30.



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
Time: 2 pm - 3 pm
Phone: 972.219.3570

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

New Beginning Center Announces Summer Internship Opportunity Through ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program

Summer intern will work in education department to promote the Trendsetters program.

New Beginning Center is now interviewing full-time college students for a paid summer internship in the education department. The intern's responsibilities would be to train, educate and develop youth leaders in a summer peer leadership program for high school students to create domestic violence awareness action plans. The position would begin on June 4, 2007 and end on August 3, 2007. The internship opportunity was made possible through a

grant to the New Beginning Center through the ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program. Funded by ExxonMobil and administered through the Volunteer Center of North Texas, each year the ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program provides full-time college students with an eight-week paid internship to gain experience in a wide range of nonprofit community organizations. The New Beginning Center is one of the 75 local nonprofit organizations selected to participate in the program this year. "The ExxonMobil internship is a wonderful opportunity for someone to make a difference not

just in the lives of the teens in the Trendsetters program, but also in the efforts to eliminate domestic violence in our community," says Jennifer Morrison, Executive Director of New Beginning Center.

College students interested in the internship position at New Beginning Center may contact Becky George at 972.276.0423 x229 or bsgeorge@newbeginning-center.org. For a complete list of agencies participating in the 2007 ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program, internship applicants should visit the Volunteer Center of North Texas' website at www.volunteernorthtexas.org.

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Susan Combs, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

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D-FW Makes Top 50 Company Relocation List

The Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex has been named one of "America's 50 Hottest Cities" for company executives looking to expand or relocate their manufacturing plants, headquarters or back-office operations.

Penton Media Inc., publisher of Expansion Management, released its list of the top 50 metropolitan statistical areas for manufacturing, headquarters and back-office expansions or relocations. The list and a related story is in its January/February 2007 issue.

The publishing company's list is based on a survey of

prominent industry site location consultants. They were asked to identify which communities out



of the nation's 362 MSAs were most attractive when searching out an expansion or relocation site.

The magazine decided to present this year's list in alphabetical order rather than rank

Home Depot Closing Addison Call Center

About 550 workers at a Home Depot Inc. call center will lose their jobs when the center closes next month, the company said.

The call center, which opened in May 2006, provided flooring sales support, said Home Depot spokesman Ron DeFeo. It will close March 12.

"As we continue the improvement of the customer experience in our stores we felt it was a priority to

restore the customer-associate relationship in the store," DeFeo said.

The employees were notified



of the closing during a staff meeting Tuesday, a company

Settlement Between Allstate & Minority Customers Approved By Federal Court Judge

Minority Customers to benefit.

Attorneys representing Allstate's minority customers announced today, a Texas Federal Court issued final approval for a nationwide class action settlement regarding its credit scoring practices.

"This is a great day for Allstate's minority customers," said lead plaintiff's attorney Christa Collins, of the law firm James, Hoyer, Newcomer & Smiljanich, PA. "This is a groundbreaking settlement, because Allstate has agreed to change the way it uses credit information to price insurance. We believe this change significantly benefits Allstate's minority customers."

According to the court, Allstate has millions of African

American and Hispanic customers who are affected by the settlement nationwide. "The bottom line," said Collins, "is many of Allstate's minority customers stand to save significant dollars in their premium payments as a result of the credit scoring changes."

The case was filed in 2001 in U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division. It was brought by six Allstate customers who represented a nationwide class of African Americans and Hispanics. These individuals alleged they were discriminated against when issued automobile and/or home insurance, by being charged higher premiums based on Allstate's use of credit scoring.

As a result of the settlement, minorities will benefit from the

the list.

Four other MSAs in Texas made the list: Austin-Round Rock, the Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land area, Longview and San Antonio. Florida also had five MSAs on the list, while North Carolina and Tennessee each placed four MSAs.

Dallas pitches consultants on its central location, competitive operational costs, work force and business-friendly climate, according to Expansion Management, which quotes Mike Rosa, vice president of economic development for the Greater Dallas Chamber in its article.

Make A Habit Of Paying All Bills In Full, On Time, Every Time.

The employees will be called for 60 days following call center's closure. The company also has an outplacement program and will be holding internal job fairs, DeFeo said. The company is in the middle of spring hiring, which will add about 1,000 employees in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Home Depot operates another call center in Dallas, which will not be affected, DeFeo said.

In a statement issued by Hard Rock International Friday, the company said it is "exploring other opportunities in the area,

Life After Bankruptcy

By: Alfred Edmond, Jr., Editor-in-Chief Black Enterprise

Probably the most damaging thing you can do to your credit score is to file bankruptcy, a blemish that can stay on your credit report for a decade or more. Even though recent legislation makes it harder to do, nearly 1.5 million people filed for bankruptcy between June 2005 and June 2006. Many of these filers did so unnecessarily, out of sheer desperation, without really exploring other options. Doug Banks Morning Show listeners know that I am a major anti-bankruptcy guy. However, if you've already filed, here are some steps you can take towards restoring your financial reputation:

Make A Habit Of Paying All Bills In Full, On Time, Every Time. If that means cutting expenses so that you can

live well within your means, so be it. By "on time," I mean at least two days before the bill is due. Strongly consider arranging automatic payments with



your bank, or paying some bills online. You record of on-time payments accounts for more than a third of your credit score.

Watch Your Credit Like A Hawk. Review your credit reports at least twice a year. You can get one free set of reports from all three major credit

reporting agencies once a year at www.annualcreditreports.com. Go to www.myfico.com to pay for the second set. It's your job to keep your post-bankruptcy report as clean as possible, free of mistakes and abuse by identity thieves. Write letters to the credit bureaus to correct any problems or mistakes (keep copies) immediately.

Use Secured Credit Cards To Rebuild Your Credit. Find information about secured cards, which require you to maintain a savings account as security for a credit line, at websites such as www.creditcards.com and www.bankrate.com. Only consider secured card issuers that report your payment record to major credit bureaus; otherwise, using these cards can't improve your credit.

Hard Rock Café In Dallas To Close

Dallas' Hard Rock Café is closing its doors on March 4, the company said Friday.

The restaurant, at 2601 McKinney Ave. in Dallas, opened in 1986.

In a statement issued by Hard Rock International Friday, the company said it is "exploring other opportunities in the area,



including a Hard Rock Hotel/entertainment complex and more strategic locations for a Hard Rock Cafe in this market."

The company said it does expect to return to the Dallas market, and several locations are under consideration.

An employee who answered the phone at the restaurant Friday said the restaurant is not

discussing the matter and referred questions to its public relations company.

In December, the Seminole

Tribe of Florida announced a deal to buy Orlando, Fla.-based Hard Rock International for \$965 million.

BURIAL PLOTS

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Living Green In Plano Page 1

operation of a municipal-owned compost site and development and operation of a curbside chemical collection program and resulting Household Chemical Reuse Center.

From supporting telecommuting for certain positions to both save gasoline and improve customer service to manufacturing in-house latex paint products through recycling of discarded paints to using solar

power to operate school crossings, Plano government has always embraced the concepts of green living, long before the phrase fell into our common usage.

In May 2006 City Manager Tom Muehlenbeck, backed by the support of City Council, announced the establishment of the City's Sustainability Program within the organized structure of the city. The program was ultimately rolled into the Environmental Waste

CCBCC Page 1

Organized by two energized young men, Jamal Murray, Sr. and Keevin Dailey; meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm in the McKinney Housing Authority Administrative Offices, 1200 N. Tennessee, McKinney, Texas. The mission of the CCBCC is: "To empower, promote and assist entrepreneurship and capitalistic activity and stimulate unity in the communities we serve."

Mr. Murray discussed how the

CBCC came into existence.

"Simply put, there wasn't a 'Black Chamber'. Discovering that, we believed there was an opportunity to give businesses, in this market, another outlet for exposure to potentially, untapped revenue sources," he said.

The Board of Directors for the CCBCC are: Chair, Keevin Dailey; Vice-Chair, Beth Bentley; Treasurer, Terry Thomas; Secretary, Jamal Murray, Sr.; Parliamentarian, Tarsha Polk; and DeWayne Gibson, MON-The Gazette Newspaper.

Services Division, whose outstanding accomplishments in recycling, composting and environmental education were already considered industry benchmarks. A new department was formed, Sustainability and Environmental Services, which will use sustainable concepts to address the City Council's goals of a Premier City for Families, Livable Neighborhoods and Service Excellence.

At the January 25, 2007 "Live

Future plans for the CCBCC include a Business Expo that will give Collin County businesses an opportunity to showcase their services; a weekly business mixer; development of a youth entrepreneur symposium; and establishing relationships with other chambers and business organizations.

"We personally do not see anything wrong with the business climate in McKinney," said Chair Keevin Dailey. "We simply believe there is a need for a Black Business climate in the Collin County area to heighten their presence via net-

working more and becoming more visible in the community." Benefits for those joining this venture will be increased business opportunities due to increased exposure that the organization plans to facilitate. The hope of the CCBCC is to stimulate a sense of unity within communities that will breed future business professionals and entrepreneurs.

For additional questions and becoming a member, please contact Jamal Murray, Sr. @ 972-838-1316 or Email ccbbccsecretary@yahoo.com.

Barbara Jordan: Paving Roads In The Texas Senate

Barbara Charline Jordan a Representative from Texas; born in Houston, Harris County, Texas on February 21, 1936. She served as a Congresswoman in the United States House of Representatives from 1973 to 1979.

Barbara Jordan attended Wheatley High School and graduated magna cum laude from Texas Southern University in 1956 and from Boston University Law School in 1959. She passed the Bar Exams in Massachusetts and Texas before returning to Houston to open a law practice.

Active in the Kennedy-Johnson presidential campaign of 1960, Jordan wanted to be a part of change. She unsuccessfully ran for the Texas House of Representatives in 1962 and 1964. Her persistence won her a seat in the Texas Senate in 1966, becoming the first African American state senator since 1883 and the first black woman to serve in that body. Reelected to a full term in the Texas Senate in 1968, she served until 1972. She was the first African-American female to serve as president pro tem of the state senate and served for one day as acting governor of Texas in 1972.



Lyndon Johnson, who helped her secure a position on the House Judiciary Committee.

Her legislative accomplishments include the renewal of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and expansion of that act to cover language minorities. This extended protection to Hispanics in Texas, which was opposed by Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe and Secretary of State Mark White. Her speech at the 1976 Democratic National Convention is considered by many historians to have been the

best convention keynote speech in modern history.

Jordan retired from politics in 1979 and became a professor at the University of Texas at Austin Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. She again was a keynote speaker at the Democratic National Convention in 1992. In 1995, Jordan chaired a congressional commission that advocated increased restriction of immigration and increased penalties on employers that violated US immigration regulations.

Jordan received several honors and awards which include the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994, election into both the Texas and National Women's Hall of Fame, and in 1995 the prestigious United States Military Academy's Sylvanus Thayer Award.

Barbara died on January 17, 1996. On January 19, 1996, Jordan lay in state at the LBJ Library on the campus of The University of Texas at Austin. She was buried in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin, and was the first black woman interred there. Her papers are housed at the Barbara Jordan Archives at Texas Southern University. The main terminal at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport is named after her.

Blind Lemon Jefferson: Founder Of Texas Blues Sound

Blind Lemon Jefferson, blues musician, son of Alec and Cassie Jefferson, was born in Couthman, Texas, in July 1897.

He was born blind. Jefferson received no formal education and instead traveled from town to town in the Wortham area, playing his guitar and singing songs.

He later moved to the Dallas-Fort Worth area and became a well-known figure in the Deep Ellum district of Dallas. There he met Huddie Ledbetter (better known as "Leadbelly"), and for a time they played together in some of the brothels of Texas' cities.

While in Dallas Jefferson was discovered by a talent scout for

Paramount Records and was taken to Chicago. He made seventy-nine records for Paramount



in the 1920s, each estimated to have sold 100,000 copies. His

recordings include "Matchbox Blues," "Black Snake Moan," and "See that My Grave is Kept Clean."

He recorded spirituals under the pseudonym Deacon L. J. Bates. Jefferson is recognized as one of the earliest representatives of the "classic blues" field.

Jefferson died in late December 1929 in Chicago and was buried in the Wortham Negro Cemetery. His grave was marked as an official Texas historical monument in 1967. In 1980 Jefferson was inducted into the Blues Foundation's Hall of Fame.

NORTH TEXAS JOB CORPS CENTER SALUTES BLACK HISTORY MONTH



WHILE BUILDING "TWO MILLION CAREERS. ONE FUTURE AT A TIME"



For more information about the North Texas Job Corps center, or if you would like to participate in or attend upcoming events please contact: Ms. Marchalee White, Business and Community Liaison 972-547-7888 or email, white.marchalee@jobcorps.org

Black History Month Page 1

History Magic, African Jewelry Making and a Black History Cheerleading Show.

A new-age center in Oakland, Calif., offered Mindful Drumming for Opening Minds and Healing Hearts and the University of Cincinnati's United Black Student Association has planned an event about online privacy titled "Has Facebook gone too far?"

Is this black history?

Though well-intentioned, the events are probably not what historian Carter G. Woodson had in mind when he created Negro History Week in 1926. He taught for decades that blacks must know their past before they could envision a brighter future.

By 1976, his organization, now called the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, had turned the week into Black History Month.

"The resistance was tremendous all over the country," said Maurice Thornton, a historian at the State University of New York at Albany. "There was a countervailing group who were doing their best to erase black history from the general public."

They lost the battle

This month, Thornton said he gave a black history speech at the local office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. "They're reaching out and want to let the world know that they're not just the old folks who tap your phones like they did during the civil rights era," he said.

Each night this month, there are several black history television programs to choose from — from BET's "Tupac: Thug Angel" to "Inside the Actors Studio" featuring two-hour interviews with Diana Ross and Eddie Murphy.

Veers into caricature

President Bush marked the month by holding a ceremony honoring modern-day black heroes including a New York City construction worker who saved a man from an oncoming subway train and an Olympic skier who lost her leg.

Black History Month "does caricature itself at times," said Linda Symcox, author of "Whose History?: The Struggle for National Standards in American Classrooms," about revising American history to include minority groups. Though she believes the month is a good thing overall, she said

some events cross the line.

"If I were an African-American, I would be offended by having the month of February be some kind of palliative," she said.

Super Bowl, super opportunity

Proof that corporate America has discovered Black History Month came Feb. 4, when the Super Bowl for the first time featured two African-American coaches, Tony Dungy and Lovie Smith.

Both the broadcast of the game itself and ads between the action featured numerous references to the NFL first. Frito Lay had a commercial showing black families bonding over a football game with an announcer's voice saying, "We've got more than a game here. We've got history."

One Coca-Cola commercial played a blues piano melody and listed key moments in black history alongside a soda bottle, ending with "Coca-Cola celebrates Black History. Especially today."

Some viewers said it was a fitting nod to Black History Month. "It was done well — it was subtle," said Lawrence C. Ross, a consumer strategist for Iconoculture, a consumer trend research company in Los Angeles. Other commercials,

however, tended to be "ham-handed."

Parks felt there were too many ads highlighting black history. "With the first one, I smiled," she said. "By the third one, I wasn't smiling anymore. I wondered if they were exploiting (black history) and why."

Price of success? Commercialism

But, she added, commercialism is inevitable in American culture. "It's unrealistic in this culture to say that Black History Month should be noncommercial. This is how we do it."

Indeed, this month, you can even take a vacation linked to black history.

At Christopher's B&B in Bellevue, Ky., tourists can pay \$137 per night for their National Underground Railroad Freedom Center package, which includes a stay in a "junior jacuzzi room" and two adult tickets to the nearby museum.

The promotion is part of a push by Bedandbreakfast.com to steer visitors toward 14 historic homes that have connections to the secret network that once helped slaves escape to freedom, said Sandy Soule, editor of the Web site.

"This is the first year we've done this," Soule said. "I think we're going to make this a tradition."



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Gladys Knight Makes Concert Stop At Nokia Theatre

One of the great soul singers, Gladys Knight has been a performer from her childhood years, forming the Pips with her brother Merald and a couple cousins. They made the Top Ten in 1961 with the heavily doo-wop-influenced "Every Beat of My Heart," and recorded some fine, nowadays overlooked pop-soul sides for the Fury and Maxx labels in the early and mid-'60s, sometimes under the direction of songwriter Van McCoy. A couple of singles from this period, "Letter Full of Tears" and "Giving Up," made the Top 40, but Knight didn't hit her commercial stride until she moved to Motown in 1966. Steeped in the gospel tradition, like so many soul singers, Knight & the Pips developed into one of Motown's most dependable acts, although they never quite scaled the commercial or artistic heights of fellow stars on the label like the Supremes, Marvin Gaye, and the Temptations. With Norman Whitfield providing the production and much of the songwriting, the Pips fit into the



"The End of Our Road"), and smooth ballads like "If I Were Your Woman."

In 1973, Knight had her biggest Motown hit with "Neither One of Us," which made number two; shortly afterward, she and the Pips left

Motown for Buddah. The group members were briefly superstars in 1973-1974, reeling off the smashes "Midnight Train to Georgia" (their only number one), "I've Got to Use My Imagination," and "Best Thing That Ever Happened to Me." This ranked as some of their best material, but Knight soon moved toward an easy listening, adult contemporary direction, one that she's maintained to this day. Now performing separately from the Pips (who have retired), her days as a high-charting star ended after the mid-'70s, although she remains fairly popular, and maintained an active recording career into the new millennium, releasing *At Last*, an album of urban R&B, on MCA in 2000; *One Voice*, a gospel set, on Many Roads Records in 2005; and *Before Me*, an album of jazz standards, on Verve in 2006.

See Gladys Knight live in concert at Nokia Theatre at Grand Prairie on Saturday, March 3, 2007 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at any ticketmaster outlet or by calling 214-373-8000, metro 972-647-5700.

Don Cheadle To Be Honored At ShoWest

Actor Will Be Named Male Star Of The Year During Annual Gathering Next Month.

Actor Don Cheadle will be honored as male star of the year at ShoWest, the annual film industry convention due to take place March 12-15 at the Bally's and Paris hotels in Las Vegas.

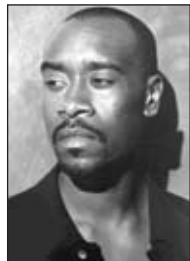
"Don Cheadle's powerful performances in such movies as 'Devil in a Blue Dress,' 'Hotel Rwanda' and 'Crash' have not only earned him critical acclaim but have made him one of Hollywood's most respected actors," ShoWest co-managing

director Mitch Neuhauer told the Hollywood Reporter.

In his next film—Mike Binder's drama "Reign Over Me," due March 23—Cheadle plays a man who meets up with his former college roommate (Adam Sandler) who lost his family in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Cheadle's upcoming films also include Focus Features' "Talk to Me," the story of Washington radio host and activist Ralph "Pete" Greene, and "Ocean's Thirteen," Warner Bros. Pictures' third installment in the popular franchise.

Cheadle will be presented with the ShoWest award March



15 during the closing-night ceremony.

Beyonce's SI Secret Kept Since November: Angry Readers Protest Selection Of Singer For Cover

Beyonce said it was a challenge to keep her mouth shut for three months knowing that she was about to make history as the first non-model covergirl for Sports Illustrated's annual swimsuit edition.

"It was hard because I was so excited," she said of keeping her November photo shoot in Miami a secret. "You grow up seeing those issues and they're so amazing, it's crazy that I was able to be on the cover. It's amazing for me. They called and they said they were doing a music issue and they said they didn't know if I would be willing to wear the swimsuits. I said I would for Sports Illustrated because it's so classy. My moth-



The talent, whose song "Irreplaceable" fell to No. 2 Thursday after a 10-week No. 1 reign, is shocked that the tabloids never caught wind of the photo shoot.

"I don't know, they didn't, it's great," she said. "We were in Miami, it's not like we were somewhere very far away. They're iconic photographs, so I'm very happy."

Now for the bad news... According to Allhiphop.com and the Sandra Rose blog, some readers believe Sports Illustrated has gone too far in featuring Beyonce on the cover and choosing music as a theme for the special issue. The magazine also features models posing with such music stars as

Kanye West, Three 6 Mafia, Isaac Hayes, and even the marching band from Grambling State University.

"Mass readers have called in and requested to 1) cancel their subscription of the mag or 2) cancel them or 3) left angry messages on their message boards/blogs," writes Allhiphop.com.

Despite all the hate, Beyonce is proud of the photos and her place in the magazine's history.

"These are photos I can show my kids some day, so I can say, 'See, momma was beautiful. Look how good I looked!' she said.

Local Actress Lights Up TV Screen And Performs In Dallas Black History Celebration

Let's Rise, LLC, a new Dallas-based production company, is proud to announce that its leading actress and co-founder Naima Imani Lett will be featured in an upcoming episode of Twentieth Century Fox hit "Prison Break" filmed in Dallas to air on Monday, February 26, 2007 at 7 pm CST.

In the "Prison Break" episode *The Wash* directed by Bobby Roth, Naima plays a mysterious receptionist who impacts the roads taken by leads Wentworth Miller and Dominic Purcell.

Lett's recurring role of Jackie Ormond in the Lifetime's original series "Inspector Mom" will re-air on Tuesday, February 20, 2007, and she will kick off the McKinney Performing Arts Center Black History Celebration with a drama/dance presentation about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Sunday, Prairie on Saturday, March 3, 2007 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at any ticketmaster outlet or by calling 214-373-8000, metro 972-647-5700.

"There are many wonderful opportunities in Dallas today for artists of all hues," Naima observes. "Celebrating great African Americans who paved the way for us through the arts is an honor and privilege for me." Naima is no stranger to live presentations. For years, she has toured her unique one-woman plays about women of the Bible that combine drama, dance and music. The only one of its kind, her live play "Shattered Silhouettes" exploring women's issues of love, abuse and hope is in high demand, and her top-selling DVDs are available at www.NaimaLett.com.

Recently, Lett became the first graduate with a Masters degree

in Media and Communications from Dallas Theological Seminary, and she speaks often to audiences about pursuing their dreams, getting started in the industry, and balancing faith and work. On Saturday, February 24th, Naima will speak briefly about Dallas opportunities alongside local actor Kelly O. Jackson who plays her husband on "Inspector Mom" at the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber Of Commerce's annual "Film Institute".

Represented by Dallas' Horne Agency, Lett has acted in various



roles in film, television and industrial, garnering a Best Actress Nomination in Dallas' 2005 EDOC Film Festival. On "Inspector Mom", she plays a young soccer mom and friend of the lead character, Maddie Monroe, who's played by Danica McKellar of the nineties hit, "Wonder Years." Lett will also be

featured in an upcoming 2008 Paramount Pictures film.

Naima's dynamic portrayal of real women dealing with everyday issues in her Biblically-based one-woman play "Shattered Silhouettes" has received wonderful reviews. This drama journeys the lives of five biblical women: Eve, Jezebel, Leah, Tamar, and Mary. The play's popularity recently earned Lett the distinguished opportunity to perform an excerpt as the opening act for world-renowned jazz saxophonist, Kirk Whalum at the Eisemann Center in Richardson, Texas.

Since early childhood, Lett has captivated audiences with her talents and acting abilities. Her aspirations of becoming an actress led her to Howard University's Theatre Department in Washington, D.C. where she graduated *summa cum laude*, earning a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts. Upon graduation, Lett further pursued her acting career at the Tony-award winning Crossroads Theatre and studied classical theater with the British American Drama Academy in Oxford, England. She has since written and performed several solo dramas in theaters, universities and conferences nationwide.

To learn more about Naima Imani Lett and to purchase a copy of Lett's popular one-woman play, "Shattered Silhouettes," please visit www.NaimaLett.com.

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210 Carver Street
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Urban League Community Service Center at Pleasant Grove
10325 Lake June Rd., Ste 118
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For more information call (214) 915-4600

James Brown May Be Buried In 'Next Few Days'

James Brown may finally be laid to rest this week following an agreement announced Tuesday between the late singer's six adult children and



his partner, Tomi Rae Hynie.

Hynie's attorney, Robert Rosen, announced Tuesday that the burial may take place in the "next few days" and the location will be kept confidential at the request of Brown's children.

Brown's body has been kept in a secret spot while his children battled Hynie in court over several matters concerning his estate. Brown died Christmas Day at age 73.

Charles Reid, manager of the C.A. Reid Funeral Home in Augusta, Ga., which handled Brown's funeral, said he checked in on Brown yesterday (Feb. 20), opening the gold casket to view the body.

"I do that constantly," Reid said. "That's the only way I can actually check him ... go in, open the casket and close it. And he's fine."

Meanwhile, a South Carolina judge has ruled that trustees accused of mismanaging Brown's estate will continue to oversee his property and trust, but a special administrator will oversee their work.



By: Gregg Krupa - The Detroit News

The Nation of Islam returns to its roots in the city for its annual national convention and conferences next week, and dozens of officials and clergy laid down the welcome mat Thursday for what may be Minister Louis Farrakhan's last major address.

"As we seek to move beyond our theology and embrace our humanity, this event is significant because this is the birthplace of the Nation of Islam," said the Rev. Sam Bullock, president of the Council of Baptist Pastors, who was one of about

Farrakhan Ready For Major Speech

150 people to attend a news conference Thursday at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.

Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick touted luring the convention, known as Saviour's Day, away from Atlanta as clear evidence of the city's ability to attract major events. There was no room for the event this year in Chicago, where it's usually held.

"All of us are coming together in a major way in our community to hear from the minister, but also to

have some real dialogue with each other," Kilpatrick said.

Farrakhan, 73, left a hospital Jan. 28 after a five-week stay following major abdominal surgery. He has made no public appearances since August 2006. Farrakhan has said he may never again address a large audience like the 65,000 expected to hear him at Ford Field on Feb. 25.

His followers say he will discuss a new spiritual role for himself in the 77-year-old religious movement described as a fusion of



Islam and Black Nationalism. But they tamp down speculation that he may announce a successor, or that his movement is about to shift to a substantially closer alliance with mainstream Islam.

Ishmael Muhammad, the son of Elijah Muhammad, the former Detroit auto worker who became the leader of the Nation of Islam in 1934, said the annual event, known as Saviour's Day, will include discussions of health, building better marriages, education, police brutality and black-on-

black crime.

But Muhammad also said the Nation of Islam will seek to foster interfaith unity.

"We plan to sit down with each other and share what each faith has in common and destroy - with the help of God - existing divisions," Muhammad said.

Jews have accused the Nation of Islam of anti-Semitism, based on remarks Farrakhan delivered publicly over the past three decades. Farrakhan has sought to issue further explanations of those statements, asserting that he was misunderstood, and he has met with some Jewish leaders.

Black Farmers Page 1

Association (NBFA), and attracted some other farmers and supporters from Florida, Iowa, Kansas, and Virginia.

Several guests from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) addressed the conference. Dennis Pittman, representing Smithfield Foods, which operates the world's largest hog slaughterhouse in Tar Heel, North Carolina, also spoke. These individuals received a cool response from farmers subjected to years of abuse - from denied loan requests to stolen land.

As Burnis Turner Jr., a farmer from Point, Texas, put it in challenging USDA official Norman Bade, "We all know

why we have been turned down for these programs. It's because we have the wrong paint job."

After Bruce Knight, USDA under secretary for marketing and regulatory programs, gave a presentation, farmer Edward Greer, 35, took the floor. He spoke about the runaround he has received from government agencies in trying to get help starting a farm in Mississippi. Greer described multiple visits to the Farm Service Agency and Extension Service offices that produced no results. "They would talk like politicians and end up wasting my time," he said.

Other farmers expressed frustration at the way government bureaucrats have continually put

them off and even refused to wait on them. "I didn't drive 300 miles to come here and not get straight answers," one farmer told Knight. "Too many Black farmers have had strokes and died waiting to be compensated."

"When is the Black farmer going to get any kind of justice?" he asked. This prompted conference organizer John Boyd to dismiss the guest speakers and turn to the question farmers came to discuss - how to press the government to make good on its promise to compensate farmers who have faced systemic anti-Black discrimination.

"The vault has proved empty for Black farmers," Guy Manning Sr., a farmer from

Texas, told the Militant. He was referring to the obstruction of justice these farmers have faced since a federal court issued a consent decree in Pigford v. Glickman, settling a class-action lawsuit by tens of thousands of African American farmers. In that 1999 settlement, the federal government agreed to give each farmer who could provide minimal evidence of discrimination between 1981 and 1996 a \$50,000 tax-exempt payment, debt forgiveness, and preferential treatment on future loan applications.

The settlement was based on a partial admission by Washington that farmers who are Black had faced decades of racist discrimination. This contributed to driv-

ing them off their land in disproportionate numbers. In 1920 there were nearly 1 million African American farmers in the United States; one in seven farms was Black-owned, compared to 1 in 100 by 1998.

Boyd referred to a 2004 report by the NBFA and the Environmental Working Group that showed that 81,000 of the 94,000 farmers who sought restitution under Pigford were denied. Of that number, 71,800

were turned down for failing to meet deadlines imposed without adequate notification. Boyd urged support for the Pigford Claims Remedy Act, which was introduced in Congress February 7. "All participants denied justice should sign up to force the government to do what it promised in the original decision," said Boyd. Similar legislation was presented last year in Congress but did not go anywhere.

Michelle Obama Page 1

Obama's rousing address, the junior Democratic U.S. senator from Illinois has become a familiar figure on Sunday morning talk shows, the cover of Time and Newsweek, and the front pages

of newspapers nationwide.

Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama ever closer to the floodlights, to the strange blend of curiosity and scrutiny that awaits the wives of presidential candidates.



Obama, 45, would never make a run for president without his 43-year-old wife's approval and careful counsel, those close to her say. Rest assured, Michelle, a devoted mother, has weighed the impact on the couple's two daughters, Malia, 8, and Natasha, 5.

She is a 1985 cum laude graduate of Princeton University; a 1988 graduate of Harvard Law School; a former associate dean at the University of Chicago, and currently a vice president at the University of Chicago Hospitals.

Michelle's late father, Frasier Robinson, was a city pump operator and a Democratic precinct captain. Her mother, Marian, is a former Spiegel's secretary.

At Harvard, Michelle mixed with rich and poor, working with Legal Aid clients and recruiting African American Harvard Law School alumni to serve on Black Law Student Association panels.

Today, as vice president of external and community relations at the University of Chicago Hospitals, Michelle deals with the full economic spectrum seamlessly, said current boss Susan Sher, hospital general counsel.

After Michelle's law school graduation, she joined the kind of "successful corporation" - Chicago's Sidley & Austin - she wrote about at Princeton. Her specialty: marketing and intellectual property.

Her first year, in walked Obama. Michelle was tapped as

the young summer associate's advisor.

"I remember that she was tall - almost my height in heels - and lovely, with a friendly, professional manner," Obama recalls in Audacity of Hope.

The toughest part may be juggling the demands of a cam-

panion with work, marriage and motherhood - something Michelle has been able to do so

far, in part due to babysitting and other help from her mother and close female friends.

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Sister Tarpley

It has been said that Black History is a continuing strength in our society. I concur; it makes society aware of the great contributions made by African Americans.

Some distinguished African Americans: **Richard Allen**, organizer and first Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME). **James Armistead** an American spy; born a slave was a valuable intelligence agent during the Revolution by gathering information concerning British forces at Portsmouth, VA. **George Bonga** an African American trader of considerable wealth, served as interpreter at the signing of the Chippewa Treaty of 1837.

Amalrose Caliver was a senior specialist in the education of African Americans in the U.S. Office of Education from 1930 to 1946. He initiated and directed the FERA and WPA emergency education programs under the New Deal, created and directed "Freedom's People" a series of nationwide radio broadcasts on the participation of Blacks in American life.

George Carruthers, a physicist, one of the two naval research laboratory persons responsible for the Apollo 16 lunar surface camera/spectrograph which was placed on the lunar surface in 1972.

Elmer Simms Campbell, a master cartoonist of sophisticated humor for Esquire and Playboy magazines. His art also appeared in hundreds of newspapers and magazines as a syndicated feature. **Albert Cassell**, an Architect, he worked on the construction of five buildings at Tuskegee Institute; as a

African American Heritage

draftsman, he was responsible for designing an industrial plan for the manufacture of silk.

William Tucker was the first Black child born in America in 1624. **Captain B. Collins** patented the portable electric light in 1938. **Prince Hall** petitioned the city of Boston to form earth could cross the vast distances of outer space.

Frederick McKinley Jones, born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1893 and orphaned at the age of nine, is best remembered for devising a method to refrigerate trucks carrying perishable food, an idea expanded to include air coolers for ships, planes, and trains. As a result of this method called pre-fabricated refrigerated construction, meat, fruit, vegetable, and butter could be transported long distances.

Peter Hill, born a slave was a highly skilled clock maker; only the most skilled craftspeople could create one. Two of the clocks Hill made still exist. One is in the Westown School in Westtown, Pennsylvania. The other is in the National Museum of History and Technology at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Andrew Jackson Beard lost his leg by crushing it between two railroad cars, while linking them together. Beard then created a device to hook cars together automatically; it became the model for a national standardized linking mechanism. Beard also patented a new form of plow and a rotary steam engine.

Paul Boll in 1955 invented the first heart pacemaker. However, **Otis Boykin** created an electrical mechanism as a regulating unit for it. Raised in Dallas, TX, Boykin device uses electrical impulses to maintain a steady heart beat.

establish schools for Black children equal in quality to those for white students in 1917. **John Rock** was the first Black to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1865.

Black Inventions: **Walter S. McAfee** is the first African American mathematician and physicist who first calculated the speed of the moon. McAfee made the necessary calculations in 1946; the calculation allowed a team to send a radar pulse through a special 40-foot square antenna towards the moon. Two and a half seconds later, they received a faint signal, proving that transmissions

reading interests of both children and adults and to coordinate this work with that of other educational, cultural, and social groups in the community.

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AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM
Tomorrow, February 23 from 6 pm to 9 pm

This is a hands-on workshop on learning how to take care of family and organizational materials handed down through generations or to preserve those photos you're taking today. Topics include: Traditional techniques to organize and preserve papers and photos; how to archive electronic information and digital photos; seek out and find professional assistance; protecting and preserving decorative arts; and how to do oral history projects.

This Saturday, February 24, 2007
You don't want to miss this fun and exciting day, please join us for our Children's Workshop from 10 am to 2 pm. Organizing and Preserving Family Treasures from 10 am to 4 pm, and Family Day—Sports Book Fair which include book readings and signings by writers of African American sports history. Writers include athletes, coaches and sports journalists.

African American Museum
Dr. Henry Robinson, Founder/CEO
P.O. Box 150157
Dallas, TX 75315-0157
214-565-9026

COALITION OF CHURCHES
IN PRISON MINISTRY
On-Gauge Mentor Program
True Life Baptist Church, 3007 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.

Fellowship Baptist Church of Allen
March 2007
FBICA 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.

Sanctuary of Praise Fellowship of Allen
February 24th @ 11 am to 3 pm
You are invited to our "A 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.

Sanctuary of Praise Fellowship of Allen
Rev. John Wilson, III, Pastor
1001 E. Main Street
Allen, TX 75002

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Parv Library Page 1
how much of it is reliable? UT Southwestern librarian Claudia DeShay will explain how to find quality information on the Internet, news about senior health, and information about the Center for Disease Control and the

Cancer.gov Web site. DeShay will also be discussing MedlinePlus, an online service of the National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health. The library seeks to promote programs which will stimulate and expand the

reading interests of both children and adults and to coordinate this work with that of other educational, cultural, and social groups in the community.

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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_cme@sbeglobal.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 Tenor, 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 Ferguson
Call Pastor Sam on: "Vision & Truth Live"
Radio Broadcast: KWRD 100.7 FM Sundays 9pm - 10pm
HEAR PASTOR SAM DAILY ON: "TRUTH MADE SIMPLE"
KGGK 1040 AM MONDAY - FRIDAY @ 5:25pm - 5:30pm

Hill Chapel
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
1113 Ave. I, Plano, TX 75074 (972) 423-4899
Rev. Clarence J. Ford, Jr., Pastor
Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.
Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 A.M.
Wednesday Night-Community Bible Class: 7:30 P.M.

St. Luke A.M.E. Church (aka - SLAME)
"Where we slay 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 Thriving 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 am. - Nursery Facilities Available -
Wednesday Family Ministries... 7:00 p.m.
Friendly Fellowship with A Family Focus
For More Information Call 972.542.6178
www.saintmarkbc.com • stmarkmissionary@aol.com

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

Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church in McKinney Celebrates Black History

Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church in McKinney celebrated its Annual Black History Program with the theme, "Understanding Our Past, Living Today, Creating Our Future" with the dynamic Dr. Harry Robinson, Jr., President and CEO of the African American Museum located on the State of Texas Fair Grounds as the key note speaker and The Wandering Mimes Ministry, Inc. performing.

This was a special year for their Black History Event in that it was the 10th Anniversary of the Celebration of their Harriet Tubman Trailblazer Award, with past recipient

returning for recognition along with the current awardees.

Rev. Charles Wattlely, Senior Pastor of SMBC, in his Opening Remarks, highlighted this special event by explaining how the Harriet Tubman Award got started and naming their past recipients. Sister Gladys Sykes was the Mistress of Ceremony; she set the stage for the wonderful program that followed.

After the welcome and singing of the Negro National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" several youths from Saint Mark read some "Moments in Black History." This was followed by the presentation of the 2007 Award to Jamal Murray, Sr. and Kevan Dailey, Co-Founders of

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce (CCBCC); and a special tribute to past recipients.

There was a Medley of Spirituals followed by Dr. Robinson, speaker of the hour

and the great performances by The Wandering Mimes Ministry, Inc.



Tenth Year Anniversary Picture
(Front Left to Right) Sylvia Devers, Cynthia Allen, Florine Henry, Mays Coffield, Evelyn Smith and Martha Wattlely (Back Left to Right) Deborah Newsome, Toi Pearson, James Wattlely, Rev. Charles Wattlely, Pastor of SMBC, Dr. Harry Robinson, Keynote Speaker and Beth Bentley.



The Wandering Mimes Ministry, Inc. (TWMM) Troupe:
A troupe of young Christian men and women that are on fire for the Lord. Troupe Leader is Rev. Ray Porter on the far right end and the Audio Technician is Jessie B. Flowers, Sr. is on the far left. Visit their website @ www.thewanderingmimes.org.



The Wandering Mimes: Twins Jason and Mason Port.

Potter's House Choir Records Live In Kenya: Album Will Be Released March 20

The new Potter's House Choir CD project, "Grace – Live in Kenya," is scheduled to release on March 20, 2007.

Recorded live in Kenya, Africa before a staggering outdoor audience one million strong, the project boasts 13 powerful songs crafted for Sunday morning worship services.

The lead single, "Grace," is a congregational sing-a-long song featuring Bishop Jakes. It's being shipped to gospel radio while a video of the tune, is



being sent to video outlets.

"What a pleasure and a privilege to record the Grace project in Kenya," says Bishop Jakes. "The CD will always remind me of the people of Kenya, and will stand as a stirring testament to our missionary work in that country and around the world."

Bishop T.D. Jakes, who was hailed as America's most popular preacher in a 2001 Time magazine cover story, has signed a distribution and marketing agreement between his Dexterity Sounds recording label and

Rhino Entertainment, a division of the Warner Music Group.

In addition to releasing new projects by artists signed to Dexterity Sounds, the label will also actively develop a gospel music reissue CD series that draws on the music vaults of WMG labels such as Word Records, Elektra, Warner Bros. and Atlantic Records.

"We are extremely excited about this project," says Dexterity Sounds Operations Manager, Ivy McGregor. "The synergy of the experience is cap-

tured and felt in the music. We are passionate, dedicated and committed to this powerful message of GRACE reaching the world! Another highlight of this project is that it will benefit the S.O.W. [Save Our World] campaign to bring more attention to the need for world relief in countries such as Kenya."

Bishop Jakes' Dallas-based Potter's House Church has a membership of over 30,000 members and a host of commu-

nity-oriented ministries. He and The Potter's House Mass Choir have released three other hit CDs, including the Grammy-winning 2003 project, "A Wing and a Prayer." Based in Burbank, California, Warner Music Group's Rhino Entertainment develops, markets, and promotes both audio and video products from the vast WMG catalog and through new productions with established artists.

ROPP For Girls, Inc. Women Of Wisdom Banquet & Silent Auction

ROPP for Girls, Inc., a non-profit organization providing seven-years of lifestyle training and positive character growth and development to girls from sixth through twelfth grade, will be honoring five women at its second biennial "Women of Wisdom Banquet and Silent Auction." Event is sponsored by Outreach Health Services

The women being honored are Alberta Bell, Kathryn Gilliam, Verlether Grant, Edna Pemberton and Betty Sanders. The honorees exemplify the core values or ROPP which includes commitment to

Christian values, community service, appreciation of one's cultural heritage, high moral standards and positive self esteem.

The auction items will be available for bid on line at www.roppforgirls.org beginning February 1st. Items may be viewed in the Concord Missionary Baptist Church Chapel the evening of the event beginning at 6:00 p.m. All bidding ends at 7:00 p.m. the evening of February 24th on line and on site.

ROPP was established on June 24, 1998 and became incorporated on July 1, 1998. ROPP's goal is to develop young ladies of char-

acter. Young ladies enter the program at the sixth grade level and continue through a seven-year course of study. The program's thrust is built around its mission to focus on the essential aspects of the passage from childhood to womanhood.

ROPP seeks to instill in these young ladies traits which exemplify Christian values, an appreciation for their cultural heritage, community involvement and positive self-esteem. Abstinence education and high moral standards are emphasized. Etiquette, personal hygiene, cooking, sewing, goal setting, journal writing, art appreciation, traveling, money management, public speaking, and organizational skills are some of the learning

experiences presented to ROPP participants. During the first two years, ROPP classes were held at the Southwest Center Mall. In the spring of 2000, the classes were moved to Concord Missionary Baptist Church, which is now the current home for the program.

The event will be held at Concord Missionary Baptist Church 6808 Pastor Bailey Drive, Dallas, Texas 75237 on Saturday, February 24th at 7:00 p.m.

Event is open to the public and the donation is \$40 (\$25 of the donation is tax deductible).

For more information call Bobbie Allen at 214-372-1772 or visit the website at www.roppforgirls.org.



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

T.J. Denson, Pastor
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 Services: Family Bible Study @ 6:30 pm

New Life Fellowship Church of Rowlett
Bishop Miller E. Johnson, Senior Pastor
New Worship Home
7401 Miller Road • Rowlett, TX 75088
972-463-4964

A Place of New Beginnings... II Corinthians 5:17

Sunday Life Bible School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Life Celebration Worship Service 10:45 a.m.
First Sunday: Ingredients for Life 4:00 p.m.
Wednesdays: Life In The Word Prayer and Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Fellowship Baptist Church of Allen
200 Belmont • Allen, Texas • 75013
Phone: 972-359-9956 Fax: 972-359-6048
www.fbcforallen.org

"A Kingdom Building Church"

Pastor W. L. Stafford Sr., M.Div.
First Lady Tasha Stafford

Sunday School 9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship
Children's Church 8:15 am & 11:00 am
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 7:00 pm
"Youth for Christ" - Every Monday 7:00 pm

Come experience the Worship Atmosphere at Fellowship, you will never be the same!
If you need a ride to worship with us, please call the church.

The Inspiring Body of Christ Church
7710 S. Westmoreland Rd.
Dallas Texas 75237
Phone: 972-572-4262 Fax: 972-709-3888

Sunday Services 7:30 am, 10:00 am, 12:30pm
Monday School 7pm
Men's Fellowships Friday 7:00pm

Website: www.ibccj.org

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

Email: church@benwashington.org
Web: benwashington.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

Spiritual Direction
"Each One, Reach One"

Worship Services
7:30 am and 10:30 am
Sunday School - 9:30 am
Wednesday Night Service
8:00 pm

Dr. Gregory Foster
Senior Pastor

Rev. Anthony Fisher
Pastor

Our Mission
To fulfill The Great Commission until Christ comes.
300 Phillips Street • Richardson, TX 75081 • 972-235-4235
www.fbcph.org

Friendship Baptist Church
Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor

Schedule of Services:

Sunday
Early Morning Worship 8:00 a.m.
Sunday School Classes 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship (1st Sunday) 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday
Early Bird Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday
Morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting and Evening Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

4396 Main Street
The Colony, Texas 75056
(972) 625-8186
website: www.fbc-online.net
"The Church with a Vision"